



CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2015 EDITION

President's Desk

by *Hank-W4RIG*



I am pleased to report that Tom Walsh, K1TW, the ARRL EMA Section Manager, will be with us at the CAARA Member's meeting on March 11 - we start with an EmComm/Community Service update at 7:00 PM and regular meeting at 7:30 PM. Tom has the new ARRL position with our old friend Phil Temples, K9HI, as his Assistant Section Manager. He will fill us in on the latest news from ARRL and the FCC decision to support open access for the Internet.

Things around 6 Stanwood are hoppin' with WSPR, APRS, and other activities in continuous operation - discussion on relocation of the antenna controls and possible permanent installation of an Emergency Power generator - as well as long range plans for maintenance of the building now that we are the property owners.

At the February Member's meeting we presented an Honorary CAARA Membership to Attorney Meredith Fine for being our guardian angel for the past year and continuing into the future. She is very proud to be our good friend and loyal member.

While the snow is piled high all over the property, we might need to utilize the parking area at Beeman School - let us know if you will need taxi service from Beeman to 6 Stanwood - we can run a shuttle as necessary.

We hope to have a good attendance for the February 11th meeting, so put it on your calendar, and try to be there to meet and greet our ARRL EMA Section Manager Tom Walsh.

My best regards to all - Hank W4RIG

Information Desk

by *Dean-KB1PGH*



Well as I'm writing this it's the middle of February and I just received my December Edition of CQ Magazine nor have I received their combined January and February Issue so the beat goes on with them and their printing woes. When you read this it may be "Last Years News" but if you haven't heard Radio shack filed for bankruptcy and close at least half of their stores and sell the other have to sprint so the writing was on the wall for years as the retail line was a shadow of its former self and Radio shacks demise is finally coming true. The store chain opened in Boston in 1921.

Moving on the ARRL New England Boxboro Convention is back after a hiatus due to last years ARRL 100th Anniversary Convention in Hartford CT. This years convention will be held on August 21,22, and 23rd. So save those dates and make sure to attend. There will be the usual flea market and all the major vendors will be there as well as the educational seminars. General admission tickets are \$15.00 and you can find out more at www.boxboro.org.

BY the time you read this the FCC will have discontinued sending out hard copy amateur radio licenses as of February 17th. They came to the conclusion that they can save money that way. You will still be able to print out an official authorization and reference paper copy from the Universal Licensing System (ULS) license manager from your computer if need be. Plus you will have the option of asking the FCC to send you a hard copy if you want. The FCC figured that the electronic record was enough for most purposes. Here's a reminder that ARRL Field Day is just 4 months away so set aside some time in the full last weekend in June to participate. This year Field day will be held on Saturday June 27th and Sunday June 28th. So those are the latest dates and information for

(cont. p 3)



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

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

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

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Welcome to CAARA:

CAARA, an ARRL affiliated club, operates the 2 meter W1GLO repeater on 145.130 MHz with antennas located on the ATT tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex in Gloucester Massachusetts. It has an average effective radius of 60 miles, and serves Eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Rhode Island, Southern New Hampshire, and maritime mobile stations. CAARA also operates the W1GLO repeater on 224.900 located at the clubhouse with limited range. The former W1RK 443.700 repeater with antennas located in Magnolia is now located on the ATT tower along with the two meter repeater.

The Association is one of the few amateur radio clubs that has its own clubhouse. Located at 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester, it includes a permanent HF station with rotating beam and vertical antenna along with a 2 meter packet station and 2 meter voice and 220 MHz transceivers.

Amateur radio exams are held on the second Sunday of each month at 10:00AM at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. There is no pre-registration necessary. Contact the head of our VE team Bob Quinn if you have any questions about monthly testing. Monthly member meetings are held on the first wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM except for July and August

Each Sunday evening at 9:00pm, the club operates a 2 meter net on 145.130. This is an open and informal net which disseminates club news and prepares operators for emergency communications work. All are invited to check into the net as club membership is not a requirement.

New! The club is open every Tuesday from 4-8PM for CAARA members to stop by and socialize, as well as use the extensive collection of ham radio gear.

Information Desk by Dean-KB1PGH



you. Moving on to this month's topic I think I'll cover ham radio as an important back up to family communication. I know that all you hear is ham radio emergency communications for cities and towns and public services but don't forget that you can use ham radio to keep in touch with family members too during times of crises. This holds true locally when cellphone towers get knocked out of service due to weather disasters or terrorism. Even during the marathon bombings almost 2 years ago people couldn't use their cellphones around Boston due to the extreme high traffic volume. Families can also keep in touch during power outages. I think one aspect to keep in mind is that everyone carries cellphones and are giving up their hardline phones in their homes. Of course this means "When all else fails" but ham radio does provide a last line of defense for families to keep in constant contact during disasters. I think I'll start a "Emergency Preparedness tip" for each month starting this month. This month's tip will be to start building an emergency cash fund in your home. Just think if you can't get money out of an ATM or use a credit card because the powers out for a few days. This idea especially works for your "Emergency Go Kit". Start by saving even as little as \$10 per month and by the end of one year you'll have \$120.00 in emergency cash. This will be at least enough to buy food and other supplies for a couple of days. It's a good idea to use ones and fives so you don't have to worry about making change. You can also throw some quarters in there just in case you run across a situation where you'll need toll money. That's it for now and I'll see you in April!

