CAARA NEWS

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Brandon- NQ1W

Hello Members,

I am eagerly getting ready for the start of CAARA's new year. The upcoming annual members meeting on September 9th at noon is a critical one for the smooth operation of our club. One reason is that members vote on new leadership within the club. And secondly, the budget for the upcoming year is shared. I highly encourage all members to attend and take part in the governance and trajectory of our club as well as the selection of our officers and directors.

Next, a reminder that we have a need for volunteers on various committees such as the house, entertainment and food committees. Another way to volunteer is as an Elmer, either one-on-one with a new member looking for training or via participation in the upcoming CAARA Elmer's Nets. The community needs Elmers and your expertise could be put to great use in our club helping new HAMs. If you are interested in getting more involved with the club either on a committee or as an Elmer, please let me know so we can get you connected to the right people.

In other news, we have successfully completed the purchases made by our grant from ARRL, and the future is looking bright for training and other great activities at the clubhouse. We have new courses planned around microcontrollers like the arduino and demonstrations of tools that can help us in our hobby like 3d printing, the nanoVNA, SDR#, along with other fun items. If you have a lecture or demonstration you'd like to have hosted at CAARA, please let me know and we will get you on our event schedule for the upcoming year. CAARA now has the capability to host events with audio visuals, in-classroom computers for learners, scopes, power supplies, soldering irons and more for hands-on instruction or demonstration of electronics or electronics projects. We are excited to be a great resource for those looking to share their knowledge with learners. Please ask how you can use our new education space to help others learn STEAM subjects at CAARA.

That's all for now. I really look forward to seeing you all at the annual meeting on September 9th at noon and showing you all our new capabilities at the clubhouse.

Regards,

Brandon Hockle NQ1W

THE EMCOMM MINUTE

By Dean- KB1PGH

So for emergency communications we need to be sure that our ham radio equipment is properly working all the time. This means that we need to take the time to test our equipment and this includes that our radios are modulating at a good level and that our microphone audio sounds good. We also need to make sure that our coax cables are are solid and not creating high SWR and we need make sure our antennas are at a good SWR range. So how do we do all this testing and comparing without transmitting over the air all the time and causing interference? So I thought that I would cover the topic of dummy loads in this months article. What really got me going on this was I have really not checked my microphone audio and modulation and compression levels on my Icom IC 7300. If you really think about it. When was the last time you checked your transmission audio on HF ? How do you know what you really sound like and that your microphone is working properly and that your not over modulating during transmissions, especially if you are using or testing different microphones. This is easy to do on todays modern rigs as most have a monitor feature so you can check your own transmit audio through your headphones, or you could just use another rig or

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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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shortwave radio that you have lying around. One other thing hams do is that they tend to under modulate as well which leads to weak transmit audio and lower wattage output. You have to learn how to set your HF rigs ALC level properly. Ill discuss this more in next month`s article. So every ham should own a some sort of dummy load. Basically a dummy load is a device that you put in place of your antenna with a short piece of coax and it presents a nice 50 ohm resistance and a nice 1.1 SWR to your radio. All it is is a resistor attached to a heat sink. There are a few different types of dummy loads and what wattage they can handle. The dummy load in the photo can handle 100 watts while there others that have a paint can full of mineral oil that can handle up to 1500 watts. For example MFJ sells the 260C model that can handle up to 300 watts so it all depends on what your needs are. The one I have in the photo is XRDS RF 100 watt dummy load that I got off of Amazon. It is made in China and costs about $50.00 and you can test from DC to 520 MHZ so you can test your HF/VHF and UHF

rigs. The heat sink is made of nickel plated copper and has a PL 259 male connector. It`s 9.5 inches long and 5.2 inches wide and weighs 1.71 pounds. It is quite hefty and built really well. I decided on this type since it will fit easily in my portable HF kit . So I decided to test it out for kicks and as you can see in the photo I hooked it up to my MFJ antenna tuner and lo and behold as you can see it is presenting a 50 ohm load and 1.1 SWR. There is only one issue with this dummy load is that it does not come with any instructions on how much time you can transmit and how much wattage you can use. So each dummy load is different on how much wattage you can put into it and for how long without overheating the dummy load. The XDRS 100 watt dummy load that means that I can`t key the microphone at 100 watts forever. So I did a little online comparing to other 100 watt dummy loads and for this one you could transmit 100 watts into it for 30 seconds at a time and you will be good before you have to let it cool back down. Ill say you could put 25 watts out for a couple of minutes straight into it without a problem .

