



# CAARA Newsletter



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

MARCH ISSUE- 2010



## President's Corner

by *Curtis AA3JE*

### March 2010

Well, it was quite a storm at the end of February. I am glad to say that the antennas at 6 Stanwood held up fine, the tower is OK, and all my gear at the home QTH stood up to the elements in their fury.

I did learn some things, and will pass them along.

1. Having a few small DC to AC inverters in the 600 watt range is handy.
2. Having more than one way to get on the Internet is useful.
3. The new fluorescent camping lanterns with extended battery life are GREAT.
4. Consider a UPS for the cordless phone base station and cell phone charging.
5. Know which of your neighbors has a generator and be nice to them.

All of my fancy built in backups failed, but I had all the gear set up with Anderson power poles and hooked up emergency setups in a few minutes.

We were not needed this time (it was warm and power was restored on Saturday), but if it had been a month earlier, we would have been plenty busy at the shelters.

Contests are humming at the club and we have the spring HAMFEST coming up. Please stop by even if you don't need more stuff, we'd love to see you.

73, Curt

## Joint MARS Emergency Communications Support to "Project MEDISHARE" Ends

The emergency communications support provided by Amateur Radio and MARS operators to the University of Miami Medical Center's Project MEDISHARE in Haiti has concluded, as normal communications links are re-established after a 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti on January 12, killing thousands and wiped out the island nation's communication infrastructure.

"For the past six weeks, Amateur Radio and MARS operators have worked together with medical and humanitarian organizations in Haiti to provide life-saving communications as part of the massive earthquake relief effort," said Air Force MARS Public Information Officer David Trachtenberg, N4WWL/AFA3TR. "Multiple teams of communications specialists — including Army, Navy-Marine Corps, and Air Force MARS members — have rotated into and out of Haiti, providing critical communications links between military and medical units on-site and US medical facilities stateside."

"We are immensely proud of the work our Joint MARS operators did to support the humanitarian relief effort," said Air Force MARS Chief Allen Eiermann. Navy-Marine Corps MARS Chief Bo Lindfors agreed: "The lessons learned from this experience will be extremely valuable as MARS fulfills its emergency communications mission." Army MARS Chief Jim Griffin noted that "Interoperability across agencies and organizations is critical in a disaster. We are grateful to our Joint-Service MARS members for providing the essential links that helped save lives."

The volunteer MARS operators who traveled to Haiti to assist in the relief effort did so on their own, under the auspices of the humanitarian organizations they supported and not as part of any official Department of Defense activation of MARS. Their efforts were applauded by the medical personnel whose work they facilitated.

**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- 2008-9**

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Stan Stone W4HIX  
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Dick Macpherson WB1W

## 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.

FYI:

I was going through the VE session count in Massachusetts hams, and I found that Bob Quinn ranks number 14 in the Commonwealth with 126 sessions. I ran the list against our club membership list and here are the results (callsign, session count, name):

AA1MO	8	Nelson Dionne
AA3JE	36	Curtis Wright
AB1IV	1	James (Jim) Cavan
AB2NJ	41	Briggs Longbotham
K1EEA	10	Eric E. Austin
K1MB	55	Michael Burke
K1NKA	3	Tom Howell
K1TP	15	Jon Cunningham
KB1KR	10	Dave Suuronen
KB1PGH	20	Dean Burgess
KG1P	16	Glenn Pike
N1MAU	17	Greville (Sandy) Balzarini
N1OCT	78	Charles Downey
N1RZR	5	Gregory Woo
N1UGA	4	Jane Dionne
NG1Z	18	Nat Henricksen
W1MAW	7	Mark Watson
W1PLM	2	Paul McDonough
W1RK	97	Ralph E. Karcher
W4HIX	13	Stanley Stone
W4RIG	25	Henry N. McCarl
WB1W	1	Richard Macpherson
WI1U	69	Charles Anderson
WV1A	126	Robert Quinn
WZ1B	75	Richard Maybury
WZ1L	71	William Poulin

Stan, W4HIX

The next Boxboro Hamvention will be running from August 26th thru the 29th of 2010 and to find out more their website is [www.boxboro.org](http://www.boxboro.org)

### **36th Annual Eastern VHF/UHF Conference**

The **36th Annual Eastern VHF/UHF Conference** will be on April 16-18, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Enfield, CT.

The NorthEast Weak Signal Group (NEWS) is calling for the submission of papers and presentations.

Papers and presentations are solicited on both the technical and operational aspects of VHF, UHF and Microwave weak signal amateur radio.

We will have a Hospitality Suite for early arrivals on Friday Evening starting at 7:00PM to 11:00 PM. Conference registration will begin on Saturday at 7:30 AM and talks and band sessions will start at 8:30 AM.

A banquet dinner, Trivia quiz and prize raffles will begin at 7:00 PM.

On Sunday an outdoor flea market, weather permitting, will begin at 8:00 to 11:00 AM. Starting this year, flea market admission will be FREE for both buyers and sellers of VHF and above relate equipment items only.

Compliments of Greg WA1VUG and R&S we will have the following test capabilities up to 50 GHz.

Registration is now open for this years conference. A block of Hotel Rooms is available at the Crowne Plaza, Enfield under the NEWS group for \$99.