ARRL Draft HF Band Plan

Proposals

The ARRL HF Band Planning Committee has concluded that it would be unrealistic to try to bring the ARRL 40m band plan into alignment with the rest of the world

They say that in Regions 1 and 3 where 40m operating patterns developed when the entire band, including phone, was just 100 kHz wide and is still only 200 kHz. While 7040 kHz is a recognized RTTY/Data DX frequency in the band plan, the best place for other RTTY/

Data activity in the US is above 7070 kHz.

Read about the ARRL's proposed changes to the RTTY/Data/CW portions of 80 through 10 meters — excepting 60 meters at <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-member-input-on-draft-hf-band-plan-proposals>

For 35 years the development of Data Modes in the USA has been crippled by the symbol rate restrictions introduced at HF and also VHF/UHF in 1980.

Russian Physicists Launch Campaign To Rebuild Tesla's Wardenclyffe Tower And Power The World

"Tesla was right and we are ready to prove it!" So say the two Russian physicists who have just launched an Indiegogo campaign to rebuild Nikola Tesla's Wardenclyffe Tower in Fall, 2014. Tesla believed that the tower could transmit power wirelessly but this was never definitively proven in his lifetime.

If he was right, and after extensive study the team are convinced he was, the project could provide an efficient, worldwide energy transmission system that would distribute all the clean energy we can use.

That Tesla was a genius is undisputed even by his detractors, but more than 70 years after his death, he remains a polarizing figure.



One of the problems faced by portable operators is getting mud, dust and snow in connectors while erecting antennas. Getting snow out of BNC plugs is particularly tricky!

Portable radio specialists SOTABEAMS have developed a solution to this problem. Their universal dust cap protects BNC plugs, PL-259s and N-type plugs.

The dust cap is easy to use and has been selected as suitable for use with gloves on.

<http://www.sotabeams.co.uk/bnc-pl259-n-type-dust-cap-pack-of-40/>

For a limited time SOTABEAMS gives free worldwide shipping on these useful dust caps.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA EMCOM CENTER?



Not much happening or space to park at the club as of late.....

I'm really hooked on J-37s! *by Ruth- WWIN*

I bought a couple for not much on eBay and took them apart, cleaned them up, and mix & matched parts to come up with one good one. Then I found a new heavy duty cord on eBay made to look vintage with the kind of cloth covering you'd expect to see on candlestick phones. But rather than the vintage rounded radio plug it has a standard 1/4 inch plug. It has ring connectors on the other end. Works great. Nice, huh?



Why I am Tolerant of The Young

by Curtis- AA3JE

I am often criticized by my friends and family for being far too lenient with the young. They tell me it is my role, as the patriarch, to set standards of conduct for the family and to mete out justice and criticism that keeps family members behaving properly.

This is hard for me. I am too forgiving. If I had a worse memory, I could be more stern. But I remember being young well. Perhaps too well.

For example. Almost fifty years ago, I was a student at a men's college.

It was a different time. Before the birth control pill. Before easy abortion. Before IUDs. Before the sexual revolution or women's liberation or the gay rights movement. Way back, way, way back.

Women's Colleges wanted virgins, but settled for taking only girls who were not mothers and not pregnant, and took great pains to return the girls to their families in the condition they received them. No men were allowed on their campus, and dates had to be chaperoned.

Men's colleges tried to help. Girls forbidden in classes. Girls forbidden in dining hall. Girls forbidden in dormitories. Misconduct (disrespect) with girls was grounds for expulsion.

Strangely, misconduct with boys was not a problem in those years. I do not know why.

So back then I was dating a girl from nearby women's college. Her college was very strict. Girls could be out only till 11 at night, and must be chaperoned. She and I investigated, and discovered that if a girl said she was going home for the weekend, they would drive her to the train station, and leave her there alone. Getting back in was not a problem, only getting out.

So I drove my motorcycle to the train station, she would "go home", and would come over to my room at the dormitory at my college and we would party. All my friends were sworn to secrecy, and this worked for a while. As it was a different time, we were not, in fact, having sex, but did do a lot of what we called "necking", a lost art form involving considerable disarrangement of clothing. I would have liked to have had sex, but she said it was not a good idea. She was a young lady with very firm ideas about such things. And a really awesome slap.

All went well until one time we were in my room, together, when a knock came at my door.

"Who is it?"

"It is Professor X. I have some alumni with me who are thinking of contributing to the building renovation fund. I want to show them your room."



My room was spray painted with "artistic designs" in the 1960s and had the floor painted black. It was pretty ugly. It needed renovation. Mostly, it needed my girlfriend out of it.

Not knowing what to do, I opened the window, and shoved her out onto a small balcony outside. I then pulled the shade and opened the door.

"Please come in, gentlemen."

Meanwhile, outside, my girlfriend found herself on a stone balcony in full view of the student quadrangle inadequately (but by today's standards quite modestly) dressed. As she had a fabulous figure, the boys in the courtyard began to whistle and clap. Not knowing what else to do, she did a little dance for them. She was a good dancer. A crowd quickly gathered.

"There seems to be a disturbance," said Professor X.

"I will go see, Sir," I said, "probably some harmless student prank."

I went out, helped my girlfriend inside, listening to a steady stream of the most amazing language, all of which was of the "you are so dead" variety. I got her safely into a friend's room (he was startled, it is not often a strange girl is thrust into your room in a men's college) and we sorted it all out later. The alumni left, we got her coiffure restored, and she insisted I take her back to her college.

