

CAARA NEWS



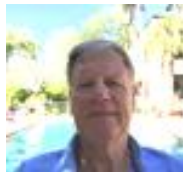
Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
MAY 2018 Edition



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Jon- K1TP

I have made contact with Phil Carter Painting Company and we are on his list for early spring painting to complete the city grant covering the re-siding and painting of the clubhouse. Job well done to all members involved.



The breakfast and lunch program netted us over \$300 last month. We are eating our way to balancing the budget, improving the club facility, and funding a CAARA Scholarship Fund. Stop over the club and enjoy a delicious meal.

Field Day is approaching and we will alert you to all details. The May member meeting will be a cookout and we will discuss how Field Day will be setup at the club this June. We are going to use a computer logging program to make things easier to tally points at the end of the contest and submit records to the ARRL. **This time we will not run out of hamburg's and hotdog's**, we under estimated how hungry this group is last month. We will add sausage, grilled peppers and onions to this outing, it will be delicious.

The BOD decided to continue to have member meetings this summer in July and August with a meal included. In the past we have not had meetings in the summer but the lunch program has been so successful we decided to stay open for business.

I operate on 75 many afternoons on 3938 SSB with a group called the "Bull Net". A friendly group of hams that shoot the baloney every day from MA, ME, NH, NY and VT. They have a website at THEBULLNET.COM and if you check-in a few times you may be admitted into the group and awarded a

Bull Net number for check-in purposes and a free membership certificate.

INFORMATION DESK

by Dean- KB1PGH



The ARRL just released this information on the state of amateur radio licenses in the U.S. for 2017. There were 30,000 new licenses issued. There were 7000 VE exam sessions. There were 35,350 candidates during those VE sessions. There are 378,000 Technician class, 174,206 General class and 145,034 Extra class licenses. There are also 41,938 Advanced and 9,065 Novice Licenses out there as well. About 27,000 licenses expired in 2017 and all of this ended up with a net growth of 5,379 more licenses or 0.72% .

There are no ARRL contests in May but there is the New England QSO party which runs on Saturday May 5th through Sunday May 6th.

Of course the ARRL Field Day event is coming up on June 23rd through the 24th so now's the time to start preparing for that. Especially if you are looking for a site to hold it so you can reserve the site now before its too late. Make sure too that you have your power source ready such as a fully charged battery and check the water level on your lead acid batteries as well. Do a tune up on your generator if you have one and make sure it runs .If you have a HF rig in a go kit like I do break it out at least once a month and make sure everything turns on. Make sure your fuses and the fuse holders don't get corrosion inside of them which can lead to power loss.

Moving on, I'd like to go back to the receiver spec series I was doing a couple months ago. Have you ever looked

Member Meeting on Saturday at noon on May 12th. Cookout for lunch, social hour, and planning for June Field Day.

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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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- 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 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 located at the CAARA clubhouse.

The former W1RK 443.700 repeater is now on the ATT 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 beam, vertical/wire antennas along with an operating 2 meter packet station as well as 2/440 meter voice and 220 MHz Transceivers.

Amateur radio exams are held on the second Sunday of each month at 10:00 AM at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. Pre-registration necessary. Contact the head of our VE team Rick Maybury-WZ1B if you have any questions about monthly testing.

Monthly member meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at noon **.LUNCH INCLUDED!**

Each Sunday evening at 9:00 PM, 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! Breakfasts are served twice a month on Saturday or Sunday- check our calendar. The club is open every Tuesday from 5-8PM for CAARA members to stop by and socialize,

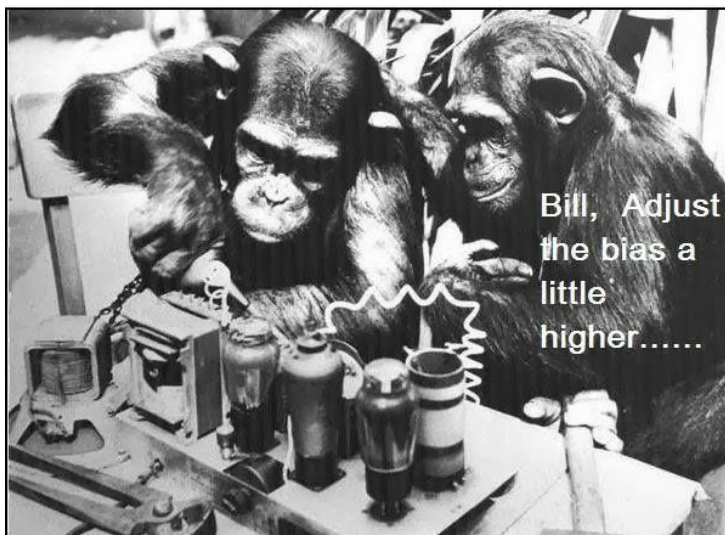
at your receiver specifications and wondered what the term "Blocking Dynamic Range" meant? Well not to get into too much detail but the term "Blocking" means for your HF rig is it's ability to "Block" a strong powered nearby signal while you are trying to listen to a weaker signal right next to it. What happens is a rig that has better "Blocking" capabilities will still have the ability be to hear the weaker signal next to the stronger one. What happens with a rig that does not have good "Blocking" capabilities the stronger signal will be able to activate the RF gain compression circuit in your rig and that desensitizes your RF gain on the frequency that you are trying to hear thus masking the weaker station. That's basically it. Well that's it for now.



