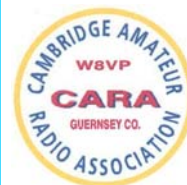


CARA COMMUNICATOR



Located at the Crossroads of Communications in East Central Ohio
Vol. 8 Issue 4, W8VP, 146.25/85, Est. 1913, Mar./Apr./May 2008

OFFICERS FOR 2008



l to r: Dick Wayt, WD8SDH, Activities Chair; Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS, Secretary; Mark Jenei, KC8SBB, Program Chair; Bruce Homer, N8JMK, Vice President; Betty Shoemaker, KC8MFL, Treasurer; Sonny Alfman, W8FHF, President; and Lyn Alfman, N8IMW, PIO/Newsletter Editor.

POOR PROPAGATION FORCES MINOR OSSBN CHANGES

The Ohio Single Side Band Net (OSSBN) has returned the evening net schedule at 6:30 PM on 3972.5 -- the regular frequency for the net. Propagation has improved to the point that the OSSBN can use the regular frequency. It is still 15 minutes earlier than normal time for the evening traffic net session.

The change was announced by Ohio Assistant Section Manager Connie Hamilton, N8IO, Net Manager for OSSBN. She said a return to the normal starting time for the evening session may be announced in March.

The evening net will return to the regular time of 6:45 PM on 3972.5 kHz when sun spots return and the propagation holds, Mrs. Hamilton said. OSSBN morning and afternoon sessions continues as normal - with the 10:30 AM and 4:15 PM nets on the normal frequency of 3972.5 kHz.

From ARRL Ohio Section Manager: Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE k8qoe@arrl.org, 2/19/2008.

SEVERE WX AWARENESS WEEK

March 23-29 has been declared as Ohio Spring Weather Awareness Week. On Wednesday, March 26, tornado sirens will be tested across the state at 9:50 AM. CARA members are encouraged to note whether or not they could hear the sirens from their location and to forward that information to the local EMA.

SKYWARN TRAINING

The Guernsey County EMA and Citizen Corps will sponsor a SKYWARN training class on Thursday, May 1 by Rich Kane from the Pittsburgh National Weather Service office. The training will start at 6 PM in the meeting room of the EMA, located at 624 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge.

CARA BUSINESS MEETINGS

Meetings are held at Community Healthink Building on corner of Edgeworth Avenue and (1205) Clark Street in Cambridge. We are currently meeting on Monday evenings at 7 PM. Here are the dates of this quarter's meetings: March 31, April 28, and June 2 (due to holiday).

MCC MEETING

The TUSCO ARC will host the first Multi-County Coalition of Eastern Ohio meeting of the year on Sunday, March 30 at 2 PM at Tuscora Park in New Philadelphia. Please try to attend.

OHIO ARES CONFERENCE

The ARES Conference will be held at the Ohio Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg on Saturday March 29, from 9 AM to 3 PM.

The conference is open to all amateurs, not just ARES members. There will be several speakers including Section Manager Joe Phillips, Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Piper, Assistant Section Managers, and District Emergency Coordinators. There will be a technical presentation, and, of course, a pizza lunch. See the Ohio ARES Website (www.ohioares.org) for information.



2008 ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Sonny Alfman, W8FHF
Vice President: Bruce Homer, N8JMK
Secretary/Historian: Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS
Treasurer: Betty Shoemaker, KC8MFL
Newsletter Editor: Lyn Alfman, N8IMW
PIO: Lyn Alfman, N8IMW
Activities Chair: Dick Wayt, WD8SDH
Program Chair: Mark Jenei, KC8SBB
Trustees: Sonny Alfman, W8FHF; Alan Day, K8AL; and Bob Gray, KE8NI
MCC Representative: Lyn Alfman, N8IMW; & to be filled

2008 APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster: Jim Houser, WA8JIM
District 9 DEC: Sonny Alfman, W8FHF
Guernsey CO. EC Mark Jenei, KC8SBB
Guernsey CO AECs: Bruce Homer, N8JMK; and Dick Wayt, WD8SHD

LOCAL WEBSITES

CAMBRIDGE ARA ZANESVILLE ARC
www.w8vp.org <http://zarc.eqth.info>

NEWARK ARA COSHOCTON ARA
<http://nara.eqth.info> www.w8cca.org

TUSCO ARC
www.tuscoarc.org

MUSKINGUM VALLEY HAM RC
www.n8hr.bravehost.com

Cambridge Amateur Radio Association,
P. O. Box 1804,
Cambridge, OH 43725
www.w8vp.org w8vp@hotmail.com

SSB TRAFFIC NET FREQUENCIES

OH 3.9725 MHz – 1030, 1615, 1845 Local Time

*See page 1 for updates.

