

# CAARA NEWS



Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association  
APRIL 2018 Edition



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Jon- K1TP

John Graves- WA1JG from Manchester is now a silent key. John was a past CAARA President and a time member of CAARA, his sense of humor will be missed around the club!



We have changed the locks at the clubhouse and will no longer be issuing keys. You must obtain a key code for the front lock box to gain entrance. If you had a door key and now need the key code, see a board member or contact me.

If you have any friends or family wishing to get their Tech license, we are offering a Tech-in-a Day session on April 21 from 9-3 at the Lanesville Community Center. The lead Instructor will be Stan- W4HIX for the course and the VE Test Session will follow.

We have been reminded by the local cable tv company that we are more than welcome to use the studio and present a ham radio segment weekly to expose our hobby to Cape Ann. What an offer! I am giving it some serious thought and may pursue the opportunity.

I have spent the month of March in Venice, Florida. It has been a nice change of QTH with a good dose of warm weather and no snow shoveling, plowing, blowing, or cursing. The Venice 2 meter repeater, with the same frequency as ours, has been down for repairs since I got here. I should go over and offer assistance!

I have been listening to my friends on 3928 late afternoons in New England on a remote SDR radio in NH. I have a TenTec OMNI VII which can be remote controlled without a computer, just plug it in to your router. I wish I had done that before I left.

See you all at the ext club breakfast or lunch, until then, 73.

## INFORMATION DESK

By Dean- KB1PGH

I got a request from another CAARA member to do a segment on scanners. Especially since the Rockport Mass Police Department dispatch frequency channel went to APCO P 25 digital so now all regular analog scanners cannot receive Rockport PD any more. That means that you will have to go out and purchase a new scanner that receives the APCO P 25 digital mode. Since we are already in the radio hobby I hope you know that you can receive most public safety channels on your handheld or mobile 2 meter rigs.



If your wondering where to find the public safety services frequencies for your area you can go to [www.radioreference.com](http://www.radioreference.com); and you'll be able to find them there by state and county. Let's say you are looking to buy a new scanner there are a couple of places that sell all the models including the new digital scanners that will receive APCO P 25. You can either go to

[www.universal-radio.com](http://www.universal-radio.com) or [www.scannermaster.com](http://www.scannermaster.com)

There you will find either the Uniden brand or Whistler brand of scanners. Uniden has been around for years but Whistler is only a few years old. I have had great luck with the Uniden brand of scanner but I don't know the reliability of the Whistler brand yet since I have not owned one. Of course you will have to program the scanners yourself. If you don't want to do that you could have Scanner Master do it for you for a price.

While we are talking about programming frequencies

**Member Meeting on  
Saturday at noon on April  
14th. Barbequed Chicken,  
Home Made Boston Baked  
Beans, dogs and burgers,  
and desserts.**

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

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

It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to CAARA members, and space is available. Material is accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Articles and other materials may be submitted by internet to Jon at k1tp@arrl.net. 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 former W1RK 443.700 repeater is now on the ATT 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 beam, vertical/wire antennas along with an operating 2 meter packet station as well as 2/440 meter voice and 220 MHz Transceivers.

Amateur radio exams are held on the second Sunday of each month at 10:00 AM at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. Pre-registration necessary. Contact the head of our VE team Rick Maybury-WZ1B 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. **LUNCH INCLUDED!**

Each Sunday evening at 9:00 PM, 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!** Breakfasts are served twice a month on Sunday- check our calendar. The club is open every Tuesday from 5-8PM for CAARA

you can find all the repeater frequencies for your VHF and UHF rigs at [www.nerepeaters.com](http://www.nerepeaters.com).

Moving on, since it is April now is the time to check your antenna system and coax to see if it survived the winter. It is also time to go through all your portable HF gear to see if it's ready. Especially to give your generator a tune up and oil change. Also you can check your batteries that power your HF rig to see if they need water and if they can hold a charge before you take them out. Here's a couple of HF propagation websites for you.

You can get on the Internet and look up [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com), [www.bandconditions.com](http://www.bandconditions.com) and [www.dxmaps.com](http://www.dxmaps.com). These will help you plan what bands to work.

For the ARRL contest calendar for April we have the ARRL Rookie Round up SSB phone contest. This contest focuses on those hams who have only been licensed since 2016 through now. So if your new to ham radio here's your chance to get on the air. This contest will be held on Sunday April 15th.

73, Dean KB1PGH

## A look at the Diamond RH 789 HT antenna

By Dean- KB1PGH

If you looking to use your mobile rig inside your home without a bug antenna or if you want to use your mobile rig on portable ops sitting on a table without a big antenna you should look into getting a Diamond RH 789 HT antenna.



As you can see it has a swivel base and this antenna has

a telescopic whip. The antenna can either be straight or the swivel enables you to put the antenna in any angle. The antenna can go as long as 32 inches and collapses down to 8 inches. It has 2.15 dbi gain on vhf and 3.2 dbi gain on uhf. It can transmit up to 10 watts. As you see in the photo the antenna is set to the back of my Yaesu FT 8900 mobile and that can be set to 10 watts output so now I can use that instead of bringing an HT .

Plus being hooked up to power I won't have to worry about my HT running out of battery power. So here's another option if you want to use your mobile rig inside or want to lay your HT flat. The swivel base helps out a lot and gives you more options. You can order this antenna with either a BNC or SMA jack.

You can get this antenna for \$29.95 at [www.universal-radio.com](http://www.universal-radio.com) ;



**April Member  
Breakfast  
On  
Sunday, April 22nd  
from 9-11 am**

**Proceeds benefit  
Scholarship Fund**





# CLUB STUFF

I have been wondering how the kitchen was staying so clean as of late until I saw Chef Bill- W1WMM barking orders at “Dish Dog” Dave- N1CDL. The chef runs a tight ship and nothing is out of order or left dirty on his watch. Food is labeled in the refrigerator with use by dates, appliance cords left unplugged for safety, counters bleached, barrels constantly emptied....and yes, we have not had a mouse around all year...they would starve to death in this kitchen. Dave also went around the building with a large magnet and picked up dozens of nails left over from the recent shingling job...not to mention constantly picking up trash and cigarette butts on Stanwood Street. The man is a human vacuum cleaner around the CAARA property and immediate neighborhood.



Jake- W1LDL is setting up the newly donated Collins 32V-3 on the first floor on a table donated by Rick- WZ1B and will pair it with one of our vintage receivers and plans on having it working and available on the first floor for Field Day, CW and AM phone.

Gardi- KA1BTK, our EmCom Chief, has run three weather nets during the recent storms and I believe Bill-W1WMM and Chris- K1TAT have assisted. These nets ran all thru the storm hourly and covered from Newburyport down to Rockport....lot's of hams checked in. I might add reports were then relayed to area coordinators keeping track of power losses, flooding, street closings, etc. Although the area has not asked for our assistance during storms, were are ready, willing, and able to assist.

The club is offering another Tech in a Day course being run by Stan- W4RIG at the Lanesville Community Center in April and testing will be offered at the end of the session.

Bill- W1OKD has been vacationing in Arizona and Jon- K1TP in Florida. Both missed 3 major snow and coastal weather storms, good planning!

Don't forget our club breakfasts which are run every first and third Sunday of the month at CAARA from 9-11 AM prepared by Chef Bill- W1WMM. Profits will be shared equally for student scholarship fund and club improvement. I would like to sue the improvement money to refinish the wooden floor downstairs.

