



CAARA Newsletter



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

FEBRUARY ISSUE- 2014



President's Corner

by Stan-W4HIX

January 2014

January has seen some great progress in renovating and cleaning up the first floor of the Comm. Center. This has been a huge team effort and the results are outstanding. CAARA can be truly be proud of the facility. As always, there's plenty left to do, so your help as a club member is much appreciated.

We held our first Field Day meeting this month. The focus was on antennas and how we distribute the bands to the various stations. Look for some pretty interesting things this summer. Also, there will be many opportunities to learn some contesting skills over the next few months, much better now that for the first time at Field Day.

Another point about Field Day is we may have to find a new location—there is a possibility that the field at Fuller will be sold by the City. We will do some work to identify other locations in case this happens.

CAARA did a special Tech in a Day for the Billerica CERT organization—they drafted police and firemen to get their Tech license. Several CAARA members (Bob Quinn, Roger Smith, Bill Poulin, Ron Beckley, Bill David, Rick Maybury) headed out to Billerica to conduct the session. We graduated 12 new Techs, one of which was Rene Winchester, Gardi's daughter.

Progress on purchase of 6 Stanwood is slow due to the negotiations with our neighbor concerning access across our parking area. We have retained a new attorney, Meredith Fine, to help us with this. Keep in mind, the offer we have from the City is like buying a \$10,000 truck for \$100 as long as we give it back if we can no longer use it.

EmComm is working on some new tools for identifying both CAARA and non-CAARA hams on a Google map in case we need to contact someone "in the area". It is pretty cool—more on this later.

73 de Stan, W4HIX
stan@w4hix.com

Information Desk by Dean-KB1PGH



As you may have heard "CQ Magazine" is having problems with delayed issues of over a month, with many have not received their issues at all and they now have absorbed "Popular Communications" into their digital edition of "CQ". This is not good at all for the print edition and it all sounds like the eventual death knell of "CQ Magaize", at least in the print form. This was all just a matter of time with the rise of the internet and advertising cost cutting by manufacturers. Just look what happened to "Monitoring Times" and "WorldRadio" and some may have already forgotten the yearly edition of "Passbook to Worldband Radio". The era of the "Scanner/SWR" magazine is dead. How can they compete with the internet? It's a heck of alot cheaper, or free sometimes, for ham radio equipment, scanner equipment and SWL manuafercters to advertise online. If you want any sort of information about anything HAM, SWL and SCANNER related all you have to do is Google it or find something on Youtube. So we'll see how long "CQ Magazine" can last. So with that said here are a couple of websites where you can find all the latest news, and even a couple weekly videocasts. You can check out www.qrz.com and you'll see all the latest headlines on the front page. You can also find the weekly edition of "Amateur Radio Newsline" on there as well. You can check out www.eham.net which has the latest information and ham radio related press. There is www.arvideonews.com which is quite informative. You can also Google 'HamNation' which

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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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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 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 former W1RK 443.700 repeater with antennas located in Magnolia is now located at the CAARA clubhouse and has a very limited range.

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

(cont. from p1.)

is on TWIT TV which is another weekly videocast. It now feels like it was the dark ages having to wait for the monthly edition of a SWL, SCANNER or HAM magazine to get all the latest information. Don't forget to look on "Youtube" for video reviews of ham radio products, plus any other ham radio event such as other clubs field days and dxpeditions. You can also check out 'Yahoo' Groups for your ham radio, antenna or HT, which are chock full of other users information. Moving on, here's a reminder that the 2014 WRTC (World Radiosport Team Championships) are being held here in New England this summer! There is a slideshow presentation with all the details on the front page of the CAARA website at www.caara.net. As we wind up this month's column here's a couple tidbits of ham radio history. Mr Guglielmo Marconi began his radio transmission experiments in the 1890's and by 1912 the United States Government started licensing amateur radio operators. Mr Hiram Percy Maxim founded the ARRL in May of 1914 and as of today the ARRL has 155,000 members. I'll see you next month when I'll cover amateur radio public service and the different organizations we help.



EDITOR ROUNDUP by Jon-K1TP

I enlisted the help of Gardi-KB1BTK the other day and did a major cleaning of the first floor. We cleaned the kitchen, yes, you heard me correctly! We wiped down the counters with bleach, washed the floors, put away dishes and cleaned the appliances up. What a difference.

We emptied the trash from the first and second floor and cleaned up the first floor hall. We even put table clothes on the table in preparation of the Sunday morning Scholarship Breakfast.

Please pick up after yourself and help keep it clean and orderly. This is your club and we can't afford a cleaning and maid service without raising the annual dues!