WPA 3.983 MHz – 1815 Local Time

WV 3.865 MHz – 1815 Local Time

LOCAL NETS

Sunday 9 PM 147.045 MHz CCARA
Monday 8 PM 146.730 MHz TUSCO
 9 PM 145.230 MHz CCARA.
Tuesday 8 PM 146.850 MHz CARA
 8:15 PM 146.850 MHz CARA
 9 PM 146.880 MHz NARA
Wednesday 9 PM 146.610 MHz ZARC
Thursday 9 PM 51.135 MHz ZARC
 9 PM 145.230 MHz CCARA
Friday 9 PM 28.450 MHz CCARA
Saturday 8 PM 146.820 MHz PARC
 9 PM 146.610 MHz MCC

HAMFESTS

15 March – Charleston Area Hamfest & Computer Show, Charleston, WV,
<http://www.karc.wvhamradio.com/hamfest.htm>

16 March – Toledo Mobile Radio Assn. Hamfest & Computer Show, Maumee, OH,
<http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

12 April – Jackson Co. ARC Hamfest, Radio, Electronics, & Computer Show, Coalton, OH,
<http://www.arrlohidistrict8.org/jackson.html>

20 April – 54th Annual Cuyahoga Falls ARC Hamfest, Electronics, & Computer Show, Cuyahoga Falls, OH.
<http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2008.htm>

27 April – Athens Co. ARA Hamfest, Athens, OH, <http://www.ac-ara.org>

11 May – 1st Annual Bucyrus Hamfest & Computer Show, Bucyrus, OH, w8dzn@arll.net.

16-18 May – Dayton ARA's Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH,
<http://www.hamvention.org>

24 August—1st Annual Cambridge Amateur Radio Assn.'s Hamfest & Computer Show, Cambridge, OH, www.w8vp.org.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Mar 7-Mar 9, 1400Z-1100Z, Sweetwater, TX. Nolan Co. Amateur Repeater Assn., W5NCA. 50th Year Sweetwater Jaycees World Largest Rattlesnake Roundup. 14.245 7.275 7.245. Certificate. Gary Armstrong, 806 E 16th, Sweetwater, TX 79556.
www.rattlesnakeroundup.net

Mar 7-Mar 10, 2000Z-2200Z, Two Harbors, CA. Palos Verdes ARC, K6PV. IOTA expedition to Santa Catalina Island. 20M 40M 75M phone bands. QSL. Palos Verdes ARC, PO Box 2316, Palos Verdes, CA 90274.
www.palosverdes.com/pvarc

Mar 8, 1500Z-2100Z, Vero Beach, FL. Vero Beach ARC, W4OT. Commemorating America's First Wildlife Refuge, 105 Years. 14.240 14.060 7.240 7.060. QSL. W4OT - Vero Beach ARC, PO Box 2082, Vero Beach, FL 32961. *From the Refuge on The Barrier Island, west of route A1A.*
www.fws.gov/pelicanisland

Mar 8-Mar 9, 1700Z-0300Z, Florence, SC. Florence ARC, N4B. 50th Anniv. of the Atomic Bombing of Mars Bluff, SC. 28.330 14.290 7.263 3.920. Certificate. FARC - Mars Bluff Certificate, PO Box 5602, Florence, SC 29502-5602. *Times are daily. Other frequencies may be used.*
www.w4ulh.org

Apr 11-Apr 12, 1330Z-2100Z, Indian Orchard, MA. Titanic Hist. Soc., W1MGY. 96th Anniv. of the Titanic voyage. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. QSL. Titanic Historical Society QSL, PO Box 51053, 208 Main St, Indian Orchard, MA 01151-0053. www.hcra.org/titanic.htm

May 1-May 4, 1500Z-2100Z, Houston, MO. Ozark Mountain ARC, K0E. Emmett Kelly "Weary Willy" Clown Days. 14.270 7.220 146.850. Certificate. Don Shelhammer, 411 Craig Rd, Raymondville, MO 65444.

May 3, 1400Z-1800Z, Conway, AR. Faulkner County ARC, W5AUU. Toad Suck Daze Festival Special Event Station. 14.260 7.260. Certificate. Faulkner County ARC, PO Box 324, Conway, AR 72032. www.w5auu.org

May 3-May 11, 0100Z-2359Z, Hamilton, OH. Southwest Ohio DX Association, W8H. 8ZU/WRK Hamilton OH's First Amateur/Broadcast Station 1915. 14.275 7.275

3.975 1.875. QSL. Dewey K. Jones, W8KJ, 7035 Morris Rd, Hamilton, OH 45011.
www.swodxa.com

May 9-May 25, 1500Z-0300Z, Indianapolis, IN. Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC, W9IMS. 92nd Indianapolis 500. 21.340 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC, PO Box 18495, Indianapolis, IN 46218-0495. *QSL and certificate available.* www.w9ims.com

ZANE TRACE SPECIAL EVENT

CARA is coordinating a multi-county special event to commemorate the first road opening Ohio to settlement, which will be similar to the Route 66 special event. Zane's Trace special event will have stations on the air in Wheeling, WV; St. Clairsville, Cambridge, Zanesville, Chillicothe, Lancaster, OH; and Maysville, KY. The special event will take place on July 19 and 20.

