



CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2014 EDITION

President's Desk

by *Hank-W4RIG*



I want to thank the membership for giving me the privilege to serve as the President of CAARA for the next two years. Having served for 7 years as Treasurer, I'm pleased to turn that job over to our friend and past President Stan Stone. No one can do a better job than Stan did as President for 4 years, but I believe my management style will be somewhat different and hopefully just as effective.

I have asked our Newsletter Editor, Jon Cunningham, to publish the list of CAARA Committees for 2014-2015 in this newsletter. I will also circulate this list to the membership after it has been published in this newsletter. Jon has done an outstanding job as Newsletter Editor and manager of surplus equipment that we sell on Ebay. While I did not mention the Newsletter as a Committee, it does function as one of our main methods of communication with the membership with the able assistance of Dean Burgess and Curtis Wright. Please continue to provide comments and articles for the Newsletter. Input from the membership is important as well as input from our regular contributors.

Budget and related financial information and accounting will continue to be available to the directors and membership on the CAARA web site, provided by the able assistance of Dick Ober and our Treasurer Stan Stone.

I want this next year to see an increased participation by the membership on our committees and related activities. If you see a job that needs to be done or have a suggestion on any aspect of our CAARA activities please contact the appropriate committee chairmen. If you intend to use the equipment or facilities at 6 Stanwood, always get the permission of the Committee Chairman that oversees the facilities, equipment, or activities associated with the listed committees BEFORE you engage in some activity that is under their supervision. Always be aware that our leadership wants your enthusiasm and participation, but needs to know

what you want to do before you do it when it impacts on their area of responsibility. We are a volunteer organization and members need to be considerate of other members who have the primary management responsibilities. A personal discussion, e-mail, phone call or radio conversation will suffice to improve communications and minimize complaints.

I look forward to another outstanding year for CAARA and our membership.

Hank McCarl, W4RIG
President

P.S. - Contact information for all members is available on our CAARA web site at www.caara.net

Information Desk

by *Dean-KB1PGH*



I just saw an ad on the internet from FEMA that stated that September was "National Preparedness Month" and that got me thinking so lets cover the topic of "Disaster Preparedness" for this months column. Now I'm not going to go all "Doomsday Prepper" on everyone but the general idea is that everyone and every family should be able to remain self sufficient for at least 72 hrs after a disaster. So here are a just a few websites that will help you get started on building a 72 HR kit as well as other ideas of disaster preparedness. First we have the Federal Emergency Management Agencies website at www.fema.gov. You can also find a trove of information at www.ready.gov. The American Red Cross has some information as well at www.redcross.org. You can also check out local disaster preparedness at www.mass.gov and click on the MEMA link. Now if you are looking for 72 hr disaster kits and other emergency supplies there are two great websites that have a lot to offer. You can check out www.thereadystore.com or www.beprepared.com. The basic ideas are to think

(cont. p 3)



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

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

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

Board of Directors- 2013-14

President: Hank McCarl W4RIG
Vice Pres: Jake Hurd K1LDL
Treasurer: Stan Stone W4HIX
Clerk: Bill Poulin WZ1L

Directors:

Gardi Winchester KB1BTK
Tony Marks N1JEI
Pete Chadbourne -K1LJO
Larry Beaulieu AJ1Z
Paul Anderson KA1GIJ
Roger Smith KB1YTJ

Welcome to CAARA:

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

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

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

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

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

Information Desk

by Dean-KB1PGH



of what you would need if you had to evacuate your house for a couple of days or if a disaster struck your area and you couldn't leave. You also have to have the mindset that if a large scale disaster happens that local emergency services are going to be overwhelmed. You may also wish to check out the national Citizen Corp program and the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) programs that are on the FEMA website. Most people don't think to plan for disasters, especially here in New England where we don't have big earthquakes or wildfires or hurricanes but we do have our share of more localized events during big snowstorms and the spring rainfalls. Even without large scale disasters you can still plan for smaller emergencies. The usual incident is power outages so save your pennies and buy a generator, even a small one will at least give you something if your on a budget. I just bought the Honda 2000i for \$899 which will at least give me power to run my fridge and keep a light or two on and even the internet and tv. You can go all out too and install a transfer switch and power more of your house with a bigger generator. You should also keep a well stocked First Aid kit in your home and in your car. Every home should have a fire extinguisher and working smoke/carbon monoxide detectors on every floor. When was the last time you changed the batteries and checked to see if they worked? Other things to think of for disaster prep is to keep at least a 3 day supply of water around. Hey, even in Gloucester we had a boiler water order for a few days so the stores just about ran quickly out of bottled water. So the power out all over town so does your banks ATM machine have a battery back up? Usually not so keep at least \$100 bucks in reserve money in order to buy food and anything else. So where can you get gas if the power goes out all over the North shore and Cape Ann? It doesn't cost much to keep a 5 gallon gas jug in the garage with Sta-Bil in it. Just replace the gas every 6 months by pouring the 6 old stuff in your cars gas tank. It also a good idea to keep a few extra water bottles in the trunk of your car as well. What about all your important family records? If there's a house fire or disaster how will you replace them? Just but a simple fireproof safe and make copies of all the important documents. The idea is to be ready because you never know when and where disasters and emergencies will happen. The best way is to educate yourself through the

websites that I have given you and take a look on Youtube as well. Hopefully these ideas will guide you to a safer and prepared household.73 and see you next month!