We remained on friendly terms, but I lost her as my girlfriend. She was amazingly popular that year for some reason, and ended up

dating the class president. I think she became an Ambassador's wife. France, I think.

So it is hard for me to be too critical of the young.

“CREATIVE FUNDRAISING”

During a recent visit to CAARA, I noticed an empty metal Computer CPU tower sitting in a corner at the clubhouse.

Never having been reluctant to ask questions, I inquired about its status.

Upon learning that it had been deemed to be of no more use to CAARA, I scooped it up, brought to the shop, weighed it, and determined its current scrap value to be 80 cents. So it was rounded off to make it an even dollar.

Now \$1.00 may at first appear to be quite a small number. But, If, (**and when**), several metal computer towers are collected and brought to the recycler, suddenly we are looking at a **much larger number!** And don't forget, many computer CPU towers are taller and are **much heavier** than others.

Obsolete computer towers are everywhere. They are sitting in corners of rooms and are also behind the furniture. They are in basements. They are outside next to the house or garage. They are even sitting out on the curb waiting to be **'responsibly recycled'**.

Here is where all of us as good CAARA members enter the picture. This is yet another win-win situation

for us. This is another great opportunity for us to further practice **'responsible recycling'** and to also raise some more needed funds for CAARA.

Please **'look around and ask around'** for any and all surplus computer towers, old metal radios and equipment, (as well as **any and all other metal items** that you no longer want or have any use for, **more on this in a future article**). They can be of any height. The drives and boards can still be inside of them. And they can be broken, dented, scratched, and even have paint, pizza, ice-cream or coffee spilled on them, (HI). **Physical condition is never an issue!**

Let's just say that all of us start looking around for these CPU towers, **as well as other metal items, (again, more on that in a future article)**. I don't think it's unreasonable to believe that some, or perhaps even several of them will start showing up. And also I feel confident in saying that the more we all **'look around and ask around'**, the more of these items will appear.

And that, of course would be great for the club, YOUR CLUB!!

I have heard of companies that are so large that they have a dedicated 40' Trailer truck body parked outside the building into which surplus, obsolete, and no longer needed CPU's, large copy machines, etc. are packed into to be recycled. Large sums of money are generated by these companies on a regular basis because of their **'responsible recycling'** efforts.

Those are examples of what can be collected on a large scale. I am totally confident that, over time, CAARA can do this successfully on a smaller, very respectable level! Again, what may at first may seem like a small dollar amount, **will grow over time into a gradually and steadily growing dollar amount.**

So again I am asking everyone to **'look around and ask around'** for surplus metal items and bring them to the club. If the items are too big and heavy to easily carry in with you, please tell someone at the club that you have something over size and we will figure out a way to make it happen. (On larger items, please wait until all of this snow melts so those items can be safely handled).

The benefits to CAARA of turning in these items to raise funds cannot be over stated! Doing this on a continued basis will ensure that a steady stream of funds will continue to be available to help maintain the continued good health of CAARA.

Now at the risk of repeating myself, I'm now going to repeat myself.

Every penny raised will be turned in to CAARA! And the best part is that no one had to be approached in person and asked for money!

So there it is, a little more **“Creative Fundraising”!** David Linsky, KA1/LKX

The image shows the text "The PERFECT FUNd raiser!" written in a red, hand-drawn, cursive style. The word "The" is small and positioned above "PERFECT". "FUNd" is written in a larger, bold font with a slight shadow effect. "raiser!" is written in a similar large, bold font, ending with an exclamation point.

You can get your
FCC Technician Amateur Radio License
in One Day with
TECH-IN-A-DAY

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 11th, 2015**
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

Book helps Hams have fun with Morse Code

Passing a Morse Code test is no longer required to get an amateur radio license, but there's still a mystique about Morse Code, and many hams are interested in acquiring this skill and getting on the air. That being the case, **Dan Romanchik, KB6NU** is excited to announce the publication of *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code*.

The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code is all about having fun with Morse Code.

