

CAARA NEWS



Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
Gloucester, Massachusetts
AUGUST- 2023 EDITION



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Brandon- NQ1W

Dear CAARA Members,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer.

I am proud to share that the club has completed our purchase plan for STEM learning, made possible by the ARRL grant we received. We finished by rounding out our classroom capabilities with new laptops, new scopes, new electronics learning kits and the means to share our demonstrations online with members. These purchases provide us with new capabilities for interactive presentations and hands-on electronics and radio experiments. The upcoming season should be a lot of fun for members and their family interested in learning about electronics. We will be discussing the upcoming classes and schedule at the members meeting on August 12th.

I also want to thank those of you who are participating in the racing special events. We have a few left in this year's schedule including the YuKanRun TripleThreat Half Marathon and 5K on Sunday, August 6. These events are important for CAARA's community service mission and we appreciate everyone who donates their time and effort to help. And, we always have a great time helping out the YuKanRun team. If you haven't already done so make sure Chris and Fred have your current contact info, as we will have something special planned for everyone who helped out with these events this year.

Finally, I want to thank our many members, the directors, and officers who make CAARA function. There is so much behind the scenes activity to keep things on track and the clubhouse running. This month I want to especially thank our secret lawn care specialist. This person has requested they not be named. The board and I know who you are, and we thank you



so very much for tending to our outside area at the clubhouse. It is a lot of work in the summer heat, and it means a lot to the members' and neighborhood's perception of our clubhouse. Again thank you so very much!

I am excited to be together with our members at the August meeting. We will be working with the nominating committee to identify and recruit great candidates for our officers and directors, to be voted on at the upcoming annual members meeting in September. If you are interested in becoming part of the governing body of CAARA I highly encourage you to attend this very important members meeting on August 12th.

Regards,

Brandon Hockle NQ1W

THE EMCOMM MINUTE

By Dean- KB1PGH

So in last months column I reviewed my new AGM battery that I purchased for my portable HF use and for my emergency back up power needs. One thing though is that I did not have a AGM battery charger to go with it. All I had was a 1.5 amp trickle charger for my wet flooded battery.



So if you remember a while back a reviewed a NOCO GB 40 brand car battery jumper. To me it was a quality product and I used it a couple of times to jump start the battery on my wife's car and it worked great so I went on Amazon to see if NOCO had any AGM type battery chargers and to my luck they do. The NOCO brand has a line of 4 different type of chargers called the "Genius" series . They come in 4 different amperage sizes which fit whatever size battery you have. They have the 1,2,5 and 10 amp size battery chargers which will fit any size amp hour battery but for this article I will review the NOCO 5 amp Genius series smart battery charger and

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CAARA Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association (CAARA).

It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to CAARA members, and space is available. Material is accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Articles and other materials may be submitted by internet to Jon at jpcrockport@gmail.com . If possible, material should be in Word format. Material may also be submitted as hard copy to Jon-K1TP or any Club Officer.

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
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Welcome to CAARA:

CAARA, an ARRL affiliated club, operates the 2 meter W1GLO repeater on 145.130 MHz with antennas located on the ATT cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex in Gloucester Massachusetts. It has an average effective radius of 60 miles, and serves Eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Rhode Island, Southern New Hampshire, and maritime mobile stations.

CAARA also operates the W1GLO repeater on 224.900 located at the CAARA clubhouse.

The 443.700 repeater is now on the ATT cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex with greatly enhanced performance running in fusion mode and linked to 10 other repeaters in the New England area.

The Association is one of the few amateur radioclubs that has its own clubhouse. Located at 6 S tanwood Street in Gloucester, with a variety of HF stations with beam, vertical, or G5RV antennas.

Amateur radio exams are held on REQUEST at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. Currently pre-registration is necessary. Contact the head of our VE team Bill Poulin- WZ1L if you have any questions about monthly testing.

Monthly member meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at noon except for July and August.

Each Sunday evening at 9:00 PM, the club operates a 2 meter fm net on 145.130. This is an open and informal net which disseminates club news and prepares operators for emergency communications work. All are invited to check into the net as club membership is not a requirement.

The club is open most Tuesday's from 5- 8PM for CAARA members and interested parties to stop by and socialize, as well as use the extensive collection of ham radio gear.

This newsletter is published under the auspices of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association (CAARA), However, all content is the work of individual contributors and may contain ideas, opinions or views not necessarily shared or supported by the CAARA Board of Directors or the membership.