You can always direct a fan to blow on the dummy load itself to keep it cool while transmitting. The more wattage you throw at a dummy load that shorter time you have. So check your transmission time on whatever dummy load you have. So I would highly recommend getting a dummy load. It`s a good piece of test equipment to have in your shack. It will let you check and adjust your transmit audio, it will let you check to see if your coax is giving you a high SWR and it will let you check to see if your HF rig is transmitting at a full 100 watts and you can compare your HF antenna to see if it is allowing you radio to fully transmit at 100 watts. All without transmitting on the HF bands and creating interference.

Health Care in the 21st Century

by Curtis Wright- AA3JE

No, I am not going to tell you what I did. It was stupid. All I can say is that those stickers on the lawn mower, snow blower, tractor, circular saw et-cetera that say "KEEP HANDS AND FEET CLEAR OF THIS AREA" are really valuable, and should be heeded.

One moment I was happily doing my chores when the next moment there was a sharp pain, and when I pulled my hand back, the last joint of my left thumb was pointing sideways and there was a lot of blood, my blood, which I consider to be a valuable commodity. Of course, I wasn't sure where the first aid kit really was, but after leaving a really impressive blood trail, I found it, pulled the thumb straight, and wrapped it up looking like a very poorly made strawberry ice cream cone.

Getting my keys out of my left hand pocket with my right hand (try it), I drove to the local hospital, five minutes away, and stood at the ER desk.

"Are you a registered patient?"

"I think so. I get my health care here."

"You are not registered in the new system. Insurance cards please."

Fortunately, at this point my bandage soaked through and I started bleeding on the desk. This really speeds things up. I handed her my wallet, (not easy, left-hand hip pocket) and was registered in record time, and taken back and sat on a gurney, still dripping. A nice nurse came and took my vital signs, saw me dripping blood, gave me a dirty look, placed a Chux where the blood was dripping on the floor, and disappeared.

After a while, during which I meditated on how stupid I was, I was taken back to a cubicle, and a cheery and confident ER doc came in. We unwrapped my thumb, he looked at it, took a picture, told me I needed a tetanus shot and a big dose of IV antibiotics (the joint was open), placed a small rag on the wound, and said he was going to call the hand surgeon. After he left I was given both IV and injection, and sat. Naturally the small bit of gauze soaked through and I got up and asked for another Chux.

About this time, I realized my wife might want to know where I was, so I tried to call her. No signal due to the radiation shielding in the walls. Promising I would not bleed in the lobby, I received permission to try to call from there. No luck, my wife never answers her phone. So I texted several friends and asked them to try to contact her. Then back to the cubicle. They reached her, and she said next time have just one call.

Two hours later, the nice physician returned.

"Our hand man is half-way up a hiking trail on Mount Washington. It's his day off."

"So what do we do, doc?"

"I am trying to get a referral to Dartmouth. Hang tight."

After another two hours, he comes back in.

"No luck getting a referral. You still bleeding?"

I looked at the growing puddle in my lap.

“Yep.”

“If I discharge you from here, and you show up there, they have to treat you.”

“Sounds like a plan. Can I have a plastic bag? I don’t want to bleed in my truck.”

So I start out, only to be called back two minutes later by mobile phone.

“I have a referral. Come back here and we will replace your discharge papers with transfer papers.”

So I go back, get the proper papers, and start the hour and a half drive to Dartmouth. I arrive, find the ER, (which has useful large signs but no parking places), and show up at the desk.

“Transfer from Littleton.”

I hand over my papers, and since I wisely removed the plastic bag, dripped a little blood on the counter. The nurse handed me another Chux.

So they took my vitals, logged me in, and I sat in the waiting room. There were several others, we were a merry crew, swapped stories and watched hospital TV for an hour or so. The ER duty doctor came out, verified that I was stable, and told me I was waiting for the Hand Specialist. Three hours later, a bright young Senior Resident took me back, cleaned out the wound, took pictures with his phone, and called his attending physician. ◆

They conferred, and then he cleaned the wound some more, asked me if I needed IV sedation (I did not, though tranquilizers might be nice), and sewed the end of my thumb back on. Then I drove an hour and a half back home.

