CAARA NEWS

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Brandon- NQ1W

Dear Members,

Fall is here and so is our training and demo space at the clubhouse! If you are interested in using our presentation space for a STEM or Ham Radio event we have you covered. We are now fully equipped to demonstrate electronics concepts requiring computers, oscilloscopes, radios, arduinos, sensors, solar power, 3D printing, electronics, you name it. Come to the October members meeting to check it all out.

Also this Fall, CAARA will offer in person courses on microcontrollers, visualization of electronic signals and measurement, and portable solar operations. If you are interested in any of these the course information, schedule, and registration will be posted online at CAARA.net.

In other CAARA news, we are looking for members to volunteer on a few committees, in particular to lead the Food and Entertainment committee and for help in the House committee. Food especially has always been a big part of CAARA events, including our scholarship fund breakfasts and members meetings. We are thankful to Bill and Jon who have done such an amazing job in those roles and are ready to pass the torch to the next leads.

Finally the October member's meeting is important as this month members will be voting on the budget proposed last month for the upcoming year. The vote can't take place without a quorum of members, so we truly appreciate your attendance for the October meeting especially to pass the budget for next year. The meeting is on October 14th at noon, so please add it to your calendars now. We look forward to seeing you then.

I look forward to a great season of learning and radio up at the clubhouse. Please join us!

Regards,

Brandon

THE EMCOMM MINUTE

By Dean- KB1PGH

So I have been thinking about some other items that I haven`t covered yet in amateur radio and I came up with two for this month. The first is actually quite obvious but I should at least give it a quick overview. The topic is about headphones. Sometimes we can forget that wearing a simple pair of "Cans" will help us with receive audio. I would recommend wearing them more often. As we all know the speakers on many ham radios are cheap and most are on top of the radio pointing the audio way from you. One other aspect to think about is many of us out there have hearing loss and tinnitus or the ringing in the ears. I have had hearing loss since 3 grade where it`s hard for me to hear high frequencies and now the tinnitus due to working with power equipment all my life. I don`t need hearing aids but I do notice that wearing a set of headphones makes quite the difference in hearing the faint stations. One other good thing about wearing headphones is that it quiets down the ambient noise around you and lets your brain focus one the signals. You`ll be amazed at how good the brain can get at being a filter on it`s own without distractions. This helps especially at field day or multi op HF sessions and headphones are good or privacy when others are nearby and don`t want to listen to HF sounds all day. The good thing about headphones is that you don`t need to spend a lot of money on a hundred dollar pair of headphones to "Hear" better than a cheap pair. For example as you can see in the photo I spent $18.00 for a pair of Sony ZX 110 headphones and they work just fine. Plus I like them because they fold up for my

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

Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

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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HF portable operations. So if you want to improve your HF audio give it a shot and buy a set of "Cans" and you may just find out how deaf you really are! The next topic is one I`ve covered before but I think it needs repeating. It`s RFI and EMI interference coming into your radio through your power cables or any piece of electric equipment in your house causing high receive noise levels. I mean it could be anything in your house causing EMI and RFI from kitchen to laundry appliances to one simple USB power adapter. This often happens as ham radios are hooked up to computers for logging and digital work. So if you have a RFI and EMI problem with cables you can put Ferrite beads on them to stop it.

So I went to Amazon and I found out that they sell "kits" of ferrite beads. They sell quite a few versions but I picked out Huarew brand of 28 ferrite bead EMI RFI suppressor cores for $14.00. I like it because of the case I can put in my HF portable bag and I`ll be putting these on the power cables of my 100 watt solar panel kit in case the solar charger creates a lot of RFI.

They come in 5 different sizes of 3.5,5,7,9, and 13 mm . As you can see in the photos . It`s pretty simple just find the right size to go around whatever cord is causing you EMI/RFI and clip it on. You may need more than one clip to get enough inductance. I though it was pretty cheap insurance some piece of electronics is raising the noise floor on my HF rig or if my rig is causing interference to something else. So that`s it for now. See you next month

RICHARD- KB1JWO SK

Richard E. Slavin Obituary

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Richard E. Slavin of Ipswich, Massachusetts, born in Peabody, Massachusetts, who passed away on August 24, 2023, at the age of 73, leaving to mourn family and friends. Family and friends are welcome to leave their condolences on this memorial page and share them with the family.

