

CAARA NEWS



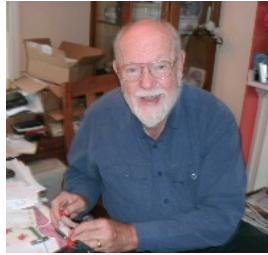
Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
FEBRUARY 2019 Edition



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Hank- W4RIG.

The CAARA Board and Members Meetings were held on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 6 Stanwood Street -



The Board voted to discontinue the regular telephone service due to the expense and minimal use. We are working on an alternative for emergency use at the clubhouse if members do not have cell phones. The Board also voted to make no recommendation to the membership regarding changes in the CAARA Constitution regarding proxy voting.

Board members were given phone and email contact information on members who have not paid their 2019 Dues so they can be contacted for payment. Members with hardship problems will be asked to contact either the Treasurer Tony Marks or President Hank McCarl for special arrangements. The Members meeting was then called to order to consider the posted change in the proxy voting procedure in the CAARA Constitution. After discussion on possible abuses of the proxy vote provision it was decided not to change the proxy voting procedure but to be sure that future proxy voting was accepted in writing as detailed in the CAARA Constitution and signed by any members that wish to assign a proxy to another member at future membership meetings. Thanks for a great Year in 2019.

We are looking forward to another year of public service and training for emergency communications and field operations.

INFORMATION DESK

by Dean- KB1PGH

Let's start off with a couple of on air HF activities for February. First we have the ARRL School club round up on



February 11-15 and then it's the CW portion of the International DX contest on February 16 through the 17 th. If you are wondering by the way the ARRL field day will be on Saturday June 22 nd and Sunday 23 rd of this year. It will be here before you know it. As your local ARRL Public Information Officer I'd like to let you know that you can find out all the local Eastern Mass ARRL Section happenings by going to ema.arrl.org. The website is pretty comprehensive and gets you a great look at the local ARRL field organization. Of course if you want to find out about what is going on at the ARRL national level you can always go to www.arrl.org. Of course here is my cheap shameless plug to remind those who are ARRL members to keep your dues current and if your not a member of the ARRL please consider doing so. It's \$49.00 a year for a membership and that might seem a bit steep but it does go a long way to promoting the hobby and advocating for amateur radio. Plus you get the monthly ARRL magazine. So if you have the time please go on the ARRL website and take a look at all the ARRL does and the benefits of being a member. As always if you need any information about the ARRL you can always contact me at dburg101@aol.com. Moving on, since it's a new year, here's a couple of reminders. Have you checked the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in your house? You should replace them at least once a year and test the alarms. Do you have at least one good size fire extinguisher in your house? You should, especially if you live some distance from a fire department. Do you have a decent first aid kit in the house? Do you have at least a couple of good flashlights in the house in case the power goes out and have you checked them to see if they work if you already have them? Make a note to do all of these things the first of every year. It's better to be safe then sorry. Speaking of fire protection. Take a moment to check all of the electrical cords and power supplies in your ham shack. Take a minute to make sure no wires are being pinched or crushed under a table leg or rug or behind a desk. Take a moment to clean the dust from your multi outlets. Make sure that all of your electrical

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6 Stanwood Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

CAARA Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association (CAARA).

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

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

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Welcome to CAARA:

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

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

The former W1RK 443.700 repeater is now on the ATT 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 beam, vertical/wire antennas along with an operating 2 meter packet station as well as 2/440 meter voice and 220 MHz Transceivers.

Amateur radio exams are held on the second Sunday of each month at 10:00 AM at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. Pre-registration necessary. Contact the head of our VE team Rick Maybury-WZ1B if you have any questions about monthly testing.