Postop recovery was uneventful, though I overbought wound supplies (anxious I guess) and have a banker’s box full of various kinds of gauze and a new first aid kit. It healed up in two months and I am fine now.

So those warning signs?

Believe it.

I visited Jim's-K1TT qth on the river front in Gloucester and played satellite radio on a Saturday afternoon.

We heard lots of hams but could not make a contact, I had never tried this activity but it would make for a good club member meeting activity. (Jim in the photo)

K1TP

Amateur Radio Newsline Report

RADIO CONNECTS US MISSILE SILOS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE '60s

SKEETER/ANCHOR: Our top story takes a page right out of history. Two United States missile silos have made radio contact with one another for the first time since the 1960s. This time, however, it was a contact between civilians: they were hams on high alert for QSOs. Kent Peterson KCØDGY brings us the details.

KENT: The Atlas F Missile silo in Plattsburgh, New York, possessed the kind of military readiness in the 1960s that reflected an American nation poised for war. Among those sites decommissioned by the US military in 1965, one silo within a mile of the border with Canada showed a different kind of readiness on the 19th of August. On that day, the activation was for an amateur radio contact. Despite difficult band conditions, a successful QSO was logged - and it was with another deactivated missile silo, this one in Texas.

Members of the Champlain Valley Amateur Radio Club originally wanted to simply test the club's equipment - but after the club learned about a ham radio test scheduled that same day at a deactivated silo in Texas, they modified their plan.

The northern New York club's second vice president Matt Pray, W2UXE, told the Press-Republican website that all the hams decided to try for a contact between the two silos. Their effort delivered the brief but hoped-for result: Matt's call was logged in Texas by Robert Grabowski, KB5RG, at the Dyess Air Force Base in Texas

The day presented another link to history: Dick Somerset, a retired member of the US Air Force, was there in Plattsburgh. In the '60s, he had been a launch crew member stationed at the Dyess base in Texas and had also worked in Plattsburgh with the silos' Quality Control. More than a half-century later, he was pleased to see radio contact between the two silos - this time with peace in mind.

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TRIO OF HAMS JOIN TEAM ON ISS

SKEETER/ANCHOR: A launchpad in Florida has sent three more ham radio operators into space, as we hear from Paul Braun WD9GCO.

PAUL: Three amateur radio operators were among the four-member crew aboard the spacecraft Endurance as it lifted off on the 26th of August from Florida's Kennedy Space Center. The launch of the Crew-7 mission launch was provided by SpaceX for NASA.

US astronaut Jasmin Moghbeli, KI5WSL, is the commander of the mission and the pilot is Andreas Enevold Mogensen, KG5GCZ, an ESA astronaut from Denmark. One of the two mission specialists is Satoshi Furukawa, KE5DAW, of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. Satoshi trained as a doctor in Japan, where he practiced as an anesthetist and surgeon. The trio is joined by another mission specialist, cosmonaut Konstantin Sergeyevich Borisov of Roscosmos.

This is the eighth commercial crew program launch for NASA and SpaceX. The crew is expected to be on board the International

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ACMA INVITES COMMENTS FROM AUSTRALIAN HAMS

SKEETER/ANCHOR: There are big changes ahead in Australia for operators and hams have until the end of this month to share their thoughts with the regulator. Graham Kemp VK4BB gives us the details.

GRAHAM: The Australian Communications and Media Authority is seeking input on the new amateur radio qualification framework it intends to have in place in December, two months ahead of the February date when apparatus licences are to be replaced by the new class licence structure. The new class structure will also revoke overseas class licences and instead permit qualified amateurs visiting from overseas to operate.

University of Tasmania's Australian Maritime College will no longer conduct exams or issue qualifications for the ACMA, which has said only that it will manage such work instead.

The authority seeks input as well on a new fee structure that includes the cost of recognition certificates and other payments associated with the licence process. The regulator's website calls these proposed fees "similar" to those already in place.

