



CAARA Newsletter



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

JANUARY ISSUE- 2014



President's Corner

by Stan-W4HIX

December 2013

This month CAARA lost a towering figure in the club—Ralph Karcher, Jr., W1RK. Ralph was instrumental in so many of the key accomplishments of CAARA—he will be missed.

As 2013 closes, I wanted to thank everyone who has contributed to a very successful year at CAARA. The building at 6 Stanwood St is very close to belonging to CAARA and already there is a renewed pride in the membership. On Sunday Jan 29th, we have a very productive workday. The first floor is now painted and looks neat, clean, modern and professional. Members can be proud of our facility.

The second floor still has paintwork to finish, but that will come soon enough. Stations are installed and operational. I started a wiki to document the stations, but because of a change in our website data center, this material will have to be regenerated. Once this is operational, all documentation will be online, and easily updatable.

One of the stations is being set up for remote operation. It is now operational for receive, with transmit testing to happen soon. As soon as documentation is complete, we will start at beta phase for feedback on the operation before opening it up to the club. So right now it looks like Ham Radio Deluxe and Skype, but we will be experimenting with other remote operation systems.

Next year should be quite exciting. We are gaining some great new members—hams that have looked around and decided that CAARA fit their needs the best. I'd like to welcome Michael W1RC (Mister

Mike), who if you don't know, is the "Benevolent Dictator" of NEAR-fest. We also should be doing some strategic planning for 2014—what we want to accomplish as a club. CAARA has many activities—what do we want to do better next year? We should review our mission statement, and maybe even make changes if we think that's what should be done.

A video history of CAARA has been started. Bob Spanks and Bob Quinn are spearheading this project. Unless you have been involved in a project like this, you may not have an appreciation for the level of effort it takes to do a high quality job. I would like everyone to lend a hand—CAARA's history is worth preserving.

73 de Stan, W4HIX
stan@w4hix.com

Information Desk



Before I forget, 2014 is the 100th Anniversary of the Amateur Radio Relay League so to find out more of what's happening this year and the convention this summer please go to the ARRL website at www.arrl.org. Now with that said this month I think I'll focus on the subject of what to listen to with a ham radio transceiver. There's a lot more out there than just listening to the ham bands. This works out especially to the new Techies who think that buying an HF rig is a waste of time until they get their General Class license. First of all, even if you just got your license the best thing to do is listen to the HF bands even if you can't transmit on them. The more you listen the more that you'll get a feel of how the bands are laid out, how contesters work, how a proper QSO is made and even things such as "Special Event" stations. Sometimes Techies forget that they do have SSB transmit privileges on 10 meters from 28,300 to 28,500 MHz and CW privileges on small

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CAARA Newsletter

Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association

6 Stanwood Street

Gloucester, MA 01930

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

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor

Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Club Reporter

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Welcome to CAARA:

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

CAARA also operates the W1GLO repeater on 224.900. The former W1RK 443.700 repeater with antennas located in Magnolia is now located at the CAARA clubhouse and has a very limited range.

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

Amateur radio exams are held on the second Sunday of each month at 10:00AM at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. There is no pre-registration necessary. Contact the head of our VE team Bob Quinn if you have any questions about monthly testing.

Monthly member meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM except for July and August.

Each Sunday evening at 9:00pm, the club operates a 2 meter net on 145.130. This is an open and informal net which disseminates club news and prepares operators for emergency communications work. All are invited to check into the net as club membership is not a requirement.

New! The club is open every Tuesday from 4-8PM for CAARA members to stop by and socialize, as well as use the extensive collection of ham radio gear.

