



CAARA Newsletter



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

DECEMBER ISSUE-2008

New 2008-2009 Board of Directors

Hi All,

CAARA had it's Annual meeting back on September 10th and here is the list of the Board of Directors for the 2008-2009 Season. As it goes all CAARA BOD have two year terms and can only serve on one position for two consecutive terms. The club has about 110 members so there must be 1 director per 20 club members. All terms alternately expire so not all positions were voted on at the last meeting.

Here's the list:

President: Curtis Wright AA3JE
Vice Pres: Briggs Longbothum AB2NJ
Treasurer: Hank McCarl W4RIG
Clerk: Dean Burgess KB1PGH
Directors: Jon Cunningham K1TP
William Poulin WZ1L
Charles Downey N1OCT
Thomas Andrew KA1GTA
Richard Copithorne KR1G
David Delakas KB9YOZ
James Mondello W1DDX

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at dburg101@aol.com

Respectfully Submitted

Dean Burgess KB1PGH
CAARA Clerk

CAARA CLUB DUES...

If you haven't sent in your club dues yet, please do it as soon as possible. As you know we rely heavily on the club dues to pay the monthly expenses!

Hello to all CAARA members,

CAARA will be holding it's Christmas party on Saturday December 13th at 6 PM at the Pigeon Cove Circle center at 6 Breakwater Ave off of RT 127 in Rockport Mass. As last year the party will include a potluck dinner so if everyone could bring something that would be a great help. We are also looking for donations from club members for door prizes. Admission is free to club members bringing food or beverages, but a donation of \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family would be appreciated. There will also be a yankee swap, and individuals wanting to participate should bring a wrapped gift of nominal value (regifting is ok). Please RSVP to dburg101@aol.com to let me know if you are coming so we have enough prizes.

CAARA, an ARRL affiliated club, operates the 2 meter W1GLO repeater on 145.130 MHz with antennas located on the Cingular 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 W1RK 443.700 repeater with antennas located in Magnolia is owned and operated by club member Ralph Karcher and it is available for club use.

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.

Don't forget to check in to the CAARANet on our club repeater Sunday evening at 9PM on

ARRL to Offer Self-Study Course on Digital Technology for Emergency Communications—

With digital technology becoming an integral part of Amateur Radio, hams interested in Emergency Communications now have a new tool to help them take advantage of emerging modes such as Packet Radio APRS, *Winlink 2000*, IRLP, EchoLink and WIRES-II, D-STAR, APCO25, HF sound card modes and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). *The ARRL Digital Technology for Emergency Communications Course* will introduce hams to all of the ways Amateur Radio operators are using digital technology as a valuable emergency communications tool.

CQ COMMUNICATIONS ACQUIRES WORLDRADIO MAGAZINE

(Hicksville, NY and Sacramento, CA,— CQ Communications, Inc. has acquired WorldRadio magazine, CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA and WorldRadio Publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, announced jointly today. CQ, based in Hicksville, New York, currently publishes CQ Amateur Radio, CQ VHF and Popular Communications magazines.

WorldRadio, based in Sacramento, California, has been published monthly since July, 1971, with a primary focus on the human side of ham radio. CQ, a general-interest ham radio magazine best known for its support of DXing and contesting, has been in print since January, 1945.

Armond Noble, N6WR, Publisher of WorldRadio, said that at the age of 74 the time had come for him to retire. “I wanted to be sure that WorldRadio found a good home, and that our readers would continue to be served by an independent voice in amateur radio,” Noble said.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said, “WorldRadio has filled an important niche in our hobby for nearly four decades. We welcome WorldRadio’s readers to the CQ family, and we look forward to meeting their needs for many years to come.”

Current plans call for WorldRadio to continue to

be published online as part of the CQ family of magazines, with Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, continuing in that position. WorldRadio subscribers will also have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.

Section Manager Election Results Announced

In the Eastern Massachusetts election, Mike Nielsen, W1MPN, of Hudson, defeated incumbent Section Manager Art Greenberg, K1GBX, of Georgetown. Nielsen received 660 votes to Greenberg’s 224. Nielsen served as Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager from January 2005-December 2006. Just prior to his first term as Section Manager, he served as the Section Emergency Coordinator for the Section from September 2001-January 2005.

Don’t forget the CAARA ANNUAL XMAS PARTY on Saturday, December 13, 6PM at the Pigeon Cove Circle in Rockport!

CLUB READING MATERIALS

Thanks first to clubmembers who are so generous with their time and thoughts for our club. Due entirely to them, we have an ever-expanding library of catalogs and radio magazines. Mags like QST, CQ, & World Radio make excellent reading and the clubhouse is the perfect place to keep back issues for future reference. Hey, it saves room at home! And it’s OK to borrow from our library, but please return stuff promptly. (March-July, ’08 QST are MIA while most other back issues are there!). If you have any other magazines and/or catalogs that you feel would be handy at the clubhouse, please drop them off instead of tossing them out. Nobody has room to keep everything but together we can share all of it. Thanks for thinking of us. - Briggs, ab2nj

CAARA FM CLUB REPEATERS

145.130

224.900

443.700

SILENT KEY

Dear Fellow Amateurs:

It is with regret that I announce the passing of Anne Kelliher, N1GSE, Who along with her husband J. Laurence (LARRY)(Also Silent Key), were members of Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association for many, many years and participated in all of the club's activities.

