



# CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2016

## President's Desk

by *Hank-W4RIG*



We will have a major activity on June 25 & 26 at the CAARA HQ at 6 Stanwood Street in Riverdale when we operate ARRL Field Day and also celebrate the 40th Anniversary of CAARA. Jon Cunningham (K1TP) and Bob Spanks (WA1UCG) will be the organizers for these events. We note that the move back to 6 Stanwood is mainly due to the uncertainty concerning the ownership situation of the Fuller School Site and the desire to encourage membership participation without the threat of bad weather.

Gardi (KA1BTK) managed a series of Public Service events over a few weekends in May with the help of Ruth WW1N) and Chris (KD1TAT) serving as Net Control operators for two simultaneous events on Sunday May 15 utilizing both the 2M and 440 Mhz repeaters. Good work for all the members and friends who helped with the checkpoints for the Half Marathon and 5 K races. I'll let Gardi give more details on those May events. We continue to request help for the remaining Public Service events this year and hope to utilize the EmCom email list for announcements as well as CAARAmail and the Sunday Night CAARANET on 2M at 9:00 PM.

Program for the June Member's meeting will be focused on preparations for Field Day.

CAARA will host the ARRL EMA Section Staff Committee meeting on Saturday June 4 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Stan (W4HIX) and Hank (W4RIG) will be attending and if any of our directors or members are interested they should clear attendance with Hank at [W4RIG@arrl.net](mailto:W4RIG@arrl.net) so we can get the official blessing of Tom Walsh (K1TW) our EMA Section Manager.

Looking forward to seeing a large turnout of members for the Field Day events and CAARA Anniversary activities on June 25 & 26.

Hank McCarl, W4RIG

## Information Desk

by *Dean-KB1PGH*



We'll start off with one last reminder that the annual "ARRL Field Day" event will be coming up on Saturday June 25th and Sunday June 26th so plan accordingly. I've been reading a couple of articles that cover the ongoing question of what to tell a non ham on why amateur radio operators like to talk to other people all across the world that we never have net instead of just picking up a phone to do it? Non hams do wonder why we go through all the process of setting up antennas and radios and buying all our equipment when buying a cellphone will do? I have read a few interesting answers to that question. To get others to think of why we do what we do give them these points. Why do people go fishing when they can already buy fish at the store? Why do people go sailing when there are motorboats? Why do people work in the garden when they can just buy fruits and veggies at the store? I guess for the younger crowd you can always ask them why do they go to a bar to look for women why they can already get a mail order bride? Ok, maybe that's a bit much but I think you get the point. Basically it's about the satisfaction of doing it yourself and learning how to do it yourself. We also do what we do because it's a fun and enjoyable Hobby. Please remember the word "Hobby" in ham radio because that's all that it is and don't take it too seriously. Next month I'll cover of what you can tell non hams of why we do emergency communications. Here's a reminder that the Museum ships special event weekend will be held on the air on 0000z Saturday June 4th lasting 48 hrs until 0000z Sunday June 5th. CAARA member Jake W1LDL is running a special event station that weekend from the Museum ship Evelina Goulart. The Goulart is a fishing schooner which its home is the Essex Shipbuilding Museum in Essex Mass. Jake will be working SSB and CW so listen for him on the bands and thank you Jake for leading this station! So I think I'll

(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 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. The former W1RK 443.700 repeater is now on the 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 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



cover the topic of First Aid Kits for the prepper tip of the month. Do you even have a first aid kit in your home or car? If not you should. That's the first basic component of any go kit. You can either make your own or buy a decent one online or at CVS. If you have one have you checked it lately? Please remember that any drugs or ointments in it do expire after a bit of time. Make sure you have items that will care for burns, keep infections away and the basic stop bleeding from trauma. We'll that's it for this month and we'll see you in July!

### Club is seeking donated laptops for 2nd floor operating stations

In order to be able to provide logging and CAT control of the club stations as well as support digital modes and remote operation the CAARA board is seeking donations of older but still working laptops.