It

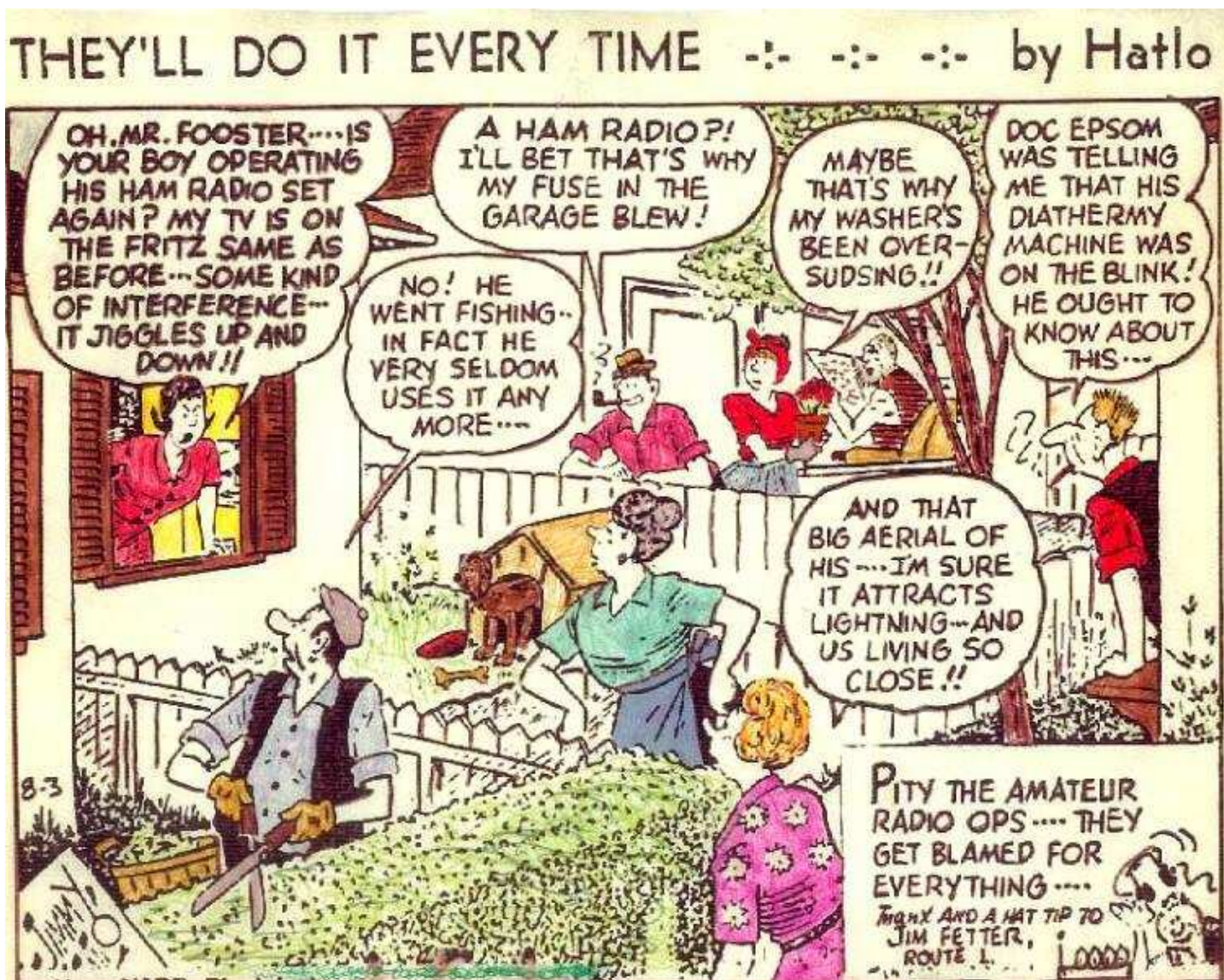
- * Helps hams learn Morse Code.
- * Choose the key that's right for them.
- * Shows hams how to get on the air and make contacts.
- * Teaches hams how to use abbreviations, Q-signals, and prosigns properly.

The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code is available in several different formats. It's available as a PDF, Nook, or Kindle e-book directly from KB6NU.Com.

It's also available as a paperback

<http://www.amazon.com/Geeks-Guide-Having-Morse-Code-ebook/dp/0692367241/>

or Kindle e-book





**PRODUCT
REVIEW**
by Dean- KB1PGH

**“Millennium Energy Bar”
Emergency food ration**

If your into the emergency communications part of ham radio or a member of your local CERT (Community Emergency Response Team or wish to make a 72 hr disaster go kit for your home or car or boat one part of your kit has to include some sort of food supply. Now MRE’s are great

if you have a cool temperture place to store them in but heat over a period of time will quickly shorten thier life span as well. This also applies to candy bars, granola and other quick snacks that will go bad quickly in heat storage and their stock life is limited anyway. So there is a solution to having a long term food supply in your go kits. Especially if those go kits are left in your car, truck or boat where temps get to either zero or over a hundred degrees. One solution is to get some, “Millennium Energy Bar” emergency food rations. As you can see in the first photo these bars are vaccum sealed wrapping to ensure long term storage freshness up to 5 years. As you can see in the second photo I have unwrapped the bar for visual purposes.



For this review I have opened the vanilla energy bar but there are several other flavors to choose from such as cherry, orange and blueberry. The bar itself is very dense and a little crumbly but not too bad.

I gave the bar a bite and the taste was not too bad and it did have a slight taste of vanilla. It sort of reminds me of shortbread and it is very sweet. The again this all makes sense because this is an emergency food supply and if your stuck in the middle of nowhere with no food this bar will get you by for a couple of days.

One bar will give you 400 calories of energy and has 18 grams of fat, 53 grams of carbs and 8 grams of protein. Looking at some of the ingredients his bar contains sugar, palm oil, wheat flour and corm starch.

You can get 9 of these bars in a variety pack for \$ 10.95 at www.beprepared.com which is a decent price. So once again if your looking for long term emergency food storage that won’t go to waste in the heat or extreme cold these bars will do the trick.



ARRL 2015 FIELD DAY IS COMING !!

Are you sick and tired of the winter from from hell? Do you feel like shut in with a cabin fever of 104 Degrees? Well there's no need to fret. The annual ARRL Field Day event is just 4 months away! So mark your calenders and leave open the last full weekend of June for some portable HF Fun which this year is Saturday, June 27th and Sunday, June 28th.

CAARA will once again be participating in this 24 hour emergency communications exercise/public relations event/relaxed competition. A chance to have some ham radio fun! Be sure to attend this year because you never know what will happen at Field day with CAARA- **What could possibly go wrong?**



FCC Expanding License Printing Options

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a shocking turnaround, the Federal Communications Commission has reversed its decision to halt the printing of paper amateur radio licenses. In fact, federal administrators say they will do just the opposite and expand printing options available to ham operators.

