



PCARA Update



Volume 27, Issue 9 Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association Inc. September 2026

Successful *Update*

Over the summer break we held popular **PCARA Breakfasts** outside Uncle Giuseppe's on July 18 with 20 members and on August 15 with 12 members, followed by **VE Test Sessions** at Putnam Valley Library. The first VE Test Session brought in one upgrade from Tech to General and the second produced one new General.

Sussex County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest took place on Sunday July 12 at Sussex County Fairgrounds, Augusta NJ. Several PCARA members and friends traveled to this popular event with many vehicles lining up in Plains Road, waiting for entry at 8:00 a.m. Several members also attended the Northeast HamXposition™ on August 13-16, see report within.

Good news arrived in August — PCARA was winner of ARRL's Year of the Club **Newsletter Contest** in the "Small Club" category (less than 60 members). More details are within.

After Field Day, PCARA traditionally coasts along during the months of July and August, but as Labor Day comes around it is time to rev up the engine again. Please mark your calendar with the following events.

- Saturday September 5, 2026 at 10:15 a.m. **PCARA Membership Meeting** at the Putnam Valley Free Library on Oscawana Lake Road in Putnam Valley, NY.



Breakfast outside Uncle Giuseppe's, Yorktown on August 15.

- Saturday September 5 at 11:30 a.m.: **PCARA VE Test Session** – ARRL VEC at the Putnam Valley Free Library. Candidates contact radiocassetta'at'gmail.com.
- Saturday September 19, **PCARA Breakfast**, Uncle Giuseppe's, 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday September 20, Mount Beacon ARC Hamfest, new location -- Knights of Columbus, 1278 Route 9G, Hyde Park, NY. 8:00 a.m.
- Saturday October 3, at 10:15 a.m.: **PCARA Membership Meeting** at the Putnam Valley Free Library on Oscawana Lake Road in Putnam Valley, NY.

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Sussex County ARC Hamfest on July 12. L to R: Mike KD2PYS; Mike N2EAB; Greg KB2CQE and Bob N2CBH.

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- Saturday October 3 at 11:30 a.m.: **PCARA VE Test Session** – ARRL VEC at the Putnam Valley Free Library.
- Saturday October 17, New York QSO Party, from 1400Z (10:00 a.m. Eastern)
- Sunday October 18, Harry Chapin Memorial Run Against Hunger. 5K at 8:30 a.m.; 10K at 10:00 a.m.; 1 mile Fun Run at 11:45 a.m. Due to continued closure of Quaker Bridge, runners will again be using the alternate route followed in 2025 for the 10K Race. Completion of Quaker Bridge work is expected in May 2027.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of these events.

PCARA Board

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Net night

Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association holds a roundtable net on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. and a directed 'Old Goats' net on Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m. Both events take place on the 146.67 MHz W2NYW repeater, offset -0.600, PL 156.7 Hz.

Join the roundtable to find out what members have been doing or join the Old Goats with net control Karl N2KZ for news and neighborly information.

VE Test Sessions Jul - Aug

PCARA held **two** VE Test Sessions during summer break. The first session took place on Saturday July 18 at Putnam Valley Library, following that morning's PCARA Breakfast at Uncle Giuseppe's.

Jesse KE2DZC of Mohegan Lake (who had paid a visit to PCARA's 2026 Field Day) successfully passed Element 3, upgrading from Technician to General. Congratulations! Jesse's upgrade was processed by the FCC

on July 22, 2026.

Volunteer Examiners at the July 18 Test Session included Team Leader Lou KD2ITZ, Ken W1YJ, Charles N2SO, Joe W2BCC and NM9J. This was an ARRL-VEC test session using tablets and notebooks with the Exam-Tools system. The session had begun in a hazy atmosphere caused by smoke from Canadian wildfires. It ended with a sudden downpour of ½" of rain from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The second summer Test Session took place on Saturday August 15 at Putnam Valley Library. Jonathan Delano of Schenectady NY passed Element 2 *and* Element 3, qualifying for a brand-new General license. Jonathan's new call sign — KE2JCG — was issued by the FCC on August 19, 2026. Volunteer Examiners at this ARRL-VEC session were the same as for July 18.



August 15 VE Test Session at Putnam Valley Library.

PCARA's next VE Test Session is scheduled for Saturday September 5 at 11:30 a.m., following the monthly meeting at Putnam Valley Library. Candidates should contact Lou KD2ITZ using radiocassetta'at'gmail.com or register online using the link on the club web site, <http://pcara.org>. At press time, Lou reported that we already have one candidate lined up for the September 5 test session.

Adventures in DXing

- N2KZ

Big Bang

Horror struck my home one recent night. A self-standing flat screen TV was tipped over onto a couple of coffee cups and a wooden table. The flat screen lost. A sad vision resembling a window broken by a fast-moving baseball resulted. My Visio no longer produced visuals. R.I.P 2015-2026. It was a good run.

After a period of remorseful mourning, I began researching state-of-the-art flat-screens newly released for 2026. If you have lots and lots of money... flat screen size has no limits. How big is your wall? On special order, you can purchase a Panasonic 165" Full HD All-in-One Direct-View LED Display (Model TL-165AD19AW) for ONLY \$46,370 (USD)! Please... just call my accountant to arrange the details! Not enough? Try the Samsung 'The Wall IAB Series' 146" Class 4K UHD HDR All-in-One LED Video Wall Display selling for \$219,999. Someone is buying a yacht, but it is not me!

For mere mortals, a Samsung U8000H 65" 4K HDR Smart LED TV can be purchased for about \$400. The 43" version is only \$300 (maybe less!). These are very nice and respectable flat screen TVs at a reasonable price. LG sells a very comparable line of flat screens with nearly identical price tags. Both are dependable brands with



good reputations. In February 2024, Walmart purchased the economical Visio brand that was quite popular for almost 25 years and now sells them exclusively. Look to Insignia, Roku, Hisense, TCL and a myriad of other brands for budget flat screens. Always top notch, Sony remains the leader in quality for extraordinary pictures *and* price.



Many sizes — Samsung Crystal UHD televisions from 43" to 85" diagonal screen size. [N2KZ pic.]

The model year 2026 has become a turning point in home television. All vestiges of anything resembling analog video and audio are now only memories. I miss my old friends: RCA connectors and 3.5mm analog stereo mini-plugs are history. In some cases, even optical digital audio ports are becoming extinct. What to do?

Audio has been narrowed into two categories of connections: *Bluetooth* was adopted long ago as a quick and easy wireless way to distribute and connect all sorts of audio sources to earpods, portable amplified speakers, headphones and soundbars... and it's still widely used. Audiophiles now prefer using *ARC HDMI* and *eARC HDMI* (Audio Return Channel and extended bandwidth *ARC*) HDMI cables for very high quality hard-wired interconnects. Now you can use HDMI cables to bring digital signals to your flat screen *from* external equipment — *and the reverse* — routing high-quality audio from flat screens to soundbars and out-board audio systems directly, without reverting to lesser-quality Bluetooth.

HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) cables were first intended to only connect digital sources to final presentation devices (like flat screens) exclusively. One way only! It was a simple method of 'copy guard'. The one-way HDMI cable configuration protected "premium" content from being recorded and/or sold illegally to non-subscribers.