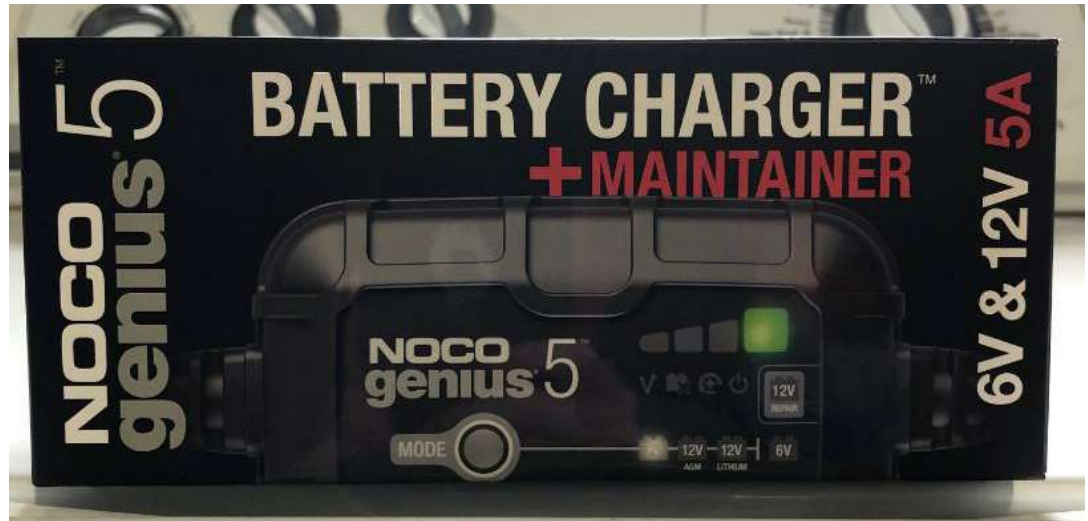


maintainer. The NOCO 5 amp charger and maintainer will work on wet flooded batteries, AGM batteries and even Lithium Ion batteries including the LifePo4 versions as well.

in a low state of charge for a long time and all the electrolyte concentrates on the bottom of the battery and the NOCO charger can fix that as well. It also has a "Force Mode" on it where it will try to get the voltage in batteries back up to 12 volts even if they have 1 volt left in them. Of course your mileage may vary depending how badly damaged your battery really is but at least it does work most of the time.

It will charge 6 volt or 12 volt batteries up to 120 amp hours in size. You can use it indoors or you can strap it to whatever battery you have outdoors with it's included strap. You can strap it to you car or boat battery as long as it is undercover. It works outdoors as it has a thermal sensor inside which will control the rate of charge depending on whether its a cold or hot day out. The NOCO charger even has a "Repair Mode" on it which can repair wet flooded lead acid batteries that have sulfation or stratification inside of them. So sulfation is when a wet flooded battery gets deprived of a full charge all the time and sulfate crystals form on the lead plates.

If its caught early enough the NOCO charger can reverse that in the "Repair Mode". The other issue of stratification in wet flooded batteries is when the battery is



AGM batteries do not have these issues compared to the older wet flooded batteries so there's another reason to get a AGM battery instead. In the photo you can see the NOCO charger sitting on top of my AGM battery for size reference. I really like the build quality on the charger and the battery clamps are really strong and you can even unbolt the clamps and permanently bolt the cable wires to the battery studs.



Operation of the NOCO charger/maintainer is pretty straight forward. Just hook the clamps onto it and then use the start button to select what battery you have and that's it and walk away because it's a smart charger and it will constantly monitor your battery 24/7 . So it has a 4 light bar graph that will indicate the amount of charge your battery has. When it is a full charge you will see a solid green light and when it is in it's float/maintenance mode the green light will slowly pulse. I noticed that after watching it for a week.

I found the NOCO Genius line of chargers on Amazon and the Genius 5 amp charger cost \$69.00. So take the time and make the investment to take care of your batteries instead of letting them sit there and lose their charge until you really need them'



This month Larry- AJ1Z has been busy assembling the new vertical R8 which will be erected soon!

An anonymous member shows up with his car loaded down with an electric lawnmower and weed whacker and takes care of the grass. Jon-K1TP cut down one truckload of brush from the front hedges and gained about a parking spot in doing so.

Brandon has been busy spending the remainder of the grant money for educational items for classroom teaching.

Bill- W1WMM and Jon -K1TP keep the club clean on the inside and will throwing down a coat of wax in the kitchen soon.

ARRL and NASA Team Up to Help Teachers

A radio experiment held on July 26, 2023, to decode a slow-scan TV (SSTV) message sent via the ham radio station on the International Space Station (ISS) was successful.

