

# CARA COMMUNICATOR



Located at the Crossroads of Communications in East Central Ohio  
Vol. 8 Issue 3, W8VP, 146.25/85, Est. 1913, Dec./Jan./Feb. 2007-08

## CARA TO HOST HAMFEST

CARA will host a Hamfest and Computer Show on Sunday, August 24, 2008 at the Pritchard-Laughlin Civic Center, take exit 176 off I-70 at Cambridge. Set up 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.

## CARA ORGANIZING ZANE TRACE SPECIAL EVENT

CARA will be contacting amateur radio club located along the old Zane's Trace route to coordinate a multi-county special event to commemorate the first road opening Ohio to settlement. Zane's Trace ran through what are now Adams, Pike, Ross, Fairfield, Perry, Muskingum, Guernsey, and Belmont Counties of Ohio.

We are hoping to make this an event similar to the Route 66 Special Event.

## CARA PLANS FIELD TRIP

CARA is planning on having a field trip to The Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron in early spring. If you are interested in taking this trip, please let one of the officers know. Also, a suggestion of a good date for the trip would be appreciated.

## WAYT APPOINTED A.E.C.



Dick Wayt, WD8SDH, was appointed Assistant Emergency Coordinator by Guernsey County Emergency Coordinator Mark Jenei, KC8SBB.

## HOLIDAY POTLUCK DINNER

CARA will hold its annual Holiday Potluck Dinner on Saturday, December 15, at 6 PM in the Community Healthlink Building. Everyone is welcome, CARA and non-CARA member alike, and is requested to bring a covered dish, his/her beverages, his/her place settings, and his/her family or friends as well as their appetites.

## FOOD DRIVE

CARA is once again holding a non-perishable food drive to help the local food banks meet their needs this time of year. This year's collection will go to the Salvation Army. We will be taking donations at our Holiday Dinner. AND...if you should happen to forget a non-perishable food donation, we will be glad to take a monetary donation. Thanks to everyone for your generosity!

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Susan Stuebe, KB8SUZ, has been tapped to receive a Certificate of Achievement by the Cambridge Amateur Radio Association for her role in designing the CARA Logo Patch and for obtaining the generator shelter that we use for Field Day in inclement weather.

## VANITY CALL SALE

The FCC has reduced the regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent effective September 17, 2007. The new fee is \$11.70.

--from pg. 12, November, 2007 QST Magazine

## CARA BUSINESS MEETINGS

Meetings are held at Community Healthlink Building on corner of Edgeworth Avenue and Clark Street in Cambridge.

There is no December club meeting!

Saturday, January 26, 10 AM—Nomination of officers

Saturday, February 23, 10 AM—Election of officers

*Seasons' Greetings!*

## 2007 OFFICERS

**President** Sonny Alfman, W8FHF  
**Vice President** Bruce Homer, N8JMK  
**Secretary** 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 Representatives:** Dean Gilpin, KD8BTL and Lyn Alfman, N8IMW  
**Historian** Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS  
**Webmaster** Jim Houser, WA8JIM  
**Emergency Coordinator** Mark Jenei, KC8SBB.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

If you have any thing that you want to sell, buy, or swap for something, let me know, and I will place it in the next newsletter.

Please let me know what information would be of interest to you, so that I may better serve your needs: [lynalfman@aol.com](mailto:lynalfman@aol.com).

### MCC WEBSITES

CAMBRIDGE                      ZANESVILLE  
[www.w8vp.org](http://www.w8vp.org)                      <http://zarc.eqth.info>

NEWARK                              COSHOCTON  
<http://nara.eqth.info>                      [www.w8cca.org](http://www.w8cca.org)

TUSCO  
[www.noard.com/tuscoarc.htm](http://www.noard.com/tuscoarc.htm)

Cambridge Amateur Radio Association,  
P. O. Box 1804,  
Cambridge, OH 43725  
[www.w8vp.org](http://www.w8vp.org)  
w8vp@hotmail.com

## SSB TRAFFIC NET FREQUENCIES

OH 3.9725 MHz – 1030, 1615, 1845 Local Time  
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

