

CAARA NEWS



Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
Gloucester, Massachusetts
DECEMBER 2022 EDITION



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Brandon- NQ1W

Our first two improvements from the AARL grant are complete! First, the old heating unit in the meeting area has been replaced with a modern, nearly-silent gas heater. No more trying to operate in a room that sounds like a jet hangar! Second, the first-floor floor has been sanded and refinished, preserving some history and making the space more usable (and cleanable). Fantastic job by Jon and the house committee overseeing this work and to all the members who came by to help move furniture and clean - a great effort by all!

As we begin these improvements, we find that each one sparks another - either by necessity of aging facilities or from inspiration about what they could do for CAARA. We imagine the clubhouse of our future - vibrant and active programming and state-of-the-art equipment all to share with our members and community. And we want nothing more than to make this vision into our reality. So, as we approach the end of the year, we ask that you consider CAARA in your end-of-year donations and giving plans. We always fully use your generous contributions, and we can deploy them now more than ever. Please consider donating directly or gifting memberships to your friends and family.

Unfortunately, I want to mention that we lost a beloved member of our CAARA family this month. It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Bill Canty W1OKD. Bill was so generous with his time and knowledge and will be remembered fondly. Even in his nineties, Bill was a constant presence at club meetings, field days, and functions. CAARA will be making a donation in his memory to his family's choice of charity, Catholic Charities North at Gloucester www.ccab.org. He will be sorely missed by us all.



As we wrap up the year, I want to personally thank all of you for your continued support and participation with CAARA. We have so many passionate and active hams in our club, and I am thankful to work side-by-side with you. I wish you and your families all a happy holiday season.

Cheers and 73, Brandon NQ1W

THE EMCOMM MINUTE

By Dean- KB1PGH

So I kind of guess that this month's article could be emcomm related. I though I would spend this month talking a bit about switching power supplies in amateur radio. We do use switching power supplies in emergency communications when we are operating off of generator power. Since I like to at least learn the grasp of the basics of how the equipment I have works and in this article I will explain the basics of how a switching power supply works. Even after being a Extra class operator since 2007 I never really took the time to learn how exactly my power supply changes AC current to DC current. Now before I do that here are a couple of tips that I have learned. If I were to recommend a power supply to a new ham I would say go with either the Astron or Samlex brand of power supplies and try to stay away from the MFJ and Alinco brand for HF work since they put out a lot of RF noise and hash. Try to stay away from any other cheap names of power supplies that you might find on Amazon. Also try to get a Astron or Samlex model that has RFI and EMI protection built in to keep the spurious emissions under wraps that won't interfere with your transceiver. I have a Astron SS 30 M switching power supply which you can see in the photo. Of course there are linear power supplies but they are usually too big for portable emcomm work. So I have a Astron SS 30 M power supply. It puts out 25 continuous amps which is enough to run my Icom 7300 which runs at 22 amps



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Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
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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 jpcrockport@gmail.com. If possible, material should be in Word format. Material may also be submitted as hard copy to Jon-K1TP or any Club Officer.

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

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Welcome to CAARA:

CAARA, an ARRL affiliated club, operates the 2 meter W1GLO repeater on 145.130 MHz with antennas located on the ATT cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex in Gloucester Massachusetts. It has an average effective radius of 60 miles, and serves Eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Rhode Island, Southern New Hampshire, and maritime mobile stations.

CAARA also operates the W1GLO repeater on 224.900 located at the CAARA clubhouse.

The 443.700 repeater is now on the ATT cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex with greatly enhanced performance running in fusion mode and linked to 10 other repeaters in the New England area.

The Association is one of the few amateur radioclubs that has its own clubhouse. Located at 6 S tanwood Street in Gloucester, with a variety of HF stations with beam, vertical, or G5RV antennas.

Amateur radio exams are held on REQUEST at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. Currently pre-registration is necessary. Contact the head of our VE team Bill Poulin- WZ1L if you have any questions about monthly testing.

Monthly member meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at noon except for July and August.

Each Sunday evening at 9:00 PM, the club operates a 2 meter fm 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.

