

# CAARA NEWS



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



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Brandon- NQ1W

First, I am looking forward seeing you all at the upcoming CAARA Holiday Party on December 9th at noon. It is always an incredibly fun gathering with a great turnout to share the camaraderie of our club over a nice meal together!

In other celebratory news, if you hear or see Bill Poulin WZ1L on air or around the clubhouse, make sure you congratulate him on making the ARRL top ten list for accreditation of new hams in our section (EMA)! That's quite an accomplishment and represents hundreds of licensed hams and hundreds of hours of volunteer work getting the new radio amateurs tested and licensed. We are very lucky to have Bill as a member and on our board at CAARA. If you are interested in this very rewarding activity of testing and validating new radio amateurs, please let Bill know so he can put you on the path to getting your FCC Volunteer Examiner certification so that you too may test and sign the licenses of new radio amateurs at CAARA.

December is a busy month at CAARA, with three events on December 3rd alone! First on December 3rd, we have the Sea Cadets and Paul Krueger coming to use the training center. The cadets' training will take up the morning, but at noon we are inviting licensed members to join us in helping the Cadets make some contacts under W1GLO up at the clubhouse. Also on December 3rd, the Road Race Communications Team will be working the final YuKanRun race events of the Season. They are still looking for volunteers, so please help us end the race season strong by helping for one last race. And that evening at 9pm, we will be continuing our new format on the Sunday Night Club Net for radio amateurs looking to find help from Elmers on air and for Elmers to share their wisdom with new



to

hams. More information and schedule on guests for the Club Net to follow.

Finally, as we end the year we are sending out notifications to club members for membership renewals. As you can see around the clubhouse and on the nets, we are in the process of making some significant improvements to the club. Some of these physical improvements like the repair and replacement of the 2m Repeater System antenna and hardline are essential to the club's function and come at significant costs. They would simply not be possible without members' support through your membership dues and donations. Please think of all you help enable by making a timely renewal. And thank you in advance for keeping CAARA in mind as you consider your end-of-year donations. Your contributions are what make it possible for CAARA to fulfill its mission of supporting the amateur radio community of Cape Ann!

Thanks and regards,

Brandon Hockle NQ1W



## THE EMCOMM MINUTE

By Dean- KB1PGH

So when your married and raising a kid and owning a home and working full time there's not a lot of time to play ham radio. I haven't operated HF in a year so I finally got the chance to play some radio. Even though it was in the high 30's for temps I went up to hospital hill in Rockport and operated HF portable for a while on Sunday November 12.

I would also say that if you are unable to operate HF from your home QTH don't give up and go operate portable. I can't operate from my home QTH due to power line noise and other RFI and EMI from local businesses. That's what forced me how to figure out how to operate HF portable. So for my set up I used a Icom IC 7300 and for DC power I used a VMAX AGM

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**Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association**  
**6 Stanwood Street**  
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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](mailto: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  
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

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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.**





120 Ah AGM battery connected to a West mountain Radio N8XJK battery booster to get the voltage up to 13.8 to make the radio happy. For the antenna I used my Buddipole 18 foot mast and I attached a Hy Power off center fed 6 to 40 meter dipole antenna. I probably operated 3 hours before the wind chill got to me but I did manage to make a few contacts. I totaled 12 contacts on 10 , 20 and 40 meters. I made 4 POTA or "Parks on the Air" contacts.

There were quite a few POTA stations out there. The biggest surprise to me was that I was able to make some great DX contacts on 10 meters. I worked Italy, Spain and Namibia in South Africa all on 10 meters which surprised me. I tried 6 meters for kicks but no luck there. I would have stayed longer but the 30's in temps wore me down. Next time I'll just set up my rig in the car and stay warm that way.

So if you can't operate out of your house you can still make contacts around the world with just 100 watts and a simple wire dipole. Also for anyone who has a Technician class license now is the time to get on the air and use your 6 and 10 meter privileges since we are closing in on the top of the solar cycle. By the way, the ARRL 10 meter contest is coming up on December 9th and 10th which is a Saturday and a Sunday so there's your opportunity to get on the air







# November Member Meeting

Downstairs



# November VE Session





## ANTENNAS by Curtis Wright- AA3JE

I have to admit I am deeply ashamed. I am an Expert class operator who has been off the air for a while. The problem was not the gear, nor my skills. It was the antenna problem.

It's my fault, really. I love wire antennas, so everywhere we lived we had wires in the trees. My favorite was the old ARRL Handbook triangular antenna, with two ground legs and a vertical leg. Half an hour with a slingshot and you were all set. Use a shovel to create a slit in the lawn and presto. Antenna.

But my wife has a deep aversion to wires in the trees. Then I bought a really neat multi-band vertical. I started assembling it in the garage on two sawhorses. As I added sections I stuck the base out the back window and opened the garage door. I was five feet out in the street when I heard a tapping, looked, and saw my wife shaking her head. I sold it.

Then I realized that the house had a timber frame and a wooden/shingle roof, so I set up a horizontal loop with a tuner. It worked great till I connected a power amplifier. When I hit 200 watts, all the CO and Fire detectors in the house went off when I keyed.

