



# CAARA Newsletter



**ARRL**  
The national association for  
AMATEUR RADIO

AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

MAY ISSUE- 2011



## President's Corner

*by Stan-W4HIX*

From this evening's CAARAnet, it is clear that May is going to be a busy month with Tech-in-a-Day, the New England QSO Party, CAARA Flea, a possible mini-Field Day at Fuller School all coming up quickly. We also have Miles Schlichte at the May Member's meeting to talk about Gloucester's Emergency Management. We might even get some portable ops in too during the month.

I worked the Boston Marathon for the second time this year. One thing about the Marathon is you want to be fully prepared. Having your radio go dead on one of the medical sweep buses is not a memory you want to have. I carry two backup radios and as many batteries as I can stuff in a bag. It is a lot of fun and a lot of responsibility at the same time—and you get a cool jacket too.

The packet work has gone dormant for a little while. The station at CAARA had an undersized power supply and a bad antenna. This activity is still on the "to do" list, just not very high right now. I did get a new VX-8GR handheld with APRS built in, but it is a challenge with all of that technology stuffed into it.

The next Field Day meeting is on May 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope to get some more assignments done before the meeting, but though I hope to re-organize a bit, all of the usual suspects will be involved. This doesn't mean new people aren't encouraged to participate—we very much want new folks to help out. There's a lot to do, and a lot to learn. If we do decide on the Fuller site, that will add a new wrinkle. My attitude is we should be ready for anything. This is an emergency drill as much as a contest, plus it is a lot of fun. Oh, and don't forget, a pancake breakfast will precede the meeting to benefit the CAARA scholarship fund.

We also have Tech-in-a-Day coming up on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. We've generated a lot of new hams this way and there is more emphasis on emergency communications at the hospitals. We might do a TIAD at one of the local hospitals. All of this means more licensees, and our next goal should be turning these folks into operators. If they become club members, all the better.

73 de Stan, W4HIX

### **Hello to all CAARA club members,**

We are looking for hams to volunteer some of their time and play ham radio at the same time for Saturday August 6th in Essex Mass to provide logistic and safety communications for their town Youth Triathlon. We will be there from 8 AM till Noon at the most. I'm looking for 8 warm bodies so if you want to help out please e-mail me back at [dburg101@aol.com](mailto:dburg101@aol.com).

CAARA Club President Stan Stone, W4HIX is offering another one of his famous and successful Tech in a day Courses. The course will be on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Lanesville Community Center on 8 Vulcan Street In Gloucester Mass. The course will start at 8 AM with sign up and will last until 4 PM when we will administer the Technician Class License Exam. The cost of the course is \$20.00 which will include course materials, snacks and the testing fee. Attendees will have to bring their lunch or can get their own during the lunch hour. The course will provide a quiet place to study the questions and answers for the Technician Class License exam. Space is limited so please sign up by e-mailing Stan at [stan@lanescove.us](mailto:stan@lanescove.us). If you are attending the course you will need a picture ID plus your Social Security Number so we can process your application with the FCC.

For CAARA ARRL Volunteer Examiners, please mark down this date so we will have enough people to sign off on all the exams.



**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.

All material published in the CAARA Newsletter may be reproduced for noncommercial use provided such use credits both the CAARA and the author of the article. Copyrighted material will not be accepted without accompanying written permission to publish.

The opinions expressed in the CAARA Newsletter are solely those of the editor or other contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either the Board of Directors or membership of CAARA.

Jon Cunningham-Editor  
K1TP

**Board of Directors- 2010-11**

President: Stan W4HIX  
Vice Pres: Dick WB1W  
Treasurer: Hank McCarl W4RIG  
Clerk: Dean Burgess KB1PGH

**Directors:**

Dick Copithorne, KR1G  
Jon Cunningham, K1TP  
Charles Downey, N1OCT  
Ruth Hodsdon, WW1N  
Briggs Longbothum, AB2NJ  
Jim Mondello, W1DDX  
Dick Ober, K1VRA  
Bill Poulin, WZ1L  
Don Swenson, N1UVV

## **Welcome to CAARA:**

CAARA, an ARRL affiliated club, operates the 2 meter W1GLO repeater on 145.130 MHz with antennas located on the Cingular tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex in Gloucester Massachusetts. It has an average effective radius of 60 miles, and serves Eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Rhode Island, Southern New Hampshire, and maritime mobile stations. CAARA also operates the W1GLO repeater on 224.900. The W1RK 443.700 repeater with antennas located in Magnolia is owned and operated by club member Ralph Karcher and it too is available for club use.

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

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

Monthly member meetings are held on the first wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM except for July and August.

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

## CAARA April FCC Amateur Radio License VE Test Exam Results !!!

On Sunday April 10 CAARA held its monthly FCC Amateur Radio License Volunteer Examiner Test Session at the clubhouse on 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester. We had 5 people come in and take their exams and all 5 passed !! We had two who passed their Technician Class exams and then went on to take the General License exam and both passed that as well. We also had two Technician class operators upgrade to the General Class and one General Class operator take and pass his Extra Class License Exam . We would also like to welcome to the Caara club, Daniel O'Connell, KB1RRV from Malden Mass who joined after passing his General Exam. The following VE's attended the exam session, VE Team Leader Bob Quinn WV1A, Stan Stone WHIX, Bill Poulin WZ1L, Rick Maybury WZ1B, Hank McCarl W4RIG, Briggs Longbothum AB2NJ, Chuck Downey N1OCT and Dean Burgess KB1PGH. If you are interested in taking an amateur radio license exam the Cape Ann Amateur radio Association holds test sessions on the second sunday of every month at the clubhouse. The doors open at 9 AM and we get to testing before 10 AM and testing runs until 12 Noon. You may register a spot by e-mailing our VE Team Leader Bob Quinn at [bquinn32@comcast.net](mailto:bquinn32@comcast.net) and we also welcome walk in's as well. Please bring 2 forms of ID, which must include a picture ID and your Social Security Number. Please bring \$15.00 as well for the testing fee.





## CAARA WINS ARRL CONTEST AWARD !!!!!

The Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association CW Crew has won their first contesting award from the ARRL. W1GLO won first place in the Eastern Massachusetts section in the Multi-Operator, Two Transmitter Division of the ARRL CW International Contest !!. A job well done goes out to CAARA Club members Richard White K1QF, John Dion NM1J, Paul McDonough W1PLM and Rick Maybury WZ1B for earning this award for Caara !



John - We (W1GLO) have received the eWAS award from eQSL and the WAS award from ARRL, We need 14 more confirmed eQSL DX contacts beyond the 86 we have recorded and 19 LOTW DX contacts beyond the 81 we have confirmed through LOTW for the eDX100 and DX100 awards respectively. We have also received a certificate from ARRL that we were the top station in Eastern Massachusetts for the recent ARRL International CW Contest. The certificate recognizes those individuals who worked the W1GLO flagship for that event and our thanks to Rick Mayberry for his coordination and efforts in that contest. In addition we have received 21 Awards from the European Phase Shift Keying Club for our digital operations and QSOs from North America, Europe and the rest of the World. All awards and recognition are being displayed on the walls of our Communications Center at 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester.