The latest conference news can be found on-line at: <http://www.newsvhf.com/vhfconf.html>

### **We would like to welcome these new members into CAARA**

Robert Cook KB1TQZ

Bob Edwards AB1LT

Allan Edwards KB1TRB

Toni Sloan KB1TEJ

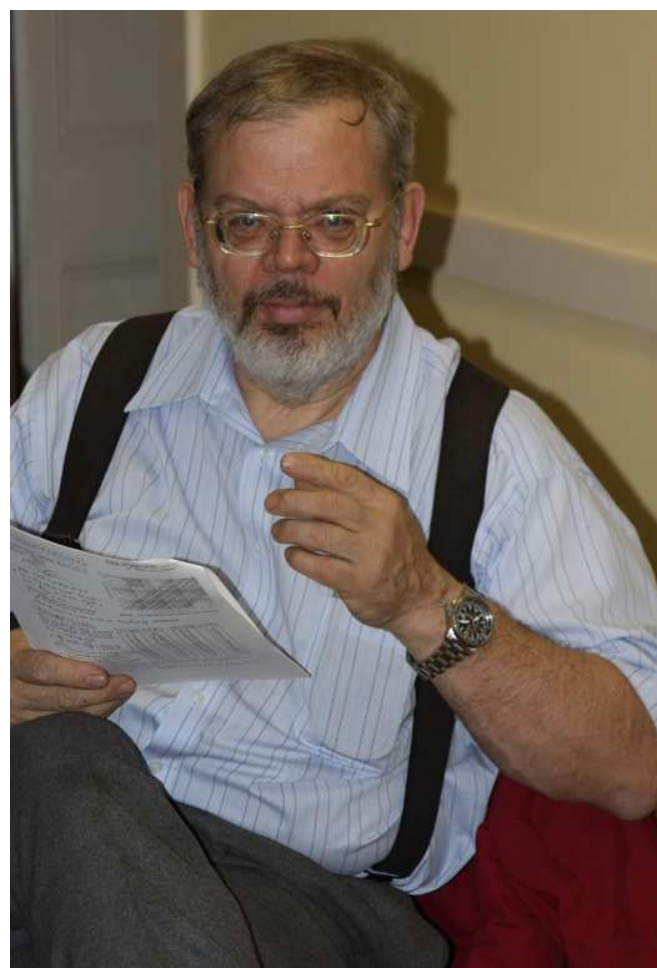
Erin Maybury W1ERN

Donald Swenson KB1TRP

Karl Berg KB1TV

John Russell N1WCZ

CAARA wishes Charlie Anderson- WI1U a speedy recovery from his surgery/illness.



**AF1T ANTENNA PRESENTATION AT  
THE JANUARY MEETING**



Our man, Bob-WV1A, filming the antenna and feedline presentation held at the Lanesville Community Center, Lanesville, MA.

The edited DVD will be available at the clubhouse for those interested in watching this informative presentation by AF1T and his wife.

The presentation was also aired on the local Cable Network.

Thanks to all who put this program together- Briggs-AB2NJ, Stan-W4HIX whom provided lodging for AF1T and wife, Bob-WV1A for video, Sandy Blazarini for digital photos.....



## JANUARY ANTENNA MEETING PICTURES



Lot's of hands on demonstrations describing advantages of different antenna designs.



Nope, I haven't a clue as to how it works!

# NEWS RELEASE

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TO CONDUCT FREE SEMINAR ON UNUSUAL, SEVERE AND VIOLENT WEATHER

The National Weather Service will conduct a free program on severe, violent and unusual weather conditions. Rob Macedo, KD1CY a 15-year veteran of the NWS SKYWARN program will be the presenter. The program covers topics such as hurricanes, lightning, tornadoes, downbursts and other summer and winter weather events. This highly informative and timely program will also provide information on identifying cloud formations, identifying hail sizes and estimating wind speed.

This program is open to all and will be of particular interest to anyone who enjoys outside activities such as sports, camping, boating or is just interested in learning more about the weather. This program will also cover safety tips that are appropriate during severe weather events.

Each year the National Weather Service SKYWARN program conducts a series of outreach programs that are tailored to their respective forecast areas. CAARA is pleased that the National Weather Service, Taunton office has recognized the club for a SKYWARN Training session in 2010. In addition the program will cover information on this nationally recognized program in which CAARA is active. The program will also cover subjects on how one can participate, what information is requested and how to report that information. The SKYWARN program helps to save lives.

The National Weather Service relies on real time weather information from local SKYWARN weather spotters. Weather observations received from spotters located where the weather event is taking place helps the Weather Service to issue timely reports and severe weather warnings. These reports also help to validate forecasts with real time on the ground observations.

At the end of the program participants will have the opportunity to join the National Weather Service SKYWARN Spotters Program.

Each year the program is updated with the latest information on severe, violent and unusual weather conditions which affect our area and will be held on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 10 AM-1 PM at the CAARA Clubhouse - 6 Stanwood Street Gloucester, MA 01930. If you wish to sign up for this course please e-mail club clerk Dean Burgess KB1PGH at [dburg101@aol.com](mailto:dburg101@aol.com).



**Here's a compact 75-M SSB receiver** with low-noise 35-dB preamp and a 7.5" rotatable rod antenna set up for null detection. Metering is gain-adjustable with linear (vs log) response for deep null resolution. Fully portable for hood-of-the-car operation or runs off external power. Soon as the Datak letters arrive, it will get its final touches. This simple gizmo easily separates multiple jammers and is surprisingly accurate for sky-wave when alignment is corrected against "regular" stations who still remember their call signs. Once in a local area, it is laser-accurate on groundwave signals.

Built by Rick-K1BQT...currently prototypes rigs for MFJ and was an engineer at Cushcraft for years....*K1TP*



Hexbeam at K1TP's after the ice storm on February 16, 2010. Thankfully it melted the next day!

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## **NEAR-Fest VII**

**Friday April 30th and May 1st  
2010**

**Deerfield Fairgrounds - Deerfield NH**

<http://near-fest.com/>



## Pending Legislation Update

A bill that could restrict amateur radio mobile operations has been passed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives. It is hard to say whether the proposed law would cause practical difficulties for amateur mobile operations and emergency preparedness exercises. Just to be safe, however, we should take action now to minimize the potential harm. The full text of the bill, as adopted by the House, is available at <http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/186/ht04pdf/ht04475.pdf>

Q: What would H-4475 do if it becomes law? Among the goals of H-4475 are the following: (a) prohibit the use of cell phones by any driver under the age of 18, (b) require hands-free cell phones for all other drivers, and (c) ban the use of a broad range of handheld communications devices while operating a motor vehicle (for such activities as text- or instant-messaging, email, web-surfing, etc.)

