



CAARA Newsletter



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

MARCH ISSUE- 2013



President's Desk

by Stan-W4HIX

February brought a pretty nasty blizzard to New England and Cape Ann. CAARA responded when the Gloucester Emergency Operations Center was opened at the Addison Gilbert Hospital. Fuller School, the original site of the EOC has been mothballed, so there is no heat or water in the building. This makes for untenable working conditions, so several sites were investigated prior to the storm. There are very good working relationships between AGH staff and the Gloucester municipal agencies, so a very nice conference room with two smaller rooms were provide, plus another room was available for sleeping. CAARA manned the facility continuous through the storm.

Saturday Feb 23rd we held a cleanup at CAARA. Jon K1TP and Jake K1LDL have been working on the 2nd floor for several months and it was time to move a lot of gear. Many members showed up and Ross W1RAB supervised the operation. In two hours, we cleared the basement of gear that has been down there for years, and the first and second floors saw a lot of improvement. We're getting ready for the ARRL DX Phone contest during the first weekend in March. The club has plenty of stations and a couple of antennnas available. If you're available, stop by and make a few QSOs for the club.

Our Field Day meeting got snowed out this month, but we have secured permission for Fuller again this year. I'd like try a few things that haven't been done in a while, perhaps getting a tri-band beam up. We'll be discussing better multi-operator operations. The mayor has

us on her calendar already, so it will be good to see her and other City officials.

Thanks to everyone who's lent a hand in activities around the club. If we haven't seen you in a while, stop by and say hello.

73 de Stan, W4HIX

Clerk's Corner

by Dean-KB1PGH



This will be the final notice for all remaining members who have not yet paid their dues.

Membership dues must be paid by April 1, 2013 and if not your name will be dropped from the roster. We have to make a deadline so we can keep our club records current and for the Annual Report that we send into the ARRL. You may pay your dues via Paypal or credit card via the clubs website at www.caara.net/or you may mail them into the CAARA Clubhouse at 6 Stanwood Street Gloucester, Mass. Since the income tax deadline is coming up in April please remember that any monetary donations that you made to the club above your dues last year is completely tax deductible as we are a IRS Registered 501 (C) 3 non profit chartitable organization. Just make sure you keep your Paypal Reciepts or your cancelled check in the future as your proof. By the way, our Federal Tax ID# is 04-2612032 for your records. CAARA has been a 501(C) 3 since September 23, 1987. Here's another tidbit of information about CAARA, as I was updating the clubs membership information to the ARRL I noticed that CAARA has been an ARRL Affiliated club since October 28, 1976 which was 37 years ago!

Since we are talking about the club let's talk about the clubhouse for a minute. Especially for all the newer members out there. The CAARA Clubhouse on 6 Stanwood Street was actually a firehouse back in early 1900's. It housed a fire pump carriage and if your at the clubhouse you can see a picture of a group of fireman posing for a picture in front of the building

CAARA Newsletter
Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
6 Stanwood Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

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

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Club Reporter

Board of Directors- 2011-12

President: Stan Stone W4HIX
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Larry Beaulieu AJ1Z
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John Graves WA1JG

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 former W1RK 443.700 repeater with antennas located in Magnolia is now located at the CAARA clubhouse and has a very limited range.

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.

around 1910. Fast forward to the 50's and 60's and the clubhouse was community center. As we move onto the 70's and 80's the clubhouse held a Pigeon Racing Club downstairs and CAARA held its meeting on the second floor. I believe sometime in the early 90's the Pigeon Racing Club folded and CAARA took over the entire clubhouse. As of today CAARA is in the middle of a 3 year lease with the owners of the clubhouse, the City of Gloucester. Since CAARA has been in the clubhouse its members have put tens of thousands of their own dollars into the upkeep of the building over the years. Just a few years ago we spent \$7000 on a new roof and this year we spent \$900.00 on a chimney liner and cap. Not to mention all the freetime hours spent by the house committee and other members. So as you can see being a Caara member has its big perks in which we have our own clubhouse but it takes cash and manhours as payback to keep it up. So if your wondering why we are always holding fundraisers and asking for dues and donations you can see that every dime is critical to the general upkeep of the building. Now moving on to transparency. Please remember that you can find out all the monthly Board of Director meeting minutes and the monthly Financial reports in the members sections of the club's website. You can also find the Annual Meeting Reports for the past couple of years as well. The Board invites then members to at least take a couple minutes a month to skim over these reports so everyone is kept in the loop of all the inner workings of the club and where all the clubs money is coming and going. That'a it for now so we shall see you in April

CONGRESS REMOVES EXPORT PROHIBITION ON SATELLITES

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, passed by Congress in late December and now signed by President Obama has removed a restriction that has essentially shut down international cooperation for building amateur satellites in the past decade. Under the old law, satellites and their component parts were considered to be "munitions" and their export to other countries was severely limited. This made it impossible for amateur satellite organizations in different countries to work together on major projects. For example, the last big amateur satellite, Phase 3D. It was built jointly by

AMSAT groups in the U.S., Germany and other countries, but that was before the international cooperation measure was put in place. The new law restricts satellite exports only to China, North Korea and countries identified as state sponsors of terrorism, as well as those under trade embargoes. A recommendation from the Departments of State and Defense said the old law impeded the ability of American satellite builders to work with international partners while providing no noticeable benefit to national security. (CQ)

THAT GUY WITH THE HAM RADIO

Kraft foods has produced a new set of television commercials called the Velveeta-Eat-Like-That-You-Know campaign, and one of the 15 second spots features ham radio in a very positive light. The ham radio spot is titled "That Guy with the Ham Radio" and appears to be one of five new commercials for Kraft's Velvita Shells and Cheese lunch and dinner product. Others in the series are titled "That Guy That Drives That Limo," "That Guy That Paints Those Landscapes," "That Helicopter Guy at the Mall" and "That Guy That Owns That Aquarium Store." All are fast paced and fun to watch. You can see them on-line at genericbaldman.com/Velveeta-Eat-Like-That-You-Know. But be forewarned, watching any of these spots may leave you quite hungry. (ARRL PR Remailer)

Events

- Mar 10 WMARC Flea (N Conway NH)
- Mar 18 CVRC Flea (Henniker NH)
- Mar 25 Framingham ARA Flea (Framingham)
- Apr 1 MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- May 4-5 NEAR Fest (Deerfield NH)
- May 20 MIT Flea (Cambridge)
- Aug 24-26 ARRL NE Convention (Boxboro)



Junk by Dr. Curtis Wright-AA3JE

I have news for you all.

