CAARA NEWS

Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
Gloucester, Massachusetts
APRIL 2026 EDITION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
By Brandon- NQ1W

Dear CAARA Members,

As we move into a busy spring, I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather and the opportunities to get active with your radios. Whether you are operating POTA at a local park, assisting our special events team, or visiting the clubhouse, it is a great time to enjoy the camaraderie of our membership on Cape Ann.

This April, I am requesting your assistance with two articles I am writing for QST magazine. The first piece celebrates CAARA's 50th anniversary this October. To ensure this tribute represents our community, please submit any short anecdotes, photos, or memories you have regarding the club's history. I would also like to thank Bob Spanks for initiating this effort by contacting the ARRL; they are enthusiastic about this milestone and plan to generate periodic bulletins regarding our anniversary.

Additionally, I am seeking stories or feedback for a second article focused on CAARA's scholarship program for Cape Ann high school students. If you have been involved with the program or have seen its impact firsthand, please share your experiences with me.

Regarding our weekly operations, thank you to everyone checking into the 2m and 6m simplex nets for the Gloucester FISHNET. These sessions take place every Thursday at 7:30 PM. Detailed information on modes and frequencies can be found at https://fishnet.radioactivecapeann.com/ (https://fishnet.radioactivecapeann.com/). If you would like to be added to the FISHNET mailing list, please email me directly at bhockle@gmail.com.

Finally, please continue to support our special events team during this busy race season. Our work assisting Yukanrun and local emergency services is vital to the community. To volunteer, please check the CAARA webpage or contact Kevin Lyons, K1KL, at kevinlyonsk1kl@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the club and the hobby. We are still working to close the gap on the two generous matching pledges; now is the best time to donate to see your contribution doubled. These pledges and your matching donations are a game changer for our emergency, capital, and operational funding this year, so please consider donating to help CAARA be the best club it can be.

Thanks and 73,
Brandon Hockle, NQ1W
President, CAARA

Two regulars at the Wednesday morning coffee group at the club facility. We had seventeen members show up this week and enjoy eyeball qso's. On top of that we upgraded the WiresX to the latest version, fixed the noisy Echolink setup and started organizing the second floor tools. We are open every Wednesday from 10-12.

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).

Jon Cunningham- K1TP Editor
Dean Burgess- KB1PGH Reporter

Welcome to CAARA:

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

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

The 443.700 repeater is now on the ATT cell tower in the Blackburn Industrial Complex with greatly enhanced performance running in fusion mode and linked to 10 other repeaters in the New England area.

The Association is one of the few amateur radio clubs that has its own clubhouse. Located at 6 Stanwood Street in Gloucester, with a variety of HF stations with beam, vertical, or G5RV antennas.

Amateur radio exams are held on REQUEST at the CAARA clubhouse. Anyone who is considering a new license or an upgrade, is welcome to test with us. Currently pre-registration is necessary. Contact the head of our VE team Bill Poulin- WZ1L if you have any questions about monthly testing.

Monthly member meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at noon except for July and August.

Each Sunday evening at 9:00 PM, the club operates a 2 meter fm 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.

The club is open every Wednesday from 10- Noon for CAARA members and interested parties to stop by and socialize, as well as use the extensive collection of ham radio gear.

This newsletter is published under the auspices of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association (CAARA), However, all content is the work of individual contributors and may contain ideas, opinions or views not necessarily shared or supported by the CAARA Board of Directors or the membership.

THE EMCOMM MINUTE

By Dean- KB1PGH

So for this months article I think I will cover the topic of how to mitigate RFI and EMI noise in your HF receiver.

As you know by now there is a ton of electrical noise out there which hampers HF reception. From outside sources such as power lines and machines to inside source coming from your homes appliances and electrical devices. I`ve seen electrical noise levels of up to S 9 on the HF bands in my own home due to the power lines in front of my house and all the industry around me. Some hams don`t even realize the amount of noise they have coming through their HF rigs reception which can easily mask low signal reception.

So there are a few things you can try to help mitigate the RFI and EMI interference to help with better HF reception. So in the photo you can see a few items I laid out. The first is a Tripp Lite Isobar 4 outlet surge suppressor. These suppressors have RFI and EMI filters up to 80 db built in to each outlet and each outlet is electrically separated from each other to minimize interference. Not to mention if you have a power surge inside your home.

We had that happen at our neighborhood where the power company messed up and hooked up the wrong lines after a power outage and too much amperage came through the power lines into every ones homes. We lost a few appliances that day but the power company paid for the damage. It can also happen with lightning strikes too.

