



CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2016

President's Desk

by *Hank-W4RIG*



As we recover from the bone chilling cold, we can start to focus on some of the feedback from the questionnaire we sent to the membership in late 2015. Members placed highest priority on the 2 meter repeater and Clubhouse at 6 Stanwood Street with strong support for the new antennas and radio license training. There was support for new programs for the member's meetings, but the February meeting was not well attended despite the presentation on logging programs and programs of interest from the Internet in support of radio operations. We hope to have more speakers for the member's meetings, but really need to see members come to the meetings if they expressed an interest on the questionnaire. Also member participation was very modest for the Winter field Day operations at 6 Stanwood, but those that participated had a good time and the event was a success from the viewpoint of their enthusiasm.

What puzzles the leadership and Board are the opinions expressed in participation with emergency operations and public service but lack of members stepping forward to help with these projects. Saying what you want to do is apparently not quite the same as doing it! So get in touch with Gardi Winchester, Mark Watson, Hank McCarl and Stan Stone to get involved - if you really meant what you said on the questionnaire, let's see some activity and participation on your part.

We are very pleased with the operating capabilities at 6 Stanwood and the ability to operate most of the equipment remotely if that is of interest to members. Also very happy to see Jon and Dean get the Newsletter back on track. Members need to send input to Jon and Dean if they expect the newsletter to be a success. Again, your actions will speak much louder than your opinions on the questionnaire.

The general feeling from answers on the questionnaire indicate little dissatisfaction with the leadership handling CAARA operations, and

significant support of the direction of our Club. We appreciate the support and positive comments the members expressed and intend to take action to implement the constructive suggestions made by the membership. Participation is the key to successful implementation of our programs and projects.

My best wishes for good health and good DX - Hank W4RIG

Information Desk

by *Dean-KB1PGH*



A review of the Anker 40 watt USB port desktop charger 5

Here's a review of a piece of equipment that you may want in your emergency communications gear or for your portable HF ops sessions. While it's one thing to have emergency back up power during emergencies we also live in an age where every tablet, Ipad or cellphone works with and recharges itself through a USB port. This lesson was learned during Hurricane Sandy where there were widespread power outages and no one had a way to charge their portable devices and cellphones and even local emergency management had to set up "Charging stations" for the civilian population. So that inspired me to purchase the Anker 5 USB port smart charger. The great thing about this charger is that it can automatically fast charge any device because it has a built in memory. I would say its the size of a pack of cigarettes and it has a nice build quality to it. You can also obviously charge 5 devices at the same time which is a plus. I tried charging my Iphone with this charger and it did indeed charge the phone faster then a generic USB port. Plus it's a good idea to have a couple of different USB connectors and cords in your emcomm kit because you'll never know what you'll have to charge out in the field. The price is about \$30.00 online which isn't too bad. So take the time to think about what you'll do if there's no power for a few days as we all know electronic communication devices lose their charge after ever a day of use. 73, Dean KB1PGH



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

Board of Directors- 2015-16

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Ross Burton- W1RAB
Roger Smith KB1YTJ
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH

Welcome to CAARA:

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

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

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

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

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

Information Desk

by Dean-KB1PGH



ICOM IC 7000 for sale !

I have an ICOM IC 7000 for sale. I'm selling it to buy a newer rig. I will sell for \$800.00 and that includes the LDG IT 100 autotuner which is a \$ 160 value and the Tac Comm case it comes in which is a \$ 65.00 value. The microphone has had the AB5N modification which enhances modulation and audio fidelity which is a \$65.00 value. The rig has about 100 hours on it and was purchased in 2011. The rig and display has no scratches or dents. I have the box, the manual and the mobile mount as well. If interested please e-mail Dean KB1PGH at dburg101@aol.com .

