

# WINDSOR HAMFEST

By Tony Baker, AA3HD

Some 200 like-minded amateur radio enthusiasts enjoyed Saturday morning August 20, 2022 at the Windsor Fairgrounds by attending the Windsor Hamfest. The event was sponsored by the Augusta Amateur Radio Association and sanctioned by the ARRL. Admission was \$10.00, with the gates opening at 8:00 AM...7:00 AM for vendors.



This was my first time attending this Hamfest, and I found it quite a modest affair, even in comparison to the Hermon Hamfest I attended in June earlier this year. Some people I spoke with thought the low attendance might be due to the change in the date of the event from previous years. In the past it has been held in September, the weekend after the Windsor Fair.



For those that did attend, it appeared everyone enjoyed themselves, and the weather fully cooperated with full sun and temperatures in the mid-80's. Besides browsing the sellers' tables, I had just as much fun meeting up with old friends, and making some new contacts – this time in-person. It's so interesting to listen to others involved in our hobby, and what aspect they focus on and/or want to get into.



***Cory Golob - KU1U, an ARRL New England Assistant Director, speaks with attendees at the 2022 Windsor Hamfest***

There were about 15 private sellers plying their wares. I was somewhat surprised at the variety of vintage and newer equipment and radios for sale given the relatively small group that had gathered. There was a VE session at 10:00 AM. Additionally, there was an in-person meeting of some of the nets that take place in Maine, including The Pine Tree Net, The Maine Seagull Net, The Maine Public Service Net, and the Maine Slow Speed Net. At this meeting, certificates of appreciation were handed out along with the administration of other business.



***Very nice Kenwood TL-922A linear amplifier.***

The Whitfield Fire and Rescue was there with one of their vehicles set up with emergency communication gear. Likewise, the Kennebec County Emergency Management Agency ARES/RACES Emergency Communications Team also was set up and demonstrating some of their communication abilities.



Breakfast and lunch on-site was made available by an enterprising group. Freshly cooked breakfast sandwiches and brewed coffee were available in the morning, and

hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, (also cooked on-site), chips, sodas, and water were available for lunch. The pricing was very reasonable.

Things wrapped up at noon with drawings for various prizes that included a cap from DX Engineering, several different books written by Craig "Buck"-K4IA, and ARRL \$25.00 and \$50.00 gift certificates. The drawings, in which you had to be present for to win, culminated with the grand prize drawing of a \$250.00 Ham Radio Outlet gift certificate.

On a personal note, as I was preparing to leave the fairgrounds, I was greeted by that awful clicking sound when I turned on the ignition to start my truck...that sound that tells you your battery is almost completely dead!! Fortunately, my friend Mark - W1MTW, was parked right next to me and hadn't left yet. Mark had jumper cables and happily gave me a jump to get me on my way. Later that afternoon I ended up purchasing a new battery.

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