



CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2016

ARRL issues urgent last call to press for Senate passage of Amateur Radio Parity Act

It's now down to the wire: ARRL has issued a last call for members to urge their US Senators to support the Amateur Radio Parity Act (H.R. 1301) when it comes up during the "lame duck" session of Congress that adjourns in a couple of weeks.

The House of Representatives approved the bill in September, and the Senate must follow suit if the bill is to succeed. If it fails in the Senate, the entire process will have to be repeated in the new Congress. The legislation is now in the Senate in two forms - as H.R. 1301 and alternately in the packaged bill S. 253

"We are on our final push for the Amateur Radio Parity Act before Congress adjourns," said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. "The grassroots effort by the Amateur Radio community has been outstanding. Since September, over 110,000 emails have been sent to legislators in Congress. Thanks to everyone who has helped, but we can't stop now. Please, keep the e-mails coming and also work the phones down the stretch. Call your Senators! We are almost there.

Let's get it done!"

Urging your US Senators' support is simple: Go to our Rally Congress page at, <https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-us-senate-to-pass-amateur-radio-parity-act>, enter your ZIP code, fill in your name and address, press enter, and e-mails will go directly to your Senators. Members may do this even if they have already contacted their US Senators for support.

There are no guarantees, Lisenco has pointed out. "In order to have a chance at overcoming political obstacles that have little or nothing to do with the legislation, we need our voices to be heard," he said. "And we need that input today!"

Information Desk by Dean-KB1PGH



Since it's now December I thought I would remind all the CAARA members that it is that time of year to pay your yearly membership dues. It's easy to do online on the CAARA website at www.caara.net. While your at it paying your dues you can also take the time to update your membership contact information for the club online as well. As we all know our addresses change as well as our phone numbers and e-mail addresses over time. Thanks in advance for taking the time to do so. Just a couple quick announcements. The December CAARA Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday December 7th at 7:30 at the clubhouse and the CAARA Christmas Party will be held on the regular members meeting on Wednesday December 14th at the clubhouse starting at 6 PM. Just to let you know club President Rick Maybury WZ1B will be starting a morse code learning course starting sometime in January 2017. More details to follow on course dates and times as it draws near. Here's an elmering tip for the newbies out there. Don't forget that you can make your HF station be heard better by just a little bit of effort. Take the time to adjust your transmit audio. Most times HF stations can be received better if the transmitting stations audio frequencies are emphasized on the higher end of the audio spectrum. The human voice has about a 300 to 3000 hz transmit range. So if you can emphasize the 2000 to 3000 hz range on your transmit audio in your microphone that will help. Just take your time and find a DX buddy to help you if you do not have a monitor feature on your rig. One other thing, just make sure that you have close to 100% modulation when transmitting. Many radios undermodulate and are low on the ALC scale. For the prepper tip of the month now's the time to check your survival kit in your car or piece one together yourself. To start you'll need at least a first aid kit and a flashlight. You can also throw a couple of bottles of water in there and some non perishable food like nuts or something that won't go bad if



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



frozen. You can grab one of those heat reflective blankets in there along with some toilet paper. You can grab some of those heat packs for your hands too. You can throw everything into an old backpack and into the trunk. Don't forget about a small snow shovel in case you get stuck. That's it for now, see you in the new year!

PHOTO ON RIGHT: Doug from Ipswich taking his General Class Exam....yes, he passed it!

PHOTO BELOW: General Class Exam taking place at the CAARA clubhouse a few weeks ago.



WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA EMCOM CENTER?



Another month flies by and a few more items are crossed off the club "honey do" list. Bill Canty-OKD and Jon-TP installed the Red Cross antenna off the back of the kitchen roof. Ron Beckley is involved with the Red Cross and donated the antenna and 6 meter transceiver, actually 47Mhz.

The photo on the bottom is Bill -W1OKD trying to unwind and untangle a coil of RG213 for the Red Cross installation. The coil of coax was donated to the club and was filthy. Chris-K1TAT took it home and washed it, measured it, and recoiled it for club use.....nice work!

The club has been active on the second floor Tuesday evenings with Ernst and Bill working on amplifiers, replacing power cords on old radios, soldering connectors on radio's, and even listening on the radio's!