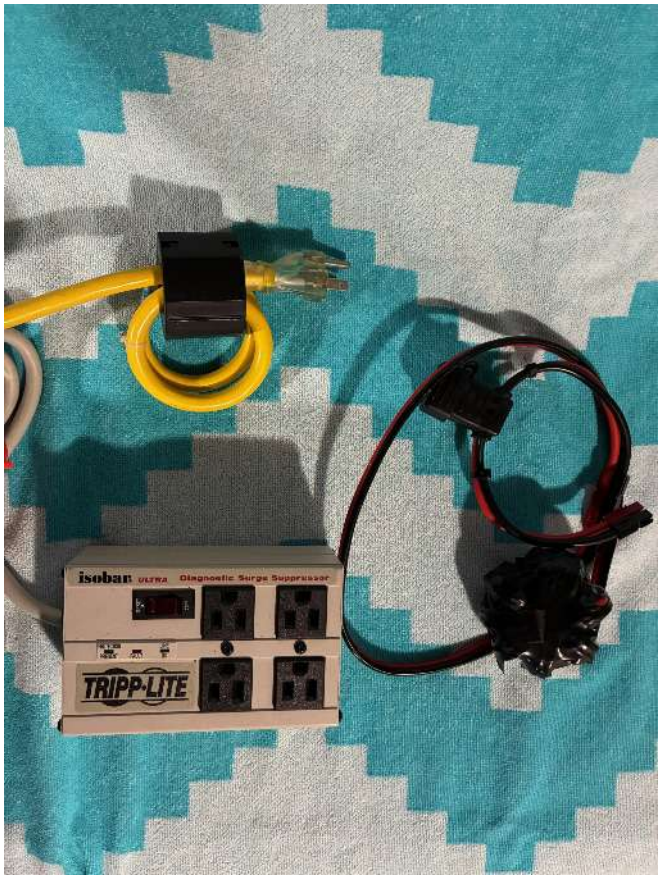
It is well built and costs around $85 and come with a great warranty and piece of mind. You can find the Tripp Lite Isobars on Amazon. Another thing you can do is use ferrite chokes or toroid cores to minimize EMI and RFI in power lines.

As you can see in the photo there are a couple different types. You have one that clip on to the power line as you see on the extension cord and the donut looking ones that you can wrap your smaller power cords though.

So just remember a few things when you buy these ferrite chokes and toroid cores is that there a few different types you can buy. For HF use make sure you buy the mix 31 type which cover the HF though 300 MHZ range. One other thing is that have to make sure that you wrap your power cords as many times as you can to build up enough impedance to stop the RFI and EMI from coming through the power lines.

As you can see in the photo I have wrapped the red and black power cord with the anderson power pole connector around the donut ferrite choke at least 6 times and used electrical tape to hold it in place. The clip on choke and the donut ring are both about $20. One other aspect about RFI and EMI is that you can purchase Switching power supplies and generators that have these filters in place. The Astron brand has the SS line of switching power supplies that have EMI filters built in because the process of switching AC to DC power can create EMI.I have one myself and I highly recommend that brand of power supply as being very electrically quiet.

Of course if you already have a electrically "dirty" power supply you can put a choke on the power cord leading from it to your HF rig to quiet it down. So if your operating portable HF using AC generators make sure you buy ones that have the power inverters in them The inverters smooth out the AC output of the generator to a nice 60 hz sine wave AC output which is the same as your



power companies AC power coming into your home. I highly recommend the Honda EU 2200 line of inverter generators for portable HF use. I have the older EU 2000 version and it is electrically quiet when hooked up to my HF Rig when I operate portable.

There is one more tool that you can try to eliminate electrical noise is by using your HF rigs noise blanker. The noise blanker in your HF rig can reduce impulse type noise from car ignitions and some switching power line noise. Of course some noise blankers work better than others. I have a Yaesu FT 710 and the noise blanker in that rig is highly adjustable so your results may vary.

One last thing about ferrite chokes on power lines. If your getting RFI and EMI inside your house you can always try to find out what power appliance is causing that noise by unplugging them in real time while your HF rig is on or shutting circuit breakers off in your home while you have your HF rig on battery power.

You would be surprised at how just one wall wart in your home can cause so much EMI and RFI noise in your HF rig. Sometimes wrapping a ferrite choke or toroid coil around the power cord to the offending electronic appliance can solve the problem as well.

Sometimes if you find out that your RFI and EMI is coming from a power line or transformer near your home you could call your power company to see if they can fix the problem. So if your really rich and have the space you could always buy a antenna phasing system from DX engineering for $1000 and set up a separate receiving antenna but that`s out of reach for a lot of hams.

So in conclusion there are ways to eliminate RFI and EMI in your shack and ferrite chokes and toroid cores can solve a lot of it and bring the noise level in your radio down in order to receive weak signals. There are a couple of places where you buy the toroids and chokes and they even sell them in whole kits for certain HF rigs. One is a company called Palomar Engineers and another is KF7P dot com and of course Amazon.

So for next month I will cover another topic of HF noise suppression and that is in the form of HF antenna common mode noise and the filters that cover that.

73 and see you next month!

NEXT MONTH : Dean will test a few prototype filters that are supposed to cut down or eliminate power line noise.