“We really didn’t understand the outcry that would come from the ham radio community,” says Pontus “Smokey” Blumenthal, FCC spokesman (formerly with the [now-disbanded Federal Park Service](#)). “We are getting a lot of bad press on the forums, in social media and at ham club meetings. We were only attempting to reduce overhead, lower our expenses and bring the budget more in line with expected revenues. But we may have been shortsighted and are now seeing new cash flow opportunities.”

Blumenthal says effective April 1, applicants receiving a new license or current amateurs renewing existing licenses may opt for one of several print options for a nominal charge. At press time those options are:

Plain paper; license emailed to you; print at home yourself

Heavy card stock; print at agency and shipped in mailing tube to your home: \$19.95 plus shipping and handling

“Old World Style” parchment (below left) with the words “Past Here Be Sea Monsters” along the margins, printed and shipped to your house in well-packed box: \$49.95 plus tip for the delivery guy

Richly colored **vellum paper** with license info printed in squid ink; printed and shipped to your home in a hermetically sealed box: \$129.95

License printed on actual **1-inch thick sheet of lucite** suitable for use as an entire radio operating desk top; printed by laser etcher and shipped via common carrier truck to your residence (*no P.O. Box delivery*): \$1299

Tanned 3’x3’ deer hide (shown below right, license is hand printed by Native American Navajo artisans using buffalo ink; printed and shipped to your home in a secured shipping container accompanied by armed guard: \$4250 (*Note: the FCC does not keep deer hide in stock and must dispatch a team of hunters each time an order is placed, so be patient.*)

Blumenthal says all hams should take advantage of this new vanity licensing printing program. However he encourages orders to be placed soon; they are managed on a first come, first served basis.



“Old World Style” parchmen



Tanned 3’x3’ deer hide





Reactions to FCC's net neutrality vote: Celebrations, legal threats and Morse code

Republicans, telecoms and their industry groups lashed out at the FCC over new rules that more strictly regulate the Internet. Democrats and Internet content companies celebrated.

The Federal Communication Commission voted Thursday to enact new net neutrality rules that give the commission oversight of the Internet in an effort to ensure a level playing field on the web.

But if anyone needed proof that the debate over net neutrality and government regulation of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) is far from over, they needed only to look at the wide range of responses to the FCC's Thursday vote. Companies, industry groups, politicians and even the White House weighed in with their (differing) views on the new FCC rules and where things should go from here

Not surprisingly, big telecommunications companies and cable providers are not happy about the new FCC rules. Even before the vote took place, AT&T (T 0.17%) warned of a possible federal lawsuit challenging the new rules. Jim Cicconi,

AT&T's head of public policy, wrote a blog post following Thursday's vote in which he hinted that the FCC has a fight on its hand. He noted that the commission's 3-2 decision — with three Democrats defeating two Republicans — “is an invitation to revisiting the decision, over and over and over.”

Cicconi wrote about a likely court battle as well as the possibility that the FCC could vote against the new rules in the future, should the political makeup of the commission change. “Partisan decisions taken on 3-2 votes can be undone on similarly partisan 3-2 votes only two years hence,” Cicconi wrote. “And FCC decisions made without clear authorization by Congress (and who can honestly argue Congress intended this?) can be undone quickly by Congress or the courts.

Verizon (VZ 0.16%), which could join AT&T's legal fight against the new FCC rules, also weighed in following the vote, though the company adopted more of a mocking tone. The telecom giant actually went through the trouble of issuing a statement written in Morse code and titled “FCC's ‘Throwback Thursday’ Move Imposes 1930s Rules on the Internet.” In a translated version of Verizon's statement, the company chided the FCC for deciding “to change the way the commercial Internet has operated since its creation.”

In its own statement, Comcast said it supports the principles of an open Internet, but disagrees with the FCC's decision to reclassify ISPs under Title II of the Communications Act — a move that allows for stricter government regulation of the Internet. A post written by Comcast (CMCSA 0.39%) executive vice president David Cohen reads: “We fully embrace the open Internet principles that have been laid out by President Obama and Chairman Wheeler and that now have been adopted by the FCC. We just don't believe statutory provisions designed for the telephone industry and adopted when Franklin D. Roosevelt was president should be stretched to govern the 21st century Internet.”

Various groups representing the telecommunications and cable industries also voiced their disapproval, including the National Cable & Telecommunications Association, Broadband for America, and CTIA – The Wireless Association. The U.S. Telecom Association also agreed with the FCC’s adoption of open Internet standards, but lashed out at the commission for its reclassification of ISPs. The association said in a statement that it “will now turn to the courts for review,” while also promising to work with Congress in the hopes of finding a bipartisan solution.

Republican politicians also spoke out against the FCC decision Thursday. In a letter signed by more than 20 Republican members of Congress, the lawmakers claimed that the new FCC rules “threaten the future viability of the Internet and America’s ability to compete in the global technology marketplace.” The lawmakers also promised to “not stand by idly.”

“We plan to support and urge our colleagues to pass a Congressional Review Act resolution disapproving the ‘Open Internet’ rules,” the letter said. “Not only will such a resolution nullify the ‘Open Internet’ rules, the resolution will prevent the FCC from relying on Title II for any future net neutrality rules unless Congress explicitly instructs the FCC to take such action.”

President Obama, who came out in full support of strict new net neutrality rules last fall, applauded the FCC for voting in the new standards Thursday.

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For 35 years the development of Data Modes in the USA has been crippled by the symbol rate restrictions introduced at HF and also VHF/UHF in 1980.