Today, HDMI cables have become essential to your home viewing success. In the beginning, there were *standard* HDMI cables for up to 1080i resolution. High speed (1080p - 4K at 30Hz) and *Premium high speed*



Samsung 77" and 65" flat screen televisions in a local warehouse store. [N2KZ pic.]

(4K at 60Hz and HDR) cables have now been surmounted by *Ultra high speed* cables (up to 8K at 60Hz) that convey even more resolution, thrilling videophiles and gamers. Are you using the audio return channel? Make sure your HDMI cable is constructed with ARC/eARC certification.

How do you tell them apart? Unless their specs are stamped on the outside of the cable, they all look the same. Black is black! If your cable is not sufficient in bandwidth all you will see is black! Digital TV is like that. It is either there or not. There is no in between!



HDMI cable (left) connected to HDMI 1/eARC connector on a modern Samsung TV. The other connectors are for HDMI 2 and HDMI 3, USB, F-coaxial antenna and Ethernet local area network. [N2KZ pic.]

Other quirky problems may also defy you. For example: try connecting an HP monitor to a Dell computer. HDMI data bits may clash and confuse you greatly. ‘Why can’t I see the screen?’ I have struggled with this problem professionally. This oddity often includes trying to incorporate computer Display Ports to feed monitors. HDMI cable length is also finite. Active distribution may be needed especially in multi-screen installations like restaurants and bars where wall-mounted flat screens are far, far apart. HDMI cable bandwidth deteriorates as the cable length gets longer and longer (just like ham radio co-ax!)

There is more! We are probably familiar with the look of common HDMI cables. Some evil technology designers like to use variant cable ends. You might also encounter tiny HDMI mini (C-type) and HDMI micro (D-type) cabling in use. Original USB has been surmounted by tiny USB-C. The exotic combinations are endless. “Do you have a cable for USB-C to HDMI micro?” No standard is our standard! A great conversation starter: “Do you have a phone charger I can borrow?” Incompatibility is everywhere! We have all been there. Heaven help us all!

Analog Please

In recent years, inexpensive HDMI digital to A/V

analog (via RCA cables) adaptors have arrived on the market. I use one HDMI to analog converter to connect a Roku to my legacy Sony WEGA 34 inch CRT HDTV from 1998 — and another identical converter to connect a Roku to a similar vintage mini-sized Sharp flat screen sitting on a shelf.

My Sony WEGA HDTV was a very early entry for 16 × 9 format HDTV reception. Although this huge chassis houses a beautiful 16 × 9 screen, no HDTV tuner was included. I had to purchase an outboard LG HDTV tuner to feed the Sony TV HD analog component video (via six RCA cables) but the results are phenomenal. 28 years later, I can still watch exceptional HDTV using the same gear. The Sony’s built-in audio quality is also delightful. Thanks, Sony! Thanks, LG!



The setup menu of Karl’s 1998 Sony WEGA TV. Do you remember these graphics? [N2KZ pic.]

Hello Audio

In the year 2026, we need to add external high quality audio amplifiers and speakers to appropriately match the quality of today’s massive super-sharp flat screens. The provided tiny low-fidelity oval speakers built-in to most flat screen TVs are barely a last resort. It is impossible to hear full-bodied audio from any speaker that can be hidden inside a very flat screen display.

Another way to beg hi-fi audio is to watch via an older laptop computer or tablet. They still have 3.5mm stereo mini output jacks. 2026 models of most home computers have discontinued 3.5mm stereo mini-jacks, so your only recourse *may be* via a USB-C connection to a mini-jack converter (or an HDMI connector providing that your device is capable of ARC audio outputs.) Can I Bluetooth my way into my Alexa? It may pose an interesting challenge!

Of course, there are other answers to this audio predicament. Audiophiles have long dismissed Bluetooth with its limited bandwidth, high audio compression and encode/decode wonkiness. Simply put: It just can’t be taken seriously. Yet, audio goes from your phone to your wireless earbuds via Bluetooth and you hear *something* of dubious fidelity. Don’t ask questions!

Similarly, I have yet to find an Alexa, Sonos, Echo Dot that is capable of producing professional quality audio. These small and convenient self-amplified Bluetooth speakers may sound relatively superior compared to simplistic speakers built into TVs but they are not satisfying to true audio aficionados.

More Adaptors

If you really long for some sort of way back to top-quality analog audio, here are a couple of suggestions: If you simply want to recreate a wired port to feed your analog stereo or headphones, consider the OREI HDMI ARC/eARC to Analog Audio Extractor. This inexpensive active converter might be all you need. Many, many similar 'extractor' devices are being offered online. The OREI is a leader in simplicity and quality in the under \$40 class.



Orei HDMI audio converter/extractor with optical S/PDIF & 3.5mm outputs.

For audiophile quality decoding of HDMI ARC audio, take a look at the *Simplified MFG DARC1* — and — the *ELAC HDX21* (both devices produce RCA outputs only — no headphone connection.) Study closely the specifications of all these devices to insure they will meet your needs! They are pricey but produce sweet results. Also remember: individual surround sound center channels sometimes require yet another connection.

Need good wired headphones? For the finest in audio detail and resolution, one model remains as the professional industry standard: The Sony MDR-7506. Marketed since 1991, these are excellent 'cans' that are remarkable and cost-effective. Highly suggested: I own three pairs! Use them and you will hear it all!



Sony MDR-7506.

Remote Control Included?

If you have just bought a brand new flat screen, you might discover a whole new world of experiences for you to try! Most TVs still come with a remote control but... like nearly everything else in life in the year 2026... you really need an app!

More and more TVs are now controllable using custom apps. Samsung's SmartThings App is capable of complete home automation of TVs, appliances, even household lighting and more. Your system devices can also be seamlessly controlled using just your voice by also installing Samsung's clever Bixby app. You'll be amazed at all it can control and how it can organize your tasks every day. Always competitive: LG's ThinQ

app is remarkably similar. The Vizio Mobile app also performs many television tasks. Not to worry: Basic old-school television remotes are still included with nearly every TV flat screen purchase regardless of make and model.

The Way We Were

Remember when life was so easy? We used to have only seven TV channels in New York: 2-4-5-7-9-11-and 13. All you had was a great big channel changing knob, a combined volume control with a built-in on/off switch and maybe a picture brightness control. Now we have multiple sources for entertainment and sports and everything else you can imagine. Programming from even one source can offer you hundreds of different networks or on-demand programs to choose from. Add to this mesmerizing mess: Pay TV for 'premium' content. (Netflix, Amazon, Apple TV, Hulu/Disney/ESPN, Peacock, Paramount+ and plenty more!) How many do you subscribe to? Where can I find my favorite team playing this afternoon? How do you ever find what you are looking for? If you find out... please let me know!

Senior curmudgeons never give up their old analog devices. In my office, I have a Zenith DTT901 'granny box' tuner connected to a trusty 1988 vintage Radio Shack 9 inch black and white TV. The Zenith tuner receives today's digital ATSC 1.0 broadcasts and converts them to RF channel 3 analog video that the TV can accept. 16 × 9 format letterbox delivered to a 9 inch 4 × 3 format B&W screen. Paradise!



Samsung SmartThings app. [Credit: Samsung.]



1988 vintage Radio Shack B&W TV in Karl's office.

