



CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2016

Hello CAARA Friends,

This is my first letter as President, I apologize that I am a bit unprepared. I was asked if I would allow myself to be nominated shortly before the Annual Meeting. I reluctantly agreed, but am excited to serve



you for the next two years. Thank you for the privilege and trust that you have placed in me.

First, from all in the club, please allow me to thank Hank and last year's Board for their hard work and dedication. All volunteer organizations require members who are willing to step up, do hard work...often which is far from glorious, and sacrifice in the service of the rest of all the members. Our appreciation is for every individual, members as well as Board members, who last year quietly and diligently made this a wonderful place for all CAARA hams.

Thank you!

Having been President twice before, served on the Board numerous times and leading at one time or another most all committees, this role is not unfamiliar to me. I have been in the club about 30 years. Though, I am a bit unprepared because this was a last minute thing and I have not been heavily involved recently, I will get up to speed as quick as possible to serve your interests. Please have a little patience.

Ultimately, I and the Board are here to serve YOU THE MEMBERS. We work for you and have both a leadership and fiduciary responsibility to guide the club, ensure its healthy fiscal management, and to create complete transparency in ALL that occurs in the club, on the Board, and the management of the money. Our job is to ensure there are opportunities for all members to be involved, take on leadership roles, and most of all HAVE FUN!!! This is a hobby and we should be having fun. If not, something is wrong.

I believe your responsibilities as club members and ham colleagues is to get involved, BE HEARD...telling me and the Board your ideas, critiques and thoughts, share responsibility with others in taking leadership roles and participating in all our activities, and participating in any way that is of interest and that you able. My hope is that committee leadership roles will come from members not on the Board.

Our members come from all walks of life with a diversity of individual personal challenges. We need to be sure that there is a space for everyone to enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship that are unique among hams. We need to create activities and operating capability that allow those who can't often travel to be included and involved. We also need to reach out to those folks to ensure they know that they are thought of and cared for.

I am hoping together we can plan fun events, re-engage members who have not been around for a while, work hard to maintain our clubhouse...a unique asset among clubs, and build new relationships and strengthen old friendships.

We will be planning events and establishing committees over the next couple of meetings. PLEASE attend Board meetings, it matters not that you are not a Board member. Your voice and input represents whom we serve.



(cont. p 3)

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

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

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Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

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Welcome to CAARA:

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

The Association is one of the few amateur radio clubs that has its own clubhouse. Located at 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester, it features several HF/VHF/UHF stations with rotating beams for hf and vhf, 10-160 longwire, and several hf/vhf vertical antennas.

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 Rick Maybury 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 4:30-closing for CAARA members to stop by and socialize, as well as use the extensive collection of ham radio gear.

I want to hear from you! My contact information is below. Please connect with me if you have ideas, thoughts, critiques or just want to ragchew.

A little bit about me... Those who know me know I truly love the camaraderie, elmering and fun events. I am a CW guy, but appreciate all the other forms of ham radio. I also enjoy contesting...not for the competition of winning but as a vehicle for learning, teaching, exploring and just having fun hanging out together. I also will be teaching a CW course after the holidays.

Thank you again and see you soon!!!!

73,

Rick Maybury, WZ1B

ARRL Outgoing QSL Service to Raise Rates

Although ARRL believes it's important to maintain the long-standing tradition of the **ARRL Outgoing QSL Service** as a membership benefit, increased administration costs will require an increase in rates, in order to keep the Service available and viable. What Amateurs saved in financial cost, however, was made up for in time; it could take months, or even years, to send and receive a QSL through the bureau."

Effective November 1, the rate for 1 ounce of outgoing QSLs via the Service will increase to match the 1 ounce USPS international postage rate. As of September 2016, this rate is \$1.15 per ounce — about 10 cards. An additional service fee of \$7 will be charged per individual transaction, to cover administrative costs.

Well this month I was going to do a review of the Yaesu FT 991

Transceiver which I purchased last March but lo and behold Yaesu is already making an updated version of that radio called the Yaesu FT 991A. The new radio will have a second receiver installed so you can hear the audio and watch the scope live at the same time. For the regular 991 owners like myself Yaesu is going to sell a hardware upgrade kit for it. Now idea on the price yet for that but the new Yaesu 991A will be selling for \$1500 and it should be released by October. So the review will have to wait until I get the upgrade done. Speaking of new radios coming out Yaesu is also going to release the FT 891 in October as well. The 891 is a HF and 6 meter mobile rig and will sell for \$900. As you may know by now I will be your club clerk for the next year so I will be reminding you from time to time about important club meetings..The CAARA Board will be setting the next years budget at it's next BOD meeting on Wednesday October 5th and will present the budget for club wide approval on the next members meeting on wednesday October 12th. As clerk I would like to ask members if they have time to take a look over of their clubs Constitution and the clubs policies so they can keep up to date about how the club operates. You can find both at the members section of the clubs website at www.caara.net. We also elected a new Board of Directors so if you were not able to make it to the Annual meeting a couple weeks ago you can also see the new list of club officers and directors on the members section of the club website as well. So for the ham radio prepper out there I came across a website devoted to ham radio and preppers. Check out www.amrron.com and you'll see what I mean. It's a real combination of the two. Plus they hold nationwide HF nets if your into something new to check out or looking for a new net to join. Well that's it for now, see you next month!