Remember the club is open every Tuesday evening for your use. If you are a member in good standing for one year you are eligible for a key to the club. The BOD is considering changing the one year to six months at the December BOD meeting. This would allow you access to the radio and equipment on the first floor.

A gentle reminder, if you bring food to the club, and you are more than welcome to do so, it is your responsibility to take the trash home with you. We do not want any smell of food, etc. to welcome in any critters from the outside. We have had problems and have hired a rodent outfit to keep the building clean for us



Bill- W1OKD on the second floor, test bench in the background.



Ernst above playing with one of the antique radios on the second floor of the club. Ernst and Bill Canty have been fixing things on Tuesday evenings. Below, Jon-K1TP and Chris- K1TAT painted the first floor bathroom.



I JUST KNOW BETTER *by Curtis- AA3JE*

Last month I wrote a little homily about having fun doing brake jobs.

And after fixing the truck, I wondered about my wife's car. Now this is a sore point in an otherwise harmonious relationship.

"SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED" is very harmonious. When upset, she hits harmonics that shatter glass and knocks unwary birds out of the sky. We have the only house near the shore that has no gull poo on it.

Those birds are smart!

But "SHE" (an affectionate term), has "VIEWS" on my working on the car she drives.



"TOUCH IT AND YOU DIE HORRIBLY! I KNOW WHERE YOU SLEEP!"

And stuff like that.

Anyway, I figured that if the truck with 12,000 miles on it needed a brake job, the Navigator with 50,000 miles might be getting due.

So I reviewed the videos, (bless YouTube), and got to work.

And I figured that if the jack was rated for 2000 pounds, and the car weighed 6000 pounds, that $\frac{1}{4}$ of the car (one wheel) would be 1500 pounds. No problem.

So picking a time when she was taking a nap, I scooted outside and

jacked up the Navigator. Well, actually, tried to jack up the Navigator. I got about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way off the ground, when there was a "crunch" and the car dropped down again.

I tried again. Same phenomenon. So I inspected the jack. It was reamed.

Evidently 2000 pounds in China is less than 1500 pounds in America. Local variation in gravity.



So there was a small delay while AMAZON delivered the new 12-ton jack.

I was taking no chances.

So, a few days later, I jacked up the Navigator. I pulled the wheel, using my now perfected “Whack it like crazy screaming in Korean” method, and stopped to clean off the corrosion on the hub. Alloy wheels in a salt air environment are a bad idea.

That done, I went to pull the caliper bolts. And discovered that they were another, odd, metric cap screw that no one on Cape Ann had. Back to the milling machine, Soon I had the right tool. I pulled the caliper, and found that I had gotten there just in time.

So, back to the shop, skimmed the rotors with the lathe, and installed the new shoes. After carefully re-installing the wheel, and dropping the car, I noticed the anti-rattle spring was lying on the ground. Since “SHE” could hear a mouse farting in the house next door, she would go insane with a brake rattle.

I jacked it back up, pulled the wheel, installed the spring, and put everything back together again.

The rest of the job went well, and I quietly went inside, to be met by “SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED, having morning coffee.

“WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?”

“Just making sure the brakes on your car are OK. I thought I should after the problem with the truck.”

“ARE THEY OK?”

“Your brake pads are nearly 100%.”

This was true. I had driven a few miles to check them, and must have worn off a few molecules.

“SHOULDN’T YOU LEAVE THAT TO THE PROFESSIONALS?”

“Dear, I am sure that they will check them at the service visit. But I am confident they will be OK.”

After a look that would rip the marrow from the bones of a lesser mortal, she was satisfied.

Car repair is such fun! The technical part is a bit boring, but the social dynamics are thrilling!

NOTE TO SELF- De-rate Chinese tools by about 50-75%.

Used jack for sale. One owner. Suitable for small cars.

**CAARA 2016 FIELD DAY RESULTS
WE CAME IN SECOND PLACE IN OUR CLASS....RESULTS
ON PAGE 85 OF DECEMBER ISSUE OF QST**

A quick review of the Yaesu FT 991

It figures, I bought the Yaesu FT 991 back in March for \$1200. The radio had been out for a year and as of a couple of weeks ago the price had gone down to \$1000. Now as of today the 991 has been "Replaced" with a newer version 991A. The only thing they did was to add a second receiver inside the radio so you can have the scope in real time and the radio now costs \$1500.