9" Portable for Home or Vehicle

99⁹⁵

Low As \$15 Per Month + ESP Available

- Plays on AC or 12 VDC
- Built-In 2 1/2" Speaker

Just right for bedroom, kitchen or den. DC power cord also makes it neat for entertaining kids in the car. Rotary tuning and volume controls. Contrast, vertical and horizontal-hold controls. Carrying handle. 8 1/16 x 12 3/16 x 9 1/8". UL listed AC or 12VDC neg. gnd. 16-241 99.95

Radio Shack 9" portable B&W TV as featured in 1988 catalog.

Buy New

I have to wonder about planned obsolescence. Times change and technology and progress move on. Screens get bigger. Accessory audio systems become more and more elaborate and expensive. New cables and adaptors must be bought and installed to keep up. Are CDs and DVDs now obsolete too? My local libraries are putting all of those discs slowly out to pasture. Incessant updates certainly improve our viewing experience. Most important: purchasing new equipment — and — subscribing to more and more streaming services insures further technological developments and keeps your wallet open! That's the way it is supposed to be?

Prognostications

Some prophecies:

- Over-the-air television and radio will eventually cease.
- Linear audiences are dwindling. Over-the-air RF is too expensive to operate. Many people already exclusively stream video at home and listen to streaming audio in their cars. Very reliable and clear as a bell. Times change!
- TV antennas and RF distribution devices using F-connector and RCA cables will become obsolete (if they aren't already!) Is satellite delivered TV (grey rooftop dishes and converter boxes) obsolete, as well? Everyone is streaming. Is it time to recycle all of them?
- Will amateur radio manufacturers eventually release digital data-only radios that do not include any audio or CW? This would be a bold new perspective with a whole new set of design electronics appropriate to digital tasks. Interesting concept?

Final thoughts:

Can I please have a remote with just channel up and down and volume?

Just remember nothing beats vinyl for audio playback quality!

How do mere mortals ever navigate the endless selection options just to watch TV? "No Dad. It's not on COMP. It's on HDMI 3! Channel 33-13 not 33-1!" Please save me from this peril!

Until next month... "Wait! Where did the audio remote go?" 73 es dit dit de N2KZ 'The Old Goat.'



David Gong KC2QFS

(SK) 1948-2026

David H. Gong, KC2QFS, became a silent key on July 19, 2026. David is survived by a quite remarkable family of amateur radio operators including his wife Joanne KC2YID and his three sons: Jon KC2BNW, Mike KC2BNX, and Joseph KC2IJE.

David was a proud high school graduate whose steady work ethic and dependable nature guided him throughout his life. He served as an IBM Service Technician in Poughkeepsie, NY, where he was respected for his skill, professionalism and willingness to help others. He lived a life marked by devotion, quiet strength and a deep commitment to the people and interests that brought him joy.



David Gong KC2QFS and Jon Gong KC2BNW at Yosemite National Park. [KC2BNW pic.]

David proudly served in the U.S. Air Force. He also served as a Civil Air Patrol 2nd Lieutenant, an accomplishment that reflected his sense of duty and his willingness to contribute to something greater than himself. David valued service, responsibility and integrity, and those qualities were evident in the way he carried himself and in the example he set for others.

David found happiness in the simple and meaningful things in life. He enjoyed fishing, camping and he appreciated the peace and companionship that came with time spent outdoors. He was also involved in amateur radio, an interest that connected him with others and reflected his curiosity and steady engagement with the world around him. In quieter moments, he enjoyed making origami, a pastime that showed his patience, creativity and careful attention to detail.

Our friend Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP, shares this fond remembrance:

"A QSY member since 2006 when meetings were in Putnam County, David last visited us during this year's Field Day, accompanied by two of his sons, Mike KC2BNX and Jon

KC2BNW. While sitting quietly in a wheelchair, he may not have shown his usual convivial personality as he observed our activities. However, David attended our July 2025 meeting with Jon, where he presented origami creations to two members in recognition of their overnight efforts during Field Day 2025! He was certainly a sharing and caring man and will be missed terribly.”



L to R: Adam Nowick, Jr. AE2AN, Jon Gong KC2BNW, David Gong, KC2QFS (middle); Nick Castellano N2QZ and Shirley Dahlgren N2SKP. [N2SKP pic.]

Diana Ahrens, KD2AEG, adds more heartfelt admiration:

“It is with a very heavy heart that I share the news of the passing of David Gong KC2QFS. A pillar of the community, David was one of PEARL’s and amateur radio’s biggest supporters. He and his family have been at almost every PEARL and numerous events over the years throughout the Hudson Valley. He was always recruiting, always trying to get anyone interested in amateur radio... even using magic tricks to get kids to come over to our booth.

Among his many skills, he could turn a dollar bill into an incredible work of origami art. As a proud Air Force veteran, he continued his service as a Lieutenant with the Civil Air Patrol. I am grateful he got to see his vision of having the Cadets at Field Day come to fruition this past June. We are forever blessed to have known David and will miss him deeply.

Our thoughts, prayers, and love go out to his wife Joanne KC2YID, and his sons, Joseph KC2IJE and family, Mike KC2BNX, and Jon KC2BNW.

Godspeed dear friend. We will always have the Fig Newtons out for you.”

Those who knew David will remember his kind presence, his devotion to family and the warmth he brought to everyday life. He was a man who valued hard work, treasured his loved ones and found



Examples of David KC2QFS’ skill in origami, produced by folding dollar bills. [N2SKP pic.]

fulfillment in both service and simple pleasures. His grandchildren held a special place in his heart and his love for them was evident to all who knew him. Family was the most important part of David’s life.

David H. Gong leaves behind a legacy of love, loyalty and quiet accomplishment. His memory will be cherished by his family and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Anker C2000 Power Station – KD2EVI

A short update

In the February 2026 PCARA Update, I wrote about my purchase of a portable power station for use during power failures. I wound up using it this summer.

On the evening of July 4, overnight to July 5, I lost power at my location. You may recall that it was very warm over Independence Day weekend. I arrived home after 10:00 p.m. and went to sleep, assuming that electrical power, which had gone out about 8:30 p.m., would soon return. About 1:00 a.m., I awoke because of the heat and found that power had *not* returned.

I then retrieved my Anker power station from the basement and plugged in my refrigerator and a large fan and was able to go back to sleep.



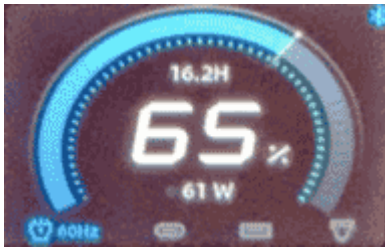
Anker Solix C2000 Gen 2 Portable Power Station has 2,048 watt-hours of capacity, providing up to 2,400 watts of AC power from internal LiFePO₄ batteries. [KD2EVI pic.]

A little after 6:00 a.m. utility power returned. My power station, which read 100% when I started using it, was down to 65% remaining after approximately 5 hours of use. The refrigerator stayed cold and no food was spoiled. After an hour on utility power the Anker device read fully charged.

Now I know that there is virtually no parasitic drain in this device and I can run my refrigerator and small devices for at least 12 hours.