The image transmitted from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center to the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology participants via the ISS repeater.

The image was received by a group of educators at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut through the voice repeater on the ISS. Teachers from around the United States were on hand for the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, a program that empowers educators to incorporate amateur radio into their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curriculum. As part of the professional development program, the group received and decoded the image sent by volunteers with Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS). The transmitted image said, "ARRL Teachers Institute: ensuring a space for radio in the next generation."

The teachers made tape measure Yagi antennas for the experiment. The teachers thought it was cool. "Amateur radio is so important to the future of engineering and STEM in our country," said Kristen Kucko, KQ4ECP, one of the institute participants. The group gathered outside ARRL Headquarters with antennas they had made earlier in the day. As the pass happened, the educators tracked the ISS by hand. A warble of SSTV transmission filled the air, and the group was excited. After the pass, they used laptops to decode the audio stream into an image, while they sat on picnic tables and enjoyed pizza and wings

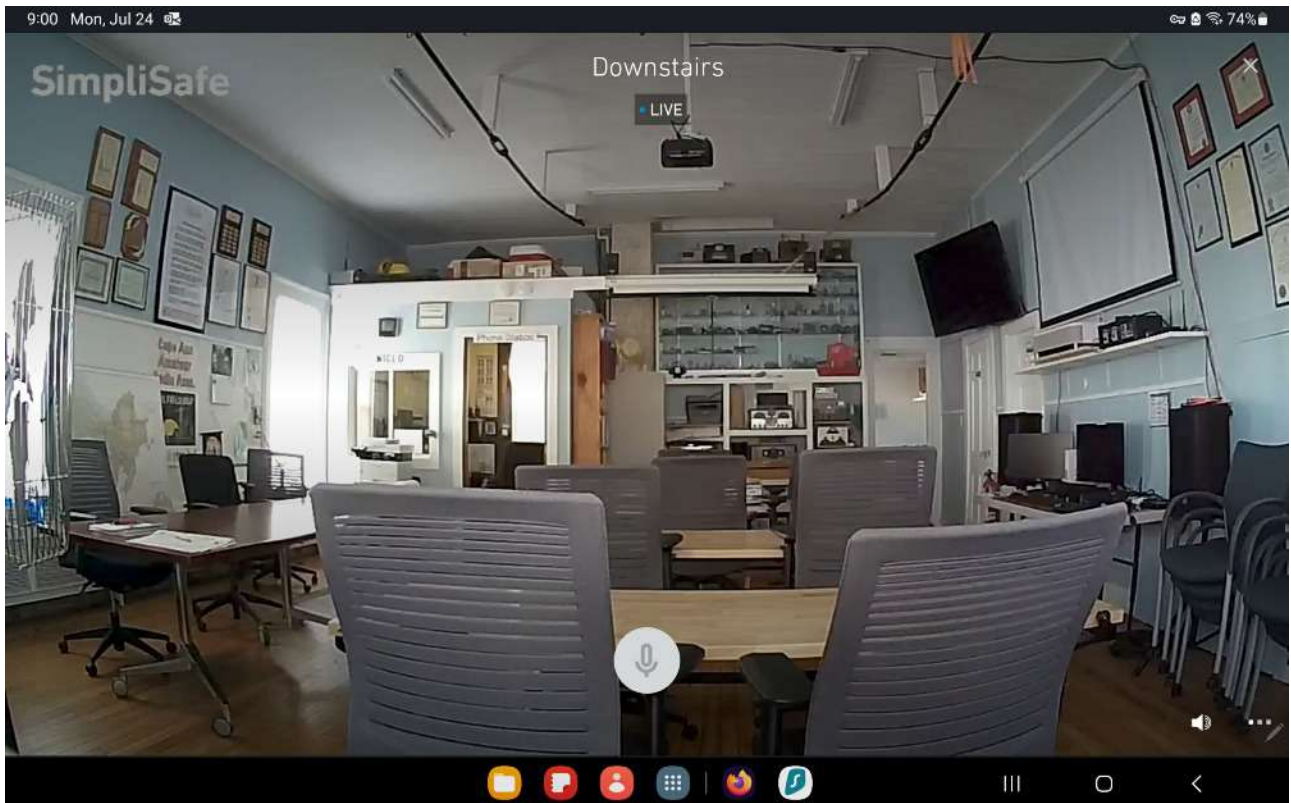
For ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, the experiment was a way to allow teachers to engage with the power of radio. "When teachers can pull an image off the ISS via amateur radio, it gives a sense of accomplishment that gets them excited. We want to get them fired up about radio, so they can carry that energy back to their classrooms and do the same thing with their students," said Goodgame.