Q: What does the proposed law say about amateur radio? Nothing. This could be a good thing or a bad thing, depending on your perspective. On the one hand, it doesn't say, "Hams can't do X." On the other hand, it doesn't say, "This law does not apply to hams."

Q: So what should we do about this? If you would like to oppose or seek amendment of H-4475, your best bet is to contact your state senator on Beacon Hill.

## Calling All Rookies — and Non-Rookies, Too! Get On the Air for the ARRL Rookie Roundup

The ARRL Rookie Roundup is designed to help newly licensed amateurs build their operating skills on HF. It

is a contest specifically for those new to Amateur Radio, similar to the ARRL Novice Roundup that ran from 1952 until 1995. The Rookie Roundup brings the fun and Elmering of the old Novice Roundup into the 21st century. Three Rookie Roundups will be held each calendar year: SSB in April, RTTY in August and CW in December.

The Rookie Roundup will be scored 100 percent in real time through the [www.getscores.org](http://www.getscores.org) scoring system. There are three ways to participate: by using your favorite logging software with the real time scoring support, by downloading a simple logging program from the [www.getscores.org](http://www.getscores.org) Web site or by logging your contacts directly into a [www.getscores.org](http://www.getscores.org) Web page. No separate logs are required — it all happens online in real time and final scores will be available online within hours of the end of the contest! More information is available on all of these options at [www.getscores.org](http://www.getscores.org). Of course, you can get on the air and make contacts without logging them, but you won't have as much fun!

### Who Can Participate?

Any ham licensed for 3 years or less qualifies as a Rookie. If you were licensed in 2008, 2009 or 2010, you can compete in the 2010 Rookie Roundup. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies, while Rookies may work everybody. A major part of the success of this contest will be non-Rookies getting on the air and working the Rookies, just as in the Novice Roundup. Just like in the Novice Roundups of years past (when Novices could work anyone and non-Novices could only work Novices), Rookies may work anyone, be they Rookie or non-Rookie; however, non-Rookies are limited to only working Rookies.

### Entry Categories

Single Operator Rookie, limited to a maximum of 100 W. Spotting assistance or using call sign and frequency alerting systems is allowed, but self-spotting or asking somebody to spot you is not. All Rookies must identify themselves as a rookie. Example: "Kilo Bravo One Quebec Alfa Whiskey, Rookie." Non-Rookies only need give their call; no designation is needed.

### Awards

Certificates will be available for all participants to download. The top five high scores from each US call area, Canadian province and Mexican call area will be recognized on their certificate. No national winners will be recognized.

Go to [www.getscores.org](http://www.getscores.org) for more information on how to participate. Be sure to check out the April 2010 issue of *QST* for complete rules and other information. The Rookie Roundup — a fun event for *all* amateurs!

## **CAARA Spring Flea Market on Saturday March 20th**

Hello to all Caara members,

The club will hold its spring amateur radio flea market and hamfest on Saturday, March 20th at the Pigeon Cove Circle Center located on 6 Breakwater Ave in Rockport, Massachusetts. This event will open to sellers at 7 am and the doors will open to buyers at 9 am. To reserve a selling table you can contact club member Richard Copithorne at 1-201-674-3485 or his e-mail at [dickc911@yahoo.com](mailto:dickc911@yahoo.com). Tables can be reserved ahead of time for a price of \$10 in advance or \$15 the day of the event. This also gets you one admission ticket. For buyers the door admission fee will be \$5. The talk in club repeater frequency is 145.130 MHZ with no pl tone. For general directions head on RT 128 North all the way to the end and head towards Rockport. You will see one rotary after you come off the bridge, take the second exit up the hill to the other rotary. Once again take the second exit down the hill and stay on the left. At the bottom of the hill take a left onto RT 127 north. Follow a couple of miles into Rockport. RT 127 ends up taking a left at an intersection so take that left and keep going. Go another mile or two and you will eventually see an old abandoned tool factory on your right. Just at the end of the building take a right. You will see our club sign out there. For club members, this is an important club fundraising event so if you have any unwanted ham gear that you wish to donate for the club to sell please contact Dick as well. This flea market is a perfect opportunity to do some spring cleaning on your old ham gear. Hope to see you there. There will be refreshments served at this event.

## **CAARA events calendar for 2010**

Greetings to all CAARA members,

The CAARA Board of Directors has set the event calendar for the club for 2010 so everyone can start to plan accordingly. This list only mentions the major club events and as the dates to these events gets closer

the membership will be made aware of any changes thru Caaramail. Here's the list.

Wednesday February 3rd, Regular members meeting, AFIT Antenna and Transmission line Demo at Lanesville community Center and this starts at 7 PM.

Saturday March 20th, CAARA Spring hamfest and flea market. This starts at 9 AM at the Pigeon Cove Circle center on 6 Breakwater Ave in Rockport.

Sunday April 18th, Spring Club dinner. This is planned to be at the fortune Palace in Essex and the time is to be determined.

Saturday May 15th-CAARA clubhouse property spring clean-up. Start time to be announced.

Saturday June 26th thru Sunday June 27th-A.R.R.L. Field day-Probable location is Babson Cooperage Museum field on RT 127 on Gloucester/Rockport line.

Saturday July 3rd, Lanesville Roadrace in AM and Horribles Parade in PM. Both public service events for CAARA.

Sunday July 4th, Manchester Parade in AM. Public service event for CAARA.

Sunday August 8th, Gloucester Triathlon in AM. Public service event for CAARA

Friday August 6th thru Sunday August 8th. Probable weekend for Thatchers Island Activation.

Wednesday September 15th, CAARA Annual meeting at 8 PM

Sunday October 24th, CAARA clubhouse property fall clean-up day. Start time TBD

Saturday November 20th, CAARA fall hamfest and flea market. Probable location at Pigeon Cove Circle Center and start time 9 AM

Saturday December 4th, CAARA Club Christmas party. Probable location at Pigeon Cove Circle center.