Semi-Permafrost

by Curtis- AA3JE

One would think that spring would be a joyous season. Fresh green buds, happy little songbirds, promise of a new year of life.
I dread it, it is the season of the Semi Frost.
In New Hampshire, up near Canada, the winter temperatures hover between -5 F and 10 F, freezing the ground down to about 18-24 inches. In bad years, about 36 inches.

So spring comes, and the temperatures ZOOM upward to tropical levels (40-50F), and the snow melts. Elsewhere, the ground thaws, the water fills the ground, and all the trees think they have gone to Heaven.

Here, the TOP SIX INCHES thaws, with a deep ice layer that acts like a rubber membrane over the deeper soil. This means that the top six inches is fully hydrated. More than fully hydrated. Soaking wet mud, actually. This is nice down on the flatlands, as you get a nice vernal pond populated by middle aged women in cardigans, communing with the newts.

On a mountainside, like where I live, the six inches of water moves through the mud, flowing down, right into my garage. I bought a garage alarm, which has a perverse sense of humor. It only works at 3AM.
"BLAAT, BLATT, BLATT! High Water alarm, BLATT, BLAAT, BLATT"

This is my cue to put on my boots, run to the Garage, and start the pumps. Oh there is a drain, in the floor, but it really only works with three or four inches of water or more. So I have four sumps, with four pumps, which can only be used if the ice has thawed. Plug them in when the rotor is frozen and you get to buy a new one. I have two spares.

"Where are you going?" said my wife.

"Garage flooding."

"Have fun, and please turn the electric blanket down a notch."

Dig the hoses out of the snowbank, get the hot air blaster, warm the pumps, pull the baseplate on the pump that sucked up a rock. Remove rock, connect the hoses, plug pumps in, run out to the end of the hoses.
"Ah, blessed streams of water."

Then the temperature drops to 15F, it all freezes, and you get to do it all over again the next week.

There has to be a better way. If the damn garage floor was four inches higher. If I only had a concrete mixer.

"OH, I do have a concrete mixer."

I will get back to you.

US FCC Prohibits Approval of New Foreign-Made Consumer Routers

he US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is tasked with regulating both wired and wireless communications, which also includes a national security component. This is how previously the FCC tossed networking gear made by Huawei and foreign-manufactured drones onto its Covered List, effectively banning it from sale in the US. Now foreign-made consumer routers have been added to this list, barring explicit conditional approval on said list that would exempt them during a 'transition phase'.

As per the FCC fact sheet, this follows after determination by an interagency body that such routers "pose unacceptable risks to the national security of the United States [..]". This document points us to the National Security Determination PDF, which attempts to lay out the reasoning. In it is noted that routers are an integral part of every day life, and compromised routers are a major risk factor, ergo it follows that only US-manufactured routers are to be trusted.

These – so far fictional – US-manufactured consumer routers would have to feature 'trusted supply chains', which would seem to imply onshoring a large industrial base, though without specifying how deep this would have to go it's hard to say what would be involved. The 'supporting evidence' section also only talks about firmware-related vulnerabilities, which would imply that US firmware developers do not produce CVEs.

Currently there do not appear to be any specific details on what router manufacturers are supposed to do about this whole issue, though they can continue to sell previously FCC-approved routers in the US.

Although hardware backdoors are definitely a possibility, this requires a fair bit of effort within the supply chain that should generally also fairly easily to detect. Yet after for example Bloomberg claimed in 2018 that Supermicro gear had been infested with hardware backdoors, this started a years-long controversy.

Meanwhile actually verified issues with Supermicro hardware are boringly due to software CVEs. In that particular issue from 2024 two CVEs were discovered involving a lack of validation of a newly uploaded firmware image.

All of which is reminiscent of an early 2024 White House 'memory safety appeal' that smelled very strongly of red herring. Although it's easy to point at compromised hardware with scary backdoors and sneaky software backdoors hidden deep inside firmware of servers and networking devices, the truth of the matter is that sloppy input validation is still by far the #1 cause of fresh CVEs each year, especially if you look at the CVEs that are actually being actively exploited.

As for this de-facto ban on new routers being sold in the US, this will correspondingly not change much here. The best defense against issues with networking equipment is still to practice network hygiene by keeping tabs on what is being sent on the LAN and WAN sides, while a government could e.g. force consumer routers to pass a strict independent hardware and software audit paid for by the manufacturer.

Speaking as someone who used to run DIY routers for the longest time built around FreeSCO and Smoothwall Linux, there's also always the option of turning any old PC into a router by putting a bunch of NICs and WNICs into it and run SmoothWall, OpenWRT, etc.. A router is after all just a specialized computer, regardless of what the government feels that it identifies as.

Two Amateur Radio Operators Tapped Into a Soviet Frequency. Did They Hear a Woman Burning Alive in Space?

The brothers claimed to have captured secret audio of cosmonauts, including a horrific death.The Space Race, that high-tech Cold War competition to see which global superpower could conquer the cosmos first, was such a frantic and aggressive era of rocket-powered experimentation that it's often remarkable to consider how low the death toll was during that time.