Each of the teachers on hand for the second phase of the institute, -- "TI-2: Remote Sensing and Data Analysis," -- have already been through the introductory course and they are all licensed radio amateurs. The institute costs teachers nothing to attend, thanks to funding from the ARRL Education & Technology Program.

CLUB ACTIVITY



Larry- AJ1Z assembling the Cushcraft R8 at the club.



Your Club.

Amateur Radio Newsline Report

CALLING QRZ TO RESTORE FLOOD-DAMAGED EMILIA-ROMAGNA

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Italy's flood-devastated region of Emilia-Romagna faces a long period of reconstruction and hams are involved in providing their own kind of support. Jeremy Boot G4NJH brings us the details.

JEREMY: Although some hams may be more familiar with the Emilia-Romagna region of northern Italy as the host of the recent World Radiosport Team Championship, it is actually now in the amateur radio spotlight for another reason. Remember the callsign 1AØC (One Ay Zero C). Hams will be calling QRZ until the 2nd of August to focus attention on the charitable work being done there by the Italian Relief Corps of the Order of Malta, focusing on the badly damaged Emilia-Romagna region of Italy. The historic deadly floods in May displaced thousands of families, destroyed communities and threatened to wreck many local industries. A multinational team of amateurs will be on the air from the radio station at the Magistral Villa on the Aventine Hill. The Order of Malta's humanitarian projects are known throughout the world, assisting 120 nations with medical, social and humanitarian needs. The operators include Fernando EA5C, Simone IK5RUN, Jun JH4RHF, Dmitry RA9USU and others.

At the time Newsline was being produced, the team's website was under construction. Visit the QRZ.com page of 1AØC for updates.

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A TRIBUTE TO BELOVED SOTA SILENT KEY

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: SOTA activators are planning an international tribute to recall the treasured friendship of a ham who became a Silent Key last year. Ed Durrant DD5LP gives us the details.

ED: From his shack in Poland, Jarek SP9MA, is leading the way among his fellow SOTA supporters. He has issued a call to all friends of the beloved ham known as Guru who became a Silent Key in March of 2022. Jarek wrote on the SOTA reflector that he will

begin using the callsign SP59GURU on January 11th of next year, which would have been Guru's 59th birthday. The callsign will remain active through to March 11th, the anniversary of his death. The loss of Jose-Antonio Gurutzarri Jauregi EA2IF to cancer rocked the SOTA community last year, most especially in Europe, where his commitment to radio on the summits began in his native Spain in 2013.

Jarek has put out a call to SOTA activators worldwide to join him in this special event activation and to start making plans now, well in advance of January.

Though there will be no diplomas or awards for QSOs, Jarek believes the contact itself will provide a memorable moment. In that way, Guru, who left his mark also as a top contester and CW operator, will get another moment with his SOTA brothers and sisters.

Or, as Jarek wrote on the SOTA reflector: [quote] "I just think that as many hearts as possible would connect with the Guru at that time." [endquote]

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DANGEROUS CONDITIONS CANCEL REPEAT ROCKALL ACTIVATION

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Radios and other equipment remain on Rockall Island, where a second attempted activation has failed. Jeremy Boot G4NJH brings us up to date.

JEREMY: A second - and very brief - activation of the remote granite islet known as Rockall was called off after hazardous conditions in the North Atlantic had forced the team to return to the mainland.

Cam Cameron, Emil Bergmann DL8JJ and Nobby GØVJG set sail on the 16th of July only to turn back three days later after making several passes at Rockall. The hams were hoping to have a second activation - three hours of CW and SSB - during their return trip.

The trio was traveling to recover radio equipment left there during the June activation of MMØUKI. Emil and Nobby had called QRZ for several days before their departure, leaving Cam on Rockall. In a challenge to benefit charity, Cam was hoping to break the previous 45-day stay record set in 2014. He had

called for rescue in late June after 32 days of exhaustion and hypothermia.

Describing the team's failed attempt to return, Emil wrote on the Rockall DXpedition's Facebook page: [quote] "Nature has said NO. We reach[ed] the Rockall without difficulty, but the waves [were] extremely high. That's the way of life." [endquote]

Don't be discouraged: The team plans another recovery attempt.

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RADIO OPERATOR NEEDED FOR INDIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: India's government is looking for a radio operator to join the team at the country's research station in the Antarctic. If you like cold weather, Graham Kemp VK4BB tells us what's involved.

