



# CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2017

## President's Desk

by Jon- K1TP

Well, it has been a very busy month at CAARA with a few unplanned changes to the Board of Directors. Rick Maybury has stepped down as President due to an increased work load in his business and I have been voted in by the BOD to fulfill his term. Rick will stay on the board and has a lot to offer the club, I look forward to his Saturday morning CW classes.



Stan- W4HIX has stepped down as Treasurer for similar reasons, Stan finds himself traveling out of the country for weeks at a time to Korea and needs to balance his time between club, family, and work. We thank Stan for all his contributions to the club. Stefan-K1SCD will take over as the Treasurer. Stefan has already updated our finances to QuickBooks online and filed the change in the 2017 Board of Directors personnel to the State.

David Linsky- KA1LKX has been voted on to the Board and is a long time CAARA member and behind the scenes guy keeping our club property tidy. David has many great ideas for fund raising which which you will be hearing about in the coming months.

As many know, I have been with the club since about 1980 and have served as President in the past as well as being on the board for many years. I have been licensed since 1961, my first call being KN1TZL. At that point in time your Novice license only lasted one year and was not renewable. I upgraded within a year and became K1TZL, you lost the N when you upgraded. Sometime later I upgraded to Advanced and Extra and was granted the call KJ1G which I later replaced with a vanity call- K1TP.

I have enjoyed the years at CAARA and have made many friends thru the club, at hamfests, and on the air, what a great hobby amateur radio is!

We are blessed to have our own building and tens of thousands of dollars in radio equipment available to us as club members.

(cont. p 5)

## Information Desk

by Dean-KB1PGH

First we will start with the announcements that the CAARA Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1st at 7:30 PM at the CAARA clubhouse and all are welcome to attend. Second the CAARA monthly members meeting will be held on Wednesday, February the 8th at 7:30 and there is a guest speaker for this one so try to make it down to the clubhouse for this one.



For this months tip for the newly licensed we will cover HF wattage output. So you think your puny 100 watts is no match against someone else's 1500 watts output on HF? You may want to rethink that., So if you think that if you double your 100 watt output wattage on HF to 200 watts that you think you'll be heard twice as loud? Not even close. From 100 watts to 200 watts you will get a 3 db gain which means that there will just be a very slight noticeable difference in audio on the other end. Now if you double your 200 watts to 400 watts output you will add another 3 db gain which means that if someone heard you with a S 6 signal strength on their HF radios meter your signal will now come in at an S 7. Not much of a difference right? Now lets say you double your wattage from 400 to 800 and double the 800 to 1600 watts you will only come in at an S 8 signal strength on their meter! So in the end you added a whopping 1500 watts of power only to gain 2 bars on their meter and they still easily would have heard you if you came in at and S 6 signal strength on their radio!

Now this works the same the other way. Lets say you start at 100 watts rf power on HF and someone hears you on the other end with a S 7 signal strength. You can cut your power in half to 50 watts and then cut it in half again to 25 watts, the person on the receiving end will still hear you but only at a S 6 signal strength-not much loss there. Then if we keep going you can cut the 25 watts output to 12.5 and then cut in half again to 6 watts and that person will still hear you but only at an S 5 signal strength level on their rigs meter.

(cont. p 3)



**CAARA Newsletter**  
**Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association**  
*6 Stanwood Street*  
*Gloucester, MA 01930*

CAARA Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association (CAARA). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to CAARA members, and space is available. Material is accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Articles and other materials may be submitted by internet to Jon at k1tp@arrl.net. If possible, material should be in Word format. Material may also be submitted as hard copy to Jon-K1TP or any Club Officer.

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor  
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

**Board of Directors- 2016/17**

President: Jon Cunningham K1TP  
Vice Pres: Larry Beaulieu AJ1Z  
Treasurer: Stefan De Simone K1SCD  
Clerk: Dean Burgess KB1PGX

**Directors:**

Bob Spanks WA1UCG  
Rick Maybury WZ1B  
David Linsky- KA1LKX  
Ross Burton- W1RAB  
Jake Heard W1LDL  
Chris Winczewski K1TAT  
Hank McCarl W4RIG

## **Welcome to CAARA:**

CAARA, an ARRL affiliated club, operates the 2 meter W1GLO repeater on 145.130 MHz with antennas located on the cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex in Gloucester Massachusetts. It has an average effective radius of 60 miles, and serves Eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Rhode Island, Southern New Hampshire, and maritime mobile stations. CAARA also operates the W1GLO repeater on 224.900. The former W1RK 443.700 repeater is now on the cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex with greatly enhanced performance.

The Association is one of the few amateur radio clubs that has its own clubhouse. Located at 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester, it includes a permanent HF station with rotating beam and vertical antenna along with a 2 meter packet station and 2 meter voice and 220 MHz transceivers.

Amateur radio exams are held on the second Sunday of each month at 10:00AM at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. There is no pre-registration necessary. Contact the head of our VE team, Rick -WZ1B, 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.

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

## Information Desk

by Dean-KB1PGH



So QRP ers, or low power HF ops bit DSP filters today it doesn't

know this. Today's receivers are super sensitive and with the 32 take a lot of HF power to be heard. Especially with CW.

Of course this theory doesn't factor in band level noise and operator skill but my overall point is don't be discouraged about running just 100 watts into a dipole and think that you won't be heard or participate in contests. You can also challenge yourself to run 5 watts QRP ssb and you will be heard, but it will take more practice and patience.

