



CAARA Newsletter



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

JUNE ISSUE- 2011



President's Corner

by Stan-W4HIX

I like to express my sincere condolences to Nan Andrew regarding the passing of her husband Tom. I didn't know Tom well, but the reverence and concern for him around the club was great—I hope we can all strive to serve the club at the level he did. Rest in peace Tom, and try to join us on the net sometime if you can.

I feel a little out of the loop after being out of the country for a couple of weeks. It is rare that I miss two CAARANets in a row, but a couple of weeks in Ireland and London can do that to you. I should have tried Echolink on my iPad, but I was never in the right place at the right time. I did bring my VX-8DR and associated gear, but never got it on the air. I did learn about working amateur satellites from cruise ships with a handheld, so I'm going to give that a try the next time I take a cruise. It takes a bit of preparation, but should be interesting. I did get my bags hand searched once at Heathrow, but flashing my FCC Amateur License solved that issue quickly.

Being away for a couple of weeks also demonstrated the depth of involvement of the CAARA members. I missed a Board meeting, the CAARA Flea (at a new site) and a Field Day site evaluation—all of which were taken care of with no problems. Thanks everyone for stepping up.

We're getting very close to Field Day, with the potential of a new site. Change is always uncomfortable—but one of the key factors that emergency communications teaches you is to be flexible and learn to work in less than ideal conditions. I'm impressed with the CAARA membership and their "can do" spirit. I'm looking forward to this year's event.

Field Day is sort of the high point of the summer's activities, but there are plenty of other things going on including the Thacher Island expedition and more public service events than you can shake an antenna at. Maybe we can get a cookout together at the club, some portable ops and maybe a satellite QSO or two.

73 de Stan, W4HIX

CAARA provides public safety communications for Twin Lights Marathon

Several members of the club provided public safety race



communications for the 1st Annual Twin Lights

Hlaf Marathon on Sunday May 15th. Almost 900 runners ran the 13.1 mile race from Good Harbor Beach to the center of Rockport and back down RT 127 A. During this race amateur radio operators from Caara were responsible for relaying messages throughout the race course. We also were responsible for the calling out for a ambulance dispatch for a medical aid along the race course as well as relaying vital patient information between the race organizers and Addison Gilbert Hospital. With Caara club member Ruth Hodsdon WW1N as race net control and Curtis Wright AA3JE shadowing the race organizers at the start/finish lines for over 4 hours we kept the organizers aware of traffic situations along the route. The following hams were along the route providing valuable real time information: Hank McCarl W4RIG, Rick Maybury WZ1B Sandy Lawson KB1PVN, Paul Lawson KB1PQQ and Dean Burgess KB1PGH. With this event Caara provided over 30 hours of public service to the communities of Rockport and Gloucester. This is just one of a dozen or so public service events that members of Caara will participate in in the course of over the summer as Caara gives back to the community.

73's

Dean Burgess KB1PGH -CAARA Clerk

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-Editor
K1TP

Board of Directors- 2010-11

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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 W1RK 443.700 repeater with antennas located in Magnolia is owned and operated by club member Ralph Karcher and it too is available for club use.

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.



CAARA WINS 2010 NEW ENGLAND QSO PARTY AWARD !!!

The Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association has won another operating award! This time it's the 2010 New England QSO Party. CAARA came in 2nd place in the New England Multi Operator, Multi Transmitter division. A hearty congratulations goes out to the following operators who made this possible. N1PSF Dirk Van Lightenberg, N1QEH Allison Williams, W1MAW Mark Watson, W4RIG Hank McCarl, WB1W Dick Macpherson, WZ1B Rick Maybury, WW1N Ruth Hodsdon.

VOICE KEYS ANYONE??

Hi all- I've just found a very nice "Voice Keyer" kit that seems easy to build, extremely handy, and quite inexpensive. This is a new unit available through the German ham magazine Funkamateuer. The best part of this design is that it fits inside your microphone! You could even call this device a microphone "mod" but see and read for yourself: http://www.dh8bqa.de/ssp-mh31/BX-184_eng.pdf.

