

CAARA NEWS



Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
Gloucester, Massachusetts
JUNE 2022 EDITION



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Brandon- NQ1W

Dear Members,

Let me start off this letter by first welcoming our new members. Some are brand new; some from education and training; some from the net; and even some old members are returning to CAARA. I welcome you all! We have a fun summer season ahead, and I'm glad you are with us to share it.

It was nice seeing so many of you at NEARFest in April. Kevin K1KL and I bumped into none other than Fred and Anita Kemmerer of the ARRL up there. They gave us some great advice on how to apply for some of the half million dollars in grant funding the ARRL has for qualified clubs. Our proposal will be for improving teaching and demonstration at the clubhouse and expanding our outreach into the non-ham community. More to come on this in the next few months.

There are a number of exciting existing projects underway at CAARA right now both technical and social. Our board member Neil has been working on upgraded linking functionality on our 2m repeater to reduce latency and improve reliability for remote operators. We are super eager to try out the new and improved system - thanks Neil!

On the social side, we have TWO big outdoor events happening. By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have had our dry run at Hospital Hill in Rockport for field day operations. It will help us get a feel for what operating conditions will be like for the big event - ARRL field day 2022 (4th weekend in June).

I want to thank all of you who keep us going with your in-person support at Special Events. The club has already run several road races this season. Especially exciting is the announcement that we are taking on the Gloucester Horribles Parade in July! Thank you so



much to those of you who dedicate your time to make these events a success. The club benefits greatly from the exposure and experience of running these events, and we couldn't do it without you.

There are many ways in which you can get involved with CAARA to experience Ham radio and the satisfaction of community service. Whether it be mentoring new hams, training, running emergency comms for special events or net control for nightly nets on the repeater, there are so many ways for you to share the fun of the hobby and the satisfaction of helping others with your skills. I hope you will join us!

Regards and Happy Summer! 73,

Brandon NQ1W

THE EMCOMM MINUTE

By Dean- KB1PGH

Well before I forget here's a reminder that the annual ARRL Field Day event is coming up on the last weekend of this month. Field day started in the 1930's and over 30,000 people participate in it each year. It will start on Saturday afternoon on the 25th of June and will run for 24 hours straight until Sunday afternoon on the 26th.

The ARRL Field day event can be a lot of things to a lot of people. Some people turn it into a contest to get the most points and others like to turn it into a social event and clubs use it for public relations with "Get on the air" stations for the public who don't have licenses. For members of ARRL ARES it can be used for a emergency communications exercise.

Field Day is a excellent format to make sure all of your emergency communications gear is ready for action. You can test your emergency power such as batteries, generators and solar power to see if they are up to snuff. You can test out all of your portable antennas to see how they work and the SWR. I have a Buddipole antenna so I always like to see how it works in different

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Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
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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 jpcrockport@gmail.com . 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 443.700 repeater is now on the ATT cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex with greatly enhanced performance running in fusion mode and linked to 10 other repeaters in the New England area.

The Association is one of the few amateur radioclubs that has its own clubhouse. Located at 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester, with a variety of HF stations with beam, vertical, or G5RV antennas.

Amateur radio exams are held on REQUEST at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. Currently pre-registration is necessary. Contact the head of our VE team Bill Poulin- WZ1L if you have any questions about monthly testing.

Monthly member meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at noon except for July and August.

Each Sunday evening at 9:00 PM, the club operates a 2 meter fm 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.

The club is open every Tuesday from 5- 8PM for CAARA members to stop by and socialize, as well as use the extensive collection of ham radio gear.



configurations. Plus field day gives us a chance to see how all the rest of our gear works if ARES was ever deployed. There are exercise too on how to pass along and receive message traffic. Practicing and drilling and constantly testing equipment is a important part of being ready for emergency communications. Oh,by the way, if you can try to get on 6 meters SSB , "the magic band". You willnever know how band conditions will be on there.



Plus if your a technician class ham you can use the 10 meter band for field day as well, while your at it ,don't forget to monitor and try out the 2 meter simplex frequency of 145.520 MHZ.I've made some interesting contacts on just a HT. Since I am busy with work and home and a son I don't have much time to play ham radio so the Field day event is important for me to shake off the rust and relearn how to play ham radio. So no matter how you do "Field Day" please remember to get out there and to have fun. Don't make it too much work. So moving on, I thought for the next two months I would show you my to ARES "Go Boxes" that I have.

This month I will show you the contents of my HT/Scanner go box. As a members of ARES if we are called out to deploy at different locations to set up nets for communications one has to think of what to bring in short amount of time. These boxes can also be used to any public service events that you might be doing. So in the first photo I have everything in a Harbor freight Apache 3800 case. I highly recommend these

cases as a low cost alternative to the Pelican cases. As you can see in the next photo I have everything laid out in the box.