Comments are due by the 26th of September. For a list of fees and other details, visit the link in the text version of this week's Newsline script at arnewsline.org

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SILENT KEY: BROADCAST ENGINEER, CONSULTANT WILLIAM CULPEPPER, W4BZ

SKEETER/ANCHOR: A longtime broadcast engineer with a history of mentoring and supporting fellow amateur radio operators has become a Silent Key. William Culpepper, W4BZ, formerly W4PER, was devoted to amateur radio and was active in the Antique Wireless Association, the ARRL, the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Association of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers. On the professional side of radio, he worked with RCA, New Jersey Public Broadcasting and a variety of consulting firms, including the one he later founded, William Culpepper & Associates.

His death in July was reported on the website Radio World.com. William Culpepper was 90.

(RADIO WORLD)

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NEW ZEALAND ACTIVATION HONORS MEMORY OF SOTA ADVOCATE

SKEETER/ANCHOR: In New Zealand, hams will be activating summits and remembering a devoted SOTA friend and colleague, as we hear from Jim Meachen ZL2BHF.

JIM: The sudden death of Andrew White, ZL3CC, in March of 2018 was a difficult loss for many of the amateur radio friends who had come to know the Christchurch operator through Summits on the Air and his SOTA activation blog. New Zealand hams are especially grateful that Andrew played a big role in establishing SOTA on the South Island. On May 1st, 2016, the day that the South Island officially became active in the SOTA programme, Andrew wrote happily on his blog and thanked the many friends on the team who helped make it happen.

Many of his radio friends set aside the closest Saturday to what would have been Andrew's birthday to hold Andrew White ZL3CC memorial day. This year it is on the 9th of September. It is a day of activation, summit-to-summit contacts when possible and then fellowship at a nearby cafe, often near the Banks Peninsula summits. Operators will be able to honour Andrew and work toward the ZL3 award at the same time.

It would no doubt please him to know that the South Island summits are still alive with RF.

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AUSTRALIAN HAMS HOST DEVELOPER OF ECHOLINK

SKEETER/ANCHOR: If you've ever used Echolink and live anywhere in the world, you're invited to a special talk in Australia by the ham who created it - and you don't have to go to the airport. John Williams VK4JJW gives us those details.

JOHN: Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, who developed the Echolink, the Voice over Internet Protocol network for linking repeaters and amateurs, will be a guest of the Hunter Radio Group VK2AWX in Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia on the 14th of September. Echolink has a global reach of nearly one half a million amateur radio users.

For those who cannot attend the talk in person, Amateur Radio New South Wales will provide a link via Zoom, where Jonathan will deliver his talk remotely. Jonathan, a resident of Connecticut, was inducted into the CQ magazine Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2005. The programme will take place between 18:00 and 22:00 AEST

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PREPARING FOR PAN-INDIA RADIO CONVENTION

SKEETER/ANCHOR: Whether you are an established amateur radio operator or simply thinking about becoming a ham, the doors are open to you in West Bengal as a major Indian radio convention kicks off this month. Jason Daniels VK2LAW brings us those details.

JASON: Amateurs from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are expected to join conference attendees from all around India when the Pan-India Radio Convention takes place in West Bengal. The nationwide event is being held by the Open Source Classes for Amateur Radio, or OSCAR, and it is opening its doors to prospective hams as well as those who are longtime operators.

A number of classes will be taught during the weekend of September 23rd and 24th and candidates for an operators certificate will be given an opportunity to take the qualifying exam. Workshops will focus on equipment, signal propagation, digital modes and the latest technologies. There will also be fox hunting and CW contests.

According to a post on Facebook, this is the first Pan India amateur radio event to be held in East India in decades.

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UK RADIO FANS LAUNCH PETITION TO SAVE BBC's LONGWAVE SERVICE

SKEETER/ANCHOR: Radio fans in the UK are raising their voices - and a petition - to convince the BBC to keep a longstanding favorite radio service. We hear about their efforts from Jeremy Boot G4NJH.

JEREMY: A petition drive has been launched to press the BBC to reverse its plans to take its longwave service on 198 kHz off the air by 31st March 2024. The BBC made the announcement in May 2022 that it was closing its longwave transmitter, describing it as a dying technology.

According to the petitioners on the Change.org website, the single longwave transmitter at Droitwich is efficient, covering most of the UK and northern Europe. It is viewed as one of the more historic features of the BBC, and its planned shutdown would come a mere six months before it marked its 90 years on the air. The Change.org petitioners called it [quote] "a historic radio lifeline." [endquote]

BBC Radio 4 has already begun a public information campaign to convince listeners to make the change from longwave to the broadcaster's other platforms. Those platforms are expected to carry many of the programmes now on Radio 4 Longwave, including Test Match Special, Yesterday in Parliament, Shipping Forecast and the

Daily Church Service. The BBC has been following listeners' trend toward favouring digital radio and has acknowledged on its website that a wide range of alternative listening services have become available.

