

CAARA NEWS



Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
Gloucester, Massachusetts
FEBRUARY 2023 EDITION



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Brandon- NQ1W

It was so nice seeing those of you who attended our holiday party in January. It was also nice being able to show off the new floor, heater, and tables which we purchased through our grant from the ARRL. As you know we continue to develop the main meeting room into a modern classroom with all the amenities for teaching HAM radio and electronics related material. There is considerably more to come in the next few months. We will be acquiring new computers, oscilloscopes, and technical tools for classes beginning this spring. We will have our new projector, screen, and AV setup for classes as well a return to HAM related movie nights up at the clubhouse within short order.

We also have a few significant events coming up in the next few weeks. The weekend of Jan 28th we will be participating in the 2023 Field Day Exercise up at the clubhouse. By the time you read this we will have had the event but I will remind those of you who wish to aggregate your field day contacts with CAARA that Tony AB1XK has generously agreed to take a look at your logs prior to submission for correctness. You can help this process yourself by familiarizing yourself with the contest rules which can be found here:

<https://www.winterfieldday.com/rules.php> prior to submitting your results.

In other clubhouse event news we will be hosting a tech in day class at the clubhouse on on the 25th of February. Please let anyone you know interested in getting their tech license that they can do it in a single day a CAARA in February. Bill Poulin will be leading the study and we'll need a handful of VEs for the Saturday afternoon test session. Let Bill know if you can help.



I would also like to take a moment here and send out thanks to those who helped to get the clubhouse ready for renovations and who contributed to 2023 Holiday Party. You all did a splendid job. I thank you. The members and myself are grateful to all those who help keep CAARA going. It is a big job only made possible by everyone's participation.

We have a lot to be excited about this Spring and hope you will continue to make CAARA such a great place to be involved with our Hobby!

Regards,

Brandon Hockle NQ1W

President CAARA

THE EMCOMM MINUTE

By Dean- KB1PGH

If your into emergency communications the first thing one should think about is how to power your radio equipment if and when the power goes out. This also applies to the disaster prepper community as well. As your local ARRL emergency communications coordinator I have a couple of ways to power my ham gear in case of disasters.



I have a Honda EU 2000 i generator and I have a 120 amp hour deep cycle marine battery for direct DC power to my rigs . One option I did not have was how to get AC power out of the deep cycle battery. Really what I was thinking about was how to run the Wi Fi router and a cable box and flat screen TV if the power goes out at my home, as well as keeping my HT's and public service scanners charged up and running with a battery just in case the generator doesn't work or if I'm using it for something else during a disaster or power outage.

CAARA Newsletter
Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
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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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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.

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What's the old saying- 2 is better than 1 or it's good to have a back up for a back up. So I decided to get a power inverter to attach to the deep cycle battery that I have. As you can see in the photo I got a Powtdear 1000 watt pure sinewave DC to AC inverter. It costs \$100 on Amazon.

If you look on Amazon for inverters you will see dozens of different makes and models and ones that have much



higher or even lower wattage than the one I got. There are so many different models out there that I don't know if one company is more reliable than another. I just got the Powtdear one because it was the most bang for the buck. Most of these converters are made in China anyway. Plus it was a pure AC sine wave converter which is critical if your running any sort of computerized equipment or ham gear. The switched mode converters are good for lighting and small power equipment like drills and saws. This converter feels heavy right out of the box with a heavy duty metal casing as well as the size of the transformer inside and heat sink. It has two fans in the back to cool it down. It has 3 outlets in the front and I like the USB port as an add on. I like the build quality of it and it comes with the hook up cables to boot. Even though it's a 1000 watt converter it has a 2000 watt peak output for starting up equipment which takes a bit more power.

So as you can see in the photo I decided to give it a test run to see if it actually works. I hooked the converter up in between my 110 amp deep cycle battery and a HT

on it's charger and a public safety scanner on it's USB port. Everything seemed to work out fine. It's pretty basic and easy to hook up. I would highly recommend that if your into emergency communications or are into disaster prepping take the time to invest some money on a good battery and a pure AC sinewave inverter.