Information Desk

by Dean-KB1PGH



GOOD NEWS

Hello all, there will be a morse code/CW class on Saturday mornings this winter held by Rick Maybury, WZ1B (dates and times to be announced later). Ruth Hodsdon, WW1N will be there to assist in teaching and to continue learning.

All are welcome to come and enjoy the fun of hearing morse code and learning what all those dits and dahs are saying! We'll have hands on training using real morse keys and trainer keys and we'll be getting on the radio to try to make a contact or two.

Although not required you might want to familiarize yourself with the code before attending the class.

So come and enjoy a no pressure fun class.

Hello, and Greetings from the ARRL New England Division Convention in Boxborough, MA. *by Bill- WZ1L*

This convention used to be every two years, however last year they ARRL New England Division decided to hold this convention annually.

It is a great gathering of hams around New England from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. However, I did see Canadians, and hams from New York, New Jersey and other areas as well.

I was tasked to be acting VE Liaison for the Tech In A Day that Stan Stone, W4HIX has actively proctored over the past 5-6 years in Gloucester et al and now our second showing at Boxborough.

I attempted to make reservations at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough and learned I would be staying in Hudson down the road about 8 miles.

Photo #1 is a copy of the Program for the event set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 9th, 10th and 11th. Photo #2 is a photo taken at an ARES Forum on Friday conducted by Rob Macedo, KD1CY and Steve Schwarm, W3EVE. The program discussed how ham radio can assist in various public service events and in times of emergencies, the communications and equipment needed for each operation.

Photos #3 and #4 are taken at the CAARA Tech In A Day Session. We had around 28 students sign up for the class. A couple of "No Shows" a couple or three add-ins.

Some of the Tech In A Day students decided early on to try their luck at the VE Session down the hall. By the end of the session, we only had 10 candidates for testing. Test VEs were Stan Stone, W4HIX, Hank McCarl, W4RIG, Ron Beckley, N1RJB, "Mr. Mike", Mike Chrestol, W1RC.

Examinations report is as follow: 17 of 18 candidates which went down the hall to the other VE session passed their examinations. The report of the CAARA VE Session was 9 of 10 candidates passed their examinations. $26/28 = 93\%$ passing rate.

"Great Job" is extended to the candidates who attended our Tech In A Day and test sessions.

"Thank You" is extended to the **VE Team of Bill Poulin, WZ1L, Liaison, Stan Stone, W4HIX, Program Coordinator, Hank McCarl, W4RIG, Ron Beckley, N1RJB, and "Mr. Mike", Mike Crestohl, W1RC** for their herculean efforts in scoring examinations to make the program we offered at the Convention a rememberable and worthwhile event. **(STORY AND PICTURES CONTINUED ON PAGE 16-17)**



BILL-WZ1L

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA EMCOM CENTER?



It is the start of a new club year with a new President and Board of Directors, I am excited at the possibilities.

Through the hardwork of Stan and Hank, we own the CAARA building. I should mention Hank and Stan have also been working behind the scenes filling out grants and forms which may lead to money being granted to the club for reshingling the entire club including repairs of exterior woodwork. Stan is also working on a grant for an autostart generator which will run the entire club in an emergency.

With the ownership of the building, we now have the responsibility of maintaining and upgrading the building and grounds. We still have work to do in regard to painting the bathrooms on the first and second floor as well as the hallway to the second floor. We will be looking for volun-

teers to help us in the near future, we might give you a call!

Roger Smith installed a new hot water system last month that works great and Tony Marks has called in his electrician friend to inspect and pull a permit.

The House Committee consists of Jon and Ross at this time and we have a lot of upgrades planned including the sprucing up of the club kitchen. I would love to have the Christmas party here this December....let's start enjoying our building and all it has to offer.

A quick note on Echolink. Larry-AJ1Z has completely upgraded the system with new gear and it works great. Larry has bought new computers for the first floor and second floor as approved by the BOD. Larry has also looked at and fine tuned the wireless internet system.

Update on the remote stations. The Icom 7000 is connected to the beam and available for digital operation on 20 meters and is working fine.

The second remote station consists of a Flex radio. Since the computer was upgraded to a new operating system, the radio does not work on transmit on SSB but does transmit fine on CW. You can still listen to all modes and bands at this time. The Flex is being used for CW and SSB operation on 40-160 utilizing the Endfed antenna. When we get a chance we

will get it transmitting on SSB. If you have interest in operating the remote stations, contact Jon-K1TP or Larry-AJ1Z. You will be asked to bring your computer to the club and learn how to use the remote on your own computer. It requires a learning curve and is the only way we are offering you the needed passwords.

We have a number of committee spots that need to be filled and this is a great opportunity to serve your club. I hope you will volunteer if you are called and asked to volunteer a little time.