*Jon- K1TP*

## Bill- W1WMM goes digital..



### For amateur radio

- Connect openSPOT easily to DMR, D-Star reflectors, C4FM/System Fusion rooms, and use your radio with excellent voice quality without sync errors
- Customize communication settings on the web interface
- Discover how digital protocols work, and connect your own apps by sending and receiving RF frames in UDP packets
- Create your own RF protocol by customizing RF modem settings, packet format, sync words (even with TDMA support)
- Use single, or separate RX/TX frequencies
- Optional erroneous packet generator module for testing other digital receivers

Supports **DMR** (Brandmeister, DMRplus), **D-Star** (DCS, REF/DPlus, XRF/DExtra, XLX), **System Fusion** (FCS, YSFReflector) networks. More supported networks and features will be available with new firmware releases. Supports cross modem modes. Talk with your C4FM radio on DMR, and with your DMR radio on System Fusion networks! Very easy to use, works without a computer. No additional hardware required, works out of the box. All accessories included. Web interface for configuration and monitoring. HTTP, UDP/TCP API support. Custom 2FSK/4FSK RF protocol support with TDMA. USB powered, low energy consumption, 20mW RF output. Create your own private radio network using our [open source server application](https://www.sharkrf.com/projects/openspot-server/). Runs fully embedded software written in pure C, running on an embedded real time operating system. No Linux, bulky Windows software or failing SD cards!

I suggest you check this out, really interesting new facet of ham radio!

<https://www.sharkrf.com/products/openspot/>

## Male and Female, He Created Them

By Curtis- AA3JE



As many of your know, I moved the QTH.

Now moving is something I did a lot in the Navy. It is easy.

1. Buy boxes.
2. Put shit in boxes
3. Move boxes
4. Move furniture
5. Unpack boxes.

But I had reckoned without “SHE”.

So I dialed up Amazon, bought far too many boxes, and got to know MARK at the local U-HAUL by his first name (I recommend the 6 x 12 trailer, it tows nice!).

Now the move was complicated by the seller’s not moving out on the closing date, so I had to cram the boxes into any available space at the destination.

All 243 of them.

They might just fit into the two car garage.

So I created engineering marvels of stacked boxes. Five high, 5 abreast, 12 deep, carefully stacked so the tool boxes were on the bottom (they could take the pressure). Box, after box, after box. Trailer after trailer. Each labeled as to contents.

So I moved the furniture, making sure to move “She’s” craft room shelves first (I ain’t no dummy).

And I expected to start at one end and unpack as we went.

To my horror, this was unacceptable.

“WE HAVE TO PAINT FIRST.”

“OK”.

“AND YOU HAVE TO REBUILD THE CLOSET.”

“OK.”

I have learned not to argue with Martha Stewart.

So after some creative box shifting I found the demo saw, and modified the closet, and we painted the closet, and the walls, and I shampooed the rug (they had dogs).

Then I laid down.

As always, the sight of a man lying down drove the wife into a fury. This appears to be common to the gender.

“I NEED MY MARTHA STEWART BOXES!”

“Er, what?”

“THE BOXES LOADED WITH THE CONTENTS OF MY DESIGNER SHELVES”.

“Why?”

“I CAN’T SET THE SHELF HEIGHTS WITHOUT THEM. THEY WON’T FIT. WHERE ARE THEY? NOW!”

Dumbly, I pointed to “MOUNT BOX”.

“WELL, IF YOU WON’T HELP ME I MIGHT AS WELL GO BACK.”





So I took four Advil, and moved all the boxes to make aisles so we could see the labels on each box, mostly.

Remember “RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK”?

The ending?

It was like that. No MARTHA STEWART boxes. They apparently were next to the ARK OF THE COVENANT. Somewhere.

So after the pursing of the lips, the tapping of the foot, and the dire icy silence, I sighed.

So I took four more Advil, moved the entire stack, all 243, and in the far corner at the very end, found three boxes labeled “MARTHA STEWART SHELVES”. Boxes 214, 242, and 243.

I expected praise.

“YOU MOVE STUPID.”

“Excuse me?”

“YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO PUT THE BOXES IN CLUSTERS BY ROOM.”

“We filled the entire 2 car garage! What clusters?”

“WELL, YOU COULD HAVE DONE BETTER THAN THIS!”

Eight Advil later my back stopped hurting, though I was seeing pretty colors and funny animals.....

I reflected on this for a long time.

So I have a safety tip. When dealing with women, you can be SURE that they have a plan for how things should be done. Take the time to find out this plan. It is not your plan. It is not just any plan.

IT IS THEIR PLAN.

Find it out, or you will end up moving twice and overdosing on Advil.

My kidney function did come back, eventually.

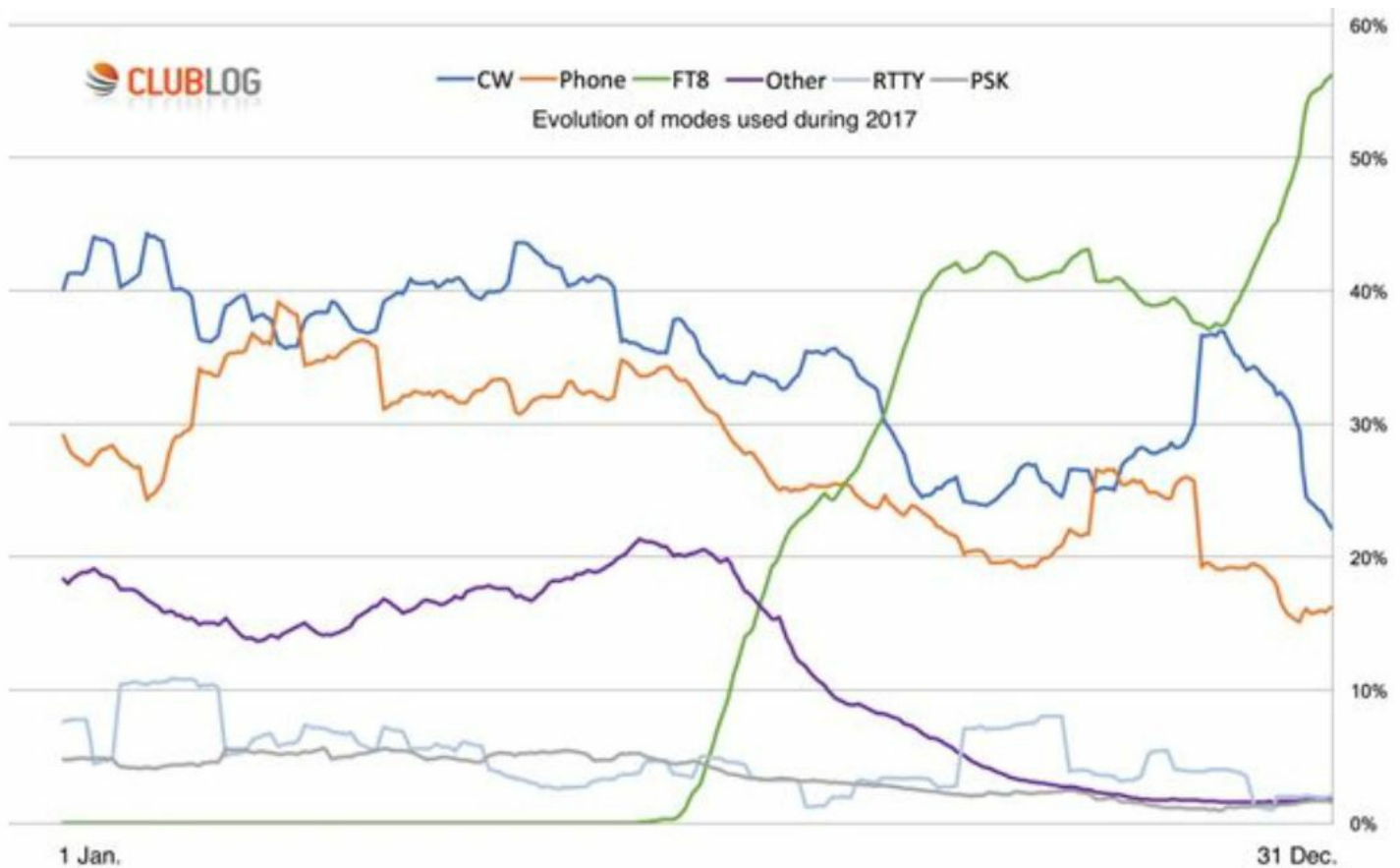
I miss the pretty colors, though.