HamRadioNow: ARRL’s Symbol Rate Petition RM-11708

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2014/march/hamradionow_arrl_symbol_rate_petition.htm

HAM RADIO RESPONDS AS TWO CYCLONES HIT AUSTRALIA

Hams down under offered up a quick response after a strong cyclone came ashore. Here is Graham Kemp VK4BB with more;

[GRAHAM:] Amateur Radio volunteers with Australia’s Central Queensland Amateur Radio Association called up emergency response nets on both the High Frequency and VHF bands in the wake of category 5 cyclone Marcia that came ripping ashore the weekend of February 20th. After making landfall, Marcia swept across

Queensland state leaving 1,500 homes damaged, while downing trees and power lines. Upward of 50,000 residents were without electrical mains power and the cyclone also interrupted several normal lines of communications including telephone service. Also impacted was the Optus wireless mobile network in some cyclone affected areas of Queensland.

Ham radio was quick to respond with volunteers from the Central Queensland Amateur Radio Association reported active on 40 meters at 7098 KHz and on 2 meters. At the same time, several Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network or WICEN groups were on stand-by alert to assist emergency responders if called on to do so. The nature of traffic being passed was not specified.

News reports say that Marcia which packed winds of up to 155 miles an hour when it made landfall was one of two cyclones which hit northern Australia within hours of one another. The first was tropical cyclone Lam. It impacted remote communities in the Northern Territory near Elcho Island, some 300 miles east of the city of Darwin. Cyclone Lam was soon downgraded to a tropical depression.

For the Amateur Radio Newslines, I'm Graham Kemp VK4BB reporting from Queensland, Australia.

REGULATORY: FCC AND FDA TO HOLD JOINT WORKSHOP ON USE OF WIRELESS MEDICAL DEVICE TEST BEDS

The Federal Communications Commission and the Food and Drug Administration will join forces on March 31st to host a public workshop on the role of wireless medical test beds and their influence on the development of converged medical technology for clinical and non-clinical settings.

[HEATHER:] A wireless test bed is an environment where devices can be evaluated across a range of interference scenarios. As the rapid pace of innovation blurs traditional boundaries between consumer health technology, medical devices, and communications, the two agencies seek to better understand how wireless test beds can be used and configured to meet the challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities this convergence presents. Consumers are increasingly using wireless health and care management tools at home and the emergence of the hospital in the home concept opens new areas of medical technology innovation that must take into account the need for wireless devices to co-exist.

The workshop is another step in the ongoing Federal Communications Commission and Food and Drug Administration collaboration in promoting innovative medical technologies and is being organized by the Connect 2 Health FCC Task Force, the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology, and the F-D-A Center for Devices and Radiologic Health. Topics may include the need for and scope of wireless medical device test beds, an overview of current public and private test bed programs and initiatives, a discussion of ideal features, functions and gaps of such programs, and how best to drive innovation and safe co-existence of wireless medical technologies.

[JIM:] Since exact spectrum that might be used to implement some of these wireless medical test beds is not yet a part of the discussion, the way in which decisions made at this and any future gatherings might impact on bands assigned to use by amateur radio cannot be speculated. But with all spectrum from DC to light under intense scrutiny by numerous interests it will be important for the political leaders of the ham radio community to keep a close eye as this issue. (Adapted from FCC Press Release)

RADIO LAW: NO MORE PRINTED AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES BEING ISSUED BY FCC

In case you have not yet heard, waiting to receive your ham license in the mail is now a thing of the past, **unless you have specifically requested it. As of February 17, the FCC stopped routinely issuing paper license**

documents to amateur licensees, noting that inclusion in the Commission's online database has for several years been the official record of a ham's authorization to operate.

Amateur radio licensees may print out official copies as well as unofficial "reference copies" of their licenses via the FCC's Universal Licensing System database or may request the issuance of a paper document.

In its commentary filing while the matter was in its proposal stage, the ARRL had asked that new licensees continue to receive paper licenses, along with instructions on how to set up their Universal Licensing System accounts for future license renewals and upgrades. But the FCC declined, saying applicants or licensees who include e-mail addresses with their applications will receive an official electronic authorization via e-mail.

The Commission says the change will save it over \$300,000 a year. (CQ)

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: STUNNING IMAGES RECEIVED FROM ISS SSTV

The latest International Space Station Slow Scan Television transmissions have already produced some great pictures!

[DON:] According to a posting on the AMSAT Bulletin Board, Greg Dolkas, KO6TH, of Auburn, California, says that he never received a clearer SSTV picture from anywhere, let alone outer space.

The transmitter on the ISS uses 5 kHz deviation FM. If your radio has selectable FM filters make sure you choose the wider setting designed for 20 or 25 kHz channel spacing, usually marked FM or FM Wide. Most newer FM transceivers contain this feature. The Slow Scan mode used PD180, with a three minute off time between transmissions.

At least a dozen different images depicting Yuri Gagarin who was the first human to orbit Earth were transmitted on 145.800 MHz during this test. According to Clint Bradford, K6LCS, also writing on the AMSAT Bulletin Board, receiving SSTV from the ISS really can be simple. Bradford noted that for his first time ever, he simply fired up a \$3 iOS application and held his iPod Touch near a Yaesu FT-60R's speaker. That in turn let him download one of the images from the ISS.