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

Each Sunday evening at 9:00 PM, 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.

connections are solid. Sometimes things get loose from being tugged or moved. I've seen crushed wires and bent electrical plugs sticking half way out a socket. I've also seen those ac adapters start to fail and swell up. Being a good amateur radio operator means being a safe operator. Now's the time to check all these things in the winter while your stuck inside. Before I forget, as of mid January the U S government is still in shut down mode so that means the FCC has not been issuing any new amateur radio licenses or issuing any upgraded licenses as well until the shutdown is over so good luck to you if you took your exam lately. One last thing for this month. If you are wondering where your HF rig stands on receiver performance compared to other receivers out there you can check out Rob Sherwoods website at www.sherweng.com. He does a great job going into lab specs of most of the HF rigs out there, You can really see the stand outs compared to the duds. That's it for this month, 73, Dean



there are people all over the place not using callsigns and I bet FCC enforcement is quite sparse. I'm just telling you what I have heard. GMRS and FRS use frequencies in the UHF range of 462 to 467 MHz. The walkie talkies use from a half a watt to 2 watts of transmit power depending on the channels. Now for the more expensive models they say a range of up to over 30 miles if you are on a mountain looking down and on a flat surface but expect a range of a mile or two in urban areas.

There are several makers of FRS radios but the good ones are made by either Uniden, Cobra or Midland. As you can see from the photo I have a pair of FRS radios and they come with a charging dock that has a USB jack.

Oh yes, that is my ham radio cat Benny in the background. I just bought this pair from Best Buy in Danvers for \$60.00 on sale. Of course my son Cliff who is 5 got a toy pair of FRS radios that only put out a half a watt and they must have cost maybe \$10.

So there are many makes and models of FRS radios out there. There are a bunch of uses for FRS radios such as short range family communications for hiking and camping and amusement parks. They can be used for short range emergency communications work or neighborhood watch groups or for preppers. So take a look at the FRS radios out there.

FAMILY RADIO SERVICE

by Dean- KB1PGH

If you are into amateur radio you should have heard of the Family Radio Service and have seen the FRS walkie talkies that are out there. If you haven't then here's some facts and information for you.

Did you know that FRS was first proposed to the FCC by none other than Radio Shack back in 1996? You also of course do NOT need a license for the FRS radios but there is a catch. Each walkie talkie has 22 UHF channels but some of these channels are shared with the General Mobile Radio Service. Now if you want to transmit on the GMRS channels then you need a license.

A license costs you \$80 and lasts you 10 years. Now each FRS walkie talkie has 22 channels. The channels 1 to 7 and 15 to 22 are GMRS and 8 to 14 are FRS. Now to be quite honest. Even though you are supposed to get a license if you monitor these frequencies



More Fun with Snow

Curt- AA3JE



It is a common urban fable that Eskimos have 200 words for snow. This is the result of a linguistic error made a hundred years ago, when explorers, not noted for their high level of grammatical education, made a mistake.

Eskimos do not have 200 words for snow. They have one word for snow, which translates as “snow”.

They do have 199 adjectives to describe the qualities of snow. This made no sense to me when I lived south of 43 degrees North. Back then, in the warm and sunny climate of Massachusetts, I had two adjectives for snow.

Dry fluffy snow.
Wet sticky snow.

These worked, as dry snow shot out of the snow blower like fine sand and never clogged, and wet snow clogged the snow blower, tempting me over and over to stick my hand in there to clear it, risking the nickname “Stumpy”.

Then I moved north.

Now I am expanding my adjectives for snow.

Morning snow- the equivalent of dew down South, about ½ inch every morning.

Crystalline snow- snow at temperatures below 10 F.

Dry snow- 10-25 F

Transitional snow- 25-30 F

Wet snow- 30-35 F

The differences are important, as Crystalline snow provides nice, crunchy traction, but when you put salt on it, it turns to sea water ice, (very slippery).

So each day starts with blowing the snow near the ornamental fence. I learned this the first time I hit the fence with the front end loader. It’s kind of like “gently” running the fender of your car against the guard rail. Not good.

And that started the problem. I bought a snow blower, on sale, before I left the South. It is a great starting machine. Choke, prime, pull- off it goes. But when it gets cold, it has a bit of a problem.

Choke, prime, pull- “WAAHHHHHHHHH!” It takes off at full, wide open throttle, revving the poor engine to it’s top end.

Surprised, I checked the carburetor and governor. All seemed well. Detective work showed that this only happened on very cold days.
So I called the manufacturer.

“I have a problem with my snow blower.”

“Mechanical or motor?”

“Motor.”

“Please contact the motor maker.”

So I called the motor manufacturer.

“HELLO! This is Habib. I am so pleased you call us. How can help?”

“I have a problem with my snow blower. The throttle sticks wide open.”