I have a Yaesu FT1XD dual band HT for communications along with a Uniden Bearcat BCD 325 P2 digital scanner to monitor public safety frequencies. In the case I have a couple of extra batteries for the HT and spare batteries for the scanner as well as charging devices for them. I also have the manuals as well for both radios. I also put in a battery bank for my cellphone along with a stand for it. I also have a NEBO flashlight and 2 longer antennas for better reception. I just thought of what if I were going to deploy somewhere for a few hours and what would I need to support the HT and the



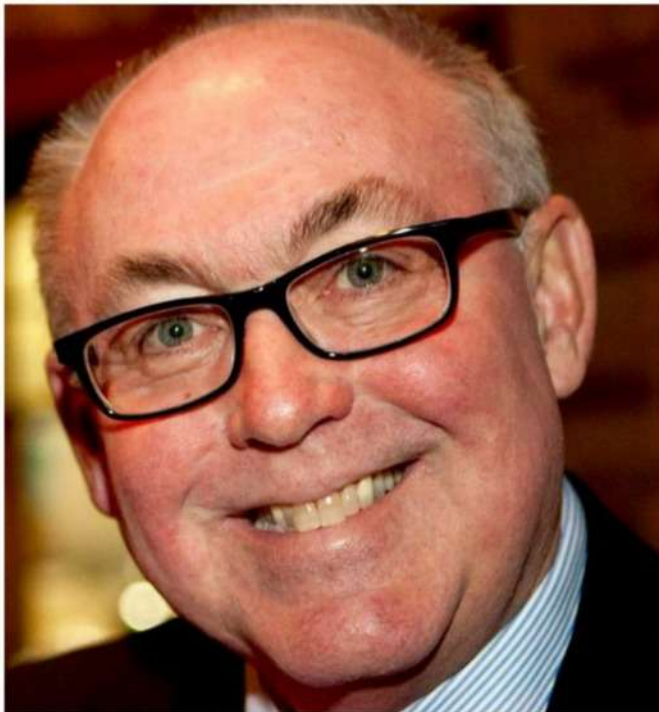
scanner for that amount of time. I just thought that I should throw in at least a good pen and a little notepad as well.

So next month I will show you what I put together for a complete VHF/UHF mobile portable system.

73 and have fun with the ARRL Field day event!

Dean

WELCOME PAUL



I'm Paul Doherty KC1HHK

As the Wednesday night net control for the 6 OCLOCK NET, on the CAARA 145.130 repeater, I want to introduce myself to the membership and invite those who have not checked in to fire up the rig and do so. We have a couple of topics up for discussion every night, we meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights at 6PM.

My connection with CAARA goes back to the "tech in a day" program in April 2017. I am so happy that I took advantage of the program that launched me into the hobby of Ham Radio.

I reside in Quincy, MA and have a modest shack set up commensurate with my amateur status.

I look forward to talking with you on the net!

Ham radio antenna bill to be paid from 911 budget

WTVB AM reports on Commissioners discussions concerning the payment of a \$4,900 bill for moving amateur radio antennas in Coldwater, Michigan

The Branch County Board of Commissioners decided during their work session on Monday to bring forward a bill for over \$4,900 for the moving of a ham radio club antenna as part of the Enhanced 911 Project

But they also decided that if they formally approve the bill during their regular meeting on Tuesday, the money would come out of the 911 budget instead of from the budget for the project.

The antenna was moved to the new jail tower from the Central Dispatch building just west of Coldwater by J and K Communications.

County Administrator Bud Norman tried to explain why there has been some confusion about the bill.

During severe weather, the amateur ham radio club provides weather spotters and information to the emergency operations center.

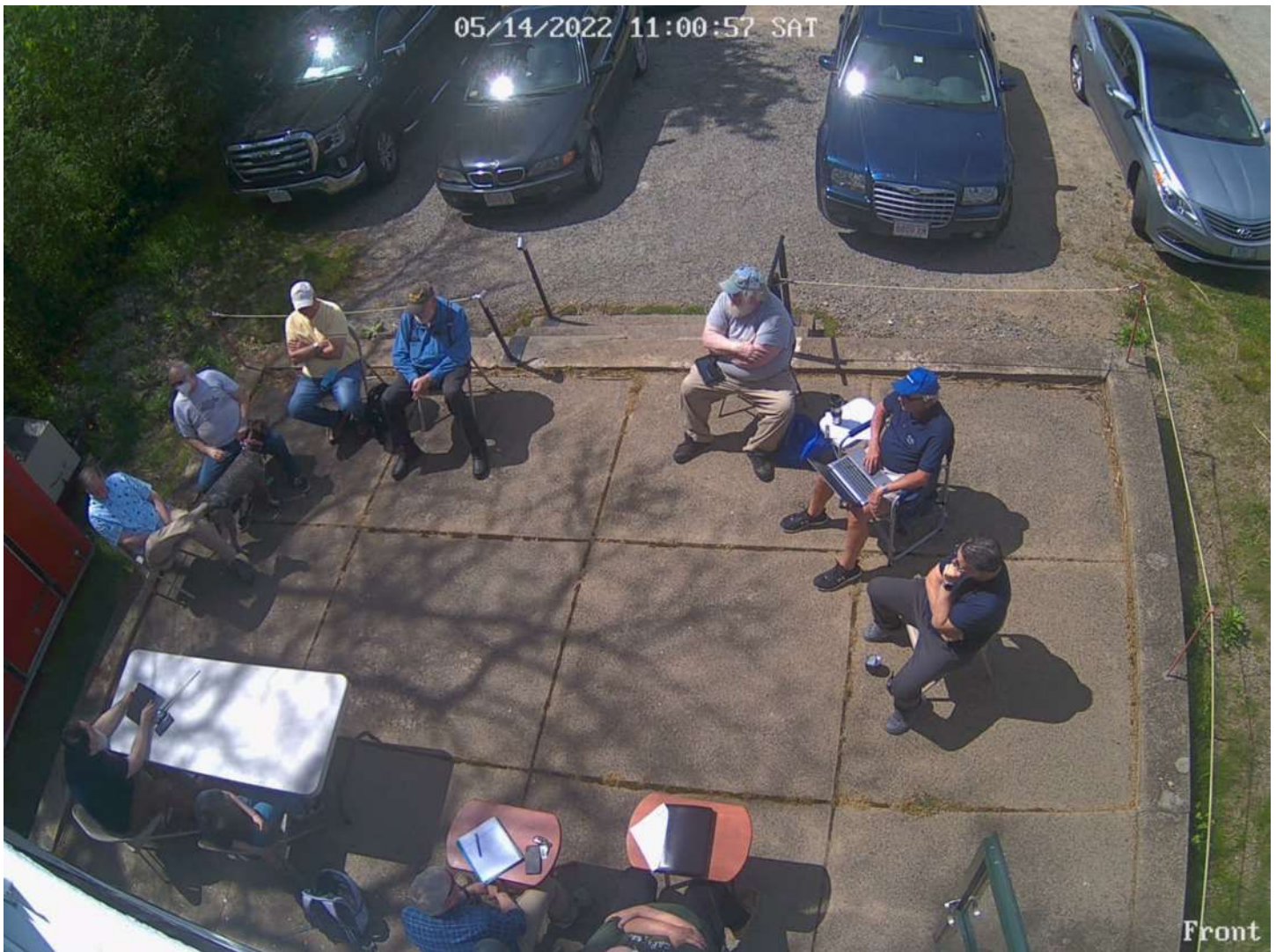
An ARRL Youth Outreach forum at Hamvention highlighted resources and ideas for attracting and developing young hams and is available on YouTube