Things do move fast in the ham radio marketplace. For the basics the Yaesu FT 991 is all mode, advanced entry level rig that covers HF, VHF and UHF with 100 watts on HF and 50 watts on VHF and UHF. I got the radio for the price range and for how much little operating I get to do plus because of the size and weight which is small enough to fit in my portable HF go box. I will give just a quick review of my experiences with the



FT 991 out in the field. So far I have enjoyed the FT 991 for portable operations. I like the bigger TFT touch screen compared to the Icom 7000 I had.

I also like the ability to go through the menu system through the touch screen display. It's easy to adjust the rig's settings. I really like the receive audio with its 32 bit DSP. The DSP really cleans up the noise on the bands. You can also improve and tailor the receive audio with the rig's "contour" feature that lets you null out or enhance certain portions of the audio. The FT 991's audio really shines through a good pair of headphones. The FT 991's receive audio on SSB is much quieter than the Icom 7000 that I had. The FT 991 has a 3 KHZ roofing filter which reduces intermodulation. Plus keeping the RF gain down helps too. The sensitivity is more than adequate on

SSB. What I really like is the speech processor microphone equalizer which can really make your voice be heard for the DX punch by enhancing the upper portions of your voice range. The mike really matches well with the radio and provides enough audio to drive the proper modulation and you can tailor your mike audio by listening through the monitor feature on the rig which I enjoy. The scope works fine but you can't hear the audio at the same time. Unless you get the FT 991A.J

ust to let you know the Yaesu FT 991A has basically the same insides as the Yaesu FT 1200 and 3000. It's just a crammed down version for portable work. If you really want a real time audio scope check out the Icom 7300 SDR radio. I would recommend buying the FT 991 either the old or newer version. Too bad the new version is \$1500. That's a bit pricey and will come down with time.

The Yaesu FT 991 model had some quality issues in early last years production run where some operators



had finals blowing when they operated the built in tuner. That final bias issue was resolved and I have had no issues with mine. The built in autotuner is a plus but is limited to tuning a 3 to 1 radio and that's it.

The Yaesu FT 991 also had some performance issues early on that had to be fixed with firmware upgrades from Yaesu. Which was a good thing but Yaesu should have done some beta testing first. The firmware upgrades are fairly easy to do. This radio also has a sound card built in and a USB port for those wishing to digital work on HF. I also got this radio since CAARA has some system fusion repeaters which is Yaesu's digital protocol and the FT 991 has system fusion and Wires X built in for internet linking. I have not yet used it but have seen great reports of it.

So if you can find the discontinued Yaesu Ft 991 for a decent price on Ebay or a private seller I say buy it. Especially for those like myself who are looking for a "shack in the box" radio. As of this article Ham Radio Outlet still had some left for \$900.00 which is a great price.

If you are into emergency communications work this radio will do the job quite nicely. I once again would wait until the price goes down on the newer FT 991A version. There are rumors that Yaesu will provide an "Upgrade" kit for the older 991's like mine and will be able to see the scope live with audio so we will see.

Yaesu also has just come out with the FT 891 which is a more portable version HF plus 6 meter only radio for \$850 so you may want to check that out as well. For the HF portable casual HF operator that I am that likes to ragchew and for everyday DX

work with Emergency communications in mind the Yaesu FT 991 does the job for me. The size and performance are top notch for its price class!

ECHOLINK UPDATE



The Echolink system on our 2 meter repeater has been a major source of concern for years. It has been unreliable and audio levels are always less than optimal, and the time delay annoying.

Larry- AJ1Z took the radio and computer home, ditched the Signalink interface and replaced it with a new WestRadio interface. After replacing some bad cables, and making all the adjustments it sounds great.

We had some troubles with the club APRS system interfering with Echolink and we took that system down. We still wanted more security from people getting into the computer or radio settings so decided to build a cabinet to provide safety and shielding for the system.

I drilled large holes in the top of the 2 drawer filing cabinet for ventilation and it has been working great ever since. It is located on the second floor of the club.