The other unknown about the power station was noise on HF frequencies. A short test, plugging my

Samlex 1235M power supply into the unit revealed a clicking or metronome like noise when listening on 20 meters. This noise was not heard on 40 meters, nor at VHF frequencies. A larger (32 amp-hour or better) LiFePO₄ battery is probably more practical for using HF in the absence of commercial utility power.



Energy remaining after Anker Power Station kept refrigerator and fan running overnight. [KD2EVI pic.]

For more information on the Anker Solix Power Station see: <https://www.ankersolix.com/products/c2000-gen2>

- 73 de David KD2EVI

Inverters listed

On July 28, 2026 the Federal Communications Commission added foreign-produced **mobile robots** and foreign-produced **networked power inverters** to its “Covered List”. This is a list of communications equipment that is deemed to pose an unacceptable risk to the national security of the U.S. or the safety and security of U.S. persons.

Items already placed on the Covered List include telecommunications equipment from **Huawei** and **Hytera** plus **network routers** produced in a foreign country. See: <https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist> .

Could this affect you? “Foreign-produced mobile robots” might include robot vacuums and lawn-mowers. “Networked power inverters” was directed at solar power installations — but the original definition could have included portable power stations and uninterruptible power supplies (UPS). The FCC issued an update on August 20 to define a networked power inverter as an electronic device that:

- (a) Changes dc power to ac power, to include bidirectional devices, that is intended for use in parallel with an electric utility to supply common loads and sometimes deliver power to the utility, i.e., a utility-interactive inverter as that term is defined in UL 1741 sections 2.1.23, 2.1.52; - and -
- (b) Contains, or is designed, equipped, or configured to accept, a component that enables remote communication, control, sensing, data-collection, or monitoring through Ethernet, WiFi, cellular, Bluetooth, or other similar connections, whether wired or wireless.

Devices that consumers have *already* purchased and existing models that have *already* received FCC equipment authorization are not affected. But new, foreign-produced models with communication capability would be prohibited from receiving FCC equipment authorization to be imported, marketed, or sold in the USA unless they also obtain conditional approval from the Department of Defense or the Department of Homeland Security.

RadioID.net DMR verification

Do you operate on amateur radio **Digital Mobile Radio** (DMR)? If so, then you probably have a **DMR ID number** assigned by RadioID.net. This 24-bit (3-byte) number has to be programmed into your DMR radio or radios — usually in decimal format — in order to identify the owner.

Amateur Radio DMR is proving so popular that, in some regions, ID numbers are running out. RadioID.net has announced that from July 1, 2026 they will begin to implement an annual **verification process**.

On the anniversary of each account’s creation, RadioID.net will send an e-mail to the account holder asking for confirmation that the assigned ID is still needed and requesting confirmation that the account information is up-to-date. If no confirmation is received, the ID will be deactivated. Later the ID will be removed from the database and made available for reassignment to another user. Here is the schedule as communicated by RadioID.net:

- Year 1: If unable to contact you, we mark your account as unvalidated, IDs still work.
- Year 2: If still unable, we mark your account/IDs as Deleted, IDs no longer work.
- Year 3: If still unable to contact you for validation, Accounts and IDs are deleted.

RadioID is also using ‘LastHeard’ data to help trim the list of DMR IDs.

If you have a DMR ID starting with “1” (e.g. 1xxxxxx) the ID pre-dates RadioID Inc and needs to be updated. See: <https://news.brandmeister.network/important-message-for-brandmeister-usa-hams-using-a-radio-id-starting-with-1/>

Icom replacement

IC-2820H late review

Vintage Icom

An elderly Icom IC-2800H dual-band VHF/UHF transceiver has been in my radio room for sixteen years. I purchased this radio in 2010 from a seller at BARA's Fall Hamfest. A review appeared in *PCARA Update* for November 2010, followed by a backlight repair for the control head in June 2016.

Since that repair, the IC-2800H has performed well — but it was showing its age. The design dates

back to 1999, with a CCFL (cold-cathode fluorescent lamp) for the control head backlight that runs *very* hot and needs noisy cooling fans during the summer months. The press-to-talk microphone was becoming unreliable; the internal loud-speaker had stopped working and the color display was showing moiré patterns. I decided it was time to replace the IC-2800H.



Old Icom IC-2800H dual band transceiver with separate control head and backlit color display. A pair of fans kept the control head cool in summer.

Success at Sussex

In July 2026, I set out for Sussex County ARC Hamfest with a list of radio requirements. I was looking for a VHF/UHF mobile transceiver with dual-receive capability and both frequencies displayed, along with their alphanumeric tags. My brand preference was for Icom — possibly stretching as far as a new ID-5100A.

I could not find *any* new Icom radios in the main exhibit hall at 'Sussex', but I did find an outdoor table where a seller from Bath, PA had a transceiver for sale. The label on the box advertised an "Icom IC-2820H dual-band VHF/UHF Transceiver with dual receive capability and integrated D-STAR functionality." The radio appeared to be in good condition with an original Instruction Manual and a Nifty! Mini-Manual™ — so I made an offer.

The offer was accepted and the IC-2820H accompanied me home. Unpacking the Icom box revealed the

transceiver body, mobile mounting bracket, 12V DC cable (rather thin), long and short separation cables, Category 5 cable (substitute mic extension), fuses, HM-133 microphone, microphone holder (wrong clip-type), control head, mounting plate for magnetic attachment and mounting hardware. There was also an invoice from KJI Electronics dated May 2013 with an original selling price of \$579.00. In July 2026, I paid less than half that amount.



Contents of the Icom IC-2820H box as purchased at Sussex County ARC Hamfest. Control head, main body and microphone are top left.

The control head, body and microphone looked especially clean, with chrome trim on the control knobs and a horizontal chrome strip below the display, reminiscent of an RCA AR-88. I checked the ARRL review by Steve Ford WB8IMY and KN4AQ published in *QST*, November 2007. They indicated original pricing as follows:

IC-2820H mobile transceiver	\$650
UT-123 D-STAR/GPS module	\$300
OPC-1529R serial comms cable	\$25
CS-2820 program/cloning software	\$35
OPC-440 microphone extension cable	\$85

Total cost in 2007 was over \$1000 — digital voice was expensive in those early days. I removed the top cover to see whether the optional UT-123 module for D-STAR and GPS was included in *my* IC-2820H — sadly it was not present.

Testing time

I assembled the transceiver with control head directly attached to the main body for an initial test. The head is electrically connected to the body through a short 6-pin to 4-pin cable, while the microphone plugs into the main body using an 8-pin RJ-45 modular jack. The control head is then held in place on the main body by a pair of powerful magnets.

I installed Anderson Powerpole connectors on the 12V DC cable, attached my power meter plus dummy

load and switched on. The transceiver powered up with a bright green display showing “146.010 No Name” and “147.075 Bingham” (Binghamton). I found 146.520 simplex among the memory channels then checked



IC-2820H transceiver with control head mounted on the main body for initial testing. Power meter and dummy load were connected to the [ANT1] SO-239.

power output and modulation on dummy load. Three power levels are available: 5, 15 and 50 watts output.

The large, liquid crystal display is of the dot matrix type with adjustable brightness, contrast and backlight color, variable from red to green. Front panel buttons and microphone buttons are backlit a steady green.



IC-2820H with dot-matrix display backlight set to original green. Front panel buttons are also backlit green.