Lastly, as in any other club, we always do not always agree on everything that goes on at the club. We have had major decisions that had to be made and on occasion harsh words were spoken. and emails sent. The major issues have been resolved peacefully and we are excited to start a new year in harmony.

I expect this to be a banner year at CAARA with new activities, more member participation, exciting monthly meetings, portable operations, club dinners and movies, scholarship breakfasts, educational programs including new CW classes offered by our CW master-WZ1B, even some contesting at the club.

Jon-K1TP

Cheating!

by Curtis- AA3JE

Well, it happens to us all, eventually. In my prime, I would have laughed in scorn at anybody that actually looked up how to do a car repair BEFORE repairing the car! If you can't figure out what's what, you should not be under there!

But I get older, I get hurt a lot, and these were brakes, so I cheated and looked up on YouTube how to change the brake pads on my newish Honda.

Now I am familiar with Ford in the 1920s, monitors lasting a lot longer than the bathtubs in the metal.



Honda brakes. Honda has a problem with brakes. Honda, like the service records of their cars, and if one part seems to be rest of the car, they make it flimsier. And put more old

Evidently the brake design

guy thinks a car should last 12,000 miles.

Our last Honda got so bad whenever the car refused to too simple), as the Honda engineers knew that somebody would be fixing the

that we were replacing pads and rotors every 10,000 miles or stop! I got really good at it, and the design was simple (perhaps ^*&^&^& brakes often!

But I looked it up this time, and found out that they had put the bolts that hold the brakes in an impossible position BEHIND the brake caliper. So I got a better jack, and some blocks, (never trust a jack) and popped the thing up.

Well, I went to pop it up.

Turns out the jack designers didn't want to spring for a bigger box, and the jack handle would not clear the bumper. So, a small delay while I find an extension.

Make an extension, actually. (Note to self, Image on Amazon is NOT the actual size).

“WHAT ARE YOU DOING!” said “SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED”.

“Nothing dear, just checking the brakes on the Honda.”

“I’M GLAD I DON’T DRIVE IT!”

Now the engineers knew about YouTube, and didn't want just anyone changing their brake pads, so they put a sharp edged spring shim right where it intersects your index finger when the bolt pops loose!

Small delay while I got bandages, cleaned up the spattered blood, and inspected the half inch of skin removed from my knuckles. (Memo to self, borrow glove for right hand next time, Michael Jackson?).

And I popped the caliper off, popped in the new pads, and went to put it back on.

Discovered that the springs require that the pads be held in place while slipping the caliper back on. This is an art form, like doing the “Grecian Bend” as a shadow puppet. Finally the Y(*&(*U thing went back into place.

Repeat on other wheel.

In the front, there are two more springs! And you must take care that they do not pop off into the raspberry bushes.

Small pause to find tweezers and remove embedded thorns.

Both front brakes done, and wheels back on.
(Note to self: pump brakes back up before backing up!)

Next weekend it's more body work on the Lincoln. Some jerk backed into the right rear quarter panel.

“WHAT HAPPENED TO MY CAR????”

“Somebody must have dinged you in the parking lot, dear.”

“HONESTLY, SOME DRIVERS!”

(I don't think she saw me.)

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Higher Bands Will Pick Up this Fall, Data Suggest Smaller Solar Cycles Lie Ahead

Propagation guru Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, says that, while conditions on 12 and 10 meters will pick up as they always do in the fall, F₂ propagation on those bands will decline thereafter, with only sporadic E during the summer months as a possible saving grace. On the other hand, the lower bands — 160, 80, and 40 meters — should be good going forward, and 20 and 17 meters will be the mainstays of daylight HF propagation. Luetzelschwab offered these observations during an August 23 World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)-sponsored webinar “Solar Topics — Where We’re Headed.” He said data suggest that Solar Cycle 24, the current solar cycle, will bottom out in 2020, and he advised that radio amateurs may need to lower their expectations on the higher bands (and 6 meters) looking beyond that.

“I think the only conclusion we can make with some confidence is that we are headed for some small cycles,” he told his audience. He cited various evidence related to the Sun’s polar fields — which appear to be decreasing in strength, A index trends, and cosmic ray data to support his assertion. Luetzelschwab cautioned, however, that past performance does not necessarily predict future performance.

“There seems to be a good correlation between how long a solar minimum is and the next solar cycle,” said Luetzelschwab. “The longer you spend at solar minimum, the smaller the next cycle.”

He observed that hams active since the 1950s and 1960s have experienced short inter-cycle solar minimums of approximately 2 years, until the one between Solar Cycle 23 and Solar Cycle 24, which lasted about 4 years. He also allowed that the science is not fully understood, and that some things appearing to be patterns may just be coincidences.

On the other hand, he said, it looks like the downward trend of disappearing sunspots has leveled off, suggesting that Solar Cycle 25 may see a lower smoothed sunspot number as opposed to zero or near-zero sunspots.