GRAHAM: A qualified radio operator is among the many posts being advertised for the next Indian Antarctic Expedition with preference being given to Ham or maritime radio operators. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research has been interviewing candidates for a variety of contract positions to work at its Antarctic research base beginning in November or December of this year. The research season ends sometime in 2025. Radio communication is considered an essential component of this 43rd expedition, which hopes to look at the ecosystem as well as satellite communication, ionospheric studies, stellar observations and climate change. The government has been seeking a candidate proficient in English.(NCPOR)

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SUCCESSFUL ORBIT FOR CUBESATS BUILT IN PHILIPPINES

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Students in the Philippines are feeling proud that their two ham radio cubesats have entered orbit. Jason Daniels VK2LAW tells us about their mission.

JASON: Two amateur radio cubesats from the Philippines are now in orbit. Maya-5 and Maya-6 were built by university students with the goal of helping the nation keep its momentum going on

satellite development while using locally sourced materials. The primary mission of the cubesat pair is to give the amateur radio community a digital message relay service through the Automatic Packet Reporting System, or APRS. The onboard APRS digipeaters use the frequency of 145.825 MHz for transmitting as well as receiving. The cubesats are also demonstrating a data/message store-and-forward system compatible with Universal Amateur Radio Text and E-mail messaging.

The International Space Station released the cubesats on the 19th of July.

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CHURCHES AND CHAPELS ON THE AIR GETS Foothold IN US

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: A popular ham radio activity that activates churches and chapels, mainly in the UK, is getting a foothold in the US. Kevin Trotman N5PRE tells us more about it.

KEVIN: The amateur radio community and the church community in the UK have enjoyed a one-day convergence each September since 2006. That was the year in which John G3XYF, suggested that CHOTA - Churches and Chapels on the Air - could be as viable and important an activity as Lighthouses, Mills, Islands, Summits, Railways and other "on the air" entities. The activity began simply with his own church in East Yorkshire, where John operated with the special callsign GB0LOW. CHOTA, which is organized by the World Association of Christian Radio Amateurs and Listeners, has since grown to include between 20 and 30 churches in the UK and, in some instances, a few churches in the Czech Republic and Germany.

This year's event is taking place on Saturday the 9th of September - and just as CHOTA grew in the years following 2006, it leaps across the ocean now to the Highlands Presbyterian Church in Mississippi where Frank Howell will be calling QRZ under his own callsign K4FMH. Other hams, using their own calls as well, are expected to join him on the 16-acre church campus. Frank expects the event to feature stations for SSB, CW and FT8. There will also be VHF/UHF and satellite operations. Frank told Newsline in an email [quote] "This is a great fit for our church of about 1,100 members because we seek

to reach out to the community to bring them to our campus." [endquote]

He said that a number of area clubs are involved as are some hams in the congregation. The church is so ham-friendly, in fact, that the administrator and an administrative assistant are planning to take their technician license exam soon.

Frank has already received emails from other US churches inquiring about joining September's activation. Interested churches should email John and let him know the name and location of the church and the callsign being used. John's email appears in the text version of this week's newscast.

CHOTA is not a contest but there are certificates for contacting the stations - and there are rewards for just being part of this goodwill event that's now gone intercontinental.

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DO YOU HAIKU? ROGER ROGER!

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: What's the one ham radio competition you can enter without turning your rig on? The Amateur Radio Newsline haiku challenge. We've been inviting listeners to channel their most creative selves and share the joy of ham radio in the form of a haiku. On our website, arnewsline.org, you will find a submission form. Follow traditional haiku form and send in your entry: The first line is five syllables, the second line is seven syllables and the finishing third line has another five syllables. We cannot accept any other formats.

We will pick from the best submissions that follow the 5/7/5 syllable rule and represent the love of amateur radio. Your prize? For now, bragging rights -- and a featured spot for your haiku on the Amateur Radio Newsline website. We may have a surprise for you at the end of the year, however. So visit our website at arnewsline.org and take a look at this week's winning ham radio haiku.

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'MOON DAY' PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON HAM RADIO

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Although the event at the Frontiers of Flight Museum was called "Moon Day," amateur radio shared the spotlight with the help of AMSAT and two area ham clubs. Moon Day was

held at the Dallas, Texas museum at Love Field on July 22nd - the anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. The educational event celebrated ham radio communications through satellites while acknowledging the great strides that have been made since that historic lunar landing. AMSAT ambassador Tom Schuessler, N5HYP, told Newsline in an email that AMSAT's presentations focused on amateur radio in space and with the help of AMSAT's Virginia Smith, NV5F, Calvin Gluck, W7KYG and Tony Medina, NT5TM, guests learned about the technology behind these communications. The keynote speaker was retired NASA astronaut Shane Kimbrough KE5HOD.