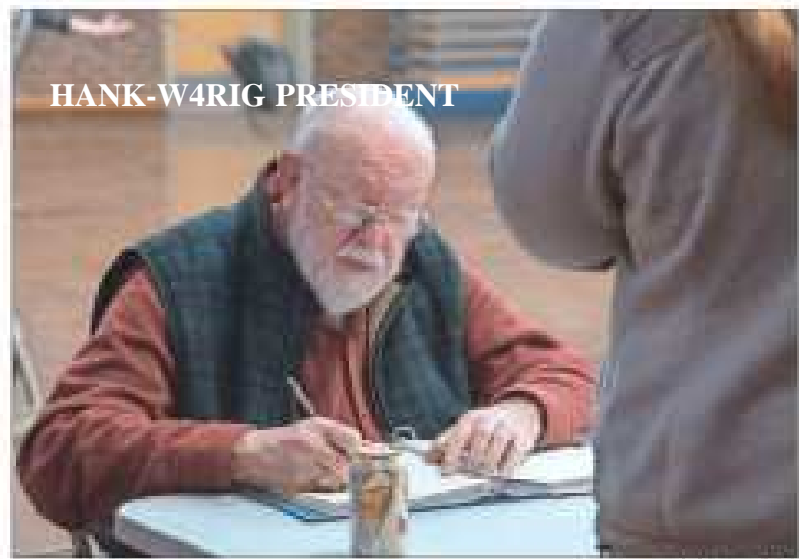


WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA EMCOM CENTER?



BIG TURNOUTS

MASS. PRIMARY
2016



HANK-W4RIG PRESIDENT

Hank McCurt of Gloucester checks in registered voters and hands them their ballots for the presidential primary Tuesday afternoon at Veterans Memorial School. Below, a man prepares to cast his vote at the school.

Voters cast ballots for, against presidential candidates



CONGRATULATIONS TO DEAN- KB1PGH FOR COMING BACK ON THE CAARA BOARD. Mark-W1MAW had to resign due to work commitments. Dean has years of experience as a past Clerk of the BOD, and took a few years off after the birth of his first “harmonic” - Cliffy.

THE HAM LICENSE EXPLOSION Hams, you’re in good company: FCC records show that growth in amateur licenses continued through 2015, with a 735,405 licensees — a record - in the agency’s Universal Licensing System database by year’s end. Those figures reflect an increase of 9,130 over December 2014. In 2014, the Amateur Radio ranks grew by a net 8,149 licensees. Not surprisingly, the largest growth area was in the Technician license class, which added 6,570 new hams in in 2015. There were 3,079 new General class licensees, and Amateur Extra class added another 3,496. The figures reflect a steady growth in amateur radio’s ranks annually since 2007. Looks like there’ll be a lot more people calling CQ this year, if they haven’t started already. (ARRL)

Dick Smith Electronics, a longtime mainstay for amateurs in Australia and New Zealand, is closing. It’s the end of an era for loyal purchasers of gear and components from Dick Smith Electronics. The giant Australian retailer, which bears the name of its amateur radio founder, is closing its doors during the course of the next two months, shutting 301 retail locations throughout Australia and 62 in New Zealand. The closure follows an unsuccessful attempt by the company’s receivers to complete a sale.

CAARA Director's Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2016

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

Yes	No			Yes	No		
X		Hank McCarl	W4RIG Pres.	X		Ross Burton	W1RAB Dir.
X		Jake Hurd	W1LDL V.Pres	X		Jon Cunningham	K1TP Dir.
A		Stan Stone	W4HIX Treas.	A		Larry Beaulieu	AJ1Z Dir.
X		Bill Poulin	WZ1L Clerk	X		Gardner Winchester	KA1BTK Dir.
				A		Roger Smith	KB1YTJ Dir.
				X		Anthony Marks	N1JEI Dir.
				A		Mark Watson	W1MAW Dir.

√

Meeting called to order at 1930 Hours by President Hank McCarl, W4RIG. 7 BOD Members Present

1. Previous Meeting Notes: Presented by: Bill Poulin, WZ1L

Meeting minutes from January 6, 2016 were reviewed and approved.

Rec By: Ross, W1RAB 2nd By N1JEI

BOD VOTE: UNANIMOUS (7/0)

2. Treasurer's Report Stan Stone W4HIX

MEMBERSHIP	COUNT	DUES	TOTAL
Regular	65	\$40	\$2,600
Senior	35	\$20	\$700
Lifetime	8	0	0
Family	10	\$10	\$100
Youth	1	\$20	\$20
TOTAL			\$3,400
Budget			\$3,200
Collected to Date			\$2385

Respectfully Submitted,

BILL POULIN, WZ1L

The Day W1GLO-R Went Down

I was asked by the repeater committee to write up a small article explaining to the Membership what happened on February 20, 2016 and what actions have been taken by the Repeater Committee to ensure going forward this situation hopefully will not occur again.

On Saturday morning at 6:30 am I received a call from Ross W1RAB asking if I could quickly log onto my e-mail and approve a note he sent to the membership about W1GLO (2 meter & 440) not working. He informed me that there was a power outage in the center of Gloucester and that the AT&T site was without power. Ross said he would get back to me with all the details later.