Jon - for possible use in next newsletter - Hank

On the recommendation of Phil Temples, our ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager, the ARRL has appointed Hank McCarl (W4RIG) as a Local Government Liaison (LGL) for ARRL in this part of Essex County. This means that Hank is responsible for monitoring proposals and actions by local government bodies and officials which affect Amateur Radio; working with the local Public Information Officer to alert ARRL section leadership officials and area amateurs to any proposals or actions, and helping to coordinate local responses. The LGL serves as a primary contact for amateurs encountering radio operation problems when dealing with local government agencies or officials. Hank can be reached at [W4RIG@arrl.net](mailto:W4RIG@arrl.net) if our membership or other local amateur operators encounter problems of a local regulatory nature in this area.

### **ARRL FIELD ORGANIZATION**

Dear Henry – W4RIG:

It is our pleasant duty to inform you that your application for Field Organization has been approved by your Section Manager, and received here at ARRL Headquarters for entry in the Field Organization records. Your official appointment Local Government Liaison has been entered into our records. Congratulations and welcome!

A list of supplies and resources are now available to you online at: <http://www.arrl.org/public-service-field-services-forms> If you need more information or have other questions, contact Leona Adams at (860) 594-0341 or email at [ladams@arrl.org](mailto:ladams@arrl.org)

The Membership and Volunteer Programs Dept. staff here at Headquarters exists for one purpose – to serve you. If there is anything we can do to make your job easier, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for taking on an appointment in the ARRL Field Organization.

73,

Sincerely yours,



Steve Ewald, WV1X  
Supervisor, Field Organization/  
Public Service Team

Enclosures

## Blueberries by *Cutis Wright*

Everyone has a cross to bear. Mine is a black thumb. I don't just mean that I am not good with plants, I mean that when I head into the garden a palpable V-shaped wave of death follows as my wake. Nowhere was this so evident as in my struggles to plant a blueberry bush.

Now this is Rockport. There are blueberry bushes everywhere. My son has one that's ten feet tall and sheds berries like hail in an Oklahoma spring storm. The darn things grow wild in the quarries, infest the wild woods, and the birds all have a slightly blue GI tract in berry season (or at least it looks like it on the hood of my car in August).

And there are the neighbors. Lovely people. I like them and their children a lot. Young, energetic, a very nice family..... and 20 vigorous berry bushes in their front yard that yield bushels of berries every year.

So. How hard could it be?

So I find a nice spot in the back yard (there used to be a rock there and the grass still looks funny) and set up some stones in a circle, fill it with a mix of bags topsoil and the nice black stuff from the transfer station, and go off to the plant store. There are several in town, and I picked the one that seemed to be doing the best. Certainly it was the fanciest.

"I'd like to buy a blueberry bush."

"Very fine choice, Sir. Very popular in Rockport. Would that be a high bush blueberry or a low bush blueberry?"

"What's the difference?"

I am used to strange looks from store clerks. I got one now.

"Well, sir, the high bush blueberry is, well, it's HIGH....."

"And the low bush is LOW, I take it"

"Exactly, Sir." The clerk had the appearance of a teen-aged checkout clerk who has just successfully sold a 60 year-old the giant economy pack of condoms.

Not wanting to have to work to pick the bushels of berries I anticipated, I selected the low bush variety.

"I'll take one, please."

It was as if I had suggested a particularly vile form of impropriety. The clerk's shock was palpable.

"Oh no, Sir. No, not at all. That would never do. There are no self-fertilizing blueberries. You need at least two bushes, preferably three, with one being a different variety."

It seems that blueberries have a strong inbred resistance to self-stimulation and will not fertilize themselves (unlike weeds that do it all the time). They all seem to flower at slightly different times, as well, and so you need not one, not two, but by the time I left I had 6 straggly looking plants in my truck. I popped back to the house, bunged the little guys into the ground and waited.

I didn't have to wait long. All the leaves fell off of every plant within a few days. Every one. Back to the store.

"I have a problem." I said, holding up a nude stick with a few clods of earth clinging to the roots.

"That is obvious sir." What kind of problem he was not willing to guess.

"It didn't last a week"

"Obviously transplant shock, Sir. What treatment did you use?"

"I drank a whole six-pack."

"Sir seems to misunderstand. I meant what treatment did you use for the PLANTS"?

It seems that I needed a special "anti-shock" fertilizer for the plants to get them over the strain of being taken from their pots and put in the nasty old dirt. I was soon sent off with six new plants (two each of 3 different strains) and two or three sacks that contained liquid gold. (At least I hoped that it was gold, given the price I paid).

I anointed each plant, and bunged them in the holes left from removal of the corpses.

I watered, weeded, sprayed for bugs, and nothing happened. Back to the store.

"Nothing has happened."

"Blueberries flower in the spring, Sir. It is now mid-summer."

"Not my fault!" I squeaked, "I am not going to be responsible for the Earth's stupid orbit!"

I stalked out, went back home, watered and weeded all summer, seeing nothing that looked the least bit like growth, and then it was fall.

"What do I do about the blueberries in the winter?"

"Do, Sir?"

"You know, care for them."

"Oh I see, you wish to shelter them from the frost." I was doing better now. "Very wise Sir." This time the clerk smiled (or smirked, I was not sure).

I left with a bundle of what looked suspiciously like hay, but was obviously something special, for no one would pay that much for dried weeds. (I really regretted not paying attention in Earth Science classes

when I was a kid). I was to make little nests for the stupid plants to keep the wind off them. I crafted some straw wigwams that looked like a den of demented midget Cub Scouts had invaded my yard and waited for spring.

Spring sprung, and my plants put out nice, clean new leaves. I was ecstatic for about 2 days, and then I went out one morning and found that every plant was stripped bare of foliage. Back to the store. In a huff. Covered in mud and clearly upset.

“Something ate my blueberry plants.”

“Indeed, Sir?”

“Well what do I do?”

The clerk looked at me. He was clearly thinking that a change to an urban lifestyle was needed, but didn’t want to kill off a cash cow.

“Rabbits seem to like blueberry leaves, Sir. Especially now as other plants are slower to put forth their tender shoots in the notoriously fickle New England spring. Would you like some netting?”

I left with enough nets to catch a school of mackerel, and after pounding in a few stakes, I had the garden fenced off. I nursed the naked little guys all summer, put their little tents on that winter, and the next spring I had leaves, and blossoms, and eventually, one blueberry. Back to the store.

“Something ate my blueberries.”

I had clearly become a favorite, as this time several clerks came over to watch.

“Did you think of birds, Sir?”

“Birds?”

“Yes sir. Small flying things, you may have seen them around. They like berries I am told.”

