



PAWA LINES

*The Newsletter of
The Portland Amateur Wireless Association*

P.O. Box 1605 Portland, ME 04104
December 2004

PAWA Information

President	Roger Pience, N1XP n1xp@arrl.net
Vice President	Bruce Howes, W1UJR w1ujr@arrl.net
Treasurer	Jack Ney, KC1UX kc1ux@maine.rr.com
Secretary	Mike Kilmartin, N1GRO Kilmam@aol.com
Chief Operator	Mike Russo, K1EU k1eu@maine.rr.com
VE Liaison	Bruce Howes, W1UJR w1ujr@arrl.net
Newsletter Editor	Bryce Rumery, K1GAX k1gax@juno.com

Meetings and Programs

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month (September through June) at 7 pm at the Stewart Morrill American Legion Post # 35 413 Broadway South Portland

Annual Dinner Meeting and Awards Ceremony. Dinner at 6 PM (see article later in the newsletter)

**PAWA Repeaters – 146.73 (-) (100.0 Hz)
444.100 (+) (82.5 Hz)**

Web site: <http://www.qsl.net/pawa>

UPCOMING TEST SESSIONS

Test Sessions are held at 9 am at the American Legion Post # 35 413 Broadway South Portland, ME
For further information, Contact our exam coordinator:
Bruce Howes, W1UJR (w1ujr@arrl.net)

Saturday, January 15, 2004

All examinees must bring two pieces of positive ID. Additionally, licensed Amateurs must bring the original copy of their current license.

The PAWA Lines is published monthly (excepting the months of July and August). All submissions for publication must be received not later than one week to the first day of the month of publication. Submissions may be made in writing or by e-mail to the editor.

**Bryce Rumery, K1GAX
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Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-1111
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In This Issue

Reports, December Dinner Meeting, Elections, Dues are Due, **FM Corner** – Product Review, Yaesu FT-60R, Free Programming Software, An RF Engineer's Dream Chess Set, December Calendar, January Deadline

Reports

President's Message – Not Available

Secretary's Report

PORTLAND AMATEUR WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting

October 6, 2004

Present: Roger, N1XP; Jack, KC1UX; Mike, N1GRO; Peter, N1PS; Paul, KB1IAW

Secretary's Report: Mike, N1GRO, reported no changes to the minutes as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Jack, KC1UX reported a balance in the treasury of \$2,880.11. Jack also reported receiving an email from Jeff Weinstein, K1JW, requesting that the club acknowledge a life membership that was awarded to him many years ago in exchange for a donation of equipment. He provided Jack with a copy of a certificate of life membership dated October 27, 1987 and signed by Robert Rogers, Treasurer. The Board concluded that the club has no authority to award a life membership since the by-laws do not provide for that class of membership.

Chief Operator: No report.

Programs: Peter, N1PS said that the November program will consist of a group activity to restore a Halicrafters receiver.

Ham of the Year ballots will be distributed at the November meeting.

Club Repeater: Peter, N1PS, reported that the move is on hold for now because the individual offering the new site may be moving himself.

The 444.100 machine is being replaced by one purchased by K1EU.

David, K1DRL, who is the BRA treasurer official, has agreed to sell certain cable belonging to BRA and putting the proceeds into a repeater fund.

Other business: The Board considered the possibility of having to move to a new location.

The Board considered conducting a review of the by-laws. The club is required to distribute a copy of the by-laws to the membership annually.

The Board was informed that the insurance coverage on the club trailer is \$1 million. The trailer is stored in a barn at N1RY's in Harrison. K1EU has the registration and records of the trailer.

There being no further business, the board meeting was adjourned.

PORTLAND AMATEUR WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

Board of directors Meeting

November 3, 2004

Present: Roger, N1XP; Paul, KB1IAW; Jack, KC1UX; Mike, N1GRO

Elections: The Nominating Committee will make nominations at the November meeting and the election of Officers will take place in December.

