

# Sidebands

The Newsletter of the EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



June 2016

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Secretary - Russ Greenman, WB2LXC

Vice-President - Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL  
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## Sun & Fun Makes for a Great Hamfest 2016

EGARA's 13th Annual Hamfest attracted over 200 hams on Saturday, May 14th with vendors, tailgaters, door prizes, raffles and good food making it a great day for all. While most of those on hand hailed from the Greater Capital Region, hams also made the trip from New Jersey, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Weeks of preparation went into the day, with setup at the East Greenbush Fire House beginning the night before and resuming at 5 am on Saturday morning. "Everything went as planned -- even the weatherman cooperated," said Hamfest coordinator Liz Gross, W7BYK.

Although it rained the day before the Hamfest and again a few hours after the event, skies were sunny and warm during the day, helping to boost attendance.

(continued on pages 2 & 4)



## Hamfest Winners

This year's Hamfest also was a lucky one for several area amateurs and especially those who won the event's big prizes, which included a Yaesu 8800R dual band VHF/UHF radio, an Alinco HT radio and a 50/50 raffle.



The Grand Prize winner, Timothy Colanen, KD2FVL, won a Yaesu 8800R. EGARA member Dave Smith, WA2WAP, won the Alinco DJ-500 HT radio. Prizes worth over \$600 were given away, with several others winning door prizes. Congratulations to all!

-- See the full winners list on page 4 --

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**Reminder! EGARA Monthly Meeting  
June 8th at 7 pm - Program Topic: Field Day**



# 13th Annual Hamfest



May 14, 2016

Photos courtesy of Dave Gillette, KC2RPU and Steve Van Sickle, WB2HPR



# Hams Provide Life-Saving Emergency Communications After Ecuador Earthquake

What you saw on the news was only the tip of the iceberg of what really happened as a result of the devastating April 16th earthquake in Ecuador. Since the 7.8 magnitude quake hit while most people were at home finishing dinner, "thousands of people" were buried in the rubble of collapsed buildings. Michigan physician Rick Dorsch, NE8Z/HC1MD, and his wife Maria, HC1MM, also a physician, were among the many hams who handle health-and-welfare traffic via EchoLink, which is connected to the Ecuadorean interlaced national 2 meter repeater network.

"EchoLink is actually a fantastic Amateur Radio service," Dorsch said. "It has become extremely useful for the hams there to reach out to the outside world via 2 meters." However, it was also reported that some EchoLink nodes were shut down to save power.

HF also played an important role, and radio amateurs were asked to give 7.060 MHz (LSB) a wide berth while the Cadena HC Net handled emergency traffic. Dorsch said some problems cropped up from DX pileups that overlapped the net's frequency.

Dorsch pointed out that while most of the damage was in the HC4 areas of Manabí and Esmeraldas provinces and the HC2 area of Guayas Province, what's not seen from the outside is the heavy damage to surrounding small fishing villages and colonial towns that were leveled. Fortunately the Portoviejo Radio Club was undamaged, and members have been operating from there. Dorsch said that electrical power is starting to return, and the cellular network is still "iffy," but the Quito Radio Club is providing battery-powered cellphone charging stations.

A lot of health-and-welfare traffic headed not only between Ecuador and the US but also to Spain, Chile, and elsewhere, he reported. Recruitment was also made to find more bilingual Spanish-English speakers on the HC1BG-R EchoLink channel. While power was been knocked out over much of the affected region, Dorsch said, he's witnessed hams all over Ecuador operating from mobile stations, portable stations, and, in some cases, from home. "All of the Ecuadorean radio clubs have been on high alert and are helping in search-and-rescue efforts," he said. "Ham radio at its best!"

On a more positive note, Dorsch said that noted DXer Lilian "Mami" de Ayala, HC4L, barely escaped death or serious injury when her home collapsed. The 85-year-old, who lives in Portoviejo, was in her radio room seconds before the earthquake hit. "Her granddaughter had come over to visit, so Lilian went into another part of the house," Dorsch said. Her radio room and home were destroyed, and her next-door neighbor was among the casualties. "She's still in shock and can't believe she's alive," Dorsch told ARRL. Local hams have removed her personal effects and ham radio gear to a safe location.