He was predeceased by : his parents, Eugene Slavin and Anna Slavin. He is survived by : his wife Ellen Rizzari Slavin; his daughters, Chris Slavin of Danvers, Kerry Carbone (Chad) of Salem, Erin Howes (Dennis) of Seabrook, NH and Meg Wasmer (Mark) of Beverly; and his siblings, Mary Slavin-Simmons of Middleton and Paul B Slavin (Linda) of Peabody.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation in Richard's name to the: Ipswich Human Group P.O. Box 873 Ipswich, MA 01938.

Richard was one of a kind, one of the most beloved members of our club. He loved to talk about ham radio and his many work experiences over the years. He never missed a meeting or lunch and especially loved the Tuesday Night group. May you rest in peace and you will never be forgotten at the CAARA clubhouse.

Power for Public Service

by Curtis Wright- AA3JE

Part One

It happens. Sometimes you have to get a new car. For me, it was the last gas crunch, when I had to commute 90 miles a day to Cambridge from Rockport. I had an F250, a great big truck that got 12 miles a gallon. That would bankrupt me at $5.25 a gallon.

I called around and found a Honda Insite, a 60 MPG wonder, and bought it on the spot. All went well till I tried to figure out how to mount the VHF radio. The dashboard was a zero, made of thin plastic, and I ended up just putting the radio on the seat and plugging it into the lighter outlet. The roof was plastic, but sticky tape worked to mount a mag mount.

The first event, a road race, I nearly went mad. It was one of those where most of the road course was literally in sight of the repeater, and I set the power low as little more was needed. On the back side of the Cape I turned up the power, and things went bad. When I pushed to transmit the display blanked out and the radio retuned itself to the weather channel.

Repeatedly.

I mumbled my way through the event, cutting in and out, and at home I perused the manual. Turns out that the radio, a Yaesu, responded to low voltage by blanking out to protect the final transistors. I made up a jumper cord, put a VOM on the circuit, and discovered that when I attempted to transmit on high power the voltage dropped to 11 volts. Problem identified.

I called Honda.

“Can you tell me how to adjust the current and voltage parameters for the cigarette lighter output on the Honda Insite?”

“You want what?”

I repeated myself. I was transferred here and there and listened to a lot of gunk music till I finally reached a technician.

“How much are you wanting to pull?” he asked.

“22 Amps.”

“Never happen. There is a voltage and current limiting IC in the circuit.”

“Can I bypass it?

“Your warranty goes away.”

“OH. Same thing if I add any wires to the battery?”

“Yep. Mess with it in any way, warranty goes bye-bye. Those cars are fragile.”

I built a small wooden box, mounted the radio on it, and put a 7 AH battery in the box, wired in parallel to the cigarette lighter plug. When the radio pulled too much, the battery supplied the extra oomph. Problem solved.

Until the event where I had to leave the car. After about 5 minutes of use the little battery gave out. Turns out the little battery dropped its voltage very quickly.

So I had a problem. I needed to be able to take the rig out of the car at events, but experimentation showed that the smallest battery that stayed above 12 volts weighed 25 pounds. This was a while ago, and the cheapest NiMH battery was $200. Besides, that was in the days when those batteries caught fire with some frequency.

I solved it, but will reveal how in Part II.

How would you solve it? Get 20-30 minutes of transmission out of a $15 burglar alarm battery?

Part Two

How would you solve it? Get 20-30 minutes of transmission out of a $15 burglar alarm battery?

Lead acid batteries have a full charge voltage of 2.2 V per cell. That means that a typical 5-7 ampere-hour , six-cell burglar alarm battery when fully charged has a nominal voltage of 13.2 volts just off the charger.

Most of these cheap batteries are gel or glass mat cells, where a thickening agent or glass mat has been added between the plates to keep them from spilling when handled. They were designed for a nominal discharge rate of 10-20% of capacity. For a 5 ampere-hour battery this is 0.5 to 1.0 amp. When you pull 20 amps, the voltage drops to 10-11 volts or so until the ion transport between the plates can catch up.

