

CAARA NEWS



Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association
Gloucester, Massachusetts
JANUARY- 2026 EDITION



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Brandon- NQ1W

Happy New Year, CAARA Members!



First, I want to take a moment to thank every single one of you for making 2025 such a productive and fun year for our club. From our public service events to the technical projects at the clubhouse, your camaraderie and dedication are what make the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association special.

As we turn the page to 2026, I am incredibly excited about what lies ahead. We have a packed calendar, focusing on fellowship, getting on the air, and securing the future of our infrastructure.

Here is what you need to know to get January started on the right foot:

The Annual Holiday Party & Awards Dinner

When: Saturday, January 10th, 2026 @ 12:00 PM (Noon)

Where: The Clubhouse

Let's start the year by celebrating our successes! We will be hosting a delicious BBQ Lunch followed by our annual awards presentation.

Yankee Swap: If you'd like to participate, please bring a small inexpensive wrapped gift (radio-related or general fun).

Guests: You are encouraged to bring your significant other or family members—the more, the merrier!

Donations: While the club is covering the food, a small donation of ten dollars to the entertainment fund is greatly appreciated.

Important: Please RSVP to Thomas Stephenson (617-816-8049 jsbwam@mac.com) well before January 10th. We need an accurate headcount to ensure we have enough BBQ for everyone.

Winter Field Day 2026

When: January 24th – 25th, 2026

Where: The Stanwood St. Clubhouse, Gloucester

Prepare to brave the elements (or at least the band conditions)! We will be fully supporting Winter Field Day from the clubhouse this year. This is a great opportunity to test our emergency preparedness and operate in a fun, less formal environment than the summer Field Day.

Action Item: Please sign up for a dedicated operating time slot if you can. It helps us immensely with planning coverage and logging. You can do so here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4EAAAF2AA7FD0-61345046-winter>

Looking Ahead: Castles & Clubhouse Improvements

We are planning to have some serious fun this year. Keep your ears open for announcements regarding "Castles on the Air." We have a couple of these activation events in the works for later in the year, and they promise to be a blast.

On the business side, we are undertaking a major initiative to secure the future of our clubhouse. We won a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) grant from the city in 2026. This grant is a massive dollar multiplier that will allow us to make significant infrastructure improvements.

However, to unlock these funds, we need to raise some complimentary matching dollars. We are currently fundraising to hit this goal, and your support will be vital in helping us modernize and maintain our home base.

73 and Happy New Year!

I am truly looking forward to what we will accomplish together in 2026. Thank you for being a part of this community.

I hope to see you and your families at the Holiday Party on the 10th!

Brandon Hockle, NQ1W

President, Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association

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 jpcrockport@gmail.com . If possible, material should be in Word format. Material may also be submitted as hard copy to Jon-K1TP or any Club Officer.

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Welcome to CAARA:

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

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

The 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 7:00 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 last month I covered some of the reasons and purposes for amateur radio in emergency communications so for this month I would like to at least take a stab at covering the topic of public service in amateur radio and the overall cost involved in ham radio volunteering as well. So compared to emergency communications amateur radio also really holds a big value as well when it comes to providing overall public service communications to cities and towns. We don't even have to go far to take a look either. Several members of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association and the North Shore Association provide at least a few hundred hours of public service communications every year. We hold public service nets for the Yukan run marathons and other road races throughout the year. We also hold radio nets for events like the Blackburn challenge, the Gloucester Horribles parade and the Gloucester Santa parade. The thing is providing for public service communications just doesn't happen out of the blue. There are countless hours spent planning and coordinating for all these events. Not to mention all the volunteer hours hams spend manning the stations along the routes. Did you also know that things actually happen during these events. We have had to provide relay communications when ambulances need to be brought in during medical emergencies. We have had to relay messages to the police about lost children, traffic interfering with events and even fights breaking out during events. We've had to provide radio traffic when floats have broken down during parades as well. So it's not all sitting around sometimes just watching runners go by. Another aspect that ham radio plays in public service is the National Weather Service Skywarn weather spotter program. There are several CAARA and NSRA members who are involved in Skywarn and we have been involved many times in reporting in weather conditions and public safety hazards during storms and blizzards. So as you can see amateur radio still has a purpose in providing public safety information in today's world even though social media exists. So last month I talked about the importance of amateur radio in emergency communications and this month I have covered the importance of ham radio in providing public safety information. Now I think I will cover a topic that really isn't discussed that often and that is the overall financial cost that the amateur radio community takes upon itself to provide emergency and public safety communications. It takes a lot of money from private citizens to provide such communications. So your average HT can cost a couple hundred dollars, not to mention a mobile rig and then a HF rig and all the antennas that go with them that adds hundreds of dollars