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OBSERVATORY'S VERY LONG BASELINE ARRAY MARKS 30 YEARS

SKEETER/ANCHOR: Congratulations to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory on the 30th anniversary of the inauguration of one of the world's most high-precision radio telescopes: The Very Long Baseline Array of the National Science Foundation. The array of 10 radio antennas operates remotely from New Mexico and has been collecting data on galaxies, tracking black holes' and pulsars movements and looking inward at the planets in our own solar system. The array's stations have been set up in areas such as Fort Davis, Texas; Los Alamos, New Mexico and Brewster, Washington, among other locales -- all chosen for having very low levels of radio interference.

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QSO TODAY ACADEMY SENDS HAMS BACK TO SCHOOL

SKEETER/ANCHOR: In many countries this time of year September means it's back-to-school season. That's true for hams too, as we learn from Andy Morrison K9AWM.

ANDY: School is in session at the QSO Today Academy and the virtual doors open on September 8th. The three-day intensive learning environment is the outgrowth of six virtual Ham Expo conventions organized by Eric Guth 4Z1UG, starting in August of 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold. The academy will feature a mix of live and pre-recorded sessions and will include a searchable library of the previous ham expos. Presentation topics include SOTA; the 10 worst antennas for amateur radio; how to chase the RAC Portable Operating Challenge award; tips for purchasing a transceiver; and a discussion about the ICQPodcast's Digital Voice Project. There are additional sessions on antennas, operating aids and, not surprisingly, even AI (Ayyy Eye) gets mentioned in the virtual classroom.

Participate in any of the live presentations from anywhere in the World . Tuition is $15. For details, visit www.qsotodayhamexpo.com

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WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, be listening for Greg, N9GB, operating holiday style as 8P9GB from Barbados, IOTA number NA-021) from the 8th to the 15th of September. He will be on 60-10 metres and possibly 6 metres. During the local afternoon hours he will be on SSB; in the evenings he will operate on CW. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

Listen for Harald, DF2WO, operating as D44TWO from Sao Tiago, (IOTA number AF-005), Cape Verde from the 2nd to the 17th of September. He will be using CW, SSB and FT8 on the HF bands and 6 metres. He will also operate via the QO-100 satellite. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

The special callsign VI7ALARA is active on the HF bands until the 8th of November, commemorating the Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association's meeting to be held in Hobart, Tasmania. The callsign is being operated by a number of YLs in Tasmania and throughout Australia. See QRZ.com for more details.

Be listening as well for Amateur Radio Newsline's own Ed DD5LP, operating as 5B/VK2JI from the island of Cyprus, IOTA Number AS-004, from the 11th to the 16th of September. Ed will be operating low-power SSB, mostly on 40 and 20 metres, holiday style. He hopes to activate a number of SOTA and HEMA summits as well as some POTA parks. QSL to his home call.