Roger checked in from Tawian I believe, Bob Spanks from PA on a regular basis, and Stan from Korea and they all sounded great!



REPEATER UPDATES

Jon-K1TP Chairperson

We are pleased to announce the addition of a brand new Henry 2 meter commercial 100 watt amplifier replacing the 25 year old Kendacom 75 watt amplifier. The amplifier was donated to the club by Larry- AJ1Z from Reading. I cannot thank him enough! The 2 meter repeater now has a new Kenwood radio and Henry amplifier, as well as a new Stationmaster antenna. We are the proud owners of one of the best repeater systems performance wise in New England. We are working on a coverage map of New England to show you how well our repeater reaches out and touches hams in MA, NH, and Maine. The map is being done by Bill- K1WMM.



The 440 repeater is a new Yaesu Fusion repeater running 15 watts into a new Stationmaster antenna. We have a Henry 75watt amplifier for this repeater and it is not working correctly. We brought it up to the site to install and had no luck.

In the picture above, on the left rack you will notice the new Henry amplifier above Ross-W1RAB's head. It is gold colored with two large cooling fans. Bill -W1OKD is standing in front of the Yaesu 440 Fusion repeater. Note the large open gap between the repeater and mounted duplexers on the rack. That space is for the 440 amplifier once we get it working correctly.

That day we brought a second rack to the site, donated by Ross, and installed the 440 station in it. It is easier to have the two systems side by side and separated.

Another Fine Day by Curtis- AA3JE

Periodically, “SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED” gets on my case.

“YOU KNOW IT REALLY DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO CUT THE GRASS, TRIM THE HEDGES, AND WEED THE GARDEN, YOU KNOW!”

I brightened perceptibly at this news. This was great! But I was a little suspicious.

“Why would that be, dear heart?”

NO ONE CAN SEE IT DUE TO THE RUSTING PILES OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT THAT ARE IN THE WAY!

Ah! This was a subtle reference to my stashing the tractor accessories cleverly in a corner where I was sure she never went. Unfortunately, she seemed to have gone there recently.

I think it adds a nice, pastoral touch. I ventured.

IT;’S A RUSTY, AWFUL EYESORE! WE LOOK LIKE HILLBILLIES! FIX IT!

I might have tried to bluff my way out of this, except the truth was, some of that stuff was sinking so deep I might lose it. So I agreed.

After surprisingly little digging, I uncovered the plow. Now I had gotten rid of all my good line when I sold the boat (my conscience told me that sending a 22 year old on a 1500 mile solo journey was a bit risky, so I gave him everything I could think of to improve his chances. He was pretty low in the water when he left).

I did have some in polypropylene, and so I hitched the plow to the front end loader, lifted it out, and took a look. Yep! Pressure wash, needle scale, priming and painting needed.

Now I got a bit lazy, and instead of proper bowlines, I just threw some half hitches in the line, picked up the plow with the loader, and dragged it around to the garage. This proved to be a mistake, since 350 pounds of plow jammed the knots so tight, I had to spend more time undoing them than it took me to move the thing. Memo to self, Do not use reef knots in poly rope for heavy loads.

An hour later, scaled, pressure washed, and pristine, I considered the paint. My luck with paint is not great, and so I fled to Ben;’s in Gloucester for an expert opinion. As luck would have it, Gloucester being a fishing town, they were not selling a lot of plow paint.

Prime with this, paint with this, and it will last as long as anything will. We sell a lot of this to people who, er, defer maintenance. Works pretty good.

I am painting one small plow. Does it come in quarts?

Nope.

After taking out a mortgage, I had two gallons of liquid gold in the trunk, and started painting. Indeed, it went on nice, and 24 hours later it was hard as a rock.



Now here comes the BAD IDEA. Those of you who know me, know that in every project, there are some good ideas, and at least one VERY BAD IDEA.

As I looked at that 350 pound of metal, It occurred to me that if I put a shackle point here and here, it would balance nicely, and I could move it with chain no sweat, and without spending another half hour trying to get the (&^% ^&* &*) rope untied.

