



CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2016

WINTER FIELD DAY AT THE CAARA CLUB A SUCCESS!



Hank and Stan checking into the ARES net before the Winter Field Day started on 40 meters using the Flex Radio and the endfed antenna.



Gardi- KA1BTK operating the FT897 on 15 meters ssb during the contest while the Flex was being operating on 40 ssb by Hank and Stan.
(cont p15.)

Information Desk by Dean-KB1PGH



I can't remember the last time I went over the overall totals of FCC amateur radio licenses here in the United States so I will cover those numbers for this months column. The over all total number of licenses as of November 30th 2015 is 733,594. Breaking those numbers up into separate license classes goes like this: Extra 139,515 ,Advanced 48,272, General 172,239, Technician 362,580, and Novice 10,988. Going back in time we see one year ago there was an overall total of 726,006 licenses so there has been an increase of a little over 7000 more hams. Going back a decade ago there were 672,622 licenses issued so there has been an increase of

over 60,000 new hams. That's mostly due to the drop off in the requirement to test for morse code that occurred back in February 2007. Of course while these numbers indicate that ham radio is not dead we must also realize that licenses expire in 10 years so there may be a few silent keys in these numbers. We also have to realize how many of these license holders are "Active" hams? Even I hold an Extra class ticket but I can only get on HF a total of 24 hrs a year if I'm lucky! Moving on to some local numbers there are 13,309 amateur radio operators in Massachusetts and 9711 of them are in the ARRL Eastern Mass section. This number pales in comparison to
(cont. p3.)



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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Welcome to CAARA:

CAARA, an ARRL affiliated club, maintains the W1GLO repeater's on 145.130 MH and 443.700MHZ with antennas located on the cell tower at the Blackburn Industrial Complex in Gloucester, Massachusetts. They have an average effective radius of 50 miles, and serve Eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Rhode Island, Southern New Hampshire, and maritime mobile stations. CAARA also operates the W1GLO repeater on 224.900MHZ located at the clubhouse.

The Association is one of the few amateur radio clubs that owns their own clubhouse. Located at 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester, it includes several HF stations with rotating beams, wire and vertical antennas along with full digital mode stations.

The club has emergency power backup, a full kitchen, and meeting/classroom room facility.

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

California which has 103,516 hams. Now we can't forget about club calls. There are 11,597 ham radio clubs who have their own call signs and did you know that there are 44 military recreation station call signs as well? So there you go, when you talk to the public about ham radio you now have some data to give them about our hobby. All of this information can be found at : www.speroni.com . Moving on-



here's some ARRL information. The ARRL is hosting the 2016 National Parks on the Air event which is being held throughout the whole year. Amateur radio stations will be activated to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the United States National Park Service. More information on this please go to NPOTA . For this month's prepper tip- do you have an emergency kit for your car? Especially during the winter months. Do you have at least an extra blanket, some extra water and non perishable food? Do you have a first

Aid kit and a good flashlight and extra gloves? How about throwing a cheap Baofeng HT in there in case you don't have a mobile rig. Get some hand warmers too-you never know. Throw a small snow shovel in the trunk and some kitty litter for traction for your tires. Maybe some adult diapers? Ok-maybe I just went too far but you get the point. Getting stuck in the snow during extreme low temps is not good. Make sure your car is gassed up too.

That's it for this month's column, see you soon!



2015-2016 CAARA BOD

(l to r) Ross, Roger, Gardi, Jon, Hank, Larry, Stan, Tony, Bill, and Jake.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA CLUBHOUSE?



FATHER AND SON WORK ON ANTENNA PROJECT ON THE SECOND FLOOR WORKBENCH AT THE CAARA CLUBHOUSE



Hi Stan,

Thanks again for helping Toby and me get started with the yagi project. We are both really excited about it, and I have to agree that it seems like a great first project.

And, we had a lot of fun tonight playing with our new handheld and trying to figure it out. Attached are a few pictures. Looking forward to drilling some holes with the drill press!

Best,

Charlie

KC1EWE

P.S. Gotta say... I sure like having pancakes for lunch!

