



# CAARA Newsletter



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

JULY ISSUE- 2013



## President's Desk

*by Stan-W4HIX*

Another Field Day is under the belt at CAARA. I find Field Day exhausting, but very challenging. There is always the fear that the whole thing will be a disaster, but given the experience of last year, the disaster of the flying tents provided the opportunity to really show what the club was made of. Last year we even carried on the tradition of movie night by rigging up piece of the crumpled tent frame and one of the sides of the tent for a screen. This year we carried on the tradition of movie night, which was a nice break after the work of establishing the site with tents, tables, chairs and antennas.

If you weren't able to make it this year because of other commitments—put it on your calendar for next year. I'm already laying out the plans, and with the configuration of the second floor at CAARA, I'm hoping to get a lot of hours on our stations and logging system. Come by and make some contacts on Sunday mornings. By the way, we were very successful with a new 31' vertical with a radial system that I built.

The partnership with the City of Gloucester with the Emergency Communications Trailer continues to pay off. We had the site torn down and completely loaded by 4:00 PM on Sunday and I was home by 4:30 PM. The trailer is neat and well organized, so finding gear is quite easy. We continue to work with the City on the sale of 6 Stanwood to CAARA. We have made it through the first hurdle—no agency in the City wants the property. Now that the City budget process is over, they will start to concentrate on this issue. From everyone I've talked to, there has been no opposition to the sale. With luck, we might complete the deal by the end of this year.

Hope you are enjoying the summer so far—the storms have been pretty intense for this time of the year, so make sure your stations are grounded. We will be having a club cookout in August, so I hope everyone can make it—it's always a good time.

73 de Stan, W4HIX

## Clerk's Corner

*by Dean-KB1PGH*



As we move into the summer months please remember that there be no monthly member meetings or emergency communication group meetings for July and August. Board of Director meetings will be held on Wednesday, July 10th at 7 PM and Wednesday August 14th at 7 PM. Please make a note that all other clubhouse activities will be taking place throughout the summer. We should be having a couple movie nights and a cookout to keep things active at the clubhouse. Coming up in September will be the Annual Meeting. This will be taking place on Wednesday, September 11th at 7:30 PM. This is where we have the club Presidents yearly state of the club address, the Treasurer presents the financial state of the club and we hold elections for club officers and directors. Speaking about elections, due to new family obligations, my term of Club Clerk will be ending on the Annual Meeting so if anyone wants this glorious position now is the time to think about it. As always, I would like to remind the membership, especially the newbies, to take a few moments to read through the clubs Constitution and Policies in the members section at the clubs website at [www.caara.net](http://www.caara.net). Please also remember that all monthly Board of Director meeting minutes and monthly Treasurer Reports can be viewed by club members on the membership section on the club website as well. We also have a couple past state of the club reports as well. So there's no way that anyone can say that they were not kept in the loop of what's going on in their club. I'll See you in August.

**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 (PL 107.2) with antennas located on the ATT 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 (no PL) located at the CAARA Clubhouse with a very limited range. The former W1RK 443.700 (no PL) repeater with antenna at the CAARA Clubhouse in Gloucester, Massachusetts has a 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 features multiple HF station's with rotatable 10-20 meter beam, G5RV wire antenna, and 2 HF vertical antenna's along with a 2 meter packet station and multiple 2/220/440 MHz transceivers. CAARA also has an impressive collection of older tube radios.

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.

## Corn by Dr. Curt Wright-AA3JE

There are real disadvantages in being an effete Eastern intellectual. Having spent most of my life in schools of one kind or another, it tends to convince you that you know what you are doing.

Fortunately, reality tends to cure that.

Last year, being a lover of corn on the cob, I planted corn. Now this would have been all right, if I had gone to the hardware store, bought a nice big packet of genetically modified seed, and planted the stuff like it said on the packet.

But..... I decided that I would plant "heritage" corn, bought from an obscure company in New Mexico, which was lovingly handed down from father to son, bred to be an honest, normal, corn that had not been "mucked" with. You know, the kind of stuff that Squanto, the Indian, planted. I had read an article in the Smithsonian, a nice one, describing the history of corn, and how it had been severely modified by the seed companies. I was going to grow "natural" corn. Pure corn. The original stuff. Straight from the Indians. I searched and found a company that promised the good stuff, hand raised by laughing Native Americans. It was expensive, but would be worth it.