## **Chile Earthquake Frequencies**

We have had confirmed reports that the following frequencies are currently being used for emergency communications in Chile - 7095 and 7050.

The Intercontinental Traffic Net on 14.300 is also active

**IRES**C, the International Radio Emergency Support Coalition is on monitoring watch at level 3 for both Chile and the expected arrival of Tsunami wave at Hawaii where an IRES member on the island reports preparations are being made

**Paul Gaskell G4MWO**  
IRES

*Updated information -  
additional frequencies*

SSB frequencies:

10 meters - 28.300, 28.500 MHz

15 meters - 21.200, 21.350 MHz

20 meters - 14.200, 14.350 MHz

40 meters - 7.050, 7.095 MHz

80 meters - 3.738, 3.750 MHz

These are all RED CHILENA NOR AUSTRAL DE SERVICIO - RECNA (Chilean Amateur Radio Emergency Organisation) freqs.

Also IARU emcom centres-of-activity (CoA) at 14.300 and 7060

The Hawaii Tsunami Frequencies will be  
40M 7.088  
80/75M 3.888

## **2010 - ARRL International DX Contest (CW) - Results of the Club Contest Activity**

Before listing the results we should first congratulate the following logged in operators for their expertise with the key: OPERATORS: K1QF, NM1J, W1PLM, WZ1B

In total 327 QSO's were made. 27 of these were to USA or Canada stations which in this DX contest do not qualify for points, therefore had 300 qualifying QSO's.

These 300 QSO's provided the following results:

### **Band QSO's Points Countries**

80M 41 123 23

40M 98 294 44

20M 119 357 47

15M 42 126 22

Total: 300 900 136

### **Final Score: 122,400 points**

Of the 136 country multiplier [*Sum of DXCC entities (except for Canada and the 48 contiguous United States) worked per band*], contact was made with 71 different countries as listed below.

**Alaska Cuba Jamaica Sardinia Aruba Czech Republic Japan Scotland Asiatic Russia Denmark Kaliningrad Serbia Austria DPR of Korea Latvia Slovak Republic Bahamas England Liberia Slovenia Balearic Is. European Russia Lithuania South Africa Belarus Fed. Rep. of Germany Luxembourg South Shetland Is. Belgium Finland Macedonia Spain Bermuda France Moldavia St. Vincent Bonaire, Curacao (Neth. Antilles) Grenada Morocco Sweden Bosnia-Herzegovina Haiti Netherlands Switzerland Brazil Hawaii Nicaragua Turkmenistan Bulgaria Honduras Northern Ireland Ukraine Canary Is. Hungary Peru Uzbekistan Cayman Islands Iceland Poland Virgin Is. Colombia Indonesia Portugal Wales Corsica Ireland Puerto Rico Western Sahara Croatia Italy Romania**

### **HT CALL BRINGS HELP TO DOWNED SKIERS**

A Colorado backcountry skier who injured himself in a fall west of Eldora Mountain Resort was rescued. This, after using a handheld amateur radio transceiver to call for help. Boulder County sheriff's officials say 60-year-old Steve Priem, N0YIV, of Boulder used the radio after falling Friday afternoon, Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. According to the on-line Colorado Connection, another unidentified ham radio operator about 120 miles away heard Priem's request for assistance and called 911. Rescue teams were dispatched with part of the coordination taking place using amateur radio simplex frequencies and area repeaters.

N0YIV was able to provide rescuers with GPS coordinates for his position and had with him a rescue whistle. He was treated at a hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Sheriff's officials described Priem as an experienced backcountry skier who was well prepared for almost any emergency.

# FCC allows robotic device in amateur radio band

In January 2008, a company called **ReconRobotics** filed a request with the FCC for a waiver of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules with respect to the **Recon Scout** — a remote-controlled, maneuverable surveillance robot designed for use in areas that may be too hazardous for human entry.

A waiver is required to permit licensing of the Recon Scout because the device operates in the 430-448 MHz band, which is allocated to the Federal Government Radiolocation service on a primary basis, as well as the Amateur Radio Service and certain non-federal radiolocation systems on a secondary basis.

More than two years later, the FCC granted the waiver request in the form of an Order (WP Docket No 08-63), subject to certain conditions.

In its comments filed in May 2008, the ARRL called on the FCC to deny ReconRobotics waiver request, "either permanently or even temporarily."

The FCC noted in the waiver that they had received more than 70 comments "generally consist[ing] of public safety and law enforcement entities supporting the waiver request, and amateur radio operators opposing it."

In their initial waiver request, ReconRobotics asserted that even though the device operates in an area allocated to other services, including Amateur Radio, the Recon Scout operates with only 1 W peak power and it is "unlikely to cause interference to these services."

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# FCC - No spread spectrum on HF

The FCC has responded to a request for clarification on the use of the **ROS** data mode and questions have been raised about the use of **CHIP64** by US Radio Amateurs.

In response to a request for clarification on the use of ROS, the FCC has reiterated that Spread Spectrum emission types are only authorized on the 222-225 MHz and higher frequency amateur bands.

They also said:

"The licensee of the station transmitting the emission is responsible for determining that the operation of the station complies with the rules. This would include determining the type of emission the station is transmitting and that the frequencies being used are authorized for that type of emission."

CHIP64 is mode that US Radio Amateurs have used successfully on HF for several years. It is a Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum (DSSS) mode and would appear to fall in the same category as ROS.

Read the FCC response on ROS on the Digital Radio Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/digitalradio/message/34812>

## Launch of New ARRL Web Site Delayed to 'Get It Right':

### Launch of New ARRL Web Site Delayed to 'Get It Right':

After meeting with ARRL staff on February 23 — two days before the new ARRL Web site was to launch — ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, made the decision to delay the unveiling of the Web site until late March. "Work on the new ARRL Web site has progressed at a frantic pace but there are still some potential 'bugs' that could affect members. We need to be sure we get it right," Kramer said. "Our members' security, information and ability to actually use of all the options on the new site outweigh any rush to meet an artificial deadline. It's just good customer service."