From the CAARA President

November 2008

Wow! What a month! If you have not stopped by the club recently, please do so. There have been lots of people at Sunday coffee, testing is still going great, and there are more projects and pieces scattered around than in any 10 amateur radio basements.

We were able to pick up TWO repeaters for parts, and now have a working spare 2-meter repeater and a lot of left over pieces. Last year's interference problem has (knock on wood) not come back yet with the dry weather. Lets hope it stays that way.

If you are not satisfied with your 2 meter signal, make sure you stop by on the evening of December 3 for the member's meeting. We will be making "J" poles for 2 meters, and this is your chance to upgrade your signal from a rubber duck.

The big news this month is preparation for the big holiday dinner on the 13th of December at 6 PM. It will be at the Pigeon Cove Circle (near the old tool company in Rockport), and is FREE to any member bringing food or non-alcoholic beverages. Please contact the clerk for coordination to make sure we don't get 27 pies and no entrees. If you don't cook, the suggested voluntary donation is \$5.00 per person or \$10 per family. Non-members and non-hams welcome @ \$5.00 each. Best food value in town.

The EMCOM group has been trying to upgrade to WINLINK 2000, a new system for emergency email w/o the Internet. It sure is interesting, and sometimes we can even get it working. If you see me with a heavy battered aluminum box (18

ampere-hours in batteries) , stop me and ask me to show it to you. It looks kind of like the original "portable" radios of the 1920s and will NEVER replace the iPhone.

If you have a WINDOWS XP computer you are replacing, DO NOT PAY THE DUMP FEE!. With prior approval, the club will accept WORKING XP computers, keyboards and monitors and provide a receipt of your gift for the IRS.

See you next month! Curtis-AA3JE

What is all the talk about Winlink at the Club?

Curtis Wright, CAARA President, showed us his portable Winlink setup at the November BOD Meeting as well as at the Encomm Meeting. It is quite a neat setup and it works great.

Winlink 2000 (abbreviated WL2K) is a worldwide network of participating amateur stations bound together through the use of the Internet. By linking with any one of these stations on HF PACTOR or VHF packet you can exchange messages with other hams (who have packet or Winlink 2000 addresses), or with anyone with an Internet e-mail address. While Winlink 2000 interchanges messages with the existing amateur global VHF/UHF packet networks, it provides new services the packet system doesn't support. Winlink 2000 messages can have any number of addressees and can include attachments just like Internet e-mail. Messages are forwarded within the Winlink 2000 network using the Internet, assuring prompt delivery whether to another radio user or to an Internet e-mail address. Unlike the packet network, no "home" BBS is required. You may send and receive your messages from any of the participating Winlink 2000 stations.

More info at <http://www.wvraclub.org/documents/qst%20article%20winlink%202000.pdf>

Free Online Ham Magazine

Welcome to HAM-MAG, the first free & weekly "E-magazine" for HAM. You'll receive every week your issue in your email box. HAM MAG
<http://www.ham-mag.com>

Build a Tennis Ball Antenna Launcher by Jon-K1TP

Why did I build this? Well, I attend Hosstrader's hamfest twice a year and always setup a table next to Joe-K1JEK who builds and sells the Cobra wire antenna (sold at HRO). At each fest he puts up his antenna high in the pine trees to show how it works to customers. How does he get it up in the trees? The handy tennis ball launcher of course!

I saw it in action and of course I had to have one (even though I didn't have any antennas to put up). I spent a few weeks researching everything I could find on the internet about potato guns, tennis ball launchers and finally came up with my own design.

This air-powered Tennis Ball launcher is designed to launch tennis balls over trees towing fishing line. The fishing line is used to pull up nylon twine and wire antennas, or heavier line and larger antennas. These launchers are used by Amateur Radio groups doing Emergency Service and other portable work, as well as installing antennas in backyard trees.

I might add that the project is built out of PVC pipe and fittings which is not recommended for high air pressure or for use in extremely cold temperatures. I have tested mine at 80PSI and have had no problems. I know a NH ham who has built a few dozen of these and has never had any problems with his. Good workmanship, proper pvc gluing techniques, etc. should be practiced or researched. Proceed at your own risk!

I found most the supplies I needed at the local plumbing supply. I did have to purchase the PVC

used for the barrel from the local electrical supply as it is an odd plumbing size: 2.5"

I bought the water sprinkler valve from Home Depot and modified it by filling unused and unneeded holes with epoxy and also drilled and tapped it for the air release trigger.