TIDBITS: We are working on installing a 6 meter vertical antenna and a Red Cross radio on the second floor at the vhf and uhf station area.

We have been getting excellent reports about the coverage of our 440 repeater. The audio transmit quality is excellent and the receiver is very sensitive. We are only running 20 watts and this has limited coverage, the repeater hears better than it talks. To correct the issue, we are installing a 70 watts amplifier soon. It was donated to the club by the family of silent key, Ralph- WIRK.

If anyone is interested in CW practice at the club, let us know. We would be glad to offer sessions for anyone interested from beginner to advanced sending and receiving code. We have the equipment and operators ready, willing, and available.

A Look at the Hy-Power Off Center Fed Dipole

by Dean KB1PGH

As everyone knows I operate portable with the Buddipole Antenna system. The antenna works great but there are a couple of drawbacks. It does not work in the rain that well and if you want to change bands you have to take the antenna down and reconfigure it and put it back up. One other thing is that it is a bear to tune on 40 meters due to the limitations on the coils so I decided to look around for another option in case I wanted to work multiple bands at a time or 40 meters. I looked around the internet and I came across the Hy

Power OCF 40 QM dipole. This antenna is made especially for portable use. It is 66 ft long and has can tune on 40, 20, 10, 6 and 2 meter bands. One leg of the antenna is 23 ft long and the other is 43 ft long. The wire part of the antenna is made of #18 gauge insulated wire and it comes with its own balun. The balun is a Hy Power BL-HF-250-M, 1:1 ratio current/choke balun which is rated for 250 watts. The balun can be bought separately and can tune 160-6 meters on whatever wire antenna you choose as you can see in the photo you can attach a different wire antenna by the two posts. The balun has a BNC connector on it as well. The balun is only 3" by 2" by 1" so it is very small. The antenna looks of good build quality and is extremely lightweight. I'll put some

weatherproofing sealant around the two post areas to keep any moisture from ever working into the top of the balun but the rest of the case looks waterproof enough for a portable operation. This antenna was not made for a permanent installation. Santa gave me this antenna as a present but you can buy it at www.universal-radio.com for \$100.00. The balun can be purchased alone for about \$35.00. Hy Power makes a bunch of dipole antennas for home or portable use. They even sell dipoles for each band if you choose. The website is www.hypowerantenna.com. I will let you know the performance of this antenna when spring comes and we get to do some portable HF ops!



CAARA Mailing Lists HOW ... What and WHY

by Bob Spanks- WA1UCG

As a member of CAARA you have been told that you can join a mailing list to receive communications about areas of interest to you. So I hope to be able by writing this article to explain the HOW What and Why.

Let me explain the present mailing lists that CAARA has.

- Members Mail list
- Caaramail Mail List
- VE Mail list
- EMCOM Mail List

The intent of these mailing lists each have a purpose and have been developed over the years by President's and the Board of Directors.

Members Mail list

The list is maintained by the Dues Collector and every member who joins CAARA is put on this list. This list is a moderated list and the only content distributed on this mail list is official CAARA business which is defined in the By-Laws. Some examples of these are:

- Annual Dues Notices
- Reminder of Dues not paid
- Special Membership Meetings of CAARA
- CAARA Newsletter
- Any communication that is required by the By-Laws

Caaramail Mail List

The purpose of this list is for members to have an avenue to ask questions or give their opinions to other CAARA members. It is also used for members to be able to voice their concerns, likes or dislikes to the officers and directors of CAARA. **REMEMBER** when voicing your concerns or dislikes we should always be respectful of each other and do it in a manner which is constructive to improve CAARA **NOT** divisive of CAARA.

This mail list is a list which you the member must join. Your name does not get added to this list automatically. When you receive your acceptance letter from the dues collector it has a link which you can click on to join the mail list.

If you are a member of CAARA, and have not joined the mail list and would like to, we will tell you how simple it is later on in this article.

Also be aware that this is a **PUBLIC LIST** which means that anyone can join CAARA member or not.

The board wants you to know that it is **NOT CAARA's** policy to sell or share your information with anyone.