The club is open most Tuesday's from 5- 8PM for CAARA members and interested parties to stop by and socialize, as well as use the extensive collection of ham radio gear.

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when operating. So here we go. The AC current goes into the power supply. Then a switching transistor goes on and off real fast leading to a high frequency AC voltage current. So that's

how we get the name "Switching" power supply. So then that high frequency AC voltage allows for a

Oh, I should tell you. So do you actually know for sure that your power supply is putting out 13.8 volts? Please take the time to get a multimeter and check what voltage you have at the radio end of your power cable as there is a bit of a power loss in the cable run. Most power supplies have a voltage adjust on them so you can adjust it accordingly.

Well at least I can say we covered the topic of power supplies so I can cross that off my list I have not yet covered some of the basics of coax cable so Ill cover that for January's column.

Oh, One last thing, If you remember in last month's newsletter I mentioned that 10 meters was open so the ARRL has it's 10 meter contest coming up on December 10th through the 11th if you are interested in operating 10 meters. You can find more on the ARRL website contest section.

73,
Dean Burgess KB1PGH



smaller transformer to be used which allows for a smaller power supply compared to the bigger linear power supplies that you might by for your home station-I never knew that. Gee I don't want to learn too much at once-I might hurt my brain.

So now that smaller transformer brings the 120 voltage down to 13.8 volts AC. Now a rectifier takes the AC current and chops off the negative part of the AC sine wave only leaving the positive part of it. Now we have a DC current but we not quite there yet. Now that DC current goes into capacitors and filters that work to "Flatten out" the bumpy DC current into more of a straight DC current. The power supply can't quite get the DC current perfectly flat so what is left over is called "Ripple" but it's good enough to operate a HF radio .

Pretty cool right! As you can see in the photo that I took of the inside of my Astron power supply you can see the two silver long pieces that are the heat sinks. You can also see the transformer in the middle of the two silver heatsinks that step down the voltage and the two large purple colored capacitors on the left next to the silver heatsink that help work together with the filters to flatten out the current.

You can also see the two black EMI/RFI ferrites on the far left bottom corner and the upper right hand corner with the red power cable gong through it on the power out cord. Of course I just laid out the basics of what I learned on the Internet . You can obviously go into more detail by using Google.



Batteries

by Curt- AA3JE



In Europe, in the Middle Ages, bolts of woven cloth were a de-facto currency. Each bolt of cloth represented hundreds of hours of labor on its trip from sheep to clothing. In fact, the modern “word problem” arose from school lessons like this:

“Two men want to barter cloth. A canna of cloth is worth 6 lira, and in barter is valued at 8 lira. A hundredweight of wool is worth 25 lira and in barter is offered at such a price that the man with the cloth finds he has earned 10 Percent. At what price was the hundredweight of wool offered in barter?” (1436 AD)

Students for literally centuries have struggled with stuff like this and it is still part of the academic curriculum today. I hated them then, and still do.

Faced with the problems of inflation and supply chains, I was wondering what to do. Then I realized there was a modern equivalent to bolts of woven cloth.

Batteries.

I worked on this problem for a while, and I came up against the problem. Quality control.

The night before Thanksgiving, already stressed by holiday logistics, I was blissfully asleep when my slumber was interrupted by a loud and painful hubbub.

“FIRE! CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTED! EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!”

This has happened before, several times, and it is always due to the batteries in one of the smoke detectors going flat. This is a difficult problem to solve, as there are five of the things in the house, all interconnected, and one must run from one to the other, until you find and subdue the offending unit. For some reason, the makers of these things set them to fire off when the batteries are going flat. They either beep or alarm, never just quietly die.

Either cannot be ignored.

This means running the length of the house, remembering which drawer holds the batteries, finding

the step ladder, and remembering how the fire detector’s battery drawer opens. In this case, there was a small delay when I tripped over the bird seed bucket in the garage and had to pause for first aid.

Wounds dressed, I rummaged in the battery drawer, found some 9 volt and AA batteries, and changed the units out until the shrieking stopped. Unfortunately, the batteries I put in included one over-aged dud, and four hours later, it all started over again.

