

June 2024

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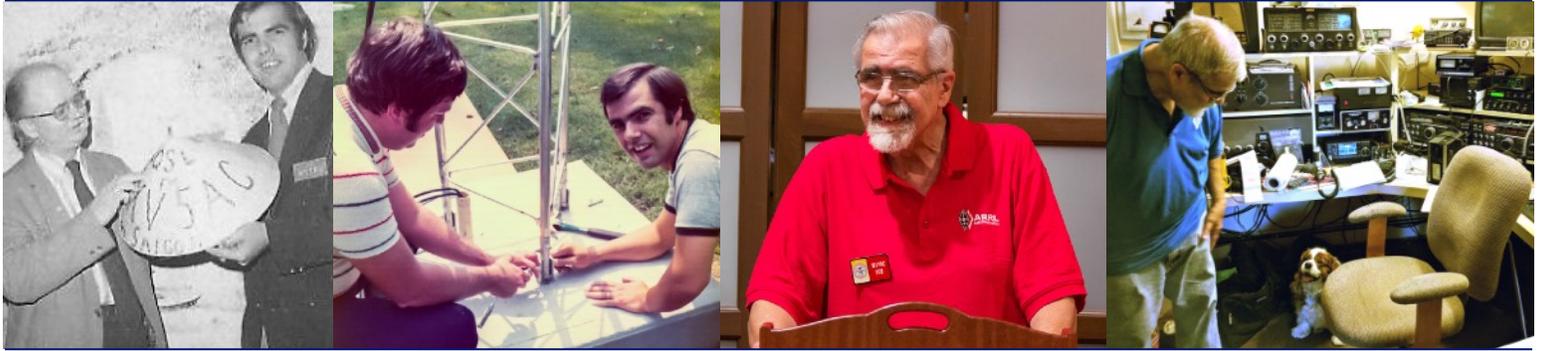
Volume 5 Issue 2

Messenger 2.0



Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club's Triennial Newsletter

W1DDD.org



Bob Beaudet saluted for 70 years of 'radio activity'

BY RONALD R. BLAIS-KB1RYT

In 1953, Edmund Hilary and Tenzig Norgay were the first to climb Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world. Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain was crowned. The first Chevrolet Corvette was built in Flint, Michigan.

A small group of amateur radio enthusiasts, including a 15-year-old boy, also gathered in September 1953 to lay the cornerstone of the Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC). As a minor, Bob Beaudet, W1YRC, was prohibited from signing the new club's charter. His dad, Gus, signed for him.

While the founding of the fledgling radio club did not generate worldwide headlines, it did serve as the launching pad for Bob's ham radio odyssey, which has spanned 70 years, and soared to meteoric heights.

In the seven decades of his "radio activity," Bob's prowess as an operator is underscored by the numerous achievement awards he's amassed, including his selection to the American

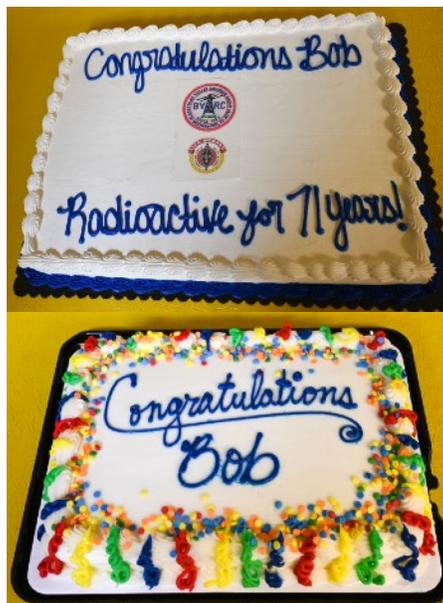
Radio Relay League's (ARRL) prestigious A-1 Operators Club, an elite group recognized as the best operators in amateur radio.

The depth of his ham exploits even include hobnobbing with Middle Eastern royalty.

His passion for and dedication to the ham radio community is exemplified by his longtime service to BVARC and ARRL, the national association of amateur radio.