We know, of course, that the United States was prepared for some interstellar fatalities; President Richard Nixon had an alternate speech prepared in the event that the Apollo 11 mission went catastrophically wrong. But officially, only a handful of lives were lost during the Space Race. The most famous of the rare space-related fatalities from this time occurred during pre-launch tests, like the altitude chamber fire that killed would-be cosmonaut Valentin Bondarenko (the first official Space Race fatality) and the 1967 electrical fire that claimed the lives of the Apollo 1 crew in the United States.

In fact, remarkably, only a single life from each side of the Cold War was lost post-launch during that fraught period, and both of them were below the "von Kármán line" often used to define the edge of space: Soviet Vladimir Komarov aboard Soyuz 1 in April of 1967, and American Michael J. Adams during November 1967's X-15 Flight 191.

FCC Warns Pittsburgh Amateur Radio Operator for 911 Interference

A BTech UV-Pro was transmitting over an Allegheny County EMS channel, commission allegesThe Federal Communications Commission has sent a notice of licensed operation and harmful interference to an amateur radio operator in Pittsburgh regarding transmissions on a 911 emergency services channel from a handheld transceiver.

Last summer, the FCC received a complaint from Allegheny County, Pa., Emergency Services concerning interference with one of its UHF "T-Band" emergency communications channels.

The interference affected the county's west EMS dispatch channel on 470.4375 MHz.

On July 30, 2025, agents from the Columbia Office of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau conducted an investigation and determined, using direction-finding techniques, that the source of the interference was a signal emanating from the residence of David Kundston, a licensed amateur radio operator with the callsign KD3ASC.After the agents notified Kundston of the issue, he produced a Baofeng BTech UV-Pro handheld radio.

The BTech UV-Pro Tan edition lists for approximately $165 on Amazon. It is capable of transmitting on the VHF and UHF amateur radio and private land mobile radio bands.

An examination of the radio by the agents determined it had been programmed to monitor the Allegheny County channel in question, and its "audio relay" feature had been activated.

Hams Help Forecasters with Real-Time Data on Northeast Blizzard

A historic blizzard paralyzed much of the Northeast in late February, and amateur radio operators were on the air to help forecasters keep track of the storm's impact. Southeastern New England was one of the hardest-hit areas. ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator and Boston-area SKYWARN Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, provided this summary for ARRL News:

A severe blizzard left its mark on Southeast New England with massive amounts of snow, vehicles and even plows getting stuck, damaging winds gusts to hurricane force causing ~350,000 customers to lose power in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and some coastal flooding issues at high tide. The blizzard broke Rhode Island's state record for snowfall with 37.8 inches of snow in Providence. ARES-SKYWARN Nets across southern New England were activated with the WX1BOX amateur radio team to support the National Weather Service (NWS) Boston/Norton office, as well as local and state emergency management and broadcast media, with timely updates on the storm.

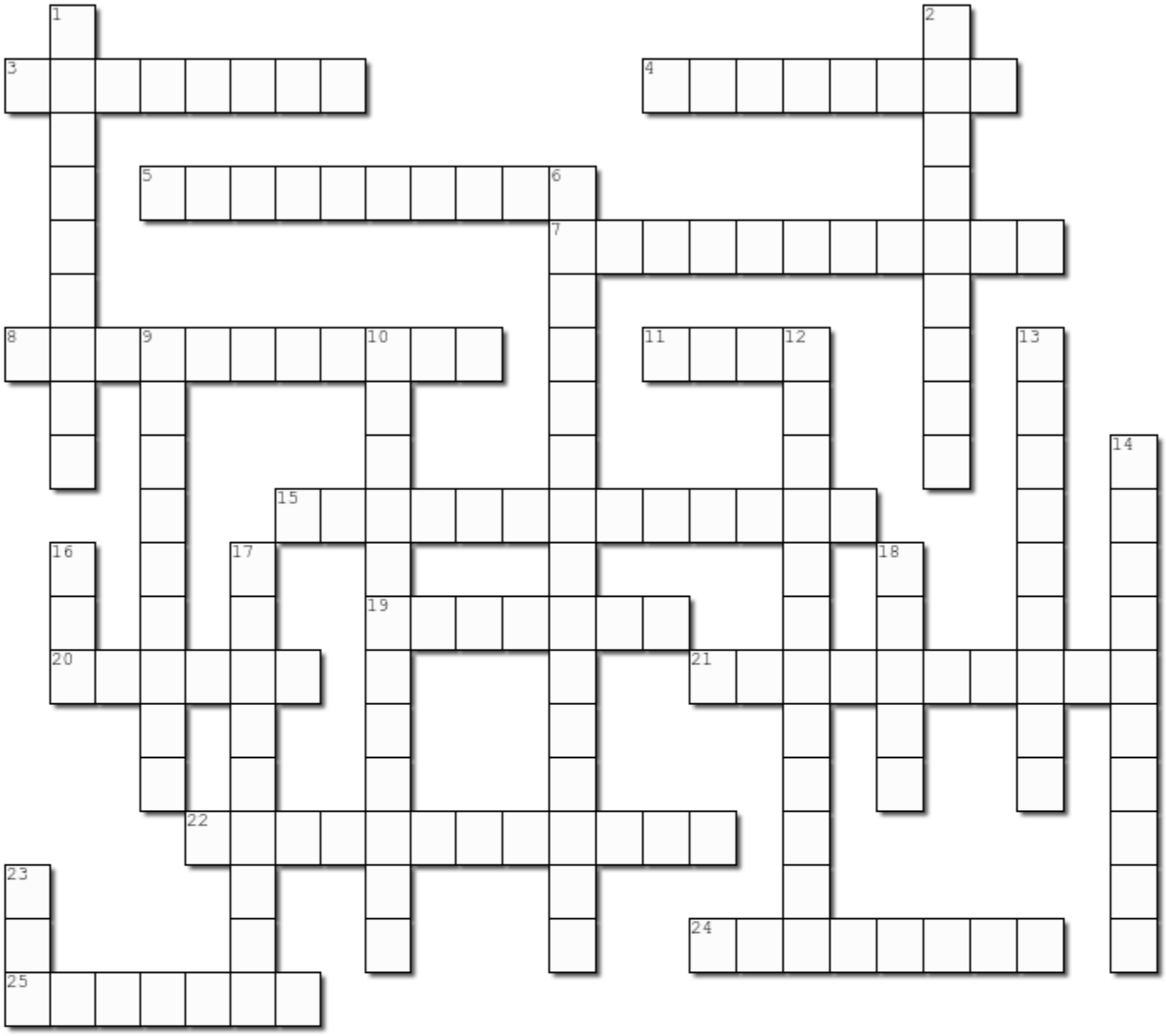
We had ARES-SKYWARN nets activating on an every 1-2 hour basis providing snowfall, wind gust, wind damage and coastal flood reports. The nets were very active with great participation, allowing a comprehensive situational awareness. We also interacted with many non-amateur radio SKYWARN spotters via social media.