And if I still had my torch kit, it would have been a minute;’s work to burn two holes in the beam and do just that. But the last time I took the tanks in to be filled, the guy looked at the dates on the tanks, turned a funny shade of grey, and asked me to please take the tanks out of his shop right away. FAR AWAY from his shop RIGHT AWAY.

But I had my brand new 3/8 Dewalt portable hand drill.

Now. This is important. If there is anyone out there that is planning to drill a inch hole in 1 inch thick steel with a hand drill, PLEASE see me for some essential coaching on what to do, and what not to do. I have conducted exhaustive field tests on what NOT to do.

If during the drilling process, the pilot drill (1/8), slows down, IT IS NOT BECAUSE THE BATTERY IS LOW! Withdraw the drill, remove the chips, and lubricate the hole.

If you do not do this, the result is a SNAP, and you have plugged the hole with a nice piece of hardened steel. Really hard steel. The hardest steel they make, actually.

Here are the recovery procedures.

1. Attempt to remove it with tweezers- New tweezers, \$6.95
2. Regrind needle nose pliers to fit- New pliers, \$12.60
3. Attempt to drive out backwards with tiny punch- New punch \$3.50
4. Whack it frantically with a ball peen hammer- Almost all of the drill comes out.
5. Attempt to drill out the remainder- New 3/16, , 5/16, 3/8, 7/16 drill bits \$10
6. Grind punch to fit hole, whack frantically for 30 minutes- New Punch \$12.50
7. Stop to have coffee, make implausible excuses for noise and cursing.
8. Remember rock drill, drill out bit in 15 seconds with carbide impact bit.

Now it is important to remember with working with large bits to set the clutch a little soft;’ so the clutch slips before the drill kicks back and breaks your wrist. Trip to AGH, just sprained - \$65 co-pay.

And after a mere 6 hours, there is the hole. Now I just have to do the other one.

Here is another good lesson. BEFORE spending a day drilling out the &^% ^&% ^% beam, check and see if anyone has a shackle that fits over the % ^& ^% % ^ beam with less than a 1 inch pin diameter. Turns out no one has.

But with effort, a hand torch, and two 3/8 eye bolts (\$11.50) , the job can be done.

And indeed, the newly painted plow was quickly tucked under the porch (she NEVER goes there), and peace was restored.

My buddy asked me why I didn;’t just buy ten feet of one inch nylon, and use that.

ARE YOU NUTS? THAT STUFF IS ALMOST \$2.00 A FOOT!.

He looked at me funny. I wonder what he was thinking.

B QST ARL ARLB041
ARLB041 IARU Region 1 Monitoring Service Reports an Apparent Success

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) Monitoring System (IARUMS) reports that the Russian military apparently responded positively to a complaint from German telecommunications authorities to eliminate an intruding signal on 20 meters. The Russian Navy "RDL" signal from Crimea had been transmitting on 14.180 MHz, using F1B at 50 baud and 200 Hz shift for several days. IARUMS said the transmissions were heard for the last time on October 31. IARU Region 1 includes Europe and Africa.

German telecommunication authorities have, so far, had less success in quelling the intrusion of Radio Eritrea (Voice of the Broad Masses) on 7.185 MHz, which Ethiopia is said to be jamming with broadband white noise. So far, Germany has filed two official complaints. IARUMS reports that 7.146.5 MHz and 7.175 MHz are still in use by Radio Eritrea. The jamming signal reported by the IARUMS is 20 kHz wide on each channel. The on-air conflict has been going on for years, and the interfering signals can be heard in North America after dark.

IARUMS Coordinator Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, said the Russian Over-the-Horizon radar (OTH) "Konteyner RLS" remains a problem on 40 and 20 meters, with lengthy transmissions, often with many spurious emissions. Hadel said the radar's

transmissions interfered with participants in the Worked All Germany Contest in mid-October.

One apparently frustrated radio amateur in Germany "tried again to chase away Russian MIL FSK traffic on 80 and 40 meters by transmitting dashes on the mark or space frequency," the latest IARUMS newsletter reported. Hadel cautioned that such actions, even when aimed at intruding signals, are illegal. German telecommunications authorities were alerted. IARUMS also reported someone was transmitting empty Stanag 4285 mode signals on 7 MHz, hunting and QRMing contesters on October signal was also believed to be originating in Germany. The Stanag 4285 modem is used for HF radio links between the NATO military bases.