The new Web site — which will contain the online store, class registrations, audio, video, DXCC information, contest data, individualized member options and other 21st century opportunities for members — is one of the largest technology upgrade activities that ARRL and Fathom, the company programming the site, have ever undertaken.

“Reviewers have been unanimously impressed and are helping make sure we create the easiest, most enjoyable online experience possible,” Kramer explained.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP, the current ARRL Web site is not only used by ARRL members, but is a prime reference source for engineers, hams and wireless technicians around the world, making it the premier place to find information about Amateur Radio, its activities and the sciences behind it. “The Web is our main face to the world, and the new Web site will be fantastic,” he said. “Although we all regret the delay, I believe our members will appreciate our diligence about the ease of use, security and navigation for the new site.”

### **Scottish born Alexander Graham Bell is best-known for the first practical telephone.**

A strong influence on him was that both his mother and wife were deaf, leading him into research on hearing and speech, engaging in the emerging art and science of elocution and being a teacher of the deaf.

After reading a book about electromagnetism and electricity he was inspired, setting the scene for his later work on a speaking telegraph – the telephone.

Bell moved to Quebec Canada with his family as a young man, but in 1871 he relocated to Boston to teach deaf children, and overturned the notion of the era in North America that people who could not hear had no place in normal society.

Then he was appointed as professor of vocal physiology and elocution at the Boston University, while still maintaining his experimental telegraph work after hours.

Apart from the telephone, he achieved breakthroughs

later in life in optical telecommunications, hydrofoils and aeronautics.

Bell was an advanced thinker. For example, in 1917 he wrote about the depletion of natural resources, and stated that the unchecked burning of fossil fuels would lead to a sort of greenhouse effect and global warming.

The logarithmic measurement of sound has the international unit of the Bel, which is too large for practical use resulting in one tenth of a Bel, or the Decibel, being commonly used.

### **Latest Breakthrough for Mobile Communication Safety.....The Little Black Box That Can Save Your Life!**



Let me tell you how.....

Hands-free kits for mobile communications have been available for some time. They either comprise a ‘swan-neck’ microphone, which you need to adjust for the best audio, normally needing it to be in your field of view. Been there, done that and poked myself in the eye with it!

Or a low profile microphone which picks up all the in-car noise and makes you sound like you’re on a jet plane far away (all I can say is that they serve a purpose), or a personal ‘Tie-clip’ type system which involves you being tied in some way to the vehicle (and then you forget to take it off when you get out, yanking half a ton of cable with you or wrenching your clothing open).

However, at last there is a solution to the problem - the breakthrough little black box!

The innovative brains at RPF Communications have done it again and developed a unique device that gives you the ability to talk hands-free, wirelessly.

I'd been looking for a hands-free kit for my car for some time. I was finding that with a hand microphone I'd have to stop transmitting every time I came to a roundabout, or road junction or I needed to change gear, and it's a bit awkward when you're in the middle of a conversation (sound familiar?). I was put off by the choices available and Phil (my other half), kept saying he would 'cobble' something together for me like he had with his vehicle. Let's just say, it's a good job I didn't hold my breath!!

The breakthrough!

Then, a chance conversation with an associate led to us investigating the possibilities of a wireless system. There wasn't anything available so the design team at RPF got down and designed it!

#### THE RESULT IS TALKSAFE™

TalkSafe™ is an innovative technological advance for Mobile Radio users. Now talk without interruption... avoid accidents ... EVEN save your life, and the lives of others (seriously)

TalkSafe™ Radio has been developed using the latest Bluetooth technology, and that means you can talk on your radio using virtually any Bluetooth headset. Your choice! The little black box can sit in any position in your vehicle (well almost), and connects with your transceiver via a cable. When it's installed, it'll give you a freedom of movement that no other hands-free kit can compete with, because there aren't leads around you to get caught up in.

And you don't have to be sitting in the drivers seat to use it; you can be anywhere in the car or outside it, as long as you stay within a range of 10 metres. Even when you are emptying your boot you can carry on a conversation on the radio.

Also, for the first time, because of the Bluetooth headset you can have private conversations without your passengers knowing what the other person is

saying, or you can activate the speaker override so everyone can hear. Again, your choice!



This is what I call mobile operation to the max!

CAARA Club ARRL Field Day is in the planning stages. If you would like to help out in this club activity, please contact Jim- W4DDX or Stan- W4HIX .

They are holding planning sessions at the clubhouse on advertised Sunday mornings. Listen on the CAARA Sunday Evening Net for up to date information.



Jim



Stan



The behind the program, Stan-W4HIX and several clubmembers make this happen every year. Special thanks to all who help out in this very special program.



The fourth is Caara club members Toni Sloan KB1TEJ and John Russell N1WCZ congratulating John's son John W. Russell on passing his tech exam. John's call is now KB1TEJ



CAARA club member Jim Cavan AB1IV congratulating his wife Julia Cavan on passing her tech exam. Her call is now KB1TQY

# 2010 CAARA TECH IN A DAY PROGRAM

**ARRL DX Phone Contest Brings DX in Full Force to the HF Bands! CAARA will be operating this contest from the Clubhouse. Rick- WZ1B will be looking for you to make a few contacts!**

With the 2010 ARRL International DX CW Contest now history, the first weekend in March brings the next round of competition: the [2010 ARRL International DX Phone Contest](#). Like its CW predecessor, this event focuses on DX stations working all US states and Canadian provinces, while US and Canadian amateurs try to work as many DX countries as possible over the 48 hour contest period.

“Conditions during last weekend’s CW contest were, by all accounts, very good indeed,” said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. “Fifteen Meters was open for extended periods of time, allowing excellent QSOs to be made from the US and Canada to all corners of the globe. Even 10 meters decided to show up for the party, with openings both Saturday and Sunday to South America and Africa, with a sprinkling of Europe thrown in for good measure.”