“FIRE, FIRE, FIRE. Monoxide detected. Evacuate immediately!”

As my wife had gone to bed, this turned out to be a very sad situation. Turns out the detectors do not like being in the middle of an RF field.

Thus, no amplifier.

When we moved to New Hampshire, my wife said, “Spend the money and buy a nice antenna.”

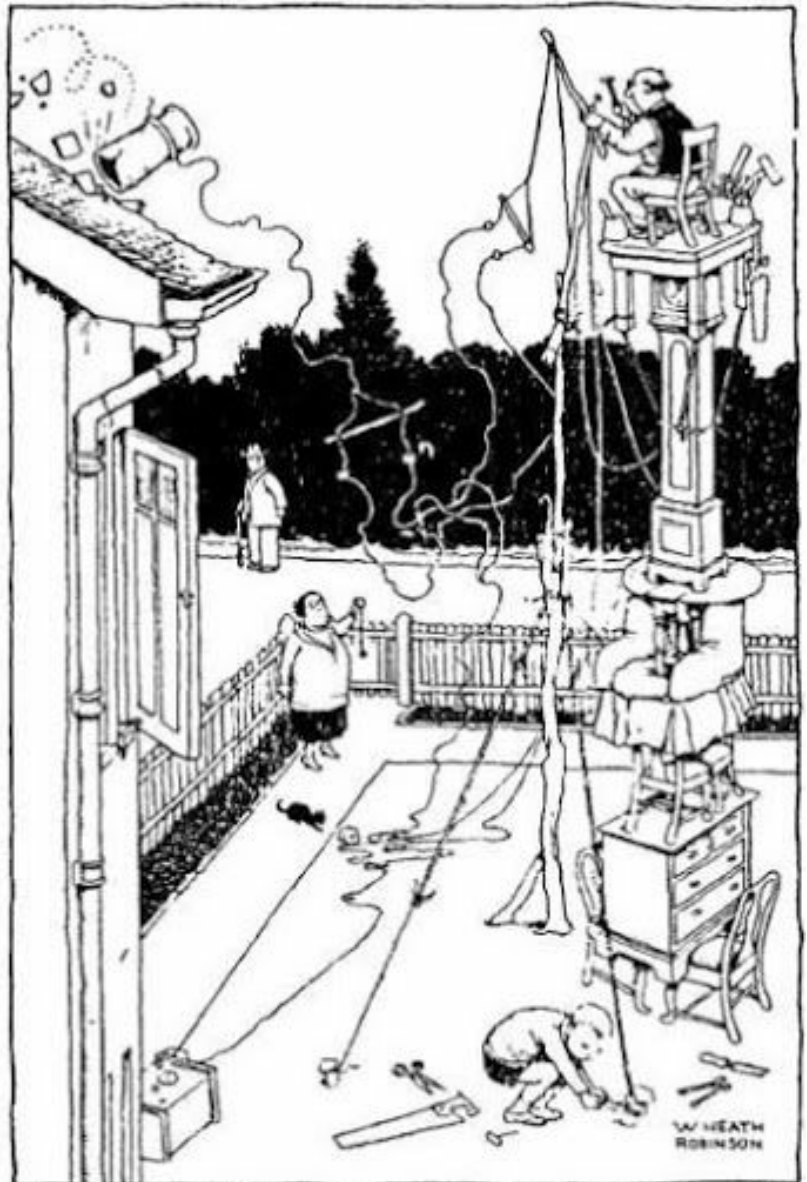
Then we had an example of the local lightning storms. Breathtaking and frightening. Since I am retired, which means I am working flat out 12 hours a day, I have been thinking what to do. I need to find a location that is out of my wife's field of view. A long wire to the trees out back with a good ground system and one of the good lightning arrestors would work, but each summer I am so busy that digging in a ground system never gets done.

I thought of a tower, but the local phone company put one up on the next ridge over, and my wife hated it.

I am thinking about one of those neat field units, put it out on the porch when working.

But the house has a metal roof, and I have no idea how that will affect things.

Time to log onto HRO. They have to have something. Wish me luck.



## **WX1AW Active for 2023 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day**

As part of the celebrations for SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) on December 2, 2023, hams will be on the air as WX1AW from the ARRL® Radio Laboratory station, WIHQ. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, and other amateurs plan to be on the air for several hours Saturday morning and midday.

The event honors all SKYWARN storm spotters and amateur radio operators for their contributions to the National Weather Service (NWS) during severe weather. Amateur radio operators also provide vital communication to the NWS and emergency management teams in other instances when normal communications fail.

"SKYWARN is a perfect example of an opportunity for hams to provide situational awareness for our communities during severe weather. We are happy to participate with our partners at the NWS and look forward to continuing the service provided by amateur radio operators around the country," said Johnston.

For those interested in participating in the operating event, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website is updated with the SKYWARN registration form, mapping form, rules, and information.

