



CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2016

President's Desk

by *Hank-W4RIG*



As we come to the end of another successful year in Amateur Radio and celebrate the 40th Anniversary of CAARA, we can be proud of our activities in both service to our Cape Ann Community and supporting the practice of radio communications. We have supported road races and sporting events as emergency communications back up, and will support over 16 events in 2016 by the end of this calendar year. We have made major improvements to our building at 6 Stanwood Street and are hopeful concerning a CPA grant to complete replacing the siding on our historic building.

I believe we must now look forward to continuing our leadership and planning for the future. I am asking for two specific efforts for the coming fiscal year - by appointing two committees as follows:

Nominating Committee for 2016-2017 to report to our Members meeting in September:

Bob Spanks to Chair the Nominating Committee with members, Bill Canty and Tony Marks.

Long Range Planning Committee to review the results from the members questionnaire from 2015 and make recommendations based on this survey and any additional survey they feel might be appropriate
Dick Ober to Chair this committee with members Ross Burton and Stan Stone

We've had a lot of analysis of the results but we need specific recommendations based on what the membership wants us to do..

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President for the past two years, I am fully confident that whoever you choose as the next president will provide excellent leadership into the future.

Hank McCarl, W4RIG

Information Desk

by *Dean-KB1PGH*



I'll start off with a reminder that the Annual ARRL New England Convention or the "Boxboro Convention" if you will is coming up fast and will be held the weekend of September 9,10 and 11. The website is www.boxboro.org. For those who have not been to this convention I would highly recommend that you go. There's a flea market outside. In the main hall there are many exhibitors showing off and selling all sorts of ham radio gear. There are many forum programs held and guest speakers as well. The tickets are cheap at \$15.00 so take a trip out to Boxborough Mass if you get the chance. Moving on I have a new website for you to check out if you want to know about the band conditions for HF DX. Take a look at www.bandcondx.com. It has hourly updates on band conditions in a easy to read chart form. I just read that the ham radio equipment store chain AES or "Amateur Radio Supply" is going out of business. There are 4 stores nationwide. There was no given reason why the chain is going out of business. Since I talked about "Elmering Yourself" last month I thought I would do a little "Elmering this month for all the "Newbies out there. We will cover your HF rig operation. You see that Pre Amp button on your rig for receive? I would recommend that you leave it off on any band 20 meters and below. You think that your going to hear "more" stations with it on well you may be mistaken. Turning your Pre Amp on raises the noise floor at the same time and adds intermodulation from nearby signals thus masking any weak signals that you can hear with it on. Please give it a try. Most HF Rigs nowadays have more than enough sensitivity built into them. Now you see that RF Gain knob on your rig? You know that you can turn that knob down don't you? Please try turning the RF Gain down too once in a while. Your going to find that your going to improve the signal to noise ratio on your rig. This will cause less listening fatigue plus it will make the DSP work better on your rig as well. Some actually leave the volume set a certain level and use only



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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 cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex in Gloucester Massachusetts. It has an average effective radius of 60 miles, and serves Eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Rhode Island, Southern New Hampshire, and maritime mobile stations. CAARA also operates the W1GLO repeater on 224.900. The former W1RK 443.700 repeater is now on the cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex with greatly enhanced performance.

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

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

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

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

Information Desk

by Dean-KB1PGH



the RF Gain as a “Volume”
overloaded in the RF circuits and

the weak stations but it is usually operator error. So try these tips out and just remember you can't break a radio by just listening. For the prepper tip of the month, take the time to make a battery stockpile. Buy a small plastic see through case and buy a bunch of AAA, AA, C, D, E batteries and put them in the case for future use. If you can't afford the Duracells I find the high end CVS batteries do the job. Don't buy the cheap ones. See you next month!

control. The whole point here is that today's rigs become easily hams think that their radios are at fault when they can't “Hear”

NEW GENERAL CLASS STUDY GROUP

Chris- KD1TAT has requested the use of the CAARA building for a General Class Study Group starting in August and running thru October on Sunday Evenings from 7-9PM. Gardi- KB1BTK has ordered books at a discount for the following who have signed up. Books can still be ordered if you need one. Gardi and other club members will help cover the material each week.