The only requirements are that the laptop be complete in good working order with charger and that it have at a minimum valid Windows 7 or later COA (Certificate Of Authenticity) license sticker attached.

If you have an old laptop you'd like to donate please feel free to drop it off at the club any Sunday morning or Tuesday evening, or contact the BoD ([board@caara.net](mailto:board@caara.net)) to arrange for someone to pick it up. Thank you! Larry- AJ1Z

## The Special Exhibitions Gallery



Remember the times when the whole family gathered round the living room radio to listen to Roosevelt's fireside chats or detective dramas like The Shadow? When boys (and sometimes girls) tinkered with ham radio in garages in order to talk to people across the country? When commercial, underground, and political networks broadcast to a fragmented society, giving voice to diverse ideas and music, which anyone could sample?

Radio Contact explores those times then and now. Showcasing radio equipment from the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, the exhibition examines the evolving technology and cultures of listening, tinkering, and broadcasting. Radio introduced millions to jazz, the comedic brio of Abbott and Costello, the iconic voice of newsman Edward R. Murrow, and the shock therapy of talk radio. Come and tune in to a radio culture and history that is still vibrant and yet being redefined on the Internet. de W1RAB

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/theater-art/2016/05/26/spinning-radio-dial-harvard/vCz15WTBG3SW0r6ZrxpPdJ/story.html>





## WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA EMCOM CENTER?



### CAARA FIELD DAY 2016 & CELEBRATION OF 40 YEARS SERVING THE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS AND COMMUNITIES OF CAPE ANN.



Field Day will be held at the CAARA clubhouse this year. The schedule for the weekend is as follows:

Saturday, 10AM- **“Beyond Tech in a Day”** Course being offered to all members and non-members by Jon-K1TP and Ross-W1RAB. We will put on a one hour discussion on how to use repeaters, how they work, repeater etiquette, getting on the HF bands and why you should upgrade to the General Class license.

10AM- CAARA VE session for anyone wishing to earn a license or upgrade by Bill Poulin- WZ1L and his team.

12 NOON: Club will be open having a cookout and last minute setup of gear. Portable ops will be setting up in parking lot.

6PM- Celebrate our 40th Club Birthday with a cookout, cake, and ice cream.

6PM thruout the night- contest operation, a movie on the first floor, eyeball qso's, etc.

Sunday morning- Coffee and donuts for breakfast and continued radio operation by all who wish to operate.

Sunday noon- cookout and continued operation of contest.

Sunday afternoon- Cleanup operation and shutdown of gear.

We hope you can spare an hour or so and see how much effort has been put in to the club in the last year. Please do not feel like you have to do any setup or knockdown of Field Day....we have it covered. Don't feel pressured that you you have to operate in the contest, you can just watch others operate if you are “mike” shy. We just want you to show up and have a good time and reap the rewards of contributing to the club through your CAARA membership and participation.

This event is not about scoring a lot of points, it is about getting the club members together to meet each other and enjoy oneself.

If you need help programming a radio, bring it along and we can help you. Feel free to bring your own HF radio for use during the contest.

**The date: Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26, 2016**

**Location: CAARA CLUBHOUSE**

## Portable HF operations at Hospital Hill in Rockport by Dean KB1PGH



A few of us met up on Hospital Hill on Sunday May 15 for a portable HF operations session. Attendance was light due to illnesses and two public service events but we had fun anyway. Jon K1TP cooked up some hot dogs for us and Rick WZ1B made an appearance as well. We started at noon and set up the Buddipole on 20 meters SSB and it gave us a chance to try out the new Yaesu FT 991 all mode rig. The 20 meter band conditions were not all that great and 10 and 6 meters

were dead but we made the best of it. We were able to make contacts to Spain, Germany, Slovenia, Belgium, London and Michigan. The weather was cool and windy and we would have stayed longer if it was not for the Mayflies buzzing our heads. We stayed for about 3 hours and packed up and went home. At least we got to run the Yaesu FT 991 through its paces. I'll give a more detailed review once I get to use it more but I really enjoyed the receive aspect of it. The DSP really cut down on the static noise and there was great sound coming from just the speaker. The receive audio really shined through a pair of Sony headphones. I

got great transmit audio reports so that was a good thing for the first time out. We should be planning more of the HF operations during the summer after field day. Hope to see you then!