“Oh my! That will never do! May I have the part number of the motor, and the part number and manufacturer of the snow blower, please?”

“Where is it?”

“Located conveniently at the base of the motor casting. Easy to see.”

“Please hold on.”

“Oh! I have many calls. Please call back.”

After 20 minutes with a screwdriver (to remove the casing), a mirror, and a flashlight, I had the required numbers. After 30 minutes listening to junk music, I had the technical department on the line again.

“Hello, My name is Juanita! How can I help?”

“I have a problem with my snow blower.”

“Motor part number, machine serial number, please.”

I gave both.

“Have you read the manual? I can send via email.”

“I have it here.”

“What is the problem?”

“The throttle sticks wide open.”

“Please wait, I must get my supervisor.”

After another 20 minutes on hold, I get another human (I think).

“Hello, my name is Chin Yang. What is the problem?”

“The throttle sticks wide open on my snow blower. They sent me to you.”

“Ah! No problem. I manual will check.”

Five minutes go by.

“Sir, are you still there?”

After disappointing him that I had not hung up in disgust, he continued.

“Is where you are very cold?”

“It’s about 4 degrees Fahrenheit.”

“What is that in Celsius, please.”

(After checking) “About -15 C”

“Oh it is so cold! Does the problem happen when it is that cold?”

“Yes.”

“Oh, problem solved. I read. Page 87 of manual. If the machine is used in cold climates, care should be taken to remove all loose snow after use, and to store the machine in a warm dry place. There is a risk that if

snow is left in the impeller chute, it will melt from the heat of the engine and cause malfunction.”

“You made a snow blower that has to be kept warm and dry to work?”

“We make motor. Not snow blower. But yes. That machine is meant to be stored warm. Otherwise ice freezes on throttle governor assembly. It stick.”

“Is there a modification available?”

“Yes, keep machine warm after use.”

“Thank you.”

I called the snow blower manufacturer back.

“Oh, sure! That is a home owner model.”

“I have a home.”

“It assumes you have a garage.”

“My garage is currently at minus 2 Fahrenheit.”

“Oh, you have the wrong model, Sir. You need our “ARCTIC KING” model. We have a brochure. I can email it to you. Electric start model. Very nice.”

“There is no way to use the one I have?”

“Carefully remove all snow with a brush after use, use an air hose to blow the throttle assembly dry, and store in a warm, dry place. Page 87 of the manual, Sir.”

So if you visit, there is a reason the snow blower is in the living room. It’s actually handy. I put the gloves and scarf on the handles. They dry nicely.



PUBLIC SERVICE ROAD RACES

CAARA Public Service Schedule 2019

- 1 Fool's Dual March 31, 9:00am 5K Race Start 10:00am Half Marathon O'Maley Middle School 32 Cherry Street Gloucester, MA.
- 2 Twin Lights Good Harbor Beach April 27, 9:00am Half Marathon Start Thatcher Road Gloucester, MA.
- 3 Rocky neck Art Assn. 5K. Run/walk Team Challenge May Date T.B.D.
- 4 Fast Half May 11, 9:00am Half Marathon Start Hamilton - Wenham High School 775 Bay Road South Hamilton, MA.
- 5 YMCA Backshore 5K Thursday, May 16th, 6:00pm., Good Harbor Beach, Gloucester
- 6 Motif No.1 Day Arts Fest & 5k Fun Run Date T.B.D.
- 7 Cape Ann Trail Stewards. Dogtown 5 Mile Trail Run 19 May 2019 9:00 AM
- 8 Twin Lobster June 2, 8:00am 1-Mile Race Start 8:30am Half Marathon Start Gloucester High School 32 Leslie O Johnson Road Gloucester, MA.
- 9 YMCA Father's Day 5K Sunday, June 16th, 9am., Rockport High School, 24 Jerdens Ln.
- 10 YMCA St. Peter's Fiesta 5K Thursday, June 27th, 6:00pm., Stage Fort Park, Gloucester
- 11 Triple Threat August 4, 8:00am 1M Race Start 8:20am 5K Race Start 9:15am Half Marathon Start Rockport High School 24 Jerdens Lane Rockport, MA.
- 12 Half Marathon by the Sea September 22, 10:00am Half Marathon Start Manchester Essex Memorial Elementary School 43 Lincoln Street Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA
- 13 The Lone Gull 10K Road Race September. Date T.B.D.
- 14 Parker River Half Marathon. October 6, 9:00am Half Marathon Start Triton Regional High School 112 Elm Street Byfield, MA 01922
- 15 Ocean View November 3, 8:30am 5k Race Start 9:30am Half Marathon Start Ipswich High School 134 High Street Ipswich, MA 01938
- 16 Holiday MerryThon. December 1, 9:00am 5K Road Race Start 10:00am Half MerryThon Start Good Harbor Beach Thatcher Road Gloucester, MA.

