

CAARA NEWS



Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
JULY 2018 Edition



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Jon- K1TP

It was another busy month for CAARA in June with the public service road races, the Member Lunch Meeting, and the Field Day event being held at the clubhouse.



We have decided to take the summer off at the club in regard to any food events and member meetings. Although we thought it might be good to have a cookout/member meeting in July and August I have decided against it. It is a busy time of year for most of us, enjoying the warm weather and family activities. I am not sure if we would have many attend and most importantly Bill- W1WMM could use a break from the kitchen and heal up from shoulder surgery and an upcoming surgery for back pain management.

The club will be open Tuesday evenings this summer as usual, stop by and say hello.

Please check into and support the two meter Sunday net and make an attempt to help out with a road race or two, painless fundraising for the club and it gets our name out there in the community in a positive way.

I have posted some photos I took on Field Day, it was a rainy and dreary day and I am glad we held the event at the clubhouse. No wet tents, stuff blowing all over the place, wet radio gear, noisy generators, just a cookout and smooth operating in a dry environment. It is not a "real" Field Day like we used to setup but we are getting older and this seems to work out just fine for those that came out for the event.

INFORMATION DESK

By Dean- KB1PGH

I was thinking for those who those who do not yet have a amateur radio license or for those who do and are looking for



alternative ways to communicate there are a couple of ways to do that. The first is CB radio. You can easily pick up a mobile SSB rig for about \$175 and there are other base models out there. You can find a bunch of CB stuff at Walcott CB online. A single sideband cb with it's rated 12 watts with a decent antenna can get you 30 or 40 miles coverage and you can talk DX with cb radios and its legal since the FCC dropped the no skip rule.

I used to talk on CB back in my teens and 20's and it was fun. I have no idea who is on CB now but remember that your HF rig can listen in on its general coverage receiver. I have a Uniden SSB CB in my emcomm go kit because you never know.

The other mode of non licensed communication is the FRS or Family Radio Service walkie talkies. I have a pair of Motorola ones. Just a couple of weeks ago I was recharging them and I tested one in my home basement of Bass Ave in Gloucester and I was able to reach someone else just by chance and they were in east main street in Gloucester which was over a mile away. So that is pretty good reception for being in a basement. The FRS radio 's would be great for a local neighborhood watch group or in your Emcom Go kit as well. They are cheap enough too.

Moving on, here's a technical tip for you. As you know our HF rigs need to run at 13.8 volts input in order to run properly. I hope you know that if the voltage drops below that to 12 volts you can start to have radio performance issues and your output power will drop as well. Now our power supplies may tell us that they are putting out 13.8 volts but the real truth is what is the voltage at your radios input?I would recommend that you take a multi meter and measure the voltage at the end of the power cables going into your HF rig. You may be surprised. Did you know that the blade fuse holders and the fuses inside of them can build up a layer of oxidation which causes resistance thus causing a

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

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

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

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Welcome to CAARA:

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

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

The former W1RK 443.700 repeater is now on the ATT cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex with greatly enhanced performance.

The Association is one of the few amateur radio clubs that has its own clubhouse. Located at 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester, it includes a permanent HF station with beam, vertical/wire antennas along with an operating 2 meter packet station as well as 2/440 meter voice and 220 MHz Transceivers.

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

Monthly member meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at noon. **LUNCH INCLUDED! Closed for July- August.**

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

New! Breakfasts are served twice a month on Sunday- check our calendar. The club is open every Tuesday from 5-8PM + for CAARA

voltage drop? Did you also know that you should use the largest gauge wire match the 25 or 30 amps going to your rig? I always use 10 AWG size wire just to be safe. Another tip is always use the shortest length of wire possible in between your power supply and your rig to minimize power loss. Of course if you don't see 13.8 volts at the radio end of your power line just turn up the voltage with the voltage adjust knob on your power supply. It's an easy fix. So your mission for this month is check the voltage level at your HF rig to make sure your getting the 13.8 volts it needs to run right. The last bit of information is a reminder that on July 14 and 15th the IARU HF World championship will be held so turn on your rigs and make some contacts.

That's it for now and we will see you next month!

Bothways Farm in Essex ARRL Field Day 2018 !



Well second times the charm working DX during this years field day. Propagation was much better with a solar flux of 80 and the k index at 2 with no coronal hole solar wind. Even though the weather was more of a early spring day with the temp around 60 and showers and drizzle I was able to stay warm and dry in the Maple Syrup shack. I set up the 4 band inverted V off center fed dipole set up about 20 feet and my trusty Icom 7300 and I was good to go. I operated for about 4 hours total just on side band on 40,20,10 and 6 meters. By the time I was done I had made 75 contacts total. The 6 meter band was open early so I made 15 contacts. I made a great run on 10 meters with 45 contacts before the band instantly shut down. I also made 6 contacts on 20 meters and 9 on 40 meters before I ran out of time. My friend Ross W1RAB came by for an hour and set up his portable HF station and his portable 440 repeater



as well. This was probably the best portable outing I have had in years with regards to total contacts. So for you newly licensed hams out there. You CAN work DX and make plenty of contacts with a portable station if you can't have one at your home and SSB is not the best mode to work DX. Anyway, I had a fun time and worked my equipment in this emergency communications exercise. Between Ross and I we worked every band from 40 meters to 440 mhz. It's good to drill and use sharpen your skills in portable HF operations, especially if you don't get the chance to get on the air much like myself.

73,

Dean Burgess KB1PGH



Ground Fault Interrupters

By Curtis- AA3JE



No one could argue that a ground fault interrupter is a bad thing. Designed to detect a “leakage” of current from the hot wire to ground, they trip at currents of about 10 milliamps, 1/10 the 100 milliamps or so that is required to stop your heart

from electrical shock. They work by comparing the current in the hot wire and the current in the neutral wire. Any difference is assumed to be passing through you.