When the power goes out you will be able to run your radios and rigs and you can also run and charge your computers and cellphones. You can also keep your wi fi router going and a cable box and flat screen TV. Plus you can take this set up when you go camping or RV'ing

You can also run power equipment off of your car or truck battery out in the field. All you have to do is figure out the wattage power load you need and buy the converter size to fit it. I have always been a big advocate of people having some sort of back up power at there homes and this is at least one way to do it. On another note, I e-mailed Rob Macedo KD1CY,our ARRL Emergency Communications section manager and asked about when the next national weather service Skywarn class may be held. He told me sometime in the spring and it may be a virtual class as well depending on the amount of interest. So I will keep you up to date on that for those who may be interested.

73,Dean KB1PGH



Pay the \$129

by Curt- AA3JE



I have often teased my wonderful wife in these tales, probably to excess. The truth is that she is a long-suffering woman who puts up with quite a bit, if not always with a smile, at least with kind tolerance. So, when she wants something, I am happy to oblige.

“Do you think a small desk put here would allow me to watch the forest edge while doing my correspondence?” she said one day.

The “forest edge” is the northern border of the lawn, and is a wildlife superhighway, with a steady stream of deer, turkeys, foxes, groundhogs, and raptors passing by. A splendid view.

“A great idea,” I said.

“Will you come with me to Office Stuff to select one?”

I cleaned out the back of the SUV to make room, and off we went. In a bit, we were in the showroom. Alone. If there were any staff, they were in hiding.

My wife tried all the demonstrators, checked out the chairs, and made her selection. Still no staff. I was finally able to obtain the attentions of a staff member by feigning a heart attack.

(GASP, WHEEZE, MOAN, RATTLE, clutch chest)

“Are you all right, Sir?”

“My wife needs help in Office Furniture”

“I will send someone.”

After a short interval, no more than half an hour, a staff member appeared.

“Have you made a selection, Madam?”

“I want this desk, number 345-125-27, and this chair, number 22216-1472.”

“Do you have the stock tickets?”

In this era of rampant shoplifting, high-cost items are not on the shelves, but are represented by cute little cards with a picture and the stock number. My wife handed them over.

“These items require assembly, Madam. If you wish, I can enroll you in our “OFFICEMASTER” program that guarantees 48-hour availability, free assembly, no cost delivery and placement in the office.”

“That sounds reasonable....” my wife began.

I felt I had to contribute something.

“How much does this membership cost?” I said.

“One hundred and twenty-nine dollars for a year’s membership, good anywhere in the US.”

“That’s 25% of the cost of the desk.”

“Good for all purchases, any number of items, renews for \$50 a year.”

My wife was trying to get my attention, but I was on a roll.

“I think not! Far too expensive.”

“I really, really advise it, Sir. I should point out that it also waives the re-stocking fee on all returned goods.”

“NO THANKS!”

“As you wish.”



So, we got a dolly, and wheeled the un-assembled desk and the chair to the car. Both boxes were smaller than I expected, but very heavy. Once home, SHE swept the area where the desk was to go, and I opened the box.

The contents were disturbing. Multiple pieces of laminated particleboard, many bags of various dowels and screws, patented cam fasteners and an assembly manual an inch thick in English, French,

Spanish, Dutch, German, Portuguese and Hungarian.
And a bottle of glue.

I read the whole manual. Twice. Making notes. After an hour I had identified all the pieces and had some idea how they might go together. Starting at the beginning, I started prepping the pieces of the sub-assemblies. I got the assemblies made, only to realize I had them reversed.

I had heavy pliers and could get them all apart again.

But I needed more glue. I had more glue. Lots of glue.

Three hours later, using every C-clamp I had, the sub-units were assembled, and lightly cam-locked in place. I slipped the drawers in, clamped the fasteners, and it was done.

Well, sorta. The drawers would not open and close. I found and followed the instructions on page 23 to adjust the "Interframe alignment master brace assembly" to square the units so the drawers would open and close. It worked!

"Well, what do you think?" I said, proudly, after wiping off the excess glue.

"It's the wrong unit. I wanted the other one."

So here is the moral. Pay the \$129. I know it's shameful. Just do it.