Determined to avoid this in the future, I sought out high quality batteries with which to replace them all. To my horror, the local stores had been driven to the cheapest units, and all their stock were alkaline batteries lovingly assembled in Samarkand or some similar place.

I went to the Internet and found that it was extremely difficult to find out where, and with what quality



assurance, a given battery was assembled, much less it’s shelf life. If you doubt me, look at your batteries. One hint- it ain’t the US.

So here is a business idea. A new currency. AA and 9 Volt batteries whose claim to fame is they don’t leak, have a nice long shelf life, and have an expiration date in large letters on the darn things.

ME? I am working on my 20 yard dash, in poor light, with obstacles.

SILENT KEY: Bill Canty W1OKD

Bill was born in Boston to John and Isabel (Jones) Canty on February 23rd, 1925. He grew up in Dorchester, MA, and graduated from Boston English High School. During World War II he served in the US Navy for two years as a Radio Technician at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. He received his BS and MS in Physics from Boston College. In 1953, he joined MIT Lincoln Lab to work on the Whirlwind Computer Project, the world's first supercomputer, and later the US Air Forces' SAGE Air Defense System. This led to a career spanning over 30 years with the MITRE Corporation, leading projects for the Airborne Long Range Inputs (ARLI) System, and later the Airborne Warning And Control Systems (AWACS).

Bill met the love of his life Janet (Supple) Canty in the summer of 1946, they married and settled in Bedford, MA in 1953. After years of weekend commuting to the North Shore to enjoy boating, Bill and Janet decided to relocate to Manchester-by-the-Sea in 1967.

Bill was active in his community as a member of the Manchester Yacht Club, the Manchester Lions Club, the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association, and as a parishioner and lay minister at Sacred Heart Parish. For many years he volunteered on the Fourth of July Parade and the Red, White & Blue Pancake Breakfast committees. Affectionately known as "The Captain", his summers were spent sailing with family and friends on his beloved sloop Auriga, instilling a love of life on the water in all who were lucky enough to be his crew.

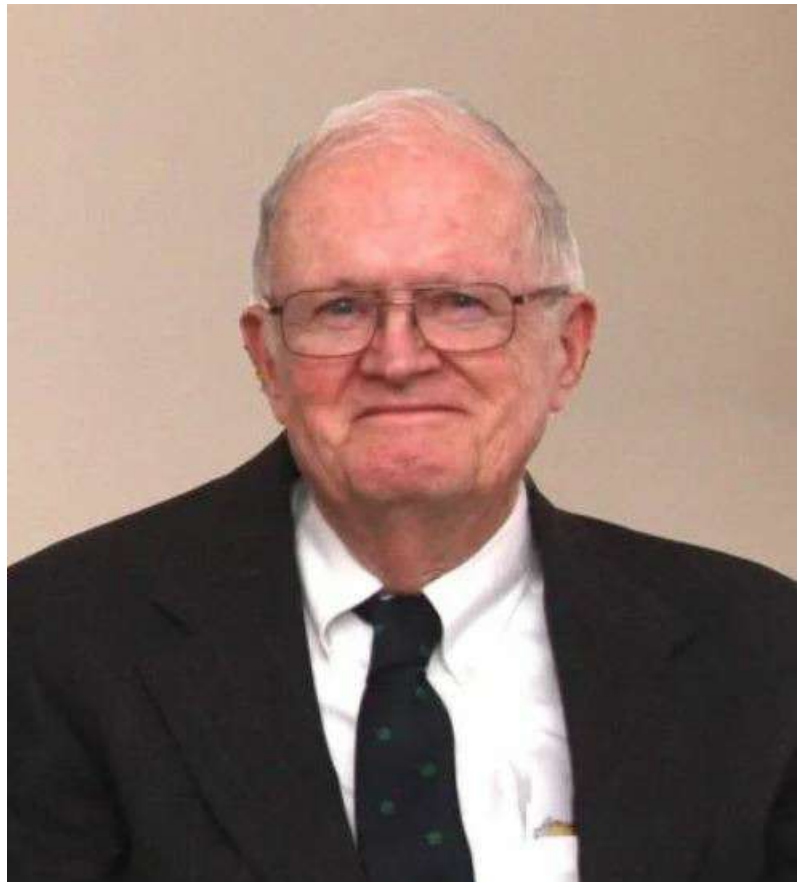
Family and faith were everything to Bill. He was a man of principle, a devoted husband, a cherished father, doting grandfather, and solid friend to those who knew him.