I left with the “Organic Enterprises NET KIT”, stopping only to open an account, since I was told I could get a 10% discount on future purchases. I weeded, mulched, sprayed, made straw teepees, and looked forward to the spring. It came, the plants blossomed, and then every blossom fell off. You can guess the rest.

“Dr. Wright. How nice. How may I help you today?” He knew my name now.

“All the blossoms fell off.”

I did not understand the ensuing discussion, as the young man seemed to have some kind of respiratory ailment that resulted in his choking, coughing and giggling a lot, but I was finally asked how I had prepared the soil.

“A few bags of topsoil from the hardware store and some muck from the transfer station. I limed it pretty

good and added a lot of fertilizer to make sure, though.”

“YOU FERTILIZED THE NEW PLANTS?”

This was going to be bad, I knew it. He was back to the tone of voice usually reserved for discussions of Father Fred’s nude catechism class. I was told in no uncertain terms that one did NOT fertilize new blueberry plantings and that I needed to do soil testing. I went back home.

Armed with a bucket and a series of plastic bags I dug out some samples, dried them as directed, (safety tip to self, do NOT dry soil samples on the dining room table) and took them to the post office to mail them to the soil laboratory.

“Anything toxic, flammable, poisonous, liquid, dangerous or valuable inside?”

“Nope, just dirt.”

“Dirt?”

“Dirt.”

“Sir, harassing people via the mail is a Federal offense.”

“No, dirt samples for soil testing.”

After assuring the clerk that my dirt was well packaged, and would not dirty the nice clean junk mail, I paid the postage and awaited the results. It was not long. The phone rang. It was the soil lab.

“Mr. Wright?”

“Yes?”

“My name is Maggie Smith, I’m the one testing your soil samples. What exactly are you trying to grow?”

“Blueberries”

“YOU ARE TRYING TO GROW BLUEBERRIES IN THAT SOIL?????”

I was getting used to this tone of voice. It seemed people always used it around me. I explained that things had not been going too well.

“WHERE DID YOU GET THIS SOIL? MARS?”

I explained how I had mixed the bags of stuff with the muck and limed it and fertilized it and bunged in the plants. There was a short pause and I could swear I heard giggling and snorting in the background somewhere.

“Sir, that soil sample would qualify as toxic waste.

You have put so much lime and fertilizer in it that the pH is 7.5 and it glows in the dark. Blueberries thrive in sandy, well drained soil with a LOW nitrogen content and a pH below 5.0”.

“So what do I do now?”

“Have you considered hiring a gardener?”

I explained I was in too far now to back out, and was given instructions to dig a drainage ditch, add 5 pounds of sulfur to the soil and NOT to add any more fertilizer. After a few weeks the plants picked up, and the next spring I had lots of blooms, lots of berries, and I finally picked a nice crop. Well, actually it was about a pint, a pint of blueberries that had cost about \$600. A pint. \$600 a pint. From six plants.

I thought about it. Then I had an idea. I dug the snow off the neighbors steps the next winter. They gave me a bushel of blueberries in return.

You have to persevere in this life, I find.

*Copyright 2011 Curtis Wright*

### **Last Shuttle ride to ISS for ESA astronaut with ‘dark matter’ hunter**

ESA astronaut **Roberto Vittori, IZ6ERU** and the five other astronauts of the STS-134 mission will be launched to the International Space Station on Space Shuttle Endeavour on 29 April to deliver a pioneering scientific experiment.

This penultimate flight of NASA’s spaceplane will deliver an instrument designed to track elusive antimatter and ‘dark matter’ in the Universe.

Liftoff on the 14-day STS-134 mission is scheduled for 19:47 GMT (21:47 CEST), with the docking to the International Space Station (ISS) due two days later, on 1 May.

The last European to fly on a Shuttle, Roberto Vittori will be the first ESA astronaut to make a third visit to the ISS. It will also be his first flight on the Shuttle. On his two previous missions, in 2002 and 2005, he travelled on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft.

Arriving at the ISS, he will meet another Italian ESA astronaut, Paolo Nespoli, IZ0JPA, who has been aboard since 17 December.

On her last flight before retirement, Endeavour will carry a highly sophisticated European fundamental physics experiment. Mounted on the Station’s main truss, the AMS-02 alpha magnetic spectrometer will probe the little-explored realm of high-energy cosmic rays to look for signs of antimatter and the mysterious dark matter.

Antimatter is believed to have been created on a par with normal matter but it seems to have disappeared from the Universe we know today. Dark matter is estimated to account for around 90% of our Universe’s mass but it has not been detected directly so far. This dark matter element is reflected in the name ‘DAMA’

of Roberto Vittori’s mission.

The AMS-02 observations could be of paramount importance for understanding the origin, nature and evolution of the Universe.

STS-134 marks the end of ESA’s participation in Space Shuttle missions, which started in November 1981 with the first flight of Europe’s Spacelab pallet on the second launch of Columbia. Over three decades, ESA astronauts will have flown on 26 missions and, counting payloads, hardware and experiments, Europe will have been involved in 86 missions by the time of the Shuttle’s final venture, STS-135, in June.

Beginning with the Spacelab agreement in 1973, this historical and close partnership with NASA will live on through the ISS and future international human spaceflight ventures.

This last Shuttle flight of an ESA astronaut will not mean the end of ESA’s presence on the Station, which will continue at least through 2020. Two ESA astronauts are training for future 6-month missions on the orbital outpost: André Kuipers, PI9ISS will be launched in November this year and Luca Parmitano, KF5KDP in December 2013, both in Soyuz spacecraft. Covering the launch

ESA TV is providing extensive coverage of this penultimate Shuttle mission. Several stories are available on ESA TV’s FTP server and transmitted via satellite on the Europe by Satellite (EbS) service. ESA TV will relay NASA TV live via satellite for broadcasters in Europe from the Kennedy Space Center before launch, in addition to providing the latest images of the Shuttle on the pad and interviews on location. ESA TV will also relay NASA TV daily highlights throughout the mission.

Details will be given and updated on the ESA TV website, at <http://television.esa.int/>