CARA TO HOST HAMFEST

CARA will host a Hamfest and Computer Show on Sunday, August 24, 2008 at the Pritchard-Laughlin Civic Center. This will be CARA's first hamfest since 1937. Set up starts at 7 AM and the doors open to the public from 8 AM until 2 PM. Admission will be \$5. Tables will be \$10. Free Outdoor Tailgating will be available (weather permitting).

There will be an ARRL VE Session at 12 noon for all classes, pre-registration is not required. Grand Prize will be 2-Meter Mobile rig. Food will be available on the premises. Door prizes and 50/50 will also be available.

Take exit 176 off I-70 at Cambridge and at the traffic light turn right. Talk in will be on 146.850 with 91.5 Hz tone repeater.

CARA PLANS FIELD TRIP

CARA is planning on having a field trip to The Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron on a Saturday in April. If you are interested in taking this trip, please come to the March meeting to help select the date or let one of the officers know your preference. There is a group discount for reservations of ten or more.

ARES ELECTRIC CO-OP DEMO

CARA's ARES group will once again have a booth at the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric's Annual meeting on Saturday, April 5, at Larry Miller Intermediate School in New Concord. If you want to help let any officer know.

HAM OF THE YEAR 2007



Chad Hulboy, KC8YFP, was named CARA's 2007 Ham of the Year at December's Holiday Dinner for his infectious enthusiasm for "fox hunting" and kit building which spurred many club members to take part in these activities.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Susan Stuebe received the first ever CARA Special Achievement Award. She was given this award for designing the CARA logo patch and obtaining the generator shelter used for Field Day. Consideration for this award will be given to those members whose achievements past or present were nearly equally deserving of the Ham of The Year Award but were not chosen.

PROFESSIONAL MEDIA AWARD

Alyssa Ivanson, of WANE-TV in Ft. Wayne, IN, was awarded the Bill Leonard Professional Media Award for producing a TV special of the efforts of Emery McClendon, KB9IBW to promote Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day. As a result of her story, McClendon was invited to meet with First Lady Laura Bush in his effort to promote Amateur Radio.

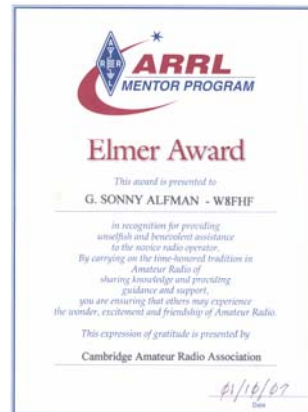
*From January Issue of WEAVER'S WORDS
(ARRL Great Lakes Director, Jim Weaver, K8JE)*

MOST IMPROVED HAM AWARD



Myron "Gil" Gilcher, K8BTD, was presented the Most Improved Ham for his efforts in learning kit building, antenna design (through theory and experimentation), for brushing up on his CW and contesting skills, and becoming active in on the air events.

ARRL ELMER AWARD



Sonny Alfman, W8FHF, was presented with the ARRL Mentor Program's Elmer Award from CARA for his many years of teaching license classes, presenting programs on amateur radio related subjects to amateur radio clubs, and for promoting Amateur Radio to various non-ham organizations in his community and surrounding areas.

NEW ARRL 6-M AWARD

The Fred Fish, W5FF (SK), Memorial Award will soon become available to anyone who confirms 6-M QSOs with all 488 grid squares in the 48 contiguous US states. Fred Fish Memorial Award No. 1 will be issued posthumously to Fred and presented to his wife, Lee Fish, K2FF.

*From January Issue of WEAVER'S WORDS
(ARRL Great Lakes Director, Jim Weaver, K8JE)*

JANUARY 26 CLUB NOTES



Guest speaker, Captain Sears, discussed the local Salvation Army's role in the floods of 1998 and 2004 as well as everyday ways they help the community. Sears recalled the Salvation Army's role after Katrina and September 11. Finally, Sears discussed the ways CARA members could help, including providing communications for him locally and statewide and perhaps setting up SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Network of ham operators) in this area of the state.

Under Officers' Reports, items discussed were the upcoming Technician Class Cram Course on February 16 at SEORMC, the findings of the Holiday Parade critique and planning session, and the SW Digital Symposium. The secretary provided minutes, took applications, and collected dues. The PIO-Newsletter Editor noted the local media announcements and requested items for the newsletter. The Guernsey Co. EC submitted the S.E.T. report to the state officials.

Under Committee Reports, progress on the hamfest and the repeater conversion, and the announcement of the 2007 Ham of the Year, Chad Hulboy, were discussed.

Under Old Business, July 19-20 has been set for the Zane's Trace Special Event. Members were also asked to set a date for a field trip to the Inventors' Hall of Fame at the February meeting.