Information Desk

portions of the 80,40 and 15 meter bands. Not bad for getting even just 26 questions right out of 35 questions in a multiple choice exam! Many Techies and other hams forget that there are some other things to listen to on the shortwave bands. There are the "Broadcast Bands" or "World Bands" which have international shortwave stations. Granted these bands are a mere shadow of their former selves with most of the stations off of the air but there are still a few out there, plus a few religious broadcasters as well. You also have many pirate stations right below 40 meters. These illegal broadcasters broadcast on weekends and holidays with music and parodies. Then you still have the CB bands to listen to on 11 meters with people transmitting on SSB from channel 36 to 40, and even bootleg CB'ers transmitting above channel 40 and below channel 1. Then you have the spy stations, or "Numbers" stations transmitting cryptic messages in number groups to international spies in the field. You also can listen to airliners travelling across the globe on the "Volmet" channels. There are also many other random radio pirates and bootleggers who transmit illegally across the shortwave bands. So you get the point, there is much more to listen to with your HF rig than you think. Now we go to the VHF and UHF bands. Just because the 2 meter repeaters are quiet don't just shut your radio off. Especially if you buy a dual band rig. Most HT's can receive all the public safety channels so program all your town's Police and Fire Dept channels in and don't miss out on the fun. Plus you keep informed of what's going on in your community. On Cape Ann program the Marine channels in, especially CH 16 and 22. Those are the distress and safety channels. You can also listen to the jets depart and take off from Logan and Beverly airports on the air bands. So with just a little bit of effort your HF or HT can become a better listening post and you get more use out of your rig! As some may know, "The Monitoring Times" magazine is now out of print as of January 2014-but there is some good news. Many of the editors from that magazine have started a new online magazine called, "The Spectrum Monitor" which goes online this month! So if you miss reading up on all that's going on in radio check



out there new website at www.thespectrummonitor.com and the online subscription is only \$20.00. So this month's theme is don't shut your radio off because it's quiet. With just a bit of effort you can keep on listening and enjoying the "Magic" of radio!

EDITOR ROUNDUP by Jon-K1TP

Another busy month at the CAARA Clubhouse. I would like to personally thank Gardi-KA1BTK and Roger- KB1YTJ for all the energy they have injected into the club activities.



Gardi and Roger completed a cleanup on the right side of the building consisting of trimming the bushes and raking. The dump run was completed but Jon and Ross.

Gardi has opened the club up Tuesday evenings giving the members another option to enjoy their club.

Roger has been busy helping us crate large Ebay items like the paper folder and ice cream machine and shipping them from his office.

Stan takes the Ebay items which sold and were packed by Jake and then prints labels and ships them out.

Ross- W4RAB, single handed sanded, patched, and primed the first floor...amazing feat by a motivated individual!

A party of eight plus members is scheduled to apply the finish coat of paint to the first floor later in December. (see pictures of the event at the end of newsletter) Mark- MAW came down one Sunday morning and brought several boxes of exotic pastry for the get together, Thanks!

Dean-PGH constantly feeds me articles and photos for the newsletter. Thanks buddy.

Gardi bought himself a new Yaesu FT 450D and brought it over to the club for the grand opening of the box. What a nice radio! Gardi plans on installing it in his van and operating HF from different locations as he cannot put an antenna up at his current location.

Stan- HIX, our Prez and worker bee, has been working on the CAARA building sale and the parking issue with the neighbor. Please give Stan a big "atta boy" when you see him! Stan spends countless hours behind the scene working on club stuff.....more than you would ever believe.

We have a rugged 80 foot tower donated to the club

(cont. p4.)

compete with a new major league tribander and rotor...thanks Sandy- N1MAU. Sandy also donated an all mode 440 radio which will probably be Ebay'd.

CW practice for any mebers who wish any Tuesday afternoon at the weekly Club Open House

DECEMBER CLUB MEETING WITH ROSS BURTON- W1RAB GUEST SPEAKER



Ross- W1RAB CAARA member gave a talk on remote control HF. As most know, Ross was located in California for the last few years due to his YL's job commitment and he had no way to get on the HF bands effectively from their rental housing situation. Ross still had his home in Gloucester complete with multiple stations and towers. He came up with the idea of being able to run his Gloucester station remotely from California with his HF station hooked up to the appropriate software and Internet connections. Ross also traveled back and forth to Gloucester on occasion and fine tuning his setup so it was almost goof proof. If you are interested in remote controlling a rig so you have access to hf while on vacation, etc., give Ross a shout.

I have a Omni VII which is internet ready to remote control and I am going to try to get mine up and running for my trip to Florida. Stan- W4HIX is also in the process of setting up our club Icom 7000 for remote control. This will take sometime and a training course will be necessary before club members are given access.