Bill was predeceased by Janet his wife of over 60 years and his son Robert. He is survived by his son William of Minnesota, daughter Jean of Manchester, son James and his wife Catherine

of Texas, daughter Ellen and her husband Irving of New Hampshire, son Edward and his wife Christe of Vermont, along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who love and will miss him dearly. He is also survived by his sister Elizabeth Leavitt of Georgia, brother Daniel Canty of Vermont, and good friend O'Dea Coughlin of Gloucester.

The Family requests donations in lieu of flowers to Catholic Charities North at Gloucester www.ccab.org. Funeral arrangements are being conducted by the Greely Funeral Home in Gloucester. A Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday November 26 at 11 a.m. at Visitation Parish, Sacred Heart Church, 62 School St. Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA. Reception to follow.

CAARA will miss Bill.



Club Improvement



The club floor before the sanding and refinishing job, last done in the early 1960's...



The finished job with 3 coats of polyurethane

Amateur Radio Newline Report

HAMS REUNITE LOST FATHER WITH SONS AFTER 23 YEARS

PAUL/ANCHOR: We begin this week with the tale of a poignant reunion between an octogenarian in India and the grieving family who had presumed he had died after a deadly cyclone that claimed thousands of lives 23 years ago. That reunion happened with the help of amateur radio. Graham Kemp VK4BB has that remarkable story.

GRAHAM: After a super cyclone flattened the coast of Odisha in India in 1999, Kritichandra (Kritty-Chondra) Baral (Bah-RAHL) lost his family and his memory - the latter possibly from some kind of trauma. Meanwhile, never learning for certain the fate of their patriarch, his sons presumed their father was one of the thousands who lost their lives in that natural disaster. The man survived, however, and lived as a vagrant on the streets of a city in Andhra Pradesh, existing for years on handouts and people's generosity. Ten years ago, he was taken in by a group known as the Missionaries of Charity after one of his benefactors discovered his health had deteriorated and asked that he be accepted into their care.

The charity's ongoing efforts to locate his family failed until Nov. 19, when they contacted the West Bengal Radio Club, which has extensive experience in assisting with reunions of missing persons and their families. The hams had helped the charity before and the group was hopeful that the radio amateurs would succeed where the charity had not. Ambarish Nag Biswas, VU2JFA, the club's secretary, said after some time the amateur radio club was able to locate the man's sons. He told various Indian news media outlets that two of the sons: [quote] "were dumbstruck when they saw their father's photograph and then started weeping. They are a well-to-do family and said their father went missing after the cyclone and was presumed dead." [endquote]

In videos shared with Newline by Ambarish Nag Biswas, the family can be seen with their father at the Missionaries of Charity residence. They are overcome by emotion, hugging one another for the first time in more than two decades.

BIG PROMISE FROM ULTRA-TINY BATTERY

PAUL/ANCHOR: Battery technology continues to change and the latest evolution announced recently is a super-small rechargeable "micro-battery" with a high tolerance for variations in temperature - and a lifespan of between one and two decades. Kent Peterson KCØDGY tells us about this new development and what scientists are saying about it.

KENT: A company in France believes it has come up with the latest solution to provide battery power for micro-power devices. The company, ITEN, has developed an ultra-small rechargeable lithium battery. At first glance, the surface-mount solid-state battery might easily be mistaken for an SMD chip as its housing is only slightly larger than the battery's own dimensions of 3.2 by 2.5 mm. They are, of course, not chips: These batteries have a capacity of between 0.1 mAh and 0.5 mAh. They were found capable of tolerating temperatures between minus 40 degrees Celsius, or minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit, all the way to 85 degrees Celsius, or 185 degrees Fahrenheit.

Their ability to deliver peak currents make them especially useful for powering RF transmissions such as Bluetooth, Sigfox and LTE, to deliver packets of data via sensors. The website, CNX software, also sees the batteries as being useful for sensor data loggers, beacons and backup power supplies for microcontrollers.