Working alongside AMSAT, the Dallas Amateur Radio Club, W5FC, demonstrated the use of repeaters, Morse Code and the HF bands. A number of young Scouts were able to work toward their radio and exploration merit badges. This was the 15th annual Moon Day held at the museum and Tom told Newsline it will be back again next year.

(TOM SCHUESSLER, N5HYP)

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RADIO 'BUMBLEBEES' TAKE FLIGHT USING CW

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Sunday, July 30th, has been set aside for bumblebees. Those the the radio operators who'll be operating QRP as they call CQ. Randy Sly W4XJ tells us how to "BEE" ready for them.

RANDY: The Adventure Radio Society is hoping for a swarm of bumblebees on Sunday, July 30th -- or at least, that's the buzz. For the four-hour period between 1700 and 2100 UTC, the organizers of a casual CW contest called The Flight of the Bumblebees are encouraging portable operators to walk, bicycle, row - using any means of engine-free travel - and set up at a field site. There, they will call CQ with their callsign and a unique identifying Bumblebee Number assigned to them. For bumblebees, being in the field is important. The society, which was created in 1996, tries to foster the practice of radio operations in an ecologically responsible manner.

Now remember: bumblebees are small, so this is going to be a QRP event and no one will be transmitting more than 5 watts. Typically, these radio

bumblebees can be found on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters, around standard QRP frequencies. Who'll be looking for them? Other bumblebees, of course, but home-based stations who are also operating QRP can chase the bees or one another.

For details, rules and other information, visit [arsqrp dot blogspot dot com](http://arsqrp.blogspot.com) (arsqrp.blogspot.com). Bumblebees and home-based stations will be eligible for commendations based on points but additional recognition will be given to those busy bees who operate from attractive sites, have an unusual adventure or perhaps operate with some notable equipment.

As with previous such contests, this one is sure to create a hive of activity.

(ADVENTURE RADIO SOCIETY, MONITORING TIMES 1999)

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WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, be listening for Francesco, IK6QON operating as IA5/IK6QON from Isola del Giglio, IOTA Number EU-028, until the 31st of July. He is on HF using CW and SSB. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

Listen for JA1QQU/6 operating from Yoron Island, IOTA Number AS-023 from the 27th through to the 30th of July. He will be on 10 and 6 metres using FT8 between 2300 and 0200 UTC and again from 1000 through to 1400 UTC. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

Lance, W7GJ, will be conducting a 6-metre DXpedition as 3B9GJ from Rodrigues Island, IOTA Number AF-017, from the 27th of August to the 7th of September. He will be operating on the HF bands as well as doing EME. See QRZ.com under Lance's homecall for additional details and QSL information.

Frans, DJ0TP, will be operating as TK/DJ0TP from Corsica's main island, IOTA number EU-014 from the 27th of July to the 3rd of September. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

(425 DX BULLETIN)

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KICKER: ONE LAST POTA FOR JACK

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Our final story takes us to a park in Florida where a group of POTA activators gathered to share stories and remember the friend who no longer joins them. Dave Parks WB8ODF brings us that story.

DAVE: Amateur radio was there for Jack Hales W1BBU following the loss of his wife six years ago after a lifetime of nearly 50 years together. Returning to radio restored the grieving widower into a vibrant circle of life.

On Sunday, July 23rd, amateur radio was there for Jack again. This time the hams were offering a memorial activation at Sawgrass Lake Park in Florida. It was a familiar and frequent operating spot for Jack and his friends doing Parks on the Air until Jack's unexpected death on June 13th at the age of 80.

One of the four radio operators during those three hours was Lisa Neuscheler, KC1YL. She said the days' tally of 108 SSB contacts were rich with memories from many POTA enthusiasts who had written Jack's callsign several times in their logs. They traded stories along with signal reports. All contacts from the Sunday activation will receive certificates. The four operators' names and callsigns appear on them as well as a photo of Jack, the man whose travels in the military left his mark around the world, including Indonesia where he'd helped establish a fledgling amateur radio society.

Even as a Silent Key, Jack is also launching another prospective ham career: His granddaughter Haley, who had accompanied him and his St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club friends, is studying for her license. She will likely use her grandfather's shack equipment and - she is hoping - his callsign, the same call that belonged to Jack's father.

