ARRL HUDSON DIVISION AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

KAREN SMITH, KS2O

Karen Smith, KS2O, accepts her Amateur of the Year award from Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, November 8, 2014

CONGRATULATIONS KAREN!!

Other award recipients are:

Technical Achievement Award – Joe Gomex, W2BMP

Grand 'Ole Ham – Bill Hellman, NA2M

Special Service Award – Pete Cecere, N2YJZ

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF CELL PHONE COVERAGE DROPS DUE TO AN EMERGENCY?

What if - Heaven forbid! - an emergency situation of a natural or man made doing were to occur? Could you depend on your cell phone to work reliably during those times. Perhaps not if cell towers are disabled. Here are some issues to consider:

> Cell phone communication has a lot of vulnerabilities that make it a poor solution for widespread or long-term emergencies.

> Heavy winds or flooding can disrupt the cables between towers such as during Hurricane Sandy.

> Cell towers require AC power to operate so if they don't have an automatic backup system, they stop. Keep in mind that a lot of towers are just glorified antennas on the tops of buildings or mountains and backup power, such as an emergency generator, is a very short-term solution. > Generators require fuel and that fuel has to be replenished quite often. In a lot of cases, the only backup power available is a bank of batteries that stop charging when the main power system stops.

> Backhaul systems (essentially the system that connects and/or allows overflow from outer systems to the core, often including other carriers) aren't always reliable. A lot of this system is wired but has been expanded to microwave and other systems.

> Most cell phones will only stay charged for a day or three. If you don't have local power to keep it up, when the system does come back up, you won't be able to talk to it.

Ryan Nelsen (R) and Fields Harrington ride a tandem bicycle to generate power as people wait for their cell phones to recharge in New York after Hurricane Sandy (Stan Honda/AFP/Getty Images)

> Cell phones require satellites, which are vulnerable to hackers, physical attack, or solar storms.

For further reading go to http://graywolfsurvival.com/2716/ham-radio-best-shtfdisaster-communication/

CHANGE IN TARA ECHOLINK NODE

The Echolink node attached to the TARA repeaters is no longer node #1774, W2PTR-R.

It is now node # 618264, N2TY-R.

THE NEW HAM'S FIRST RADIO

All new hams are faced with the same dilemma. Deciding on that first rig. I have come across quite a few articles lately that say the humble Handy Talkie (HT) is a bad choice for a first rig. The popular wisdom says the limitations

and lack of power make it a poor choice. I beg to differ. Let's think about this for a moment.

I know there are exceptions to every rule but most new hams receive their Technician license first, and then spend some time studying and learning to go the next levels. The primary bands the new ham will be experimenting with will be 2 meter (vhf) and 70 centimeter (uhf). For around $150-170 you can have a brand new self contained radio station that covers two of the amateur radio bands (VHF/UHF). You can get off cheaper than that if you go with a single band 2 meter radio. Unless you live in the desert or other sparsely populated area, there is at least one club owned repeater in your area and most likely there are a few. So right out of the box and about ten hours to recharge that new battery the new ham can be interacting with other hams in the area. He can learn the etiquette for using the local repeater; get used to using his newly earned call sign; and over come the fear of the microphone that a lot of new hams experience. Ah...nothing like that first contact.

It won't be long before you are an old hand on the local repeater and while you may later buy another radio, or two or three; that little handy talkie will never lose its usefulness. Listening in on severe weather nets when you have to disconnect your outside antennas because of the storm. Communicating with your buddy who's helping you install your new antenna on your roof or tower. Monitoring the local repeaters while you're working in the yard or drinking coffee at Starbucks. There are a gazillion reasons to own a hand held radio.

There are some challenges to using a handy talkie, but most can be overcome. My first radio was a Yaesu VX-5r. It was a little pricier than the category I'm talking about right now. It was also a tri-bander which included six meters. It also had a ton of bells and whistles on it that I have never used (yes I still have it). As I said there are some challenges. Here is a list of the most common challenges and solutions:

1. Rx/Tx not as good inside the house - A base antenna on a pushup pole or the roof will do wonders for extending the range of your HT.

2. Operation time is limited by the battery - Some HT's can be operated on an external power supply. For those that cannot a second battery charging while the first is being used is a simple fix.

3. HT gets hot during QSO - an external mic and a cell phone holder for cars mounted on some sort of base will make your HT more stable on your desktop as well as take care of the heat problem. Also with that outside antenna connected you can likely drop your transmitting by half or more. That will help with the heat problem.

4. QSO interfering with wife watching Top

Model or other program - a headset with a boom mic cuts out at least half of the conversation :-)

5. Your external mic, a mag-mount antenna, a cell phone holder, and you have a nifty little mobile rig! I use mine like this all the time and it works great. It beats hacking up that new car.