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

### CQ DX Marathon –All Year

ARRL Straight Key Night—January 1  
ARRL RTTY Round-Up –January 5-6  
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes – Jan. 19-20  
CQ WW 160-Meter/CW –January 27-28  
CQWW RTTY WPX –February 9-10  
ARRL International DX/CW – February 16-17  
CQWW 160 Meter/SSB – February 23-24  
ARRL International DX/Phone – March 1-2

### UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

**Dec. 8,** 1600-2300Z. San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 COMEDTRA, NI6IW, Remembrance of Pearl Harbor. 14.325, 7.260. QSL USS Midway CV-41 Museum, 910 North Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101. [w9bq@aol.com](mailto:w9bq@aol.com).

**Dec. 15-22,** 1300-2200Z. Wheeling, WV. Northern Panhandle Radio Club, W8ZQ, Festival of LIGHTS. 14.250, 7.240, 3.865, 145.52. Certificate. Joe McCready, WB8CTC, PO Box 192, Blaine, OH 43912. [fishcrick@aol.com](mailto:fishcrick@aol.com).

**Feb. 9,** 1400-2200Z. Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club, W0EBB. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Freeze Your Keys” Winter Operating Event. 14.260, 14.060, 7.290, 7.040. QSL. Gary Auchard, 34058 167<sup>th</sup> St., Leavenworth, KS 66048. [www.pkarc.org](http://www.pkarc.org).

## CARA ANNUAL PICNIC



The Cambridge Amateur Radio Association held its annual picnic Sunday, September 16 at the Cambridge City Park. Fifteen members and five guests were present. Not shown are Lisa Wayt and Dick Clifton, who took the picture.

## CARA AT AVC OPEN HOUSE



CARA participated in the AVC open house on Sunday, September 30. CARA set up a display of radios from 1924 to the present, an information table with handouts, scrapbooks, photo albums, and a live amateur radio demonstration.

## S-BRIDGE SPECIAL EVENT



CARA operated a special event station from the Peter's Creek S-Bridge along US 40/22 in Guernsey County under the club's call sign, W8VP, on October 20. They made over 130 contacts, including 21 JOTA stations.

## OHIO SECTION CONFERENCE



Pictured from left to right are CARA members who attended the Ohio Section Conference at the Ohio Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg on September 15, 2007: Larry Mason, N8RAF, Emergency Coordinator for Noble County; Sonny Alfman, W8FHF, President and District 9 Emergency Coordinator; Joe Phillips, K8QOE, ARRL Ohio Section Manager; Lyn Alfman, N8IMW, PIO and Newsletter Editor; and Bruce Homer, N8JMK, Vice President and Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Guernsey County.

### Introduction

The Ohio Section cabinet members gave reports, presented awards, and provided attendees with a free pizza lunch.

Frank Piper, KI8GW, Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC), introduced Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Section Manager (SM). Phillips, thanked John Tipka, W8UL, Section Traffic Manager (STM), and the Licking County amateurs for arranging the use of the facility and talk-in assistance for the attendees. He then turned the podium back over to Frank Piper.

### Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC)



Frank Piper, KI8GW, discussed the SEC Amateur Radio Emergency Service High Frequency Administration Net, which will be held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 5 PM on 3875.0 KHz +/- QRM. (This net is to be used by District Emergency Coordinators and other and high ranking ARRL staff members across the state.)

Second, Piper talked about the Ohio ARES web site <http://www.ohioares.org> and suggested that the District Emergency Coordinators use the reporting form on the site to send in their monthly reports. He distributed the revised (September 1, 2007) Ohio Section Emergency Response Plan (OSERP) and announced that the ARES Conference next year will be held Saturday, March 29, in Reynoldsburg at that facility.

Third, Piper stated that he wants 95% of the counties to have an Emergency Coordinator by time for the ARES Conference next spring and to see more multi-county drills that used amateur radio in their scenarios and plans. In these drills and in real emergencies, he said that radio operators should ideally only operate 2 hours before being relieved.

Finally he asked everyone to try to reduce the amount of “HARPO” that is going on within and between clubs in the counties. (**HARPO** means **HA**m Radio **PO**litics.)