more on to the cost. Not to mention extra HT batteries and car type batteries and generators to power these stations. It can cost several thousand dollars if a ham is dedicated to providing emergency and public safety communications and that's just for one ham alone. Let's just take a look at CAARA for example. I think over the past 30 years CAARA members have spent at least \$20,000 to keep the 2 meter and 440 repeaters up and running changing out antennas and cables and equipment at the repeater site. All that has been privately funded. Now just think about all the money that it has taken to keep up and maintain the CAARA communications center from financial support from all its members as well as grants from the ARRL and the Community Preservation Act grant from the citizens of Gloucester. Both of those grants are just over \$50,000 alone. Not to mention all the members who silently donate to help run the clubhouse from year to year. Then on top of that there's no way to count all the volunteer hours that everyone has put in by maintaining the repeater systems and the clubhouse at the same time. So the truth is that it certainly takes a big financial commitment from hams to provide the public safety and emergency communications to the public. Which we gladly do without recompense. So moving on to another topic. Since it is January I would like to put out my yearly reminder to everyone out there that if you ever find yourself bored during the cold snowy winter months you could always set some time aside to take an audit of your ham shacks and equipment. Here's what I mean. When was the last time that you checked all the power cords and cables and coax in your shack? So are they all in still good condition? Have you checked them for loose connections in the back of your radios? Have you checked to make sure that no wires or cables are frayed or have been crushed? Some wires and cables get caught being under rugs and mashed behind radios and desks. As you may know some home fires have started by frayed power cords that have been crushed under rugs so many times that bare wires get exposed and that's all it takes. Plus just in general cables and coaxes get moved around so many times that they can start to get popped out of their connectors leading to intermittent high SWR and power losses. Even pets can cause cable and coax issues if they happen to nibble on them. I recently had a critter chew through the power cord going to a battery charger in my garage just enough to expose the copper cable inside so I had to buy another charger. Another thing to do is to get one of those cans of compressed air and blow out all the dust behind your ham equipment and under your desk. You can also take a few minutes to untangle all the cords as well and if you want to get fancy tie them up neat with zip ties. I mean, if you are going to spend all that money on your equipment you might as well take a little bit of effort for a clean up and a safety check. So that's it for this month,73, Dean Burgess KB1PGH

Hit it Again! Harder!

by Curtis- AA3JE



The new house, now lived in for 9 years, is a beautiful place, but it has a few slight drawbacks.

We are on the north side of the mountain, which makes lovely views, but means the sun does not rise till it is over the mountain, about 10AM. If the clouds are lower, no sun till the clouds lift, about 12. So early morning is always indirect light, in the fog, which makes for trouble.

The trouble is the snow, or ice, or both, that covers the driveway. To get the mail, I either have to crawl to the street on all fours, or have cleared the driveway before 10:30 when the driver comes. In the fog, rain, blowing snow, this is a problem, as distances are tricky, especially between the plow on the tractor and the fence.



Every year I hit the fence, sometimes with the bucket, sometimes with the scraper blade, but hit it I do, and come Spring I have to straighten it out. It's not hard, but aluminum does not straighten perfectly, so I had to make a variety of jigs and bending devices to straighten it out.

This morning, I found a new way to hit it. We had sleet, which froze on the drive to a hard glassy surface. Even with chains on the tractor, I gently slid into the fence, taking out a post and bending a few rails. Next June's project.

It was a surreal event, gently sliding at low speed, perfectly sideways, down the gentle incline. The remedy is sand, which I have, but had planned to scatter "After" scraping.

Note to self, and others, check traction BEFORE pushing snow. Good luck.