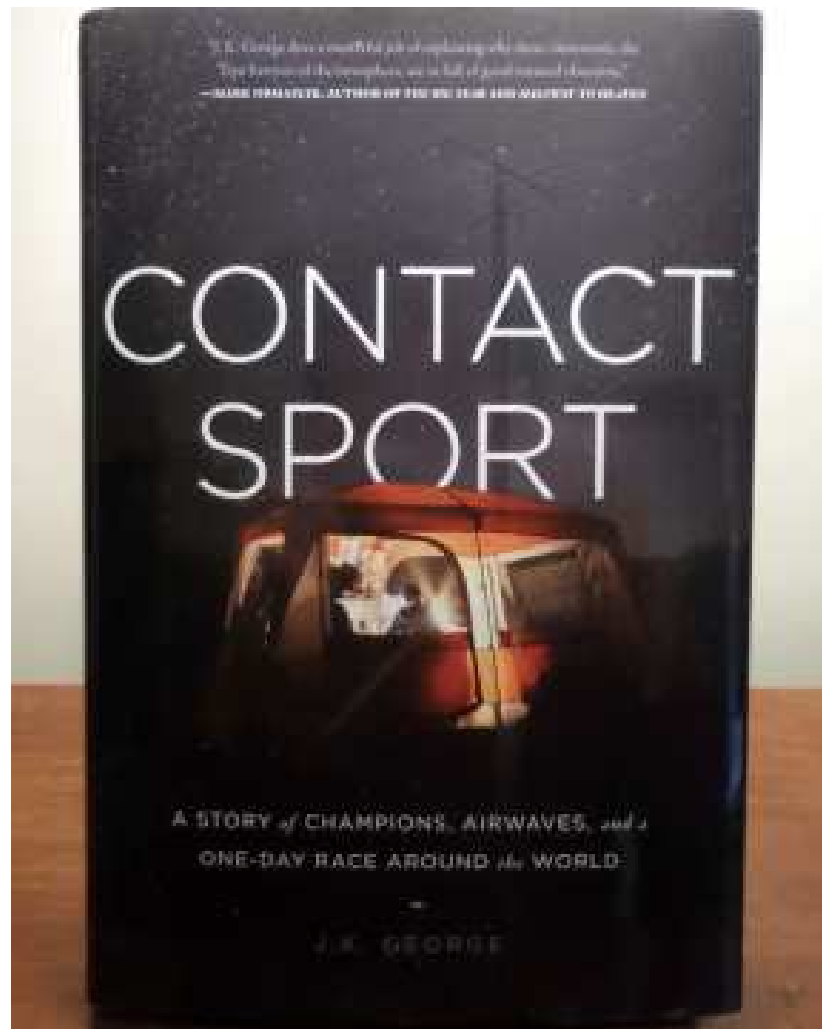
So if you're new to this hobby just go on to Youtube and type in QRP SSB and you'll see what I mean. There is plenty of video evidence out there to prove that just 5 watts of power can get you DX contacts. Let's see, what will we cover for the prepper tip of the month?

I know, let's talk about monitoring public service. Do you have the capability to monitor your local public service agencies? Do you have at least a handheld scanner available loaded with all of your local police and fire frequencies? Do you even know your local police and fire frequencies? Some UHF and VHF ham radios are capable of monitoring your public service frequencies so you might not even have to purchase a scanner! It's good to be aware of what's going on in your local city or town even if there is no disaster going on. So if you don't have the ability to monitor start saving your pennies to get even a basic handheld scanner because informational awareness is key.

Well if you're into reading books, or know someone who does, there is a non-fiction book out there that covers our love for the amateur radio hobby. The book is called "Contact Sport" and it is written by J.K. George N3BB. This hardcover book covers the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship competition that was held here in Massachusetts.

The WRTC is basically the Olympics of radio contesting which is held every 4 years in a different part of the globe. It is a 24 hr competition of over 50 2 man (or woman) teams vying to get the most contacts and points to win. The book is over 250 pages long with some photos included. The book is also written in a way for those who have no knowledge of, or any background in amateur radio so your family members will be able to understand our obsession with the ham radio hobby. I personally have not yet read this book but I wanted to let you know that it's out there.

You can easily find the book on Amazon for about \$19.00 or you can get a Kindle version for \$9.00. This book would be a great addition to your local library if once you've read it you can always donate it so others may read it and find out what ham radio is all about.



## WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA CLUBHOUSE?

The 220 repeater is back on the air after being repaired by Doug Elfman, a ham located in Wilmington, a friend of the club. The repeater would not accept dtmf codes and we could not control the repeater nor take off the PF code on the repeater tail. The PF code comes on to let us know we have lost commercial power but we could not clear the message after the commercial power came back on...hence the repair job. Thanks to Ross- W1RAB for taking the round trip to Wilmington to get the job done. We reinstalled it at the club and it is running fine with 65 watts out on 224.900, no pl tone necessary.

We have sent out our 440 - 75 watt amplifier to Henry Radio for an estimate to repair it. Once repaired and online at the cell site, you will notice a large difference in the signal strength.

Ernst and Bill have repaired a Heathkit DX-20 and a Heathkit HW-101 during the Tuesday night open house sessions. They have been systematically repairing gear at the clubhouse for months, if you see them at the club, thank them!

Jon and Jake have started Ebaying some items we do not need on the second floor...check the CAARA website for ongoing Ebay items.