For more than 40 years, de Ayala had been a regular check-in on the Cadena HC Net on 40 meters. "It's ironic that the one person who lost all of her radio equipment was the one who organized radio emergency services for so many years," Dorsch said. Her tower and antennas survived, because they were mounted on the roof of her son's home next door.



The destroyed home of well-known Ecuadorean DXer Lilian de Ayala, HC4L. She barely escaped when her house collapsed. Although her shack was destroyed, both of her antennas survived.

(Courtesy of Rick Dorsch, NE8Z/HC1MD)

(See related story on page 6)

## A Great Hamfest 2016

(continued from page 1)

Although the official start time for Hamfest was 8 am, more than a few hams arrived an hour or so early to get a jump on items for sale by vendors and tailgaters. However, by 9 am things were in full swing and parking began to spill over onto the lawn adjacent to the site. Of particular interest to many hams was the wide selection of new radios, antennas and accessories available from KJI Electronics.

In addition to a big selection of ham gear and other electronics, EGARA members served up a full breakfast and lunch menu -- even including apple pie ala mode.

The day was also full of door prizes, raffles and two Grand Prize drawings which featured a Yaesu 8800r dual band radio and an Alinco DJ-500 HT. Businesses and organizations donating prizes included Trojan Electronics, Harbor Freight, KJI Electronics, Radio Oasis and the ARRL.

“Hamfest is our club’s biggest annual event and I’m pleased it went so well this year,” said EGARA President Tom Scorson, KC2FCP. “Of course, Hamfest would never happen without the help of the many club members who volunteered their time. We’re lucky to have such a great group of people.”

The day also provided many hams with a chance to put faces with the voices they hear on the air, as well as to make new friends who share their interest in amateur radio. For many, Hamfest turned into a reunion of old friends who had not seen each other in a while, even though they had likely kept in touch on the air.

A final head count put attendance at 214, a jump of 78 over last year’s Hamfest, which was dampened by rain showers.

EGARA now begins the process of preparing for next year’s Hamfest. The first step will be to coordinate the date with other events so they don’t overlap each other. Once that takes place, EGARA will set the date and start the planning all over again.

And hopefully the weatherman will cooperate again too.



## Hamfest Prize Winners

Hamfest 2016 featured over \$600 in prizes -- ranging from the Grand Prize of a Yaesu 8800r dual band mobile radio -- to ARRL gift certificates. Here’s a list of the lucky winners and the businesses and organizations that donated the Hamfest prizes.

### Grand Prize:

Timothy Colanen, KD2FVL, YAESU FT-8800 Dual Band Mobile from **EGARA**

### Raffle Prize:

Dave Smith, WA2WAP: Alinco Dual Band Portable from **EGARA**

### 50/50 Raffle Prize:

Winners name / calls unknown: \$39.00

### Door Prizes:

Fran Beaudreau, WB1EUC: G5RV antenna from **Radio Oasis**

Don Dengler, KC2ADZ: Digital Voltmeter from **Harbor Frieght**

John Bacon, KC2WRG: \$25 **ARRL** Gift Certificate

Rebecca Maloy, KC2BYZ: \$10 Gift Certificate

Robert Arenella, N2OAM: Dual Band Mobile antenna from **KJI Electronics**

Joe Soulier, KD2BSV: \$25 **ARRL** Gift Certificate

John Lawyer, W2DFC: \$50 **ARRL** Gift Certificate

# May VE Session Brings 13 Hams New Tickets

EGARA held its second VE session of the year on May 7th at the East Greenbush Library. This time around, 13 new ham licenses were earned, including:

- 9 Technician Class Licenses
- 2 General Class Licenses
- 2 Extra Class Licenses

Many thanks to all of the VEs who volunteered their time to administer the exams!