If you remember the story, I planted it, tended it, sprayed it to keep the corn ear worm at bay, and lost 99% of it to the birds, beasts and rodents of South End.

But I had lovingly saved the few ravaged ears, and stored them all winter, and planted them this spring with hopes of growing the survivors to my new, F1 generation, Rockport adapted, wholly natural corn. So I put up with the inevitable complaints:

**"WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW? IT LOOKS AWFUL OUT THERE! THE NEIGHBORS WALK BY AND GIGGLE! SOW SOME GRASS SEED FOR GOODNESS SAKE!"**

I plowed it. I tilled it. I raked it, I pulled bushels of weeds out of it. I lovingly took the soil temperature, and planted my precious seeds 3 seed diameters beneath the soil.



**"THE DOWNSTAIRS RUG IS RUINED. WIPE YOUR FEET! TAKE OFF THOSE MUCKY SHOES FOR GOODNESS SAKE!"**

Then the June rains hit. It rained, and it rained, and it rained. We got 8 inches in two weeks, and the field was a soggy mess. The weeds loved it. They grew like crazy, but not one blade of corn (I know what corn looks like now).

Fortunately, I had a few seeds left. I went out, tilled, weeded, hoed, and raked, and then planted the second

batch of seeds. I did not need to water (in fact, I needed water wings the field was so damp), and I waited. And waited. And waited some more.

Nothing, except for a new crop of weeds.

Now this poses a dilemma. The normal, ordinary (and rational) thing to do would be to rototill the whole thing, plant a few packets of seed from the hardware store, and get set for the onset of the bugs.

At this point, the only thing growing in the garden was the asparagus (it gets to be six feet high, you know), and the onion

sets, which look lavish, but don't actually have any onion bulbs on them yet. The tomato plants, lovingly grown from seed are doing well, but corn? Not a blade of it.

At this point, "she who must be obeyed" made a suggestion.

**"ARE YOU AN IDIOT? WHEN THE CORN COMES IN THE STORES ARE HIP DEEP IN IT FOR TWO TO THREE WEEKS. IT IS SO CHEAP THE BAGS COST MORE THAN THE CORN. I WILL BUY YOU ALL THE (EXPLETIVE) CORN YOU CAN EAT. PLANT SOME GRASS!"**

She was right, of course, and it would make sense, except for the neighbors.

On one side there is the family with the 20 mature blueberry bushes making pies and cakes with their crop, and further down there is the family that looks like "Little House on the Prairie" with corn, beans, asparagus, pumpkins and cucumbers in abundance, and then there is me, the dork with the mud pit.

I thought about it. At least this year the bees are doing well, since I have left them alone. If I planted clover, I could say that it was intentional, done for the honey.

If any of you actually know how to grow corn, drop me a line. I asked the farmer over in Essex, but he asked me what kind of seed I had planted. When I told him, he kind of looked funny and seemed to be stifling some kind of inner discomfort. He said that the reason that seed companies existed was that the native varieties are a “little hard to grow”. Then he had some kind of attack. It seemed that he suffered from a strange variety of Turette’s syndrome, which took the form of manic laughter. Poor man.

Anyway, come the weekend, I will plant clover. I know I can grow that. I may also give up reading. Those articles in the Smithsonian just get me in trouble.

### **CAARA \$250 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Charlotte Fackre is the 2013 recipient of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association Scholarship. Charlotte undertook and completed a solid college preparatory program at Manchester Essex Regional High School and graduated in June of this year. Charlotte plans to attend Fitchburg State University in the fall where she will study Communications Media. Fitchburg State University’s Communications Media Department in combination with the Liberal Arts and Sciences Program fosters the development of skills critical to adapting to an ever changing technological and knowledge-based society. The program provides a blend of the principles and practices necessary for the effective design, production and evaluation of media for information presentation by graphic, photographic, film, video, electronic and print technologies. Charlotte has a strong interest in photography, film and broadcasting. Her participation in the course, Honors Visual Journalism has allowed her the opportunity to provide photo media for MEMO, the Manchester Essex Multimedia Online Program. As a student in this class she attended events, took photographs and wrote descriptions which were then posted on MEMO.

For her own personal development, Charlotte has studied Taekwondo since middle school. Her co-curricular activities included being a member of the Math Team, Film Club and Softball Team. Charlotte has also attended two film camps. Outside of school, she has mainly focused on the welfare of others by participating in a couple of Mission trips and serving as a Counselor-In-Training (CIT) for the Essex Youth Commission.