Bob's association with ARRL includes serving 21 years as Rhode Island section manager. For his "exceptional and notable contributions over an extended period of time to his section," Bob was awarded the Joe Knight Distinguished Service Award, a national recognition.

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His continued devotion to BVARC is reflected in his receiving the club's Presidential Award for Service three times.

In recognition of his longtime dedication to the local and national amateur radio families, Bob was honored at a surprise celebration during BVARC's April meeting. The

honoree was joined for the festivity by his son, Mike, and daughter, Kim, as well as two senior staff members from ARRL, who made unannounced visits.

Kevin T. Beal, K8EAL, director of development, and Marc Spardello, W1NJ, member services manager, expressed warm regards for Bob on behalf of ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and ARRL CEO Davide Minster, NA2AA. Beal and Spardello also presented a plaque of appreciation to Bob for his longterm ARRL service.

Ken Trudel, BVARC president, also presented a plaque of appreciation to the honoree in recognition of his esteemed contributions to the local club.

In a lighter moment, Mike Beudet related how, as a child, he was called to his dad's radio shack and asked, "Mike have you ever spoken to a king?" At the other end of that QSO was King Hussein of Jordan, JY1. In his greeting, Mike proved eloquent. "Hi, King," he said. That brief episode, however, would lead to a subsequent, and much more significant, meeting, between Bob and the king.

During an official visit to Washington during the Nixon administration, the king invited 12 hams from across the nation to meet with him in Blair House, the residence for visiting foreign dignitaries, and Bob was among the dozen.

Among the tributes shared, several club members expressed how, throughout his ham radio career, Bob has exhibited an unquenchable willingness to share his vast radio knowledge and assist anyone approaching him for help. His availability is highlighted by his receiving ARRL's Elmer Award four times.

The evening concluded with the serving of refreshments, including two sheet cakes.

Among Bob's awards and achievements are:

DXCC (worked and confirmed 100 countries) on phone, CW, digital, mixed, nine band and Challenge 2217; DXCC on 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10; DXCC Honor Roll for having worked and confirmed 371 entities. When deleted entities, such as East Germany, are subtracted, Bob has 340 existing entities, the maximum available; Worked all CQ zones; Worked All States during the Bicentennial; Worked US Territories Award, twice; National Parks on the Air Honor Roll; Indianapolis Checkered Flag Award; ARRL Life, Maxim Society and Diamond Club memberships.





The Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) will hold its annual field day June 22 and 23 starting at 2 p.m. Saturday and concluding Sunday at 2p.m.

The event will be held at the North Scituate Senior Center on Route 102.

We will be operating 2A RI using the club's call W1DDD. This means that two stations can transmit simultaneously. Station 1 will be the SSB/CW station and station 2 will be the digital (FT-8, FT-4) station.

We also will set up a GOTA (Get On The Air) station using Mickey Callahan's, K1WMC, QSO a Go-Go trailer, using call sign NA1Q.

The GOTA station is for any new or unlicensed hams that would like to make some contacts. This year we're going to set up a 6-meter station, which the rules state is a "free" station.

Conditions on 6 meters lately have been good and sporadic E offers opportunities for more

QSOs.

As for antennas, station 1 will be sharing the tri-bander and also be using a doublet. Station 2 will also be sharing the tri-bander and using an EFHW (End Fed Half Wave) for the lower bands. The tri-band antenna will be on a 30-foot tower provided by Randy Thompson, K5ZD. The 6-meter station will have a dedicated antenna, thanks to Martin Bayes, AA1ON.

We need operators and I will be sending out a Google doc at the beginning of June on the W1DDD groups.io. Please reach out to me at kw1x.mark@gmail.com if you're not on the group and I'll get you hooked up. This year your operating time will be

contingent on your willingness to help out with set up and take down providing you physically can. We certainly don't want anybody getting hurt. Premium times will be given to those who help. There will be blocks of two hours maximum but if you'd only like to operate for an hour that's fine as well. You can sign up for up to three blocks of time as of now so that we can give everyone that wants to operate an opportunity to do so.