Although reception is available across the wide-band range of 118 – 999 MHz, I was pleased to see that transmission was restricted to just the amateur bands 144 – 148 MHz and 430 – 450 MHz. A check inside the radio and microphone showed no evidence of modification for out-of-band transmission or louder audio.

Programming party

With 50 memory channels to program into the ‘new’ radio, I had no intention of adding all their details manually. No cable for computer programming had been included, but fortunately, I already had RT Systems’ package of software and USB-29A cable for the Icom IC-2730H. The same programming cable is used by my ‘new’ radio — so I simply ordered RT Systems’ WCS-2820 software for the IC-2820H.

With the WCS-2820 software installed on my notebook PC, I connected the USB-29A cable to the SP-2

speaker jack then used COMMUNICATIONS → GET DATA FROM RADIO to read current memory contents.

RT Systems’ software makes it easy to transfer memory data from one model of radio to another. You can “Copy” data in the memory grid for one radio’s programming software then “Paste” that data into another radio’s grid — just as though you had two Excel workbooks open. RT Systems’ software takes care of the variations between different models and makes.

IC-2820 Programmer - NM9J072426Dstar.IC2820

	Receive Frequency	Offset Frequency	Offset Direction	Operating Mode	Name	CTCSS
0	146.01000		Simplex	FM		88.5 Hz
1	146.97000	600 kHz	DUP-	FM	MTBEAC	100.0 Hz
2	146.25000	600 kHz	DUP-	FM	ORANGE	100.0 Hz
3	147.06000	600 kHz	DUP+	FM	WECA	114.8 Hz
4	146.17000	600 kHz	DUP-	FM	ROCKLA	114.8 Hz
5	146.76000	600 kHz	DUP-	FM	MIDDLE	100.0 Hz
6	146.52000		Simplex	FM	SIMPLE	100.0 Hz
7	146.58000		Simplex	FM	SIMPLE	100.0 Hz
8	146.67000	600 kHz	DUP-	FM	PCARA	156.7 Hz
9	146.67000	600 kHz	DUP-	FM	PCARA-	156.7 Hz

RT Systems IC-2820 Programmer showing FM frequencies ready to be stored in transceiver memories.

I cleared old memories from the IC-2820H programmer, opened the IC-2730H programmer with its list of existing memories then used “Copy” and “Paste” to transfer selected memory channels from the 2730 to where I wanted them in the new IC-2820H. I then used COMMUNICATIONS → SEND DATA TO RADIO to update the IC-2820’s memory.

Install and connect

With the radio checked and programmed, it was time to install it in the radio room. I was intending to mount the control head close to hand, with the main body a few feet away on a higher shelf. This would require the longer 4-pin to 6-pin separation cable. Although this cable was working, one end was in poor condition with loose wires. I re-crimped the end with a Klein Tools modular crimper.

I tried mounting the controller onto the steel frame of the radio room shelving using the head’s built-in magnets.

The head had a tendency to slide around on the smooth painted surface so I fastened the supplied steel remote controller bracket to the shelf



Magnetic mounting of control head (amber backlight) to remote controller bracket.

with nuts and bolts, then snapped the control head magnets into circular indentations on the bracket.

The HM-133 microphone stays plugged into the front of the radio's main unit. The control head is unsuitable for a microphone jack — tugging on the curly cord might detach the control head's mounting magnets.



IC-2820H main unit on top shelf. Separation cable from controller is plugged into the left-hand jack, microphone is plugged into right-hand jack.

I also plugged two external loudspeakers into the 3.5 mm speaker jacks [SP-1] and [SP-2] on the back of the main body. With two separate speakers, the LEFT BAND and RIGHT BAND audio are heard from two different directions.

I completed the installation by connecting my Comet SBB-7 gain antenna to the [ANT1 TX/RX] SO-239 socket on the rear of the main unit.

There is a second SO-239 on the rear panel, labeled [ANT2 RX] for **diversity reception** using a second antenna. The IC-2820H then automatically selects reception of the strongest signal. I tried this out — you need to change to single band operation for diversity reception to work and to see the diversity indicator.

Evaluation

I carried out an evaluation of the IC-2820H on FM, listening to local repeaters plus scanning over simplex frequencies. Performance seemed entirely adequate, with good sensitivity and fast scanning of memory channels. There was no sign of overload from strong, out-of-band signals. The liquid crystal display is sufficiently clear, though the contrast changes when viewed off-axis. The control head stays cool, even after prolonged operation. There is a cooling fan at the back of the main unit which comes on with transmit. It also cycles on occasionally during receive. Fortunately, with the unit mounted on a high shelf the fan is barely audible.

One modification I made was to improve control visibility by adding thin strips of white vinyl tape onto indentations in the VOLUME/SQUELCH control knobs on the front panel.

Transmit testing with David KD2EVI and during PCARA nets demonstrated



Right hand VOLUME/SQUELCH control knob with white vinyl strips.

that FM modulation was clear and adequate. This was with “MIC SENS LEVEL” set to high. It reinforces KD2EVI’s finding that Icom’s D-STAR-capable radios like the ID-880H are good performers on FM. (See *PCARA Update* May 2025 pp 11-12 and Oct 2025 p10).

A subsequent audio report suggested that FM audio was restricted. The HM-133 microphone had the hole in its plastic case misaligned with the hole in the silicone keypad that allows sound to reach the electret microphone. I enlarged the hole in the plastic case.

What stays in mind is how *smooth* the experience was, both for setting up and for using the Icom IC-2820H in everyday FM operation. Settings were easily changed from the front panel and through the computer programming capability. This contrasts with my somewhat exasperating encounters with imported DMR-capable radios.

D-STAR®

D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) was the first digital voice mode designed specifically for radio amateurs. It was developed by the Japan Amateur Radio League with Icom in the late 1990s - early 2000s. Icom’s first D-STAR-capable radio was the 23 cm Icom ID-1, introduced in 2002. The first D-STAR-capable VHF radio was the IC-2200H 2 meter mobile transceiver introduced in 2004. It required an optional UT-115/UT-118 module for digital voice/data. Nowadays, D-STAR capable equipment is available from Icom, Kenwood and FlexRadio Systems.

My recently-acquired IC-2820H — vintage 2013 — was D-STAR capable, but the optional UT-123 digital/GPS module was not included in the unit I acquired at ‘Sussex’. (Hardly surprising when the new cost of the module was \$300!) For the sake of completeness, I checked online and found an eBay vendor offering a UT-123 at 33% of the original price.



One week later the UT-123 arrived in its original Icom cardboard box. There was a small circuit board with three mounting screws and a coaxial connector for the supplied external GPS antenna. Installation only took a



UT-123 Digital/GPS Unit (arrowed) mounted under the top cover of the Icom IC-2820H transceiver.

few minutes, and when I switched the IC-2820H back on, I noted a blinking “GPS” indicator on the display plus a number of new items in the Function and Settings menus.

I won’t go into details of programming simplex and repeater channels for D-STAR digital voice, but I would mention that RT Systems’ software includes a “D-STAR Calculator” to generate the various callsigns required for D-STAR operation on each memory channel. Testing on PEARL’s K2PUT repeater (445.875 MHz – 5.000), I was able to see my callsign appear on <https://www.dstarusers.org/> and hear my own transmission echoed back. Bear in mind that from my home location, this required the **full** 50 watts output from the IC-2820H, fed into a Diamond X-200A collinear antenna with 8.0 dBi gain on 440 MHz.

