



CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2016

President's Desk

by *Hank-W4RIG*



We can be especially pleased with the good work of Jon (K1TP) and Dean (KB1PGH) for putting together a top flight newsletter. Any ideas and contributions of material concerning Amateur Radio will be greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Bill Poulin (WZ1L) for heads up on programs and information from various places as well as a good job as our Scribe. Gardi (KA1BTK) has been working hard to organize our many public service events including our first 2016 Running Event on Cape Ann on Sunday April 3 - all volunteers will be greatly appreciated and needed to cover the half marathon race from Riverdale to Lanesville and back. On the community activities front we are happy to announce the appointment of Stan Stone (W4HIX) as a new ARRL Local Government Liaison contact for Eastern Massachusetts. Stan will work in coordination with Hank (W4RIG) as ARRL State Government Liaison .

Dean (KB1PGH) continues to serve ARRL as Eastern Massachusetts Public Information Officer.

Jon (K1TP) and Ross (W1RAB) are working on a back up Repeater Operation to provide an alternative to our regular repeater operations from the tower at Blackburn Industrial Park in the event of longer term power outages. We may operate this back up from 6 Stanwood if the antennas seem to have adequate coverage or an alternate location if arrangements can be made with 24/7 power and emergency generation capabilities.

The facilities at 6 Stanwood seem to be working with remote operation capability and several separate operating stations for CW, HF Digital and Voice, and a VHF/UHF set up as well. Please come by to take advantage of fellowship and operating possibilities on Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings.

Hank McCarl, W4RIG

Information Desk

by *Dean-KB1PGH*



I think one of the greatest aspects of the amateur radio hobby is the diversity of things that one can do with the hobby itself. I thought it would be interesting to try to label all of the subsets within the amateur radio hobby. I know I'll probably miss a bunch but here we go anyway. Here's the list: DXing,contesting,multiple modes of operating such as CW, SSB and all the digital modes,foxhunting,QRP operating, SOTA, DXCC, WAS, special event stations,operating portable, kitbuilding,VE testing, field day, emergency communications, working satellites, public service events, operating from VLF to microwaves, dxpeditons, and all sorts of HF and VHF nets just to name a few. There is also much more that ham radio covers in an educational standpoint as well. Our hobby requires knowledge in math, geography, physics, electrical engineering, space physics and even how to learn a second language such as morse code. You also have to learn about teamwork, problem solving and social skills. With all of this stuff to do in amateur radio it's surprising anything gets done. So there's no way possible to say that you are bored in the hobby as well. Another great aspect of ham radio is that you can still participate whatever your income level is. You can still operate the same DX if you only have a second hand HF rig or if you have a \$ 5000.00 rig. You can still work the same DX if you have a simple home made dipole or you can afford a multi thousand dollar beam. I also like the fact that you can be rewarded in the ham radio hobby if you take the time to actually learn things such as propagation and how to actually test for radio and antenna issues.I have been operating portable HF for almost 10 years now and I am still learning some new

tricks so even in just participating in one aspect of this hobby it takes some time to learn the ropes.If there are any pieces of advice i could give to a newbie techie I would say the following. Try to pick one aspect of the hobby and learn as much

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CAARA Newsletter
Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
6 Stanwood Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

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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 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. The former W1RK 443.700 repeater is now on the cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex with greatly enhanced performance.

The Association is one of the few amateur radio clubs that has its own clubhouse. Located at 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester, it includes a permanent HF station with rotating beam and vertical antenna along with a 2 meter packet station and 2 meter voice and 220 MHz transceivers.

Amateur radio exams are held on the second Sunday of each month at 10:00AM at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. There is no pre-registration necessary. Contact the head of our VE team Bob Quinn if you have any questions about monthly testing. Monthly member meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM except for July and August

Each Sunday evening at 9:00pm, the club operates a 2 meter 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.

New! The club is open every Tuesday from 4-8PM for CAARA members to stop by and socialize, as well as use the extensive collection of ham radio gear.

Information Desk

by Dean-KB1PGH

as you can about it. The internet is an amazing place for information. Please buy and learn how to use the entry level radios and work your way up from there. Please READ YOUR RADIOS MANUAL !! Be prepared to actually invest your own time in educating yourself in this hobby- don't expect others to babysit you. If you're not willing to have patience and learn then you won't be able to enjoy your radios and your time on the air.

