



# CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2014

## President's Desk by Stan-W4HIX



This will be my last column under this title. Being president of CAARA is very demanding task—especially if you are working full time. The association has many diverse interests and personalities and trying to keep everything moving forward can be difficult at best. It can also be rewarding.

I would like to make one suggestion to our members—if you an active member, talk to the new president and ask what you can do for the club. There is no shortage of things that need to be done, and volunteering instead of waiting to be asked makes the job of the president so much less stressful. If you don't help, it will fall back to the president to do it—and it may not get done at all. We all have finite bandwidth, but working together will produce great results.

My objective when I was elected president four years ago was to leave the club in better condition than I received it. I think this is the case—we are close to owning our building of 35+ years, we have a beautiful trailer to store and transport gear, our paying membership count is stable, if not slightly ahead, our finances are in very good condition and we have more operating stations in the club than I've seen since I became a member. We also have helped over 120 people get their Tech license through Tech in a Day and have been providing thousands of dollars in scholarships to students on Cape Ann going off to college. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors are in much better condition now than before, and the kitchen is being used regularly for breakfasts and now some dinners. CAARA has a very good relationship with the City of Gloucester and the Cape Ann Emergency Planning Team, as well as most of the event organizers that come to Cape Ann.

Our Field Day operation is solid with good interest from City officials.

If you are not an active member, we'd love to see you at 6 Stanwood St. sometime. If you can't make it, thank you for your support—it means a lot to us, and even though we raised the dues, our members have stayed with us.

Come to the Annual meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>—help select our next president and vice president and board members.

Thank you for letting me be your president—it is an experience I will never forget.

73 de Stan, W4HIX  
stan@w4hix.com

## Information Desk by Dean-KB1PGH



I think this month I'll go over some of the aspects of the CAARA website.

Especially for the newer members of the club (and maybe the old timers too) that may not know all the resources that the club's website holds. I say this because I have had a few new and prospective members inquire about ham radio related websites and how to find ham radio information on the web. The CAARA website does contain many links that will forward you to many aspects of the hobby. So we will start this way with a self help tutorial. Start by going to the club's website at [www.caara.net](http://www.caara.net). If you look on the front page of the site you will see a "Club radio link" link. Please click on that and you will see two links. One that says, "Cape Ann Public Service Frequencies" This link will provide you with the major police and fire frequencies on Cape Ann. This is good since many dual band ham radio HT's can cover these frequencies and will give you something to listen



**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 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



too. The second link says, "Club Favorite Radio Links". Just click on that and you will see over 40 links that cover a wide array of topics related to ham radio. Now once you're done looking at all of those please go back to the front page of the club's website. There you will see the "Updated club/member information" link. Please click on that and then scroll down a bit and you will see 4 separate link sections that cover ham radio magazines, major ham radio equipment manufacturers, major ham radio equipment dealers and then a general section that includes a wide variety of other ham radio equipment dealers. So once you're done looking at all of those please go back to start, which is the front page of the CAARA website. Now find the "Club activities and events" link. Please click on that and scroll down to the Emergency Communications section where you will find over a dozen websites related to emergency communications and disaster preparedness. Okay, so you've looked through all of those and we are not done yet. Now go back to the front page of the club's website and click on the "View archived newsletters" link. There you find 69 monthly CAARA newsletters going back to December of 2008. First of all these newsletters are a great historical archive of what CAARA has accomplished in the past 6 years. Plus there are many reviews of ham radios, antennas and other equipment from CAARA members which can help newer members. If you are a CAARA member you can also find the archives of older newsletters going back to the 1980's which are in the "Members Area" link. The CAARA website also has some multimedia options as well. If you're on the front page of the website you can click on the multimedia link which will bring you to a photo section and a video section. Here you will find some photos of past field days and Thachers Island expeditions. There are also some videos of some field days from the past few years. Last but not least are the links to the CAARA Facebook page on the front page of the club website along with links to a few more Facebook pages that relate to ham radio. So in general you get the hint that the website is chock full of content and can be used as a reference source to help you get started. Who knew that we would live in an age where all you have to do is type in "Google" or go onto "Youtube" to answer any ham radio related question that you might have. I like going onto Youtube and watching how other ham

radio clubs set up their ARRL Field day activities and how other hams operate portable HF. You can also watch Youtube for any video reviews on ham radio related products and you can go onto [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net) to find many written reviews on ham radio equipment which is great to contrast and compare before you buy. Last but not least don't forget to go onto the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) for an endless amount of reference material. That's it for now and I'll see you in October!

## Editor Roundup

by Jon-K1TP



After experimenting hours with the club Buddipole coupled with my lack of patience, I decided this system was not for me. I needed something you just pull out, screw together, and get on the air without playing with antenna analyzer's, etc. and did I mention the Buddipole system cost over \$500 for all the stuff. The Buddipole is well engineered, works great, and will last a lifetime but for the few times I go portable, I decided the price was more than I was willing to pay.

I yanked out the Outbacker Perth which I used to bumper mount on a truck which I had a well grounded bracket off the rear bumper and had so-so results. I tried a mag mount on my truck with the outbacker and had horrible results.

I looked at the plans for a buddipole system and decided it would involve more work than I wanted to spend on it.

I continued my quest for portable 17 and 20 meter operation with a long wire and a balun and my LDG autotuner and had ok results but I needed something to suspend the antenna from....not always handy at the beach or a parking lot.