I got out of bed went to the computer logged on to my e-mail and approved the note that Ross had sent.

About a half hour later he called me back and told me that he had contacted Jon K1TP and told him what was going on. Ross told me that we had no power at the site, the Auxiliary Generator did not start so the power we always believed would be there was not for some reason. Ross noted that the Gloucester Police and Fire were on the air with battery power and could be heard but reduced coverage. Ross also mentioned that the police were dispatching cruisers throughout the city to report on what parts if any had power. It turned out that the power outage was contained to the downtown area of Gloucester. The rest of the city had power.

This outage lasted until about 9:00 am at which time the power was restored and all was back to normal.

Ross called Jon and myself and told us that all power was restored at the Repeater site and we were back up and running. Throughout the day Saturday I talked to Ross and Jon at different times about what had taken place earlier in the day and what they thought we needed to do to correct this incident from occurring again in the future. Ross mentioned to me that he had spoken to the board about this and the need for a backup system at the club several times but each time the board felt that it would be a good idea but in the future as they believed the backup generator would always kick on and power would not be lost. On a side note if I was on the board I would have taken the same stance as I never believed that the generator would not start especially since it was a "CELL SITE" but as we all know in amateur radio "MURPHY'S LAW" can strike at any time.

In speaking with Jon and Ross and exploring this further I asked what was needed in order to set up a backup repeater at the club. Jon said all we needed was a set of 2 meter duplexers. We had an antenna, and we had a repeater but no cavities. My first thought was, that is going to be an expensive purchase as a good set of Commercial Duplexers new could cost between \$800.00 to \$1200.00 dollars. Ross mentioned to me that he had a set of duplexers he used in California which were commercial and set for 2 meter operation. Ross said he would donate them to the club for \$300.00 and a donation letter of value from the club so he could use it for his 2016 tax return as a write off.

Well that started my wheels turning I asked Ross again if I understood the donation correctly and he said yes. I then talked to Jon and asked him if he thought that was a good deal and did he approve as Chairman of the Repeater Committee (Ross is the second member). Jon said yes but we needed to get the money. I then told him I thought that was the least of the problems and if he wanted to proceed I would take care of the rest but I wanted to proceed only on the basis of Acceptance by the Repeater Committee and that they believed this was the correct approach. Jon said yes I said ok leave the rest to me and that I would talk to Ross one final time to insure that he was on board and then go to work. Jon wondered what I was going to do and I said right now, I am going to get the money details of how I do it will follow later. He was ok with that as long as it was all legal I assured him it would be we laughed and hung up. I called Ross talked to him he was all on board so I went to work.

I logged onto the CAARA website and looked at the membership list and got telephone numbers of members who helped me in the past. I contacted them by phone speaking to 12 members individually told them what I was looking

to achieve for CAARA the reasons why we needed this and how it would benefit the club as well as our ability to provide Emergency Communications in the event of a large scale event.

Everyone I spoke to told me put them down for \$25.00 and where did I want the check sent and how to make out the check. I told them to hold off on the money until I complete the calls and talk with the Treasurer to see how he wanted to handle the money. Well within 1 ½ hours I had raised \$325.00 dollars we now had the money to proceed.

Jon and Ross were notified and we all were happy it would now become a reality and we could have a backup repeater ready to go with no financial tax on the club budget for 2015 / 2016.

Next the Board of Directors was notified of our efforts and the plan to move forward. There was no objection to the purchase.

On Monday I received a text from Ross that he had the duplexers ready to move but needed a truck to move them. Tuesday morning I received another text from Ross along with a picture showing them at the club on the first floor. I texted back to Ross and asked if he wanted to wait till the money was in, his reply was "TO LATE ALREADY HERE I TRUST CAARA TO PAY" which I replied ok. Jon was also notified of the fact. Tuesday evening I received another text and photo showing that the duplexers were relocated to the second floor. It was Tuesday Night Open House at CAARA and Ross got a few members to help him move the duplexers to the second floor Did I mention the weight of these 4 duplexers plus the case is 150 pounds.

Later on Tuesday evening I received a text from Jon stating that he had spoken to Jake WILDL and Jake agreed to tune the duplexers using the spectrum analyzer the club had so we did not need to pay anyone to retune the duplexers.

