

FeedPoint

SPECIAL ISSUE

NOVEMBER 2022

ST JOHN VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION

WHATS IN THIS ARTICLE:

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- ◆ Repeater Upgrade
- ◆ Info / Links

SJVARA Newsletter

The purpose of this publication is to keep you updated on club events and news as well as everything new in ham radio. It includes thoughts and ideas from our club meetings and events as well as new tech and news in the amateur radio community.

If your not already subscribed,
email sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: newsletter

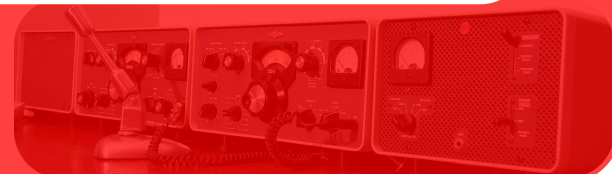
Repeater



Upgrades

Mailing Address

SJVARA
Attn: Travis Devoe
3191 Aroostook Rd
Eagle Lake, ME 04739



Club Update

Hello SJVARA members and interested persons.

Due to the complete lack of interest in the club, Derrick and I have decided to focus solely on keeping the 640 machine running. The last three meetings we had this spring were attended only by our club treasurer, VP, myself, and my father. It is clear to me that something is clearly wrong with the way the club is operating. I'm not sure where the lack of interest began but no one has voiced any concerns or opinions with the VP or myself. If you have a problem with the way the club is functioning, please let us know. If we don't know we can't change. If you have any ideas for projects or events that would be interesting to amateur radio operators, let us know.

Meetings will continue to be postponed until further notice. –kb1zpp

The club website is the best place to get up to date club information. I try to keep it as current as possible.

NEXT SCHEDULED CLUB MEETING

JANUARY 14TH @ NOON

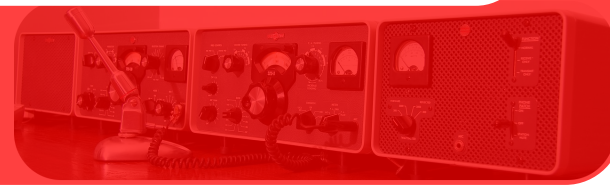
www.sjvara.com/club-meetings

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146.640 Repeater Upgrade

My father (kc1cmn) and I (kblzpp) visited the 640 repeater site a few weeks ago and finally installed the upgrades that Marty (klmjb) so graciously provided. Three of the four new panels were installed, the fourth was damaged in shipping (low output voltage) and will be returned and replaced. A bracket to hold the three panels was fabricated ahead of time. The original panel bracket was strengthened and modified to support the new panel bracket alongside the original panels.



An upright support was added to hold the far end of the new panel bracket, and the new panels were installed alongside the original set. We now have a total of 600 watts of solar on the 640 site, of which the charge controller can only process 440 watts. Although we can't use all 600 watts if the sun is out in full, when the sunlight is low the extra panels will convert more sunlight to electricity for longer.



