

CAARA NEWS



Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
APRIL 2019 Edition



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Hank- W4RIG.

Welcome to Springtime on Cape Ann once again and looking forward to our amateur radio activity after a slow start in 2019. We will be providing public service for the many road races scheduled in the Cape Ann area and making preparations for ARRL Field Day in June.

We are also working toward a new multi frequency beam antenna this Spring at 6 Stanwood Street and hope to have an antenna raising party when the arrangements have been made. We are pleased to announce that the 440 Repeater system is now interconnected with several EMA repeaters and digital capabilities with a new Fusion system base station repeater.

We had a fun dinner to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at our March Member's meeting provided by Bill W1WMM assisted by his kitchen crew Dave Linsky N1CDL and Tony Marks N1JEI. When the gang recovers from a recent outbreak of sickness we hope to get back to regular meals with member meetings and fund raising breakfasts to be announced via the caaramail email list.

Members are invited to attend the CAARA Board meetings on the second Saturday of each month at 6 Stanwood Street in Riverdale at 11:00 AM and followed by the members meeting at Noon.



INFORMATION DESK

by Dean- KB1PGH

Well there is only one ARRL contest during April and that is the phone edition of the Rookie round up and that is held on April 14th. This contest focuses on hams who have their licenses for only 3 years or less. Coming up in May though is the ARRL National Convention which is held in Xenia, Ohio. That is coming up on May 17 through the 19. You can find out more at www.hamvention.org or go to www.arrl.org. I also found a great website that has all the contests throughout the year on a month by month basis.

If your looking for more HF action go to www.contestcalendar.com. There is a bunch of state QSO parties in April so take a look.

For this months ham radio topic I'm going to reveal a big secret. You know what it is? Your HF rig can actually listen to HF frequencies outside of the ham bands! I know-that's pretty crazy right. What even more incredible is that there is actually stuff to listen too! You can actually turn your rig into a general coverage receiver by just pressing a button! There's a website at www.hfunderground.com which will help you find some stuff to listen to. Especially pirate radio. Long before I got my ham license i was a big shortwave listener going back all the way to high school. I loved to listen to the pirate radio stations. The band to listen to pirates is 6765 to 7000 MHZ, So take a look at the website and explore shortwave listening. While I'm on the topic of websites, there's one more website you may want to check out if your are new to the hobby and that is www.eham.net. It's a great website for reviews on ham radios and gear as well as ham radio news and topics.

For this month I will give you a quick look at the Shark RF Open Spot 2 Internet Digital Gateway. This digital



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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.

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.

gateway will give you the ability to get on DMR and Yaesu Fusion reflectors by connecting your HT to the internet. Just in my short experience alone it has very straight forward set up and I was able to connect my Yaesu FT 2D HT with the Yaesu Fusion America Link and US Wolfden reflectors in no time since the Openspot 2 has a built in UHF transmitter. All you do is set the frequency on your HT to the same frequency on the Openspot 2 and that's it. This device certainly widens the usefulness of your Fusion and DMR radios



when repeaters around you are dead. It's about the size of an old style flip cellphone and is wi fi capable and you can hook it up to an external usb battery pack to take it with you. The website is great and intuitive and has all the information you need to get started. As you see in the photo it is glowing green which means you can transmit and it turns red when you are receiving. It costs \$225 with shipping and you can order one at



www.sharkrf.com . One last reminder, since it is April and the warm weather is here take some time to check your outdoor antennas and coax for any winter damage. Get a SWR

meter and check your rig and coax for any high SWR readings which would indicate faulty coax or antenna so you don't end blowing the finals on your rig.

73, Dean KB1PGH

DIGITAL WORLD

Greetings everyone , I have been using DMR for a year and going as strong as ever. Digital does have glitches , I would not use Digital for Emergencies , a lot errors and packet loss , it is about 90 perfect. And now with a Fusion Repeater everyone can join in and save money on a Hot Spot.. The Hot Spot have every talk room or

Talk Group .They are an asset to have and prices have come way down.

And you can use them on Fusion , DMR , D-Star and P-25..