#### **Great Lakes Division Vice Director**

Gary Johnston, KI4LA, discussed the need for all ARES members to have Level 3 Hazmat Training and announced that Dennis Dura, K2DCD, has been named ARRL Emergency Preparedness & Response Manager to develop, organize, and implement emergency responses for disasters—especially national.



During the short Q & A session, a discussion ensued concerning the Ohio Repeater Directory not listing the necessary PLs to use some of the machines. It was suggested that most of the repeaters should have a second PL of the universally used 100 added so that mobiles could access these repeaters.

#### **Official Observer Coordinator**

Rich Swain, KK8O, stated that everyone should act as a mentor for new hams and as monitors of our air ways. First, you should identify every 10 minutes and the end of the conversation. Also, he said that identifying so fast that people are unable

to hear your call also falls under the improper identification category. Second, Swain said that if someone is using questionable comments on the air and/or abusing your repeater, don't encourage him/her by talking to them—turn off the repeater. Usually after half an hour, they are gone because they do not have an audience. Also when attempting to triangulate and hunt down this individual—maintain radio silence or you will tip them off, and you will be unable to find them. You want to be able to find them, and especially in the act, so that you can get them shut down. Third, Swain noted that Internet controlled link repeater systems must have a control operator at all times and must not have third party traffic. He suggested checking the latest version of 97.101 rules.

#### **Section Manager (SM)**



Notice all the empty pizza boxes behind Joe!

Joe Phillips, K8QOE, the host of the Ohio Section Conference, made four announcements. First, Scott Yonally, K8SY, Public Information Coordinator, is absent due to a death in the family. Second, Yonally had planned to announce that Phil Nichols, KD8FGV, will be the new webmaster of the Ohio Section web site [www.iarc.ws/ohio](http://www.iarc.ws/ohio), the official web site for the Ohio Section Journal. Third, Yonally had also planned to announce that he is stepping down as Public Information Coordinator (PIC) as of October 1. And, fourth, Yonally has named Emily Wells, KC8RAL, to replace him as PIC, effective October 1.

#### **Newsletter Contest**

Due to Yonally's absence, Phillips announced this year's Newsletter Contest Winners: 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to MARC/MARES—Marion ARC, Ken Bartter, WB8YNL, Editor; 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to News Unwired, Grant ARC, Carolyn Donner, N8ST, Editor; 1<sup>st</sup> place went to HF Chronicles, West Chester ARC, Mike Ashley, N8XW, Editor.

### Severson Award



After the pizza lunch, Phillips presented the Severson Award to Assistant Section Manager William (Bill) Carpenter, AA8EY, for his service to amateur radio and the Ohio Section, and for improving the hobby.

### Section Government Liaison (SGL)

Nick Pittner, WB8TMF, discussed the progress made for Ohio concerning PRB-1 and Ohio Law. Legislation has been drafted and is looking for someone to sponsor the bill. The draft of the legislation mentions Amateur Radio being a first responder under Homeland Security and places the burden of the zoning committees to prove that an amateur's request for erecting an antenna is unreasonable and not the other way around. This does not apply to condominiums and other contract deed restrictions, so if you live in a contract restricted area, flagpoles and small dish antennas are usually permitted. Try using these devices to hide your antenna.

### Traffic Nets

Connie Hamilton, N8IO, ARRL Assistant Section Manager (ASM) for Southeastern Ohio and OSSBN Manager, talked about needing traffic handlers on the OSSBN to cover some of the so-called "black holes" (areas where no one is listed to pass traffic). She was assisted by John Tipka, W8UL, Section Traffic Manager (STM). It was noted that there are other nets besides SSB, such as CW and digital nets. Most of the messages passed lately have been from ham to ham. This is okay, but it would be nice if they could handle more non-ham to non-ham traffic. Some hams have a bad attitude about passing non-ham traffic such as "Happy Birthday" calling it "spam" traffic. This attitude is unproductive. The passing of traffic from non-ham to non-ham is the best practice for "health and welfare" traffic handling used during and after disasters. It was also suggested that ECs and DEC's deliver their reports through OSSBN to the SEC instead of via

e-mail. If you need to gain confidence and to see how the traffic is handled, listen in on the net frequencies at the posted times. Then, when you think you can, check into the net and get your name listed as a traffic handler. Also, visit [www.ossbn.net](http://www.ossbn.net) and/or [www.oharts.org](http://www.oharts.org) to learn how to read and write radiograms, find information on Ohio traffic nets, traffic handling, and ARES training. It was stated that all local nets should consider and promote themselves as traffic nets. There are three CW nets, three OSSBN, and a digital net every day in Ohio.