See you next month.
Dean- KB1PGH

**May Member
Breakfast
On
Saturday, May 5 and
19th
from 9-11am**

**Proceeds benefit club
Scholarship and
Building Fund**



RIP Wireman-Press Jones is a silent key...It is with great sadness that we at the Wireman, INC announce the passing of Pressley Jones, N8UG, "The Wireman", on Tuesday, April 10th, 2018. We are thankful for his dedication and contributions to the Amateur Radio community for over 45 years. He was a great teacher and speaker with his one-of-a kind approach to communications, and a down to earth mentor.



Saturday, April 28: Larry- AJ1Z using his truck to move the EmCom trailer away from the building so the painter can do his thing with the sanding and refinishing of all the exterior trim. Larry also worked on the N1MM logging software on club computers so it could be used for Field day at the club at each operating station.

A look at the Palomar Engineers AC/DC Generator RFI Noise Kit

by Dean- KB1PGH

If you have ever operated HF portable you soon realize that generators emit a lot of RFI and you can easily hear it on the HF bands as hash and buzzing. This in turn desensitizes your receiver and raises the s meter reading on your HF rigs as static. I can attest to this even on my Honda EU 2000 generator which is one of the "Quieter" generators in regards to RFI as it has an inverter inside which makes a perfect 60 hz AC sinewave. If I change power between the generator and a battery I notice a bit of noise in the background. Some of the cheaper generators are a disgrace at emitting lots of RFI.

Now it should be obvious that any RFI emitted from a generator is coming from the electrical cord acting like a RFI "antenna". This too can happen in reverse as switching power supplies can and do emit RFI along the same electrical cord going back to the generator. So Palomar Engineers has created a AC/DC Generator RFI kit.



The kit consists of two snap on filters which are one inch diameter on the inside. So what you do is take the end of the electrical cord that goes to the plug of the generator and wrap it at least 3 times around the filter



core as you see in the first photo. Then you take the other end of the power cord that connects to the back of your power supply and wrap it around the center of the filter core the same way. The cores work from 1 to 300 mhz and the kit costs \$39.00 .

I will let you know next month how these work at quieting down the noise. So you may want to try this filter system out for field day coming up.



The top picture consists of CAARA VE Examiners: Bill P., Bob Q., Hank M., Dave R., Larry B., Tony S., and Rick M. posing with the two ladies who passed the Tech in a Day class and earned FCC Tech licenses. Story on the next page.



Tech in a Day – April 2018

S. Stone, W4HIX

Stephanie Frontiera is one determined young woman. At this spring's Tech in a Day held at the Lanesville Community Center, she was one of seven students—and one of three from the Ipswich CERT. These CERT members were given radios and encouraged to get their Amateur Radio Technician license. She was determined to do it.

Tech in a Day is a program modeled after the Ham Cram program. It is a study session of the FCC question pool of 426 questions for the exam. There are 35 sections in the question pool, corresponding to the 35 questions on the exam. Every question a student sees on the test will be in the pool. The good thing? The answers have always been part of the pool. Do the students learn all they have to know about Amateur Radio this way? No, the aim is to pass the test. The students are unlikely to learn everything from a book either—it takes practice and more often the help of a friendly Elmer, or a club to teach the practical matters of operating.

After six 45-minute study sessions, the students are ready for the test. This session was relatively easy—seven exams, plus two walk-ins for testing. CAARA's crack team of volunteer examiners (VEs) (Bill Poulin-WZ1L, Dave Robertson-KD1NA, Tony Sarracino-AB1KX, Larry Beaulieu-AJ1Z, Hank McCarl-W4RIG, Stan Stone-W4HIX) and VE liaison (Rick Maybury-WZ1B) conducted the exam session.