Overall I am impressed and recommend them to anyone of interest, they are a lot of Fun..

Bill W1WMM

Editor Note: I also have the new Shark Openspot-2 and it has been working flawlessly for several months. I also



bought the above unit on Ebay for about \$90.00 and it is a Chinese knockoff product. I use it with a battery pack in my truck and it will also provide a hotspot for DMR. D-Star, or Fusion radio.

It does not hookup to the wifi as easy as the Shark but performs pretty well for a lot less money. It requires a more complex initial setup than the Shark. I took mine over to Brandon- KB1WAH. and he set it up for me in 15 minutes. Jon- K1TP

REPEATER UPDATE:

The CAARA 440 repeater is now linked when in the Fusion mode to the Stoneham, MA and Farmington, NH repeater giving us more coverage and activity. The Methuen repeater is only linked part time until the sponsor finds a dedicated computer that he can leave on 24/7.

Please note that FM mode still works on the 440 repeater and when in the FM mode is not linked to the other repeaters. Our repeater automatically switches to the mode you are transmitting in.

BLOCK ROBO-CALLS ON YOUR CELLPHONE

submitted by Dick- KIVRA

Those annoying Robo-Calls. I know you get 'em. We all do. But did you know there's a very effective way to stop them cold? And it's already built-into your cell phone.

Several years ago I spent months trying to get my wife to agree to drop our land-based (landline) telephone. Why? The damn thing never stopped ringing – day, night, weekends, holidays! Grrrrr! And it was never anyone I wanted to talk to. We each had a cell phone and they were pretty quiet. Finally, after a particularly awful day of annoyance with the landline, she said: “OK, I’ve had enough – shut it off.” I didn’t waste any time – I said: “Make sure everyone has your cell number and we’ll do it.” Boom – Friday morning it was off!

Sometime Saturday afternoon (the day after it was shut off), she looked up from reading her newspaper and said, “It’s so f***in’ quiet!” Success!

Of course after a while the cell phones started to get the same calls, not as bad at first but soon became a problem. After doing some research I came up with the perfect solution. Now, my cell phone never rings unless it is someone I know and want to hear from. NEVER!

I will describe how it works on my iPhone SE but most cell phones have this functionality built-in, they just might have a different name for it. On the iPhone it’s called ‘Do Not Disturb’. Sounds like just what we want, right? OK, so here’s how to set it up.

Make sure everyone you want to hear from is in your phone’s Contact List. If they aren’t in the List your phone will not ring when they call.

Note: Most (if not all) cellular phone carriers do not offer the full Caller ID Service that exists for landline phones. When someone calls a mobile phone, the cell phone Caller ID leaves out the name, only showing the phone number and/or city of the caller. Have you memorized every one of your friend’s and business contact’s phone numbers? Neither have I – that’s what my Contact List is for. In the ‘dark ages’ (before cell phones) we used to call that a ‘Phonebook’.

On the other hand, if the caller is in your cellphone’s Contact List, you will see the caller’s name (or business) the same way you entered it in your Contact List.

You could pay extra or install an app to do it, but why would you want to? The scammers we are trying to stop very often ‘spoof’ a fake number. You would be going out of your way (or paying extra) to display bad information.

Manually turn on your phone’s ‘Do Not Disturb’ function. While it is active this function tells your phone to never ring. My iPhone also has a way to schedule ‘quiet time’ and in the past, I would use it to turn the ringer off at night. But now we want ‘Do Not Disturb’ mode to be active always so turn it on manually, full-time, no schedule. If you don’t want to be bothered when you go to bed, turn your phone off! But, realistically, your friends are probably not going to be calling you then anyway.

We’re not done. So far, all we did is tell it to shut up. Now we want to let our friends, family, and business contacts get through to us. In my iPhone, there is a setting labeled ‘Allow Calls From’. Just set it to ‘All Contacts’.

If you use messaging/texting, in the iPhone you now have to go through your Contact List and set “Text Tone” to ‘Emergency Bypass On’ for every contact you wish to receive messages from. If you don’t do this phone calls will ring but text messages will not activate the usual alert sound.