Correction: The October 6, 2004 minutes were correct to show that the \$1 million of insurance carried by the club is liability insurance.

Treasurer's Report Jack, KC1UX reported that he will be paying the \$225 quarterly rent payment and that no insurance bill has been received yet.

VE Testing: A test session will be held on Saturday November 20, 2004 here at the Legion Hall.

Radio Room: Rick Alderette has agreed to accept the position as Custodian of the Radio Room.

Meeting Location: Roger reported that there is no longer a need to consider changing the location of the meetings.

By-Laws: Roger, N1XP, has completed a review of the by-laws which are available on the club web site.

Scholarship Fund: There is currently \$700.00 available in the Scholarship Fund. There have been no active members eligible for the scholarship for many years and Roger is gathering information for the Board to consider what to do with the money in the fund.

Antennas: The antennas on the Legion building need to come down so repairs can be made to the building.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

Income:	\$ 0
Expenses:	\$ 0
Ending Balance:	\$2940.11

Chief Operator's Report – Not Available

VE Test Session Report

Sometimes You Win, Sometimes You Lose

Report of the PAWA VE Test Session

Saturday, November 20, 2004

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Seldom, do all candidates at a test session fail to achieve something at the test session. This test session was one of them.

We had 2 candidates, 1 taking Element 1 (5 WPM code) and 1 taking Element 2 (Technician written). Unfortunately, both candidates were not successful.

Thanks to the attending VEs: W1UJR (PAWA VE Liaison), K1GAX (Assistant PAWA VE Liaison), KB1IBA, NX1A, N1JLW, W1HX and WZ1N.

All was not lost, though. We did learn something from the test session. Bruce, W1UJR arrived in the nick of time with the test session materials. We learned that we might need backup materials in the future (just in case). In the future, Bryce, K1GAX (MARA VE Liaison) and Jack, N1JLW will bring their field stocked VE materials with them at all future PAWA test session.

73, Bryce, K1GAX
Assistant PAWA VE Liaison

December Dinner and Awards Ceremony

I have not received the particulars on the December meeting, but I'll take a stab at it based on information from the last two years.

The December meeting is the annual dinner meeting and awards ceremony. Dinner usually starts at 6 PM (versus the normal 7 PM meeting time). The dinner usually consists of spaghetti "with all the fixins". The club provides the meal and beverages and those attending the dinner are asked to bring a dessert to share. Following the eating, we have elections for 2005 – 2006 officers followed by the presentation of the 2004 PAWA Ham of the Year award and awards for those who have made contributions to PAWA activities during 2004.

The meeting is not just for members only! Bring along a friend, spouse, "significant other" or what have you. Non members are cordially invited. There will be a donation container to help defray the cost of the dinner.

Hope to see you there!

73, Bryce, K1GAX
Newsletter Editor

2005 – 2006 Elections

Elections for 2005 and 2006 will be held at the December dinner meeting and awards ceremony. The slate of officers for 2005 – 2006 are:

President: Peter Sturdivant, N1PS

Vice President: Paul Dunn, KB1IAW
Secretary: Mike Kilmartin, N1GRO
Treasurer: Jack Ney, KC1UX
Chief Operator: Mike Russo, K1EU

Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the December meeting.

Dues are Due

Dues for 2005 are due by January 1, 2005. Dues for the PAWA run for a calendar year or any portion thereof. Please mail your 2005 dues to:

Portland Amateur Wireless Association
P.O. Box 1605
Portland, ME 04104

Or, see our treasurer, Jack Ney, KC1UX at any meeting.

Dues are \$ 20.00 for a full individual membership, \$ 30.00 for a family membership (all licensed amateurs in an immediate household), \$ 10.00 for a student membership (High School students), \$ 10.00 for an associate membership (no voting privileges).

Please be sure to include your name, call sign, and address with your dues.

FM Corner

Yaesu FT-60R

A Product Review

The venerable Yaesu FT-50RD dual band handheld was discontinued this year after an eight year run. It was replaced by the Yaesu FT-60R (introduced at the 2004 Dayton Hamvention). The FT-60 has been out for about three months and seems to be just as rugged as the FT-50.