Dean-KB1PGH and Rick-WZ1B enjoying the portable ops....





## June Shack of the Month Ruth- WW1N

Ruth sends us picture of her newly configured shack. She recently purchased a new MFJ switching and metered power supply with her trusty Yaesu FT-817 QRP radio which operates 2, 440, as well as 6-160 all modes.

The recent addition of a Mirage 30 watt amplifier for 2 meters completes the setup and allows her to hit more repeaters with the boosted power.

The Buddipole antenna system allows Ruth to operate all bands and can be setup in a horizontal as well as vertical positions. The vertical position is the preferred way to "hit" fm repeaters as they use a vertical antenna to transmit as well.

Ruth has purchased a power/swr meter as well and I look forward to her product review for the benefit of all members.

Thanks Ruth and nice shack!



# The Rockport Official Canine Synchronized Sh\*\*ing Team

by Curtis- AA3JE

It was all due to the coyotes.

Yes, we do have coyotes. Nice, big, fat, Eastern Coyotes, a whole pack of them. They troop through our yard between their den in the marsh, on their way to the fertile hunting grounds of Rockport. Rabbits, squirrels, small dogs, cats, and the occasional small child are their preferred prey.

Well, also the occasional incapacitated adult, but they have to be really, really drunk.

And each night, "SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED" has hysterics.

**"THE COYOTES ARE HERE!  
THE COYOTES ARE HERE!"**

Now my solution is a 45 caliber slug in the gut for each of them, but the good folk of Rockport are deeply connected with nature, and feel that blowing away a large predator with no fear of man is somehow wrong. Upset the balance of nature or something.

**"NO! NO! THAT WOULD BE SO  
WRONG TO DO!"**

"Not much I can do then."

**"YOU MUST STAND OUT  
THERE WITH A BASEBALL  
BAT AND GUARD THE DOGS  
WHILE THEY POOP!"**

Now it is true that I do have a lot of unresolved hostility. I have searched for the reason, but it eludes me. Perhaps another book on ZEN might help. Or heavy sedation.

So, a typical morning goes like this.

I get up, make coffee, and sit down to read the paper.



**"HONEY? I'M UP.  
PLEASE BRING ME  
SOME COFFEE."**

Make and deliver coffee. Sit down again. Open paper.

"Whine, whine, scratch, scratch"

Dog #1 needs to pee. Put down paper, walk down to back door. Dog pees. Come back up.

Sit down to read paper again.

"Whine, whine, scratch, scratch"

Dog #2 needs to pee.  
Take Dog #2 down in elevator. Dog has bad hips. Or something. Or is just lazy.

Dog #2 pees.

Come back up in elevator with dog, sit, open paper.

**"HONEY? IS THERE ANY  
BREAKFAST?"**

Cook breakfast to order. English muffin heavily toasted, coffee refill, jam, bacon, eggs.

Sit back down. Open paper.

"Whine, whine, scratch, scratch"  
Dog #1 desires breakfast too. Serve

breakfast of a carefully balanced mix of dry dog food and fresh dog food from local butcher.

Sit back down. Open paper.

"Whine, whine, scratch, scratch"  
Dog #2 desires breakfast too. Serve breakfast of a carefully balanced mix of dry dog food and fresh dog food from local butcher. Please note mixture is different as Dog #1 requires addition of laxative. Dog #2 must NOT get laxative. Results are very bad. Guard bowls as both dogs prefer the other's food to their own. Monitor proper bowl selection.

Sit back down. Open paper.

