

CAARA NEWS



Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
Gloucester, Massachusetts
JANUARY- 2024 EDITION



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Brandon- NQ1W

Dear Members,

A healthy and happy 2024 to you and your families!

2023 was such a productive and dare I say historic year for CAARA.

We marked the 10th anniversary since we took over the lease at the Stanwood clubhouse.

We also completed major improvements to our space, fully using our ARRL grant, including new furniture, new equipment, and an additional radio station in our training room. Thank you all for your hard work bringing this vision to life.

We have also begun using the main room as a training space in earnest, hosting several events for members and the greater Cape Ann community. The most notable was the visit of Navy Sea Cadets to drill and certify as radio technicians in December. What a fun crew they are!

There were fun winter and summer field day events, as we all love so much.

We also ran radio operations for YuKanRun for over a half a dozen races around Cape Ann.

Bill WZ1L led several VE sessions and drove his number of ticketed hams into the QST top ten for our region. Way to go!

I was incredibly happy to welcome two new board members to their first terms serving on our Board of Directors: Peter Leighton KC1PCT, who you may know from actively participating in club meetings and various local nets, and Brian Lloyd KC1SOO who as a new ham is already killing it as Net operator for the



CAARA-affiliated 6pm net and Sunday CAARA club net. Welcome!

Brian KC1SOO has taken the reins of the entertainment committee to great effect, making sure members are fed at our monthly meetings and hitting it out of the park for our recent holiday party.

The year was jam packed with even more than I've listed here. Members and officers have done an amazing job making the club and clubhouse something we can all be proud of. Great job everyone!

As we finish our reflection on 2023, I would like to mention that we also had to say goodbye to a beloved member this year. We will sincerely miss the camaraderie of Richard Slavin KB1JWO who went silent key in August. Richard was a fixture at club events and radio nets. People who knew him felt lucky to have met him, as he was such an energetic guy who loved our hobby with a zeal that continued to the very end. Mere weeks before his passing, he was in the woods making 20m POTA contacts with Kevin K1KL and making frequent check-ins to all our net operations. He will be dearly missed around the clubhouse and always remembered. Rest in peace Richard.

We can't wait to kick off 2024 with a fantastic program schedule starting with Paul Kreuger N1JDH doing the second in his series on antenna design and performance modeling with a great talk about vertical antennas and their radiation patterns. Paul's talk will coincide with our January member's meeting on January 13th at noon. We will also have the clubhouse open for ARRL Winter Field Day 2024 on Jan 27-28th with more information on that event to follow shortly.

And we're not stopping there. 2024 will bring additional fun events and physical improvements to the club. We've earmarked significant funds for the repeater committee to oversee a major overhaul of W1GLO 2m repeater's antenna system in Gloucester, which should increase the quality and reliability of the 2m repeater for both local and dx users. Our hope is that these

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

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

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Welcome to CAARA:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

improvements will address some issues we've had in bad weather as well.

I sincerely hope you and your families will utilize the club to the absolute fullest in 2024. As always, please keep your suggestions coming so that we can continue to grow and improve our beloved CAARA! And if you can, please consider becoming more involved in CAARA with a donation of your experience, time, or funds to keep this amazing enterprise rolling.

Happy New Year,

Brandon Hockle NQ1W
CAARA President

EMCOMM MINUTE

By Dean- KB1PGH



So if your looking for something to do during the next couple of cold winter months and if your into emergency communications or disaster prepping for you or your family you could always take a little bit of time and effort and create a "Go kit" for yourself.

These kits can be used if your ever called to evacuate your area or for any disasters that could happen in your area or just for stuff to have during ARRL field day or any portable HF operations that you may have.

As you can see in the photo I have a CERT backpack that I am using which was given to me when I went thought the Gloucester CERT course back in 2010. I would recommend any sort of backpack which will be easy to throw on your shoulders. The whole idea is to take some time to think of what you would need to survive for 72 hours as FEMA recommends.

So I will go through a list of things that I have in there to give you some ideas,of course youcan always go online and Google "72 Hours emergency kits" for ideas. My kit I cobbled together over a couple of years. You can always find buy emergency kits pre built online as well. So to start in mine I have a jug full of water and a good rechargeable flashlight. I recommend the NEBO brand of flashlights which are high quality. I also have a Lithium Ion cellphone battery booster pack. You can find all sorts of them on Amazon. Just think if the power goes out or your not near any power sources how fast a cellphone battery can quickly go dead.