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, led the crowd of attendees through a highly interactive session discussing strategies, tools, and reasons for engaging youth. Centered around the theme of 'How and Why to Engage Youth in Amateur Radio,' forum attendees participated in discussion groups and shared their findings throughout the forum. The entire presentation was recorded by Josh Nass, KI6NAZ.

Watch Amateur Radio Youth Outreach: The Why And How - ARRL Education & Learning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZco6tElKBc>

MAY BOARD MEETING



The May Board meeting was held out on the patio of the clubhouse. The weather was decent and with a surge in Covid cases, Brandon, CAARA President, wanted to be safe and not to meet inside the building

A good part of the meeting was spent finalizing plans for Field Day, thanks to Tony from Andover who lead the conversation. Tony covered the rule changes and we decided upon using the same location as last. Jon has received permission from the Selectman to use Hospital Hill at the top of Summit Avenue in Rockport again this year. It is a nice spot with plenty of space to park, cookout, setup antennas and individual stations. We had a nice turnout last year .

In other business, members who have not paid their dues will be dropped from the membership list and new members were approved.

A portable ops date was set for May 29 at Hospital Hill, a prelude to Field Day. All are welcome, stop by, say hi and have a hot dog on us....

CAARA Public Service



TWIN LIGHTS
HALF MARATHON

May 1, 2022
Gloucester,
MA



CAARA provided health and wellness communications during this race. Thanks to: START & FINISH- Fred WA1ESU, CP 1 - Ken KC1FFA, CP 2 -Rick KB1LYJ, CP 3 - Kathy KB1LPW- CP 4 , Kevin K1KL- CP 5 - Ron N1RJB, Lead - Matt KC1AEI, Tail -Dan K1DSL, NET CONTROL - Bill W1WMM

Foundations of Amateur Radio

When should I go on air?

When you obtain your license there's a whole lot of learning to be had before you even get started with your first transmission, but when you get there you'll discover that learning has just begun and the rest of your life will be beset with challenges, quests, discovery and dawning understanding.

One of the early and recurring questions is around the best time to be on air. Before I get into the why, the answer is, right now.

This interminable question will continue to haunt you throughout your life, and the most pressing answer will be shaped around the missed opportunity. You'll discover tools that assist with predicting propagation, web-sites that explain what the various layers of the ionosphere do and how they affect your ability to use radio to make contact with other amateurs.

There's learned discussion around testing and tracking propagation, special modes that help create your own maps for your own station and you'll discover an endless supply of experts who will advise you when you should power up your transceiver and call CQ.

Whilst I've only been an amateur for a short time. In the decade to date I've learnt one thing about propagation. Despite all the tools, the discussion, the maps and forecasts, there is no substitute for actually getting on air and making noise. Over the past while I've been watching the propagation from my own shack using a 200 milliwatt beacon and I've discovered that running 24 hours a day, every day, well, almost every day, my signal gets to places far beyond my wildest dreams.

I have also discovered trends. That is, the average distance of the signal reports is increasing over time. This isn't a linear thing, not even a recurring thing, much like the ebb and flow of the tides, varying from day to day, a little bit at a time, inexorably making your shoes wet when you least expect it. While to some extent we've tamed the prediction of the tides with complex and interrelated cycles, discovered by using Fourier transforms, we're no-where near achieving this level of sophistication for the ionosphere and its associated propagation.

Just like predicting a specific wave is still beyond the capabilities of a tide table, predicting the ability of a radio wave to make it from your antenna to that of another amateur is beyond any tool we have today.

Another way to look at predicting the complexity associated with the ionosphere is comparing it to weather forecasting. We have national forecasting bodies, with millions of sensors, super computing cycles that dwarf most other research, a global network of satellite sensors, roughly a quarter of which have some form of earth sensing capability, transmitting terrabytes of data every day and still we cannot determine where on Earth it's going to rain tomorrow.

The ionosphere, whilst it's being monitored, is not nearly as well resourced. It's not nearly as visible to the average person as the packing of an umbrella and the political perception of need is nowhere near as urgent as getting the weather right.