Last year we scored 7497 total points, a stellar effort! Club participation was good. This year I think we can do even better. Most important is that we have fun! This is the club's primary event and it would be great if everyone came out and joined in the fun.

Here is the link to schedule operating time:

[Radio Reservation](#)

We still need some help for the Friday afternoon set up and Sunday afternoon take down. I have attached the link for the signup genius below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B4DA4A92CA2F94-48729845-field>

Those desiring food on Friday afternoon will have to supply their own. Drinks will be provided. Saturday lunch will feature cold cuts provided for sandwiches and on Saturday night we will be having a potluck dinner. I have attached the link for the potluck dinner below. Drinks will be provided for Saturday lunch and dinner. For Sunday breakfast and lunch, you are on your own as well.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B4DA4A92CA2F94-48731175-field>

Bruce Wood, W1BRU, will be attempting a satellite contact and Matt Penttila, NA1Q, will be doing a kit building class. The times for these events have yet to be determined. Peter Sichel, K1AV, will attempt some Winlink contacts and we will be copying some traffic bulletins from ARRL headquarters for some additional bonus points.

From our President

Hello Fellow BVARC Members, FIELD DAY 2024 – JUNE 21, 22 AND 23

Hello Fellow BVARC Members,

The ARRL annual Field Day will once again be on the fourth full weekend of June and we are still looking for your participation in this event. Historically, Field Day is the most detailed planned annual event for BVARC, and this year is no different.

The Field Day Committee, headed up again this year by Mark Hofstra, KW1X, has put together a full weekend of activities from CW to satellite demonstration and phone to FT8 and QRP.

But the question that I have again this year is simply, what do you plan to do that weekend? How do you plan to participate in this year's event? How do you plan to "Be Radio Active" which is this year's ARRL theme!

Mark's shout-out for onsite operators has produced mixed results. We need more participation from BVARC members to come out and help as well as come out and play with the radios. Regardless if you have zero operating experience or are a seasoned veteran, your onsite participation and attempt at making contacts is what this weekend event is all about.

As in previous years, experience isn't a requirement. There will be experienced operators available just about 24 hours a day. So if you can't sleep, just let us know and we'll be sure you get on the air at midnight, if that's the only time you have available. We will show you how!

Randy Thompson, K5ZD, will once again operate CW on behalf of BVARC. Last year it was a treat to watch him operate and I'm sure this year will be no different.

Bruce Wood, W1BRU, has agreed to once again take his portable satellite station out for

another go at a satellite flyover contact. Check with Bruce for the specific timing of each satellite flyover.

If you're interested in the growing area of digital communications via amateur radio, check with our new vice president, Paul Fontana, KC1IEN, for what he plans on having active and for a hands-on demonstration.

Our annual GOTA (Get On The Air) station for the general public and hams of all ages and experience levels will once again be in full operation as in previous years. Mickey Callahan, K1WMC, will be operating from his Ham Radio-A-Go-Go trailer as before. That trailer is the finest looking radio station in a trailer I've ever seen. Check it out, but better yet, sit down and make a few contacts. It's a great way to make that first contact, for sure.

Field Day site assembly activities start on Friday afternoon and will end on Sunday afternoon. Check with Mark Hofstra for specific times when you can help out.

Consider stopping by for the afternoon, or the morning or both. Stay the weekend.

Camp out if you would like. But remember, this is your club and the more you become

active in our various outings and special club events such as Field Day, the more

confident you will feel and want to see yourself succeed and do more!

If everyone does only one thing, there won't be anything left to do but to have fun!

Thank you and enjoy Field Day 2024 and your summer!

73, N1RGK
Ken Trudel
BVARC President

Across THE Spectrum

BVARC FIELD DAY

June 22 and 23, Location set for grounds of the Scituate Senior Center, Route 102, Scituate. Set up day, Friday June 21, noon

NORTHEAST HAMXPOSITION 2024

August 22-25 at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough, MA.