Counting those sunspots can be a subjective business. “That’s a tough job,” he said of the task, noting that it appears observer bias also has been a factor over the years, affecting historical sunspot data. “We now have new corrected data that are believed to be more accurate.”

HOW TO SOUND LIKE A LID

by Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

In many areas I have noticed a tendency of people making a distinct effort to sound like a “LID” on the local repeater. Since this appears to be the new style in Amateur Radio, I thought I would present this incomplete guide to radio LID-dom. The following is what I call: “How to sound like a Lid in one easy lesson.”

1) Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for two-meter FM, but they’re fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. For example, “I’m going to QSY to the kitchen.” Can you really change frequency to the kitchen? QSL used to mean “I am acknowledging receipt,” but now it appears to mean “yes” or “OK.” I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning.

2) Never laugh, when you can say “hi hi.” No one will ever know you aren’t a long time CW ragchewer if you don’t tell them. They’ll think you’ve been on since the days of Marconi.

3) Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like “destinated” and “negatory.” It’s OK to make up your own words here. “Yeah Bill, I pheelbart zaphonix occasionally myself.”

4) Always say “XX4XXX” (Insert your own call) “for I.D.” As mentioned in Step One, anything that creates redundancy is always encouraged. That’s why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with “for identification purposes” instead of “for I.D.” While taking longer to say, it is worth more “LID points”.

5) The better the copy on the repeater, the more you should use phonetics. Names should be especially used if they are short or common ones. I.E. “My name is Al... Alpha Lima” or “Jack.. Juliet Alpha Charlie Kilo.” If at all possible use the less common HF phonetics “A4SM... America, Number Four, Sugar Mexico.” And for maximum “LID points”, make up unintelligible phonetics. “My name is Bob... Billibong Oregano Bumperpool.”

6) Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a great memory test. You may also use “and the group” if you are an “old timer” or just have a bad memory. Extra points for saying everyone’s call and then clearing in a silly way - like “This is K2xxx, Chow, Chow.”

7) Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use “modulation” when you mean “deviation”, and vice-versa. And even if the amplifier you’re using is a Class C type amp, and thus not biased for linear amplification, be sure to call it your “linear.” Heck, refer to all FM-style amplifiers as “linears.” You’ll be king of the “wrong terminology” hill. Or better yet, refer to them as “lin-e-yars.”

8) If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, taking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker, and if it is an emergency, encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.

9) Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.

10) The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.

11) If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least four out of six of the following: (1) His mental state; (2) His family; (3) His intelligence, or lack of same; (4) His sexual preference; (5) His relationship to small animals, his mother, or

both; (6) His other methods of self entertainment.

12) If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to use the patch. Make sure that it's only a simple routine phone call. It's also very important that you run the autopatch for the full three minutes. This way, once the two re-establish contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.

13) You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective if several other Lid trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have mobiled out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.

14) Use the repeater for an hour or two at a time, preventing others from using it. Better yet, do it on a daily basis. Your quest is to make people so sick of hearing your voice every time they turn on their radio, they'll move to another frequency. This way you'll lighten the load on the repeater, leaving even more time for you to talk on it.

15) See just how much mobile flutter you can generate by operating at handheld power levels too far from the repeater. Engage people in conversations when you know they won't be able to copy half of what you're saying. Even when they say you are uncopyable, continue to string them along by making further transmissions. See just how frustrated you can make the other amateur before he finally signs off in disgust.

16) Give out wacky radio advice. When a newcomer's signal is weak into the repeater, tell him he can correct the problem by adjusting the volume and squelch knobs on his radio. Or tell people they're full quieting except for the white noise on their signal. Or....well, you get the idea.

17) Use lots of radio jargon. After all, it makes you feel important using words average people don't say. Who cares if it makes you sound like you just fell off of Channel 19 on the Citizen's Band? Use phrases such as "Roger on that," "10-4," "I'm on the side," "You're making the trip," and "Negatory on that."

18) Use excessive microphone gain. See just how loud you can make your audio. Make sure the audio gain is so high that other amateurs can hear any bugs crawling on your floor. If mobile, make sure the wind noise is loud enough that others have to strain to pick your words out from all the racket.

19) Be as verbose as possible. Never say "yes" when you can say "He acquiesced in the affirmative by saying 'yes'." (No kidding, I actually heard that one.)

20) Start every transmission with the word "Roger" or "QSL." Sure, you don't need to acknowledge that you received the other transmission in full. After all, you would simply ask for a repeat if you missed something. But consider it your gift to the other amateur to give him solace every few seconds that his transmissions are being received.

21) When looking for a contact on a repeater, always say you're "listening" or "monitoring" multiple times. I've always found that at least a half dozen times or so is good. Repeating your multiple "listening" IDs every 10 to 15 seconds is even better. Those people who didn't want to talk to you will eventually call you, hoping you'll go away after you have finally made a contact.

22) Give out repeater FM signal reports using the HF SSB R-S system ("You're 5 by 9 here"). Sure it's considered improper for FM operation and you may even confuse some people, but don't let that spoil your fun!