Congress Introduces Bill to Eliminate Amateur Radio Private Land Use Restrictions

The U.S. House of Representatives is considering legislation that would modify regulations that currently restrict amateur radio operators from installing or operating antennas on their own property.

According to a post on the ARRL website, H.R. 9670 would "eliminate private land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator from operating and installing amateur station antennas on property subject to the control of the Amateur Radio Operator."

FCC regulations implemented in the late 1990s currently preempt private land for exterior communications facilities and equipment that could impair television broadcast signals or other licensed transmissions.

The bill was introduced in the House just before Christmas by Congressman Bill Johnson (OH-6). Previous attempts filed with the FCC by the ARRL (the National Association of Amateur Radio) to overturn the restriction were rejected, with the FCC stating that "such relief would have to come from Congress."

Yaesu Radios Donated to ARRL to Inspire Visitors and Young Hams

There are two new Yaesu transceivers in use at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. They arrived via a generous donation from Yaesu USA.

The Yaesu FTDX101MP transceiver is a welcome addition to Studio 1 in W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station.

The company has donated an FTDX101MP and FTDX10, both HF/50 MHz transceivers. In arranging the donation, Yaesu Vice President, Sales and Credit Gary Doshay, KN6APR, urged that the radios be used by ARRL "to educate and assist your visitors and especially young enthusiasts for ham radio."

"We appreciate the value that having this equipment available for members and visitors to see and explore will provide," said ARRL Bob Naumann, W5OV.

An HF Beam Antenna Compulsion - Musings by an Old Ham



I had been operating Citizens Band Radio since age 12 on my father's FCC license, KKA 9502. I saw my first QST magazine when I was 14 years old. There was what must have been a 70-foot tower and a massive tri-bander antenna pictured on the cover of that QST. It was given to me by the shop teacher in my high school who, I somehow learned, was a ham radio operator.

I showed up at his classroom door one afternoon at dismissal time, 2:05 p.m. The classroom shared windows with the wood shop. I remember being unsure about how to approach him and what to expect. Shop teachers had the reputation of being tough characters. I remember shyly saying that I heard he was a ham operator (he said indeed he was) and asking him how one becomes a ham operator. Little did I know at the time that this afternoon visit, on a whim, would have a such a great impact on my life. I remember seeing him perhaps on two other occasions after school returning. He loaned me books and magazines to read or look over but I don't remember what, I really only remember that QST and also a book about how to learn Morse Code. I essentially recall only that he was interested in my interest, kind, and ready to loan me all kinds of books and magazines.

I had no recollection of Mr. Marshall's call sign, did I ever know it? I also recall that his daughter, also a teacher in the school, was my freshman homeroom teacher. Was Miss Marshall the one who connected me to K1WIP? I don't remember.

I recently did a search to find what I could about this man that fueled my interests in ham radio. I found little: An obituary listed his 37 years as the head of industrial education at Haverhill High School and the fact that he had passed away, in Florida, on Christmas Day in 2008. A search of FCC records produced a one-line record- Call Sign: K1WIP, Grant Date: 05/10/1996, Expiration Date: 05/10/2006, Cancellation Date: 05/13/2008, Registrant: Frank W Marshall, 45 Lansing Ave, Haverhill, MA.

The image of that tower and beam antenna on the cover of that QST was burned into my mind, an image that came to my mind many times over the last 50-something years. It still, in a way, haunts me. I never imagined having such a set-up myself. That was always for other hams with large properties, tolerant spouses, and unlimited resources. It will never happen for me. Do I really need a beam antenna? Of course not- overkill, luxury, pain to maintain, I hate heights, pour eight yard of concrete in a hole? The neighbors!

In July of 2022 I stumbled across a picture of a 6-band hex beam on a 30-foot push-up mast. Wow! An inexpensive rotator below the mast turned the whole 26 lb. deal of a real beam antenna, not just a tri-bander but six bands. For real?



I broached the subject with my wife, N1QZW - Do you think I could research this idea more and maybe do this? Yes? I wasn't ready for that answer. All the doubts were still there. But I could at least research its feasibility, right?