Editor Roundup

by Jon-KITP



The equipment disposition committee, consisting of Larry, Jake, and myself, have sorted another bunch of items for sale on Ebay. We have many HF and VHU/UHF transceivers that might be of interest to you and I would suggest that you view our Ebay Auction on a regular basis, the link to the auction is on our CAARA.net site. We have sold over \$800 dollars worth of gear in September already. I want to thank Gardi-KB1BTK for assisting while Jake was away working on a movie set. I went camping for a night on the Kancamagus Highway in Licoln, NH last month and played a little ham radio in the afternoon and early evening....despite the bear alert at the location. There is just something very peaceful about ragchewing on 75 meters SSB while sitting at a picnic table in the White Mountains with a fire roaring in the background!

Totals: September Ebay Sales

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Current | |
| Listed | 7 |
| Will sell | 5 |
| Bids | 18 |
| Amount | \$249.48 |
| Sold (last 60 days) | |
| Listed | 12 |
| Sold | 12 |
| Amount | \$831.87 |
| Payments (last 60 days) | |
| Received | \$599.37 |
| Not received | \$232.50 |
| Total sales: | \$1,081.30 |

I expect to gross another \$1000 worth of sales next month on our surplus gear. You can go to the CAARA.NET website and there is a link which will take you to the current auction items....you might want to bid on some of the items and pick them up at the club with no postage charges....

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA EMCOM CENTER?

Good Morning:

On Wednesday, September 17, 2014, the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association held it's Annual Meeting at their Clubhouse on Stanwood Street in Gloucester, MA.

We received a well developed and very informative "State of the Club" from departing President, Stanley Stone, W4HIX.

— "The Clubhouse is almost in the hands of the Radio Club". We are waiting the City Attorney to receive all recommendations and documents, to make a final decision as to the next step, which may be the transfer of ownership of the building to the Club.

— The Financial Status of the Radio Club was discussed and it was noted the Club, whose Financial Year ended in August 2014, was in the BLACK, meaning, we had a surplus of about \$2,000.00.

— The Scholarship Breakfast was successful in accruing more than \$1,000 for the 2013-2014 year. Therefore, The Radio Club issued four (4) \$250.00 Scholarships to:

Gloucester High School (2 Students)

Rockport High School (1 Student)

Manchester/Essex High School (1 Student)

President Stone thanked all who had donated during the year at the Scholarship Breakfasts and other events.

— The Second Floor of the Clubhouse has been transformed into at least 5 individual operating positions. The status of actual antennas was noted being deficient, however, future work by the club to replace the vertical behind the Clubhouse and another wire/vertical antenna would put the club at a plus.

— Tech-In-A-Day has helped 120 candidates receive their Amateur Radio License.

— The VE Program of the Club has provided a great service to the community and to the amateur radio world.

— Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association has been instrumental in providing communications assistance for various events locally in Gloucester and the Cape Ann Area in the past year.

ELECTION RESULTS:

President: Henry "Hank" McCarl W4RIG

Vice President: James "Jake" Hurd W1LDL

Clerk: William "Bill" Poulin WZ1L

Treasurer: Stanley "Stan" Stone W4HIX

Board of Directors: Term Expires

Paul Anderson, KA1GIJ 2015

Robert "Pete" Chadbourne, K1LJO 2015

Larry Beaulieu, AJ1Z 2016

Gardner H. "Gardi" Winchester, III, KC1BAK 2016

Roger Smith, KB1YTJ 2016

Anthony "Tony" Marks, N1JEI 2016

CAARA Committees and Assigned Chairmen (2014-2015)

Equipment and Building Management (Including Surplus Equipment Sales)

Chairman: Larry Beaulieu

Co-Chairmen - Jake Hurd & Jon Cunningham

Repeater Management

Chairman: Jon Cunningham

Co-Chairman - Ross Burton

Emergency Communications and Public Service

Chairman: Curtis Wright

Volunteer Examinations and W1GLO Trustee

Chairman: Bob Quinn

Sunshine and Hospitality

Chairman: Bill Poulin

Facilities Maintenance

Chairman: Roger Smith

Field Day Management

Chairman: Stan Stone

Co-Chairman - Hank McCarl

Special Events

(Thacher Island, Portable Operations other than Field Day)

Chairman: Larry Beaulieu

Co-Chairman - Gardi Winchester

Education

Chairman: Gardi Winchester

Tech-in-a-Day: Stan Stone

Finance and Fund Raising

Chairman: Stan Stone (Ex Officio as Treasurer)

Co-Chairman - Hank McCarl & Dick Ober

FUTURE EVENTS:*

09/21 Sunday Coffee 9am-12pm (Scholarship Breakfast??)