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KICKER: THE SKY WAS NO LIMIT FOR HER FIRST PARACHUTE MOBILE

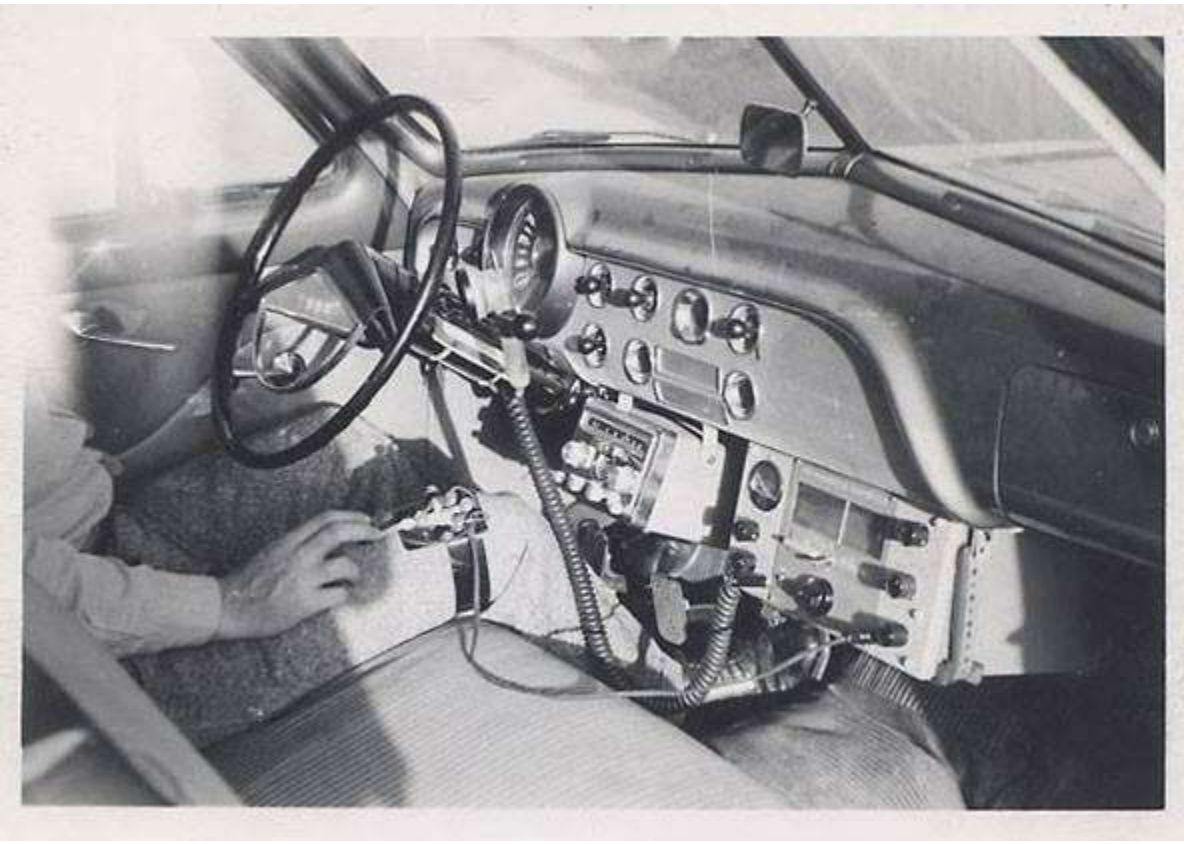
SKEETER/ANCHOR: We end this week's report with a love story. We ask: Just how far would you leap for someone you love? And...would you remember to take along your radio? Jim Damron N8TMW tells us how one woman answered those questions at the Huntsville Hamfest.

JIM: The first time Ranae KR5SIX fell for Vern KV5SIX, was more than 22 years ago. The two native Texans, spirited adventure-seekers, discovered they were on the same frequency. They eventually married, had travel adventures together and returning home after a stay in Guatemala, they embraced more adventure by becoming amateur radio operators.

Just a few weeks ago, Ranae fell for her husband all over again - but this time it was at Skydive Alabama during the Huntsville Hamfest. To be precise, Ranae fell 14,000 feet from an airplane, going 130 miles an hour. Accompanying her on the earthbound trip - her first ever - was an HT tuned to 2 metres and veteran ham radio skydiver and family friend, Carlos Felix, KD9OLN. Jumping in tandem, Carlos was helping her fulfill her husband's dream. Vern had hoped one day to complete his 15th parachute mobile mission but serious injuries in a fly-fishing accident more than three years ago ended that plan. Encouraged recently by other YouTube channel creators at a party in Huntsville, Ranae told Vern: I'll do it for you. In fact, Vern was the first of the three radio contacts she made.

Her next mission: Training with Carlos to prepare to jump solo in Dayton - just in time for Hamvention 2024.

Meanwhile, you can see Ranae's parachute mobile in the video on their YouTube channel "What's Up with Six." She's smiling the whole way down. Carlos told Newsline [quote] "That smile is one of the most radiant smiles I have seen in skydiving." [endquote]



If you thought texting was bad while you were driving, try this!

The Shack is back

RadioShack has been acquired by El Salvador-based Unicomer Group with a plan to overhaul its website and add new programs driven by its heritage in technological innovation for franchised operators.

Unicomer had become one of the largest independent RadioShack franchise owners in the world, acquiring the El Salvador franchise in 1998 and the rights to the RadioShack brands, intellectual property, and franchise agreements for all of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean in 2015.