"Whine, whine, scratch, scratch"  
Take Dog #1 out. Dog poops.

Sit back down. Open paper.

"Whine, whine, scratch, scratch"  
Take Dog #2 out. Dog #2 conducts meticulous 15 minute survey of potential pooping spots, then poops.

Sit back down. Wife has taken paper.

And then I had an epiphany. A beautiful idea. The Rockport Official Canine Synchronized "Sh\*\*ing Team. A brace of trained canine experts, meticulously trained to march in unison, who would go up to the reviewing stand on the Fourth of July, and at the proper command, would twirl, squat, and s\*\*t.

My friends say I have unresolved hostility issues.

I do not know if they are right or wrong.

But this would be a start toward resolving them.

# CAARA HISTORY

by Bob Spanks-WA1UCG

As CAARA celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY, I hope to be able to recognize as many members as I can who was a part of the history of the club. Each month I hope to highlight a different member and their contribution to the club.

If any member would like to write about a member that was a friend or mentor to themselves please feel free to help me out. Jon K1TP the newsletter editor asked if I could write about the members who were a part of CAARA but no longer with us. I feel honored to be able to give my perspective of as many members as I can.

This month I would like to begin with Fran. Anyone who knew Fran knew a person who was very kind, a loving family man, a hard working person and a very good mentor and Ham radio operator.

My impression of Fran of what was important to him as a person was .... Love of Family, Love of his Country, Love of his Faith and Love of his Job. I know that Fran lived all of those every day of his life.

Fran passed on October 8, 2014 at the age of 87. Fran's family was his wife Joan, his sons Christopher and David his daughters Kathryn and Carol along with son-in-law's and daughter in-laws. Fran also had grandchildren and great grandchildren. He also had a sister Lorraine and was predeceased by a sister Emma.

Fran was a Gloucester Police Officer for 32 years. Fran was the Police

Radio Officer at the station for many years. His voice was the voice heard which would dispatch cruisers, forward information to the cruisers and patrolmen.

Fran was a member of the Portuguese church Our Lady of Good Voyage and a longtime member of its Holy Name Society. I must say he was very prompt on paying his dues to the Holy Name. I was the dues collector for 9 years and the second week of August I would send out the dues notices and schedule for the year and within a week usually the first one I would receive at my home was Fran's.

Fran was one of the original 13 who started CAARA. Fran was a close friend to Larry Sargent W1ZBE who was Communication Officer for the Gloucester Civil Defense. Fran's Call at the time was WA1HCN. He later upgraded to Extra when he changed his call to WU1S. Fran was very active in the CD. He understood if an emergency was to occur that required the CD to be called out he probably would be at his job as a police officer but he would have the ability to coordinate communications between the CD and police whom he knew and understood would be necessary to help as many citizens of Gloucester.

Another close friend to Fran and Larry who was also one of the founders was Harold Morrow WA1KCR. Harold lived on Concord Street in West Gloucester and his role

in the CD was to house and maintain the Amphibious Duck which Gloucester possessed at that time. There were other friends that Fran was close to within the Civil Defense but I cannot remember their names at this time. Fran was also very close to our Past President Charlie Anderson.

Many things that CAARA operates or participates in today Fran had a hand in. He was on the board of directors as a director when the club was incorporated in 1977 and served two terms. In 1977 when Warren

G r i m e s WA1YLX was president and proposed that the club develops a plan to put a repeater on the air. It was Fran, Larry Sargent, Ralph Karcher and Tom Bernie who met and determined how CAARA could get a repeater on the air at a very reasonable cost.



The original repeater was a receiver at 6 Stanwood, and a transmitter located at 26 Harrison Avenue which was Fran's home.