The last six months have been filled with research activities, how-to videos, technical specs sheets, eHam.net reviews, field measurements, compiling parts and material lists, cost estimates, on-air discussions with hams who use hex beams, dreams, doubts, and what I realize has become a compulsion: An HF Beam Compulsion.



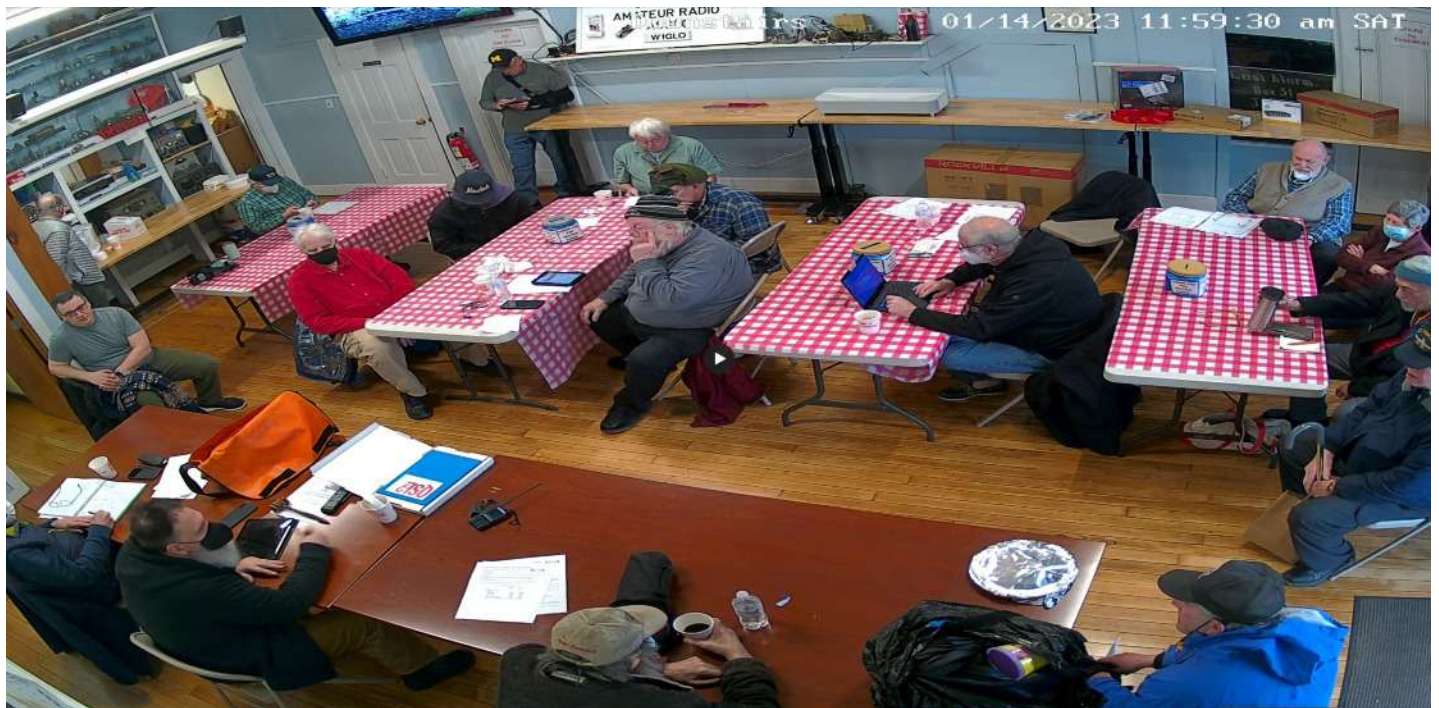
Enough planning! Ready to go. Goal of June 1 installation. Start buying components before something ruins the plan! Stay tuned for an update in a future Newsletter.

K1KL

Christmas Party on Saturday, January 14th



Photo from CAARA security system camera. We had about 30 members and wives show up for the Christmas Party at the club. We brought in sandwiches and pizza and members brought some of the most delicious desserts I have had. Thanks to all who came and checked out the newly remodeled downstairs function room.



