



# CAARA Newsletter



CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

MAY 2014 EDITION

## President's Desk by Stan-W4HIX



## Information Desk by Dean-KB1PGH



April 2014

Another busy month—I was been pretty occupied with Tech in a Day, the Boston Marathon and getting ready for a 10-day trip to Europe.

Tech in a Day went well, though the attendance was a bit lower than expected which I think that might have been associated with the Easter weekend. That said, we had 8 out of 8 participants passed the Element 2 exam to qualify for their Technician license. It is always great to get everyone through the process. Not only that, but Tony Marks took his Element 3 exam and passed it, getting him his General license. Thanks go out to Gardi Winchester for his work in getting his students through the General class.

Two days later, I participated in communications support for the Boston Marathon. This was my fifth year, and of course the first year after the bombings. Needless to say, there was great emphasis on security. We were not allowed to bring our gear in backpacks, and everyone had purchased clear bags for their radios. I had a lot of gear because you don't get a second chance to get set up. In past years the vans had PowerPole terminated power cables—this year there were many new vehicles, and the cables had not been installed. Fortunately these vans have beefed up cigarette lighter outlets that I was able to use.

The Boston Marathon medical sweep vans system worked well, even though there were many more runners this year (36,000 registered). The day was quite uneventful—though we figured that 5 out of the 6 top elite male runners dropped out of the race.

When I return in May, we will start Field Day planning in earnest. I want to see everyone help out—or at the VERY least, stop by. 73 Stan

Well as of the first week of April the printing and delivery problems persist for CQ Magazine. I only have my January edition and that's it. I also looked on the [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net) review section of periodicals and saw that I am not the only one with this issue. Someone who wrote on the review section brought up a good point. Imagine being a company that paid the money to put an advertisement in CQ Magazine which was time sensitive to a sale or something else in these past three months? I can imagine that they must have the legal right to a refund? The longer this goes on the worse it becomes to keep advertisers and subscription holders so we'll see if they can turn it around. Moving on don't forget that ARRL Field day is coming up on Saturday June 28th and Sunday June 29th and the 100 year Anniversary ARRL Convention is also this summer as well, along with the WRTC 2014 competition here in New England so this summer will be busy. So as you know I don't get out much with the 22 lb 1 year anchor baby at my home so my ham radio experiences are far but few for now. I did get the chance though to go down to the CAARA clubhouse for the AM Rally. Jake W1LDL was there with his boat anchor radios on the first floor. While he was listening on 75 meters I asked what antenna he was using and he said that he strung a 30 ft piece of wire from the ground to the top of the clubhouse, then he placed a radial on the ground halfway around the clubhouse. Well lo and behold I watched in amazement as his dial tuner tuned up that short wire and radial and he was able to make a couple of contacts and one was to Delaware and all on only a 40 watt signal on AM! So I guess you never know what you can do with even just a short wire and a tuner. I would have never thought that the wire would radiate at such a low height. So I guess that was a great experiment in NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) and DX as well! NVIS is used for localized emergency communications on 75 and



**CAARA Newsletter**  
**Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association**  
*6 Stanwood Street*  
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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



80 meters. The military also uses it as well. It was also a reminder that we do have AM capabilities in our radios and that mode is underutilized so give it a whirl for something different. I also read a great article in the April Edition of Popular Science Magazine where a Mexican drug cartel purchased and created their own sophisticated radio system, complete with walkie talkies and repeater systems to run their drug trade. Their radio system covered the entire Mexican landscape and they even used high tech solar panels to power the repeaters. They used 18 wheelers as mobile communications centers. They also had 155 repeaters, 166 solar panels and batteries and 5000 Nextel type radios. The article is called "Radio Techno" by Damon Tabor and is a great inside view of how radio can be used for illegal purposes. On last thing, please remember that the public service aspect of ham radio is ramping up for another season of providing health and welfare communications for road races and parades so if you want to play radio and help out at the same time please keep an eye out for events at CAARA and on the NSRA website as well as they have a "Public service" link. So that's it for now, see you in June

73

Dean Burgess KB1PGH ARRL EMA Public Information Officer

## Editor Roundup

by Jon-K1TP



I returned from two month's of rest and relaxation in Florida and to rehab my new knee replacement which I had done in the fall. The good news is the knee is doing great and I am up and around. The bad news is realizing how many things I have to do around the house to make up for what I didn't get done while I was recuperating last fall.

As you might know, my wife and I purchased a small guest house in Rockport last year which needed considerable work to pass AAA standards and my wife's standards!

After pouring a new cement floor in the basement and replacing the furnace, hot water heater, and oil tank, I finally could setup my workshop and now can actually find my tools. It is a wonderful thing being organized.

Next on the list, I built a ham room with suitable bench space for my radio station. I tapped the electrical panel and ran 20 amps service over to the room and I will run a 220 line as soon as I get a chance for my amplifier to run efficiently.

I put up a Cobra Antenna fed with twin lead last fall and it made it thru the winter. Well, almost! One day after I returned from Florida, my wife informed me my antenna was draped all over the tree and yard. Last year in my haste to get the antenna up and get on the air, I used a 1/8 inch diameter nylon line to attach to the ends of the antenna because I had it "in stock". I knew it was not strong enough but I didn't feel like ordering heavier cord.....I knew better!