This cool voice keyer will fit the MH-31 mic that came with your YAESU FT-817, 857, 897 as well stock mics for your ICOM-707 or 7000. It also fits Kenwood radios too! Anyway, here's a thought for anyone interested: I want to place a group order so we can build them together some afternoon or evening. You could be using one of these in time for Field Day if you act now. Email me (ab2nj@arrl.net) if you are interested and let's build some of these. It'll save your voice and make calling CQ much easier and more enjoyable. Great for you portable operators too!

Remember, a group-build would be fun and you'll have plenty of help too, but we have to order together and soon! -

-Briggs Longbothum, ab2nj

Elecraft Announce New KX3 Transceiver:

Elecraft have released details of their latest transceiver - the KX3. It is a self-contained, portable, SDR - but with a full hardware control panel. Operation is on 160m - 6m with 10W PEP output (a 100W amplifier is an option). It features the same display as the contest proven Elecraft K3 and can operate in PSK31/RTTY without the need for a PC.

RadioShack to Add DIY Parts:

RadioShack is looking for ideas from the Amateur Radio community and other customers for ideas for adding parts and merchandise to their line up in the stores. You can send in your information at <http://blog.radioshack.com/post/2011/05/19/RadioShack-And-The-DIY-Community-You-Talked-Were-Listening.aspx>. Here is your chance to get that connector or that test equipment item locally.



Tech in a day program leader Stan Stone W4HIX talks to the students about operating ham radio portable with a Buddipole, a Icom IC 7000 and a deep cycle marine battery which was provided for by Dean Burgess KB1PGH. The Caara ARRL Volunteer Examiner team hard at work grading the Tech in a Day license exams. Pictured: CAARA VE Team Leader Bob Quinn WV1A, Bill Poulin WZ1L, Ruth Hodsdon WW1N, Chuck Downey N1OCT and Hank McCarl W4RIG.





CAARA HOLDS ANOTHER SUCSESFUL TECH IN A DAY PROGRAM !!!

The Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association sponsored another succesful Tech in a day Program on Saturday May 7th at the Lanesville Community Center on 8 Vulcan Street in Gloucester. The program which is run by CAARA Club President Stan Stone W4HIX led the all day study course and at the end the CAARA / ARRL Volunteer Examiner team ran a FCC Technician class Amateur Radio License test session. During this program we had 10 candidates. Most of those candidiates were from Gloucesters newly formed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Beverly Chapter of the American Red Cross which CAARA is in close partnership with both of these organizations to assist in emergency disaster preparedness and response with the city of Gloucester and the rest of Cape Ann. We are proud to say that all 10 of the candidates passed their Technician Class license tests and are now amateur radio operators. One candidate even went on to pass the General Class License exam !!



TECH IN A DAY CANDIDATES — SAT MAY 7, 2011

Robert Cavender, Gloucester, MA KB1VSS
Nathaniel DeWolfe, Gloucester, MA KB1VST
JaCqueline Hardy, Gloucester, MA KB1VSU
David F. Hayes, Gloucester, MA KB1VSV
Joan R. Hayes, Gloucester, MA KB1VSW
Nadine Lavender, Newburyport, MA KB1VSX
Carol McMahan, Gloucester, MA KB1VSY
Michael McMahan, Gloucester, MA KB1VSZ
David Montenegro, Farmington, NH KB1VTA
Daniel Morris, Ipswich, MA KB1VTB

From Sunday CAARA VE SESSION — MAY 8, 2011

Victor Modic, Burlington, MA KB1VSO

I for one do not believe the hobby is disappearing. We have new blood coming in and we should make ourselves available for information and assistance.

I Know Dean, KB1PGH has offered them an application, and we told them about the special dues clause in our bylaws.

I am happy to report these calls from the FCC Website and want to welcome them to Amateur Radio.

BILL POULIN, WZ1L
CAARA VE Team Member

TRIBUTE TO TOM ANDREW-KA1GTA, SILENT KEY

When I first met Tom, it was the summer of 1989, at Field Day.

I escorted Ed Sternfelt, KA1EDY down to Field Day that weekend as he wanted to participate. I was introduced to Tom, who was the active Medic at the Field Day site.

This was my first event with CAARA, and after the weekend, Mac McCollum, W1OMN, ask me to join the club. I went home and filled out the application, and went to the bank and got a money order to join. Unfortunately, the mail at the time was destined to a post office box, and since the Treasurer, Bob Spanks was on temporary assignment to Louisville, KY, the mail was picked up by various members.