You can get around this by buying Nickle Cadmium or Metal Hydride batteries, but the cheapest ones are for model cars, @ 7.4 volts, so you have to buy two, costing about $40-$60. Plus you have to buy a dedicated charger ($60) as NIMH batteries do not take kindly to your old auto battery charger. This is fun, but they catch fire with the wrong charger.

I found the answer at “HAMS ARE US”, the MFJ 4416C Battery booster. This gadget, though expensive at $260, is a wonder. It takes any input voltage from 10-14.5 volts and transforms it to a steady output voltage adjustable from 12-14 Volts. It also shuts off when you have drained the source down to below 10 volts so you do not dissolve the battery cells.

A simple, light-weight wooden box (or a fancy aluminum one), with a burglar alarm battery and an MFJ battery booster, connected to the cigarette lighter will work flawlessly in the car, and can be grabbed, taken anywhere, and will run for about 20 minutes of full power transmission, enough for most events.

I got tricky, and added a cheap 12 volt inverter on the side of the box, which enabled my cell phone and laptop to run for a LONG time, needed in these days when GPS and other applications are so useful.

If you have another solution, let the editor know.

UPDATED ACCESS POLICY

The Board of Directors is happy to report to the membership that there has been an equipment upgrade on the existing station with an additional operating station added on the 1st floor at 6 Stanwood St. In conjunction with the upgrade, the Board of Directors has updated the access policy to the 1st floor to help encourage members to come in and operate at their discretion.

The existing station (Station A) previously based on a Yaesu FT-920 has been upgraded with a Yaesu FT-950 which was kindly donated to the club by Hank McCarl W4RIG.

We have also added on the 1st floor Station B which is based on a Yaesu FT-710 which was funded by a grant from the ARRL. This station is equally capable of operating voice modes or digital modes using WSJT-X on all HF bands from 10-80m except 60m and we want to encourage newer or inexperienced members including members with Technician and Novice class licenses to learn on and operate this station.

To briefly summarize the updated access policy, current members who have been in good standing for the previous 12 months and who have been validated and checked off by a member of the equipment committee or other designated club member shall, upon request made to the Board of Directors, be given the access code to the 1st floor for the purpose of coming into the building at their discretion for the purpose of operating whichever station(s) on the 1st floor for they have been validated.

You do not need to be a member for 12 months to get validated to operate a station, only to get the access code to permit unsupervised operation. If the building is otherwise open and there is no conflicting formal event like an ongoing BoD or members meeting a validated member can still come in and operate. If your membership status changes so that you are no longer in good standing you will lose the access privilege until 12 months after you have transitioned back into again being a member in good standing.

Access privilege for those members who previously qualified on the FT-920 before 8/1/23 will for now retain their access to the 1st floor but will need to re qualify on Station A and/or Station B by March 1, 2025 to retain the access privilege without interruption.

We expect to start formally validating members on or around November 1st. You can contact Larry AJ1Z or Jon K1TP to arrange for a time to meet at the club to go through a brief tutorial and and demonstrate basic ability to manage the alarm system and operate the station for validation; once signed off if/when you meet the requirement for obtaining the access code to the 1st floor you can also petition the BoD via email board@caara.net to obtain it.

--Larry AJ1Z

FOR SALE

A FREE SECTION FOR MEMBERS OF CAARA WISHING TO SELL OR TRADE GEAR OR LOOKING FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS TO BUY.

FOR SALE!

Ameritron AL-811 RF Amplifier

600 Watts, Like new. Used very little.

Asking $595.00

MFJ 989D Antenna Tuner

Asking $395.00

Sold by Paul K1AID contact in interested a

Phone: 978-468-1968

The photos shown are from the manufacturer just to show you the general idea of what the gear looks like…

Jon K1TP

I saw this for sale on Ebay, it might be a good idea for doing the races from tough locations

So 73 is Sheldon Cooper's favorite number.

The theory is that the best number is 73 because 73 is the 21st prime number. Its mirror, 37, is the 12th and its mirror, 21, is the product of multiplying 7 and 3... and in binary 73 is a palindrome, 1001001, which backwards is 1001001

But what if Sheldon is just secretly a huge Ham Radio fan? 🤔

Amateur Radio Newsline Report

SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS RARE MEDICAL CONDITION

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Our top story this week highlights a very public special event inspired by a ham's very personal story. A special-event callsign is often used to celebrate or honor a person or a cause - but this callsign is going on the air very soon in Australia to educate. The subject is a rare and troublesome medical condition. We hear more from John Williams VK4JJW.