I got on the phone and ordered 1/4 nylon UV resistant cord from my friend Steve-K1PEK at DavisRF, the only place to buy cable, cord, connectors, etc. It arrived in two days and with the help of my tennis ball launcher I was back in the ham radio business.

I ran downstairs and fired up the TenTec Omni VII and made a few contacts on 17, 20, 40 and 75 and all was back to normal.

My wife reminded me I had a guest house in need of final touches, so I have been busy landscaping, playing carpenter, plumber, electrician, landscaper, and painter for the rest of this month.

It's great to be back and to be able to get on the repeater, to getting back in the groove at the CAARA Clubhouse and completing some painting on the second floor, Ebaying items we no longer need at the club, etc.....and most importantly, getting up to Nearfest and having an "eyeball" with my New England ham friends at the hamfest. I might buy a few small items and sell a few things. The CAARA club will have a small table and will be selling a few items as well.

I still have a tower and beam to put up that sits patiently in the driveway. As soon as I find some invisible paint I will get it and my wife will give it her blessing and until then I will dream of DX.

I volunteered to head the Repeater Control Op group to keep our repeaters in compliance with FCC laws. Later in the newsletter I have an article for all club repeater users to read and respectfully follow.

Please, if you are being jammed or hear someone constantly "kerchunking" the repeater- DO NOT TALK TO THEM. That is exactly what they want, a response knowing they are aggravating you. Ignore them, call me or one of the control operator's ASAP. We will handle it. Do not threaten them with FCC law, with tracking them down, etc. Ignore them!

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

With all due pride, I'd like to announce the successful completion of the first General Class Study group that I held at CAARA! At the April 19th Tech-in-a-Day VE session, Tony Marks, N1JEI passed his general exam. Along with Jim Hill, N1VEH, Charlie McCarthy, KC1BAZ and myself, all those who attended the group have passed their exams and are up-graded! A 100% success rate! Congratulations! I would like to thank those who stood by us and



Tony-N1JEI

helped us through, including Stan Stone, W4HIX, Jake Hurd, W1LDL, John Graves, WA1JG and especially Ron Richards, WB1EAZ. I would not have felt as confident about the outcome without your help and guidance!

The reason why this was a "study group" as opposed to a "class" is that I was not qualified to teach this material in any way. Knowing that most often for me, tech manuals are the best cure for insomnia, I felt if I made myself responsible for the success of the group, I would be more motivated to keep my "nose to the grind-stone"! It worked, and I would

like to thank those who stood by me, keeping me focused!

Now, the question is; Where do we go from here? There are several opportunities. Extra Class? A class to help those who took Tech-in-a-Day better understand the material that they memorized for their tickets. I'd personally like to run a class on electronic assembly (which I am qualified to teach). I'd like to see someone teach the proper use of, and programming HTs. Maybe we can find someone who knows digital modes, etc. But right now, I think I want to "chill" a bit and enjoy a few weeks with my new General class privileges and take my head out of the books for a few weeks.

73's!

Gardi-KA1BTK

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**On Sunday, April 13, 2014, CAARA held their monthly ARRL VE Session of examinations of radio.**

We had three candidates for various examinations and herewith are the results:

Michael Naselroad, N1EVH, Lynn, MA Amateur Extra

Gardner "GARDI" Winchester, II, KA1BTK, Gloucester, MA General Class

James Hill, KA1PPM, Beverly, MA General Class

Our sessions are held monthly on the second Sunday of each month and at special events, i.e., Tech-In-A-Day Sessions,

Field Day and the Annual Spring National VEC National Examination

Weekend, which **this** year is April 26-27.

On behalf of the VE Coordinator and the other members of the CAARA VE Team, We want to congratulate each candidate for their herculean efforts in passing the next examination.

We wish you great propagation on your new license and hope you will come to the Club and share your excitement of meeting and creating new friendships via amateur radio.

Respectfully Submitted

:

BILL POULIN, WZ1L

CAARA VE Team Member

**NEAR-Fest XV – May 2 and 3, 2014 – Deerfield, New Hampshire is here!**

**For new hams and hams who just have not made it to Nearfest, well you need to go and get it off your bucket list!**

**Door prizes this year are a Flex 3000 and a BuddiPole Antenna package. Great door prizes.**

**It is only a short drive from Cape Ann and if you are looking for small parts, connectors, computers, novelty items, vintage radios.....this is the place to go.**

**There is a great selection of free informative forums, great food booths, plenty of hams to meet in person. What more can I say?**

**There is usually a group of CAARA hams that carpool from the clubhouse. Get the details during the Sunday 2 meter Net.**

## SOMETHING ABOUT THAT CAMERA

By J. Pallazola, WB1CHJ

Not too long ago Bob, WA1UCG called me on the twisted pair to ask, if I would consider participating in a video of CAARA history, I thought for a moment, I might as well say "yes" now because Bob is like the old western sheriff; he always gets his man. Bob got me to go on the CAARA BOD when he was President. Why anyone would want me on a video is beyond me! When the day came to tape Bob came along

cover.

I'm a one finger pick and poke typist. I enlarged the print on the computer screen because I'm having eye problems.

On paper, I can't see the words. I can't see the S meter. Working DX, everyone gets 5/9 and if it's a weak station 5/5. WV1A gave the signal that he was taping; at that point I went blank. Don't ask what Hank asked me; I'm clueless. For those of you who are not familiar with cerebral palsy, it involves many medical problems I won't get into. Nerves

I wanted to list all the hams who helped me over the years.