Plus I can use the battery booster to charge my NEBO flashlight.Don't forget to include all the power cords

that you need for your devices. Next thing is put in your go kit is a first aid kit. Anything will do but spend a few bucks and get a decent one on Amazon. Next thing is food. All I have in mine is a couple of "Kind" bars and a couple backs of tuna fish. Just think of a couple food items that won't spoil real fast. You can always rotate them out before they go bad or get yourself a MRE online. The next thing to think about is bathroom and toiletry items. Just think of all the basic bathroom items you use everyday and buy them in the travel size and I put everything in a giant zip lock bag and don't forget a roll of toilet paper as well let's see,you can always get fancy and buy a portable AM/FM/shortwave radio and stuff it in your go kit as well.

I would also recommend buying one of those multitool kits that go on your belt or a swiss army knife. Another good idea is to save a little bit of cash and put it into your go kit. Just think if the power is out and you can't get to a ATM. I put \$50 in assorted bills and coins in mine.I also have safety goggles,masks and gloves in my kit as well. I have things such as rope,duct tape and trash bugs as well.If you are on any medications don't forget them too. The great thing is that you customize your kit to your needs.A little bit of planning beforehand goes a long way. If your looking for some ideas you can look at <http://www.thereadystore.com> ,www.beprepared.com or www.mypatriotssupply.com .

If you really want to get a kick on how far people go with disaster prepping just type in "emergency bunkers" on Youtube . The lengths people go to sometimes is unreal. Next month I will cover some more emergency ideas for



FOR SALE



Icom IC 7300 for sale, mint condition, no scratches on the case or screen, I have the original box it came in and the manual, \$700, email Dean KB1PGH at dburg101@aol.com

6-160 meter all mode 100 watt HF radio, a top performer and the price is a steal! Jon- K1TP



The annual Holiday Party was a success. The member turnout was very good and the food served was delicious. The club provided the turkey, Bill- W1WMM donated and cooked a sliced honey ham as well as two pounds of fresh shrimp and cocktail sauce. Members brought some side dishes and plenty of dessert for all. The club had a nice cake celebrating the tenth anniversary of purchasing the building from the city. The new first floor hall provides a great place for a meal and meeting thanks to the ARRL grant.

NOTES:

The two meter repeater has been turned of at the ATT site and our backup repeater is running at the clubhouse. The club location does not give us much of a range but at least it is up until the antenna problem is solved at the tower location.

The Ebay team of Jon-K1TP, Larry- AJ1Z, and Larry- W1MDK has now sold over \$1800 worth of surplus radio equipment. Some of this money is earmarked for repeater repair. We would also like to thank the members who have donated a good amount of money towards the repair!

Please be patient with the repeater group, we are at the mercy of the tower climber who has canceled once due to a family injury, we are on his schedule soon!



Foiled Again- Cable Company

by Curtis Wright- AA3JE

Christmas was past, and I was sitting comfortably in my armchair, perusing the HAM DEPOT catalog, trying to decide on an antenna, when chaos erupted.

“THIS CABLE BILL HAS EXPLODED! EVERY MONTH! SOME STILLY NEW CHARGE!”

Always interested in explosions in the home, I wandered over. I am not overly concerned with the cable bill, as my dear wife pays it, but was interested. A casual perusal proved she was right.

There were many interesting surcharges on the bill: WAR IN UKRAINE SURCHARGE, CABLE SERVICE REPAIR SURCHARGE, FCC BUDGET SHORTFALL SURCHARGE, LACK OF PROFIT SURCHARGE, all making the bill simply enormous.

“Want me to do something about this?” I asked.

“EVERY TIME YOU MESS WITH THEM, IT TAKES WEEKS TO GET IT FIXED.”

“What channels do you really need?”

“NEWSMAX, ANIMAL PLANET, GENERAL HOSPITAL.”

“That’s it?”

“That’s it.”

I looked at the bill, crossed off the things we did not need, and called the company.

“I need to cut down on my cable service.”

“Certainly, Sir. Let me connect you to the Customer Retention Service Officer.”

The lad that came on could sell refrigerators to the Antarctic stations. Warm, kind, personable,

he explained that I could not just order the service I want but had to buy a package.

“And pay for services we do not need?”