Despite your best efforts, and those of your physician, if you live long enough, you will die. Get over it.

It does create a problem, though, since you will have to decide what to do with the “stuff” you have been saving. Now if you are a person of discerning taste, excellent bargaining power, and a cool nerve, your “stuff” will become a star item on *Antiques Road Show*, where you’re lucky heirs will find out that the dirty oil painting in the closet is the sole remaining work of an obscure New England artist and is worth somewhere between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Or you could be like me, a junk hound.

“Junk” is of course in the eye of the beholder. You may see a dirty old radio. I see a 1937 Hallicrafters that was once the rig that every young ham passionately desired to own. It is true that it has spent 50

years in a barn, that mice have built entire mouse civilizations in it, but with no more than several hundred hours of meticulous work, it can once again scan the airwaves and bring the glory days of radio back to life.

Now some discipline is needed. Rick and Chuck remember the day that they gave me a ride to my first hamfest. The car was so loaded coming back that Rick considered charging me for new shocks, and the state policeman said we had to do a better job of tying stuff on the roof. No ticket though.

So here is the key, developed over many years of scrounging. A ten point scale, enabling you at a glance to rate how much you should pay for your find.

Do not assume that anything works. If it worked, they would not be selling it, would they?

Ham Gear Rating Scale

10- Gear appears intact, aside from the fair number of scratches, dings, paint smears and dangling wires. If plugged in (you are braver than I), something glows in there.



9- Same as above, but the cord is cut off. Cut off cords suggest that the magic smoke has leaked out, and must be replaced.

8- Someone used it as a prop for changing the wheel on the tractor. The chassis is more or less intact, but will require a sledge hammer to become rectangular again.

7- Something nested inside. Whatever it was had a serious diarrheal disorder at some point.

6- Same as above, but whatever it was died in place.

5- Someone, perhaps a ham, has extensively modified the interior, strange wires dangle loosely, with a variety of connectors. It seems to have served as a power supply at some point, but for what, is not clear.

4- The basement was damp, and the bottom of the chassis has rusted away (but can be fixed). All aluminum parts are suffering severe electrolytic corrosion.

3- The chassis is wood, and has been really damp for a long time.

2- The chassis is wood, the joints are apart, and the tubes are all long gone.

1-It might have been a radio, once.

Now that you have rated your find, you have to negotiate a price. This is best accomplished on the last hour of the last day when the owner is heading for the trash bin. Don’t appear to eager.

Now the problem of getting it home. She Who Must Be Obeyed has very firm views on this stuff, and leaving it at a “safe house” to cool off till the spouse is away might seem to work, but XYLs have a magic sensor that instantly detects this stuff, even at the range of several miles.

“WHAT IS THAT?”

“Oh, nothing.”

“YOU PROMISED.”

“I have a friend who is looking for it.”

“OH, SURE.”

With luck she will be distracted by something (I find a small grease fire on the stove to be helpful and of low risk, making sure that there is no more than one or two tablespoons in the pan).

After a few years, you may find that the basement is a bit full. This means you have to lighten it up. I was really stuck, since I have been “flagged” at the local transfer station, and the guys inspect my truck VERY carefully. I was at the end of my rope, till CAARA started the donation program.

Remember. It has value. You bought it, didn't you?

WHO IS THIS CAARA HAM WITH THE MICROPHONE?



Bill Wilm

Hackers targeted EAS nationwide

The FCC, FBI and several state and local law enforcement agencies are investigating what now appears to have been a widespread hack attack on the **Emergency Alert System**.

The full extent of the attack isn't yet clear, but several HD2 stations aired a bogus message about zombies. Engineers say the hackers apparently had a solid working knowledge of EAS.

Bonneville director of engineering **John Dehnel** says the company's Salt Lake City stations were one target. While it never made it to news-talk KSL (1160) — the LP1 station for the area — or its sister KSL-TV, the bizarre message was broadcast on the cluster's three HD2 stations.

Dehnel believes the culprit was EAS boxes that were left set to factory-installed default passwords to

accommodate tech support crews.

“We left the default password in and frankly I forgot about it — my guess is you'll find everyone still had the default password on it,” he says.

The Bonneville HD2 stations fired the bogus EAS messages about one hour before a Great Falls, MT television station that made headlines yesterday. Several other stations also aired a fake EAS message, including TV stations in Albuquerque and Marquette, MI. A radio station in Los Angeles apparently thwarted its attack. It's possible other stations also broadcast the alert.

Read the full *Inside Radio* article at

<http://www.insideradio.com/Article.asp?id=2616689&spid=32060>

SDR TOUCH TURNS TABLET OR PHONE INTO SDR RECEIVER

Ham Radio Science reports on an interesting new app called SDR Touch. This is software that allows you to use your Android tablet or cell-phone along with a RTL2832U USB plug in thumb drive as a Software Defined Radio.