Needless to say, I didn't do it, so I will do it now. Tom, K0TB has done all my antenna work from day one. Last year, TB put up a tower for me. The day the tower went up Rick, WZ1B - Ruth, WW1N and Pete KL1JLO came to help, The next day Sandy W1RAB came with the concrete truck and put down the base. Other hams who have helped me are Jon, K1TP and John, WA1JG. The following SKs I will always remember for their friendship and help they gave me. Tom,

K A I G T A  
p u t t i n g  
c o n n e c t o r s  
o n c o a x  
a n d m o r e  
a n d R a l p h,  
W1RK put my  
f i r s t r i g o n  
t h e a i r.  
W h e n e v e r  
I w o u l d h a v e  
a n e w m i c,  
I w o u l d c a l l  
R K a n d h e  
w o u l d p u t  
t h e c o n n e c t o r  
o n f o r m e.  
O t h e r S K s  
w h o g a v e  
a h e l p i n g  
h a n d:  
R a y, W A 1 C L R -  
J a c k, W 1 P S G -  
M a c W 1 O M N -  
L a r r y, W 1 E G J  
a n d J o e,  
K 1 U O M.



with our cameraman Bob Quinn, WV1A and Hank McCarl, W4RIG who asked me the questions.

To say I was nervous would be an understatement. I was as nervous as a cat looking in a fish store window. Before the crew's arrival, I had typed a list of topics I wanted to

play havoc with CP. I know, I stunk, I asked WA1UCG, if we could try again. Two weeks went by, when cameraman Bob and Hank came into my shack to take another shot at the video. WA1UCG was a no show; that was a smart move by Bob. I gave a repeat performance. Something about that camera!!!!

During the winter we had good propagation! I worked JA and KH6 just about any day around sunset. Now the baseball season is here ham radio slows down for me, except for six meters. From June to middle of August six opens up. Have a good summer!

# Why oh why do I do this kind of thing?

by Curt- AA3JE

There is a reason they call it the bleeding edge of technology.

I keep getting these neat emails from Apple. I guess I failed to check some box on some form somewhere, and their marketing department thinks I want these things.

They are so very attractive.

The last one was a DOOZY!

“TIRED OF HAVING TO REMEMBER ALL THOSE STUPID PASSWORDS?”

Well, yes.

“DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GO THROUGH LIFE AS WX34PJC3994?”

No, I preferred wyz427vette, but you would not accept that.

“NOW, AT LAST, A COMPUTER THAT RECOGNIZES YOU AS THE UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL YOU REALLY ARE.”

I have to admit that the last was the line that really got me. Most of my computers have had, well, sort of “stiff” personalities. It started back in Medical School where there was one that kept repeating “Invalid log-in, access denied” over and over again.

I was many things, but never actually invalid.

As soon as the IBM PC was available I went out and spent \$5000 I didn't have, and bought one. It had 8 K of memory, a nasty green screen about 9 inches across, and would just barely run a lobotomized version of BASIC. It was famous for sending me error messages that had to be looked up in the appendix to the program.

Naturally, I went out and bought a MAC as soon as they became available, and found out that while the IBM machines required a manual to just boot up, the MACs solved the manual problem by not writing one. You sort of just had to guess.

Which was what I was doing now.

Evidently, there was now a forward facing camera on the computer that had facial recognition software built into the program. It turned on, looked at you, recognized you, and then let you type stuff.

This sounded attractive. I bought it.

I followed the directions, carefully. Then I turned the machine off, and called for “SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED.”

“WHAT NOW? OH GOD, YOU ARE FOOLING WITH THE COMPUTER AGAIN. YOU KNOW IT ALWAYS UPSETS YOU.”

Not dismayed, I reassured her.

“We won't have to remember those nasty passwords anymore. The computer will recognize our faces and let us in automatically.”

“OH REALLY? LET ME SEE IT DO IT.”

Full of confidence, I pressed the button, and the screen lit up. I moved the mouse, clicked on my picture, and waited.

My picture just shook a little.

Frustrated, I positioned myself in front of the screen, smiled, and tried again.

My picture just shook a little again.

“CALL ME IF YOU EVER GET IT WORKING.”

Abashed, I called Apple.

“Hello, this is Buffy, what is the serial number of the product in question?”

Buffy was very nice, and very helpful, and it seemed I had sort of screwed up the process in some way. There was a secret code to let me in, but it only worked once, and had to be sent by email. I had my “smart” phone, so I had her send it, it worked, and she talked me through the process again.

I clicked on my picture, and it still would not let me in.

After about half an hour, Buffy and I decided that things were not going well, and we unlocked the



computer and turned off the facial recognition feature.

I called my son.

".....so that's what happened. I don't know what's wrong, neither does Apple."

There was a suspicious silence on the other end.

"What is it?" I asked.

"Well, dad, do you remember when you read that article on how that school hacked the student's computers and watched them in their bedrooms?"

"Yeah, some of the teachers were perverts."

"And you asked me how to block it?"

"Yeah."

"And I told you to put a piece of black tape over the camera on your display?"

"Yeah."

"Could you look and see if it is still there?"

There was an even more embarrassing silence.

"Thanks son. I seem to have located the problem."