09/28 Sunday Coffee 9am-12pm

10/1 Board of Director's Meeting, 7pm

10/8 EMCOMM/Members Meeting*, 7pm, 7:30pm

10/10 NEARFEST, Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield, NH

10/11 NEARFEST, Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield, NH

10/12 CAARA VE EXAMS 9am-12pm

10/19 Scholarship Breakfast

* The 2014-2015 Financial Budget will be presented to the Membership for their approval. Please make every attempt to attend this meeting and find out what the financial budget will be.

Submitted by Bill-WZ1L, CAARA CLERK

The Miracle of Kimchee

by Curtis-AA3JE

The last few months I have been taking Korean lessons, as a antidote to intellectual boredom. For those who are unfamiliar with the language, it is considered insanely difficult for English speakers to learn, almost as hard as it is for Koreans to learn English. In either case, it has provided me with hours of innocent pleasure as I have screamed Korean obscenities and made unpleasant personal suggestions to a number of Cape Ann drivers. But this is not a discussion of the pleasures of cursing out strangers in foreign tongues. It is about Kimchee.

Kimchee is a legendary Korean ethnic food, and has it roots in two salient facts about the Korean Peninsula. Fact one, it has a long, cold, hard winter where scurvy is a real threat. Many American veterans can document this. Fact two, up until about 1950, the annual income of a rural Korean family was about \$1000. Now, of course, they are doing fabulously well selling autos, electronics, and plastic sex toys to Americans.

But I digress. Anyway, since the Korea of 1850 to 1950 had no electricity, and hence no frozen or canned food, they preserved vegetables for the winter months by lacto-fermentation. My German peasant ancestors did much the same, preparing the miracle food sauerkraut, or fermented cabbage.

So, when I found a jar of "MAMA PARK'S AUTHENTIC RED PEPPER

PASTE" in the local food store, it seemed like I should prepare some fermented cabbage. I had certain natural advantages in this. One, my wife, "SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED", was temporarily under the weather from a summer cold, and two, I have a very poor sense of smell. This will become important as we proceed.

Now Kimchee is prepared by taking Napa cabbage, splitting it lengthwise, washing it, and then rubbing salt into the leaves at a ratio of ¼ cup salt to each cabbage. You then let it sit till the cabbage is kind of wilting, turning every half hour, then rinse. This material is then packed into a big jar with shallots, radish, a touch of sugar, and lots of red pepper paste. You then let it ferment. Here is where a few safety suggestions are in order.

One- The mixture will expand as it ferments, so leave at least two inches of room at the top of the jar for expansion. Failure to do this will spread fermenting cabbage juice through three full kitchen cabinets.

Two- The fermenting mixture will outgas methane, so make sure you warn your spouse. If you do not, she will totter out into the kitchen in her nighty late at night, yell "GAS LEAK" (we have a gas stove) and must be coaxed back in from the porch where she has taken refuge.

Three- The smell of fermenting Kimchee makes Koreans wax nostalgic over their grandmother's

kitchen and the good old days, but it makes many Americans check their deodorant.

Four- When the recipe give a range for the red pepper, say from half a cup to two cups, start low and work up.

Five- More than two servings of Kimchee is an excellent gall bladder and colon challenge test. If you can wrap yourself around two cups of it, your internal systems are working very well. There may be some outgassing here as well.

Be aware that the dogs in the household will find Kimchee very desirable. Do not leave it where they can get at it, or if you do, suggestions are available in monograph #21 of this series, *Dealing with Canine Enteric Disasters*. If your neighbor's dog is bothersome, give him or her a big bowl, and they will avoid your yard thereafter. Make sure the dog is returned to your neighbor's yard immediately after serving.

Many are concerned about the safety of fermented food. Properly made Kimchee ends up with a pH of about 2, slightly more acid than straight vinegar, and has been documented as easily killing most food bourn illness bacteria, who just can't compete. This is why Kimchee is fermented in pottery or glass vessels, as it will eat a hole in a metal container.

Kimchee is the basic fermented food. The graduate program is fermented sea birds with beaver tail, a true gourmet delight of the native Alaskan frontier. This cannot be made except by traditional methods, as tampering



with the technique is unsafe. You start by digging a pit in the back yard, well away from the septic tank.....

Ham Radio saves the day again – Yukon Canada

Last Sunday September 21, 2014, at approx. 21:00hrs PST, VY1MAP (Terry Hauff) called on the local 2 meter repeater looking for VY1RF (Ray Fugard).

Terry VY1MAP wanted **Ray VY1RF** to make a phone call for him as he was not in cell phone range. The situation was that Terry is a member of the local S.A.R. team and they were on an active search for a missing teenager. The command center they had setup was approx 35kms north of Whitehorse YK at Lake Laberge. The satellite phone that they were to use was not functioning so they had no way to call for assistance, additional resources or send status reports.

That's where, once again, amateur radio comes in. Terry, being a ham, goes out to his vehicle and makes contact with Whitehorse via 2 meter amateur radio with VY1RF and VY1RM (Ron McFadyen). They were able to pass important traffic to/from the command center.

The missing young man was found and all ended well.

This is the second time in as many months that amateur radio and in particular Y.A.R.A.'s members and infrastructure proved invaluable in an emergency situation.