“Policy, Sir. But they are really useful services, like the free phone that can call anywhere.”

“What’s the minimum package I need to get Animal Planet, Newsmax, and General Hospital?”

After some shuffling and being put on hold for 20 minutes, he came back.

“If we switch you to our new COSMIC streaming package with the SUPER PLATINUM SERVICE, I can cut your bill by \$160.”



“And we get those three shows I wanted?”

“Of course!”

“What do I do?”

“I will process the order, the new COSMIC boxes come, you set them up, and return the old

boxes. Please be sure to return the boxes within 15 days, or there is a \$200 late return charge.”

The COSMIC boxes came, I set them up, and indeed, everything worked. Now just to return the

boxes. I went to the nearest local site listed on the Internet, only to find that it had been taken

over by “MAD HARRY’S ELECTRONIC REPAIR”.

Harry, who did look quite mad, just a little stoned, cleared up the problem.

“Oh, that cable place was here, but closed four years ago.”

“Where do I take these stupid boxes?”

“Beats me. I’ll give you \$20 for them.”

I went to the Internet again and found that UPS would take them. I went to the local UPS facility.

“Oh no, Sir. We don’t take those here anymore. Too many problems.”

“Where do I take them?”

“Er, Plymouth?”

“I called the store in Plymouth, they were there, were open, and would take the boxes.

Not wanting to drive 50 miles in the current snowstorm (it was snowing harder and I had to make it through the pass in the mountains), I called the cable company.

“What’s the problem?”

“I need to return some cable boxes.”

“Just take them to the nearest cable store.”

“It’s 50 miles away, and it’s snowing hard. Pass will be closed by the time I get there.”

“Impossible. We have stores all over.”

“Look it up.”

After another 20 minutes on hold, the service guy returned.

“It seems you are right. You are in the middle of nowhere. We do have a store that is only 40



miles away on your side of the mountains, but it is in Canada. Do you have a current passport?

“Get real.”

We negotiated, and he finally had a service truck pick them up. There is always a service truck at the end of our road, as the cable goes out once a week.

After two days of fussing, setting up, and spending hours on hold, I was set. It all worked. I settled down to my ham radio catalog.

“DEAR?”

“What my love?”

“I can’t get General Hospital on the TV. All I get is a notice telling me to upgrade my service”.

I will let you know how this works out.

W1AW HEADQUARTERS



The setup above is the one that sends out the cw bulletins from the ARRL. A photo of one of the stations and part of the antenna farm.

Trip to ARRL with Jim - K1TT and Chris-
W1TAT

The Lost Cosmonauts of the USSR: dramatic transmissions picked up from outer space



Have you heard about the secret space programs of the USSR? Lost Cosmonauts in Space? It is almost a plot out of a science fiction movie. There are hundreds of books and publications around the world which have talked about the space race and the numerous incidents that occurred.

Who has not heard about Apollo XII and its failures, or the disaster aboard the Apollo I capsule that took the lives of Astronauts Grissom, White and Chafee... These two are only some of the many incidents that have occurred during the space race between the United States and the USSR.

According to many, throughout the years, dozens of details about Soviet missions have come to light where people confirmed many myths which have circulated for years about allegedly lost cosmonauts in space.

The Space Race between the USSR and the United States began during the Cold War, and both sides used their success in space as war propaganda against each other. The United States was more open about its space program while the USSR created an iron curtain which made it nearly impossible for anyone to find out more about the failures and successes of the USSR.

Basically many people believe that the USSR showed only what they wanted to show. With the passage of time, theories about terrible disasters which occurred in space spread around the world, disclosing secrets that the USSR tried very hard to keep far away from prying eyes.

Some believe that somewhere in the vast darkness of space, currently over 9,000 million kilometers away from the Sun, the first human being is reaching the limits of our Solar System. The Cosmonauts body, perfectly preserved, is frozen at 270 degrees below zero, and the tiny spaceship drifted for over 50 years away from Earth at a speed of almost 30,000 km per hour. This would mean that this is the first cosmonaut lost in space, forgotten in the secret' history of mankind's attempt to conquer space.

The lost cosmonauts in space, the so-called phantom cosmonauts, are the forgotten souls of mankind's space race. All relate to Soviet astronauts and their existence, never recognized by the Soviets nor 'officially' demonstrated by governmental sources would prove that Yuri Gagarin wasn't the first man in space, but rather the first man ever to return to Earth alive, after being in space.