*Remember! The new (and harder) question pool for the Extra Class License Exam takes effect July 1st*



## Upcoming Local VE Sessions

**June 6th - Loudonville NY**

**Sponsor: Capital Area Radio Enthusiasts**  
**Location: Shaker Road Fire Department**  
**Time: 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**July 7th - Troy NY**

**Sponsor: ATVET**  
**Location: RPI Campus CII Building - Rm 3045**  
**Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)**

## Guest Column: I'm EXTRA Ignorant

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently I received the following e-mail from a reader:

“Just wanted to let you know I passed the General exam using your study guide. It was very helpful. I am now generally ignorant whereas before I was only technically ignorant. Ha!”

My reply to him was:

“Well, if you're generally ignorant, I guess that makes me EXTRA ignorant!”

This isn't just a joke--being ignorant is part of the hobby. Amateur radio operators will always be ignorant about something or other. Even if you could master every facet of the hobby at some point in time, your mastery would be short-lived as the technology continued to advance.

Over the course of my amateur radio career, we've gone from equipment that primarily used vacuum tubes, to solid-state gear that first used discrete transistors and then integrated circuits, to software-defined radios. I could have, at some point, simply given up on the new technology and still enjoyed amateur radio. Some guys do that, and that's OK. It is only a hobby after all.

I'm not one of those guys, though, and if you're not one of those guys, then you have to resign yourself to being ignorant. But, that's a good thing, as long as you realize that you're ignorant. Realizing that you're ignorant will spur you on to learn new things and accept new challenges.

Recently, I realized that I'm mostly ignorant about satellite operation. I know some of the basics from having read articles and writing about the topic in my study guides, but I have never made a contact using a satellite. I think that might be one of my next challenges. With the advent of CubeSat, there are many new satellites up in the air and many more opportunities to have interesting contacts.

So, what are you ignorant about? By that I mean, of course, what's going to be your next challenge in amateur radio?

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When he's not challenging himself with new things, Dan falls back on something he knows pretty well--operating CW. You'll find him mainly on the 80m, 40m, and 30m bands. Dan is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

## On the Beam

### News & Notes

### ARRL Sends “Ham Aid” to Ecuador as Part of Earthquake Relief Effort

Five boxes of Ham Aid Amateur Radio equipment -- some 400 pounds in all -- left ARRL Headquarters on May 4, bound for the Guayaquil Radio Club (HC2GRC) in Ecuador. The radio equipment will help to support relief and recovery efforts under way in the wake of a magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck the South American nation on April 16. Valued at more than \$7500, the equipment will provide reliable communication in areas where the telecommunication infrastructure suffered damaged.

"As we've seen before -- in Haiti and Nepal -- an earthquake can cause long-term disruptions in infrastructure," said ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U. "An Amateur Radio network fills the communications gaps. It can be deployed anywhere, run on solar power, and can function without the Internet or traditional telecommunication infrastructure."

Corey said the recovery process can be lengthy, and radio amateurs in the affected area need repeaters, antennas, antenna supports, and many other things to be able to help those disrupted by disaster. "This is what Ham Aid is for -- to enable amateurs to effectively respond following a disaster to help their communities through the recovery process," he said.

### = EGARA May Meeting Minutes =

- The May meeting of the EGARA was called to order at 7:34 PM by President Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP. The minutes of the previous meeting were not read.
- Plans for the 13th annual EGARA hamfest were discussed, and members received their assignments. Also, plans for moving the equipment and supplies from storage were detailed.
- A Treasurer's report was presented by Bryan Jackson and approved.
- Tom Scorsone has appointed Ridge Macdonald to the recently vacated post of club Vice President.
- The Run for Help 5K walk/run will be held on the 12th of June at the Goff Road Elementary School. A signup sheet was circulated by Ridge Macdonald.
- The CW practice session which usually follows the formal meeting was postponed
- Refreshments were on hand for all in attendance. The meeting was closed at 8:00 PM.