Stan- W4HIX presenting information to the city for the grant which was granted to CAARA in the amount of almost \$27,000 to replace the siding on our club building, repair trim, and apply paint. Stan and Hank did a wonderful job applying for and presenting the information necessary to receive the grant. We expect the work will be completed this summer.

**DUES: To keep the club running and open to all the members costs money! We pay heat, electric, cable, several insurances, etc.--we need your financial help by paying your dues ASAP. If you are having trouble paying it all at once, we can help with a payment plan.**



**Shovel job by Ross- W1RAB**

### EBAY SALES:

If you have any equipment you have that is collecting dust and you would like to donate it to the club it would be appreciated. We are trying to balance our budget and have funds available in the future to work on club improvements.

We accept items other than ham radio gear such as cameras, test equipment, tools, etc. We have an Ebay team ready to pick it up from you and list it for sale. Every little bit helps!

We are accepting returnable bottle and cans as well for our fundraising effort.

## President's Desk by Jon- K1TP



The ownership of the building however creates a few new issues we need to be aware of and figure out solutions as a membership.

We currently have expenses which exceed our income. Our membership fee does not come close to paying all the bills. In the past we have sold over \$5000.00 of donated equipment via Ebay and have donations in the thousands from road races we provide communications for. We also have members who donate money to the general fund.

We will still find ourselves in

the red this year by perhaps a few thousand dollars.

The sky is not falling and we will survive the year as we have ample funds in re-

serve to last us several years.

We have not done any fundraising events in the last few years that benefit the club reserve and this is what we will be focusing on in the coming Board Meetings. We need to find some ideas that will generate money consistently and we are open to any suggestions you may have.

We will be bringing back Movie Night with a light dinner at the club in the next few months for

fund raising. We will be collecting returnable cans and bottles at the club, it all adds up.

I believe we will be offering a fund raising pancake breakfast in the near future on a Sunday morning.

I am available by phone or email to discuss any concerns you may have, discuss ideas you may have to generate funds, talk about things you would like to see at the club, etc.- my contact info is listed on the CAARA website.

COMING UP: CW on Saturday's with Rick- WZ1B or just drop in and use the upstairs radio while the club is open. We own the club and I hope you use it on a regular basis.

73, Jon K1TP

## Boy Scouts' Radio Merit Badge Requirements to Include Amateur Radio Direction Finding Option

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have updated the requirements for the Radio Merit Badge for 2017, although a formal announcement is pending the publication of the 2017 Boy Scouts Requirements pamphlet. A new option for the Radio Merit Badge is Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF). ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, said he's "really excited" about the move, and he credited Jamboree on the Air Coordinator (JOTA) and K2BSA trustee Jim Wilson, K5ND, with being the "spark plug" behind the ARDF addition.

"Jim visited a training session at the USA ARDF Championships in Texas last April and realized what an excellent activity that on-foot hidden transmitter hunting can be for Scouts," Moell recounted. "Working with Brian Coleman, KB0MAP, Jim authored the new ARDF Radio Merit Badge syllabus, which was then reviewed by several leaders of US ARDF community."

A first draft of the new merit badge pamphlet is anticipated later this month or in early February. Moell said the new merit badge requirements should become effective just in time for the July 2017 National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, where an ARDF course and equipment will be available to Scouts of all ages. He also hopes there could be a role for ARDF in JOTA.

The Radio Merit Badge ARDF option combines orienteering and foxhunting, and opens a new interactive component to this program. Other new Radio Merit Badge options include cellular telephones and different types of radio modulation.

Key requirements being dropped from the Radio Merit Badge include open, closed, and short circuits, as well as schematic symbols and components, because these are covered in the Electricity and Electronics Merit Badges.

The BSA also made some minor editorial changes and reordered requirements for the Amateur Radio option. The radio broadcasting option now includes internet streaming, regulations, and power levels. A medium-wave and shortwave listening option includes both types of listening, as well as listening via streaming services on a smartphone.

The BSA has posted a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs). Scouts are encouraged to follow the new requirements, although the guidelines may allow use of the previous requirements in some cases.



# The VE Corner

By Rick Maybury, WZ1B

The January VE session gave your hobby two new hams. Ben Pike, the son and legacy of long-time CAARA member Glenn Pike, KG1P and Patrick McAuliffe of Southborough, MA.

Patrick, 15 years old, is an active Boy Scout and worked to earn his license before an upcoming camping trip. Patrick is also active in his school's Marine Corp ROTC program. Patrick also got on the air for the first time today after passing his exam



Patrick's first time on the air

Ben is a Communications Major at Salem State College and is active in Red Cross emergency communications activities. His ham radio license is in direct support of his work with the Red Cross. Glenn was a very proud Dad today.



Ben getting an early start at 5 years old



Ben is now legally operating

Thank you to Bob Quinn, WV1A and Ron Beckley, N1RJB for their service as VEs today.

Below is the picture of the December, Tech in the day Class. They earned 15 new licenses out of 18 participants. The new hams came from as far south as Rhode Island and Martha's Vineyard, as far west as Pittsfield. Mostly former military (Yes!), they are all part of a network of an emergency preparedness group.

Thank you to the following VEs for helping to process the exams:

- Jon Cunningham, K1TP
- Ron Beckley, N1RIB
- Larry Beaulieu, AJ1Z
- Gardy Winchester, KA1BTK
- Hank McCal, W4R1G

Also thank you to the number of folks who stopped down throughout the day to say hello to the prospective new hams, you showed wonderful camaraderie. Thank you to Bill Canty who engaged the group during breaks and Doug Bidwell hung in there all day visiting with the group and learning the VE craft for future support.