The receiver and transmitter were connected by a dedicated line which was connected from the two locations and supplied by New England Telephone (Verizon). It was at Fran's location for about 9 months. Then the repeater transmitter was moved to Varian at Blackburn Industrial Park. This move was arranged by Fran as he knew many people who worked at the company and Fran also knew that Varian was



a community supportive company and would entertain the possibility of housing the repeater. As Fran told the story he investigated the possibility of the move because first his ham radio operating was limited as when he transmitted on his HF rig it would interfere with the repeater transmitting and Varian would be a much better location. Varian was higher in elevation than Fran's home was and the signal would improve with the higher elevation.

Another activity that Fran coordinated is the Around the Cape Road Race also known as the Labor Day Race. At that time the race was not organized by the Cape Ann YMCA, it was organized by a group of runners who wanted to continue the tradition of running this historic race. The committee met during the year at different members homes in Lanesville. Fran, being a police officer knew that the police could only give so much assistance and there was a gap between the race entering Rockport and reentering Gloucester at the back end of the cape. Fran proposed to the committee that they consider using Amateur Radio to give the committee more flexibility in controlling and monitoring the race from beginning to end. The committee accepted the offer from Fran and he proposed it to the directors at their next meeting. The directors approved for CAARA to participate and we did under the umbrella of the Civil Defense for insurance and safety issues.

Fran was net control for 3 years operating from the O'Malley School where the race began and ended.

As I mentioned earlier Fran's love for Family, country, job and life was how he lived. Fran loved

people, he loved helping people and he loved his hobby Amateur Radio.

## FREQUENCY MOVIE:

If there's one television trend that seems here to stay, it's adapting TV shows from popular movies. We've already seen it with CBS' *Limitless*, A&E's *Bates Motel* and SyFy's *12 Monkeys*, and now The CW is also getting in on the game: **The CW just released a "first look" preview for *Frequency***, a new series based on the 2000 Dennis Quaid movie of the same name.

The sci-fi flick is a twist on a classic time travel story: a man named John discovers that he can communicate with his late father Frank across time via a ham radio, and in doing so, alter the past and present. John is able to save his father — a firefighter — from dying on the job, which creates a new timeline with its own series of problems.

### So how will the *Frequency* TV show be different from the film?

Bustle spoke to star Riley Smith at The CW Upfronts about how the series will diverge from the original film.

According to Smith, who stars on the series as the father character Frank, the show maintains a premise very similar to the original, but won't have the exact same formula.

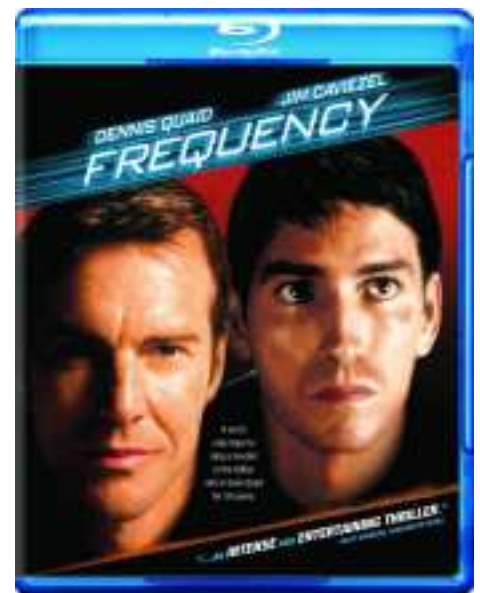
One of the bigger differences is that the John character is played by a woman — Peyton List stars in the series as Raimy, Frank's daughter. Smith told Bustle at the CW Upfronts:

Instead of a son I have a daughter and that dynamic is always different than a father/son. And then the major difference is it's a series, so it's gonna be ongoing, we're going to get to follow these characters longer, see where it would have went, could have gone. So there are differences, but the foundation is still the same.

Fans of the original film can look forward to seeing the unique device that propels the action of this time-changing mystery:

Well the HAM radio stuff is pretty much the same, in fact some of the scenes are literally almost the same dialogue. That was the most touching part for me in the movie, and it definitely was the most touching part to perform in the show.