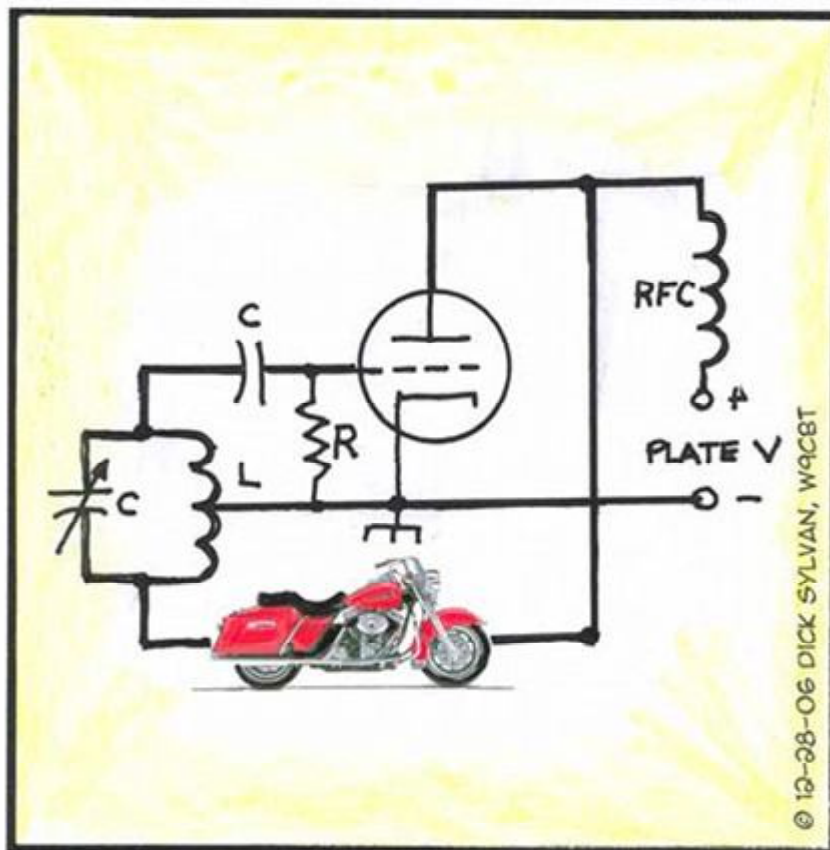
Class members who have signed up

Rich Keyes KC1FSR
Dennis Daulton KC1FPR
Chris Winczewski K1TAT
David Hayes KB1VSV
Stefan DeSimone K1SCD
Ted Lally KC1DQM
Joel Heusser N1KTH
Bill- K1WMM
and 5 others.....

A CW class is going to be offered as well if a few are interested.... We will set a time and place and may even do some code practice over the 2 meter repeater evenings as has been done in the past.

A	..	S	...	www.g4jnn.com
B	....	T	-
C	....	U	...
D	..	V	...	
E	.	W	---	
F	....	X	---
G	---	Y	---	
H	....	Z	---
I	..	0	----	
J	....	1	----
K	---	2	----	
L	....	3	----
M	---	4	----	
N	..	5	....
O	---	6	....
P	....	7	----
Q	----	8	....
R	...	9	----	

HAM QUIPS BY DICK SYLVAN W9CBT



HARLEY OSCILLATOR CIRCUIT

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA EMCOM CENTER?



KA3ZZC
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19101

Confirming QSO with: W1GLO
Day 28 Month June Year 2016 14M 7L
UTC: 22:52 MHZ: 14.295
RST: 59 MODE: SSB
Transceiver: _____
Power: 100 Watts
Antenna: _____
Pse QSL ☒ Tnx QSL ☐
Remarks: Ross + Stefan, TNX for my first
two QSO's to MA on
20 meters!
0-172106 78, Ryan

Cape Ann Amateur
6 Stanwood St
Gloucester, MA

KA3ZZC
GLENSIDE, PENNSYLVANIA USA
Montgomery County - FN20kd

Ryan Ritchey
930 Garfield Avenue
Glenside, PA 19038
#61962

ELMERING 101: I experienced a fine example of “Elmering” during field day this year at the club. One of our newly licensed and very active new members, Stefan- K1SCD, was sitting around on the first floor talking with some hams when Ross-W1RAB called him into the HF shack. Ross told him to get behind the microphone and call cq on 20 meters. Stefan has a Tech license class but is allowed on 20 meters if his operating is supervised by a ham with a higher license level. Stefan got on the air and made some contacts....his first contacts on HF frequencies.

What is even more of a coincidence is the fact that one of the hams he contacted sent him a QSL card via the club address and it was his first contact as well.

This is what “ELMERING” is all about and it was common place when I was first licensed in 1961. Another ham would buddy up with you and help you acquire and setup your first station and antenna.

I have seen a lack of Elmering at the club in the last few years. It is unfortunate when a new ham or visitor arrives at our

club and sits alone for an hour without anyone asking if he would like to operate a station or needs any help.