## FOR SALE

Original owner Icom 7000 transceiver is in excellent condition with matching LDG tuner. This is a perfect radio for base, portable operation, Go Kit, etc. All band and all mode 100 watt radio that does VHF, UHF, and HF radio....complete with carrying case ....ready to GO! \$750.00/OBO

Contact Jon- K1TP





Hi Jon,

I got this from my brother, Craig WE2Q. It shows the modes activity in 2017 with CW most popular until FT8 came on the scene. Still it's good to see CW as one of the modes at the top of the heap!

73, Ruth WW1N



### Drake R4B Find...

I picked up this Drake on Craigslist in Englewood, Florida for \$100.00. It lights up and meters seem to respond but I have no antenna, earphones or speaker to check it out.

I restored a Drake TR4 last winter and this will be my next project. Strip it down, steam clean the chassis, polish the copper chassis, wash and polish the tubes, replace electrolytic caps, strip and paint the cabinet.....and then get it "tuned" up.

*Jon- k1tp*



## CLUB DONATION: A restored Collins 32V-3



**Introduction Date / Price: 1951 / \$775**

Tube List: 0A2 (2), 0A3/VR75 (1), 5R4GY (2), 5Z4 (1), 6AG7 (1), 6AK6 (1), 6SJ7 (1), 6SL7 (1), 6SN7 (1), 7C5 (2), 807 (2), 4D32 (1).

### **Description:**

The 32V-3 transmitter is VFO controlled and features bandswitching on all amateur bands between 3.5 and 29.7 megacycles. The rated plate input power is 120 watts phone and 150 watts CW. Shielding and filtering are employed to minimize the possibility of television interference.

The 32V-3 transmitter is a table top unit housed in a single cabinet 12 1/4" high, 21 1/8" wide and 13 13/16" deep. It weighs approximately 110 lbs. Cabinet openings are provided to assure adequate ventilation for all heat producing elements. The transmitter components are divided into the following units:

- 70E-8A Oscillator
- R-F Unit
- Output Network
- Speech Amplifier and Modulator
- Power Supply

All wiring is independent of the cabinet, and the complete unit may be removed from the cabinet for inspection or maintenance.

Complete coverage of the 80, 40, 20, 15, 11 and 10 meter bands is obtained with the 32V-3. Quick band-change on all stages is accomplished by bandswitching. Tuning controls of the permeability tuned circuits of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd multipliers are ganged with the oscillator. The final tank consists of impedance matching network with two separate controls located on the front panel, one for tuning and one for loading.

A type 4D32 tetrode power amplifier tube is used in the PA stage. The plate circuit is tuned by a combination pi-network and "L" network which is band switched along with the multiplier stages. This network reduces

the output impedance to around 50 ohms on all bands by means of inductance and capacitance switching. The output network can match antenna impedances in the range of 26 to 600 ohms.

Two heavy duty toggle switches control the low voltage and high voltage circuits. The switches are arranged so that the high voltage cannot be applied until the low voltage circuits have been energized.

### **Specifications:**

#### **POWER SOURCE:**

115 volts AC, 50/60 cps, single phase.

#### **POWER INPUT REQUIREMENTS:**

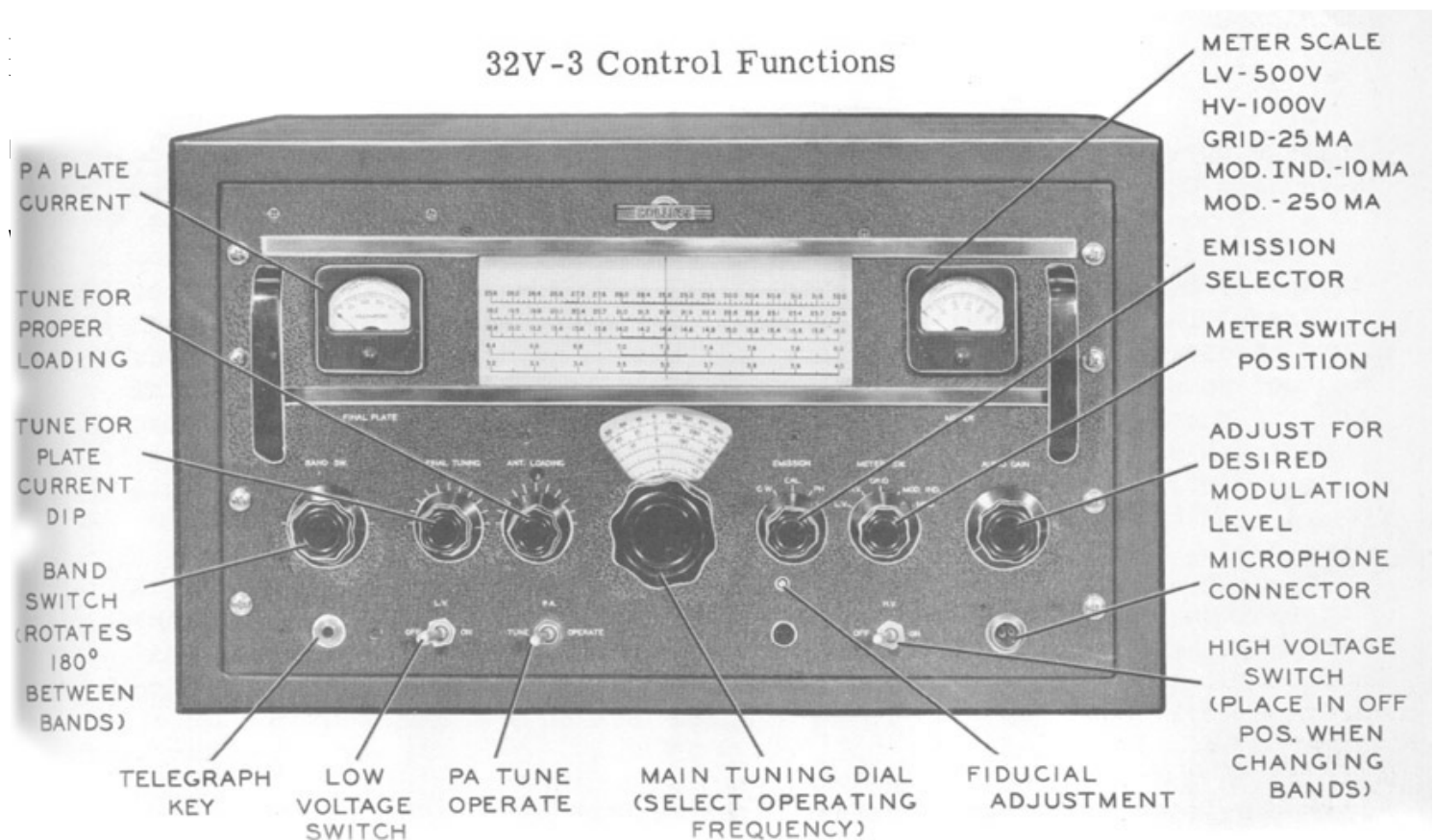
The maximum overall input power requirement is 500 watts at 90% power factor.

#### **PA PLATE INPUT POWER:**

The nominal rated power input of the 32V-3 is 120 watts on phone and 150 watts CW.