The removal of ham gear from Ralph's estate went very smoothly as a dozen members stepped up to help out. The turnout at club activities has been tremendous and the weekly Tuesday Night Open House has been more than a success.

I can't remember the last time the club spirit and moral being so high! Congratulations to all that pitch in and participate and make our club such a success story.

This might be the most interesting link I have come across in a while: <http://www.ominous-valve.com/hurrlist.txt>.

January 12, 2014 VE Session: Call Signs of our new hams.

Todd A. Burnim Tech KC1BBB
Logan F.D. Greenlee Tech KC1BBA
Edward B. Ridolfi Gen KC1BBC
Charles J. McCarthy Tech KC1BAZ
Matthew J. Beauchesne Gen N1MIB

Congratulations to the new hams and the CAARA VE Test Team lead by Bob-WV1A

uLog - Simple Ham Radio Logger

A new, free logging application uLog, written by Chelmsford radio amateur Charlie MOPZT, offers a fast and no-fuss way to log contacts

uLog has been designed as an easy-to-use logbook application that offers just the basic fields for QSO entry.

There are no fancy gimmicks, just quick and easy input of QSOs whether you're in the Shack or somewhere /P with the laptop.

uLog was unveiled at the recent CARS Amateur Radio Skills Workshop.

Its 'flexi-input' was of particular interest, as you can type the QSO details into a single box, and the software intelligently works out in which fields to put the information.

Find out more about uLog and download a copy at <http://www.m0pzt.com/?uolog>



CAARA
RECEIVES DONA-
TION OF EQUIP-
MENT, RADIO
PARTS, AND TEST
EQUIPMENT FROM
THE ESTATE OF SK
RALPH-W1RK

--... ...--

On Saturday, January 18, a group of CAARA hams organized by Ross- W1RAB arrived at Ralph's QTH and picked up the donated items found in the basement and his second floor shack. It is quite an experience to have known Ralph for 35 years and see his ham life unfold in front of you as you sort thru his gear, test equipment, and huge supply of parts.





Roger- KB1YTJ up front, and Dave-KD1NA and Bill-W1OKD deciding what to take back to the club.

This is the second floor shack, where Ralph made his presence known on the airwaves for many years around the world. On top of his extraordinary cw skills, Ralph was known for his studio quality audio when operating AM and SSB. His back yard was equipped with multiple towers with beams and wire antennas fed in to the second floor shack with 1 inch hardline. It was sure a sight to see over one dozen hardline cables entering the house on the second floor. I noticed Ralph's QTH before I knew Ralph as I drove by to eat at the old Surf Restaurant in Magnola. I was amazed at his antenna farm.

Hams who helped move Ralph's gear to the club:

- KD1NA
- KA1LKX
- K1LDL
- W4HIX
- W4RIG
- K1TP
- WA1JG
- W1OKD
- KB1YTJ
- W1RC
- KA1BTK
- WA1UCG
- WB1EAZ
- W1RAB- Organizer of the event.



Who is that stranger next to Hank? The ever elusive Dave- KA1LKX, a past President of CAARA

Below is the Tube Display Cabinet built many years ago to display old broadcast tubes. It was located on the second floor but after repainting and remodeling, we have decided to mount it on the first floor wall for all to enjoy.

Bob Spanks- WA1UCG is spearheading the painting of the cabinet. Bob and Ron- EAZ just completed the priming of the cabinet on January 18 and will be painting the finish coat January 19.



John G Troster, W6ISQ, is a SK.

”John G. Troster, W6ISQ, became a Silent Key on January 11, 2014. His wife of 65 years, Marguerite (KC6NFE), was at his bedside when he passed away. Jack, along with Vince Chinn K6KQN (now W6EE), Lee Shaklee W6BH (SK), and Don Schliesser K6RV, founded the Northern California DX Foundation in October, 1972. Jack served as an NCDXF Board member for 26 years before stepping down in July, 1998. He was the Foundation’s third President, serving from 1975 until 1986.