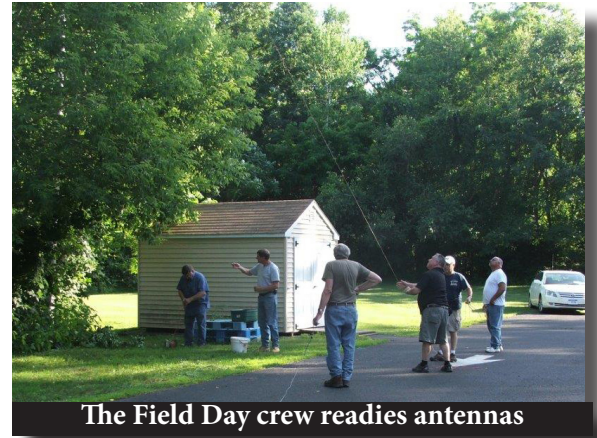
- Minutes prepared by Steve VanSickle WB2HPR



## EGARA Joins America's Hams in Preparation for Field Day

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association will be gearing up for its annual Field Day event, which will be held on the weekend of June 25 - 26.

Ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations during Field Day since 1933 to showcase the science and skill of amateur radio. The event is open to the public to see how ham radio operators work with various communications techniques -- and how they provide free emergency communications as a public service to communities during disasters. More than 35,000 people across the country participated in last year's Field Day.



The Field Day crew readies antennas

The objective of Field Day is to work as many stations as possible on most all of the amateur radio bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands). It is also designed to give hams experience with operating in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2.



Club members make plans for Field Day 2015

This year, EGARA will again be operating as a 2E class with its club callsign, W2EGB. Two stations will be set up on emergency battery power with logging done via the N3FJP Field Day logging software.

With all hands on deck, the club's Cushcraft beam antenna will be erected for the 10m, 15m and 20m bands and a wire antenna will be strung up for the 40m and 80m bands. Members and non-members are encouraged to stop by, check out the set up and even get on the air. A script will be made available so that even a "mic-shy" person will be able to make contacts.

The club hopes to make over 1,000 SSB and CW contacts within the 24-hour operating period Field Day covers.

### Hams to Work Large Scale Disaster Exercise Planned for Pacific Northwest

The *FEMA Cascadia Rising* exercise, the largest DHS-FEMA exercise of 2016, will begin on June 7th. The scenario is an earthquake and tsunami disaster involving the entire Pacific Northwest. The exercise will start with a blackout of all normal, regular communications systems. Emergency/disaster alternate communication systems will be provided by the amateur service. ARRL HQ and W1AW will be active and involved. Two DoD exercises will run concurrently. More information can be found at the FEMA 2016 Cascadia Rising website. Oregon and Washington ARES/RACES organizations are both to be heavily involved with a significant investment of HF activity planned.

## EGARA Volunteers Help Community Run for Literacy



Rain didn't dampen the involvement of EGARA volunteers as they turned out May 1st to support the communications needs of the 15th annual *Literacy 5K*, a race to benefit literacy programs in Rensselaer County.

EGARA members were located throughout the course at the RPI Tech Park, providing race organizers with the ability to communicate with each other quickly and effectively. The radio links also proved invaluable when a five year old child became separated from her mother. A quick relay of messages between EGARA stations soon had them reunited.

Club volunteers included Tom Scorsone, Rick Gross, Steve, Debbie, and Anthony Marsh, Bryan Jackson, Russ Greenman, Ridge Macdonald, and new EGARA member Paul Dahoda.



The springtime 5K, held in Rensselaer Tech Park, is a yearly fundraiser to benefit the Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County, which offers programs for both children and adults. This year's event raised its goal of approximately \$16,000, despite a drop in attendance because of the rain.

In the main race, 34-year-old Dan Horan of Averill Park (pictured above) came in first place with a time of 20 minutes and 16 seconds.