So why did I say that Stephanie was so determined? She told me that she was going to pass this test—and get her General soon after that. But Stephanie was distracted during the session and it took her three tries to finally pass the exam. We all cheered when she made it. So, this session gave us seven out of seven for students and another two walk-ins who passed. All in all, it was a good day.



Stephanie Frontiera, Alison Miniter & Lillian Reilly, members of Ipswich CERT who passed their Technician license exam.

Facing the Faceless Machine

By Curtis- AA3JE



Now most of you know I wear glasses. What you don't know is that if I set them down, I cannot find them without another pair of glasses. I have been legally blind without my glasses all my life, resulting in a recurrent anxiety. Especially when sailing when the main

sheet comes over, and there is a "Ploop", and I am sailing by Braille. Anything within six inches is crystal clear, beyond that, nothing.

So I have spare glasses in the car, in the boat, in the shop, indeed one cannot open a drawer without a cascade of old glasses falling out. But as I age, acuity is fading.

So when I had to get a new driver's license, I was CERTAIN there would be trouble. In MA, it's no problem. I go to the eye doctor, he checks it, he signs a form, and I hand the form in at the desk. No worries.

But in New Hampshire, you have to look in the box at the DMV and read the letters. No box, no letters, no license! Plus there is all that talk about the "older driver". Bone chilling. If I can't drive, I am at the mercy of "SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED".

A frightening thought!

So I downloaded the NH Driver's manual, read it five times, took the on-line prep test. I practiced my parallel parking and "T" turns. I practiced actually stopping at "STOP" signs. I even ordered new glasses, as a faint film of WD-40 had chewed up the latest pair a little (It takes the coating right off the damn things).

But as the day approached, I felt the icy tendrils of fear enter my heart. There is lots of fear (at least for me) when I face the stern majesty of the law. I looked up the nearest test location. Twenty miles away! And I needed six forms of identification to get the new markings on the license that proved I was in the country legally!

So I dug out the required papers, and on the day drove to the test site. And passed right by it. It was the shack

at the side of the State Police barracks. I thought it was a chicken coop. I was pale and trembling when I turned into the drive.....

When it all changed. As I stopped, a 2000 year old woman in a 1975 Chevy, sitting on a telephone book to see over the dashboard, looking through coke bottle glasses, felt her way out of the parking lot by gently (and slowly), bumping off each parked car.

"RELAX, IDIOT!" SHE said to me.

"Easy for you to say," I replied curtly.

SHE turned to me, and smiled. It was un-nerving. Kind of like a crocodile greeting you at the zoo with a big smile.

"LOOK! THEY GAVE HER A LICENSE. HOW HARD COULD IT BE?"



And suddenly, to my amazement, I felt a chuckle bubble up. Soon we both were laughing hysterically.

After five minutes waiting for the BLIND ZEN OLD LADY to clear the lot, we walked across. Inside, two very gracious DMV employees signed us in, gave us both an eye test any marginally sighted person could pass, took our forms, and gave us our licenses.

Shakespeare said it best.

"Conscience makes cowards of us all."

Renown radio host Art Bell W6OBB (4F1AB) is silent key

A Nevada ham radio operator, who was as famous locally for his five acre loop antenna as he was for being the host of the most listened-to night time radio program in the country, has died.

Art Bell W6OBB (4F1AB) passed away Friday at his Pahrump, Nevada home, 47 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Nye County Sheriff Sharon Wehly announced Bell's death in a video released on social media. Wehly did not give a cause of death and stated that an autopsy is scheduled for Thursday. Bell, who was 72, suffered from lung disease and other ailments. He was hospitalized in 2016 for pneumonia.



Known world wide, Bell was the host of "Coast to Coast AM" an up-all-night program that featured paranormal activity, UFO encounters, and conspiracies of every type. His program was carried on more than 500 broadcast stations. With more than 15 million nightly listeners, Bell's show was the highest listened to night time program and the fourth highest listened to program overall on the radio.

As is the case with many in the broadcasting field, Art Bell's journey through radio began as a kid. Born at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to Marine Corp parents, his father (then) a Captain and his mother a Drill Instructor, Bell entered the world of radio in 1956 at age 11 when he discovered his grandmothers old upright console AM Shortwave band radio. Shortly thereafter he met a nuclear scientist who lived down the street from him in Media, Pennsylvania, The scientist was a ham who Elmered young Art into amateur radio. At age 13 Art Bell earned his Novice ticket with the call KN3JOX and got on the air using a Heathkit AT-1 transmitter and a Heathkit AC-3 receiver. He soon upgraded to General and the call K3JOX. Later a 1966 move to Patterson, New Jersey saw him receive call sign W2CKS. Bell would later be KR6BK in Okinawa and 4F1AB in the Philippines. Bell also later obtained a commercial First Class Radiotelephone Operators License.