### **YAESU VX8 GR REVIEW** by Dean-KB1PGH

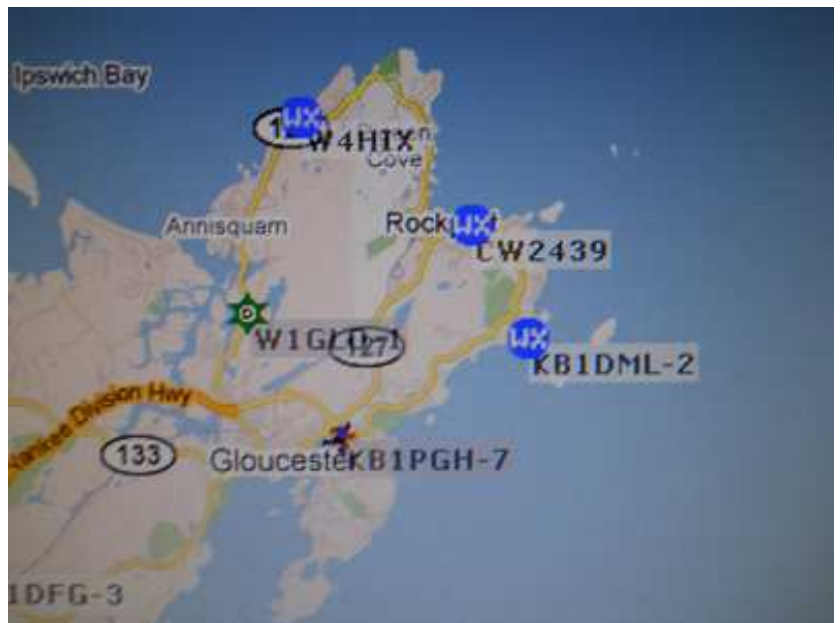
Here’s a couple of pictures showing what the Yaesu VX 8GR HT can do. The first is a close up picture of the display showing my GPS Latitude and Longitude Coordinates and that the VX 8GR is receiving signals from 6 Global Positioning Satellites from its built in GPS antenna. As you can see my position is stationary and the altitude is 68 FT. The VX 8GR takes about 10 minutes to download the satellite information from start-up, so it’s no “Instant On” but if you know that going forward then you just turn the HT on early before you need it. Once it gets the GPS signal locked



on it doesn't lose it except in the obvious indoor places. You can combine GPS and APRS on this screen and you can see where all other APRS stations are relative to your location on the compass and how far they are away from you.

The second picture is a screen picture of the [www.aprs.fi](http://www.aprs.fi) website for Cape Ann. As you can see the W1GLO callsign displaying the club's digipeater and you can see the digipeater is receiving my KB1PGH APRS Beacon from the VX 8GR and the "Running Man" Icon which shows other APRS users that it is an HT and not a mobile or home station. So you could imagine that this application would come in quite handy for emergency communications and would be great for a "Search and Rescue" situation where the Command Post can see in real time where the search parties are and what areas are being searched as the APRS screen can scan down to street level with the help of Google maps. I plan to use the Yaesu VX 8GR and the APRS as I operate "HF Portable" coming up this summer so my DX contacts can see my location.

The third picture is the VX 8 GR HT receiving Dual Band-This HT is capable of Transmitting on the Caara repeater on one band while transmitting and receiving APRS Beacons on the other band which is a really neat feature. It's amazing to see a little HT receiving all those APRS Beacons around you all at once and displaying all their information. It can hold onto 50 APRS beacons and you can see the callsign and location of the other stations and you can see weather information if they transmit that and you can see and transmit short Beacon Messages that you can see if you click on their callsign on the [www.aprs.fi](http://www.aprs.fi) page. For an example I added some text on my APRS beacon that I can be contacted on the Caara Repeater frequency of 145.130 MHz so other will know how to contact me when they see me on their APRS Beacon list. You can even have a text message conversation another APRS user if you want to. I will add some more pictures next month of what you can see on a typical APRS Beacon. So far I give a "thumbs up" for the Yaesu VX 8 GR HT. One minus is that this HT sucks battery power when you have the GPS antenna on and APRS Beacons so it's a must to buy the larger AH size battery. The Yaesu VX 8 GR is also waterproof, has wideband receive for public service scanning and retails for about \$ 360.00 which is a few bucks for an HT but you get a lot for your money.



# K1TP GOES WINTER CAMPING.....



I decided to purchase a new camper to replace the canvas popup type camper that I had enjoyed for many years, except when it rained. Taking down a wet popup camper (or tent) and moving along to the next destination presents some problems. To solve the problem of lingering dampness and mildew on trips, I decided to buy a hard sided popup trailer built by Aliner with a nice gas heater.

I took delivery in early April and just couldn't wait to try it and made the mistake of mentioning it to several ham friends from NH and Maine who camp on a regular basis. In a matter of just days, I was informed we would have a shakedown camping trip

at the Hancock Campground on the Kancamagus Highway in Lincoln, NH on April 18-20th. Of course they selected a dry campground, no water, electricity, etc.....they also failed to mention that half of the sites were inaccessible due to snow piles. They told me to look on the bright side, we had snow coolers at each site and we wouldn't have to use our refrigerators or coolers.

I departed from Rockport at 8am and by 11am had arrived on the Kancamagus Highway and had to proceed around several backhoes moving snow off the edges of the highway to widen the road.....I started to second guess myself and wondered what was I thinking when I said I

wanted to go camping!

Eight of us arrived with 5 rigs and one with a tent.....yes one hardy sole, Scott-W1XER, brought a tent to sleep in. We each setup and proceeded to help each other setup 5 hf antennas in the surrounding trees using pneumatic launchers and sling shots.

I used a Cobra antenna which covers 6-80 meters and is fed with the dreaded hardline into a 4-1 balun and fed into my LDG antenna tuner and Icom 7000. It loaded up on all bands and was putting out full power. I made about 100 contacts on 17, 20, 40, and 80 meters. It was like a field day site and we had some interference when we were all operating at once but a good time was had by all. One of the ops was Joe-





This is Scott-WIXER who camped in a tent and never complained about the 30 degree temperture



at night not to mention the rain, wind, snow, sleet, and hail we encountered over the next three days.

I put my antenna up with a fishing rod and a lead weight. It was comical when the park ranger came by to collect the camping fee and watch him try to figure out what we were doing to the forest he was protecting with the antenna launchers and wire strewn all over the campground. He stopped and we explained we were basically harmless and he actually stayed for sometime checking out the gear, etc.



The highlight of the trip was our visit to Mac Beal- WIPNR in Jackson, NH. He is one of the most impressive hams I have ever met. His WIPNR call goes back to 1940 and he was licensed before that! He has confirmed over 350 countries and his home station station is amazing, two Yaesu rigs feeding twin Alpha amps into a antenna farm you would die for. His dipoles and loops are all fed with homebrew twin line...that dreaded twin lead so many are scared to death to use. He had three Henry amps in the hallway he took out of service and just keeps around for spares. He is an self taught and accomplished sculptor of both granite and steel and his work can befound around the country. He has even used Rockport granite from the Johnson quarry in some of his works. His workshop is about 40' by 40' wth cathedral ceilings and had quite a collection of tools and machinery.



## **Passing it On** *By Curtis Wright*

Amateur radio, or 'Ham' radio as it is often called, is an important part of life in New England, as it is in many other places isolated by geography, distance, or culture. As a ham radio operator, I have regular scheduled contacts with other hams all across America, maintaining friendships that are carried across the ionosphere by invisible electrical waves. One of my friends, whose name is Fred, lives in the next town over, and we meet for breakfast with one or two other hams quite frequently. One day, Fred received a call from the wife of one of his long distance friends telling him that his friend's long battle with illness had ended. It had been a difficult illness, for his friend had been an invalid for some time, and his widow was overwhelmed by the myriad minutia of death. She thanked Fred for making her husband's last years comfortable, and said that his weekly chats by radio had been the high point of the week. She asked Fred what she should do with the large collection of radio equipment her husband had collected, and Fred told her how she should sell it, for some of it was very nice and would command a high price.