The solid-state technology is considered another plus contributing toward a usable lifespan of between 10 and 20 years. The company has said the batteries are also fast-charging.

The website, Hackaday, poses the following challenge: [quote] "We'd be particularly interested to learn about their temperature sensitivity when it comes to soldering, as we've taken to heart the warnings about soldering to more traditional lithium cells." [endquote] The website noted that there are apparently some evaluation kits available directly from the company in France.

(ITEN.COM, HACKADAY, CNX-SOFTWARE)

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TRANSATLANTIC QSOS RELIVE RADIO HISTORY IN DECEMBER

PAUL/ANCHOR: The entire month of December is being devoted to reliving radio history: the Radio Society of Great Britain will mark the centenary of the Transatlantic Tests, which firmly established that amateur radio communication could cross the ocean. Jeremy Boot G4NJH gives us those details.

JEREMY: The Radio Society of Great Britain has activated historic call signs to mark a series of historic moments 100 years ago: the successful one-way transatlantic radio communication showed the HF bands to be well-suited for amateurs' signals crossing an ocean. The first amateur transmission from Europe using the callsign (G)5WS was heard in North America on the 24th December 1922.

The RSGB is inviting society members to participate in the month long celebration by activating a station – and is encouraging the rest of the world to listen. The contacts this time will be via two-way communication with awards available for operators logging QSOs with stations using the historic callsigns.

In England these are G5WS, G5AT, G6XX, G6ZZ and G3DR. The station in Scotland will be GM5WS; Wales will be using GW5WS and Northern Ireland, GI5WS. In the English Channel, operators from the Crown Dependency of Guernsey will be using GU5WS and those from Jersey will use GJ5WS. Operators from the Isle of Man, another Crown Dependency in the Irish Sea, will be using GD5WS.

(RSGB)

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NEBRASKA EMERGENCY OPERATORS HONORED BY STATE

PAUL/ANCHOR: Hams in Dodge County, Nebraska, are feeling a lot of pride right now. Their track record of community service and commitment during disasters or even drills for disasters has just been honored by the state, as we hear from Andy Morrison K9AWM.

ANDY: Dodge County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, which has been a key player giving assistance in real and simulated disasters in Nebraska, was among the 11 honorees celebrated recently by the state for its vital work in the community. Susanne Shore, wife of Gov. Pete Ricketts, made the presentation during a luncheon for the 2022 ServeNebraska Step Forward Awards. This is considered the state's most prestigious honor given to volunteers.

Leader Steve Narans, WBØVNF, received the award on behalf of the ARES group, which has been part of disaster drills with the Nebraska National Guard as well as the Fremont fire and police departments. In 2019, the ARES group was key to a successful response when Fremont and surrounding areas suffered major floods. The ARES group is now in the process of renovating a county communications trailer and fitting it out for use by first responders.

(FREMONT TRIBUNE)

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SANTA HF NET IS COMING TO TOWN

PAUL/ANCHOR: Even if you no longer believe in Santa, you still believe in amateur radio, right? So listen up: the Santa Net is coming to town on 80 meters and Jim Damron N8TMW says to put it on your list.

JIM: More than one thousand children are expected to have their moment on the air this year as the 3916 Nets kicks off its 17th year of the Santa Net. When this beloved holiday tradition began 17 years ago, only a handful

of youngsters checked in with the assistance of licensed amateur radio operators. If you've been a very good ham this year, you can help a young person be a third-party operator and get that important contact on 3.916 MHz. The net begins on Friday November 25th at 7:15 p.m. Central Time, or 0115 UTC. Santa will be on the air every night on the same frequency and at that same time until Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Just as Santa himself might say, this is a team effort. Organizer Pete Thomson, KE5GGY, said that radio operators who belong to the 3916 Net work as relays to ensure everyone gets heard. This is, understandably, the favorite time of year on 3.916 MHz for these operators.

You can even check in before the net at [cqsanta dot com \(cqsanta.com\)](http://cqsanta.com) Everyone is ho-ho-hoping for good propagation.