ENFORCEMENT: FCC SAYS NO TO VENUES BLOCKING WI FI HOTSPOTS

The Federal Communications Commission has issued an Enforcement Advisory stating that venues blocking Wi-Fi in hotels is unequivocally prohibited. Stephan Kinford N8WB has more:

[STEPHAN:] In its release, the regulatory agency said that its Enforcement Bureau has seen a disturbing trend in which hotels and other commercial establishments block wireless consumers from using their own personal Wi-Fi hot spots on the commercial establishment's premises. As a result, the Bureau is protecting consumers by aggressively investigating and acting against such unlawful intentional interference.

The statement issued in late January is a definitive one that leaves no room what so ever for interpretation, It bluntly states that persons or businesses causing intentional interference to Wi-Fi hotspots are subject to enforcement action.

As previously reported, in October of 2014 the FCC fined Marriott \$600,000 for blocking customers personal Wi-Fi hotspots at a Nashville, Tennessee, branch. Although Marriott paid the **fine it also filed a request for rulemaking with the commission, asking that Wi-Fi blocking be permitted. Marriott's reasoning was that**

it could better manage the security of its own network if it blocked unauthorized Wi-Fi broadcasts. For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Stephan Kinford N8WB, in Wadsworth, Ohio. [JIM:]

RESCUE RADIO: WASHINGTON DC MAYOR ORDERS FIRE RADIOS OPERATE UNENCRYPTED

Washington DC Mayor Muriel Bowser has ordered the D.C. fire department to stop encrypting its emergency radios. The order came on February 12th in the wake of the deadly smoke incident aboard a Metro train last month, but the mayor said that the order was not in reaction to the incident.

Metro officials and firefighters had stated previously that there were communication problems. According to the firefighters union, the encryption system played a part in those issues.

However, Mayor Bowser's administration says that the radio system was under review before her inauguration weeks before the incident at Metro. But the radios came under intense scrutiny when firefighters at the scene of the incident inside the Metro station couldn't communicate with crews above the ground. The radio communications are now open to the public, according to the mayor's spokesperson. (EMSI, other published news reports

EDUCATION: MOUSER TEAMS WITH TI TO SPONSOR INNOVATION CHALLENGES FOR UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Mouser Electronics has announced that for the third year in a row the company will sponsor Texas Instruments Innovation Challenge European Design Contest. This is a competition to encourage engineering students in specific parts of the world to submit design projects that utilize Texas Instruments technology. First prize is \$10,000 with the second place winner receiving \$5000. Prizes will be awarded to the best entries as determined by the judges.

The contest is open to individuals and teams of up to five undergraduate and graduate students at all accredited universities in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. To compete, students must use two or more Texas Instruments analogue ICs and a Texas Instruments Processor in their design project. Entries will be judged on five criteria. These are originality and creativity of design, real world application, level of engineering analysis, usage of Texas Instruments ICs and processors and a working demonstration of design in a video.

Mouser is also sponsoring the Texas Instruments Innovation Challenge North American Design Contest. This competition which has similar rules is open to students at all accredited universities in Canada, Mexico and the United States including Puerto Rico. It has a \$10,000 first prize, a \$7500 second place prize and a \$5000 third place award. Complete information on the North American competition including an on-line registration form and a video explaining the contest is on the web at tinyurl.com/mouser-ti-innovation-challenge (Power Systems Design

ON THE WEB: NEW INTERVIEW ABOUT CQ MAGAZINE ON HAM RADIO NOW

CQ Comes Clean is the title of a video interview conducted at the recent Orlando Hamcation by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, of Ham Radio Now with the magazine's editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. In it, Moseson very candidly talks about the current status of CQ explaining the publication problems the company has faced, and what's being done to catch up on delivery of the print edition of the magazine.

Moseson and Pearce also delve into the problems facing virtually every publication attempting to enter the digital world.

The two also discuss those now coming into amateur radio and finding ways to try and get them to try **other** aspects of the hobby other than the singular interest that brought them in

RADIO EDUCATION: HAM RADIO SATELLITE TUTORIAL VIDEOS RELEASED

David Casler, KE0OG, has released a series of tutorial videos for the US Extra class license two of which cover amateur radio satellites. The first deals with Orbital Mechanics and the second covers the radio aspects of amateur satellites. You can see these and all the others on-line at tinyurl.com/dave-casler-video (Southgate)

HAM HAPPENINGS: SOUTH EAST VHF SOCIETY CONFERENCE IN APRIL

The 2015 Southeastern VHF Society conference will be held April 24th and 25th at the Morehead State University Space Science Center in Morehead, Kentucky. Conference registration form, hotel information, call for papers and other information can be found at svhfs.org. (W4KXY)

HAM HAPPENINGS: K5B TO COMMEMORATE BATAAN DEATH MARCH

Special Events Station K5B will be in operation on March 22nd. This operation will be for the 26th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon event and held at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. The event honors the victims and survivors of the Bataan Death March that took place in the Philippines during World War II and will operate from several different locations in the Las Cruces area. More information is available on the web at www.bataanmarch.com (WB4AEJ)

NAMES IN THE NEWS: FCC CHAIRMAN TOM WHEELER TO ADDRESS 2015 NAB SHOW

Some names in the news. FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler will speak at the 2015 National Association of Broadcasters convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Wednesday, April 15th His address will take place from 9 to 10 a.m. local time where Wheeler is expected to provide insight into the FCC's policy and regulatory objectives related to broadcasting, technology and communications law generally. Tom Wheeler became the 31st Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission in November of 2013. (Broadcast Quarterly)

