



**Volleyball champs**  
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**\$1.00**

# CANBY NEWS

Volume 144

CANBY, MINNESOTA 56220

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## ON THE CALENDAR

### Thursday, Sept. 3

The Canby Farmers' Market will be open from 4-6 p.m. in Central Park.

### Saturday, Sept. 5

Popcorn will be available curbside in front of the Canby Theatre 5:30-6:30 and 7:15-8:30 p.m.

### Monday, Sept. 7

A closed AA meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Contact Roger at 507-530-2208 for location.

### Tuesday, Sept. 8

Canby Fire Relief will sponsor bingo at 7 p.m. at Hero's Bar and Grill

The Porter American Legion and Auxiliary will meet at 7 p.m. at the Porter Cafe.

### Coming Up

The Bloodmobile will be at the Schott's building Thursday, Sept. 10, 1-7 p.m. and Friday, Sept. 11, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m..

The flags in Central Park will be taken down Saturday, Sept. 12, at 9:30 a.m. Any community member is invited to assist.

Darrell Regnier Auction Company will be having a live and online large machinery auction on Sept. 12 at 9 a.m.

Lancer Lanes adult bowling leagues will start the week of Sept. 13.

Independent Oil Company will be offering free refreshments in honor of their 85th Anniversary on Sept. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Have a community event coming up? To get it placed on our calendar drop off information at our office or email to copycnews@gmail.com

## Todd Mitchell gives a glimpse into the oft-overlooked hobby, "ham" radio

by Joshua Theis

While the use of a radio may seem outdated in our increasingly digital, smart-phone dominated world, amateur radio, or "ham" radio for short, is an oft-overlooked hobby that still retains a following of loyal "ham's" across the U.S. and the world. Canby local Todd Mitchell began his amateur radio career as a ham back in 1978 when he was ten years old.

Mitchell grew up when radio communication was often done through nonverbal forms of communication, such as Morse code; this interested Mitchell from an early age, and he remains quite fond of this method of communication. To this day, Mitchell communicates over the radio almost exclusively using Morse code, and it is something he has always enjoyed.

Despite it being a somewhat novel form of communication today, the usage of morse code fits into a still very popular ham niche, one Mitchell is very much a part of. In some ways, according to Mitchell, Morse code can still be one of the most effective forms of communication, an example being ham's fielding radiograms for individuals during emergency situations, such as during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Mitchell attributes his initial interest in the hobby as a whole to the time he found a Morse

code straight key, a tool for generating Morse code via radio, which was in the possession of his father Harold at the time. Mitchell picked up Morse code quickly, and first learned many of the other necessary skills he needed to obtain his ham license from his father, who he described as being light-years ahead of him at nearly everything. The two entered the ham community at around the same time; Mitchell considers his father his "Elmer," or his mentor, helping him become an amateur radio operator. Because mathematics like algebra, trigonometry and calculus were important to being a radio operator, learning these skills early also brought Mitchell ahead of the curve by the time he hit seventh grade.

When Mitchell first went out to obtain his ham operating license, Morse code was still a required skill for communication via radio, and so he had to travel to the FCC office in the Twin Cities to take a practical exam to prove his proficiency in Morse code. Despite dropping the exam requirement, the use of Morse code in the ham community remains alive and well, according to Mitchell, attributing its popularity in part to a fascination held by many of today's youth with older, outdated or otherwise "retro" items or trends of the last century, such as a renewed interest in record players.

Regulation of ham radio



### IT'S GOOD TO BE A HAM

Amateur "HAM" radio operator Todd Mitchell pictured in his "shack" alongside his radio equipment. Mitchell entered the world of amateur radio more than 40 years ago and has been a practitioner of Morse code for a majority of his time as a radio operator.

dates back to the twentieth century when wireless telegraphy technology began to take shape. With so many radio signals floating around, the Federal Communications Commission (or the FCC) began to institute regulations as a way to police and otherwise clear out the excess interference radio operators would have been experiencing. An example of when radio interference would have been an issue during this time was the night of the sinking of the Titanic, when radio operators experienced interference when signalling for help. The FCC has since regulated the amateur

radio service and determines what frequencies hams are allowed to operate on, what modes are allowed, and how much power hams are allowed to use. Two-way communication is a requirement also set by the FCC, with some exceptions. Amateur radio operators are also barred from using any forms of encryption when operating, and ham frequencies cannot be used for business purposes.

Mitchell feels the title "amateur" radio operator can sometimes be misleading, as it connotes that hams are not skilled or accomplished as radio operators, when in reality, it denotes a distinction between

paid and unpaid radio operators. A number of amateur radio services, such as the Amateur Radio Emergency Services, or ARES, can provide important back-up services during a crisis. During weather disasters, ARES is useful for fielding health and welfare calls when cell lines are down and police and fire departments are overwhelmed. The service is also commonly used during events like parades and marathons.

**Ham radio continued on page 7**

## Emily Gehrking's homemade jams, jellies enjoyed locally

by Joshua Theis

In her spare time, Emily Gehrking's hobby is making and selling a variety of homemade jams, jellies, and produce, a pastime she has pursued for around ten years.