Note: Turning-off the ringer switch will not silence text messaging alerts on the iPhone.

That’s it! You’re done. Now, whenever someone in your Contact List calls or sends a text, the phone will ring normally. If you don’t answer it will eventually go to voicemail, just like before. If the caller is not in your Contact List, the phone simply will not ring. Instead, the call will be sent directly to VoiceMail. Remember the days before cell phones when everyone had one of those answering machines in their house? If you have a landline you probably still have one. If you were out, the caller left a message and you called them back when you got home. Or maybe you didn’t. But it was your choice. Most of the time people you know will leave a message. Of course, the scammers might, too, but at least you weren’t bothered by them. ‘Do Not Disturb’ means exactly that! You won’t even know there is a voicemail until you decide to check for one.

Why are we so obsessed with answering the phone no matter where we are or what we’re doing? Turn it off when you’re at the movies, out with friends or on a date. It’s annoying and rude to disturb others with your phone

calls! Resist the urge to answer that call while driving your car (or walking, for that matter) – it's dangerous, not only to yourself but others, too. The caller will leave a message. Yes, there are some good exceptions – you're trying to meet up with someone for the evening, there may be an emergency at home or at work. But more often than not, what you are doing and who you are doing it with right now is always more important than that stupid phone call. At least if you use the above technique you won't be bothered by some perfect stranger trying to scam you out of your life savings.

PRODUCT REVIEW

by Jon- K1TP



I am not a fan of MFJ ham accessories with the exception of some their amplifiers and tuners. They just aren't put together too well and many times have loose nuts, bolts, and cold solder joints. Many claim MFJ stands for Mighty Fine Junk.

So yes, I bought a MFJ digital wattmeter for vhf and uhf which reads up to 120 watts of power. The unit displays forward and reflected power and the swr reading.

I wanted a simple way to read my swr and power out in the truck as well as the new Yaesu fusion radio in the house. I was getting tired (or lazy!) of pulling out the Bird 43 meter and finding the correct slug for do the job.

So checked the reviews and didn't see anything that scared me away so I ordered one from HRO. It arrived in a few days and after inserting in a few batteries I tried

it on 2 and 440 with my Yaesu 400. Wow, it worked great on 2 meters but on 440 the light went out and the display went dead when I keyed up the mike. Wonderful! I tried it in the truck with the same results, vhf readings were fine but when reading uhf, it went dead. I mumbled "Mighty Fine Junk" has struck again.

I happened to be going up to HRO the next day to have lunch with friends and returned the meter. Of course they had no new ones in stock so it was shipped to me a few days later.

Eureka! It worked on both bands and I am a happy camper. It is housed in a sturdy metal case, the display is more than easy to read, and it fits in a coat pocket easily. I am going to solder together a 50 ohm dummy load out of a few 5 watt resistors and have the capability to check my handheld walkies for power output and actually checking little antennas as well.

So, for \$94.95 is it worth buying? Time will tell...

While I was HRO I noticed the below 160 meter sloper antenna rated at 5KW. I had to look twice at the \$419.95 price tag. Who spends that kind of money for a hunk of wire and a simple balun?

A 80 meter dipole with no balun or coax included was around \$70.00....I hope no members of the club are buying wire antennas when you could make on for a fraction of the cost and the pride that you made it yourself. Please come up on a Tuesday night or to a regular member meeting and ask for help if you want to build one. Plenty of us are available, Jon K1TP



Under Sink Water Heater

by Curt- AA3JE



Our new house is in New Hampshire, where the ground is a bit chilly in winter. So the hot water line to the kitchen sink (a long run through concrete), takes five full minutes to warm up.

“THIS HOUSE NEEDS A NEW WATER HEATER!” said SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED.

“I’ll check it.”

The blameless water heater smiled at me. It’s relatively new, a furnace coupled heat exchanger.

“It just takes a little while to reach the sink.”

“I WON’T PUT UP WITH IT!”

So, I looked on the Internet, and found a nice German “under sink” unit that operates on 120 V, draws 10 amps, and would do nicely.