I started thinking about Hamsticks, they used to work ok mag when mounted on my vehicles.....why not use two of them in a horizontal dipole configuration and have a Buddipole like antenna? I found MFJ had a 20 dollar center piece that did just that! I purchased the 17 and 20 meter hamsticks and the center connector, mounted it on a 18 foot fiberglass pole I had on an old tree pruner, and a basemount for an umbrella we had in the garage.....bingo, a portable setup! I set it up at the club and adjusted and marked the whips for low swr in the middle of the band and got on the air. It worked great on 20 meters, John-WA1JG worked

(continued on page 13)



## WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CAARA EMCOM CENTER?



The August 5th, Tuesday 'Open House' meeting at the CAARA clubhouse offered a free cookout courtesy of Jon-K1TP, Gardi- KB1BTK, and Ross- W1RAB. Offer food and they will come and they did! We cooked out burgers and dogs and showed a movie complete with popcorn and ice cream.....



**When a gift isn't a gift!** We received this donation at the club the other day and to be honest, we did not want it. We are now responsible for getting it to the junk yard. **PLEASE DO NO DROP OFF DONATIONS TO THE CLUB WITHOUT FIRST SPEAKING TO A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** If you are cleaning out your shack or basement, we are only looking for gear we can use or sell. We do not need anymore old coax, unknown fittings, antique computer parts, broken and unfixable items.....please take them to the dump yourself!



New miniblinds were installed on the first floor windows for security and appearance by Jon-K1TP and Ross- W1RAB in the middle of August. The next project is the completion of the tube cabinet on the first floor. It needs to be painted and the shelves installed so we can display the hundreds of antique tubes we have accumulated over the years.



**BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING:** Club Attorney explaining the agreement granting the neighbor the right to pass and repass thru our property, which the city of Gloucester insisted upon, before they would sell the property to us. Dick Ober attended the meeting via SKYPE, he is on the screen. BOD voted to accept the agreement which should forge the way for the purchase of the club soon.



# The Manliness Award

by Curtis- AA3JE

It happens to all of us, some time or other, we get old, we get tired, we get careless, and we let slip one of the sacred truths of our gender that we were told to keep safe forever back during our ritual initiation into guy hood. There are things women must not learn.

In my case, it happened the usual way, by accident. I was reading an email from my niece regarding my brother, who had ended up in the hospital. This is not unusual for either me or my brother, for reasons that will, I hope, become obvious.

Anyway, I read the email, dashed the phone to the coffee table with some heat, and exclaimed to myself, bitterly, "That's gotta be a lifetime win."

SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED, who was sitting quietly watching FOX NEWS, which had documentary on the need to revive flogging, looked up.

**"WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU MEAN?"** she asked.

Shocked, I tried to cover.

"Oh, nothing, dear. Just startled by a bit of news about Dan. Dan is my brother.

**"WHAT ABOUT DAN?" SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED** liked Dan. He is an impossible guest. He stripped the bed, washed the sheets and

towels, shampooed the rug, cleaned the gutters and weeded the flowerbeds when he visited. Dan visiting was like having "Jeeves" as a houseguest.

"Well he's been worried about needing that cardiac bypass surgery.."

**"I KNOW, I WORRY ABOUT HIM ALL THE TIME."**

I could be bitten by a cobra, and she'd tell me not to be such a baby about rushing to the hospital for every little thing. Dan gets a hangnail and it's time to call EMERGENCY 911.

"Well, he doesn't need the bypass anymore, he got one."

**"I WAS WORRIED MIGHT HAVE BE AN EMERGENCY OPERATION!"**



"It was."

**"WHAT?!"**

"He was in his plane, running it over to the airfield from his private airstrip, when he had a heart attack at 3,500 feet."

**"OH MY GOODNESS, IS HE ALL RIGHT? WAS HE HURT IN THE CRASH?"**

"There was no crash. He radioed in, landed the plane, taxied it, parked it, radioed the name and hospital affiliation of his cardiologist to the ambulance crew, then cut the engine and passed out."

**"BRAVE, BRAVE MAN."**

"Well, anyway, the ambulance took him to the hospital, they did a bypass operation, replaced his aortic valve which looked like it had a little wear on it as well, and he's recovering."

**"OH HOW WONDERFUL, YOU HAD ME WORRIED THERE FOR A WHILE."**

"Yeah, well you know Dan. If they don't cut off his head, put garlic in his mouth, and drive a stake through his heart, he'll be up and around the ward in a day or two, helping out."

**"HOW DARE YOU SAY SUCH A HORRID THING AND WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY A LIFETIME WIN?"**

I had hoped she had forgotten. When Dan and I were young, my grandfather inducted us into the "SACRED ORDER OF STUPID GUY STUFF", and Dan and I had been holding an annual competition ever since. Each year, the one of us who did the most outrageous thing and survived, got bragging rights for the year.

When we were kids, it was easy. Jumping off the high rock at the quarry, getting the family Dodge up to eighty miles an hour (truly terrifying, if you knew the car in question), or running the forest road at night no lights, pretending to be moonshiners. Kid stuff.

Ten years ago Dan had won by overhauling his plane in the family room. Six years ago he had won by spilling a gallon of gas in the den on Christmas Eve (the firemen

were very nice about our spoiling their holiday).

I really thought I had this year sewed up with the tractor accident. I even had pictures and a letter from Fire & Rescue! But this, this was WAY over the top. And my wife had heard me!