JOHN: In 1989, Bernie Terry, VK4KX, was diagnosed with acromegaly, a rare condition resulting from an overproduction of growth hormones in the pituitary gland.Other health problems, such as diabetes and cardiomyopathy, can accompany it. Bernie writes on his QRZ.com page that although surgery can help some patients, it did not resolve things for him. He decided that, even as he attempts to manage the condition and its various related issues, he will be on the air as VI4ACRO throughout the month of November. His goal is to raise awareness about this condition and to encourage people to learn more about it.

Bernie said he will have the assistance of at least one other operator with the condition, Eric, VK4XR, and he is hoping to find other hams willing to take time to get on the air. The callsign will be active only during the month of November, kicking off on the first of the month, which is International Acromegaly Awareness Day.

See the QRZ.com page for VI4ACRO for additional QSO details - or to contact Bernie if you can operate during the month.

This is John Williams VK4JJW.**

CROATIA READY TO HOST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: It took a few years of planning - and then a three-year interruption during the COVID-19 pandemic - but now an international conference of amateurs is preparing to gather again in Croatia, as we hear from Jeremy Boot G4NJH.

JEREMY: Inspired by the Radio Club Porec 9A1P - which takes its name from the Croatian town on the coast of the Adriatic Sea, - the second Istria Contest Conference is scheduled for October 6th, 7th and 8th and has been attracting a lot of attention. The pandemic called everything to a halt and organisers waited years for last year's inaugural gathering to happen. Already next month's second such event is drawing international attendance to the Croatian region known as Istria. One of the organisers, Mirko 9A6KX, told Newsline that hams have already reserved spots from New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary and much of the rest of Europe.

Not surprisingly, the programme material is not limited to contesting. Presenters include the popular YouTube channel producer and blogger Raisa R1BIG/OH7BG, who will speak on YLs' prominent roles in amateur radio; and a number of youth-related forums. There will also be live video calls with two DXpeditions, the 5WØLM operation on Samoa, and W8S on Swains Island.

(MIRKO, 9A6KX)

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HAMS ENJOY A "SOTA ECLIPSE"

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: With the hope for clear skies on Saturday, October 14th, a small group of SOTA enthusiasts in Oregon will be climbing the peaks - not just for a chance at Summit-to-Summit contacts but to stop long enough to experience a total eclipse of the sun from an elevation. Andy Morrison K9AWM has that story for us.

ANDY: Hams who are also fans of SOTA activations and camping out don't really need an excuse like an eclipse to make a big weekend event happen but Tim N7KOM and his friends are seizing the moment anyway in Oregon The state's southeastern region is in the path of totality for the annular (an-yuh-lerr) eclipse and that is as good an occasion as any for a hike up to Drake Peak, SOTA designation W7O/CE-002 (W Seven OH stroke CE Zero Zero Two), and Light Peak, W7O/CE-004 (W Seven Oh stroke Zero Zero Four). Writing on the SOTA Reflector, Tim announced his own plans to camp at Mud Creek Campground and arrive on one of the summits by 9:20 local time. His rig and of course his camera will be ready. Any operators wanting to contact him in advance should email him at timn7kom@gmail.com. He is willing to bulk-order viewing glasses to wear so everyone can safely view the event.

The weekend doesn't end when the eclipse is gone, however: Tim expects to keep getting more summits right up through Sunday afternoon.

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AMSAT ANNOUNCES KEYNOTERS AT SPACE SYMPOSIUM

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: AMSAT has announced two keynote speakers for the 41st annual Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting, as we hear from Kevin Trotman N5PRE.

KEVIN: Two notable radio amateurs will be presenting at the banquet being held at the AMSAT Space Symposium in Texas on October 20th and 21st. AMSAT has announced that the keynote speaker will be Bob Twiggs, KE6QMD, who was a co-inventor of the form factor for the popular miniature satellites known as CubeSats. He will be joined by Nick Pugh, K5QXJ. A telecommunications technology specialist, Nick's notable efforts have included the help he has given the college team at the University of Louisiana Lafayette to be the first campus team of its kind to build and launch satellites.