During breaks we gave detailed tours of the various operations of the club, all were impressed. Great work to the folks who have done such a wonderful job with our antenna systems. Also, one of the new individuals got on the air at lunch time and made his first contact! We began stimulated interest and excitement beyond 2

meters and the possibilities of the hobby.

All very fun. Having the event at the club truly helped to engage prospective new hams and showcased the capability of CAARA. The leader of the group wants to do another session, probably second weekend in January.

Thank you again VE team!!!

## **Hamvention Ready to Deal with Anticipated Traffic Flow at New Venue**

Hamvention® is ready to deal with the anticipated heavy traffic flow when the event opens on May 19 at its new location, the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. Mike Kalter, W8CI, said the all-volunteer Hamvention organizers have turned to professionals to address this aspect of the event. Kalter, who is treasurer of the sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), was interviewed last week by DX Engineering's Tim Duffy, K3LR.

“We recognized that we needed to reach out to a professional engineering firm that does this all over the country to help us to work with the local government officials, so that we can have a good solid plan to keep the people flowing in,” Kalter told Duffy.

Kalter said arrangements have been made to have staging areas for those needing to either offload or load equipment from the indoor exhibit areas or the flea market.

He also pointed out that on-site parking would be free, and that no one will have to park in the mud. Kalter said areas set aside for parking are well drained, and he doesn't anticipate any problems, even if it rains during Hamvention. That goes for the flea market area as well, he said, noting that the arena infield area gets used events in good and bad weather alike.

Kalter said Hamvention expects to be able to post the plan for flea market spaces on its website soon. The layout for indoor vendor and exhibitor booths is already available on the Hamvention website. Kalter said that if everyone who attended Hamvention 2016 at Hara Arena shows up again this year, they will find plenty of room at the new venue. Maps are available on the website.

Turning to traffic of a different sort, Kalter noted that Greene County has brought in a high-speed Internet “pipe” to the new venue, and AT&T will drop telephone lines wherever they're needed.

Duffy asked whether the new venue would have an area similar to that outside Hara Arena, where those attending Hamvention could sit down with friends for a bite to eat or a drink. Kalter said there will be plenty of picnic tables as well as a temporary structure dedicated for socializing. He also promised that Hamvention 2017 will offer “a wide variety of great things to eat.” That will include food vendors and food trucks.

Kalter said some 600 volunteers in all are required to make Hamvention happen each year, and the leadership team consists of 86 individuals.

Reflecting its new venue, “Hamvention — Same Friends, New Home” will be the theme for the 2017 event. Last summer's closure of Hara Arena forced the move to the new location more than 20 miles to the southeast

# *Painless Fund Raising*

## *“Cans for C.A.A.R.A.”*

*By David Linsky KAILKX*

**During a recent C.A.A.R.A. members meeting,** several ideas and projects were discussed amongst the members present that are being planned for this year. **You are always invited!**

**Some of the projects and activities are** annual activities. Others being planned are going to be more frequent than once a year. Some are going to be strictly fun. Others will be more in tune with what we do best, which is operating our Amateur Radio equipment as a structured network. Some events that are being planned will be a combination of both fun and serious radio operating.

**One recent addition to C.A.A.R.A.** is the new suggestion box. In addition to the new suggestion box, there is an ample supply of pre-printed suggestions flyers also. Please (**okay, pretty please**) take **several** of these suggestion flyers home with you during your visit to C.A.A.R.A. Please write in any and all of **your ideas and suggestions** that you think of which will help C.A.A.R.A. The smallest idea may be the one that helps the club (YOUR CLUB) the most! Can't make it to some of the meetings? You can still help C.A.A.R.A. this way.

**Another project was written about** in a recent C.A.A.R.A. newsletter article. It's the **“One Item for C.A.A.R.A.”** request. This project will help the club save some funds. Please remember the favorites which will help the club the most, **PACKS OF SODA AND 24 PACKS OF WATER.** They are the favorites because they are **REVENUE GENERATORS FOR C.A.A.R.A.!** (That is only if you are able to do this without causing a crimp in your budget). And only **once in a while, not every time** that you go shopping. **Smaller items are fine also.**

**Some of these projects are going to require** varying amounts of funds to insure their success. And that's where **your assistance will be needed and greatly appreciated!** The title of this article states, **IT WILL BE PAINLESS! And PAINLESS IT SHALL BE! WE PROMISE!**

**Simply put, the Officers and Directors of C.A.A.R.A.** are asking everyone to consider donating **some** of their returnable cans and bottles to the club to help fund these worthwhile projects. Would you please consider bringing along **some** of your returnables when visiting C.A.A.R.A.? You could keep a plastic bag in the garage or near the door to toss them into when they're empty.

**This is not a new project to C.A.A.R.A.** It actually launched back in Sept. of 1989. And it was quite successful. The funds raised were very carefully used to assist many worthwhile projects.

**It's now time for a “Re-Launch”** of this vital fundraiser. With your help, it will be as successful as it was in years past! You will be helping to raise badly needed funds for C.A.A.R.A. **AND IT WON'T HURT A BIT!** See, we told you **IT WOULD BE PAINLESS!**



# Behavioral Psychology

*by Curtis- AA3JE*



Everybody has a problem or two in this life. I know this. But I seem to get more than my fair share.

This one started when my daughter in law, an otherwise nice girl (who is early in her training as a mother, hence still “nice”), made an off hand comment to “SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED”. I don’t know the exact wording, but it was more or less a remark that during the period my wife had problems with the stairs, the first floor had gotten a little untidy.