### Technical Coordinator

Tom Holmes, N8ZM, gave a presentation on "Digital for Dummies." The program dealt with digital modes and terminology, devoid of how it relates to amateur radio.

### PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR



Emily Wells, KC8RAL, will assume the duties of Public Information Coordinator effective October 1, 2007. Emily was a winner in the Newsletter Contest last year. Emily is the wife of Gail Wells, KC8LRH, who is the organizer of the Ohio Covered Bridges on the Air Weekend Special Event.



Frank Piper, KI8GW, SEC, uses Sonny Alfman, W8FHF, District 9DEC, to demonstrate an RF choke. He hoped it would serve as a reminder to his staff to get those monthly reports in on time.

## CARA S.E.T.

CARA held its Simulated Emergency Test on October 27 at the Guernsey County fairgrounds in conjunction with the Guernsey County Health Department's Drive-By Flu Clinic, which was their Pandemic Flu drill. We provided traffic control as well as auxiliary communications.

## FIELD DAY RESULTS ARE IN!

Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, operating under W8VP, did very well this year. Of course, there is always room for improvement next year—especially on the bonus points.

According to the ARRL web site, there were 2,334 Field Day entries submitted for 2007 in all categories. CARA placed 402 out of that 2,334. This, in itself, is quite remarkable.

The Great Lakes Division had 224 entries in all classes: Kentucky-23, Michigan-85, and Ohio-116. In fact, of the ARRL/RAC sections, the Ohio section had the most Field Day entries and Michigan was next highest section.

In the 3A class over all, CARA came in 75 out of the 284 entries; in Great Lakes Division, eighth out of 36; in the Ohio section, fifth out of 17; and in "8" land, ninth out of 39. CARA did a good job in the 2007 Field Day exercise. Congratulations!

## PRESENTATION TO EMA



In November, Sonny Alfman, W8FHF, gave a power-point presentation on Amateur Radio, ARES, and CARA at the Guernsey County Emergency Management Agency's monthly meeting. The program was well received, and several people had questions. Sonny also announced that he plans to offer a one-day technician cram course on February 16 for those interested in obtaining a license. The location is to be announced later.

## MCC CLUB NOTES



Belmont County's New Emergency Operations Center.



Belmont County Radio Communications Center.

The Eastern Ohio Amateur Wireless Association (EOAWA) was the host of the Multi-County Coalition meeting held on Sunday, November 11 at the Belmont County Emergency Operations Center. There were twelve hams and one guest in attendance.

A round of introductions was followed by reports from the five counties represented. A round-robin discussion was then held on how to boost ham memberships and interest in attending meetings. A tour of the facilities was conducted, a 50/50 drawing held, and a meal was served.

The next Multi-County Coalition meeting will be hosted by the TUSCO organization in March, 2008.

## TRIVIA QUESTION # 1

Who was a very well-known early radio and television personality, also known as K4LIB on the amateur bands?

1. Kate Smith; 2. Freeman Gosden; 3. Authur Godfrey; or 4. Lowell Thomas



*Happy Holidays!*

**DX IS AND STILL IS!**  
Bill Carpenter-AA8EY, ASM, Central Ohio



Randy Schaaf, W9ZR, on DX to Taiwan.

After some 3 or 4 years of no meetings, CODXA, Central Ohio DX Association reemerges and appears to be alive and well. 30 members of the group met on the evening of October 24<sup>th</sup> for an evening of fellowship, story telling, dinner and dynamite slide presentation by a well-known local DXer. Low sunspot numbers and our current position in the sunspot cycle do not appear to have diminished our enthusiasm for the sport.

