

CAARA NEWS



Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
OCTOBER 2019 Edition



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Hank- W4RIG

As we enter the new fiscal year, CAARA is in good shape financially with two CD's holding reserve funds and the 2020 dues notices about to go out. We need to affirm the 2019-2020 budget as the same as our budget for 2018-2019. Check the Treasurer's report on the CAARA website for details, but essentially we came out under last year's budget by \$1276 - we are discussing some possible radio equipment replacements (upgrades) so we propose keeping the same budget for this next year.



We had a successful Tech-in-a-day session at the Boxboro Ham Fest in September and continuing public service with another Ukan Run road race. Rob Claypool, KB1WJC did a fine job as Clerk for the past two years and did not run for re-election as Clerk for 2020-2021. Cutter Herlihy, KC1JKJ was elected as CAARA Clerk at the Annual Members meeting and we are pleased he will be joining the Board as the new Clerk. The members added Brandon Hockle, NQ1W to the Board and the Board members up for election were re-elected.

The Board will be reviewing options for remote operation of our computers at 6 Stanwood. Any members interested in working on this project please contact Larry Beaulieu, AJ1Z, our Equipment Chairman. Our Scholarship Fund is in good shape for 2020 awards and we will continue our program of raising funds for the scholarships this next year. The Sunday Night Net is working smoothly. We could use some additional help with net control - this activity is part of the training program for emergency operations.

We hope to see our members at the October 12, 2019 members meeting at 12:00 Noon. We are hoping to have some good food for the members at that meeting.

INFORMATION DESK

by Dean-KB1PGH

Well I got the chance to play a HF portable operations session on Sunday September 16th. This time I spiced the location up by going up to Hospital Hill on Summit Ave in Rockport Mass. The weather was great and even though the sunspots were non-existent I still managed to work some great DX. The Europe SSB DX contest was underway so I was able to make a bunch of great DX contacts on 20 meters. I was also able to make a couple of domestic contacts on 40 meters. I tried the 10 meter and 6 meter bands but no luck there. I could hear some faint signals on 6 meters but not enough to make out where they were from. For this HF ops session I used the Icom IC 7300 on portable power with a Honda 2000i generator and a Hy Gain 4 band OCF dipole up around 28 feet off of a Buddipole mast. Here's the list of contacts I made on 20 meters: 5 contacts to Germany, Then Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Italy, France, Lithuania, Ireland, England and the Azores. I also talked to Texas and a Yarmouth Island Maine IOTA activation. On 40 meters I worked Maryland and a Parks on the Air activation in Pennsylvania. So this goes to prove that you can still work the world with a simple dipole and 100 watts even



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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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Welcome to CAARA:

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

CAARA also operates the W1GLO repeater on 224.900 located at the CAARA clubhouse.

The former W1RK 443.700 repeater is now on the ATT cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex with greatly enhanced performance.

The Association is one of the few amateur radio clubs that has its own clubhouse. Located at 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester, it includes a permanent HF station with beam, vertical/wire antennas along with an operating 2 meter packet station as well as 2/440 meter voice and 220 MHz Transceivers.

Amateur radio exams are held on the second Sunday of each month at 9:00 AM at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. Pre-registration necessary. Contact the head of our VE team Bill Poulin-- WZ1L if you have any questions about monthly testing.

Monthly member meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at noon.

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



a the bottom end of a solar cycle with a solar flux of only 68.

Well as you know I like to work HF portable but there has been one thing that has been missing which is a ARES Emergency Communications Go Box. So I bought the Apache 4800 weatherproof and crush proof case from Harbor Freight and installed a

pick a apart foam inside the case works great to form around the radio gear. As you can see in the photos how it is packed away for transport and then how it is set up for deployment. Combine this go box with the Arrow J Pole antenna I had on the my Buddipole mast I showed you guys in the September newsletter and you can have a complete VHF, UHF EMCOMM portable station that can be set up in minute.



Alinco DM 330FXT power supply and connected it to a Yaesu FTM 400 XDR VHF/UHF Dual band rig. I also threw in a MFJ portable speaker that sits underneath the power supply as well as a flashlight and a soft point stylus pen for the FTM 400 XDR touch screen. I highly recommend these Apache cases for anyone who is on a budget compared to the price of a Pelican case. The



WE WANT YOU!

OPEN POSITION:

EDITOR: We need a volunteer to create a monthly or quarterly newsletter for the club.



Chirp

By Curt- AA3JE

It is always at the worst possible time. In my case, it was 2 AM and I had just been awakened by SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED, to go lift the geriatric terrier. This dog has a predilection for nice cozy spaces, where she gets stuck, and then flails around making a noise that fails to wake me, but always wakes my wife, who says that this is why God invented females, as males would never be able to raise children by themselves.



I imagine this is true, since the wolves that raised me were of both sexes.

Anyway, I was awakened by a gentle nudge, that thrust me half out of the bed.

“THE DOG IS STUCK.”

Being asleep, sort of, I answered without thinking.

“Thank you for the situation report, I will note it in the log.”

“I MEANT THAT YOU SHOULD GO UNSTICK THE DOG.”

Deftly avoiding the creature’s jaws, through long practice, I did so. But as I did, I heard the sound that strikes shills in the heart of every homeowner.

“CHIRP”

What is it that makes the manufacturers of electronic devices build in a circuit that makes a “chirp”, a very high pitched “chirp” that lasts only a few milliseconds to signal the failure of a built in battery is beyond me. Since I lost most of my high frequency hearing from Marine 155 MM howitzers on Okinawa (training, I am too young for the war there), I can barely hear this. My wife, and the dogs, however, hear it all too well.

“I HEARD SOMETHING!”