Facial recognition is a really nice feature. Saves a lot of trouble. Really.

73

## **RADIO BUSINESS: VIBROPLEX LLC TO DISTRIBUTE SSB- ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS IN UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

Germany's SSB-Electronic GmbH and Vibroplex LLC here in the United States have announced an exclusive agreement for Vibroplex to distribute the SSB-Electronic product line in north America. Vibroplex is the oldest continuously operating business in amateur radio, founded Horace Martin, inventor of the semi-automatic Morse Code key in 1905. The company is now located in Knoxville, Tennessee and continues to manufacture the original Martin key as well as a complete line of some 30 keys including bugs, iambic paddles, single-lever paddles and traditional straight keys. On the other side of the Atlantic SSB-Electronic is well-known for its range of VHF high performance products including both standard and auto-switchable receive preamps, sequencers and switches. It also produces the EcoflexT coaxial cable, the Zeus ZS-1 SDR transceiver and a line of VHF preamps and accessory equipment. A completely revamped product line has been released for 2014. You can find that and more on the web at [www.vibroplex.com](http://www.vibroplex.com). (Press Release)

## **RADIO NEWS: HIGH WINDS FELL TWO TOWERS IN MASSACHUSETTS**

Severe weather has taken a toll on two Massachusetts communications towers as we hear from Amateur Radio Newline's Stephan Kinford, N8WB:  
High winds and heavy rain are being blamed for the collapse of two towers

in the Berkshire Mountains over the weekend of March 29th and 30th that affected broadcasters, cellular providers and Internet service. The collapse of the towers on Florida Mountain resulted in the loss or significant interruption normal lines of communications services in the North Adams Massachusetts area. Paul Thurst is an engineer in the affected area. He wrote in his blog that WUPE-FM in North Adams was taken down by the tower collapse.

A crawling information line on the stations website told station listeners that they could hear the stations programming via that website and on 1110 kHz AM during the day. According to Thurst a new University of Massachusetts owned translator for New England Public Radio was also affected, pushing back its sign-on date. Meantime the North Adams Department of Public Safety issued a statement telling the public that anyone in need assistance and who has no cellular telephone service to instead call for assistance using a wireline telephone.

## **VIETNAM CONFIRMS HAM RADIO SPECTRUM EXPANSION**

Some previously rumored news regarding spectrum expansion for hams in Vietnam is now official. Following the new national radio band plan published in november 2013 and now signed by the nations president, Vietnamese amateurs can now apply to operate between 7100 KHz and 7200 KHz on 40 meters. This in addition to 7000 to 7100 KHz that they already had. But that's not all. On 80 meters the band now runs from 3500 to 3900 KHz which is an increase of 100 KHz, and on 30 meters from 10.1 to 10.15 MHz.

## NEW PRODUCT FROM BUDDIPOLE !!

The people at Buddipole have released a new antenna accessory in the form of a revamped Choke Balun. This newly designed choke balun replaces the old choke balun assembly that was fused to a 25 ft of R 58 coax that Buddipole already provided with the deluxe kits. Now with this new choke balun you have the option of connecting any length or type of coax that you want. For example, now I can connect my R 8X coax which provides a bit less RF loss and has better connectors as well. This new choke balun also has the upgraded banana plug leads which are now milspec connections and banana plugs that are just a bit bigger in size so that they fit more snugly into the versatec, which Buddipole is now making standard on all their equipment. As you can see in the photo this choke balun is made of a heavy duty sealed rubberized coating and it also has a protective cap to protect the BNC connector from dirt. This choke balun also comes with a velcro strain relief strap that goes around the antenna mast.



This choke balun contains ferrite beads which provides isolation from common mode current from running back down the coax shield. This new choke balun will work from 7 MHz to 150 MHz and costs \$25.00. For more information about the Buddipole system please go to [www.buddipole.com](http://www.buddipole.com).

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### **THE CRIMEA WILL NOT COUNT AS A SEPARATE DXCC ENTITY**

In DX up front, word that the Crimea will not be counted as a separate entity for DXCC credit. After the Crimea voted last month to break way from the Ukraine to become a part of the Russian Federation, the ARRL Awards committee was tasked with evaluating the situation against the DXCC rules. Its findings are that neither Russia nor the Ukraine is a rare entity and the vast majority of

confirmations used for DXCC credit for either do not involve Crimea. In other words, a QSL with a call sign issued by the administration of Ukraine and showing the entity name as Ukraine counts as Ukraine. A QSL with a call sign issued by the administration of Russia and showing the entity name as Russia counts as Russia. A QSL that satisfies neither condition does not count for either entity. This means the Crimea is not a DXCC entity unto itself. (ARRL DXCC)



# TECH IN A DAY CLASS A SUCCESS AGAIN!

Stan-W4HIX and CAARA's loyal VE Team staged another successful and fun filled class complete with two portable HF stations working ham stations around the country on a perfect sunny New England day.



(left photo): Gardi-KA1BTK's wife, Carol, earned her Tech license  
(right and below photo): Dean-KB1PGH with his superb portabe station and Jake- W1LDL





Photo's taken during the "Tech In A Day" session at the Lanesville Community Center on Saturday, April 19.

Photo's include potential hams studying for the test, Dean and his buddipole antenna setup, CAARA hams who stopped by to say hello and VE examiners.