Randy Schaaf, better known to us as W9ZR, became BX0ZR in January of this year. Randy operated from Taiwan for several days giving DXers worldwide the opportunity to work Taiwan on some of the bands that are not easy to use to contact that part of the world. Pictures showing the setting up of antennas, at night, and the wonderful food available to people who live on islands were all part of Randy's outstanding slide presentation. There were some real challenges to erecting and operating from BX but help from local Hams and people overcame most obstacles and the DXpedition went well.

Following Randy's program, Nick Pittner, WB8TMF, ARRL State Government Liaison Official, provided the group with an update on his activities in working with the State of Ohio attempting to have the State pass a version of PRB-1. Although Congress passed PRB-1 some years ago, it is not a law in Ohio at this time. Nick advised that progress is being made but we are not there yet.

All in all, the meeting was a lot of fun. It was great to see so many DXers from the Central Ohio Area, especially the Hams that drove some distance to make the meeting. It was a lot of fun, and it is hoped there will emerge a pattern of regular meetings for the group in the years to come.

If you want information on CODXA or wish to become a member of CODXA please send an email to me at [aa8ey@earthlink.net](mailto:aa8ey@earthlink.net)

### MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS

**Dec.**—Doris Brown, KB8OLG.

**Jan.**—Lyn Alfman, N8IMW,

Al Day, K8AL,

Dick Wayt, WD8SDH.

**Feb.**—Paul Cater, WD8OSU.

### MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARIES

**Dec.**—Sonny, W8FHF, & Lyn, N8IMW, Alfman; Gil, K8BTD, & Helen Gilcher.

**Feb.**—Ray, AA8BX, & Betty, N8KRP, Dillon.

### TRIVIA QUESTION # 3

Which of the following islands belong to KP4 land (Puerto Rico)? 1. Desecheo, 2. Vieques, 3. St. Croix, and 4. Maui.

### HAM SPEAK

..is a collections of terms which hams use to communicate with other hams.

Taken from [www.qrz.com/i/hamspeak.html](http://www.qrz.com/i/hamspeak.html)

**Barefoot**—Refers to running your transmitter without an amplifier.

**BFO**—Beat Frequency Oscillator.

**Boat Anchor**—Slang for a large, heavy, usually old radio, typically restored.

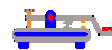
**BPSK**—Binary Phase Shift Keying, a modulation technique used in LowFER and MedFER operation, as well as HFoperation.

**Brass Pounder**—Refers to someone who sends telegraphy by old fashioned "straight" key, without keyers, or paddles.

**Bug**—A mechanical keying device for transmitting Morse Code semi-automatically.

**Bureau, Buro**—QSL Bureau

*Remember to be Radio Active  
& Don't Forget Straight Key Night!*



## TRIVIA QUESTION #2

Zane's Trace was the first official road in the state of Ohio. It ran from: 1. Pittsburgh to Indianapolis; 2. Steubenville to Cincinnati; 3. Marietta to Columbus; or 4. Wheeling, to Limestone, Kentucky.

## ARRL SCHOLARSHIPS

The ARRL Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of two new scholarships, for a total of 62. The scholarship application period runs from October 1, 2007 to February 1, 2008. Applicants for any ARRL Foundation scholarship must arrange for current transcripts to be provided as a part of the application process.

Beginning in 2008, the Davis W. Misk, N8NPX, Memorial Scholarship, will award a \$1500 scholarship to a current resident Greene, Montgomery, Champaign, Darke, Preble, Miami, Clark, Butler, or Warren County in Ohio.

Starting in 2008 the Scholarship of the Morris Radio Club of New Jersey, endowed by a \$31,671 gift from the Morris Radio Club, will award \$1000 to a qualified candidate without regard to geographic area or course of study.

--excerpted from the ARRL Online Newsletter, November 2, 2007.

## ARRL AND MFJ TEAM UP

Earlier this fall, ARRL introduced the third edition of its "Low Power Communication" book, written by Rich Arland, W3OSS. This new edition includes the complete assembly manual for the MFJ 40 Meter CW Cub Transceiver.

ARRL has bundled the book with the kit, giving readers a firsthand experience at project-building and operating. This is the first time ARRL has offered a publication bundled with a radio kit.

The MFJ 40 Meter CW Cub Transceiver Kit includes some pre-assembled parts as well as surface mounted components. There is some soldering involved. It only takes a few hours to complete the kit and get it on the air.

