



CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

JULY 2016 EDITION

President's Desk

by *Hank-W4RIG*



We had a highly successful Field Day/40th Anniversary

Party on the last weekend in June. Many members were involved and we are presenting a detailed report on that weekend elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope to recognize the members who contributed to the success of that weekend in that report. However, I want to give special recognition to Jon K1TP for running that event and the tremendous effort he put into its success. Also Bob Spanks for his work getting proclamations for CAARA 40th Anniversary from the Governor, Senate, House and Mayor Sefatia Theken. Bob is also preparing the logs and report to the ARRL for Field Day and deserves an extra thanks for that effort. Thanks also to Bob for his donation to support the screen door for the kitchen. Ross Burton put forth extra effort to install the safety features on the deck in the front of the building. Jake W1LDL also worked diligently on the screen doors, porch, and light switches. The weekend was a real team effort.

We also completed the 13 Colonies Event on the July 4 weekend with successful digital operations to support K2H representing Massachusetts in that event. Stan W4HIX was our contact QSO hero with over 400 contacts working remotely from home and during breaks at work during the July 1 - 6 event.

The Board has reviewed the possible educational programs proposed for CAARA and has set a policy that any event at 6 Stanwood must designate a specific CAARA member as the Administrator/organizer responsible for these activities, especially if they will be open for individuals who are not members of CAARA. The policy on use of 6 Stanwood is posted on the CAARA website and should be followed. Any events should be cleared by the Board to avoid conflicts and assure security for the building and its contents.

My thanks again for the cooperation and efforts of all members who contribute their time and efforts to support our activities.

Information Desk

by *Dean-KB1PGH*



I think I'll cover the topic of "Elmering" in this month's column and I'm going to specifically target the Technician class operators and the subject of elmering. Hopefully everyone knows that "Elmering" in ham radio means for the well seasoned veteran amateur radio operators to teach and educate the ways of ham radio to the newly licensed. Unfortunately in this day in age there are many newly licensed hams who want all the information spoon fed to them because we live in an age of instant gratification. Now as much as I like Tech in a day to get as many people their license, just memorizing the questions and answers to get your license is sort of a disservice to many would be hams. Knowledge in amateur radio is a two way street. Don't expect to be babysat by the more experienced in the hobby. There is a great level of responsibility to those who just got their Tech ticket. If you just got your license here are a few tips. Please make the effort to learn as much about amateur radio yourself first. At least at a minimum get the ARRL operating manual and take the time to read it all. Also please learn the FCC part 97 rules on amateur radio operation. Once you're done with both of those please get yourself the ARRL handbook and read through that as well. You have to have an attitude that no one is going to help you. In other words "Elmer" yourself first as much as you can. Use the internet and Youtube as much as possible as well to learn topics that interest you in ham radio. It's all about making the self effort first. Make yourself understand the ham radio hobby, make it fun to self explore the topics that interest you. If you hate to learn about the technical details of this hobby then you'll never succeed. It almost sounds like a "Every man for himself" attitude but that may be what it comes

down too. Of course asking for help from more experienced operators is not a bad thing but don't be surprised to find that some may not be so

(cont. p 3)



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

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

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

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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

by Dean-KB1PGH

willing to jump in to help. To be honest no one ham "Elmered" me to my Extra Class ticket and I did not expect any help as well. You must have at least some self reliance to educate yourself in ham radio too. please take the time to read and listen to more experienced operators and to what goes on on the air. Just recently I was witness to two inexperienced operators making assumptions and accusations over the air and creating



problems for other operators because they refused to listen and were confused. Please elmer yourselves first on how to operate on a repeater and the HF frequencies before you transmit. The overall moral is teach yourselves as much as you can and take your time doing so. You can also find ways to make the learning fun. For this month's prepper tip have you made an inventory of your emergency lighting lately? Do you have flashlights on every floor and have you checked the batteries in them? I like the Maglight brand flashlights with the LED bulbs in them. They are heavy duty! Do you have a flashlight in your car as well?