One other thing- please LISTEN, LISTEN and LISTEN some more on HF and VHF and learn how the DX works and the operating procedures. It will be well worth it. For this month's preppers advice now is the time to service your generators, drain the old gas and put new gas in. Do a full tune up with new spark plug and air filter cleaning. Please change the oil as well. Make sure it runs now instead of when the power goes out. See you next month!

A quick look at the MFJ 939 Auto tuner

by Dean- KB1PGH

Well I learned a lesson that might help others out there if they are looking to buy an autotuner. I recently sold my Icom 7000 for a Yaesu FT 991 and when I sold my Icom I sold the LDG IT 100 Autotuner with it because it was only compatible with that radio. Yes, the Yaesu FT 991 has an internal ATU but it is very limited to tuning to 3 to 1 SWR ratio or less. So I had to purchase another new autotuner to go with the Yaesu FT 991. I recently saw an ad for the MFJ 939 autotuner and that peaked my interest. The neat thing about the 939 is that it is compatible with just about any radio out there. All you have to do is buy the interface cable to your brand HF rig and your all set! If you buy a different model rig all you have to do is buy a new cable to match it instead of a whole new autotuner! The MFJ 939 tuner will also work without a cable if your radio does not have one as well! The MFJ 939 is cheaper at \$159.00 than the LDG line of tuners. The build quality is typical MFJ style but that's ok. The 939 memorizes your antenna every time you tune it so future tuning takes less time. The 939 has 20,000 memories and you can have different banks of memories for each antenna. The 939 can also tune an antenna with up to a 32:1 SWR whereas the LDG line can only tune up to a 10:1 SWR. The plug and play cable are great as I can hook this radio up to my Yaesu 991 and the 939 gets the power it needs through the FT 991. All I have to do is push the tuner button on my Yaesu 991 and it will automatically tune my antenna! Now for all you newbies out there autotuners don't actually tune your antenna- all they do is make your HF rig stupid. When you use an ATU it just fakes your radio out to think that your antenna line is a perfect 50 ohms so your radio sends out the full 100 watts. All they are are glorified impedance matchers. Of course it's always better to have a resonant antenna. So if you don't want to get stuck with a specific brand ATU that only works with one radio I say take a look at the MFJ 939 to save you some cash plus the hassle of having to buy another ATU in the future!



WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA EMCOM CENTER?



REPEATER UPDATE:

The new Yaesu Fusion 2 meter repeater that is used as a backup repeater in case of the failure of our Kenwood repeater at the ATT cell site is now fully operational due to the diligence of Jake- WILDL. Jake tuned the duplexers at the club, it took a little doing and three attempts to get them perfect but he persevered and got the job done. It should be noted that the backup repeater used a different PL tone than the main repeater. The main repeater uses a PL of 107.2 and the backup is programmed with a PL of 100. I suggest you program a new channel into your radios with the backup repeater info in case you ever need it.

It is a lot easier to program it now than trying to figure how to program your radio in an emergency!

This backup repeater will be used from the club building in an emergency and we are looking for a better location in the future with a little more antenna height. On the left is a donated SX-100 which Jake and Jon brought back to life the other day on the second floor.



It is nice to finally have the space and equipment to start playing radio instead of painting and erecting antennas!

The warm glow and smell of a 65 year old radio coming to life and listening to a short-wave religious revival station was a hoot.

We plan on taking it apart and cleaning the pots and giving it a realign job in the near future. It will be available for your use soon.



This is a Heathkit HW-101, called the hot water 101. It was built by a former CAARA president Warren Grimes and used as the club radio at the first CAARA Field Day. It was purchased from Warren by Bob Spanks-WA1UCG who used it for many years before donating it to the club. I fired it up Sunday morning at the club with assistance from Larry- AJ1Z and it sounded just great. It will be available for your use at the club in the vintage room soon. There is just something fun about listening to an old vintage radio!

The Heath Kit HW101 was Heath's most popular HAM Transceiver. It was sold for nearly 12 years and evolved from the HW100. The HW series was a cheaper version of the better looking SB series but circuitry wise these radios are 95 % the same. In fact all of the circuit boards are identical. Some boards were not fully populated with components on the HW series radios to reduce costs.

The HW series cabinet and mechanical parts were simple sheet metal and thus the mechanical fabrication was much cheaper. The tuning dial on the HW series however was superior to that of the SB series in my opinion. The main difference between a HW100 and a HW101 is that the 101 has a CW filter option. If you have a chance to purchase a HW series radio be aware that the 101 is the better of the two. However, either will work in SSB or CW with almost identical performance. That is to say just barely usable on today's crowded bands but still a lot of fun.