BVARC SIMPLEX NET

Every Wednesday at 7 p.m. on 146.565.

RI SWAP AND SELL NET

Net: Saturdays 9 a.m. on the NB1RI repeaters

Website: RISWAP.NET

A place where RI amateur radio operators can swap and sell items free! The net runs on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. on the NB1RI network.

SKYWARN:

Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. on the NB1RI repeater network.

Website: <http://www.wx1box.org>

RI ARES NETS

Repeater net every First & Third Tuesday 7:30 p.m. on the W1RIA repeater network.

VHF Simplex is held every second Tuesday on 147.420 starting at 7:30 p.m. The Digital net is held the Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Check RIARES.org for details of the digital net

ARRL audio news can be heard each Sunday at 8 a.m. on Woonsocket radio station WOON 1240 AM and 99.5 FM.

ARRL Rhode Island Monthly Newsletter:
[ARRL RI Section News](#)

RADIO EXAM SESSION DATES

LOCATION: our Saviours Parish,
500 Smithfield Road,
Woonsocket, RI 02895

TIME: Sessions Start at 9:00 A.M.

Here Are the Dates for 2024:

AUGUST 10, 2024

OCTOBER 12, 2024

DECEMBER 14, 2024

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE
CONTACT BOB JONES, WB1P AT
401-333-4787

OR BGJONES49@VERIZON.NET

Or on the Website at:

[HTTP://WWW.W1DDD.ORG/EXAMS.HTML](http://WWW.W1DDD.ORG/EXAMS.HTML)

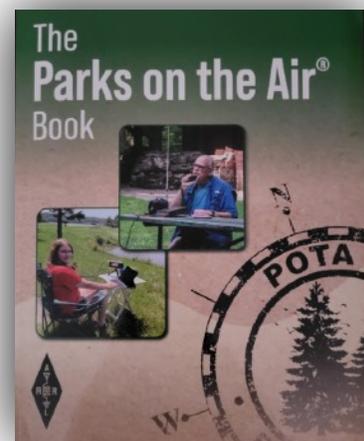
BY MATT PENTTILA, NA1Q

I recently ordered from the ARRL bookstore *The Parks on the Air* book. Normally \$22.95, ARRL members get it for \$19.95, and, if you remember to add it to the order, they'll toss in a free mini logbook with it.

This is a good reference for Parks on the Air, especially for activators. It gives information on how to get started with POTA, and views of various setups by successful POTA operators.

It shares experiences along with hints and tips to make your operation go smoother. (Trust me. It never goes as smooth as you would like.)

A worthwhile publication from the league to read and maybe keep on hand for some casual reading while waiting for a net or just enjoying some quiet time in the shack.



ICOM 7300 REMOTE SETUP

BY MATT PENTTIL—NA1Q

Since my forced retirement because of medical issues, one of

my difficulties I have at home are stairs. Not going down so much as the climb back up. The worst part is my shack is in the basement, which requires going downstairs and then coming back upstairs for refreshments and bathroom breaks. As a result, I knew I had to start researching remote software for the Icom IC-7300.

First, it really isn't that hard to remote control the newer line of Icom radios as well as other brands. The tough part is getting a reliable connection for audio transmit, audio receive, and radio control.

The Icom IC-7300 uses a single USB cable to connect to a computer. So I took an old Windows 10 Lenovo Laptop as the server computer to sit with the Icom. Then I used my newer Windows 11 HP laptop as the remote terminal and relied on the home WiFi to talk between computers.

That's the hardware side. Now the software issue.

There are numerous software programs out there to use for this application. I started with WFVIEW, which is freeware. I won't devote too much time on this, as I had too many dropped packets, causing illegible audio, delays in transmissions and problems with radio control.