Meanwhile, if you want to be a presenter at the symposium, AMSAT is still accepting papers on topics that are related to amateur satellites. Final copies of symposium papers are due by the 12th of October but in the meantime, AMSAT would like to receive a tentative title for the talk. Send abstracts and papers to Dan Schultz, N8FGV, at n8fgv at amsat.org (n8fgv@amsat.org)

October promises to be a busy time for satellite enthusiasts everywhere. Just a week before the symposium in Texas, AMSAT-UK will be holding its 2023 Colloquium on the 14th and 15th of October in Milton Keynes, alongside the Radio Society of Great Britain's convention. The weekend will include the annual general meeting of AMSAT-UK and, of course, the gala dinner. For details visit the website that appears in the text version of this week's newscast at arnewsline.org.

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NEW HAMS ADD SKILLS TO TENNESSEE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: In Tennessee, some newly licensed hams are adding vital skills to the state's Medical Reserve Corps. Skeeter Nash N5ASH has those details.

SKEETER: Andrew Albertson KN4CTG has a little extra pride in his voice when he talks about the latest group of Technician class amateurs who passed their license exam in Tennessee. That's because they are graduates of a class he taught. So they're not just new hams but volunteers with the Tennessee Medical Reserve Corps, which began offering the classes last year. The MRC is giving a new priority to encouraging members to get their amateur radio licenses. The Tennessee MRC, which is overseen by the Tennessee State Department of Health, is part of a national network of more than 200,000 volunteers. Andrew told Newsline that he began teaching the classes last year after Melanie Grant, KQARE, coordinator for the MRC's South Tennessee area, asked if he would be willing to help expand the volunteers' skill set in that region to include communications.

Since then he has also taught classes in Tennessee's MRC in the nearby Upper Cumberland Region. The goal, he said, is to have a total of 50 to 60 volunteers licensed between the two regions to provide what he called an "organic capability" in communication within the ranks of the volunteers. The MRC does not replicate the work of ARES or RACES. Its mission is to be part of a larger public health response in the event of a crisis.

Andrew told Newsline in a phone interview [quote]: "By offering this we can have a more capable MRC without having to rely on other groups." [endquote]

He said he will be gearing up shortly for the next classes, which are free and use a modified curriculum based on ARRL materials. The 16-hour course is offered over a three-day span. The Technician license test is given at the conclusion. Andrew said that anyone interested in joining the Tennessee Medical Reserve Corps should visit the website. You can find a link in the text version of this week's newscast at arnewsline.org.

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WORKSHOPS UNITE HAMS AT INDIAN EPICENTER OF EDUCATION

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Hams of all ages spent two days at a beautiful World Heritage Site in India where they devoted their efforts to the advancement of science and the art of radio. We have those details from Graham Kemp VK4BB.

GRAHAM: More than 200 radio amateurs came to West Bengal, India from around the world for two days of sessions and workshops designed to expand skills and knowledge in the ever-evolving science of ham radio. The OSCAR Amateur Radio Convention was held on September 23rd and 24th, at the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as Santiniketan [pronounced SHON-TEE NUH KAY-TIN], considered an epicenter of education and literature. Special sessions were devoted in particular to engaging more YLs and more youth in amateur radio. Steve Chafe, KN6TKO, presented a forum introducing digital radio. Satellite enthusiasts got a chance to experience amateur satellite communication via the geostationary satellite QO-100 as contacts were logged between Qatar and India.

One of the core presentations focused on nurturing the spirit of experimentation among high school students. The session was called "Maximizing High Frequency DXing Success: Antennas, Propagation, Etiquette, and Planning."

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US MARINE CORPS NEEDS HAM SUPPORT AT MARATHON

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: The United States Marine Corps is inviting hams to get in the running and support one of the nation's largest marathons - without even lacing up their running shoes. Patrick Clark K8TAC explains how.