I guess just another reason to belong to CAARA, a club with a diverse membership with interest in all the modes ham radio has to offer the modern operator. Jon- K1TP

CAARA HELPS THE YUKAN MERRYTHON !!

by Dean- KB1PGH

8 Members of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association braved the below freezing conditions to provide safety and logistical communications for the over 1000 runners combined for the Yukon 5K and Half Merrython which was held on Sunday, December 8th. The runners started at Good Harbor beach, ran down Thacher Road towards Rockport Center. There they made the turn around back towards Good Harbor Beach. A total of at least 32 volunteer hours were provided to the City of Gloucester and the Town of Rockport by amateur radio operators using their own equipment and the club repeater which was purchased with private donations.

The following hams helped out in this event. Stan Stone W4HIX as Incident Command, Hank MCarl- W4RIG as net control from his house on Nugent Farm Road. Ron Beckly- N1RJB was the tail car following the last runner. The following hams were spread out along the race course reporting status updates to net control: David Gooch- KB1ZBO, Dean Burgess- KB1PGH, Nate Dewolf- KB1VST, Curtis Wright- AA3JE and Ross Burton- W1RAB at the turn around in Rockport.

There were no medical incidents during this event even with the wind chill in the low 20's. There was a report of a black ice hazard which was taken care of by Curtis. This event wrapped up the public service events for 2013



RIP RALPH KARCHER- W1RK SILENT KEY . ONE OF CAARA'S MOST SIGNIFICANT LONGIME MEMBERS



Here's a pic of Ralph Karcher K1RK at the 2008 Thatcher Island Trip with Rick- WZ1B working CW together.

A group of CAARA hams went to Ralph's funeral service and it was interesting that amateur radio be a part of the Priest's comments to family and friends attending the service. It was good to see Sue Downey and daughter, Bill-OKD, Tom-K0TB, Jon-K1TP, Bob-WV1A, Stan- W4HIX, Hank-W4RIG and other hams from the club in attendance.

History This Week

1791 A U.S. patent for spinning cotton by water power was issued to William Pollard of Philadelphia.

1879 Inventor Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

1913 Dr William David Coolidge patented a method for making ductile tungsten for making filaments for electric lamps.

January 1 was a busy day! And there was a lot more:

1902 The first radio broadcast demonstration in the U.S. was given by Nathan B. Stubblefield

1903 The first transpacific cable from the U.S. was landed at Honolulu, Hawaii

1962 The last signals from the OSCAR 1 satellite were received as its non-rechargeable battery failed.

1972 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) was adopted worldwide.

1838 Samuel Morse, with his partner, Alfred Vail, gave the first public demonstration of their new invention electric telegraphic system at the Speedwell Iron Works in Morristown, N.J

Keys by Curtis Wright- AA3JE

We all know that the one that dies with the most toys wins, but we all have wives, and sons, and daughters that have nightmares about what they would do if we ever died and they had to shift all the junk in the basement.

So every year I go down to the basement and try to lighten the load a little bit. Some of it is easy, like the “Automatic TOSS and FETCH” a tennis ball hurler that is supposed to keep the dog occupied for hours. It works, but not as advertised. It does throw out tennis balls automatically, but it makes a deep grinding and growling noise that terrifies the dog and causes her to hide in the closet till I turn it off. It does have a nice serve, though.

Same thing with the “Light changing gadget on a stick”, which is supposed to make bulb changing a breeze. A few tries at trying to hit a socket fifteen feet up with a “bulb on a stick” reveals that this would make a great carnival game (you would never pay off any winners).

The problem comes when I start work on the ham radio stuff.

Here’s an old J-24 key, battered, broken (a little bit), but the key I first wired up to a buzzer to practice Morse..... can’t get rid of that.

Here’s a neat little German “bug”, complete with a heavier weight I made to slow it down a little, so I would not send faster than I can receive. Besides, it’s the only bit of Cliff’s old stuff I have that actually works.....can’t get rid of that.

Here’s the Canadian military key, tiny thing, built like a tank, bit of history there, mate.

Here’s a tiny old brass key with a huge contact, almost half an inch in diameter. That’s for a spark gap transmitter, illegal now, but a real piece of the past.... Can’t get rid of that.



Here’s a neat German key, explosion proof, best that the Wermacht had to offer. Besides, it was given to me by a good friend... can’t get rid of that, best put it with the US pilot’s leg key from WWII, they belong together.....