## Radio Amateur Petitions FCC to Designate "Symbol Communication" Sub-bands

The FCC has been petitioned to designate Morse (radiotelegraphy) Amateur Radio band segments as "symbol communication" subbands. Arguing that retaining the current regime of "legacy" CW subbands has proven to be grossly inefficient, James Whedbee, N0ECN, of Gladstone, Missouri, said he'd like to see the FCC delete all privilege restrictions that limit any part of the Amateur Radio spectrum to Morse code to the exclusion of other modes.

"Nostalgia for retention of Morse code telegraphy-only sub-bands is also an insufficient reason to avoid moving forward to [the] elimination of such sub-bands, because nothing about this Petition suggests the elimination of the mode itself, only that it not be the sole authorized mode in the subject sub-bands," Whedbee told the FCC.

Whedbee characterized CW-only sub-bands as "an excessive regulatory constraint, as well as a poor use of the spectrum concerned." He proposed that the FCC's Part 97 rules reflect the "ultimate form of communication reproduced at the receiving end." As he explained it, his regulatory scheme would break down modes into three categories — "symbol communication mode" — for CW, digital, and other emission modes that reproduce a discrete symbol on the receiving end — "voice mode," and "image mode."

He proposed that where the Part 97 rules refer to exclusive radiotelegraphy allocations — or sub-bands — privileges be changed to reflect symbol communication modes. Where the rules prohibit voice and image modes, he would revise the rules to reflect symbol communication modes. In situations where current rules prohibit symbol communication modes other than Morse, that voice and image modes would be permitted, "with an exception for manually keyed" radiotelegraphy.

For example, he would drop the distinction between 75 meters and 80 meters, authorizing symbol communication modes between 3.5 MHz and 3.65 MHz, and voice and image modes between 3.65 MHz and 4 MHz, with manual radiotelegraphy authorized throughout the band.

Whedbee told the FCC that, if his Petition is accepted for filing and put on public notice, he would submit an appendix spelling out proposed service rules as part of his Petition. Commenters have 30 days to respond to Whedbee's Petition, which was filed on May 2nd.



## Pro Tip: What if Your Gear Gets Wet?

In a perfect world, you would keep your electronics dry and away from any liquids that could damage them. But of course, things happen. As odd as it sounds, electronics wind up in pools, toilets, tubs, koi ponds, and even being left on the lawn to be watered with the grass.

So the damage is done -- your HT, cell phone or mp3 player has inadvertently become a waterlogged pool toy. What to do now?

Here are four Quick and Dirty Tips to save your device from a watery death:

### Tip #1: Turn It Off & Kill the Power

The first and most important thing is to turn off your device and remove any batteries or power cords. If the power is off, there will be no electricity to short the circuits. This will improve the chances that your device can be recovered.

### Tip #2: Remove As Much Water As You Can

After the power is off, you should try to remove as much water as possible from the device, whether that means gently shaking it out, or maybe even taking off a few panels or pieces to get them really dry.

### Tip #3: Submerge in White Rice

Next, get an airtight container and a lot of white rice. If you're thinking: Why white rice? Well for one, rice is great at soaking up water and it also happens to be a very common household item. These two things make it a perfect tool for absorbing all the water you can't shake out or dry by hand!

Place your device and any pieces you've disassembled into the container with the rice and seal it up. The time you should keep your device in the container will vary depending on how severely it got drenched. If your phone decided to take a quick dip in the pool, a solid 24-hour rice soak should do the trick. If it made its way slowly through a cycle in the wash, you may want to keep it in there longer, up to a week. For an extra added boost, after the rice does its job, let your device dry in front of a fan so any remaining water evaporates naturally. Or gently use a hair dryer on a low setting.



Keep in mind: The longer the rice has to do its job, the better the odds for your device. The earlier you take it out, the higher your risk of lingering water.