Thursday afternoon I received a text from Jon stating that he and Jake had been at the club that afternoon and the duplexers had been tuned to the frequency of 145.130 / 144.530. All was set and ready to go. Jon called me later that night and told me we had another problem we needed new cables to hook up between the repeater and the duplexers as he was not comfortable with the cables we had. I asked how much Jon said he contacted his friend in New Hampshire and was obtaining a quote.

Friday, Jon sent Ross and I the quote he received for (2) double shielded cables with "N TYPE" connectors on them it was \$49.00 plus shipping. I said go get them and I assume Ross agreed as they are on order. Luckily we have a donor who will pay the cost.

So On Saturday "Gloucester We Have a Problem" by Friday of the next week we raised the money, delivered the duplexers, tuned them and ordered new cables 6 days Problem solved by the Repeater Committee.

Another issue I am addressing is to have a backup moderator so that if I am traveling or on a plane or without contact another person will be able to step up and approve important messages as needed.

In closing, I would like to personally THANK everyone who contributed to this project. By contributing you are assuring that when CAARA makes a commitment CAARA does everything in its power to keep that promise.

THANK YOU AGAIN.

73's BobWA1UCG



TUNING OF DUPLEXERS AT THE CLUB BY JAKE- WILDL



NEW DUPLEXERS FOR BACKUP 2 METER REPEATER WHICH WILL BE LOCATED AT THE CLUB

Dissatisfaction

by Curtis- AA3JE

Women get “fancies”. This is well known. And since “SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED” is a woman, she gets fancies. Inexplicable desires that cannot be swayed by logical argument.

Like the refrigerator.

Since SHE cooks like we have a family of 12 at every meal (we have 2), a habit that she picked up when we were a larger family and she worked, we have a lot of leftovers.



So, if we are to avoid having 300 pound dogs, we need a good refrigerator. So we can dole out

out

So she bought, some years ago, a really big refrigerator. The fancy kind, the kind Martha Stewart recommends. But unlike Martha’s, which is all bright and cheery, ours is like Fibber McGee’s closet, crammed with all manner of things, which can leap out at you unawares if you open it carelessly. Suicidal leftovers.

Now the cure for this is to cram less stuff in there, of course. But she is convinced that the problem is the refrigerator. And that we need a new one.

Now I am used to keeping an appliance until it emits black smoke and makes an effort to set the house on fire.

But after about a year of listening to rather harsh comments about the refrigerator, using the vocabulary she learned in the Navy (too harsh for your tender ears, I finally gave up and said, “Yes”).

So we went and spent a day refrigerator shopping. This is a bit like getting a preview of hell, in case you need one to remain virtuous.

And after three stores, and perhaps a hundred refrigerators, asking my opinion about each one, (useless, as I did not want a new refrigerator), she made a selection.

And I carefully measured it. Knowing what would happen.

And indeed, when we got home, we found that the old refrigerator was 69



inches tall, and the new one was 70.34 inches tall, and would not fit under the cabinets.

So I perked up a bit. Anything that involved a saber saw was more interesting.

The problem was that I had to shift the doors on the cabinet, then saw the bottom out, leaving the doors to fill the space.

Easy, right?

But to do it, I had to cut the bottom out from beneath, blindly.

(Hint, if you do this, wear safety goggles.)

So after a short detour to Addison Gilbert Hospital to get the wood chips removed from my eyes, I finished the cut.

Well, almost finished the cut.

“Who was the (expletive deleted) idiot that ran an electrical line through the middle of a cabinet!”

But the blue flash was really impressive, and I discovered several things of value.

1. The saw handle is insulated.
2. The saw body is grounded.
3. 20 amps will burn a half inch hole in the blade before the breaker trips.
4. GFI outlets in the kitchen are really smart.

I also learned that this happens with your LAST saber saw blade.

(Ace Hardware is open on Sundays).

Another tip. Do not flex the hard copper line to the icemaker too sharply. It will crack, and the shut off valve is located behind a cubic meter of household cleaners under the sink.

(A shop vac will clean up the water.)

But it came out OK. And the burns will heal. And the scars on my corneas will heal in time.

(I wonder how long before I have to install the next one?)