It seems that the TV series is staying true to the heart of its source material, even though it will ultimately follow a different trajectory than the original film did.



## What do you do with your time?

by Curtis- AA3JE

When you retire, even partially, your friends that still work all ask you what you do with your time. The honest answer is that I have no idea, but I was never this busy at work!



So I decided, since I had a phone in my pocket with an audio note-taking device, I would keep notes, and find out what I did.

Here is what I recorded.

0700-0745 Washed myself, loaded the washing machine, loaded the trash on the truck, let the dogs out, let the dogs in, scooped the poop, and drove to the Cove.

0745-0900 Breakfast with son and grand daughter. Son gets food poisoning from the "Dirty Old Fisherman's Special Breakfast".

Breakfast evidently not "special" just "old". Stop to buy Gatorade and Ginger ale. Drop son off with his wife, who is not grateful I took away healthy husband and returned him bazooka barfing.

0900-0930 Stop at Ace hardware to gear up for the day. I cannot understand why the theme song from Cheer's runs through my mind when I go in there. But it does.

0930-1000- Stop at the Auto supply store to return the core for the battery I put in my wife's car yesterday. SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED got in it

to go to the vet with the dog, and it would not start (car, not dog, dog starts fine). SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED made some critical statements to me about this.

am offended by this. Just cause you run a 10 year old battery down to stone dead twice, it should bounce back. This one didn't. Must be the EPA at work again.

1000-1005 See display for a special deal on motor oil while returning core. Feel guilty about this. Buy new filter and oil for truck. Truck has hard life.

1005-1020- Drive home.

1020-1100 Find ramps for oil change, drop new oil filter denting it. Decide it will be OK. Try to find oil filter wrench, fail, go back and get new wrench.

1100-1105 Drive truck up ramps. Right tire falls off ramp. Repeat several times. Ramps are getting a bit "iffy". Damage to front suspension seems light.

1040-1045- Consider changing out of expensive new shirt before changing oil. Decide I will not. I will just be careful.

1045-1100- Remove old filter, remove drain plug, remove oil that splashed in eyes with shirt. Replace drain plug.

1100-1115- Try to fit dented filter. It will not fit.

1115-1130 Try to remove dent from filter, fail, after damaging filter mating surface.

1130-1140 Curse and throw dented filter into woods.

1140-1200 Worry about tree hugging neighbors, retrieve unused, dented, damaged oil filter from the woods.

1200-1230 Get new filter.

1230-1245 Install new filter.

1245-1:00 Try to pour in oil with truck up on ramps. Cannot reach it. Fall off trash can I was trying to stand on.

1:00-1:15 Apply ace wrap to ankle.

1:15-1:20 Since engine has no oil, push truck off ramp by pushing on door frame with door open.

1:20-1:21 Open door catches on wood bin. Heavy crumpling and crunching noises.

1:22-1:30 Fill motor with new oil. Spill a small amount of oil on manifold, smoke is not too bad.

1:30-2:00 Stop and go see what SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED wants. She seems concerned about a smoky, burning odor. I sniff. I can smell nothing, as the odor of smoke off the hot manifold has desensitized my nose.

2:00-2:15 Examine truck door. It seems not to close properly. Careful examination shows large dent blocking closure.

2:15-3:00 Search for my auto body dollies and hammers. Cannot find them.

3:00-3:20 Beat door with large Crescent wrench till the damn thing

closes.

3:20-4:00 Pour waste oil in waste oil can. It is just a little over-full, spill oil over driveway.

4:00-4:20 Go see what SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED wants. She has observed spilled oil on driveway.

4:20-4:40 Clean up spilled oil.

4:40-5:00 Put away tools. I am tired, so I stand at the cellar door and throw them down the stairs. Hear crunching sound. Decide not to investigate, close cellar door.

Examining this record, decide that there is a productivity problem that can only be solved by new capital investment. Clearly need new ramps and stepladder.

**SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED** suggests coupon for “Jiffy Lube”.

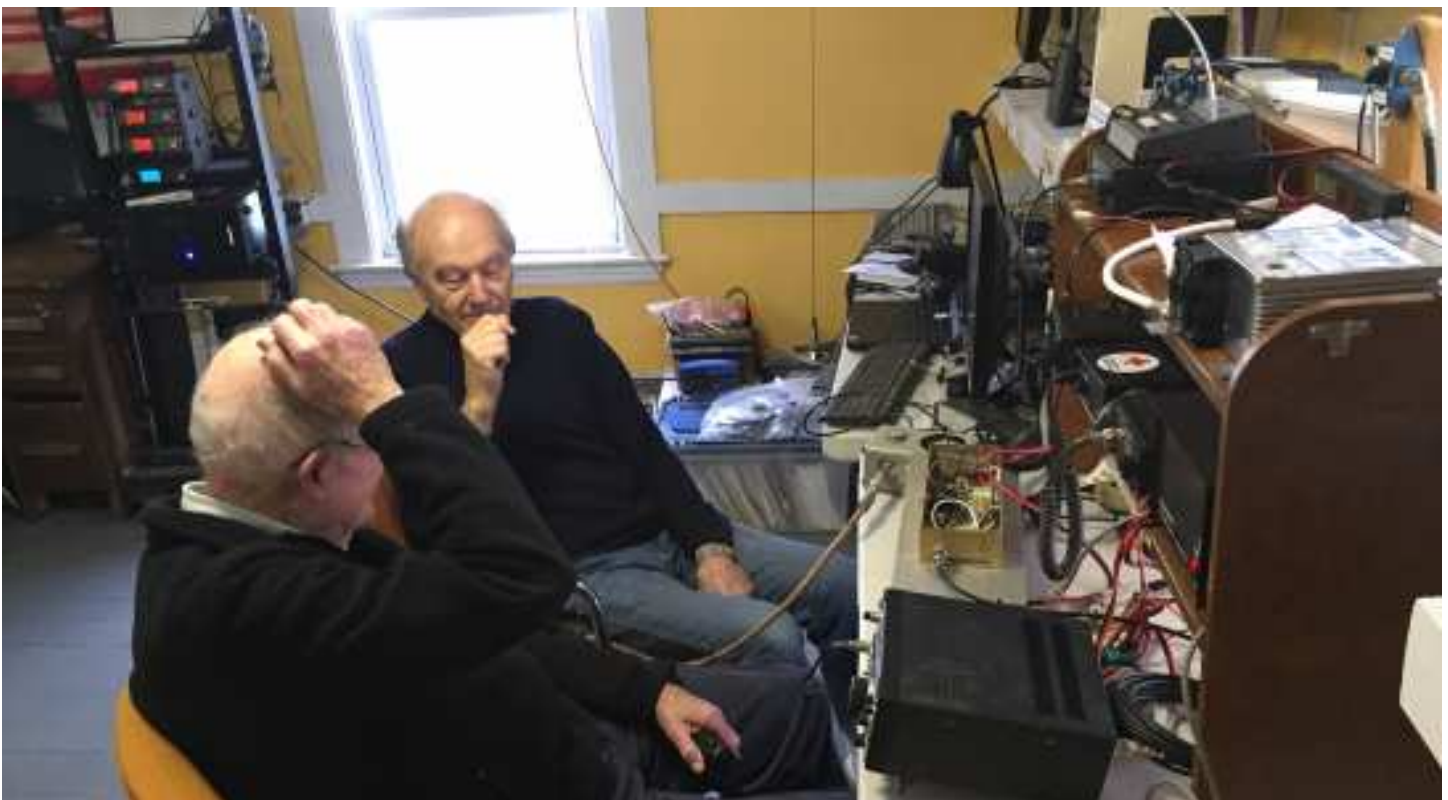
She just doesn’t understand.