So the Electrical Code in most places requires them in all outlets that are in damp locations, bathrooms, kitchens, and really anyplace you can be holding a water pipe in one hand and an appliance in the other.

This kind of safety device keeps the hair dryer in the bathroom from being a lethal device.

There is a problem, though. These things trip at about $120\text{ V} \times 0.01\text{ A} = \text{about a watt}$. Which means they trip all the time.

Now here is the problem. The problem that makes me want to bury an electrical engineer up to his neck, cover him with honey, and dump fire ants on him.

These things come in two kinds.

One kind is located in the circuit box, and is easy to reset.

1. Curse loudly. This alerts “SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED” there is a problem.
2. Go to basement.
3. Open box
4. Locate tripped breaker
5. Reset breaker.

But there is another kind of GFI, located in the electrical outlet itself. These are made in a foreign land, by someone who does not speak English, and subject to rigorous quality assurance testing (Looks fine to me, ship it).

Moreover, since these cost more than the standard outlet, the electrician might put one as the first in a series of outlets, so that all the outlets are protected by one GFI.

This is the result.

“THIS OUTLET DOES NOT WORK!”

“Oh dear. Well, I will get to it as soon as I finish the other six jobs you have me working on.”

“DON’T BE TOO LONG. I WANT TO USE THE MIXER.”

“Use another plug.”

Five minutes later.

“THIS OUTLET DOES NOT WORK, EITHER!”

“I will be right there.”

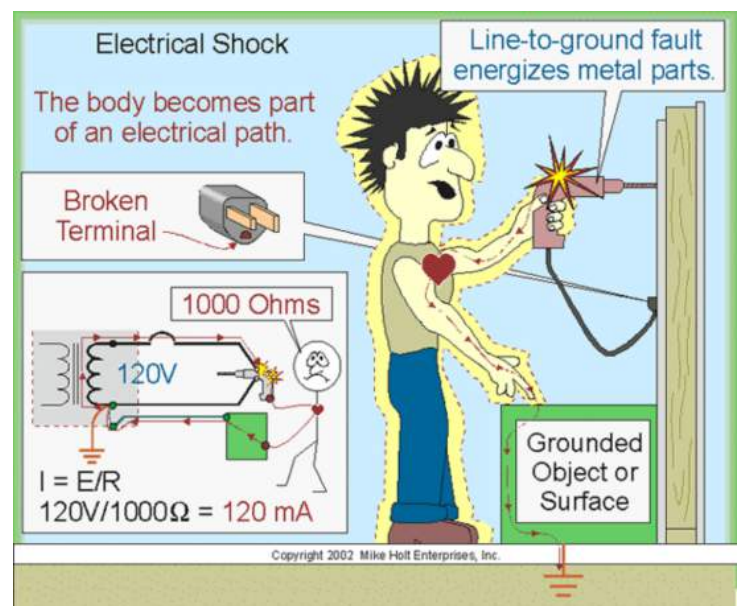
Five minutes later.

“I THINK YOU NEED TO FIX THIS NOW.”

“Please, dear. I am still up the ladder hanging the pictures.”

“THE REFRIGERATOR IS PLUGGED INTO THIS ONE!”

So, I trotted down to the basement. Yep, one GFI breaker. I cycled the breaker, and went upstairs.



Different circuit. No power at outlet. Refrigerator leering at me as it slowly warmed.

Now, pull out the refrigerator. Nope! No GFI in that outlet!

So the detective work began. I searched. No outlet with the telltale two buttons (test and reset) on them I could find.

Dig out the house files. Discover that the last owner had three invoices from local electrician labeled “find and reset GFI”. It apparently costs \$50 (per trip).

So here is the procedure for resetting an outlet mounted GFI.

1. Curse VERY loudly!
2. Continue to curse. Cursing in foreign languages recommended if children are present.
3. Tell grandchildren that you will give them \$1 for every electrical outlet they can find.
4. Tell grandchildren you will give them \$5 if they can find the outlet with two square buttons on it.
5. Pay up and press the reset.

If you have any control over how the house is wired, spring for the money to have a service panel mounted GFI, OR have each GFI only knock out that outlet. It costs more but you will be safe from fire ants.

If you need more advice, I will be easy to find. Just follow the expletives.....



Another new product (above) from Ray- NR1R. Reduces man made noise considerably, cost about \$60.00 He sells them at all the hamfests in the New England area.

How many Space Hams have there been?

Ever wondered how many radio amateurs have been in Space, is it 20, 40, 60? This list of **Space Hams** from ARISS may surprise you!

ARISS have produced a list of Space Hams which can be downloaded from

http://www.ariss.org/uploads/1/9/6/8/19681527/space_hams-web_4.26.17.pdf

“Baker is Brutal!” KH1/KH7Z DXpedition Team Reports

“Baker is brutal!” That was the initial assessment from the Baker Island **KH1/KH7Z** DXpedition team, which arrived at the uninhabited South Pacific atoll on June 26 at local sunrise, following a 4-day sea voyage. The KH1/KH7Z team started up early on June 27 with three stations on the air, with additional stations pending.

“Island conditions are extremely hot, and difficult. Long work periods in the sun are challenging,” a June 27 DXpedition news update reported. The team reported that the landing “was not too bad, but the island is an oven,” with the temperature well above 100 °F by mid-morning. Despite rough tidal action, the crew of the *Nai’a* was able to offload all tents, generators, and emergency supplies. After the initial landing team left “totally exhausted,” a fresh crew arrived to put up the tents for sleeping tents and move radios antennas and generators to the storage and operating tents.

“They say it never rains on Baker,” the DXpedition noted in its June 28 update. “At midnight giant squalls came through knocking out one of our three antennas that we worked so hard to get up. We worked through the morning and [now] have 6 stations available. The KH1/KH7Z frequency plan is on the DXpedition website (<http://baker2018.net/pages/plan.html>). ***DXpedition operators will be operating split. Do not call on the DX station’s transmitting frequency!***

FT8 operation is planned, using the FT8 DXpedition Mode. Stations should have *WSJT-X* version 1.9.1 installed and be in “Hound” mode

June Member Meeting



The June member meeting featured a cookout and a follow up social hour discussing the upcoming ARRL Field Day at the club and other assorted topics.