Ham Radio Equipment

W7DRB

MAKE APPROX VALUE - Best Offer

FT-950 + DU2000 Excellent cond. Orlg box \$1500 manuals
Drake TR-4C +AC-3 Harbach PS \$400 cond Vy good
Drake TR-4 +AC-3 Harbach PS \$400 cond Vy good
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Drake orig Speaker\$75 Vy good
Drake black Speaker box \$40 clean
Heath 3K Ant Tuner \$300 Vy good
Heath 220 Amp Harbach PS update. Fan,soft start\$300 upgrade man.
AC line filters,Keyer kit
In upgrade stage_ you finish. Xfmr tested good
New Vac relays(2) \$100 unmounted
2 Eimac low hrs 3-500g \$150 Untested
Alinco DJ-1GT 2M HT \$300 Manual
Icom IC-7TH 2m/440 HT \$60 Maua
Icom IC-706MKII \$500 vy good Man.
2x Alinco DJ-S41 440 HT \$40ea Manual
2x DJ-130 2m/20 ch base/auto xcver \$50 ea Manual
Astron RS 7 12vdc supply \$20
Astron RS20 12vdc supply \$40
W2IHY mic equalizer \$50 Manual
Heil PRO 7 headset,mike etc \$150 Like New
Ham sticks, mount. Vh/Uhf roof mounts \$5 each
15m & 20m vertical Truevalue alum tubes

Disassemble for transport Free

Payment cash or bank check. Pickup only, Onlne manuals available.

Jim Strunk W7DRB w7drb@yahoo.com

10 New Mill Pl.

Ipswich MA 01938 978-356-6470

Vessel with Rich Ham History — the Bowdoin — Being Refurbished for Further Exploring

The schooner *Bowdoin*, which has a prominent place in early Amateur Radio history, will be relaunched this spring. The vessel relied on Amateur Radio operators for communication during explorer Donald B. MacMillan's Arctic Expedition of 1923 and on the MacMillan-McDonald-Byrd Expedition of 1925. Now it's undergoing extensive renovation and refitting in Maine. Named after MacMillan's alma mater, Bowdoin College, the *Bowdoin* today is the official vessel of the State of Maine and the [flagship](#) of Maine Maritime Academy's Vessel Operations and Technology Program, which readied the vessel for refitting last year.

According to an article in the February 25 edition of *The Ellsworth American* newspaper, work is underway at a Camden, Maine, shipyard on the deck and hull of the 95-year-old schooner, built in East Boothbay, Maine, in 1921. The vessel's diesel engine — a later amenity — is being rebuilt by Maine Maritime Academy students. The *Bowdoin* is set to relaunch around June 1.

In 1923, MacMillan had turned to the ARRL for help in outfitting his expedition with better wireless gear, and, as Michael Marinaro, WN1M, explained in his June 2014 *QST* article, "[Polar Exploration](#)," that help "was enthusiastically provided. Hiram Percy Maxim and the Board agreed to furnish support as well as recruit an expert operator to accompany the expedition. Donald H. Mix, 1TS, of Bristol, Connecticut was chosen for the task."

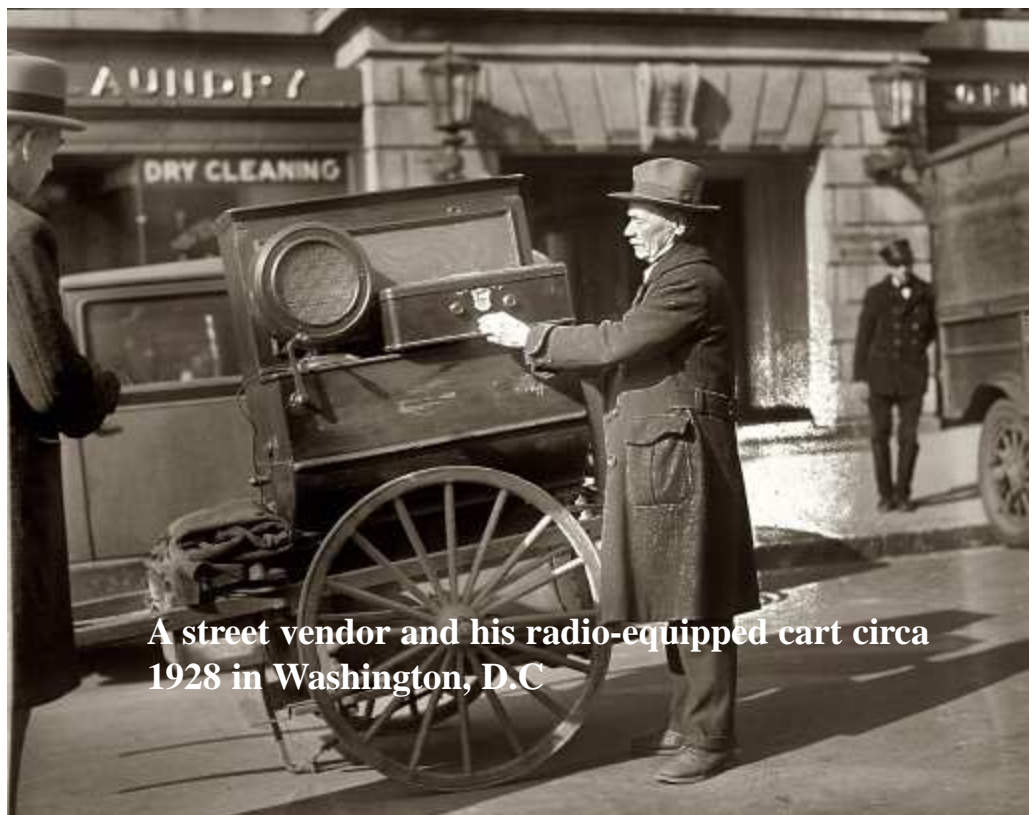
League Board member M.B. West custom designed the equipment, which was built by radio amateurs at his firm, Zenith Electronics. The transmitter operated on medium-wave frequencies with a power of 100 W and used the call sign WNP — for "Wireless North Pole." As Marinaro explained in his article, with Mix as the ship's radio operator, "WNP transmitted weekly 500-word press releases and listings of stations worked and heard. Once received by amateur stations, these reports were delivered to local affiliated newspapers of the North American Newspaper Alliance; from there, they were distributed syndicate-wide by telegraph."