(QRZ.COM)

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CATCH UP WITH SANTA ON REPEATERS, ECHOLINK

PAUL/ANCHOR: If you are unable to reach Santa on HF, he's still reachable by repeater and on EchoLink. Santa will be taking calls from November 27th to December 9th thanks to the teamwork of the Longmont Amateur Radio Club and the Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club.

Linked UHF and VHF repeaters in Colorado will be on the air with Santa, who will also be reachable on Echolink node 8305 via the Longmont club repeater WØENO-R.

For Santa's operating hours and for the repeaters' offsets and PL tones, visit the club website [wøeno dot org](http://wøeno.org). (W zERO E N O dot org)

(LONGMONT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB)

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SKYWARN PROGRAM GOING STRONG IN SEVERE WEATHER

PAUL/ANCHOR: As many of us know, weather patterns seem to be changing everywhere. One thing that doesn't change is hams' dedication to preparedness in the face of disaster. Randy Sly, W4XJ, spoke to one such group.

RANDY: With the recent late season hurricanes and early season snow storms here in some parts of the United States, everybody's talking about the weather these days. For the National Weather Service, one of their key resources for determining ground truth reports during severe weather is the SKYWARN program, which is strongly supported by the amateur radio community.

While hams have always played a key role in the program since its inception in 1965, one group has taken their mission way beyond SKYWARN. The Southwest District Skywarn Team Of Western Pennsylvania offers general weather classes, training for relay and net control stations, SKYWARN reporting procedures, daily rain gauge reporting with CoCoRaHS, and other training along with bi-monthly meetings on Zoom. They also have worked at developing relationships with adjacent NWS forecast offices to provide better interconnectivity and communications during activations.

Eddie Misiewicz (Mi-shé-vitz - short e) KB3YRU, President of the group, told AR Newslite that they want to provide "all things weather" for those who are interested even if they don't have a license. He also hopes that their Zoom meetings might also be a gathering place for other SKYWARN leaders and volunteers in order to share information and ideas. To learn more about the Southwest District SKYWARN team and meeting times, you may contact Eddie at KB3YRU@arrl.net.

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FOR OLDER HAMS, A DIFFERENT KIND OF DXPEDITION

PAUL/ANCHOR: The South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu (VAN-Wah-TWO) isn't exactly roughing it: there's a power grid, commercial air service, homes to rent and a population of more than 40,000 people. For a group of adventurous amateurs with the average age of 70, that makes it a great spot for a DXpedition. Kevin Trotman N5PRE tells us what they've got planned.

KEVIN: Van Herridge, N4VGE, is a born traveler and though he calls South Carolina home, he is always looking for adventure beyond his QTH. Now he and a group of older amateurs will follow that roving spirit to Vanuatu in the South Pacific. The group has planned a two-week DXpedition in December of 2024 and it will include participation in that year's ARRL 10-meter contest.

The men are bringing all their necessary equipment and they're also bringing their wives because this DX has hotels, restaurants, beaches and other attractions to make it a family holiday too.

DXers already know that Vanuatu ranks 100th on the DXCC list of 340 countries. For this team, however, it ranks number one as a good spot to aim for more than 50,000 QSOs using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. They're looking for four more radio operators and inviting them to bring their spouses to make it a great team. Van asks that interested DXpeditioners contact him at vanherridge@gmail.com. That's herridge, spelled h e r r i d g e.

Meanwhile, the team is also working on developing a website and seeking sponsors.

(VAN HERRIDGE, N4VGE)

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WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, you still have time to contact Peter, LA7QIA, who is operating from Svalbard as JW7QIA from November 25th to the 29th. He'll be taking part in the CQWW CW contest as a single operator. QSL to his home call via LoTW.

Sigfrido, IW9FMD, is on the air as 5WØRS from Samoa as time permits between work assignments. Be listening on 20M SSB. QSL via IT9VYO.

You have until December 3rd to contact the team on Nosy Be, IOTA AF-057, Madagascar. Team members including Ron PA3EWP, who is operating as 5R8WP and will be in the CQWW CW contest. His teammates are Guenter DL2AWG, operating as 5R8WG; Erno DK2AMM operating as 5R8MM; Gerben PG5M, operating as 5R8CG and Johannes PA5X, operating as 5R8PA. The team is running two stations at the same time using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 in fox/hound mode.