Bell said that during his adolescent years he divided his daily time between operating his ham station and hanging out at commercial broadcasting stations. He landed his first on the air job reading the news at a New Jersey FM religious broadcast station.

Read the full story by John Bigley N7UR of Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire

<http://www.nevadahamradio.com/>

5 acre antenna farm!

Member Recognition- Bill W1WMM

As the person who "drove/lead" the kitchen refurbishment project for the health and safety of CAARA members, yesterday along with Jon -K1TP, we presented a well deserved commemorative (plaque I made for Bill) to recognize the hard work and thoughtful months of efforts by Bill W1WMM weekly. Bill puts in countless hours weekly to generate breakfasts and lunches for club activities.

He took the time to get certified in food safety and operates a safe and tasty food environment for the club. He goes out and purchases the food, plans the menu, pre-cooks food at home, announces daily the upcoming events/meals and then cooks to order. It certainly helps that Bill has a lot of professional experience as a chef. And at CAARA he is **"TOP CHEF"**.

Submitted by Ross- W1RAB



A few "oldie but goodie" photo's of the kitchen renovation a few years back. Bill- W1OKD, Jon-K1TP, and Ross- W1RAB putting up the new drywall ceiling, rewiring the lights, and replacing the insulation.

On the right, Ross replacing trim under the soffit covering up the holes which were allowing the little critters to get into the kitchen ceiling.



Hamvention 2018 live stream

W5KUB will once again be webcasting for the 17th year the Hamvention Marathon Webcast. It will be over 40 hours of live streaming of our yearly event.

There are many people who can not attend hamvention due to health, finances, work, and age. Our motto is "Bringing ham radio to you".

We want to give everyone the experience of feeling like they are part of this ham radio event. It's as simple as going to W5KUB.COM where you can watch all the activities and also join in the chat room with viewers from around the world and also communicate directly to the W5KUB group. Hamvention 2018 live stream

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We give away thousands of dollars in prizes to our viewers. If we call your name and you answer, you are a winner. Prizes like antenna analyzers, mobile rigs, HTs, antennas, etc are just a few to name. Astronaut Doug Wheelock is scheduled to be with us again for the 5th year as a cohost.

The excitement is not just at the booth at Xenia. We stream our 10 hour drive live there and back to Memphis, TN. Watch the drive, the scenery, communicate with the group. Watch us get in traffic, get lost, or even get stopped by police for speeding (yes that has happened before and everyone in the chat room was taking up a collection to bail us out of jail)

Here is our schedule of live streaming:

May 16 0800 am central until 1800 PM eastern live stream of the 550 mile drive

May 17 0900 Eastern until 1700 Eastern set up at hamvention booth. You will see many people come by and say hello to the viewers that day.

May 18th 0800 eastern until 1700 eastern 1st day of hamvention

May 19th 0800 eastern until 1700 eastern 2nd day of hamvention

May 20th 0800 eastern until 1400 eastern final day of hamvention.

May 21 0900 eastern until 1800 central as we stream the 550 mile drive back to Memphis, TN



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

3 new member applications were received in March:

David DiGennaro, N1ZDZ

Ed Ridolfi, K1RID

Charles Herlihy, KC1JKJ

After voting was completed, all were sent welcome letters on April 2, 2018.

Total membership is currently 111:

63 Regular

28 Senior

8 Family

1 Youth

7 Life

3 Honorary

110 Total Membership

Submitted by:

Dick Ober, K1VRA

Membership Coordinator



I saw this old picture of Bernie Fife and it dawned on me that he had been operating voice on an Eico “cw” only transmitter for years!

We have the same radio at the clubhouse with the **optional** and rare plate AM modulator- which Bernie did not have!

FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn Stepping Down

FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn is leaving the Commission. She announced at the FCC’s April 17 meeting that it would be her last as a commissioner. She plans to leave before the Commission’s next scheduled meeting on May 10. Following her 2013 appointment by President Barack Obama, Clyburn served as acting FCC chair, the first woman to head the agency. A Democrat, she is currently serving a second term on the Commission.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai congratulated Clyburn on “her distinguished tenure at the FCC,” calling her “a tremendous leader and a committed public servant.”

The other Democrat on the FCC, Jessica Rosenworcel, said, “Commissioner Clyburn is a dynamo. She represents the best of public service. I am proud to call her both a colleague and a friend.” The majority of the five-member Commission represents the political party of the president.