So, absent accurate forecasting, finding a better way to determine when to get on air is required. That said, I've discovered that regret is the biggest motivator to get on air. The day after a contest when a friend made a contact with an amazing station, or the lunch break where I didn't power the radio on to discover a random opening to a clamouring horde of calls looking to make contact.

So, my best advice to you is to get on air whenever you can. You might not make a contact every time, but you'll discover what the bands look like right now and you'll have the chance of hitting the jackpot with a rare contact and truth be told, I think your chances of making a contact are higher than winning the lottery.

When you do take that step, you'll start discovering the ebb and flow of the bands, discover the characteristic sound that each band makes and what a band sounds like when it's open and when it's not. You'll hear stations far and wide, discover that while there are trends in propagation, there are no rules. From one moment to the next, you'll discover the thrill of hearing something unexpected.

One thing to consider, if you get on air for the sole purpose to make contacts, you're likely going to be disappointed. It's like fishing. Most people don't get up at some crazy hour, sit on a damp jetty, freezing parts of their anatomy off for the sole purpose of catching fish.

So, get on air and make some noise, today.

What are the rules for calling CQ on a repeater?

When you finally get to the point of pushing the talk button on your microphone, after passing the test, receiving your license, getting your radio, building an antenna, digesting the manual, identifying a repeater, untangling its offset, programming those frequencies and keying up, you might be surprised to realise that you're lost for words. Something which I've talked about before.

Even if you do have something to say, finding a person to say it to will be the next big challenge. Truth be told, the more frequencies you have to choose from, the harder it seems to discover a fellow amateur and with Internet connected repeater networks, your choice appears infinite.

So, how do you initiate communication on a repeater? Do you call CQ, ask for a signal check, or just kerplunk the repeater to prove that your signal is getting in?

The very first thing to remember is that you have the exact same rights as every other amateur. No amateur is above any other, though hearing some conversations or responses might give you a different impression.

Before you embark on a long speech, what you need to remember is that your ability to receive is not usually the same as your ability to transmit. If you're using a low-powered hand held radio that's tuned to a local repeater, you might be comparing your little stubby antenna, inside your home, held at an angle, with that of a high power repeater, with a high-gain antenna bolted to a tower installed on the top of a hill. In other words, you can hear the repeater much better than it can hear you.

You'll quickly observe that there are amateurs about who have their radio on all day long and they'll often hear every single transmission that hits the local repeater and even random frequencies. Sometimes this means that you'll have a great friend to talk to, other times it means that you'll have a local troll who in their not so humble opinion determines what is permitted and what's not.

So, to get things rolling, you should follow the KISS principle, an aim championed by the lead engineer of the Lockheed Skunk Works in 1960, Kelly Johnson, "Keep it simple stupid."

With keeping things simple, there is a fierce and ongoing debate around the use of the phonetic alphabet on a repeater. With the benefit of experience, having run a

weekly radio net for over a decade I'm going to be blunt. When you're identifying yourself to the rest of the community, always use phonetics. Only if you've been acknowledged and you're part of the conversation should you even consider dropping your phonetic callsign.

The reason is that your first transmissions will be regularly interrupted by others since they're having a conversation and you'll be butting in. Even if a net controller asks for check-ins, you should use phonetics, since you might not be the only one who keys up at the same time. If you and the controller have known each other for years and they recognise your voice, you could consider dropping the phonetics, but don't expect everyone to know who you are from a single letter getting through. Some people are better at this than others.

Whatever you do, don't barge in with a whole story until you've been acknowledged and the microphone has been handed to you. After all, this is a public shared space.

The next thing to consider is the audience you're talking to. If the repeater is just local, then the people within range are likely to expect your prefix and know who you are, so just your call might suffice, but if you connect to a network, that's not likely to be true. If you want to actually talk to anyone, you can call CQ, but if you just want to let people know you're there, you can say your callsign followed by the word "listening".

If you want to speak with a specific individual on the other hand, you can call them using their phonetic callsign, either with or without the CQ. Also consider they might be on the other side of their shack working hard at attempts to avoid sniffing solder fumes and take a moment to get to the microphone.

In other words, what you say on your repeater depends on what result you want and who else is there. Sometimes there will be a mismatch between the two, just saying your callsign might initiate an hour long conversation, and calling CQ might give you the local troll telling you to go away.

Don't let that dissuade you. Even with years of practice, sometimes the results are unexpected.

Talking on a repeater is like being invited to a party. There are going to be people you know, people you want to know and people you never want to meet again.

So, be considerate, listen more than you talk and be deliberate in your intentions and you'll be fine. Youth Forum at Hamvention

ANTS

by Curtis-AA3JE

Spring sprang with a vengeance up in the northland here. We went from 3 inches of snow to sunny and 80 degrees in two days. I awoke to blue skies, bright yellow sun, and ants.



Ants are a valuable part of the ecosystem in the woods up here. They nest in the rotten hearts of post-mature trees, and make nesting sites, warm winter dens, and a walking buffet for multiple birds, rodents, and amphibians. Ants love the woods.

They also drive my wife wild!

When spring comes, ant nests send out their strongest workers on long forages, looking for food sources. Each ant makes a trail, using scent, for others to follow. Some of those ants find their way into the house, and when they do.....

“ANT! THERE’S AN ANT! COME QUICK! GET IT, GET IT, GET IT!”

Now there are multiple ways to deal with this. The basic squish works, but my wife bought a BUG VAC, that sucks the critters into an electric grid that fries them instantly. It’s quick, possibly painful, and (if you have a husband), easy to clean out the barbecued waste.

Tired of getting up to fry an ant, I went to my local expert for advice. My neighbor has lived here all his life.