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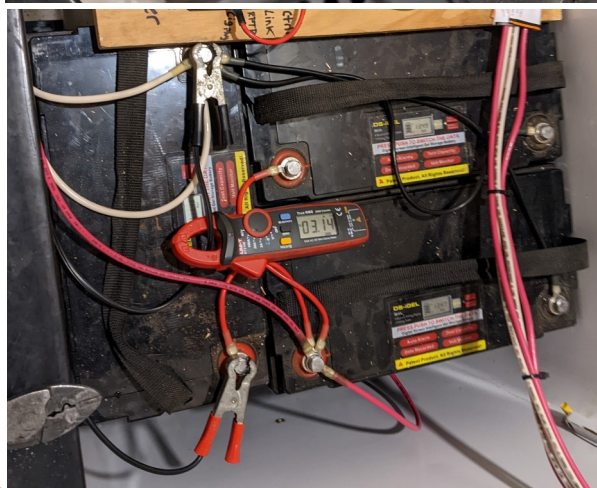
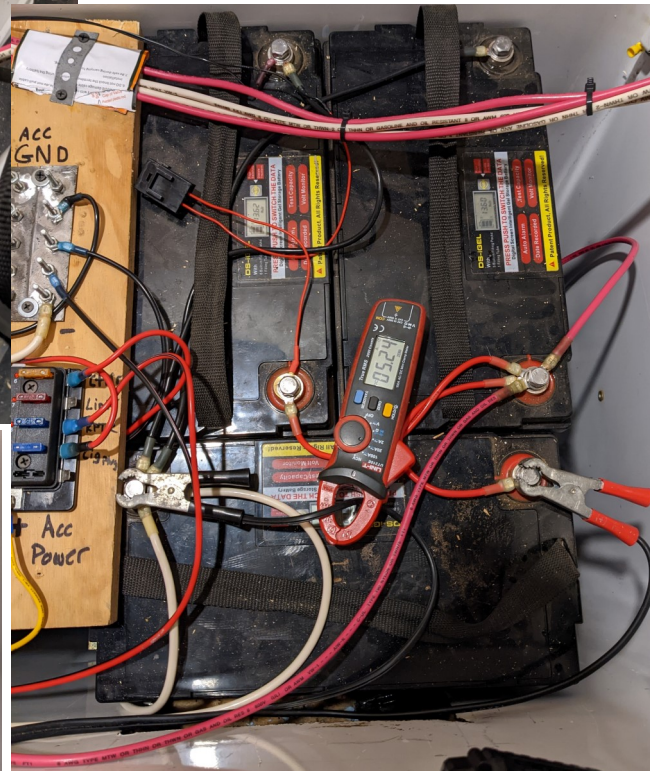
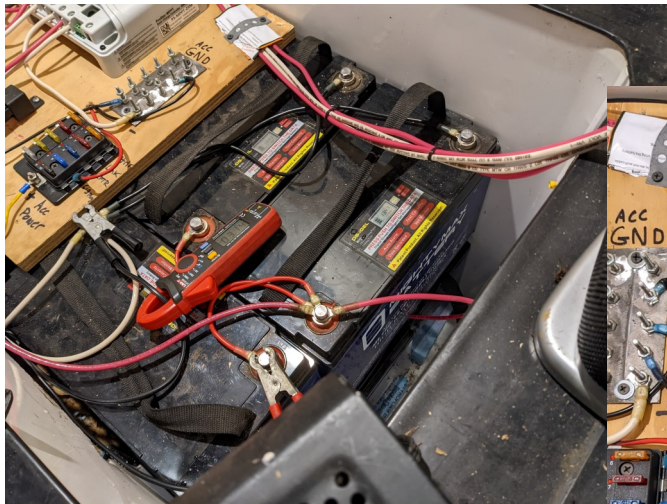
