



# Capers

September - 2016

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association  
P.O. Box 741 – Hawleyville, CT 06440-0741

Visit us on the Web at <http://www.CaraRadioClub.org>

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CAPERS is the MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

Co-Editors: Jay Albano, N1NRP & Dan Fegley, W1QK

***Next CARA Meeting: Friday, September 9, @ Stony Hill Fire Station  
Doors open at 7:30 for conversation and socializing. Meeting begins at 8 p.m.***

### ***President's Message - de AB1WV***



Greetings:

It has been an eventful month for CARA. We have been moving forward with the plan for the repeater site at the NFFD and we will be getting the antennas up soon. Many of us came together for a successful Hamfest. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year, and it went well. We should have the final numbers at the meeting this Friday. Congratulations to John W1JGM, our committee chair, and all who participated in putting this on.

I have also been looking at the curriculum for the new Girl Scouts Amateur Radio Patch program. As many of you know, I have a couple of Girl Scouts. Dan W1QK and I did a presentation to a couple of troops this last year. This new Girl Scouts program is part of the ARRL Youth Coordination efforts, and one I think could be successful in introducing many of our kids to amateur radio and community service. I have already gotten one troop to commit to doing it this year. If any of you have any contacts or desire to help, let me know.

See you all on Friday,  
73, Marcus – AB1WV

**Vice-President's Message -  
de N1NRP**



Photo Credit: Greg Davis, KB1YHW

Hello CARA Members:

I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer weather. I would like to thank all of the club members and friends that made this year's Field Day and Ham fest another successful one. I hope to see a good turnout at this Month's meeting. I'm pleased to announce that this month's presentation will be on amateur Radio Digital modes.

Ciao for now  
73 Jay N1NRP



**CARA Hamfest – August 28**

Thanks to all CARA members who  
volunteered to help at our Hamfest

John, W1JGM, CARA Hamfest Chairman



## CARA New Fairfield Day – N1F Special Events Station - September 17, 2016



Photo Credit: Greg Davis, KB1YHW



Photo Credit: Greg Davis, KB1YHW

### [First Selectman Susan Chapman and Selectman Kim Hanson](#)

On Saturday, September 17th, the Town will host its fourth annual New Fairfield Day. The fun begins at 11:00 am and continues until 2:00 pm; the Farmers market will open at 9:00 am. There will be events going on all over the center of Town to promote the “walkability” of New Fairfield and the local businesses and organizations. The Housatonic Area Regional Transportation (HART) will provide their trolley, once again, should anyone prefer a ride within the center of Town. You’ll also be able to see the famous scarecrows that the proud Consolidated School students create through the Consolidated PTO. In case of rain, the event will run on the following day, September 18th. Have any questions on that day? The helpful Civil Air Patrol students will be available to lend a hand.

Stop and Shop Parking Lot:

- NFVFD Fire Prevention Day
- FEMA Storm preparedness
- NF Animal Hospital
- Primerica Financial Services – Bill Forester
- It Makes Scents/Scentsy sales and parties– Danielle McDermott
- Tick Prevention – Olga Simoncelli
- At Home Vet
- NFSAW
- Rebels Care
- Community Service Club
- Friends of New Fairfield Library
- Republican Town Committee
- Democratic Town Committee
- New Fairfield Historical Society
- Chloe and Isabell - Jewelry

Komlo Preserve:

- The Land Trust – guided tours

Historical Homes:

- Preserve New Fairfield

Senior Center:

- Senior activities: Quilt show all day, 11:00 Zumba class, 11:30 Mover and Shapers, 12:00 Line Dancing, 12:30 Sittercize, 1:00 Weight training, 1:30 Tai Chi
- SunAngel Fitness- spinning classes
- Face Painter

**Veterans Green:**

- Veterans Display
- **Candlewood Amateur Ham Radio club**
- OEM display

Memorial Field:

- Farmers Market (9am to 2pm)
- Split Decision
- NF Baseball
- NF Lions
- Candlewood Lions Club
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Face painter
- Touch –a- Truck (upper parking lot)

## CARA REPEATER COMMITTEE

### Sept 2016 Report

Gregory G. Davis, KB1YHW Chairman



Photo Credit: Greg Davis, KB1YHW

### CARA Repeater Committee Members 2016

KB1YHW chair, W1QK trustee, AB1WV  
CARA president-ex officio N1NRP,  
W1JGM. W1SOP.