Under New Business, members were asked to be available to help with the hamfest. Other items discussed were the new sunspot cycle, the local WINLINK project, club activities for 2008, and the nomination of officers for 2008. Net Control Operators for February were set, announcements of upcoming events and hamfests were made, and the meeting was adjourned. Many members who were present had a social hour over lunch at Plus One Pizza.

FEBRUARY 23 CLUB NOTES



Guest speaker, Earl Paazig, N8KBR.

Under Officers' Reports, the results of the Technician Cram Course test session, the progress of the Zane's Trace Special Event, the booth at Swing Into Spring for Citizen Corps members, the ARES booth at the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric's Annual meeting, the ARES Conference in Reynoldsburg, and the MCC meeting at Tuscora Park were discussed. The secretary provided minutes and took applications for membership. The treasurer's report was given along with a called for bills. The PIO-newsletter editor noted the club notes and announcements on local media and made a final call for articles and items for sale for the spring newsletter.

Under Committee reports, the Hamfest, EMI/RFI, Repeater Conversion, Website, and Membership Committees gave reports.

Under Old Business, the selection of a date for the field trip was postponed until March. A possible operating site for the Zane's Trace event was selected. VE team organization and fox hunt activities were discussed.

Under New Business, the ARES booth committee was named. Siren testing exercise and a flea market table were discussed. It was decided that newly licensed hams who attend at least one meeting will be given a year's membership free. It was also suggested that we should put this provision in our by-laws. The first Adopt-A-Highway clean up will be April 20.

Net Control Operators were set for March, a list of upcoming club meetings and activities was distributed, and the meeting was adjourned. Earl Paazig, N8KBR, gave a presentation/class on "Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiners" after the business meeting. A social hour ensued at Plus One Pizza.

FIELD DAY 2008



Field Day this year is June 28-29. The location of CARA's Field Day will be decided at the March 31 meeting. Everyone can help make it a success by volunteering to help in the preparations, set up, operations, and tear down. Please mark your calendars and join in.

MULTIPSK 4.7 RELEASED

Patrick Lindecker, F6CTE, has release a new version of the popular MULTIPSK data modes software, which appears on his web site: <http://f6cte.free.fr/>.

The main mirror site is Earl Paazig's, N8KBR: <http://multipsk.eqth.info/index.html> (click on "United States Download Site #1").

Among other modifications: ARQ [Automatic Repetition reQuest] FAE [Fast Acknowledged Exchange] in ALE and ALE400, improvement of the Outlook Express (or equivalent) outgoing mails handling, automatic transfer of received ARQ FAE messages, to Internet addresses via Outlook Express e-mails (for licensed copies), and possibility to work in "Responder".

From www.qrz.com, submitted by G4TUT on February 3, 2008.

ARRL AND RED CROSS

Official word from the ARRL is that there is no, nor will there be until further notice, a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the National Red Cross and the ARRL. So, does this mean we "walk off the job"? No!! If your ARES group is still working well with your local Red Cross, please keep the relationship strong, and offer help when needed and requested. Please understand that signing of any releases for background, credit, Proprietary Information, Intellectual Property is up the volunteer, and I will not give guidance one way or another on this topic, other than just be aware what you are signing and agreeing to. Someday these two organizations will come to an agreement, but until then I consider the matter closed with this last statement on the subject.

From Frank J. Piper, KI8GW, Ohio Section
Emergency Coordinator, 19 February 2008

NEW VE MANUAL AVAILABLE

The new ARRL VE Manual is now available on the ARRL Web at:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemannual/>.

From Earl Paazig, N8KBR.

ARRL BOARD STAFF

All officers were re-elected unanimously; however, the Executive Committee will have a different look. Great Lakes Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, was reappointed chair of the ARRL Historical Committee, and Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, was assigned to the Administration and Finance (A&F) Committee.

From January Issue of *WEAVER'S WORDS*
(ARRL Great Lakes Director, Jim Weaver, K8JE)

NEW EXTRA CLASS QUESTIONS

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released a new pool of 741 questions and 12 graphics

<<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=338>> for the Amateur Extra class license. This pool will become effective for examinations given on or after July 1, 2008, and should be in service until June 30, 2012. It can be downloaded from the NCVEC Web site in Word, PDF or RTF formats. If you have any questions concerning the new Amateur Extra question pool, please contact the NCVEC's Question Pool Committee via e-mail <qpc@ncvec.org>.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 11, 2008

SATELLITE HAS NEW DUTIES

Launched in January 1990, AMSAT-OSCAR 16 (AO-16), a digital satellite, has been unavailable for use while the command team dealt with a serious computer problem. Since The satellite's recovery, it's now open to general use as a voice repeater for an unspecified "test period" using FM voice on the uplink, but transmits DSB voice on the downlink (best received on SSB). The uplink is 145.920 FM, and the downlink is 437.026 SSB +/- Doppler shift. Users are asked to restrict their uplink power to a reasonable power level and to not transmit without being able to hear the downlink; all general single-channel guidelines apply. Submit reports to: <ao16@amsat.org>.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 3, January 25, 2008



TRIVIA QUESTION # 1

Before World War II, the state of Pennsylvania was in: 1. W3 land; 2. W8 land; 3. Both; or 4. Neither.