According to many conspiracy theories, early missions of the Soviet Space Program experienced terrible accidents in their attempt to conquer space. These failures resulted in loss of life: many Cosmonauts made it to space but never actually made it back home.

The Story about 'Lost Cosmonauts' begins with two Italian Brother, Giovanni and Achille Judica-Cordiglia who were amateur radio operators with an incredible passion for picking up transmission from space: specifically transmission between Russian cosmonauts and Soviet Ground control. Utilizing a very limited set up, the two Italian brothers allegedly intercepted signals which were sent by the Sputnik Satellite and even eavesdrop on Laika, the canine explorer aboard Sputnik II.

The Cordiglia brothers picked up several transmission that originated in space. One transmission that they had picked up sounded like an SOS signals coming from beyond Earth: according to the Cordiglia brothers, the signal they picked up weakened and eventually disappeared: the most mysterious part is that the registered Signal had almost no speed relative to Earth: meaning that if you combine the gradual weakening of the signal it suggests that the point where the signal originated was actually moving away from our planet.

The Cordiglia brothers were convinced that they picked up the distress call of a desperate Russian Cosmonaut whose spaceship overshot Earth's orbit and was drifting away towards outer space.

Not long after detecting the signal of a cosmonaut that had overshot the Earth's orbit, the Cordiglia brothers believed they picked up another signal of a Soviet Transmission which allegedly sounded like the strained breathing and irregular heartbeat of an unconscious man. According to reports, the Cordiglia brothers showed the transmission to their father who was a cardiologist who in turn suggested that the recording they were listening was that of a man that was suffocating and suffering cardiac arrest.

During a period of four years, the Cordiglia brothers released a total of nine recordings... but one of them is the most interesting of all.

The mysterious signal picked up on May 1961, is a dramatic transmission where the voice of a woman can be heard... the transmission features the last minutes of a Russian female cosmonaut as her capsule burned up during reentry into Earth's atmosphere. The transcript of the dramatic transmission and the recording can be found below:

five...four...three...two...one...one...two...three...four...five

come in...come in...come in...

Listen!...Listen...COME IN!...COME IN!...COME IN!...Talk to me!

TALK TO ME!...I am hot!...I AM HOT!

What?...Forty-five?...WHAT?...

FORTY-FIVE?...FIFTY?...

YES...YES...YES...BREATHING...

BREATHING...OXYGEN...OXYGEN...

I AM HOT...(THIS)...

ISN'T THIS DANGEROUS?...IT'S ALL...

ISN'T THIS DANGEROUS?...IT'S ALL...

YES...YES...YES...HOW IS THIS?...

WHAT?...TALK TO ME!...HOW SHOULD I TRANSMIT?...

YES...YES...WHAT?...

OUR TRANSMISSION BEGINS NOW...

FORTY-ONE...THIS WAY...OUR TRANSMISSION BEGINS NOW...

FORTY-ONE...THIS WAY...OUR TRANSMISSION BEGINS NOW...

FORTY-ONE...YES...I FEEL HOT...I FEEL HOT...

IT'S ALL...IT'S HOT...I FEEL HOT...I FEEL HOT...

I CAN SEE A FLAME!...WHAT?...

I CAN SEE A FLAME!...I CAN SEE A FLAME!...

I FEEL HOT...I FEEL HOT...THIRTY-TWO...

THIRTY-TWO...FORTY-ONE...FORTY-ONE...

AM I GOING TO CRASH?...YES...YES...I FEEL HOT!...

I FEEL HOT!...I WILL REENTER!...I WILL REENTER...

I AM LISTENING!...I FEEL HOT...

end transmission”

While many people question the authenticity of the above transcripts, many people believe that the recordings of the Cordiglia brothers are irrefutable proof of the casualties of USSR's space program. People who firmly believe that many Russian Cosmonauts were lost in space suggest that eleven Cosmonauts from the USSR lost their lives in space. The Soviet Union denied all of the above while providing very little information about their Space program which has remained an enigma in the eyes of the world.

Is it possible that the Cordiglia brothers did in fact intercept numerous transmission from lost Cosmonauts? The lost Cosmonauts of the USSR space program will probably remain an enigma and the truth, if accurate, will remain in the cold and dark 'corners' of space.