**BEHIND THE SCENES-** Things just do not fix themselves! It takes a lot of volunteers to keep your clubhouse and equipment in top operating condition. Consider volunteering! We have unfinished painting projects, carpentry projects, radio testing, and on and on.....



Above: Special thanks to Larry- AJ1Z who has reworked our unreliable Echolink system with a new interface that seems to be working fine on two meters.

Below: Ernst-KD1JQ and Bill- W1OKD scratching heads and trying to figure out why the 440 amplifier is not working.





## **What is ARRL Field Day?**

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

## **What is the ARRL?**

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 171,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

## **What is Amateur Radio**

Often called “ham radio,” the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it’s grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications

**PHOTO ON RIGHT-TRIVIA:** Joe Perry modeling Field Day T-shirt he screen printed using KD1NA- Dave’s son graphic design



technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things.

For More Information visit: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

## **Dayton Hamvention General Chairman Believes 2016 Attendance Was Up Slightly**

Recapping Dayton **Hamvention**® 2016, Jim Tiderman, N8IDS, who has served as general chairman of the event for the past 2 years, said attendance this year may have been up slightly from 2015. Tiderman, who now passes the baton to a new general chairman — Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ — said he feels the 2016 show, overall, went well.

“In my humble opinion, it went smoother than we had a right to think it could,” Tiderman told ARRL. “The credit for that happening — this year and last — goes to our volunteer base and returning committee chairs, who get their talents in gear and go for it.” He said each year’s innovations feed into the vision that guides the next Hamvention administration, which Cramer will head after serving with Tiderman as assistant general chairman for the past 2 years.

## **Signal Bounced from ISS Heard Across the Atlantic**

[UPDATED 2016-06-01 @ 1955 UTC] A 2 meter signal from the UK, reflected off the structure of the International Space Station (ISS) on May 2, was heard across the Atlantic. Following 2 weeks of preparation, Tim Fern, G4LOH, in Cornwall

(IO70jc) and Roger Sturtevant, VE1SKY, in Nova Scotia (FN74iu) attempted a FSK441 contact.

Employing AMSAT satellite software, both stations aimed at the calculated grid HO11nl for a 144.175 MHz contact attempt with a mutual window of less than 1 minute. VE1SKY was able to copy G4LOH at a distance of 4441 kilometers (approximately 2753 miles). This was the first signal received via ISS bounce from Europe to North America, and the first *intentional* signal heard via ISS reflection in any direction across the North or South Atlantic.

The reception is being verified as a possible DX record for satellite reflection.

Transmitting in CW, Fern, operating as GK4LOH, has since been received twice in the much-closer GN37 grid by VO1HP at VO1FN in Newfoundland.

In 2014, RSGB VHF Manager John Regnault, G4SWX, **received** a 2 meter signal from VC1T, where a team, was trying to win the Brendan Trophy for the first transatlantic contact on 144 MHz. Upon investigation, it was determined that the VC1T FSK441 signal that G4SWX heard had also bounced off the ISS rather than via terrestrial propagation and would not qualify for the Brendan Trophy, offered by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society ([IRTS](http://www.irts.ie)). The Brendan Trophy will recognize the first “traditional mode”

two-way contact (ie, SSB or CW) capable of being copied without machine assistance.

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## **ARRL Reaches Agreement with Community Associations Institute on Parity Act**

After 2-1/2 months of intense negotiations, ARRL has reached an agreement with the Community Associations Institute (CAI) — the national association of homeowners associations — concerning amended language of the **Amateur Radio Parity Act**. This will allow H.R. 1301 to proceed to what is hoped will be passage of the bill in both houses of Congress this year.

“We express support for H.R. 1301, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, as proposed to be amended,” the CAI statement said.

ARRL, working with CAI and Congressional staff, agreed on an amended bill that would allow every amateur living in a deed-restricted community the ability to install an effective outdoor antenna.

“We are pleased with the agreement with CAI over new proposed language in the legislation, and thank CAI and the Congressional staffers who helped make this happen.”