CAARA NEWS

Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
JANUARY 2019 Edition

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Hank- W4RIG.

Another great year for CAARA celebrated with our Christmas Party on Saturday December 8.

We had 25 members and guest present for a really fine meal. Special Thanks to Bill Morris, Jon Cunningham, Dave Linsky and Tony Marks for the extra efforts and clean up. Also special thanks to Bill, Dave and Tony for good work to get the first floor and especially the kitchen at 6 Stanwood in top shape for the food inspection which passed with flying colors and approval for 2019.

We may cut back on breakfasts starting in January so keep on the lookout for scheduling of meals to be announced by CAARA mail when activities will be continued for the Scholarship and general fund raising. We will try to make arrangements for meals at the scheduled members meetings following the Board Meetings on the Second Saturday of each month starting January 12, 2019.

We are reminding our members that have not paid their 2019 dues to check their email for the final notice from Dick Ober. Dues are due January 1 and if you have not renewed your membership please help us to minimize the necessity to phone members who have failed to pay their dues. Members who do not pay by January 31 may be dropped, and we don't want to diminish our community support for lack of membership participation. Your dues are an important part of providing public service and emergency communications for Cape Ann and Gloucester.

We also don't want you to miss our monthly newsletter courtesy of the fine work of Jon Cunningham, and Dean Burgess and our special column from Curtis Wright.

Happy New Year - We look forward to your participation in CAARA activities in 2019

INFORMATION DESK

by Dean- KB1PGH

As we start off a new year here`s the list of ARRL on air events for January.The annual Straight key night starts on January 1st.Then Kids Day follows up on the 5th.At the same time the RTTY round up is also on the 5th and the 6th.Then on January 19th through the 21st is the VHF contest.For more information on these events please go to www.arrl.org .For this months topic I think I will cover the topic of static and voltage that can build up on your antennas and cause damage to your HF rigs.I have a Icom 7300 and their Yahoo reflector page there was a post of a static discharge damaging the front end pre amps and that the radio had to be sent in for repairs.So this leads to the importance of at least grounding your HF antennas and forcing the voltage build up to ground instead of going to your rig.You should know that HF antennas can build up a charge of several volts due to wind,rain and snow..There is such a thing as "Snow Static" where each snowflake actually carries a tiny electrical charge.One other obvious cause of radio damage is lightning.Not even direct lightning strikes but strikes that are even a quarter to half mile away create EMP fields that can damage HF rigs.I had this happen to one of my shortwave radios years ago.Even the coax going to your rig is like a capacitor that can hold a charge. There`s even another way you can damage your radio-YOU!Don`t forget that your body can be charged and think of all the times that you get zapped when you tough someone or something ,Especially when it`s dry.I`ve actually seen someone get a tiny burn mark from getting zapped through static build up.So what can you do to save your radio?The cheap and easiest thing to do is unplug the antenna coax form your rig when your not using it and when you go to plug your coax back in you can touch the plug to

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.

The opinions expressed in the CAARA Newsletter are solely those of the editor or other contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either the Board of Directors or membership of CAARA.

Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

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Welcome to CAARA:

CAARA, an ARRL affiliated club, operates the 2 meter fm 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 fm/digital fusion 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 by appointment only on 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.

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.

ground it since coax can carry a slight charge.The other method is to create a ground for it.Pound a copper rod into the ground with a ground strap going to your antenna coax.They do sell coax surge protectors that you can hook up your ground too.You can look up the "Alpha Delta Communications" brand of protectors.These protectors have a little gas tube inside which carries the voltage to ground.They hook up between the coax and your radio.The DX Engineering company sells a bunch of grounding rods and clamps if you want to check them out.This also reminds me to tell you to protect your HF equipment from electrical line power surges as well.Buy an electrical outlet surge protector and plug your equipment into that.The Tripp Lite company makes the best ones.You can get those on Amazon.They may cost a little bit more but considering how much money you paid for your equipment it`s worth it.That`s it for now and see you next month!

PRODUCT REVIEW

by Dean- KB1PGH

As you know amateur radio equipment can be expensive and there`s nothing worse than when it gets beat up in the field. Especially if you do a lot of HF portable operations like myself. Now I know amateur radio operators can be cheap sometimes so I have a inexpensive solution to keep your ham gear safe and dry. I would recommend that you check out the Harbor Freight line of Apache protective cases. They are cheaper than the Pelican brand of protective cases. There are 3 different sizes of Apache cases and I purchased the 3800 case.The Apache line of cases are weatherproof and dust proof as well.It also has a pressure equalizer to keep the water and dust out. They are IP 65 rated and are very well built to withstand drops,I like the heavy duty clamps which are not going to accidentally pop open. They also have the ability to be padlocked if you want. As you can see in the photo the inside of the case is full of foam padding. The way you fit your gear in the case is that the foam is made into hundreds of little block chunks that you can pick and peel off to fit whatever you want.As you can see I have fit a Yaesu FT 1XD handheld and a Bearcat BCD 325 P2 scanner inside ,as well as back up batteries,he manuals for the radios and a flashlight. That`s over $800.00 in equipment I am able to keep safe. Lets say you could use this sort of set for emergency communications or for public service events too. The cost of the 3800 case is $40.00 which is cheaper than the Pelican line of cases. Plus Harbor Freight always has sales and you can find their 20% off coupons in their flyers. For more details such as dimensions of the 3 different size cases you can go to www.harborfreight.com .