### **“IS THIS SOME STUPID BROTHER VERSUS BROTHER COMPETITION?”**

I needed a distraction, something, anything..... I was at the stove, frying the bacon and was out of her line of sight. I quickly reached out with my right hand and pulled the grease soaked paper towels into the flame. The resulting flare up was completely satisfactory in distracting her attention, especially when the smoke detector triggered. By the time it was all over she had forgotten.

There are just some guy things that are, well, guy things. Besides, I need some time to think. This was going to be really hard to beat. It would have to be some heroic rescue, perhaps puppies, a hang glider, and a burning barn. Or maybe horses. Still, landing a plane while having a heart attack..... just so cool and hard to beat.....Terrorists. It would have to involve terrorists. Somehow. I'll work on it.

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### **FCC MANDATES TEXT-TO-911 SERVICE TO ALL U.S. WIRELESS CARRIERS**

On Friday, July 8th the Federal Communications Commission voted to require all of the U.S.'s cell phone carriers and popular messaging applications to allow users to text 911 when in need of

an emergency response. The FCC's text-to-911 requirements will apply to mobile carriers and to interconnected text-messaging providers that enable consumers to send text messages to and from U.S. phone numbers. The rules will also apply to so-called over-the-top phone applications that support texting to and from phone numbers, but not to messaging applications that only support communications among users of social media and on-line games. Since 2012, customers using AT&T, Verizon, Sprint and T-Mobile have been able use text-to-911 service following a voluntary agreement between the companies and the FCC. However the recent FCC decision will require smaller, regional carriers to follow suit by the end of the year. (FCC, published news reports) \*\*

### **Shortwave broadcasting ‘of marginal and continuously declining impact’**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) Special Committee on the Future of Shortwave Broadcasting foresees a dim outlook for the medium.

“United States international media must optimize delivery by audience/market,” one main finding concluded. “While there is still a critical need for shortwave in key countries, it is a medium of marginal and continuously declining impact in most markets.” The report said that even in countries where shortwave radio will enjoys significant usage levels, “audiences will migrate to other platforms as they become more accessible.”

Among other things, the Committee reviewed audience-based research, including analysis of user experiences and user choices, as well

as opportunities and limits of the medium. It also examined “the characteristics and listening experience of shortwave users in the BBG’s target markets, the use of shortwave radio by the BBG’s networks, the networks’ relative success in reaching their target audiences through shortwave, and the costs of operating the BBG’s shortwave transmitting facilities.”

The panel recommended that the Broadcasting Board of Governors take “an aggressive approach to reduce or eliminate shortwave broadcasts where there is either minimal audience reach or the audience is not a target audience based on the BBG’s support of US foreign policy.”

The report said that its evidence suggested that declining use of shortwave radio is primarily due to the availability of high-quality content on “preferred platforms” such as AM and FM radio, podcasts, and mobile streaming, which are more widely used for audio consumption.

The committee found that shortwave use does not increase during times of crisis. “Audiences continue to use their existing platforms (TV, FM, and the Internet) or seek out anti-censorship tools, including online firewall circumvention, private chat software, flash drives, and DVDs to access content,” the report said.

The committee said it largely supports the reductions in shortwave radio broadcasts previously approved by the Board. Those include recent cutbacks <http://www.arrl.org/news/voice-of-america-makes-more-cuts-to-international-shortwave-broadcast-schedule> in a number of Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and Radio Free Asia broadcasts. But, the committee added that given the

current situation in Ukraine and nearby states with significant Russian-speaking populations, it recommended that the BBG revise its fiscal year 2014 operating plan to ensure that “shortwave broadcasts in Russian to Russia and the Caucasus be continued at current levels, subject to re-evaluation during FY16 budget formulation processes.”  
 The ARRL Letter <http://www.arrl.org/>

**ANYONE INTERESTED IN BUILDING A RADIO AT THE CLUB?** If a few are we can order the kits and build it at the club together.



**The “Sawdust” Regen Receiver / CPO**

1. Tunes about 75 KHz in 40 meter band
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- Baofeng Tech is the only authorized USA Baofeng Distributor to honor the Manufacturer Warranty. Only Baofeng Tech offers warranty claims without shipping anything to China. You must insure that Baofeng Tech is your selected buying option when buying to be able to have the full USA warranty.
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- Dual-band handheld transceiver with display function menu on the display “LCD”. Function Busy Channel Lock “BCLO”.
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**Summary of Upgrades**
  - Tri-Power 1, 4, 8 watt
  - New 2nd Generation chipset
  - DTMF keypad issue resolved
  - Compatible with all UV5R battery options and accessories
  - Newer style stock antenna
  - New 76 page User Guide
  - CHIRP compatible



**IMHO**

The **F8HP** is a not just a rebranding, but an actual Upgraded Radio.



# Greetings,

This is Jim W1JT. I am writing today in my capacity as the President of the Whitman Amateur Radio Club to share an important event that we have planned.

We are scheduling it for the weekend, both Saturday and Sunday, of September 13th and 14th.

I suspect that many of you remember Bruce Hayden NI1X. Bruce was a member of our club for many years and he touched the lives of countless hams in our area. Unfortunately Bruce became a SK last year and we all miss him very much.

## **THE WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BRUCE HAYDEN NI1X MEMORIAL FLEA MARKET**

We will definitely be inviting all of our craft vendors to come back and sell their products. In the past they have had some really wonderful products at amazing prices!

This year however we want to include a LOT MORE ham radio / computer / general electronics for sale.