The application was lost either in the mail, or slid under somebody's car seat, as the Club never received the application, nor did the money order ever end up being cashed (I checked three times with the bank, and lost \$15.00 in doing so).

The following Sunday, I went to the Clubhouse. I was very weary on sending another application, that I filled it out and gave the money to Larry Wright, W1EGJ, and asked him to ensure it got to Mac so that I could join the club.

Tom Andrew was there at the time, he overheard the conversation with Larry, and he said that he would ensure that the information and my application be brought about before the Board of Directors so that I could attend the Annual Meeting in September as a “Member in Good Standing.” Tom always watched out for others. He really cared about people and the Club.

As Rick previously mentioned, Tom Andrew as a “behind the scenes” person.

If memory serves me correct:

— He purchased the 220 repeater, which was previously housed at Varian in Blackburn Circle, before coming to operate from the Clubhouse.

— Tom also purchased a 220 radio which for many years sat at the Club’s Radio Shack on 2nd floor.

— Tom and his wife were great supporters and he and she was involved in almost all of the activities of the club.

— He was a major contributor to his wife, Nancy’s (KA1SFD) licensing.

— He was instrumental in editing and publishing the Club’s Newsletter. He ensured every club member received their copy, and was hot to trot if a copy was returned due to a bad address or the person moved and he did not have their correct address. He would then mail a copy to the new address and follow up with the person to ensure that it was received to make sure his information was correct.

Tom was a true member of the Club. If asked, he would do his fair share, and at a moment’s notice, he would give an extra 50% to ensure that the club’s interest and activities were completed. There are many, many times Tom’s financial assistance was offered to the club, and he, being “nameless”, was always always there when needed for repairs of the repeater or electronic parts if needed.

I remember stopping by his home when he was not able to come to the Club. He always had a smile on his face and he always thanked me for taking interest in his well being. That is the Tom that I will always remember.

I will definitely miss Tom, and send prayers of comfort for Nancy, his wife.

73

BILL POULIN, WZ1L

Hi All,

I knew Tom well. I will write a little now and maybe more later.

I am very saddened by our dear friend’s passing. Both Tom and Nancy are extraordinary kind souls who dedicated much and contributed greatly to CAARA. Tom has been a member almost since the beginning. Tom often gave above and beyond in both time and money. Numerous times over the years when the club was in dire financial straights Tom would come to the rescue and rarely allow for it to be known that he was the one giving. Both Tom and Nancy are hard working, caring members and gifts to our community. Unassuming and never seeking the limelight, both have had endless energy and patience with the club and its members.

I remember Tom when I first joined the club to be welcoming and supportive. For many years Tom was our Field Day medic. He was a trained EMT and would set up a First Aid tent completely outfitted and gave demonstrations of its capability. Before his health made it difficult, Tom never missed a Field Day. He was the

first there to set up and the last to leave when breaking down. As President, Tom served the club in the club's best interest. His leadership was never about him or his personal desires. He cared only about doing what was right for CAARA, its members and the Gloucester Community. Tom's relationships with city officials proved to be invaluable over the years.

Tom served on my Board at my request for both terms. We could always depend on him being there every meeting, completing all the tasks he volunteered for, and was a calm reasoned voice at a time when the clubhouse was almost lost. Over the many years that I have known Tom, I never saw him lose his temper nor his respectful treatment of others.

I will miss Tom's warm, welcoming and kind manner more than anything else.

God bless Tom and my prayers are with Nancy and Tom's family.

With a heavy heart, 73 my old friend.

Rick WZ1B

Hello: All

Well I Could Write Many Good Stories About Me And Tom But It Would Takes Days To Write All That We Did Together In 40 Years Of Friendship. As Some Of You Know I Don't Live In Gloucester Now, But When I Do Come Back To Visit The Frist And Last Stop Was Ferry Street, Lots Of times It Was The Only Stop. In The Seventies We Spent Thousands Of Hours To Early Mornings Listing To Public Safety Radio In The Duck House Sometimes Even Falling Asleep. Also Did Many Projects Together Also, During The Day That Is. He Will Be Missed By A Lot Of People But Other Than Nan And Mark I Think I Will Miss Him The Most, As K1MB Told Me Tom Has Gone To The Big Duck House In The Sky.