Please help me prepare for an upcoming move to Cape Cod! Sadly, I have recently disassembled my station, and I am parting with several items of high quality equipment. 10% of any sales will be contributed to CAARA.

1.) Penninger Tip-Up Base and Mast: This sells for $900, and I would appreciate an offer of $300.

This commercial-grade, Penninger Radio Tipper™ mast mount makes managing tall masts and antennas easy. The Tipper™ base allows the mast to be assembled horizontally on the ground and then "tipped" into the vertical position on a heavy duty load-bearing pivot. This unique design simplifies erecting the large 35 foot tall mast by a single person. It works well with a married person too! All heavy-duty aluminum construction and stainless steel fittings insures long-life and rugged performance. See how the Tipper™ works in Tipper™ setup video (This package include a base and the tire-mount n[illegible] era, or emergency lighting at a height of 35 feet.

SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS:

-- 6061 Grade Aircraft Aluminum

-- Stainless steel fittings

-- One TP-24S, standard Portable Tipper

-- Four AT-2000-12508, 8 foot mast sections

-- Four MC-200, mast clamp for 2" OD mast

-- Four GS-750, 3/4" x 20" ground stake

-- One GC-200, guy clamp

-- Made in USA

2.) Kenwood TM-281A in a Samlex case with Samlex SEC-1223 power supply. This is a 65 watt, 2 meter transceiver. Never been mobil. New condition - seldom used. Package includes a Diamond X-200 vertical antenna, which has never been used. Price is $180 firm for unit and antenna

3.) Hex Beam:

The Textenna Tex-Hex is a plug-and-play version of the G3TXQ broadband hexagonal design with all elements pre-tuned and packaged for ease of installation. The antenna is designed to cover 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20m with an optional add-on kit for 6m. The Tex-Hex employs high-quality UV-resistant resin/fiberglass tubes for the spreaders and employs thirteen support cords for additional support.

This sells new for $590. Will sell for $125.00.

4.) Palstar ZM-30 Digital Antenna Analyzer in a Pelican Case. Offered at $150.

• The ZM30 is an automated micro-controlled SWR antenna analyzer with a 8 bit micro-controller with a precision low power DDS signal generator. It also includes a self-calibrating reflectometer and displays SWR at selectable frequencies from 1 Mhz to 30 Mhz. It measures: SWR, impedance, reactance, inductors and

capacitors, transmission lines, stubs, Q, and resonant frequency. There is a serial port for field upgradable software. Battery operated. As on all Palstar products the front panel is powdercoated.

Specifications.

• Digital display

• Precision low power DDS signal generator

• Displays SWR at frequencies from 1 Mhz to 30 Mhz

• Battery operated

• Serial port for field upgradable software

• Powdercoated front panel

• Dimensions: 3" wide x 4" high x 2"deep

5.) ZeroFive 27' 10-40M Ground plane vertical antenna: Offered at $90. Note: 4 of the ground plane aluminum tubes are slightly bent.

The 27 foot 10-40 meter Multi-Band Vertical antenna is a freestanding vertical element. This vertical antenna has no lossy traps or coils to burn out. Super wide bandwidth means more time operating and less time stuck on a frequency your trap vertical is tuned for. Offers improved performance on 40 meters. Exclusively designed for Hoa and deed restricted hams that require a stealth antenna. A built in Heavy duty FOLDOVER is the same foldover mount used on our big 43 foot vertical. This vertical Antenna is made for multiband operation. A 5KW 4 to 1 UNUN is included with this vertical. Will handle full legal limit power all day long. This vertical puts all the power out ON THE AIR where you need it. Designed to be used with out Radials. UNUN is shipped Usps seperate and will arrive 5 to 7 days after the antenna.

OVERALL HEIGHT--27 Feet

FOLDOVER MOUNT INCLUDED

MAX MOUNTING MAST SIZE 2 INCH OUTSIDE DIAMETER

INCLUDES A 5KW UNUN TRANSFORMER

BANDS OF OPERATION--10/12/15/17/20/30/40 Meters

POWER HANDLING--2KW SSB

WIND RATING--92 MPH no ice

SWR-1.5 With customer supplied tuner at the operating position

Recommended coax length--minimum 100 feet

Thanks for looking, Dick K1QF

rhwhite46@msn.com or

Countdown to Third Annual AM Rally Has Begun

The third annual AM Rally is on the near horizon — just about 6 weeks away — getting under way at 0000 UTC on February 2 and continuing until 0700 UTC on February 4. The event aims to encourage the use of AM on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters while highlighting the various types of AM equipment in use today. The event is open to any and all radio amateurs running AM using any type of radio equipment — modern, vintage, tube, solid-state, software-defined, military, boat anchor, broadcast, homebrew, or commercial.

"We're very excited about the upcoming AM Rally in February, given its growth over the past 2 years and the positive comments we've received," said Clark Burgard, N1BCG, who is spearheading the event with Steve Cloutier, WA1QIX, and Brian Kress, KB3WFV. "In particular, it's great to hear how so many ops are giving this classic mode a try, many for the first time, and of the help offered to them by those who have mastered the technology."

For many, if not most, radio amateurs getting on AM is as simple as pressing the AM mode button on the front panel. Numerous transceivers in use today offer AM capability. A lot of hams enjoy restoring and using vintage Amateur Radio equipment, which typically means a separate transmitter and receiver. Until SSB subsumed it on the ham bands, AM was the primary HF voice mode. The change to SSB did not happen without some pushback, however.