So I bit the bullet and bought the Icom RS-BA1 v2 software from DX Engineering. Note that unless you have a CD-ROM on your computer,

you want to order the Version 2, which comes on a USB flash. Version 1 software is on a CD. They also give you a new USB cable, but I stuck with the original one I have been using for digital modes, which worked perfectly fine. A word of caution, the Icom software is Windows only, so it won't work on a Mac or Linux machine.

Setup is straightforward. Install the software on both computers. Use the Icom configuration software to set up the server first. When that is set up, go to the other computer and use the same configuration software, but set up as a remote terminal. That's about it. The only issue I had was setting up the audio in the computers so the audio worked on transmit and receive.

This is all good for doing phone or CW, but what about the digital modes like FT-8/4? This is a different issue.

The Icom software doesn't work with WSJT-X. However, what I did discover, thanks to my IT team, computer science engineer K1GTC and her sister, is that I would have to use Google Remote Desktop. The advantage of the Remote Desktop is that I can use WSJT-X and N3FJP's Amateur Contact Log on my server computer while using my laptop upstairs or my cellphone from anywhere I have a cellular or WiFi signal.

The disadvantage is I can't see the radio display screen, SWR, or power meters on the Icom using Google Remote Desktop. Every few days I go downstairs and run a test of the SWR and power output just to make sure the Icom is happy with the antenna.

As of this writing, I have done a few things to my station. First, I swapped laptops. The HP Windows 11 machine is now the server with the Icom IC-7300. The second is I loaded the Icom and Google software onto my Microsoft surface tablet. I also have the capability of broadcasting my Google Remote Desktop onto my 65" TV, making FT-8 easier to read than a 10" screen.



The Faraday Tape J Pole Antenna

for 2 Meters (and 70 Centimeters)

BY MATT PENTILLA—NA1Q

So one day I was surfing YouTube and came across several videos about Faraday cloth being used in amateur radio as a ground plane, also known as the "magic carpet" ground plane. And yes it does work.

But I ran across Ben, VE6SFX's, channel and he was making antennas for VHF and UHF using at first copper and aluminum tape, most commonly used in home alarm systems for glass breakage detectors. The thought is it's thin, flexible, and conductive. But also prone to work breakage over time if bent or rolled up too much.

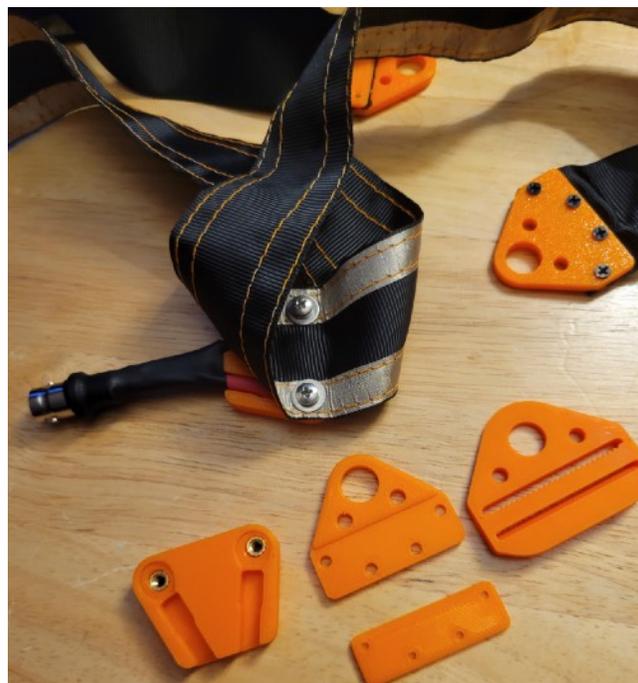
Enter the Faraday tape. Faraday tape is identical to Faraday cloth, which is a fabric with interwoven microscopic wires rather than traditional thread.

Now knowing this, Faraday tape and cloth can do two things. It can shield RF signals. It can also be used as a radiating element. It can conduct electricity just like metal. So let's build an antenna with it.

I will be demonstrating how to make one of these antennas at Field Day Saturday 3 p.m. in the dining tent.