Amateur Radio Newslines Report

PLANNING BEGINS FOR DXPEDITION TO PETER THE 1ST ISLAND

DON/ANCHOR: As the new year dawns, we bring you a top story that looks to the future: We tell you about two big DXpeditions happening Down Under -- and both take plenty of planning and resources. We hear the details from Graham Kemp VK4BB.

GRAHAM: The year 2024 is a big year of planning for a DXpedition to Peter I Island, which ranks eighth in ClubLog's most-wanted DXCC list. Like Bouvet Island, this remote volcanic island is one of three Norwegian territories in the subAntarctic and Antarctic region. The DXpedition of 19 operators is being led by Ken LA7GIA, Cezar VE3LYC, Dave WD5COV and Adrian KO8SCA. It's planned for 14 days in February of 2026.

Dave and Ken are also part of another high-profile DXpedition taking place a year before Peter I Island: that is the 3YØK DXpedition in January 2025 for Bouvet Island, the 11th most wanted on the ClubLog list. This expedition will reuse much of the equipment from the previous year's trip to Bouvet and is also sharing the website being used by 3YØK.

As fundraising for Peter I Island gets under way in just a few weeks, the group is concentrating on securing a landing permit from the Norwegian Polar Institute. The team has reported that it has found a ship and it has two on-board helicopters. In addition to being a coveted DX, Peter I Island carries the IOTA designation of AN-004.

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CQ MAGAZINE SUSPENDS PUBLICATION

DON/ANCHOR: CQ Magazine, which has been a resource for the active amateur radio community for seven decades, has suspended publication until sometime in 2024. CQ has been a valuable supporter of Newsline's Bill Pasternak WA6ITF Memorial Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award. It is renowned for its CQ World Wide array of contests and operating awards and for its hall of fame.

The magazine's editor, Richard Moseson W2VU, told Newsline in a recent email: [quote] "As all of our loyal readers know, 2023 has been a very challenging year for us. We continue to pursue all options for getting things moving again. At this moment, the November and December issues are delayed but we plan to get them out to the readership as soon as circumstances permit. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding." [endquote]

The widely read magazine, which produces both a print and digital edition, has been a staple in amateur radio shacks, starting with its first issue in January 1945.

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STRAIGHT KEY MONTH CELEBRATES A TRADITION

DON/ANCHOR: This year marks the 18th year for Straight Key Month, a celebration of traditional communication from the Straight Key Century Club. Don't have a straight key? You can get in on the action anyway. Kevin Trotman N5PRE tells us how.

KEVIN: Just as some CW operators think they can rest their fists following the conclusion of the ARRL's Straight Key Night on the 1st of January, others are preparing for Straight Key Month. The popular event from the Straight Key Century Club is a leisurely and friendly activity. The goal is to contact as many other operators as you can via CW, not just throughout the United States but around the world. There are various categories in which operators can set their goals.

You don't need to be an SKCC club member to participate. In fact, you don't even need to use a Straight Key. Will you get a basic sweep, a full sweep or a grand sweep? See the SKCC website at skccgroup dot com (skccgroup.com) and click on the link for SKCC Straight Key Month, which appears under the heading of "Activiies."

Each year club members compete to produce a design for the event's official QSL card. This year's winning card will also mark the 18th anniversary of the SKCC.(SKCC)

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ARIZONA DESERT COMES ALIVE WITH QUARTZFEST

DON/ANCHOR: The next big thing in ham radio in the US is the first big convention of 2024. It's known as Quartzfest and it is one of its kind in Arizona's Sonoran desert. It features recreational vehicles, portable and

mobile EMCOM systems and off-the-grid living all near Quartzsite. Activities and seminars are all free. Operators will also have a special event station W7Q throughout the week. Other hams will be participating in an HF Distance Challenge, Pico Balloon Launches and POTA activations and hikes. Quartzfest takes place between the 21st and the 27th of January. For a schedule of seminars and activities visit quartzfest dot org (quartzfest.org)

(QUARTZFEST, AMATEUR RADIO DAILY)

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HAMSCI ADVISOR BECOMES DIRECTOR OF HAYSTACK OBSERVATORY

DON/ANCHOR: A noted observatory in New England has just chosen its new director - an amateur radio operator who is also an advisor to HamSCI and its various projects. We hear more from Sel Embee KB3TZD.