Why should you participate in race events?

It helps the club financially, we receive a donation for each race. You are using amateur radio to provide a needed public service to ensure the safety and smooth running of a public event in local communities.

I would but I do not have a radio.

No excuse, we have loaner radio's available with a mag mount that will work in your car just by just plugging it into the cigarette lighter socket. We have loaner hand held radios as well!

I don't have transportation.

No excuse, we will pick you up and drop you off at your house.

I do not have the time to spare for a whole race.

Well, you can commit to a time slot, for just two hours. We will bend over backwards to get you to participate.



Why Do We Say 73? *Submitted by Dick Ober*

Many amateurs already know that “73” is from what is known as the “Phillips Code”, a series of numeric messages conceived for the purpose of cutting down transmission time on the old land telegraph systems when sending text that is basically the same.

In the April 1935 issue of QST on page 60 there is a short article on the origin of 73. This article was a summation of another article that appeared in the “December Bulletin from the Navy Department Office of the Chief of Naval Operations”. That would be December of 1934.

The quotation from the Navy is as follows: “It appears from a research of telegraph histories that in 1859 the telegraph people held a convention, and one of its features was a discussion as to the saving of ‘line time’. A committee was appointed to devise a code to reduce standard expressions to symbols or figures. This committee worked out a figure code, from figure 1 to 92. Most of these figure symbols became obsolescent, but a few remain to this date, such as 4, which means ‘Where shall I go ahead?’. Figure 9 means ‘wire’, the wire chief being on the wire and that everyone should close their keys. Symbol 13 means ‘I don’t understand’; 22 is ‘love and a kiss’; 30 means ‘good night’ or ‘the end’. The symbol most often used now is 73, which means ‘my compliments’ and 92 is for the word ‘deliver.’ The other figures in between the forgoing have fallen into almost complete disuse.”

One of the chief telegraphers of the Navy Department of Communications, J. L. Bishop, quoted from memory the signals that were in effect in 1905:

1 Wait a minute

4 Where shall I start in message?

5 Have you anything for me?

9 Attention or clear the wire

13 I do not understand

22 Love and kisses

25 Busy on another circuit

30 Finished, the end-used mainly by press telegraphers

73 My compliments, or Best Regards

92 Deliver

22 has become 88 (love and kisses). I don’t know when this came about. 30 is still used in the newspaper and magazine business to indicate the end of a feature, story, or column. And, of course, 73 is still used by amateur radio operators to mean “best regards”.

Making any of these numbers plural (73s, 88s, etc.) is incorrect since they are already plural. 73s would mean best regardses and 88s would mean love and kisseses. Those make no sense.

Anyway, the subject of where 73 came from comes up periodically and this article reinforces the “Phillips Code” origin.

- Glen Zook, K9STH, who originally posted this to the Heathkit mailing list.