Revised Canadian Table of Frequency Allocations now includes additional 15 kHz for 60 Metre Band

In August 2017, the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) issued “Proposed Revisions to the Canadian Table of Frequency Allocations”. These proposed changes followed decisions made at the World Radiocommunications Conference in 2015 (WRC-15) that included a 15 kHz-wide allocation for the Amateur Service in the 60 metre band.

The proposed revisions to the Table would retain the original five 5 MHz spot frequencies with 100 watts of effective radiated power, but restrict the new 15 kHz allocation to only 15 watts (eirp), the agreement at WRC-15 that accommodated concerns of a few countries over possible interference to their domestic communications. Decisions these days at World Radio Conferences require unanimous consent of all member nations. Radio Amateurs of Canada noted in its response to the proposed changes that there had been no reports of interference from Amateur Radio operations on the existing five 60m spot frequencies following their use in Canada since 2014 and in the USA for even longer.

Fool's Day Communications Team

Gloucester, Mass
Event date: April 8, 2018
On Location: 8:30 - 9:00 am
Starts: 5K Run = 9 am Half
Marathon Run = 10 am
Frg: 145.130 - PL:107.2 Back up:
147.420

FOR 5 K Run:

Net Control
WW1N
Ruth
2
Start / Finish Incident CMD
K1TAT
Chris
3
Yukan Director Phil
W1WMM
Bill
4
Lead Vehicle
KC1AEI
Matt
5
Trail Vehicle
KA1BTK
Gardi
6
Stanwood & Gee St
W4RIG
Hank
7
Poplar & Cherry St
KA1NCF
Eric
8
Washington & Wheeler St
KC1FFA
Ken

**Public service by the
team at CAARA
organized by Chris-
K1TAT**

FOR 10 K Run: (Half Marathon)

1
Net Control
WW1N
Ruth
2
Start / Finish Incident CMD
K1TAT
Chris
3
Yukan Director Phil
W1WMM
Bill
4
Lead Vehicle
KC1AEI
Matt
5
Trail Vehicle

KA1BTK
Gardi
6
Washington & Stanwood St
W4RIG
Hank
7
CP # 3: Mile 3 & 6
KA1NCF
Eric
8
CP # 4: Mile 4 & 8
N1JEI
Tony
9
CP # 6: Mile 7
KC1FFA
Ken



The Wolf Den Network

by Brian- WO1VES

The Wolf Pack Network is a series of linked repeaters and Internet systems all connected together. There is currently only one repeater on the network, the 147.075 Stoneham repeater, but more will be coming soon. If you want to see this happen faster, [Click Here](#) to see how you can help.

Wires-X

The primary link to the Wolf Pack Network is through Yaesu's Wires-X. If you want to connect your Fusion repeater or node, connect to the following:

Room Name: Wolf-Den

Room ID: 28941

YSF Reflector

If you want to connect into the Wolf Pack Network through your portable hotspot (such as the SharkRF OpenSpot, DV4Mini, or DVMega) you can use the YSF Reflector. Just point your hotspot to the YSF Reflector **US WolfDen**.

Find the status of US WolfDen here:

<http://wolfdens.ddnsgeek.com:42080/>

Find out more about the YSF Reflectors here:

<https://register.ysfreflector.de/>

Echolink

You can connect into the Wolf Pack Network with your computer or Cell Phone with Echolink. Both digital transmissions from the Wolf Pack Network and analog transmissions from the Stoneham, 147.075 repeater will come through on Echolink. Use the following to connect:

Station Name: WO1VES/R

Node Number: 813502

New England Wolf Pack Fusion Net

The Wolf Pack Repeater System is starting a new monthly Fusion net on the last Friday of every month at 8:00 PM Eastern Time. The first net will be this Friday, April 27th. It will be based on the main repeater of the Wolf Pack Repeater System, the 147.075 WA1RHN repeater in Stoneham, Mass.

The net will be called the New England Wolf Pack Fusion Net. This will be a New England centric net, and will cover topics of interest to operators living in the region. I'm also going to offer a question and answer portion to help operators get the most out of their Fusion radios.



The following radios made by Yaesu are Fusion capable: FTM-100, FTM-400, FT-1D, FT-1XD, FT-2D, FT-70, FTM-3200, FTM-3207, FTM-7250, FT-991, and FT-991A. If you have one of these models, you can get

into the net through any of the links. You can also access with a DMR radio and a SharkRF OpenSpot.