And so it went, and goes, every year. The Swedish “Pump” key, the Vibroplex I used to schedule with Ralph with, the Viking I took to Virginia on that trip, the

Never do get rid of any. Just can’t bear to part with the memories. People think we are packrats, but that’s not really it. We just keep the stuff to remember old friends, good friends, silent now, but alive in our hearts and our prayers.

God Bless you all, Merry Christmas.

Hello to all CAARA Members,

This is a reminder that CAARA is currently holding Ebay Auctions on club surplus equipment as part as the fundraising for the club. So please take a look by going to the clubs website at www.caara.net and clicking on the “Ebay Auctions” link on the front page of the website. Please let others know about this, especially if you know if they are looking for anything particular.

73

Dean Burgess KB1PGH
ARRL EMA Public Information Officer

PS.... We have sold about \$1000 dollars worth of donated and surplus radio equipment in November and December. The Ebay team consists of Jon, Roger, Jake, and Stan.

All Hands, especially the Techs: UPGRADE TO GENERAL CLASS STUDY GROUP

Starting at Open House on Tuesday, February 4th 2014 from 1900-2100 (7-9) I'm going to take the bull by the horns, ...at least that's what I'm reaching for! I intend to digest the ARRL General Class License Manual, Seventh Edition (current), one chapter each Tuesday night for 10-weeks (10-chapters in the book). By the April VE Day I hope that we can pass the General exam with flying colors! Not only do I intend that we pass but by working together, and with the help of some of CAARA's more advanced members, I hope we UNDERSTAND the material presented there-in.

The reason I intend to start in February is to give interested members ample time to assemble the material and to let the many new members get their bearings within the organization before we proceed. It will also allow me time to arrange for some of our more advanced members to help with the many concepts of advancement.

CAARA President Stan Stone, W4HIX has informed me that he has several brand new ARRL General Class License Manuals in his possession, and the club can get more, at a greatly reduced price for club members. I THINK he quoted \$22 per book. Please contact Stan at: stan@lanescove.us to reserve a book.

Some other items you should have are a calculator (no slide-rules!), pencils, erasers, and plenty of paper (you can doodle in the slow parts). Also, having high-lighters will let you mark the important passages in your book for easy reference.

There are 10 chapters in the book. I think we'll have some lee-way as some of those chapters, like the glossary, may not need to be covered over so in depth as say the Q&A section. I intend to hook up my laptop to the projector so the group can all see the screen should we do any explanatory research on the internet or should other members have any presentations on the subject that they'd like to offer.

I am a United States Coast Guard Auxiliary certified Marine Safety instructor and am well versed in the materials and methods used in that roll. But here, I will be learning right along-side everyone else. If this works well, maybe we'll do another class on some other area of the Amateur Radio world!

73's!

Gardner KA1BTK



Roger and Gardi on the second floor enjoying an eyeball QSO

A look at the the Cen-Tech Power Inverter by Dean KB1PGH

As you may know as a necessity I have to operate HF portable, which in turn led me to buy a couple of deep cycle marine batteries to power my Icom IC 7000. Since I have those two batteries in the basement on floating charges I got to thinking that I could use them for emergency back up power as well. I mean, who hates when the power goes out then sitting in the dark for hours with no TV, cable, internet? So the obvious answer was to purchase a power inverter. Then I can plug all those devices in and at least have something to do until the power comes back on. I also thought a power inverter could come in handy to power my public safety scanner, my HT chargers and my cordless phone! So I started looking around and I saw an ad for "Harbor Freight" which had a coupon for a power inverter. I went up to "Harbor Freight" in Danvers on RT 1 by Chili's restaurant and purchased the "Cen-Tech" 750 Watt continuous, 1500 watts peak power inverter for about \$40.00. Basically the "Cen-Tech" power inverter is under the "Harbor Freight" label and is made in China. As you may know what a power inverter does is take the DC current from a battery and change that current into a "Sine Wave" AC current. Now some inverters, such as the "Cen-Tech" I have changes the current into a "Modified" sine wave AC current, instead of a "Pure" sine wave AC current. What that means is that really sensitive electronic equipment may have some interference when not run by a pure sine wave current but for what I will be using it for this will not matter to me. As you can see the "Cen-Tech" Item # 69660 Power Inverter has two AC outlets to run multiple items. Plus it