CARA members interested in serving,  
please contact the chair.

On site activities have been on-hold since the access path was blocked with boulders in Nov 2015. An agreement has been reached between Danbury and the Spruce Mtn. Estates homeowners to establish a limited access policy with a locked gate to be installed Sept 2016. The DFD has requested that CARA delay the planned annual Bushwhacking party until the gate is installed.

The CARA 2m repeater radio interference, on-going before fall of 2014, will require an investigation to clearly identify the source. This obnoxious DMR character digital buzz saw hammering interferes with CARA 2m repeater input at 147.900 MHz 6am – 6pm, Monday thru Friday, only when the CARA repeater PL code has been activated (ie.. CARA voice traffic is active). This interference has also been heard on the DFD FM relay at 46.240 MHz. UHF band DMR emissions exist at Spruce, but they are non-synchronous to the CARA interference.

The CARA 70cm repeater on the Yaesu DR-1X repeater unit is behaving and performing well.

The CARA 1.25m & 6m repeaters are off the air, awaiting service/repairs.

The KX1EOC Radio Club APRS digipeater is operating well.

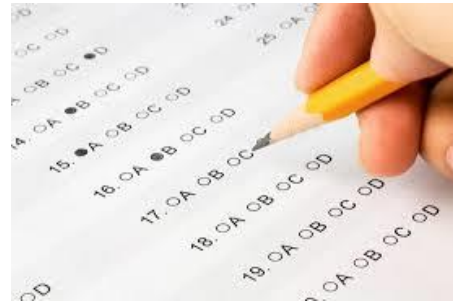
### **CARA Linked 2m Meter / Motorola Upgrade Project Report:**

The Motorola linked repeater system will be commissioned at New Fairfield Company A firehouse for initial testing. The Commissioning will be a day-long technical event for interested members of the CARA club, and will include Duplexer calibration, Arcom Controller programming, Repeater test, Link radio test. This activity is next ON-Deck, per availability of the CARA engineering consultant from Philadelphia. Spruce Mtn 2m will go dark for this test period.

### **Future projects priority:**

Motorola 2m Linked Repeater system transplant to Spruce Mtn, Full time CARA 2m Echolink integration from W1QK home station, 6m repeater revival, 1.25 cm repeater revival.

Please feel free to contact Gregory Davis, KB1YHW, directly for additional information.



### **CARA Ham Exam Schedule...**

Upcoming ham radio exams sponsored by CARA at the Stony Hill FD.

**September 10, December 3.**

Saturdays - starting at 11:30 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but it's helpful if candidates call or e-mail Frank Sileo, N1PE, at 203-438-0218, or send a message to frsileo @ att.net.



### **ARES Upcoming events:**

Region 5 Monthly Meeting – September 26. Newtown EOC Gather at 6:45 p.m., meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

## Connecticut ARES Net - Area 5 (South)

Connecticut ARES Region 5 South conducts a monthly net on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. on the CARA Repeater: 147.300 (+600), CTCSS 100.0

Please come join us - All are welcome.



## Connecticut Phone Net – CPN

Meets daily: M-F 6:00 p.m. 3.973

Sunday: 10:00 a.m.

CARA Contributions:

Wednesday Net control: Harlan, W1QH

Net Manager: Tom, WX1T

## Weekly CARA NETS:

**CARA 10M NET**

28.490 MHz. 7:00 p.m. Every Sunday

**CARA 2M NET**

W1QI Repeater – 7:30 pm



## News from the YCCC Reflector:

Message: 2

Date: Mon, 29 Aug 2016 14:49:19 -0400

From: "Fred Hopengarten"

<[hopengarten@post.harvard.edu](mailto:hopengarten@post.harvard.edu)>

To: "'YCCC Reflector'" <[yccc@yccc.org](mailto:yccc@yccc.org)>

Subject: [YCCC] FCC Boston Field Office Will Remain Open

The Federal Communication Commission is confirming to Radio World that it will begin closing field offices in January 2017. Offices in Anchorage, Alaska, Buffalo, N.Y., Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Mo., Norfolk, Va., Philadelphia, San Diego, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Seattle, and Tampa, Fla., will be closed as part of the agency's modernization plan.

The FCC announced in July 2015 it was closing the offices and trimming up to 44 positions to better reflect technological advances and in the face of budget reductions. The modernization plan creates rapid response teams to handle special enforcement issues. The FCC says the so-called Tiger Teams, based out of Columbia, Md., and Denver, will be dispatched within 24 hours of an interference crisis.