SRD was developed in 1999 by the NWS and ARRL. On SRD amateur stations exchange contact information with as many NWS stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters, plus the 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands. Contacts made via repeaters are also permitted. Non-amateur radio spotters can exchange information with NWS offices using social media. To learn how to become a trained NOAA storm spotter, visit Spotter Training ([weather.gov](http://weather.gov)).

To receive a QSL card from WX1AW, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

W1AW

225 Main Street

Newington, CT 06111

## **ARRL RF Safety Committee Develops New Guidelines to Communicate RF Safety**

Radio amateurs now have a new tool from ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® to help answer questions about their stations. Neighbors of amateur radio operators are sometimes concerned about transmissions and radio frequency exposure from amateur stations. The ARRL RF Safety Committee, with their international counterparts at the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), and the Swedish Society of Radio Amateurs (SSA), has developed a new set of guidelines to help amateurs interact with and talk to their neighbors about RF exposure.

Chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee Greg Lapin, N9GL, said the new informational PDF found on the ARRL RF Exposure page, [Helping Amateurs Interact with Neighbors Asking About Radio Transmissions](#), was developed after a year of discussions about RF safety.

"Neighbors may be alarmed by some of the misinformation about RF safety that is available from a variety of sources. By following the exposure regulations from the Federal Communications Commission, we can be confident that our families and neighbors are safe," Lapin said.

Lapin added that RF exposure regulations are based on decades of trustworthy research. He also encouraged all amateur radio operators to perform exposure assessments for their stations to make sure they meet those regulations.

## **You Have Been Warned!**

If you'll invest a few minutes to read this article to the end, you may find you've saved not just money but your self-respect as well. As you move through these comments let's get one thing out of the way right up front: I should

have known better. That being said, please no hate mail, all you naysayers just bite your tongues and no finger pointing. Let's just crack on.

When I buy or sell items through the eHam Classified section, I don't just submit an ad then forget about it. If I post an ad, I let it run it for a little while then I'll remove it when it's completed its work or has worn out its welcome. I find it annoying to reach out to someone about some gear he's selling through an ad here on eHam only to get a reply from the seller saying he sold that 6 months ago! Well, did it ever occur to him to mark it as SOLD or to delete the ad? Does anyone really want all those inquires to continue after it sold? It reminds me of a teacher in high school who'd respond to some kid acting out in class by saying aloud for everyone to hear, "What do you think this is? Your home?" implying of course to the offender and anyone else in class laughing his head off at him that you're in public now, everyone is watching so don't do that here. The web sites are here for us all, not a place to dump an ad then walk away when it's used up. Needless to say, I clean up my ads once they've done.

Viewers used to hear on "Dragnet" years ago, "...The story you are about to hear is true. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent.". The following account is true.

A short time ago I posted a WTB on eHam (but it could have been on any such website whether or not ham radio related) for an item which due to the pandemic had become impossible to find new from any of the retail outlets including the manufacturer. I let the ad run for a couple of weeks or so but had no responses. I deleted the ad and re-posted it so it would be seen on the top by more viewers who don't scroll very deep into the ads. Because so many of the ads on eHam are dead wood after a few weeks I'm thinking folks don't even bother looking much farther than the first page or so. Anyway, I posted it anew and within a couple of hours I got a response from a guy who said he had what I was looking for sitting on a shelf collecting dust. We worked out a win-win deal and he said he'd get back to me the next day after he put it on the bench to test. Sadly though it was dead and we both agreed the deal was off. After a few more days someone else saw my WTB ad and reached out to me saying he had the unit I was looking for which hadn't really been used and sent pictures of it. Great! I thought and responded that I'd take it. Fast forward two weeks and almost \$800 later, I still have no product. What's more I'd been scammed by someone who'd taken on the identity of a legitimate ham who had no idea his good name and callsign was being used by this interloper. The details of this incident while important I simply don't wish to smear more egg on my face than is absolutely necessary, a few details will be used sparingly. Here are some red flags to look out for when you are buying gear:

1. Under no circumstances should you ever use Friends and Family unless you know the guy at the other end personally. If your cousin stiff's you out of money, you know where he lives and you can always send Guido over to tap his knee caps. Never ever use Friends and Family if you do not know the other party. Never! It doesn't matter what they say to sweet talk you into using F&F just don't do it. Tell them you'll cover the PayPal fee of 2.9% and maybe split the shipping. At least with PayPal Goods and Services you have recourse if the seller doesn't ship the item. F&F you are totally on your own. Do not be lulled into thinking one or the other is a faster way to complete the deal. Likewise, sending a money order or a cashier's check has its own risks: you still might not get your item and what recourse do you have then?