No doubt, like her grandfather, you will soon find her among the tall antennas under the sun at Sawgrass Lake Park.

August 12th meeting of the Board of Directors at 11am. All club members are welcome to attend.

We are looking for members who wish to join the Board in the Fall. Let us know, we would love to have you onboard!

Teaching a new generation: Paducah amateur radio group holds summer class

PADUCAH — The Paducah Amateur Radio Association is working toward getting the younger generation interested in ham radio operation with its new summer class.

The ham radio class has met since July 8 and will last through July 29, with lessons from 2-5 p.m. every Saturday.



There are a total of 10 participants in the class, including students aged 5-14 and their parents. The class is covering basic knowledge of ham radio, etiquette on the radio, and basic knowledge of electronics.

By the end of the session, students who successfully complete the course and pass the entry level test will be issued a free handheld radio capable of accessing the local repeater. Their parents are required to accompany them, but the parents can also become certified ham radio operators with a technician license.

According to primary instructor Michael Durr, the classes have been going well so far and he is excited to bring in a younger demographic to the hobby. He said the average age of someone in the Paducah Amateur Radio Association is around 70.

“Both the parents and the children are much younger than the normal demographic that we have in the club, so it’s good to bring in that age group,” Durr said.

Kathy Webster, whose father’s interest in ham radio inspired her to learn about it, participated in the class in the spring with her two children.

“It’s been a shared interest, kind of a common hobby we can all work with — that not only will help us learn something together and grow with that, but also show ways we can reach out to the greater community as a family,” Webster said.

Durr explained what he believes to be the appeal of ham radio to children.

“I think most of them are concerned about what happens in disasters when the cell phones don’t work. When all that doesn’t work, they still want to talk to their friends and family,” Durr said. “The other thing is that it’s electronics. The kids who like math and science are interested in that.”

Webster said her son was more interested in the class than her daughter, largely due to his interest in science. He is homeschooled and has been learning about physics and magnetism.

“I think it really helped him understand that a little bit better, but also see how it can be applied in practical situations,” Webster said.

Durr said that although many people think ham radio is a thing of the past, it is still growing in popularity. He emphasizes the importance of ham radio in the classes, which he has built his career in emergency services on.

“People think, ‘Well, I’ll just call someone on the cell phone,’ but weather events will take out cell coverage quickly. It’ll take a tower down, interfere with electricity, that sort of thing,” Durr said. “But when all else fails, ham radio works.”

VGC VR-N7500- What is it?



I got this radio from Jim - K1TT and it is an interesting 2/440 fm transceiver. VGC VR-N7500 is the ultimate experience in mobile radio communications! With a unique design, discreet installation and remote smartphone integration, the VR-N7500 is a mobile amateur radio unlike anything you've seen before!

VGC VR-N7500 is a full featured dual band mobile radio with full remote programming and control capabilities through your smartphone. It installs discreetly in your vehicle, completely out of sight, so there is no bulky radio to get in the way on your dash. There's no onboard display, either, and no wired remote display panel. In fact, you don't need wired access to the radio at all. That's because it connects via Bluetooth® directly to an app on your smartphone!

The VR-N7500 is a powerful dual band amateur radio with 40W on UHF and 50W on VHF. It's solidly built, with a tough, durable steel casing that's made to last. It features a built-in FM radio with programmable presets, N number of regions with 16 channels per region, low medium and high power options, VOX, DTMF decoder, MDC monitor, GPS and APRS capability. It also has Morse code monitoring with a Morse Code decoder that translates Morse Code to text.

But there's more, much much more. The VR-N7500 connects directly to an app your smartphone via Bluetooth, for a new and unique experience with your mobile two way radio. Through the app, you can control every aspect of your VR-N7500, essentially turning your smartphone into the radio display! The VR-7500 is fully controllable, programmable and updateable via the app on your smartphone. There is no programming on a PC, and no programming cable is needed. Programming is done through the app, directly to the radio over the air in real time. It's easiest programming ever! And updates? Firmware updates are also performed through the app. making them easy, quick and painless.

More next month after I field test it in my car. Jon K1TP

Commercial Interests Petition FCC for High Power Allocation on Shortwave Spectrum

The ad hoc group “Shortwave Modernization Coalition” petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF 2 – 25 MHz range with up to 20 KW, including in bands immediately adjacent to spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. This group appears to represent high-speed stock trading interests.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is treating the petition as a subject of concern for its members and the greater Amateur Radio Service. ARRL Laboratory staff are studying the matter from a technical standpoint, including analysis of transmitted signals potentially interfering with Amateur Radio communications on Amateur Radio spectrum. The results from this expert review are being finalized and will inform ARRL’s filed comments on the matter.