The weather was beautiful and the food was good as usual. Thanks to the CAARA kitchen crew: Bill- W1WMM and Hannah, David-N1CDL Tony- N1JEI, and Jon-K1TP.

New member Brian- WO1VES dropped in and brought the devices needed to link our 440 repeater with his repeater located in Stoneham. Brian is still working on a software setup issue and hopefully it will be ready in the near future.

If all goes well, maybe NSRA will link in as well and we would have expanded North Shore coverage, a win for all clubs involved.



PUBLIC SERVICE ROAD RACES

Tuesday, July 3rd Horrible's July 4th Parade Gloucester, MA

Sunday, August 5th YUKANRUN - Triple Treat Half Marathon Rockport, MA

Sunday, September TBD Lone Gull - 10K Run Good Harbor Beach Gloucester, MA

Sunday, September 23rd YUKANRUN - Half-By-The-Sea Half Marathon Manchester, MA

Sunday, October TBD Boston Wounded Veterans 5K & 10K Gloucester, MA

Sunday, November 4th YUKANRUN - Ocean View - 5K & Half Marathon Ipswich, MA

Sunday, November 25th Santa Claus Parade Gloucester, MA

Sunday, December 2nd YUKANRUN - Merrython - Gloucester, MA

Why should you participate in race events?

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

I would but I do not have a radio.

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

I don't have transportation.

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

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

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



ICOM 7300 THOUGHTS

By Jon- K1TP

I bought the new Icom 7300 after selling my Icom 7000, I could hardly wait for it to arrive. I was not disappointed after unboxing it and getting it on the air...without reading the instruction manual. I had already read a few articles and watched a few Youtube videos on how to set it up initially. I had spoke to several hams on the air with them and they sounded great with the stock microphone but I also had the Icom SM-30 desk microphone available from my Icom 756PRO3.

My first reaction was how nice the color screen was and the fact that it utilized a touch screen to change most of the settings. My second thought was how small it looked next to my Icom 756 as seen in the photo. I was afraid the front knobs would be hard to use with big fingers but I was wrong. The tuning knob is just as large as are the audio controls as the Icom 756PRO. All the the other settings I needed to change were accessible thru the touch screen. I love this little radio.



On receive the spectrum scope was very helpful for quickly looking at the overall band activity and the ability to look at individual received signal bandwidth and audio qualities with the scope are fantastic. You can set three receive and transmit bandwidths, easily changed to suit your needs. The receive sensitivity is excellent and I think a shade better than my Icom 756PRO or TenTec OMNI VII. Selectivity seems about the same on all of my radios. These observations are by ear only and not with test equipment. The little speaker in the radio offers really good quality sound, I do use an external speaker but it is not needed! I have heard but not experienced the complaint by some owners of the 7300 of overload on receive when in the proximity of strong signals

On transmit, I received nothing but excellent audio reports with the stock hand held microphone. The Icom desk SM-30 microphone also sounded great but not enough difference to keep it connected. To achieve the same transmit audio quality required a lot more experimenting/frustration with my trusty Icom 756 PRO3. I even had an 8 band equalizer connected to it to get what this Icom 7300 will do right out of the box with a hand microphone.

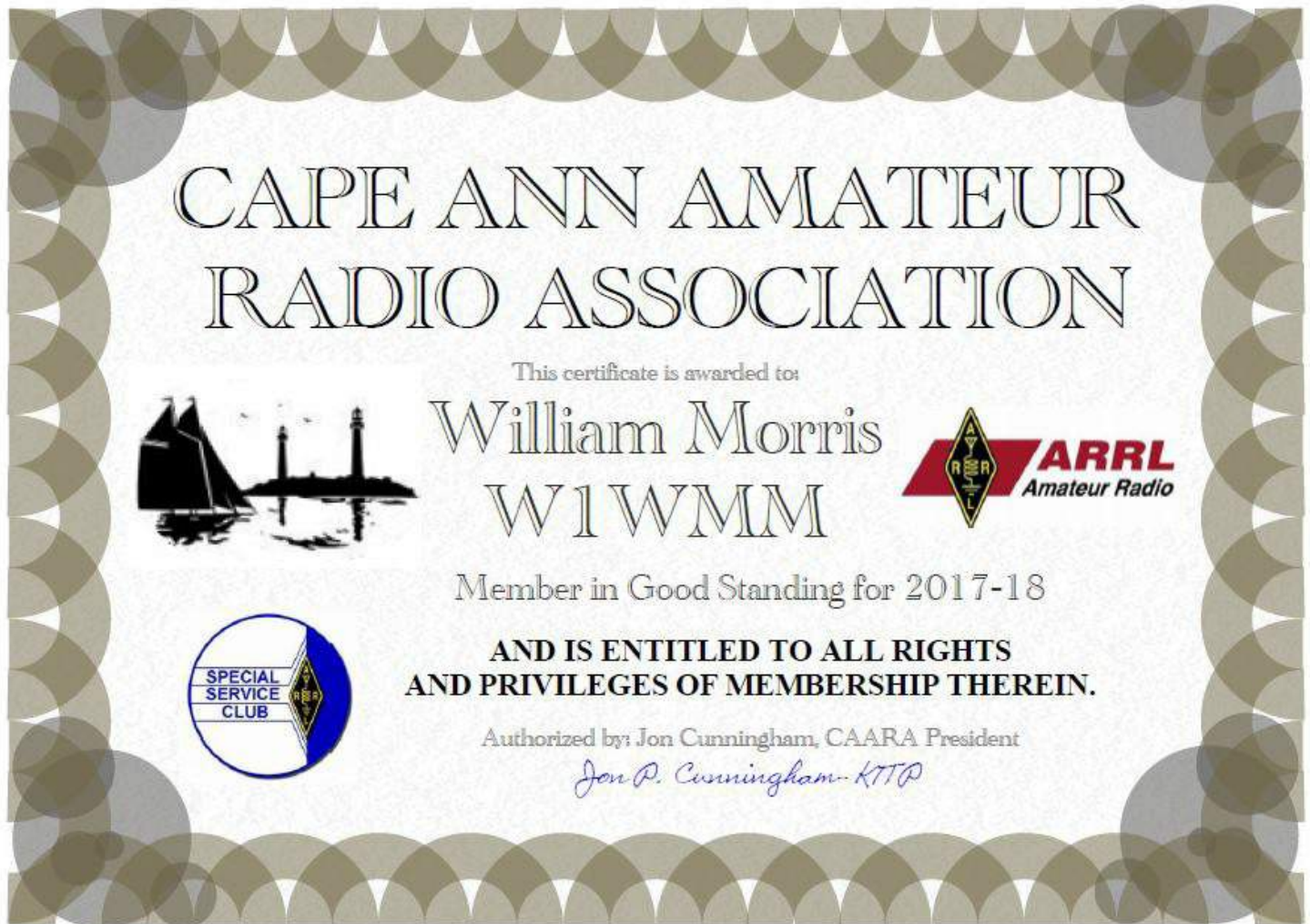
On CW, some of us still use this mode, it did not let me down. Full QSK operation is smooth and superior to the Icom 756PRO but I still give the TenTec OMNI VII the thumbs up for best QSK CW radio I have ever owned. The 7300's narrow cw filters do the job and although crystal filters are the best, this radio is easy on the ears on receive.