VE Mail List

The purpose of this mailing list is for the CAARA's VE's to communicate between themselves as well as for the Chairman of CAARA's VE program to communicate any information he / she receives that the volunteers would need to know for testing purposes.

This mail list is restricted to CERTIFIED VE's only. If anyone would like information or has an interest in becoming a VE they should send that request to CAARA's **contact us** link or the e-mail link board@caara.net on the website.

I would like to mention something about this program. Anyone with a license class of GENERAL and above can be a VE. If you hold an Extra Class license that means you can administer any class test (i.e.: Technician, General, Extra) If you hold a General Class you may administer the Technician Class license. So if you are interested in helping or becoming a VE please contact Bob Quinn WV1A.

EMCOM Mail List

The purpose of this mailing list is for any CAARA Member who is interested in Emergency Communications or Public Service to receive and communicate between each other. This is also an avenue for the Chairman of Emergency Communications for CAARA to transmit information about CERT Training, emergency communications or public service meetings held at the club or just to get input and suggestions from members.

It is also a communications tool for the Chairman of Public Service Events for CAARA to let the members who are registered on this list know when CAARA is participating in Public Service Events.

This mail list as well as caaramail would be used to let as many of the registered users know about the goings on of Emergency Communications and Public Service within CAARA as well as requests from other organizations requesting CAARA's help with their events. This mail list is for CAARA members only.

So these are the mailing lists and their purposes. So now you ask “**How Do I Sign up for these Lists**” Well here are the details. Visit the CAARA Web Site at www.caara.net in the Website Heading you will see **Listserver Mailing Lists** scroll your mouse over the link, a drop down menu will appear

You will have the choice of mailing lists CAARA Mail, Em-Com Mail, VE-Mail. Click on the mail list you want and a form will appear fill out the form and you will be a member of the list Quick ... Fast and EASY.

Well ... see ... very simple. Now rather you have been a member of CAARA for a short time or a long time CAARA Member I suggest that you review your interests and sign up for all or as many of the mails lists as you are interested in.

Lastly, **ALL** the mail lists are now **MODERATED** so what does that mean to you well it means that **ALL** mail is reviewed before it gets sent out to **YOU** and only the mail that you receive will be pertinent to the mail list and that the mail is appropriate for distribution. Now you ask what that means. It means that with respect to caaramail if you send something that contains a lot of profanity it probably will be rejected and if you send something that has a personal or defaming content to it, it will be rejected and sent privately to the parties to resolve among themselves.

It is and was the intent as these lists were created to allow CAARA Members to freely and honestly communicate between each other as well as to communicate with their BOARD of DIRECTORS and elected officials their concerns.

We are very fortunate as a club to have a **FIRST CLASS** Website as well as the personal to administer the website. If you exam our website and compare it to other websites of other clubs we are the BEST.

In closing, please review the details of this article and any questions or concerns please, contact any director or officer of CAARA or contact myself and I will be glad to explain further or help in any way possible.

73's Bob

ONE OF THE RACES THAT CAARA PROVIDES COMMUNICATIONS FOR!



MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

Gihan Amarasiriwardena, the CEO of Ministry of Supply, ran a road race in Gloucester in a suit and tie – a publicity stunt for his company.

CEO suits up – literally – for half-marathon

→ Sporting his company's clothes, he finishes in ninth place

BOSTON GLOBE PAGE C-4 DEC. 9, 2015

By Curt Woodward
ILLUSTRATION

Some publicity stunts were just meant to be.

Gihan Amarasiriwardena, CEO of the Ministry of Supply, was already training for next year's Boston Marathon when he heard that someone had broken the Guinness World Record for running a half-marathon in a suit, at 1:35:47.

The fact that October's record run came in clothes from a competitor, the Canadian custom suit maker Indochino, was just another enticement. "It was definitely something that made us think, 'Hey, we've got to take a shot at this,'" Amarasiriwardena said.

If anyone sells suits that are up to the task, it's probably Ministry of Supply. It combines classic men's styles with high-performance fabrics that stretch, help keep the body cool, and pull sweat away from the skin.

As luck would have it, Ministry of Supply had recently launched a new jacket and pants, the Aviator 2, that offered just the kind of flexibility you'd need for 13.1 miles of pounding the pavement.