First you need something to support the tape, I use 1-1/2" black nylon web used for lawn chairs and straps. For 2 meters, I use a piece about a foot longer than the antenna, about 84" or seven-feet long.

Now for the Faraday tape. I use 3/8" wide Faraday tape that has an adhesive back. This makes installation a breeze, and a pain, as you have to peel the backing off to expose the adhesive. So I use 3 pieces. One for the 3/4-



wavelength element, one for the 1/4-wave element, and one to connect both elements together at the bottom to form the J pole element.

The dimensions I use at the moment are 1-3/8", 25-9/16", and 70-1/4".

You'll notice the traditional formulas for a J Pole and the length of the elements are a lot longer than what the formulas calculate. Why? Because the tape has a slower velocity factor requiring longer elements. As I say, it is good for shielding and works similar to metal for radiating.

Now the feed point. I use a BNC chassis connector with two short wires with small size four-loop crimp connectors, the center to the long element, outer connecton to the short stub. Both are used with a third printed block

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and on the back of the fabric, so there is no interaction with the elements from direct contact with the elements.

Sandwich the loop connectors between the third block on the back of the cloth 9-19/32" from the outside of the J and connect using a 4mm dia x 6-8mm machine screw. The screw head makes contact with the tape, and in the third printed block are two threaded brass inserts, making the connection.



Attach 25 feet of RG-58 coax, and test by hanging the antenna.

Check for the lowest SWR curve on the resonant frequency. If the resonant frequency is too low, remove tape from the elements to make the resonant frequency go up, add tape to make it go down in frequency.

I generally target 146.0 for my center with a 1.2-1.3 to 1 SWR across the whole 2-meter band. As a bonus, I found that I have a 1.5-1.6 to 1 SWR on the 70-centimeter band from 430-450 Mhz.

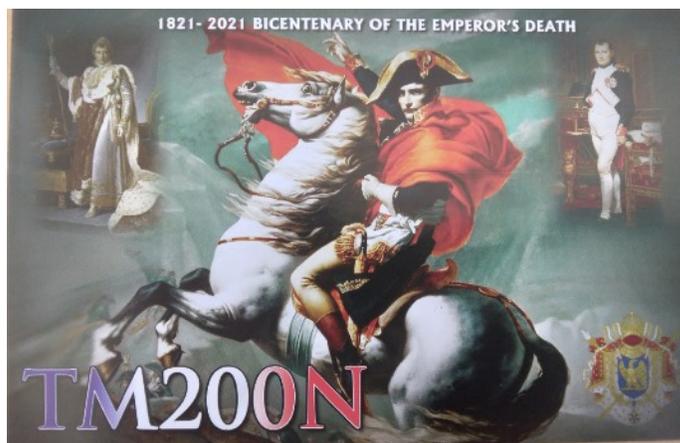
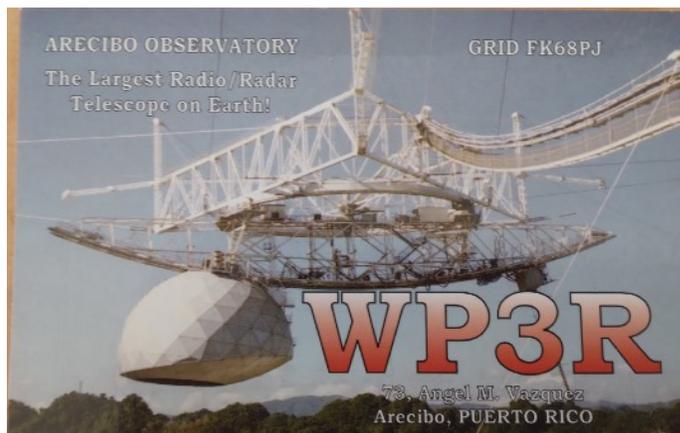
So now you have a 2-meter J pole that rolls up to the size of a deck of cards, something to toss in the "go kit," and hang from a pole or tree branch for a quick deployable antenna.