“Dead battery somewhere, dear. I will find it and replace it in the morning.”

“IT NEEDS FIXING NOW! THE DOGS!!!!!”

Now to me, one or more dogs losing a few hours sleep is not an emergency, but I got up, and began the hunt.

These things chirp for 20 milliseconds then wait a minute, then do it again.

And I had no idea where it might be. These circuits are in smoke detectors, freezers, ham radio battery boosters, and a dozen other bits of electronic junk.

So, clad modestly in my underwear, I began the hunt. Room by room, I went, listened, and totally failed to locate it. It didn’t last long enough to get a fix.

I expected this. So assisted by a joyful Labrador, who thought this a great game, I went to the battery locker, and started digging.

Now this is important! You should organize the battery locker to rotate the batteries. Otherwise, you take out a bad battery and replace it with a worse one. So it was find the shoes, find some pants, and trek out the the garage to find the VOM. So equipped, I tested a number of 9V and 1.5 V batteries, pitched the bad ones, and began again.

“TURN THOSE LIGHTS OFF! SOMEONE IS TRYING TO SLEEP!”

That meant finding a flashlight, finding batteries for the flashlight, and one by one, replacing the batteries, room by room. This was annoying, but easy.

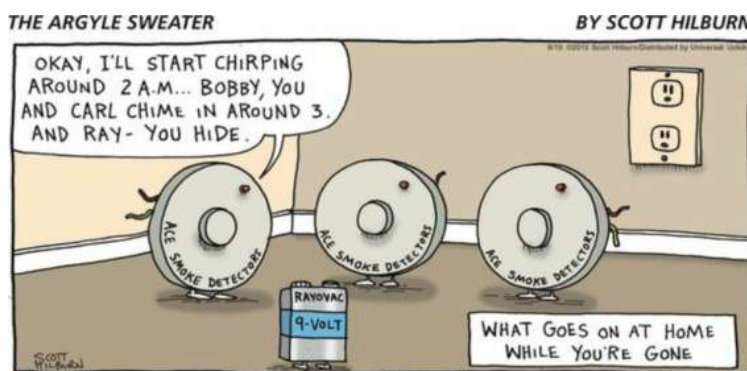
Or should be easy. Some engineer decided that snap connectors were an un-needed expense, and used spring clips, cleverly marking the polarity with faint engravings on the case, totally unreadable by the (failing) flashlight. To add insult to injury, the more modern ones had a crisp voice that announced “POLARITY INCORRECT!” when you got it wrong.

“WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO? I’M TRYING TO SLEEP.”

“Just some electronic gadget, dear.”

“TELL IT TO SHUT UP!”

“I am trying to do just that.”



So, after replacing 1 refrigerator alarm battery, 3 smoke detectors, 2 carbon monoxide detectors, and some thing I could not recognize, I went back to bed.

“CHIRP!”

I had forgotten the lower level.

So it was find the step ladder, and replacing 2 smoke detectors and two monoxide alarms.

Back to bed.

“CHIRP!”

After a long and exhausting search, and an infantryman crawl into the crawl space, I found the “High Water Alarm” and replaced it.

Going back to bed was futile. It was dawn, and the dogs were up.

Spend the extra money on the 10 year batteries. It’s worth it.

PUBLIC SERVICE ROAD RACES

CAARA Public Service Schedule 2019

- 1 Fool's Dual March 31, 9:00am 5K Race Start 10:00am Half Marathon O'Maley Middle School 32 Cherry Street Gloucester, MA.
- 2 Twin Lights Good Harbor Beach April 27, 9:00am Half Marathon Start Thatcher Road Gloucester, MA.
- 3 Rocky neck Art Assn. 5K Run/walk Team Challenge May Date T.B.D.
- 4 Fast Half May 11, 9:00am Half Marathon Start Hamilton — Wenham High School 775 Bay Road South Hamilton, MA.
- 5 YMCA Backshore 5K Thursday, May 16th, 6:00pm, Good Harbor Beach, Gloucester
- 6 Motif No.1 Day Arts Fest & 5k Fun Run Date T.B.D.
- 7 Cape Ann Trail Stewards. Dogtown 5 Mile Trail Run 19 May 2019 9:00 AM
- 8 Twin Lobster June 2, 8:00am 1 Mile Race Start 8:30am Half Marathon Start Gloucester High School 32 Leslie O Johnson Road Gloucester, MA.
- 9 YMCA Father's Day 5K Sunday, June 16th, 9am, Rockport High School, 24 Jerdens Ln.
- 10 YMCA St. Peter's Fiesta 5K Thursday, June 27th, 6:00pm, Stage Fort Park, Gloucester
- 11 Triple Threat August 4, 8:00am 1M Race Start 8:20am 5K Race Start 9:15am Half Marathon Start Rockport High School 24 Jerdens Lane Rockport, MA.
- 12 Half Marathon by the Sea September 22, 10:00am Half Marathon Start Manchester Essex Memorial Elementary School 43 Lincoln Street Manchester by the Sea, MA
- 13 The Lone Gull 10K Road Race September. Date T.B.D.
- 14 Parker River Half Marathon. October 6, 9:00am Half Marathon Start Triton Regional High School 112 Elm Street Byfield, MA 01922
- 15 Ocean View November 3, 8:30am 5k Race Start 9:30am Half Marathon Start Ipswich High School 134 High Street Ipswich, MA 01938
- 16 Holiday MerryThon. December 1, 9:00am 5K Road Race Start 10:00am Half MerryThon Start Good Harbor Beach Thatcher Road Gloucester, MA.

Why should you participate in race events?

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

I would but I do not have a radio.

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

I don't have transportation.

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

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

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