Dean-KA1PGH who has a setup second to none neatly packed away in a portable tote on wheels. Dean has a major league noise problem at this QTH which prevents him from operating from his house.



That did not stop Dean, he put together a HF station and portble antenna system that he can deploy in a matter of minutes from anywhere.....and it gets out great.

Dean will operate on Cape Ann quite a few times this summer and would love to have you stop by and see his station.



Bill- WZ1L operating portable at Tech in a Day Class Day

## Radio Equipment Seized From Three Illegal Radio Stations in Greater Boston

BOSTON – Warrants were recently unsealed in U.S. District Court detailing the seizure of radio transmission equipment used by three pirate radio stations: 100.1 FM, broadcasting from Everett, Mattapan, and Brockton, with a studio in Dorchester; Touch 106.1 FM, broadcasting from Boston; and 88.7 FM, broadcasting from Brockton.

It is alleged that all three stations were operating without a license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Separate civil actions were brought seeking forfeiture of the equipment because it was allegedly used in violation of

federal law.

According to affidavits filed with the court, the FCC issued multiple warnings to the illegal operators at the above addresses, but the radio stations continued to broadcast. The forfeiture actions were brought after complaints were received, including a complaint from a licensed broadcaster about interference with its radio signal.

“As prosecutors we work in conjunction with the FCC’s Enforcement Bureau to identify violators of federal communications law,” said United States Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz. “It is a public safety hazard for illegal radio stations to broadcast, potentially interfering with critical radio communications. “Like any member of the community, the operators of these illegal stations

could have applied for free low power radio licenses and operated their stations in compliance with the law. When they choose to operate illegally, and continue those operations after being warned multiple times, action must be taken,” added U.S. Attorney Ortiz. Since 2011 the U.S. Attorney’s Office has filed eight forfeiture actions against illegal radio stations in the greater Boston area, effectively shutting down all eight stations. The Communications Act of 1934 prohibits the operation of radio broadcasting equipment above certain low-intensity thresholds without a license issued by the FCC. The Act authorizes the seizure and forfeiture of any electronic or radio frequency equipment used to broadcast without an FCC license.

The number of available radio frequencies is limited, and unlicensed broadcasting can interfere with the broadcasting of legitimate licensed radio stations, potentially causing chaos in the radio spectrum. Said Acting FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Travis LeBlanc, "Like driving a car, radio broadcasting requires a license, permit, or other government authorization. This week's seizures by FCC agents and U.S. Marshals ensure that everyone who uses the public airwaves follows the same rules."

Federal officials seized the equipment on April 16 and 17, 2014. Officials seized equipment operated by the radio station using frequency 100.1 MHz at the station's last known addresses on Walnut Street in Everett, Outlook Road in Mattapan, N. Manchester Street in Brockton, and Gallivan Boulevard in Dorchester. Equipment operated by the radio station using frequency 106.1 MHz was seized at the station's last known addresses on Cheney Street and Blue Hill Avenue in Boston. Lastly, equipment operated by the radio station using frequency 88.7 MHz was seized at the station's last known address on Crescent Street in Brockton.

U.S. Attorney Ortiz and Chief LeBlanc made the announcement today. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christine Wichers of Ortiz's Civil Division. The seizures were conducted by the United States Marshals Service and the FCC.

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### **The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC)**

organizers have selected 16 New England communities as operating sites to host its 7th quadrennial radiosport competition, the first

held in the United States since 1996.

From July 9 through 14, the world's top amateur radio operators will converge on towns spanning the Route 495 corridor for the "Olympiad of amateur radio," WRTC2014.

WRTC2014 pits 59 two-operator all-star amateur radio teams, representing 38 countries, in a battle of operating skill and strategy under emergency field conditions, for personal and national pride on a world stage. Similar to Olympic athletes, competitors hone their skills for superior performance through mental and physical conditioning, talent, skill and strategy. This form of competition evolved as a method of practicing emergency communication, but also serves as a laboratory for technology innovation and experimentation, much like other technical sports, such as motor sports or sailing. Operating sites for WRTC2014 include private properties, state parks and other state- and town-owned facilities in Mansfield, Wrentham, Devens, Assonet, Berkley, Dighton, Pepperell, Hollis (NH), East Taunton, Plymouth, Carver, Leominster, Medfield, Cohasset, Hingham and Norwell, each carefully selected to establish a level playing field.

Competing teams were selected from around the world in a series of 55 qualifying events over a 3-year period. Just earning a spot in the competition is a prestigious accomplishment for every competitor, allowing them to represent their country and have the opportunity to win a coveted place on the podium.

WRTC2014 teams will compete to contact other amateur radio stations

in countries around the globe using both voice and Morse code transmissions. Top teams will operate without sleep for the entire 24-hour competition in an effort to contact as many stations and countries as possible, pursuing the highest score, to earn the distinction of "the best in the world." T

Amateur Radio, or "ham radio" as it is often called, enables licensed participants to use short wave frequencies to communicate with peers from around the world. Licensed "hams" in the United States are authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to use their radio equipment to talk anywhere on earth, using different "modes of operation" such as voice, Morse code, or any of several digital modes, also pioneered within the ham radio community. Today, there are more licensed amateur radio operators than ever before - over 700,000 in the U.S. alone, in addition to more than a million operators around the world. Radio amateurs are prohibited by law from accepting compensation of any kind for any activities they perform as radio operators. Everyone involved in WRTC2014 is participating purely for the love of the sport.