**Hello to all CAARA members,**

**We need more help for public service communications for the Horribles Parade in Gloucester on wednesday July 3rd from 6 PM to 8:30 PM .So if you are willing to help please contact Eric Horwitz KA1NCF at [ka1ncf@nsradio.org](mailto:ka1ncf@nsradio.org) .**

**73**

**Dean Burgess KB1PGH  
CAARA Clerk**

### **ICOM TO SPONSOR HAMSTUDY.ORG ON THE WWW**

Icom America has announced sponsorship for HamStudy.org. This is a new website that offers free learning tools for existing and potential amateur radio operators.

HamStudy.org users studying for an amateur radio license exam can choose from three online learning modules for each ham radio license class. These are technician, general or extra. FCC Commercial Element 1, 3, 5 and 6 study modules are also available.

Educational materials include flash cards, question lists and practice tests. Users who register for a free account can access personalized study history and submit explanations to amateur radio questions. Website registrants may also choose to log into their account using their Google or Facebook credentials.

HamStudy.org was created by Richard Bateman KD7BBC, Rich Porter and Michael Stufflebeam KV9G. It is optimized for mobile phones and tablets. Additional features are planned be integrated to the website in the near future.

Facebook users can receive regular site updates and study tips by “liking” HamStudy.org at [www.Facebook.com/HamStudy](http://www.Facebook.com/HamStudy). The website is directly accessible at [www.hamstudy.org](http://www.hamstudy.org). (Icom Release)



## A quick look at the “Cigbuddy” *by Dean- KB1PGH*

If your into any sort of portable or emergency communications by now you know that the Anderson Powerpole system is the way to go to hook up your amateur radio equipment to DC power sources. Anderson Powerpoles provide safe, secure, hot connect, polarized, colorkeyed and genderless connections with no messy binding posts, no frayed wires or black electrical tape. Well here comes the “Cigbuddy” from the Powerwerx company. The Cigbuddy has Anderson Powerpole connectors which will make use of your 12v power socket in your vehicle. The CigBuddy is 14 VDC @ 20 Amps and comes with a replaceable 20 amp fuse. It comes with a LED power indicator and mates with any 15, 30 or 45 amp powerpole cable. The Cigbuddy is perfect for any ham radio emergency bag, survival “Go Kit” or throw one in your glove compartment. The cost is \$12.99 and the build quality is nice and solid. It was easy to plug it into the 12 volt socket and plug in my new PWRBrite LED Light bar which I will review next month.



CAARA members prepared the tents and loaded them in to Emcomm trailer for Field Day at a Sunday morning meeting.





Dave Robinson showing club members how he uses his tablet for ham radio at the last club meeting.



CAARA Members watch the Bruins Playoff game during a meeting on our big screen that we normally use for movies and club presentations thanks to our newly Comcast Cable account.

We now have a very fast internet connection as well as cable TV which will be very helpful during emergencies to be able to monitor breaking news and current weather conditions.

## The ILLW grows each year

The biggest and arguably the world's first fun-filled event for portable amateur radio stations is the **International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend** in August.

It is still going very strongly and now in its 16th year of attracting lots of activations around the globe.

The ILLW has been joined by weekends for other structures. Now there's one for historic bridges. We wish them all well.

However, the founding International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is set for another good year with registrations flowing in steadily at 285, from more than 30 countries.

It continues to promote public awareness of the old marine navigation and the need for preservation and restoration, promotes amateur radio and fosters international goodwill.

For more details on the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on August 17 & 18 visit the website [www.illw.net](http://www.illw.net)





**CAARA FIELD DAY 2013** was a well organized event that went off without any drama. No unexpected squalls with 50mph gusts blowing tents across the field like last year! No S9 line noise from bad insulators on a nearby telephone poles. The weather was wonderful.....a perfect weekend for Field Day.

Top photo: Jon-K1TP and Jake- K1LDL making some contacts in the cw tent using the club's FT920 radio and Jake's homebrew tuner feeding a 300 foot long wire. CW ops included Larry-AJ1Z, Jake- K1LDL, Jon- K1TP, and Ruth- WW1N. It was so nice to see Ruth grab the key and make cw contacts, it wasn't that long ago she did not have the confidence! A year of practice has made her a cw pro!