2. Make sure the email address being used by the other guy is legitimate, that it belongs to the right guy. The email address you're corresponding with should also be their PayPal link. If they differ, STOP! In my case, the guy "selling" to me created a gmail account that looked legitimate. He was fast to respond to inquires. Verifying email addresses with ham operators is a bit easier than most because we tend to leave footprints. Some of the guys reading this have different email address for eHam, the FCC and PayPal. When you do that just know, you're making it harder to do business with. NO ONE wants to take the risk of being directed to an alternate address. If however you make the effort to post a question to one address then insist he provide the answer on the known email address. If you're dealing with an eHam transaction, search on the QTH classifieds to see if the same guy has a WTB there. There's a way to contact the real owner so you can ask if you and he have been talking through "this other" email address. If he says, "No, that's not me" then you're done. You just saved yourself a ton of headache and you still have your money. Verify the seller! Verify the buyer!

3. If the other party is licensed in the U.S., is the email address you're transferring funds to registered in the U.S. too? You can tell if before you hit the send [the money] button in PayPal, if a screen pops up confirming that your U.S. Dollars will be converted to Canadian Dollars or rubles, peso's or some other currency, STOP! Go no further. If a currency conversion pops up and it's unexpected, stop the transaction. This is probably a scam.

4. If in email or a phone conversation the other party assures you that he'd "never stiff a [fellow] ham" or assures you of his integrity, or is too old or honest to take advantage of your good nature, STOP! I've heard these lines before and every time stiffing you and being lied to is exactly what's going on.

5. Verify, verify, verify.

Most of us have never had a problem buying and selling when using online ham sites. However, it only takes one bad, one REALLY bad deal to tank your radio budget for a long time. It's unfortunate that people lie. It's unfortunate when someone gives you their word, it sometimes is meaningless, It is truly sad that people have a greater propensity for greed than having empathy for others around them. It is difficult to enjoy life when total strangers are hell-bent on causing harm to others, who if the tables were turned would feel just as incensed.

I'll leave you with two pieces of advice from very wise men which I had set aside briefly that are now engraved in my mind.

Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves

O be wise; what can I say more?

I'm not saying don't trust others. I'm not saying to stop using online classified ads. And I'm not saying to not use PayPal. Please realize there're more crooks out there than ever before. Use common sense. Don't be in such a hurry to get that radio, that mic, that amp or tuner that you throw caution out the window. Verify the other source.

## **Amateur Radio Newline Report**

### **FIRE SWEEPS THROUGH NIKOLA TESLA'S LAST REMAINING LAB**

PAUL/ANCHOR: We begin this week's report with news of a fire that nearly destroyed a historic landmark with a longstanding connection to radio and innovation. Kevin Trotman N5PRE has the details.

KEVIN: In New York, a raging fire swept through the last remaining laboratory of Nikola Tesla, where a massive redevelopment began three years ago to create a science center and a hub of amateur radio activity and education. Marc Alessi, the nonprofit center's executive director, said at a press conference on November 28th that authorities have ruled out arson and are still investigating the cause.

The historically significant laboratory building itself, set on a 15-acre site on Long Island, sustained damages of at least \$3-million from the November 21st fire. A worldwide fundraising effort on indiegogo has begun for the lab, which the Serbian-born scientist used in the early 1900s. This fundraising is separate from the already \$20-million raised for the renovation - an effort that is still \$6-million short of its goal.

Amateur radio club N2TSC will be housed in the visitors center - a different building from the devastated lab. Ed Wilson, N2XDD, the club's president, told Newline that the visitors centre was not damaged by the blaze, which drew the response of more than 100 volunteer firefighters from the surrounding community. Plans continue to go forward for the site's overall redevelopment as an educational and community resource, but it is not clear how far back the original opening date of late 2025 will be delayed.

(ED WILSON, N2XDD; CBS; PATCH.COM)

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### **HAMS HELP TRACK DOWN LIFESAVING MEDICINE FOR ILL CHILD IN INDIA**



PAUL/ANCHOR: Hams in India raced the clock to help locate and deliver medicine in short supply to a critically ill little girl. John Williams VK4JJW tells how they did it.

JOHN: Working under a critically short deadline and across the borders of several nations, hams in India were able to locate a medicine that is vital to a 7-year-old girl in neighbouring Bangladesh who was hospitalised for a neurological disorder. The medicine was in her doctor's hands within 48 hours of being found.

The girl's parents had been told by doctors at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital that they were in short supply of the anti-viral drug that was successfully treating their daughter and that no stock of the drug could be found elsewhere in the country at present. The girl's father told The Times of India that he promptly launched a search by contacting Rahat Khan, S21DI, an amateur radio operator in Bangladesh. Rahat put out a call to his network of ham contacts in neighbouring countries, all to no avail. In India, hams in the West Bengal Radio Club found an alternative of the brand in the state of Kerala but it was not clear whether the girl would respond to that drug. The necessary brand was at last located in New Delhi by one of the newest members of the club, Naendraath Jana, a student in the Indian Academy of Communication and Disaster Management. According to the club's secretary, Ambarish Nag Biswas, VU2JFA, the hams then tracked down someone at the New Delhi airport who was preparing to return home to Bangladesh - and who agreed to transport the medicine. The girl's father met the passenger at the airport in Dhaka. The girl received the treatment on Friday, November 24th.

This is John Williams VK4JJW.