Jack had an enormous passion for amateur radio. He was first licensed in September, 1935, at age 14, as W2ISQ in Yonkers , New York . He received his W6ISQ callsign when he moved to California shortly after the end of World War II. Among Jack’s many radio accomplishments and awards were DXCC #1 Honor Roll on the Mixed, CW and SSB modes; 5B-DXCC; 5B-WAS (Certificate #4); and USA Counties Award (for working all 3,076 USA counties, which he did completely on CW!). Jack was a member of the FOC and the A1 Operators Club; he served as president of both the Northern California DX Club and the Northern California Contest Club; he was a Contributing Editor of QST magazine and was the Pacific Division’s representative on the ARRL DX Advisory Committee. He was a director of the Quarter Century Wireless Association and for years wrote the monthly QCWA column published in World Radio News. Jack was named NCDXC’s DXer of the Year, and in 1988 he was inducted as the 27’th member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame. As impressive as were all his radio achievements, even more so was Jack himself. He was the consummate gentleman. He was warm and welcoming to everyone he met, and many amateur radio operators today enjoy the hobby as a direct result of his nurturing, encouragement and enthusiasm. Jack was known for his quick wit and encyclopedic knowledge of amateur radio history. His passing leaves a huge void. Amateur radio has lost one of its giants.”



Above: CAARA President Stan Stone-W4HIX gave an ongoing review of the progress of the purchasing of the clubhouse building from the City of Gloucester to the membership during the January members meeting. A detailed discussion of purchasing the building lasted for an hour.

Below: CAARA member John Graves-WA1JG gave a small presentation on the topic of vertical and wire antennas during the second half of the January member’s meeting. Thank’s goes out to John for the presentation and if you have anything that you would like to present for a members meeting please talk to club President Stan Stone.

Courtesy of Dean- KB1PGH



Kay Craigie, N3KN, Wins Third Term as ARRL President

[UPDATED 2014-01-19 1758 UTC] The ARRL Board of Directors has elected League President Kay Craigie, N3KN, to a third two-year term. The Board met January 17 and 18 in the Hartford, Connecticut, area for its **annual meeting**, and the election of officers was at the top of the business agenda. The League's 15th president, Craigie lives in Blacksburg, Virginia, and has been in office since 2010, succeeding Joel Harrison, W5ZN.

The Board also re-elected First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR, to a new two-year term. ARRL Northwestern Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, was elected Second Vice President to succeed incumbent Bruce Frahm, K0BJ. Northwestern Division Vice Director Jim Pace, K7CEX, will accede to the Director's chair, leaving a vacancy in the Vice Director's position, which will be filled by appointment.

Changing of the Guard at TEN-TEC

TEN-TEC, Inc has announced that Jack Burchfield, K4JU, effective January 1, has turned over day-to-day management responsibility at the Tennessee Amateur Radio equipment manufacturer to TEN-TEC President Jim Wharton, NO4A. "Jack will still remain as CEO and majority stock holder," Wharton said, "however his plans to begin retiring and spending more time with family will begin this year." Wharton said his challenge will be "to coordinate and oversee production, improve scheduling and manage our design and sales teams."

Photograph below: Gardi and I were at the club cleaning things up and I shot this quick photo. Notice the new blue and white paint on the first floor and the table clothes on the tables in preparation for the Scholarship Breakfast on Sunday morning. The vintage radio receivers all neatly stacked in racks until someone wants to pull one out and play radio.



The New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR-Fest XV) at

DEERFIELD

May 2nd and 3rd 2014

ALL radio enthusiasts are invited to attend the Fall 2014 convocation of **NEAR-Fest XV** at the magnificent Deerfield (NH) Fairgrounds. Thanks to you NEAR-Fest has become the Northeast's largest and best hamfester!

Gates open Friday at 9:00 AM sharp. Admission is still \$10.00 per person and \$10.00 per vehicle, (RVs, Campers, Travel Trailers \$30.00 a night, tents \$15.00 a night) into the flea market. Such a deal! Ample free parking is available outside the fairgrounds. Plan on joining us after 3:00PM Thursday for the camp-over and pre-hamfest get-together and help get the fun started early! You may purchase advance tickets and vehicle passes at area hamfests and at the Flea at M.I.T in Cambridge Massachusetts. Visit our Web site (www.near-fest.com) for full information on purchasing advance tickets by mail.

In addition to the hundreds of "tailgaters" in the flea market there will be numerous educational forums, the traditional Friday night "Jam Session" and three buildings packed full of commercial vendors and dealers offering everything from the latest in radio equipment, books, accessories and who knows what else? You never know what treasures, old and new, you will find at Deerfield!

The Deerfield Fairgrounds is located on Route 43 approximately 15 miles NE of Manchester NH. Take Exit 3 off Highway 101 East and follow Highway 43 north to the fairgrounds. GPS coordinates: N42° 5' 57.4" W71° 14' 33.5" (Lat 43.099286 Lon - 71.242663). Talk-in on K1JEK/RPT 146.700 MHz (-600 PL 88.5).