FCC Expands US Hams Access to 60 Meter Band

General Class and above license holders in the United States will soon have access to an expanded portion of the 60 Meter band.

Specifically, the Commission allocated 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz (60 meters) to the amateur service on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 9.15 watts ERP. The Commission also authorized amateurs to continue using four existing channels outside of the 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz band centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 100 watts ERP.

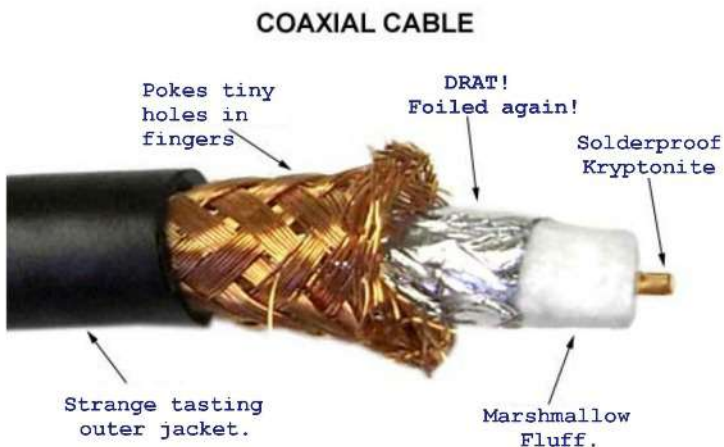
This new allocation is in line with the regulations adopted during the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference.

First HamTV Transmission from ISS Since 2018

The first HamTV transmission from the International Space Station (ISS) since 2018 occurred on October 18, 2025. As part of an ISS contact with the 1st Radford Semele Scout Group in the United Kingdom, HamTV was utilized in addition to FM voice over onboard amateur radio equipment.

ARISS has uploaded a compilation of video feeds received from ground stations in Europe.

The HamTV setup on ISS has been out of commission for repairs since 2018 but was just recently brought back online in July.



CAARA HOLIDAY PARTY

January 10, Saturday at Noon



Pictures from last years party!



You will not want to miss the gala celebration at the Club Facility on Saturday, January 10 at noon...mark you calendar for a BBQ catered feast.

Yankee Swap same as last year, bring a wrapped gift under \$10.00 to participate.

CAARA and the NSRA provide Public Safety Communications for the Gloucester Santa Parade

On Sunday December 7, members of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association and the North Shore Radio Association provided public safety communications for the annual Gloucester Mass Santa Parade.

The parade started at 3 PM at the state fish pier and went down main street to the boulevard then ended at the tree lighting at Kent circle at around 4:30.

The parade was led by Eric Horowitz KA1NCF as net control and Eric was the tail end car as well. In the lead police cruiser was Dean Burgess KB1PGH and we had 3 hams stationed along the parade route to keep the pace which was Dottie KB1WFZ, Matt KC1AEI and David KB1MSR.

In the end there were no incidents to report and a total of 12 hours of volunteer time were committed. The city of Gloucester Santa parade committee would like to thank CAARA for the use of the repeater.



Lizard Wireless Station celebrates 125 years of world-changing radio history

The National Trust is marking the 125th anniversary of the Lizard Wireless Station — the cliff-top site that helped transform global communication — with a month of special on-air activity and public openings throughout January. The historic building, perched above the Atlantic at Britain's most southerly point, first opened on January 1 1901, becoming one of the world's earliest commercial wireless telegraphy stations and enabling ships up to 80 miles away to communicate with land for the first time.

Just weeks later, on January 23 1901, the station achieved a groundbreaking feat: receiving a wireless signal sent from St Catherine's Point on the Isle of Wight — conclusive proof that radio waves could follow the curvature of the Earth.

The breakthrough paved the way for Guglielmo Marconi's landmark transatlantic transmission from Poldhu later that same year, establishing the foundations of long-distance radio communication.

Today, the site remains a living piece of radio history. Cared for by the National Trust and run by dedicated volunteers, the station still operates as an amateur radio hub, connecting visitors and radio enthusiasts with the very landscape where pioneering experiments once took place.

During the anniversary month, the station's original call sign will return to the airwaves, and visitors will be welcomed inside for rare behind-the-scenes tours.