TRIVIA QUESTION #2

In which 90's movie, did Ham Radio "save the day"? 1. Contact; 2. Titanic; 3. Independence Day; or 4. Congo



ALL-RISK ALL-GEAR INSURANCE

My guess is that most of us have insurance of some form on our radio equipment. It may be everything that we want. On the other hand, it may be a little lacking.

You may not know that ARRL has had "all-risk" and "all-gear" insurance available to ARRL members for many years. This is the type of insurance that will cover every piece of ham equipment, your computer(s) and the programs used with your ham activities . . . and give you the full replacement value of any insured item that is lost through any accidental occurrence. Yes, I said replacement value. I should also add that people I know who have benefited from this insurance say collecting on it is fully no-hassle.

You can check into this insurance "from the comfort of your own home" by going to www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/insurance/equipment.html. Whether you decide to buy this insurance, it is still a good deal.

From February Issues of WEAVER'S WORDS (ARRL Great Lakes Director, Jim Weaver, K8JE)

SR. CITIZENS LOSE DISCOUNT

Effective January 1, 2009, the ARRL senior citizens \$3 discount on dues will be eliminated. Taken collectively, this change will permit the ARRL to keep its budget in the black.

Seniors may renew their memberships using the discount for as many as five years if this is done by the end of 2008. If the details of this multi-year extension have not been announced by the time your renewal comes due, feel free to call toll free at 1-888-277-5289

From January/February Issues of WEAVER'S WORDS (ARRL Great Lakes Director, Jim Weaver, K8JE)

HAM NAMED DIRECTOR

Bill Read, KB5FYA, has been named director of NOAA's Tropical Prediction Center, which includes the National Hurricane Center. The National Hurricane Center has worked closely with hams for decades and has a dedicated amateur station on-site, W4EHW.

From the CQ Newsroom...28 January 2008

KA3HDO CHIEF ENGINEER ESMD

"And congratulation to Amateur Radio on the International Space Station International," said Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. This is after he is named as the NASA Headquarters Chief Engineer for the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate.

The ESMD as it is called is NASA's initiative to develop a sustained human presence on the moon, promote space exploration, and serve as a stepping stone to Mars and beyond. As Chief Engineer, Bauer provides systems engineering advice and consultation to resolve some of the most demanding and complex technical and organizational challenges within this exploration program. (*AMSAT News Service*)

BETA TESTING OF SOFTWARE

The Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS) development team announced earlier this week that a Windows NBEMS software suite for beta testing is now available. NBEMS for Windows is a suite of software programs designed for point-to-point, error-free emergency messaging up to or over 100 miles distant. The NBEMS suite can be downloaded for beta testing from the NBEMS Web site <<http://w1hkj.com/NBEMS/>>. Send comments and bug reports via e-mail <kh6ty@comcast.net>.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 11, 2008

SOLAR CYCLE 24 HERE

With the appearance of Sunspot 981, a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot, on Friday, January 4, experts at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said that Cycle 24 is now here, and it looks like it's going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago. The solar maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160, plus or minus 25.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 11, 2008

NEW PREFIX E7A-E7Z

In response to a request from the Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina in August, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) withdrew the call sign prefix allocation T9A-T9Z for Bosnia and Herzegovina and made a new allocation, E7A-E7Z. The change was made initially on a provisional basis under authority of the ITU Secretary-General and was confirmed by the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference to be effective November 17, 2007.

According to International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Ministry of Communications and Transport (BiH) held a press conference in Sarajevo on December 18 to formally announce the change. Amateur Radio station licenses bearing E7 prefixes will be issued beginning in January 2008, and the use of other prefixes will be phased out.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No.1, January 11, 2008

ARRL SM GET NEW POWERS

Section Managers were given authority to make official appointments of Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators as well as Assistant District Emergency Coordinators. Depending upon the size of the ARES (total members) organization in a Section, being able to make these appointments officially may prove very beneficial.

From January Issue of WEAVER'S WORDS (ARRL Great Lakes Director, Jim Weaver, K8JE)

CEPT SAYS NO TO US TECH AND GENERAL

U.S. hams who want to operate in countries that have CEPT universal licensing and want to use that reciprocal system had better hold an Advanced or Extra class license.

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, with word that the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations which administers the CEPT licensing scheme feels that the United States Technician and General class licenses no longer meet the requirements to permit reciprocal operating CEPT agreement nations.