“Whether it's a natural disaster, major weather event, planned community event, missing person search, we (at RAC) receive numerous reports of amateur radio interventions when traditional communication systems fail. Ham radio is most certainly still relevant

and provides a crucial communications back-up option, often in challenging/dire situations.” - says **Vincent Charron VE3XU**, Director of Communications RAC.

PHILIPPINE HAM RADIO RESPOND TO TYPHOON KALMEGI

Once again, ham radio volunteers were activated in the Philippines. This as fast-moving Typhoon Kalmaegi made landfall on Sunday, September 14th. Amateur Radio Newsline's Stephan Kinford, N8WB, reports: — The Philippines National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council had asked all in Typhoon Kalmaegi's path to take the necessary precautions. Even with this early warning the storm left at least 10 people dead from landslides, flash floods, storm surge and wind gusts that at times exceeded 100 miles per hour. As the Typhoon approached, the Philippines Amateur Radio Association activated its Ham Emergency Radio Operations or HERO network for priority disaster traffic and relief coordination. The group then requested that the frequency of 7 dot 095 MHz, plus or minus 5 kHz be kept clear for emergency response operations. The HERO operators remained in place as required throughout the severe weather event. At the height of the storm some 7,800 residents were moved to evacuation centers. The typhoon then headed out to the East over the South China Sea toward Hong Kong where it hit with wind gusts again close to 100 miles per and injuring some 29 people.

HAM RADIO RESPONDS TO NEVADA FLASH FLOODING
The ARRL reports that ARES and RACES members in Clark County,

Nevada, activated Monday, September 8, after heavy rains sparked flash flooding. According to the ARRL, the ham radio volunteers deployed after being called up by local emergency managers to support communication during recovery efforts in the Moapa Valley northeast of Las Vegas. Heavy flooding and mud closed nearly 50 miles of Interstate 15, stranding motorists and truckers while buckling or washing away pavement in many areas. The marooned motorists were cared for at a middle school in the city of Mesquite, on the Arizona border. Emergency sheltering was also needed for nearly 200 tribal members of the Moapa River Reservation. A slow-moving storm that spun off from Hurricane Norbert dumped nearly 4 inches of rain within 90 minutes onto the town of Moapa. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service personnel staffed the Emergency Operations Center in Las Vegas while the Clark County Mobile Communications Vehicle was on the scene as a result of this severe weather event in which at least two people lost their lives. (ARRL)

RADIO LAW: NEW VANITY FEE IN EFFECT

The new \$21.40 Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee became effective on September 11th. The \$5.30 increase represents the largest vanity fee hike in many years. The FCC released a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on August 29, in which it recalculated the fee to \$21.40 for the 10-year license term. (FCC, RW)

CAARA Scanner Frequencies at the Club Scanner

- 01 – Gloucester Police – 471.5875 MHz
- 02 – Gloucester Fire– 154.160 MHz
- 03 – Rockport Police – 472.0875 MHz
- 04 – Rockport Fire – 155.145 MHz
- 05 – Essex Police 483.300 MHz
- 06 – Essex Fire 155.820 MHz
- 07 – Manchester Police 472.2375 MHz
- 08 – Manchester Fire 159.3375 MHz
- 09 – Red Cross – 47.420 MHz
- 10 -
- 11 – Gloucester Emcomms Simplex 146.500
- 12 – Gloucester W1GLO 70-CM – 443.700 MHz
- 13 – Gloucester W1RAB 70-CM – 447.525 MHz
- 14 – Marine VHF Ch. 12 – 156.600 MHz
- 15 – Marine VHF Ch. 14 – 156.700 MHz
- 16 – Marine VHF Ch. 16 – 156.800 MHz
- 17 – Marine VHF Ch. 19 – 156.950 MHz
- 18 – Marine VHF Ch. 22 – 157.100 MHz
- 19 – Marine VHF Ch. 81 – 157.075 MHz
- 20 - L/O NOAA WX – 162.425 MHz

- 21 – Ipswich Police – 483.0625 MHz
- 22 – Ipswich Fire – 159.390 MHz
- 23 – Hamilton Police– 471.1375 MHz
- 24 – Hamilton Fire – 155.940
- 25 – Wemham Police - 453.4875 MHz
- 26 – Wenham Fire – 154.7625 MHz
- 27 – Beverly Police – 471.3375 MHz
- 28 – Beverly Fire - 482.4375 MHz
- 29 -
- 30 -
- 31 -
- 32 -
- 33 -
- 34 – Beverly Airport Ground – 121.6 MHz
- 35 – Beverly Airport Tower – 125.2 MHz
- 36 – Boston Arrival / Departure - 124.4 MHz
- 37 – Ipswich W1IEM 2-M – 145.490 MHz
- 38 – Beverly WA1PNW 2-M RACES 1F – 147.390 MHz
- 39 – Beverly WA1PNW 70-C – 442.850 MHz
- 40 – Beverly N1GSC 70-C – 444.950 MHz

**FYI: I JUST THOUGHT SOME MIGHT ENJOY THIS LIST OF FRQUENCIES FOR
THEIR OWN SCANNERS**

Hi Jon,

Here's a couple of pics and a write up for the Lone Gull 10 K Road Race

73

Dean KB1PGH

Pic#1 The main pack of over 1400 runners make their way down Atlantic Ave making the left turn onto Grapevine Road

Pic2 Gardy Winchester KA1BTK as tailbike portable following the last runner as they make their way down Atlantic Ave

CAARA provides Public Service Communications for Lone Gull 10K Road Race!