73 God Bless, And Thank You For 40 Years Of Friendship Tom.

Merrill Mondello WE2FAX, Gloucester MA, Kinderhook NY, And Now Cheshire MA.

The FCC is clearing its decks, so to speak, of pirate fines.

In two days, the commission has announced or upheld a total of \$67,000 in fines to four people for operating unlicensed radio stations in separate cases, and it issued another \$4,000 proposed fine to one ham operator for using an unauthorized frequency.

Two Boston-area cases progressed to the level of forfeiture orders because the FCC says neither Robert Brown nor Lloyd Morris responded to Notices of Apparent Liability for \$15,000 each. The notices were issued to Brown and Morris in October of 2010. They have 30 days to pay or the FCC says it may turn the cases over to the Justice Department for collection.

The next two cases occur in Florida. The FCC decided Fritzner Lindor is apparently liable for a \$15,000 fine after Tampa office agents traced an unauthorized signal operating on 94.7 MHz in Orange Park to his home. During an inspection in June of 2010, the commission says he admitted he bought a transmitter

and operated the station without a license. Involved in broadcasting for 19 years, he knew his actions violated the Communications Act, according to the agency. He has 30 days to appeal or pay.

In the second Florida case, the commission issued a proposed fine to Judith V. Smith of \$22,000 for operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on 95.9 MHz in Miami, and for refusing to allow FCC agents to inspect the station, located in her home. "Gospel Reggae FM" also has a website named "Gospel Reggae FM.com." In June of 2010, agents traced an unauthorized signal to her home. They say she opened the door, identified herself and refused to let them in. She then closed the door and turned off the transmitter. She has 30 days to appeal.

Finally, another fine is in a ham radio case. The commission affirmed a proposed fine of \$4,000 against Jose Torres for operating his amateur station on an unauthorized frequency, 26.71 MHz. Torres is the licensee of Amateur Extra Class station N3TX in Philadelphia. The agency says he'd been warned about

not operating on that frequency and fined \$4,000 in 2009. He asked that the fine be reduced or cancelled, telling agents he wasn't home during the alleged unauthorized operations in 2008 and submitted cellphone records to support his claim; Torres also submitted three years of federal tax returns to bolster his argument of an inability to pay. The FCC didn't buy his arguments; field agents say they heard his voice on the unauthorized transmissions and that the cellphone records don't prove he wasn't at home, only that he wasn't using his landline at the time.

Greetings to all readers of the CAARA newsletter: Digital Operators Wanted!

I have been asked by Ken Villone, KU2US, to assist the PART club by spearheading the Massachusetts Colony's "Digital Presence" on the air for The 13 Colonies Special Event to be held July 1-5 of this year. I need your help to fill as many operating time slots as possible. Please check the following links so you have an idea of what's ahead and email me (ab2nj@arri.net) if you are interested!

This will be a very busy event and most of your time will be in a "pile-up" environment and will be fun and a great operating experience for all. Your operating will be under the special event callsign: K2H and you can operate from your own QTH or from anywhere else for that matter as long as you are in Ma. The mode will be PSK31 or RTTY (entirely up to you) and logging obligations will be minimal. If interested, please contact me asap and include your phone number and a reasonable time to call so I can update you and determine your time slot. This will be fun! By the way, the check out the terrific certificate you can earn. This is something for your wall!

Check these two websites: <http://www.semara.org/node/> and <http://www.13colonies.info/>

Good DX & 73,

Briggs Longbothum, ab2nj
Gloucester, Ma. FN42pp
ab2nj@arri.net

CAARA PRESENTS AN AWARD:The awards night at Gloucester High School on 19 May, 2011, included the presentation of the first CAARA Scholarship to Paul Davis a music and communications major who wishes to pursue a career in electronic music and communications. The scholarship was presented to him by CAARA Treasurer Hank McCarl W4RIG since Stan Stone our CAARA President was out of the country at that time. Hank told the assembly at the presentation that Stan was the moving force and originator of the CAARA Scholarship program and that we planned to continue and hopefully expand the program depending on the availability of funds in the future. *submitted by Hank W4RIG .*

Cornell University chip satellite team invites Ham Radio collaboration

A group of Cornell University-developed, fingernail-sized satellites may travel to Saturn within the next decade, and as they flutter down through its atmosphere, they will collect data about chemistry, radiation and particle impacts.