The FT-60 looks all the world like a slightly fatter version of the Yaesu VX-150 2 meter handheld. Of course, it's a bit more expensive, but one would expect that for a radio with twice the capability (and more). The FT-60 runs around \$ 200.00 versus around \$ 120.00 for the VX-150. It seems to have solved some of my complaints about the VX-150.



The FT-60 features 1000 memories, three power levels (5 watts high, 2 watts medium and 0.5 watts low), a weight of just under a pound (13.05 Oz.) and a size of 2.3" wide x 4.3" high x 1.2" deep. It's a dual band, single display handheld. It has wideband receive capability (108 – 520 MHz and 700 – 999.990 MHz (cell blocked)). The transmit

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range is from 144 – 148 MHz and 430 – 450 MHz. The FT-60 features both wide (5 kHz) and narrow (2.5 kHz) deviation capabilities. The FT-60 features a frequency or alpha display. The FT-60 can be programmed either manually or through a PC (the software is a free download, but that's the subject of another article). The FT-60 also has all 10 NWS weather frequencies built in. For full specs and features (as well as being able to download the owners manual), visit the Yaesu web site (<http://www.yaesu.com>). On the bench, the FT-60 meets or exceeds all specifications outlined in the owners manual.

The FT-60 is a nice handful. One thing I noticed about its predecessor was the FT-50 always felt like I was holding a potato (due to its shape). The FT-60 has a better feel to it. It's feels a bit more conventional. The FT-60 is small, but it's not a midget. The audio is great both transmit and receive. It's on par with the VX-150. A lot of audio out for a little speaker! One thing I especially like is the battery pack. It's a clamshell design held on to the radio by a clip at the bottom of the case. If you look at the rechargeable batteries and the alkaline battery shell, you'll see one minor difference. The alkaline battery shell does not have a cover over the batteries as the rechargeable packs do. Both use "AA" batteries (it's pretty obvious when looking at the batteries). This means you have the same output power with both the rechargeable packs and the alkaline battery shell. The FT-60 has a nice large display. It sure beats the "midget" display of the VX-150 and is even bigger than the FT-50. The average person can even read all features on the display without reading glasses. The FT-60 shares the same spring loaded belt clip with the VX-150. It's a heavy duty variety also shared with its commercial cousins. The stock antenna is a pleasant surprise. It looks just like the "rubber attenuator" for the FT-50, but it's not. Yaesu has made improvements to the stock rubber duck and it actually works as well as most aftermarket antennas. I recommended anyone buying an FT-50 order a new aftermarket antenna and give the stock rubber duck the old heave-ho. I can say Yaesu has made the necessary improvements to the stock rubber duck to make it a contender. As with everything, don't expect the world from a rubber duck. It's a compromise, at best. The stock battery for the FT-60 has about twice the capacity of the battery supplied with the VX-150. The nice thing is that the aftermarket batteries for the VX-150 (having about the same capacity as the stock battery for the FT-60) fit like a glove.

Programming the FT-60 is surprisingly easy. Like the VX-150, the most used programming functions are right on the front panel. It does have a menu, but you only really need to go there when first setting up the HT or when naming the memories in the "alpha" mode. Programming software is available for the FT-60 either from RT Systems or from the KC8UNJ web site (see the Free Software article). The programming software is fine, but it's nice to know that manually programming the FT-60 is fairly easy.

As with everything, no handheld is ever perfect. Like the FT-50, the FT-60 is only a single display dual bander. Kenwood in

their TH-F6A proved that you can have a readable dual display. I wish Yaesu could discover this, as well. As with the VX-150, the keyboard on the HT are very similar. I would say like the VX-150, the numbers on the keypad of the FT-60 would be prone to wearing off. I got the jump on things by coating the keys when I first got the FT-60 (see article in last months PAVA Lines on coating keys on handhelds). I guess the key wear problem was learned from Icom who has always had a problem with the numbers on the keypad wearing off. Unlike the VX-150, the FT-60 does not have the little lip below the display which seems to be very handy when clipping the HT to your belt. Not having the lip is a compromise for having the larger display on the FT-60. You can't have everything! The FT-60 is like the VX-150 in regards to the speaker/mic arrangement. It's easy for the speaker/mic plug to work loose from the handheld and come unplugged (something the FT-50 did better).