Several members of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association provided health and welfare and logistical communications for the over 1400 runners that participated in the Lone Gull 10k Road race which was held on Sunday September 14 2014. The race started at Good Harbor Beach and ran along the entire back shore along Atlantic Ave and looped around Eastern point where it then led back to the finish at Good Harbor beach. There were no medical events that took place during this

race. The following hams provided about 20 hours combined of public service to the community: Ross Burton W1RAB, Curtis Wright AA3JE, Gardy Winchester KA1BTK, Ruth Hodsdon WW1N, Dean Burgess KB1PGH, Hank McCarl W4RIG, Carol Winchester KC1BUA and, Bruce Pigot KC1US.





Review of the Defiant GFCI Portable Safety Outlet by Dean KB1PGH

Pic#1 is of the Outlet

Pic #2 is the GFCI Safety Outlet attached to the Honda 2000i generator

The last CAARA field day got me thinking of electrical safety if we ended up having a rain storm with all those generators running. Plus with everyone walking over the extension cords with the morning dew on them I was wondering about the chances of someone getting an electric shock. So while I was walking through the Home Depot a while back I ran across a portable GFCI safety outlet from Defiant for under \$20.00 so I picked one up to use with my Honda 2000i generator when I go HF portable. That's a small price to pay for electrical safety out in the field. Who needs to get killed by an electric shock just by even having wet hands when dealing with ham equipment. This outlet takes two seconds to install on the front panel of the Honda 2000i as well so there's also no excuse to say it was difficult to do. I highly encourage anyone who owns a generator for HF use or anything else for that matter to go pick one of these up. Also please buy a heavy duty outdoor electrical cord too. It may cost a bit more but who needs an electric shock from a frayed cord just because you wanted to save a buck? Come to think of it please check to see if you have GFCI outlets in your kitchen or bathroom or even any outside outlets for that matter. Of course GFCI outlets are different than just a fuse or circuit breaker. The GFCI outlet monitors the electrical current running between the hot side of the outlet which is the right side and the neutral side of the outlet which is the left side. If the current is not equal between the hot and neutral sides that means that current is running into an unintended path which could be a frayed cord with bare wires in a puddle or when you touch it with your wet hands or feet. So when it senses the current as little as 4 to 5 milliamps running through your body the GFCI shuts the power off within 1/30 of a second thus saving your life! Just remember that it is also good practice to test all GFCI outlets in your home once and a while as you see in the pictures this GFCI safety outlet has a test and reset button to do just that! So please take some basic electrical safety precautions when you operate HF portable, or have any portable AC power and you might just save a life!



FCC Technician Amateur Radio License in *One Day* with

TECH-IN-A-DAY

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

How?

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

Why?

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

Help!

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

Schedule

Date: **Saturday, Oct 25th, 2014**
Time: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM (includes exam)
Place: Lanesville Community Center
8 Vulcan St
Gloucester (Lanesville), MA

Contact

Stan Stone, W4HIX
978 283-2015 e-mail: techinaday@caara.net
You must pre-register for this course.

Cost & Requirements

Fee: \$5 (includes materials & snacks)
Test Cost: \$15 (required by FCC)
Bring photo ID & Social Security Number

STAND FOR FT 817 QRP RIG

by Ruth-WW1N

Hi Jon, I got this little stand new on eBay for \$5.99 and free ship. I still have the peg legs attached to the radio if I want to use those. This stand clears those and the SO239 & misc ports on the back of the radio. It seems pretty solid and steady and you can set it to any height you want. It makes it a lot easier to see the screen and operate. I set it on the radio in the pictures so you can see it's dimensions compared to the size of the radio and then on the bill so you can see how small it folds up. Nice find! 73, Ruth WW1N



ISLAND ADVENTURE



CAARA sponsored another Island Activation on Thatcher's Island in August. Hundreds of contacts were made by the crew of Ruth-WWIN, Al- N1QEH, Jeff-K1EMS , and Dave- KD1NA



Jeff



Dave and Jeff



Amateur Radio is “Communications Superpower,” IARU Region 1 Delegates are Told

European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Kristalina Georgieva told delegates to the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU Region 1) General Conference on September 22 that Amateur Radio is a reliable information tool that can save lives in disasters. In a statement read to the conference attendees on her behalf by the EC’s Encho Gospodinov, Georgieva laid out a scenario in which all modern telecommunications and electrical power are knocked out, and no one can help the victims, because no one knows what has happened.

“Luckily, there is a last resort: The radio amateurs, the people who are the eyes and the ears of the world in time when all other information channels are silent,” she said. “In short, you are the last technical miracle, which is independent, reliable information channel, which can transmit an important piece of news from any place in the world, any time, by anyone who knows how to operate this wonderful creature, called radio.”