The Board working hard and planning events and managing the budget items. You are welcome to come to any board meeting, they are held one hour before the regular mnthly members meeting.

January Meeting



WFD Club Challenge 2023

Once again, the WFDA will sponsor a Club Challenge to go along with the WFD event. The Club Challenge has been evolving for the last couple of years, and this year is no different. Please note that the Club Challenge is separate from the Winter Field Day event but coincides with it.

The class and category you operate as during WFD will not affect your club's performance during the Club Challenge. Your effort while participating in WFD, however small, can help your club rank higher in the WFD Club Challenge. So we encourage you to participate in WFD even if you can't get out and be at your club's physical location.

To help your club in the Club Challenge, you will use your call sign during your effort and enter the Clubs Call sign in the designated spot in the Cabrillo formatted log you submit at the end of the event. If your club is participating in WFD and has a call sign they are using, enter the same Call Sign. If your club does not have a Club Call, everyone in the club must agree and have a 100% match on the spelling of the club.

We use the ARRL and FCC definitions of a club, so your club must have at least four members to compete in the Club Challenge.

To enter, we are asking that one person from your group pre-register your club's location on our WFD map. The link is: <https://www.winterfieldday.com/register-location.php>. This is optional but it helps us collect the Club Call signs prior to WFD.

As stated above, to help your club during the Club Challenge, simply submit your own log with your own information. In the Cabrillo formatted log, where it asks you for CLUB: enter your Clubs pre-registered Club Call sign, and if you wish to add your club's name enter it like this
CLUB: K4FUN --- Stones River Amateur Radio Club

Make sure to use the three --- as a separator between the Call Sign first and the name. If you don't enter the name, that is okay as well. We pull the name data from our map.

You are only allowed to participate in one effort. If you operate at your clubs, location your clubs log should include you as an operator in their Cabrillo formatted log under OPERATORS: You should not go home, use your own call and classification, and then submit your own additional log.

One would expect that most clubs will have all of their efforts in a specific geographic area, but

that is not required. A few clubs have highly distributed membership. Many clubs may have members who are not in the area at the time. As an individual, you can participate from anywhere and have your effort go to help your club out during the Club Challenge. If you belong to multiple clubs, you can only choose to help out one of those clubs during the Club Challenge.

As long as you follow the WFD rules, stations within the same club may contact other club members for points. This includes any simplex operation but remember operators may not count for QSO credit, or any contacts with anyone who participated in "their" WFD operation.

The two main logging programs used for WFD are N3FJP and N1MM+; both have a place to enter the club name. Simply enter the club call in that field, and you are good to go.

The WFDA publishes a separate ranking for Club Scores. Your individual effort does not help your club rank higher in the WFD rankings. It will help your club rank higher in the Club Challenge.

So to be clear, you and your club will have individual rankings in the WFD Event. Your club could be ranked 30th. However, with the club members' combined efforts, your club could rank in the top 10 for the Club Challenge.

If there are any problems, the email address of the person who registered the Club Call Sign on the WFD map will be the person we contact first. We have developed the map so that you may register more than one Call Sign if you are a part of a club or multiple clubs.

The Soap Box in the Cabrillo log only needs to be used for its intended purpose; add comments about your setup, what you ate, weather reports, band conditions, and things of that nature. We do enjoy reading the soapbox information and take the comments into consideration while planning the event. Let us know how we are doing, what you did, and what you would like to see in the future.

Good luck in the 2023 WFD Club

WINTER FIELD DAY AT THE CLUB A SUCCESS!



We had 12 members visit on Saturday January 28 from noon until 5pm enjoying the club. Contacts were made but the main thrust was just to enjoy the newly renovated club and have members mingle and check out the improvements. Food was available courtesy of Kevin- K1KL.



The club station was used on the first floor for 20 SSB using the new 10-20 beam.





The club ran the Honda generator to power the new clubs heating system during the event.



Club VEC director Bill- WZ1L helping a new club member study for the Tech Exam coming up at the club.



Richard guarding the sign-in sheet.