It does not have 2/440 capabilities like the Icom 7000 I sold, but I never used the feature anyway. The Icom 7300 has a built in antenna tuner which the Icom 7000 did not. I do not miss the hidden menu system the Icom 7000 tortured me with, I constantly had to locate the manual to figure stuff out! The Icom 756PRO has a steep learning curve when first setting it up and a manual is needed if you do not operate it all the time. This is where the Icom 7300 shines, it is so easy to operate with the touch screen menus. I highly recommend this radio to a newcomer to hf radio! The purchase price with the current rebate was \$1000 for a full featured radio.

On a side note, I almost bought the Icom 7600 when they closed out at \$1900 (over \$3000 new) a few months ago at HRO with the arrival of the new Icom 7610 (\$3400). I am glad I did not. First, I am a casual user, and spending \$2000 does not make any sense for me. Second, with the more complex radios come more complex and expensive radio repair bills in the future. Yes, they break down on occasion and are damn near impossible to repair without sending them back to Icom. I had a friend send his 7600 back to the factory and the repair bill was \$800 for a board replacement...that did it for me! Thinking about a new radio, give this radio a close look.

CAARA FUNDRAISER

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE



We are going to offer an inexpensive 8 ½ x 11 color Membership Certificate printed on a heavy quality paper stock in the near future. The proceeds will go into the operating budget to fund ongoing projects around the club....refinishing floors, new HF beam, etc. Details soon.....Jon k1tp

Hello to all....

There have been a number of inquiries regarding a location for the 2018 ARRL Hurricane Webinar recording. It is now available on Youtube via the ARRL Youtube channel at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzp9vLv4PvY&feature=youtu.be>

We hope many folks listen and enjoy the 2018 ARRL Hurricane Webinar recording!

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Macedo

Robert Macedo (KD1CY)

FIELD DAY

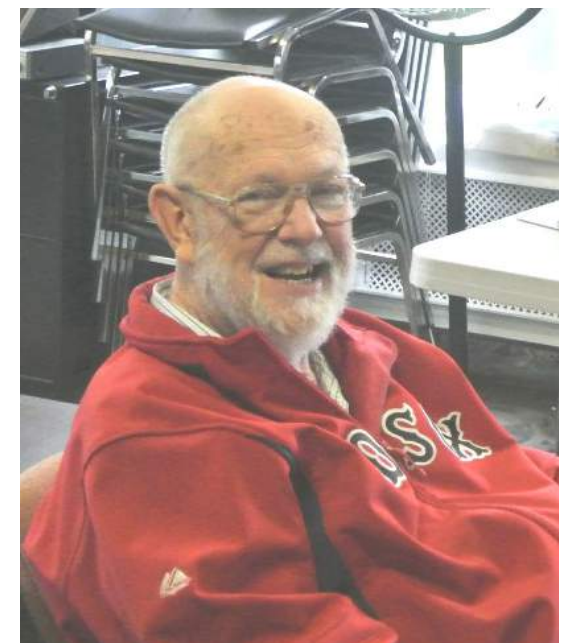


The Sunday before Field Day a small group consisting of Chris-K1TAT, Gardi-KA1BTK, Jake-W1LDL, Jon- K1TP, Larry- AJ1Z and Bob-WV1A were busy at the club erecting and testing antennas as well as the stations that will be used for Field Day.

A lot of time and effort go into the planning and setup of this event. I hope you had a chance to stop in and say hello, grab a bite to eat, and perhaps even operate a station if you wish.

Tony- N1JEI was our main cook for the day as Bill- W1WMM, our usual master chef, was out recovering from a nasty stomach flu.