A look at the Diamond SR 77CA HT antenna

For all the new Technician class license holders out there who just bought their first Handi Talkie you don't have to live with crappy reception and lackluster transmitting capability to hit the local repeater or hear your local public service channels. For the most part the antenna that came with your new HT will offer just basic performance but if you want better reception and transmitting you can buy an after market antenna which will perform much better. I recently purchased a Yaesu FT 1XDR HT and at the same time I purchased the Diamond SRH77CA 2 meter/440 antenna. As you can see in the photo the antenna is much longer in size which brings it to a quarter wave on 2 meters and a full half wavelength on 440 MHz which is a 2.15 dbi gain. One other aspect of this antenna is that it is tuned to receive on all the public service bands as well which will mean greater reception. The antenna comes with either a SMA or BNC connection to fit pretty much any HT or handheld scanner. I've had great success with this brand of antenna and would recommend it to improve anyone HT or scanner capability. This antenna costs about \$24.00 and you can get them at either Ham Radio Outlet or Universal Radio.



YUKON RUN ROAD RACE
CAARA COMMUNICATIONS
GROUP

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA EMCOM CENTER?



**Front screen door project:
Ross, Bill, Jake, and Jon.
Donated by Hank-W4RIG**



**New front deck safety railings :
Ross drilled and installed the iron posts
and Jon installed the nylon safety rope
and reflectors.**

**NOT SHOWN:
Kitchen screen door installed by
Jon, Jake, Tony, and Ross. Door
donated by Bob-WA1UCG**

An Easy Five Minute Job

by Curtis- AA3JE

Occasionally, my usefulness is validated by **“SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED”**.

Usually, she considers my home repairs to be a harmless hobby, or at other times the source of excessive medical bills.

I did buy the accidental death policy she suggested.....

But occasionally, rarely, she makes a request.

We have been having a coyote problem. Actually, I do not consider it a problem. To me, having a pack of half-starved 40 pound carnivores roaming the neighborhood is an example of Darwinian selection. Stupid bunnies, or small pets with stupid owners, are culled from the gene pool.

And the sounds of someone being eaten in the back yard has a beneficial effect on people who have serious delusions about wildlife. I put it in the same class as people who believe that “proper mental attitude” and “projecting love” will allow them to swim in great white shark feeding areas. Or those who feed the bears.

Anyway, despite my providing her with a perfectly adequate baseball bat, she gets nervous taking the dog out to piddle in the dark.

“HUSBAND! YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE LIGHTS IN THE BACK! THEY ARE NOT ADEQUATE!”

I love it when she asks nicely.

Anyway, I said I would, and looked at the fixture. A simple job, really. The new low current LED P38 floods would do fine! 1400 lumens, bright as the sun, only 23 watts each!

So I stood up on the porch, and leaned out to unscrew the bulb. It's a bit of a drop, (30 feet onto asphalt) and a bit of a reach (6 feet over) and to my horror, the bulb twisted off easily.

Leaving the base inside the fixture.

Hmmmmmm. Perhaps a different plan is needed.

I looked for the needle nose pliers. Sixty minutes later it was clear they had decided to leave for Australia to seek their fortune. Given what I do to them, perhaps wise.

So I looked again.
Leaned way out.

(Memo to self-
ONE HAND
FOR THE
JOB, ONE
HAND FOR
YOURSELF)

After I calmed down a bit, and I bandaged where I had scraped myself in my frantic grab for the railing, I was actually a bit pleased. Few men my age can do a one arm chin-up! Even if properly motivated.

So I got the Dewalt, and fit a Phillips bit into it, and went to unscrew the fixture.

NO action. Dead as dead can be.

(Memo to self- THROW AWAY DEAD NICAD BATTERY PACKS).

Went downstairs, found voltmeter, checked all the packs, threw away totally dead ones, and charged the good ones.

Took coffee break.

“I HAVE THE ELECTRICIAN'S NUMBER, DEAR.”

“I think I can change a light bulb without an electrician, my sweet.”

So with a charged power drill, I pulled the box off the wall and to where I could work with it.

Simple problem, new lamp holder, off to ACE!

For some reason, when I go to Ace, they all cluster around some kind of sheet. They are keeping book on something, I have no idea what.

Nice new lamp holder.

Attempt to remove cover screws.
Rusted solid.

Go get impact driver, study it a while, as the instructions are long gone.

First screw snaps off. Second screw snaps off.

Back to Ace, buy new box.

Go home, mount box, looking good.

Discover the cable anchors are rusted solid.

Get big wrench. Snap anchors.

Back to Ace.

Secure cable with proper waterproof fastener. Mount new cover. Adjust



lamp holders.