So, as soon as SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED was able, she took a field trip to the first floor. She did this in my absence, but when I got home, I knew there was a problem.

This was not due to the icy silence (I like those), but to the charred and twisted food material that might have once been a dinner. Not being an idiot (note- opinions vary on this), I asked, as sweetly as I was able.

“What is it dear one? Is anything wrong?”

“DOWNSTAIRS”.

“Oh, my pet, perhaps a few more words? The exact nature of the problem?”

“IT STINKS! IT’S FILTHY! IT LOOKS LIKE THE FLOOR OF AN ANIMAL KILL SHELTER! MAGGOTS WOULD GAG ON IT!”

“Oh.”

Now I knew there was a little problem, and had been working on it. I had not one, not two, but three different “Urine Soaked Rug” rug cleaners, three different vacuums, and the “Big Stinking Mess” package of paper towels. But the problem was that while I was faithfully cleaning up the pee, the dogs generated MORE pee faster than I could clean it up.

Time for help.

So I visited all the animal supply stores on Cape Ann. I returned with three different kinds of “PEE HERE” products, Urine Deodorant, and gallon-sized jugs of “ATOMIC PET CLEANER” (\$30 a gallon).

The “PEE HERE” pads proved ineffective. The dogs carefully avoided them, even when I gave them a demonstration on their proper use.

I also invested in the “PULLS THE PILE OUT OF THE RUG BY THE ROOTS” brand of vacuum cleaner, and several vaccinations for obscure canine parasitic diseases.

For a while I wondered if it would just be easier to go on “heartworm” pills myself, but the vet didn’t know the dose for humans.

I made some progress, such that the tank on the rug shampoo machine was now smelly brown, not smelly black, but all the scrubbing just made it smell worse!

I don’t know what might have happened, but a friend, who is an animal behavioral psychologist, suggested an alternative.

“Er, would it not be better to train the dogs to pee outside?”

So I explained that the real problem was that the wife’s dog was a terrier, short legged kind, and elderly, and female, and did not wish to drop her bottom on the cold cold ground in winter, or the wet grass in summer, when it rained.

“You should use behavioral techniques”.

“Huh?”

“Training methods for simpler life forms. When they do what you want, give them a treat. When they don’t do it, no treat. Very powerful technique.”

So, back to the “PETS COST LOTS” store, and after re with \$70 a bag, “totally organic, made with love in th don’t believe those stories on the Internet, not that n died”, dog treats, I began the training. I knew from experience that the cheaper treats were not acceptal my dogs. I didn’t waste them though. I kind of like th myself, real beefy taste.



It worked! Super effective. All I had to do was say, “Wanna go out?”, and there would be two dogs in the back yard pronto, trying to squeeze a few drops out of their bladders. The peeing inside stopped, and after 2 weeks of vacuuming, shampooing, and spot treatment with “Pee Destroyer”, the downstairs smelled wonderful.

But there seems to have been an adverse effect on the dogs. Whereas before they wanted to go out perhaps once or twice a day, now they want to go out all the time. The treat bill is getting a bit high.

And “SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED” is concerned her beloved pet is getting a tiny bit overweight.

I don’t care. The rugs are clean. Boy that behavioral training method works really well on creatures that are too stupid to figure out what is going on.

## New “Amateur Radio Parity Act” Bill Introduced in US House of Representatives

H.R. 555 — a new “Amateur Radio Parity Act” bill — has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill’s language is identical to that of the 2015 measure, H.R. 1301, which passed in the House late last summer but failed in the waning days of the US Senate to gain the necessary support. As with H.R. 1301, the new measure introduced on January 13 in the 115th Congress was sponsored by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), with initial co-sponsorship by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR). Walden now chairs the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, to which the new bill has been referred. H.R. 555 will get an initial airing in the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. When H.R. 1301 came up in committee, Walden spoke forcefully in favor of the measure, which ultimately attracted 126 House cosponsors.

“Rep. Kinzinger has again stepped forward to introduce this important legislation,” said ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF. “His commitment stems from exposure to what the Amateur Radio community brings to the service of all communities. The ARRL and radio amateurs nationwide owe Rep. Kinzinger a resounding ‘Thank You!’ for his efforts on their behalf.”

H.R. 555 calls on the FCC to establish rules prohibiting the application of deed restrictions that preclude Amateur Radio communications on their face or as applied. Deed restric-

tions would have to impose the minimum practicable restriction on Amateur Radio communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of homeowners association seeking to enforce the restriction.

### If It Seems Too Good To Be True...IT IS!

Just a few tips to avoid getting scammed on the ham swap sites.

My first job out college almost 40 years ago was finding those who wished not to be found because they owed money to the bank I worked for. I was what they called a “skip tracer.” I looked for those who had skipped town on their debts. Well, although I have not earned a living skip tracing anyone in the last 35 years. Lessons learned in the late 1970’s are just as useful today. Actually, with the onset of technology it’s much easier to find someone now that it was in 1978 when you basically had to scam family members, the phone company, other banks and businesses out of information.

With all the price information available on the Internet nobody gives things away anymore.

I see more and more ham complaining that they have been scammed by another ham. Yes, they have been scammed but not by a ham. Not everyone has a built in “honesty gene.” Ham to ham scams do happen but is not as prevalent as getting scammed by someone in Eastern Europe or Africa.