#### **AUDIO DISTORTION:**

Audio distortion is less than 8% at 90% modulation with a 1000 cps input frequency.



My hope is that this is in operation soon paired with one of our vintage receivers. I would like to see this making contacts on Field Day at the clubhouse. We could operate cw and am from this radio and it would bring back memories for all of us "vintage" hams....I am hoping Jake and Chris take a hold of this project and make it become a reality by June.....*jon- k1tp*



# March Member Meeting

The March Member Meeting featured a full course Boiled Dinner by our Irish Master Chef- Bill W1WMM with corned beef and pork shoulder, potato's, carrots, onion, cabbage, dinner rolls, and dessert. How good was it? Well, there are no leftovers....15 members enjoyed another great club gathering that started at noon and some did not leave until late afternoon.



Next meeting is on April 14 at noon and will feature home made baked beans, dogs, burgers, and chicken on the grill.





# March Member Meeting



# Nearfest May 4-5

## What is The New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR-Fest)?

The NEAR-Fest is an international event run by and for all radio hobbyists and enthusiasts, including “hams”, short-wave listeners, scanner buffs, vintage/antique radio fans, etc. NEAR-Fest is held twice annually, spring and fall, rain or shine, at the Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield NH beginning on Friday at 0900 and ending Saturday at 1500 hours.

Admission is \$10. Persons under 18 and over 80 are admitted free of charge upon presentation of government-issued ID. Inside parking is available for \$10 and includes a “reasonable amount of flea market selling space” for PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS selling their own personal property. Commercial vendors must register and pay applicable fees. If you are wondering if you are a “commercial vendor” you probably are. One complimentary inside commercial space is available for clubs, estates and other “non-profit organizations” on an “as available” basis.

Overnight camping, trailer and RV hookups are available. Three food vendors provide meals and snacks at reasonable prices. The Deerfield Community Church ladies serve up a breakfast that has to be consumed to be believed. Angelino’s offers hamburgers, steak, sausage submarines and other great “fair food” specialties and Patty’s Polish Kitchen menu features wonderful “Mitteleuropa” cuisine. No one goes hungry at NEAR-Fest. We are extremely proud of the high quality of food that these vendors offer our guests while they are at the ‘Fester. NEAR-Fest typically attracts attendees from the six New England states, NY, NJ, PA, MD and other states as well as from Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in Canada. Some attendees travel great distances; one gentleman from Los Angeles has attended fifteen events and in 2010 one radio amateur traveled from Greece to join us for the fun.

The program of activities and events at NEAR-Fest is extensive; a huge outdoor electronic flea market, three buildings full of commercial vendors, forums, technical seminars and symposia, demonstrations, exhibits, displays, licensing examinations, special events radio stations, a “jam session”, good food, fellowship, fun and general mishigoss. NEAR-Fest is the largest event of its kind in the Northeast and has once been described as the “Woodstock of Amateur Radio”.

All of NEAR-Fest’s staff members are volunteers. Since NEAR-Fest is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity, any funds remaining after expenses are used for benevolent projects. NEAR-Fest directs some of its resources to attracting newcomers to our hobby with a special emphasis toward young people. To that end NEAR-Fest has gifted an amateur radio station capable of communicating through satellites orbiting the Earth as a gift to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord

NH and brokered a partnership with the Contoocook Valley Radio Club (CVRC) to operate and maintain the station on a regular schedule.

In addition we have also funded several university and technical school scholarships and supported various charitable organizations such as the Shriners Hospitals and Boston Burns Unit. We also help to preserve our radio frequency spectrum allocations and have initiated a program providing for fund-matching grants to expand and enhance the amateur radio digital repeaters and networks throughout New England.

- Need a viable alternative to walking this busy Hamfest season?
- Are you too obese for that much-needed knee replacement?
- Is your mobility more important than your dignity?
- Do you want to trade in the gift of bipedal locomotion for the ease of effortless mobility?

### TESTIMONIALS

"It's great - I was able to spend hours at my local hamfest without breaking a sweat! Thanks HAMabout!"  
- Oswald, 53

"Walking, carrying things, etc. got to be too much of a chore. Now I leave all my walking to HAMabout. Its great!"  
- Elmer, 34

"I'm still walking, but my ballooning weight will hopefully soon put me into the HAMabout driver's seat. Everyone in my ARES group has one, and I want one too!"  
- John, 22

- 25 HP gasoline engine
- 5 radio equipment bays
- Built-in cross-band repeater
- Holsters for up to 25 HTs
- Special odour-whisking seat covers (with 300 refills)
- Rugged trailer hitch
- Ergonomical design allows use in even the largest hamfest
- Special seatback calligraphic embroidery (choice of color)

## THE HAMabout HAM RADIO MOBILITY SCOOTER



# Remembering John Graves- WA1JG



Long time CAARA member John Graves II, WA1JG passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 11, 2018.

John was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and uncle. He was a perpetual tinkerer, an avid reader, and an animal aficionado, with a seemingly boundless curiosity for learning about and mastering any new technology he could get his hands on (including cars, radio, cameras, personal computers and electronics), and a love for collecting new tools and toys he could use to play around with that technology.

John was also a dedicated photographer, with a camera constantly strapped around his neck at family functions, studying friends and family through the lens to capture the moment forever.

Professionally, John worked in sales for a variety of companies, often in industries such as automotive, personal computers, and I.T., which dovetailed with his personal interests. For the last 25 years of his career, John ran his own computer networking consultancy, Dynamic Devices.

But above all, John was a sailor. He was most in his element on the water, with the wind at his back, sunshine on his face, and surrounded always by people he loved. As a youth, John spent many happy afternoons in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, on his grandfather's motorboat, "Down Easter" and on his uncle's sailboat "Small Fry". In college, he taught sailing in Annapolis, Md. Eventually, he acquired his own sailboats, "Valhalla" and "Hot Flash". John loved nothing more than sailing with his family.



# Can (Should) The A.R.R.L. Be Saved?

By Don Keith, N4KC

©2018 by Don Keith

You would have to have your QTH under a rock—or be so wrapped up in your ragchews, contests, new digital modes, kit-building, island and summit activations, grid-square chasing, or nets...you know, doing ham radio stuff! —not to have noticed all the recent noise about the American Radio Relay League, our national amateur radio membership organization. The controversy has been rife on the air, in blog posts, and on various podcasts and video programs devoted to our hobby. And while there has been such sniping going on for a while, likely since Hiram Maxim himself deflected flaming arrows—who remembers Wayne Green W2NSD/1? —the most recent noise has certainly escalated many decibels over the last few months.

So far as I can tell, the impetus for the latest hullabaloo came when the League Board of Directors voted to censure one of its own over comments he made before a group gathered at an event. The gist of that action was because, apparently, board members are never supposed to criticize or question anything going on within the A.R.R.L. while before a public gathering of the organization's members or potential members. And though as muted and generally innocuous as this gentleman's presentation was, he allegedly broke that sacred rule. Thus a very public and much-decried censure from the Board.

Then, in apparent reaction to the uproar that resulted, the League decided that at their January 2018 board meeting they would consider even more stringent secrecy restrictions and policy. This, of course, set off even more of an outcry, among members, possible members, and those who are happy to have any excuse to criticize the League, whether justified or not. So it came to pass that, as the villagers approached with their torches held high, the directors backed down and tabled the proposed actions, theoretically opting to conduct further consideration.

Then, to further rile the great unwashed out there and plant the seed for more conspiracy theories, the League's relatively new CEO abruptly resigned his position. The reason given? He suddenly discovered that Connecticut had a relatively high rate of taxes and he simply could not afford to live there on the salary the League had agreed to pay him and that he had agreed to accept for services rendered. Honest, that is the reason given in the press releases that were hastily posted and disseminated.