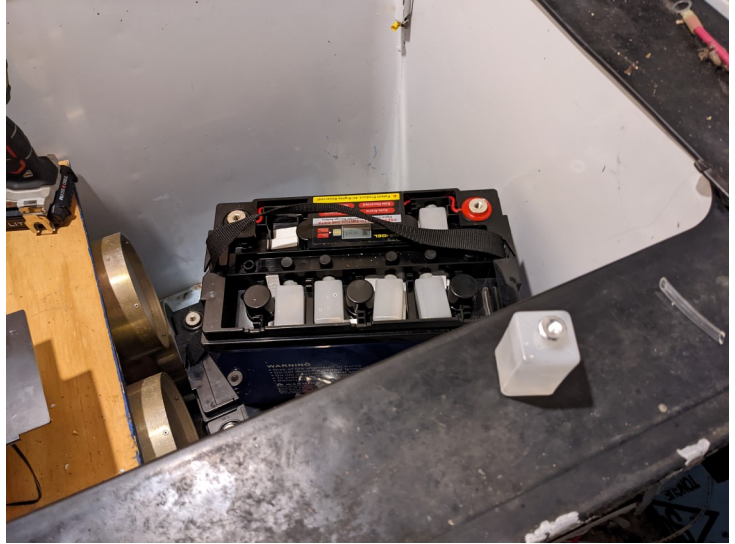
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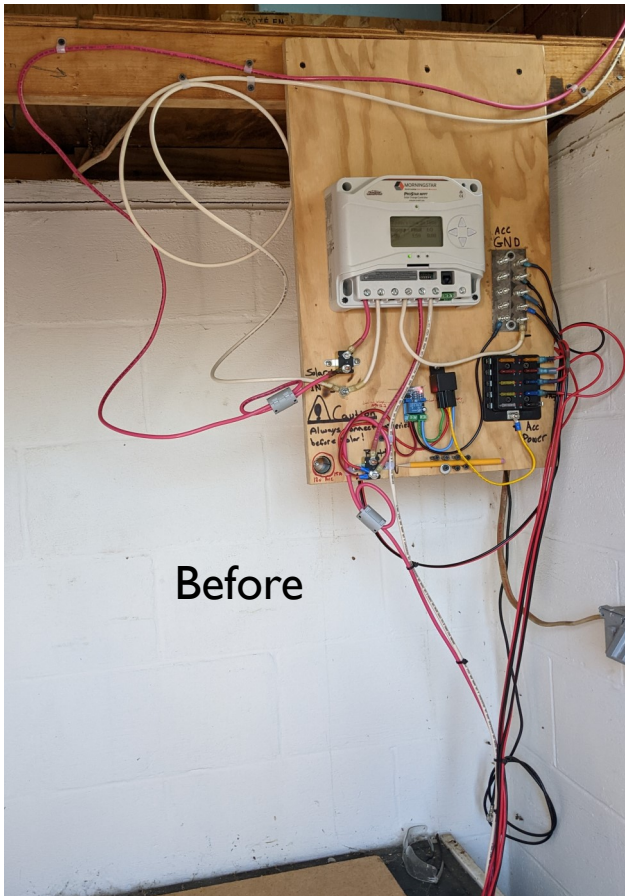
146.640 Repeater Upgrade