Gehrking tries to keep all of her ingredients fresh and local, growing most of them in her large garden at home. Gehrking also prefers to sell locally; she has showcased her goods

in craft shows at the Connection and the Schotts building and attends the Canby farmer's market every Thursday. Gehrking also donated jars to the Connection and other various fundraisers.

Derived from an original recipe from her grandmother, Mary Ann, Gehrking currently has 11 different jam and jelly flavors on offer, with the most popular flavor being berry, fol-

lowed by peach and strawberry. Gehrking can produce eight jars per batch and sells them at three different sizes, 4, 8, and 16 ounces.

Gehrking has received good feedback on her products this year and plans to continue as a vendor at the Canby farmer's market. Check out her products there or contact her at 507-828-6963 or gehrking.jams@gmail.com.



### FARMERS' MARKET VENDOR EMILY GEHRKING

Emily Gehrking has had a vendor stand at the Canby farmers' markets this summer. Gehrking offers a variety of homemade jam and jelly flavors, as well as other homegrown produce.

## Early deadline for news, ads is noon Thursday

With Labor Day this weekend, the Canby News will go to print Friday for the Sept. 7 edition.

News and ads will need to be submitted by noon Thursday, Sept. 4, in order to be published in the Sept. 7 edition. The Canby News office will be closed Monday, Sept. 7.

## Artist of the Week



"Art plays a big role in my day-to-day life. Not a day goes by where I don't doodle or draw my own characters. I enjoy making cartoons and character designs most of the time, but I also appreciate taking time and effort into making pretty paintings and other intricate pieces. It's like a coping method and it expresses more than anything."

ZOE ELSING

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: **DUKE ENERGY**

## THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Thursday, Sept. 3

Lorraine Lipinski

### Sunday, Sept. 6

Kent and Jane Goplen

### Monday, Sept. 7

Lois Hunt

Lowell Hunt

List a name on our birthday and anniversary calendar for just \$2.



# Ham radio - continued from page 1

The FCC requires by law that hams are to avoid interfering with appliances and electronics of their neighbors. Mitchell noted that the ham community in general is quite good at self-policing, and he was attracted to the unspoken code of conduct that existed when he first entered the ham community.

"It's a fraternity, and you treat one another with respect on the air," said Mitchell.

Arguably the biggest change in radio since Mitchell began as a ham was the shift away from vacuum tube technology towards the use of transistors, which, compared to their predecessor, were more robust, took up less space and generated far less heat. Radios today also possess features that make them much easier to operate.

Although radio began using Morse code, there have since arisen a wide variety of new forms of communication, along with a variety of niches and sub-hobbies within the ham community. When hooked up to a computer, there are voice modes and virtually limitless forms of digital communication. Some hams like to send signals into space. EME, or Earth - Moon - Earth, otherwise known as a moon-bounce, is when a signal is bounced off the surface of the moon and then returns back to

them on Earth. Ham's will also send signals to astronauts aboard the international space station, some of which are hams themselves.

QRP operations, or reduced power operations, are also popular in the ham community, where the goal is to make communications using as little power as possible. As a reference, Mitchell will typically use around 100 watts when operating his equipment, whereas the average QRP operator uses less than 5 watts. Mitchell himself enjoys this niche as well, once taking his portable QRP radio with him when he went backpacking.

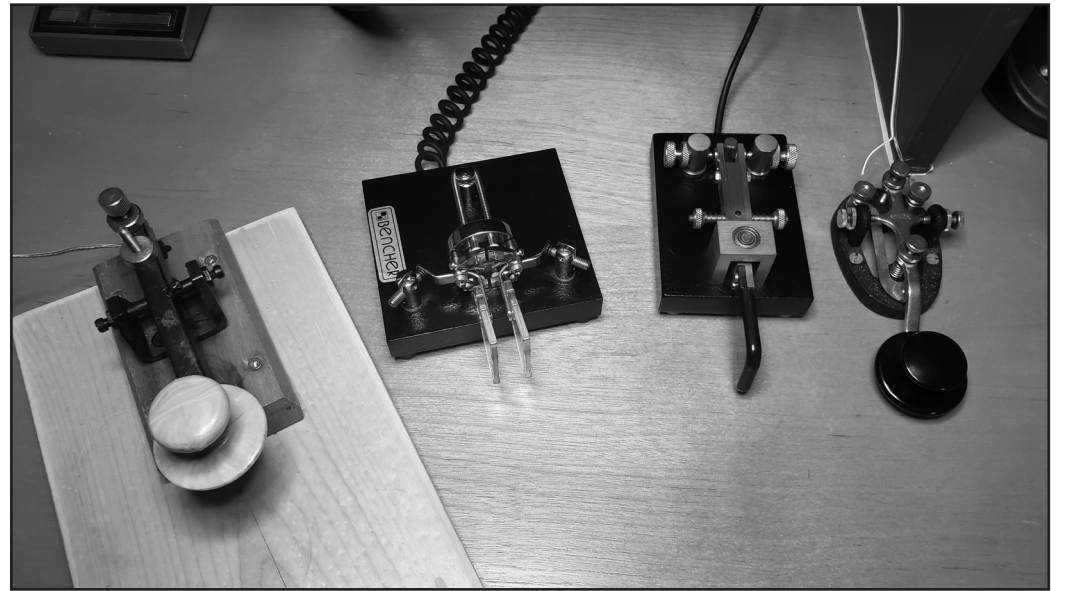
Contesting is another popular ham activity, although not one Mitchell often participates in when the goal is to make as many contacts as possible in a given amount of time. High speed telegraphy, or HST, is another popular form of competition in European countries like Russia; however, it has yet to catch on in the U.S.