These radios are available at a low price and also have a nostalgic following.

The HW101 is of course a tube type transceiver. It does have a solid state VFO and a few silicon diodes in the circuitry but 99% of the radio is "hollow" state. The transmitter final amplifier is based on a tried and true pair of 6146 tubes driven by a 6CL6. The receive is a dual conversion superhet with a 3.395 MHz crystal filter IF. As far as tubes go the only tubes getting hard to find are the 6HS6 and 6GW8. Even these can be obtained for a price. The 6HS6 can be replaced with the cheaper and ubiquitous 6AU6. around the final amplifiers.

To New England radio clubs:

I'd appreciate your help in publicizing the upcoming New England QSO Party on May 7th and 8th.

The NEQP is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

We're working to make sure that all of the New England counties are active again this year and would appreciate your help. Get on for at least an hour or two and join in on the fun. Please let me know if you can put in any time at all so we can work on activity from the rarest counties. **Will you be QRV? Let us know which county you'll be on from with a message to info@neqp.org**

Oh yes, the NEQP is also **lots** of fun when mobile. Every time you cross a county line the action starts over again. It's amazing what a 100w radio and mobile whip can do.

The QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep Saturday night. It goes from 4pm Saturday until 1am Sunday, then 9am Sunday until 8pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state. Last year we had logs from 139 New England stations and 275 more from around the country and world.

The full rules are here -> <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

The 2015 results have been on-line for a week or so and the results since 2002 are also available -> <http://www.neqp.org/results.html>

It's just a month until the 2016 NEQP. Please make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log.

Thanks! 73 Tom/K1KI

Comedian, Actor, TV Writer and Personality Garry Shandling, ex-KD6OY, (SK)

Comedian, actor, and TV personality Garry Shandling, ex-KD6OY, died March 24 after suffering an apparent heart attack in Los Angeles. He was 66. Shandling became a ham as a teenager in the 1960s, long before he entered show business.

"When I was 13 I had a ham radio set (true!), so I could sit in my room and talk to people the world-over. Geeky? Or just ahead of my time!!?" Shandling had tweeted in May 2011.

Shandling grew up in Arizona and majored in electrical engineering at the University of Arizona. But went on to earn a degree in marketing and complete some post-graduate work in creative writing. He worked in marketing for a time, but a script he wrote for "Sanford and Son" turned into his first big break into entertainment.

His most-recent Amateur Radio license — issued to him under a pseudonym, Dave Waddell — expired in August 2009. The call sign was KQ6KA. Shandling obtained the call sign under an assumed name, so that he could get on the air without anyone recognizing him as a celebrity. Shandling had held an Advanced class license. Prior to that, he held KD6OY under his real name, as well as WA7BKG, which may have been his first call sign while he was living in Arizona.

He had an alter-ego on television as well. On "It's Garry Shandling's Show," he played a comedian much like himself. "The Larry Sanders Show" followed, and in that popular HBO series, he played a late-night talk show host, sometimes parodying or spoofing the real late-night talk shows and their hosts. Shandling was a frequent fill in for Johnny Carson, and at one time he was considered as Carson's possible successor on "The Tonight Show."

Where's There Smoke

by Curtis-AA3JR

The one thing I have learned from living with SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED, is that no husband, anywhere, is ever judged competent (at anything) by his wife. For some reason, the same woman who used to gaze lovingly at you in wide eyed admiration as you heroically changed a light bulb (before you were married), feels you need step by step instructions thereafter.

This is particularly offensive if you are (like me) a chronic "shoulder peeper". These are the guys that are so fascinated by anything electronic or mechanical that they peer over the shoulder of the repairman and watch his every move. Some hate this, and others enjoy the attention, putting on a little show, but in either case, it is wasted effort. But I enjoy the balletic élan of a true professional pumping the septic tank.

But all it takes is to see you descending toward the basement or out to the kitchen with a pair of vise grips and the light of battle in your eyes, and she starts immediately.

"WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THOSE."

"You complained the kitchen faucet was loose, I was going to tighten it."

"STOP! STOP RIGHT NOW! LET ME FIND OUT IF THE PLUMBER IS FREE!"

"This is a simple job, dear. It hardly needs a plumber."

"THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID THE LAST TIME! I HAD FLOODING DREAMS FOR A MONTH!"

Now it is true, in a way, that what she says has some small, limited merit. There have been a few occasions where my initial expectations of the size and complexity of a repair have been overly optimistic.



But that hardly calls for determining the availability of professional backup, checking the emergency kit, and calling to find out the number of cubicles available in the Addison Gilbert Hospital Emergency Room.

On this particular occasion I was headed for the furnace, to perform my twice a year inspection and cleaning. Modern oil supplies burn smoky, and if you have ever dealt with a clogged oil furnace, you never want to again.

"WHERE ARE YOU GOING???"

"Just down to the basement, dear, checking the furnace."

"DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH THAT! "

"I need to check it for soot, dear.

I KNOW FOR A FACT IT WAS SERVICED AND CLEANED IN NOVEMBER! THAT IS FOUR MONTHS AGO! I PAID THE BILL! PUT DOWN THAT SCREWDRIVER AND BACK AWAY FROM THE STAIRS

WITH YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!

I am considerably more careful now that she has her concealed weapons permit. So I complied, under protest.

So, of course, a month later, in the middle of the night, the smoke alarms went off. The cause was obvious, as a quick trip downstairs showed black smoke oozing out from the basement door. I hit the furnace kill switch and called up to her. It was hard to make myself heard over the four wailing alarms.

It's the furnace, dear. I'll have it fixed in a few minutes.

YOU WILL DO NO SUCH THING! THE DOGS AND I WILL PERISH IN THE FLAMES!

I don't see any flames, dear, just a lot of smoke, I think it's a clogged furnace.

CALL 911 AND GET US OUT OF HERE!

So it was find the leashes, catch the dogs, and get wife and dogs out of the house while calling 911. A nice female voice answered.

Please state the nature of the emergency.

Rockport Fire Department, please.

What is the emergency sir?

Fire alarms woke us up, black smoke pouring out of the cellar door.

GET EVERYONE OUT OF THE HOUSE, RIGHT NOW! NOW!

NOW! NOW!

Obviously this girl was married.

So I got the family out, the police came, the firemen came, and it was soon clear that the furnace had indeed sooted up, and had been belching black smoke into the basement.

So SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED went back upstairs to bed, and I waited up for the two furnace guys, (they already knew that there was a problem from the scanner), and we all cleaned the furnace for a few hours.

And I went upstairs to catch a few hours sleep before dawn.

As I slid between the sheets, I heard a drowsy voice murmur, THANK GOD I WAS HERE, IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, YOU WOULD BURN TO DEATH.

So be warned. She may admire your skill and prowess now, but slip that ring on her finger and she will lose the blinding effects of young lust, and you will join the ranks of us incompetent duffers who are saved from daily disaster only by the vigilance, (and the tongues) of our wives.

Hearing loss, real or feigned, seems to help.



NEAR-Fest
**New England Amateur
Radio Festival**
OUR TENTH YEAR!
NEAR-Fest XIX
April 29 & 30, 2016
Deerfield, New Hampshire

A New “ARRL The Doctor is In” Audio Podcast Episode is Now Available

“HF Vertical Antennas” will be the topic of the inaugural “ARRL The Doctor is In” audio podcast, available on April 7 and sponsored by [DX Engineering](#). “ARRL The Doctor is In” is a lively discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone — whenever and wherever you like!

Every 2 weeks your host, *QST* Editor in Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can e-mail your questions to doctor@arrl.org, and they may be answered in a future podcast.

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BEAM heading for Space Station

Tucked in the trunk of the latest commercial cargo spacecraft to head for the International Space Station is an expandable structure that has the potential to revolutionize work and life on the space station.

SpaceX’s Dragon spacecraft is delivering almost 7,000 pounds of cargo, including the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module (BEAM), to the orbital laboratory following its launch on a Falcon 9 rocket at 4:43 p.m. EDT from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

The mission is SpaceX’s eighth cargo delivery through NASA’s Commercial Resupply Services contract. Dragon’s cargo will support dozens of the more than 250 science and research investigations taking place on the space station during Expeditions 47 and 48.

“The cargo will allow investigators to use microgravity conditions to test the viability of expandable space habitats, assess the impact of antibodies on muscle wasting, use protein crystal growth to aid the design of new disease-fighting drugs and investigate how microbes could affect the health of the crew and their equipment over a long duration mission,” said NASA Deputy Administrator Dava Newman.