Three prototypes of these chip satellites, named "Sprite," were mounted on the International Space Station during a recent spacewalk. The thin, 1-inch-square chips are mounted to the external Materials International Space Station Experiment (MISSE-8) pallet, exposing them to the harsh conditions of space to see how they hold up and transmit data.

Zac Manchester at Cornell University explained that the chips transmit as beacons with 10 milliwatts of RF power at 902 MHz using MSK modulation (minimum-shift keying) with a chipping rate of 50 kbps. The Cornell team invites AMSAT satellite operators to collaborate with this experiment to determine conditions in which the low-power signal has been detected on the ground.

Mason Peck, Associate Professor Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Cornell University wrote, "Receiving the full sequence of data per se is not of interest, but the mere reception of it (a single digital bit, for us), indicates successful transmission. If you would like to serve as one of the lucky few to try detecting this signal, please follow up with Zac Manchester (zrm3@cornell.edu). We definitely welcome the collaboration of HAM operators."

More information be found at these sources:
<http://tinyurl.com/3fs5ks7> (spacemart.com)
<http://www.spacecraftresearch.com/blog>

MAY 2011 FLEAMARKET



The Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association holds its spring ham radio flea market on Saturday, May 14th at the Lanesville Community Center on 8 Vulcan Street in Gloucester. Once again we can say that this was another financially successful fundraising event for the club. The Board would like to thank Curtis Wright- nAA3JE and Charles Douglas- N1EDN for their equipment donations for the flea. The Board would also like to thank all those who donated their time to work the flea and everyone else who stopped by to purchase something. As always with these fleamarkets, the first 15 minutes are the most exciting. As you can see in the picture CAARA Treasurer Hank McCarl- W4RIG is quite pleased at the sold equipment going out the door.

Japan drops Morse requirement

The Japanese radio regulatory council recently announced that the Morse requirement for amateur

radio licenses will shortly be dropped. The move comes after a public consultation following the decisions taken at WRC-2003. The RSGB understands that the change will be effective from 1 October 2011.

Monday, 30 May, 2011

780 BC First total solar eclipse reliably recorded by Chinese

1869 Voting Machine patented by Thomas Edison

1872 Mahlon Loomis patents wireless telegraphy

1879 First electric railway opens at Berlin Trades Exposition

1896 First car accident occurs, Henry Wells hit a bicyclist (NYC)

1910 First roundtrip flight over the English Channel (C.S. Rolls, England)

1977 First personal computer, the Apple II, goes on sale

Do it Yourself by Curtis Wright-AA3JR

It's a seduction common to most homeowners. You go into the aisles at one of the SOOPER DOOPER stores and you look at all the neat tools. If you are a red-blooded homeowner the sight of all that naked steel drives you mad (or at least a little crazy). One look at the "triple-flanged, double-reinforced, tungsten-alloy steel frame of the "Whompo-Whanger" convinces you that despite your total lack of mechanical aptitude, you too can produce a beautiful bird-house, garden shed, porch addition, roof extension, driveway addition, or concrete-reinforced bunker despite your total lack of training.

Of course the makers of these things know this. They make sure that words like "sweat", "difficult", "injury", "complex" and worst of all "ugly deformed product" never appear in the glossy advertisements that feature sports heroes, race care drivers, and busty babes and sun-tanned lads frolicking with the money they have saved doing it themselves. So you buy it, and join the line of pallid, overweight, slightly disheveled men and women in the checkout line, holding the new tool and pushing a cart full of "B" grade materials that will become your beautiful new whatever.

I have become fortunate, in that I have moved to a small town in New England that has a local hardware store. Over time I have come to know the staff and they have come to know ALL ABOUT me and my various projects. It's a bit like the bar in that old TV show "Cheers", in that not only everyone knows not only your name, but gets a run down on how your weekend is going.

"Oh hello, Dr. Wright, You are up early."

"Hi Bill, I'm putting in a drain for the side flowerbeds. What do you recommend as the least expensive drain tile?"

"We have a very fine Schedule 40 perforated pipe today, and may I recommend the 60 pound bags of crushed rock? They are very popular in the spring."