The ARRL thinks that this is a good way to encourage more hams to experience low-power operating and to help grow the community of active QRPers.

--from the ARRL On-Line Newsletter, November 2, 2007.

## HAMFESTS

**Jan. 20—Nelsonville, OH,** SCARF Hamfest, Tri-County Career Center, [kc8qdd@hughes.net](mailto:kc8qdd@hughes.net)

**Jan. 20—Strasburg,** TUSCO Hamfest, Wallick Auction House, <http://noard.com/tuscoarc.htm>

**Feb. 3—Lorain, OH,** Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Gargus Hall, <http://www.noars.net>,

**Feb. 10—Mansfield, OH,** Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest, Richland County Fairgrounds, <http://www.iarc.wa>

## ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS

**# 1** (3) Authur Godfrey; **#2** (4) Wheeling, Virginia (West Virginia) to Limestone (Maysville), Kentucky; and **# 3** (2). Vieques.

## HOLIDAY PARADE



Trey Barton, N8NAK, at this year's parade.

Cambridge Amateur Radio Association helped organized the participants, placed them into positions, and provided communications for the parade. CARA had an entry in this year's parade, supplied by Bruce Homer, N8JMK. Afterwards, those involved met at Pizza Hut to warm up and critique the event.

## SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY



The 9<sup>th</sup> annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) special event is a co-sponsored by the National Weather Service and The ARRL. The SRD is the National Weather Service's way of recognizing the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. SRD will take place on December 1 from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC.

--December 2007, QST, p. 64.

## SECOND GENERATION TO OPERATE IN SPACE

Richard Garriot, KE5QNX, son of Owen Garriot, W5LFL, will launch into space and live aboard the International Space Station in October 2008 as a client of Space Adventures. Owen Garriot operated the world's first Amateur Radio Station from space, W5LFL, as part of the Spacelab mission on the shuttle Columbia (STS-9) in 1983 and is on the Astronaut Advisory Board of Space Adventures, which a company that allows private citizens the chance for space travel on Russian Soyuz spacecraft at an estimated cost of \$30-55 million per person. Richard, Space Adventures Vice Chairman, has applied for his grandfather's call sign, W5KWQ.

--From QST On-line, October 7, 2007.

## 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](mailto:bluebirdembroidery@hughes.net) for more information on full line of items and costs.

### CARA'S CLUB PATCH



CARA has patches for sale at \$2.50 each. To buy a patch, contact Lyn Alfman, N8IMW. The patches can be sewn on clothing or hats.

### WHAT JUNK'S IN YOUR TRUNK?

The AAA suggests you carry: bottled water, flares, jumper cables, a tire inflation product, flashlight and batteries, duct tape (ultimate solution for quickly repairing a ruptured hose), first aid kit, blanket, reflective triangles (required in some states), cell phone, and maps.

ARES members should add: an amateur radio—handheld or mobile, antenna, batteries or cigarette lighter adapter, binoculars, jumper cables, and your basic “jump kit.”

--Lyn Alfman, N8IMW

## HAM'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

T'was the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,  
Took their HTs to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
by a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh, with an  
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
who looked slightly mean.  
So I thought for a moment,  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa  
The Santa of Hams.  
On a mission, this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs  
For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth, till  
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Re-soldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...

(Never worked right before --  
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV,  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box,  
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?!"  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,  
It was my call he sent,  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile-up was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final  
came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."

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## FOOD CORNER

### Wassail

2 quarts of apple juice; 2 cups of orange juice; 1 cup of lemon juice; 1 18-ounce can of pineapple juice; 1 stick (3 ¾ inches long) of cinnamon; 1 rounded teaspoon of whole cloves; ¼ to ½ cup of sugar.

Place all ingredients in a large saucepot and bring to a boil over moderately high heat. Reduce heat to moderately low. Partially cover the pot and simmer for 1 hour. Serve hot. The recipe makes 3 quarts or 12 1-cup servings.

**REMINDER: 2008 dues are due by February 1, especially if you plan to run for office or to vote in the February elections.**



*73 de Lyn Alfman, N8IMW*