All you need do is to plug the relatively inexpensive drive into your Android 4.0 devices USB port and load the SDR Touch app. The combination is reported to allow you to tune and decode the audio from it. Simple, easy and if we may add, cheap.

SATELLITE EXPLORER APP NOW AVAILABLE

Tom Doyle, W9KE, has released "Satellite Explorer."

This is described as a Windows 8 app that runs on Intel based tablets, laptops and desktops as well as Windows RT tablets like the Microsoft Surface. It is available in the Windows

Store if you search for "Satellite Explorer." The app itself is free but if you find it of value you are asked to please contribute to your favorite AMSAT project. A video preview of it can be seen on-line at tinyurl.com/satellite-explorer-2013. (W9KE)



NEED HELP SETTING UP A RADIO, PROGRAMMING A NEW WALKIE?

Free Elmer service at the club every Sunday morning to help you!

NEW CAARA REPEATER

Monday, February 4th was the day we picked up the new Kenwood TKR-750 2 meter repeater in Hollis, NH. Jake and I left Gloucester at 9am arrived at Belltronics with the CAARA check in hand.



Bernie, owner of Belltronics, checks the options we wanted programmed.



The tech at Belltronics that tuned our duplexers while we waited.



Jake carting out the duplexers to my car after the “tuneup” which gained us 20db of isolation.

We brought along the duplexers which were purchased in 1983 and have never been tuned as long as I can remember. The tech connected them to the scope and fed in the input and output frequencies and found them to be a little off. He tweaked them and added 10db of isolation to each side, transmit and receive.

Next Bernie, the man on the left in the green sweater turned on our new repeater and setup several channels and showed me how everything worked.

Currently in Channel 1 the repeater is setup to operate as the current one. This is no PL tone and running the Kenwood repeater at 15 watts into our Amp giving us 75 watts out.

I assigned Channel 2 to operate with no PL and 30 watts output from the Kenwood repeater for use without the amplifier running. This is in the case our amplifier fails and we have no replacement ready.

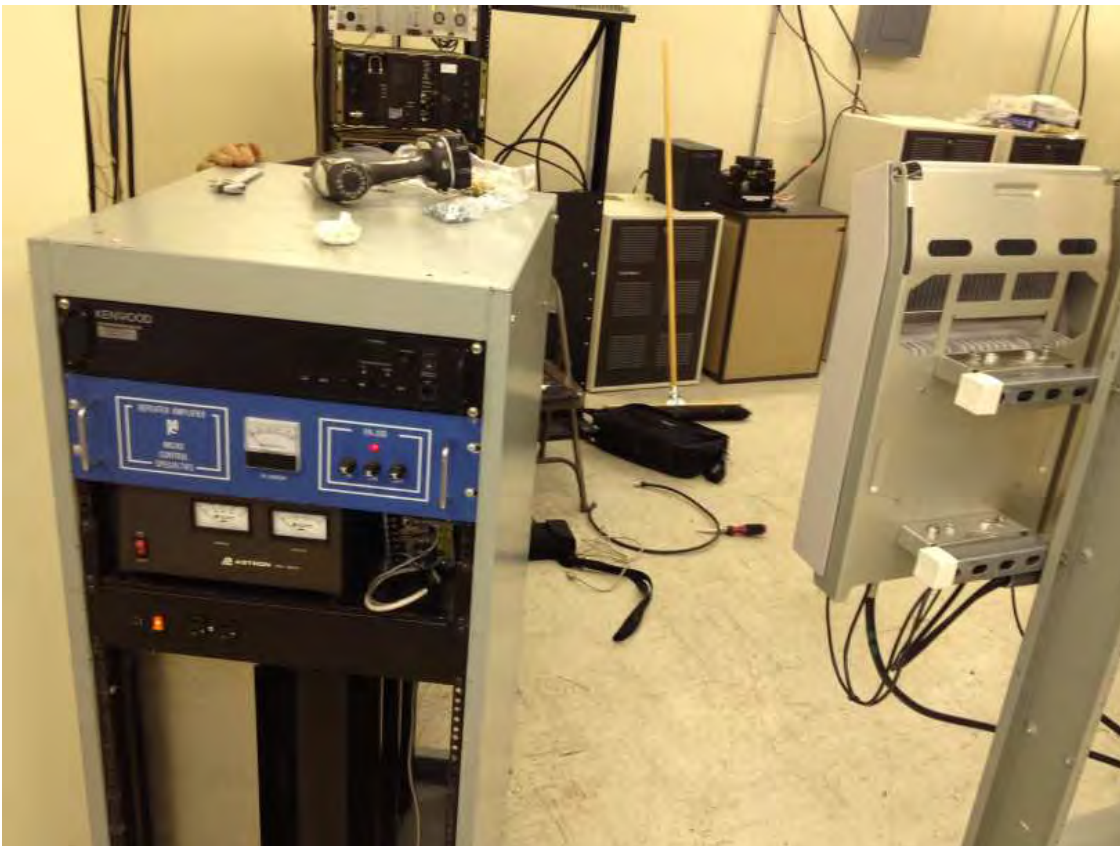
The big change is Channel 3, which will be turned on as soon as all in the club members are notified. This option puts our repeater on a PL tone input and may help with a lot of the intereference from noise and other repeaters in skip conditions. The PL tone is the one listed in the NE Repeater Manual for CAARA. **DON'T FORGET TO PROGRAM YOUR 2 METER EQUIPMENT TO CTCSS TONE 107.2 ASAP**



Here is a photo of the start of the building of the new repeater at the clubhouse. We found working with the rack laying on the floor was the easiest.



The new repeater all together and awaiting a little testing before we bring it over to the ATT cell tower site. The wires have not been neatly cabled up and the duplexers have not been strapped in.....



The new repeater at the ATT cellular site at Blackburn Circle Industrial Park. Ross, Jake and Jon got it all hooked up, ran a few tests . blessed it, and it is now ready for your use.