Photo below: Radial setup homebrewed by Stan-W4HIX for the vertical antenna, slick job! In the process of drilling the holes, Stan bought a small drill press which is now located on the second floor of the clubhouse. Feel free to use it if you have the need.

The Field Day cake was delivered courtesy of Al-QEH and was delicious.







We used a solar panel charging a car battery to run a rad so we could get extra points



Stan-W4HIX cooked the burgers and dogs to perfection for the hungry troops.

We purchased food as we needed it from Market Basket to control food costs and it worked great.

**CAARA FIELD WAS A HUGE SUCCESS  
and the weather cooperated!**





The City donated Emergency Trailer is the heart of ourc operation. It is used to transport and store our emergency tents, antennas, tables, chairs etc. Once we unload it it is used for emergency shelter in bad weather. The front of the trailer has a small air conditioned office area where we setup the HF SSB station.



Nate operating in the VHF operating tent.



FRIDAY MORNING: A small group of CAARA hams meet at the club and load the gear, antennas, and tents into the Emergency Trailer







Bill-WZ1L working ssb during the contest in the emergency trailer. Each station had logging software running connects wirelessly together.

Mass State Senator Bruce Tarr presents CAARA Club President Stan Stone- W4HIX and ARRL Government Liaison Hank McCarl- W4RIG with a resolution from the Massachusetts General Court recognizing amateur radio operators across Massachusetts for their dedication and volunteerism for providing public safety and emergency communications for MEMA and the Red Cross. It also proclames the last week in June as "Amateur radio Week" in Massachusetts



Ron- brought the Red Cross emergency van and spent many hours helping us setup Field Day.



Nice shot of the field day site at Fuller School with the new wind turbines in the background producing electrical power for Varian, City of Gloucester, and Gloucester Engineering



If I had to sum up the 2013 CAARA Field Day with one word, it would be **“Professional”**. Under the leadership of Stan-W4HIX and CAARA volunteers, CAARA nailed this event. Everything went according to the plan. From packing the radio equipment and gear into the trailer on Friday to the breaking down process on Sunday....it was flawless. The tents went up with ease, antennas sprung up all over the field, generators started up and purred all weekend, food was great, many CAARA hams came and operated the radios or just had eyeball qso's.

Yes, if an emergency came along and we had to spring into action...this club could do the job professionally. The focus of this event for CAARA is not scoring points (although that is fun) but to show we are a valuable tool available to the Cape Ann community in an emergency assisting the Fire, Police, and DPW departments. Well done!

*de Jon-K1TP*







Dave - KB1VZR operating SSB in our emergency trailer



Our large tent does a great job but it does get warm, AC next year?



**Central NH ARC FIELD DAY at Laconia, NH - behind FunSpot on Route 3.** I was sent some photo's from my friends at NHARC and thought you might enjoy seeing another club's activity.



W1AW recorded on Sony MiniDisc recorder - played back into an old Universal Radio decoder and set on computer monitor speakers - displayed on TV set. Public could hear the sound and watch the characters appear.



Air powered tennis ball launcher simlat to the one Jon- K1TP used at the CAARA field day ro put up the long wire for the cw tent.





A discarded pressure washer, an old GM alternator, pulley and "V" belt from Tractor Supply - 12VDC @70 amps. Used just over 1/2 gallon of gas for both days. Only was run to recharge batteries.

Below was the food tent which provided for the troops in Laconia, NH.



## EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: STRANGE COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INSECT WORLD

Now here's one for the books. It happened recently when a 75 year woman in a southwestern German town called police at 3 a.m.. Her complaint was that she couldn't sleep because her doorbell was always ringing.

Police officers dispatched to investigate the cause quickly tracked down the culprit. It wasn't some form of poltergeist or other strange phenomena. Rather ants had constructed a large nest next to the doorbell. In fact, the tiny creatures had built such a large home that the nest pressed the doorbells switching contacts together. That in turn kept ringing the bell.

Officers silenced the intermittently ringing doorbell by removing the nest with a knife. Likely much to the dismay of the ants who had spent the time to build it there. (Published news reports)

## HAMS PROVIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

In northern India, the early seasonal monsoon rains are three times as heavy as usual, causing flooding, mudslides and a death toll of at least 800. The disaster caught everyone by surprise.

The emergency communications provided by radio amateurs are well known to disaster authorities and the government, through their preparedness drills and other presentations.