If possible, logs will be uploaded to Club Log on a daily basis. See QRZ.com for QSL information.

Be listening for Take (TAH-KAY), JS6RRR operating from Miyako-jima, IOTA number AS-079, until December 17th. Take will be on 80-6m, using SSB, CW, FM, RTTY and JT65. He will participate in the CQWW CW contest as JS6RRR. QSL information is on QRZ.com.

Ferdy, HB9DSP, will be active from Zanzibar using the call sign 5H3FM from November 25th to December 13th. You will find him mostly on 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB and FT8. QSL to his home call.

(DX-WORLD.NET)

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KICKER: A RADIO, A RESCUE AND A QSL CARD

PAUL/ANCHOR: Sometimes a QSL card can confirm so much more than just a successful radio contact. Just ask one ham in Wyoming who recently got such a card with a special message. Here's Ralph Squillace KK6ITB with that story.

RALPH: Nicholas Cashoili NØASL recently sent a QSL card to Jim Shirey N7FC. The men had a QSO on Halloween night on the same frequency where members of the Buffalo Amateur Radio Klub customarily check in and keep up-to-date on matters related to the club. The voice coming from Jim's HT, however, wasn't from a fellow club member: It was that of a motorist in distress. That motorist was Nicholas. According to a report on the Buffalo Bulletin website, Nicholas told Jim that he needed help: He'd been driving through a canyon in Johnson County in north central Wyoming, when his car slid off the road. His car was disabled and there was no cell service available in the area. Using his radio, Jim gathered what information he could get from Nicholas and then called 911. The story in the Buffalo Bulletin said that the fire and sheriff's departments were sent to assist at the scene.

Jim however didn't learn of the happy ending until he received that QSL card from Nicholas this month. Only after its arrival from Nicholas' Nebraska QTH did Jim discover some of the details of what turned out to be a successful rescue. Nicholas was safe and had not been injured. The day it arrived, his QSL card did double duty -- as a thank-you card.

During 1950-51, kids could get the Gilbert U-238 Atomic Energy Lab—a kit allowing them to make nuclear reactions at home using ACTUAL RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL.



Review of the Whistler 1040 Portable Digital Scanner- KITP

I bought the Whistler 1040 scanner because Bill-W1WMM had bought one and loved it and I believe Tony- N1JEI has one as well. The other reason was Bill had the software to program it, what a bonus that is!

I own the Uniden Scanner model BCD996P2, the most frustrating and hard to program and use device I have ever owned and I paid \$369.00 to boot. I only wanted to hear the Rockport and Gloucester police, fire, and ambulance frequency's and I did just fine with my analog scanner until they switched to digital modes. I still wanted to listen so I decided to buy a digital scanner, too expensive, but it came with the programming software and the cable. How hard could it be? HARD...FRUSTRATING...and I almost got to the point of wanting to sell it or smash it to smithereens. I did finally get it programmed and it sits in the bedroom scanning 6 lonely frequencies. It has too many features that I will never figure out how to use, it was like buying a Rolls Royce to go to the dump once a week with my one bag of rubbish.

After listening to Bill about the Whistler 1040 and how well it worked and that he would load a program on it for me, I went on the search for that scanner. I heard Whistler had a scratch and dent program which deeply discounted the radios and they came with a 90 day warranty. I found the 1040 scanner but it was out of stock but you could leave your email and they would contact you when they had one. They list for \$299 but sell for \$150 scratch and dent. Less than a week passed and I got an email they had some, I immediately ordered one and got it in a few days. It was in a new original box with manual and charger and programming cable. There were no scratches or dents, it looked new.

I brought the radio over to Bill- W1WMM and he had it back to me in hours. It works great and I did not get frazzled over the programming end of things. It does exactly what I wanted it to do for \$200 less than the Uniden 996P2.

Picture on the right of the scanner and other walkies for size comparison. The Whistler comes with battery holders for regular or rechargeable batteries.