(THE TIMES OF INDIA, THE STATESMAN)

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#### FCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSALS FOR 2200 and 630 METERS

PAUL/ANCHOR: There is still time to comment on an FCC proposal that would remove the baud rate limitation for the 2200 meter band and the 630 meter band. The agency has said it would like input on what appropriate bandwidth limitation might be set instead. In making this proposal, FCC acknowledges previous comments that have been received, underscoring public-safety benefits for radio communications during emergencies, such as natural disasters.

The FCC is also proposing to maintain existing bandwidth limitations on the VHF and UHF bands.

This is the latest action by the commission, which recently established a bandwidth limitation of 2.8 kHz for digital transmissions on certain amateur radio HF bands, eliminating the longstanding baud rate limitation on those bands.

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#### SPACE X ASSURES FCC: NO RADIO INTERFERENCE FROM STARLINK

PAUL/ANCHOR: In other news in Washington, D.C., the FCC has received a document from SpaceX in which the company gives assurances that its cellular Starlink system does not pose a hazard to other radio signals. More on that from Sel Embee KB3TZD.

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#### NASA RELEASES NEW VERSION OF ISS-SPOTTING APP

PAUL/ANCHOR: Are you looking out for the International Space Station? NASA has just made it even easier. Andy Morrison K9AWM tells us how.

ANDY: If you've got the International Space Station in your sights - figuratively, of course - because you're hoping for a contact, there's a new option to help you spot the ISS more easily. NASA has released a new version

of their Spot the Station mobile application that is downloadable from either Google Play or the Apple Store. If the station is passing overhead, you'll get notified in time to try for the APRS or voice repeater in time. Although NASA is still sending alerts by email and text messages, the new app allows users to see predictions of visible passes. You can also set alarms that allow you to be on time to catch the ISS when it arrives in sight.

Visit [spotthestation.nasa.gov](http://spotthestation.nasa.gov) for more details.

This is Andy Morrison K9AWM

(NASA, AMATEUR RADIO DAILY)

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#### YOUTH ON THE AIR APPLICATION PERIOD IS OPEN

PAUL/ANCHOR: It may be December but it's not too early to start thinking about July -- because that means Youth on the Air camp, and this year the young amateurs are heading to Nova Scotia, Canada. Jack Parker W8ISH shares the details.

JACK: Even though the temperatures are dropping and snow has already fallen in some parts of the world, young radio amateurs in North, Central and South America are getting ready for warmer days ahead at Youth on the Air Camp. It's taking place July 7th through July 12th at the Mount Saint Vincent University campus in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The camp is being hosted by Radio Amateurs of Canada.

The application period is now open. Licensed amateurs between the ages of 15 through 25 are being encouraged to complete the application form online by the 15th of January. It can be found at [YouthOnTheAir.org](http://YouthOnTheAir.org)

Campers will be notified of their selection by the 1st of February. There are allocated slots for applicants in each of the Americas to encourage as wide an attendance as possible. Any remaining free places after the January deadline can still be applied for up until the 31st of May.

As many as 50 campers will be accepted. Because COVID is still a concern, organizers will be monitoring changes in guidelines for masking and vaccinations.

For details about costs, travel arrangements and other details, visit the Youth on the Air camp website or contact camp director Neil Rapp WB9VPG at [director@youthontheair.org](mailto:director@youthontheair.org)

This is Jack Parker W8ISH.

PAUL: There's still plenty for youngsters to do on the air in the meantime. Starting December 1st, hams around the world who are age 25 and younger will be marking YOTA month by using callsigns ending in "Y O T A," trying to beat last year's final tally of 107,845 QSOs. As the month wraps up, don't miss the YOTA Contest on December 30th. For complete details visit the website [events.hamhyphenyota.com](http://events.hamhyphenyota.com)

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#### NEWSLINE TO ANNOUNCE INT'L NEWSMAKER AWARD WINNER

PAUL/ANCHOR: Be listening next week when Amateur Radio Newsline announces this year's recipient of the International Newsmaker of the Year award. We launched this award in 2019 with our editorial staff recognizing the individuals, groups or formal clubs who have spent the previous year bringing amateur radio into the spotlight showing its positive values and contributions to the community. We are broadening the award's scope this year by acknowledging that the dissemination of information to the public about amateur radio's impact no longer relies solely on mainstream media. We are very proud of this year's winner, who you will get to meet very soon.

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## FCC OKS CROSS-BAND OPERATIONS WITH MILITARY FOR PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE

PAUL/ANCHOR: With the help of a waiver from the FCC, hams in the US will be able to contact military stations in an exercise marking Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Kent Peterson KCØDGY has that story.

KENT: In the United States, hams have been granted an opportunity to mark National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day by communicating directly with stations of the US military through cross-band operations. The FCC has issued a waiver to permit such radio communication from December 6th through to the 9th, on the occasion of the 82nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War Two.

Legal two-way communication with federal stations is highly unusual for amateur radio. FCC regulations typically permit this on only one other occasion, the annual Armed Forces Day Communications Test. Participating hams will be monitoring three federal frequencies but are to respond on parts of the bands assigned to amateurs.