- 23) Always use a repeater, even if you can work the other station easily on simplex — especially if you can make the contact on simplex. The coverage of the repeater you use should be inversely proportional to your distance from the other station.
- 24) If you and the other station are both within a mile or two of the repeater you are using, you should always give a signal report. (“I’m sitting under the repeater and I know you can see it from there, but you’re full quieting into the repeater. How about me?”)
- 25) In the same vein as the previous step, when monitoring a repeater, you should always give signal reports as if the repeater didn’t exist. (“Yep, I’m right under the repeater. You’ve got a whopping signal. You’re S-9 plus 60. That must be a great rig.”)
- 26) On repeaters with courtesy tones, you should always say “over.” Courtesy tones are designed to let everyone know when you have unkeyed, but don’t let that stop you. Say “over,” “back to you,” or “go ahead.” It serves no useful purpose, but don’t worry — it’s still fun.
- 27) Think up interesting and bizarre things to do to tie-up the repeater. The goal here is not to facilitate communications, but to entertain all the scanner listeners out there. Do something original. Try to hum CTCSS (PL) tones. Sing pager tones. You’re getting the idea.
- 28) Use the repeater’s autopatch for frivolous routine calls. While pulling into the neighborhood, call home to let them know you’ll be there in two minutes. Or call your spouse to complain about the bad day you had at work. After all, the club has “measured rate” service on their phone line, so they get charged for each autopatch call. Your endeavor is to make so many patches in a year that you cost the club at least \$20 in phone bills. That way you’ll feel you got your money’s worth for your dues.
- 29) Never say “My name is....”. It makes you sound human. If at all possible, use one of the following phrases: A) “The personal here is....” B) “The handle here is....” Normally, handles are for suitcases, but it’s OK to use them anyway. Don’t forget, this has worked just fine for CBers for years. The best retort I ever heard: “My handle is pink, my name is...”
- 30) Use “73” and “88” incorrectly. Both are already considered plural, but add a “s” to the end anyway. Say “best of 73’s” or “88’s”. Who cares if it means “best regards” and “love and kisses.” Better yet, say “seventy thirds”! Or be funny and say “seventy turds.” Or talk like a 1960s CBer and sign off with “Threeeeeees to ya!”. (By the way, 70 thirds equals about 23.3, the average CBers IQ.)
- 31) Make people think you have a split personality by referring to yourself in the plural sense. When you’re in conversation and are alone at your radio, always say “We’re” or “We’ve” instead of “I’m” or “I’ve” (i.e. “we’ve been doing this...”, “we’re doing that...”, “we’re clear”). Everyone knows you’re by yourself, but when they ask you who is with you, make up somebody important like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Bill Clinton.
- 32) Always attempt to use the higher functions of the repeater before you have read the directions. Nothing will work, but you’ll have great fun and get lots of people to give you advice.
- 33) Test repeater functions repeatedly (that’s why they call it a repeater). Test your signal strength from the same location several times every day. Concentrate on testing the things that really matter, like the number of time the repeater has been keyed-up. That stuff is fun to track. Test the outside temperature, or the transmitter heat sink temperature as often as possible. The farther the temperature goes from the norms, the more often you should test it. Also, if you get a pager set to the repeater’s output frequency, as soon as you receive it set it off every 30 seconds or so until the battery runs down. Better yet, interrupt conversations to test it.

34) If the repeater is off the air for service, complain about the fact that it was off the air as soon as it's turned back on. Act as though your entire day has been ruined because that one repeater wasn't available when you wanted to use it. Even though you have never donated a penny to help out with the upkeep of it, and despite the fact that you have all 42 local repeaters programmed into your mobile radio

35) Find ways to get around the "no business" rule on autopatches. Your plan is to try and fool the repeater control operators. Invent code words your secretary at work will understand to disguise any business talk so it sounds like personal chatter. Or get to be friends with the local Domino's Pizza manager. Make it so that when you call him on the patch and ask him to bring over the "floppy disk" you need to your house, he shows-up 30 minutes later with a piping hot large pepperoni and sausage pie. The possibilities are endless....

36) Always make sure you try to communicate with only a handheld and a rubber duck antenna. Also, make sure you work through a repeater that you can hear very well, but it cannot hear you. This will put out a kind of "LID mating call": "Well, Joe, I can hear the repeater just fine here. I wonder why it can't hear me?" You will score maximum LID points if you are mobile, and with the radio lying in the passenger seat.

37) If an annoying station is bothering you, make sure your other "LID" buddies have a "coded" frequency list. Even though "CODES" are strictly forbidden on Amateur Radio, it's really neat to practice "James Bond" tactics.

38) Always use the National Calling Frequency for general conversations. The more uninteresting, the longer you should use it. Extra points are awarded if you have recently move from an adjacent frequency for no reason. Make sure when DX is "rolling" in on 52.525 that you hang out there and talk to your friends five miles down the road about the good old CB days!

39) Make sure that if you have a personal problem with someone, you should voice your opinion in a public forum, especially a net. Make sure you give their name, call, and any other identifying remarks. For maximum points, make sure the person in question is not on the repeater, or not available.