Please check in and check the sensitivity and signal strength from your location and when you are mobile. Let us know what you think.

RANDOM PHOTO'S



Jon-K1TP at the Cellular Site programming the new repeater in February



February Board of Director's Meeting- first floor



February Board of Director's Meeting



The one and only Briggs-AB2NJ silent key.



Ralph-W1RK of Magnolia has been one of the major technical leaders of the CAARA club in the 1975-2000 range. Ralph could copy cw at amazing speeds and was a great Elmer to many of us in the club. Ralph was our main mentor with our first CAARA tube repeater first located at the clubhouse and later moved to the Varion site.

Ralph is at the Seacoast Rehab Center located behind the Addison Gilbert Hospital and is accepting visitors. I understand it is best to go in the morning.



CAARA MOVIE NIGHT FEATURE MOVIE:

CONTACT

Saturday, March 9, 2013
6PM for Hot Dogs and Beans
Movie starts at 7PM

Contact is a 1997 American science fiction drama film adapted from the Carl Sagan novel of the same name and directed by Robert Zemeckis. Both Sagan and wife Ann Druyan wrote the story outline for the film adaptation of Contact.

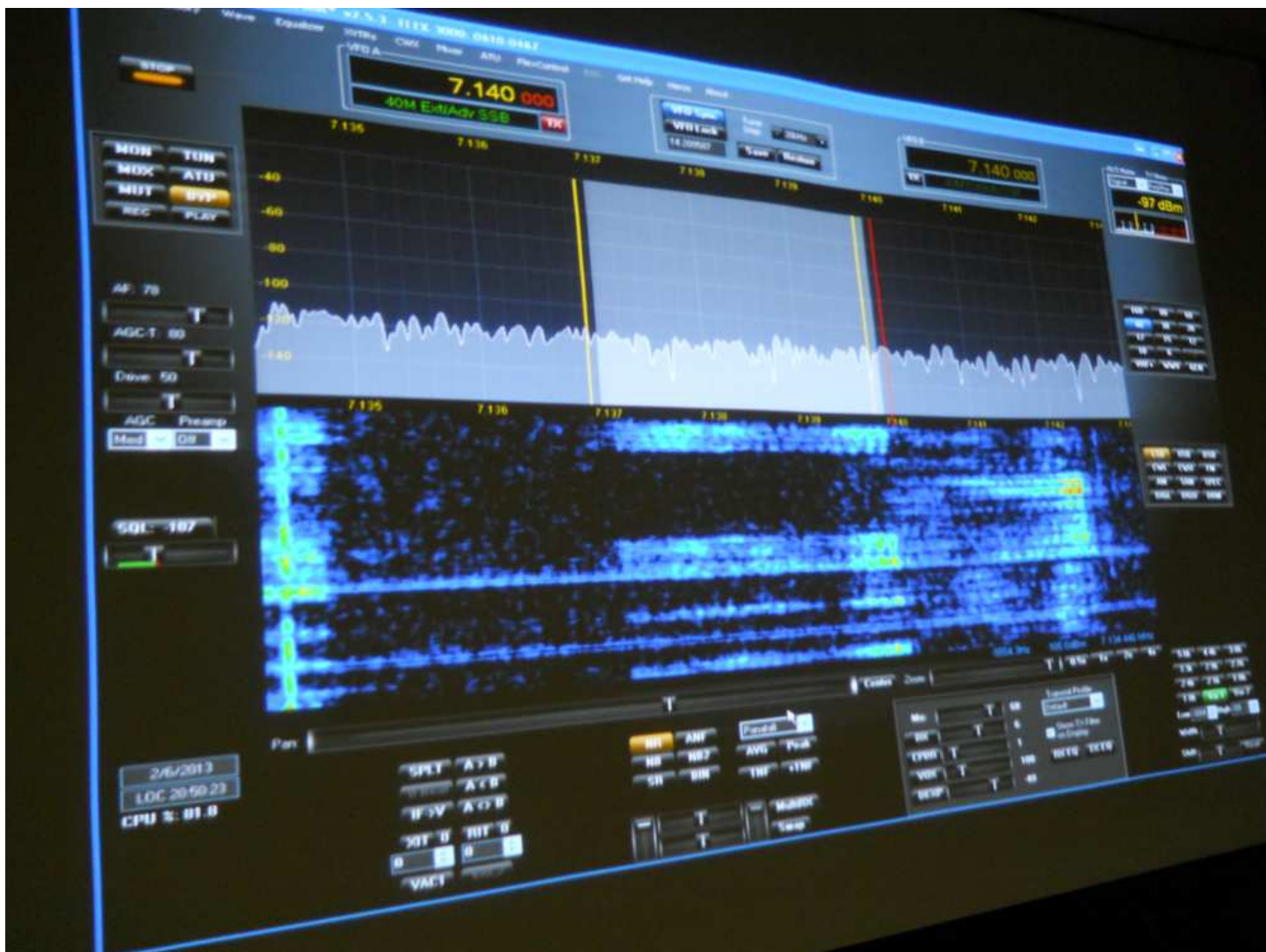
Jodie Foster portrays the film's protagonist, Dr. Eleanor "Ellie" Arroway, a SETI scientist who finds strong evidence of extraterrestrial life and is chosen to make first contact. The film also stars Matthew McConaughey, James Woods, Tom Skerritt, William Fichtner, John Hurt, Angela Bassett, and David Morse.

Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan began working on the film in 1979. Together, they wrote a 100+ page film treatment and set up Contact at Warner Bros. with Peter Guber and Lynda Obst as producers. When the project to make the film became mired in development hell, Sagan published Contact as a novel in 1985 and the film adaptation was rejuvenated in 1989. Roland Joffé and George Miller had planned to direct it, but Joffé dropped out in 1993 and Warner Bros. fired Miller in 1995. Robert Zemeckis was eventually hired to direct, and filming for Contact lasted from September 1996 to February 1997. Sony Pictures Imageworks handled most of the visual effects sequences.

The film was released on July 11, 1997, to mostly positive reviews. Contact grossed approximately \$171 million in worldwide box office totals. The film won the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation and received multiple awards and nominations at the Saturn Awards. The release of Contact was publicized by controversies from the Clinton administration and CNN, as well as individual lawsuits from George Miller and Francis Ford Coppola

Software Defined Radio was the topic at the February Monthly Club Meeting *by Dean KB1PGH*

What you are seeing in the provided photo is the Flexradio 3000 waterfall display on the big screen at the CAARA Clubhouse during Club President Stan Stone's-W4HIX Software Defined radio demonstration at the monthly members meeting which was held on Wednesday, Feb 6. Stan discussed what SDR is all about, how the software is written and what you can do with a software defined radio. Stan talked about the cheap SDR radios such as the DVB-T USB dongle which covers 50-2,200 MHz for \$20.00, as opposed to the Flexradio 3000 Software Defined ham radio which does HF and 6 meters and which costs thousands of dollars.



Front and back picture of our new Flex Radio at the clubhouse.

Why not make arrangements for one of the club Elmer's to show you how to use it?

What is SDR

- What is Software Defined Radio
 - SDR uses some analog circuits, but as time goes on, largely digital
 - Signals are digitized as early in the signal chain as practical
 - Functional blocks of a radio are now replaced with software
 - SDRs can now be upgraded and new features added by upgrading software
 - Radio experimentation is writing software
 - Much easier to share

What is SDR?

- What is a traditional radio?
 - A collection of mostly analog circuits designed to perform tasks such as filtering, modulating/demodulating, and amplifying.
 - Traditional radios have largely fixed functions, with some changes possible through “mod’ing”
 - Generally not upgradable, or able to change functions or capabilities

SDR Hardware

- DVB-T USB Dongle (\$20)
 - Made for terrestrial digital TV
 - Receives 50 MHz to 2,200 MHz



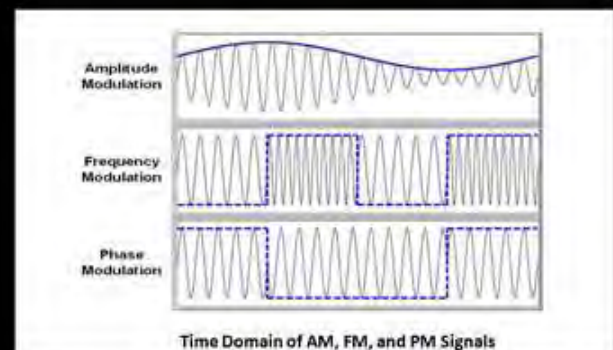
How Can I Do It?

- Good place to buy the SDR dongle: <http://www.nooelec.com/store/software-defined-radio.html>
- You can check ebay.com also—try SDR USB
- You can also purchase the “Ham It Up” board from them—fully built for \$42.95 (seems to gone up a little). This will shift the HF bands up to VHF which can be tuned and demodulated by the dongle and SDR# software.
- There are two popular receivers in the SDR dongles, the E4000 (now out of production, but widest frequency range) and the R820T (lower bottom frequency and reportedly better sensitivity). The R820T is cheaper. Here is a good site:

How Can I Do It?

- Here is another site (these folks wrote the driver for the RTL2832U chip that SDR# uses): <http://sdr.osmocom.org/trac/wiki/rtl-sdr>
- The software SDR# is available here: <http://sdrsharp.com> (click on downloads). This script will download the latest software and everything you need: <http://sdrsharp.com/downloads/sdr-install.zip>
- Once the software is loaded, you have to install the drivers. The driver installer is Zadig.exe (in the installation files you downloaded for SDR#). Here are instructions for using Zadig.exe: <http://rtlsdr.org/software/windows>.
- Here is a good guide for the software: [Download SDRSharpQuickStart.pdf](#)
- Read the article in Jan 2013 QST, it is pretty complete. Skip the long form of downloading the software—toward the end it gives a link to the automated .bat file in the sdr-install folder you unzip.

Analog Modulation Schemes



Software Defined Radio

Stan Stone, W4HIX

Feb. 6, 2013

Cape Ann Amateur Radio Assn

Stan's Power Point Presentation Notes

You can get your

FCC Technician Amateur Radio License in *One Day* with

TECH-IN-A-DAY

*Note: Morse code is no longer needed for any
amateur radio license.*

How?

If you can spare one Saturday, chances are very good you can get your FCC amateur radio Technician license. Don't worry if you're not technically inclined, this method depends much more on short-term memory than technical knowledge or background. By spending six hours studying the questions and answers from the FCC exam question pool, you'll remember enough to pass the exam given at the end of the class. The test is 35 multiple-choice questions and you need 26 correct to pass. This method has worked with teenagers to senior citizens.

Why?

With a Technician license, you can use VHF and UHF amateur radio bands, meaning when the phones go dead and your cell phone doesn't get reception, you will be able to get a message out with a simple hand-held radio. For emergency workers, adding Amateur Radio capability adds to your communications abilities. And, it is great fun with interesting people to meet.

Help!

So after I get my license, what next? The Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association is ready and willing to teach you the practical matters on getting "on the air". We can answer your questions on how to operate, what radio to buy, etc. We get together every Sunday morning for coffee and donuts—come join us sometime. We also have members' meetings once a month with interesting presentations.