Since 2017, the station's amateur radio operations have been overseen by Geoff Bate, who stepped into the role after retiring in 2016. Geoff, who describes the station as a unique blend of 'location, history and people,' says meeting visitors and sharing its story remains one of the highlights of his work.

His duties range from equipment maintenance to managing access to masts and aerials, as well as helping amateur radio operators who travel specifically to broadcast from the historic site.

Inside, one room has been recreated to show what the equipment would have looked like during Marconi's era, while others display radio artifacts and house the modern amateur station still in active use.

Obsolete Part 97 Rules to be Deleted February 10, 2026

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in October 2025 adopted a Report and Order to delete almost 400 obsolete rules pertaining to its wireless services. As previously reported by ARRL, among the deletions were four in Part 97 that govern the Amateur Radio Service.

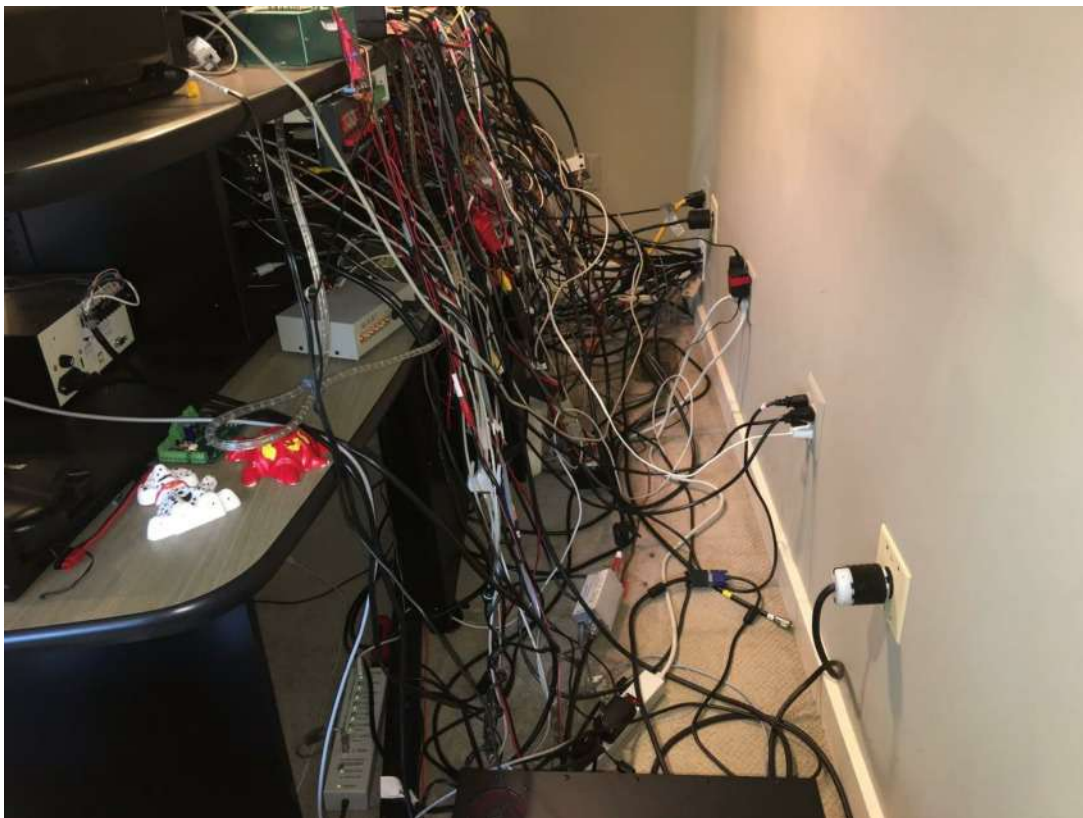
ARRL reports that the notice of the Report and Order has now been published in the Federal Register. Unless an objection is raised by January 2 that the Commission finds to deserve its consideration, the following four Part 97 provisions will be deleted as of February 10, 2026:

§ 97.27. This provision is duplicative of a statutory provision related to the FCC's right to modify station licenses.

§ 97.29. This provision specified an obsolete procedure to replace paper licenses. ARRL proposed deleting this section in comments filed earlier this year.