To many of us have a lot of knowledge but do not seem to know how to spread this information to other hams in the club. It is my hope each station captain can offer a training session on a monthly basis to show hams how to run different stations and modes. Many will not ask for help so you need to reach out and touch someone. New hams and new club members, if you want to get on the air....speak up. If you want help building a new antenna or putting one up in your yard....speak up.

Jon K1TP

Lawrence E. “Larry” Sargent W1ZBE

by Bob- W1UCG

CAARA celebrating 40 Years of Amateur Radio and Community Service

Larry Sargent was another very instrumental person involved with CAARA. Larry resided at Thurston Point Road in Gloucester for many years. Larry was married to and had three (3) children. Two of which passed at a young age.

Larry graduated from Gloucester High school and lived in Gloucester his whole life except for the time he served in the US Army during World War II. During his service he served in the South East Asian Theatre in India and Burma.

Upon returning from the war Larry enrolled at the Boston Radio & Television School. This was the beginning of Larry’s interest in electronics, radio, and television and later on computers.

Larry was employed for many years at MIT/Lincoln Labs. He began as a technician and worked his way up to managing their computer data systems at their Kendell Square Cambridge, MA facility.

Community involvement was important to Larry, as he was a long time member of the Gloucester Civil Defense and served as its Communication Officer for many years. The Civil Defense headquarters was located at the DPW yard on Poplar Street in a concrete block building which was built by CD grants after the war. It served as its meeting place and a point to gather when they would be called upon by the city. The shelter had a generator hooked up so they had power if the commercial power was lost. They had a 75 foot tower erected adjacent to the building with a 10, 15 and 20 meter beam with rotor, a 6 meter beam as well as a 2 meter vertical and yes a 10 – 80 meter long wire antenna. I remember Larry telling me that they use to hold their monthly meetings at the shelter and they would check into the local 2 meter and 6 meter CD nets. Larry told me that he had a great group of operators who he could depend on for any emergency that they needed to handle.

As time went on so did the ages of all the members who helped Larry. Larry recognized that he needed to replenish the ranks of the communications group with younger members. As things go a close friend of Larry’s Harold Morrow W1KCR was also friends with Mike Burke who at the time was a Gloucester Firefighter stationed at the West Gloucester Station. Mike mentioned to Harold that he would like to get his ham radio license and knew a few more who would be interested Mike asked Harold if he knew of any classes that were being taught. Harold mentioned that he knew someone who might be interested in teaching. Harold approached Larry with the idea of him teaching a novice class and how that would expand his CD communications members with young interested members. Larry agreed and Mike arranged to have the classes at the West Gloucester Station.

The classes began with the following students studying for their Novice License. Mike Burke, Willy Burke, Jr, Dave Curley, Larry Corliss, Charlie Williamson, Warren Grimes, Doug Dukette, Fred Rhodes. Civil Defense members and longtime friends supporting Larry were Harold Morrow W1KCR, John Day W1PDB, Fran Vidal W1HCN (WU1S) then two others who were licensed and attended were Tom Bernie K0TB and Bob Spanks, Jr. WN1UCG (W1UCG).



The classes were held Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm. The students gathered around a ping pong table that was at the station. For the most part the class was always attended by all but every once in a while a call would come in and Larry and Mike would need to respond. It was a fun time Larry would go over the theory material and John Day would do the code practice at 5 wpm. As the classes neared the 7th week they were preparing the novice exams which would be given. Larry, Harold, John and Tom had the students fill out the FCC forms to request the test then they filled out the examiners portion all signed then the paper work was mailed off. It took about 2 weeks to get the tests back from the FCC office in Washington DC. When the tests arrived the students were notified and the scheduling process began with the members who were going to test them. Larry arranged a review session where the students brought their questions and Larry reviewed the material. It was an exciting and fun time. Looking back at it 40 years later I did not realize at the time the full impact of what was happening. This event was the birth of CAARA as we know it today and let me tell you I am very proud and honored to have been a part of it.

Well it goes without saying all who took the test passed their 5 wpm code and written exam. We now had 8 new novices to join the ranks of the Gloucester Civil Defense Communications Team. That was the only requirement that Larry had for all the students and all agreed to his terms.

As the class was progressing there was talk about why there was not a Ham Radio club in Gloucester. During the 60's and 70's the 27 MHz portion of the band better known as CB or Citizens Band was going strong. As a matter of fact all the participants in this class were active on CB. That was how we all got interested in radio and electronics. Gloucester had many CB clubs during that time, so not having a Ham Radio club was puzzling to the students. Larry, John and Harold told the class that it had been talked about for 20 years but no one ever took the bull by the horns and started one. Well that was about to change. A few of us got together and wrote to the ARRL to obtain information about how to start a club. Well enough on that for now.