In Bruce's memory we would like to turn this event into an annual HAM RADIO FLEA MARKET where enthusiasts can sell their items and shoppers can find that one item they can't live without!

Our flea market is being held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Route 18 in Whitman. It's a great spot, on a busy road with plenty of room. Sellers will have the choice of setting up their table(s) outside in the parking lot or even inside the hall. The pricing is the same for both.

If you have items that you'd like to sell or if your club would like to raise money for new equipment this could be a great opportunity.

Each member of our club is working very hard to make this a success. It is our hope and dream to create a busy and fun event that will be a true legacy to "The Bruce NI1X".

I would ask that you please share this email with other hams, members of clubs that you belong to and anyone else who you think might be interested.

Tables are already being reserved so if you are interested, please do not wait too long to reserve yours!

To make reservations, ask questions, get pricing or anything else you may need you can call our club telephone at: 781-885-3603

Or, please feel free to email me, Jim W1JT at [jim@w1jt.net](mailto:jim@w1jt.net).

I promise you will get a quick response right back.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and your consideration.

I look forward to speaking with you and seeing you at our Flea Market!

73 Jim W1JT

# YUKON HALF MARATHON COMMUNICATIONS SUPPLIED BY CAARA



**1-Mile, 5K Race and Half Marathon - or all three races back-to-back!**  
Returning for the 2014 season, the TripleThreat Race Series is back for another year. The series includes three beautiful courses along Cape Ann's scenic coastline. Put your summer fitness and training to the test as you accept the TripleThreat Half Marathon challenge





K1TP



AA3JE





**CAARA MEMBERS ACTIVATING THE ISLANDS- Thanks to Gardi, Ruth, and Hank for the effort. More details about this outdoor operation within 1000 meters of each lighthouse on Cape Ann in a future issue.**



**Here's some pictures from today's impromptu operating. We had fun and the antenna really surprised us getting Denmark clear as a bell. We had kayaker sand schooners out there the whole time. It doesn't get any better than that.**

*courtesy of Ruth- WWIN*



## Editor Roundup

*by Jon-K1TP*



England on his first try while trying it at the Tuesday night meeting.

I have spent a few weeks using the antenna at Pebble Beach in Rockport and worked 11 countries and 20+ states on 17 and 20 meters so it is a usable antenna that is quick to deploy.....something to think about if you are a casual portable operator and do not want to invest the money for a Buddipole system.

The “legacy tube cabinet”, which was located on the second floor, has been repainted and now resides on the first floor. It looks great, stop by and check out those old tubes!



### Hamstick “Buddipole Substitute”

I will be resuming the Ebay Auctions in September and we have 30+ items to list for sale. You may find the items by going to the CAARA.NET web site and a link will take you to the current offerings which you may want to bid on. If items do not sell, we either relist them one more time

or offer the the items for free (a small donation would be nice) to club members.

We have an abundance of old gear which we are contemplating selling and replacing with more modern units.



Hello CAARA,

I had the chance to get away and set up HF Portable ops for a couple hours at my workplace in Essex at Bothways Farm.

Pictures below show side view of the set up, buddipole setup, front and side views of the Portable HF set up with an Icom IC 7000,a LDG it 100 autotuner and the Alinco DM 330 power supply encased in the Tac-Comm carrying system.

73, Dean- KB1PGH



## **KB1PGH OPERATES PORTABLE HAM RADIO IN ESSEX**





## **RADIO POLICY: US COMMITTEE FINDINGS CHALLENGE CONTINUING SHORT-WAVE BROADCASTS**

Shortwave broadcasting using full carrier AM may be on its way out in the United States. Amateur Radio Newsline's Skeeter Nash, N5ASH, is here with the details: -- The United States Broadcasting Board of Governors has released a specially prepared report assessing current and projected use of shortwave radio. This, as a platform for targeted programming by U.S. international media. According to the report, United States international media must optimize delivery by audience and market. While there is still a critical need for shortwave in certain key countries, but it is a medium of marginal and continuously declining impact in most markets. Even in countries with currently significant levels of shortwave usage, audiences will migrate to other platforms as they become more accessible. The report goes on to note Shortwave users generally have viable alternative means of accessing content from the United States. As such, top target demographic audiences are unlikely to use shortwave exclusively or at all. It also found no evidence that shortwave usage increases during crises. Rather, in these instances target audiences continue to use their existing platforms or seek out anti-censorship tools including online firewall circumvention, private chat software, flash drives, and DVDs to access content. The report goes on to note that Shortwave transmission is a relatively expensive platform to operate and maintain. It also says that Digital Shortwave such as Digital Radio Mondiale is not likely to become an established mass media distribution method in enough of the Broadcast Board of Governors current or future

markets to justify the costs. As such, the committee supports almost all of the shortwave broadcast reductions previously approved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors under sequestration and the implementation of the Fiscal Year 2014 operating Plan. However, given current situations in Ukraine and other nearby states with large Russian-speaking populations, the Committee recommends revising the Operating Plan and ensuring that shortwave broadcasts to Russia and the Caucasus be continued at current levels, subject to re-evaluation during Fiscal Year 2016's budget formulation processes.