Rudy Siman, president of RadioShack International and new businesses, franchises, and trade VP at Unicomer, told the Wall Street Journal that more than 500 new products will be added for sale online and be made available to U.S. dealers. Items will include "more end products than the stores have typically sold, focusing more on cellphone products, headphones, batteries and adapters, for instance."

RadioShack will seek to establish an Amazon.com storefront and revive franchise development. Founded in 1921 to provide equipment for amateur ham radio operators, RadioShack now has around 400 stores worldwide, down from a peak of over 7,000 in 2003.

The former owner Retail Ecommerce Ventures, which acquired RadioShack in 2020, relaunched RadioShack last year as a crypto exchange called RadioShack Swap as the cryptocurrency market was crashing.

However, RadioShack's return to its traditional focus on consumer gadgets and adaptors means the new owners will have to overcome the problems that led to the first bankruptcy in 2015, including heightened competition for consumer electronics from online players like Amazon and big-box stores such as Best Buy.

Smartphones have taken the place of the multiple consumer gadgets RadioShack used to sell. The influx of cheaper copycat gadgets manufactured abroad also hurt the business.

Private label offerings, including drones, headphones, radios, and adapters, were strongly emphasized pre-bankruptcy to offset the margin pressures, a push expected to be continued under the new owners.

"We will continue to offer a robust innovative product portfolio that makes the life of our customers easier, along with an extensive benefit program that adds value to every purchase," Unicomer's Siman said in a statement. "Our challenge is to continue innovating in both directions and remain on our customers' top of mind."

PORTABLE OPS AT K1TP

I was looking for something to do one afternoon so I decided to try out a radio donated to the club by member Peter Chadwick and try some QRP cw using a couple of ham sticks in a dipole configuration.

The little radio was built by Index Laboratories and featured 10 watts on cw and phone with many filters and built in keyer. The first thing I noticed was how sensitive and selective the radio was to listen to. Secondly the full break in cw was very smooth, reminded me of the TenTec radios. I made a few contacts on 20 meters with pretty good signal reports.

CAARA'S Bill- WZ1L leads VE "Tech in a Day" session at the hamfest

I proctored the Technician In A Day Class at HAMXPOSITON on Saturday, August 26,2023. It was a long Day (8:00am-5:00pm) for the 18 enrolled students but they were ready and willing.

I am happy to announce we have 13 new Technician Class Operators!

I would like to thank the Volunteer Examiners that assisted in the Exam Session: Bill Poulin, WZ1L, Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Jim Barber, K1TT, Geoffrey Feldman, W1GCF, Matt Wagner, N1ZZY, Susan Benua, WB2OSY and Craig Davidson, K1CWD. *Bill - WZ1L*

Get over to the radio club and use the radio equipment!

Now that we have completed the downstairs renovation and the rest of the grant money has been spent on educational equipment, the next step is to get you in the the club building. We will be glad to give you the access key to the building if you have been a member for one year and you sit down with a member and learn how to use the radio gear and antenna system on the first floor.

This is you club! You pay dues for more than just the meetings, you can come at your leisure and use the club building for fun and educational purposes.

All we ask is you leave the building the way you find it, we want to keep it neat.

The meeting on Saturday, September 9 is a good time to learn the new radio's and get qualified. We have the new Yaesu FT710 on digital modes and the Yaesu FT950 on the 10-20 meter beam for SSB.

We encourage you to start using the building.

We are looking for operators to staff the YuKanRun Half Marathon by the Sea. Sun September 17, 2023, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944 US

Please let us know if you can staff a communications checkpoint for the event so we can plan staffing positions for the event.

While CAARA's repeater performance has greatly improved some regions of this course may still experience some difficulty with communications especially with low-powered HTs, so we'll be looking for higher powered equipment to staff those areas

Please let us know what type of equipment you plan to use (ie: Mobile; HT; ¼-Wave Mag-Mount; OEM Rubber-Duck; etc.) so we have a better idea of where to locate you along the event course per the potential of your equipment.

The course will be open and supported By CAARA. for Four hours We do not cover the one-mile event on this day. Runner safety is everyone's top priority.

Local EMT crews and ambulances will be available for three hours to help.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Fred WA1ESU