§ 97.315 (b)(2). This obsolete provision grandfathered HF amplifiers purchased before April 28, 1978 by an amateur radio operator for use at that operator's station, and grandfathered those manufactured before April 28, 1978, for which a marketing waiver was issued.

4. § 97.521(b) and Appendix 2. This rule and appendix relate to obsolete VEC regions.



Have you looked behind your ham radio equipment table lately?

Amateur Radio Newsline Report

SUCCESS WITH STUDENT DMR PROJECT IN INDIA

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Our top story takes us to India. Exactly one year ago, ham radio stations were established in 20 residential schools in disadvantaged areas of one southwestern state. A year later, teachers and their students have become a small, thriving amateur radio community thanks to these small digital mobile radios, or DMR. John Williams VK4JJW has that update.

JOHN: The challenge of teaching science and communication to disadvantaged students in the Indian state of Karnataka got a big boost one year ago when the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society turned 20 of its schools into ham shacks. Some of the teachers became hams and, in turn, guided their young students in grades 6 through 12 along the way. Forty students became hams and were soon using the DMR hand-held radios, participating in the daily net and connecting to the world.

More broadly, with the installation of DMR base stations by the Indian Institute of Hams, the schools themselves became communication hubs that could be used when natural disasters knocked out conventional means of contact in their remote rural communities.

The past year has been one of challenge and innovation for Shirin, VU3DBO, one of the 20 teachers in the school system who received her ham radio certificate from the Ministry of Communication. The science teacher wove the radio curriculum into the classes where she also taught about energy, technology, the environment and space.

Shirin told Newsline in an email that the hands-on STEM learning, the expanded communication skills and the exposure to team work has sparked the students' curiosity and built confidence over the past year. She said amateur radio was [quote] "a wonderful hobby, fun in a hands-on way."

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UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONGRESS ENDS USE OF IRCS in 2026

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Say goodbye to IRCs, the coupons that are still in use in parts of the world by hams requesting QSL cards. Next year at this time they'll be gone, as we hear from Graham Kemp VK4BB.

GRAHAM: Although International Reply Coupons, or IRCs, are still being used by some DX-chasing hams in their requests for QSL cards, that option is set to end by this time next year. Countries belonging to the Universal Postal Union have voted to discontinue their use effective 31 December 2026. The vote was taken in September at the 28th Universal Postal Congress held in Dubai. There are a number of IRCs already in circulation that bear the expiration date of 31 December 2025 and they are expected to be honoured for another year.

In an era marked by a migration toward confirmations on digital platforms and in digital QSOs, the move brings an already disappearing amateur radio practice to its conclusion. A statement from the Universal Postal Union said the sunset of the IRC, first put into practice in 1907, was [quote] "a natural progression within the broader transformation of international postal services in alignment with the digital practices and modern outlook of their customers." [Endquote]

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BOUVET DXPEDITIONER IS HAM RADIO UNIVERSITY FEATURED SPEAKER

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Don't forget the regional amateur radio educational event taking place on Long Island, New York: Ham Radio University which - appropriately enough - is taking place on a university campus. Long Island University-Post campus will be once again hosting the all-day program on Saturday the 10th of January. Now in its 27th year, Ham Radio University draws amateurs from around the region and also serves as the Long Island Section Convention for the ARRL.

This year's featured speaker will be Adrian KO8SCA, who has been preparing for a return trip to Bouvet Island as co-leader of a 24-member team. The day's offerings will include 23 forums and, of

course, a discussion about POTA, Morse Code and STEM education.

The date is coming up fast. Admission is free but a \$10 donation is suggested.

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SILENT KEY: JIM HEATH, W6LG, NOTED YOUTUBE ELMER

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: The host of a popular YouTube Channel that made him the Elmer to nearly 53,000 subscribers and viewers has become a Silent Key. We hear about him from Paul Braun WD9GCO.

PAUL: In many of the videos on his channel, Jim Heath W6LG, introduces himself as "your YouTube Elmer for ham radio basics." In his easygoing, personable style, Jim explained, in plain and basic language, the mysteries of SWR, grounding, antennas and dummy loads. A popular presence on YouTube, Jim brought viewers directly into his radio room via a YouTube studio inside his shack.