Labeled “SUPER EZ installation”.

It came in two days, immaculately packed. The instructions were minimal. And in German. Also Italian and French.

Turns out, there were two metric to US ½” NPT adapters, little brass gadgets and each had a hidden little teflon washer. Critical, and flimsy. Fall out easily.

So it was a day under the sink and two trips to Home Stuff, and I had the wiring in.

Then it was back to the store. I faced the huge board (16’ by 4’) with plumbing adapters with frank terror. So I asked for help.

“Can you help me?”

“What with, kind customer?”

“I have an under sink water heater.....”

“OMG! Plumbing! We don’t do plumbing! You need RED.”

Red took his time swinging by. He’s the only plumber on staff. Busy man.

“What you doing?” he asked, jovially.

“I have an under sink water heater that needs ½” NPT to 3/8 Compression fittings with braided hoses and a gender change.”

“Hmmm. Tricky! That German unit that claims to be an EZ install?”

“Yep.”

“Well, you need two flex hoses with 3/8 fittings, two ½ female NPT to 3/8 compression male adaptors, and this 3/8 to 3/8 coupler. Also it helps if you pray.”

“It’s kind of tight vertically.....”

“And these ½ inch street elbows, and teflon tape. Lots of teflon tape.”

He went down the line, and plucked the items from several unlabeled bins.

“I was looking on the board.....”

“Yeah, I need to get that updated some day.”

Job security.

So, \$60 later, I left with hoses and lots of little brass junk. I carefully assembled it for practice. The little teflon washers had gone away. Fell out somewhere. I didn’t notice.

So I disconnected the existing hoses and discovered the shut off valve didn’t. But I had plenty of towels.

But I needed those stupid metric washers.

So back to the store, only to discover Red had gone home, and no one else could find even a simple washer.

An hour later, I finally found the peg board with the rubber washers, and bought the size I thought I needed, one size larger, and one size smaller, as the coupler was metric and I didn’t have a calculator.

And I plumbed it. Then I re-read the instructions.

“Vor dem einstecken mit wasser fullen!”

After a bout with Google translate, that seemed to mean fill it before plugging it in.

So I did. And then it started leaking.

Robustly!

Seems I missed one of those those washers, but I had several. Lots in fact. They sell them in bags of 25.

So, after filling it, and einstecken, I faced the universal dial, marked in strange markings known only to a few gnomes in Berlin. I finally just turned it all the way to the right.

And after a half hour, I opened the hot water faucet, and in 3 seconds, hot water came out. REALLY HOT water.

So I turned the dial back a bit.

Mopping up the mess, I put the towels in the washer, and thoroughly dried the cabinet.

Next morning, there was a teaspoon of wasser on the cabinet floor. Cursing gently, so as not to wake up SHE, I climbed back under and tightened all the fittings a quarter turn. That seemed to stop it.

So I showed off the new heater to SHE.

“OH NOT THE KITCHEN SINK! THE BATHROOM SINK. I CAN LIVE WITH THE KITCHEN SINK.”

Note to self. Always double check the work order.

Anyway, it really works. Once you get it installed. Plan for four or five trips to the store.