India's National Coordinator for Disaster Communication **Jayu Mbide VU2JAU** said two amateur radio stations were active in the disaster area, at Dehradun and Uttarkashi. He has personally been in contact with them.

They have been sending messages via coordinating stations in Gwalior, New Delhi and elsewhere. The emergency communications they provide will continue for some time.

Government officials estimate 33,000 people have been rescued so far and around 63,000 are missing. Rescue efforts involving soldiers are continuing, and more than 50 air force helicopters have dropped food, water and medical supplies to people trapped by the flood.

## HAM TECHNOLOGY: MOON BOUNCE FROM ANTARCTICA TO ENGLAND

The exploits of Craig Hayhow, VK0JJJ, in bouncing radio signals off the moon from Antarctica has been written about in the Australian Antarctic Division science newsletter. VK0JJJ achieved a 742,000 kilometer hop when he made an EME contact with Peter Taylor G8BCG at Cornwall in England, on May 4th. Two nights later he contacted Bo Nilsson, SM7FJE, in Sweden through another EME contact. The newsletter hailed these as a first from an Australian Antarctic station. It also notes that the equipment and software has now been proven and that more EME contacts will be made. (VK3PC)

## FCC Considers Encryption on Amateur Bands

Just when things are terminally boring on the amateur radio regulatory front, the [ARRL reports](#) that "The FCC is inviting public comments on a proposal from a Massachusetts ham to amend the Part 97 Amateur Service rules to permit the encryption of certain amateur communications during emergency operations or related training exercises." The FCC is seeking comments on the Petition for Rulemaking [RM-11699](#), submitted by Don Rolph (AB1PH). My email and twitter feed started filling up with passionate pleas to either support this petition or to kill it.

This idea has been around for a while but I don't recall the FCC taking any specific action on it. The issue is that "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning" are prohibited by Part 97 rules for the Amateur Radio Service. (Actually, that is not completely true since an exception exists for control of stations in space and radio-controlled models.) This rule has a very important role in enabling the "self policing nature" of the amateur radio service. That is, everyone can listen to the content of all radio communications, allowing improper use of the spectrum to be exposed. (Note to self: file a petition to *require* encryption when using 14.313 MHz.)

This rule can be a barrier when ham radio Emcomm organizations are providing communications for served agencies. These served agencies do not want sensitive information passed over the radio "in the clear." Sensitive information includes many items such as medical/patient information, location of emergency responders and supplies, damage assessments, door or

gate access codes, etc.

A few weeks ago, I volunteered my time to help with communications for the [Black Forest wildfire](#) here in Colorado.

So count me as someone that sees emergency communications as a key part of amateur radio. (Gosh, I think Part 97 even mentions this.) I also see that the prohibition against encryption does get in the way during some incidents.

But I am also worried about opening the door to significant use of encryption on the ham bands. The problem with encrypted messages is that...wait for it...you can't decode the messages. So how do we maintain that self-policing thing? The fear seems to be that if we open the door at all to encryption, it will enable virtually anyone (amateur license or not) to transmit encrypted messages for unknown and inappropriate purposes. The challenge is to figure out what limits should be put on encrypted operation. Here are some ideas:

- Limit the use of encryption to actual emergencies and training exercises. (This is already in RM-11699.)
- Require that radio transmissions are properly identified “in the clear”, with no encryption. That way if encryption is used on a regular basis, steps can be taken to investigate further. (This may already be assumed by RM-11699 but I did not see an explicit statement.)
- Require additional information to be sent in the clear with the station ID when sending encrypted messages. For example, the name of the served agency, nature of the emergency or drill, or anything else that would help a random listener to judge whether it is an appropriate use of encryption.
- Require archiving of encrypted messages (in unencrypted form) for some period time, available for FCC inspection.

Still pondering this issue...what do you think?  
73, Bob K0NR



### Touch Screen Control Portal on new IC7100

An amateur radio first! The radio control head features a large, multi-function, “touch screen” DOT-Matrix LCD display that is positioned for easy view and operation. This is an important feature as the controller display not only provides information, but is your control portal to the IC-7100’s feature settings and menus.



In 1995, almost two decades ago, Icom has changed the way hams think about mobile HF communication with their introduction of the IC-706. Since that time, the Icom Mobile HF radios have been the Performance HF mobile radio of choice. Now, at the 2012 Tokyo Hamfair, Icom has once again changed mobile HF communications with the introduction of the IC-7100.