"WRTC2014 is much more than an international sporting competition," shares Randy Thompson, WRTC2014 Co-Chairman. "It is also an opportunity for these great operators to meet each other, often for the first time, after years of radio contacts. It also allows radio amateurs within New England to interact with some of the top operators from around the globe, and to demonstrate the international appeal of amateur radio."

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN NH?



W1AW/1 NH starts at 0000Z tonight (Tuesday 8PM EDT) to 0000Z Wed 29th (Tuesday 8PM EDT). FT-1000MP, 3 element StepIR facing NE/SW, Digital Voice Keyer (to save our voice), laptop with broadband connection for logging. 73 de Kriss KA1GJU

# CLUB REPEATER ETIQUETTE AND RULES- W1GLO

## CAPE ANN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

One of the most common forms of local communications is a “repeater” in the 2-meter frequency band. A repeater simply retransmits the signal it receives, thereby extending the area of coverage. The W1GLO Repeater, often called the “Club Repeater” is owned and operated by CAARA. It operates on 145.130 MHz (offset -600) with PL 107.2

### REPEATER OPERATIONS

In return for the open access to the repeater, CAARA requires that courteous and proper operating practices be followed at all times, including the following points.

### REPEATER TRAFFIC PRIORITIES:

- Emergency Traffic
- Priority Traffic
- System Testing and Maintenance
- Public Service and Scheduled Nets
- General Use

### GENERAL RULES OF OPERATION

#### CONTROL OPERATORS:

- Let Control Operators handle interference problems and repeater rule enforcement. There may be actions taking place you are not aware of.
- Control Operators have the authority and responsibility to alter the rules of operation to meet temporary requirements.

#### INTERFERENCE:

- Do not acknowledge transmissions from unlicensed stations or stations causing interference. To the extent possible, continue your conversation as if the interfering station is not there.
- Do not discuss interference on the radio.
- If you hear interference on the repeater, **contact a control operator by telephone. Be prepared to report the time, location, and signal strength.**

#### DAILY OPERATIONS:

- Be a courteous operator and lead others by example.
- Use your call sign rather than “break” to enter an ongoing QSO. “Break” indicates Emergency or Priority Traffic. Immediately relinquish the frequency when you hear “break”.
- Always wait until you hear the courtesy tone before transmitting. This will allow other stations to break into the QSO and the repeater to reset

The CAARA asks each of you to follow these simple rules while operating the W1GLO repeater’s.

Comply with FCC Part 97 Rules and Regulations.

Emergency Traffic always takes priority.

Be friendly and courteous to all users.

Follow system guidelines listed above.

Enjoy the hobby and the W1GLO repeater.

#### CONTROL OPERATOR’S TO CALL IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS:

Jon Cunningham, K1TP 978-853-2233

Ross Burton, W1RAB 978-815-0205

Roger Smith, KB1YTJ 508-922-6838

Stan Stone, W4HIX 978- 994 -2048

Gardi Winchester, KB1BTK

# YouTube Boob

by Curtis- AA3JE

I guess it was my father that was really responsible. When I was young, he made a board that rested on the top of the bathtub so I could read in the tub. I had seen such a thing in a book somewhere, and he and my mother crafted one for me. I loved reading in the tub, at least as long as the hot water lasted, and have done so to this day.

Recently, however, my ablutions have been subjected to a disturbance, not severe, but annoying. I would run some more hot water in, and turn off the tap, and it would not fully shut off, but would leak and dribble in a most annoying way. I resolved to ignore it, but a running tap like a running toilet, is another matter to any fellow of the Loyal Order of Shade Tree Mechanics and Amateur Plumbers.

Plumbing you see, is my *bête noir* (literally "black beast", a French term for any nasty thing you dislike or fear). Unlike medicine, or rocket science, or art, where you can explain away failure, in plumbing, it either drains or it don't, or it leaks or it doesn't.

So I checked to see what kind of faucet it was, and looked at replacements at Ace. I was horrified. I take my eyes off the plumbing shelf for a few years, and \$20 faucets become \$100 faucets! What a disaster. I take a look in the repair parts section, but there are literally several thousand different kinds of "o" rings in there, and drive home in defeat.

I look up the unit on the Internet. It is a Symmons "Temptrol", which actually has it's own Wikipedia reference as the most common shower/tub faucet installed in America. I check on Amazon, and with two clicks, a \$8.00 seal kit is on its way. The diagram is pretty clear, this seems like a really simple unit, but just make sure I start up YouTube and check under "Temptrol repair".

657 videos on Temptrol repair. Not a good sign. I start up the first one.

It is a bone chilling saga. The plumber recounts how the homeowner stripped the screws, snapped off the turn off valves, and generally had a horrid time of it. I quickly hosed the thing down with penetrating oil.



"WHAT'S THAT AWFUL CHEMICAL SMELL?"

"Just a little lubricant, dear. I have a small plumbing job down here."

"I THOUGHT WE HAD AGREED YOU WRE NOT GOING TO EVER DO ANY PLUMBING REPAIRS AGAIN. I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER YOU AGREEING TO THAT AFTER THE LAST TIME."

"It's just replacing a washer, dear."

"IT SMELLS LIKE MARCUS HOOK AT LOW TIDE UP HERE."