Amateur Radio Newsline Report

TELESCOPE LOGS A RECORD-BREAKING RADIO TRANSMISSION

NEIL/ANCHOR: We begin this week's report with a report of a record-breaking signal from a galaxy far, far away. Here's Graham Kemp VK4BB.

GRAHAM: Scientists have captured a faint radio signal from the most distant galaxy yet - a signal they believe created a chance to look back 8.8 billion years in time when the universe was 4.9 billion years old.

Arbab Chakraborty, a post-doctoral researcher at McGill University, said the signal was received at a "record-breaking distance."

A news release from McGill university said the signal, which was received by the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope in India, had a wavelength called the 21 cm line.

The researchers credit a naturally occurring phenomenon known as gravitational lensing. When that happens, another galaxy that exists between the radio signal and the telescope bends the signal which magnifies it, enabling the telescope to detect it. Scientist Nirupam Roy at the Indian Institute of Science said this process shows great potential for further study of distant galaxies.

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SILENT KEY: ARRL WESTERN PENNA SECTION TRAFFIC MGR, BOB KETZELL, KB3IN

NEIL/ANCHOR: Amateurs in Western Pennsylvania are grieving the loss of a valued friend, mentor and top traffic handler. For that story, we turn to Kevin Trotman N5PRE.

KEVIN: There was to be a final call and moment of silence for Bob Ketzell, KB3IN, on Friday evening, January 27th, at the start of the Western Pennsylvania Phone Traffic Net on 80 meters. Bob became a Silent Key on Tuesday, January 24th following a long illness.

According to his close friend, Eddie Misiewicz KB3YRU, Bob took great joy handling the daily Radiogram traffic on the National Traffic System in

western Pennsylvania and serving as net control for the Western Pennsylvania Phone Traffic Net.

First licensed in 1961 as a junior in high school, Bob most recently had been Western Pennsylvania section traffic manager for the ARRL and the Western Pennsylvania representative for the 3rd Region Net Cycle 2 Traffic Net. A member of the Washington County Amateur Communications Club, he was a former ARES emergency coordinator for Washington County.

According to Eddie, Bob was well-known for his generosity as a mentor, having taught traffic-handling and Radiogram classes to fellow amateurs. He was a retired dispatch supervisor for the Washington County Department of Public Safety in Pennsylvania.

Eddie said of him: "Our next section traffic manager is going to have big shoes to fill. There will never be another Bob."

Bob was 76.

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HAMS JOIN CELEBRATION OF WORLD RADIO DAY

NEIL/ANCHOR: A group of hams in Europe will be joining the on-air festivities in February recognizing the role radio can play as a tool of peace among nations. Andy Morrison K9AWM brings us that report.

ANDY: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, known as UNESCO, declared World Radio Day to be a celebration of the contributions this communications medium can make towards peace. This year marks the 12th such World Radio Day on the 13th of February. Although there is a separate day set aside to mark World Amateur Radio Day later this spring, hams with the EA Digital Federation are celebrating the medium with several special event stations.

Operators plan to be on the air this year with special call signs between Friday, the 10th and Monday the 13th of the month. The call signs are AO (A OH) one through nine W-R-D. QSL cards will be available for any single contact and qualify the operator for the Radio Clubs of the World Award, EANET.

Meanwhile, on the commercial side of the spectrum in the US, KDKA News Radio in Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania is receiving the 2023 World Radio Day Award for US stations, as the country's oldest licensed broadcast station. Previous winners include 1010 WINS (TEN-TEN Wins) in New York City, college radio station WRHU at Hofstra University on Long Island, New York and the first winner, WTOP in Washington, DC.

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CUBESAT WILL USE INFLATABLE ANTENNA SYSTEM

NEIL/ANCHOR: Innovative antenna technology is being featured as part of a CubeSat project under way in Arizona. Jack Parker W8ISH gives us those details.

JACK: Students at the University of Arizona have finished their work on a CubeSat project that will be launched into low Earth orbit later this year. One of the innovations the CubeSat will use is inflatable antenna technology developed by one of the school's astronomy professors.