Schedule

Date: **Saturday, April 27th, 2013**

Time: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM (includes exam)

Place: Lanesville Community Center

8 Vulcan St

Gloucester (Lanesville), MA

Contact

Stan Stone, W4HIX

978 283-2015 e-mail: techinaday@caara.net

You must pre-register for this course.

Cost & Requirements

Fee: \$5 (includes materials & snacks)

Test Cost: \$15 (required by FCC)

BRING PHOTO ID & SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

CAARA sponsors another successful Saturday Movie Night!

Several members of the club gathered for another club 2 meter repeater fundraising movie night on Saturday February 2nd at 7 PM at the CAARA clubhouse. We started off with a hotdog and bean dinner cooked by club President Stan Stone- W4HIX, followed by a Carvel Ice Cream cake for dessert. We then watched the 2011 action adventure animated movie “**TinTin**” which included a radio room and morse code scene in the movie. So hotdogs, beans, cake and a movie- all for \$5.00!-not a bad deal in todays economy! Thanks to Ruth- WW1N for the movie and we will continue having future movie nights to raise funds to pay off our new 2 meter repeater.



Dean - KB1PGH donated an ice cream cake that was second to none.....and none was left! Why not enjoy another benefit of being a CAARA member. Come to next month's dinner and movie at the club!

NEW MONTHLY FEATURE:

CAARA BOARD Meeting Date: Jan 9, 2013 NOTES

Attendance: (L) Arrived Late (V) Visitor Quorum is 6 Board members

Yes	No			Yes	No			
P		Stan Stone	W4HIX	Pres.	A	John Graves	WA1JG	Dir.
P		Jake Hurd	K1LDL	V.P	P	Ruth Hodsdon	WW1N	Dir.
P		Dean J Burgess	KB1PGH	Clerk	A	Paul Anderson	KA1GIJ	Dir.
P		Hank McCarl	W4RIG	Treas.	P	Larry Bealieu	AJ1Z	Dir.
					P	Bill Poulin	WZ1L	Dir.
P		Dick Ober	K1VRA	Dir.	P	Ross Burton	W1RAB	Dir
A		Jon Cunningham	K1TP	Dir.				

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Dean KB1PGH, 9 Members Present

1. Previous Meeting Notes: Stan W4HIX, Written by Dean KB1PGH

The December 2012 BOD meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board. Dick K1VRA motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Larry AJ1Z seconded and the minutes were approved by 9 votes.

2. Treasurer's Report Hank W4RIG

Hank W4RIG presented the Board with the Accounting notes for January 2013. The Citizen Bank Account had \$ 10,390.07. Paypal Account had \$ 4,820.34. Total Inflows were \$1,416.11. Cash was \$53.04. Total Outflows were \$3,123.50. With a total bank balance of \$15,263.04. Ruth WW1N motioned to approve the Accounting notes and Ross W1RAB seconded and the notes were approved with 9 votes.

3. Committee Reports:

House Committee Chairman – Jake Hurd K1LDL

Jake K1LDL said that the kitchen window is finished for now. He also mentioned that he may be able to get to the eve if the weather holds. Jake also talked about getting a deadbolt for the door at the bottom of the stairs. Ross W1RAB mentioned about getting a storm window for the kitchen window. Stan W4HIX wants to get the city to sign off of the Lease work list for 2012.

Club Station/Repeater Committee Chairman and Trustee – Bob Quinn WV1A

Jon K1TP stated that the new repeater has been purchased and he is waiting for a new repeater site security key to arrive and then it will be installed. Dick KR1G has made new shielded jumper cables for the new repeater. Ross said that he has two 440 repeaters up and running and can be for club use for emergency communications and general use. One is 447.565 – with no pl and the other 442.075 + with a PL of 114.8 .

Sunday Night Net Chairman – Dean Burgess KB1PGH

Dean KB1PGH reported that CAARANET is going good with about a dozen check in's a week and no problems with rotating net controls.

Echo link Node Chairman – Stan Stone W4HIX

Echolink has been running fine the past month.

Emergency Services Chairman - Curtis Wright, AA3JE

Curtis AA3JE and the Board discussed the ongoing flu situation in Massachusetts. Curtis is also talking to the Yukon Run folks about the April 17th race. Stan W4HIX brought up the sign up for the Boston Marathon.



ARRL Field Day Chairmen – Stan Stone W4HIX, Co Chairman
Hank McCarl W4RIG

The first ARRL Field day planning meeting will be held on Sunday February 17th at 10:00 AM. Right after the Scholarship breakfast which will start at 8:30 AM that same morning. The next repeater fundraiser movie night will be Saturday Feb 2nd at 7 PM.

Fund Raising Chairman –Sue Downey N1XQW

The clubs EBay sales of surplus equipment has been going quite well due to the hard work of Jon K1TP, Jake K1LDL and Stan W4HIX.



PR Committee Chairman –Dean Burgess KB1PGH

There is no CAARA PR news to report at this time.

Thacher Island Expedition Committee-Ruth Hodsdon WW1N

Ruth WW1N stated that she already has a full team signed up for the trip which will be Friday August 2nd through Monday August 5th. The W1T callsign request has been sent out as well.

VE Sessions Committee-Bob Quinn WV1A

As of this meeting Bob Quinn WV1A is back as the ARRL VE Liaison for the time being and there was no VE session in January due to the snowstorm. Ruth WW1N sent in the CAARA VE dates for 2013 into the ARRL.



Sunshine Committee-Chairman Bill Poulin WZ1L

Bill Poulin WZ1L is now the chairman of the Sunshine Committee.

Second floor committee-Dick Ober K1VRA

Dick K1VRA and Jake K1LDL stated that the tube cabinet will be emptied out and moved downstairs so that the walls can be painted.

4. Old Business

There is no old business at this time.