Today, a group of dedicated radio amateurs keeps the flame alive, getting on AM frequently, and for many of them, AM is their primary operating mode. The AM Rally gives the uninitiated a chance to dip a toe into the pool, so to speak.

The event website has complete AM Rally details, contact information, award categories, logging, and tips on how to get the most out of your station equipment in AM mode. Contact Burgard for more information.

t is sponsored by Radio Engineering Associates (REA), in cooperation with ARRL, which supports all modes of Amateur Radio operation. W1AW will play a leading role in the event, as it has for the past two years.

Certificates will be awarded to stations scoring the highest number of points in each of the five power classes, regardless of rig category, both for most contacts and most states/provinces.

Christmas Party at CAARA Headquarters - food was great!

The Annual CAARA Christmas luncheon was held on Saturday December 8th at the club facility. The lunch was spearheaded by Bill- W1WMM, our resident Chef. The turkey was donated by Jon- K1TP and the ham by Hank- W4RIG and members brought side dishes and desserts. Bill setup and served the meal single handed, an amazing feat in itself. Cleanup was provided by Tony- N1JEI and Dave- N1CDL.

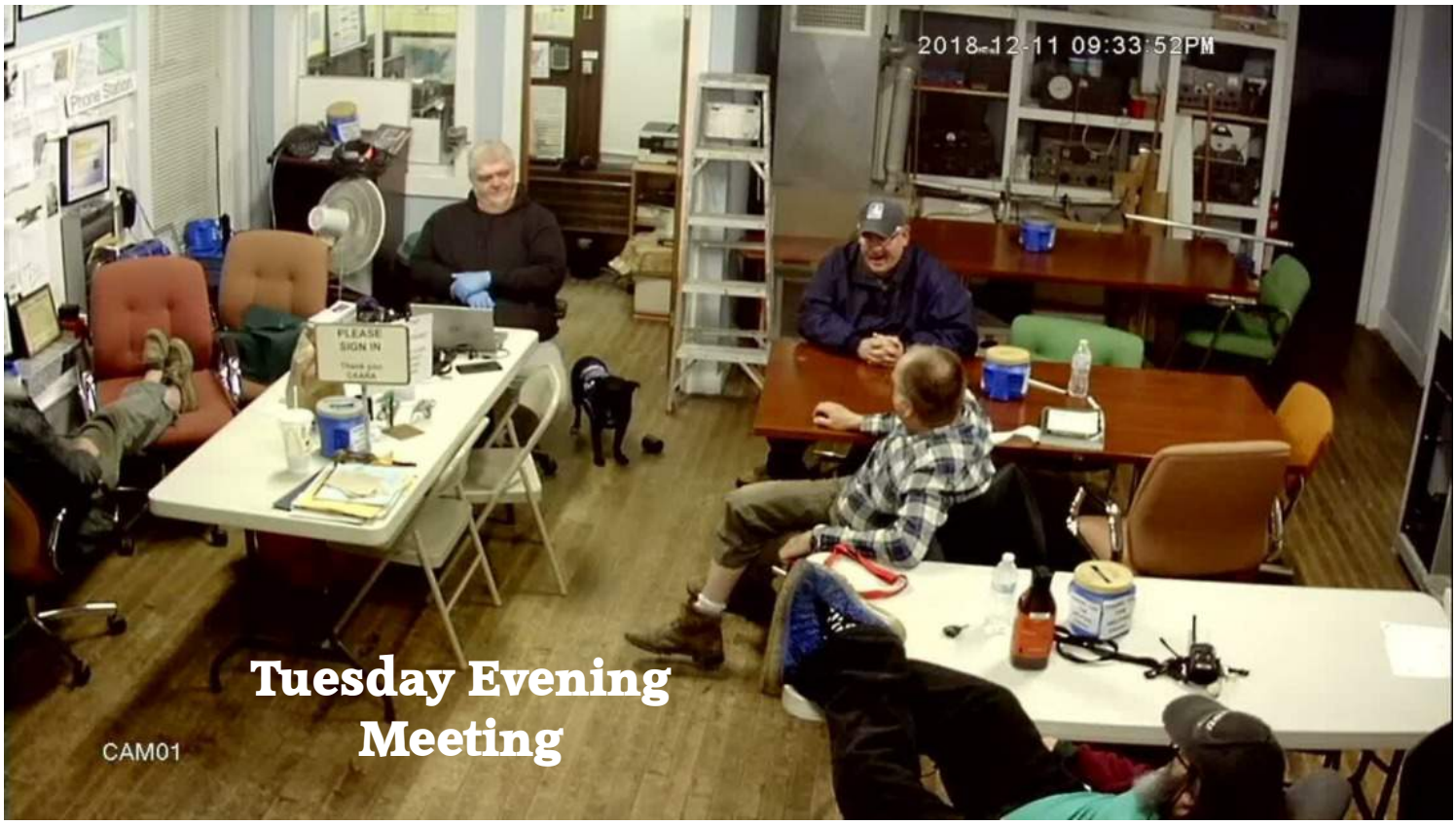
Chef Bill- W1WMM

CAARA TIDBITS: The club has benefited financially from food activities all year due to the endless work in the kitchen of Bill-W1WMM.