## **HAM RADIO NEAR SPACE: FLOATER BALLOON CIRCUMNAVIGATES THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE**

A ham radio floater balloon carrying an amateur radio payload has successfully circled the world's northern hemisphere as we hear from Amateur Radio Newsline's Heather Embee, KB3TZD: -- It took some 19 days, but at about 16:30 GMT on Friday, July 31, the solar powered B-64 party balloon launched by Leo Bodnar, M0XER crossed the 1 degree West longitude. In doing so it completed its circumnavigation of the northern hemisphere. After crossing the North Atlantic, it was first heard in Greenland by Peter Thulesen, OX3XR, before coming in range of the British Isles. Oliver De Peyer, M6ODP, happened to be visiting St Michael's Mount in Cornwall at the time. He used his Kenwood TH-F7E handheld to receive an APRS packet from the balloon. As the day progressed B-64 moved from just south of Cornwall up the

English Channel. From there, hams and SWL's from Manchester in the UK to Nantes in France were able to receive the 10 milliwatt Contestia 64 by 1000 and APRS signals on 434.500 MHz. B-64 passed over the Isle of Wight and floated over Bognor Regis and across Kent heading out into the North Sea near Herne Bay. As of Friday night, August 1st it was still flying and transmitting. If it's still afloat when you hear this newscast you can track its whereabouts on-line at [spacenear.us](http://spacenear.us) and clicking on the icon for B-64.

## **FEMA TO HOLD NEXT EAS TEST IN 2015 FEMA'S**

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Program Management or Eye Paws Office is targeting late 2015 for another national Emergency Alert System or EAS test. Amateur Radio Newsline's Stephan Kinford, N8WB, reports: -- Phase One of the planning for such a national Emergency Activation System test has already occurred. This, with the bench testing of the transmission, encoding and decoding of a Common Alerting Protocol EAS message with a National Protocol Test header at the IPAWS Lab in southern Maryland. Phase Two will involve sending a Common Alerting Protocol EAS message with through Eye Paws Open system in a closed test in West Virginia. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's IPAWS personnel have already met with several West Virginia emergency management officials to discuss such a plan. FEMA IPAWS conducted similar tests in Alaska before the previous national test that was held back in 2011. For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Stephen Kinford, N8WB, reporting. -- An in-depth look at the planning for this next evaluation of the EAS warning system is on the web at [tinyurl.com/EAS-test-2015](http://tinyurl.com/EAS-test-2015). (RW, bdr.net, others) \*\*

## **RADIO LAW: ARRESTS MADE**

## **FOR FLYING SMALL DRONES OVER GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE**

Radio remote controlled drone aircraft flown by members of the general public are in the news again and not in a very positive light. This with word that New York City police recently arrested two men for operating a pair of small drone aircraft over the George Washington Bridge on Monday July 7th one of which nearly hit a police helicopter. The New York Police's Aviation Unit helicopter was on patrol around 12:15 a.m. when it spotted one of the unmanned aircraft near the bridge. The drone continued to circle forcing the chopper to swerve to avoid it. Police said that one of the drones which were operated by remote control came within 800 feet of the police aircraft. The Aviation Unit followed the drones north as they landed near Fort Tryon Park a few miles north of the bridge and overlooking the Hudson River. Police on the ground then arrested two men and charged them reckless endangerment. The Federal Aviation Administration has not yet set standards for certifying the safety of civilian drones. As previously reported that agency is currently looking into creating regulations for their use, but there is very strong opposition coming from many sectors that believe these devices are a menace to public safety. (Various published news reports) \*\*

## **HAM HISTORY: HELP NEEDED TO PRESERVE THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CSVHFS**

If you were living near Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 1965 or Sand Spring, Oklahoma in 1966, you may be able to assist in compiling a history what is now the Central States VHF Society. That's because those are the cities where the first unoffi-

cial get-togethers took place. Also sought are photographs, color slides, home movies of those gatherings and similar material of the very first formal conference held near Tulsa in 1968. That was the event where the decision was made to officially incorporate the group as the Central States VHF Society. According to Bill Smith, W0WOI, if you were, or know of any early Central States VHF Society Cattendee, please take a few moments to e-mail him so a list of those attending the early gatherings can be assembled. And if you happen to have any historic materials of any of these events please let Bill know so that he can make arrangements to copy them for posterity. You can contact Bill Smith by e-mail directly to W0WOI (at) AOL dot com. Any help in this project is sincerely appreciated. (VHF Reflector) \*\*

## **HAM HAPPENINGS: HAM RADIO CELEBRATES HOLLYWOOD TO BE REPRISED ON SEPTEMBER 28**

The popular operating event Ham Radio Celebrates Hollywood will be reprised on Sunday, September 28th from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm Pacific Time. This, from Stage 9 of the CBS Studio Center facility in Studio City, California. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more: -- For those not aware, Studio Center is a historic venue where such hit programs as Seinfeld, Spin City, the Mary Tyler Moore Show and The Defenders originated. Before that it was the home of many early films including those produced by the legendary Max Sennett. Currently it is the home of the hit ABC situation comedy Last Man Standing that stars Tim Allen as the operator of a sporting goods store in Colorado who also happens to be a ham radio operator with the call letters KA0XTT. As such, ham

radio has been a part of the shows plotline in past episodes. The amateur radio gear seen as props on the show is actually operational and was used by members of the Southern California-based PAPA System for the first Ham Radio Celebrates Hollywood operation held back in October of 2012. Once again the call K6H will be used for this Septembers outing with operations taking place on HF, VHF, UHF, D-STAR, Echolink and IRLP. It should be noted that this is not a contest. Rather it is a fun opportunity for hams world-wide to talk directly to the stage on the equipment seen on "Last Man Standing" each week. A special, limited edition QSL card will be issued to all confirmed contacts. A schedule of operating times and frequencies will be announced shortly.