So Amarasiriwardena laced up his adidas running flats and hit the road last weekend for the Half MerryThon in Gloucester. (He also sported a dress shirt and socks from the company's line.) His time was a speedy 1:24:41, only about two minutes off his previous best, and good enough for ninth place. "I was actually a little surprised myself that I was able to get that close," he said.

The record keepers at Guinness report that they're still evaluating Amarasiriwardena's entry, which he said was documented with witnesses, photos, and even some drone footage.

As for the 2016 Boston Marathon, Amarasiriwardena hasn't fully ruled out a more formal look.

"We'll see," he said with a laugh. "I'll probably be doing this one in my regular outfit, but I might think about it."

He wouldn't be the first CEO to look to the city's biggest athletic event for a little free marketing. In 2009, RunKeeper's chief executive, Jason Jacobs, famously completed the race wearing an iPhone costume bedecked with the company's logo.

Curt Woodward can be reached at curt.woodward@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @curtwoodward.

Ham radio tower dispute

A federally licensed amateur radio operator in Biddeford, Maine said he plans to sue the city for harassment in regards to a radio tower he was forced to remove.

The Biddeford Courier reports: Karl Reed said the city violated his First Amendment rights and failed to give him due process when it threatened to fine his landlord \$2,500 a day if the tower was not removed.

Reed, whose FCC call number is KB1NZQ, claims that federally licensed amateur radio operators are exempt from zoning ordinances as long as the towers used are less than 35 feet in height.

"Federal laws supersede these state and zoning rules," Reed said.

ARRL 2016 Field Day Packet is Now Available, New Bonus Point Categories Announced

It's not too early to be thinking about **Field Day 2016** and planning your club's strategy for a bigger score and greater participation than last year. Field Day is June 25-26 — always the 4th full weekend in June — and the 2016 ARRL Field Day Packet now is available to **download** as a PDF file. This year's Field Day introduces two new ways to score bonus points — Social Media and Safety Officer.

Rule 7.3.16 Social Media offers 100 bonus points for promoting your Field Day activation to the general public Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. qualify as social media for this bonus.

Rule 7.3.17 Safety Officer offers 100 bonus points by designating someone to serve as a Safety Officer for groups setting up Class A stations.

Roasting Slowly in Hell

by Curtis- AA3JE

Now those of you who have read this stuff know that I am the most sweet tempered of men. A saint, in fact! The perfect picture of a sweet kindly old duffer who can't really fix things very well, but tries. Hard. Often with unexpected outcomes.

But there is one area, one area of all areas, where I find myself channeling Attila the Hun. Indeed, I have to watch my speech or I frighten the civilians.

It's software. Buggy software. Software with bugs in it. Software that does things on its own, with the firm conviction it is helping you.

And it goes like this.....

I am studying Korean. Do not ask why. It makes no sense. But I am doing it. And I have three, (no, not one but three) on-line teachers and a boat load of homework.

And it ain't no dinky! A container ship of homework. "¼÷Á" in Korean.

And part of that study is translation. Now Korean grammar is odd to Western eyes (English is odd to Koreans, but they solve the problem by crossing themselves, eating garlic and spitting). And this means I have to switch between fonts, and manually line up words under Korean words, then consult the spirit world to figure out what the grammar is!

So I start up good old, BUG RIDDEN, Microsoft Word.

And start typing. In Korean and English.

And after the first line the "auto-format" feature thinks it knows how I want things numbered and formatted, so it auto format's it (wrongly).

So I correct it.

And it reformats it again after the next line.

Now I am not an idiot (there are differing opinions about this, actually), so I go to "Preferences" and turn off "Auto format".

It still does it.

I go to "Tables" and "Advanced Options" and I turn off "Automatic Table Formatting".

It still does it.

So I call up the Help feature. It tells you everything but how to turn the damn thing off.

So I look on the Internet and find a vendor supporting the product.

And I call them.

And I talk to Gary, a nice kid, in India, who asks me lots of questions about my system and program versions, and after 20 minutes at \$5.00 a minute, he tells me my system is working perfectly.