It should be noted that Bill's kitchen activities have fully financed the CAARA Scholarship Fund for next June 2019 and the Building fund Breakfast has rung up over $500 for club improvement, such as refinishing the worn out wood floor on the first floor.

Christmas Party

ClubBreakfast in December



DONATION NEEDED FOR THE KITCHEN

Betty Crocker BC-2806CB 12-Cup Coffee Maker, Black

by Betty Crocker JUST $17.99 on Amazon

We would like to get **two of these**, best to have two of the same kind to keep things simple. The current coffee makers are on their way out and have served the club for years.

20th Century's Spy Technologies at the World's First Spy Museum

Spy technology has always fascinated humanity. Those spy gadgets that once were used in real spy missions are on display at the world's first Spy Museum in Finland. The visit is also an opportunity to test your spying skills.

Anyone who has watched each and every James Bond movie knows about spy gadgets. Perhaps during those 007 classic movie marathons, you have wondered about one genius spy gadget or two.Or perhaps Ian Fleming's charismatic and adventurous character got you interested in real-world espionage, intelligence, and encryption. Whatever the case, you are sure to enjoy a day at the Spy Museum in Tampere, Finland.

The Spy Museum in Finland opened to the public in the summer of 1998. It was the world's first spy museum dedicated exclusively to espionage. This year, the Spy Museum celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Two years later, in 2000, a sister museum, the International Spy Museum, opened its doors in Washington, D.C.

Holidays

by Curt- AA3E

I get nervous on holidays. It's natural, but not for the reasons you think!

Most people find holidays difficult because not every member of a family gets along with all the others, and many times there are disagreements, (ranging from minor disputes to flesh wounds), that occur.

I don't worry about that at all. As long as it doesn't end in criminal charges, they can flail away at each other as much as they want, though I do go through the house and hide all the sharp implements before they family arrives.

The problem is the house. Each year, in our family, there is an informal competition for who can have the most spectacular domestic disaster that particular year.

My late brother, David, held the record most years. The most spectacular were when he discovered his home builder had not tied the guest bathroom, (next to the living room), into the sewer, but had hidden a septic tank my brother didn't know he had.

That was good for flooding the living room with raw sewage one Christmas, when guests had the audacity to actually use the guest bathroom.

I think I have already discussed the year he decided to save money and time by working on his home built airplane in the attached garage. His use of improper tubing led to the house having to be evacuated at 0200 on Christmas morning while the HAZMAT crew mopped it up and ventilated 10 gallons of spilled gasoline.

My beloved Father always would cram the Christmas gift wrappings in the fireplace, set them alight, and forget to open the flue, filling the room with dense, choking smoke. This was always fun for the children. I remember it fondly.

Personally, I most clearly remember finding the illegal cellar drain connected to the sewer line in my house when the maple tree plugged the line with roots, and the extra load flooded the basement with raw sewage.

Each year, the change in usage pattern reveals any incipient failure in the domestic systems, always at the worst possible time.

This year, I was peacefully asleep, when I was gently prodded awake by SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED.

"THE FURNACE JUST EXPLODED."

Now she never actually says what I am supposed to do. I could panic, call the furnace guy, evacuate the house, or just go back to sleep. So I waited to see what came next.

"AREN'T YOU GOING TO DO SOMETHING?"

Now it was clear what was desired. Putting on my slippers I went downstairs and checked the indicators on the furnace. All fine. I went back upstairs, and reported that all was well.

"NO IT'S NOT! IT EXPLODED! I WAS AWAKE TEXTING TO MY FRIENDS IN CALIFORNIA, AND IT EXPLODED!"

Slippers on again, I explored further.

Nothing.

So, being a bit upset, (only natural), I made a cup of hot cocoa, and sat at the living room table.

"WHOOM!"

Out in my peripheral vision, I saw a blue flash from the gas fireplace insert. When I got up off the floor (hitting the deck is a practice that has proved

valuable in my home in the past), I ran over to shut the gas off.

No shut off valve, but no gas smell.

So I unplugged it's power, thumbed the remote to "OFF", and watched it for a while.

Nothing. So I went back to bed.

The next morning, as instructed in the nice brochure "PROPANE SAFETY" they sent me, I called the propane company.

"Fireplace inserts? I don't have anyone certified on propane inserts."

"Can you please tell me where the shut off valve is?"

"It should be somewhere near the insert."

Heartened by this invaluable advice, I looked again. No valve. Looked outside. No valve. Looked in basement. No valve.

So I called the local guy. (Named appropriately, "THE LP GAS GUY")

"You did all the right things. It probably won't blow up. I'll be there in an hour."

"Probably" was not a reassuring adjective. But I waited.

When he came, he plugged it in, and it rewarded him with another lusty explosion.

So he and I pulled the insert apart, and the problem was obvious.

"Anyone ever clean this thing?" he said.

"Bought the house last year. Don't know."

Looking at the inch thick accumulation of propane soot, it was obvious that no one had done the recommended cleanings every two years. Or five years. Or even every decade.

So we set up the shop vac, the drop cloth, and took it all apart, cleaned it, and put it back together. Propane soot is extremely fine, greasy, and gets everywhere.

But it worked flawlessly.

"See you in two years?" he asked.

Paying his amazingly modest bill, I agreed.

SHE, was triumphant.

"I TOLD YOU IT EXPLODED. NOW ARE YOU GOING TO CLEAN UP ALL THIS MESS?"