The restructuring plan has the National Association of Broadcasters and the Society of Broadcast Engineers worried that the cuts in the field will limit the FCC's ability to mitigate interference complaints and leave potential holes in the enforcement fence.

Before the plan could be implemented the FCC had to reach an agreement over the projected

job losses with the union representing FCC Enforcement Bureau field employees. The National Treasury Employees Union has been a vocal critic of the overhaul plan, openly questioning the commission's ability to safeguard radio spectrum going forward. An FCC spokesperson confirmed on Thursday that the displaced FCC agents will have the opportunity to apply for vacancies in the remaining field offices if a vacancy exists.

FCC field offices will remain open in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Columbia, Md., Dallas, Denver, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Portland, Ore., and San Francisco.

- See more at:

<http://www.radioworld.com/article/fcc-confirms-field-office-closures-begin-i>

## Contesting Hints and tips for NAQP de K9YC

As we start to roll into contest season 2016, here are some hints and tips from Jim, K9YC.

1) Read the rules for each contest before you start. They're usually pretty short and pretty simple. They define the exchange, how the contest is scored, the contest time, who can work who for credit, whether spotting clusters can be used, and things like operating power, and operating frequencies.

NAQP, for example, has a 100W limit, does NOT permit the use of a spotting cluster. The exchange is NAME and STATE. It's a 12 hour contest, and a station must take two hours off in increments of at least 30 minutes.

2) On the air, keep everything short and sweet. Learn to avoid wasting time with extra words. Avoid "lidisms" like "please copy," don't repeat the exchange the other guy gave you, don't waste time with "thanks for the QSO, 73, good

luck in the contest." Most good contesters use "thanks" or "thank you" to tell the other station the QSO is over, and they're ready for the next one.

3) When calling a station, send only your call, and only once on CW and SSB. Listen for a second or two, and if the other station doesn't come back, send your call once more. And listen. (Two or more stations may have called at the same time and the other station didn't copy either one.) On SSB, say your call with standard phonetics, with good articulation.

4) When answering a CQ, NEVER send your exchange until the other station has sent you his exchange and you have copied it. For example, if he says "Kilo 8?" only send your call again. If he sends his exchange and you don't copy it, ask for a repeat, and do it with as few words as possible. For example, "K9YC Name?"

5) NEVER repeat anything that the other station has copied correctly.

This is particularly important when you're weak or there is QRM or noise. Sending your call again wastes time, AND, more important, it makes him think he has it wrong, so he may ask you to repeat it, wasting more time. :)

6) When you're the station calling CQ, make your CQs short. "CQ Contest, Whiskey 8 Tango Alpha Hotel, Whiskey 8 Tango Alpha Hotel" is the longest CQ to use.

7) NEVER use "QRZed" to finish a QSO -- the stations who want to work you are tuning the band looking for stations to work. They want to hear your call! When you're the CQing station, finish your QSO with "Thanks, Whiskey 8 Tango Alpha Hotel." When you only say "QRZed" that tuning station doesn't know your call, so it will waste time (yours and his) for him to find out. Or he may just keep on tuning for someone who DOES say his call. :)

8) When you're the CQing station, always give a station who may be waiting a chance to call you

as soon as you've said "thanks." In other words, don't start another CQ after each QSO until you've listened a second or two for a station who has been waiting.

9) Have fun. Keep a smile in your voice.

10) Work on getting your station to SOUND good. This applications note tells how to adjust your radio so that the other station hears you better.

<http://k9yc.com/ContestAudio.pdf>

73, Jim K9YC

CAPERS READERS - NEXT MONTH – Hints on operating the upcoming California and Pennsylvania QSO Parties - de W1QK

## ARRL CT Section News - August: Betsey Doane, K1EIC

Hamfest season is starting once again. It was great to see many of you at the Western CT Hamfest sponsored by the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association this weekend. Congrats to John W1JGM on chairing this event—it was his first year and he did a very fine job. It's always fun to talk to friends I haven't seen in some time.

Don't forget the New England Division Convention September 9-11  
Boxboro, MA. Sure hope to see you there. Come to the ARRL Forum and support me as I retire as SM.