comes with a USB port in the middle, right below the power switch. This comes in handy to power cell and smart phones and iPods and laptops. You can also see that it comes with two leads with the battery terminal connectors and the AC jacks have protective covers on them. The housing is made of molded plastic but its sturdy enough for portable use. Now 750 watts of AC power is more than I need. For example a stereo or TV, VCR will run on 250 watts and a microwave will run on 1000 watts. Now some equipment like a hand drill need extra power to



get the motor running, that's why these power inverters have "Peak Power" A hand drill needs an additional 600 watts to start up, on top of the 600 watts it needs to run. Now you have to remember that these power inverters are really made to run off of a car battery with the car running, especially if your running any appliance, but for running what I want on my portable batteries I won't have a problem. So I recommend going to www.harborfreight.com and taking a look at their inverters. They have smaller and larger ones depending on your needs. Plus they are always having sales and you find coupons on their website or in their store. The Cen Tech line of power inverters is an affordable way to get emergency AC power out of your car battery, or if your like me, your deep cycle battery back up power. Gee, you could even purchase the Harbor Freight" 45 watt solar panel kit, use that to power your batteries, then use the Harbor Freight power inverter to live off the grid!

OPEN HOUSE EVERY TUESDAY AT THE CLUB: 4PM- 8PM



Above: Dave and Bill enjoying the second floor radio room
Below: Jake playing with a vintage receiver





Jon-K1TP on twenty meters SSB making a few contacts



Tony and Bill

CQ to realign publications

CQ Communications, Inc. has announced plans to realign its roster of publications and to launch an exciting new online supplement to its flagship magazine, **CQ Amateur Radio**.

“The hobby radio market is changing,” said CQ Communications President and Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, “and we are changing what we do and how we do it in order to continue providing leadership to all segments of the radio hobby.” CQ Communications is currently the only publisher in the United States serving the broad radio hobby, from broadcast band DXing to amateur radio moonbounce and satellite communications. CQ itself has been amateur radio’s leading independent voice for seven decades.

Effective with the February 2014 issue of CQ, said Ross, content from the magazine’s three sister publications, Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online, will be incorporated into CQ’s digital edition as a supplement to be called “CQ Plus.” With this change, hobby radio enthusiasts of all types will be able to go to a single source - CQ - for articles on the broader aspects of hobby radio, from shortwave listening and scanner monitoring to personal two-way services and Internet radio, as well as amateur radio. Richard Fisher, KI6SN, currently Editor of both Popular Communications and WorldRadio Online, will be Editor of CQ Plus.

“Our primary audience is ham radio operators,” explained Ross, “but very few hams began their radio involvement as amateurs. Most of us started out as shortwave listeners, broadcast band DXers, CBers or scanning enthusiasts. Many continue to be involved in many different aspects of the radio hobby in addition to amateur radio.”

“By consolidating four specialized publications into one,” Ross continued, “we will be better able to keep these multidimensional readers informed on all aspects of the radio hobby while simultaneously exposing those who are not hams to all the excitement and opportunities that amateur radio has to offer. We see this as a win-win for all of our readers and our advertisers, who will now be able to reach a wider and more diverse audience.”

The expanded material will be an integral part of the digital edition of CQ, and will be included as part of a standard digital subscription. Each month’s digital edition will simply continue beyond where the print edition ends, offering supplemental material on all aspects of hobby radio communication and will include selected columns carried over from the other magazines. The added digital content will make full use of the multimedia opportunities presented by digital publications.

Current subscriptions to Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online will be converted to CQ subscriptions - and receive CQ Plus at no additional charge! Details will be posted on each magazine website.

There’s no need to wait to see the great variety of articles that will be featured each month in the new CQ and CQ Plus. A preview of the February issue’s Table of Contents is available right now on the CQ website at <http://bit.ly/19mzbOK>.