The shut off valve? It's located BEHIND the insert. To reach it, you have to disassemble and pull the unit. Another triumph of installation.

But it's December 22, and the kids are coming in four hours.

I'm nervous.

Pluggers have to wait for the tubes in their radios to warm up.

Solid vs. Stranded wire in coils by PA1ARE

In the past I used loading coils to improve the efficiency of a short dipole on 80m. The results, however, were disappointing. The main reason seemed to be the low Q factor of the coils.

These coils were made from 1 mm stranded wire. In the literature stranded wire is considered just as good as solid wire with the same crossection. Some even believe that stranded wire is somewhat better because it has a larger surface area.

Skin effect and Proximity effect

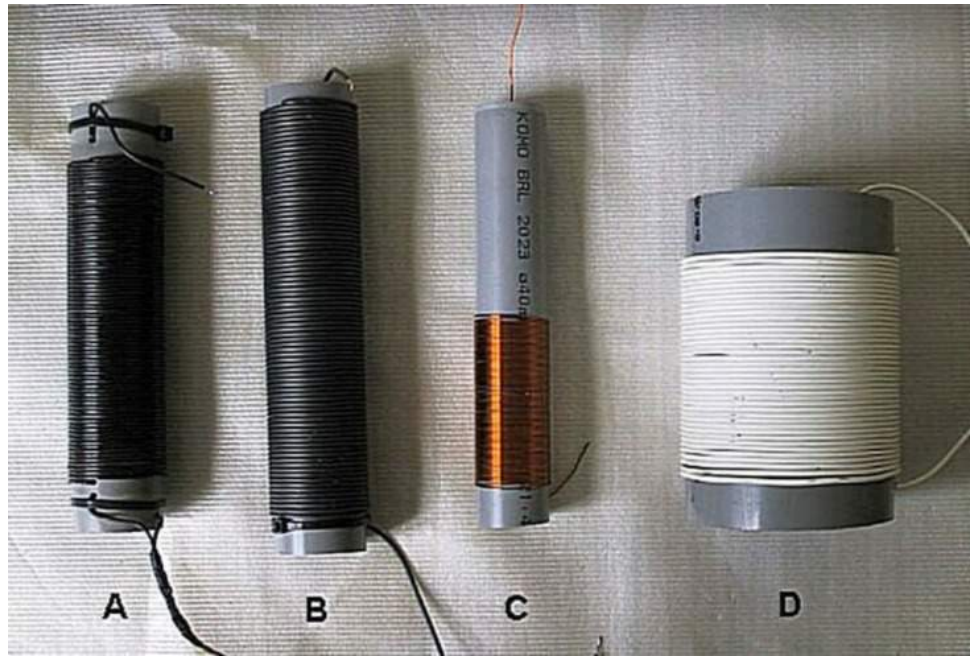
It is well known that at high frequencies current is concentrated in a thin area on the outside of a conductor. This is called the skin

effect. In a coil the combined magnetic field of neighboring windings forces the current to flow on the inside of the coil. This is

known as the proximity effect. A non-concentric distribution may be a problem in stranded wires. Since the individual wires in a

strand spiral around the center of the strand, the position of a wire will change along the length of the strand. In order to stay at the

inner side of the coil the current must transfer from one wire to the other. The contact resistance between individual wires may



therefore play an important role in the total resistance of the coil, and hence its Q-factor.

To investigate the difference between coils made with stranded and solid wire several samples were measured. Coil A is one of the

original loading coils. It is made from 0.75 mm stranded wire. Coil B is purpose build with 1.5 mm solid wire. Coil C is made from 0.75 mm solid enameled wire closely wound, and coil D is made from 0.75 mm stranded wire on a large diameter form. All Q measurements were made at about 3.4 MHz.

Although it is not straight forward to compare the results of the different coils, it is clear that the ones made with solid wire are better than the ones made from stranded wire. For instance, the difference between coil A and B is remarkable. The wire diameter of B is only 1.4 times higher than that of A. If the ac resistance is predominantly determined by the skin effect only, the ac resistance of A would only be about 1.4 times higher, somewhere around 8 ohms. In reality it is almost 3 times higher. Even compared to the more compact coil C, having the same wire diameter, coil A performs worse. Except for coil C the spacing between the wires created by twice the thickness of the insulation helps reducing the proximity effect. Nevertheless the proximity effect is strong enough to cause the extra loss in stranded wires.

Conclusion

In any application where Q-factor and efficiency is important : avoid stranded wire !

K9YA Telegraph - The good news about Amateur Radio celebrates its 16th anniversary

The K9YA Telegraph is a free, monthly, general interest amateur radio magazine read by hams in more than 100 countries.

January 2019 marks our 16th year at the K9YA Telegraph. The Telegraph's success derives from our large, enthusiastic and devoted subscriber base worldwide, and to our authors whose personal stories continue to fascinate, entertain, enlighten and engross.

So, if you're in the mood for Morse, hankering for history, gluttonous for gear, ravished for a review, needing nostalgia, or just plain famished for fun, you'll find it in the K9YA Telegraph.

Thank you for your ongoing messages of praise and encouragement, and remember: we're always on the lookout for your good story, or two.

For more information or to subscribe: **http://www.k9ya.org**

What is VSWR?