I never doubted it. At that price I would at least expect some racy talk!

And he transfers me to program support.

And after another \$100 we discover that Andy, (I doubt this is his real name), cannot make the damn thing turn off either. The "Auto-format" feature is linked to the "Styles" menu in some way that only God and Microsoft understand.

I bid "Andy" adieu, and call Microsoft.

And the nice, sweet, very professional operator asks me what I want.

I ask if she can find out who programmed the Auto-format feature.

It turns out there is a whole department that runs it.

And she asks me what service I need.

And I lose it.

I grab my copy of the OED and describe, in lurid and pungent detail, the punishment for traitors to the English Crown in 1400 AD. (Hint, it involves abdominal and orthopedic surgery without anesthetic.)

She thanks me and says that their programmers get this kind of suggestion all the time.

So I find a pencil, and a piece of paper, and write it out longhand and scan it in.

I cannot imagine why some people find me difficult.



CTCSS for Dummies by KV4BL

One aspect of FM operation that seems to have quite a lack of understanding with regard to it is CTCSS (aka Private Line, PL, Channel Guard, CG, Quiet Call, QC, etc). Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System has been around for over fifty years, yet is under-utilized or improperly utilized by many FM'ers, to include repeater owners/trustees and end-users. It is my hope that this article will in some way contribute to increased and proper utilization of this convenient and useful tool.

CTCSS is a system whereby a (not really) sub-audible tone is encoded into the transmit audio of a radio and a receiver on another radio on that frequency will only open up (decode) when it picks up that specific tone. While the tones are called "sub-audible", most people can hear them as a hum in their radio's speaker when monitoring a radio or repeater that is encoding such a tone.

Higher frequency tones are more easily heard. Most radios capable of CTCSS have at least 38 tones between 67.0 Hz and 250.3 Hz, with some having even more tones over a wider frequency range. For instance, you may keep in contact with friends on 146.535 MHz Simplex. You or your friends may experience intermittent bursts of noise which open your regular Carrier Squelch (CSQ) with enough frequency to be really annoying, whether you are getting those bursts of noise on a base, mobile, or HT. If the operator being thus annoyed turns their squelch up enough to eliminate the noise, they might reduce or also eliminate the ability to hear friends who are calling who are below the squelch threshold.

In some cases, the noise bursts may be so strong that the Carrier Squelch will not silence them. These are where CTCSS really shines. Let's say that instead of running your squelch up really high and risking missing calls or not eliminating the noise, you and your friends agree to set your radios to encode a certain tone on that channel when you transmit. For Simplex purposes, I would recommend a fairly high tone, say 203.5. The reason I recommend higher tones for Simplex is so that a ham trying to join the conversation will be more likely to hear and notice that a tone is in use in case he wants to join in. Noticing that everyone is using a tone, he won't think your group is being stuck up if he calls and doesn't get a response. If he knows you are using a tone, he can either guess at what it is (a skill that CAN be learned) or use his radio's "Tone Scan" feature. Of course, popular local repeater tones may also be used.

Getting back to use of the tones, now that everyone is encoding that tone ("T" on most FM ham radios), if any member of the group is experiencing annoying bursts of noise, intermod, etc, he can turn on his radio's decoder ("TSQ" on most FM ham radios) and his receiver will be silent until someone transmitting that specific tone keys their mic. While this feature will not stop interference from very strong noise sources, it will keep your receiver quiet until one of your group transmits.

CTCSS can be a great "quick fix" for all kind of noise, which may override your normal Carrier Squelch. One new ham was enjoying the local repeater when they held their bi-weekly nets, but a computer or other device in his home was breaking his Carrier Squelch on the repeater frequency, even with his squelch set as high as it would go. Since he was receiving that repeater full scale and that repeater's trustee wisely encoded the same tone on its output that was required to access it on the input (more on this later), I suggested that he activate his CTCSS decoder ("TSQ") on that channel. That way he could leave his base on that repeater channel and not be annoyed by the noise that was overpowering his regular squelch on just that one frequency. Problem solved!