Dragon will be grappled at 7 a.m. Sunday, April 10, by ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Tim Peake, KG5BVI, using the station’s Candarm2 robotic arm, with help from NASA astronaut Jeff Williams, KD5TVQ. BEAM will arrive in Dragon’s unpressurized trunk and, after about five days, will be removed and attached to the station. Expansion is targeted for the end of May. The module will expand to roughly 10 feet in diameter and 13 feet long. During its two-year test mission, astronauts will enter the module for a few hours several times a year to retrieve sensor data and assess conditions. Expandable habitats are designed to take up less room on a rocket, but provide greater volume for living and working in space once expanded. This first in situ test of the module will allow investigators to gauge how well the habitat protects against solar radiation, space debris and contamination.

Crew members experience significant decreases in bone density and muscle mass during long-duration spaceflight without appropriate nutrition and exercise. One life science investigation on its way to the orbiting laboratory will assess myostatin inhibition as a means of preventing skeletal muscle atrophy and weakness in mice exposed to long-duration spaceflight. Drugs tested on the space station could progress to human clinical trials back on Earth to validate their effectiveness for future space missions.

Dragon also will deliver Microchannel Diffusion, a study of fluids at the nanoscale, or atomic, level. Nanofluidic sensors could measure the air in the space station, or be used to deliver drugs to specific places in the body. The laws that govern flow through nanoscale channels are not well understood, and this investigation simulates those interactions by studying them at the larger microscopic level. This type of research is possible only on the space station, where Earth’s gravity is not strong enough to interact with the molecules in a sample, so they behave more like they would at the nanoscale. Knowledge gleaned from the investigation may have implications for drug delivery and particle filtration, as well as future technological applications for space exploration.

Another experiment onboard Dragon is a protein crystal growth investigation focused on drug design and

development. Growing protein crystals in microgravity can help researchers avoid some of the obstacles inherent to protein crystallization on Earth, such as sedimentation. One investigation will study the effect of microgravity on the co-crystallization of a membrane protein to determine its three-dimensional structure. This will enable scientists to chemically target and inhibit, with “designer” compounds, an important human biological pathway thought to be responsible for several types of cancer.

The spacecraft is scheduled to depart the space station May 11 for a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean, west of Baja California, bringing almost 3,500 pounds of science, hardware and spacewalking tools back to Earth for further study, including biological samples from NASA’s one-year mission.

The International Space Station is a convergence of science, technology and human innovation that demonstrates new technologies and makes research breakthroughs not possible on Earth. The space station has been continuously occupied since November 2000. In that time, it has been visited by more than 200 people and a variety of international and commercial spacecraft. The space station remains the springboard to NASA’s next great leap in exploration, including future missions to an asteroid and Mars.

ELECTRONICS RETAILER SAVED, GOES ONLINE

DON: This week’s newscast opens with an update on the troubled Australian mega-retailer, Dick Smith Electronics. Amateur radio operators in Australia, New Zealand and, no doubt, elsewhere, will be pleased to learn that reports of its death were premature. More from Amateur Radio Newsline’s Graham Kemp, VK4BB.

GRAHAM: An 11th-hour rescue has saved Australian mega-retailer, Dick Smith Electronics, from the dusty pages of history. Sort of.

Entrepreneur Rusland Kogan has purchased the online portion of the embattled retailer’s business for an undisclosed amount and, according to press reports, will launch Internet-based sales starting the 1st of June. No purchase price has been made public. The online-only sales operation will be part of a dual brand strategy alongside kogan.com

Placement into receivership of the venerable Dick Smith Holdings, which has more than 360 locations in New Zealand and Australia, cost thousands of workers their jobs and, in the amateur radio community, foretold the loss of an important resource of electronic components. The online Kogan.com site, which is Australia’s single largest online-only seller, offers a variety of consumer goods, such as bed linens, camping equipment and home electronics.

Dick Smith will be run separately from that site, and is considered an off-platform venture by the 33-year-old self-made Kogan. A native of Belarus, Kogan’s founder is believed to have a personal net worth in excess of \$350 million.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Graham Kemp, VK4BB.
(WIA, BBC, NEWS.COM/AU)

EMERGENCY COORDINATION NO ACCIDENT IN FLORIDA

DON: In Florida, the scene spelled disaster - the crash of a bus and a train. It was just a drill - but an important one. We hear details from Amateur Radio Newsline’s Paul Braun, WD9GCO.