The CEPT license was created to minimize the need for hams licensed in one nation to operate

from another without requesting a reciprocal license in each country. The decision to disenfranchise United States General and Technician class hams from CEPT licensing came at a January 29th meeting held in Basel, Switzerland. At that gathering the CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group re-evaluated current United States license standards versus those of the other CEPT signatories. It apparently found the recently revised US licensing standards for Technician and General no longer have any equivalent in the European community of nations. This change does not mean that United States Technician and General Class license holders cannot operate from Europe. It does however require that a U.S. Tech or General may have to apply for a reciprocal operating permit in that nation. It's also suggested that this be done well in advance of departing on that trip because some administrations are very slow in responding.

One last note, the decision by the United States to drop all Morse testing had nothing to do with the CEPT decision. Most CEPT signatories dropped Morse testing long before we did here in the USA.

From the CQ Newsroom, February 14, 2008

CQ WPX AWARD EXPANSION

CQ magazine and WPX Awards Manager Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, have announced several changes to the WPX Award program in response to feedback from program participants. The changes, effective immediately, add new bands and create a new Digital WPX Award.

Under the new rules, contacts on all bands between 160 and 6 meters will count for WPX award credit. In addition, new band endorsements will now be available for 5 MHz, 10 MHz, 18 MHz, 24 MHz and 50 MHz contacts. A separate Digital WPX Award has also been added, for contacts made on RTTY, PSK and other keyboard modes, with 300 confirmed prefixes required for the basic level of the award. Digital-mode contacts will also count toward the existing Mixed award, as will those prefixes worked on the newly added bands. Details on these and other changes will be published in the March 2008 issue of CQ magazine and are posted along with the March issue highlights on the CQ magazine website at <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>>.

From the CQ Newsroom, February 14, 2008

BUILD SOMETHING!

A couple of years ago, a group of us were talking on the club repeater, and the talk got around to building stuff. One of the guys said, "You can't really build anything anymore." I almost fell out of my chair. That's simply not true. Heathkit may be just a fond memory, but there are still many companies out there selling kits that are not only fun to build but are useful additions to the ham shack. Here are a couple of sources: 1) Elecraft (www.elecraft.com); 2) TenTec (radio.tentec.com/kits); 3) QRP Kits (www.qrpkits.com);

In my mind, Elecraft has become the premiere ham radio kit company, if not the premiere ham radio company, period. The new K3, for example, outperforms just about the market by many accounts. Personally, I have built the KX-1, which is a real blast to operate from a park bench or to take on vacation.

I also have a TenTec. While perhaps known more for their ready-made rigs, they also sell a line of single-band transceivers and receiver kits.

QRPKits.Com sells kits that were originally projects of the Northern California QRP Club. My current General Class students are going to build the DC40A kit (\$40) as an exercise in building and as a way to learn about how radios work.

Below are some other companies whose kits have good reputations, but with which I have no personal experience: 1) Small Wonder Labs (www.smallwonderlabs.com); 2) Wilderness Radio (www.fix.net/~jparker/wild.html); 3) Milestone Technologies (www.mtechnologies.com); 4) Almost All Digital Electronics (www.aade.com/index.html); 5) FAR Circuits (www.farcircuits.net); 6) Jackson Harbor (home.att.net/~jacksonharbor/ham.htm); 7) QRPme (www.qrpme.com/); and 8) Linear Amp UK (www.linamp.co.uk).

QRP clubs are also a good source of cool kits. The problem with QRP clubs is that they order parts only for a very short run of kits. Once they sell out, the kits are no longer available. Even so, here are some clubs that are worth checking out: 1) American QRP Club (www.amqrp.org); 2) Four State QRP Club (4sqrp.com/kits/kits.htm); and 3) NORTEX (www.kk5na.com/nortex.htm).

Ready to rock and roll? Here are a couple of

websites that you might want to check out before you dive in: 1) Electronic Construction from A to Z (www.mtechnologies.com/building/atoz.htm). This site includes a page that lists all the tools you'll need to become a successful kit builder; 2) Crystal Sets to Sideband: A Guide to Building an Amateur Radio Station (www.qsl.net/k3pd/book.html). This site not only discusses kit building, but also radio theory; and 3) The Art of Kit Building (ww2.netnitco.net/users/wt9w/kit%20building.html).

I hope that I've whetted your appetite for building a kit or two. They're a lot of fun to build, and you really do get a rush from operating a radio or using a piece of test equipment that you built yourself.

73, Dan KB6NU (What have you built lately? Let Dan know. Email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.)

NEW MARCONI DOCUMENTARY

A new 16 minute movie about the life of famed inventor Guglielmo Marconi has been released by Mooncusser Films of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Chatham Radio - The Untold Story is narrated by Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD. It traces Marconi's career from his the first transatlantic transmission from his wireless station at Chatham on Cape Cod, to its life saving emergence as a life-saving tool at sea and though his creation of the business of wireless communication.

The film was produced by Barbara Cotnam, directed and edited by Christopher Seufert. You can see a sample of it on line at the company website at www.MooncusserFilms.com. (Mooncusser release).