Last week, I had my last cabinet meeting as leader at Paradise Pizza in New Britain. Our guests were Director Tom Frenaye K1KI, CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF, and Supervisor Steve Ewald WV1X. I was pleased to present an engraved plaque to ASM Larry Buck who has been on my cabinet for just under 25 years serving as STM for most of that time. Larry has been very active training digital ops, active in traffic handling, always ready to be generally

helpful, submits his activity report every single month with at least 10 items, and continues to send out letters to new hams. The plaque reads: "Presented to Larry Buck K1HEJ In recognition of outstanding leadership and service to the ARRL CT Section for 25 years." Thank you Larry.

SEC Wayne Gronlund, N1CLV will be retiring with me as SEC on October 1. Wayne will receive an engraved plaque at the CT Section ARRL Forum at the Nutmeg Hamfest October 16. Wayne has been SEC for an incredible eight years—he started on January 1, 2009. He has accomplished much during that time. He participated in the State's two storm panels—the "snowtober" and Irene storms—which resulted in his appointment to the State interoperability committee. He also chairs the State Region 4 ESF2 Committee which handles logistics and communications. Indeed, Amateur radio is well represented to State emergency communications. The Section, under his leadership, has been placed in the top five in SET for his entire tenure as SEC. And you all know about the DMR network which he and others have encouraged which, over a short time, has resulted in 30 repeaters in the State.

He and I have kept the SEC/SM net running each Sunday night and now we have the DMR net which also operates each week. These nets give volunteers the chance to report on work done, recruit and be in touch with each other. Thank you Wayne; we have had lots of fun working together. Hope you'll all come to the ARRL Forum in October; hear our new SM Chuck K1DFS speak and congratulate Wayne as he receives his well-deserved plaque.

All cabinet members were specially recognized by me. The group is thoroughly engaged and a great team. We enjoyed reports from cabinet members on their programs and updates by both Director Frenaye K1KI and CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF.

ASEC Bill Covey, W1GTT will also be retiring on October 1. Bill has been ADEC and later ASEC



for Wayne these last eight years and served as ADEC for many years in Region 4. Bill and Wayne have spent many hours traveling the Section giving workshops on various digital modes. Bill has served as administrator of the W1SP Winlink nodes and spent many hours doing the training and technical work. He also installed the communications equipment into the Region 4 communications trailer and regularly brings the trailer to our hamfests. Bill is a technical specialist in the CT Section. Many thanks Bill—stay active; we need your skill and expertise.

I was privileged to give a talk to QCWA at their summer luncheon on the subject of my experiences as Section Manager over these last 25 years. We sure had a lot of fun remembering good times. I was thrilled to be able to present an engraved plaque to ASM Emeritus Al Cohen W1FXQ who was a real mentor for me while serving as Public Information Coordinator and later Assistant Section Manager. Al, 98 years of age, is still full of ideas, often calls me to see how things are, has trained PIOs, still recruits for speakers, gets the word out about activities to many other ops, always encourages us and just a wonderfully positive influence on all of us. The plaque reads:

"Presented to ALEXANDER COHEN W1FXQ In recognition of your extraordinary service to Amateur radio operators in the Connecticut Section ARRL over many years." A huge thank you to you Al.

I was very surprised when QCWA presented me with a gift of thanks and appreciation. Thank you all.

Our CT Section Youth Coordinator (Douglas WA1SFH) encourages anyone who is engaged in working with youngsters to contact him ([ConnecticutSYC@gmail.com](mailto:ConnecticutSYC@gmail.com)), and let him know about youth activities that are in progress or planning. For example, at the August Hamfest in Newtown he learned of two separate initiatives to promote the new Girl Scouts "Radio and Wireless Technology Patch" program at the

local level.

Also, the Boy Scouts annual "Jamboree On The Air" (JOTA) is fast approaching (Oct. 15), and takes place on the same weekend that many Boy Scout Districts are holding their Fall Camporees. This is a great opportunity for Clubs and individuals across the state to bring GOTA stations to introduce multiple groups of boys to Amateur Radio and "spark" their imaginations laying the foundation for future hams. Right now, he is reaching out to Clubs and Individual Hams to build teams that will be able to provide JOTA GOTA activity stations for this event. He is simultaneously contacting Councils and Districts to find out which groups will be holding Fall Camporees on that weekend and if they would like to have a JOTA GOTA activity. The Housatonic Council has already said: YES!

If you or your Club would be willing to bring a wonderful experience to Boy Scouts on Saturday, October 15th, please contact Douglas WA1SFH ([ConnecticutSYC@gmail.com](mailto:ConnecticutSYC@gmail.com)). Let's make BSA JOTA 2016 a memorable experience for Boy Scouts across Connecticut.