Jim, who had endured years of hospitalizations following a leukemia diagnosis, became a Silent Key on December 22nd at his California home. He had been a ham since getting his license in 1964 with the callsign WN6JZC. He had held his well-known vanity callsign, W6LG, since 2004. He also grew to love chasing DX and counted among his collection the QSL cards of King Hussein of Jordan JY1 and Father Marshall D. Moran 9N1MM, the first ham radio operator in Nepal.

Jim had also been the owner of High Sierra, which made one of the first screwdriver antennas for mobile HF use.

Over much of his adult life, Jim faced numerous health challenges -- a disabling fall from a roof in 1998 while working as a building inspector; and a series of health crises later, including pulmonary embolisms, congestive heart failure and severe osteoporosis. Then came the news he had leukemia.

In his final months he appeared on Ham Smarter, the YouTube channel of Vince D'Eon VE6LK, and the two became friends. Vince described Jim as [quote] "a good friend to many and an Elmer to all." Announcing

Jim's death, Vince urged hams to continue visiting the W6LG channel so they can [quote] "learn from the best." [endquote]

Jim was in his mid-70's.

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MINNESOTA HAM TEAM KEEPS HOLIDAY FEST SAFE AND BRIGHT

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: The sudden assembly of thousands of people in one small, rural 16-block-long Minnesota town in early December spurred swift and careful action from first-responders and amateur radio operators - but this was no community in crisis; it was a celebration. Kent Peterson KCØDGY explains.

KENT: The small town of Arlington, Minnesota is always happy to welcome newcomers, particularly at its annual holiday festival, Arli-Dazzle. No doubt there were first-timers among those attending in the estimated crowd size of 10,000 who arrived on December 5th and 6th, feeling the holiday spirit.

Perhaps more importantly, the newcomers included 10 ham radio operators - six of them newly licensed Technicians, with handy-talkies in hand - as part of the team of more than 34 hams who volunteered to ensure that everyone enjoyed this holiday tradition.

Don Burgess, KCØQNA, the emergency radio coordinator for Sibley County, told Newsline in an email: [quote] "This town event is one that a lot of my radio team really looks forward to doing each year regardless of temps or weather conditions. The Local Police Chief looks to us as his reserve officers in many aspects, and we never let him or the community down." [endquote]

He said the hams traveled from as far away as Minneapolis and St. Paul - the so-called "Twin Cities" an hour away - to make sure things went smoothly, from setting up barricades for the 5K runners to setting up light generators for the parade route. The Sibley Emergency Radio Team Club, with Don as safety and logistics coordinator, have provided that reassuring presence for the past 16 years.

The team is no stranger to community service at dozens of public events - even in nearby towns such as Gaylord. This festival is one that's special, said

Don. [Quote] "It really takes on the mom and pop old days family Christmas vibes for sure." **

RAY SOIFER W2RS/SK HONORED AGAIN IN AMSAT CW EVENT

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: The new year brings an opportunity to honor the memory of a satellite enthusiast who left the lasting legacy of a popular CW event. We have those details from Randy Sly W4XJ.

RANDY: Ray Soifer, W2RS, loved CW and he also loved satellites. Before becoming a Silent Key in March of 2022, Ray gave a gift to both the CW and satellite communities: AMSAT's CW Activity Day, formerly known as AMSAT Straight Key Night.

The annual event has since been renamed the W2RS Memorial AMSAT CW Activity Day and, as always, the on-air action is taking place on January 1st, the same day that the ARRL holds Straight Key Night. Participants use any amateur radio multi-mode satellite to make QSOs using CW on that day between 0000 and 2359 UTC. Although the use of a straight key or a bug is not required, it is strongly encouraged. So are photos and video clips, which operators are invited to share on various social media platforms with amsat as the tag. As for logs, they're not necessary either, but AMSAT would like operators to submit reports to the AMSAT-BB.

One word of caution: operators are urged to use the minimum power necessary to complete their contacts. Constant carrier modes such as CW are capable of disrupting transponders.

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WORLD OF DX

In this holiday season there is still plenty to celebrate in the World of DX. Listen for the Israel Amateur Radio Club callsigns 4X25X, 4X25M, 4X25A and 4X25S on the air from the 25th through to the 31st of December using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via 4X6ZM, through the bureau or direct.