For the veterans, it was a delight to have good propagation on the higher bands again. For the more recently licensed, it was a chance to finally experience an opening on bands that have more or less remained dormant due to the extended low in the 11 year solar cycle. “I’ve had some Old-Timers in my local club tell me 10 meters would open like this, but I’ve never heard it open before; I didn’t believe them,” one newly licensed amateur told Kutzko. “Now I get it. It was exciting. I had a great time!”

Just as in the CW contest, US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power. Remember that for this contest, Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX — this means that stations in KH6 and KL7 focus their efforts on working Stateside and Canada.

How can you participate? You are only limited by your imagination and willingness to get on the air. If the high bands remain active, even stations running 100 W and a dipole or vertical antenna will work a lot of DX. If you live in an area where antenna restrictions exist, take your contest effort on the road! Operate from your car, set up a portable antenna in a park or campground or see if a friend’s station is available. If you have a

station and won’t be using it, consider opening your doors to members of your club and let them try their hand at working some DX. If you make 100 QSOs, you are eligible to purchase a commemorative pin for your efforts!

The ARRL DX Phone Contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 6 through 2359 UTC Sunday, March 7. Complete rules and forms may be found [online](#). The high bands are finally showing signs of life. Why let all this DX pass you by — get on the air and have some fun!

## **W1AW to alternate digital mode schedule**

**Beginning Monday, March 15, 2010, W1AW will alternate the digital modes used for its digital bulletin transmissions.**

While Baudot, PSK31 and MFSK16 still make up the digital mode complement, the schedule will be altered to give more exposure to PSK31 and MFSK16.

Because of time constraints and the varying lengths of digital bulletins, there were many instances where only Baudot was used.

With the new schedule, amateurs preferring either PSK31 or MFSK16 will find these modes no longer secondary.

The regular callup will be made using the mode that is transmitted first. The digital bulletin times remain at 6 PM and 9 PM eastern, daily.

The Tuesday and Friday Keplerian data bulletins will continue to be sent using just Baudot and PSK31.

The new digital schedule is as follows:

Monday: Baudot, PSK31, MFSK16  
Tuesday: PSK31, MFSK16, Baudot  
Wednesday: MFSK16, Baudot, PSK31  
Thursday: Baudot, PSK31, MFSK16  
Friday: PSK31, Baudot, MFSK16

Given time constraints and bulletin lengths, all three modes may not always be transmitted.

The complete W1AW schedule can be found on page 100 of the January issue of QST, or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked>



**Echolink:** If any of you have an iPhone or an iPod Touch, I just bumped into a great app that will allow you get on and use Echolink from both of those devices. The reviews are pretty positive. Just FYI.

Glenn

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/echolink/id350688562?mt=8>

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi Jon,  
Marianne (KB1TEO) and I (Ruth KB1SXO) were listening to Wolfgang (DL8VX) from Germany on the 20 meter band at the CAARA clubhouse today (Sunday 2/28) and were waiting for an opportunity to break in but we could not hear his contact and didn't want to talk over him. Anyway, Wolfgang, who was coming in loud and clear, had the the best stories to tell including one about a ham contact he had in Germany when suddenly one day he was 'astonished' to hear from him that he could no longer talk to Wolfgang on the radio w/o getting in trouble with the government. Much later someone stopped Wolfgang in the street and asked about an address (#19) and it turned out the person was looking for him. It was the guy that was forbidden to talk to him!

Wolfgang was a radio teletype operator for many years and made his own CW transmitter. Though we could barely hear his contact we did pick up his asking Wolfgang how he learned to speak English so well. Wolfgang said that he used ham radio to improve his English (licensed in 1965) and very much enjoyed making new friends over the air. He never seemed to run out of stories, even talked about when Elvis came to Germany to perform and although he didn't go himself, people in Germany really liked him. He talked about his life in Germany. He talked about traveling to the states a couple times, once to visit his aunt in Portland, Oregon and again with amateur radio friends traveling all across the US from New York stopping in lots of places along the way all the way back to Oregon where he visited with his aunt again. He and his aunt enjoyed being able to speak in English and in German. She died 2 years later. We just sat back and listened to him. I hope I hear him again some day ... I thought, wow this is why people love ham radio ... to hear people like Wolfgang.

You can find him on HamCall.net. He's only relatively recently found out about QRZ so he's not in their database yet.

Ruth KB1SXO

## Hello to all CAARA members,

This wednesday March 3rd will be the clubs regular members meeting. Please note that the start time will be moved up to 7 PM and that the meeting will be in two parts. The first hour will feature a section where we will focus on elmering some newly licensed hams on the subject of how to choose your first Handi Talkie and all the tips on how to program them. We would like to encourage all club members to come down and introduce yourselves to these new hams and give them a warm CAARA welcome into the amateur radio hobby. The second hour will feature club member Stan Stone W4HIX and his presentation on working amateur satellites.

This upcoming Saturday March 6th we will open up the clubhouse for the ARRL SSB International DX contest. Club member Rick Maybury WZ1B is organizing this event and we welcome all to come down and make some SSB contacts and practice using the clubs logging program. This will be a great opportunity to practice your skills for the ARRL Field Day which is coming up on the last weekend in June. The doors will open up at 10 AM for this event.

The next big event on the CAARA agenda is the clubs fundraising ham radio flea market event which is coming up on Saturday March 20 at 9 AM and which will be held at the Pigeon Cove Circle Center on Breakwater Avenue on Rockport. So start looking for anything that you want to sell at the club consignment table or if you want to donate any ham radio equipment for the club to sell that would be greatly appreciated as this is a very important club fundraising event. If you wish to rent a table you can contact club member Dick Copithorne KR1G. All of the details can be found by clicking on the events link on the front page of the CAARA website.

On Saturday April 10th CAARA will sponsor a free National Weather Service SKYWARN seminar which will be led by Rob Macedo KD1CY. The seminar will start at 10 AM and go to 1 PM and at the

end all will have the opportunity to join the National Weather Service Skywarn Spotters Program. To sign up and reserve a spot please e-mail me at [dburg101@aol.com](mailto:dburg101@aol.com).