Imagine Fred's surprise a few weeks later when the Federal Express Truck arrived at his house and unloaded enough boxes to completely block the driveway. One of the packages was a mailing envelope, and inside was a letter. He passed it around to us. It read, "Thank you for your advice about how I could sell my husband's possessions, but I found I could not follow it. What you gave to him, you gave without asking anything in return, and I could do no less for you. In these boxes are the radios my husband used to talk with his friends all across this country. Please find others who can use them to reach out with the same loving concern that you always have shown in the past. Thank you for allowing my husband years of dignity as a strong voice on the radio when his physical body was so weak."

Fred, who is a painfully honest man, wanted to know what he should do. Now it is an established New England tradition that any matter of importance should be discussed among the tribal elders for a good long while before any precipitous action was taken. So he brought it up to members of the local radio club. What did they think of it, and what should he do? Naturally,

it was a wonderful gift, but should he accept such a gift, and did he have an obligation associated with it? The bequest was a topic of discussion among the club members for about a month. They thrashed it out over coffee, they discussed it on walkie talkies, and they chatted about it with their friends. The reason for such concern is not obvious, but it is an unwritten rule of ham radio that it's very important to be polite. Hams that are not polite can find that no one will talk to them, and if you have no one to talk to, a radio license is useless.

The conclusion reached by the group came as no surprise to me, for I had seen similar things before. The group advised Fred that he had the right to accept the gift, but that he did incur the responsibility to fulfill the obligations associated with it. So Fred unpacked the boxes, took what he needed, and then began a several months long process of offering the rest of the gear to others who would use it to do what the widow intended, to keep a lifeline of friendship and fellowship open across the miles. He passed the rest on carefully, trying to judge who would benefit and who was merely greedy, so that the final outcome was that one member got the high frequency rig he could not afford, a second got a new computer interface so he could try a new kind of communication, a third a power amplifier to talk to his friend in Sweden, and so onward till all were benefitted.

For me, it was a lesson, and a lesson that made me feel deeply ashamed. You see, I only live in a small New England town part of my life, for the rest, I live in the nation's capital, and rub shoulders with politicians, businessmen, and senior government officials. So as I settled back in the seat of the airplane that would take me back to the world of power lunches and high stakes deals, I wondered if we could live up to the moral standard established in a small coffee shop in New England. Would we only take what we really needed, and then carefully make sure that the rest was spread out to those who both needed it and would make use of it? Not everyone who claims the right to be fed is unable to work, but not everyone who is in need will speak out and reveal how the winds of change have left them cold and hungry.

Would I be as good a steward of what was placed in my care as Fred had been of what was placed



in his? Would any of us in the nation's capital pass the simple moral test established in a small coffee shop in New England? I have thought of it often, and as I see yet another nation dissolve into chaos and factional bloodshed, I remember it again. The common wealth is an intangible idea, but Fred knew it was real, and must be as carefully protected as his own individual wealth. If we fail to do as he did, we will share in the fire and blood that has overwhelmed so many around the globe, and (as the scriptures say of the foolish servant), even that little which we have will be taken from us.

Pass it on.

# CAARA Flea

CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSN  
AMATEUR RADIO FLEA MARKET

**Saturday  
May 14<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM 'til 12:00 PM

**New  
Location!**

Lanesville Community Center  
8 Vulcan St

**Gloucester, MA**

in beautiful Lanesville.

General Admission: \$5

Food available at the Flea Market

#### **Seller's Information**

Doors open for sellers at 8am and buyers at 9am. Advanced tables \$10, same day tables \$15 which includes one admission for each. General admission for all buyers is \$5. Please, no computers, monitors, peripherals sold at this event.



#### **Directions**

Take Rt. 128 N to Gloucester

1. Stay on Rt-128 N over the A. Piatt Andrew bridge
2. At the 1st traffic circle (Grant Cir), take the 3rd exit and stay take Rt-127 N (Washington St to Annisquam/Pigeon Cove) for 4.4 mi.
3. Take 1st right (Tucker St) just after Lanesville Package Store.
4. At top of hill (250'), turn left onto High St.
5. After 0.1 mile, turn left onto Vulcan St.-- Lanesville Community Center is on your right.

Contact Dick Copithorne at [dickc911@yahoo.com](mailto:dickc911@yahoo.com) or 1-508-269-4941

Talk-in frequency: CAARA club repeater on 145.130 Mhz - no pl

April 2011		
+ LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest		0400Z-0800Z, Apr 2
+ SP DX Contest		1500Z, Apr 2 to 1500Z, Apr 3
+ Missouri QSO Party		1800Z, Apr 2 to 2400Z, Apr 3
+ SARL 80m QSO Party		1700Z-2000Z, Apr 7
+ JIDX CW Contest		0700Z, Apr 9 to 1300Z, Apr 10
+ EU Spring Sprint, CW		1600Z-1959Z, Apr 9
+ Georgia QSO Party		1800Z, Apr 9 to 2359Z, Apr 10
+ Hungarian Straight Key Contest		1500Z-1700Z, Apr 10
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test		1300Z, Apr 13 to 0400Z, Apr 14
+ TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest		0000Z-2400Z, Apr 16
+ Holyland DX Contest		0000Z-2359Z, Apr 16
+ ES Open HF Championship		0500Z-0859Z, Apr 16
+ CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest		1200Z, Apr 16 to 2359Z, Apr 17
+ Michigan QSO Party		1600Z, Apr 16 to 0400Z, Apr 17
+ EU Spring Sprint, SSB		1600Z-1959Z, Apr 16
+ Ontario QSO Party		1800Z, Apr 16 to 1800Z, Apr 17
+ YU DX Contest		2100Z, Apr 16 to 1700Z, Apr 17
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest		0100Z-0300Z, Apr 18
+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital		0001Z, Apr 23 to 2359Z, Apr 24
+ SP DX RTTY Contest		1200Z, Apr 23 to 1200Z, Apr 24
+ Helvetia Contest		1300Z, Apr 23 to 1259Z, Apr 24
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test		1300Z, Apr 27 to 0400Z, Apr 28
+ QRP to the Field		1500Z, Apr 30 to 0300Z, May 1
+ Florida QSO Party		1600Z, Apr 30 to 2159Z, May 1