CTCSS originally was developed for commercial Land Mobile FM radio systems such as police and business band, to keep the end-users from being constantly bombarded with chatter from other agencies or businesses who were on the same frequency. With growing numbers of FM repeaters on ham bands, it was soon put to use to keep users in distant towns from keying up the local repeater in addition to the one in their area during band

openings or when operating from higher elevations. It excels in this purpose.

Back in the mid- 1990's, quite a few FM ham radios might have come with only Carrier Squelch capability, with the option to add a tone board to allow your radio to encode a tone and allow access to repeaters that required a CTCSS tone to access them. Even more radios came with no CTCSS decode board to allow you to decode tones and keep the speaker on your radio silent. Again, such boards were available in many cases as an expensive "add-on". Thankfully, for the last ten or fifteen years, just about all modern bases, mobiles, and HT's, for FM ham radio use come equipped to encode ("T") or encode and decode ("TSQ") CTCSS tones.

One of my pet peeves with regard to repeaters is how many repeater owners and/or trustees will set up a repeater to require a tone on the input to key up a repeater, but fail to encode that same tone on the output for the convenience of the end-users. In cases where older equipment is being used and finding or purchasing a tone encoder might be difficult or expensive, I can understand why a repeater owner or trustee might not choose to encode a tone on the output. Just about all repeater equipment of newer vintage is programmable (just like your mobile or HT) for encoding and decoding tones. In those cases, setting up a repeater to encode a tone on the output involves a couple of minutes or literally just seconds of extra effort. That little bit of extra effort enables the users (supposedly the reason they go to the trouble and expense to put a repeater up to begin with) to turn on their decoders ("TSQ") and put their carrier squelches on a minimum setting while screening out annoying noise from computers, car electronics, gas pumps, and more.

Encoding on the output also allows travelers and newcomers to find out what the access tone required to get into the repeater is, via the use of their radio's "Tone Scan" feature. Setting the repeater up to encode on the output (IMHO) shows superior engineering and pride in the repeater by the owner or trustee, and something quite the opposite in those who won't spend the extra few seconds or minutes to set up encode on the output, if such is enabled by a few key presses.

Of course I have heard numerous outlandish and illogical "reasons" for not encoding a tone on the output. "We don't want our users to turn on their tone squelch because they might interfere with a distant repeater." (Uhhh... really?) "Not encoding a tone on the output makes it easier for users to program the repeater in their radios." (Uhhh, no... It increases the chances that they won't hear the repeater, say if they program "TSQ" instead of "T".) One of my (not so) favorites is, "the repeater passes tones." This is almost as bad as no tone at all, maybe worse. Different radios have different tolerances and tightness with regard to the tones they emit. Running that through the repeater's audio sections can cause variances in the tone reaching the end user's radio, often resulting in some people opening up your decoder properly, some chopping in and out, and others not opening your decoder at all. "Passing tones" through the repeater rarely if ever works as well for the end-user as properly encoding a steady tone on the repeater's output.

One of the biggest misconceptions I hear (too regularly) and usually from veteran hams is, "they PL'd such-and-such repeater. That means it is now a closed repeater and they don't want us to use it anymore." NOPE! Repeaters are PL'd to eliminate or reduce incidences of the repeater being keyed by users of another machine a long way off, during band openings or similar circumstances.

Rarely is simply adding CTCSS to gain access done with intent to discourage people from using it. Quite the opposite, it is done to make using the repeater a more enjoyable experience for everyone. On that note I will add that some of the modern, menu-driven radios can be challenging to program, especially for some of our senior veteran hams. If you know one of these old timers who have been shut out of a repeater that was recently PL'd, please offer to help them re-program their radio. That is one of the many rewards of the hobby, helping others.

Hopefully this has helped some to better understand CTCSS and how useful it is and can be on FM. As I noted

elsewhere in this article, it IS fifty-plus year-old technology, not some evil combination of witchcraft and nuclear science, the slightest error in use of which might destroy the world as we know it.

First Iranian ham radio contest

To celebrate 37th anniversary of Iranian Islamic revolution, the first Iranian ham contest is going to be held on February 1st, 2016 and will last for 10 days.