For at least a dozen years I have been noticing that 99.9% of the hijacked calls are always those calls where the owner did not list their email address on their QRZ.COM information

page. This first began with amateur calls from the UK where some ham would contact you trying to sell you a piece of equipment you had advertised that you wanted to buy. The price was always unbelievable inexpensive but the English and grammar of the message was not. They always requested a Western Union money transfer. Through the years, this scam has morphed from the UK to U.S. calls. But always, those calls with no email address listed on QRZ.COM seemed to be in question. Save yourself the embarrassment and take a couple of minutes and list your email and possibly your call might not be hijacked.

If the call does not have an email address attached to it on QRZ.COM; walk away or better yet, run away from that deal as fast as you can.

I have seen QRZ.COM records hacked where the scammer actually entered a bogus email address but I believe this is very rare. There was also an incident where the boyfriend got access to his ex- girlfriend’s QRZ.COM account, changed the email address and began listing ham equipment at garage sale prices. Obviously the prices listed got the attention of many who reported him and his listings were removed. But you would not believe the dozens and dozens of hams who tried to send him money thinking that they had found a patsy.

They key to not be fooled out of your hard earned money is:

Research, research, research...

Google the call, Google the name, Google the email, Google the telephone number, Google the XYL,

Google the grandmother, Google the dog. Together with the call and name use words like scam, rip off, or problem on your Google search. See how long the seller has been a ham and how many QRZ look ups he/she has. Read his/hers QRZ profile. Leopards don't change their stripes. Once a crook and a deadbeat always a crook and a deadbeat.

Google the item image. You would be surprised how many crooks will steal a picture on the internet and try to pass the image as his/her own. Some will steal the image and the entire ad word for word. I even had a legitimate ham try to use my equipment pictures for his ads because he was too lazy to take his own pictures. This man even got highly insulted when I called him out on it.

You can go to the extreme or just stop when you feel comfortable:

- Google search the seller's full name, ham call, telephone number (if you have one).
- Do a property search by going to their county property appraiser and entering their home address. This is public information so you should be able to find it. If they rent, no such luck.
- Google map their listed or given address to make sure is not an open field in the middle of nowhere.
- Google their call and full name and include the words; problems, complaints, scam in the search.
- Always get a phone number and call them. Although this is not definitive proof of identity at least you will have a number and a way to trace it back to a specific location. You should ini-

tiate the call and don't allow the seller to call you as he/she might be using a pay phone.

- Make sure their phone and internet IP address matches their FCC listed address. You can do this on-line but most of the swap sites already have this feature available.
- Buying from a non-ham selling ham gear should always be done very carefully as we are always proud of our call so I would be a bit hesitant as to why a person is selling ham equipment but is not a ham or does not want to disclose their call.

Lastly, does the sale make sense? Is he/she a novice or tech with no look ups selling a ton of HF equipment at garage sale prices? Close the deal on the phone not via email. Not the safest but PayPal is better than personal checks, cashier's checks or money orders. Western Union money transfers are a "BIG" no no. Although nothing is 100% safe, I usually walk away if the seller will not accept PayPal which adds another ledger of inconvenience to a scammer or thief.

Finally, use lots of common sense and go with your gut feeling.

Just my two cents worth....73 de WY4J



## **FOR SALE**

### **Kenwood TM-281A Mobile**

**2 meters, 65 watts. Original box. Has manual. 2 years old. Used only once. In excellent condition. Asking 100.00. Contact Rich, W1FSR or call 978-325-2153 for info.**

# *Helping C.A.A.R.A.- “One Item at a Time”*

*By David Linsky KA1LKK*

**Back in 1983** this writer was seriously considering visiting C.A.A.R.A. for the first time. There was admittedly more than a small amount of trepidation. “Who are these folks and what do they do there with all of those antennas”? “Will they be friendly”? “Will they be helpful to a newcomer who knows very little about Amateur Radio, but has the desire to learn”?

**Two of C.A.A.R.A.’S earliest members, Paul Bernard KA1BTN and Will Burke Sr. WA1BWR** (Father of C.A.A.R.A. founding member Mike Burke K1MB) encouraged this writer to stop thinking about it, stop talking about it, and do something about it! So this writer walked through C.A.A.R.A.’S front door for the first time and signed up for the novice class. It was being taught by C.A.A.R.A. Original founding member Bob Spanks, WA1UCG.

**Once inside and participating in** Bob’s Novice course this writer quickly realized just how worthwhile and valuable an activity that Amateur Radio is. It was also quickly noticed that many of the items and much of the equipment was either loaned to C.A.A.R.A. or donated to C.A.A.R.A. by club members and family members of ‘Silent Keys’ for the benefit of everyone.

**Everyone connected to C.A.A.R.A.** (Including many family members) has assisted the club in some way! And this has continued through the years! So if you have ever wondered how C.A.A.R.A. has grown and flourished for so long, it is because **everyone helps the club in a manner that works for them.** It’s not what you do for yourself; it’s how you help others that shows the true measure of a person! **What you do for yourself passes on with you, but what you do for others becomes immortal and lives on forever!**

**Here’s something that hopefully all** will consider which will help to insure C.A.A.R.A.’S continued success. And it won’t hurt a bit. It won’t hurt at all, it will actually feel really good!