Amateur Radio SKYWARN Nets were active on over a dozen repeaters across southern New England, along with the New England Amateur Radio VoIP Reflector system with snowfall, wind damage and wind gust reports. The Amateur Radio Net Plan for Massachusetts was sent into Massachusetts Emergency Management in an ICS-205 to ESF-2 as part of a closer working relationship with state emergency management. Well over 1,000 reports were generated from these nets and shared with partner agencies and the media. Blizzard conditions were met at numerous sites across southern New England.

Amateur radio received media attention on The Weather Channel several times throughout the blizzard. Jim Cantore stated, "When we get all these observations, it comes from SKYWARN spotters and amateur radio operators because when people can't communicate and the phone lines down, the amateur radio operators are all we got."

Radio Propagation

By N1UV



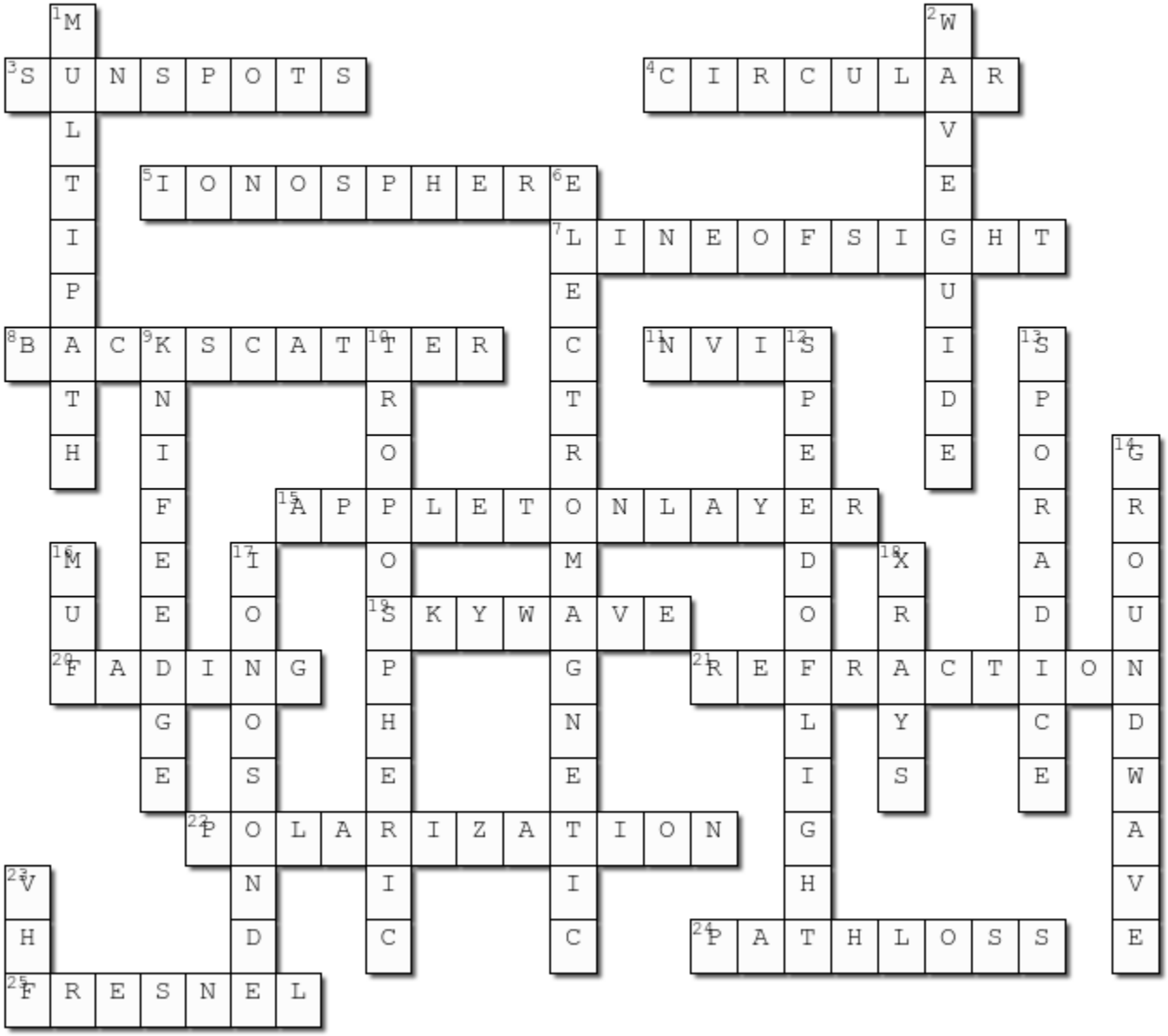
Across

3. These affect the ionosphere
4. Can have left or right hand polarization
5. An electrically charged layer
7. Waves which travel in a straight line
8. Reflection of waves back to where they came from
11. Near Vertical Incidence Skywave
15. The F2 layer
19. Waves refracted back towards earth
20. Changing attenuation causes ____
21. Redirection of a passing wave
22. Orientation of a wave
24. Attenuation between two points
25. ___ Zone

Down

1. Taking many paths
2. A structure that guides waves
6. EM wave?
9. Diffraction from a sharp obstacle
10. ___ Ducting
12. Radio waves travel this fast
13. Es
14. Waves following contour of the earth
16. Maximum Usable Frequency
17. Device to “sound” the ionosphere
18. D Layer highly affected by this from a solar flare
23. 30-300MHz

Radio Propagation



Amateur Radio Newsline Report

HAMS RESPOND TO HISTORIC FLOODS IN HAWAII

JIM/ANCHOR: Our top story takes us to Hawaii, which was slammed with two so-called "atmospheric river storms" that brought heavy rains and high winds, flooding all the state's islands and sweeping many houses off their foundations. ARES and RACES hams were activated, providing realtime ground reports for weather and field information on Oahu and Maui. ARRL Pacific Section Manager Alan KH6TU/AD6E told Newsline in an email that VHF linked repeater systems carried individual voice reports sent to EOCs. Meanwhile, federal emergency ICS-213 forms were transmitted carrying messages and incident reports over peer-to-peer Winlink via VHF or on HF.