Would I buy the FT-60R again? I'd say yes! It has an outstanding number of features (some of which the average ham will never use) and is a very solid unit. For a dual band handheld, it can keep up with almost anything on the market today.

73, Bryce, K1GAX

Free Programming Software

Programming of handhelds and mobiles has surely gotten easier over the last few years. With the advent of PC programming of amateur equipment, the time consuming process of programming our equipment has become a lot less burdensome. Of course, on the downside, programming software is not free, or is it? There is some programming software that is free. In one case, it is free from the manufacturer (Kenwood) and in another case it's free from a fellow ham. On the downside, the software is free, but you have to buy or build the programming cable.

The Kenwood software is available on the Kenwood web site (<http://www.kenwood.net>). The software covers most all of their current models. The software is first rate (I can personally vouch for the TH-F6A software), although there are some minor flaws which can be annoying, at times. Kenwood gives the software away, but wants you to buy their programming cable.

If you happen to own a Yaesu VX-2R, VX-5R, VX-7R, VR-120 or FT-60R or the Icom IC-R2, software is available from KC8UNJ on his web site (<http://www.qsl.net/kc8unj>). He not only has the software available for download, but also has sources for programming cables as well as plans for building your own. I have Jim's beta version of the FT-60 Commander (software for the FT-60R). The beta version still has a few bugs, but those bugs can be worked around and Jim, KC8UNJ is very open to reporting of bugs and every new version gets better. The programming cable for the Yaesu FT-50RD also fits the VX-150 and the FT-60R.

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Of course, if you want to spend the money, the software for most other handhelds and mobiles are available through most ham radio stores and from RT Systems (<http://cloningsoftware.com/index.cfm?>). They also have cables that go along with the software.

73, Bryce, K1GAX

An RF Engineer's Dream Chess Set

Thanks to Bruce, W1ZE for the link

For more pictures of the chess set, visit:

<http://www.leapsecond.com/pages/chess>



Chess anyone?

Ok, put down your soldering iron, turn off your spectrum analyzer, and let's play chess.

Ingredients

50 ohm BNC, SMA, and N terminators with various BNC, SMA, N, APC7, F, UHF connectors and inter-series adapters; or any other RF connectors you can find around the house. White gets nickel or stainless steel and black gets gold top pieces.

December Calendar

December 1 – Monthly PAWA meeting, Legion Post, **6 PM** (Dinner Meeting)

December 5 – Informal Breakfast, Steve & Renee's Diner, between 7:30 & 8 AM

December 5 – Cumberland County Emergency Net, 07:30 PM, 147.09 repeater

December 12 – Informal Breakfast, Steve & Renee's Diner, between 7:30 & 8 AM

December 12 – Cumberland County Emergency Net, 07:30

PM, 147.09 repeater

December 19 - Informal Breakfast, Steve & Renee's Diner, between 7:30 & 8 AM

December 21 – Cumberland County ARES/RACES meeting, EMA Facility, Windham, 6:30 PM

December 25 – Newsletter inputs due for December PAWA Lines

December 26 – Informal Breakfast, Steve & Renee's Diner, between 7:30 & 8 AM

December 26 – Cumberland County Emergency Net, 07:30 PM, 147.09 repeater

If you have inputs for the PAWA monthly calendar, send them to Bryce, K1GAX (k1gax@juno.com) by the deadline for the next newsletter.

January Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for inputs for the December issue of the PAWA lines is Saturday, December 25, 2004. Inputs may be e-mailed to k1gax@juno.com or mailed to:

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