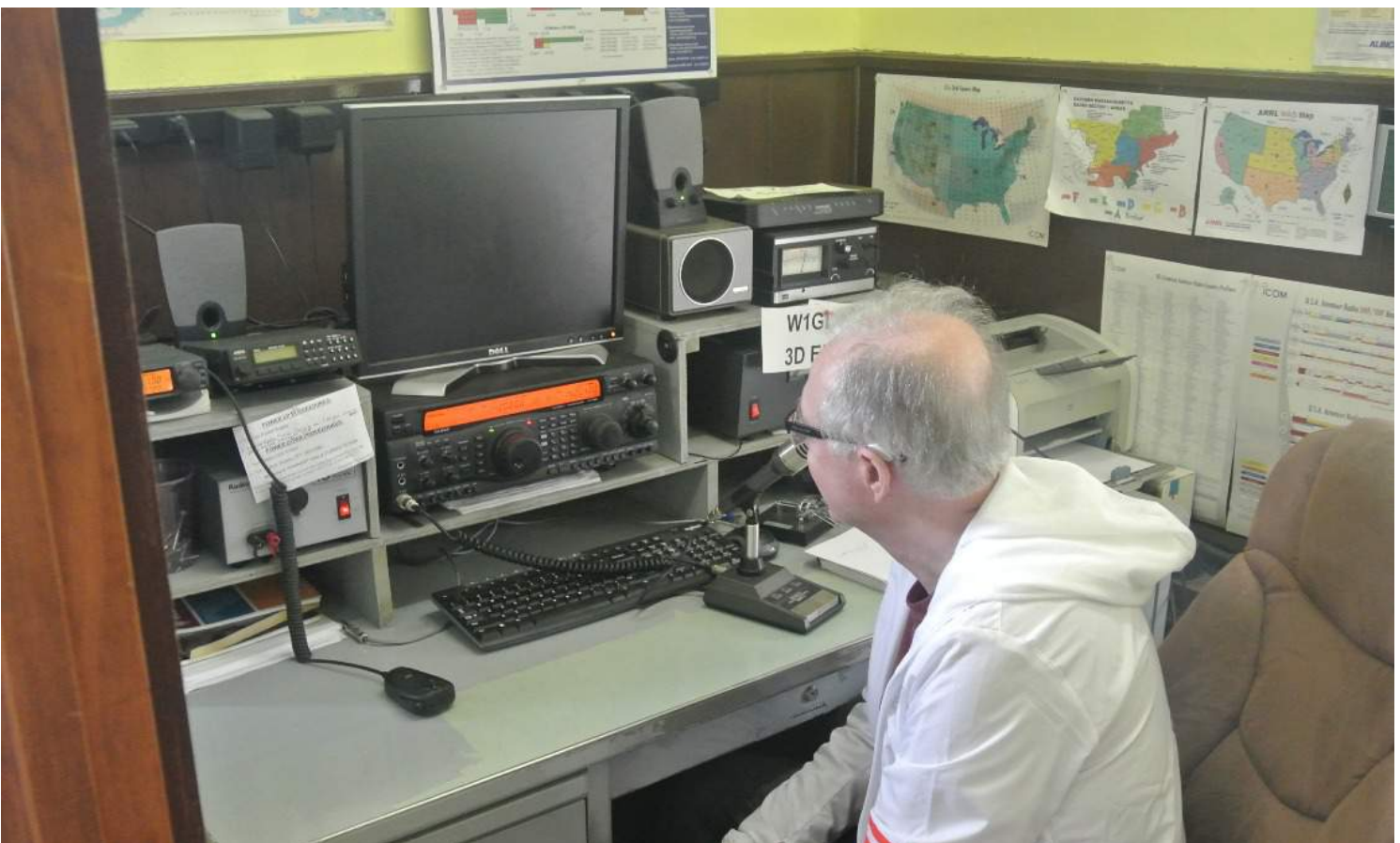
We had about 20 people show up for Field Day on Saturday, we made contacts on SSB, CW, and Digital on 10-80 meters.

No problems with the N1MM logging software that was linked to each radio thanks to Larry- AJ1Z.



Above: A shot from the club security camera on Field Day, Saturday Night, members just chilling out after a long day operating.

Below: Ron- N1RJP at first floor SSB station checking things out before the contest started.



Senate Resolution awarded to the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association presented in person by Massachusetts State Senator Bruce Tarr, a licensed ham and member of our club.



Hamfests for Beginners

Every new ham is soon introduced to a unique phenomenon called the “Hamfest”. This is short for “Amateur Radio Festival” and should be called an Amfest but you will soon see that we do all kinds of silly things starting with calling our hobby “ham radio” and ourselves “hams”.

To digress for a moment: Many people have asserted that the advent of the use of the term “ham radio” is unknown; cloaked in mists of time; or that it refers to the sending technique of old-time CW operators. I think I know why it was adopted. I think it was adopted to keep really cool people from crowding the airwaves and annoying radio operators who like to have nice conversations. You know. Sort of like testers. By adopting just about the most unflattering name imaginable we have limited ourselves to about 800,000 hams, most of whom are inactive except on contest weekends when they are all active and tuning up on my net frequency. I mean, when was the last time you heard a 20 year old stud-muffin football player ask a cheerleader, “Do you want to come over to my house and hear some RTTY?” But that is for another time. We know we are cool. Who needs a drop dead gorgeous cheerleader? (AKA YL at 36 over 59) Well, for one, I d...ahem...

Hamfests:

The idea behind the hamfest comes from ‘back in the day’ when people not only operated amateur radio stations; they also built the radios they used. They got together to sell and trade parts. And even with store bought radios, there was a time when a young “novice” radio operator could not really use the same radio that a general class or higher amateur could use. So there was a great market for used equipment and the need for a place to sell it. Remember this was before the internet. Or airmail not to put too fine a point on it. Hence Hamfests. And they continue to this day. You will soon learn that the average experienced ham radio operator changes radios every 37 days unless he has Collins gear in which case he only sells it to fund his retirement to Hawaii or a new airplane. (You will see Collins gear at hamfests but it is not really for sale. The guy is just showing off. He knows that nobody in his/her right mind would carry that kind of cash to a parking lot in the dead of night.)