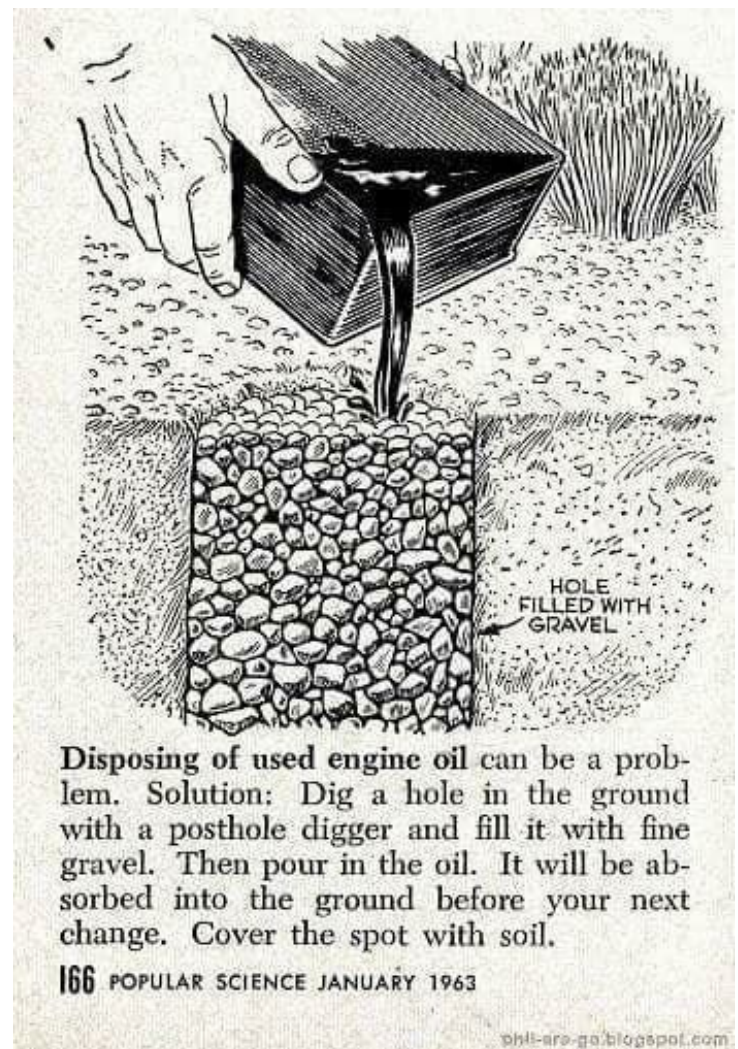
ARISS Seeks Hosts for Ham Radio Contacts with Space Station Crew Members

Starting on April 1, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) will accept applications from US schools, museums, science centers, and community youth organizations (working individually or together) interested in hosting contacts with orbiting crew members on the International Space Station (ISS). Contacts will be scheduled between January 1 and June 30, 2020.

Each year, ARISS provides tens of thousands of students with opportunities to learn about space technologies and communications through Amateur Radio. The program provides learning opportunities by connecting students to astronauts aboard the ISS through a partnership between ARRL, AMSAT, and NASA, as well as other Amateur Radio organizations and worldwide space agencies. The program's goal is to inspire students to pursue interests and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and Amateur Radio.

“Educators overwhelmingly report that student participation in the ARISS program stimulates interest in STEM subjects and in STEM careers,” ARISS said in announcing the contact opportunities. “One educator wrote, ‘Many of the middle school students who took part in and attended the ARISS contact have selected science courses in high school as a result of that contact.’” ARISS says enthusiasm sparked by a school contact has led to an interest in ham radio among students and to the creation of ham radio clubs in schools. Some educators have even become radio amateurs after experiencing a contact with an ISS crew member.

ARISS is looking for organizations capable of attracting large numbers of participants and integrating the contact into a well-developed, exciting education plan. Students can learn about satellite communications, wireless technology, science research conducted on the ISS, radio science, and any related STEM subject. Students learn to use Amateur Radio to talk directly to an astronaut and ask their STEM-related questions. ARISS will help educational organizations locate Amateur Radio groups who can assist with equipment for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students.



More Home Inspection Fun

by Curt- AA3JE

I may have said in the past that Cassandra is long dead. For those who don't remember her, she was the Greek gal who was seduced by Apollo, who promised to give her the ability to see the future. He did that, then she rejected him.

(Note to tell grand daughter, if you have sex with Apollo, don't give him the push!)

So, Apollo put a curse on her that she would indeed be able to tell the future, but no one would ever believe her. Those so afflicted become home inspectors.

Ever read one? It reads like a General Practitioner giving you your annual physical.

"Might be a problem with the roof, ceiling, water, lights, heat and fireplace, but I recommend you call my brother for an expert examination. With a colonoscopy."

"IS THE HOUSE OK?"



"Can't be sure, and there are so many specialty areas. My brother offers great prices, though."