5. New Business

Ross W1RAB stated that he wanted to recruit some club members to help him clean out Ralph Karchers ham radio equipment and throw the old stuff out and sell the good equipment and give that money to Ralphs family as a favor to Ralph for all that he has done for the club.

There was also discussion that the club should give Bob Quinn WV1A an award for the recognition for all his years of ARRL VE service to the club.

6. Motions:

There was a motion made by Ross W1RAB to use the clubhouse for the processing and valuation of Ralph'sham equipment. Ruth WW1N seconded and the Board passed the motion with 9 votes.

Ross W1RAB stated that the club should hold a cookout in August and invite all the neighbors as a Gesture of goodwill and the Board agreed.

Jake K1DLD will see if he can make a request to see if Lauren can cook for field day.

7. Action Items:

There were no action items made during this meeting.

8. Adjournment:

Hank W4RIG motioned to adjourn and Larry AJ1Z seconded and the Board approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM

Are you utilizing all the benefits's of your CAARA Membership?

The Board of Director's hope so! We offer more activities than any other club in Massachusetts: Weekly Sunday morning get together to socialize with other hams in the club, use the numerous club stations, use the test gear, Elmering, build an antenna, or just relax with a cup of coffee. Monthly member meetings, Club sponsored Field Day event, Thatcher Island Activation Event, summer QRP field trips, club activation for any contest you request, monthly newsletter, wide coverage 2 meter repeater with a weekly net, Monthly Movie and Dinner night, Emergency Trailer, License Classes, VEC testing sessions, ARRL affiliated club, etc.

The CAARA club offers something for everyone.....start enjoying the benefits of belonging to the 100+ member CAARA Club!

Odds and Ends

by Jon- K1TP



As you all are probably aware of by now, we have been remodeling the second floor of the club since last fall. I wish things went faster but volunteers have been scarce. I have been primarily working with Jake- K1LDL and we have finally got things nearing completion. I want to thank Dick Ober for overseeing the project and the input from the membership and the BOD, volunteer efforts by Ross-W1RSB, Bill-W1OCD, and John-WA1JG.

At the time this article is being written, we have finished painting and renovating 3 of the 4 walls, installed an antenna patch panel, set up three working hf station's capable of cw or ssb operation, Ebay'ed thousands of dollars of surplus equipment, and in general cleaned the 30+ years of accumulated stuff.



The last phase will consist of painting the last wall and reassembling a test area that club members can use to solder connectors, kit building, testing gear, etc. We will be assembling a rack on wheels with an oscilloscope, 5 and 12 volts dc power supply, variac, multimeters, etc. The second test area will be re-setup for the club technician with more advanced test gear, etc.

The small room will house a collection of vintage tube gear that will be available for use by all club members. We will have silent key Briggs mint Kenwood TS830 with all the matching accessories setup as well as other selected period pieces.

This remodel is a work in progress. Nothing is written in stone and the setup is flexible enough to make changes easily. I might add, a hf station was and is available for use on the first floor with access to the beam during this ongoing remodel process.

The second floor is available for any contests that CAARA members may wish to participate in. Each station is ready to operate on cw or ssb with keys, tuners, and access to all antennas and headphones. If you want to operate, let someone know! If you listen to the 2 meter net, read the info on the CAARA.NET web page, or read the monthly CAARA Newsletter, you will be notified of popular contest dates.

Notes: Of 100+ members in the club, we received less than 8 responses on how members would like to see the second floor designed (most from board members). Everyone on the BOD agreed that the second floor needed to be addressed. It was outdated and could be designed to be more user friendly, easier on the eyes, and wired in a far more professional manner.

We removed over 100 feet of unnecessary coax on the second floor station setups and 4+ coax switches. The coax is no longer hanging from the ceiling but is routed neatly along the walls in bundles. Anyone can figure out how to switch any antenna to any radio station in minutes. Over a dozen extension cords and power strips will be removed and 2- 5 foot power strips installed behind the radios to distribute power. We installed a book case in the second floor bathroom with 100's of magazines and books for your reading enjoyment while taking care of business. The tube display cabinet that was on the second floor will be installed on the first floor.

The 440 repeater will eventually get back on the air but the location at the club will not give us much coverage. We are open to your suggestions. The 220 repeater is also silent and we are looking for suggestions.

We will have the closet on the second floor reorganized and loaded with parts to repair radio gear...caps, diodes, resistors, switches, knobs, connectors, transformers, rf chokes, wire, etc. If you need a part, don't go to Radio Shack. Come up to CAARA Sunday morning and we can help you out.

WHERE IS THIS?

This is a photo of the CAARA clubhouse basement on Saturday, February 23 during a volunteer club cleanup event. While remodeling the second floor we realized a lot of stuff that needed to be brought to the basement for temporary/ permanent storage. Ross-W1RSB decided to take charge and surveyed the basement area. He couldn't believe the collection of stuff that had accumulated over the past 30 years and called for a cleanup party. We had to clean the basement out before bringing down more gear.

Our club Prez, Stan, responded by sending out an email asking for help.

I took pictures of the event and hope I included everyone that was involved, it was amazing how much work was done in such a short amount of time. Thanks for the strong response from the membership.



Jake - K1LDL and Scott looking over discarded items.



Ross- W1RSB walking towards his loaded truck of club junk with Dick- K1VRA helping.



Dick- K1VRA, Ruth- WW1N, and Roger- KB1YTJ

CAARA Club Volunteers at work on February 23 helping with the second floor renovation by assisting with moving and cleaning activities.



Bob Spanks- WA1UCG and Hank- W4RIG discussing club history.



Dean- KB1PGH, John- WA1JG, and Stan- W4HIX taking a quick photo shoot break.