Huh? Did the gentleman not know the salary he was to earn for the position and his new state of residence's tax liability before he applied for and accepted the job? Seems anyone qualified to be CEO of such a large and important organization would be aware of those numbers going in. Pardon our pronounced incredulity!

Okay, thus far this is the way I understand how this latest round of dissatisfaction with the actions of our hobby's organization came about. If I have mischaracterized it in any way, please let me know. Some of this is, I know, based on rumor and speculation. However, that is one of the issues up for consideration here. We simply do not have access to so many of the facts.

We should note that this is not the first time that open revolt has been threatened. Nor should we be surprised, considering the nature of any organization of the size and stature of the A.R.R.L., and one with such a diverse and intelligent constituency. And one with the ability to communicate and miscommunicate their opinions in so many ways. And in a time when such communication can be conducted—anonously—via so many previously non-existent media.

Oh, and an organization that represents hobbyists who are regulated by an agency of the federal government with the authority to levy fines and give jail time as well as by international treaty.

W2NSD certainly tried to lead the mob, partly because he wanted things done a different and better way, and partly, I believe, to sell magazines and books. Others have tried to form an alternative outfit, a completely new membership organization that would represent ham radio operators, in a manner somehow superior to and differently from how the League does it. Still more have simply refused to join the A.R.R.L. or quit in a huff—forefeiting the right to criticize, in my opinion—as they rail away as often and as loudly as they can about any-

thing that gets their dander up. But unwilling to work from within to build the organization into what they believe it should be. Sometimes they are right on but often they are misinformed or just downright wrong-headed.

Now, since I mentioned my opinion, here are some thoughts I have about the state of the A.R.R.L. and, in some cases, our hobby in general. These sentiments are based on having been an active ham radio operator for 56 years with a professional background in business management, media, journalism, statistical research, and marketing.

That means I don't necessarily know what I am talking about, but I am relatively adept at convincing folks that I do!

So, let's take some of the points I have seen ballyhooed about of late, occupying many pixels and much precious bandwidth, and discuss them—not at all anonymously—one at a time:

**“The League is stodgy, secretive, and seems far too self-serving to do a good job for the hobby in general and its members in particular. What are they up to up there?”**

If perception is ultimately reality, then this is absolutely true. I have seen and heard far too many otherwise level-headed amateurs express this view. The recent actions by the board, tabled or not, reinforce the perception that these charges are accurate. So do some recent odd activities dealing with the election of some officials and the appointments of others, as well as the sudden resignation of the relatively new CEO.

Solution: become more transparent. Simple fix!

Do not be afraid of allowing members—and, by the way, non-members—to know what is going on, what decisions are being made, and why. The League is, after all, a member-driven organization, its policy set by its elected officials, and through them, by the members. Those policies should represent the opinions and needs of its constituency. Even if the ultimate decision does not necessarily reflect the wants of the majority. Or are not even remotely popular with us. Especially if these are the case!

The fact is that sometimes a director, vice-director, or section manager knows and understands more about an issue than Joe Ham, who has not ventured more than a few cycles off his 75-meter roundtable frequency since the '50s. Not that there is anything wrong with that. But there is a lot to keep track of, and issues are often far more complex than some are willing to admit.

I'm sorry, but I do not understand why board meetings cannot be streamed live in the Internet. CSPAN brings us all those long, boring committee hearings and bland speeches to empty chairs during Congressional sessions, but we citizens can see for ourselves what is going on with our elected officials if we really want to. Untold hours of the Dayton Hamvention are available for viewing on the web, for Pete's sake! Why are Board of Director meetings, with our elected officials in attendance, sacrosanct?

Yes, I understand that some dicey subjects or personnel discussions might need to take place behind closed doors. But those should be the exception rather than the rule. Even then we need to know as much as we can about what took place in there, including why it was necessary to lock the door and not allow members to eavesdrop.

And please! If someone is elected to the board by a majority of League members in a division, he or she should be able to express opinions without fear of reprisal or censure. Within reason, of course. A director should be allowed to defend the League and its actions but to also explain when there is disagreement. The director should absolutely be allowed to explain the reasons for his or her own vote, pro or con. And do so publicly. Especially at hamfests and club meetings, where members and non-members gather to get the latest from their representative. Yes, a director should represent all amateur radio operators, League member or not.

But would not such transparency lead to even more criticism and rabble rousing. I don't think so.

Democracy can be dirty, the old “sausage being made” metaphor, but it must be open and transparent. And discussed and debated. Last time I looked, freedom to speak one's own mind is guaranteed by the Constitution, a document and an idea that has been defended to the death by so many. People who are able to exercise this solemnly-bestowed right include those who happen to hold an elected position in the American Radio Relay

League. What is good enough for the USA should be fine for the A.R.R.L...

**“What is this about the League spending an unknown amount of members’ money (typical that they apparently did not tell us how much) for a research project and the primary recommendation to emerge from the results of the study was that a second web site be developed...and the company that did the research would be happy to construct it—but not create content for it—for a mere \$400,000?”**

Huh? Is this correct? I don’t know but this bit of news is flying around the web at the speed of light. Included in this news bulletin are some facts that are even more disturbing, and if the League is serious about being more transparent, they need to confirm or deny but certainly explain them. The word is that at a time when amateur radio continues to grow reasonably healthily, membership in the A.R.R.L. is actually going down. That only about 20% of newly licensed hams even join the League. And that a vast majority of those who do join do not renew their membership at the first opportunity to do so.

And what about all those who get a license and never renew it? Do we really have to wait ten years just to see if that guy or gal stuck with the hobby? Before we find out the newcomer never uttered a word or sent a character or emitted a single digital bit after going to the trouble to pass the test and get a ticket? Or if he or she did, what caused the potentially fine ham to ultimately flee the hobby? Or what might have been done to pique their interest and allow them to come to worship the hobby as you and I do before they gave up and fled the scene?

I hesitated quoting those stats in the previous two paragraphs because I have no way to confirm or debunk them. Somebody can. And they work in Newington, Connecticut. They know who and how many joined the League. How many renewed. How many dropped by the wayside. We don’t, do we? At least not yet.

But if these numbers are accurate, or even close to true, something needs to be done. A second \$400,000 web site, despite the recommendations of that company—Who are they? Are they even qualified to do the research and develop recommendations that set the future course of our hobby and its primary booster organization?—does not seem, to me, to be the solution to a decline in League membership. Or, by the way, to determining what steps to take to continue to grow our hobby’s ranks and build an even more thriving, powerful, effective A.R.R.L.. (I believe such a web site can serve a valuable purpose, and maybe it is the one the consultants had in mind. We don’t know since nobody has told us. But more on that second web entity later.)

A research project is definitely in order. Most companies would not dream of planning future policy or actions without reliable research and carefully developed strategy.

There is an old expression in the research and marketing biz. It maintains that all you need to know about marketing a product or service can be summed up in three sentences. Ask people what they want. Give them what they want. Tell them you are giving them what they want.

Here is an idea. If we want to know how to attract and keep new hams and new League members, ask those who chose not to continue to be a ham or League member why they made that decision. Have a bona fide research company contact people who got a license but did not join the League, people who joined but did not renew, and people who, whether they joined A.R.R.L. or not, got a license but allowed it to lapse. Use proper research methodology to be sure you are talking to the right people. Ask them why they did what they did, using properly-worded questions that don’t taint the study. Attempt to contact and gather input from a representative sample of respondents, including age, ethnicity, other interests, educational background, geography, and more.

(We know we need to attract more younger hams, more females, more African Americans and those of Hispanic descent! Here is an opportunity to learn why we have failed so far.)