Throughout the new year 2026 the special callsign DB1ØØFT will be on the air to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Berlin Radio Tower, which has played a major role in Germany's radio broadcast history.

Ken, JO1VRK is on the air from Saipan IOTA Number OC-086, from the 29th of December through to the 3rd of January. Listen on 40-10 metres where Ken will be using CW and digital modes. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

Two special callsigns are celebrating Bulgaria's admission into the Eurozone and the nation's adoption of the euro as currency. Listen for LZ2Ø25ZONE and LZ2Ø26EURO starting on the 1st of January. QSL via LZ2VP. An additional callsign, LZ1EURO, will be active from the 1st through to the 6th of January. QSL via LZ3SCO.

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KICKER: NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT ... MAYBE

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: With the old year ending, and a new year starting up, it might seem to some of us that time is out of sorts. Well, it actually WAS out of sorts here in the US - in Boulder, Colorado, home of the F-4 atomic clock that delivers the official time with precision, right down to the microseconds. Kent Peterson KCØDGY explains.

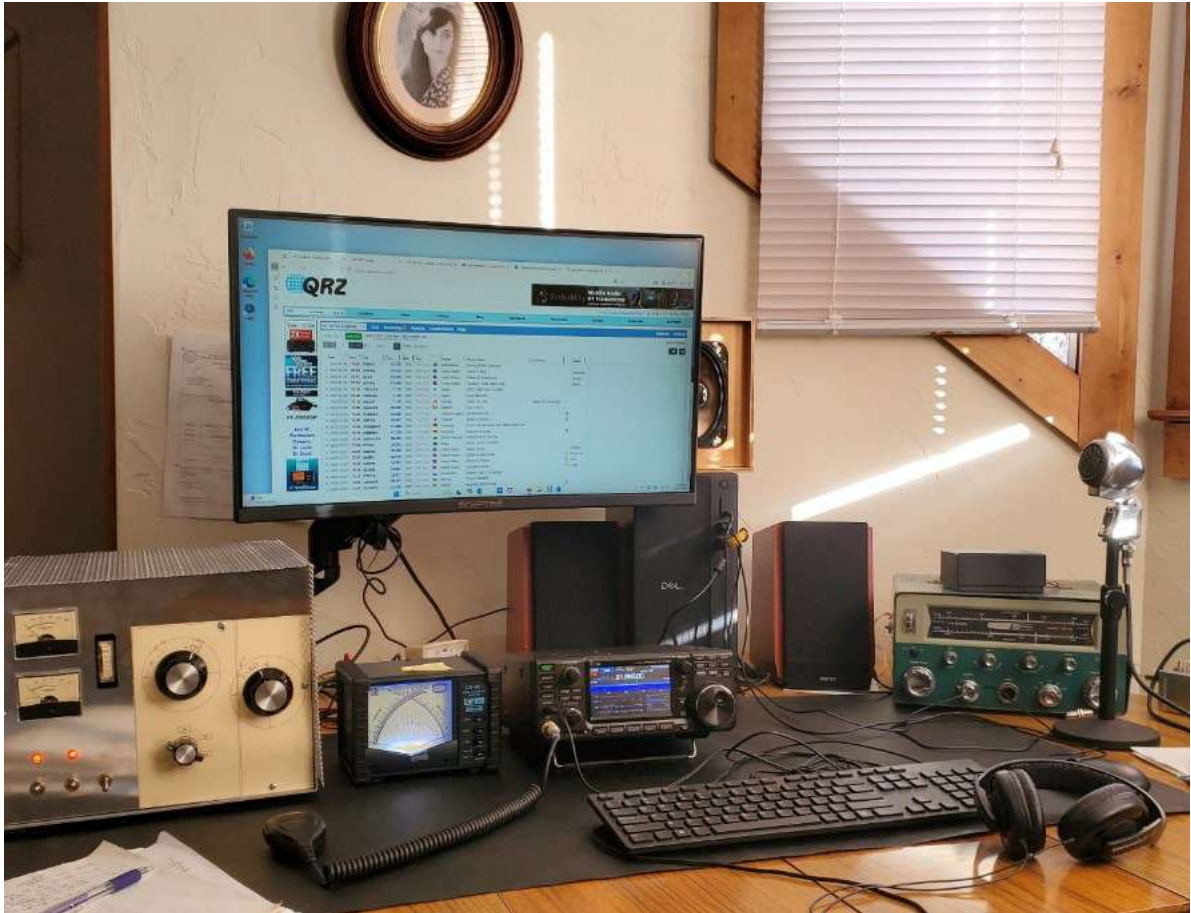
KENT: A storm-related power cut by the electric utility serving the Boulder campus of the National Institute of Standards and Technology caused a drift in time of 4 millionths of a second in the official time-keeper, the F-4 atomic clock. Those moments are immeasurable and of little importance to most of us - except for those who rely on precision in data centers, global positioning systems, aerospace, telecommunications and the Network Time Protocol service, the timing resource for computer systems.