For longevity, I suggest sewing the tape to the cloth after getting it tuned, that will make it last virtually forever and you don't have to worry about the adhesive breaking down over time and having the elements come off the strap material.

[Faraday Tape J Pole](#)

Swell QSLs Across the Globe

FROM BRUCE WOOD— W1BRU



Follow In The Footsteps Of Lewis And Clark From The Comfort Of Your Shack

BY RONALD R. BLAIS—KB1RYT

Napoleon Bonaparte, first regent of the French Republic, needed money to pursue his military ambitions.

President Thomas Jefferson yearned to acquire New Orleans to guarantee his new nation, and not some foreign power, would control access to the Mississippi River, a vital economic river route.

Determined to shed all of France's holdings in North America, Napoleon offered to sell to the nascent United States not only New Orleans, but all the land encompassed in the Louisiana Territory for \$15 million. Grasping the immensity of the French leader's proposal, America's emissaries, James Monroe and Robert Livingston, agreed to the sale without first consulting Jefferson, a process that would have taken at least two months.

With the signing of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the U.S. took possession of 828,000 square miles, which included the land of 15 future states and, at the time, nearly doubled the size of the nation, all for about four cents per acre. The purchase is considered one of the greatest real estate deals in history.

Shortly after the purchase, Jefferson chose his personal secretary, Meriwether Lewis, who, in turn, recruited Lt. William Clark to explore the vast new expanse in an adventure deemed the Corps of Discovery, but more commonly known as the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

On May 14, 1804, the 45-man expedition departed St. Louis, Mo. For the next two years, the team would pole, paddle, walk and travel on horseback 8,000 miles to the Pacific Ocean and back, returning Sept. 23, 1806. In their travels, the men would endure harsh weather and



difficult terrain. They would catalog numerous plant species and make contact with a number of Native American tribes. Incredibly, only one man was lost throughout the adventure.

BVARC members have the chance to follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark's exploits from the comfort of their shack, while avoiding the original expedition's hardships, by participating in The Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air special event.

The trail covers 4,900 miles through 16 states, including the disembarkation from Camp Dubois in what is referred to as the Eastern Legacy.

Sponsored by the Clark County Amateur Radio Club, with support from clubs in all 16 states along the historic trail, the event will be on the air from June 1 to June 16, 24 hours per day for the duration of the event. Operating modes include SSB phone, FM phone, CW and FT8. Any combination of modes toward working all 16 states is allowed.

**Certificates can be requested
for two classes of participation:**

**Expedition Partner Certificate:
Any station working all 16 states.**

**Trail Companion Certificate:
Any station working one to 15 states.**

For more information, send message to info@lctota.org.

Website: lctota.org

Welcome Aboard

BVARC has welcomed several new members to its roster since the last newsletter. If you meet them at club meetings or functions, please say hello.

WILLIAM EMIDY, K1LED

RICHARD BLANCHARD, NO CALL

KEVIN KEPPLER, KW1W

DARRELL WOOD, KC2TXB

PAUL PELUSO, KB1LXJ

LARRY FREITAS, N1JIL

TOM ZEIBIG, KC1TNZ

*The Messenger Is Produced
3 Issues a Year
End of February,
Beginning of June,
And Beginning of November*

*Editorial Contributions
Are Done by our Members*

Edited by Ronald Blais

Produced by Teri Diiorio

Bellingham Library was a Hit!



BY RONALD R. BLAIS-KB1RYT

The Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club set up two radio stations, as an introduction to ham radio, outside the Bellingham Public Library on April 6, as part of the library's second local business expo.

The club's indoor display featured the history of ham radio, its purpose, the benefits of the ham radio hobby and the public service hams render

during national emergencies and natural disasters. Some vintage radio equipment was displayed as well as a Morse code demonstration.

Experienced hams welcomed visitors and answered questions regarding their hobby. The BVARC team was led by Mickey Callahan, K1WMC, who also conducted a speaking program featuring several videos.