PATRICK: It's called the Marine Corps Marathon but it is also known as the People's Marathon. Running through Washington DC and nearby Arlington County, Virginia, the race is a showcase of discipline and physical fitness - the kinds of traits espoused by the United States Marines. The organizing team needs an estimated 150 ham radio operators at the event to help ensure the runners stay safe as they make their way through the nation's capital on Sunday, October 29th. More than 29,000 runners are expected to participate.

To volunteer for this important event, you can sign up online, select what assignment you want, and then create your profile. Hams who volunteer will be part of a critical communication network designed to ensure safety among runners, spectators and even fellow radio operators. Hams will need to attend one training session before the race and have access to an HT with VHF capacity and enough battery power to last about 12 hours.

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ARRL FOUNDATION MARKS 50th YEAR

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Congratulations to the ARRL Foundation, which is celebrating a half-century of philanthropic work on behalf of the amateur radio community. The foundation, which operates in partnership with the ARRL, provides grants to club, scholarships to students and gives other gives in support of keeping ham radio vibrant for the next generation of operators.

According to the ARRL website, the nonprofit organization reported in its most recent annual audit that it had $8 million in assets. It has been a long journey for the small charity that had simple beginnings in September of 1973, when it was formed with $1,000 and the efforts of a number of members of the league's board of directors. Larry Shima, WØPAN, is the sole surviving member of the original board of the foundation. He says on the ARRL website that he is particularly proud of the scholarship recipients that the foundation has been able to support over the years. The ARRL said it expects to award more than 100 scholarships next year, in amounts ranging from $500 to $25,000.

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WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, be listening for Elvira, IV3FSG, operating as 6W/IV3FSG from Senegal between the 26th of September and the 16th of October. She is operating SSB and the digital modes in her spare time. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

Seppo, OH1VR, is on the air as SV9/OH1VR, from Crete, IOTA number EU-015, from the 28th of September to the 3rd of October. Seppo will be operating mainly CW and can be found on 160 through 6 metres. QSL direct to his home call.

Be listening for Maurizio, IK2GZU, operating as 5H3MB from Tanzania from the 8th of November until the 8th of December, in between doing volunteer work at a local orphanage. He will be operating SSB, CW and the digital modes on 80-10 metres. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

The Wireless Institute of Australia is celebrating the milestone of 90 years of publishing its official journal, Amateur Radio. The WIA has reserved the special event callsign VK9ØAR (Vee Kay Nine Zero Ay R) that any WIA member or affiliated club can use through December 31st to help with the celebration. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

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KICKER: AT 106, THE WISDOM OF THE AGES

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: We end this week's newscast with a party. It's a birthday party for a ham who has just turned 106 years old - and you're invited! Here's Ralph Squillace KK6ITB.

RALPH: Three years ago, when he turned 103, Oscar Norris, W4OXH, (W 4 Oh Ex H) had to settle for a celebration that amounted to being a drive-through birthday party. It was the middle of the pandemic and to keep everyone safe, well-wishers' cars rolled past the North Carolina assisted living center where Oscar lives and kept the party moving - literally. This year, as the oldest active ham in the state - and perhaps even the nation - welcomed the age of 106, he was finally able to welcome his guests in person. His ham friends and his church friends mingled and celebrated the man everyone calls "grandpa." Two days before his actual birth date, he was already doing one of the happiest meet-and-greets of a lifetime.

Shack of the Month

CAARA member KC1FPR-Dennis has a nice neat setup here with an Icom HF transciever and a dual band VHF/UHF transceiver.

I wonder if this is where the MFJ cross needle power/swr meter idea originated?

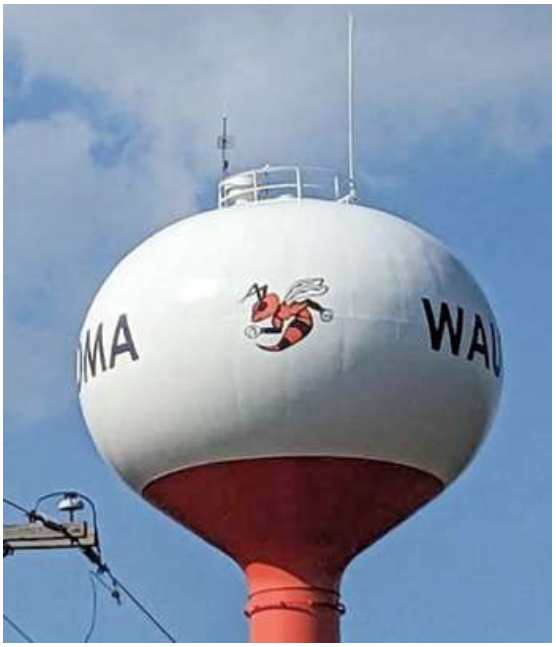
Volunteer Amateur Radio Operators restore vital communication link in Waushara County