In approving the request from the ARRL, the FCC said the waiver serves an important purpose on a day of great historical significance. The FCC said [quote] "This day has a historic significance and emphasizes the importance of reliable communications and the need to be vigilant in our national defense." [endquote]

To see a link to the FCC's limited waiver, follow the link in the text version of this week's newscast at [arnewsline.org](http://arnewsline.org)

(RADIO WORLD)

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## HISTORIC TRANSMITTER IN SWEDEN TO TRANSMIT TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

PAUL/ANCHOR: Christmas time is a time of tradition and for radio enthusiasts in Sweden, there are few traditions more loved and anticipated than hearing a Christmas message sent via a transmitter that is fast approaching its 100th year. Jeremy Boot G4NJH explains.

JEREMY: The pride of the pioneering Swedish engineer Ernst Alexanderson - his 200kW high-frequency alternator built in 1924 - has a Christmas message to deliver to the world this year, as in previous years. On Christmas Eve morning, Sunday 24 December, the radio station in Grimeton with the callsign SAQ, will deliver the words in the holiday spirit in CW at 0800 UTC at 17.2 kHz. Those of us who cannot be present can still watch the historic transmitter and hear its message being sent during a livestream on the SAQ Grimeton YouTube channel. The transmitter's startup will also be livestreamed, starting half an hour before the message.

There are also many ways to listen but because there are few radios capable of directly receiving the transmitter's frequency, there are internet receivers and other options available. See the link in the text version of this week's newscast to discover other ways to tune in.

(THE ALEXANDER ASSOCIATION)

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## AUSTRALIA'S TECHNORAMA UNITING HAMS, BROADCAST COMMUNITY

PAUL/ANCHOR: Australia's robust universe of community radio stations teaches through a volunteer organization known as Technorama, which provides a solid footing in broadcast technology to those working behind the scenes. Technorama is now hoping to expand its historical partnership with amateur radio - and it's considered a natural, mutually beneficial relationship, as we hear from Graham Kemp VK4BB.

GRAHAM: Technorama has big plans that don't end when its annual three-day gathering in Sydney concludes on December 3rd. The broadcast skill-building nonprofit organisation is cultivating a partnership between



Australia's more than 460 community broadcasting stations and the country's amateur radio operators. Broadcast engineer John Maizels, VK2JPM, a Technorama founder and immediate past president, says the unifying elements between the two worlds - such as transmitters, antennas, generators, RF - mean that hams and these broadcasters have much to offer one another.

There is a history of cross-pollination here that dates back to community radio's birth in the 1970s, when hams assisted the burgeoning broadcasters, and John believes that relationship will go much farther. Technorama is already planning to hold its first formal radio tech training sessions in more than three decades, inviting radio amateurs to join the broadcasters to sign up to learn - and to be among those teaching. He says that community radio stations are [quote] "just like amateur radio, just on steroids." [endquote] Likewise, he said, ham radio classes can benefit community broadcasters.

He told Newline in a phone call that it's been "a squandered opportunity." He said that building stronger bridges in both directions can fill the needs of both communities.

This is Graham Kemp VK4BB.

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## WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, fans of the world's longest-running science fiction TV show "Doctor Who" will be listening for special call signs starting with GBØWHO through GB9WHO until the 20th of December. The cult series marked its 60th anniversary on the 23rd of November. The show's original 694 episodes ran steadily until 1989 but it was revived - much to fans' delight - in 2005. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

We remind listeners that the Advent Award for Bunkers on the Air in the UK is now under way until the 25th of December. Activators as well as hunters, including shortwave listeners, are eligible. Participants need to use the special Advent Calendar Award Claim Tracker to be eligible. See the website [bunkersontheair.org](http://bunkersontheair.org) under the downloads tab for more\*\*

## KICKER: HAMS GET ON THE AIR FOR A GOOD CLAUS

PAUL/ANCHOR: For our final story, we look at Santa Claus. OK, if you're a grownup he's not really big news - or news at all - but if you're a youngster or even grownup who loves a little holiday magic, you'll be listening for Santa on the Air. Here's Jim Damron N8TMW to help us tune him in.

JIM: Like radio waves themselves, Santa Claus is everywhere. While you can't see him, you can definitely hear him - or one of his helpers - as amateurs around the world return this year with a different kind of on-the-air scheme - Santa on the Air.

Hams in the Longmont Amateur Radio Club and the Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club are giving local kids a chance to visit with Santa through the 10th of December, every night between 0000 and 0200 UTC on a number of local repeaters. Lucky kids will be able to log a contact with Mrs. Santa. Both Mr. and Mrs. Claus are using the call sign NØP.

Santa is also on the HF bands. Check-ins begin on the Santa Net every evening at 7 p.m. Central Time on 3.916 MHz, ending on Christmas Eve. The net is operated by the 3916 Nets. Their website, [cqsanta.com](http://cqsanta.com) has additional information about how to check in before the net gets started.