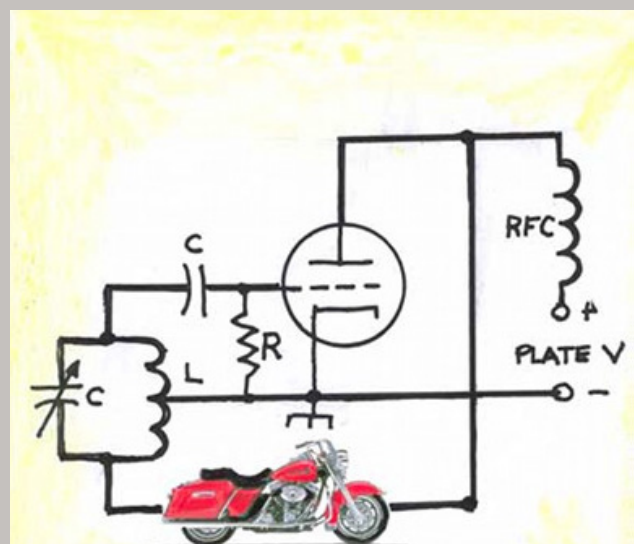
### Tip #4: Q-Tips and Alcohol

If you know that water is stuck in certain small parts of your device, dab a Q-tip into some rubbing alcohol and then apply it to the specific parts of your device. This will work well for the internal parts of many devices that have circuit boards. The alcohol will help to speed up the evaporation process that happens when your device sits out in the open air.

Hopefully these tips will help you to salvage your soggy electronics, should the worst happen to them.

If none of these help, find a good repair shop and read up to see if your warranty is still in effect.

## Ham It Up



HARLEY OSCILLATOR CIRCUIT

# CALENDAR

June 12, 2016 - *Run for Help*, Goff Middle School, East Greenbush - Communications support

June 25-26, 2016 - *2016 EGARA Field Day* - East Greenbush Masonic Temple.

September 11, 2016 - *Hamfest 2016* - Saratoga County Amateur Radio Assn., Saratoga County Fairgrounds, Ballston Spa. Opens 7 am. Admission \$10.

## The Doctor is In!

The ARRL has launched a new series of podcasts called "ARRL *The Doctor is In*," which features informative discussions of all things technical.

Sponsored by DX Engineering, hams can listen on their computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever they like!

Every two weeks, the host, QST Editor-in-Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, discuss a broad range of technical topics. Hams can also e-mail their questions to [doctor@arrl.org](mailto:doctor@arrl.org), and the Doctor may answer them in a future podcast.

The "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcasts are available on Apple iTunes, or by using an iPhone or iPad podcast app (just search for "ARRL The Doctor is In"). They can also be heard online at Blubrry, ([https://www.blubrry.com/arrl\\_the\\_doctor\\_is\\_in/](https://www.blubrry.com/arrl_the_doctor_is_in/)) or at Stitcher (<https://www.stitcher.com/> -- free registration required, or browse the site as a guest), and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices.

If you've never listened to a podcast before, a beginners guide can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/doctor>.



### For Sale

*Vibroplex Original semi automatic "bug" key.* Like-new, Excellent condition, adjusted and tested -- ready for your CW operating position. \$170 -- Steve WB2HPR 518-326-0902

*Icom 7100 All-mode transceiver* HF / VHF / UHF / S-Star and touch screen - HF 100 watts / 6 meter VHF 50 watts / UHF- 35 watts. Original box, manual, mike, dc power cable, cd and usb cable. \$ 950.00

*Kenwood TS 480 HX* features all-mode operation from HF - 50 mhz amateur radio band. Separate remote control panel for mobile operation; DSP processing w/ adj filter; 200 watts power on ssb, cw, fsk & fm, 50 watts output on AM; 50 Mhz band 100 watts and 25 watts on AM. \$ 875.00

For above two items, contact Tom Scorsone by e-mail at: [kc2fcp@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kc2fcp@nycap.rr.com).

### Wanted to Buy

*Any old broadcast radios* for possible restoration, any brand, style, preferably tubes models. Contact: Steve WB2HPR at 326-0902.

**Looking to Buy, Sell or Swap?**  
**Send your info to [W2RBJ@outlook.com](mailto:W2RBJ@outlook.com)**

## The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, SK and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to the amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.