And while we are on the subject let me clarify what I mean by ‘dead of night’. All hamfests start at 2 AM or some other ridiculous hour of the morning. Why? Because geezers can’t sleep? I don’t know. All I know is that if you are not the first person there you will not get the bargains. A word of caution. Before you look for bargains you will want to use the porta-potty. There will only be one because the club sponsoring the hamfest is too chea...that is to say, has not been assiduous in preparing for mostly older men stuffed with coffee, doughnuts and diuretics. As you become more experienced you will come to understand that smart ‘festers’, as we sometimes call ourselves, have to buy a lot of stuff that we do not need for what may at first seem a doubtful purpose. We need stock to sell at the next hamfest. Once you understand why we need this it is not so doubtful at all. In getting this stuff we are preparing to be vendors at the next hamfest and thereby allowed to come in early! It does not matter if we sell any of it because getting in early is the whole point. This way we have time to buy all of the bargains before mere attendees are allowed inside the wire. I am not making this up. A few years ago I arrived at a hamfest, before sunup, to setup my stuff and a guy opened the hatch of my car and climbed in the back. Headlight and all! I figured it was too early in the morning for a carjacking and most carjackers do not wear headlamps and name tags but I was still startled until he asked me how much the gold D-104 was. I told him it was not gold it was rust....that is to say had the warm patina of vintage equipment and that the price tag was still on it from the last hamfest. I also mentioned to him that he needed new batteries for his headlamp which, as luck would have it, one of the commercial vendors was sure to have; right next to the flashing LED lights, tow bars, cords, cables and sirens for the ECOM folks.)

As you arrive at your first hamfest you will be purchasing your ticket for admission. This money will be used by the sponsoring radio club to support its repeater fund. (A repeater is a radio you put on top of a mountain and then bitch about maintaining because it is on top of a freaking mountain. And who wants to go up there and work on it and nobody uses it anyway except for the Tuesday night 2 meter net and most importantly it is not broken and whose bright idea was it to replace it anyway? Just because there is \$76,112.00 in the repeater fund is no good reason to climb a mountain. I mean really? Sorry. I got off on a tangent. You will also buy \$20.00 worth of \$1.00 raffle tickets. The grand prize will be a two meter radio. The second prize will be a two meter HT. There are a variety of



additional prizes which will range from a satellite book that the same poor guy tries to sell at every hamfest to a PL-259 with practically no wear at all. The important thing is that calling the ticket numbers for all of these prizes keeps the president of the club busy annoying you and me all morning. “And now everyone, check your tickets. We have a really nice, practically new, 6L6GC tube for the next lucky winner”.

That dealt with you are in. You will want to walk fast. You are looking for gems. It may seem at first that everyone there is selling used record albums, computer speakers and defunct computer games. They are. If this article serves one purpose alone it is to tell the amateur radio community once and for all that nobody wants to buy your used computer speakers or your wife’s old hair dryer. And oh by the way, labeling it a forced-air thermal circuit board dryer is fooling no one. It is a used hair dryer. Frankly, most tables look like a robot exploded in a Radio Shack store. But be not discouraged.

One thing you will quickly notice might even be a money-making opportunity for you. At the next hamfest you could make a fortune selling dust cloths and pledge-by-the-dose. A guy who once tried to shave his cat lest a cat hair gets caught in his antique straight key has somehow contrived to bring a Variac so covered in dust it looks like the hatch on a tank. (A Variac is a device used to bring old equipment “up to power” and though you will eventually buy one you will never use it. Never fear though, it is a great thing to sell at a hamfest.) So there is Mr. Variac owner, carting this stuff halfway across the state after having spent all night on eBay fanaticizing about how much it is worth but who did not have a moment to spare for hitting it with a can of air? I mean really Scarface, if you had not shaved that cat she would have dusted it for you.

So Mr. New Ham, you are there looking for three things; your fist HF rig, a power supply and an antenna. Oh yea. And the coolest looking microphone you can find. Four things. Looking to your right you see it. A great looking TS-930s. Now there is a nice first rig. Behind the table is a guy with a hat and a tag telling you his call sign and that his name is Bob. So up you go and ask how much the rig costs. Out comes a piece of paper with eBay on it showing the highest price ever paid for a TS-930S, probably by a snowbound drunk on a lonely Saturday night. Bob says, “Well, they are going on eBay for \$1100.00 but I can let you have it for \$700”. Of course Bob is temporarily deranged so you resolve to come back near the end of the hamfest when Bob is more concerned about taking “that giant electric thing” as his wife calls it back her laundry room than he is in beating the average on the eBay street. You buy a used coax jumper for \$2.00 and move on.

Wait! Was that your number? It was. You won! A collectable 1946 call book remarkable because it has all of the current officers of the ARRL in it. Way to go. Beginners luck. You take it and your piece of coax to the car.

A great thing to buy at hamfests is an antenna and there are a bunch of them here. Buying an antenna is an act of faith. There is never an instruction book and every single one of them “worked when I took it down”. I guess you just have to go with the old adage, “any piece of aluminum is better than a hank of wire”. With the benefit of a drill and the local hardware store you can always make it look like a beam. (Beware of the guy who calls it a Yagi Uda antenna because he is a pompous a...that is to say showing off and the fact that he tells you it is missing a minor part called the “driven element - which you can get anywhere” should raise a red flag.) So always buy vertical antennas at hamfests. Two reasons. They are a real “value” and most importantly, they fit in the car.

Don’t forget the coax! I can think of no reason why you should not buy used coax at a hamfest. After all, that guy told you, “it worked fine when I replaced it”. You know that 800 watt amplifier you just bought? Not because it was on your list but who doesn’t want to go QRO? Remember how the guy selling it was honest enough to tell you that though, as a newbie, you could always “try” 100 watts for a while particularly if you mount that dipole at 200 feet, if you want to take advantage of all of the db’s of gain the amp is going to give, you need a great antenna and that means....coax. I’m sure that the old coax can easily handle 800 watts. What could possibly go wrong? Another trip to the car with your amp and 240’ of RG8 in “convenient 26 foot lengths”.



There is a FT-450 over there! That ought to drive my new-used amplifier, right? And there is a nice XYL sitting there smiling at you. Up you go and ask what it costs. She sweetly smiles and says that she does not know but that her husband has just gone to the porta-potty and he should be back in about an hour if the last two times he went are any indication. Sigh.