There are many misconceptions and myths about VSWR. To try to overcome some of these misconceptions and to try to provide an easy and understandable summary, Electronics Notes has developed a page describing what VSWR is and this is accompanied by an embedded video.The page and video describe how a perfect match means that all the power is absorbed by the load, and it then goes on to show what happens when there is a mismatch. The case of the open and short circuits are used to show the extreme situations and then these are developed to show what happens with loads that are less than or greater than the characteristic impedance of the feeder.

Understanding how the reflected power gives rise to voltage and current standing waves is the key to understanding what happens when there is a high VSWR.

Read all about VSWR:

https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/antennas-propagation/vswr-return-loss/what-is-vswr.php

Watch the video:

https://youtu.be/BSa051lWB_c

ARRL Petitions FCC to Incorporate Parity Act Provisions into its Amateur Radio Rules

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to incorporate the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The Petition has not yet been assigned a rule making (RM) number and is not yet open for public comment. In the past, the FCC has said that it would not take such action without guidance from the US Congress, but, as ARRL's Petition notes, the Congress "has overwhelmingly and consistently" offered bipartisan support for the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

"Private land use regulations which either prohibit or which do not accommodate the installation and maintenance of an effective outdoor antenna in residences of Amateur Service licensees are unquestionably the most significant and damaging impediments to Amateur Radio Service communications that exist now," ARRL said in its Petition. "They are already precluding opportunities for young people to become active in the avocation and to conduct technical self-training and participate in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] learning activities inherent in an active, experiential learning environment. Without the relief in this Petition, the future of Amateur Radio is bleak indeed." The proposed amendments would have no effect on the FCC's limited preemption policy in §97.15(b), which pertains to state and municipal governing bodies, ARRL said.

Specifically, ARRL is proposing that the FCC amend Part 97 by adding a new subsection under §97.15, that prohibits and ceases the enforcement of, "Any private land use restriction, including restrictive covenants and regulations imposed by a community association," that either fails to permit a licensee to install and maintain an effective outdoor antenna capable of operation on all Amateur Radio frequency bands, on property under the exclusive use or control of the licensee; precludes or fails to permit Amateur Service communications, or which does not constitute the minimum practicable restriction on such communications to accomplish the lawful purposes specifically articulated in the declaration of covenants of a community association seeking to enforce such restriction. ARRL's proposed rule would not affect any existing antenna approved or

installed before the effective date of a Report and Order resulting from ARRL's petition.

The proposed provisions reflect the accommodation reached in the ultimate version of the Parity Act bill at the urging of federal lawmakers between ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI), the only organization representing homeowners' associations. "That legislation was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives four separate times and has the support of the Senate Commerce Committee and the current Administration," ARRL stressed.

"Private land use regulations are not 'contracts' in the sense that there is any meeting of the minds between the buyer and seller of land," ARRL said. "Rather, they are simply restrictions on the use of owned land, imposed by the developer of a subdivision by recordation in the land records of the jurisdiction when it is first created. They bind all lots in the subdivision. If an Amateur Radio licensee wants to buy a home in a subdivision burdened by deed restrictions, that licensee has precisely two options: Buy the residence subject to the restrictions, or do not buy the residence. There is no negotiation possible because the restrictions are already in place and cannot be waived by a seller in favor of a buyer."

ARRL noted in its Petition that an increasing number of homes available for purchase today are already subject to restrictive covenants prohibiting outdoor antennas, and that the Community Associations Institute data show that 90% of new housing starts in the US are subject to deed restrictions and other limitation that make installation of outdoor Amateur Radio antennas ineffective or impossible.

Also, ARRL pointed out that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 gives the FCC jurisdiction "to preempt private land use regulations that conflict with federal policy and that private land use regulations are entitled to less deference than municipal regulations, because the former are premised solely on aesthetic considerations rather than safety issues, whereas municipal regulations are concerned with both."

"It is now time for actual and functional parity in the Commissions regulations in order to protect the strong federal interest in Amateur Radio communications," ARRL said.

New Amateur Radio Packet Gear Awaits Unpacking, Installation on Space Station

New Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) packet equipment awaits unpacking and installation on board the station after arriving in November as part of the cargo transported via a Russian 71P Progress resupply vehicle. The new packet module for NA1SS will replace the current packet gear, which has been intermittent over the past year.

"With the arrival of Progress complete, the crew has to find free time unpack Progress, uninstall the intermittent module, and then set up and test the replacement packet module," explained Dan Barstow, KA1ARD, senior education manager of the ISS National Laboratory (CASIS), an ARISS sponsor.

The ISS packet system was reported to have gone down in July 2017, although it unexpectedly came back to life the following summer. At the time of the failure, NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, said the revived system would fill the gap until the replacement packet module was launched and installed. The packet system operates on 145.825 MHz. ARISS hardware team members on the ground were able to locate a functional duplicate of the ISS packet module that has been in use on the ISS for 17 years. ARISS said the subsequent installation will depend on the crew's busy schedule.

In an email to ARISS and other groups CASIS supports, Barstow pointed out that ARISS is an official back-up system for astronauts to talk with Mission Control in the unlikely failure of the station's primary communication systems.

Bartow said that in 2017, hams relayed nearly 89,000 packet messages via the ISS — an average of 243 every day. The statistic so intrigued and amazed Barstow that he decided to get his Amateur Radio license and gear to join in the activity.

Satellite stalwart and ARISS supporter Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, won the December 2018 QST Cover Plaque Award for his article, "Making Digital Contacts through the ISS."

Reminder: Membership Dues, send them in ASAP...