**When you are** grocery shopping, or other type of shopping, would you please consider tossing **One Item for C.A.A.R.A.** into your basket **if you are able to?** Many members are already doing this. Perhaps a pack of soda, or a 24 pack of water, ketchup, paper plates, A low cost hand tool, a low cost electrical or electronic component etc. **SODA & WATER ARE THE FAVORITES, BEING REVENUE GENERATORS FOR C.A.A.R.A.!**

**Just think of the possibilities** if everyone would do this **if they are able to.** The most sincere thanks go out to all who have been doing this already. Dues revenue only goes so far. C.A.A.R.A. is truly fortunate to have so many wonderful members and family members. If you would consider doing this, you will be helping to continue C.A.A.R.A.’S mission of providing valuable radio communication at all of the community events that we assist with throughout the year. **The benefits to C.A.A.R.A., Cape Ann and beyond are incalculable!**

# 2017 WINTER FIELD DAY- JANUARY 27-28



Your club was open for Winter Field Day as well as running a CW code class and a Emergency Communication drill.

We had about 12 members show up for the activities and a good time was had by all.

The building ran on emergency generator power for over an hour and worked out great.





Bill- W1OKD trying RTTY during the contest.



Ross- W1RAB running the generator off city gas since we converted it over from gasoline.



# MORE WINTER FIELD DAY PICTURES







### **Simon Geller, 75; Ran Radio Station All by Himself**

Simon Geller, who operated a one-man classical music station in Gloucester, Mass., for a quarter-century and battled with the F.C.C. to keep it, died on Tuesday in a hospital in Rockville, Md. He was 75 and lived in Rockville.

Mr. Geller was born in Lowell, Mass. After working in radio in New Jersey, he moved to Gloucester in 1964 because, he told a reporter, it was the biggest town on the East Coast without a radio station. For the next 24 years he broadcast classical recordings on WVCA-FM, 13 hours a day, 7 days a week, offering brief descriptions of the music before playing a selection and soliciting money once every hour. The radio's call letters stood for "Voice of Cape Ann," and the phrase became attached to Mr. Geller himself.

The setup was primitive. He operated out of his apartment, subsisting primarily on donations from among his estimated 43,000 listeners, within the 35-mile radius reached by the station. When it was time to take a lunch break or run an errand, he simply shut the station down.

Mr. Geller was renowned for his gruff manner and his crotchets, which included a hearty and often-expressed dislike for the town of Gloucester and its citizens. It was not always clear whether he operated his station out of a love for classical music or a hatred of rock.

In 1982, he nearly lost his operating license to the Grandbanke Corporation, which promised to offer more diverse programming. But in 1985 the Federal Communications Commission, which had first ruled in Grandbanke's favor, reversed itself and handed Mr. Geller victory after 11 years of battle. In 1988 Mr. Geller sold the station for \$1 million and moved to Las Vegas. The station now operates as WBOQ-FM in Beverly.

## New Mexico Radio Amateur Marks 80 Years as a Licensee

“Made it! 80 Years a ham.” That’s how ARRL member Paul Elliott, W5DM, of Hobbs, New Mexico, recently posted his milestone on the Top Band reflector. Growing up during the Great Depression in Kingsville, Texas, Elliott got his ham ticket at age 14 as W5GGV. Now 94, Elliott eventually worked his way to the top rung — Amateur Extra — back in the day when that license offered no additional privileges, just prestige. It did later allow him to apply for a two-letter suffix call sign, and he became W5DM.

His first rig was homebrewed from Atwater Kent radio parts, with a wire to a tree for an antenna, but he remembers making his own galena crystal for a crystal set and experimenting with a Model T spark coil. He continued building his own transmitters and receivers for a couple of decades, operating CW until SSB came along. Elliott succeeded in working all states on 160 meters from a 120 × 120 foot electrically noisy city lot with “a long but low semi-inverted L,” as he described it. He now has 189 DXCC entities confirmed on Top Band.

A Texas native and World War II veteran, Elliott is a graduate of the US Naval Academy and served in the Pacific. After the war, he was a Navy aviator. In the late 1940s, he began farming cotton and maize, which he continued until 1980 on 200 South Texas acres, then taking on a second job as a chemical plant engineer, before going back to school to earn a doctorate in physics from Texas A&M.

“I’m basically a peasant with a lot of

education,” is how he describes himself. He spent more than 20 years in academia as a professor of physics at his alma mater. In addition to Amateur Radio, Elliott enjoyed flying and was a licensed commercial pilot.

“Basically, all I’m doing today is chasing the occasional DX,” Elliott told ARRL. He said he has a transceiver and a couple of wire antennas that he makes work on all bands. Elliott has 325 DXCC entities confirmed on all bands — plus a lot of memories from an earlier era of Amateur Radio. He recalled a fellow ham in Texas who had directly coupled the final tube of his transmitter, with 1,500 V dc on the plate, to his antenna. When he received a “pink slip” (advisory notice) from an FCC monitoring station in Hawaii for harmonics, his friend saw the bright side and bragged about the distance his signal had traveled.

“Age, not surprisingly, has taken its toll,” Elliott said on the Top Band reflector, noting that his CW speed was now down to 20-25 WPM because of waning dexterity. “Thanks to all who have had the knowledge and the kindness to help me over the years,” he said.

## New FCC Chairman Ajit Pai Offers Praise for H.R. 555, Other Telecoms Bills

Newly designated FCC Chairman Ajit Pai (see below) praised the House action on H.R. 555 and other telecommunications-related legislation that cleared the chamber on Monday.

“I want to commend the U.S. House of Representatives for passing a

number of important, bipartisan telecom bills yesterday,” Pai said on January 24.