NOTE: The Deerfield Fair Association rules prohibit **alcohol** and **open fires** anywhere on the grounds. Charcoal grills, barbeques, gas grills are okay!

Full details are available on the official NEAR-Fest Web Site: www.near-fest.com

Tentative Spring Dates: Friday Oct 10th & 11th 2015

CHECK OUR WEB SITE FREQUENTLY FOR NEWS & INFO.

CAARA HISTORY

It was almost 36-years ago when then CAARA President Dave Curly put to sea on the ill-fated mission aboard the pilot-boat Can Do to attempt to rescue the crews of the Greek tanker, Global Hope and the Coast Guard 44-foot Motor Life Boat from Station Gloucester that went astray trying to reach her. While the crews of both of those vessels would survive the “Blizzard of 78” unscathed, the same would not be so for the five-man crew of the Can Do.

Losing their radar somewhere near Bakers Island, at night, in total white-out conditions, with near 70-knot winds and 20-foot seas, the crew of Can Do attempted to come about and return to the relative safety of Gloucester Harbor. Without their “electronic eyes” in those conditions they overestimated the boats forward progress into the teeth of the storm and in fact were being driven backwards into the shallows to the south and east of Bakers Island. When

Can Do fetched up on the ledges, her fate, and that of her crew was sealed.

But Can Do’s stout 3/8-inch thick Corten steel hull held together for a while longer as the crew, beat and bloodied, huddled together for warmth in her wracked hull. Their last mortal communications and the last comforting voice they heard, that of Warren Andrews, came through a Hi-Gain, Hi-Seas 6 marine VHF walkie-talkie. Some years later, when the hull of the Can Do was salvaged near Tinkers Island off of Marblehead Neck, the radio was found in her bilges.

As I held this radio in my hands, I got the feeling, not of desperation, and despair but of determination! A message to go forth with everything you’ve got, to do what you know is right! Along with Dave Curley, Captain Frank Quirk, Mate Charley Bucko, Ken Fuller, and Don Wilkinson put out that night to do what they knew was right!

Heros All!



Stay well - Bike more!

Semper Paratus!

Gardi- KB1BTK

A look at the Rigrunner 4004 USB by Dean- KB1PGH

This past Christmas I decided to ask Santa for a Rigrunner and low and behold there was one under my tree! Here's a look at the West Mountain Radio's Rigrunner 4004 USB. Rigrunners are made for sole purpose of distributing a 12VDC power source to several items at once. Rigrunners use the "Anderson Powerpole" system of connecting multiple sources. Anderson powerpoles are a quick connect, genderless universal plug in system for 12VDC power sources. The Anderson Powerpole system is THE standard for interconnecting amateur radio ARES and RACES power systems. So the "Rigrunner" brand is exclusive to West Mountain Radio. West Mountain Radio makes 6 different Rigrunners from the small one I have that runs 40 amps Max for mobile, portable use to larger systems that run 80 amps for home use. As you can see in the photo the connectors are red and black to match the foolproof Anderson Powerpole system which matches Red to power and Black to ground. On the far left is the "DC In" jack where I will plug in my 12 volt deep cycle marine battery. Then as we move from left to right there are two 25 amp connectors, one 10 amp connector and one 5 amp connector which are "DC out". Then at the far right are two USB ports to power any laptops, cellphones or Ipads or Ipods I have. That connection has no fuse but is rated at 4 amps which is far more than needed. The 4004 USB is about the size of a cigarette case, the unit also has a tiny green LED to let you know that the unit is powered. It is well built and solid and the connectors are solid as well. The price for the 4004 USB is \$79.95 which is expensive for such a small unit. Once an a while they do offer rebates as I was able to get a \$10.00 rebate in mine bringing it down to \$69.95. At least now the 4004 USB will give me the option of running multiple items if needed when I do my HF portable ops. Plus if the power goes out, now I can charge my cellphone and run the Ipad and Ipad for the USB ports. I would highly recommend the Rigrunner system to keep your 12 VDC power systems safe and secure but I also recommend looking around the internet a bit and finding a lower price, unless West Mountain Radio offers you a rebate. Rigrunners can be found at www.westmountainradio.com.





The CAARA Emergency Communication Group meeting now convenes at 7 PM on the second Wednesday of every month right before the regular meeting starts. All are welcome to stop by and participate.