Radio ham sails to new world record

WIA report on the Amateur Radio Newsline story about 76-year-old Jeanne Socrates VE0JS who is looking to set the record of a lifetime

Retired math teacher Jeanne Socrates VE0JS, is sailing solo aboard her vessel the S/V Nereida as she makes her third attempt at setting a record. Jeanne is already the oldest woman to circumnavigate the globe solo nonstop and unassisted -- and is the first woman to do so from North America.

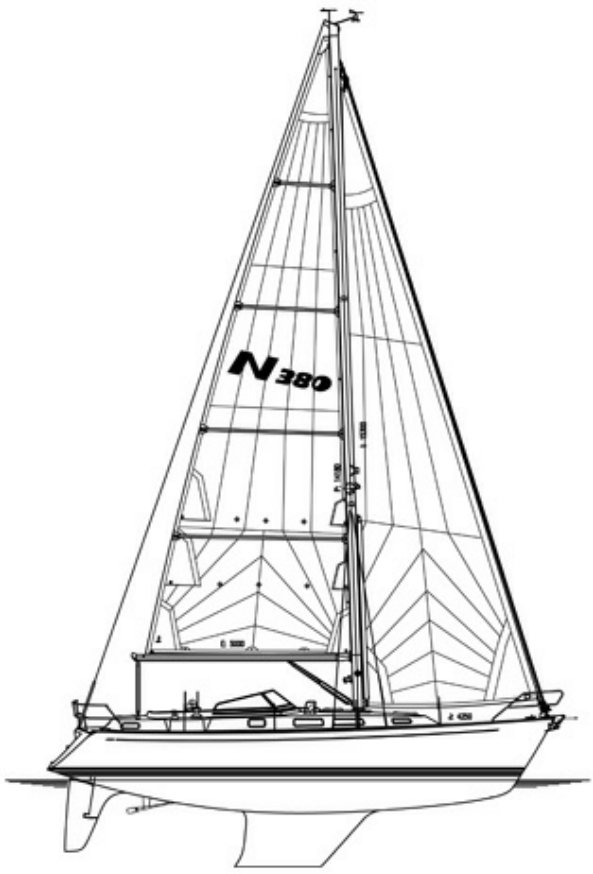
Now 76, the experienced sailor simply wants to be the oldest person to accomplish that feat.

To all appearances she is indeed alone, but Newsline got on board with her briefly on 20 meters with the help of a Skype patch from her friend Jim Millner WB2REM.

JEANNE: "I'm pretty pleased with my progress, in fact."

She was, at the time of the QSO, 80 miles north/northwest of Ducie Island in the Pacific Ocean, at a good pace into her 8-month journey and this week was sailing towards the Falklands after having 'rounded the Horn.'

When the sun shines brightly, Jeanne has the benefit of solar power. She has a little generator on board too – but for a sailboat like the Nereida, the real power comes, of course, from riding the wind.



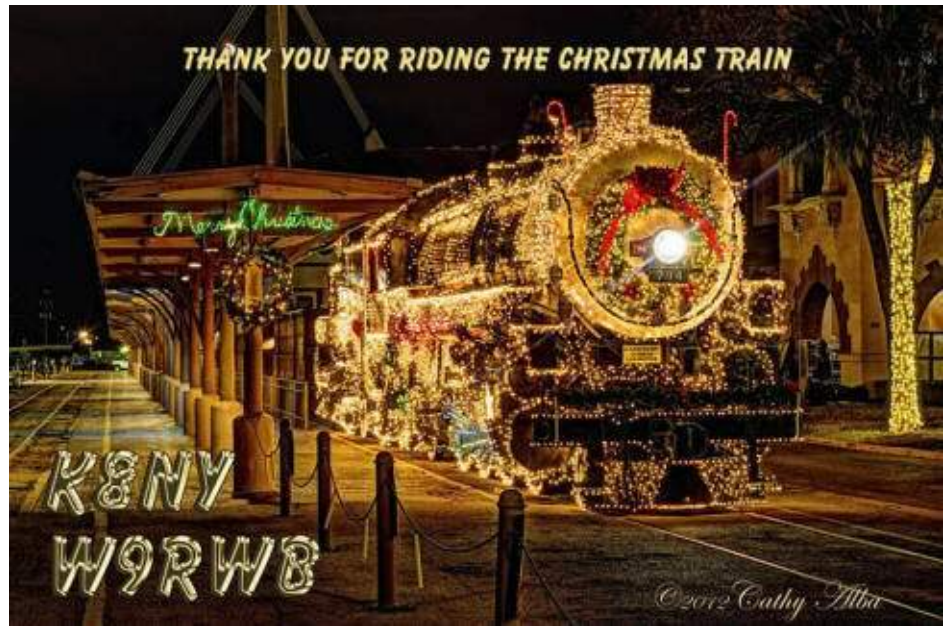
Jeanne's days are full. She makes her meals, she writes in her blog, she downloads critical weather information and maintains the boat in operating condition, even keeping barnacles from slowing her sojourn.

There is, of course, also the radio to turn to, all 125 watts of HF signal – and she does that often.

I spend a lot of time actually, it's really great for me to have the radio. I've not been able to make the morning contacts I normally do when I am further north. I get onto various nets. Some of those contacts come up to me in the daytime and that seems to be good. In fact I made contact yesterday with Victoria Canada where I left from.