Conclusion

Despite its age, the Icom IC-2820H *without* the optional D-STAR module is a perfectly good dual-band FM transceiver for mobile or fixed station use. Whether it is worthwhile adding the UT-123 digital/GPS unit will depend on availability and activity of a D-STAR repeater in your own area. Hint: RepeaterBook, <https://www.repeaterbook.com/> allows a search for local repeaters by *mode* including D-STAR.



Icom IC-2820H transceiver front panel. Seven-segment S-meter indicates a strong signal on 146.670 MHz.

Final thought — if you believe that “Imitation is the sincerest

form of flattery...” take a close look at the “Zastone D9000” transceiver, available from Chinese vendors such as Alibaba and Banggood. Despite its familiar good looks, there is no

sign of any D-STAR digital voice being included and no mention of FCC Approval.



Zastone D9000 dual band FM transceiver transmits on 136-174 MHz and 400-480 MHz with 50 watts (VHF) and 40 watts (UHF).

Act sees daylight

On Tuesday July 14, 2026 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the **Sunshine Protection Act of 2025**, legislation intended to make year-long Daylight Saving Time (DST) permanent in the USA.

As reported in *PCARA Update* for March 2025:

“In previous years (2018 – 2023), the Sunshine Protection Act was introduced by then Senator Marco Rubio of Florida (now U.S. Secretary of State) to make Daylight Saving Time permanent for the full 12 months of the year. The legislation did not make much further progress. This year [2025], the Sunshine Protection Act of 2025 was introduced in the Senate by Senator Rick Scott of Florida on January 7 and referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.”



Do we need Sunshine Protection?

The 2025 bill had been introduced to the House of Representatives as H.R. 139 on January 3, 2025 by Florida representative Vern Buchanan. Following its July 14, 2026 passage, the White House indicated that the Administration supported the Act in its current form and would sign it into law.

The Senate could take up its own version of the bill when it returns from recess on September 14. If it was passed, signed by the President and took effect on December 1, the shift from Daylight to Standard Time, November 1, 2026 – March 14, 2027 might be the last.

But staying on permanent daylight saving time is not universally accepted. One problem is that sunrise in winter would be an hour later, with children traveling to school in the dark during the shortest days. For example, sunrise in Peekskill on December 1 would not occur until **8:00 a.m.** Health experts suggest that choosing permanent **standard time** would be better than permanent daylight saving time as this would align with natural sleep patterns and the arrival of morning light. A trial of year-round daylight saving time in 1974 for energy saving purposes proved unpopular.

Consequences

What would be the *practical* effect of permanent daylight saving time in our area? In terms of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), Eastern Standard Time is UTC –05:00 hours while Eastern Daylight Time reduces the difference to UTC –04:00. Radio amateurs taking part in international schedules with hams in neighboring countries might find that the USA appears to be one hour ahead relative to the rest of the world during the

- NM9J

winter months. The same would apply to short wave listeners looking for overseas broadcasts. That's assuming the rest of the world (mostly Europe) keeps changing its clocks twice a year. Canada tends to stay in sync with the USA — from 2026, several Canadian Provinces have already adopted year-round daylight saving time.

Clocks in sync

From a practical point of view, simple clocks — whether wind-up, battery-powered or synchronized to 60 Hz AC — could just be left on permanent daylight saving time. Electrical timers that track sunrise and sunset may have a setting to turn daylight saving time on and off.



Electrical timers may have a DST option (arrow).

Computer clocks usually maintain UTC internally and — if connected to the Internet — synchronize themselves to a network time server. A downloaded table defines the relationship between UTC and the locally-displayed time for each country and time zone, including when to change for daylight saving time.

Smartphones set their internal clocks from the local cell tower or from a network time server provided by the cellular network then adjust for local time zone based on location derived from the cell tower or GPS satellites. (Smartphones have a setting to enable and disable this automatic updating.) Vehicle clocks may also be derived from satellite-based GPS. My own car has a satellite-derived clock but requires manual selection of time zone and daylight saving time.

So-called atomic clocks (and watches) receive RF signals on 60 kHz from WWVB in Boulder, Colorado. WWVB transmits the time as UTC with a pair of bits to indicate the status of daylight saving time in the USA. If the bits are different, a change in DST is about to happen. WWVB could just leave both bits set (11) for year-round DST. In addition, wall clocks may have a switch or setting to turn off DST.



"Atomic" clocks decode bits from WWVB on 60 kHz to indicate when DST is in effect.

For logging purposes, radio amateurs should have a clock that indicates UTC (GMT) in the radio room. The good news is that your UTC clock *never* needs adjustment for daylight saving time. - NM9J

Newsletter contest

As part of its "Year of the Club 2026" ARRL announced in October 2025 that it would host a **Club Newsletter Contest**. After discussion by the PCARA board and newsletter contributors, a decision was taken at the November 1, 2025 monthly meeting to enter the *PCARA Update* newsletter in ARRL's contest.



Your editor put together a full year of *PCARA Update* newsletters, from December 2024 to December 2025 then submitted the package to ARRL along with a "500-word statement on the purpose of the newsletter and how the newsletter's contents and design fulfill that purpose." Thanks are due to Rob AD2CT for suggesting improvements to this statement and to all newsletter contributors from 2025. They included regular correspondents Karl N2KZ and Greg KB2CQE, with additional reporters David KD2EVI, Rob AD2CT, Jay NE2Q and David K2WPM.

On July 31, 2026 I received an e-mail message from Becky Schoenfeld W1BXY, ARRL's Director of Publications and Editorial. Becky thanked PCARA for its submission to ARRL's Year of the Club Newsletter Contest and gave the welcome news that our newsletter had won **First Place** in the **Small Club** category, with fewer than 60 members.

I was asked not make any announcement about the award until another e-mail arrived listing *all* the contest winners. That message was delivered on Tuesday August 11. It included the following information.

"The ARRL Year of the Club Newsletter Contest drew more than 80 entries from ARRL-affiliated amateur radio clubs all over the country. Contest judges were:

- ARRL Director of Publications and Editorial Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY
- ARRL Senior Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R
- NCJ Editor and PVRC Newsletter Editor John Pescatore, K3TN
- ARRL News Editor, past Ohio Section PIC, and past coordinator of the Ohio Section Newsletter Contest John Ross, KD8IDJ

The judges divided the entries into three categories: Large Clubs (> 120 members), Medium Clubs (60-120 members), and Small Clubs (< 60 members). Entries were evaluated for the navigability and attractiveness of their layout, as well as the variety and quality of their content. During the evaluation, two entries emerged as doing an out-

standing job of serving a specialized audience, leading the judges to create a Special Commendation for those entries.

The judges are pleased to congratulate the following winners.