Discover I forgot new lamps.

Race back to Ace. Make it with five minutes to spare! Buy lamps, discover staff behaving oddly.

One is jumping around, yelling "Four! Four trips! I win." He was demanding money from the others.....

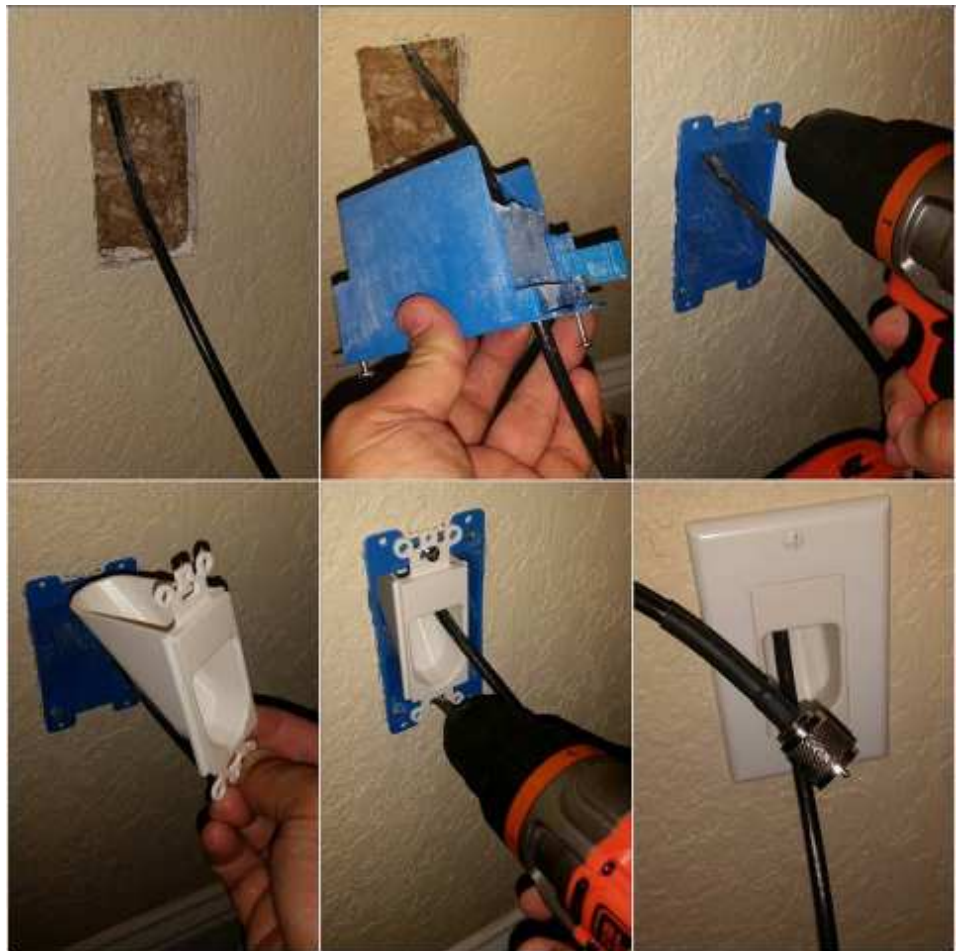
Return home, screw in new bulbs, Everything works.

"HAVE YOU CHANGED THAT LIGHT BULB LIKE YOU SAID? THE DOG NEEDS TO PEE!"

"Yes, Princess."

"TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH!"

Coyotes. Bigger coyotes. Really big coyotes. A big pack of them.



SOLUTION FOR RUNNING COAX THRU WALLS NEATLY...



**WORKING
CW ON
FIELD DAY**

2016 FIELD DAY WAS A GREAT EVENT

**SEN. TARR PRESENTED
CAARA A NICE
PROCLAMATION FOR OUR
40TH ANNIVERSARY**









FIELD DAY CAKE LOGO DESIGNED BY MEMBER CHRIS-KD1TAT AND CAKE DONATED BY BOB-WA1UCG AND DELIVERED BY ANNETTE- BOB'S XYL.....SPECIAL THANKS!







Chris wearing the orange commemorative baseball caps with special logo printed free of charge by long time member Joe Perry. The 40th club birthday logo was created by Chris, note the same logo on his T-shirt done with thermal iron on.