"Not to worry, my sweet."

"WHATEVER"

Anxious now, I watch the second video. In this one, I watched in horror as the guy explained how the handle is always frozen on the spindle, and after half melting it with a torch and starting a small fire, he then saws the thing off.

(Back to Amazon, Temptrol spindle, one each, rush shipping, \$47.00).

On the third video, I learn that the valve seats are removable and rebuildable, but that you need the seat removal tool.

(Back to Amazon, Temptrol hot seat, \$13.00, Temptrol cold seat, \$10.95, Valve seat tool, \$34.95).

Six videos later I am paralyzed with fear. Pale, sweating, armed with torch, hammer, saw, wrenches, teflon lubricant and \$135 in spare parts, I approach the demon spigot.

The handle screw backs out easily. The handle wiggles right off, the glamor collar screws off with a gentle twist, the gland nut all but falls off, and the spindle comes right out. I look at the seats, and see that a small piece of grit has jammed the seat.

I remove the grit, grease the spindle, put it back in, and turn the water back on.

Problem solved. Three minutes, maximum. Total cost, \$0.00

So, if any of you need the parts to rebuild a Symmons Temptrol faucet, I know exactly where you can get EVERYTHING you might need, at a considerable discount.

(Just to check, I asked my plumber what he charges.)

“Temptrons are easy. Really nice robust unit, I keep a few spares on the truck. About \$30. Five minute job. Usually its just a bit of grit that gets in there and jams it open a crack.”

Like I said, bête noir. The French have a word for most of these things.....

“Idiot Savant.”

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### **AM Broadcasters and Radio Hams have common interest**

The ARRL report radio amateurs and AM broadcasters have some common ground in cleaning up 'a worsening RF noise environment in the AM broadcast band,' according to recent comments filed with the FCC by the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) on the issue of revitalizing AM broadcasting.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, who is also general counsel for the SBE, drafted the remarks.

“There are numerous complaints from Amateur Radio operators of severe interference from power line noise annually,” said the SBE comments, filed earlier this year. “Power line radiation in the HF and MF Amateur allocations will in most cases directly translate to preclusive noise in the AM broadcast band. The Commission has relied completely on the good faith efforts of electric utilities to resolve these.”

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### **Armed Forces Day 2014 Cross-Band Communication Test Set for May 10**

The 2014 Armed Forces Day Cross-

Band Communication Test will take place on Saturday, May 10. The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard co-sponsor the annual Amateur Radio/US military communication test. The 64th Armed Forces Day officially takes place on May 17, but the Armed Forces Day event takes place a week earlier, on May 10, to avoid conflicting with Dayton Hamvention®. The on-the-air celebration features traditional military-to-Amateur Radio cross-band communication on both SSB and CW. Some activity will continue into the early hours of Sunday, May 11 (UTC). Most activity gets underway at 1200 UTC.

“These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWLs) an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise,” the Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Communication Test announcement said. “QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations.”

More than 20 military stations representing all of the services and in various parts of the Continental US, as well Hawaii (ABH), Okinawa (ADB) and Guam (NRV) are expected to be on the air, transmitting on military frequencies outside the Amateur Radio bands and listening for calls within Amateur Radio bands. Some military stations may not be on the air for the entire event, depending on propagation and station staffing.

Participating military stations will transmit on selected Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS) frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio sta-

tions in certain bands and frequencies, depending on the station. The military stations have asked that radio amateurs limit voice contacts to no longer than a couple of minutes. Some military stations will use CW. Much of the activity will involve frequencies outside the 80, 40, and 20 meter bands.

Participating US Army Stations will include WAR at the Pentagon, as well as AAZ, AAC, ABH, ADB, and WUG-23; US Air Force stations AIR, AGA2SY, AGA4AR, AGA5SC, and ARA9TR, and US Navy-Marine Corps stations NBL, NMC1, NMN, NNN0ASF, NNN0CQQ, NPD, NRV, NUW, NWKJ, and NWVC.

The annual event also includes the US Secretary of Defense message test, which will be transmitted in various digital modes. Stations will use RTTY, CW, PSK31, PACTOR, AMTOR (FEC), MT63, and other digital modes to transmit the message. A certificate is available for stations correctly copying the message.

Transcripts of the digital message from the US Secretary of Defense should be submitted “as received,” with no attempt to correct possible transmission or reception errors. On the same sheet of paper containing the test message, stations should provide time, frequency and call sign of the military station copied, as well as the name, call sign, and address (including zip code) of the individual submitting the entry.

Stations receiving the message from AAZ, WAR, or AAC should send entries to Armed Forces Day Celebration, Commander Netcom, ATTN: NETC-ATD (MARS Station), Building 90549 Jim Avenue, Ft Huachuca, AZ 856137070.

# A Note to All Cape Ann Amateur Radio Operators:

As you may know, the ARRL Field Day will be held this coming Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. Part education, part operations and part public relations, Field Day is one of the most important events in the Amateur Radio world! The Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association will be setting up its operations for the event at the Charlie Thomas Athletic Field, located on the grounds of the former Milton L. Fuller Middle School, 4 School House Road in Gloucester, adjacent to the Gloucester Crossing Shopping Center, off of Blackburn Traffic Circle. Field Day or “Contest” is a 24-hour, round-the-clock communications event held under “emergency” conditions. It helps us to practice and exercise our prized abilities to respond to disaster situations.