73's

Dean Burgess KB1PGH CAARA Clerk

## Greenland to be activated on Amateur Satellites

**Reid N0RC** will be active on the Amateur Radio Satellites in March/April from Thule in Greenland, grid square FQ56, using the call sign **OX3RC**

On the AMSAT Bulletin Board he writes:

Everyone, thank you for your help on my HT transporting question I posted earlier! I think I have found a method to get my equipment to where I'm going. I'll try to get on the air Wed and Thursday nights from DM04 (I know, not the rarest). I'll possibly be on during college satellite night as KOKU/6 if work permits.

I will be getting my equipment shipped to FQ56 in late March. Where I hope to be on the air for a month starting March 23rd. I will try to use satellites that uplink on VHF, as UHF would interfere with the BMEWS on base. If BMEWS interferes with UHF downlink, I'll also be out of commission on the birds.

My schedule will be as work/passes/weather permits. As of right now, I'll only be operating the FM satellites due to equipment limitations. If I can figure out a way to work the SSB/CW birds, I'll be on those as well. The satellite with the best coverage of Thule and the US would be HO-68 assuming it is in FM mode.

I will also be working some HF in between passes. So look for OX3RC on the birds and HF starting March 23. I cannot give a specific time of operation because my primary mission is work, and my work schedule is dependent on weather.

73

*Reid N0RC*

Grid Square Locator

<http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php>

Getting started on Amateur Radio Satellites PDF

<http://www.uk.amsat.org/content/view/408/168/>

## Hawaii Hams Spurred to Action by Chilean Earthquake

On Saturday, February 27, 60 Amateur Radio operators participated in a tsunami radio net that operated throughout the island State of Hawaii. More than 25 real-time reports from observers around the state were relayed simultaneously to the State Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and the four county EOCs, providing timely information via Amateur Radio on sea level changes to emergency management officials.

According to Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, emergency managers in Hawaii had been preparing for a tsunami from Chile for many years, following the 1960 tsunami — following an earthquake in Chile — that decimated Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii. Prior to 1960, tsunamis inflicted damage to Hawaii every 17 years on average. “The 14 hour travel time for the tsunami wave provided ample time for Amateur Radio operators to assemble and coordinate a response plan,” Hashiro told the ARRL. “The wave action in Hilo Bay would be of extreme interest as it would be among the earliest signs of the potential for destruction for this tsunami event.” Hashiro is the Hawaii State Civil Defense (SCD) ARES®/RACES Coordinator.

Hashiro said that activity started at 8:47 PM on Friday, February 26 when key Amateur Radio operators were alerted to the 8:34 PM 8.8 magnitude earthquake in Chile. ARRL Pacific Section Emergency Coordinator Kevin Bogan, AH6QO — who is also a State Warning Point Officer with Hawaii SCD — received notification while he was at home preparing for his 10 PM shift. Bogan activated the Hawaii ARES® in response and then headed to the State EOC for his assigned shift where he assisted in the coordination between State ARES®/RACES and the Hawaii SCD.

Hashiro told the ARRL that he received a bulletin via text message from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) at 9:02 PM and began activating the

ARES®/RACES response for Oahu and the State as he returned home to further monitor the progress via the Internet and phone calls. “Coordination was handled on radio via the AH6CP UHF repeater, text messages, phone calls, Facebook and Twitter, as we awaited the evaluation and escalation to a tsunami warning,” he said. “The PTWC issued the warning at 12:46 AM on Saturday, and final ham radio net instructions were relayed via the HIHAM and HAMRADIOHAWAII e-mail reflectors, Facebook and Twitter. Radio operations were to commence with the sounding of the warning sirens across the state at 6 AM. The 6:01 AM net was a bulletin-only net with instructions for starting operations at 7 AM, giving the operators time to undertake preparations.”

Amateur Radio operators reported to the State and County EOCs. Hashiro, Robin Liu, AH6CP, and Mitch Pinkerton, KH6MP, responded to the State Civil Defense EOC in Diamond Head crater to operate nets on the State RACES VHF Repeater network and 7088 kHz HF. A number of SCD staff members who are also hams reported in for their normal work assignments

Chuck Oh, N6NCT, Russell Houlton, WH7O, and Jeff Sue, AH6IX, activated ham radio operations at the Department of Emergency Management County EOC in Honolulu, complementing DEM staff member Harold Buckle’s, KH6HB, work activities. “The DEM EOC was packed full of personnel from many organizations,” Hashiro said, “leaving room for only three ham operators. Twelve other ham responders were scheduled into shifts should the tsunami proved to be destructive.”

ARRL Pacific Section Manager Bob Schneider, AH6J, and Harvey Motomura, AH6JA, operated at the Hawaii County EOC in Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii, while Mel Fukunaga, KH6H, began operations at the Maui County EOC in Wailuku. In addition, Jack Tsujimura, KH6DQ, activated the HealthComm net for the hospitals on VHF and UHF. A net for the Church of Latter Day Saints was activated on a VHF repeater on Oahu. Operations also took place on the IRLP linked VHF and UHF repeaters on Maui. The Big Island activated nets on the BIWARN around-the-island VHF/UHF repeater system and the emergency VHF repeater atop the summit of Mauna Kea, the tallest mountain peak in the Hawaiian

Islands. Rick Ching, KH7O, the Hawaii Repeater Coordinator, repurposed an EchoLink setup and connected it to the State RACES VHF network, feeding audio under the EchoLink name “Hawaii Tsunami.

“Check-in nets were run at the top of each hour to test the EOC equipment and to monitor the availability of operators and their locations,” Hashiro explained. “The state-wide tsunami net started at 10:45 AM with check-ins and position reports. The real-time tactical messages were monitored in each of the four county EOCs. Tight net discipline was maintained and only positive sightings of ocean changes were solicited and handled. Operators who were unfamiliar with tactical messaging and tsunami reporting were coached over the air by the net control station into crafting their reports with the key information of interest to the emergency management officials.”