ICOM MOVE INTO NEW KIRKLAND WA HEADQUARTERS

After some 30 years in Bellvue Washington, Icom America has relocated to new and substantially larger headquarters not too far away. Their new address is 12421 Willows Road North East, Kirkland, Washington, 98034. All communications should be sent only to the new address. The main phone number is still 1-800-USA-ICOM which translates into 1-800- 872-4266. And of course their website remains at icomamerica.com. (VHF Reflector)

RADIO BUSINESS: ARC TO GO MONTHLY E-PUBLICATION AND QUARTERLY PAPER

Another change in the hobby radio publishing market. This with word that Antique Radio Classified Magazine will resume publishing with the February 2014 issue but as a hybrid publication.

According to an announcement on its website, Antique Radio Classified will be published monthly as an on-line magazine with a print edition to be mailed out quarterly. This means that effective immediately, a one year subscription will consist of twelve monthly online issues and four printed quarterly issues. The monthly online issues will remain unchanged at 52 pages. The printed quarterly issues will mirror the previous three months of online issues and include all articles and columns.

The next print edition will be made up of the February, March, and April 2014 issues. Antique Radio Classified says that all current subscribers will receive the number of monthly print issues that they subscribed for.

Like other publications that have taken to electronic publication, Antique Radio Classified says that these changes are necessary due to increased costs in printing and postage. More is on the web at www.antiqueradio.com

As an aside, hybrid magazine is a relatively new term being used to describe publications that are using both paper and electronic distribution. (Antique Radio Classified)

Shoplifters, Packaging and Me by Curt-AA3JE

You get some funny stuff on the Internet. NO, I don't mean the strange pornographic material involving wallabies. I mean that you find out that you are not as alone as you think you are.

For example, I was looking for a new source for diesel fuel conditioner (the old bottle is used up), and I came across an article on consumer dissatisfaction.

As I am a consumer, and often dissatisfied, I clicked on it. I was amazed to discover that the LEADING cause of consumer dissatisfaction is product packaging.

I must have said something aloud, and since I was in the waiting area of the lab at Addison Gilbert Hospital, someone noticed.

"Mr. Wright, are you OK?" said the technician, (I was making strange choking sounds).

"Oh, sure. I was just looking at this article. It says that the leading cause of consumer dissatisfaction is packaging."

"I can believe that. The most common holiday injury we used to get was the classic "Turkey Carving Casualty". Nowadays it's the "I slipped when opening the package and stabbed myself".

I was doubtful, but checked with the ER staff on my way out.

Yep! "Bloodied on Christmas Morning opening gift in hard plastic shell" was usually on top, followed by "Diarrhea and Vomiting after eating food left out too long" the next day (the Holidays are great for health care workers, nicely predictable).

Now I had never really thought about packaging, so on my next visit to ACE hardware, my source for all cultural information relevant to my condition, and asked about it.

"How come they put this thing in so much plastic?" I asked, holding up a tiny tool that was dwarfed by its massive plastic bubble sheath.

"Shoplifters. If you don't package them in something big, they clean you out in a heartbeat."

"Well, why are they so hard to open?"

"If they were easy to open, the shoplifters would open them."

"Can't be too many shoplifters in Rockport."

"You'd be surprised. It's an Olympic level sport for the bingo crowd. You get an old lady in a cloth coat and sneakers and she can clear out five hundred dollars of stock in fifteen minutes."

Not being willing to get into a discussion of "Income Inequality and the Aged", or "How to stretch your Social Security Payment", I thanked the clerk and walked out.

I continued my researches, and discovered that there was, and is, a thriving business selling devices to open plastic packaging.

I found:

Zibra Classic, Zipit, Fiskars, Plastic Surgeon, Amazing Slice, Slice 00100, Open Smart, Pyranna, and Vestil.

All ranged from \$4.99 to \$24.99, and varied from a razor blade in a plastic holder to a pair of shears that looked capable of cutting a path out of the wreckage of a crashed jet fighter.

There was clearly an arms race going on here, and I was not up to speed.

I ordered a few of the better looking ones, and when they arrived, tried to sneak them into the kitchen drawer. In our house, the kitchen drawer (any kitchen drawer) is a high security area.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GET AWAY FROM THERE."

"I bought this opener for that plastic packaging you hate so much."

"IS THIS GOING TO BE LIKE THE MEAT THERMOMETER BUSINESS ALL OVER AGAIN?"

I had run a project trying to find the best meat thermometer, and my wife had injured herself slightly trying to get a spatula out of the drawer. I still don't see what the problem was, it was only a flesh wound.

"YOU HAVE A DESK, YOU HAVE A DESK DRAWER, YOU HAVE A WHOLE WORKSHOP."



“I just want it to be handy when we need it.”