IARUMS also reported an OTH radio on 10 meters, transmitting daily on 28.960 MHz covering 50 kHz "with many sions."

Strong F2 propagation has also made Brazilian CBers audible on 10 meters, running AM between 28.000 and 28.325 MHz.



Group and Mass Electronic Mailings (Email)...a refresher course.

Email can be a useful way to communicate with individuals and groups, whether small or large. It is often misused, usually because it is easy to use and perceived to be free. Email is not free; it consumes resources and shifts costs to different areas. Many people consider it to be intrusive and in the past CAARA has received complaints about inappropriate email sent to group lists. One person's vital information is another's junk mail, so please use the guidelines below if you are considering sending a mailing to any CAARA list. CAARA reserves the exclusive right to reject any message that does not meet our guidelines or which a moderator feels is inappropriate for any reason.

Sender Guidelines

Your first consideration should be whether a mass email is the most appropriate method to communicate your message. Ask yourself, "Is my message so urgent that everyone on the list must see it, or would want to receive it?"

When you use a CAARA mailing list a Moderator will review your message to ensure that the information is appropriate for the list and is valuable to the recipients. This takes time. For this reason, it is possible your message could be delayed for as many as 24 hours. Please plan your posts with this in mind and be patient.

Requests sent directly to Moderators asking them to send or relay a message on your behalf will be rejected. Send your message. If it is not appropriate or does not meet the guidelines it will be rejected. We will not bypass the moderation guidelines or send inappropriate messages for you.

Under no circumstance shall any CAARA Email List be used to participate in or promote activities which are illegal or which violate the CAARA Constitution or any CAARA policy. The Moderator will reject any such message. Members with access to the online CAARA Roster may use such access to directly communicate with individual members. However, all persons granted such access are strictly prohibited from using it to, 1. Create a mass emailing to members or, 2. Create their own private email list of Members.

The following examples illustrate some appropriate uses for a list (there may be others):

caaramail@caara.net

- CAARA-related events or functions of a non-official nature
- Amateur-Radio-related announcements of general interest
- CAARA-sponsored Educational Courses or Events
- CAARA-sponsored Fund-Raising Activities
- Requests for shared rides to an Amateur Radio or CAARA related event, or announcements that such shared rides are available

emcom@caara.net

- Announcements of upcoming disaster drills, etc.
- Severe weather-related announcements
- Solicitation of volunteers for CAARA Public Service or Emergency Events

ve@caara.net

- Announcements of upcoming test sessions, etc.
- Solicitation of volunteers for CAARA VE events

Examples of inappropriate uses of a list (there may be others):

- Previously rejected or repeated announcements of non-CAARA-related news
- An announcement that your dog is lost
- Personal political views
- Personal advertisements of products or services not related to Amateur Radio, free or for sale
- Any message containing abusive language, personal attacks, etc.

CAARA also maintains an official, members-only mailing list. ALL CAARA members in good standing are automatically included in this list. This is the Official Notification List for the CAARA Membership. CAARA Members are encouraged to include the list address, members@caara-net, in their approved or safe-senders list. Moderator Guidelines

For moderated mailing lists at CAARA such as caaramail@caara-net, emcom@caara-net, and ve@caara-net, the Moderator must exercise good judgment to ensure that the information sent to these lists is valuable to the recipients.

A Moderator shall screen for submitted messages from time-to-time, preferably at least once each day. The rules for use of these lists are rooted in the purpose of the lists - messages should be of interest to CAARA members or be CAARA EmComm or CAARA VE-related issues only. An email suitable for a moderated mailing list will be judged by the CAARA Board, in the person of the Moderator, to merit sending to all recipients based on how well it can be described as CAARA business. Inevitably cases will arise that will require judgment; that is one of the functions of the Moderator.

If a Moderator determines that a message is of an Official nature, i.e. required by the Constitution to be disseminated to the entire Membership, the Moderator shall forward the message to the Official CAARA Membership Mailing List.