They just announced that the VE session is about to begin. Nobody moved.

They announced that some guy was checking QSL cards. Nobody moved. They announce that the Emcom presentation is about to begin. Thirty

six armed people in camouflage move.

You walk by the ARRL booth and sign up because they are giving out band charts and you will get a nametag with your call sign on it in the mail.

Moving on. Back by Bob’s table and the 930 is still there. It is almost closing time and you are encouraged to see that he has used his eBay printout as a coaster so you hit him with the line you have heard others use all day. “Bob. I wouldn’t blame you if you said no, but I bought this amplifier, this coax and these four microphones, and I only have \$380.00 left. Can you let it go for that? He says yes, he can let you have it and offers to carry it to your car for you. He throws in a coax switch, something called a “low pass filter” which you will find out doesn’t really do anything but looks really cool and the 6L6GC tube Bob just won.

And there you have it. You have finished your first hamfest! You have a new radio, an amplifier, 4 microphones, some coax, a switch, a vertical antenna, a low pass filter, a highly collectable book, a band chart, the promise of an official name tag and a 6L6GC to start your tube collection. You are on the air! You will be home by 8 AM! On the way out you snag a Variac. The guy cut the price in half and threw in a nice pair of computer speakers.

Benidorm or Bust

Chertsey Radio Club's James M0JFP drives 1500 mile in the Benidorm or Bust rally challenge - raising money for local children's hospital, driving the pirate radio car, as well and carrying lots of ham radio equipment!

James Preece, a member of Chertsey Radio Club, joined with his neighbors, known as the “Rotten Cherries” took-up the challenge of driving 1500 miles from the UK to Benidorm in Spain.

They bought an old Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 for just £200 and worked on designing the pirate radio themed car, it had a giant flag pole attached to the back flying the classic skull and cross bones flag, and the car had hundreds of pirate radio stickers including radio Caroline and Radio Luxemburg.

As a keen amateur radio operator James (M0JFP AKA WO2I) was keen to operate in UK, France and Spain. Moon Raker (EU) kindly loaned an HF radio and antenna and James was able to make many contacts during his driving breaks.

We also had sponsorship from Icom and Kenwood. As part of critical communications between car's we had a pair of Retevis RT-95 mobile radio's kindly given to us by Retevis. The analogue VHF / UHF radios provided communication between James's car and his neighbor's (Paul and Al) so they were able to ensure the safety of the teams and get directions and pit-stops as needed.

The drive was divided into 4 days kicking off from Dover in the UK, taking the ferry across the channel along with 197 other rally driver's, and arriving in Calais France. Day one Calais to Tours (5 hours 7 mins) 522KM. Day 2 Tours to Biarritz (5 hours 28 mins) 527KM day 3 Biarritz to Madrid (4 hours 57 min) 497KM and last day Madrid to Benidorm (4 hours 13 mins) 452KM.

Once we arrived in Benidorm, we were awarded with our medals and certificates for completing the challenge, various prizes were given out for the best decorated car and best costumes. A lot of money was raised for local charity Busy bees who look after vulnerable Woman and children in the local area. As a team we raised a few hundred pounds for the local children's ward at Ashford and St. Peter's hospital in Chertsey.



CAARA RECYCLING UPDATE AND WISH LIST ITEMS REQUEST

By David Linsky N1CDL

First of all, a big congratulation goes out to all of the CAARA membership for being so recycle conscious. Everyone has been dutifully placing their empty soda cans and empty water bottles into the recycle barrel next to the front door. Thank you all for doing that and for continuing to do that.

Did you know that empty milk boxes, empty half and half boxes, empty cream boxes, and empty metal food cans (including the metal can lids) are all totally recyclable as well?

Please continue to put all of these items into the first floor recycle barrel next to the front door when they become empty. Please give them a quick rinse before tossing them in the recycle barrel.

You are all helping CAARA'S recycling program to continue to be very successful! CAARA has always been a very **responsible recycling Amateur Radio Club**. And all of u are proving that to be the case whenever u visit CAARA. You are all helping to save our Mother Earth, one item at a time!

To learn more about why we are doing this, just Google 'The Starfish on the Beach'. It explains perfectly why we do this. Instead of Starfish, we are all doing it with one recyclable item at a time!

Here are the 'CAARA WISH LIST ITEMS'.

An anonymous CAARA member has been regularly emptying the trash barrels and removing the empty soda and water containers from CAARA headquarters, especially after events when food is served.

The emptying of the barrels and your proper recycling of empty soda and water containers is helping to keep CAARA Headquarters nice and clean. "Thank you all for your continued recycling efforts".

It would be very helpful to the '**CAARA BARREL EMPTIER**' if one, or **preferably several** plastic drawstring type 32 or 33 gallon trash bags (1/1 mil or thicker) could possibly be donated for the continued success of the 'CAARA barrel emptier's' barrel emptying activity. The '**CAARA BARREL EMPTIER**' promises to use these bags with the utmost of responsibility!

This size bag has become the '**CAARA BARREL EMPTIER'S**' favorite size!

Also being requested are one, or hopefully several of the **standard tall brown paper grocery shopping bags**.

Recently a request went out to just a few CAARA members during one Tue. evening open house.

And everyone's favorite fellow CAARA member, **Tony Marks N1JEL**, stepped right up to the plate and promptly brought in several brown paper grocery bags. "Thank you for those bags Tony. They helped, and are continuing to help CAARA'S recycling efforts a lot".