CONVICTED KILLER OF RADIO AMATEUR AND WIFE GETS LIFE SENTENCE A federal jury deliberating the sentence for Arizona inmate John McCluskey failed to reach a unanimous verdict on Wednesday, December 11th meaning the judge will sentence him to life in prison for murdering a retired Oklahoma ham radio operator and his wife. Amateur Radio Newslines Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has more: — John McCluskey was convicted of the brutal murder of Gary Haas, N5VGH, and his wife Linda. Their bodies were found in their burned out travel trailer in Santa Rosa, New Mexico on August 4th, 2010. During the four-month trial, the defense argued that McCluskey should not be executed because brain damage, abuse and addictions made him incapable of controlling his impulses and making reasoned decisions when he shot the Haases. Prosecutors asserted that the only fitting punishment was to put McCluskey to death because he was a dangerous and remorseless, cold-blooded killer and a danger to society. The victims were making their 11th summer trip to Colorado when they were killed three days after the prison break funded by a drug smuggling ring McCluskey allegedly ran in the prison. At that time, McCluskey was serving 15 years for attempted second-degree murder, aggravated assault and discharge of a firearm when he and two other

prisoners staged a daring escape from a medium-security jail near Kingman, Arizona. This with the help of his cousin and fiance Casslyn Welch. Jurors deliberated for nearly four days before deciding they couldn't agree on the death sentence making mandatory that McCluskey serve the rest of his life in prison without the possibility of parole.

NEW HAM RADIO EDUCATIONAL INTEREST VIDEO

There's a new ham radio promotional and educational video now on the Internet that may be of use to those trying to interest non hams in joining the fraternity. Amateur Radio Newsline's Hal Rodgers, K8CMD, tells us a bit about it: — Amateurs interested in spreading the good word about their hobby now have a new tool. A video entitled "Discovering Amateur radio" has just been released. Written and narrated by David Anderson, K1AN, the production describes an extraordinary technology that in just 100 years has transformed our lives in, as Anderson says, "the most amazing ways." Available in a condensed version as well as a half hour program, the well-paced video can be viewed on line or used in group presentations. The producers say it was created for anyone who wishes to encourage youths and adults to discover amateur radio. The production is one of many educational programs administered under the auspices of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization through partnership with the World Genesis Foundation. "Discovering Amateur Radio" is on the project website at www.radioqrv.com

SUN'S CURRENT SOLAR ACTIVITY CYCLE IS WEAKEST IN A CENTURY

Although there have been numerous theories presented by solar researchers, many have come to the simple conclusion that Solar Cycle 24 is the most anemic in 100 years. Amateur Radio Newsline's Heather Embee, KB3TZD, has the details: — While our home star the Sun is now at its 11 year solar maximum it has already been compared with earlier poor solar maximums including the very weak Solar Cycle 14 in the early 1900's. That cycle began February 1902 and ending in August 1913. The maximum smoothed sunspot number observed during that cycle was 64.2, and the minimum was 1.5. There were a total of approximately 1019 days with no sunspots during cycle 14. Leif Svalgaard is a researcher at Stanford University. On

December 11th he told reporters at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union that none of us alive have ever seen such a weak cycle, noting that the learning has already begun. For example, scientists think they know why the solar storms that have erupted during Solar Cycle 24 have caused relatively few problems here on Earth. They say that the sun often blasts huge clouds of superheated particles known as Coronal Mass Ejections into space.

Powerful CME's that hit Earth squarely can trigger geomagnetic storms, which in turn can disrupt radio communications. But such effects have rarely been seen during Solar Cycle 24, even though the total number of Coronal Mass Ejections hasn't dropped off significantly. The explanation, researchers say lies in the reduced pressure currently present in the sun's heliosphere. Nat Gopalswamy of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center asserts that this lower pressure has allowed CME's to expand greatly as they move through space. As such Solar Cycle 24 Coronal Mass Ejections are, on average, 38 percent wider than those measured during the last cycle. In other words, less pressure from these CME's is hitting here on Earth. And when the CMEs expand more, the magnetic field inside of them has lower strength. So when you have

lower-strength magnetic fields, then they cause milder geomagnetic storms.