“Got a lot of ants, right now,” I said.

“Yeah, every spring.”

“Who do you recommend as an exterminator?”

There was a cold, painful silence. I had obviously transgressed. The culture up here is rather self reliant.

No one hires anybody for anything if it can be avoided.

“Go to Tractor Stuff. That’s where I go.”

Covid has hurt the local Tractor Stuff Store, as the new hires tend to not know their stock. I went during the week when Mabel was on duty.

“What is it this time?” said Mable. She knows me. Respect? NO. Know? YES.

“Ants.”

“Ants in the barn, ants in the house, ants in the pantry? Which ants?”

“Ants in the living room.”

“I just step on them like this,” she demonstrated.

“How do I keep them out of the house?” I asked.

“Direct contact sprays, barrier sprays, and bait granules.”



Twenty minutes and \$145 later I had a robust variety of ant products. Contact sprays kill ants on contact. Barrier sprays kill ants on their way in, and baits are taken back to the nest and

shared in a sort of Jim Jones celebration.

I prowled the perimeter, made bait stations, sprayed, dusted, sucked and stomped. Two weeks later it was all over. Turns out that ants colonies don’t waste time investigating areas where there is no food. So if your pantry is kept properly, they give you a pass. So I added ant season to mud season as another thing to adjust to up here.

In the meantime, I just have to keep the bug sucker charged.....

“ANT!”

Top Ten Steps for Successful Portable QRP Operation:

1. Propagation and Band Activity.

When you operate QRP portable you want to work as many people as possible so the band conditions must be good.

This means that you have to keep track of the propagation conditions before planning an operation. I check the DX Cluster or RBN's for activity.

Before I pick a date to operate, I monitor the bands at the same time that I plan to operate. The Absorption Index is also a key factor, I never operate when the "A" Index is above 10, Which is probably mRadio stations 'Trenton Military' (15034 kHz) or 'CHU' (14670 kHz) for 20-meter propagation checks are good for real time propagation.

Coastal stations might use WWV/WWVH.

20 meters is best for daytime country wide propagation.

40 and 80 meters are good for nighttime operation.

I always try to avoid contests and other busy periods. Checking the QST Contest Calendar helps to ensure the band is going to be clear.

Check your desired frequency in advance, you don't want to pick a frequency that is used for nets, traffic handling or RTTY.. Weather Conditions

2. The weather forecasting is really good these days, so this is easy.

Try <http://www.wunderground.com/>

I look for warm temperatures and no wind.

Check your local web cam. Even Pikes Peak has a weather station and a Panoramic HD web cam.

See <http://www.springsgov.com/units/pikespeak/index.asp>

3. Honey Doo Items.

Always check the XYL's honey doo list and make sure you are clear for the day and have a happy home coming.

4. Location and Road Conditions.

National Parks or State Parks are great places to operate from: <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm>, If you are an Old Timer you can get a lifetime Pass.

Always check the road and site conditions before going out in the field.

You don't want to drive hundreds of miles to find out that the Capulin Volcano Road is closed by snow. Canyon roads can have snow or land slides,

Even Pikes Peak can be closed or have a delayed opening and prevent you from getting to your desired operating location on time.

Pick an open space operating site, canyons are not good for QRP operating.

You might need trees for hanging an antenna or if you are going to operate Pedestrian Mobile with a whip you will want to find trails that don't have a lot of over hanging antenna eating branches.

5. Equipment Readiness

You need to check out your equipment right before you head out to your operating site.



This prevents leaving behind some critical item.

Needless to say, you should have your antenna all pre-tuned before you leave.

My radio is always mounted to a backpack and is always ready to go.

The Lilon battery is always charged but I always take a spare.

I just need to put the backpack into the car, with the antenna and counterpoise.

The accessories are also checked: microphone, earphones, key, SWR meter, pen, log, watch, hat, gloves, coat, etc.

Make an equipment checklist.

It is good to have a spare accessory batteries (9V), a spare radio and duct tape for contingencies.

6. Vittles

I take water, lunch and my VHF HT in a fanny pack.

7. Operating Announcements:

I try to post my operations on the reflectors a day before the operation.

When you post too far in advance, people forget and when you post right before the operation, some people don't get the notice until after you are finished.

I always try to be on my exact posted frequency (or alternate) at the exact time so people don't get stood up.

Posting your operating times gives you more Q's. It is no fun running your battery down calling CQ with no responses.

QRPspots, HFnow, QRP-L, qrpARCI, SOTA Spots are good places to list your operation, as appropriate.

Post your schedule in GMT (Universal Time/Zulu time) as well as your local time.

Also post details about your operating location, links to pictures, trail maps, QSL Information, will be helpful, etc.

8. Prep Your Vehicle

Put gas in your tank!

9. Initial set up:

When I arrive at my operating site, I set up my rig, attach the antenna, and check power and my operating frequency.

When operating Pedestrian Mobile, I tune my whip and dragwire, put on my backpack and I am ready for the trail.

10. Safety

Always be prepared for adverse conditions.

You might need rain gear, snake proof boots, etc.

Always give someone your travel plans. Take your cell phone or an HT that will hit a repeater.

For more detailed Pedestrian Mobile information get

WA3WSJ's Amateur Radio Pedestrian Mobile Radio Handbook.

See <http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/amateur-radio-pedestrian-mobile-handbook/16364181>



PRE- FIELD DAY EVENT



What a great day we had at Hospital Hill in Rockport on Sunday, May 29th. The club received permission to use the field and over 16 members and friends arrived for a day of portable ops and fun. Everyone was using battery power which sounds like the way to go this coming Field Day in June, no noise or rf interference. There was quite a collection for different radios and antennas. We need more events like this!