“YOU HAVE TURNED EVERY DRAWER IN THIS KITCHEN INTO A TEMPLE FOR ANOYA, THE GODESS OF STUCK KITCHEN DRAWERS. GET THOSE THINGS OUT OF MY KITCHEN!”

I was terrified. Disrespect to ANOYA is the leading cause for stuck kitchen drawers. Hurriedly I complied. I will get back to you soon with a consumer report. I am on the trail of a battery powered, rotary, carbide tipped unit that they sell in Europe. It says in the one report I could find that no packaging, no matter how sturdy, can stand up to that bad boy.

Oh, the wife says that poultry shears work fine and have a minimal risk of self-injury, but what does she know?



Frank Vidal-WU1S and Ken Pearson-KD1MS conduct FCC licensing examinations for new amateur operators, Curtis Wright, soon-to-be N3TBR, is pictured taking the exam.

Radio Amateurs Receive Rosetta Spacecraft Signals from Deep Space

James Miller, G3RUH, was among a small handful of Amateur Radio operators to receive the X band signal January 21 from the European Space Agency’s Rosetta spacecraft, some 500 million miles from Earth. Miller used the 20 meter dish at the Bochum Amateur Radio facility in Germany, run by AMSAT-DL and IUZ Bochum Observatory. In an AMSAT-BB post, Miller noted the frequency at the spacecraft was 8421.786900 MHz, and the signal was 14 dB below that of the STEREO A/B spacecraft. Perhaps more astonishing, Bertrand Pinel, F5PL, was able to track Rosetta 65 kilometers from Toulouse using his “home-rigged” 3.5 meter dish and receiver. Viljo Allik, ES5PC, a member of Estonian Student Satellite Program team reported his group was able to detect the satellite’s signal using a slightly smaller dish.

New guide promotes educational value of FUNcube-1 spacecraft

A new instructional guide helps teachers and radio amateurs access and use the AMSAT-UK FUNcube Materials Science Experiment (MSE) resource carried on-board **FUNcube-1** (AO-73)

The ARRL report:

A new FUNcube guide developed by ARRL Education & Technology Program (ETP) Director **Mark Spencer, WA8SME**, aims to maximize the educational focus of the tiny FUNcube-1 (AO-73) satellite.

Spencer's Pragmatic Guide for Using the FUNcube (AO-73) Materials Science Experiment in the Classroom prompts readers to dig beyond AO-73's Amateur Radio transponder and telemetry uploads and downloads and "take a closer look at what is really going on" as the satellite orbits Earth. The diminutive spacecraft includes an AMSAT-UK-developed materials science experiment (MSE).

Spencer's guide helps teachers and students to analyze telemetry and apply the laws of thermodynamics to examine how heat is radiated into space from materials having different surface finishes.

"The primary mission of the FUNcube is education, and the MSE is the focus of that mission," Spencer said. When it's not in educational mode the spacecraft switches on an Amateur Radio SSB/CW inverting transponder (435.150-435.130 MHz LSB up/145.950-145.970 MHz USB down). "I know there is an ongoing discussion of the value of CubeSat telemetry when compared to transponder operations," he said. "You just might find that an occasional look at the telemetry will help you better understand satellites and make you a better satellite operator."

As Spencer explained, the FUNcube-1 MSE includes two separate experiments — one using the thermally isolated aluminum bars mounted on one face of the satellite, and the second using four aluminum bars that form part of the satellite's body in the corners of the cube. MSE data are transmitted via a 2 meter downlink (145.935 MHz BPSK) and decoded and displayed by the AMSAT-UK Dashboard software.

"Collecting the data is only part of the education mission," Spencer said. "The other — and more meaningful part — is interpreting the data." That, he explained, starts with a thermodynamics refresher. "In the broadest terms, thermodynamics is the study of how heat moves from one place to another," he continued. "The purpose of the FUNcube MSE is to allow students to witness heat transfer by radiation firsthand in an environment — space — where convection and conduction are not present."

Spencer called the FUNcube MSE "an exceptional educational resource," and he praised AMSAT-UK's efforts. "It's now our turn to gain as much as we can from their efforts, and I hope the Guide will help you get started."

AMSAT-UK said its FUNcube project was designed "to create an educational CubeSat which is intended to enthuse, excite and educate students about radio, space, physics and electronics. It will also support educational science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) initiatives." FUNcube-1 was put into orbit as a standalone 1U (10 × 10 × 10 centimeters) CubeSat. The follow-on FUNcube-2 will be part of the UKube-1 3U spacecraft.