The 24th IARU Region 1 General Conference opened on September 21 in Albena, Bulgaria. It will continue through September 26.

She said Amateur Radio’s advantage is that it is independent of the conventional communications infrastructure. “A well-trained radioman with good equipment and ever-charged batteries can be a fantastic link between two villages, two countries or two continents,” she

said. “When organized in a Union, you are a communication superpower in time of total electronic darkness.” Georgieva said there are many examples in Amateur Radio’s history of lives saved “because some of your members caught a signal from a village, a region or inaccessible place” calling for help. “We need your skills and services,” she continued, “because we will have more and more disasters in the future.”

“Local and national authorities count on you as the last bastion of reliable information,” she continued. “Your professional skills and your humanitarian duties make you more than radio amateurs; you are truly needed guardians in time of troubles and I hope you will always stay as a pillar of hope and courage for all who are in danger.”

IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. The Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs (BFRA) is hosting the Region 1 gathering. Regional general conferences are held every 3 years. The IARU Administrative Council will meet September 27-28, following the Region 1 General Conference. **ARRL**

Wisconsin Ham Dies in Fall from Tower

A Wisconsin radio amateur lost his life on September 16 as he was performing maintenance on the 100 foot tower of a fellow ham. Killed in the fall was 59-year-old James G. Linstedt, W9ZUC, of Eau Claire, who succumbed to injuries sustained after he fell 95 feet from a tower owned by Ronald Anderson, W9RMA, in Eagle Point, just outside of Chippewa Falls, on the shores of Lake Wissota. Linstedt was said to

have been an experienced climber. Although he had been wearing an over-the-shoulder safety harness, he apparently had failed to secure himself to the tower before the mishap occurred. Anderson, a former Chippewa County Sheriff, called authorities promptly.

Chippewa County Sheriff James Kowalczyk **told** the *Leader-Telegram* newspaper that Linstedt was wearing safety equipment, but did not use it. “When we use it for years, we get a little lax...,” the newspaper quoted Kowalczyk as saying. “If he had used it, we wouldn’t be investigating an accidental death.” Kowalczyk said Linstedt had been strapped in before moving 10 feet up the tower, apparently without securing himself. An active radio amateur, Linstedt was a member of the Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club and once served as the club’s president. — *Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR/ Nevada Amateur Radio*

ARRL Simulated Emergency Test Set for October 4-5 Weekend

The national ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (**SET**) is slated for the October 4-5 weekend, although the window for local and regional exercises is September 1 through November 30 each year. All groups conduct their events over the course of 48 hours. The SET is a nationwide exercise in disaster response and emergency communication, administered by ARRL emergency coordinators and net managers, in which volunteers respond to a mock emergency or disaster, such as an earthquake or hurricane. Members of the Amateur Radio Emergency

Service (**ARES**), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (**RACES**), the National Traffic System (**NTS**), **SKYWARN**, the ARRL Field Organization, and other groups work together to plan and develop simulated emergency and disaster scenarios, in consultation with the various served agencies that rely on radio amateurs during emergencies. The SET gives volunteer public service communicators the opportunity to focus on their capabilities, strengths, and weaknesses while interacting with NTS nets. It also provides a public demonstration — to served agencies such as the Red Cross, state and local emergency managers, and the news media — of the value that Amateur Radio provides. The SET helps radio amateurs gain communication experience using standard procedures and a variety of modes, under simulated disaster-response conditions. Participating groups earn points toward an overall SET score, adding a competitive component to the activity. Results are listed in *QST* (see pages 71-73 the July issue of *QST* for the 2013 SET results). Visit the ARRL **Public Service/Field Services** page and click on “SET Score Card” for an explanation of how points are earned.

Many ARES groups across the country will be participating, and all ARES members are invited to support the national SET and their local ARES group’s activity. During this year’s SET, participating ARES/NTS members can earn SET bonus points by participating in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party. During the October 4-5 SET weekend, ARES and NTS field members and appointees are encouraged to get on the air and call “CQ Centennial.” The exchange is signal report, name, location, and

your designator. There will be a special bonus for groups that include Centennial QSO Party participation. Each station making at least 5 contacts is worth an additional 3 points toward your group’s SET score. Those taking part in a SET on another weekend may participate on the national SET weekend and count it later (or submit an amended SET report form).

See page 78 in the July issue of *QST*, and page 75 in the September issue of *QST* for more information on the SET. — *Thanks to the ARES E-Letter*

Sunday Morning at the CAARA Club Scholarship Breakfast



Stan cooking in the kitchen and Ron keeping him company (notice how happy Stan is now that he is not president!).



Members enjoying the CAARA club building Sunday morning.



POINT OF VIEW

BY RUTH-WWIN

My brother was just on the phone with me talking about a call he heard on his mobile radio while on his way to work. The ham he was listening to was on a tirade that was mostly about “older” hams that in his not so humble opinion should let go of tube radios and shut up about wishing CW testing would come back. While he was at it he also criticized their talking about their health issues over the radio.

The caller was talking about guys who started back when tube radio was all that existed. He should stop and think. Back then they built their own. They had to show competence along the way in order to progress to a higher class license. It took time. It took work. CW tests were required at every level.