In the weeks following it was mentioned to Larry that some of the students had gotten information about starting a club so Larry said let's suspend the lesson this evening and let's talk about forming a club. We all talked about what we wanted to see in a club, Harold Morrow WA1KCR asked what the name of the club should be. Names were passed around that were good but in the end Larry mentioned what was the area we hoped to cover? We all agreed that Gloucester, Rockport, Essex and Manchester were the areas we would focus on. So the name CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO was born. After some thought and silence it was agreed by all that should be the name.

Next Larry mentioned we should elect temporary officers. The following were presented and accepted as officers to get the club going.

President: Tom Bernie
Vice President: Mike Burke
Secretary: Bob Spanks, Jr
Treasurer: Wilfred Burke, Jr.

It was agreed by all that there would be no directors at the moment as these officers would work to get a set of By-laws drawn up to present to everyone at a meeting to be held in the future.

Larry Sargent did many things to help get CAARA going. After the Novice Class he started teaching classes for Technician Class then to General Class. Larry also taught classes on general electronics. Larry could always be counted on to be a speaker at a meeting when we did not have one. When moving to the club at 6 Stanwood Street the first thing that Larry built was the long work bench on the second floor. We still to this day use that bench. Also since we had a nice building to hold meetings Larry would hold his monthly Civil Defense Communications meetings at the club. Whatever CAARA needed Larry was the first to help.

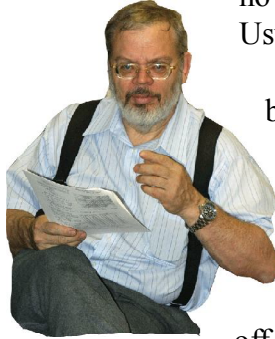
Boats

by Curtis-AA3JE

There is a reason men name boats with female names. Well, unless they chicken out and name them something like "Supply boat #3" or some other soulless barbarism.

It's because women do not have the same relationship to boats that men do. Women, especially "SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED" vies boats as objects, like a sofa, car, or dishwasher, which are judged in terms of how much they cost, how nice they look, how comfortable they are, and if they work properly or not (mine? Usually not).

They don't understand that (unlike women), and save your sorry butt on



boats are objects of love. That boats need love and attention, reward that affection with good behavior and a tendency to occasion (even more unlike women).

So when I am driving down in the same way a shivering needing a warm place to take

the road, and I see a boat by the side of the road, it calls to me, match girl in a thin dress spoke to Dickens, or a plump woman off her clothes spoke to Rubens.

"I can make a difference", runs through my mind, totally unaware that the last poor sucker that owned that thing felt exactly the same way. So, more likely that not, I pull out the checkbook, write a check, and tow it home. They are never expensive, for some reason.

Now "SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED" is used to me going out for pizza, and coming back with a 24 foot, 3500 pound sailboat. Or driving up for the weekend with a 26 foot cigarette boat in tow. And though there is a bit of friction, a good dinner, suffering through a "chick flick" or two (Oh Goodness, not TWO), generally resolves the problem, for a while.

But usually, it takes a lot of work to replace the rotted transom, the dead transmission, the loose chain plates, and to remove the fine thin film of mold that covers the interior. I will not even speak of the problems of a wooden cored top deck which has rotted inside, making each step going forward an adventure. (You feel lucky today, punk?)

So then the great boat game starts.

"THERE IS A BOAT IN THE DRIVEWAY. I WISH TO PARK MY CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY."

"I'll move the boat, dear, don't worry."

"JUST WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO MOVE IT TO? THE DUMP, I HOPE!"

"The rot is almost cleaned out dear. I will be putting the structural foam in next week."

"ISN'T THAT THE STUFF THAT MAKES YOU WHEEZE AND BREAK OUT IN THE RASH ALL OVER YOUR BODY?"

"I was careless the last time."

"YOU ARE CARELESS EVERY TIME!"

So, to keep the peace, I get the tractor, put on the hitch attachment, and tow the boat up into the yard. Her complaints that the neighbors do not appreciate their million dollar view soiled by a rotting sailboat on a trailer fall on deaf ears.

But, over time, “SHE” drops subtle domestic hints that she is not pleased with it there, either.

“HOW LONG IS THAT UGLY THING GOING TO SIT IN THE YARD???”

“What might you be referring to, dear?”

“THE ROTTING MASS OF PLYWOOD AND FIBERGLASS WHERE THE BIRD FEEDER USED TO BE!”

Eventually, for I am a sensitive husband, I understand her meaning.

And there is a problem, as there is no place in the yard to hide the darned thing.

Then, I was given a gift by the gods. Sometimes, I see something that leads me to an inspiration. Some hint, subtle but real, inspires me to a solution.