The shraeder valve (air fill) and 100 psi tank guage I purchased online for about \$13.00. The launcher sends the tennis ball ball about 200 yards-quickly!



This is the first one that I built which shows the fishing reel attached at the end of the barrel and tennis ball attached to fishing line.



This is a before and after picture of the sprinkler valve modification on my latest model.

2008 CAARA Field Day Results

Here is some field day info, we had 487 2A class entries overall. Under W1GLO callsign- we made 380 confirmed contacts with 30 participating members and 1,762 total overall points.

We came in 294th place out of 487 entries. Radio Amateurs of Vermont came in first with 4779 contacts and 14,754 points.

General field day stats were 506,139 cw qso's and 27,869 digital qso's and 702 847 phone qso's with a total of 1,236,855 qso's and 35,798 participants- a 5 year high. Provided by Dean-KB1PGH

CQ Magazine Calls on FCC to Resume Amateur Enforcement

CQ magazine is calling on FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Kris Monteith to move swiftly to name a successor to Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, as Special Counsel for Amateur Radio, and to bring FCC enforcement back to the ham bands.

Writing in his "Zero Bias" editorial in the December 2008 issue, CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, noted that the Commission not only has failed to name a successor to Hollingsworth, but that not a single amateur enforcement action has been taken since his retirement this past July. At that time, the editorial noted, the amateur radio community was assured that the Commission's dedication to enhanced enforcement in the Amateur Service remains strong. However, the FCC's total inaction since July suggests otherwise.

"This is deeply disturbing and of grave concern," wrote Moseson, adding, "It would be a tragedy, and a travesty, if the FCC were to go back on its promise to be there for us and allowed amateur enforcement to once again drop off the radar."

"The need for continuing amateur enforcement was reinforced after the issue was sent to press when CQ was informed of an outburst of racist diatribes on 20 meters, including the transmission of recordings of a Hitler rally and Nazi marching songs. "This type of behavior was all too common before 'Sheriff' Riley came to town a decade ago," noted Moseson, "and it quickly

disappeared once it became obvious that someone in authority was paying attention. But now, only a matter of months since Riley handed in his badge, it has become obvious to these hams that they are once again free to do whatever they please without fear of any consequences."

"The FCC must get back into the amateur enforcement business, and it must do so quickly," says Moseson, "before the situation once again gets out of control. Enforcement Bureau Chief Monteith must act promptly to name a successor to Riley Hollingsworth and assure amateurs that they have not once again been abandoned by the Commission."

Loose Ends

Dick-KR1G, Briggs-AB2NJ, Bill-W1OCD, Hank-W4RIG, and others club members frequent the club house to work on club and individual projects during the week. Please feel free to join them and enjoy the club facilities, melt a little solder while working on a project, use the club HF station, try out the digital modes..... You can usually hear them making plans on the club two meter repeater, sometimes over breakfast. Give them a shout and join in.

FOR SALE, SWAP, WANT TO BUY

We will gladly publish anything you have for sale, etc. each month in the newsletter.

Contact Jon K1TP@ARRL.NET

Monthly member meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM

New England Weather Spotters Receive Award as Severe Weather Comes Calling — On November 15, Amateur Radio operators who serve the National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts received an award from the NWS weather forecasters citing excellence in service and "tireless service" to the NWS and to the people of Southern New England

CAARA VE Session Report

By Robert P. Quinn WV1A- Liaison, ARRL/VEC

November 22, 2008

To: Jon Cunningham

Subject: Test reports for September, October and November 2008

Session: September 14, 2008

Exam Elements	2	3	4	Total
Passed	2	0	0	2
Failed	0	3	0	3
Total	2	3	0	5

New License	Technician	General	Extra	Total
Class Earned	2	0	0	2

Name and Address of New Techs

David R. Leblanc 92 Locust St, Danvers, MA 01923

Thomas C. Witham 121 Lane Pine Rd., North Waterboro., ME 04061

VE's Present

Robert P. Quinn WV1A Liaison Extra

Dean J. Burgess KB1PGH Extra

Charles E. Downey N1OCT Extra

Henry N. McCarl W4RIG General

Curtis Wright AA3JE Extra

Session: October 12, 2008

No Candidates

Session: November 9, 2008

Exam Elements	2	3	4	Total
Passed	1	1	1	3
Failed	0	1	0	1
Total	1	2	1	4

New License	Technician	General	Extra	Total
Class Earned	1	0	1	2

Name and Address of New Licenses

Robert W. Withrow 27 Greenwood Ter., Swampscott, MA 01907

Joseph E. Gordon 29 Tyler Rd., Townsend, MA 01469

VE's Present

Robert P. Quinn WV1A Liaison Extra

Charles E. Downey N1OCT Extra

Henry N. McCarl W4RIG General

Curtis Wright AA3JE Extra

Ralph Karcher W1RK Extra

Briggs Longbothum AB2NJ Extra

Tom Howell K1NKA Extra

Thanks to all the VE's for the hard work to promote amateur radio and make our club shine.