At 10:55 AM, James Brown, K9BCI — who lives on the Big Island, 13 miles south of Captain Cook Island — reported that waves near the underwater AuAu canyon were breaking at 50 yards offshore where the white caps were not previously observed. At 11:15, Laney Azevedo, WH7WX — located on the Hamakua Coast on the Big Island in the Honolii area overlooking Hilo Bay — reported light waves crashing over the water break that were not there before. “These were the earliest reports of sea level changes, many made from radio operators on the scene with their vehicles or handhelds,” Hashiro said.

These voice messages were transcribed into e-mails and sent to key SCD staff. Hashiro and the State Warning Point staff took the messages and entered it directly into SCD’s informational and reporting systems. “These timely incoming messages were posted onto 50 inch plasma display screens within moments and were made available to the PCs connected to the reporting system,” Hashiro recounted. “The Governor and SCD staff viewed the information well before the sea level changes became visible on Web cams and television news feeds. At the same time, amateurs in the four county EOCs were able to receive the same radio reports for informational updates for their EOCs.”

Other operators traced the ocean changes around the Big Island, then to the harbors and rivers on Maui,

Oahu and Kauai, Hashiro told the ARRL. Receding water levels on the order of 2-3 feet and 5-6 feet were reported as the various waves moved through the island chain. Real-time reporting ended at 1:08 PM and the tsunami warning for Hawaii was cancelled at 1:38 PM.

“The location reports, time-stamps and timeliness with estimates of the water height information demonstrated the professionalism of the Amateur Radio operators to the SCD staff operations and to the Governor,” Hashiro said. “SCD Vice Director Ed Teixeira was again extremely pleased and grateful for these reports and extends his thanks to the Amateur Radio community for another outstanding job well done.” — *Thanks to Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, for the information*

## **It Seems to Us: Emergency Preparedness and the FCC Rules**

By David Sumner, K1ZZ  
ARRL Chief Executive Officer

As regular readers of this page will know, over the past year there has been much discussion about the extent to which Amateur Radio can and should be used in providing communications on behalf of licensees' employers. In general, such use is contrary to the “no pecuniary interest” standard that is built into the international definition of the amateur service. Here in the US, the FCC Rules contain the same definition but also recognize a couple of narrowly crafted exceptions for teachers and (although the station is not mentioned by name) W1AW control operators.

In an emergency - that is, in connection with the immediate safety of human life and the immediate protection of property - the FCC Rules provide that an amateur station may be used to provide essential communication needs when normal communication systems are not available. In such a situation an amateur licensee's employment status is not an issue. However, there is no provision in the rules that permits amateurs to transmit communications on behalf of their employers at other times, such as during emergency preparedness and disaster drills. This became an issue during 2009 when FCC staff was

asked whether such communications were legal, and the answer - since there could be no other answer that conformed to the rules - was no.

Sensing some confusion in the amateur community, at its meeting in July 2009 the ARRL Board created an ad-hoc committee to develop guidelines for the appropriate uses of Amateur Radio on behalf of businesses and other organizations. As explained on this page in the December 2009 issue, the resulting nine-page document discusses communications by volunteers as well as by employees.

The ad-hoc committee was not asked to develop possible changes to the FCC Rules and did not do so. However, soon after the committee's work was completed and its recommendations were approved by the Board, in late October the FCC itself announced that it would entertain waiver requests from government entities to permit amateur licensees to transmit communications on behalf of their employers during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drills. The solicitation of waiver requests implied that the Commission was considering the possibility of amending its rules. The December QST editorial closed with an invitation for members to share their thoughts with their own Division Directors.

In many respects the ARRL Board of Directors functions like a legislative body. The 15 voting Directors are elected by the membership in each ARRL Division, so they are mindful of their constituents' views. Directors are accessible via email, postal mail and telephone. They attend club meetings, hamfests and conventions. Some Directors hold regular “cabinet meetings” prior to Board meetings in order to hear the thoughts of the elected Section Managers and other opinion leaders in the Division. Of course, the Directors are also in touch with one another in between in-person meetings.

At the request of the Executive Committee, General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD and ARRL staff prepared an options paper setting out the range of alternatives for rules changes - including a no-change option - with regard to pecuniary interest. The paper was circulated to the Board in early January. Thus, when the Board members assembled in mid-January there already had been a considerable exchange of information and ideas on the subject.

Following a presentation of the paper by General Counsel Imlay on the first day of the meeting, the Board members had additional opportunities to discuss the options informally during breaks and overnight. A motion was prepared and presented for consideration that represented a near-consensus view, but it was by no means a fait accompli; healthy debate was conducted in formal session in accordance with Robert's Rules and an amendment to put time limits on the duration of drills was considered before the motion ultimately was adopted in its original form.

By adopting the motion the Board instructed staff to urge the FCC to add an exception to §97.113(a)(3) of the FCC Rules to permit an amateur station licensee or control operator, on behalf of an employer, to “participate in emergency preparedness and disaster drills that include amateur operations for the purpose of emergency response, disaster relief or the testing and maintenance of equipment used for that purpose.”

Needless to say, the Board's action cannot conform

precisely to all of the input that Directors have received from members. ARRL members hold a wide range of views that are not easily reconciled. Many members would prefer that there be no change while many others regard the present rules as too limiting. Given that the FCC appears to be inclined to consider changes, it behooves the ARRL - as the representative of the broadest constituency of radio amateurs - to formulate an approach that addresses the bulk of the concerns about the present rules with as little impact as possible on the volunteer character of Amateur Radio.

While it is entirely possible within the existing rules for radio amateurs to train themselves as emergency communicators, a change along the lines proposed by the ARRL Board would clarify a perceived “grey area” without exposing Amateur Radio to abuse by businesses and other entities not involved in emergency response or disaster relief. We look forward to a constructive dialogue with the Commission in the weeks and months ahead.



New Kenwood rig to be announced at Dayton later this year