In this case, I was driving on the shore road, and spotted something that caught my attention. Much to the annoyance of three tourists and a Rockport police officer, I threw the truck into reverse and backed up for a look. The damage to the Mercedes was quite superficial.

I explained to the officer that since it was indeed, in Rockport, suddenly stopping and backing up for no apparent reason was “normal driving”, and he let me go.

And I took a picture.

It was genius! Pure inspiration. Faces with domestic strife, this man had invented the concept of leaving the boat in place, and building a shed around it! It is reminiscent of the genius of Maskelyne and his “magic gang” in World War II, fooling Rommel with the phony inflatable tanks and camouflage.

Brother! I salute you! Though I might not feel positive about a roof with 2x2 rafters come winter.

But of course the boat will be finished by then.



CAARA Members: If you have moved, received a new Call Sign, changed your email address or telephone number, CAARA needs to know! CAARA's only official means of communicating with its membership is via email. Please be sure we have your current contact information.

So what's the easiest way to do that? Use our convenient, online Membership Information Update form at <http://members.caara.net/update-info/>. Be sure to continue receiving the Newsletter as well as important notices from CAARA. While you're there, don't forget to update your mailing-list subscriptions, too.

Thanks & 73.

Dick, K1VRA

Polluting LED Street Lights

In the USA, the Buck County Courier Times report: Buzz kills the fun for Bristol Township ham radio operator

The newspaper says one night this spring, the static Charles Dillenbeck AB3MQ normally heard on different frequencies became much louder, so loud he could barely hear the people with whom he was chatting.

A few days later, as Dillenbeck — a Navy veteran and retired commercial heating and refrigeration engineer — stared out a window in his home trying to figure out the problem, the street light came on. Immediately, the static started again. Was it the light, he wondered.

It turns out Bristol Township installed a new LED fixture in the light in front of his house as part of its plan to replace incandescent street lights with cost-saving LED bulbs.

"The old lights didn't interfere at all," Dillenbeck said. He talked with another ham radio enthusiast who lives in the township who also had the same problem. He used a "noise

finder" piece of equipment to test other street lights. The same static occurred, he said.

X" marks the spot! Hamvention® announced today that it will be moving to the Greene County Fairgrounds and Event Center in Xenia, Ohio, after 52 years at Hara Arena. That's about 16 miles east of Dayton center off US Route 35 (see map). Hara Arena announced last week that it would be closing, and Hamvention indicated that it soon would be announcing its back-up plan for a new venue in the Dayton area.

"We appreciate and value all the time and effort of the many partners, in particular the Greene County Agricultural Society, the Greene County Board of Commissioners and the Greene County Convention & Visitors Bureau has put into helping Hamvention find the right venue to continue our long history here in the Miami Valley," Hamvention General Chair Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, said. "We look forward to a long and mutually prosperous relationship." ARRL

HISTORY OF GREENE

COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS:

The Greene County Agricultural Society is first mentioned in the Commissioners' Journal in June 1833. It was through an order by the Commissioners that, "...notice be given in the Xenia Territory...that there will be a meeting held at the Court House in Xenia on the last Friday in June for the purpose of organizing an Agricultural Society to be entitled the Greene County Agriculture Society." Officially, the Society was organized on July 30, 1834.

While the State Legislature made fairs possible in 1837, the first recorded fair was held in and around the Court House square in 1839, which makes the 2009 Greene County Fair, the 170th one to be held. The Court House became too small to house all the displays of produce and needle work, so, during the second year of existence, the Society leased land near Xenia on Columbus Pike where the fair was held for the next 13-14 years.

The fair was moved several times due to the interest and growth of the event. In April 1886, land was platted and known as the "Fairground

Addition" to the City of Xenia; however, before the fair could move to the new site, residents from Jamestown and the vicinity demanded that the new fairgrounds be located on Xenia-Jamestown Pike. Xenia residents, on the other hand, contended that the fair should be located near the county seat. Hence, a new society was formed, called the Union Agricultural Society, which held its own exhibition at Jamestown. So actually two fairs were held in 1884. However, to clear up the actual date of the fair, it seems that the date for the first fair as we know it - and the one which has been continuously operating since 1839 on the property on Fairground Road - is said to be the oldest fair west of the Alleghenies.

The fair basically began as a 3-day event which consisted of pulling contests, plowing contests, horse racing along a measured course on Main street, products from the spinning wheel and looms, and, of course, vegetables and flowers. Several buildings were erected along with the grandstand - a metal one with a cement floor beneath in which there are spaces to exhibit various items. The fair has been held at various times of the year from August to October; however, it is now held the last few days of July and/or the first week of August.