So, when the well pump started rapid cycling, I called the local well contractor.

"327 Corvette Lane? Yeah, I remember that one. Really hard to get to."

"Well, it's rapid cycling, every five minutes."

"You shut off the house feeds, and it still does it?"

"Yep. Took half a can of WD40 to loosen up those valves."

"HMMMMM. That's a turbo flow dual jet Mega Max. I put it in, back about 20 years ago. Freshening the house up for sale back then."

"Can you come and check it?"

"Got to wait till tomorrow. See if the snow melts. It's nine degrees now. Can you uncover the well?"

"Where is the well?"

"You know the inexplicable cut-in on the front? No possible reason?"

"Yep."

“That’s it. If you could get the snow off it, it would help.”

Turns out that the “snow” was packed ice, and after a futile pass with the snow blower, I realized I needed a bigger hammer.

After an hour with a front end loader (every home should have one), I had the area cleared, and waited to see what the temperature would do.

I also wondered where the well was, exactly. Fortunately, they had turned over a lot of old snap shots of the house that told me where to dig. From the last repair. So, an hour later, I was down to the rocks. Turns out there was an “impermeable membrane” that meant I had to clear the rocks from the entire area!

So, an hour after that, I had the hatches uncovered, and lifted out, and the mystery was solved! The well pit was full of water.

After a trip to Harbor Stuff, I had a submersible pump, and bailed it out (2500 gallons), and there was the well pipe, spurting like Old Faithful! Some long ago genius had used a plastic elbow, not a good idea in NH where it goes to -20 F, and it had cracked.

So the well guys arrived, and were very happy with my work, and one disappeared into the hole, shouting up to his helper to hand him various things. Then came the maestro’s performance. The senior man went down and put one hand on the switch, and one hand on the well valve. If he did it just right, they would not have to prime the jet.

After five minutes of tweetling, whooshing, and gurgling, the well was fixed.

SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED could take her shower, at last!

But it was not over.

“How long you gonna live in this house?” the senior guy said, grimly.

“Ten to fifteen years.”

“While we got this open, you want we should switch it for a submersible pump?”

“This jet pump lasted 35 years.”

“You feel lucky, punk?”

So, they are coming tomorrow to install a new pump. With luck, it will be someone else’s problem in 35 years. They can argue with their Home Inspector!



FREE RADIO

Contact "Pete" K1LJO. Looks like a fun project and you can't beat the price. I bet we have all the parts you need at the clubhouse to fix this radio up.



Department of Defense to Transmit Interoperability Exercise Info via WWV/WWVH

The US Department of Defense (DOD) plans to start making use of a provisional time slot on WWV and WWVH to announce upcoming HF military communication exercises and how the Amateur Radio community can become involved in them. The announcements will occur at 10 minutes past on WWV and at 50 minutes past on WWVH. WWV and WWVH transmit on 2.5, 5, 10, 15, and 20 MHz.

“DOD’s use of the broadcast time slot on WWV/WWVH will benefit the MARS program’s mission of outreach to the Amateur Radio community,” said US Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY. “The actual messages to be broadcast are coordinated by the DOD Headquarters that the MARS program supports.”

The initial announcements are set for the period April 20 – May 3, which coincides with the “Vital Connection” interoperability exercise to be held in Wisconsin. Future time slots will coincide with the Vital Connection exercise Ohio in June; DOD COMEX 19-3 in August, and the DOD COMEX 19-4 in October. Following the proof of concept this year, DOD anticipates making use of the WWV/WWVH broadcast time slot full time, year-round.

At the outset, broadcast messages will likely be static. For future exercises, announcements could be updated throughout an exercise. The messages will direct listeners to a specified website to provide reception reports and feedback.

The reception report will also ask the listener to submit a survey that will be shared among DOD, MARS, and WWV/WWVH personnel. English said that the survey will ask listeners questions about how often they listen to WWV/WWVH signals, how they use them, and what types of messages they would like to hear, but he notes that the survey is still under development.

“We want to provide feedback to WWV/WWVH to improve situational awareness of who is using their service and how it’s being used, as well as future considerations,” English said.