They didn't have the internet to rely on. They learned from elmers and by working together. They did experimenting. They invented.

We amateurs newer to the hobby (or service) didn't come from that. Many of us BUY our radios and antennas. Some who's lives involve a lot use of technology prefer the newer technologies related to ham radio ... nothing wrong with that.

But we should not turn our backs on those that made what we have now possible. We have better and better tools but the basics of amateur radio doesn't change. The amateurs that were there doing it all before us have a wealth of knowledge. We should learn from them and thank them for their willingness to share what they've learned through years of hard work.

To get into amateur radio these days one need only memorize the question pools. Some have passed all 3

“multiple choice” exams and qualified for their amateur extra class ticket in as quickly as one sitting ... one exam session.

Those interested in CW can learn at their leisure with no tests required. It must be tough on seasoned hams to see newer hams getting their privileges so easily.

I say do what you want in amateur radio, use any mode or technology that works for you, but don't criticize these guys. Give them the respect they're due.

Ruth WW1N

FCC TURNS DOWN PETITION TO CREATE A UNITED STATES 4 METER HAM BAND

There will not be a 4 meter band in the United States anytime in the near future if ever. At least it appears that way after the FCC acts to dismiss a rule making request filed by Glen Zook, K9STH, of Richardson, Texas, who had asked that such a ham radio band be created. Amateur Radio Newline's Heather Embee, KB3TZD, has more: — In his filing, Glen Zook, K9STH, had asked the Commission to allocate 70.0 to 70.5 MHz to the amateur radio service. This based on the migration of broadcast television stations to primarily UHF frequencies and there-by basically eliminating any probable interference to television channels 4 or 5. In denying the request the FCC noted that there are still a trio of full power broadcasters and more than 100 low power television broadcasters currently using TV channel 4 in the United States. The regulatory agency also noted the likely re-farming of the broadcast television landscape after the upcoming incentive auction to free up UHF spectrum for broadband. This might mean numerous full power television stations being

forced to relocate to the low band broadcast allocations that includes channels 4 and 5. The 4 meter band is authorized in several ITU region one nations including the United Kingdom. Hams in North America have been experimenting with cross-band contacts by monitoring the 4 meters while using time coordination and other Region Two amateur service spectrum to try to make contacts. This is not unlike the so-called old days before I-T-U Region one had a six meter allocation. Back then, hams on this side of the Atlantic worked their European counterparts by returning their calls on what were informally known as the 10 meter to 6 meter calling frequencies.

HAM TECHNOLOGY: PLAN FOR BETA RELEASE OF WSJT-X V1.4

A public beta release of the weak signal data modes software WSJT-X, version 1.4, is now planned for October 1st. WSJT-X is a computer program designed to facilitate basic amateur radio communication using very weak signals. The first four letters in the program name stand for “Weak Signal communication by K1JT,” while the suffix “X” indicates that this version started as an extended and experimental branch of WSJT. Some of the changes in version 1.4 relative to version 1.3 include such items as improved C-A-T control for most radios including expanded support for Commander, Ham Radio Deluxe, and OmniRig. Other improvements are the ability to better handle messages that include compound call signs and support for standard localization conventions to mention only a few. In all, there are nine specific changes and improvements to the WSJT-X software in this latest release. (WSJT Development Team) **

Have You Tried 2-Meter Simplex? *by Gardi- KB1BTK*

The CAARA 2-meter repeater at 145.130 MHz has been getting quite a work-out lately! Still, it has performed very well. It has been stable and consistent and always ready to support the latest rag-chew, 24-7. In fact, it has performed so well that sometimes we forget that there's a lot more bandwidth and modes available to us. So, lately some of us have been starting to use Simplex to give the repeater a break and keep it open for more important traffic.

As friends and family members followed me into the world of Amateur Radio, we started looking for a way to have some semi-private conversations on our radios. Why blab our conversations all over New England as we talk to each-other from a couple of hundred feet apart while exploring new trails in the woods, or asking at home if we needed another gallon of milk while we're at the grocery store?

Looking at the guideline of the ARRL's Band Plan for the 2-meter band, we see that the simplex allocations of the band are at 146.400 through 146.580 MHz, and again at 147.420 through 147.570 MHz. 146.520 MHz is set as the National Simplex Calling Frequency. FM narrow transmissions on the 2-meter band use 15 KHz of bandwidth. So, to keep from "splashing over" to another frequency, protocol suggests we should choose frequencies 15 KHz apart from each-other (Hams hate the word "Channel" except on 60-meters).

So, following that model, the frequencies available for simplex use on the 2-meter band are as follows:

146.400 MHz

146.415 MHz

146.430 MHz

146.445 MHz

146.460 MHz

146.475 MHz

146.490 MHz

146.505 MHz

146.520 MHz `National 2-meter simplex.

146.535 MHz

146.550 MHz

146.565 MHz

146.580 MHz

On the second `2-meter simplex allocation there is:

147.420 MHz

147.435 MHz

147.450 MHz

147.465 MHz

147.480 MHz

147.495 MHz

147.510 MHz

147.525 MHz

147.540 MHz

147.555 MHz

147.570 MHz

Initially, I chose to use the 147.555 MHz frequency at random for simplex communications between my family and friends as our "Family Simplex" frequency. But as simplex communication is starting to become more popular between CAARA members, it's getting less and less "semi-private"! I even used it for communications between our sites at the WRTC2014 to help keep the local repeaters open.