During the years, many buildings have been updated and new buildings built. In the year 2000, a tornado hit the fairgrounds and destroyed 17 buildings and totally destroyed all the large trees on the property. There was talk among many that the longest fair west of the Allegany's would be stopped in its tracks by the tornado, but NOT SO. July 2001 found the Greene County Fair rebuilt and up

and running thanks to the hard work of the Board of Directors who spent many hours late at night making decisions that led to more decisions and then to a state-of-the art fairgrounds. Buildings now are available to be rented for livestock shows, reunions, weddings, receptions, etc., and the show now goes on - not just at fair time, but all year long.

Georgia Radio Amateur Fined \$1000 for Failure to Properly Identify....this guy was originally WA1BHV and lived in Vermont. He is a frequent flyer with the FCC. He has lost his license and had to retake his license and has been warned a dozen times for jamming, playing music, etc. while living in New England...jon-k1tp-

The FCC has fined a Georgia radio amateur \$1000 for failing to properly identify. A Forfeiture Order issued to David J. Tolassi, W4BHV, of Ringgold, was released on July 29. The FCC had proposed the fine 1 year ago in a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL), noting that Tolassi had been warned the previous summer about not following Part 97 ID rules. The FCC said at the time that Tolassi's "deliberate disregard" of the earlier warning warranted the proposed penalty that it now has reaffirmed and assessed.

"Failure to transmit call sign information undermines the purpose of the Amateur Radio Service by preventing licensed users from identifying a transmission's source," the FCC Enforcement Bureau Forfeiture Order said. The FCC said Tolassi did not deny that he transmitted on 14.313 MHz on the date in question, but argued that his comments were within the 10-minute window mandated by the rules. The FCC dis-

agreed, however, noting that Tolassi never identified during 15 minutes of transmissions that agents had monitored.

The FCC turned away Tolassi's request to cancel the NAL and substitute a Warning Letter, asserting that the FCC has issued multiple warnings before imposing fines in similar cases. The FCC countered that Tolassi was not being treated any differently than other licensees have been. "Considering the entire record and the factors discussed below, we find no reason to cancel, withdraw or reduce the proposed penalty," the Forfeiture Order said.

As the July 2015 NAL recounted, FCC agents used direction-finding techniques to pin down the source of a signal on 14.313 MHz to Tolassi's residence. "The agents monitored and recorded transmissions during which Mr Tolassi failed to transmit his assigned call sign," the FCC said. "The agents interviewed Mr Tolassi later that evening, and, while he admitted operating that evening, he denied making the unidentified transmissions." Nonetheless, the FCC determined that Tolassi "apparently repeatedly violated Section 97.119(a)" of the rules, and it reaffirmed that conclusion in the Forfeiture Order released on July 29.

Tolassi has a history with the Enforcement Bureau. In 2005, the Commission warned Tolassi, then WA1BHV and living in Vermont, that he risked a substantial fine if he continued to violate the conditions of his 2004 license renewal. After a series of "enforcement issues" relating to the operation of KB1EVE, his call sign at the time, the FCC had renewed Tolassi's General class ticket on the condition that he refrain

from 20 meter voice operation for 3 years. The FCC had referred Tolassi's renewal application to the Enforcement Bureau for review the previous year, after then-FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth alleged that Tolassi had engaged in inappropriate on-the-air behavior.

Tolassi has 30 days to pay the fine.

Nexø I Rocket Launched from the Baltic Sea, Tracked via Amateur Radio

The Copenhagen Suborbitals Nexø I rocket launched on July 23 used a 1240 MHz digital Amateur Radio television (DATV) downlink, a 432 MHz command uplink, and 144 MHz Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS).

Copenhagen Suborbitals said the rocket is the next step toward flying an amateur astronaut into space. Standing 5.6 meters tall, it is the not-for-profit's first fully guided and liquid-fuelled rocket. Launched from a sailing launch platform in the Baltic Sea east of Denmark, the target attained an altitude of from 6 to 10 kilometers before landing back in the sea by parachute.

In the coming years the systems and technology tested on Nexø I will be used to build the big Spica rocket and space capsule. APRS was used to report the location of the maritime vessels participating in mission operations. The position reports appeared in real time (OZ9VST-12 and OZ9SPT-12).

"Cows" DXpedition Now Active from Tuvalu

The "Cows Over the World" branded round-robin DXpedition by Tom

Callas, KC0W, continues from Tuvalu as T2COW until August 18. He will be on CW only on HF through 6 meters, running 500 W into vertical antennas over salt water.