Here's a note from Mike N1QLN, president of The Charter Oak Radio Society. The Charter Oak Radio Society will be starting a CW course in Sept 2016. This course will take approximately 8 to 10 weeks. The course will be limited to 15 students, and will be on a first come first served basis. Preregistration is required and can be done by sending an email to Mike at [n1qln@n1crs.org](mailto:n1qln@n1crs.org). The mission of the Charter Oak Radio Society is education and mentoring.

DEC Paul WB2JVB is coordinating a unique public service event. Region 1 ARES has been asked to assist with the communications for the 2016 Lighthouse to Lighthouse paddling/rowing race on September 17. The proceeds from the event support Achilles International, an open water kayaking team for those with disabilities. The race starts at 10am, and ends by 2 or 3pm. Ham radio operators will be positioned in multiple positions along the course in support

boats, on Sheffield Island, at the USCG station and at race control. ARES members interested in helping out might consider writing Paul [wb2jvb@arrl.net](mailto:wb2jvb@arrl.net) to see if there are volunteers needed or to get more information. It sure sounds like fun!

In September, the Insurance City Repeater Club members will participate in communications for the Bristol Mum parade. The Middlesex Amateur Radio Society will help out with comms for the Cystic Fibrosis Ride for Life. Both of these clubs do these events annually. Thanks for your time.

The 2016 Museum Ships Weekend coordinated by Harry, N1FAM and sponsored by The Battle Ship New Jersey Amateur Radio Club was a successful event. The operation took place during the weekend of June 3-5 in CT at the Submarine Force Library and Museum on Crystal Avenue in Groton. An operating station was set up in the NAUTILUS parking lot inside the Snack Building. One station was operational on 20 and 40 meters and logged 192 contacts using the call N1S. Four different museum ships were contacted. Contacts were made with 33 States, three of the Canadian Provinces as well as Puerto Rico. Operators were: Brian KA1OMR, Dick KF6UX, Harry N1FAM, and Mike NC1V. Thanks to the Tri-City ARC for the use of their call sign and for the use of their PO Box for domestic QSL requests. This was the fifth year the group participated in this event.

Here's an interesting talk for club meetings. The Meriden ARC had a talk by Dave K1WJL entitled Everything you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask on Cubical Quad Antenna's which included plenty of pictures on an array of various antennas that were utilized in between Quad rebuilds. Gosh, it's a long time since I've heard talk about cubicle quads.

Here are some more historical tidbits. The ARRL Field Organization did not always have all the appointments we have now. That change took place in early to mid-1980. Before that time,

there was the Section Communications Manager (SCM) who did much of the work himself. Of course, everything was done by US mail. John McNassor (Mac) W1GVT (sk) was one such SCM and Pete Kemp KZ1Z (sk) was SCM during the time of the Field Organization transition. The SCM's mostly answered correspondence by mail, signed badge request forms, appointed net managers, a Section Emergency Coordinator, and emergency coordinators. VHF local nets started in the middle '70's but before that time, there were just two net managers—one for the phone Section net and a "route manager" for the CW net. My twin sister K1EIR was route manager of CN and I was net manager of CPN at one time. Bill Baldyga K1YGS (sk), former net manager of the CT Phone Net, started the first VHF net in the Section, the Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net on 146.880 MHz and Joe Stofko W1AIU started WESCONN in response to the blizzard of '78 which operated solely on 147.180 MHz. The Section Communications Manager took all the traffic reports and all the reports from the EC's and SEC. Messages to ARRL Headquarters were in abundance as were messages from campers to their families during the summer months. There were lots of messages from the Naval Training Recruit Center K9NBH in Great Lakes, IL and K1FAJ at the Westover AFB in Westover, MA. For years, all of the "long-haul" (thru) traffic was handled on c.w. although there were some independent daytime phone nets. It was an interesting time in Amateur radio.

Before I close this month's column, I need to remind you all to change your address for me. If you are using [k1eic@arrl.org](mailto:k1eic@arrl.org), please change it to [k1eic@arrl.net](mailto:k1eic@arrl.net) because as of October 1, the arrl.org address will go away. I'll remind you again next month when I write my last letter. See you then.