Objective: To encourage and increase contacts (especially DX ones) with Iranian radio amateurs.

Dates:

Contest Period: 10 days (Feb 01, 00:00 UTC – Feb 11, 23:59 UTC)

All modes (CW, SSB, RTTY) can be used on this period.

Bands:

40, 20, 15 and 10 meters

Note: On 20m, the upper limit is 14.250 MHZ

Contact information:

For contest information and any sort of inquiries contact
epcontest.2016@gmail.com

Certificates:

Certificates will be awarded to:

- 1- Top single operator (at least 30 contacts on all modes)
- 2- Top CW operator
- 3- Top SSB operator
- 4- Top RTTY operator
- 5- Any operator who contacts at least 3 Iranian hams

Getting QSL card:

If you need the printed certificate, you should send 5USD (or equivalent in your currency) to this address: "P.O. Box 14185-736 , Tehran, Iran"

Please use registered mail to make sure it delivers without problems.

WebMoney and Bitcoin are also accepted. (Contact us for more information)



Visit to Chatham Marconi Maritime Center

By: Gardi H. Winchester II, KA1BTK

My wife Carol, KC1BUA and I took a recent weekend camping vacation to Cape Cod. With all of the picturesque little harbors, vistas and natural history among the sand-dunes, the beauty of today's Cape Cod belies its technological past. Not only was it the home of the beginnings of radio communication, but due to its proximity to Europe, it was the prime location for many communications technology centers. For a time, the world's most powerful transmitter was operated by the United States Navy from its shores.

As we drove in the southeast corner of Cape Cod, along Rt. 28 N. toward Ryder's Cove off of upper Chatham Harbor we came across the complex of the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center at 847 Orleans Road, North Chatham, MA 02650. We paid the admission price of \$7.50 per person, then we watched two video documentaries, one describing the CMMC's early years and the other on the station's efforts during WWII. After the videos, we explored the museum. There were many guides who were friendly and very knowledgeable. One of the guides, Mr. Lewis Masson, was employed at the station in its later years, and was at the station when it closed 1997.



The CMMC museum is located in the original buildings that housed Guglielmo Marconi's Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America commercial radio station. The complex was built in 1914, just 11 years after he made the first successful two-way trans-Atlantic radio communication from the dunes of Wellfleet, less than 15 miles to the North. The station's call-sign was WCC. Although it was intended to send and receive messages to and from Europe and beyond, it mostly served as a message handling station for passenger ships at sea. It cost 42¢ per word to send a message in those days, a considerable sum to be sure!



We were also invited to visit the Education Center building which was the barracks and living accommodations for the workers at the station. The CMMC organization, using early photographs, is restoring this building to its original condition and layout. Everything from the light fixtures in the ceiling to the carpets on the floor are as close to original as possible, including the old Victrola in the corner!

After WW-1, Marconi's assets were acquired by the newly formed Radio Corporation of America, RCA, who continued its service until 1997. During WWII the station was used by the United States Navy as a listening post tracking Admiral Donitz's U-Boat fleet working in the North Atlantic. Scrambled and

seemingly unintelligible coded messages were received and forwarded on to the codebreakers at Bletchley Park to be deciphered, hence easing the weight of the Nazi's Wolf-Pack menace on convoy shipping.

The CMMC's mission is to promote interest in the history and future of the sciences and technologies. There are exhibits from our NEAR-Fest friend, Dr. Thomas Perera a leading historian on Enigma and other encryption machines, along with exhibits on drones and shark tagging, among so many others. They support a full plate of public education events and programs, and they are the home of the Chatham Radio WCC Amateur Radio Association operating under the WA1WCC call-sign.



All in all it was a very worth-while visit and although I walked away with a lighter wallet, I was far richer for the experience! Highly recommended! While we were lucky enough to find the museum open when we drove through,, I would suggest that you call ahead, well in advance of your visit, especially if you're coming all the way from off Cape.