40) Make sure you say the first few words of each transmission twice, especially if it is the same thing each time. Like "roger, roger" or "fine business, fine business". I cannot stress enough about encouraging redundancy.

41) If you hear a conversation on a local repeater, break in and ask how each station is receiving you. Of course they will only see the signal of the repeater you are using, but it's that magic moment when you can find a fellow "LID", and get the report. Extra points are awarded if you are using a base station, and the repeater is less than five air miles from you.

These easy steps should put you well on your way to "LID-Hood". I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect "LID". I should also note that these steps can also apply to simplex operation, but nobody really cares because that pawn-shop HTX-202 isn't going to get out too far with just a rubber duck.

73,
Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

P.S. "Rusty Bumpers" is a pen name. He maintains anonymity so he can sit peacefully at club meetings and avoid the wrath (and breath) of the uninformed.

PIRATE RADIO



At the dawn of the 1960s, Britain still bobbed to the rhythms of a vanished age. With the exception of one commercial TV network, the airwaves were owned by the British Broadcasting Corp. — known semi-affectionately as “Auntie.”

The BBC favored a bland if nourishing diet of news, information, light entertainments and children’s programs. In other words, the rock ‘n’ roll revolution that was spreading like wildfire in the United States had been all but banished from the British airwaves.

But for a group of rebellious, rock-loving disc jockeys, such restrictions were merely a hurdle. Many of them took to the seas, hunkering down on old fishing ships anchored off the Eastern coast of England; from there, they broadcast programs built around the illicit tunes of bands like The Hollies and The Rolling Stones.

In 1967, the British current-affairs show *World in Action* shot a program about pirate radio aboard the *Mi Amigo*. Here, *World in Action* team members Mike Hodges and Paddy Searle shoot footage of DJ Robbie Dale in the ship’s studio.

James Jackson/Hulton Archive

Richard Curtis, director of the new film *Pirate Radio*, which is based on these events, was an 8-year-old boy confined to a posh boarding school when he first heard the broadcasts. While he wasn’t allowed to listen to music during the day, he remembers hiding a radio under his covers at night .

“And what I heard were these extraordinary pirate-radio stations,” says Curtis. “These fantastic guys floating out in the middle of the ocean, pumping rock ‘n’ roll into my private school all night.”

The pirates’ off-coast locations strategically put them in international waters — and thus out of British authorities’ legal reach. When they began broadcasting in the mid-’60s, their signals reached as many as 20 million Brits — nearly half of a population that had been permitted a diet of only six hours of “pop music” a week. And the pirates’ playlists were largely lifted from American Top 40 stations, which during the ’60s were dominated by the era’s British bands. Radio Caroline, which broadcast from the ship *Mi Amigo*, became one of the most popular stations. “It was bizarre” says Dave Cash, a former Radio Caroline DJ, “because you had no real idea of what you were doing until you came ashore. And there’d be 3,000 people waiting for us.”

The DJs were treated like pop stars themselves — and since most were young and single, they took every advantage

of their newfound fame.

At sea it was another matter. The acoustics on the steel ships were subpar, the onboard regimen was monastic — no women allowed — and the weather could wreak havoc. During winter storms, the DJs might be stranded onboard for a month or more.

Keith Skues, who hosted one Radio Caroline show, said one of the main challenges was the turbulence.

“The fact that you’re being kicked out of your chair across the studio didn’t seem to matter, as long as the records didn’t jump,” says Skues. “And of course they did.”

Some of the biggest bands of the period, including the Stones and The Dave Clark Five, got their first exposure on pirate stations. The pirates also played commercials, which was unheard of in the United Kingdom at the time. After British law disbanded most of the pirate stations, many of the DJs went to work for the BBC. Dave Cash (fourth from the left) and this group of ex-pirate DJs helped the corporation launch its first pop music station.

Keystone/Hulton Archive

In fact, the prime motivating force behind the pirates wasn’t some kind of rock ‘n’ roll evangelism; it was good old-fashioned profit: American and Irish entrepreneurs ran the two biggest stations, trying to sidestep Britain’s refusal to grant radio licenses to commercial broadcasters.

In 1967 the British government made it a crime to supply music, commentary, fuel, food and water — and, most significantly, advertising — to any unlicensed offshore broadcaster. The law sounded the official death knell for most of the pirate stations.

Yet the music had made its mark. One month after the law took effect, the BBC launched its first pop station. And in a strange turn of events, many of the shipwrecked DJs went to work for their former nemeses at the BBC. After all, it would be six more years before Britain allowed any commercial radio stations in the country.

“They hated us,” says Cash, who still works for the Beeb, “but we didn’t care. And we still don’t! I take their money, but I still don’t care. And if you need a real pirate over there in America, I’m your man.”



Amateur Radio Parity Act Passes in the US House of Representatives!

“The bill is passed without objection.” With those words, Amateur Radio history was made on September 12, when the US House of Representatives approved the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301 on a voice vote under a suspension of the rules. The focus of the campaign to enact the legislation into law now shifts to the US Senate.