As emergency crews cleared landslides and repaired communications and power lines, hams continued to update road and weather conditions, assisting with coordinated communications. As Newsline went to production, recovery continued after what was being called the state's worst flooding in two decades.

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FUNDS WOULD EXPAND, UPGRADE NOAA'S WEATHER RADIO NETWORK

JIM/ANCHOR: Even as Canada moves to shut down its nationwide weather radio services, lawmakers in the US are looking to commit funds that would modernize and expand the radio network of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency. Kent Peterson KCØDGY brings us up to date.

KENT: Lawmakers in Washington, DC, have moved ahead with their commitment to invest $100 million in improved antennas and transmitter equipment to expand coverage for the VHF weather radio service of NOAA. A bipartisan measure that authorizes the expense was passed recently by members of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

An estimated 1,030 such weather stations hold licenses to operate on 162 MHz. The antenna and transmitter additions and upgrades focus on NOAA's radio service in remote areas of the US that have a higher risk of extreme weather. Beyond VHF improvements, the bill calls for NOAA to explore options on the microwave band to further strengthen the network's ability to communicate warnings about hazardous conditions. Other language in the bill directs NOAA to explore the possibility of satellite backup or partnerships with commercial providers.

The action in Washington stands in sharp contrast to a recent announcement by the Meteorological Service of Canada - that nation's equivalent of NOAA - that it was ending Weatheradio, its own national VHF radio weather service/

The US lawmakers' measure moves next for a vote in the full House but is not yet on the calendar. The action on Capitol Hill comes almost a year after the White House announced that the administration was looking to cut NOAA's weather research centers, particularly those focused on understanding climate change.