## **MALAYSIAN RADIO COMMISSION PRAISES HAM RADIO**

In news from around the world, the National News Agency of Malaysia reports that nation currently has 11,626 amateur radio operators who can offer help in emergencies or natural disasters. Roszeta Kassim is the head of the Southern Region of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission Southern Region. She told the newspaper that the Malaysian peninsular has 9,919 licensed operators, including 1090 in Melaka and Johor. Also that Sabah had 1487 and Sarawak, 220. Roszeta said the amateur radio operators play an important role to help the authorities during emergencies and disasters. She went on to cite the 2007 situation in Johor was it was hit by massive flooding. At that time a group of amateur radio operators offered assistance as the cellular network was disrupted. (BERNAMA.COM)

## **NASA'S MARS 2020 ROVER GAINS SEVEN NEW INSTRUMENTS FOR EXPLORATION**

NASA plans to add advanced technology to its next Mars rover scheduled to launch in 2020. Reportedly it will carry tools that will allow it to explore the surface of the Red Planet in different ways than ever before. The space agency says that the next rover will likely have seven research instruments. These include what is called a Mastcam-Z, a SuperCam, a Planetary Instrument for X-ray Lithochemistry and four others. The Mastcam-Z is described as an advanced camera system with panoramic and stereoscopic imaging capability. It will be used to determine mineralogy of the Martian surface and assist with rover operations. The Super Cam is an instrument that can provide imaging, chemical composition analysis, and mineralogy. The instrument will also be able to detect the presence of organic compounds in rocks from a distance. Meantime, the Planetary Instrument for X-ray Lithochemistry is a fluorescence spectrometer that will also contain an imager with high resolution. It will be used to determine the fine scale elemental composition of Martian surface materials. The new Mars 2020 rover is part the agency's Mars Exploration Program, which includes the Opportunity and Curiosity rovers, the Odyssey and Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter spacecraft and the soon to arrive MAVEN orbiter. (NASA)

**HAM HAPPENINGS: HAM BALLOON CIRCUMNAVIGATES EARTH** British radio amateur Leo Bodnar, M0XER, recently launched several solar powered balloons that have managed to circumnavigate the globe. The most interesting of these appears to be B 64 as

we hear from Amateur Radio Newslines' Heather Embee, KB3TZD: -- B-64 carrying an 11 gram transmitter payload, was launched from Silverstone in the UK on July 12th and it's still flying. It completed its first circumnavigation of the Northern Hemisphere on July 31 and its second complete trip on or about August 21st. When last reported it was on its third round the world trip over northern Russia heading toward the Arctic Circle at an altitude of about 40,000 feet above mean sea level. B-64 transmits 10 milliwatt signal on 434.500 MHz signing M- zero-X-E-R dash 4 and using the data modes Contestia 64/1000 and APRS. In designing the balloons payload, Bodnar has utilized some clever techniques including the storage of up to 5 days of positions when the balloon is out of radio contact. It later transmits a log file of its previous locations in the comments field of the APRS packet when ground acquisition is re-established. This enables a fairly complete path to be built up. Like all of Bodnar's floaters, B-64 is a plastic foil party balloon that flies between 25,000 and 45,000 feet as carried by winds aloft. When looked at on an APRS tracking map if you see only a straight line on the track it means that it is currently out of radio contact. For the Amateur Radio Newslines, Im Heather Embee, KB3TZD. -- Bodnar's other balloons still aloft are designated as B-63 and B-66. The paths of all of them

## **NEW GEAR: YAESU FT-991 KW/50/144/430 MHz TRANSCEIVER**

Yaesu has announced the introduction of a new High Frequency, VHF and UHF base station transceiver dubbed the model FT-991. This new transceiver is capable of operating SSB, CW, AM, FM, Packet as well

as the company's exclusive System Fusion C4FM Digital Voice mode. The FT-991 is not yet listed on the Yaesu English language website nor has any pricing been announced. However specifications are available at several independent sites on the World Wide Web including [nicktoday.com](http://nicktoday.com). others)

## **NEW GEAR: ICOM PREVIEW 50TH ANNIVERSARY LIMITED EDITION IC-7850**

Icom has displayed a pre-release version of what is calling a very special High Frequency and 6 meter radio in celebration of the company's 50th anniversary. Designated as the IC-7850, the radio is based on Icom's IC-7800 but incorporates several circuitry improvements as well as special styling. Icom says that the IC-7850 will be produced early in 2015 but in very limited numbers. You can download a brochure on this 50th anniversary Icom radio in PDF format at [tinyurl.com/new-ic-7850](http://tinyurl.com/new-ic-7850).

## **ILLW 2014 SETS SOME NEW RECORDS**

The just concluded 2014 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend saw 541 registrations from 56 countries making for some new records in the annual event. New countries for the event included Barbados and Kuwait.

Linton says that it was an outstanding year for the United States which has with 91 activations.

This, exceeded the previous an all time high of 80 it achieved back in 2011. Some first-time portable operations of former maritime navigation structures came from several countries that in all numbered more than 100. Linton says that already 30 registrations are listed for next years International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend that will be held on August 15 and 16 of 2015.