The net will take place on the Wolf Pack Network, which in addition to the main repeater in Stoneham, offers links through Wires-X, YSF Reflectors, and Echolink. Here are the current linking options:

- 1) If you have a Fusion radio and you are within range of the 147.075 repeater, you can come in direct to the net. There is nothing special needed to access the repeater.
- 2) With a Fusion radio, and access to another linked Fusion repeater, or a Fusion node working with the Yaesu HRI-200. You can connect with Wires-X to room 28941, called Wolf-Den.
- 3) A Fusion radio and a hotspot, such as a SharkRF OpenSpot, DV4Mini, ZUMSpot, etc. These can connect to YSF Reflectors. In there, you will find a reflector called "US WolfDen". This is full time connected to the Stoneham Repeater, and will be connected for the net.
- 4) DMR Radio operators with a SharkRF OpenSpot can connect to the YSF Reflector "US WolfDen". If you need help setting that up, let me know.
- 5) If you don't have a Fusion radio yet, but wish to check out the net, Echolink is available. Just look for "WO1VES/R" node 813502. There is currently a limit of 4 connections.

If you know anyone in New England with a Fusion repeater or Node, please encourage them to link in for the net. The more users from New England, the better. Any repeaters that I can confirm will be connected for the net, I will list on the Wolf Pack website at www.wolves.com.



KC1AEI, ONE OF OUR REGULAR CAARA RACE CREW

Announcing the New England Tech Trek I

May 4 & 5, 2018

In and around the Art & Crafts Building (Upper Floor)

Deerfield, NH Fairgrounds

34 Stage Road
Deerfield, New Hampshire

The **New England Tech Trek (NETT)** is a NEW event going on at the Deerfield Fairgrounds simultaneously with NEAR-Fest's Spring Amateur Radio Festival. Sponsored by *NEAR-Fest* and the *Deerfield Fair Association* this is an event designed to showcase and demonstrate a variety of different STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) technologies and subjects which are new and emerging or have become a part of everyday lives. This event focuses heavily on

The scope of this new event is evolving daily, however we expect that the following events and demonstrations will be present:

- Basic Robotics (circuit building to robot modules)
- Advanced Robotics (FIRST Robotics Team from Manchester Central High School demonstrating their robots)
- Drone technology, safety and regulation
- Kit Building from Arduinos and Raspberry Pi to RF
- 3-D Printers and CAD
- National Weather Service Local Forecasters from Gray, Maine – High altitude measurements and SKYWARN
- High Altitude Balloon Projects by the Nashua ARS
- Portable Satellite Communications by Nashua ARS
- High Frequency Remote Communications
- CubeSat launch (from Wallops Is.) exhibit by Clay Center student

And many additional exhibits including amateur licensing, code learning, SOTA, FOX Hunting, Field Day and Mobile NEAR-Fest is excited to help bring this event to the Fairgrounds and we hope to bring it back at future NEAR-Fests in

Check back on this page for more updates as we get closer to the May 4, 2018 opening.

If you have any questions or would like a table to provide demonstrations or learning resources please email webmaster@near-fest.com and you will be contacted by one of the events organizers.

****Access to the New England Tech Trek is FREE for students, teachers, parents and exhibitors.**

There are no sales or solicitations at NETT, it is an educational environment only. If you would like Commercial selling space within NEAR-Fest please visit the [Exhibitors and Vendors](#) page on the NEAR-Fest web site.

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

By Jon- KITP

I am still unpacking from the move into my new QTH and I am still unpacking tools and ham radio stuff I have collected for forty years. I ran across an old commercial dipole center product which I have had great success with over the years. I had snipped off the antenna wire and left it in a pile of stuff to unsolder and cleanup in the future.

I had soldered two wires to each leg of the connector, I believe it was a 40 and 80 meter fan dipole using 12 gauge wire to handle the power I was running at the time and the heavy gauge keeps the antenna up in a wind storm as well. I pulled out my handy Wen 260 watt antique soldering gun....remember them, that is what we used to use to solder stuff together before the wimpy heat intolerant solid state components arrived on the scene and so I applied the heat to the huge solder joint. After a minute of no progress and my short attention span, I decided to speed up the process and unsolder it using a propane torch.

I finally found the torch head and screwed it on a tank that felt empty and sure enough it was. I screwed the torch head on the remaining brand new full propane tank I found and I fired it up and unsoldered the joint in no time. I shut the torch off and left the tank and torch on my workbench to cool off and went upstairs to the next project.

My wife went down to the basement to do laundry and complained of a smell and said she lit a scented candle to get rid of the odor and I should put the screens on the basement windows and get the basement aired out soon. I said sure and went down to the basement about 30 minutes later to check out the "odor". Jeez, it did smell terrible, like eggs, and it didn't smell like that when I was working down there on the antenna.