The House victory culminated many years of effort on ARRL’s part to gain legislation that would enable radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities to erect antennas that support Amateur Radio communication. The measure calls on the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules “to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land-use restrictions, and for other purposes.” While similar bills in past years gained some traction on Capitol Hill, it was not until the overwhelming grassroots support from the Amateur Radio community for H.R. 1301 shepherded by ARRL that a bill made it this far. The legislation faces significant obstacles to passage in the US Senate, however.

“This is huge step in our effort to enact legislation that will allow radio amateurs who live in deed-restricted communities the ability to construct an effective outdoor antenna,” ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. “Thanks to everyone for their help in this effort thus far. Now we must turn our full attention to getting the bill passed in the Senate.”

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who chairs the ARRL Board’s Legislative Advocacy Committee, has been heavily involved in efforts to move H.R. 1301 forward. “This has been a multi-year effort that is finally seeing some light,” he said. “The passage of the bill in the House is a major accomplishment, due to the hard work of so many — from the rank-and-file member to the officers and directors.”

Lisenco said it’s not a time to rest on our laurels. “We are only halfway there. The focus now shifts to our effort in the Senate,” he said. “We are beginning a massive e-mail campaign in which we need every member to write their two Senators using our simplified process. You will be hearing from President Roderick and from your Directors, asking you to go to our Rally Congress page. Using your ZIP code, e-mails will be generated much like our recent letter campaign. You’ll fill in your name and address and press Enter. The e-mails will be sent directly to your Senators without you having to search through their websites.”

Lisenco said getting these e-mails to members’ Senators is a critical part of the process. “Those numbers matter! Please help us help you by participating in this effort,” he said.

As the amended bill provides, “Community associations should fairly administer private land-use regulations in the interest of their communities, while nevertheless permitting the installation and maintenance of effective outdoor Amateur Radio antennas. There exist antenna designs and installations that can be consistent with the aesthetics and physical characteristics of land and structures in community associations while accommodating communications in the Amateur Radio services.”

During this week’s limited debate, the House bill’s sponsor, Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), thanked ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI) for reaching an agreement to move the bill forward “in a bipartisan and very positive manner.” He pointed out to his colleagues that Amateur Radio antennas are prohibited outright in some areas.

“For some this is merely a nuisance,” Kinzinger said, “but for others — those that use their Amateur Radio license for life-saving emergency communications — a dangerous situation can be created by limiting their ability to establish effective communication for those in need.”

Kinzinger said that in emergencies, hams can provide “a vital and life-saving function” when conventional communication systems are down. He also praised the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), a US

Department of Defense-sponsored program, comprised largely of Amateur Radio volunteers, that also supports communication during emergencies and disasters.

Cosponsor US Rep Joe Courtney (D-CT) also urged the bill's passage. "This is not just a feel-good bill," Courtney said, recounting how Hurricane Sandy brought down the power grid, and "we saw all the advanced communications we take for granted...completely fall by the wayside." Ham radio volunteers provided real-time communication in the storm's wake, he said, saying the legislation was a way "to rebalance things" for radio amateurs who choose to live in deed-restricted neighborhoods by enabling them to install "non-intrusive antennas.

Courtney noted that he spoke recently with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, and said that Wheeler "strongly supports this legislation."

Leading up to the vote, Rep Paul Tonko (D-NY) also spoke in support of the legislation, calling it a common-sense approach that would build "fairness into the equation for Amateur Radio operators" in dealing with homeowners associations.

The earlier U.S. Senate version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, S. 1685, no longer is in play, and the Senate is expected to vote by unanimous consent on the version of H.R. 1301 that the House adopted on September 12.



The FCC rules in CFR Part 97 Sec. 97.313 (a) tells us:

“An amateur station must use the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communications.”

Good words and a good rule! Not only because excessive power creates unnecessary spurious emissions in already crowded bands, but, as I found out, it can also help keep your equipment running.

I was using my Icom IC-2720h at home; “rag chewing” on the Gloucester 2 meter repeater when I suddenly saw a cloud of smoke over my desk and smelled burning electronics! I had no idea where it was coming from. The radio seemed to be functioning, and an inspection of the power supply showed no issues. I had two computers being repaired on my bench, but no troubles of that nature there. Everything checked out at first glance, but when I tried to raise an out of town repeater: nothing!

I contacted another local operator and we QSY'd to a simplex frequency. Here I found that regardless of what power setting I used, I was only barely reaching him and my signal strength was not changing on his S-meter. I made some room on my bench and took the radio down and opened it up. Sure enough, I found that one of the power transistors in the final amplifier stage had burned out, leaving a (not so) nice toasted crater on the pc board!

Inadvertently, I had earlier shifted to high power to reach a distant repeater, but did not reduce the power when I came back to the Gloucester 13 machine. So, at some point, while we were yakking away, I ended up cooking the radio.