DX News from the ARRL

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, QRZ DX, The Weekly DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

RWANDA, 9X. Nick, G3RWF (5X1NH) plans to be QRV from March 4 to 12. He has requested the call sign 9X0NH, and the license should be valid for 2013 because he could return later in the year. Activity will be mainly CW. QSL via G3RWF.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H44. Operators Phil, G3SWH and Jim, G3RTE will be active from Honiara, Guadalcanal, until February 28. QSL via G3SWH, either via the OQRS facility on Phil's Web site, direct with SAE and adequate return postage or via the Bureau.

DOMINICA, J7. Rick, KK4GV will be active as J79GV from Calibishie between March 8 and 17. His activity will be holiday style and SSB only. QSL via his home call sign, direct or via the Bureau.

EL SALVADOR, YS. John, NO7B will be QRV as YS1/NO7B until March 12. Listen for him on SSB only on 40 to 10 meters. QSL via home call.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Kim, OH6KZP will be active as OH0X during the ARRL DX SSB Contest, March 2 and 3, as a Single-Op entry. QSL via LoTW or to OH2TA.

BELIZE, V3. Lee, N8LJ will be active as V31LJ from Placencia between February 27 and March 6. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via K8ESQ.

MONTSERRAT, VP2M. Operators John, KB8RJ and XYL Crissie, WD8KUR will be active as VP2MRS and VP2MUR, respectively, until March 14. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 meters, including the WARC bands, using mostly SSB and some PSK. QSL both call signs via KB8RJ.

RODRIQUES ISLAND, 3B9. Operators Toshi, JA8BMK; Ken, JN1THL (AB1GJ) and Yoshiko, JQ1LCW (KF7JXL), plan to be active from March 1 to 10. Activity will be on 80 through 10 meters using SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK31. If time permits Toshi will operate from Mauritius Island as 3B8/JA8BMK on February 27 and 28. QSL via EA5GL, direct only.

ST. LUCIA, J6. Rob, N7QT, will be QRV as J6/N7QT between April 5 and 16. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY or PSK, as well as operating field portable (battery only) either from the St. Lucia beaches or scenic mountain tops. During field portable operations, they will sign /P. QSL J6/N7QT via LoTW, eQSL, by the Bureau, or direct to his home call sign with SASE. J69DS will only accept direct QSLs with a SASE. No Bureau QSLs.

BONAIRE, PJ4. Operators Janusz, SP9FIH and Kazik, SP6AXW will be active as PJ4/home calls between April 8 and 20. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using SSB and RTTY. QSL via SP9FIH: Janusz Wegrzyn, P.O. Box 480, 44-100 Gliwice, Poland.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, VP2V. Dave, W9DR will be active as VP2V/W9DR from the north shore of the Island of Anegada (NA-023) between June 14 and 28. Activity will be on 50.115 MHz (SSB) and 50.115.6 MHz (CW). He will also be running a beacon on 50.115.6 when the band is not open. QSL to home call.

GREECE, SV. Rich, M5RIC will be active as SV8/M5RIC from Zakyntos Island (EU-052) from July 23 to 30. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and RTTY. QSL via M5RIC.

MIQUELON ISLAND, FP. Eric, KV1J will be QRV as FP/KV1J from July 6 to 16. He plans to be on 160 through 6 meters, primarily on SSB and RTTY but some CW, PSK-31 and Feld Hell. QSL via KV1J either direct, via the bureau or LoTW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO

The REF SSB Contest, UBA CW Contest, Mississippi QSO Party, North American RTTY QSO Party, North Carolina QSO Party, and the CQC Winter QSO Party are all on tap for this weekend. The CQ WW 160 Meter SSB Contest is on February 22.

Please see February QST page 90 and the [ARRL](#) and [WA7BNM](#) contest web sites for details

Short-wave radios banned in Zimbabwe

The Thursday February 21 edition of the Times newspaper reports the Zimbabwe Information Minister has said *short-wave radios* are illegal communications devices.

Reportedly hundreds of short-wave radios have been seized in house searches.

The Times story says that for the past eight years the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) has been distributing solar/ wind-up radios, manufactured in South Africa.

The article was republished online by the Times sister newspaper The Australian and may still be available at <http://tinyurl.com/ShortWaveRadioBan>



PIRATE RADIO QSL

If you listen around 6900 +/- you will be surprised by the number of pirate stations. SWLing was how I go into the hobby in the late 1950's and it is still a lot of fun.....*k1tp*

Some pirates, like **Wolverine Radio**, tend to send SSTV pictures at the end of their broadcasts. In Wolverine's case, it is always right after the "Echo ID", signifying the end of their broadcast. Here is the SSTV frame from tonight!





HF/VHF Transceiver

Frequency range:

Rx 0.5-29.999999MHz

Tx 1.6-29.999999MHz

Mode: USB, LSB, CW, AM

Memory channels: 100

Power supply: 13.8V DC

Receive Standby mode: 1.4A

Transmit Max. power: 25A

Operable temp. range: -10 – +60

Dimension(WxHxD): 240 x 200 x 65mm

Weight: 4kg

Receiver:

Reveive system: Double-conversion superheterodyne system

Sensitivity(12dB SINAD):

0.5-1.5999MHz: SSB, CW, RTTY – 1uV , AM – 10uV

1.6-29.9999MHz: SSB, CW, RTTY – 0.5uV, AM – 2uV

Squelch sensitivity(threshold): SSB, CW, RTTY Less than 5.6uV

Selectivity:

SSB, CW, RTTY:

More than 2.1 KHz/-6dB,

Less than 4.5 KHz/-60dB

AM:

More than 6 KHz/-6dB,

Less than 20 KHz/-40dB

RIT variable range: 150Hz

Made in China

Price: \$410 USD

**NEW RADIO FROM
CHINA...AND LOOK
AT THE PRICE!**