# Review of the Zachtek WSPR Desktop Transmitter

WSPR is an acronym for Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. It is a protocol, implemented in a computer program, used for weak-signal radio communication. The protocol was designed, and a program written initially, by Joe Taylor, K1JT. The software for transmitting WSPR beacons is WSJT-X. WSJT-X implements several communications protocols including the popular FT8 protocol. I have been transmitting WSPR beacons for several years now. I normally turn on the beacon when I am working in my home office. I like to see how far I can reach on very low power, 100-200 mW. I also find it very useful to compare antenna performance, by comparing WSPR reception reports from different antennas. Up to now I have been using my main transceiver with a computer running WSJT-X. From an electricity consumption standpoint, this is not exactly an efficient way of transmitting a WSPR beacon.

I began to consider other alternatives, perhaps a dedicated QRP transceiver paired with a low powered laptop. As I researched further, I came across the Zachtek desktop WSPR transmitter available from a company in Sweden. I ordered the Model 80To10 which covers 3.5MHz, 7MHz, 10MHz, 14MHz, 18MHz, 21MHz, 24MHz and 28MHz, and paid \$159. It arrived within a week.

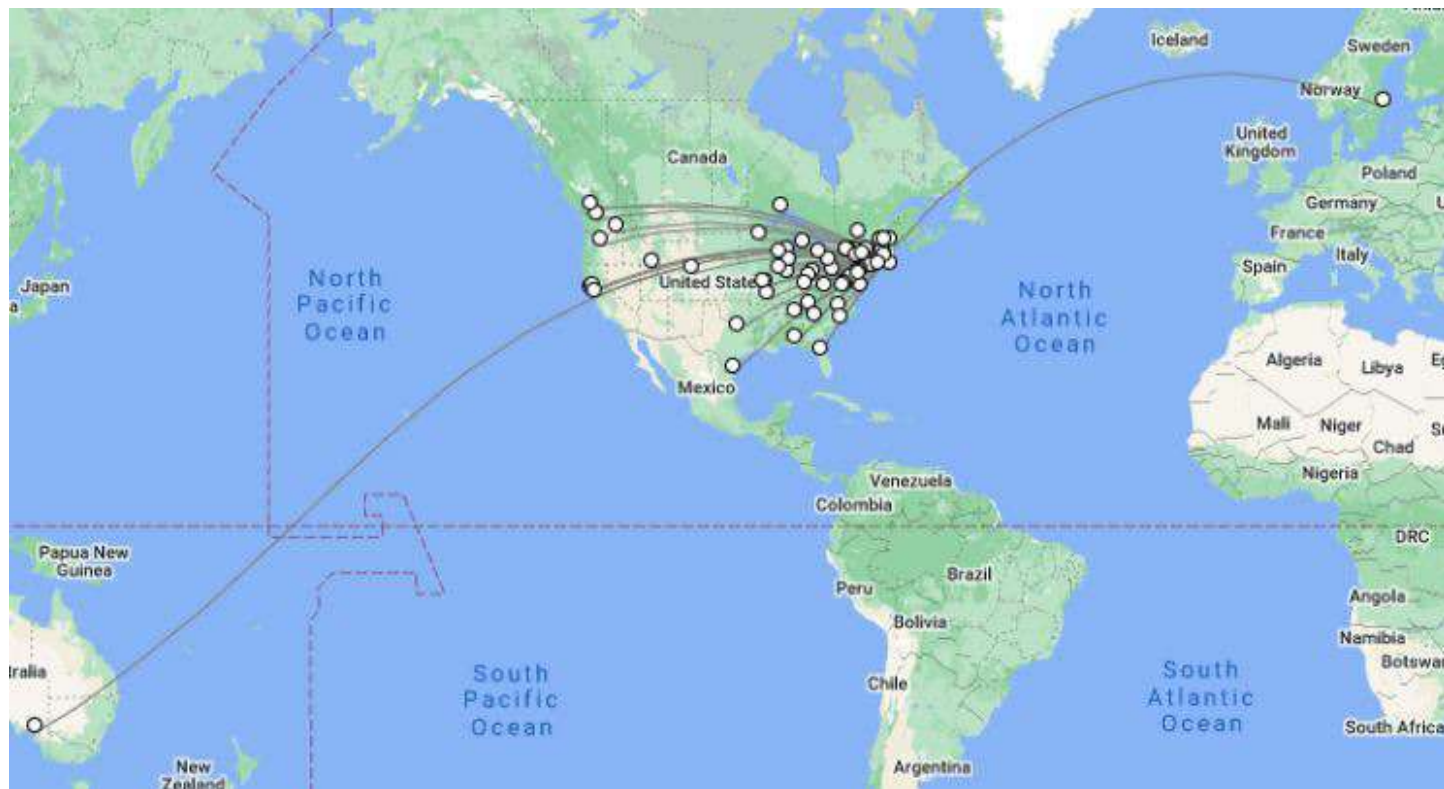
The Zachtek Model 80To10 desktop WSPR transmitter is based on the Arduino platform and has an internal GPS receiver for accurate timing. It transmits at a 200-milliwatt power level. It comes with all the necessary cables and an external GPS antenna, as well as user-friendly software to configure and manage the device. Best of all it runs independently off a small USB phone charger – resulting in very low electricity consumption!