KC0W plans to be active in all major CW contests, and he updates his operating schedule on his QRZ.com profile site. His next stop after Tuvalu will be Vanuatu, August 20-September 21. Future planned stops include Western Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tokelau, Temotu, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. QSL to KC0W directly.

Chatham Marconi Maritime Center Acquires "Creed Machine" from Georgia Radio Amateur

ARRL member Gene Greneker, K4MOG, of Powder Springs, Georgia, recently fulfilled a dream for the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center museum — formerly WCC on Cape Cod — to add an important artifact to its collection. Greneker spotted a brief item in QST last year seeking a so-called "Creed machine" for the museum. While most ship-to-shore station traffic was conducted by skilled Morse operators at their keys, the Creed machine — or keyer — read a punched tape prepared in advance that generated one-way Morse code broadcasts to ships at sea.

"We have searched continuously for roughly 10 years for this artifact, following leads with historians, other museums, archivists, ham radio operators, collectors, and any other possible leads," said Chatham Marconi Maritime Center Operations Manager Dorothy Bassett. The mention in QST, resulting from a visit to the museum by ARRL Lab staffer Mike Gruber, W1MG, did the trick. Greneker spotted it and let Bassett

know he had what she was seeking.

"Our members and supporters raised the funds, and we were able to purchase the Creed machine, a custom table, and an entire exhibit to showcase this item and how it worked with our Kleinschmidt machine," Bassett recounted. The Kleinschmidt machine — or "Klein" — refers to the equipment used to create the punched "Wheatstone" tape, the narrow ribbon of heavy, perforated paper read by the Creed keyer.

Bassett said that once the exhibit is complete, the museum plans to install a button that visitors could push to start the machine, "so guests will get to hear the Creed working, see the tape move, and watch the pins and mechanics in action."

Greneker said the Creed machine is a rare find for a collector, and he obtained his when he and Fred Dorsey, WA4TDC, bought an entire lot of equipment that had been installed at WOE in Lantana, Florida. "Most of these stations only had one keyer to broadcast the traffic lists on the hour, and these were cut with the Wheatstone perforator," Greneker told Bassett. "Given that there were not that many shore-to-ship stations, not many Creed keyers were ever manufactured." Greneker said the machines were assembled by hand and expensive to purchase. He speculated that the Creed machine he donated may once have been at WCC.

"RCA was famous for taking old equipment from the flagship station (WCC) and sending it to the smaller stations (WOE) when they needed some item. The flagship station then got the new replacement equipment," he explained. Greneker explained that when shore station operators

such as RCA closed those facilities, “the entire station was loaded up and carried to the dump, making the keyers almost impossible to find today.”

Bassett said that museum volunteer Lewis Masson had worked for 35 years at the RCA station as a wireman, and the Creed machine was deeply important him. “Every time he came into work, he heard it running, and it was a tried and true part of the original atmosphere,” she said. “This piece is very special to us, and I can’t thank the ARRL enough for running the ad that secured procurement.”

Future FAA Rules Could Affect Some Amateur Radio Antenna Support Structures

Yet-to-be-developed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules stemming from the recent passage in Congress of H.R. 636, the FAA Reauthorization Act, could pose additional marking requirements for a small number of Amateur Radio towers. The bill instructs the FAA to enact rules similar to state-level statutes now in place that are aimed at improving aircraft safety in the vicinity of meteorological evaluation towers (METs) set up in rural areas. In the wake of fatal crop dusting aircraft collisions with METs, often erected on short notice, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended in 2013 that states enact laws — sometimes called “crop duster” statutes — requiring marking and registration of METs. While some state crop duster laws exempt ham radio towers, the federal legislation does not. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said, however, that the list of exemptions in the federal legislation restricts ap-

plication of the new rules to a very small subset of Amateur Radio towers.

“The FAA Reauthorization Act has very little application to Amateur Radio antennas. We will have a good opportunity to address the final FAA rules through the normal rulemaking process,” Imlay said. “We’ll be meeting soon with FAA officials to learn their intentions as well as to advance our own concerns to the agency. Uniform federal regulation is beneficial to hams, because it eliminates a patchwork of state statutes that can impose significant constraints on ham antennas in rural and agricultural areas.”

The FAA Reauthorization Act gives the FAA 1 year to issue regulations requiring the marking of towers covered by the new legislation. Marking of towers covered by the legislation will be in the form of painting and lighting in accordance with current FAA guidelines.

The law covers towers that are “self-standing or supported by guy wires and ground anchors;” are 10 feet or less in diameter at the above-ground base, excluding concrete footings; are between 50 feet above ground level at the highest point and not more than 200 feet above ground level; have accessory facilities on which an antenna, sensor, camera, meteorological instrument, or other equipment is mounted, and are located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town or on land that is undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes.

