

Library Holds Ham Radio Workshop

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK—The Judevine Library hosted a ham radio work shop on Saturday afternoon. A makeshift mid-twentieth-century communications center was set up in the back yard. Around a dozen enthusiasts shared stories and experimented with classic models of the machines during what has become known as Amateur Radio Field Day.

David Ferland of Plainfield was one of the primary presenters. "You can be your own radio station," he said. "It's not like a broadcast station, like WGRW, which is one-way radio. It's two-way, world-wide otherwise."

Ferland explained that speaking with someone requires agreeing on a time and a matching frequency. Or, an operator can just share the airwaves and "see who is out there."

"You call out into the world and you see who hears you and they can talk back," said Ferland. "You can talk with people in Korea, in Aus-

tralia, around the world. California is routine."

Ferland said that the language barrier is not much of an issue. "English is the common language used by the amateur ham radio operators. Which is fortunate, because my Croatian is very sketchy."

Ferland said that some ham radio users try to use Earth-Moon-Earth (EME), or "moonbounce," aiming to bounce their signals off of the moon and back to the Earth with several seconds of delay. This technique is a more challenging way to get a signal around the world due to the moon's poor reflectivity, its distance, and other factors.

David Hale, another radio enthusiast who helped run the event, explained how ham radio became a hobby.

"I was fascinated with ham radio as a kid," he said. "I had my own radio. When I was nine, in fourth grade, I tried to study Morse Code and tried to take the ham exam."

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A Wet Start to Learn a New Sport photo by Doug McClure

A beginner practices the "flip and dunk" maneuver all new rowers must master to be allowed to row on the water. In the background, others prepare their craft for departure on Greater Homer Pond at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. The Center offers community members inexpensive training in sculling.

Craftsbury Outdoor Center Gives Rowers Access to World-Class Facilities

by Doug McClure

CRAFTSBURY—It is mid-October in a calm summer. The temperature is in the mid-sixties, yet the water in Greater Homer Pond registers seventy-two degrees. On a small stretch of beach dotted with wooden docks, groups of teenagers and young adults train in the sport referred to as rowing, crew or sculling.

The boats are narrow—just over a foot wide. The intensity is palpable as coaches and athletes feel the water in their hands, working with coaches to make small adjustments to their craft. The intensity of the atmosphere dissipates as the last crew pulls away from the dock.

Rowing is a sport that has been around for centuries. It is one of the world's oldest team sports. The United States Olympic team has used rowing as a training tool for decades. The United States Olympic team has used rowing as a training tool for decades. The United States Olympic team has used rowing as a training tool for decades.

The sculling programs for athletes and professionals contribute over \$1.2 million a year to the area.

It is a little past four p.m. and a new group of athletes trundles in for their sculling session. This group is more diverse, ranging from young to old, and they may arrive without the intensity of the earlier group.

This is COCC's sculler row program—a short for Community Row. It is a newly established program aimed at giving locals access to a new way of life on the water.

While the Outdoor Center is world famous for its top-tier training programs, this inexpensive community-oriented activity is a source of pride. It is part of COCC's charge to a non-profit and just one way to give back to the community.

One woman laughs at using a camera because "I'm just a beginner." But she is more than happy to be here and doesn't mind the attention. A teenager by the docks is spending a lot more time in the lake than in the boat.

They are looking at a couple of successful "Therapy" Community Allies want to incorporate into their work.

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Community Allies Plan Second Big Block Party

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK—After putting on a successful block party that drew over 200 people last summer, Community Allies for Safety, Trust, and Respect want help with the next batch of planning.

The next event's target date is September 16 at Athens Farm, pending permission from the Zoning Board. The event would go from mid-afternoon until dusk.

"There will be live music, lots of good games, painting, bubbles, pump-bike, and pie-eating and other very interesting activities from the area are welcome to take part."

"Whatever ways we can engage different parts of the community," said Tara Reynolds, who leads the Allies in this effort, "would be really helpful."

A team from the Allies is working to get support from around town. They are recruiting talent, labor, products, services, and financial donations to help make the event a success.

The Community Rowing season runs from May through September, with sessions for experienced rowers on Mondays and Tuesdays at 4:30 pm and all skill levels on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

The food truck last year was so successful that it ran out of food. This year's fare will be a little different. Local businesses, including Pesto Greens, Jasper Hill, the Village Restaurant, Top and local farms will feed party-goers.