# My Radio Museum

*By Gardner H. Winchester II, KAIBTK*

As I grow older, my life is changing, in ways accelerating and slowing down in others. Due to physical issues I was forced (for her sake) to give up my beloved Jesse Boyce, a 28-foot wooden Herreshoff cutter that was arguably the prettiest boat in Gloucester Harbor, if not on the entire East Coast. I am proud of the life we lived together for those 22-odd-years and will always hold our memories near and dear. Before her it was Olde Blue, a 22-foot fiberglass Columbia sloop with which I had many equally awesome adventures, and before that was the cars, the motorcycles and, oh, yea, the girls! But it all started with an initial focus on radio.

Radio was a strong part of my earlier life. When the world found out that the submarine USS Scorpion (SSN-589) sank in 1968, some of us kids in the neighborhood took our little el-cheap-o walkie-talkies and set up a calling net in our tree-hut to help search for her. Our signals may have not made it past the end of Revere Street, but at 8-9 & 10 years old we didn't know that. We were giving it our all!

Except for an occasional pin-ball-machine at the bowling-alley, video games were non-existent in my youth. Equally we kids did not have much use for television, save maybe for watching Rex Trailer in the bunk-house early on Saturday morning. After that we'd be up playing "Sea Dogs" in Jimmy Knowlton's yard (Kind of like today's "Paint Ball" but played with wooden swords culled from the slats used to hold the horse-hair plaster to the walls of our houses, discarded as our parents re-modeled in the "Baby Boomer" economy of the late 60's), or exploring through our world of Annisquam, Bay View, Lanesville and Dogtown, most often accompanied by the music from someone's transistor radio.

By the way, our mothers never needed radios, cell-phones or any other means of electronic communications then, because you see, in the 60's and 70's they all had these incredible lungs! Man, I could hear my mother calling for me half-way to Dennison Street! The question was; do we choose to run home and find out what she wants? "I want you up stairs cleaning up that room right now mister!" or do we choose to risk the beating and ignore the call, hoping to fabricate something that sounded reasonable; "But Mom, I was down Langford playing hockey and didn't hear you." I don't recall it ever working out in my favor.

Anyway, radio was pretty awesome back then. Whoever was in charge of the programming had a good plan and an attractive venue that was pulling our generation away from idolizing the world of the Pirates, Pony Express and Cowboys and Indians, and opening our eyes to the future of technology! Early on, we listened to AM radio stations on 9-transistor radios, similar in size to a pack of cigarettes. WRKO at 680 KHz, WBZ at 1030 KHz and WMEX at 1510 KHz were the most listened to and had the most attractive music programming for my generation. Later, FM offered a format with an appeal and a technology that was in keeping with an expandingly discerning ear. Later still many of us started to expand our horizons through CB and Ham radio's two way communications, sourcing news and information in our neighborhoods and beyond in a real-time, but often biased format.

I shan't delve into the history of radio, Donna Halper did a far better job than I could ever do on that score. What I am going to do is to examine the five radios that had the biggest effect on my life and future and discuss how they affected me as I progressed from youth to adulthood.

Radio #1, was a circa 1969 General Electric P2760B "Blue Max" table-top radio.

This was one of General Electric's line of "Radios to Look At". The "Blue Max" stands about 4-inches tall and has a transparent blue case with a light that lights up



the faux components inside. The bottom bezel adjusts the volume while the upper changes the frequency. The 9-volt battery was installed under the battery door on the bottom and the speaker was on top of the radio. It was AM only but had a pretty decent audio quality for what it was. Around this time my parents were thinking it was time to start weaning me off a night-light. The glow of its light was just enough to light up my room at night and light my way to the bathroom. I got this radio for Christmas around 1969 and thought this was the best, most “neat-o, keen-o” present ever! Even today, seeing the frequency of that color blue light conjures up memories of a different time in my life. In its day it was the greatest piece of “gee-wizardry” in the neighborhood and I was captivated by it!



Radio A 1973 advertisement for this radio states: “If we added any more, we’d have to give lessons on how to use it.” In its 9" X 5" X 3" all-but-bullet-proof case it had all of the high-tech features that a young radio enthusiast could want – and more! Dual powered; FM, AM and VHF Public Service bands; lighted S/Power Meter and “Unique Tape Dial”; Tone, Volume and Squelch controls with an ALC. Its 4-inch speaker was ample to fill a good-sized area with fairly good quality sound. This radio was a true work-horse and built to take abuse, and I dished it out! I got this radio as a birthday present around 1973 and from the get-go it was my constant companion. I took it apart and I put it back together. I broke the antenna and replaced it with a little spring based whip. The handle broke and I replaced it with a piece of three-stranded manila line. I replaced the knobs and did all sorts of modifications to it. Once, while rowing in Lobster Cove, I thought to back in

close to a little water-fall up near the church end. Before I could pull back, the stern of the skiff, with the radio, was in the stream of the falls and the radio was completely drenched. But after it dried it, it still functioned normally. On the 1975 summer cruise of the schooner Truant, this radio was our entertainment. As we crossed the Gulf of Maine with the radio sitting on the foc’sel hatch, Truant took a roll and down the hatch it went! It smashed on the foc’sel sole but save for a small chink in a corner and dropping out of the batteries, it still played as good as new. Twice it was stolen and both times I fought to get it back. It finished its life with me as my source for public information at my communications bench but went on to serve its new owners.