Portable Op

Rich- W1FSR was doing a little HF portable operation in Rockport in March on the top of Summit Avenue, a few hundred feet above sea level. I stopped by and took a few pictures of Rich's neat station and antenna setup.



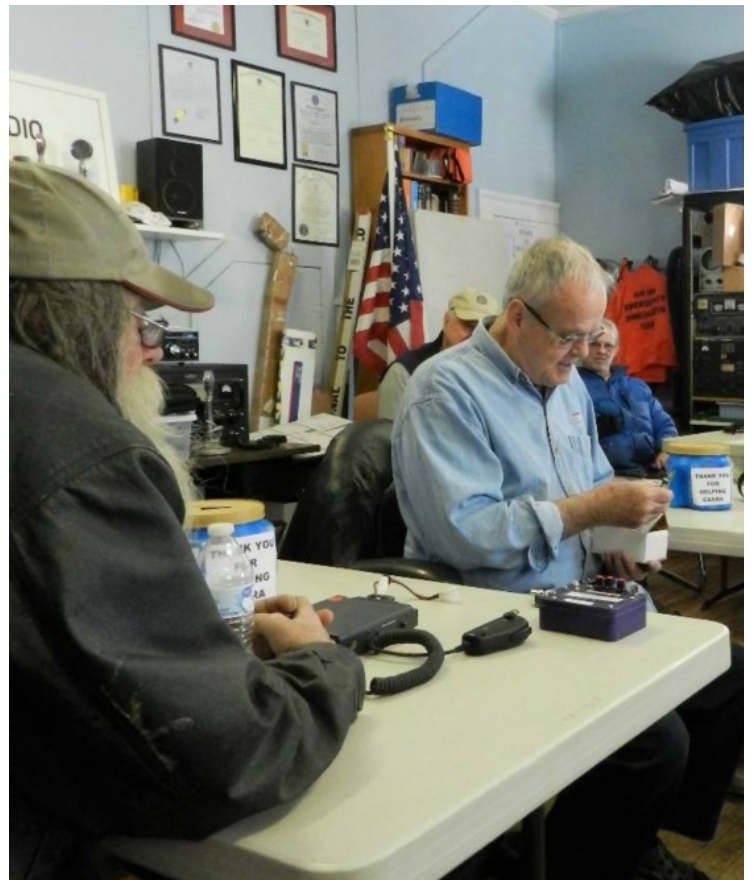
March Meeting



The March Meeting featured a traditional boiled Irish dinner prepared by Chef Bill- W1WMM with the help of Tony and Dave.

Corn Beef and pork shoulder with potatoes, carrots, and cabbage. There was no food leftover so it must have been pretty darn good.

Look and listen for further food events via email or the Sunday evening 2 meter net.



Cultural Change

by Curtis-AA3JE

I will NEVER adapt to the life style of the elite. When



I loaded out the Rockport house, I made an error and left a tractor counterweight behind. I assumed that the new owners would say, “OMG, a free Category I counterweight”, and be delighted.

I did not expect notification from the lawyer’s office that a condition of sale was to remove the “concrete thing” from the back yard.

Go figure.

So, I called Jon, and set up a work day.

This meant I got to go to TRACTOR STUFF, my favorite place, and buy more heavy rope and a large pulley. Then to HOME STUFF, my second favorite place and buy two sheets of $\frac{3}{4}$ particle board to protect the lawn. I loaded my rigging stuff into the truck as well.

Then I drove the three hours down to the house.

I discovered that the 750 pound counterweight had settled in a bit, and would take 8 pulls or so to get it around the corner and onto the driveway. I also discovered we would be doing this in muck and slush.



So, first, a pulley tied to the old oak, and 300 feet of $\frac{5}{8}$ low stretch rope laid out.

Jon, (an amazing guy) and I got ready to pull. After seeing the arrangement, Jon stepped back a good ways.....

It turns out “Low stretch” is a relative term when you are pulling on 300 feet of rope. The truck had no trouble pulling, but the thing didn’t budge, So I pulled a little harder.