LARGE CLUBS

First Place: Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club, W2MMD, Pitman, New Jersey — *CrossTalk*
Jeffrey Garth, WB2ZBN, Editor

Second Place: Long Island CW Club, W2LCW, Global — *Long Island CW Club Newsletter*
Richard Spohn, WB2GXM, Editor

MEDIUM CLUBS

First Place: Ozaukee Radio Club, W9CQO, Grafton, Wisconsin — *The Ozaukee Radio Club Newsletter*
William Shadid, W9MXQ, Editor

Second Place: East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, W2EGB, East Greenbush, New York — *Sidebands*
Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, Editor

Honorable Mention: Providence Radio Association, W1OP, Johnston, Rhode Island — *The Old Professor*
Thomas Greenwood, W1ER, Editor

SMALL CLUBS

First Place: Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association, W2NYW, Greater Peekskill/Cortlandt Area, New York — *PCARA Update*
Malcolm G. Pritchard, NM9J, Editor

Second Place: Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club, W6BA, Morongo Basin, California — *MBARC Beacon*
Aaron Chesney, KM6IAU, Editor

SPECIAL COMMENDATION

Best Newsletter for a Specialized Audience: Families and Youth

Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society, W1STR
Natick, Massachusetts
Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society News
Robert F. Phinney, K5TEC, Editor

Best Newsletter for a Specialized Audience: Global Audience

Young Ladies' Radio League, K4LMB
Global
YL Harmonics
Kathleen Houlihan, WA5DUC, Editor

On August 14, 2026 ARRL published a news item on its web site about the Newsletter and Website contests. See: <https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-year-of-the-club-contests-celebrate-outstanding-club-websites-and-newsletters>. The same topic was covered in "ARRL Club News for August 19, 2026."

Contest winners were to be honored with presen-

tation of certificates at the Huntsville Hamfest on August 22-23. Winners would also be announced in *QST*. I was asked to send high-resolution images of the March 2025 cover page and the article "EMI-Spy 2.0 Kit review" for their announcement.



PCARA Update, March 2025, cover page.

- NM9J

Antennas remembered - NE2Q

On the next page are two antenna advertisements scanned by Jay NE2Q from June 1958 — the month and year that Jay received his Novice license WV2BLX.

The first advertisement shows the **Telrex TB-7E** seven-element tribander covering 20, 15 and 10 meters. Jay recalls that it had **no** traps and was built like a tank. It had two active elements on 20 meters, two on 15 meters and three elements on 10 meters. Likely cost of a Telrex TB-7E today would probably be in the \$3,500 range.

Telrex Laboratories was founded in Asbury Park, NJ by Mike Ercolino W2BDS. In February 1970 *73 Magazine* W2BDS wrote:

"I've been in the game over 50 years (pounded brass for 25) and found out a long time ago that antennas were the weak link. We changed all that. Good antennas such as those we build can be ruined in minutes by a tinker. So put 'em up and leave 'em up the way we make 'em. Our 'Big Bertha' systems cost more than a Rolls Royce. Three of our customers have bought two of them... that's living."

Jay points out that the **Tennalab** advertisement from 68 years ago shows a tribander with **no** traps or coils, long before Optibeam, Force 12 or other current newcomers. Tennalab of Quincy, Illinois manufactured TV and amateur antennas. They employed close-tolerance "61 ST aluminum" tubing (=6061 aluminum alloy) in sizes that would telescope together to fabricate booms and elements of tapering size for greater strength at smaller diameters.

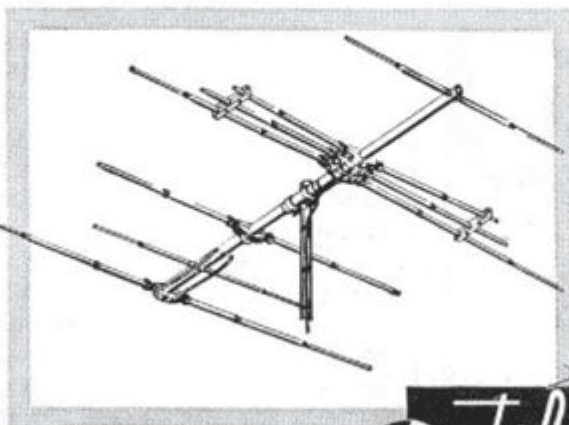
Antennas remembered

June 1958 - Jay NE2Q



How much for TOP PERFORMANCE AND THE FINEST MATERIALS, TOO? ONLY \$158.00 f.o.b. AP.—N.J. Wanna write instead? Complete Teck. Info. free!

**Tired of formulas and living on ur roof?
Wanna enjoy ur hobby and live-a-little too?**

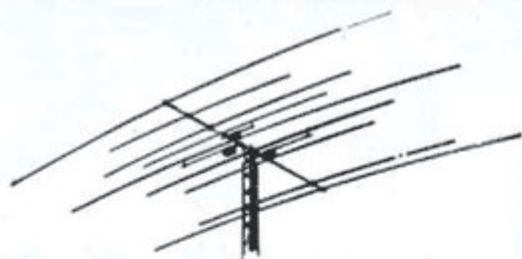


If so, latch onto and install a TELREX Model TB-7E. It's the only no-compromise one-transmission line "Tri-Band"® providing satisfying *top-man-on-the-frequency* results on 3-bands with a genuine gain of 5.5 db and a F/B ratio of 19 db, without traps to break down, or tricks and formulas to fiddle with!

ASBURY PARK 2, NEW JERSEY
Telephone: PRospect 5-7252



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*Sooner or later
you too will switch to*
— TENNALAB —
for The Dean of Beams

- No Traps, Coils, Baluns or Gadgets
- No Insulators at Points of High Voltage.
- No Element Tuning—All Fixed and Full Size.
- No Ungrounded Elements Exposed to Lightning.
- No Plastic to Support or Insulate Elements.

- No Inefficient Single Line Feed.
- No High SWR—Even at Band Edge.
- No Excessive Weight—Only 67 lbs.*
- No "Special Method" Ratings.
- No "Headaches".

THE 9L-10152ORG IS A BETTER BEAM ON 10, 15 AND 20 THAN THE AVERAGE STACKING OF THREE SEPARATE SINGLE BAND BEAMS HAVING 8 DB GAIN AND 24 DB F/B. ALL THREE TUNERS REACHABLE FROM THE TOWER FOR UNITY MATCHING.



PLYTUBULAR CONSTRUCTION IS A PROCESS OF FABRICATING MULTI-PLY ALUMINUM BOOMS AND ELEMENTS, PERMITTING SMALLER DIAMETERS FOR GREATER STRENGTH AND LESS ICE LOADING, WIND LOADING, VIBRATION AND TORQUE.

*Investigate
before you
Invest!*

CATALOG NO.	BANDS	AMATEUR NET
9L-10152ORG®	10-15-20	\$217.50
6L-1015RG	10-15	105.00
6L-1020RG	10-20	157.50
6L-1520RG	15-20	165.00

ALSO A COMPLETE LINE OF SINGLE BAND BEAMS FOR AMATEUR AND COMMERCIAL USE.

2 METER CORNER REFLECTORS AND YAGIS AVAILABLE SOON
SEE YOUR DISTRIBUTOR OR WRITE—

TENNALAB - QUINCY, ILL.

AIR IS THE BEST INSULATOR

HamX™ 2026 – KD2EVI

Once again, I attended HamX, the Northeast HamXposition™ and ARRL New England Division Convention in Marlborough Massachusetts this past August 13-16, 2026. PCARA members Rob AD2CT and his XYL Helen; Ray W2CH and Marylyn KC2NKKU also attended. We all went to the magic show on Thursday evening.



L to R: Ray W2CH, Marylyn KC2NKKU, Rob AD2CT and David KD2EVI at HamX 2026. [AD2CT pic.]