I am greatly enjoying this piece of equipment. I use my computer to program the unit to send out a beacon on one of the WSPR frequencies and just let it run as I work in my home office. Occasionally, I will check the WSPR rocks website to see the stations reporting that are receiving my beacon transmission. By selecting the frequency band, I can get a feel of propagation conditions on that band. My beacon has been successfully heard on all continents. Yes, I have received reports from Antarctica!

Below is the WSPR rocks map of my 30-meter beacon using my 13-meter vertical antenna from 0900-1300 GMT on 22 Nov 2023. The white dots indicate the monitors who received my beacon transmissions.

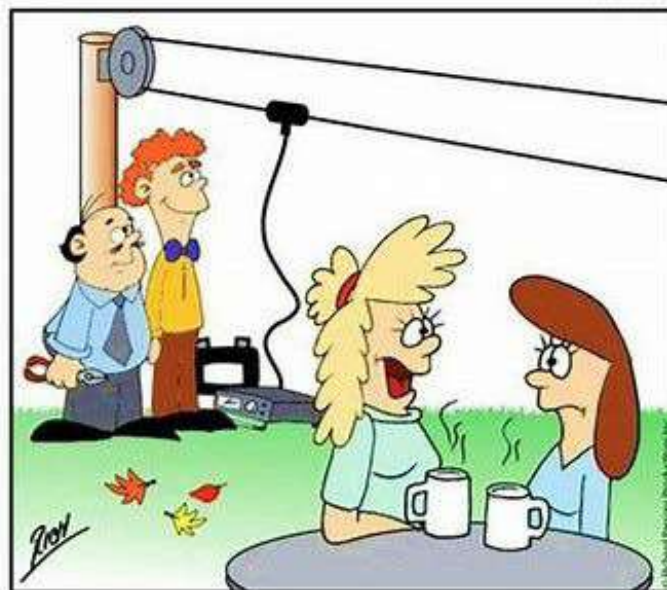
Overall, I find the Zachttek desktop WSPR transmitter

Submitted by Paul- N1JDH



**SUCH A HAM**

SH-005



Stan & Cliff have been working all day on installing my clothesline, Mary.



## REMEMBERING William "Bill" Canty W1OKD



Manchester-by-the-Sea - CAARA member William "Bill" Canty W1OKD,, passed away peacefully on November 19, 2022, surrounded by family. Bill was a one of a kind guy, he blessed the club with his ham radio knowledge, wit, and wisdom for as long as I can remember. He will be greatly missed by the club.

Bill was born in Boston to John and Isabel (Jones) Canty on February 23, 1925. He grew up in Dorchester, MA, and graduated from Boston English High School. During World War II he served in the U.S. Navy for two years as a Radio Technician at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. He received his BS and MS in Physics from Boston College. In 1953, he joined MIT Lincoln Lab to work on the Whirlwind Computer Project, the world's first supercomputer, and later the U.S. Air Forces' SAGE Air Defense System. This led to a career spanning over 30 years with the MITRE Corporation, leading projects for the Airborne Long Range Inputs (ARLI) System, and later the Airborne Warning And Control Systems (AWACS).

Bill met the love of his life Janet (Supple) Canty in the summer of 1946, they married and settled in Bedford, MA in 1953. After years of weekend commuting to the North Shore to enjoy boating, Bill and Janet decided to relocate to Manchester-by-the-Sea in 1967.

Bill was active in his community as a member of the Manchester Yacht Club, the Manchester Lions Club, the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association, and as a parishioner and lay minister at Sacred Heart Parish. For many years he volunteered on the Fourth of July Parade and the Red, White & Blue Pancake Breakfast committees. Affectionately known as "The Captain", his summers were spent sailing with family and friends on his beloved sloop Auriga, instilling a love of life on the water in all who were lucky enough to be his crew.

Family and faith were everything to Bill. He was a man of principle, a devoted husband, a cherished father, doting grandfather, and solid friend to those who knew him.

Bill was predeceased by Janet his wife of over 60 years and his son Robert. He is survived by his son William of Minnesota, daughter Jean of Manchester, son James and his wife Catherine of Texas, daughter Ellen and her husband Irving of New Hampshire, son Edward and his wife Christe of Vermont, along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who love and will miss him dearly. He is also survived by his sister Elizabeth Leavitt of Georgia, brother Daniel Canty of Vermont, and good friend O'Dea Coughlin of Gloucester.



It's that time of the year again to pay your CAARA annual dues. You should have receive an invoice and you can pay by Paypal or the old school way, a check made out to CAARA and sent to 6 Stanwood Street, Gloucester, MA 01930

The best way is to attend the next meeting and pay your dues in person, it should be a festive meeting!

The Board of Directors meeting starts at 11 am and ends at noon. The lunch at 12 noon followed by the member meeting/social. Feel free to work any of the club stations and ask any questions you may have.