In 1925 the *Bowdoin* headed to Greenland. "The outstanding accomplishment of the expedition was in the sphere of radio," Marinaro wrote. "Utilizing short waves, the expedition was in consistent contact with the outside world throughout the journey, to the delight of the amateurs who were able to work them. The phenomenal success proved to the Navy that short waves were definitely superior to the long and ultra long waves on which the fleets had been relying."

The *Bowdoin* renovation is being paid for through the Bowdoin Centennial Campaign, which, according to *The Ellsworth American* article, aims "to keep the schooner exploring, sailing, and training for another century.

The August 2008 *QST* "Old Radio" column, "Where in the world is the *Bowdoin*?" offers additional details on the venerable vessel and its activities that have extended into the 21st century. A June 1959 *QST* article, "The *Bowdoin*'s Last Voyage," told of plans to permanently park the vessel at the Mystic Sea Museum in Connecticut.

ARRL



A street vendor and his radio-equipped cart circa 1928 in Washington, D.C

Did the Apollo 10 crew hear music from space?

Apollo 10 astronauts, who orbited the moon two months before Neil Armstrong's famous 1969 landing, heard mysterious and un-explainable 'music' on its dark side.

Because the module(s) were on the far side of the moon they were out of the range of Earthly radio transmissions and the 'spooky sound' has been dubbed 'alien moon music'.

Recently unearthed recordings made by Nasa of the journey show the astronauts reacting with surprise and confusion to an unearthly howling noise in their headsets.



Is this the stuff of X-Files scripts? Of Movies like Frequency or even John Grant Fullers non-fiction work titled "The Ghost of 29 Megacycles"?

I'd hazard a guess the radios used between the lunar module and command module were using fairly high frequencies but YOU can go lower down the dial even to hearing "whistling noises" a kind of VLF 'musical' radio reception using a very high gain audio amplifier as a VLF receiver!

The WIA's own National News Reporter, Felix Scerri, VK4FUQ has actually heard the ultimate swl dx....listening to the Jovian Decametric Emissions from the planet Jupiter and this around 22 MHz.

Felix wrote of this back in the September 2003 issue of ESR (Electronics Science and Radio) magazine and it's also on the web in old postings, try typing the words "jovian decametric noise" in your favorite search engine.

So what did Astronauts Stafford, Young and Ceman hear on the dark side of the moon?

Certainly not Pink Floyd or David Bowie!

Despite the conspiracy theories, the sound was likely nothing more than interference between the radios on the two different modules.

Computer Issues Stymie ARRL VEC Application Processing

03/02/2016

The ARRL VEC had hoped to see the problem resolved by now, but since February 22, an intractable mainframe computer system glitch has kept the VEC from managing and posting the schedule of future examination sessions and processing application data from completed sessions to the FCC.

"This time it's not an FCC problem but our own, said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "What we thought initially was an easy fix was not to be. There are approximately 400 future test dates waiting to be submitted into the system, and nearly 200 completed sessions are waiting to be transmitted to the FCC."