The real activities started Friday August 13. Bruce Blain K1BG had emailed PCARA and requested that we attend the “Club Track” sessions. As you know 2026 is ARRL’s “Year of the Club” and this series was devoted to what successful clubs are doing, how to strengthen weaker clubs, and when it is time to merge smaller clubs. The ARRL has taken over the MARCONI (Motivating Amateur Radio Clubs to Open New Initiatives)



program from the Meriden Amateur Radio Club to give clubs guidance to improve. Please see the ARRL web site for more detail — including pdf

documents detailing successful programs: <https://www.arrl.org/marconi-program>. MARCONI promotes the ARRL Club Grant program in which, if a proposal is accepted, a weaker club is granted funds to improve their activities, guided by a nearby stronger club.

I am happy to report that PCARA is doing most of the things that other successful clubs are doing. We support local events (e.g. Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger), provide licensing exams, have presentations at meetings, conduct other activities and are welcoming (I trust) to new members.

Also going on at the same time that morning was a “mini-Contest University”. I don't think any PCARA members attended those sessions. And that brings up the “problem” with HamX — it is a good problem, in my opinion. There may be up to 10 to 12 seminars running at the same time between 10:00 a.m. and

5:00 p.m. Participants have to prioritize which seminars they wish to attend. You will never get to hear all the presentations that interest you. Here is a link to the 2026 schedule: <https://registration.hamxposition.org/Schedule/>. Take a look at it and you will see what I mean. You will notice there is no lunch break. And there is the exhibit hall where manufacturers such as Elecraft and FlexRadio display their products.



Drive-on fiberglass masts at Quicksilver Radio. [KD2EVI pic.]

There is a large flea market outside that you will want to walk through and maybe purchase items as I did.



Flea market area outside the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel. [W2CH pic.]

The keynote address was given by Everton Henriques KD2ZZT, a teacher at Staten Island Technical High School. He has attended two levels of the ARRL Teacher's Institute and introduced amateur radio to his students. Over 650 young people attending this school have earned their licenses. Radio is used to support other school projects such as the Solar Car Challenge in which the school won second place this year. There is a lot of enthusiasm for radio there. You may recall that Hudson Division Director Ed Wilson N2XDD spoke about this school and KD2ZZT when Ed came to our club in October 2025.



Used rigs at HamX flea-market. L to R: Icom IC-821 \$400; IC-730 \$200; Kenwood TS-450S \$350. [KD2EVI pic.]

I do not want to get into detail here about what I learned in the other seminars that I did attend. All were enjoyable, informative and well delivered. The Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center in Marlborough has resumed daily housekeeping services, has a very good buffet breakfast included and the rooms are in good shape. The hotel restaurant was open Friday and Saturday evenings. An adjacent shopping center (walkable) has several restaurants to choose from and there are a number of other dining choices within a short drive. I enjoyed returning to HamX and would encourage other PCARA members to attend next year.

- 73 de David, KD2EVI

BaoFeng UV-21R brief review – KD2EVI

At this year's HamX I purchased a second BaoFeng UV-21R hand held transceiver from a flea market vendor for \$40.00. This tri-band HT (144, 220, and 440 MHz) came pre-programmed with 500 repeaters, according to the vendor. A Radtel RHD-771S tri-band antenna cost an additional \$15.00, which I spent because the radio only comes with a dual-band antenna.

This is a larger, heavier radio than the common BaoFeng UV-5R and feels more substantial in your



HamX flea-market vendor selling "Handheld Radios, SSB & FM, Transmit and Receive, starting at \$40". [KD2EVI pic.]

hand. The radio — while heavier than a UV-5 — is lighter than my Yaesu FT-60 HT. I like the display. The vendor claims an 8 watt output for this model.

The best things about the UV-21R, in my opinion, besides the tri-band capability and better feel in your hand are the one-button access to weather band channels (press [0 SQL] key) and USB-C charging. The USB charging port enables you to keep the radio charged from your vehicle or a portable power bank. A traditional stand charger is also included. The smaller UV-5R BaoFengs readily store in a door pocket or center console in a vehicle, but this model will be more difficult to find a place.

I was able to work Bill N2QPG on the W2GIO 223.920 MHz Mount Beacon repeater on my UV-21 from my QTH as I was writing this. I cannot reach the 146.970 MHz Mount Beacon repeater from an HT at my location. I can listen to the repeater, but cannot be heard by it.

Last year I purchased my first UV-21R from a different vendor at HamX for \$35.00 — which also needed a tri-band antenna and did *not* come pre-programmed. I later bought a programming cable for the first radio and have local repeaters stored. I find myself making more trips to Florida by car in the past couple of years and having repeaters already programmed into the radio appealed to me. Unfortunately, the W2NYW repeater is not among those already programmed. I did listen to a traffic net on a local repeater connected to the Minute-man Repeater Association network while in Marlborough MA for HamX.

If you want a nicer HT than the basic UV-5R for a low price consider this UV-21R model.

- 73 de David KD2EVI



Size comparison, L to R: BaoFeng UV-21R, Yaesu FT-60R, BaoFeng UV-5R. [KD2EVI pic.]



Location of USB-C charging port (arrowed) on rear of UV-21R battery. [KD2EVI pic.]

Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association

Mail: PCARA, PO Box 146, Crompond, NY 10517

E-Mail: mail 'at' pcara.org

Web site: <http://www.pcara.org>

PCARA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pcararadio>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@peekskillcortlandtamateur7670>

PCARA Update Editor: Malcolm Pritchard, NM9J

E-mail: NM9J 'at' arrl.net

Newsletter contributions are always very welcome!

Archive: <http://nm9j.com/pcara/newslett.htm>

PCARA Information

PCARA is a **Non-Profit Community Service**

Organization. PCARA meetings take place every month (apart from July/August break). See <http://www.pcara.org> for current details.

PCARA Repeaters

W2NYW: 146.67 MHz -0.6, PL 156.7Hz

KB2CQE: 449.925MHz -5.0, PL 179.9Hz

N2CBH: 448.725MHz -5.0, PL 107.2Hz

PCARA Calendar

Sat Sep 5: PCARA Monthly Meeting, 10:15 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley, NY.

Sat Sep 5: PCARA V.E. Test Session, 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, see below.

Sat Sep 19: PCARA Breakfast, 9:00 a.m., Uncle Giuseppe's, 380 Downing Dr, Yorktown Heights, NY.

Hamfests

Check with organizers before leaving.

Sun Sep 20: Mount Beacon ARC Hamfest, Knights of Columbus, 1278 Rt. 9G, Hyde Park, NY. 8:00 a.m.

Sat Sep 26: Garden State ARA Hamfest, MOESC Parking Lot, 100 Tornillo Way, Tinton Falls, NJ. 8:00 a.m.

VE Test Sessions

Check with the contact before leaving.

Sep 5: PCARA, 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley NY. Must contact VE Lou KD2ITZ, radiocassetta'at'gmail.com.

Sep 10: WECA, Westch Cnty Fire Trg Center, 4 Dana Rd Valhalla NY. 7:00 p.m. Contact VE, rcasino48'at'gmail.com.

Sep 18: Orange County ARC, Munger Cottage, 40 Munger Dr., Cornwall NY. 6:00 p.m. Contact VE: joed99'at'verizon.net.



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