Another sub-hobby within the hobby is the collection of QSL cards, QSL being a confirmation receipt of contact with other hams, and are akin to postcards. These cards are also a way for fellow ham's to confirm contacts they have made over the years. Over the years, Mitchell has collected many cards from across the

globe, many of which he acquired back when he first entered the hobby. Mitchell's first contact was to New Zealand. Mitchell had assembled his own low-power radio when he was fourteen, and by the time he had entered junior high school, he had already made contact with many hams in other countries, including Australia, France, Belgium, Argentina, Denmark, Czechoslovakia and others. Although not as commonly used as they once were, Mitchell still enjoys collecting unique QSL cards from the hams he meets; they are both a mark of pride and proof that you made contact.

Mitchell continues to appreciate the numerous niches within the amateur radio hobby, and there is always something new to pick up. Mitchell recently sent his first contact via radiogram, something he had been wanting to learn for over forty years. All hams record contacts they make; however, only some do so for the purpose of later sending radiograms via "traffic nets" with the help of fellow hams.

"There's always something new to learn," Mitchell said. "I've been in it for 42 years now, and I'm still doing new things. There's always something new to do in this hobby."



## COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Having practiced using Morse code for so long, amateur radio operator Todd Mitchell has collected a number of CW keys for his collection, including an old fashioned Russian model (left).



## A HAM'S SHACK

Inside his radio operator's "shack," Todd Mitchell has assembled several home radios and other important equipment for making contact with fellow hams across the globe. Mitchell is a long-time user of Morse code and makes nearly all of his contacts using it.



## EVERY HAM HAS A CALL SIGN

Every amateur "ham" radio operator, including local ham Todd Mitchell, has their own call sign. Not every ham is bold enough, however, to have their call sign also be on their license plate.



## PROOF OF CONTACT

QSL cards may look a little bit like fancy postcards, but in reality, they function as physical proof of making contact with fellow amateur radio operators, or "hams." These are just some of the QSL cards from Todd Mitchell's collection; he also retains a number of cards from when he first entered the hobby.

Dear Canby Community,

Canby is a rare community, we have healthy businesses, there are a number of churches to choose from in this community and there are some truly exceptional organizations in our community. One entity, the Canby Area Ministerial Association (CAMA) unites those churches with youth programs and community action. CAMA is the legal entity that oversees our exceptional youth program at "The Connection" and the CAMA building itself. All the churches in Canby have their own services and outreach programs but we work together as CAMA as well. CAMA received the building they use for "The Connection" and other community programs, as a gift from the Word of God Lutheran Church and it is an exceptional facility. The CAMA building was remodeled to include a leased area that houses the "Furniture Mission" of the Antelope Hills Church and a very nice community room that can be used by organizations and groups for small meetings. A considerable amount of money and countless volunteer hours went into this remodel and the kitchen/bathroom facilities that were also added.

Here is an honest assessment of the current situation. It costs money to run the award winning "Connection" program and to maintain the exceptional CAMA building with its different outreach functions. Look around the region, you will not find this kind of exceptional youth program nor this nice of a community building, anywhere. CAMA and "The Connection" management (Betsy Schmitt), staff and parents are trying hard to maintain the building and to facilitate "The Connection" programs from revenues from parent payments for childcare, church giving, fundraisers and community and individual donations. Still, we need more money to continue to do what is needed. CAMA has had to accrue loans for some of the building remodeling and "The Connection" budget barely breaks even. With the lack of fundraisers this year due to the Covid-19 situation, we are being stretched to the edge. We do say, "THANK YOU" to the individuals and organizations that have given to us in the past; you have been a tremendous help!

Is there any greater legacy anyone can leave than helping children and helping those in need? Children will be the future of this community and helping others works to the betterment of the whole community.

CAMA needs the help of community donations, individual gifts and endowments and estate giving to keep our CAMA building going and to keep "The Connection" programs benefiting the children of the future.

*Every living person in Canby will leave some sort of legacy in our community, what will yours be?*

**Contributions for CAMA or for "The Connection" can be addressed to:**  
**CAMA • Box 111 • Canby, MN 56220**

Sincerely, Pastor Steve Maas, CAMA Treasurer



**Wear a mask  
in public spaces.**



**Get tested if you  
have any symptoms.**



**Answer if your health  
department calls.**