Amateur Radio Newsline Report

HAMVENTION RETURNS TO XENIA AFTER TWO-YEAR ABSENCE

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: This week's newscast offers expanded coverage of the first Hamvention to be held in the United States after two years of pandemic cancellations. Paul Braun WD9GCO was among those there - and he gives us a wrap-up of the weekend.

PAUL: Thousands of hams once again converged on the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio as Hamvention returned after a two-year absence due to COVID-19. Judging by reports from attendees, people were definitely ready to come back. The weather was typical for Hamvention, and a storm did come through late on Saturday, but anyone who's been to Hamvention knows that rain is nothing unusual.

The Hamvention committee, along with all of the volunteers from the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, planned a full schedule of events and forums that were well-attended. The vendor buildings were fairly full, with a few noticeable vendors from years past absent, but those that did set up had, by all accounts, a good amount of traffic.

The legendary Hamvention flea market did seem slower than in recent years according to eyewitnesses. However, with the threat of storms and the still-uncertain COVID conditions, coupled with higher-than usual gas prices, it didn't seem out of line.

There were also many offsite events, including open houses at DARA and the National Voice Of America Museum of Broadcasting.

Our congratulations to the Hamvention Committee and all of the DARA volunteers on a job well done. It was good to see Hamvention return, and we at Newsline hope to return to Hamvention next year.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Paul Braun, WD9GCO reporting from Xenia, Ohio.

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CQ MAGAZINE INDUCTS 2022 HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: The annual Dayton contest dinner held during the Hamvention weekend on May

21st saw the induction of two new members into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame. Recipient David Pascoe, KM3T, is well-known for his championships and record scores as well as his charitable work as a volunteer pilot for those with medical needs. Craig Thompson, K9CT, developer of the North American Collegiate Championship program, was the other recipient, recognized for his work with Contest University and numerous other initiatives. CQ's Amateur Radio Hall of Fame added seven new names, three of whom are Silent Keys. They are the late jazz pianist Robert Ringwald, K6YBV; Franklin Antonio, N6NKF, philanthropist and cofounder of chipmaker Qualcomm; and Wolf Harranth, OE1WHC/OE3WHC, Radio Austria International broadcast journalist. The other inductees are R. Scott Wright, KØMD, Mayo Clinic physician leading the team developing COVID-19 treatment with convalescent plasma; Peter Marks, AB3XC, the physician leading the team at the US Food and Drug Administration overseeing COVID-19 vaccines, treatment and testing; Les Kramer, WA3SGZ, developer of prosthetic devices for lower limbs and Roy Lewallan, W7EL, author of the EZNEC antenna modelling software that has set standards for ham radio antenna design.

(SOUTHGATE, CQ MAGAZINE)

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A NEW CHAPTER FOR LIBRARIES ON THE AIR

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Elsewhere in Ohio, amateurs have been gearing up to activate a place known mostly for offering study and quiet contemplation: the local public library. Jack Parker W8ISH tells us about this upcoming event.

JACK: Now here's one for the books - in this case, the library books as well as the log books. It's an activation by the Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club called Libraries on the Air. It's happening on Saturday, June 18th at the Youngstown Public Library Main Branch in Ohio. This first-time activation is inspired in part by the working relationship the hams already have with the county library system, which has been hosting the club's holding workshops, license classes and testing sessions.

Just like any popular library book, this event has started to go into circulation. Amanda Farone,

KC3GFU, the club's secretary, told Newsline that a club in Missouri plans to participate on the same day and activate one of their local libraries. There's also been interest from a club in Kentucky. Amanda told Newsline: [quote] "We would love for this to go nationwide at some point and get as many libraries activated as possible." [endquote]

Amanda said the event is being run in a style similar to Parks on the Air but for now, paper logs and Excel-type spreadsheets are being accepted until a logging software can be developed in time for next year's event. Amanda said that if the event gains enough traction, the club's activation can expand beyond the main branch to all 11 libraries in the county. Hams will be on the air from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. local time. You won't need to carry a library card but keep those QSL cards handy.

For additional details, send an email to librariesota@gmail.com (librariesota@gmail.com)

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jack Parker W8ISH.

(AMANDA FARONE, KC3GFU)

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SILENT KEY: NOTED SELLER OF ELECTRONICS SURPLUS GOODS JOHN BIRKETT, G8OPP

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: A name well-known for decades to radio enthusiasts in Great Britain has become a Silent Key. We hear about his remarkable life and career from Jeremy Boot G4NJH.

JEREMY: Radio components of every kind imaginable were a speciality for John Birkett G8OPP who opened his first shop, J Birkett, in Lincoln in 1960. With that small business, John served subsequent generations of radio enthusiasts, supplying hard-to-find components and surplus equipment, everything from military and test devices to wire and cables. John was also a friendly, familiar face at radio rallies where he became a much-sought-out attendee.

John became a Silent Key at the age of 93 on 30th April. His death was recently reported on a number of ham radio news sites. His obituary on the website of the Radio Society of Great Britain recalled how his shop evolved into more than a collection of

components and equipment; it was a gathering spot for those who shared the bond of radio and the spirit of experimentation and creativity. His motto was "not a piece of junk in sight."