NAMES IN THE NEWS: RECORD HOLDING US ASTRONAUT HAM RENEWS LICENSE

Astronaut Michael Fincke, KE5AIT recently renewed his Amateur Radio license through February 18, 2025. Fincke served on ISS Expedition 9 from April 18th to October 23rd of 2004 as well as Expedition 18 that began on October 12, 2008 and ended April 8th 2009. His last venture into space was on the STS-134 flight of the space shuttle Endeavor. That mission ran May 16th to June 1st, 2011 and delivered the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer and an ExPRESS Logistics Carrier to the International Space Station. As such, at 381.6 days, KE5AIT currently holds the American record for the most time in space. (ANS, Wikipedia, NASA)

NAMES IN THE NEWS: N1UL TO RECEIVE I.I. RABI AWARD FROM IEEE

And congratulations to Dr. Ulrich Rohde, N1UL, on his being named by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers to receive the prestigious I. I. Rabi Award for 2015. The award recognizes outstanding contributions related to the fields of atomic and molecular frequency standards, and time transfer and dissemination. Dr. Rohde, who is the chairman of Synergy Microwave Corporation and President of Communications Consulting Corporation, will receive the Rabi Award at the 2015 Joint Conference of the IEEE International Frequency Control Symposium and European Frequency and Time Forum, held April 12th through the 16th in Denver, Colorado. (IEEE, ARRL)

RADIO FROM SPACE: JPL PLANS 2401 MHZ LUNAR RANGING EXPERIMENT MARCH 3

NASA's Pasadena, California-based Jet Propulsion Lab will transmit a narrow band signal at about 2041 MHz to illuminate a spot on the moon probably centered on the Tycho crater. The experiment will take place early in the

morning of March 3rd between about 06:30 to 09:00 UTC.

JPL will be transmitting about 20 kilowatts from a 34 meter aperture antenna. They are planning to have three distinct transmission modes. Two will be a CW carrier, and a third will include a PN ranging code on the signal, probably changing every 45 minutes. The signals should be easy to detect with even a small receive antenna. (ANS)

ON THE AIR: ERITREA PROJECT 2015 FROM MARCH 6 To 17

On the air, the SEISA Foundation for Global Children has announced that its next operation will be Eritrea Project 2015. As part of this project, the group will conduct a DXpedition from Asmara, Eritrea, from March 6th to 17th. A multi-national team consisting of Team Leader Zorro Miyazawa, JH1AJT, and eight other operators will use four transceivers with ACOM amplifiers. Antennas will be beams on the higher bands with verticals on 160 through 30 meters. Their callsign will be assigned on their arrival in Asmara. QSL's go via M0URX. (JA1TRC)

US Amateur Radio Numbers Reach an All-Time High

Amateur Radio growth in the US continues to soar. At the end of 2014, the total number of radio amateurs in the FCC's Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) database reached an all-time high of 726,275. The trend has continued in the first 2 months of 2015, which saw the ham population rise to slightly more than 727,000. The figures exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club station licenses. Outside of a little dithering last fall, growth in the Amateur Radio Service in 2014 was steady, according to [figures](#) compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, on his FCC Amateur Radio Statistics web pages. Over the past decade the number of Amateur Radio licenses in the ULS database grew by some 8.1 percent. But 2014 also was a banner year for the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC).

“For the first time in the ARRL VEC program's history, we have conducted more than 7000 Amateur Radio exam sessions in a year, an important milestone,” said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. “A total of 7216 ARRL-sponsored exam sessions were administered in 2014, compared to 6823 in 2013.”

Somma said the number of new licensees spiked to more than 33,000 in 2014, up by about 15 percent from the previous year. Successful license upgrades rose last year by an unprecedented 13 percent over a year earlier.

At the end of 2014, there were 136,405 Amateur Extra, 169,524 General, and 357,236 Technician class licensees — all record numbers, Somma pointed out. While the number of Amateur Extra licensees grew in each month of 2014, the number of Technicians and Generals — and of licensees overall — faltered a bit last July and September. Last year's overall upward trend quickly recovered, however, during the final quarter of 2014. The General population also dipped briefly in May 2014, before rebounding.

Somma believes the July and September dips may have been a result of applicants' adjusting to the new Technician question pool that went into effect last July 1. “We always expect an adjustment period when a new question pool is introduced to the public, as VEs, teachers, and candidates must prepare new study and exam materials,” she said, calling the dips “a normal part of the question pool cycle.”

Technician licensees comprise a little less than one-half of the US Amateur Radio population. As of December 31, some 51,000 Advanced and 12,000 Novice licensees remained in the FCC database. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice licenses, and their numbers continue to decline.

Once again, California far and away was home to the largest number of licensees among the 50 states, with 102,806 at the end of February. Texas was a distant second, with 51,022, Florida came in third, with 40,743, Washington was fourth, with 30,511, and Ohio was fifth at 28,256. With the exception of Ohio, the licensing trend in these states has been through the roof. In Ohio, ham radio numbers have begun to flag after holding steady for about the past 4 years (growing), Rhode Island (1926 and drooping), Wyoming (1868 and headed up), and Vermont (2101 and slipping after a bump in 2013 and 2014). The numbers may go a long way toward explaining why these are rare multipliers in the ARRL November Sweepstakes and other events.

Club station licenses in the US number 11,501, according to Speroni's web pages. — *Thanks to Joe Speroni, AH0A; FCC ULS licensing statistics*