In a remarkable display of community spirit and technical expertise, volunteer amateur radio operators from across the region converged on Waushara County to revive a critical lifeline of communication. The mission: to restore a radio repeater that plays a pivotal role in emergency communication for amateur radio operators.

Known as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), these amateur radio operators volunteer their time and equipment to provide essential communication assistance during emergencies and support public service events. The heart of their communication network, the VHF radio repeater, had lain dormant for years following a lightning strike that caused severe damage.

The lightning strike damaged the repeater, wreaking havoc on its circuit board and the antenna, rendering it inoperable. Unfortunately, the ARES volunteers lacked the funds to replace or repair the equipment, leaving a void in emergency communication for the region's ham radio operators. As a result of this loss, many operators gradually left the hobby, leading to the disbandment of the ARES group approximately 12 years ago, with the radio repeater system fading into obscurity.

This year, George Lampere, AB9CQ, a seasoned amateur radio operator, took the reins to resurrect the Amateur Radio Emergency Services. During this effort, he stumbled upon the long-forgotten repeater and initiated a mission to revive it. George rallied support from ham radio operators in Waupaca, Iola, and Ogdensburg, all of whom possessed the technical know-how and equipment necessary for the task.



Glenn Harldson, N5IIA from Iola, dedicated several hours to repairing the radio, skillfully restoring it to operational status. Meanwhile, Ben Janke, N9NOJ, owner of Ben's Radio, a communications company in Ogdensburg, stepped up by providing a commercial-grade antenna. Ben and his partner Brad Wilson installed the towering 20-foot antenna atop the local water tower.

After nearly a day of hard work to install and fine-tune the equipment, the dedicated crew successfully brought the repeater back to life. Operators from across the region were on hand to test the performance of the radio repeater and provide signal reports. This significant achievement means that amateur radio operators in the area can now communicate seamlessly anywhere across the county and into neighboring counties, bolstering emergency response capabilities.

The repairs, coupled with the installation of the new antenna, have not only revived vital communication but also saved thousands of dollars in potential replacement costs. This cost-effective restoration demonstrates the resourcefulness and dedication of these amateur radio operators.

With the revival of the repeater, the Waushara County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) now has the capacity to provide SKYWARN services, playing a vital role in enhancing local safety by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

The dedication and expertise of the volunteer amateur radio operators within the ARES group cannot be understated. They maintain agreements with surrounding counties' ARES groups and various government and non-governmental agencies to provide crucial emergency communication services when needed.

Amateur radio operators, often referred to as ham radio operators, exemplify the spirit of volunteerism by using their training, skills, and equipment to provide vital communications during emergencies. When storms or other disasters disrupt critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers and wired and wireless networks, hams step in to bridge the gap. Importantly, amateur radio can function independently of the internet and phone systems, offering a robust backup communication option that can be deployed rapidly in any location.