## **6 METER ONLY OPERATION FROM SOUTH KOREA**

Some breaking news courtesy of the Ohio Penn DX newsletter. Look for 17 operators to be active as 6M6M from South Korea through July 31st. As you might have guessed from their callsign this will be a 6 meter only operation with four high power stations using yagis and quad antennas. Modes mentioned include CW, SSB, FM, several digital and even good old AM. They will operate mainly from the Korean mainland, but there is the possibility of a trip to several Islands on the Air groups. QSL this special operation via HL2UVH and we will have more DX news later on in this weeks report. (OPDX)

## **ARNEWSLINE NAMES PADRAIG LYSANDROU, KC9UUS AS 2013 YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR**

A sixteen year old Extra class amateur from Bloomington, Indiana, has been selected as the 2013 Amateur Radio Newslane Young Ham of the Year. Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, is here with the details: — “I’m not sure what to think. I’m happy.” And that’s how it sounded when Padraig Lysandrou, KC9UUS, heard the news he had been selected the Young Ham of the Year. He conceded he heard what he called rumors that he was being nominated for something, but it didn’t sink in until getting the call from our Newslane headquarters that he might be recognized for his achievements. Lysandrou was born in Illinois, but has family in Cyprus. He says his interest in ham radio was actually sparked by his mom, Carolyn, KC9URR, who was a pretty serious shortwave radio listener. His father, is Plato. And, he has two sisters, Helena, who’s 17, and Maria, 14. “When I was little, I used to collect stamps,” Lysandrou recalls. “And, so my mom would show me all the letters and all the stuff that she got back from shortwave stations - all these intricate stamps. “And, so I saw those and I wanted to get interested in radio. I got into shortwave. And, then the interest grew bigger and it wasn’t just about stamps anymore. And, so, I got interested in ham. I contacted Neil Rapp at my high school and I joined the club.” Neil Rapp is WB9VPG, who teaches chemistry at Bloomington High School South and met Padraig in class. It was Rapp who invited him to join the school’s amateur radio club. Rapp, co-nominated Padraig for the Amateur Radio Newslane award along with Dr. Scott Wright, K0MD, who has taken part in DX operations from Turks and Caicos, Chile, and China. It was Rapp who introduced Lysandrou to a whole new

world. And, Lysandrou, who just turned 16, says it didn’t take him long to climb the license ladder. “I got all three licenses within three months and then I become president of my amateur radio club at school,” Lysandrou says. His Technician was earned in October 2011, General in December 2011, and Extra in January 2012. Lysandrou says participation in the School Club Round-up and a program on the Peter Island DXpedition really sparked his interest in DX. “I decided to lead my own little expedition - DXpedition to Cyprus,” Lysandrou says. “I brought a Buddipole, which you can change for the bands. But, I generally just use it on 20 meters. “I brought a Yaseu FT-897, and some coax, step-down transformer, batteries, the whole shebang. And, my mom and I transmitted in Cyprus and then I decided it would be cool to write an article for QST.” That was last summer and the article, ‘A Crazy Idea, a DXpedition to Cyprus,’ was accepted and published as the QST cover story in the past May’s edition. “I transmitted on two different mountain regions,” Lysandrou says. “I transmitted on a couple different beaches, I transmitted in hotels, yes. I transmitted on the top of this house by the beach that someone let us borrow. “I transmitted really anywhere I could and I seemed to get pretty good propogation.” So, what did Lysandrou set out to do with this 5B DXpedition? Contacts from the other side of the world and fun! “I got people from England all the way through Scandinavia, to Russia, all the way down to Bulgaria and Dubai,” Lysandrou recalls. “So, I tried to talk as much as possible and meet new people. So, I took it slow, I didn’t try to get a million contacts.” He estimates it was slightly more than a hundred, actually, and his mom was making some as well. Word of his DXpedition spread before the article was published and Lysandrou says he was invited to be a presenter at the Dayton Hamvention Youth Forum this past May run by Carole Perry WB2MGP. “To meet other 16-year-olds who are Extras and who read my article and are really excited to meet me is also really cool,” Lysandrou says. “I’m sort of a role model and I would like to continue to be one.” Lysandrou was selected by Indiana Section Manager Lou Everett, WA5LOU as an assistant section manager for youth. His interests vary from 4-H to electronics, from music to robotics. And, yes, he’s even played in Carnegie Hall. But back home in Indiana... “I’ve been designing circuits and messing around with a bunch of high-voltage circuits and transformer drivers and all sorts of stuff that fuel my