A post dated 20th May on the website Hackaday paid tribute to what was ultimately the worldwide presence of this very local shop: [quote] "Though many of you from beyond where this is being written may never have heard of him, the chances are that if you follow electronics enthusiasts from the UK, you will have unwittingly seen items which passed through his hands." [endquote]

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Jeremy Boot G4NJH.**

SILENT KEY: RICHARD MACKAY VK2HRM, HAM CLUB FOUNDING PRESIDENT

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: One of the architects of the Snowy Mountains Amateur Radio Club in New South Wales, Australia, has become a Silent Key. With that report, here's Jason Daniels VK2LAW.

JASON: Richard MacKay VK2HRM didn't just help bring the Snowy Mountains Amateur Radio Club into being in the early 2000s; he served as its president to shepherd it through its earliest days. The New South Wales amateur, whose love of radio was ignited by his earliest adventures on citizens band, became a Silent Key on the 4th of May.

An appreciation of his life, penned by Bill Steptoe, VK2ZZF, and posted on the club's website, said that Richard, an automotive engineer by profession, was also the guiding force behind the club's VK2RSM repeater systems. The systems operated on 70 cms, 2m and 6 m and had links to repeaters in Jindabyne and Nimmitabel. According to Bill's post about Richard, his health had been failing in recent years and that curtailed his active involvement with the club.

Bill wrote: [quote] "Richard will be greatly missed as a friend and great mate." [endquote]

Richard was 61.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jason Daniels VK2LAW.

(SNOWY MOUNTAINS ARC WEBSITE, MONARO POST)

HEIL REBRANDS AMATEUR RADIO DIVISION

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Heil Sound Communications, well-known in the amateur community and in the world of professional audio, has announced a rebranding of its Ham Radio division. The division website has been redesigned and its product packaging will also have a new look. The company said that after having given a new look to its pro division last year, it realized it was time to overhaul the ham radio side. Heil Sound said in a statement that the changes achieve the goal customers had requested, creating an entity separate from the pro side of the market. The company was established by Bob Heil K9EID decades ago. A change in ownership within the company was announced in February of this year, with Bob staying as CEO emeritus and continuing his involvement in amateur radio product design.

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LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: If you are hearing this report before May 31st, you still have time to nominate a talented young radio amateur for Newsline's Bill Pasternak Memorial Young Ham of the Year Award. Consider sending us the name and qualifications of a licensed radio operator 18 years of age or younger who lives in the continental United States. Find details and application forms on our website arnewsline.org under the "YHOTY" tab. Remember our deadline is May 31st.

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AMATEURS RECEIVE TRANSMISSIONS FROM CHINA'S MARS MISSION

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Almost a year after its launch, China's Mars mission has made contact with hams here on Earth. Ed Durrant DD5LP has those details.

ED: AMSAT-DL reports that it has successfully received transmissions from Tianwen-1, the Chinese Mars mission. According to a recently published report, this took place at Bochum Observatory in Germany using a 20-meter antenna and GNU radio. GNU radio is free open-source software used to create software-defined radios. The report, written by Daniel Estévez EA4GPZ, Mario Lorenz DL5MLO and Peter Gülzow DB2OS, said that the Chinese spacecraft has been successfully tracked using a real-time GNU

radio decoder that has stored 10 months' worth of transmitted telemetry information. By interpreting the telemetry variables, the GNU radio was able to track the mission, which began with its launch on July 23rd of last year.

The paper was first published for GNU Radio Conference 2021 held last September in North Carolina. The radio conference for 2022 is scheduled for September in Washington, D.C.

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SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE HISTORY PROJECT NEEDS HELP

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: History isn't always what it seems and so the South African Radio League is reaching out to amateurs there who may have documents and artifacts that better tell the story of how the league was created. John Williams VK4JJW brings us that story.

JOHN: Amateur radio forever looks forward to the next generation to ensure its survival but the South African Radio League has begun looking back - way back - to better discover its identity. Sorting through the scrapbooks in the garage of a Silent Key has led some league members to conclude there's more to its history than was previously known. That has led to a project at the National Amateur Radio Centre, the league's headquarters, involving a bit of a treasure hunt. Amateurs in South Africa are asked to sort through old magazines and other materials they have that contain insights into the league and its predecessor organisations. Hams are also being asked to look at programmes from past years' annual general meetings as well as photos taken there. The project would welcome original material or anything that can be scanned or photographed or perhaps brought to the National Amateur Radio Centre. If you have anything to share, please contact the centre.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm John Williams VK4JJW.

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SOUTH AFRICAN CLUB SCHEDULES YOUNGSTERS' FOX HUNT

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: While some hams in South Africa may be hot on the trail of radio history, members of the Sandton Amateur Radio Club ZS6STN have been more concerned with tracking two radio foxes named Fred and Fiona. The club has organized a fox-hunting event for amateurs and their families scheduled for Sunday the 29th of May. The foxes are carrying VHF emergency rescue beacons but according to the club's scenario, will be lost in the park and in need for the youngsters to be their rescuers. Participants are asked to bring their HTs, an antenna and oh yes, their appetites for lunch afterward. Hopefully Fred and Fiona will be found in time to share in the menu too.

(SOUTHGATE)

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PRIDE RADIO GROUP PREPS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Get ready for the first international contest being organized by the Pride Radio Group. It's a big moment for this still-young Australia-based organization, as Graham Kemp VK4BB tells us.

GRAHAM: Barely two years after its founding, the Pride Radio Group is hosting its first contest for hams worldwide during pride month, which begins in June. The contest, CQ Pride, will be held from June 4th to June 6th. It is open to amateurs in single and multi-operator categories on all HF non WARC, VHF and UHF bands and using all usual modes.