Moderators have the option to either discard a candidate message - essentially, to throw it away - or to reject a candidate message. A rejected message is returned to the original sender. A Moderator may optionally provide a reason for the rejection. Although it is not mandatory, in general, Moderators will reject messages and provide brief reasons for the rejection. A Moderator may, however, simply discard candidate messages without giving any reason. For example, messages with abusive language or repeat messages that have previously been rejected. If a Moderator is unsure as to how to handle a particular message, it shall be forwarded to the CAARA Board of Directors for final review and disposition.

Official CAARA Membership Mailing List. This strictly-moderated list is the Official Notification List for the CAARA Membership. Without exception, this list is restricted to Official Notices required by the CAARA Constitution. Postings to this list by anyone other than CAARA Officers or persons directed to do so by an Officer of the Association will be rejected. Postings to this list which are not required notifications by the CAARA Constitution will be rejected.

CAARA CHRISTMAS PARTY IS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH 530PM. WE ASK EACH PERSON TO BRING A MAIN DISH, SIDE DISH OR DESSERT.

Sunday Afternoon *by Curtis- AA3JE*

Some men have great dreams! Bring world peace! End poverty! Conquer malaria!

My secret dream is a quiet Sunday afternoon.

There is a secret gene in women, that only gets activated after a few years of marriage. It is a complex, multi-chromosome gene that is only activated in women by marriage.

Anyone can observe it in action. It is the gene that drives them into fury if they see a man sitting quietly, enjoying himself. They must get him out of that chair, at any cost. It is an article of matriarchal faith.

As “SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED” did today.

I was sitting, reading, at peace, which caused the gene to activate.

“OH! CAN YOU COME HERE A MINUTE?” came from another room.

So I got up, put my book down, and went to see what was wanted.

“PUT YOUR HEAD HERE! AND LISTEN!”

I did as I was bid, and of course, heard nothing. This is not new. My wife has the hearing of a bat, and can hear sounds inaudible to lesser mortals. She hears them in the car, she hears them in the kitchen, she hears them at night. It is part of her hyper-sensory package that can let her see sub-millimeter dirt particles, and smell odors at the parts-per-billion level as well.

If anyone out there has an answer to “ER, HONEY, DO YOU SMELL SMOKE?” other than getting up, putting on a robe, and inspecting the interior and exterior of the house from top to bottom, please let me know.

On this occasion, I spoke without thinking.

“I don’t hear nutting.”

After a short discourse on my sensory imperfections, my general lack of sensitivity, and my apparent deafness, she expounded on the problem.

“THE TOILET MAKES NOISE AT NIGHT.”

I always wonder why this can’t be brought up another time, say like Monday morning, but asked her to describe it more fully.

“I CAN’T EXPLAIN IT. IT MAKES NOISE.”

So I inspected the toilet. It looked fine.

I flushed it. Normal flush.

So I went downstairs, and shut off the main water line.- Silence.

I turned it back on again.- Silence.

But I went to Ace, and got a new float and valve, which always fail, eventually.

But when I turned on the main water, it ran for 30 seconds and stopped.

AHA! Leaking flapper valve. Back to Ace.

Now here was the first serious obstacle. I was used to easily finding a replacement flapper. It used to be easy.

It was not easy. I found 16 replacement flappers. “Pre-1994 flappers”, “Universal flappers”, “Float flappers”, “Low flush” flappers, “Standard Flush” flappers. “Cosmic Transcendent Lime Green flappers”

So I bought two of the most likely, and drove home.

I installed flapper #1.

No luck, still leaking.

I installed flapper #2.

Success! Silence!

And I gathered up the tools, reported the problem fixed, and went back to my book.

Five minutes later.

“HONEY? HAVE THE DOGS BEEN FED?”

Get up. Feed dogs. Sit down again.

Five minutes later.