## Why should you come by?

- Communication is the most important tool in recovering from any disaster regardless of how great or small. Show your neighbors, friends and families that you care about our community's safety and stand ready to help provide the means to support recovery efforts.
- You have worked hard for your operator's license! Field Day is an opportunity for you to acknowledge your privileges and show your pride in your accomplishment.
- The leaders of our community's emergency response teams, our Police and Fire officials are watching to assess if they can depend on us to provide this important resource should their systems fail in the event of a disaster or other emergency. By signing our Field Day log-book you are showing them that we have a force they can depend upon to respond!
- There are more than 225 licensed Amateur Radio operators based on Cape Ann. You are in fine company and hold a license to practice an elite craft! Come by and meet some of your fellow Hams!

There will be no “sales pitches” or pressure of any kind for you to join our organization. You don't even have to operate a radio! All we ask is that you come by and sign in our log book so we can say that you were there,

...and ready!



[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

## Objective-

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

Any Amateur Radio band except 12, 17, 30 and 60 Meters.

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2014 is June 28-29.

# May 2014 Ham Radio Contests

- + AGCW QRP/QRP Party 1300Z-1900Z, May 1
- + NRAU 10m Activity Contest 1800Z-1900Z, May 1 (CW) and  
1900Z-2000Z, May 1 (SSB) and  
2000Z-2100Z, May 1 (FM) and  
2100Z-2200Z, May 1 (Dig)
- + NCCC RTTY Sprint 0200Z-0230Z, May 2
- + NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, May 2
- + 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW 0001Z, May 3 to 2359Z, May 4
- + Microwave Spring Sprint 0600-1300 local, May 3
- + QRP to the Field 1200Z-2359Z, May 3
- + ARI International DX Contest 1200Z, May 3 to 1159Z, May 4
- + 7th Call Area QSO Party 1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4
- + Indiana QSO Party 1600Z, May 3 to 0400Z, May 4
- + New England QSO Party 2000Z, May 3 to 0500Z, May 4 and  
1300Z-2400Z, May 4
- + MIE 33 Contest 2300Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5
- + RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB 1900Z-2030Z, May 5
- + ARS Spartan Sprint 0100Z-0300Z, May 6
- + NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, May 9
- + EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party 1000Z, May 10 to 2000Z, May 11
- + VOLTA WW RTTY Contest 1200Z, May 10 to 1200Z, May 11
- + CQ-M International DX Contest 1200Z, May 10 to 1159Z, May 11
- + FISTS Spring Sprint 1700Z-2100Z, May 10
- + 50 MHz Spring Sprint 2300Z, May 10 to 0300Z, May 11
- + RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data 1900Z-2030Z, May 14
- + His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW 1200Z, May 17 to 1200Z, May 18
- + EU PSK DX Contest 1200Z, May 17 to 1200Z, May 18
- + NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, May 22
- + RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW 1900Z-2030Z, May 22
- + NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, May 23
- + CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 24 to 2400Z, May 25
- + Baltic Contest 2100Z, May 24 to 0200Z, May 25
- + SARL Digital Contest 1300Z-1600Z, May 25
- + MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint 2300Z, May 25 to 0300Z, May 26
- + NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, May 30

## Massachusetts to Host USA ARDF Championships June 5-8

The USA ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) Championships return to the Northeast this year. ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, said on-foot foxhunting fans of all skill levels will gather near Boston on the first weekend of June for 4 days of intense competition.

Activities begin on Thursday, June 5 with a 10-transmitter short-course sprint competition on 80 meters. The following day is the foxoring event, a combination of RDF and classic orienteering on 80 meters in which participants navigate to marked locations on their maps where very low-power transmitters can be found nearby. Saturday morning will be the classic full-course 2 meter main event with five transmitters in a very large forest, followed in the evening by the banquet and awards presentation. A similar full-course 80 meter main event takes place Sunday morning, with awards presented afterwards.

National ARDF championships typically take place in late summer or early fall. This year, the ARDF World Championships will take place during early September, however. To provide plenty of time for selecting Team USA members and planning overseas travel, the 2014 USA ARDF Championships must take place 3 months before.

Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI, is this year's lead organizer, event host, and course-planner. Afonkin also organized the Boston championships in 2009. As a youth in his native Russia, he learned ARDF and was rewarded for his success. After coming to the US, he first participated in the national championships in 2003, winning silver and bronze medals in the five-fox M21 category. He has competed in almost every US competition since then, winning numerous gold medals. Since 2004 Afonkin has been to every ARDF World Championships competition as a member of ARDF Team USA. At the 2012 World Championships in Serbia, he captured gold, silver, and bronze medals.

ARDF championship rules are set by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). For scoring and awards, participants are divided into 11 age/gender categories. In the classic ARDF championships, competitors start in small groups comprised of different categories. As they seek the hidden transmitters, they navigate through the forest from the starting corridor to the finish line, a distance of 4 to 10 kilometers. They plot their direction-finding bearings on orienteering maps that show terrain features, elevation contours, and vegetation type.

The USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone who can safely navigate the woods by themselves. A ham radio license is not required. Each participant competes as an individual; any teamwork or GPS use is forbidden. Competitors bring their own direction-finding gear to the events, although extra gear is sometimes available for loan. Competitors may not transmit on the course, except in emergencies.