This was a general middle-of-the-road CB radio from Radio Shack. We bought it in Seabrook and I installed it in my mother’s VW Beetle. With my parents separated I think my mother was hoping to open up her social horizon by meeting people through CB which was very common-placed at the time (This actually did meet with some success). We were issued FCC license KJZ-5924. My initial “handle” was “The Bos’un” after my position in my Sea Scout Ship. Later the radio reverted to me and was part of my comms. set-up and I changed handles to “Pirate” by which I am still know as in some circles. As a base station, it was powered by a 3-amp RS power supply and I had an Astatic D-104 powered mic and a Shakespeare Mk-5 antenna. I met a lot of people and had a lot of fun on this radio. As a member of the Cape Ann React EmComms group I used this radio at my station to assist in a rescue of a family on a broken down runabout out in Ipswich Bay in heavy fog. By reporting via land line what the people were hearing, I was able to help the Coast Guard at Newburyport Station home in on their location. I include this radio in my “museum” not for any technical reason, but for all of the





adventures (and some mis-adventures) I had with it.

Radio #4 is a circa early 1960's Hallicrafters S-120 General Coverage Receiver.

This tube powered radio receives the MF and HF bands from 540 KHz to 30 MHz. While it did not get raving reviews, it was a solid world-band table-top radio for short-wave radio hunting in a contemporary styled cabinet. I don't really recall just where or when I procured this radio but it served me well as a learning tool in many aspects of radio electronics. It was pretty much a "basket-case" when I got it and with determination I set about getting her to work again, troubleshooting, repairing parts and replacing tubes over the years as needed. I had a lot of fun setting up and trying out different antennas and things to see what made her work best. The warmth from her tubes kept my little three-season porch/bedroom tenable in the late October nights. This radio did not go with my Comms. desk when I sold it all off in the early 1980's. I remember setting it up in the maintenance office at Cyrk around 1995 but I think I let it go for some quick change shortly afterwards.



Radio #5 is a circa 1970's Heathkit HW-8 portable ORP CW transceiver.

At around \$98, this radio was one of Heathkit's most popular kits back in the days when the CW only Novice operator was restricted to only very small portions of the HF bands. With the extent of Heathkit's thorough and well thought out assembly instructions and builder's guide, the thing could just about be put together by a somewhat trained gorilla! It is a very simple to operate, 1.5-watt, direct conversion transceiver for use on the CW portions of the 80, 40, 20 & 15 meter bands. Devoid of all of the bell and whistles of more costly and complicated radios of yesterday and today, you couldn't get into too much trouble with a "Hot-Water-8". But in

the hands of a patient operator, it could offer the old magic that was Ham radio back to the wonder-days of Hiram Percy Maxim! I started studying for my Ham ticket around 1977 with Ed Araujo, AK1U. I joined CAARA back then too. I was invited to see many of the members stations and truthfully was not too impressed with the, obviously, barrels of money that had been poured into some of them. Where was the part where you built it yourself? I chose an HW-8 not only because that was all I could afford, but because I wanted to build my own radio with my own hands, so that I could revel in my success or wallow in my failure. After the weeks of utter bliss wielding the soldering iron, I had a finished product that I was proud of! While Ed tuned it up with his equipment at his TV repair shop, I set up a 10-meter, inverted-V antenna in the eves of my mother's house. Once I got it all set up and ready to go, it seemed to take forever to conjure up the courage to start hammering the brass!

Communicating around the world may seem relatively simple these days, but back then, just making a QSO with an operator across town seemed like such an amazing fete! I did it! It was mine! And it worked! I was an Amateur Radio Operator!

*You can get your*

## **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 25<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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



## CAARA Members:

As CAARA's Education Committee Chairman, I'm going to open up our fall/winter programming. I have pretty much settled on the following offerings. These will be run on Tuesday evenings, variably from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. If any of those wishing to attend find they have a scheduling conflict, please let me know and I will try to alter the schedule to accommodate as best as I can.

I am now an ARRL Registered Instructor. If you should need to procure any of the specified course materials, please let me know and I can get them for a considerably reduced price. Please keep in mind that these offerings will be open to CAARA members, free of charge, with exception of materials. Non-members will be asked for a \$10 donation per session.

Any members who feel they have a competency in any of the subjects and would like to lend a hand, please contact me. CAARA is a club with many members and areas of expertise. If we work together we can produce better quality offerings that will help bolster the credence of our organization.

### 1) "Beyond Tech-in-a-Day".

Dates: September 16<sup>th</sup> through October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Recommended Materials: ARRL's Ham Radio License Manual, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. (Member price: \$22.46, Non-member price: \$29.95 + S&H)

This course is intended to help the new Technicians understand the privileges of their licenses. Segments will include: Simplex / Duplex; VFO / Memory Channels; How Repeaters Work; Programming U/VHF radios; Antenna Selection; Communication Techniques; Importance of EmComms. We'll get right into the "Meat and Potatoes" of communicating on the radio and will lean heavily on CAARA's 13 machine for examples.

Note: If this class seems to be a success, I may run it again in a different time-slot after the up-coming Tech-in-a-Day in October.

### 2) "General Study Group"

Dates: October 21<sup>st</sup> through January 6<sup>th</sup> (w/ concessions for holidays).

Required materials: ARRL's General Class License Manual, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. (Member price: \$22.46, Non-member price: \$29.95 + S&H)

Ring in the New Year ready for General class privileges! The CAARA VE Day will be Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. I've been asked by several members to run this again. Keep in mind that this is a "Study Group" and not a "Class".

Any questions or suggestions please contact me.

—  
Stay well - Bike more!

***Semper Paratus!*** & 73

Gardner H. Winchester II

Vice-Flotilla Commander

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Flotilla 46, Cape Ann

KA1BTK

[gardiw2@gmail.com](mailto:gardiw2@gmail.com)