I immediately got a sick feeling in my stomach....**it was propane gas!** I had not screwed down the torch head all the way on the tank and the basement was full of propane from the loose connection. I looked across the basement and looked at the lit scented candle sitting in front of the full 275 gallon oil tank. I thought of the embarrassment I would endure from the news in my obituary that I had blown the house up with the help of my wife. I ran over and put out the candle and opened up the basement door and vented the house.

Well, we didn't blow the house off the foundation, I will be more careful with propane in the future, and my wife now knows that propane gas has an egg smell for a good reason!

April Member Meeting

The April Member Meeting featured grilled chicken, hamburg's, hot dogs, potato salad, home made beans, and desserts. We actually ran out of food, that will not happen again. We under estimated the number coming to the lunch and how "hungry" they were. Next month we will be overstocked with food...we will operate a cook out again but instead of chicken we will have sweet sausage with onions an peppers as well as burgers and dogs, homemade baked beans and potato salad.



April Member Meeting



A good time was had by all at the meeting with plenty of laughs and a few folks even used the ham gear to make a few contacts.

April Member Meeting



To New England radio clubs:

I'd appreciate your help in publicizing the upcoming New England QSO Party on May 5th and 6th. Please mention it at your next club meeting and in your newsletter.

The NEQP is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

We're working to make sure that all of the New England counties are active again this year and would appreciate your help. Get on for at least an hour or two and join in on the fun. Please let me know if you can put in any time at all so we can work on activity from the rarest counties. **Will you be QRV? Let us know which county you'll be on from with a message to info@neqp.org**

Oh yes, the NEQP is also **lots** of fun when mobile. Every time you cross a county line the action starts over again. It's amazing what a 100w radio and mobile whip can do.

The QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep Saturday night. It goes from 4pm Saturday until 1am Sunday, then 9am Sunday until 8pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who makes 25 QSOs and sends in a log will get a certificate.

Last year we had logs from 177 New England stations and 460 more from around the country and world.

The full NEQP rules are here -> <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

The 2017 results are posted and the results since 2002 are also available -> <http://www.neqp.org/results.html>

Nearfest May 4-5

What is The New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR-Fest)?

The NEAR-Fest is an international event run by and for all radio hobbyists and enthusiasts, including “hams”, short-wave listeners, scanner buffs, vintage/antique radio fans, etc. NEAR-Fest is held twice annually, spring and fall, rain or shine, at the Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield NH beginning on Friday at 0900 and ending Saturday at 1500 hours.

Admission is \$10. Persons under 18 and over 80 are admitted free of charge upon presentation of government-issued ID. Inside parking is available for \$10 and includes a “reasonable amount of flea market selling space” for PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS selling their own personal property. Commercial vendors must register and pay applicable fees. If you are wondering if you are a “commercial vendor” you probably are. One complimentary inside commercial space is available for clubs, estates and other “non-profit organizations” on an “as available” basis.

Overnight camping, trailer and RV hookups are available. Three food vendors provide meals and snacks at reasonable prices. The Deerfield Community Church ladies serve up a breakfast that has to be consumed to be believed. Angelino's offers hamburgers, steak, sausage submarines and other great “fair food” specialties and Patty's Polish Kitchen menu features wonderful “Mitteleuropa” cuisine. No one goes hungry at NEAR-Fest. We are extremely proud of the high quality of food that these vendors offer our guests while they are at the 'Fester. NEAR-Fest typically attracts attendees from the six New England states, NY, NJ, PA, MD and other states as well as from Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in Canada. Some attendees travel great distances; one gentleman from Los Angeles has attended fifteen events and in 2010 one radio amateur traveled from Greece to join us for the fun.

The program of activities and events at NEAR-Fest is extensive; a huge outdoor electronic flea market, three buildings full of commercial vendors, forums, technical seminars and symposia, demonstrations, exhibits, displays, licensing examinations, special events radio stations, a “jam session”, good food, fellowship, fun and general mishigoss. NEAR-Fest is the largest event of its kind in the Northeast and has once been described as the “Woodstock of Amateur Radio”.

All of NEAR-Fest's staff members are volunteers. Since NEAR-Fest is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity, any funds remaining after expenses are used for benevolent projects. NEAR-Fest directs some of its resources to attracting newcomers to our hobby with a special emphasis toward young people. To that end NEAR-Fest has gifted an amateur radio station capable of communicating through satellites orbiting the Earth as a gift to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord

NH and brokered a partnership with the Contoocook Valley Radio Club (CVRC) to operate and maintain the station on a regular schedule.