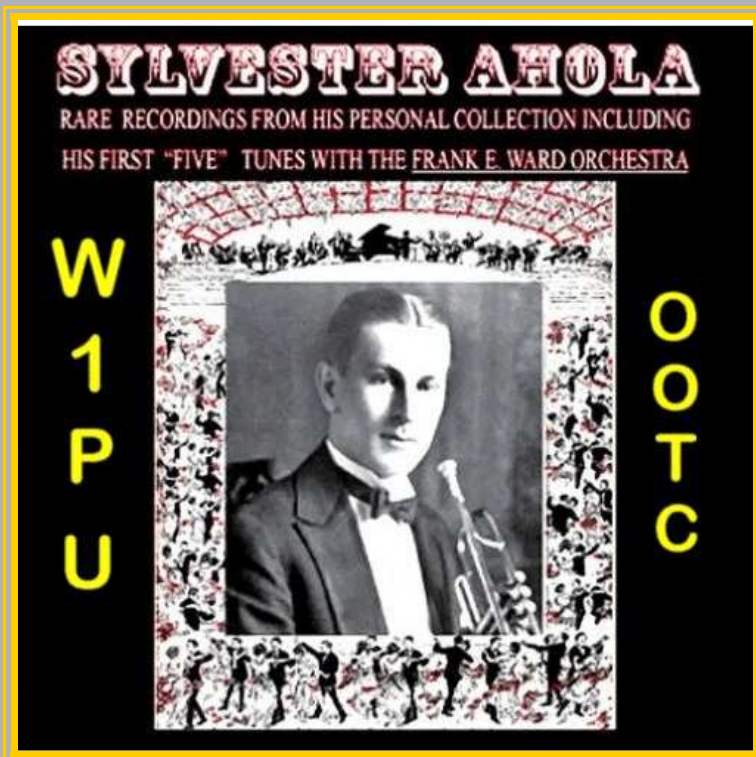
May 2011		
+ AGCW QRP/QRP Party		1300Z-1900Z, May 1
+ Araucaria VHF Contest		0000Z, May 7 to 1600Z, May 8
+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW		0001Z, May 7 to 2359Z, May 8
+ CQ-M International DX Contest		1200Z, May 7 to 1159Z, May 8
+ 7th Call Area QSO Party		1300Z, May 7 to 0700Z, May 8
+ Indiana QSO Party		1600Z, May 7 to 0400Z, May 8
+ New England QSO Party		2000Z, May 7 to 2400Z, May 8
+ ARI International DX Contest		2000Z, May 7 to 2000Z, May 8
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test		1300Z, May 11 to 0400Z, May 12
+ EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party		1000Z, May 14 to 2000Z, May 15
+ VOLTA WW RTTY Contest		1200Z, May 14 to 1200Z, May 15
+ FISTS Spring Sprint		1700Z-2100Z, May 14
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest		0100Z-0300Z, May 16
+ His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW		1200Z, May 21 to 1200Z, May 22
+ Baltic Contest		2100Z, May 21 to 0200Z, May 22
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test		1300Z, May 25 to 0400Z, May 26
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, CW		0000Z, May 28 to 2400Z, May 29
+ MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint		2300Z, May 29 to 0300Z, May 30

**PREAMBLE TO ARTICLE ON NEXT PAGE:** I put my call into Google to see what would come up. A article I wrote in the fall of 1991 on W1PU came up. I was amazed!!! At the end it had my name and call and a W8SU call who must have added the picture of W1PU and the year of his death. I looked up the 8 call and found it belongs to a man in Ohio. I spent a wonderful afternoon with this pioneer of jazz. I hope you enjoy this article as much as I did doing this interview.

Joe, WB1CHJ

**Sylvester “Hooley” Ahola - W1PU \*1902-1995\*** Known as “The Gloucester Gabriel” Of Finnish descent, born in Gloucester, Mass., played the drums at age 6. Then studying trumpet at age 8. He refined his natural talent with lessons from Walter Smith of Boston and would become a classic jazz trumpeter and cornetist. In 1919 Hooley taught himself the Morse Code and would make his first two way QSO on the bands as 1PU.

After hearing Paul Whiteman’s Orchestra, the direction of his career was set. His first professional engagement was in 1921 with Frank E. Wards Orch in Mass. In 1926 he joined Paul Specht Orch in NY and traveled with the band to England. In a remarkable career from 1920 until his retirement in 1940, Hooley spent six years on the Fred Allen Show and performed with more than a dozen name bands in the Unites States and England.



Hooley accompanied more than 2 thousand records and played with dozens of orchestras and bands. He recorded with world famous stars such as Bing Crosby, Sophie Tucker, Gracie Fields, Paul Robeson and Noel Coward, to name a few. He recorded on forty different labels and played for Valentino. Mr. Ahola is regarded as one of the true pioneers in the jazz field.

When our subject was in England 1928-31 he played many freelance sessions, one of which was “A Christmas Party” on Decca. This was a typical jovial Christmas comedy record and at one stage in the participants turn on the radio or pretend to tune in, as a background effect, Hooley plays some Morse

Code on trumpet. He stated he was Morsing and sent “Bad weather off Cape Anne” or words to that effect. Cape Ann in Massachusetts is where Hooley came from! Catch also “Static Strut.”

Later on in life Ahola became interested in traffic handling and started the Deep Sea Dragnet, handling public service traffic from around the world. More than 100 stations in the NE states checked into the net which performed fantastic duties during the Worcester tornado in the mid 50's.

At age 90 with his health on the decline and vision somewhat impaired, Hooley didn’t operate the station much. He was a long time sustaining OOTC member (0175) - A young Englishman has written Sylvester’s biography which was published at Rutgers University. Titled, Sylvester Ahola, The Gloucester Gabriel! We learned W1PU’s XYL’s name was Saima who was a great hostess. This biography is intended to help restore Sylvester’s name to its proper place in American and British musical history.

With help from OOTC Article by J. Pallazola WB1CHJ SGT May 1992. W8SU 2009





# In-Touch News

April 2011, Volume 1 Issue 2

## Special Dates & Information:

NEXT TEAM  
MEETING, April 19,  
6:30 at the EOC

\*\*\*\*\*

**Gloucester CERT**  
**C/O City of Gloucester**  
**9 Dale Avenue**  
**Gloucester, Ma 01930**

**City website:**  
**[www.gloucester](http://www.gloucesterma.gov)**  
**[ma.gov](http://ma.gov)**

**Phone:**  
**978-290-1080**

**Email:**  
**[gloucestercert@](mailto:gloucestercert@comcast.net)**  
**[Comcast.net](mailto:gloucestercert@comcast.net)**

**Deputy Chief Miles**  
**Schlichte**  
**Director, Gloucester**  
**Emergency**  
**Management**

**Carol McMahon**  
**CERT**  
**Program Manager**

## Message from Carol

Hello Team!

Several of the team participated in the Red Cross Shelter trainings. It was certainly very informative and since the shelter is at Fuller, we will probably be the team that initially opens the shelter and does intake until the Red Cross arrives. We are considering a training exercise around opening a shelter, using some of us as clients. Remember what we learned in training, we do what we are taught, not what we are told!!

I have been informed that the city's Volunteer release form is in its final draft and should be available very shortly. Hopefully we can get this finalized and be able to go on to trash pump training before the really wet season is here!

## ID'S:

ID Machine is available and Photo's will be taken at the April Meeting. Bring your best smile!