PAUL: The devastating collision between a passenger train and a bus near Morgan Park in Arcadia, Florida was just a test. And with the help of area radio amateurs, everyone scored passing grades.

The April 1 mock disaster was organized to challenge area hospital emergency departments as well as first

responders. And with area hams on the alert throughout, keeping their radios on 2-meter simplex, planners said it proved a useful learning experience.

Hendry County's Emergency Management director Brian Newhouse, KJ4WIC, led staff and reservists through the procedures, as 13 people, who were made up with simulated injuries, awaited attention, triage and transport. While rescue operations got under way, Hendry County CERT Coordinator Margaret England KM4OVY, ARES Emergency Coordinator Frank Harris WA4PAM, and Volunteer Coordinator Tony Fanska KC0SJU, helped ensure safety on the roads in the Morgan Park area.

Brenda Barnes, Planning Consultant & Public Information Officer for the Florida Department of Health in Hendry & Glades Counties proclaimed the drill a successful training exercise and praised it for helping strengthen the working relationships among the hams and the emergency professionals.

It was also a great way to showcase the need for more active, responsive, licensed hams. Hendry County Emergency Management plans to host a free ham radio training session on Saturday, April 16, and will also provide free CERT training in June. To register, call the Emergency Operations Center at 863-674-5400. Because there are a lot more tests awaiting everyone in the future.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Paul Braun, WD9GCO.

THE EYES OF THE HURRICANE

DON: Spring brings the start of gardening season and yes, hurricane season. The Hurricane Watch Net isn't just on the lookout for storms - but for licensed hams too. Here's Amateur Radio Newsline's Stephen Kinford, N8WB.

STEPHEN: May isn't that far away and neither are hurricanes in some parts of the country. According to the Hurricane Watch Net, the eastern Pacific storms' season begins May 15 and ends Nov. 30. Hurricanes also become more of a likelihood in the Atlantic between June 1 and Nov. 30. But sometimes hurricanes can - and do - occur out of season.

So the Hurricane Watch Net is hoping to get a jump on the season by attracting additional Net Control Operators, and hopes that radio amateurs will step forward to serve as Net Control Stations and provide other support. According to Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, manager of the Hurricane Watch Net, experienced operators are needed, especially those who are bilingual in Spanish and English. Operators need to be prepared for long hours under stressful conditions. Although net control stations must become members of the Hurricane Watch Net, stations servicing as reporting stations or as observers do not need membership.

To assist the Hurricane Watch Net, visit the membership information page at www.hwn.org

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Stephen Kinford, N8WB, in Wadsworth, Ohio.
(HWN.ORG)

SPEND YOUR SATURDAY, APRIL 16, AT A HAMFEST

The Splitrock Amateur Radio Association's annual Hamfest kicks off early — and we do mean early — on Saturday April 16. People will be arriving for setup starting at 6 a.m. at the Roxbury Senior Center at Horseshoe Lake on Eyland (EEE-LAND) Avenue in Succasunna, New Jersey. Buyers begin arriving at 8 a.m. Bring your QSL cards! The hamfest will have DXCC card-checking available along with a VE Session if you're looking to upgrade - or even get your ticket for the first time. VE registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the exams start a half-

hour later, promptly at 9. Yes, the hamfest will also be on the air. Talk-in on the 146.985 repeater, K2GG, and you can be there in spirit.

For more details, visit splitrockara.org — and make your plans.

Meanwhile, details are also being finalized for the 11th annual North Central Indiana Hamfest, being held Saturday, April 16 as well. The half-day event is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds north of Peru, Indiana. The hamfest will also include VE testing from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and as an extra incentive, anyone who qualifies for a new license after the testing is admitted free. Otherwise, admission is \$5 at the door and free for anyone 17 years of age or younger.
(ERIC BUDINGER, N2KOJ; RALPH MURRAY, KB9WSL)

TWO AT THE HALF-CENTURY MARK

DON: With age comes wisdom, right? Well, two ham radio clubs are both hitting the 50-year mark this year - and they're not shy about sharing their smarts. We hear more from Amateur Radio Newslines's Neil Rapp, WB9VPG.

NEIL: Between them, they have 100 years on the air. On one side of the Atlantic, the Mid-Ulster Amateur Radio Club in Northern Ireland is marking its 50th year - and just across the Pond, so is the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club in Maryland.