SEL: Congratulations to Philip Erickson, W1PJE, a member of the advisory board of the citizens science group HamSCI, who is starting an important new role in January as director of the Haystack Observatory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he has been on staff in various capacities since 1995. His most recent role has been as associate director.

The observatory has been involved in a number of projects that share some of HamSCI's own priorities, conducting studies of the ionosphere and other parts of the atmosphere with the use of electromagnetic frequencies. Philip notes on his QRZ.com page that Haystack has been involved since the late 1950s in remote-sensing research into the properties of the ionosphere, neutral atmosphere, overlying plasmasphere, and magnetosphere.

Philip belongs to the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club, which often conducts activities in collaboration with the Haystack Observatory. He is also a big fan of working with vintage radios.

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GET READY FOR HAM RADIO KIDS' DAY

DON/ANCHOR: Just as Youth on the Air month ends on the last day of December, Ham Radio Kids Day is just getting warmed up. The annual ARRL event takes place on Saturday the 6th of January as a way of showing youngsters the kind of fun they can have on the air - and to interest them in science and technology. Plans are already being made across the country: One such group, The New Providence Amateur Radio Club in New Jersey, is operating the event with the youngsters at the Salt Brook School on Saturday, January 6, 2024 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

During the event, youngsters will be on the air under the supervision of licensed hams. Kids will be calling "CQ Kids Day" and the kid-friendly exchange will be name, age, location and favorite color.

(ARRL, PATCH.COM)

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FRENCH AMATEUR'S SPECIAL EVENT HONORS POLISH MARTYR

DON/ANCHOR: Several special event stations go on the air from around the world each year in August, coinciding with the anniversary of the death of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe. He was born, however, in January and an event is coming up to mark the 130th anniversary of that day. Here's Randy Sly W4XJ with the details.

RANDY: The Polish priest, Maximilian Maria Kolbe, was martyred in Auschwitz during World War II. Hams often hold special event stations in August to mark the date of his death. One ham in France -- Jeff, F4IIQ (F 4 EYE EYE Q) -- has chosen to mark his birth on January 8th. He will be going on the air with the callsign

TM130SMK from the 5th to the 9th of January. The Franciscan priest, who was canonized in 1982, is considered the patron saint of amateur radio for having founded a monastery in Poland dedicated to communications. The monastery housed a short-wave radio station with the callsign SP3RN. When the monastery was shut by the Nazis in 1941, Maximilian Maria Kolbe was arrested and sent to Auschwitz where he volunteered to take the place of another man who was marked to die. The priest was executed by lethal injection after having been placed in a starvation bunker.

Father Kolbe is also the inspiration for the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Net, which was founded by two amateurs in the US in 1998. It meets on 80 metres and 20 metres on Sundays.

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SOTA ACTIVATORS PREPARE FOR YEAR-LONG 10M CHALLENGE

DON/ANCHOR: SOTA activators, get ready to aim high in the new year. It's already a fact that SOTA ops aim high or they wouldn't be climbing all those summits to make contacts, but now the awards scheme is asking everyone to aim high on the band and accept a year-long 10-meter challenge. This event is timed to coincide with what is expected to be the peak of Solar Cycle 25.

The SOTA 10m Challenge is not a contest, but the organisers do plan to post results on its challenge page and hope the activity will encourage as many ops as possible to make use of the band. In announcing the activity, Andy, MMØFMF, compared this challenge to the event conducted on the 12m band in 2013 and 2014. Unlike 12m, 10m is open to all classes of amateurs in most countries and so this event is considered more inclusive.

(AMATEUR RADIO DAILY, EI7GL BLOG)

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ARISS CONFERENCE TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF HAM RADIO

DON/ANCHOR: Amateur Radio on the ISS is collecting stories and videos that help tell the story of ham radio in space during the past four decades. Dave Parks WB8ODF brings us that report.

DAVE: If you've ever had contact with Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, get ready for Florida in February. The ARISS organization is reaching out to educators and former students and asking them to send in stories and videos explaining the impact that important QSO with the orbiting astronauts has had on their lives.

The stories will become a part of the 40th anniversary Educational Contact conference taking place at the Center for Space Education near the Kennedy Space Center's Visitors' Center from February 22nd to the 24th. Both educators and former students are being asked to fill out a form online providing details.