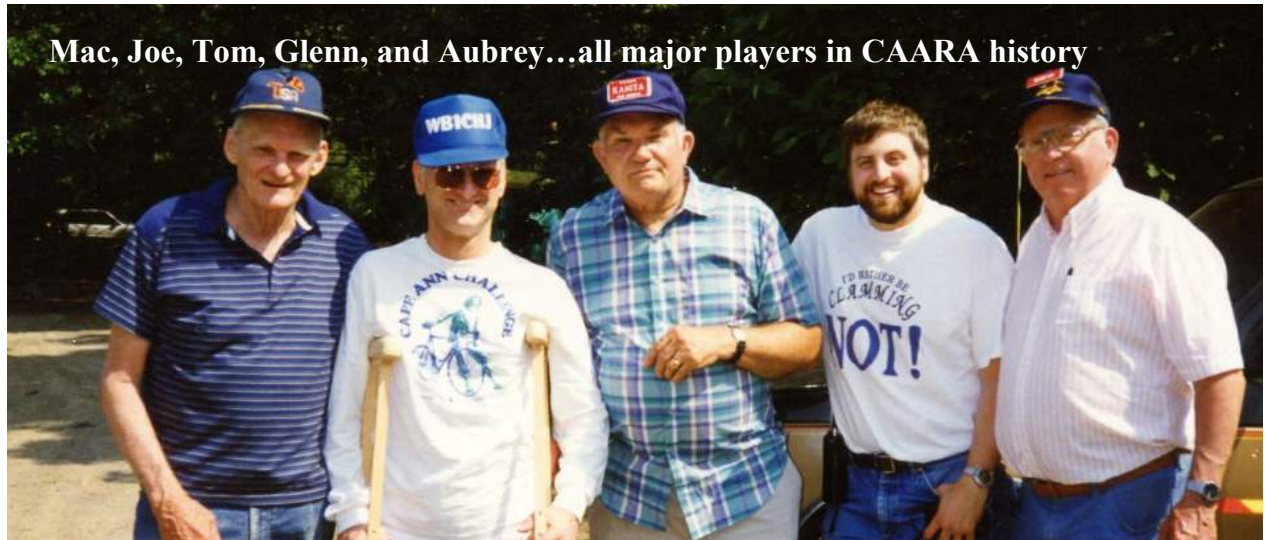
Another item that would be very helpful are the **wax paper** cereal box **bags** that are inside the cereal boxes.

Any size and any quantity would be very helpful to CAARA'S ongoing very successful recycling program.

Could u please bring in any of these cereal bags that you may not need when u visit CAARA?

A Tribute to Joe Palazzola-WB1CHJ

If we all look back and think of the people we have met in our lives, we all can think of someone who you just think “Wow isn’t that person amazing”. Joe is one of those people.



Mac, Joe, Tom, Glenn, and Aubrey...all major players in CAARA history

I met Joe in the mid-Sixties, during the CB (Citizen Band 11 meters) Rage. Some members of CAARA who were around and active CB’ers during this time were: Tony Marks, N1JEI; Jim Hill, KA1PPM; Tom Andrew, KA1GTA; Sandy Balzarini, N1MAU; Jim Capillo, W1VCA and Nels Story, N1YGJ.

Minor LaFlam was a mutual friend of mine and Joes. Many Saturday’s were spent at Minors home. He had one heck of a CB system/station that allowed us to connect with CB’ers all over the country. As I think back on these days, I am also reminded of good times – on “Fox Hunts”. Those CB days when one player would hide and the rest would try to find them. Many tactics were deployed during Fox Hunts. Switching antennas, radios and Joe made a great partner to Tom Andrew during these games.

Joe was also a member of the Sunday morning “roll call”. Joe would dutifully check in between 6:00 and 6:30 each Sunday.

Many Sundays Joe would spend with Minor making trips to the CB stores in Malden, Saugus and even on up to Derry, NH. Joe was a CB enthusiast no doubt.

As the Citizen Band craze changed, the ARRL was starting an effort to get more license Novices into Amateur Radio. Joe decided that he was going to get his Novice license in 1976 under the direction of CAARA President Tom Bernie, K0TB.

Joe showed determination in all that he undertook from studying to being independent in getting up the stairs of the Club on Stanwood Street. Joe didn’t let difficulty stop him – he persevered.

Joe passed his exam and with all his infectious excitement began a new adventure. Joe purchased a rig and strung a long wire with help from Tom Bernie. Joe spent countless hours listening and making contacts and it was always a pleasure to hear Joe tell his stories about these contacts and stations.

Joe’s desire to learn and be productive drove him to purchase an Apple Computer. Never daunted by his disability Joe became proficient with the computer and when Jon Cunningham retired his duties with the Club Newsletter, Joe stepped up. With Tom and Jon’s encouragement Joe kept up the Newsletter and would frequently recount that one finger-one letter at a time still got business for the Club done. That was Joe, quick to lend a hand and quick with the wit.

Having been involved in the Club's fundraising activities, I can also attest that Joe never shied away from making a donation. Time-Talent-Treasure, Joe gave it all.

Joe's interest and determination didn't stop with his Novice license. Under the guidance of Bob Quinn and the assistance of Al Hamilton, AG1F Handi-Ham Program Rep for CAARA, Joe was able to pass both the oral portion as well as the 13 words per minute parts of the exam and obtained his General Class License.

My fondest memory of Joe, however, he was as an avid Red Sox Fan. He loved the Sox and knew the facts/stats and players. As we all know during the late 60's-early 70's the Red Sox may have been hard to love. But not for Joe. Though at times you may have heard him say, "those Sox – they stink, bunch of bums." He was loyal and wouldn't give up on them. Joe would catch the very next game; cheering and rooting for his team. Joe was loyal.

Joe had many years of enjoyment with Amateur Radio and had made many contacts. I like to believe that the contacts Joe made will remember him, not as disabled but as abled. Making us all see that through loyalty, generosity, courage, humor and determination; we are all able to make this world a better place.

Thank you Joe for all the lessons learned. Rest peacefully my friend.

73's
Bob Spanks, Jr.
WA1UCG



JULY 2018



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1	2	3 Open House-5- 10pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Open House-5- 10pm	11	12	13	14 BOD 11:30
15 Every Sunday night at 9 PM	16	17 Open House-5- 10pm	18	19	20	21
22 On 145.130	23	24 Open House-5- 10pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Open House-5- 10pm			29	30