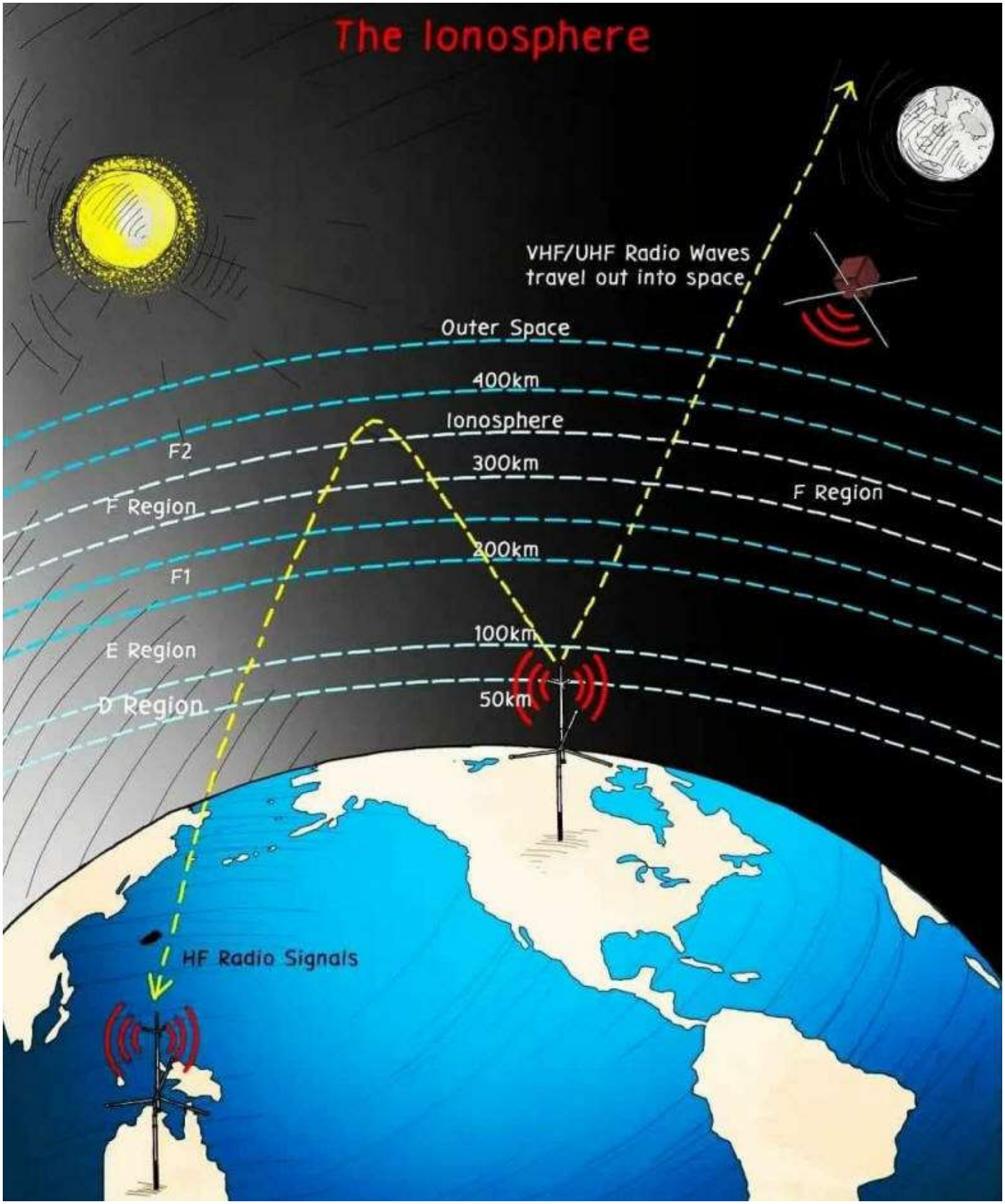
With the help of amateur radio operators' dedication and commitment to both the hobby and their community, Waushara County now possesses an added layer of resilience in the face of emergencies, ensuring that communication remains a lifeline when it's needed most. For those interested in becoming part of the Waushara County ARES group or supporting their cause, please contact George B. Lampere, Waushara County ARES Emergency Coordinator, at 920-212-1466 or via email at AB9CQ1@gmail.com. Your involvement can make a difference in strengthening our community's emergency communication capabilities.

Ben Janke, owner of Ben's Radio, a communications company in Ogdensburg, provided a 20-foot commercial-grade antenna that was installed on top of the Wautoma water tower with his partner Brad Wilson.

NEXT CLUB MEETING ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT NOON

COOKOUT FOR LUNCH BY KEVIN-K1KL

MAIN TOPIC: APPROVE THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND MEMBER ACCESS TO THE CLUB AND TRAINING ON THE NEW STATIONS!


The Ionosphere
VHF/UHF Radio Waves
travel out into space
Outer Space
400km
Ionosphere
F2
300km
F Region
F Region
200km
F1
100km
E Region
50km
D Region
HF Radio Signals