Working with Curtis Wright IV, AA3JE in our EmComms events, he specifies simplex on 146.50[5] MHz as a secondary / backup frequency. Perhaps we should use that as CAARA's working simplex frequency. Program that in and give simplex a try! You'll be ready should all good things come to an end, as they well may with our old faithful "13"repeater!



Dean and Ruth using a multimeter to check out Ruth's portable battery for her FT- 817 QRP rig.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2014-15

Below: Jake -Vice President, Stan-W4HIX-Treasurer

Right Column (top to bottom:) Hank-W4RIG, President, Bill-WZ1L-Club Clerk, and BOD member, Tony-N1JEI



Tim Allen gets his ham licence

Tim Allen, the famous American actor comedian who has appeared in many popular films, has just passed his ham licence

He has the callsign **KK6OTD**

Tim stars in the weekly Last Man Standing show which is watched by 8 million Americans.

The show features ham radio and on the show Tim uses the fake callsign ka0xtt

<http://www.arrl.org/news/em-ham-radio-in-hollywood-em-last-man-standing-to-feature-ham-radio-in-upcoming-episode>

ARRL again asks FCC to elevate Amateur Service 2300-2305 MHz allocation to primary

In comments filed in response to an AT&T Mobility Petition for Rule Making seeking a new air-to-ground communications system on 2.3 GHz Wireless Communications Service (WCS) spectrum, the ARRL has once again asked the FCC to elevate the Amateur Service allocation at 2300 to 2305 MHz from secondary to primary.

The Petition (RM-11731) asked the Commission to authorize an LTE-based in-flight connectivity service in the WCS “C” and “D” blocks (2305-2315 MHz and 2350-2360 MHz, respectively) for airlines and airline passengers. AT&T has asserted that restrictions on out-of-band emission and power limits to protect adjacent-band users make the use of the C and D blocks problematic. The wireless provider asked the FCC for rule changes to permit deployment of its service “using currently fallow spectrum” while also “preserving adequate interference protection to users of adjacent bands.”

“Notwithstanding this broad and nebulous claim, there is no showing anywhere in the four corners of the Petition that the proposed rule changes would permit any continued Amateur Radio operations on a secondary basis in the shared A block (2305-2310 MHz),” the ARRL commented on September 22. More to the point, the League said, there is no showing in the Petition that Amateur Radio operations in the adjacent 2300-2350 MHz band would be protected from increased out-of-band emissions, if the FCC were to implement the changes requested.

The League asserted in its comments that the FCC has, to date, “failed to protect Amateur Radio operations at 2300-2305 MHz from WCS out-of-band emissions.” The ARRL said the band is “regularly and substantially utilized by radio amateurs” for weak-signal, long-distance communication and, only by circumstances - a lack of a primary occupant - has it been able to enjoy that segment as a de facto primary user.

“The Commission’s rules are quite clear that WCS licensees enjoy no entitlement to disrupt adjacent-band radio service operations,” the ARRL commented. But, the League pointed out, previous FCC actions to expand mobile broadband devices left 2300-2305 MHz vulnerable to increased out-of-band interference that would be difficult or impossible to mitigate. The ARRL said amateur stations operating in the 2300-2305 MHz band would be unable to avoid interference from AT and T Mobility’s proposed system, and that the FCC has refused to clarify the obligation of WCS mobile providers to avoid interference to Amateur Radio operations there.

The ARRL objected to what it called the FCC’s “practice of making

allocation decisions which place incompatible uses in close proximity to amateur stations and then place on the amateur licensees the burden of avoiding the interference.”

“It is obvious that the result of the AT&T Petition will be a virtual preclusion of amateur access to the 2305-2310 MHz segment,” the ARRL’s comments continued. “A ubiquitous air-to-ground system which operates at and above 2305 MHz will clearly render the secondary allocation status of that segment a virtual nullity.”

The ARRL asked the FCC to recognize Amateur Radio’s “de facto primary status” at 2300-2305 MHz and to elevate that segment from secondary to primary for amateurs. It further called on the Commission to “clarify the obligation of WCS licensees in all contexts to protect the adjacent-band Amateur Service operations at 2300-2305 MHz from harmful interference.” Finally, the League requested that AT&T provide “a complete technical compatibility showing and interference analysis” that would demonstrate compatibility between its proposed service and amateur operations at 2300-2305 MHz.

Source: [The American Radio Relay League](http://www.americanradiorelay.com)

LATE BREAKING NEWS:

The Board of Directors voted to replace the two meter antennas at the Cell Site at the October 1 BOD meeting..

We are hoping the new antenna’s, which consist of 4 stacked dipoles which can be pointed and configured, will give us improved receive and transmit coverage to our west. Stay tuned for details.