Last year, the Allies lost approximately \$1,000 on the event. They aren't planning to turn a profit this year, but want to break even.

"We're looking at how we can run this with more community involvement and engagement," said Reynolds.

Other Allies' projects include a community discussion about justice and equality on July 15. Among expected participants are the local artist group Stated Up, Johnson State College, Global Campus, and more.

Another project is painting a mural at the Daniels Building. When the artist says that he has already painted a mural at the Daniels Building, when the artist says that he has already painted a mural at the Daniels Building, when the artist says that he has already painted a mural at the Daniels Building.

David Hale, second from left, and David Ferland, third from left at the Judevine Memorial Library as part of International Ham Radio Field Day. Watching and participating in the event were Brian Lopez of Lowell; Richard Slobog, of Craftsbury and Robert Gagnier of Greensboro. Hale is speaking with someone from Indiana when this photo was taken.

Wonder & Wisdom and The Art House Merging

by Doug McClure

GREENSBORO—Beginning July 1, the Art House of Craftsbury and Greensboro's Wonder and Wisdom will merge into a new organization, WonderArts. The goal is to combine resources to better serve both communities.

Both groups have for years worked with people of all ages to offer programs on nature and creativity. Together, they plan to bring more diversity and breadth to their offerings.

The inaugural offering this summer is a Summer Camp program. The first and last weeks welcome kids aged six to thirteen, with the weeks in between splitting into two separate camps. One camp will work with children six to nine years of age; the other will focus on teens to thirteen-year-olds. They will also be a morning preschool camp offered from June 27-30.

WonderArts spaces for children in the basement of the United Church of Christ in a large and welcoming one. One wall has coat

books for backpacks, each labeled with the child's name. Art supplies litter the tables. A large rectangular table, painted in polka dots, sits next to a very large paper-mache giraffe.

The giraffe and an equally out-sized chicken that sits across the room are the products of past art events. This year, the kids are creating similar art for Greensboro's Family Fourth parade on Saturday, July 1.

Camp Director Cathlyn Galloway says this week's class is thirteen is a bit less than the usual eight-to-nine is normal. The Campers are a mix of nature-lovers and nature-haters. Galloway says she has a lot of fun with the kids.

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semines. One woman laughs at using a camera because "I'm just a beginner." But she is more than happy to be here and doesn't mind the attention. A teenager by the docks is spending a lot more time in the lake than in the boat.

They are looking at a couple of successful "Therapy" Community Allies want to incorporate into their work.

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Replacement Fire Rescue-Pumper Purchase Approved

by Will Walters

CALAIS—On June 28th final meeting of the East Montpelier and Calais select boards, officials discussed purchasing a replacement fire vehicle, as well as staffing increases in the ambulance service. Officials of the East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) also attended.

Chief Ty Holland presented a plan to replace vehicle R2, a heavy rescue, with a pumper, instead of En-

gine 4. The replacement under consideration is a used 2013 KME rescue vehicle and pumper. Holland said it is in like new condition and has low hours on the pump. The cost is \$330,000.

President Peter Talbot said a new truck would cost over \$600,000. "We're doing projects on the roads that we're putting up at the Clean Water Act, [including] a pilot program...and we're doing as in-

ventory of the road."

The Clean Water Act focuses on lake Champlain's water quality, since many Northeast Kingdom watersheds flow into it. Watershed along the surface of roads brings sediment and other damaging materials into the lake.

Town To Hire New Road Crew Member

by Michael Bielawski

WOLCOTT—The road crew has been in a state of flux since former foreman Harry Dudley resigned. The town has a new road crew person and will soon add another member and will soon add another member and will soon add another member.

"I'm seeing Greg [in the road foreman]," he said. "He's really stepped into the role, so that's something for discussion while we're doing the interview process." Dudley's resignation, co-worker Greg Parker has worked at the interim foreman.

Farmers Market Shines Despite Rainy Weather

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK—Farmers' markets and six days of rain. That's what the Hardwick Farmers Market had to put up with this year, but the vendors are sticking it out and coming back for more each week.

"We've had sales despite the rain," said the Calais artist Sara Urban. She was glad to have a sample and talk about Calais' Spirit's latest creation. She said their next big project is smoked turkey legs to sell at the market. Snow Wakeman of Snowman, maker of homemade soups and salves, is keeping a positive outlook.