BIRD 43 WATTMETER Installing the optional 4300-400 peak read kit

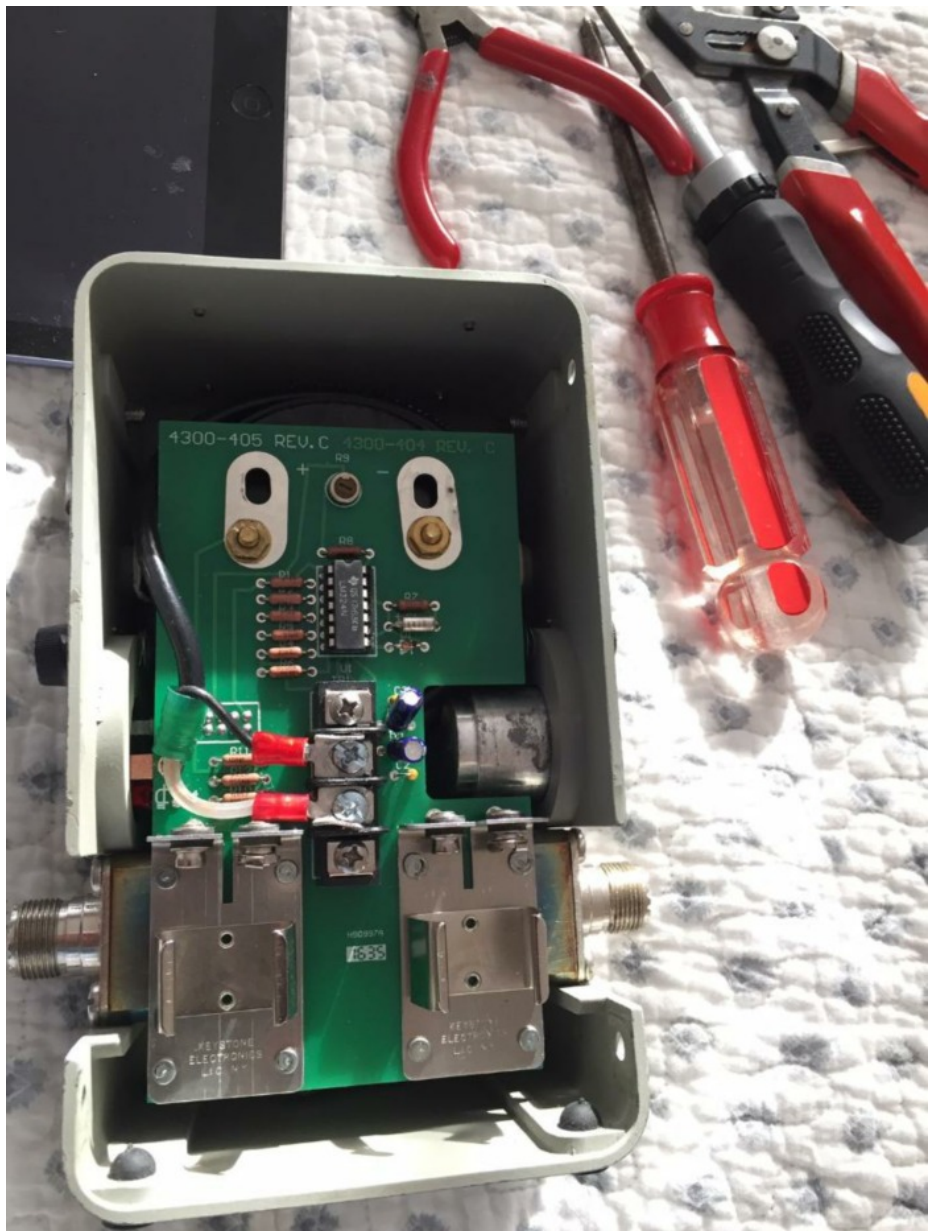
by Jon- K1TP

I have owned my Bird 43 wattmeter since around 1980 and it is a standard in the industry for accuracy in forward and reverse power readings for cw and fm transmissions....but it doesn't read peak power in ssb and am modulation. So Bird introduced an optional kit that does the trick. It retails for over \$150 but I saw a new one for sale for \$100 on eBay and I grabbed it.

The install was easy despite the horrible directions with no pictures for reference. I had it together in 15 minutes and spent another 5 minutes trying to get the 9 volt batteries in the holders that clearly do not like 9 volt batteries!

The kit uses one of the element holders on the side of the case for the newly installed switch and LED light as seen in the photo.

It works great, battery life is said to be 48 hours. I am happy with the purchase, now I can read PEP output accurately.



FEBRUARY



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

6 Stanwood Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

978-282-7645
www.caara.net

Repeaters on 145.130
224.900 & 443.700

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		Open House-5- 10pm			1	2
3	4	5 Open House-5- 10pm	6	7	8	9 BOD Meet 11AM Member Meet- Noon
10	11	12 Open House-5- 10pm	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Open House-5- 10pm	20	21	23	23
23	26	26 Open House-5- 10pm	27	28		