ARISS is celebrating the occasion, which marks 40 years since astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, made the first amateur radio contact from space on board the Space Shuttle Columbia. ARISS writes on its website [quote] "The historic 40th anniversary conference will be a retrospective of what has been accomplished and will highlight our exciting amateur radio human spaceflight plans on the horizon." [endquote]

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WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, there's still time to get a coveted DX for your logbook: The Rebel DX Group's T32TT operation from Kiritimati/Christmas Island, IOTA number OC-024 in East Kiribati will be extended until the 12th of January. See QRZ.com for QSL and other details.

Be listening for special event station AT24GSM from West Bengal, India, between January 9th through to the 16th. Members of the West Bengal Radio Club will be activating Sagar Island, IOTA Number AS-153 and the Gangasagar Island Beach, BOTA Number 60572. The activation will also include the Sagar Island Lighthouse, World Lighthouse Number 2262. The occasion for the activation is the annual pilgrimage known as the Ganga Saga Mela. See QRZ.com for details.

Members of ARI Padova will be on the air with the callsign II3PUP from the 7th to the 14th of January. The suffix of the callsign is an acronym for the Latin words connoting Padua the Painted City. This is a reference to the series of 14th-century frescoes that are on the UNESCO World Heritage list, where they were added in 2021. QSL via IQ3WW. Find other QSL information on QRZ.com.

If you are planning ahead for February, be listening for VK5MAV operating as VK5MAV/4 from Magnetic Island, IOTA number OC-171. They will be on the air from the 6th to the 11th of February. He will be using mainly CW but may include some SSB. Listen on 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

(425 DX BULLETIN)

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KICKER: A TREASURED TRANSMITTER'S ENDURING MESSAGE

DON/ANCHOR: As we leave December and step across the threshold of a new year, it's a comfort to know that some things endure. They were built to last - and in fact, they DO last. One example is the tradition of a message of Christmas peace, transmitted from a historic transmitter in Sweden. Jeremy Boot G4NJH concludes this newscast with this report.

JEREMY: On Christmas Eve morning, the World Heritage Grimeton Radio station carried a message to the world that is older than the 100-year-old transmitter itself. It was a message of peace sent via Morse Code. Hams and non-hams alike from around the world tuned in via SDR or other means to hear the code being sent via the Alexanderson Alternator SAQ signal on 17.2 kHz long wave. Others simply witnessed the event on YouTube, where spectators from Poland, Belgium, Colombia, Brazil and Australia left words of support and appreciation in many languages.

The history behind this transmitter is as cherished as the message it carries several times each year: With every transmission it underscores the progress we have made over the years in wireless communication -- while affirming the progress the world still needs to make in so many other areas.

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HAM CLASS INFORMATION

I have been hearing some conversations on the repeaters about upgrading their amateur radio licensing.

I thought I would give some info and suggestions for those desiring to pursue either an Initial or Upgrade:

EXTRA CLASS

An Extra Class will be held online Beginning Tuesday January 9, 2024 between 6:30-8:30pm for 16 weeks (April30,2024). The class uses the current ARRL Extra Class License Manual 12th Edition (\$32.95 @ HRO).
Class website: youtube.com/w4eey

The calculator used in class is a Texas Instrument TI-36X Pro (\$22.00 @ WALMART).

Email Gary Wise w4eey@arrl.net to sign up. Class is FREE.

GENERAL CLASS (new question pool (JULY 1,2023))

Currently on youtube.com/w4eey a General Class which began back on September 5th is recorded. (Videos available 24/7)

The class uses the ARRL General Class License Manual 10th Edition (HRO \$32.95) The class runs for 10 weeks. Videos are 2 hours long.

Basically Read Chapter 1 and continue reading a Chapter and watch the corresponding video. Calculator used in class is Texas Instrument TI-36X Pro (\$22.00 at WALMART)

Class handouts can be obtained by emailing Gary Wise w4eey@arrl.net

NEW TECHNICIAN CLASS (2024)

A new Technician Class will begin on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 from 6:30-8:30pm for 10 weeks. The class uses the current ARRL Technician Class License Manual (5th Edition (HRO \$32.95). The class videos are recorded and available 24/7 if you miss the class. youtube.com/w4eey0-po0jh

The Class begins by reading Chapter 1 and tune in to the first class. Basically it is a Read the Chapter and watch the corresponding Class video for that Chapter. They use the Texas Instrument TI-36X PRO Calculator (WALMART \$22.00)

To sign up for the class send Gary Wise an email w4eey@arrl.net

When you have completed the course, I suggest you log on to hamstudy.org and click on your prospective level of study and instead of taking practice exams and select "Study Mode" option to challenge the questions.