interest between amateur radio, electronics and chemistry,” Lysandrou says. It was an easy selection for the judges. We here at Amateur Radio Newslines are proud to have Pdraig Lysandrou, KC9UUS, join our distinguished honor roll as the 2013 Young Ham of the Year. For the Amateur Radio Newslines, I’m Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia. — Pdraig Lysandrou, KC9UUS, will receive the Amateur Radio Newslines Young Ham of the Year Award at a ceremony to be held in his honor on Saturday, August 17th, at the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama. The Young Ham of the Year Award was created by the Amateur Radio Newslines with corporate sponsorship from Yaesu USA, CQ Publishing and Heil Sound. (ARNewslinesT)

### **CALIFORNIA HAMS CLAIM NEW 3.7 MM WORLD DISTANCE RECORD**

A pair of California hams are claiming a new world distance record on the 77 to 81 GHz or 3.7 millimeter band. The asserted new record was set June 13th between Robert Johnson, KF6KVG, and Goran Popovic, AD6IW. The two achieved a distance of 252.49 km with one operating from Mt Hamilton in grid square CM97 and the other located at Kings Canyon National Park located in grid DM06. KF6KVG used a one foot parabolic dish while the one used at AD6IW was twice the size. Both stations employed what are known as dielectric resonator oscillator locked frequency control for extreme stability. (VHF Reflector) \*\* HAM HAPPENINGS: ILLW CONTINUES TO GROW Jim Linton, VK3PC, tells Amateur Radio Newslines that International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend continues to grow. In fact, it seems to have become the biggest and arguably the world’s first fun-filled event for portable amateur radio stations that takes place in the month of August. According to VK3PC, the event continues to promote public awareness of the old marine navigation and the need for preservation and restoration of these facilities. It also promotes amateur radio and fosters international goodwill. Now in its 16th year, International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend will be held August 17th and 18th. So far some 285 registered sites representing more than 30 countries are on board. For more details please visit the website [www.illw.net](http://www.illw.net) (VK3PC) \*\* HAM RADIO IN SPACE: DAYTON HAMVENTION ARISS UPDATE VIDEO POSTED ON LINE An update on amateur radio on the International Space Station or ARISS program given by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, at the recent Dayton

Hamvention can now be viewed on the web. In his presentation Bauer discusses a number of changes at NASA that are affecting ARISS manned ham radio in space program. He also takes a look back at the past 30 years of amateur radio on the Space Shuttle and now International Space Station. You will find the 23 minutes, 30 seconds presentation on-line at [tinyurl.com/ariss-dayton-update](http://tinyurl.com/ariss-dayton-update) (ARISS)

### **WILL WE SURVIVE IF A SUPER CME HITS THE EARTH**

And finally this week, a kind of rhetorical scientific question. Can our home planet survive a super Coronal Mass Ejection from our home star if it was hurled directly at us. While opinions among researchers are divided, at least some in South Africa believe it would not be good news. Amateur Radio Newslines’s Heather Embee, KB3TZD, takes a close look at what these scientists believe might happen: — Our Sun is a yellow star that consists of a giant ball of superheated plasma. It’s magnetic field oscillates and acts as a dynamo that creates the sunspots, solar flares and strong magnetic storms in the solar system. When a Coronal Mass Ejection or C-M-E is spewed from corona of the Sun and travels to the Earth the magnetic field of our planet generally deflects it, and in the process creates auroras around the magnetic poles. But a report published by the South African Radio League notes that some scientists claim that if a super C-M-E should hit Earth then this level of a magnetic storm could penetrate the planets magnetic field and cause devastation. First of all the satellites on-orbit would be destroyed. This would mean that all satellite telecommunications and Direct Satellite T-V would go off the air. On the ground, such a C-M-E could also generate extremely high voltages in the power lines and destroy most if not all of the transformers in the substations. This would likely cause complete blackouts in cities and towns. Since water pumps won’t function, municipalities world-wide dependant on pumped-in delivery might quickly dry up. According to the report, scientists are currently keeping a very close eye on the Sun with a dedicated satellite known as the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory. At the same time they are trying to develop some form of shielding that could protect electrical transformers and other electronics during such an event.



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