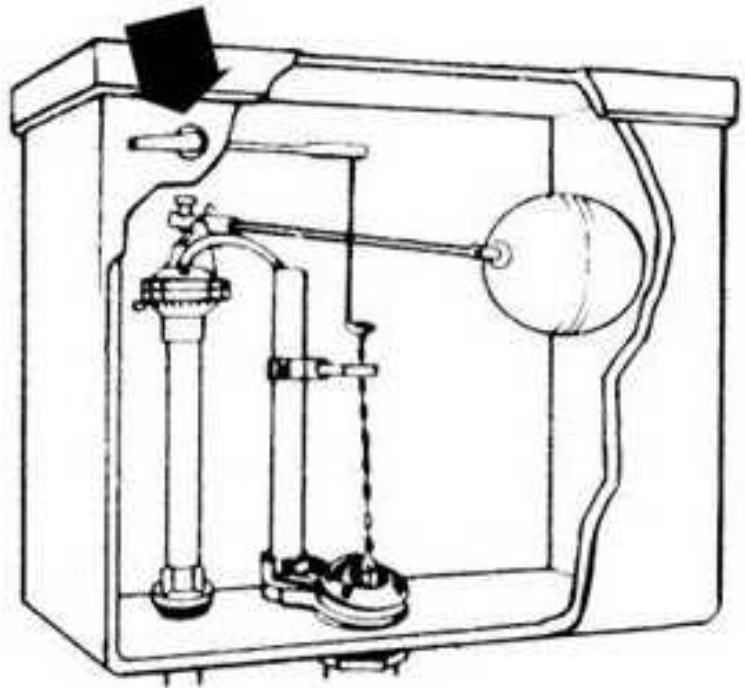
“HONEY? WHEN WERE YOU PLANNING TO FIX DINNER?”

Recognizing the inevitable, I put my book in bookcase, and went to the kitchen.

As I did so, I heard a faint call.

“I JUST CLEANED THAT KITCHEN! TRY NOT TO MAKE A TOTAL MESS!”

I think next week I will go to the library. Or the Radio Club. Or volunteer for a Mars mission.



FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith Says Amateur Enforcement Will Be Aggressive

FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith told a standing-room-only audience at the ARRL Pacific Division Convention (Pacificon) in October that, despite FCC cutbacks, Amateur Radio enforcement will not be compromised. Smith spoke for nearly an hour and a half on a variety of FCC issues related to Amateur Radio, and the entire presentation is available on YouTube, thanks to Bob Miller, WB6KWT, and his son Robert, KA7JKP, who recorded the forum. Smith said that with the FCC set to shut down 11 field offices across the country in January, the Enforcement Bureau has reorganized into three US regions, and she does not anticipate any significant issues for the Amateur Service as a result.

“The amateur community will go forward,” she said, noting that amateurs have “an incredible ability to self-police.” In light of the field office closings, she has been working with ARRL to revamp the Official Observer (OO) program.

“We are going to redo the entire program,” she told the Pacificon forum. Given that the field office cutbacks have left the FCC short staffed, the OO program will step into the gap, with OOs serving as the first line of defense in Amateur Radio enforcement, she explained. Working more closely with the OOs, Smith said, will get information on problems to the field staff more quickly, so they can follow up.

Smith praised the OOs for contributing their time and effort to monitor the bands and to alert licensees both to problematic and positive behavior on the air.

She also said the FCC is more aggressively policing the Amateur Radio bands, and she cited the case of an unlicensed individual in New York, who was arrested and assessed a fine for interfering with Amateur Radio repeaters as well as with public service communication systems.

“We’re aggressively going after people who are cutting into your frequencies,” Smith assured her audience. So far this year, she said, the FCC has proposed some \$60,000 in fines to Amateur Radio licensees, for various alleged infractions. She said her office continues to receive complaints about intentional interference, and, she allowed, “Sometimes...okay, maybe all the time...we don’t get to [these] as quickly as you might like.”

Smith said there are “band neighborhoods” on the bands, and, typically, offenders tend to stick together, and “you can avoid that neighborhood,” she said. “If you know a frequency is a ‘problem frequency,’ don’t go there.” Those who do engage troublemakers on the air, however, become part of the problem. “Spin the dial,” she advised. “Walk away. Don’t allow that ugliness to seep in. Avoid it at all costs.”

“It bothers me that we have amateurs out there who are misbehaving,” she said, “when the bulk of you are incredible people.”

Smith returned as FCC special counsel to Amateur Radio enforcement in June after being detailed to another enforcement assignment for 2 years. Her position is now in the Spectrum Enforcement Division, which, she pointed out, gives her access to field engineers as well as to attorneys, engineers, and analysts in the Division.