Imlay said the law excludes towers erected adjacent to a house, barn, electric utility station, or other building, or within the curtilage (enclosed

area occupied by a dwelling, grounds, and outbuildings) of a farmstead, among other exclusions. He said “undeveloped” land refers to a defined geographical area where the FAA determines that low-flying aircraft routinely operate, such as forested areas with predominant tree cover below 200 feet, and pasture and range land.

The FAA will develop a database containing the location and height of each covered tower, but Imlay noted that the database contents may only be disclosed for purposes involving aviation safety.

“We do not anticipate that a significant number of Amateur Radio antennas will be subject to these rules,” Imlay said, “but we need to monitor the FAA rulemaking process carefully to head off requirements that could put the cost of installing and maintaining affected structures out of any reasonable reach.”

Two Young Radio Amateurs are First Americans to Take Part in YOTA Camp

Two young ARRL members are among the more than 100 attending the Youngsters On The Air (YOTA) camp in the Austrian mountains this week. Sterling Coffey, N0SSC, of St Louis, Missouri, and Sam Rose, KC2LRC, of Syracuse, New York, are the first two Americans to take part in the week-long YOTA camp. Participants not only enjoy a variety of Amateur Radio activities, they hone their electronics and contesting skills and make new international friends.

“Being at YOTA is really something beyond amazing,” Coffey tweeted on July 17.

Begun in 2011, YOTA has grown exponentially since, and camps have been held in Romania, The Netherlands-Belgium, Estonia, Finland, and Italy. Since the IARU Region 1 General Conference in Albena, Bulgaria, in 2014, YOTA has been an official International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) activity. Open to participants ranging in age from 15 to 25, the sixth YOTA in Austria is the largest ever and the first to include young hams from the US and Asia. The Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) subsidized the two Americans' participation in YOTA 2016. The Yasme Foundation supported the teams from Ethiopia and Tunisia at YOTA 2016.

Rose last year inaugurated the Collegiate Ham Radio Operators Facebook group, aimed at college ham radio club members interested in sharing and collaborating on college ham radio activities. He also spoke on "Advantages of College Ham Radio Clubs" at the Hamvention 2016 Youth Forum. Coffey, who majored in electrical engineering at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, is a past ARRL Youth Editor who handled the "Youth@HamRadio.Fun" web column on the ARRL website. He served as a member of ARRL Ad-Hoc Committee on Youth in the Second Century, prior to the ARRL Centennial.

YOTA 2016 features a full slate of Amateur Radio activities. A successful Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact took place on July 18 with astronaut Jeff Williams KD5TVQ on the International Space Station.

The Austrian Amateur Radio Society OeVSV, which is celebrating its

90th anniversary, is hosting the YOTA 2016 summer camp near Salzburg. OE2YOTA has been on air on various bands and modes. YOTA 2016 continues until July 23.

FCC seeks comments on waiver request from Expert Linears

The FCC is inviting comments on a June 11 request from Expert Linears America LLC to waive Part 97.317(a)(2) of the Amateur Service rules to permit it to import, market, and use its model 1.3K FA amplifier in the US.

The Texas company is seeking the waiver pending resolution of its earlier Petition for Rule Making (RM-11767), which called on the Commission to eliminate the 15 dB gain limitation on Amateur Radio amplifiers altogether. Expert said the version of the model 1.3K FA amplifier it now imports has been modified to comply with current rules.

"Expert seeks a waiver in order to be able to import the unmodified version of the Model 1.3K FA, which is capable of considerably more than 15 dB amplification," the FCC explained in a July 29 Public Notice.

"Expert argues that the public interest would be served by permitting use of a higher-powered amplifier, because it would improve the communications capabilities of amateurs using portable, low-power transmitters by enabling them to approach the maximum legal power output."

Expert assured the FCC that its model 1.3K FA has proprietary software to prevent it from transmitting in the 26-28 MHz band, so it cannot be used in the Citizens Radio Service.

The Public Notice can be found on the web in PDF format at, http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0729/DA-16-864A1.pdf

On May 26, ARRL told the FCC that it "strongly supports" Expert's petition seeking to eliminate the Amateur Service rule, spelled out in Part 97.317(a)(2), that amateur amplifiers not be able to boost the RF input signal by more than 15 dB.

Comments on Expert's waiver request are due by August 29, reply comments by September 13.



VANITY CALLSIGN UPGRADES AT CAARA

The following CAARA members have applied for and have been granted new call signs....and they are all in the process of upgrading their license to General Class.

**Chris: K1TAT
Bill: K1WMM
Stefan: K1SCD**