Visit ARRL's Classroom Library: Satellite Communications page, which includes a link to the new guide, for more information on bringing space into the classroom. AMSAT-UK has put out its own FUNcube Handbook to provide some practical advice to interested hams and classroom teachers on how to access and use the satellite's onboard MSE.

Source: ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/news/>

new-guide-promotes-funcube-1-s-educational-value

You can get your

FCC Technician Amateur Radio License

in One Day with

TECH-IN-A-DAY

*Note: Morse code is no longer needed for any
amateur radio license.*

How?

If you can spare one Saturday, chances are very good you can get your FCC amateur radio Technician license. Don't worry if you're not technically inclined, this method depends much more on short-term memory than technical knowledge or background. By spending six hours studying the questions and answers from the FCC exam question pool, you'll remember enough to pass the exam given at the end of the class. The test is 35 multiple-choice questions and you need 26 correct to pass. This method has worked with teenagers to senior citizens.

Why?

With a Technician license, you can use VHF and UHF amateur radio bands, meaning when the phones go dead and your cell phone doesn't get reception, you will be able to get a message out with a simple hand-held radio. For emergency workers, adding Amateur Radio capability adds to your communications abilities. And, it is great fun with interesting people to meet.

Help!

So after I get my license, what next? The Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association is ready and willing to teach you the practical matters on getting "on the air". We can answer your questions on how to operate, what radio to buy, etc. We get together every Sunday morning for coffee and donuts—come join us sometime. We also have members' meetings once a month with interesting presentations.

Schedule

Date: **Saturday, April 19th, 2014**

Time: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM (includes exam)

Place: Lanesville Community Center

8 Vulcan St

Gloucester (Lanesville), MA

Contact

Stan Stone, W4HIX

978 283-2015 e-mail: techinaday@caara.net

You must pre-register for this course.

Cost & Requirements

Fee: \$5 (includes materials & snacks)

Test Cost: \$15 (required by FCC)

Bring photo ID & Social Security Number



Above, the first floor of the club with, yes, table clothes on the tables...new paint, clean, and neat....a club to be proud of. I expect we will be hosting a dinner function here at the CAARA Comm Headquarters soon.

Below, the newly cleaned up and ready for action CAARA kitchen. What a difference a few members can make in a few hours of scrubbing....thanks Jon and Gardi!



The Building Center of Gloucester
1 Harbor Loop
Gloucester, MA 01930
Phone: 978-283-3060
Mon-Fri: 7am-5pm
Sat: 8am-4pm
Sun: Closed



The Building Center of Essex
140 Western Avenue
Essex, MA 01929
Phone: 978-768-7151
Mon-Fri: 7am-4:30pm
Sat: 8am-2pm
Sun: Closed

A damp fog hangs over the harbor, gulls caw out of the mist at waterfront laborers below as the Building Center of Gloucester opens its doors for another day's business. Gloucester, Mass. A community that has grown out of the sea rather than down to the water's edge is more a sub-culture than a city... more a way of life than a trading area.

So to, is The Building Center more than a business.

It was born out of a raging gasoline barge fire at the turn of the century when a heroic tugboat captain, "Cap" Heberle, towed the vessel inside the breakwater and extinguished the flames under constant threat of explosion to claim the \$10,000 salvage money. It was this stake that allowed him to purchase a bankrupt coal company on the waterfront.

The hardware and lumber shopping center of today grew out of this coal business under his able captaincy and later, that of his son Charles Heberle Jr.

The building center does more than serve the hardware and building materials needs of the city. From its epic birth out of fire and sea to its waterfront location at One Harbor Loop, it is an integral part of the unique living entity that is Gloucester itself.

In 110 years of operation, The Building Center has done what hardware stores and home centers throughout the country seem to do so often. It has become a part of the community rather than merely a business within it. Marketing people refer to it as "grass roots distribution" and it is one of the qualities that makes the retail hardware industry endure.

While roots, tradition, reputation and the other qualities that go with businesses of this type provide a strong foundation upon which to grow, no business grows and prospers without innovation.

Some innovations at The Building Center include a check-in/check-out lumberyard. Customers drive into the yard through a checkpoint and load their merchandise. As they drive back through the gate, they pay for the goods, thus eliminating congestion on the retail sales floor.

Should they need assistance in planning, estimating, etc. a lumber service counter is located at the back of the store.

The facility is built around the concept of a building products shopping center and is more than a hardware store.... More than a home center and more than a lumberyard with a retail sales area.

The drive-in lumber operation is a full-service yard. The store itself is a full-blown home center with all basic departments plus a complete kitchen design showroom, garden center, a consumer lumber/building materials department, a marine department and the ever popular harbor loop gift shop offering a wide variety of creative and nautical gifts for the home.