“These bills will help bring greater efficiency to the Commission, provide consumers with greater protections, improve rural call completion, help Amateur Radio operators, and take several steps to promote public safety,” he continued, adding, “I look forward to working with Congress on these and other important issues as Chairman of the FCC.”

President Donald Trump named the 44-year-old telecommunications attorney, — who has served on the Commission since 2012 and is its senior member — to succeed chairman Tom Wheeler, who stepped down on Inauguration Day, January 20. Pai is the FCC’s 34th chairman.

Pai will chair his first open meeting of the Commission on Tuesday, January 31.



Here is a good picture of how not to mount an antenna and expect it to work!

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## **FEBRUARY 8, WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEETING- REMEMBERING THE CAN DO PILOT BOAT- FORMER CAARA PRESIDENT CURLEY ABOARD THE DOOMED BOAT**

Our speaker was aboard a Coast Guard boat attempting to get to the scene that night for a rescue. This should be a fantastic meeting!

The Bible describes a time when the seas “mount up to the heaven” and then “go down again to the depths.”

It was like that 35 years ago, in the midst of the Blizzard of ‘78. Nevertheless, Captain Frank Quirk Jr. of the pilot boat Can Do, out of Gloucester Harbor, answered a distress call, leading his four-man crew into the teeth of the storm.

They were volunteers, doing what they’d done many times before — attempting to aid fellow sailors in trouble.

Both boats in distress — the apparently foundering tanker Global Hope, and its would-be rescuer, Coast Guard 44 motor life boat, were in trouble on Salem Sound. They would survive, but as the fury of the storm increased, the Can Do would be lost with all hands — Quirk, Charlie Bucko, Norman Curley, Kenneth Fuller Jr. and Donald Wilkinson.

The willingness of those men to risk their lives for others was remembered Wednesday in a solemn ceremony at the boat hanger of Coast Guard Station Gloucester on Harbor Loop, where up to 60 people — including nearly two dozen Coast Guardsmen at attention and in crisp dress uniforms — heard a succession of speakers laud the unselfish courage of the Can Do crew.

“The men we honor today are heroes in the true sense of the word,” Station Gloucester Commander Luis Munoz told the gathering. “They put the safety of others before their own.”

These were more than words for someone like Ralph Stevens, 57, of Salisbury, who was a young Coast Guardsman on duty that night. He’d been sent out aboard Coast Guard 41 to try to rescue the rescuers.

“We didn’t make it very far,” he said, recalling the 70 foot waves. “We made a four-man decision to turn around and come back. No ifs, ands, or buts. If we hadn’t I wouldn’t be here.”

In the mess room, Stevens looked out to where a life preserver from the Can Do hangs on the wall.

“You think about it every year at this time..” Stevens said. “It’s always there. Charlie Bucko taught me how to run a Coast Guard boat.”

Quirk, who lived in Peabody, had made a living bringing pilots to ships moving in and out of Gloucester and Salem Harbor. His son, also Frank, was serving with the U. S. Marines in Okinawa when he got word of his father’s death. His days aboard Can Do taught him that his father knew full well the risk he took in a storm.

One day, he remembers, at Salem Harbor, “a huge squall picked up out of nowhere. My brother was aboard, myself, and my mother.” The sea slammed the bow so hard it ripped open the forward hatch. Water began pouring in. Mom was told to take the wheel.

“We tied a rope to my dad,” Frank recalled in an interview. He went out on the bow to put down the hatch. “I got off the boat that day and kissed the ground.” The younger Quirk announced he wanted no more of the sea, but his father minimized the incident.

At other times, the pair had worked as divers, recovering drowned swimmers, drowned divers and drowned boaters. But more frequently their missions were rescues.

“My dad was always helping people. He was on the boat 7-24.”

Gard Estes was also part of the volunteer surf patrol and in the dark, at the height of the storm, he was part of a desperate effort to bathe Magnolia Beach in powerful searchlights, the better to give a target, a place to beach the wounded boat.

“We had the beach lit up like the Fourth of July,” Estes recalled.

The sea was such that the Can Do could not get to the beach.



“A little after midnight the Mayday came,” Estes said, looking down. Via radio, the increasingly desperate crew reported hypothermia along with serious injuries created when the windshield was smashed by the gale.

“We all set out in a four-wheel drive vehicle,” he said.

If the sea was impossible, the land was buried under so much snow it would be days before most roads reopened to cars.

McCarthy knew Quirk well. He smiled at the memory.

“He was one of a kind. He was a pistol, he really was,” McCarthy recalled, “and he could do anything on a boat.”

Both Quirk and Bucko had worked closely with the Coast Guard, winning the Mariner’s Medal for past rescues.

As the night wore on, the Can Do’s messages came out of the freezing cold reflecting a fast fading hope. And in the days following the storm, the bodies came ashore on beaches all along the North Shore. The Can Do was spotted in the water, one body within.

Relatives and friends of the lost men attended Wednesday’s ceremony, including Frank Quirk’s daughter Maureen Ouelette, a granddaughter and a great-granddaughter. A flowered wreath lay on a table, wrapped in a red, white and blue ribbon. Later in the day, the Coast Guard would bring it out to sea and drop it upon the waves in memory of the crew.

Mayor Carolyn Kirk linked the Can Do crew to the city’s iconic Fishermen’s Memorial, where the names of the Can Do crew are inscribed on the memorial’s cenotaph.

Kirk, drawing from the words inscribed on the Man at the Wheel’s base, and on the cenotaph itself, noted the words from Psalm 107 in the King James Bible: “They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.”