By striving to stay in a sun synchronous orbit around Earth, the small satellite, known as CatSat, will remain in daylight through most of the length of its mission. Its inflatable antenna system was developed by professor Christopher Walker, who serves as the team's science principal investigator. The inflatable antenna will be used for high bandwidth transmission. According to the website of Freefall Aerospace, where Walker developed the antenna, the system makes use of an ultra-lightweight inflatable structure that provides a large aperture high-gain antenna that can be deployed in orbit.

The CatSat's mission will also include detection of HF signals from amateur radio operators around the world through its use of a WSPR antenna. Those transmissions will be downlinked to a receiver at the school's Biosphere 2 facility on the Arizona campus. CatSat will also be collecting high-resolution images of Earth and providing data on the ionosphere.

The project is part of NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative.

(ARIZONA PUBLIC MEDIA, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA)

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SWISS STUDENTS' SATELLITE PREPARES FOR LAUNCH

NEIL/ANCHOR: An educational satellite built by Swiss students is being prepared for an important launch in February, as we learn from Jeremy Boot G4NJH.

JEREMY: With the help of a ham radio antenna donated by the Vaudois Amateur Radio Club, HB9MM, high school students in Switzerland will be learning how to download telemetry data and photos from a satellite they have helped build in a laboratory at Orbital Solutions in Monaco.

The RoseyCubesat-1 is the first educational satellite of its kind to be created through the company's STEMSAT programme. Le Rosey is the name of the Swiss learning institute that the students attend. They will be able to send commands to the CubeSat to select telemetry and picture download or to switch it into its VU transponder mode so that amateurs around the world will be able to communicate over the small satellite. The downlink using BPSK and AX25 is on 436.825 MHz and when the transponder is enabled, its uplink will be on 145.850 MHz. The launch is expected to take place on the 14th February at the Vandenberg Space Force

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AMSAT NEEDS NEW MANAGER FOR GRIDMASTER HEAT MAP

NEIL/ANCHOR: Are you a satellite enthusiast hoping to go for the big prize with your contacts? There's an opening at AMSAT for a capable volunteer who can help with an important tool for chasers. Sel Embee KB3Tzd tells us what's involved.

SEL: AMSAT's Gridmaster Heat Map has served as an invaluable guide to grid-chasers using satellites, for those activating hams who need to be aware of which grids are in greatest need. AMSAT says in a recent weekly service bulletin that the map may be going away unless a replacement manager can be found.

Paul Overn, KEØPBR, will be stepping down after three years at the helm of the project in which he tracked grid rarity based on crowdsourced data from hams who updated him. Paul's Twitter feed, atgridmasterheat (@GridMasterHeat) displays a color-

coded map of grid rarities ranging from green - the most common - to red, for rare.

The map plays an especially important role in the pursuit of AMSAT's prestigious GridMaster Award. This honor is conferred on any amateur around the world who works all 488 Maidenhead grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States via satellite and has those contacts confirmed in writing.

AMSAT is looking for a volunteer to assume Paul's post. The candidate should be capable of collecting crowdsourced data and transferring it to a spreadsheet or some other format and providing updates every week to satellite users.

For details visit www.amsat.org

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VINTAGE RADIO MUSEUM REOPENING IN IRELAND

NEIL/ANCHOR: A beloved museum for fans of antique radio and gear is finally reopening its doors in Dublin. We have more details from Jeremy Boot G4NJH.

JEREMY: The doors are reopening at Ye Olde Hurdy Gurdy Museum, a vintage collection of radios and radio-related items housed in a Martello Tower near Dublin, Ireland. On the weekend of January 14th, the first visitors were able to step inside after the museum had been closed for two months for renovation work. Though the initial opening provided some limited access while the remainder of the work was completed, full access was expected to be available after January 21st.

The well-loved museum was opened by Pat Herbert in 2003 and the radio aficionado brought much of his collection to its displays. The museum continues to have the support of his family and friends following Pat's death in 2020 at the age of 83

The museum is the home of amateur radio station EIØMAR, which is operated by the Howth Martello Radio Group. There is more history to this museum than just the collection it holds: In the mid-19th century, the tower itself housed the first telegraphy station connecting Great Britain and Ireland. Lee de Forest, the pioneering radio scientist from the US, visited the tower in 1903 to conduct experiments in wireless telegraphy.