In addition we have also funded several university and technical school scholarships and supported various charitable organizations such as the Shriners Hospitals and Boston Burns Unit. We also help to preserve our radio frequency spectrum allocations and have initiated a program providing for fund-matching grants to expand and enhance the amateur radio digital repeaters and networks throughout New England.

- Need a viable alternative to walking this busy Hamfest season?
- Are you too obese for that much-needed knee replacement?
- Is your mobility more important than your dignity?
- Do you want to trade in the gift of bipedal locomotion for the ease of effortless mobility?

THE HAMabout HAM RADIO MOBILITY SCOOTER

TESTIMONIALS

"It's great - I was able to spend hours at my local hamfest without breaking a sweat! Thanks HAMabout!"
- Oswald, 53

"Walking, carrying things, etc. got to be too much of a chore. Now I leave all my walking to HAMabout. Its great!"
- Elmer, 34

"I'm still walking, but my ballooning weight will hopefully soon put me into the HAMabout driver's seat. Everyone in my ARES group has one, and I want one too!"
- John, 22

- 25 HP gasoline engine
- 5 radio equipment bays
- Built-in cross-band repeater
- Holsters for up to 25 HTs
- Special odor-eating seat covers (with 300 refills)
- Rugged trailer hitch
- Ergonomical design allows use in even the largest hamfest
- Special seatback callsign embroidery (choice of color)



April 22nd Sunday Morning CAARA Breakfast



The twice monthly breakfasts at the club continue to be popular and doing a great job at funding the CAARA Scholarship and Building Fund. We average a dozen members each session and the food is great thanks to Chef Bill- W1WMM and his staff of Jon, David- N1CDL and Chris- K1TAT

CAARA Public Service Races we have committed to do:

Saturday, May TBD Streamline - Twin Lights Half Marathon Gloucester, MA

Sunday, May 6th Rocky Neck AA 5K Rocky Neck Gloucester, MA

Saturday, May 12th YUKANRUN -Fast Half, Half Marathon Hamilton, MA

Thursday, May 17th, 6:30pm: Backshore 5 mile, Good Harbor Beach, Gloucester

Sunday, May 20th C.A.T.S. Dogtown Run 5 mile off road run, Gloucester, MA

Sunday, June 3rd YUKANRUN - Twin Lobster Marathon Gloucester, MA

Sunday, June 17th YMCA Father's Day 5K & 10K Rockport, MA

Thursday, June 28th 6:30pm YMCA St. Peter's Fiesta 5K Run Gloucester, MA

Tuesday, July 3rd Horrible s July 4th Parade Gloucester, MA

Sunday, August 5th YUKANRUN - Triple Treat Half Marathon Rockport, MA

Sunday, September TBD Lone Gull - 10K Run Good Harbor Beach Gloucester, MA

Sunday, September 23rd YUKANRUN - Half-By-The-Sea Half Marathon Manchester, MA

Sunday, October TBD Boston Wounded Veterans 5K & 10K Gloucester, MA

Sunday, November 4th YUKANRUN - Ocean View - 5K & Half Marathon Ipswich, MA

Sunday, November 25th Santa Claus Parade Gloucester, MA

Sunday, December 2nd YUKANRUN - Merrython -

Why should you participate in race events?

It helps the club financially, we receive a donation for each race. You are using amateur radio to provide a needed public service to ensure the safety and smooth running of a public event in local communities.

I would but I do not have a radio.

No excuse, we have loaner radio's available with a mag mount that will work in your car just by just plugging it into the cigarette lighter socket. We have loaner hand held radios as well!

I don't have transportation.

No excuse, we will pick you up and drop you off at your house.

I do not have the time to spare for a whole race.

Well, you can commit to a time slot, for just two hours. We will bend over backwards to get you to participate.



MAY 2018

CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

6 Stanwood Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

978-282-7645
Repeaters on 145.130
224.900 & 443.700

WWW.CAARA.NET

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 OPEN HOUSE 5-9PM	2	4	4	5 CAARA- Breakfast 9-11AM
6	7	1 OPEN HOUSE 5-9PM	9	10	11	12 BOD 11AM- Member Lunch 12PM
13	14	1 OPEN HOUSE 5-9PM	16	17	18	19 CAARA- Breakfast 9-11AM
20	21	1 OPEN HOUSE 5-9PM	23	24	25	26
27	28	1 OPEN HOUSE 5-9PM	30	31	Two Meter Net on 145.130 every Sunday at 9PM	