## EOC Construction and Clean Up

We received permission from the school department to use some on the bookcases and cabinets for our EOC. We have scheduled the EOC build out Team to meet at 6:00 pm on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, to begin the process of moving these units. ( If interested, send me an email) We will need to get a building permit to build the two walls for the sleeping area, and have to get an architect to review and stamp the plans. As soon as we can get this done we can begin that part of the construction.

The National Honor Society from Gloucester High School has offered to volunteer some hours to help do some cleaning as soon as we have the majority of the work done. They will be available the beginning of May so we would like to have the majority of the construction done by then.

## CAARA News:

The Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association is going to participate in a nationwide Emergency Communications exercise/Ham Radio Public Relations event called "Field Day" coming up on Saturday June 25 thru Sunday, June 26th 2011. CAARA would like to invite CERT to be a part of this event. We are having the Red Cross and their Emergency Disaster Van come for the duration of this event. Each year David Burgess sets up a PR table to promote ham radio with flyers and other information. Even though it is the Fiesta weekend CAARA invites all the City Council, the Mayor and local Fire and Police Departments. This event will either be at Babson Field on the Gloucester Rockport line on RT 127 or up at the Fuller school field-the site will be chosen in a month or so.

We will also invite all the CERT members to this event once we get the location set. Note from Carol - I have been to this event and it is certainly worth going by to see!!!)



## **UPCOMING TRAININGS:**

Stan Stone is preparing to launch a "Tech in a Day" training. I will blast an email to all of you when he has a date and location set.

The North Shore/Cape Ann Emergency Preparedness Coalition offers trainings all over the North Shore. If you are interested in information or being on their email list, go to [www.nscalert.org](http://www.nscalert.org).

## **Raffle**

David MacLaughlin was the lucky raffle winner of a bottle of Crown Royal and two Crown Royal glasses and will supply the raffle for this month. So far we have \$128.00 in the kitty, less David's reimbursement.

## **Interesting Security Information:**

John Maney sent along this information:

Interesting security issue regarding pictures taken on smart telephones when listed on the internet. Be aware and safe: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2vARzvWxwY>

## **WISH LIST**

We have been able to cross a few items off our wish list. We have acquired a cd/radio, coffee maker, coffee tables and end tables. Thank you all! You will also want to check out the leather couches and chair that Miles' sister Catherine donated! Very nice and very comfortable! If you hear of anyone that may be willing to donate any of these items, please let me know and we will arrange for a pick up.

Furniture for the lounge area Microwave

Coffee Maker Electric Kettle

Hot plates Coffee Table

Refrigerator Paper Goods

Sharp Knives Big Yellow Flashlights

Fax/printer/copier/scanner large working copy machine

Duct Tape Box Cutters

Tupperware type containers Cleaning Supplies

Medium Storage Tubs Tool Box/tools

Nice Desk Chairs PC's and monitors

Printers Digital Camera

CD/radio Family 2 way radios

Feel free to add anything you think would be needed.

Please feel free to send along any interesting articles

Refrigerator Paper Goods

Sharp Knives Big Yellow Flashlights

Fax/printer/copier/scanner large working copy machine

Duct Tape Box Cutters

Tupperware type containers Cleaning Supplies

Medium Storage Tubs Tool Box/tools

Nice Desk Chairs PC's and monitors

Printers Digital Camera

CD/radio Family 2 way radios

Feel free to add anything you think would be needed.

Hello to all club members,

We are looking for hams to volunteer some of their time and play ham radio at the same time for Saturday August 6th in Essex Mass to provide logistic and safety communications for their town Youth Triathlon. We will be there from 8 AM till Noon at the most. I'm looking for 8 warm bodies so if you want to help out please e-mail me back at [dburg101@aol.com](mailto:dburg101@aol.com).

73's

Dean Burgess KB1PGH

# New 2m ham radio station on the ISS

NASA reports that **Catherine Coleman, KC5ZTH**, (Colonel, USAF, RET.) has installed another Amateur Radio station on the ISS.

The new 2m station is situated in the Columbus module.

The NASA report says:

"Afterwards, Cady prepared for and completed the installation of a new amateur/ham radio station in the COL (Columbus Orbital Laboratory).

"Later in the day, Cady checked out the radio's audio for proper functioning by talking with a ham operator on the ground. Activities involved first retrieving all necessary hardware from stowage and setting it up in COL, then installing the VHF Ericsson Transceiver station at the ER3 (EXPRESS Rack 3)."

## Space station facts and figures

| The International Space Station has been continuously occupied since its October 2000 launch by NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

| The current expedition to the station is the 27th and 196 people from eight countries have visited it.

| It has travelled more than 1.5 billion statute miles, the equivalent of eight trips around the sun, over the course of 57,361 orbits around Earth.

| A total of 150 spacewalks have been conducted to assemble the station.

| Inside, the station is about as big as a five-bedroom house and has two bathrooms and a gymnasium.

## New 2m ham radio station on the ISS

NASA reports that Catherine Coleman, KC5ZTH, (Colonel, USAF, RET.) has installed another Amateur Radio station on the ISS.

The new 2m station is situated in the Columbus module.

The NASA report says:

"Afterwards, Cady prepared for and completed the installation of a new amateur/ham radio station in the COL (Columbus Orbital Laboratory).

"Later in the day, Cady checked out the radio's audio for proper functioning by talking with a ham operator on the ground. Activities involved first retrieving all necessary hardware from stowage and setting it up in COL, then installing the VHF Ericsson Transceiver station at the ER3 (EXPRESS Rack 3)."

## James McLaughlin, WA2EWE/T6AF, Killed By Afghan Pilot

James McLaughlin, WA2EWE/T6AF, was one of several killed in Kabul, Afghanistan on Wednesday, April 27. News sources say that eight American troops and a US contractor died Wednesday after an Afghan military pilot opened fire during a meeting in an operations room of the Afghan Air Corps at the Kabul airport -- the deadliest episode to date of an Afghan turning against his coalition partners, officials with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISF) in Afghanistan said.

Licensed since 1972, McLaughlin was a career US military officer. Bob Magnani, K6QXY, told the ARRL that McLaughlin was just in the US a week ago, visiting his family. His son Adam, KD6POE, works for me. He told me that his dad had been in Afghanistan and Iraq many times over the past few years, most currently serving as a flight instructor." McLaughlin posted on his qrz.com page that "almost every day, I operate at around 1230 - 1430 UTC. Sometimes I am QRV until around 1500 UTC." As of March 26, 2011, he had logged 4359 QSOs, most of them on RTTY and PSK. -- Thanks to Russ Bentson, K6KLY, CNN and Fox News for the information

# Working the Boston Marathon

Stan Stone, W4HIX

The Boston Marathon is probably the top marathon in the world, and definitely the oldest. This year over 27,000 runners qualified and ran for the 26.3 mile race from Hopkinton to Copley Square in Boston. Every year, 250 amateur radio operators volunteer their time and equipment to provide communications support for the event. Hams are stationed at all of the medical tents along the route, shadow race officials and work on the medical sweep buses that bring runners into Boston if they can't make it themselves.