Nothing.

Then I pulled a good bit harder.

“SPROING!” the thing leaped out of the mud, and shot forward 20 feet!



Jon also shot backward, a good bit too!

Now we had to move the pull point, drag it 18 feet, shift, drag it 18 feet, shift again, 18 feet, and after eight iterations, we had it in line with the driveway. Not a mark on the lawn, and only a few marks on Jon.

Now there was a snow bank, left by the plow, in the driveway, so it took a good pull!

Note to self- use linked bowlines or sheet bends, not two half hitches EVERY TIME. (They get real hard to undo.)



Now we had a decision. Use the HARBOR STUFF truck lift rated for 500 pounds, or use the ramp and a come along.

We elected the come along.

Now it turns out that pulling 750 pounds up a 30 degree ramp is pretty tough. And there was much creaking and groaning. Both Jon and I were a bit nervous at this point. But with rocking, prying, and much cranking on TWO come alongs, we got it in the truck.

I thanked Jon, who said that next time I bought lunch, and drove up to NH.



Photographer and participant note: I still have not figured out why Curtis or myself is not in an intensive care and rehabilitation unit after this activity! I have never seen rope stretch 20 feet and not snap! It was an experience working with Curtis, the man with nine lives.

Jon K1TP

PUBLIC SERVICE ROAD RACES

CAARA Public Service Schedule 2019

- 1 Fool's Dual March 31, 9:00am 5K Race Start 10:00am Half Marathon O'Maley Middle School 32 Cherry Street Gloucester, MA.
- 2 Twin Lights Good Harbor Beach April 27, 9:00am Half Marathon Start Thatcher Road Gloucester, MA.
- 3 Rocky neck Art Assn. 5K. Run/walk Team Challenge May Date T.B.D.
- 4 Fast Half May 11, 9:00am Half Marathon Start Hamilton - Wenham High School 775 Bay Road South Hamilton, MA.
- 5 YMCA Backshore 5K Thursday, May 16th, 6:00pm:, Good Harbor Beach, Gloucester
- 6 Motif No.1 Day Arts Fest & 5k Fun Run Date T.B.D.
- 7 Cape Ann Trail Stewards. Dogtown 5 Mile Trail Run 19 May 2019 9:00 AM
- 8 Twin Lobster June 2, 8:00am 1-Mile Race Start 8:30am Half Marathon Start Gloucester High School 32 Leslie O Johnson Road Gloucester, MA.
- 9 YMCA Father's Day 5K Sunday, June 16th, 9am:, Rockport High School, 24 Jerdens Ln.
- 10 YMCA St. Peter's Fiesta 5K Thursday, June 27th, 6:00pm:, Stage Fort Park, Gloucester
- 11 Triple Threat August 4, 8:00am 1M Race Start 8:20am 5K Race Start 9:15am Half Marathon Start Rockport High School 24 Jerdens Lane Rockport, MA.
- 12 Half Marathon by the Sea September 22, 10:00am Half Marathon Start Manchester Essex Memorial Elementary School 43 Lincoln Street Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA
- 13 The Lone Gull 10K Road Race September. Date T.B.D.
- 14 Parker River Half Marathon. October 6, 9:00am Half Marathon Start Triton Regional High School 112 Elm Street Byfield, MA 01922
- 15 Ocean View November 3, 8:30am 5k Race Start 9:30am Half Marathon Start Ipswich High School 134 High Street Ipswich, MA 01938
- 16 Holiday MerryThon. December 1, 9:00am 5K Road Race Start 10:00am Half MerryThon Start Good Harbor Beach Thatcher Road Gloucester, MA.

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.





CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

6 Stanwood Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

978-282-7645
www.caara.net

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224.900 & 443.700

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 Open House-5- 10pm	3	4	5	6
7 CAARA NET ON THE 145.130 REPEATER EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT AT 9PM	8	9 Open House-5- 10pm	10	11	12	13 BOD Meet- 11am Members Meet Noon
14	15	16 Open House-5- 10pm	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Open House-5- 10pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Open House-5- 10pm				