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ARRL Connecticut Section  
Section Manager: Betsey M Doane, K1EIC  
[k1eic@arrl.org](mailto:k1eic@arrl.org)

**Member & Station news:  
De W1QK**

As you may recall, Russ, formerly WA1NTR, now KD4JO, visited us at Field Day this year.



He was a CARA member in the early 1970's and remembered long-time CARA members Dave, WA1JGA and Lou, WA1GSO – now W1QJ. He brought several pictures from his archives including this one of me operating SSB at the CARA Field Day station in West Redding in 1973.



My call then was WA1KRG. We used paper logs and dupe sheets - and yes, I did operate phone. We talked about the Brown Brothers keyer paddle that's on the desk next to the Yaesu FTDX-400

transceiver. The cover's off to keep it cooler, even though we had a muffin fan on top of the PA to keep the rig from melting down. I mentioned to Russ how I've been searching for another BTL or BTL-A paddle for my station. I was surprised to learn that he found one for sale on Craig's List in the Baltimore area (near where he's living now) and offered to make arrangements to meet the seller and buy it for me. Russ visited me last week and we had an enjoyable time. It was nice to see him again. Russ is currently working in the HD Radio business.



Al German, W1ENL - 1973 CARA FD.



Ray James, K1EDU with his VW bug.



Tom, WA1JVV and WA1KRG looking over what I believe was one of the early CARA repeaters.

Your info will go here... Just send it to N1NRP or W1QK, your CARA Capers Co-Editors.



## **2016 ARRL NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CONVENTION – BOXBORO, MA**

The weekend of September 9-11 is the annual New England Division Hamfest at the Holiday Inn Boxboro Woods, Boxboro, MA. Go to <http://www.boxboro.org> for full details.

On Friday's DX/Contest Dinner, Keynote Speaker David Collingham, K3LP will speak on the VP8S South

Sandwich & South Georgia DXpedition.

On Saturday Night at the Grand Banquet, Keynote Speaker Radio Historian Donna Halper will speak on "Heroes of Amateur Radio, Past, Present, and Future".

Please come—it's a great way to start out the fall. Division Director Tom K1KI, Vice Director Mike K1TWF and I are looking forward to seeing you.

Connecticut Section – Nutmeg Convention - October 16

ARRL State Convention at the Four Points Sheridan in Meriden..

[k1eic@arrl.org](mailto:k1eic@arrl.org)

### **Upcoming CARA Events:**

New Fairfield Day – Sunday, September 17  
CARA CRC Workshop with Kevin – To be announced

### **Upcoming Contests:**

ARRL September VHF: September 10-11  
QRP Afield: September 17  
WA QSO Party: September 17  
Scandinavian CW Contest : Sept. 17  
CQ WW DX- RTTY: September 24-25

### **Complete Contest calendar at:**

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>



## ILLW – de W1QK/LH

On August 21, five CARA members activated Avery Point Lighthouse, US0190, in Groton, CT for the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend event. W1QK, W1QH, NG1R, AB1WV, & N1NRP. Visit [www.illw.net](http://www.illw.net) to learn more about this on-the-air event, which isn't a contest. Go to the W1QK/LH QRZ.com web page for more information.



## YCCC/CARA Joint Meeting:

Under planning for the November meeting – stay tuned.

## State of Connecticut Mobile Communications Vehicle, MCV

Demonstration by KO1F – October 14 CARA meeting. More details to follow.



## CW Ops CW Academy: Interested in learning CW or improving your skills?

Check out [www.cwops.org](http://www.cwops.org)

### From the CW-Ops Reflector:

Ahh... Those early days of CW Keyers... de CW Ops Reflector...

How about a great discussion about your first key? Your first electronic keyer? Your first desk mic (oops, I didn't say that)

That really does spark memories of college days in early '60's building TO keyer clones in shack of AF MARS ham who somehow liberated some perfect boxes and mercury relays from nearby Air Force base where he worked. I will assume they were military surplus but to protect memory of SK I will say no more.

73, Jim K4QPL

That brings back some memories! I also built a twin 12AT7 keyer from an ARRL handbook in the late 60s. It worked great.

Actually, the first electronic keyer I ever saw (and used) was at Field Day in '63 as a newly minted General. It had a bunch of transistors and a gazillion 1/10W resistors. State of the art back then. An EE working at Lawrence Livermore Lab designed and built it, then brought it up to the W6ODP Field Day 80 meter CW tent where I was assigned as a newbie ham. Station was an ARC5 TX and RX pair running 15W to a "ZL special".