This is the second year that I've worked the Marathon. Both times I've been assigned to the Elite Vans, a transportation system specifically designated for elite runners. There are four of these vans and they pick up elite runners and bring them directly to Boston, to a specific Elite Runner location—not the main medical tent. Each has a driver, radio operator and medical person. Unlike the regular medical sweep buses, the Elite Vans have no set route or location, but are assigned completely on-call.

The communications for the Boston Marathon are handled through several net control operators that monitor and direct the buses, medical tents and finish line area. I've never seen the actual net control, but I understand it is in a trailer somewhere around the finish area. Dual-band handheld radios are pretty much all that are required and a mag-mount antenna if you are working one of the buses. Simplex is used extensively around the finish line and local repeaters along the course. There are cross-band repeaters set up so that you can use either UHF or VHF in most areas. There are twenty-eight frequencies used for the event, so programming them ahead is very important. You don't want to be stumbling around trying to figure out what to do when you are supposed to be communicating. Know your radio (AND bring the manual)!

As a volunteer, you get access to the Copley Square finish area. The public is not allowed in the several blocks around the square, so it is pretty interesting to be able to see all of the preparations for the finish and how you manage almost 27,000 people who come running (mostly) into Boston over several hours. It is quite a production.

I carry all of my gear in an LL Bean lumbar pack. Check out my checklist of equipment to see what I carry. You never know exactly where you will be assigned—some of the buses have fiberglass bodies, so your mag-mount antenna is sort of worthless without a ground plane—that's why a J-pole is included. I've been lucky the last two year being able to plug into the vehicle's cigarette lighter, so the pounds of batteries I bring have not been necessary—at least not yet. I carried a GPS also, but it is nearly worthless because auto-routing to a medical station almost always routes you onto the racecourse, or across it, both things you can't do.

As a volunteer, you are given an Adidas warm up jacket and wearing it identifies you as an official volunteer. You also receive your credentials that give you access to the finish area and medical tents, a commemorative pin and a ticket to the after race party. Of course, you're pretty tired by the end of the day, but I guess not as tired as the runners.

If you are interested in working the Marathon in the future, go the Boston Athletic Association's website: <http://www.baa.org/races/boston-marathon/event-information/volunteering.aspx>. Also, Paul Topolski has produced a set of videos on what to expect and how to prepare.

Here is one: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJnnzZ\\_OhA8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJnnzZ_OhA8), or search YouTube for Paul's call sign W1SEX (no kidding). It is a pretty incredible experience to be part of such a storied Boston tradition.

**Paperwork/Manuals/Identification**

- ☐ Notebook & Pen
  - ☐ IC-205 Comm. Plan (in Notebook)
  - ☐ 2m/70cm Repeater List (in Notebook)
- ☐ Mass. Driver's License (Photo ID)
- ☐ CAARA Name Badge
- ☐ FCC Amateur Radio License
- ☐ Boston Marathon Ham Instructions
- ☐ Boston Marathon Course Map
- ☐ Area Road Map(s)
- ☐ VX-8GR Operating Manual
- ☐ FT-51R Quick Code Sheet

**Radio**

- ☐ Yaesu VX-8GR w/FNB-102LI 1800 mAh bat. (5W VHF/UHF, GPS/APRS, SMA)
- ☐ Yaesu FT-51R w/FNB-38xh 1450mAh bat. (5W VHF/UHF, BNC) (Backup Radio #1)
- ☐ Yaesu VX-3R (1.5W Dual band, SMA) (BU #2)
- ☐ MFJ 288 Headset & Yaesu CT-44 Adapter

**Batteries**

- ☐ VX-8GR Spare Battery – (FNB-101LI)
- ☐ VX-8GR AA Battery Holder – (FBA\_39)
- ☐ VX-8GR DC Power Cable (Powerpole)
- ☐ FT-51R Spare Battery (FNB 38xh - 9.6 V, 1450 mAh)
- ☐ FT-51R Spare Battery (MH-FNB-38 - 9.6 V, 750 mAh)
- ☐ FT-51R Battery Eliminator - (CBE-38)
- ☐ VX-3R Battery - (x3)
- ☐ AA Alkaline Batteries (3 pk. of 4 = 12)
- ☐ AA Rechargeable Batteries – NiMH (4)

**Antenna**

- ☐ Comet 2m/440MHz Mag Mount (BNC)
- ☐ Roll-up J-pole – 2m (BNC)
- ☐ Diamond RH770 – Dual Band (BNC-14")
- ☐ Diamond RH519 – Dual Band (BNC-8")
- ☐ VX-8GR Stock 2m/440MHz (SMA)
- ☐ Workman 2m/440MHz Mag Mount (BNC)
- ☐ BNC-F – SMA-M Adapter

**To Do – Prior to Race Day**

- ☐ Review Comm. Plan/Program Radios
- ☐ Program GPS w/Station Waypoints
- ☐ Charge Batteries
- ☐ Pack Communications Bag
- ☐ Prepare Lunch

**Backup Power Kit**

- ☐ Cable - Cigarette Plug – Powerpole (10A Fuse)
- ☐ Cable - Cigarette Jack – Powerpole (10A Fuse)
- ☐ Cable - Powerpole – Powerpole (7')
- ☐ 2-Outlet Cigarette Plug Adapter (10 A)
- ☐ Retainer Pins - Powerpole

**Misc., Cables & Adapters**

- ☐ Duct tape
- ☐ Screwdriver, Utility Knife
- ☐ PL-259 – BNC-F Adapter (2)
- ☐ PL-259 – PL-259 F-F (Barrel) Connector
- ☐ BNC – BNC F-F (Barrel) Connector
- ☐ BNC – BNC M-M Cable (24")
- ☐ BNC-M – SMA-M Cable (24")

**Optional Radio Equipment**

- ☐ 2m Brick Amp  
(rf concepts Mini-Amp 144P, 35W)

**Other Electronics**

- ☐ Camera – Sony DSC-T100 + Spare Battery
- ☐ GPS – Garmin Oregon 450
- ☐ Cellphone + Spare Battery

**Food/Water/Meds**

- ☐ Lunch/Water
- ☐ Clif Bar (2)
- ☐ Tylenol (2), Excedrin (2)
- ☐ Antacid Tablets (roll)
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Bug Repellant
- ☐ Small Medical Kit (Gloves, Band-Aids, etc.)

**Pack/Clothing/Etc.**

- ☐ Communication Bag (Rump Pack – L.L. Bean)
- ☐ Backpack (Blue Jansport)
- ☐ Hat, Sunglasses, Jacket, Raingear (if req'd)
- ☐ Cash

**To Do – Day of Race**

- ☐ Wake up – 4:40 AM
- ☐ Shower, Eat Breakfast,  
Pack Car (Lunch, Communications Bag)
- ☐ Leave Home QTH – 5:20 AM
- ☐ Arrive Boston Common Garage – 6:15 AM
- ☐ Arrive at John Hancock – 6:45 AM