Organiser Michaela, VK3FUR, said that the Pride Radio Group event is a celebration of diversity within the amateur radio community. Michaela said that small clubs and individual newcomers are especially welcome. Contacts can be on CW, phone and digital and may be made using satellites, repeaters, hotspots and internet links provided RF is involved in at least one hop. Participants may spot other stations but not themselves.

Additional details are available at the link provided in the text version of this week's newscast script at arnewslines.org. (PRIDE RADIO GROUP)

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WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, be listening for special event call sign 9M22DX from West Malaysia between June 1st and the 30th. The activation is designed to promote mountain radio operation as well as DX. Between June 3rd and 5th, this callsign will be used from the Bukit Perangin summit on various HF bands and modes. For the rest of the month, the activation will continue as a DXpedition. QSL to 9M2CDX direct or via ClubLog.

Leonard, K1NU, will be active as K1JV from Shelter Key in Key Colony Beach, Florida between June 11th and 18th. Listen on various HF bands where Leonard will be using CW and FT8. QSL direct to the home call, to ClubLog or via LoTW.

(OHIO PENN DX)

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KICKER: AT HAMVENTION, LOST AND FOUND AGAIN

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: We end this week with a story of one of the unexpected bonuses of going to Hamvention this year. It's not finding a good price on a new rig or antenna or even winning a grand prize at a drawing. It's discovering something - or someone - believed to have been lost long ago. Mike Askins KE5CXP brings us that story now.

MIKE: When the organizers of Hamvention declared it would be a Reunion Weekend this year after two years of pandemic cancellations, they had no idea how true the word "reunion" would ring for two hams in attendance. Shortly after Jocelyn Brault (pronounced "BRO") KD8VRX/VA2VRX and Jeff Menard (MAY NARD) VA2SS were introduced to one another by a mutual friend, Jeff had a flash of recognition and told Jocelyn: [quote] "You look familiar, don't I know you?" [endquote] Jocelyn, who lives in Ohio but is originally from Montreal, didn't think so, especially since Jeff is from Quebec. He was certain Jeff was mistaken. Still, Jeff kept pressing for details as both of them continued talking and it turns out his hunch was right: The pair had known one another a lifetime ago: It was on a campus in Sherbrooke, Quebec, where both had been college students. Jeff and Jocelyn were nearly 30 years younger at the time and neither one had taken that leap yet into amateur radio.

Fast-forward now to the Xenia Fairgrounds, former college friends from Canda reunited in Ohio by amateur radio.

The two exchanged call signs, their contact information and a promise to stay in touch - on and off the air. All it took was the fine-tuning of Hamvention's Reunion Weekend to put two friends back on the same wavelength.



JUNE FIELD DAY

ARRL Field Day on the fourth full weekend of June every year is the opportunity for thousands of amateur radio enthusiasts throughout the U.S and Canada to set up temporary communications stations and make contact with like-minded people. Licensed radio operators (often called “Hams”) spend the weekend practicing community outreach, emergency preparedness, and technical skills. It’s basically radio heaven.

A contest is held each year with individuals, clubs, and teams trying to make contact with as many stations as possible over 24 hours. Field Day will take place on June 25 and June 26 with over 35,00 people expected to take part. It begins at 18:00 UTC Saturday and runs through 20:59 UTC Sunday. Pack your camping equipment, throw up some temporary antennas, and spin the dials on your radio, because this not-to-be-missed event is rich in history, tradition, and technology.

History of ARRL Field Day

The first ARRL Field Day was held on the second Saturday in June 1933. The winner of the contest was the W4PAW team who scored 1876 points. The initial event, organized by F. E Handy, was such a hit with the amateur radio community that it became an annual tradition, with 1942 through to 1945 being the only years that Field Day hasn’t been held, due to World War II.

For many, the big draw of Field Day is the competition—a high-frequency dash to make contact with as many stations as possible. The rules state that if setup commences before the contest starts then participants have 24 hours to chase their contacts, whereas those who commenced set up as the contest started have 27 hours. In 1968 the rules were changed and it became mandatory for everyone to set up within the 27-hour timeframe, but the change proved unpopular and it was readjusted again in 1969 to the rules that are used today.

Each station will exchange information with other participating stations. For the North American Field Day, the exchange consists of the station call sign; the name of the ARRL-recognized section from which the station is operating (called Grid Square); and a class designator which indicates the type of location (whether in a vehicle, outdoors, or in a home), the number of people operating and number of transmitters being used, plus information about the type of electrical power source connected to (conventional or emergency sources like batteries, solar, generator, wind, etc.). The event is now widely sponsored by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and has begun to spread its wings overseas in many countries.

The contest portion of Field Day has two purposes: The primary purpose is to test the group’s ability to plan operations that can be effective for an entire twenty-four-hour period, including operator endurance and adequate numbers of operators for a shift operation. The secondary purpose is to demonstrate the technical proficiency of the station that has been quickly constructed for the contacts: In theory, a better station will be capable of emergency operations in dire conditions; such a station will also be capable of making more contacts during the contest portion of Field Day. Point systems are structured to motivate emergency preparedness activities, such as designating a safety officer for the station or incorporating auxiliary power capabilities.

Although many amateur radio enthusiasts work hard to win the contest in their entry category, the social side of the event has grown over the years too. Camping and cookouts are commonplace, with those operating the radios in rotating shifts to keep the stations on the air.

Field Day is frequently used to attract significant publicity for amateur radio, and some clubs simultaneously demonstrate technologies including single-sideband voice, Morse code, older and new digital modes alike (such as RTTY, PSK31, and FT8, among others), and even two-way communication via amateur radio satellite.