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INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP CALLS CQ FOR AUTISM AWARENESS

JIM/ANCHOR: Amateur radio's largest international cooperative special event is getting on the air for a week with an important message about people with autism. Kevin Trotman N5PRE explains the commitment that unites this worldwide team.

KEVIN: Now in its fourth year, the World Autism Awareness Week special event will again carry the message that "it's OK to be different." It's a theme uniting amateurs across oceans, with callsigns that include

W2A here in the US and others in participating nations such as Italy, South Africa, Russia, New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Israel and West Malaysia.

This weeklong special event begins on Wednesday the 1st of April. It has gained momentum as it brings advocacy on the air for those with autism spectrum disorder - a developmental disorder seen among people of all races and nationalities.

More details about the event and its callsigns - as well as useful information about autism spectrum disorder - can be found on the QRZ.com pa

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CHARTERED FLIGHT TO CARRY INTERNATIONAL TEAM TO ISS

JIM/ANCHOR: The European Space Agency has announced plans to charter a flight to the ISS for its astronauts and some international partners. Dave Lee M7TLB fills us in on the details.

DAVE: Just two years before the International Space Station's scheduled retirement, it is expected to receive a crew of European astronauts delivered via a chartered SpaceX Crew Dragon mission.

Josef Aschbacher, director general of the European Space Agency, said at a March 19 press briefing that that the ESA was chartering the flight to give the agency's astronauts an experience aboard the ISS to conduct research before the spacecraft is decommissioned and deorbited in 2030. The trip by the Provided Institutional Crew is being proposed for early 2028.

The ESA expects to include international partners in the mission but has not named any potential partner nations - nor has it said how many non-ESA astronauts would be included.

Both the UAE and Australian Space Agencies' websites report that agreements were signed in recent years with the European Space Agency committing to deeper collaboration in space-exploration initiatives.

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OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO PLUTO ANNIVERSARY EVENT

JIM/ANCHOR: Despite equipment failures, winter weather closures and operator illness, the W7P Pluto Discovery Anniversary Special Event concluded on February 22nd with strong results. Randy Sly, W4XJ has the details.

RANDY: The team of amateurs for W7P, while operating portable much of the time from the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, along with W7P/Ø and W7P/P, made over 6500 QSOs with 81 countries. In its six-year history, this event saw significantly higher SSB results and the second highest volume of QSL cards ever received.

Doug Tombaugh, N3PDT, nephew of Clyde Tombaugh, the astronomer who discovered Pluto in 1930, along with his team of operators in the Kansas City area, made over 2200 contacts as W7P/Ø, which was a 70 percent increase over last year.

Organizers heard from the special event's chasers that they learned more about Pluto than they ever knew and especially enjoyed being able to speak with Doug. Bob Wertz, NF7E, event coordinator, told Newsline that despite a rocky start, W7P was a success by every meaningful measure — strong QSO totals, excellent public engagement, and enthusiastic feedback from operators worldwide.

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RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA HONORS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

JIM/ANCHOR: The Radio Club of America and International Wireless Communications Expo honored five young communications professionals, including at least one ham radio operator, at a special breakfast on Thursday, March 19 during the 2026 IWC Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada. Daniel Garcia W2DIY tells us who they are.

DANIEL: The Young Professionals program of the RCA and IWCE celebrates industry professionals who have at least two years experience in wireless communications and who are no more than 40 years of age. The RCA website calls these young professionals [quote] "the next generation of innovators shaping the field." [endquote]

This year, the program recognized at least one amateur radio operator: Andy Huynh, KA6NDY, a telecommunications systems engineer in the Interoperable Radio Systems Division of the County of Los Angeles' Internal Services Department. His work on the Spectrum Management Team includes a specialty in interference mitigation. He also supports mission-critical public safety communications

Other honorees are Precious Fodor, who serves as the National Service Manager at Eastern Communications Ltd.; Max Johnson, an electrical engineer at Dark Wolf Ventures in Colorado, a firm specializing in advanced radio and satellite communications systems; Sean Martin, a sales professional in the aerospace and defense Industry; and Chris Vargas, whose 10-year career in sales has most recently brought him into consumer electronics. He is presently working for Icom.

The group was praised by attendees for their achievements and for the promise their careers hold in shaping the field of wireless communications in new directions.

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SPECIAL EVENT REMEMBERS THE TITANIC

JIM/ANCHOR: A special event remembering one of history's most famous ocean liners is approaching. Jeremy Boot, G4NJH has more details:

JEREMY: Mark the date of 14th April on your calendar. If you know your history, you'll recall that at 23:40 ship’s time on that day, the RMS Titanic struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic, bringing its inaugural sailing to a fatal end.

Mark this year's calendar, as well, from 0000 UTC on the 10th April to 2359 on the 15th April. That time period marks the date of the luxury liner's voyage from Southampton, which ended with its sinking. The Titanic Memorial special event station EG-1912-T will be on the air using all modes HF, VHF, UHF and SHF during that period, organised by the Union of Radio Amateurs of Vigo-Val Miñor. A number of Spanish citizens were on board the ship.