The FCC has assigned the petition RM-11953. Comments are due by July 31, 2023, and reply comments by August 15. While the petitioners exclude the amateur bands, high power operations on immediately adjacent bands are proposed.

A copy of the petition is at:
<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1042840187330/1> (PDF).



Is your station grounded?

A Message from ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR

Dear ARRL members,

Yesterday, the ARRL Board of Directors completed their second annual meeting. I'm writing to let you know that they made the tough, but necessary, decision to increase the regular membership dues rate to \$59 a year starting January 1, 2024 (see 2024 Dues Rates). Additionally, we have chosen to separate the printed, mailed magazine from regular membership. Members will be able to choose whether they want to add-on a print subscription to any of our magazines including QST, On the Air, QEX, and NCJ. All members will continue to have online, digital access to each of these four magazines and the digital archive as part of their regular membership benefits.

This is only the second time in 22 years that ARRL has raised our dues. It is a necessary part of ensuring ARRL is supported so we can continue to promote and fight hard for our Amateur Radio Service, while providing benefits and services for our members that increase your knowledge and enjoyment of ham radio.

To help us make this decision, we invited every ARRL member to participate in a survey in May. Over 20,000 members responded (you can view the survey results [here](#)). We know from the survey results that most of you will find the new rate reasonable, or even ask why we didn't set it higher. We also know that some may find the rate is too high. As I've shared with many of you during my visits at hamfests and conventions, each of us has a responsibility to be active participants, and to support ARRL if we want to increase our ranks and ensure a lasting legacy for amateur radio's future.

You told us that you value ARRL's advocacy efforts, including spectrum defense, standing up to regulators and policymakers, and our work in other areas that defend, promote, and grow amateur radio - including STEM outreach to schools, teachers, and youth. There is no other organization that is working harder to advance a vision that allows any citizen to explore, develop, and practice radio communications and radio technology.

Your feedback showed us the many benefits, services, and programs you use - from Logbook of The World, to the work done by the ARRL Lab to test equipment for product reviews. While our magazines topped the list of benefits, many of you also shared that your reading preferences have changed. Some of you prefer print, and increasingly members prefer digital. As a result, for those who prefer print, you will be able to subscribe to QST and/or On the Air magazine. Again, all members will continue to have access to the digital editions of all four ARRL magazines.

Have you ever heard a Life Member say, "I got a good deal when I signed up for Life Membership 25 (or 30, or 40...) years ago." They're right! They got a good deal, but continuing to serve Life members is not sustainable without making some changes. So, we're going to freeze new applications for the program, not adding any new Life Memberships until we can price the offering to be revenue neutral over its term. And, again, as more members prefer digital, we'll be asking current Life Members to opt-in if they want to continue to receive QST by mail.

The cost of doing business goes up every year. During the last couple of years, the costs associated with printing and postage have increased significantly. We've cut and delayed hiring for some positions on our professional staff - one of the smallest teams we've had staffing our headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, in years. We are also continuing to examine other cost-saving measures, but we cannot go further without reducing or eliminating benefits and programs which our members have told us are important to them.

I can assure you that the ARRL Board exercises due diligence and oversight in making sure your association is a good steward of your membership dollars. The reality is that ARRL does a lot - in fact much more than dues cover.

ARRL shares your passion for amateur radio. We are committed to strengthening and growing our community, and protecting our rights to use and experiment on our amateur radio spectrum. We have a 109-year track record that includes YOU as part of that ongoing legacy of support for amateur radio and ARRL.

73

Rick Roderick, K5UR

Membership Type	Description	1 Year	3 Years
US	All the benefits of ARRL membership plus 4 digital magazines.	\$59	\$174
add print QST magazine	12 issues of QST via standard mail. Membership required.	+ \$25	+ \$75
add print <i>On the Air</i> magazine	6 issues of <i>On the Air</i> magazine via standard mail. Membership required.	+ \$25	+ \$75
US + First-Class Mail® delivery of QST	12 issues of QST via First-Class Mail®.	\$132	N/A
Life Membership First-Class Mail® delivery of QST – paid annually	12 issues of QST via First-Class Mail® for a current Life Member.	\$48	N/A
Family	Must reside with primary member and have corresponding membership dates.	\$12	\$36

It looks like 12 months of QST digital version will cost us \$59.00 and add another \$25.00 if you want QST paper version sent to you. This brings the grand total to \$84.00 per year.

It was \$49.00 last year for everything.