The club in the Washington, D.C., suburbs is doing its 50th birthday in grand style, with a special event station, K5O (Kilo-Five-Oscar) running through Sunday April 17 - in various modes and on a number of the HF bands - and QSL card designed to mark the occasion. According to its website, the club meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in Rockville, Maryland. For the club, which has the call sign KV3B, it's been a great 50 years.

For the Mid-Ulster club, call sign MNOVFW, it's been a half-century of growth - the modest-sized group now counts one member for each year they've been a club. And they have a notable local track record, getting involved in everything from local marathons to Scouting events to QSOs with astronauts aboard the International Space Station. They've even launched a program geared toward younger hams, called MUARC Youth — because one of the joys of being 50 is offering a helping hand to those who still have a few decades to go to get there too.
(THE LURGAN MAIL, JEFF DAHN, KB3ZUK)

A FRIENDSHIP DAY FOR AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

Hams around the world may not be close enough to extend their hands in friendship, so they extend their antennas instead. That's the spirit behind World Amateur Radio Day, a day of even more on-air fellowship than usual. That would be April 18, which falls on a Monday this year. The date marks the founding in 1925 of the International Amateur Radio Union.

The IARU is encouraging groups to promote their activities on that day via social media, using the hash tag #WARD2016, and to make use of a poster and flyer, both downloadable from their website at iaru.org
(INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION)

HAM RADIO BOOSTS VIRGINIA BIKE RACE

DON: One of the largest bicycle races in the Mid-Atlantic region had some amateurs along for the ride. But they

weren't exactly pedaling: these hams were riding the bands instead. Here's Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Damron, N8TMW, with the details.

JIM: There's kilocycles, there's megacycles and then there's two-wheeled, multi-gear racing cycles.

And when a full racing contingent of those kinds of cycles set out recently in a road race in Virginia's Albemarle County, the only thing that seemed to ensure that they'd keep moving forward safely were the other types of cycles, the kinds that come with radios. That's what brought the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club back to help out the Jefferson Cup Road Race on Sunday, April 3, as it has for more than a quarter-century. The goal was to see that participants along the various routes, which top off at 80 miles in length, stay safe as they follow their course.

The race is one of the biggest in the mid-Atlantic. But cell phones don't work reliably in that part of the county, according to Mike McPherson, KQ9P, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service emergency coordinator for the county. And for the cyclists to stay safe, and to keep motor vehicle traffic diverted from them, reliable communications was a must.

It's not just a commitment the hams make to the race, it's a trial run for the real thing. McPherson told the Daily Progress newspaper: QUOTE "This is great practice. With any luck, there aren't very many real emergencies, so we use these events to practice our procedures and make sure our equipment works." ENDQUOTE

McPherson has other goals too, that include making connections with the ham radio club at the University of Virginia, W4UVA, and helping Elmer even younger people who want to get into the science and the experience of radio.

That, after all, doesn't just move bicycles in a forward direction. It also keeps the hobby safely on course.*

IN THE UK, A GARDEN OF QSOS

You can now add one more piece of equipment - or perhaps two - to the array of rakes, hoes and shovels you might find in a British garden: a transceiver. This new garden tool cultivates a bountiful crop of QSOs. The Radio Society of Great Britain has launched a new activity known as Sheds, Allotments and Greenhouses on the Air, or SAGHOTA, and the date for radio operation already began on Friday, April 1 and continues, informally thereafter, on the dates of the amateur's choosing.

In the same spirit as Summits on the Air and Islands on the Air, SAGHOTA will encourage the cultivation of contacts anywhere, as long as they are made on the same band, on the same day. Organizers are quick to point out that the event also celebrates the great tradition of British gardens, expressing the hope that QUOTE "tea-making apparatus, biscuits (and waffles if possible). Beer and sandwiches are optional." *

CAARA

40th



We will be celebrating our 40th Club anniversary this June. We have decided to celebrate this event along with the annual ARRL Field Day Event. We will hold this event at the newly purchased CAARA Clubhouse.

We will participate in the contest with the club stations on all modes and utilizing club antennas while showcasing our renovated club building. Our 40th Anniversary will be celebrated with an all day cookout on Saturday complete with cake and ice cream! Sunday we will offer breakfast while we wrap up the contest.

A great time is planned for all. Some members will be setting up portable stations outside the club for you to eyeball or operate.

A no pressure, fun event for all. Please come and meet some of the members and see how we have renovated the club, improved stations, and extended our antenna system.