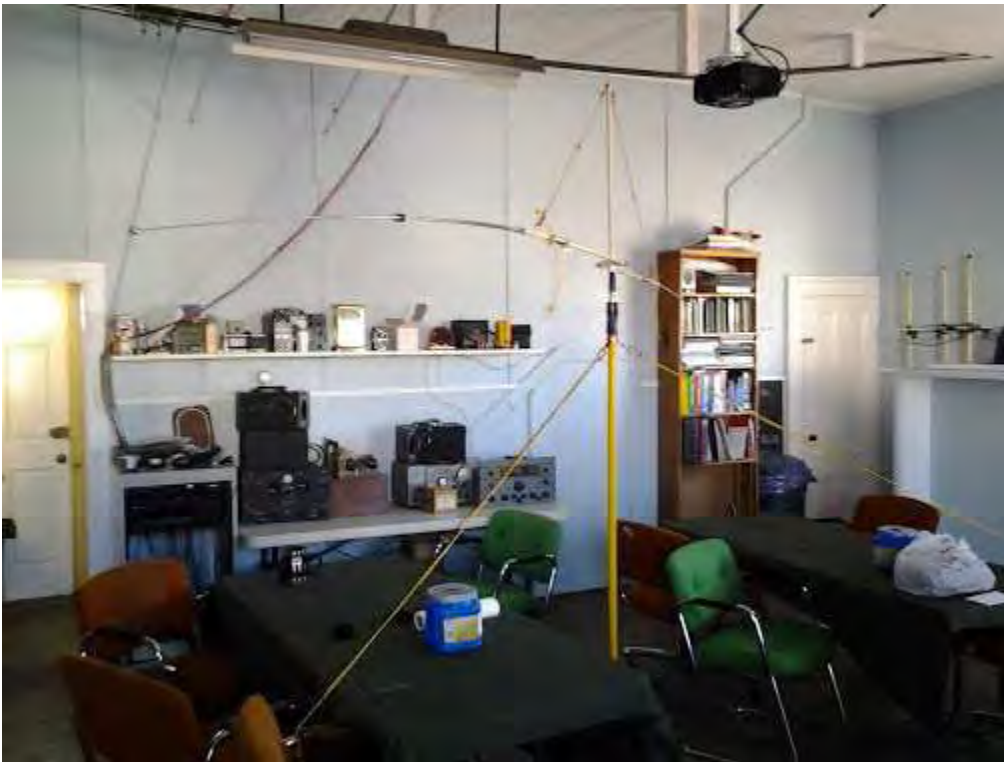
CAARA thanks the Building Center for donating the plywood needed to complete the Vintage Tube Cabinet Project which can be seen in the first floor meeting room.

WINTER FIELD DAY 2014 AT THE CAARA CLUB



Another event held at the club from Saturday noon until Sunday noon which brought out quite a few club members to socialize and use the myriad of club rigs and equipment.

Now that the club is getting organized, we can actually display all of the donated gear on shelving and rotate ham gear thru the 6 operating positions. From vintage to modern state of the art radios like the FLEX 3000 SDR radios, all of which can be operated by CAARA members after being trained by members familiar with the gear.



Gardi-KB1BTK has built a homebrew buddipole portable antenna for use with his new Yaesu 450D and LDG tuner.

Gardi is setting up his station in his Van as his home QTH does not allow an outside antenna farm.

He modified the plans he found on the internet and I think it is better than the original plans.

The picture to the left shows the antenna setup at the clubhouse on the first floor, it was too cold outside!



The 2014 CAARA Winter Field Day was held from 1700 UTC (12:00 noon EST) Saturday January 25, 2014 through 1700 UTC (12:00 noon EST) Sunday January 26, 2014. The object of the event is familiar to most Amateur Radio operators: set up emergency-style communications and make as many contacts as possible during the 24 hour period. The rules encourage as many contacts on as many bands and modes as possible, because during a real emergency, the most important factor is the ability to communicate, regardless of band, mode or distance.



You might notice that there are IBM laptops at each operating position and ganged together for contesting at the club or at the actual Field Day Event at Fuller School. Thanks to Stan-W4HIX for all his work purchasing and configuring the computers.

Winter Field Day brought out quite a diverse group of hams, some that prefer digital, CW or SSB modes, but they all got along just fine and enjoyed the second floor of the club.

Thanks to Dick-KR1G for repairing the first/second floor antenna relay system which was designed and built by SK Ralph- W1RK.