Aloha, Alan AD6E / KH6TU

I built my first electronic keyer in late 1956 from a circuit in a magazine. It used 8-10 or so dual

12AT7 triodes, full-wave rectifier, and had self-completing dots and dashes. Relay keyed the TX. No memories, no iambic. It weighed about half a brick. I used my Lionel WW2 J-36 with the armature tied down and the short between the dash and dot posts removed as a single-lever paddle. I think it pre-dates the W9TO design, I'm pretty sure it really pre-dates the Ultimatic, and I know it pre-dates iambic anything. I would be interested in knowing its name and maybe where I got the design. I was in my last year of High School then and I had a part-time job at the local coastal marine station. I took it to work one shift and was roundly abused by my middle-aged crewmates for using something so "non-professional." Of course, I was originally beat up by them for my J-36 bug which looked like it had gone ashore at Iwo Jima.

73, Fred "Skip" K6DGW #142

I too built one of those too and in fact still have it, the only 60s gear I still own (other than myself). Mercury relays were available then very cheaply in the surplus stores on Arch Street in Philadelphia. The Hallicrafters TO keyer replaced it, but it's long gone. Both remain vivid in my memory from the many unpleasant shocks I'd get from the paddle.

Jim, N3JT

That really does spark memories of college days in early '60's building TO keyer clones in shack of AF MARS ham who somehow liberated some perfect boxes and mercury relays from nearby Air Force base where he worked.

73, N4AF

Fred, That brings back some memories! I also built a twin 12AT7 keyer from an ARRL handbook in the late 60s. It worked great. Actually, the first electronic keyer I ever saw (and used) was at Field Day in '63 as a newly minted General. It had a bunch of transistors and a gazillion 1/10W resistors. State of the art back then. An EE working at Lawrence

Livermore Lab designed and built it, then brought it up to the W6ODP Field Day 80 meter CW tent where I was assigned as a newbie ham. Station was an ARC5 TX and RX pair running 15W to a "ZL special".

Aloha, Alan AD6E / KH6TU

I built a large TO keyer, probably one of the few on a 10-1/2 inch tall rack panel. I couldn't find a cheap standard mercury relay so I used a polar relay, which required a positive pulse to move it in one direction and a negative one to return it. I modified the circuit a little (there plenty of room for an additional power supply behind that panel) to use it.

I remember that guys told me they were using keyers designed by W9TO. I didn't know anything else about it except that they sounded good. So I looked up W9TO in the callbook and wrote to him, and he sent me a single sheet of paper with the schematic on one side and the layout of a terminal board on the other. Jim Ricks -- I believe he was a naval officer.

I recall that I could send for hours without making mistakes with that keyer; today I'm lucky to get a single clean transmission.

73,

Vic, 4X6GP



Brown Brothers Model BTL Keyer Paddle



## CT Emergency Alert Mobile App.

FYI: Governor Malloy has announced a CT emergency alert mobile app.

See

[http://portal.ct.gov/Departments\\_and\\_Agencies/Office\\_of\\_the\\_Governor/Press\\_Room/Press\\_Releases/2016/08-2016/Gov\\_Malloy\\_Announces\\_Launch\\_of\\_Connecticut\\_Emergency\\_Alert\\_Mobile\\_App/](http://portal.ct.gov/Departments_and_Agencies/Office_of_the_Governor/Press_Room/Press_Releases/2016/08-2016/Gov_Malloy_Announces_Launch_of_Connecticut_Emergency_Alert_Mobile_App/).

## Worked All Connecticut Counties Award, WACC – Sponsored by CARA

<http://www.cararadioclub.org/activities>

## Antenna, station, or other radio projects

Your antenna projects or other ham radio project pictures will be featured here.



Brown Brothers Model BTL-A Keyer Paddle

## NOTICE TO CAPERS READERS

CAPERS is an important aspect of our club. It's time for more participation with this publication.

CAPERS is looking for ANY and ALL input.

Don't be shy, just send a few words, a picture, link, or short message to Jay Albano, or Dan Fegley, your Co-Editors, and we'll include it. **[jjalbano@aol.com](mailto:jjalbano@aol.com)**, **[w1qk@snet.net](mailto:w1qk@snet.net)**

CAPERS deadline for input:  
LAST Friday of the Month preceding the meeting.

CAPERS will be released:  
Monday before the scheduled Friday monthly meeting.

Many thanks/ 73- Jay, N1NRP Dan, W1QK