Scientists also think they know why relatively few super-fast solar energetic

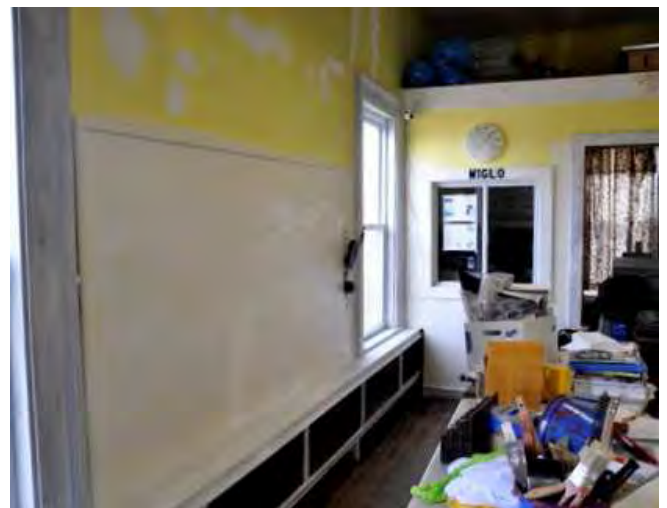
particles, or have been measured in Earth's neighborhood during the current cycle, which began in early 2008. They say that this has to do with a weakened interplanetary magnetic field which appears to be another characteristic of Solar Cycle 24. Also quite significant is the fact that the polar field was weak during Solar Cycle 23, so researchers kind of suspected that Solar Cycle 24 would be similar.





Prepping the walls at the clubhouse for the new paint job spearheaded by Ross Burton- W1RAB. Ross and Roger, seen with the broom, took everything off the walls...hundreds of QSL cards and Contest Certificates to be framed at a later date and hung back on the walls.

Ross sanded and spackled the walls and then applied a coat of Kilz primer to cover the “Canary Explosion Yellow” paint and dismal brown glossy trim. When we took over the first floor from the previous tenant, The Pigeon Flyers Club, we needed to clean and paint the entire place to eliminate the odor from the pigeons but I never could find anyone that would admit to who selected those obnoxious paint colors!



CAARA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2013



Plenty of desserts and drinks for all.

Bill won an alarm clock....but does a retired ham need an alarm clock?



Dick-KR1G watches Curtis-AA3JE enjoy a dessert.



Lot's of delicious food including a honey baked ham, sliced meat platter, casseroles, potato dish, etc.



Most importantly, members getting together to enjoy each others company and usher in Christmas.



Dick-KR1G also won a 2 meter walkie radio in the Raffle!



Some photos of the Yankee Swap which was dominated by tools and radios. I didn't see a prize I would not want to have!

CAARA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2013



CAARA WORKER “BEE DAY” . WHAT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT!



Stan- W4HIX got roped into scraping down the first floor chimney and preparing it for paint....Below left is Jake-K1LDL painting the first floor walls and Below right is Jon- K1TP rolling the walls a beautiful blue color.





Larry- AJ1Z paintingm the front door and other white trim.

Ross- W4RAB, the main architect of the work day, holding Al's attention on the finer points of painting.



Al-N1QEH painting the downstairs front bulletin board.



Rick Williams donated time painting the white trim...Rick is going to get his license soon. You might have heard his brother on the repeater, Al -N1QEH



Bob Quinn-WV1A set up shop on the second floor and started a video history of the club which will take many hours of shooting and editing..thanks Bob!



Dave- KB1ZBO came down to help from Saugus on his motorcycle!



Some of the gang that attacked the basement, first, and second floor.

What a great day for all CAARA Club!!!

18 Members and **1** non member came to 6 Stanwood St today to move the progress of the club forward.

If you weren't able to attend there were 3 major areas of work today.

First floor main hall is now a beautiful blue and white room.

Second floor brown doors were all sanded and a beginning of priming.

Third major event was filming of today's project work, the station set up on the second floor and a beginning of the oral history documentary.

It was a proud and fun day for the CAARA membership.

Thank you to all who came.....Ross- W4RAB

Gardi KB1BTK

Al N1QEH

Jake K1LAL

Stan W4HIX

Jon K1TP

Larry AJ1Z

Mark W1MAW

Ross W1RAB

Dave KB1ZBO

Ron N1RJB

Bob WV1A

Bob WA1UCG

Roger KB1YTJ

Pete K1VJO

Dean KB1PGH

Nate KB1VST

Mike W1RC

Jan KC1AQA

Rick Williams paint volunteer.

**Pictures of the completed paint job
will be in the next newsletter.**