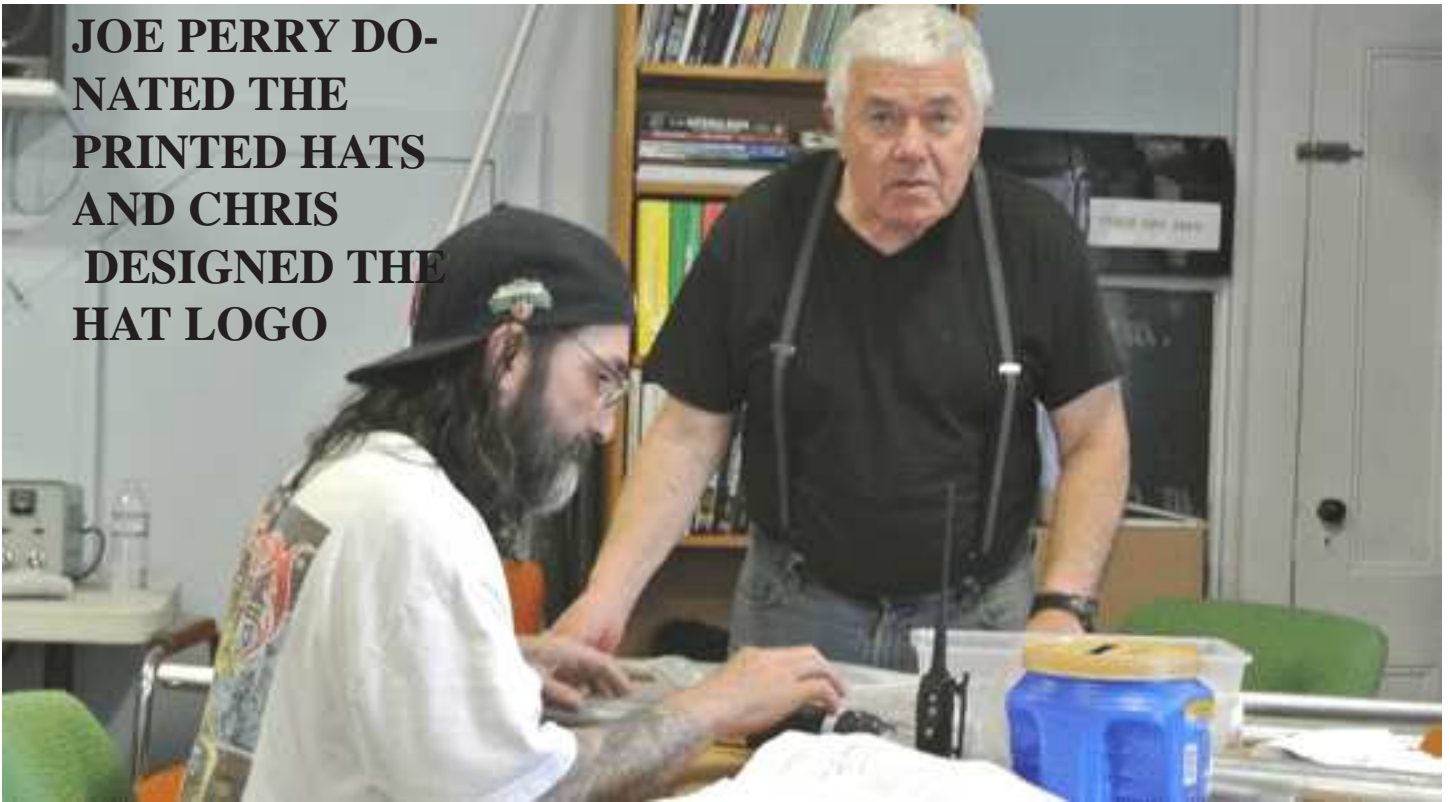






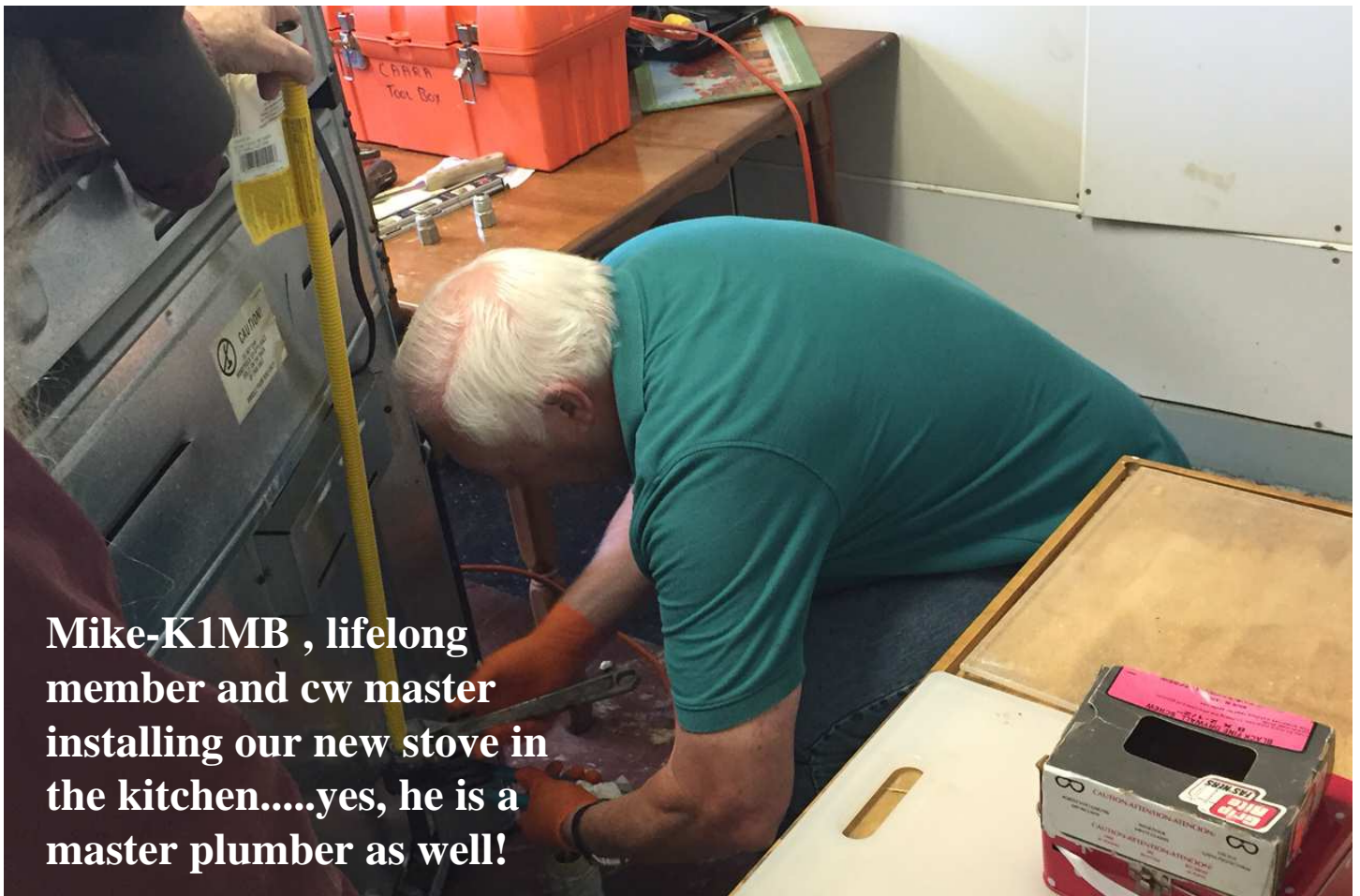


**JOE PERRY DO-
NATED THE
PRINTED HATS
AND CHRIS
DESIGNED THE
HAT LOGO**



**FIXING UP AN
ANTIQUE RADIO**





Mike-K1MB , lifelong member and cw master installing our new stove in the kitchen.....yes, he is a master plumber as well!



We want to acknowledge people who worked to make Field Day 2016 a success this year.

Tony - N1JEI and his wife
Bob - WA1UCG and his wife
Ron - N1RJB
Hank - W4RIG
Chris - KD1TAT
Joe- WB1CHF
Stefan- KC1FPA
Bob- WV1A
Mike - K1MB
Dave - K1LKX
Bill -WZ1L
Jake- W1LDL
Dean - KB1PGH
Bill - KC1WMM
Larry- AJ1Z
Jon -K1TP
Ross - W1RAB



Completed work for Field Day: Safety railings installed around the deck, front entry stair railings painted black, new screen door, and the white trim and doors was painted.