He came up strong 17 meters which is great. And then other friends from the 7155 group and another group, we make contact from time to time and occasionally I am able to get a hold of my friends up on the west coast. There is a group there around 7147 in the morning around sunrise. I am able to talk to them occasionally. It has been a really really good thing for me to have the ham radio to make connections like that.

I worked this guy the other day on 40 meters, Bob-K8NY was a hoot. Since 2012 the Christmas Train has been chugging along on various bands the days of Christmas Eve (24 Dec) and Christmas (25 Dec). The Christmas Train is a Virtual Train (not a real train) whose purpose is to share with Amateurs the happiness and love that the Christmas season brings. Our hope is that this message will continue to resonate with us throughout the year and express itself especially on the Ham Bands.



Amateur Stations W9RWB (Randy) and K8NY (Bob) are the two "engineers" that will be operating the trains on these special days. Finding the trains will be simple, just look at the Cluster Spots for their postings. Typically we operate the trains on 40, 20 & 17 Meters although propagation conditions will dictate the frequencies utlized. *Jon-K1TP*

AMSAT CW Activity Day January 1, 2019 in memory of W3XO

You are cordially invited to participate in AMSAT's third annual CW Activity Day. It will be held from 0001 to 2400 UTC on January 1, 2019.

This year's event is being held in memory of AMSAT past president Bill Tynan, W3XO. Bill operated primarily SSB, but would always come back to my CW call. Bill's experience reminds us that one need not be a CW specialist to enjoy the mode.

CW Activity Day rules are very simple: there aren't any.

Just operate CW through any amateur radio satellite. Straight keys and "bugs" are encouraged, but not required. The important thing is to get on the air and have fun, as Bill did.

STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

Objective: This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners.

Straight Key Night is held every January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC
All authorized Amateur frequencies, but activity has traditionally been centered on the HF bands.
Entries for Straight Key Night must be received by January 31. Votes for 'Best Fist' and "Most Interesting QSO" will be tabulated and included in the results.

Contest Details By Dan Henderson, N1ND

In my early days in amateur radio, I was privileged to have three top-flight Elmers. Each shared with me new interests and enthusiasm for different parts of the hobby. The first, Col. Frank, WB4JMG, was special because we shared the same birthday and he taught me most of what I learned in those early days about electronic theory. The second Everest, W4DYW, was special because not only because our families were so close – he was my principle mentor for on-the-air operations, especially CW traffic nets.

Unless your Elmer was one of your parents, you probably can't say what my third Elmer could say about our relationship. Dr. Mac, WA4VNV (later N4IX), would honestly say he knew me my entire life. Not only was he a dedicated amateur operator – he was my mother's OBGYN and was the man who literally "delivered me" to the world, and helped me find the world of amateur radio in later years.

I had been attending club meetings with the old Asheville Radio Club (which merged with the Buncombe County VHF Society to later form the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society) for months before I was first licensed. And being the precocious teenager that I was, I jumped in with both feet. In mid-1971 I agreed to take over as editor of the ARC's monthly newsletter, known as Smoketest from Dr. Mac. He agreed to help me as a regular contributor, but slyly with one caveat–he would only provide news stories for me for the newsletter if I would copy them over the air using CW, since I was only a novice and had no phone privileges during those years.

I accepted his offer, and began two years of almost daily QSOs on 3725 KHz– because that was one of the few crystals I had for the Heathkit HW-16, which Col. Frank had been commissioned by my parents to build for my Christmas present in 1970. It was a unique experience, but one which served to continue building what became my passion for Morse code. In later years I would follow in Dr. Mac's footsteps once again when I became the ARES EC and RACES Radio Office for the county (but that's a topic for another article).

Between the efforts of my three Elmers, my CW speed quickly increased from the nervous 5 WPM necessary to earn my license to being able to conduct a coherent rag chew in the 25-30 WPM range. And the mantra of all three was simple – If you want to be competent in CW, you have to use it.

So each year from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC PM January 1st I have the chance to pay a small bit of homage back to the Elmers when I have the opportunity to participate in the annual ARRL Straight Key Night. This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on-the-air and simply make enjoyable, conversational QSOs. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners.

In the decade since I wrote my first SKN announcement for QST, I have seen marvelous metamorphosis occur. The number of entries has grown almost ever year, even with the elimination of CW as a licensing requirement in the US. Participants have also used this popular annual event for more than just demonstrating their prowess pounding a brass key. Numerous participants use SKN to test out and "show off" their vintage equipment. Some will plug in their old CW "bugs" and join in. The common bond for all of them is to have fun in a more relaxed setting. You will even find CW enthusiasts who get on to enjoy the rag chewing And that's the purpose of this popular operating event, so don't get hung up about the equipment.

When participating in SKN instead of sending RST before sending the signal report send the letters SKN, to indicate your participation, and to clue in passers-by who may be listening that SKN is going strong. After SKN, send the Contest Branch a list of stations worked, plus your vote for the best fist you heard (it doesn't have to be one you worked). Also, include your vote for the most interesting QSO you had or monitored.

Don't forget to post your comments and interesting photographs from your SKN adventure to the ARRL Contest Online Soapbox. Entries should be emailed to the Contest Branch at StraightKey@arrl.org or may be sent via regular mail to SKN, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. The Soapbox becomes an online album of stores and photographs to share with others.

January 2019

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13	14	15 Open House-5-10pm	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Open House-5-10pm	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Open House-5-10pm	30	31		