Then, once the research is completed, present the findings to League officials as well as to the membership. If non-members and frequent critics see the results, too, that is fine. Just be sure the numbers include an explanation from someone who knows how to analyze the data and impartially explain what it really means. Numbers can lie. Research data can be horribly and disastrously misinterpreted.

Develop a strategy to address the reasons for lack of growth and for waning loyalty to the League. Develop it in the open, with input from as many hams, members or no, as is practical.

Implement the strategy. Do regular updates to the membership and to the public on what is being done to address the issues gleaned from the research data.

Observe objectively how effective that strategy actually becomes. Or if it is not working at all. This ideally includes regular additional research studies. Adjust the strategy and its implementation as you go. It absolutely should not be etched into marble. Do another study in three years or five years to judge impact and success or lack thereof.

That is how this stuff works, folks. We may be surprised by what we learn. Heck, we may be converting far more people to our hobby than we should be. And the League is retaining all the members it possibly can. But we need to know that, too. And develop a survival strategy around the data.

I did my own informal research for the past four years and the results became the basis for my book *Get on the Air...Now!* I found the most prevalent reasons for why people drop out of the hobby and attempted to address their perceptions and hesitation in the book. That is my simple way to “Elmer” them. (Including not ever using the word “elmer,” either as a verb or a noun. Its connotation is not positive outside our ranks.)

At any rate, the point is if I did such a study on my own with no budget, the League, with its bank account and smart staff and members and all it has riding on the success of any implementation of change should be perfectly able to pull off this research thing, develop strategy, and implement it successfully.

**“QST is nothing but a bunch of ads and contest scores and chases away more hams and potential hams than it attracts. It is old-fashioned, too technical/not technical enough, and printed on paper in a digital age, which nobody over the age of 40 is going to read.”**

Gee, where do I start? How about with my own opinion? And why single out *QST*?

Print publications are struggling. Media have changed since I started writing this article. My “daily” newspaper is now only printed on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. When did you last see a *Saturday Evening Post*, *Look*, *Life* or *Newsweek*?

I happen to like the ads in *QST*. Plus, I know that if they did away with them, we could expect to pay \$50 a copy for the magazine. I enjoy *QST*, but I am not likely a customer at \$50 per.

And I single out *QST*—and the A.R.R.L. web site—because they are the most visible aspect of the organization and, by proxy, the hobby of amateur radio. The first impression most Googlers have of ham radio is arrl.org. And those who might still peruse newsstands will see *QST* and ham radio as one and the same.

Think about this: *QST* serves a broad readership with diverse interests in various aspects of the hobby, from contesting to building stuff, from newcomers to old-timers. Contesters want to see the scores to see how they placed. Articles that are not technical enough hurt the feelings of the techies. Too technical and you chase off those who are not so inclined or who are timid already about how electronical they have to be to get into this game. And there is nothing wrong with not being so inclined! This is also the official organ for the A.R.R.L., so they have to print the various bland and boring goings-on inside our organization and others like it around the world.

If we truly want more transparency and to know all that is happening within the League, we have to have it available for easy access, in the magazine and on the web site. Not all of it is going to be up your alley or especially scintillating.

If you don’t like something you see in the magazine, turn the page, my friend. Turn the page.

Frankly, I think they do a good job with the magazine. I see efforts to modernize its look, to include an even wider variety of articles, and I appreciate all that hard work. And I must point out that if they are not running articles that interest you, WRITE SOME! They will even pay you money if they use them.

On the negative side, I laughed out loud when I saw the current issue (March 2018), the “Antenna Issue.” Then I cried as I imagined a typical twenty-something happening up on the issue on the stand at a bookstore. What would be his or her impression of the hobby upon thumbing to the cover article?

I don’t want to be negative considering all the work, thought, research and creativity employed by the hams who won the League’s antenna-design contest, the projects featured in this month’s *QST*. Those folks obviously devoted a lot of effort to their winning entries and the judges at the A.R.R.L. certainly worked hard on picking winners, verifying performance, and preparing the articles for the magazine. But give me a break!

A 160-meter delta loop that needs support at 90 feet and has a long run of wire at 3 feet off the ground at the bottom of the loop? Not only do most of us not have a skyhook at 90 feet, but that bottom run of wire at my house would snare many neighborhood children and wild deer! And a directional three-element array for 80? That is if you happen to have a 140-foot tower to load as the radiating element? And a low-profile 2-meter mobile antenna that is actually a huge aluminum box bolted to the top of your buggy? An antenna that gives you a couple of dB more signal than your plain, old, \$15 quarter-wave mag mount?

I also could not help but notice that the bios of most of the authors included the fact that they held degrees in electrical engineering or equally impressive technical fields. I suppose it has to be included but such info only confirms the fears of those on the outside looking in that ours is a hobby exclusively for engineers and scientists.

Sorry, but sometimes the content in *QST* does seem to indicate the publication is just a tad out of touch with the average ham out here in the hinterlands. And since I learned for my book that a big stumbling block for many would-be hams is concern about having to put up some exotic antenna to even get on the air, I am afraid these articles confirm their worst preconceived qualms.

That being said, I still believe the magazine is well done for the most part and represents our hobby well to a wide readership.

The site simply does not put our best foot forward. Maybe that outfit with the proposed \$400,000 web site was on to something after all. Maybe we do need two web sites, one for the current members and active hams with all the operating stuff, contest details, technical info, and more, but another “here is what today’s amateur radio is all about” site.

This latter website would have as its goal selling the hobby, informing visitors how to get started, showing them what books and tools are available, overcoming their natural hesitancy about leaping into the unknown—navigating past real or perceived roadblocks—and assisting them in taking the next steps. It seems obvious to me. People interested in learning about the hobby don’t care about or need to learn about detailed contest rules, regulatory news, how to solder circuit boards, a review of a \$10,000 transceiver or how to put up a 160-meter delta loop that requires a 90-foot support. They just need to see if the hobby is for them and, if it appears so, how do they take the next step.

As I say, it seems obvious to me. If the League’s mandate is to grow the ranks of amateur radio, then it needs to sell the hobby like a can of beans. Or as they would a political candidate. That is a major part of marketing, and, by my way of thinking, marketing is a primary chore for any membership organization that aims to grow. And especially this one. And especially in light of some of the numbers previously discussed.

(One more thing. It is beyond the scope of this article, but I hear and see much criticism of how the League supports and works with clubs. I admittedly don’t know if it is true or not, but that seems to me to be a crucial area in which to foster and continue growth of the hobby. The club level is where the rubber meets the road, a place

where newcomers can get help and in-person support and old-timers can get out of their shell and contribute to the good of ham radio.

Unless that research for which I lobbied so hard tells us something totally different, I believe it would be a key strategy to include clubs in any growth plan.)

**“Okay, but the A.R.R.L. is never going to change. They will continue to hide behind the walls of HQ out there in Connecticut, pull up the drawbridge, and shoot arrows at anybody that tries to storm the fort.”**

I don’t think so. Maybe I am a perpetual optimist, but I believe the League—elected officials and employees alike—want to do the right thing, and do it the best and most effective way they can. They love our hobby as much or more than the rest of us. There is no conspiracy to kill the hobby from within. Or to stubbornly maintain the old-fashioned ways of doing things even if it threatens our growth.

Nobody’s getting rich up there. I suspect many employees could do better in other industries or jobs, but they prefer working to improve the greatest pastime created. Those who run for election, or volunteer for positions in the field, absolutely sacrifice much to give back to the hobby, and do so for no pay and precious little praise or thanks.

They may have the wrong plan sometimes. They may become borderline paranoid in the face of criticism or the mob mentality that so often rises up out here in Middle America and beyond. But that, to me, is why I think an obvious answer to such charges is to become more open, more welcoming of input from members and non-members. But those giving the input should be privy to as many of the facts, arguments, and pro-and-con points as possible, and be open to hearing all the ramifications of any issue or decision.