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WORLD OF DX

In the world of DX, there's good news for Bouvet Island Dxpedition 3YØJ (Three Why Zero Jay) watchers: Despite earlier reports to the contrary, team members are operating /mm from the ship as they make their way to the island. Be listening for them using their home calls plus /mm using CW and SSB. Team co-leader Ken LA7GIA said the group has a dipole with capability of 17m and 20m.

Juan, LU8DBS, is on the air in his spare time as LU1ZV at Esperanza Base, Antarctica, IOTA number AN-016. Listen for him on 40, 20 and 10 metres where he is using SSB through to the end of January. In February, he will be adding CW and digital modes. Send QSLs direct to LU4DXU.

Be listening for Robson, PY6TV, who will be using CW and SSB with the callsign PT6D from Ilha da Mare, IOTA Number SA-023 from the 2nd to the 5th of February. QSL direct to his home call and see his QRZ.com page for PayPal details. Robson will upload his log to Club Log.

Adam, VK2YK, Chris, VK5FR, Ivan, VK5HS and a team of other VK hams will be using the callsign VK5TIL from Troubridge Island, IOTA number OC-139, on the 7th, 8th and 9th of February. They will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on various bands. QSL via MØOXO's OQRS, LoTW and eQSL.

Be listening for John, W5JON, who will be on the air as V47JA from St. Kitts, IOTA number NA-104, from the 31st of January to the 15th of February. He will be using SSB and FT8 on the HF bands and 6 metres. QSL via LoTW, or direct to W5JON.

(425 DX Bulletin)

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STILL TIME TO PLAN FOR DXPEDITION BOOTCAMP

NEIL/ANCHOR: Speaking of chasing DX and DXpeditions, a group of amateurs is hosting a DXpedition bootcamp in the South Pacific offering the expertise of experienced ops to help those who

hope to do it for real sometime. The station on Norfolk Island offers CW and SSB from 160m through 10m with dedicated stations for FT8 and 6m along with a variety of dipole and vertical antennas. A short drive from the DXpedition station is Mount Bates where interested operators can try their hand at a SOTA activation. Norfolk Island National Park is also adjacent to the DXpedition station. The camp will take place from March 17th to the 31st. For information about costs or other details, visit the website [dxpeditionbootcamp](http://dxpeditionbootcamp.net) - that's one word - dot net. Yes, meals are included.

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KICKER: WHEN 'THANK YOU' IS A SPECIAL EVENT

ANCHOR: Finally, we end with a story about gratitude. There are lots of ways to say thank you of course but in amateur radio some gestures go beyond mere words or even certificates. Here's Ralph Squillace KK6ITB to tell us about a group of hams here in the US who turned a "thank you" into a special event.

RALPH: How exactly do you say thank you to your mentor, the ham who patiently answered your questions - all of them - helped with your studies, guided you with your shack, handled questions about on-air protocol and.....well, you name it. The simple answer is: you get on the air. For a group of radio operators in New England that translated into creating a special event thank you to their Elmers late last year. Using the callsign W1E/ELMER, six of them got on the air for a few days late last year, telling stories - and hearing stories - about those all-important hams who made a difference in their lives. In all, there were a little more than 300 QSOs, each one an audio thank-you card offered as a tribute.

However, the Elmer event doesn't end there. Two of the organizers, Bill W1FMX and Rich KB1FGC, know there are more stories out there and lots of thank yous to share. This year it will be happening again, starting on September 29th, and Rich hopes that hams everywhere - not just in New England - will join them on the air. So if you've been thinking about "why" and "how" of where you are now in amateur radio, now is the time for Rich to hear from you. His email address is in the text version of this week's newscast at arnewsline.org

Rich's first special event was a few years ago in honor of his father who had owned a trucking business and was on the board of the Department of Transportation in Connecticut -- but at the time Rich had never heard of a special event that let hams honor other hams. He believed that an on-the-air event honoring radio mentors would provide an appropriate means for celebrating those who made it possible for many of us to get on the air in the first place.

As the participants' certificate states clearly, Elmers help to keep ham radio strong.

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