The moral of the story is: just because a radio's specification sheet says that it has a certain power rating, does not necessarily mean that it will run continuously at that setting! Use the lowest amount of power that you need to get the job done. There's no reason to push 50 watts if you're able to make the QSO on a 5 or 10 watt setting. If you do need the higher power settings, keep your transmissions short and give the radio plenty of time to cool between transmissions.

Rule-of-Thumb: Don't use the power if you don't need it! Lesson learned - the hard way!

Gardi, KA1BTK

(Continued from page 3) Sunday was an interesting day. Having spent the night in Hudson, MA again, I decided to partake in the delicious breakfast buffet before venturing out to do volunteer duties of Ticket Sales in the Flea Market. When I arrived, there was a report of rain and heavy winds in Worcester heading our way. I think it was maybe 35-45 minutes in the shift when I noticed the sky turning black, and the trees limbs start to move. I grabbed the cash box, programs and rushed to the door in the beginning of the rain, I was lucky to get in the door when I noticed the structure I was sitting under start to sway and move around. Luckily it was tied to a tree, otherwise, it would have possibly gone airborne. (Think Field Day 2013 or 2014).



Inside, it was a little crazy trying to dodge the people rushing by me due to the inclement weather outside. I turned the box over to the Volunteer Coordinator, Andy Stewart, KB1OIQ, and decided it was a time for lunch. I went back to the vendor/exhibit area and took some more pictures Marty along with numerous other young hams from the Clay Center Amateur Radio Club in Brookline, MA was in attendance. The Clay Center is for those students interested in studying engineering, computer science, or communications, amateur radio is a valuable asset. Amateur Radio is a blend of science, technology, engineering, and math, the basis of a true “STEM” subject. There were two Youth Forums, one on Saturday and one on Sunday. Some of the young hams I spoke with were very excited and really involved in their club. I met quite a few young operators while standing by the Tech In A Day table, quite a few of them already had Technician, General and met a few Amateur Extra Class operators who were in the eight grade, and a few unlicensed hams were in their midst. They predict that the Youth operators are coming up, some of the old breeds are fading, however, this group of young hams seem to be goal oriented. I know with the exams we are giving young hams will carry on.



Attention CAARA Members

Annual Dues Invoices for the 2017 Membership Year will be emailed during November, 2016. CAARA's Membership Year runs from January 1st - December 31st. Your prompt dues payment is very much appreciated.

Dues are invoiced annually **via e-mail only**, so please be sure we have your current email address! You may update your contact information on the CAARA website at any time here:

<http://members.caara.net/update-info/>.

Please make any necessary corrections before November 1st.

CAARA accepts cash (in person only, please), check, credit/debit cards at the clubhouse or via PayPal®, and your PayPal® account. **Additional payment information will be on the Official Invoice so please wait until you receive it before making any actual payments.**

tnx & 73

Dick- K1VRA

“Cows Over the World” DXpedition May Be at an End

The one-man “Cows Over the World” DXpedition has ended — prematurely, abruptly, and on a sad note. Tom Callas, KC0W, reported that a theft this week in Kiribati has left him with nothing. He told [The Daily DX](#) that his Cows DXpedition is “permanently QRT.”

“Everything I own was stolen on 28 September from here in Kiribati,” Callas posted on his [QRZ.com page](#).

“They took all the radios, computers, amplifiers, antennas, coax, *everything*. They even took my clothing and shoes. I have literally *nothing* left. I type this with tears in my eyes.”

The “Cows Over the World” DXpedition got under way last spring, when the Minnesota DXer fired up as KH8/KC0W from American Samoa. Other stops followed. After a short hiatus, Callas had announced plans last week to resume with his T30COW operation from Western Kiribati, but he said his intended “Top 25 Most Wanted” DXpeditions would not happen. He has been financing the round-robin DXpedition on his own. Callas was awaiting permission to operate from Tokelau and Nauru. All call signs in the all-CW DXpedition tour have included a “COW” suffix. Callas has told [The Daily DX](#) that “[all logs](#)” for his T30COW operation have been uploaded to ClubLog. He also expressed his appreciation on his [QRZ.com profile page](#).

“I have read the many supportive comments posted on both QRZ and eHam. A heartfelt thanks. Some guys have asked about financially donating to my plight. This is very generous, but I respectfully and humbly decline. Us people from the Midwest are like that. Either too proud (or too dumb) to accept money without actually working for it. Please donate your time helping a kid learn Morse code if you want to “donate” anything at all.

“My bank wired me funds so I can now eat again (literally). No joke, they even stole all my food. I have cancelled all future DXing activity until I return back to the USA and purchase new equipment. Gud DX es Long Live CW from here in Western Kiribati, where it's always 5NN (except for when local ‘QRM’ makes you go QRT really quick).”

In addition to T30COW, his Cows DXpedition has also included operations as 5W0COW, T2COW, and YJOCOW. Announced plans of operating from the Solomons, Tokelau, Bangladesh and other locations now are off the table.

In the past, Callas has operated from St Helena Island (ZD7X), Cambodia (XU7XXX), Haiti (HH5/KC0W), and Martinique (TO00), and he has handed out more than 100,000 contacts overall, including those logged from his Pacific operations.