From Amateur Radio Newslines™ Report 1591 - February 8, 2008

MOTOROLA OWNS YAESU

On January 16, Motorola announced that its subsidiary, MI, Inc, has successfully completed its tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard, parent company of Yaesu. Starting on January 22, Motorola, through a restructuring process, will own 80 percent of Vertex Standard, while Tokogiken will retain 20 percent. Motorola is leaving the day-to-day management of Yaesu in the hands of Jun Hasegawa, President of Vertex Standard.

According to Motorola, "[t]he joint venture is expected to expand and develop a comprehensive

suite of products to address the rapidly growing demand for 2-way radio solutions. Vertex Standard's strength in the amateur, marine and airband (avionics) segments provides Motorola with access to new business opportunities."

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 2, January 18, 2008

AOL ADOPTS AMAZON'S UNBOX

Another telecommunications giant is bailing out of on-line video. This time it's America Online and amateur Radio Newslines David Black, KB4KCH, is at our South-East bureau with the details.

America Online says that it is ending its one year old pay-for-download service. This, in favor of Web retailer Amazon.com Inc.'s technology for selling movies and TV shows online.

AOL started selling video online last October. Company spokesman Fred McIntyre told the press that the reason for walking away from its initial offering was based on A-O-L shifting its focus for its primary business and everything it does towards an advertising business."

Amazon launched its Unbox in September 2006. It offers thousands of television shows, movies and other videos from more than 30 studios and networks at what industry observers cite as a very reasonable cost.

Terms of the deal were not available, but Amazon says that it does plan to share revenue with America Online. (WebNews)

From Amateur Radio Newslines™ Report 1591 - February 8, 2008

TECHNICIAN CRAM COURSE



Sonny Alfman, W8FHF, taught a Technician Class License Power-Point Cram Course on Saturday, February 16, at the Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SEORMC) in Cambridge. The class was a success. Fourteen

out of nineteen in the class passed their license test. Two other people took the Tech exam—one was successful. There were five people who took upgrade tests. Three of them were successful. We want to thank the Coshocton Co. ARA VEC team for their help and to thank SEORMC for the use of the facilities and refreshments.

ANSWER TRIVIA QUESTION # 1

The correct answer is 3. Pre-WWII, the western part of PA was W8 and the eastern part was W3. After the war, call districts were reshuffled a bit and the zero call area was added.

ANSWER TRIVIA QUESTION # 2

The correct answer is 3. They relied on Morse Code, transmitted by "hams" throughout the world. When all of the other conventional means of communication failed, Amateur Radio saves the day, even in Hollywood.

HAMS ENJOY HAGGIS



Hams at the Celtic Society of SEO's Annual Burns' Night Dinner. l. to r.: Bill Dickson, WB8TRK; Head Piper Al Day, K8AL; Commissioner Lyn Alfman, N8IMW; and Sonny Alfman, W8FHF.

TV'S DIGITAL TRANSITION

The transition from analog to digital television will take place on February 17, 2009, after which all television broadcasts will be digital.

What are your options? If you have an analog television that does not have a built in digital tuner and decide to keep it, you will have to buy a "digital-to-analog" converter box. (It is a device that easily plugs into your television set.) If you have a television with a digital tuner, then you do not need a converter. If you haven't bought a television in the last five years, it probably doesn't have a digital tuner.

Or you may choose to buy a digital television (make sure it has a built in digital tuner), or hook

up to cable, satellite, or some other pay television service. Or you could buy a converter with enhanced features, such as one with a DVD recorder (not eligible for the coupon towards the purchase of certain analog to digital tuners).

Starting now, each household in America can request up to two \$40 coupons from the government toward the purchase of certain tuners. Coupons will expire 90 days after they are issued.

The agency responsible for this coupon program is the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Requests for the coupons can be taken by calling 1-888-DTV-2009 or 1-888-388-2009 or visit www.dtv.gov to find out how to apply for your coupons.

From the U. S. Department of Commerce

EXTRA CLASS CERTIFICATE

The membership department Awards Branch has introduced a new version of the Extra Class License Certificate. This newly designed certificate acknowledges the achievements of recent Extra Class operators as well as those who made the grade long ago. The size is 8 1/2 x 11 inches and is suitable for framing. The cost is only \$7.50 for ARRL Members and \$10.00 for non-members, and be sure to tell them the date your Extra Class license was issued.

By Joanne Solak, KJ3O, Ohio Affiliation Clubs Coordinator, March Ohio Section News, 2/19/2008.

ARRL OKAYS ASSISTANT SEC AND DEC APPOINTMENTS

Last month it was announced by the ARRL that Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators (ASEC) and Assistant District Emergency Coordinators (ADEC) will now be made official appointments by the league.

Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE has delegated the task of making the appointments to the SEC for Ohio

From Frank J. Piper, KI8GW, Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator, 19 February 2008

NRF TRAINING RELEASED

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today released the on-line IS-800.B National Response Framework (NRF), An Introduction training course. The NRF, which focuses on response and short-term recovery,

articulates the doctrine, principles and architecture by which our nation prepares for and responds to all-hazard disasters across all levels of government and all sectors of communities.

The course introduces participants to the concepts and principles of the NRF and is available at <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS800b.asp>. When individuals complete the course, they should take the online test, fill out the student information and submit the test for scoring. FEMA's Emergency Management Institute's Independent Study office will notify individuals via email of their successful completion of the course and a link will be included to access and print a course certificate.

Individuals may contact the Independent Study office via email Independent.Study@dhs.gov or contact the call center at 301-447-1200 or toll free at 1-800-238-3358, extension 1200. Independent Study Program office hours are 7:30AM-7:30PM (EDT). There are no pre-requisites for this course. IS800.B takes approximately 3 hours to complete.

From Frank J. Piper, KI8GW, Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator, 19 February 2008

SEC CONTACTS ALL EMA DIRECTORS

A few weeks ago, Frank Piper, KI8GW, Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator, sent a letter to all the EMA directors in the Ohio Section to "re-introduce" ARES to each of the directors, who we are, what we do, and to direct them to the Ohio ARES website, as well as the Ohio Section and main ARRL websites.

He discovered that a few EMA directors were not aware of how the ARES was structured, or who their EC was in the county. Last year, he asked all DEC's and EC's to make contact but that was not 100% successful, so he filled in the holes with the recent letter.

From Frank J. Piper, KI8GW, Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator, 19 February 2008

ARES FORUM TO FEATURE DENNIS DURA, K2DCD

The ARES forum at the Dayton Hamvention, Saturday May 18th, 2008 at 10:15 AM, will feature Dennis Dura, K2DCD, the new ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager.

From Frank J. Piper, KI8GW, Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator, 19 February 2008

NAME THE WIHQ MASCOT

WIHQ, the Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club, has a mascot in need of a name. Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, purchased the six-foot long stuffed yellow-green toy snake as a way to make the refurbished station a bit friendlier.

Breen and the rest of the WIHQ team are calling on the Amateur Radio community to help give the as-yet unnamed snake a name: "We encourage all amateurs to submit a name for the snake. We will get together and go over all the entries to choose the best one and announce the winner at our WIHQ special event around the first of April."

The contributor of the winning entry will receive their choice of a current edition of "The ARRL Operating Manual," "The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications" or "The ARRL Antenna Book." All entries should be family-friendly (G-rated) and sent via e-mail w1hqsnake@arrl.org.

From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 7, February 22, 2008

ARRL HANDBOOK AND BROADCAST INDUSTRY

A broadcast industry trade publication has named "The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications" as the top-rated reference book of broadcast engineers.

In an article <http://radioworld.com/pages/s.0047/t.11230.html> in the February 13 edition of "Radio World," the various annual versions of the "Handbook" received the most mentions of necessary literature on the engineer's desk. Doug Fearn, K3KW, an independent hand crafter of audio equipment and a former chief engineer, said, "Not only did I learn electronics from that book, but the old editions are superb examples of how to explain things clearly." Andy Butler, senior director for systems engineering at PBS and a former president of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE), also recommended the "Handbook," calling it "The best, most comprehensive, cheapest guide to technology you will ever need."

From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 7, February 22, 2008

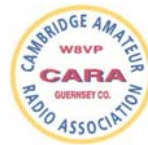


TRADING POST

CLUB CLOTHING

Carolyn Poland, KA8UJA of Newcomerstown, has started Bluebird Embroidery. She sells hats, shirts, jackets, and other items of clothing, and towels on which she will embroider your name, call sign, and organization as well as other items. Contact her at bluebirdembroidery@hughes.net for more information on full line of items and costs.

CARA'S CLUB PATCH



Contact Lyn Alfman, N8IMW, to buy a CARA patch which can be sewn on clothing or a hat. The cost is \$2.50 each.

FOOD CORNER

During Lent many people give up meat and eat a lot more seafood. The following quick sauces will add flavor you these meals.

Quick Tarter Sauce: Mix 3 T. mayonnaise or Miracle Whip, 1 t. sweet pickle relish, dash lemon juice. Makes 2 servings.

Quick Cocktail Sauce: Mix 3 T. ketchup with 1 t. horseradish, dash lemon. Makes 2 servings.

MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS

March: Billie Dickson, WB8TRK; Josh Boyd, N8XAY; and Mark Jenei, KC8SBB. May: Tim Honkus, KC8ZWS.

MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARIES

April: Walt, N3DZP, and Doris, KB8OLG, Brown. **May:** Bob, KE8NI, and Ruth Gray; Chad, KC8YFP, and Jennifer Hulboy.



73 de Lyn Alfman, N8IMW

BE RADIO ACTIVE!