Congressman Intercedes with FCC Chairman on Amateur Radio Interference Concerns

New York Congressman Peter King has asked FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to put some Enforcement Bureau heat on those interfering with various radio communication services, including Amateur Radio, in the New York City Metropolitan Area. While visiting Capitol Hill to promote the **Amateur Radio Parity Act**, ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, recently met with King, a Republican representing New York's 2nd District, to discuss the interference issue. King is among the original of the 118 cosponsors of the Amateur Radio Parity Act (H.R. 1301) in the US House.

“Rep King, a long-time supporter of Amateur Radio who is also very concerned about the malicious interference of licensed services, offered to send a letter to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler on our behalf,” Lisenco said. “Like many areas of the country, the Hudson Division has been plagued with malicious interference on our VHF and UHF repeaters for years. There has been no relief from the FCC, despite repeated pleas for remedy made by ARRL. All requests for help have consistently fallen on deaf ears.”

In his January 15 **letter** to Wheeler, King pointed out that while multiple perpetrators have been involved, the identity of the “ringleader” is well known to the Enforcement Bureau.

He reiterated that the malicious interference had “been allowed to continue for too long,” and he called for “timely and visible enforcement” to deter others.

“The Amateur Radio repeaters on Long Island that are rendered useless by this individual are used for emergency preparedness exercises and were used extensively in Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts,” King told Wheeler. “This individual has been allowed to proceed without any apparent Commission enforcement for well over 2 years, despite repeated complaints from ARRL, NBC engineering staff, and at least two Long Island Amateur Radio clubs. NBC remote pickup units and public safety radio systems also have been troubled by malicious interference. In earlier correspondence with the FCC, King noted, he had expressed concerns regarding interference caused by “pirate radio operators” who impact public safety.

King said he realizes that FCC Enforcement Bureau resources are limited and that he appreciates the attention the Commission has paid to such issues as pirate radio investigations, but he asked for a tougher stance.

“[D]eliberate interference with public safety, broadcast program production, and Amateur Radio public service communications, such as what is exhibited in this case, must be swiftly and visibly addressed,” King concluded.

Lisenco said King's willingness to cooperate in addressing the interference problem is “an indication that our legislative efforts are building a brand with legislators”

that goes beyond any specific bill, such as the Amateur Radio Parity Act. “It underscores the importance of maintaining a presence in Washington through both our consultants and our own efforts,” he said, “and it offers us avenues of redress that, until now, we were unable to access.”

ARRL's New President to Make First Official Convention Visit in Puerto Rico

Newly elected ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, will make his first official convention visit at the ARRL **Puerto Rico State Convention** later this month in Hatillo, Puerto Rico. Roderick was elected as President by the ARRL Board of Directors on January 15, during the Board's Annual Meeting. A ham for 48 years, Roderick, of Little Rock, Arkansas, is an ARRL Life Member who has served on the Board for 24 years.

“The Organizing Committee of the convention is pleased to know that President Roderick will be attending and has chosen to participate with us,” said Convention Chair José Vicéns, NP4G. Other League officials expected to attend include Southeastern Division Director Doug Rehman, K4AC, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD.

“I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the ARRL Puerto Rico State Convention,” President Roderick told the Organizing Committee.



WINTER FIELD DAY 2016

The event started on Saturday at noon and ended on Sunday noon, a 24 hour event. While the main event was Winter Field Day, we also made a few contacts in the ARRL VHF-UHF Contest which was running in the same time frame. It was nice to try out the new 2 and 6 meter beam as well as the new 2/440 vertical. We did not use the first floor station as the second floor had enough stations for the amount of operators and modes we chose to operate.



If we had wanted to run CW, we would have used the first floor radio station for sound separation. I had concerns about isolating sounds from each station but it turned out not to be a major concern. The digital station ran fine, the Flex Radio used the endfed wire and ran SSB. The FT897 would have been better placed in the vintage room for sound separation but earphones were used successfully.

It was a good learning experience but what we learned is a contest can be run at the clubhouse with minimal planning and more than enough sound separation between stations. The generator was started up by Stan and ran fine on city gas and we also have a gasoline generator ready to run as well.



The turnout was over 15 members and the points earned was over 500. A breakfast was cooked for all on Sunday morning by Stan- W4HIX..

73 until next month, K1TP