Now any sensible person, faced with a flowerbed that looks like (and smells like) the Great Dismal Swamp, would call the local contractor. In short order they would run the "Ditch Witch" down the border, add stone, pipe and a French Drain as the end and the job is done. It would take about 3 hours to do, even with a bad hangover and with 10 minutes extra for replacing the sod.

"That seems fine, Bill. I'll take 10 bags of rocks and 40 feet of pipe."

Bill filled the order, and signaled to the other cashier that it was time to start the book on how many times I would be in that day. Bill does pretty well on the pool, guessing right about half the time.

I return home, and after about a half-hour have rediscovered why they call it Rock Port. I am disheveled, panting, coated with mud, and have dug a tiny pit about one-foot by 2 feet. There seem to be a LOT of rocks in the soil hereabouts. Had I looked up the area on a US Geological Survey map I would have found I was in the "Chatfield-Hollis-Rock Outcrop" characterized by "20% rock and boulders 1-2 feet in diameter". I can personally attest that 1-2 feet in diameter is on the low side as is the 20% figure.

"What have you got in the way of a pickaxe and a pry-bar?"

"I recommend this model, Dr. Wright, fiberglass handle, nice balance, and its the same color as the pry-bar. Nice yellow, easy to find in the mud."

“Mud?”

“The mud you are wearing, sir. Would you mind stepping to one side, that nice lady needs to get by you and doesn’t want to get her dress soiled.”

I looked down. Yep. Mud. Lots of mud. I looked back toward the door. One of the clerks was standing by with a mop and a patient expression.

“Looks fine, I’ll take them.”

“You may want these, as well.” Bill offered me a pair of heavy leather gloves.

“No need. Can’t get a good grip on the rocks with gloves on.”

Twenty minutes later I was back.

“You still got those gloves?”

“Right here at the register, Sir. nasty looking fingernail there. Is that a crush injury?”

“Rock slipped.”

“Oh I see. Will you want the first aid kit as well?”

“I have plenty.”

Once I got the ditch long enough to fit the pry bar in, I made better progress. In only 4 hours I had dug about 15 feet, and laid the first length of pipe. I covered it with five of my bags of rock, and it became clear I had a problem.

“How many bags of that rock do you have, Bill?”

“I had them bring a pallet out from the back, Dr. Wright. We have plenty. Is that blood?”

“Just a scratch. I’ll wash it off later.”

“Please avail yourself of our rest room. There’s some antiseptic soap back there. do you want the first aid kit now?”

“I’ll take it.”

Ten minutes later I had washed my wounds (pry bar slipped), dressed them, and had bought another 20 bags of rocks. Back to the project.

Disaster. I got back to find that my drainage ditch had filled up with (you guessed it), WATER. Or at least I thought it might be water. My wife has always been suspicious about the septic system of the neighbors on that side. I peered into the murky brown depths and considered that it might be better to start the ditch on the downhill side. After four more hours of slipping, swearing, digging, prying, and losing my shoes (deep mud will suck those puppies right off, never to be seen again) I was back at the store.

“Got any boots?”

“Oh yes, sir. Really nice ones. From Canada. And some nice dry socks.” He was staring pointedly at my soggy feet and the trail of moist footprints leading back to the doorway.

“Oh yes, and 20 more bags of rocks.”

Well it took about 10 hours, two minor crush injuries, one subungual hematoma (nail bed blood blister), three minor lacerations, two sprains and a three loads of laundry. I figured it out at 50 bags of rocks @ \$6.00, one pickaxe @ \$79.00, one pry bar @ \$35.00, four pieces of pipe @ \$12.00, one first-aid kit @ 24.00, supplemental bandages @ \$6.00, bottle of ibuprofen @ \$3.00, and one dinner out (celebration) @ \$46.00. Grand total was \$541 for a 40 foot flowerbed footing drain.

I would have felt better if my neighbor had not stopped by.

“Nice work! That looks as good as the one I had installed.”

“Oh really? Thank you.” I was curious. “How much did they charge you?”

“Oh I got a real deal. That 60 foot bed over there? It cost me about \$300.”

As I tried to get comfortable in the bed that night, I thought it over. After all, I had only paid \$241 extra for 10 hours of healthful physical activity. Less than the gym. Yep. Do It Yourself was the only way to go.