Many are incapable of being fair and open-minded. Most are. Regardless, we should be trusted with the facts and the full story.

And, by the way, it is especially important that those who are offering opinions and advice—and especially those with a forum, a platform, or a very loud loudspeaker—take the time and effort to get the facts, too, before they start shooting arrows and taking prisoners.

That includes this writer. I am entitled to an opinion, but it is also incumbent on me to know what the heck it is that I am talking about. In that spirit, I hope I have clearly labeled rumors as rumors, guesses as guesses, opinions as opinions, and facts as facts in this article

Now, in the title of this piece I asked the questions, “Can the A.R.R.L. be saved?” and, parenthetically, “Should the A.R.R.L. be saved?”

Let me answer both questions emphatically in one all-caps word: **ABSOLUTELY!**

I venture that few amateur radio operators actually know all that the League does to protect, preserve and promote our hobby. Wade through that junky web site and you will see how important their work is to not only protect our hobby as it is today but from those who would snatch it away from us tomorrow. That ranges from frequency grabbers to noise-grunge emitters. That plus the contests, awards, and events they create and sponsor, the books they publish, the field organization they maintain, the legal counsel and lobbying efforts they support, the reviews and technological innovation they conduct, and so much more.

And by “they” I mean “us.” We are the League. Our votes and input should help make the organization better, stronger, more effective. And hopefully more transparent and open.

Will the A.R.R.L. ever please everybody? Gee, I hope not! As a former television station general manager in our market—and an active ham, by the way, who is now Silent Key—used to say after delivering an on-air editorial, **“That’s my opinion. What’s yours?”**

# Radio Amateurs Pitch In to Help as “Hat Trick” of Major Coastal Storms Hit Northeast

Amateur Radio volunteers with **WX1BOX** at the National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts, and various ARES groups had their hands full during March, as Mother Nature’s hat trick of nor’easters brought severe weather conditions and a lot of snow to the northeastern US. The storms caused the Cape Cod ARES team to extend activations for **SKYWARN**, **WX1BOX**, and regional shelter operations.

“This has been a very active period of significant severe weather for the region after a relatively quiet stretch from late January through the end of February,” observed Rob Macedo, **KD1CY**, the Eastern Massachusetts Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for **SKYWARN**.

The first in the trio of nor’easters — on March 2 and 3 — brought mostly heavy rain and wet snow to parts of Massachusetts, Connecticut, eastern New York, and northern New England. Strong to damaging winds swept central and southern New England, with hurricane-force gusts across southeastern New England and Cape Cod and the Islands. The storm caused severe coastal flooding across multiple high-tide cycles.

**WX1BOX** volunteers were active for 17 hours straight, and afterward, some continued to monitor high tides and strong winds, which persisted into the weekend. The volunteers handled more than 1,000 reports of wind damage, wind gusts measured 40 MPH or higher, localized road flooding from heavy rainfall, and coastal flooding. At the height of the storm, nearly a half million customers in Massachusetts alone lost electrical power. Macedo said Amateur Radio nets were active on repeaters, and on the **New England reflector** on EchoLink® conference node 9123/\*NEW-ENG3\*/IRLP 9123 system.

“Some of the highest astronomical tides of the year coupled with wind gusts of more than 70 MPH — and as high as 93 MPH at the Barnstable County, Massachusetts, emergency operations center (EOC) — to trigger some of the worst coastal flooding in decades,” Macedo recounted.

Eastern Massachusetts ARES was on stand-by, and Cape Cod ARES was active for several days with a regional sheltering operation until power was largely restored to Cape Cod. “Marc Stern, **WA1R**, guarded the HF net on 75 meters during the nor’easter,” Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator Marek Kozubal, **KB1NCG**, reported. **WC1MAB** at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Region 2 Headquarters was also active through the efforts of Mike “Sparky” Leger, **N1YLQ**.

Only a few days later, a second nor’easter brought heavier snowfall to southern New England, although winds and coastal flooding were not as severe as in the first storm. In the interior of southern New England, temperatures hovering around freezing meant heavy wet snow, sparking another round of downed trees and power lines and nearly a half-million customers without power in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Eastern Massachusetts ARES was on standby during the storm and for several days afterward until most power was restored.

At **WX1BOX**, another 14 hours of **SKYWARN** operations ensued. Amateur Radio nets in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island fielded reports of heavy snowfall, including “thunder snow,” wet snow damage, strong gusty winds, heavy rainfall, and minor coastal flooding. Widespread snowfall amounts totaled up to 16 inches in interior southern New England. As much as 30 inches of snow fell in western Massachusetts as well as in parts of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

Macedo said it became clear from **SKYWARN** reports that the region would experience extended power outages. “These reports were noted by state emergency management and the media, and used to inform the public about storm risks and to prepare and act accordingly,” Macedo said. **SKYWARN** nets were also active in the Greater New York City area, reporting damage from wet snow, strong winds, thunder snow, and snowfall totals.



The third storm turned out to be a major nor'easter and blizzard that affected the entire New England region with heavy snowfall — 2 feet or more in more northern areas. Wind gusts greater than 70 MPH across Cape Cod and the Islands, combined with the weight of wet snow, took down trees and utility lines. “Minor coastal flooding also occurred at high tide, but lower astronomical tides again precluded a more significant coastal flood event,” Macedo said. Eastern Massachusetts ARES went on standby once more after blizzard warnings were posted.

SKYWARN nets were active throughout the region, gathering snowfall and wind reports from around southern New England. WX1BOX volunteers were on duty for 16 hours, bringing the monthly total to 47. Macedo said, “The [National Weather Service] Forecast Office is in the process of moving, but antennas for VHF/UHF were left in place, and volunteers provided their own gear to operate over the course of these three nor'easters.”

Wind gusts well into the hurricane range were recorded on Cape Cod, along with significant damage from the wet snow, and seven Cape Cod ARES volunteers provided communication at shelters, as cell phone service was disrupted during the blizzard. Cape Cod ARES District Emergency Coordinator Frank O’Laughlin, WQ1O, said the volunteers “seamlessly” transitioned from providing situational awareness to addressing communication failures. He said six ham volunteers supported the regional shelter operation, and two of them put in more than 50 straight hours.

The storm-weary northeast is monitoring another potential coastal storm or nor'easter that could hit at mid-week.  
— *Thanks to Rob Macedo, KD1CY*



Another ham, SK, waiting for a six meter opening....the magic band as it called.....June marks the opening the summer’s Sporadic-E propagation season, so you’ll start to see quite a few openings on both six and two meters. Often with Sporadic-E, the band openings can be hard to predict; they often seem to come from out of nowhere, remain strong for minutes to hours, and then disappear as quickly as they came. It’s not uncommon to lose the band mid QSO, like someone turned off the power. Six meters can be loads of fun, and getting onto 6 is as easy as putting up a homebrew six meter J-Pole antenna. The antenna is rugged, has a bit of gain, and covers the entire 6 meter band. So you can use the same antenna for both FM and SSB work. Even though the antenna is vertically polarized, it will still work well on sideband as your signal will mix and tumble as it propagates, making polarization less of an issue in the far field.