The bottom line is with a little ingenuity and a few accessories you can make your HT work in almost any environment; portable, mobile, or stationary. While you will probably eventually buy another VHF/UHF rig, your handy talky will always have a place in your radio arsenal.

"FREQUENCY" TV SERIES WOULD REPRISE AMATEUR RADIO-THEMED MOVIE

Mike Baxter, KA0XTT -- **Tim Allen's** character in the "Last Man Standing" TV show on ABC -- may be getting some competition on the ham bands, as NBC appears poised to launch a television series based on the 2000 movie Frequency, in which ham radio -- aided by some spectacular solar phenomena -- plays a central role in the sci-fi thriller.

According to a November 13 article in The Hollywood Reporter, NBC has already committed to the series. Jeremy Carver is writing the script for Warner Brothers Television and will be the series' executive producer. Toby Emmerich, who wrote the movie, will be a co-producer.

Jim Caviezel played NYPD detective John Sullivan in the 2000 **"Frequency"** movie. [New Line Cinema]

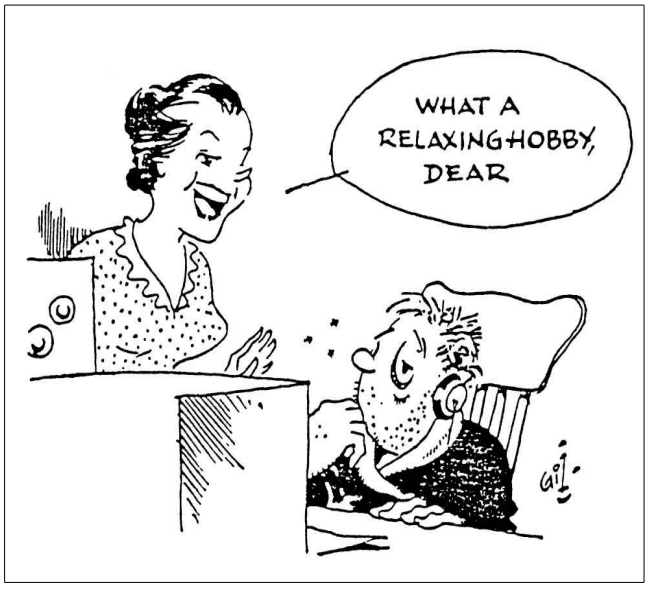
While Amateur Radio has made only fleeting appearances in **"Last Man Standing,"** it is an essential plot device in **"Frequency"**. In the movie, a New York City fireman, Frank Sullivan, played by **Dennis Quaid**, re-connects via a bizarre ham radio link with his son, John, 30 years in the future. **Jim Caviezel**, now a star in the CBS drama, **"Person of Interest,"** portrayed John Sullivan, an NYPD detective.

Jim Caviezel played NYPD detective John Sullivan in the 2000 Frequency movie. [New Line Cinema]

John Sullivan comes across his late father's 1960's-era Heathkit transceiver, through which -- with the help of a quirk of nature and some Hollywood magic -- he is able to communicate with his father through time and space.

Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR, Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire and The ARRL Letter, November 20, 2014

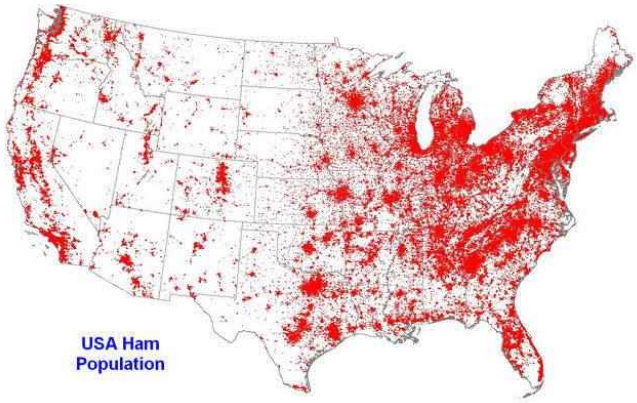
For more information on this series currently in the production phase please go to http://screenrant.com/nbc-frequency-tv-show/



"Few governments maintain detailed demographic statistics of their amateur radio operator populations, aside from recording the total number of licensed operators. The majority of amateur radio operators worldwide reside in Japan *(nearly twice the U.S.)*, the United States, Thailand, South Korea, and the nations of Europe."

source – http://qrznow.com/how-many-hams/

INTERESTING NUMBERS



The top five countries...

Rank	Country	Licensed Hams
1	Japan	1,296,059
2	USA	679,864
3	Thailand	141,241
4	South Korea	141,000
5	Germany	79,666

*numbers approximate

source - http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=26284

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