Second on the list of upgrades was the addition of three more, 100 ah glass mat style, batteries. These are the same make and model of what was already there, which were only about six months old.

The batteries were stacked, three on bottom and three on top, with two inch foam in between. This gives us a total of six batteries and doubles the capacity to a total of 600 Ah.



146.640 Repeater Upgrade

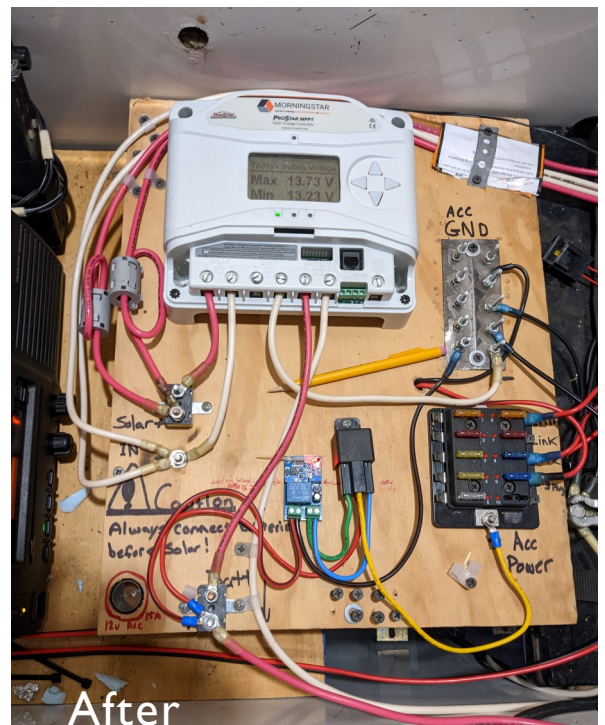


Before

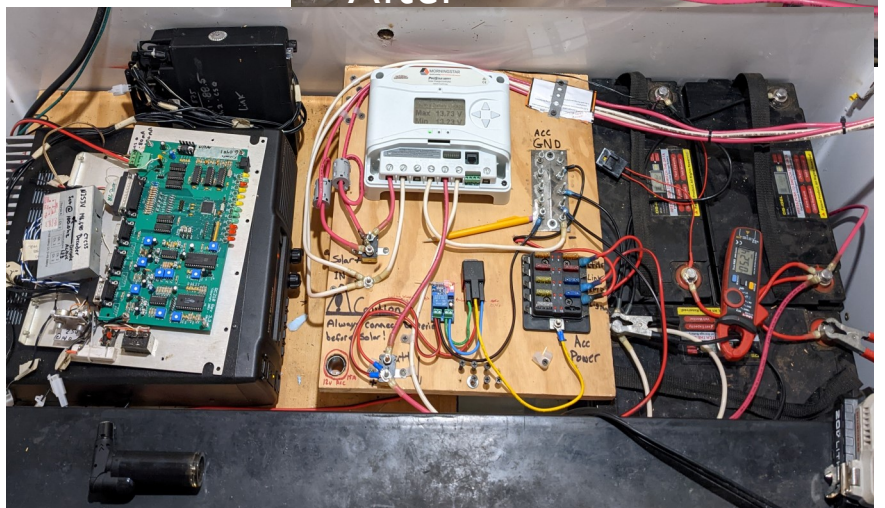
All other power distribution wires such as power wires for the repeater and repeater controller were also shortened as much as possible.

While I was working on rewiring the system, I topped off all of the batteries with a generator and battery charger.

Unfortunately the sun was not shining so I could not confirm the solar charging but everything else was working perfectly when I left that night.



After



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146.640 Repeater Upgrade

Update: 11/19/22

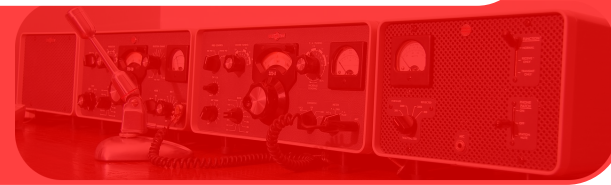
11:30 AM - Since sun up the charge controller had put 14Ah back into the batteries and switched to float as they were fully charged. When I left at noon the solar controller was still charging at about ten amps, which for six batteries is about two amps per battery. Battery voltage while the repeater sat idle was 14.8. The repeater uses about 350-450mA at idle. -kb l zpp



November 6, 2022



November 19, 2022



Info / Links

Fort Kent Repeater - [146.640- 100hz](#)

Echolink Node - 733919 (or search [n1sjv](#))

Eagle Lake Repeater - [146.715- 100hz](#) (temporarily offline)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/sjvara](#)

Website - [www.sjvara.com](#)

Merch Store - [www.teespring.com/stores/sjvara](#)

[Google Drive](#)

Exam Study Guides - [www.kb6nu.com/study-guides](#)

Flash Cards and Practice Exams - [www.hamstudy.org](#)

Online Meeting App - [FreeConferenceCall.com](#)

Affiliates

Aroostook Amateur Radio Association

[www.k1fs.org](#)

Maine Amateur Radio Foundation

[www.mar.foundation](#)

Amateur Radio Relay League

[www.arrl.org](#)

Can Am Crown

[www.can-am-crown.net](#)

Membership Payment Links



Payment Via
Snail Mail

SJVARA
Attn: Carl Pelletier
22 Municipal Drive
Fort Kent, ME 04743

The SJVARA is a membership of hams with the similar interest of promoting radio knowledge as well as advancing the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the community. Monthly meetings are held in Fort Kent but membership spans the entire valley and more.

Check out the club [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for other info or events.

Mailing Address

SJVARA
Attn: Travis Devoe
3191 Aroostook Rd
Eagle Lake. ME 04739



Why Become An Amateur Radio Operator?

“Ham” radio is a fun, exciting hobby that allows you to talk to the world using different technologies and modes of transmission. It’s also a great way to meet people in your area with the same hobbies or interests, and exchange information and experiences.

Officer Contact List

| Officer Contact List | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------|
| Club Email | | sjvarafk@gmail.com | N1SJV |
| President | Travis Devoe | coolman1987us@gmail.com | KB1ZPP |
| Vice President | Derrick Ouellette | kw1a@arrl.net | KW1A |
| Treasurer | Carl Pelletier | cjpmail211@gmail.com | N1EVO |