# APRIL CONTESTS

Start - Finish		Date-Time	Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
Date-Time	Date-Time							
1	1900	1	2030	3.5	RSGB RoLo SSB	Ph	RS, previous 6-char grid square received	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
2	0800	8	2000	1.8-UHF	IQRP Quarterly Marathon	CW Ph Dig	RS(T)	<a href="http://www.arimontebelluna.it">www.arimontebelluna.it</a>
2	1900	2	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
3	0200	3	0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	<a href="http://arsqrp.blogspot.com">arsqrp.blogspot.com</a>
4	1900	4	2000	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukaiccc.com">www.ukaiccc.com</a>
5	1700	5	2000	3.5	SARL 80-Meter QSO Party	Ph	RS, serial, grid locator	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
5	1700	5	2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	<a href="http://www.nrau.net">www.nrau.net</a>
7	0400	7	0800	7	LZ Open 40-Meter Sprint Contest	CW	Serial, serial received from previous QSO	<a href="http://www.lzopen.com">www.lzopen.com</a>
7	1000	8	0400	14	PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest	Dig	SPC, mbr or name	<a href="http://www.podxs070.com">www.podxs070.com</a>
7	1200	8	2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
7	1400	7	2200	3.5-28	Florida State Parks on the Air	CW Ph Dig	Park ID or SPC	<a href="http://flspota.org/rules">flspota.org/rules</a>
7	1400	8	0200	3.5-UHF	Mississippi QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.arrimiss.org">www.arrimiss.org</a>
7	1400	8	2000	1.8-UHF	Missouri QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.w0ma.org">www.w0ma.org</a>
7	1400	8	2000	1.8-UHF	Texas State Parks on the Air	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), park abbreviation or SPC	<a href="http://www.tspota.org">www.tspota.org</a>
7	1500	8	1500	1.8-28	SP DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), SP province or serial	<a href="http://www.spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl">www.spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl</a>
7	1600	8	1600	3.5-28	EA RTTY Contest	Dig	RSQ, EA province or serial	<a href="http://concursos.ure.es/en/earthy">concursos.ure.es/en/earthy</a>
8	0000	8	0400	3.5-14	North American SSB Sprint Contest	Ph	Other station's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	<a href="http://ssbsprint.com/rules">ssbsprint.com/rules</a>
9	0000	9	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.4sqrp.com">www.4sqrp.com</a>
9	1900	9	2300	144	144 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints">sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints</a>
11	0030	11	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
11	1900	11	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
14	0000	14	2359	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	CW	RS, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrparci.org">qrparci.org</a>
14	0700	15	1300	1.8-28	JIDX CW Contest	CW	RST, JA Prefecture or CQ zone	<a href="http://www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html">www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html</a>
14	1200	15	1200	1.8-28	OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, OK/OM county code or serial	<a href="http://okomdx.crk.cz">okomdx.crk.cz</a>
14	1400	15	0200	1.8-50	New Mexico QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, county or SPC	<a href="http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org">www.newmexicoqsoparty.org</a>
14	1800	15	1800	1.8-144	North Dakota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.kg0yl.net/QSO.html">www.kg0yl.net/QSO.html</a>
14	1800	15	2359	1.8-50	Georgia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.georgiaqsoparty.org">www.georgiaqsoparty.org</a>
14	2100	15	2100	1.8-28, satellites	Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	CW	RST, ITU Zone	<a href="http://gc.qst.ru/en/section/32">gc.qst.ru/en/section/32</a>
15	1200	15	1800	3.5-14	International Vintage Contest HF	CW Ph	RS(T) + 4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.contestvintage.beepworld.it">www.contestvintage.beepworld.it</a>
15	1200	15	2200	3.5-14	WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes	Dig	RS, serial, WAB square or country	<a href="http://wab.internip.net">wab.internip.net</a>
15	1500	15	1700	3.5	Hungarian Straight Key Contest	CW	RST, serial, power code	<a href="http://hskc.ha8kux.com">hskc.ha8kux.com</a>
15	1800	15	2359	3.5-50	ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Ph	Name, 2-digit year first licensed, state/province/XE area/DX	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup">www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup</a>
16	0100	16	0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrptest.com/pigrun">qrptest.com/pigrun</a>
17	1900	17	2300	222	222 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints">sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints</a>
20	2100	21	2100	1.8-28	Holyland DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 4X area or serial	<a href="http://iarc.org/iarc/#HolylandContest">iarc.org/iarc/#HolylandContest</a>
21	0500	21	0859	3.5-7	ES Open HF Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	<a href="http://www.erau.ee">www.erau.ee</a>
21	0600	22	0559	3.5-28	Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), China province or serial	<a href="http://www.mulandxc.org/438">www.mulandxc.org/438</a>
21	1200	22	1159	3.5-28	YU DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), YU/YT county or serial	<a href="http://www.yudx.yu1srs.org.rs">www.yudx.yu1srs.org.rs</a>
21	1200	22	2359	3.5-28	CQMM DX Contest	CW	RST, continent abbreviation, category	<a href="http://www.cqmmcx.com/rules">www.cqmmcx.com/rules</a>
21	1300	22	2200	1.8-UHF	Nebraska QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://qcwa.org/chapter025.htm">qcwa.org/chapter025.htm</a>
21	1600	22	0400	3.5-28	Michigan QSO Party	CW Ph	Serial, county or SPC	<a href="http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm">www.miqp.org/Rules.htm</a>
21	1700	22	1300	3.5-28	EA-QRP CW Contest	CW	RST, category, "M" if member	<a href="http://www.eaqrp.com">www.eaqrp.com</a>
21	1800	21	2159	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub">sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub</a>
21	1800	22	1800	1.8-144	Ontario QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.va3cco.com/oqp">www.va3cco.com/oqp</a>
25	0000	25	0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
25	1900	25	2000	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukaiccc.com">www.ukaiccc.com</a>
25	1900	25	2300	432	432 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints">sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints</a>
26	1900	26	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>

**REMINDER:** If you want to operate any of these events and do not have a station at home...feel free to use the club stations for the contest. All we ask is you give us a heads up when you are planning to use the station.

Contests are a great way to sharpen your operating skills and work a lot of states and countries while you are at it..



# CAARA PUBLIC SERVICE

Here's a schedule of our 2018 YUKAN races with each date and location:

**Fool's Dual Half Marathon & 5K (4/8/18) Gloucester, 9am start**

**Fast Half Marathon (5/12/18) Hamilton, 9am start**

**Twin Lobster Half Marathon & 1M (6/3/18) Gloucester, 8am start**

**Parker River Half Marathon (7/8/18) Newbury, 8am start**

**TripleThreat Half Marathon, 5K & 1M (8/5/18) Rockport, 8am start**

**Half Marathon-by-the-Sea (9/23/18) Manchester-by-the-Sea, 10am start**

**Ocean View Half Marathon & 5K (11/4/18) Ipswich, 8:30am start**

**Happy Holidays Half MerryThon & 2.62M (12/2/18) Gloucester, 9am start**



## **Why should you participate in race events?**

*It helps the club financially, we receive a donation for each race. You are using amateur radio to provide a needed public service to ensure the safety and smooth running of a public event in local communities.*

## **I would but I do not have a radio.**

*No excuse, we have loaner radio's available with a mag mount that will work in your car just by just plugging it into the cigarette lighter socket. We have loaner hand held radios as well!*

## **I don't have transportation.**

*No excuse, we will pick you up and drop you off at your house.*

## **I do not have the time to spare for a whole race.**

*Well, you can commit to a time slot, for just two hours. We will bend over backwards to get you to participate.*

# APRIL 2018



## CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

6 Stanwood Street  
Gloucester, MA 01930

978-282-7645  
[www.caara.net](http://www.caara.net)

Repeaters on 145.130  
224.900 & 443.700

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 2 Meter Net at 9pm	2	3 Open House- 5-10pm	4	5	6	7
8 Yukan Run Event 2 Meter Net at 9pm	9	10 Open House- 5-10pm	11	12	13	14 BOD Meet Member- Lunch- Noon
15 2 Meter Net at 9pm	16	17 Open House- 5-10pm	18	19	20	21
22 Member Breakfast 9-11am Net at 9pm	23	24 Open House- 5-10pm	25	26	27	28
29 2 Meter Net at 9pm	30					