Senate ‘companion’ bill to HR 607 avoids impacting amateur spectrum

On Thursday, May 19, Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and John McCain (R-AZ) introduced **S 1040** - *The Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011* - in the Senate, the ARRL reports.

While it has a similar objective to **HR 607** - introduced in February by Representative Peter King (R-NY-3) - this Senate bill, unlike HR 607, does *not* call for auctioning any portions of Amateur Radio spectrum. Both bills call for the allocation of the so-called “D block” of spectrum, 758-763 and 788-793 MHz, to facilitate the development of a public safety broadband network.

On learning in February that a Senate version of HR 607 was being drafted, ARRL Chief Executive Officer **David Sumner, K1ZZ**, met with staff members of the Senate’s Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee who were working on the bill to share the ARRL’s concerns with regard to HR 607. “They seemed very receptive to our argument and appreciative of the public service contributions of radio amateurs,” Sumner said. “It is gratifying to see that S 1040 avoids impacting our spectrum allocations.”

Sumner explained that while some media reports are referring to S 1040 as “the Senate version of HR 607,” it is important that radio amateurs *not* oppose S 1040:

“There is no reason for us to do so. We support the creation of an interoperable broadband network for first responders. Other than to oppose any method that would impact amateur spectrum use, we do not support one method over another of achieving that objective. We only oppose one aspect of HR 607, not the entire bill.”

S 1040 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Science, Commerce, and Transportation, chaired by Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV). Senator Rockefeller earlier introduced his own bill, S 28, to address the same general topic. Neither Senate bill would impact amateur spectrum.

Read the full ARRL article at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/senate-companion-bill-to-hr-607-avoids-impacting-amateur-spectrum>

Another CAARA Portable HF Ops Adventure

On Memorial Day Briggs AB2NJ and myself, Dean KB1PGH went outside and got in some portable HF operations at the Sportsman club shooting range up by dogtown in Gloucester. The weather warm and sunny and no bugs yet as the club is surrounded by woods. Briggs brought his Yaesu FT 817 qrp rig, a 40 watt hf amplifier and his Outbacker HF Vertical antenna. I brought along my IC 7000 and my Buddipole. We both set up our rigs, antennas and batteries and went to work. Briggs went first on 20 meters. The band conditions were not too good when we started at about 11.30 am. After about 20 minutes of trying domestic dx he finally got a decent contact from Norway. There was much QRM and fading which made sense with the active geomagnetic storms that were forecast on www.spaceweather.com and I set up my Buddipole for 6 meters and sat on the calling frequency of 50.125 Mhz. I called for about 20 minutes as well and gave it up. I could hear a cw beacon on 50.060 though. I then decided to try for the 10 meter band and I could hear a few southern state stations way in the background. I sat on 28.330 and gave out CQ's for another 20 minutes and nothing but oh well, I knew that the conditions may not be that great today but you have to try to make your own DX sometimes. I then got jealous of Briggs' Outbacker

antenna and turned my Buddipole into a vertical on 20 meters at about 8 FT high. I have not had the chance to set it up in this configuration so it was good practice. By this time it was about 1:30 PM and the 20 meter band started to come alive. Briggs then took the controls on my IC 7000 and then the contacts started to come in. He talked to Kansas city, a couple of stations in North Carolina and Kentucky. It was nice to have a relaxing QSO's with other hams instead of the crazy competition style quickie contact. This also made sense because I set up the counterpoise on the Buddipole Vertical to point Southwest



since I had heard those southern stations in the distance on 10 meters. Funny how if you read the directions on how to set up your antenna the right way you can get the signal to get where you want it to go. He made most of these contacts on the HF Pack 20 Meter calling Frequency of 14.342.50. HF is a group of portable and pedestrian mobile HF enthusiasts. By then it was 2:30 pm and we started to dry out from the heat and we packed it up and went home. Overall it was another great time doing outdoor HF ops. It's good to get the practice in setting up antennas and gear and seeing what works and what needs improvement. The area had no RF noise which was nice and the elevation helped us as well. Briggs and I had a good time playing ham radio and that is what it is all about.

73's

Dean Burgess KB1PGH

Dean-KB1PGH on twenty meter SSB at the Gloucester Sportsmen Club...luckily they had the range to themselves.