Technician 411 Questions, General 427 Questions, and Extra 564 Questions.

You will see a question with 4 possible answers. Select what you believe is the correct answer. If you are right the response text turns green and move to next question.

If you select incorrectly, (text displays in red), you can select "Show Correct Answer" at the bottom, and it will be shown.

If you are still unsure, click the right top corner of the Question Box and you will be provided a narrative explanation including the correct answer contained therein.

You will again see the questions you answered incorrectly later for an additional chance to respond correctly.

Make sure you see ALL the Questions in the Question Pool.

A proficiency of 85-90% minimal is suggested before taking your prospective license exam.

Through a determined subject matrix the individual license class Question Pool dribbles down to a 35 Question Exam for Technician and General Class and for Amateur Extra a 50 Question Exam.

Good Luck on your studies.

Bill Poulin, WZ1L, Volunteer Examiner

73 What?

Usually near the end of an amateur radio conversation (QSO) the phrase “seven three” or “seventy three” will be heard. New hams or unlicensed listeners will probably wonder, 73 what? Here is more of that ham-speak stuff we are learning about and this terminology has a very particular meaning.

73

73 simply means, “Best Regards”. It is a very common phrase used on the radio in voice, Morse code (CW), and data communication modes and is often used in emails and handwritten notes between hams. 73 is considered a polite and friendly way of signing off all forms of communications between hams or as a general show of respect.

The origins of 73 are not absolutely certain, but the prevailing idea that it is a remnant of 1870s American telegraph codes is supported by historical documents. We find a long list of numeric codes that represent common phrases that would be sent in telegraphy. This saved the operators time by simply sending a one- or two-digit code instead. Because early amateur radio was Morse code work, hams adopted some of the telegraphy practices and codes. 73 is one of the few codes that have survived a hundred years of ham radio history, along with judiciously-used 88 (Love and Kisses).

For a fun and interesting look at origins of 73, a great reference for this and many other obscure ham things is found at the Origins of Hamspeak site by AC6V. One legend holds that 73 derives from respecting someone so much that you would pass along your valued 1873 Winchester rifle to them. Hogwash, but fun to read. That site is also referenced in our Links page under Origins of Ham Things.

73 is particularly meaningful in CW mode where the Morse characters form a palindrome (reads the same backwards and forwards). 7 is dah-dah-dit-dit-dit and 3 is dit-dit-dit-dah-dah. So 73 is sent (– ••• ••• – –). When CW hams hear this they don’t think of a number; instead they know that the other guy is sending his regards and wrapping up a QSO.

By the way, 73 is a singular code so the plural form doesn’t make sense. You would not write, “Best Regards’s”, so proper usage is not 73s, it is simply 73.

REMEMBERING PAST MEMBERS: SK ERNST-KD1JQ

CAARA member Ernst F. Scherer KD1JQ, 86, passed away Friday, December 31, 2021 at Brentwood Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Danvers. Ernst was an active member of CAARA and he served on the CAARA Board of Directors from 2017 – 2020.

Born in Rapperswil, Switzerland he was the son of the late Ernst and Margareta (Kyburz) Scherer. He was the beloved husband of the late Joyce (Montague) Scherer. Ernst is survived by one son, Dana M. Scherer of Switzerland, and one daughter, Nicole M. Scherer of Hamilton.

Ernst spent countless hours with Bill- W1OKD tinkering and repairing ham gear on the second floor of the club. He will be missed by all.

The term SK is another bit of ham-speak that is not obvious to new or prospective radio amateurs and you should know what it means.

While widely used in ham circles, SK has two differing meanings. Specific to CW work, SK is a Morse code procedural signal (prosign) for indicating a final transmission in a message or QSO.

More generally, SK means silent key, a term of respect for a deceased ham. It's a classy way to denote the loss of a member from the radio amateur community. Hams will sometimes give tribute to SKs in their biographies as influencers or Elmers.

Silent Key is a dignified term going back to wired telegraphy, adopted in the early days of ham radio when only Morse code was used to honor a CW operator whose key will not be heard again. This tradition has carried over into modern times when voice, video and data have been added to the amateur radio repertoire. Considering the prosign SK as "end of transmission," the double meaning of SK is very fitting.