The activation will focus on CW to honour Jack Phillips and Harold Bride, the first and second telegraphers on board. The activation also honours Harold Cottam, the telegrapher on board the Carpathia, the first ship to make a rescue effort at the site of the doomed Titanic.

There will be a special QSL card for hams contacting EG1912T in CW. All other QSLs will be sent via the bureau, eQSL and LoTW.

WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, operators are calling QRZ with the callsign S21WD from Bangladesh until the 1st of April. They are operating from islands in the Khulna/Barisal Region Group, IOTA Number AS-140. Listen for them on 160 - 10 metres where they are using CW, SSB and digital modes. They are also making contacts via the QO-100 satellite.

Robert, DM7XX is on the air using SSB from Zambia as 9J2RO until the 30th of March. He is operating at the Fountain Gate Crafts & Trades School. He will participate in the CQ WPX SSB contest on March 28th and 29th.

Listen for Helmut, DF7EE, operating from Madeira as CT9/DF7EE until the 1st of April. He will participate in the CQ WPX SSB contest using the callsign CQ3W. His license permits operation on 60m, so expect to hear him on this band outside of the contest.

A team of operators will be using the special callsign GBØOH while on the Isle of Lewis, IOTA Number EU-010, in the Outer Hebrides, in Scotland, from the 11th through to the 17th of April. A contact here also counts toward the Worked All Britain Award as Square NB53. Listen on the bands between 40 to 10 metres. Activity will be mainly SSB with some FT8.

For QSL and additional operating details about these stations, see their pages on QRZ.com

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KICKER: OUT ON THE AIR AND UNDER BLUE SKIES

JIM/ANCHOR: For any listeners who believe you have to be a DXpeditioner, a POTA or SOTA activator or even a Field Day participant to find adventure, our final story of this week is about to prove you wrong. Just hear what Ralph Squillace KK6ITB has to say.

RALPH: The most important connections we make in amateur radio aren't the ones we solder on the workbench or fasten with a PL-259 in the field. So says Jacques Redmond WW1ZRD, founder of Out on the Air, an amateur radio activity that focuses on connections that are human-to-human. You can make them on a hilltop, a sidewalk or even in your garden. Jacques created the website outontheair dot com to encourage hams to get off their couches and out of their houses or apartments and give it a try.

The idea is as simple as sunshine itself. Or, as he says on his website, call CQ from a rooftop or a beach at midnight. He writes: [quote] 'If you left home and you're on the air — you're Out On The Air."

Jacques, whose preferred mode for now is SSB - at least until he learns CW - treasures the sound of a real human voice as it rises above the noise. To him, it [quote] "captures everything I love about ham radio." He said that in the week or so since the activity launched along with the website, radio operators have registered from around the world and begun working toward the different awards.

It's no surprise that those awards, like the operating locations themselves, are all registered on the honor system.

QUILT DONATION TO CAARA

Brandon- NQ1W and Dianne Hall wife of Jeff Hall KD1NQ of the Pocahontas Radio Club aka the Pokey Net is presenting CAARA with a Morse code quilt with our club and repeater call sign. We are going to hang this up in out clubhouse.

Hello CAARA Members

I am a Scouting USA Spirit of Adventure (SoA) merit badge counselor for Radio and Electronics merit badges. I recently received the forwarded message below regarding a collaboration between the scouts, FEMA, and MEMA for a council-wide disaster preparedness program.

The program leadership is looking to add an amateur radio component and is seeking help with content, training, or exercise support. If you are interested in contributing, please let me know so we can coordinate with the council.

Additionally, please reach out if you are:

- A registered adult member of Scouting and a merit badge counselor for Radio or Emergency Preparedness.

- Interested in becoming a merit badge counselor on behalf of CAARA (please ensure your CORI is up to date).

Regards,

Brandon Hockle NQ1W

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT THE CLUB HAS BECOME VERY POPULAR.

What started as a day that a few of were Ebaying excess donated items has turned out to be a very popular club activity. We decided to open the club to all members seeing that we were there every week anyway and we did not know what to expect. It started with a few members and has grown to be quite a robust group.

We are now opening the second floor up as well as a overflow area and also to help out organizing the second floor area. The second floor quite a few operating stations to try out, a good way to decide what radio you might like to buy in the future. We have popular Kenwood, Yaesu, Icom, and Elecraft models.

We also have test equipment, soldering stations, drill press, and all the hand tools to repair electronic gear.

The first floor has an Icom IC-7300 hooked to the club beam and is quite effective on 10-20 meters.

WE also have a Yaesu FT-710, LDG tuner, and connected to the Cushcraft R8 vertical antenna. This radio is setup for SSB and all the popular digital modes. Bot forst floor stations are internet ready with cmputer and monitor.

We encourage you to use the club stations but we ask you to see Larry- AJ1Z or Jon- K1TP for a quick review of how the station operates.

Jon- K1TP