Below the Budipole Portable antenna setup in the vertical mode but they also experimented with it in the horizontal dipole position.





Field Day Meeting on Sunday morning, May 22.....Time is near!



CAARA Scholarship Breakfast on Sunday morning each month.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CW OPERATORS

We have been holding code tests over the last couple of months. There have been 14 people on and off who have been working hard. Our first two operators to pass a test are Bob Edwards and Pete Tibbetts. We have others who have also passed a test who will be awarded their certificates soon.



Bob Edwards, AB1LT 5 WPM



Pete Tibbetts, K1WZE

CAARA PROFILES TOM ANDREW, KA1GTA

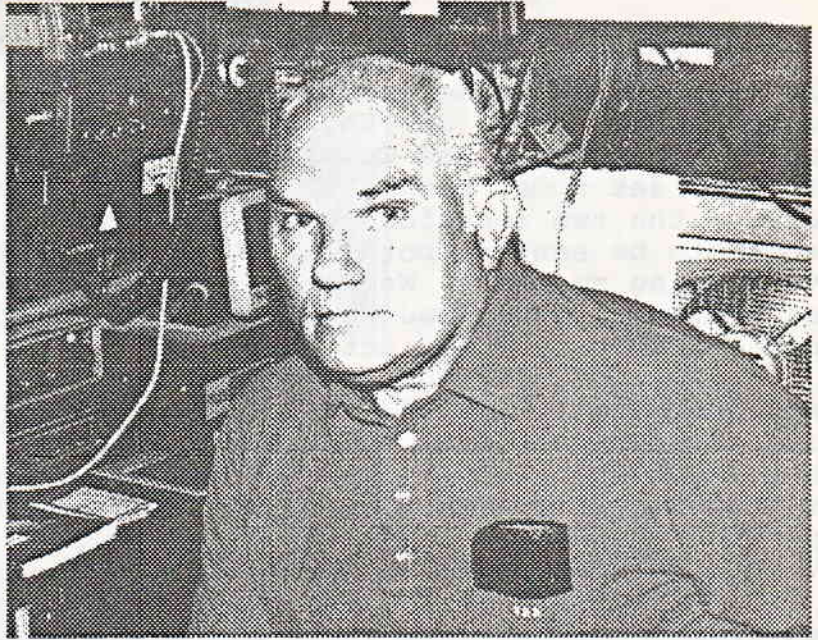
by Joe Pallazola, WB1CHJ

Shortly after his birth in Newton, MA Tom's family moved to Boston where he was raised and educated. Tom's ambition was to become an interior decorator. After high school he entered the Boston Museum School to study interior decoration. In the trade for two years. Tom did window decorations for Jordan Marsh in Boston. In 1952 he entered the USMC and served in the Korean War. While recuperating from his wounds suffered in combat, Tom was assigned to teach English to orphans. In 1954 he was discharged from the Marines and entered the University of Maine School of Education. Tom went on to have a fifteen year teaching career. He taught elementary education in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Jersey. In

1966 he came to Gloucester and joined the family business Thermet Inc., where he worked for nine years. A diversified individual, Tom also worked as an Emergency Medical Technician with O'Brien Ambulance in Beverly. Tom spent time working with J.K. Securities in Gloucester as an Alarm Central Station Operator. He helped establish Beauport Ambulance Service in Gloucester where he worked as Public Relations Officer and Office Manager. He retired in November, 1989.

before the ham bug bit, the easy going 60-year-old was interested in scanners and CB radio. In 1981, with encouragement from a ham friend, Tom took the Novice class taught by Ed- AK1U of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association and got his ticket. In October, 1982, he passed the Technician test. Tom believes the future is bright for amateur radio. "I think the code has been a stumbling block for many people. I believe when the no-code license is passed you will see many young people getting into the hobby."

KA1GTA is trustee of the 223.3/224.9 MHZ CAARA repeater. Tom was instrumental in the financing of the 144.53/145.13 MHZ CAARA repeater. "I enjoy the VHF-UHF FM bands the most," said Tom. Tom and his wife Nancy, KA1SFD, have a son Mark and make their home in Gloucester.



Tom hard at work at his QTH with his new packet station. Tom can usually be found on one of the club's repeaters.

Photo by Bob-NIGVO