In the wake of the storm, Jeff Sherman, the physicist who maintains the atomic clocks, reported in a mailing-list post on Google groups that [quote]: "The atomic ensemble time scale at our Boulder campus has failed due to a prolonged utility power outage." [endquote]

By some reports, then, in late December, time literally stood still -- however briefly -- until the switch was made to a backup generator. That cost the F-4 atomic clock its accuracy.

Anticipating the storm with winds of hurricane strength, the NIST had previously advised users to connect to redundant systems at other campuses such as WWV/Fort Collins Colorado, or Gaithersburg, Maryland which would remain unaffected.

As for the F-4 atomic clock in Boulder, the time discrepancy was resolved with the clock's recalibration after power was back on by Sunday, December 21st. It was, of course, just a matter of time.



KC1WQK station 12/30/25. Icom 7300 drives the almost-finished home-made 813 linear to 500W on peaks with used tubes. QSOs with JO1DZA and JH5KAC Japan last night on 40 meters long path using a 40m half-wave end-fed wire antenna. Of course, these guys have big towers and arrays of multiple yagis. Still...!



2025-2026 Club Dues can be paid by mail or easier, online at CAARA.NET by paypal or credit card. Thanks in advance!

Revitalizing Your Amateur Radio Club: Innovative Ideas for Keeping Members Engaged and Interested

As amateur radio enthusiasts, we all know the importance of keeping our clubs and groups engaged and active. But with the ever-changing landscape of technology and hobby, it can be challenging to keep things fresh and exciting for our members. One solution is to focus on building and experimenting with digital radios, antennas, and other electronic projects.

Digital radios, in particular, have been gaining popularity in recent years and offer a new level of flexibility and functionality for ham radio operators. Building a digital radio from scratch can be a fun and educational project for members of all ages and skill levels. Not only does it give them hands-on experience with the technology, but it also allows them to customize their radio to suit their specific needs and preferences.

Antenna building is also a great way to keep members engaged. Antennas are a crucial component of any ham radio setup and can be built to suit a wide range of frequencies and applications. From simple wire antennas to more complex designs, building an antenna can be a fun and rewarding project for members of all skill levels.

In addition to building and experimenting with new technology, keeping members engaged through contests and competitions is important. Many amateur radio organizations hold regular contests, such as the ARRL Field Day, which are a great way to get members involved and excited about the hobby. Setting up a local contest or competition can also be a great way to generate interest and engagement among members.

Another way to keep members engaged is by providing opportunities for them to take on leadership roles within the group. This can include roles such as event coordinators, youth mentors, or workshop leaders. Allowing members to take on leadership roles can help them feel more invested in the group and can also help to build a sense of community among members.

Finally, it's important to be open to new ideas and suggestions from members. As the hobby and technology continue to evolve, it's important to be open to new ways of doing things and to be responsive to the needs and interests of your members. Being open and responsive can help keep our clubs and groups engaged and active for years to come.

It is important to include, building and experimenting with digital radios, antennas, and other electronic projects, participating in contests, and leadership roles are all great ways to keep amateur radio clubs and groups engaged. It is essential to be responsive to the needs and interests of the members, to keep them engaged and interested in the hobby. Keep the hobby fun and exciting by experimenting with new technology, and encouraging members to take on leadership roles and build a sense of community among members.

