



Capers

November - 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, November 11, @ Stony Hill Fire Station

NOTE NEW TIMES FOR THIS MEETING:

7:00 for conversation and socializing. Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

Joint CARA and YCCC, Yankee Clipper Contest Club, Meeting

President's Message - de AB1WV



Another month later, and the chill in the air is more noticeable. That just means the leaves are ankle deep in my yard, and now that they are almost all down - the work begins again. I hope everyone had a great month.

With the installation of our new repeater setup at NFFD, and both ARRL Sweepstakes coming up, there's plenty of radio activity to be excited about. Speaking of which, our next meeting on November 11 will feature a joint presentation and discussion with the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, YCCC. I look forward to learning more about SSB Sweeps and more.

The executive committee and directors continued going through the new constitution and procedures - with 2 more meetings and will continue in November. This long standing project is really starting to come together.

I Hope to see you all at the meeting Friday, November 11th. **Remember, doors open at 7 pm and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm.**

73, Marcus - AB1WV

Vice-President's Message - de N1NRP



Photo Credit: Greg Davis, KB1YHW

Hello CARA Members:

It's late October, and the weather has finally changed. It's snowing while I'm writing this message. Many co-workers have been getting ill - with 80 degrees last week— one day hot, then the next cold and wet. Thanksgiving in a few weeks, then the holidays. The good news is that the “best time of the year” – as the song goes - is almost upon us.

The October CARA meeting was very special – featuring the Region 5 Mobile Communications Vehicle, MCV with Oscar, KO1F presenting an overview of this critical communications resource. Al, KB1SOQ was also on hand to answer all of our questions. Many thanks guys!
We even saw an ISS pass that evening.

I'm hoping to see many members and visitors at the upcoming November CARA/YCCC meeting.

Ask plenty of questions and be prepared to learn a lot about contesting during the panel discussion.

I hope to see you all at the meeting.

73, Jay N1NRP

October 14 CARA Meeting Minutes

De N1GSA

Meeting called to order at 8:35 by President, Marcus Swearingen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$8732.95

Reports from committees:

Repeater committee chairman was not present due to other commitments. The training for and activation of the Motorola repeater is tentatively set for October 22.

Constitution revision committee has met several times with more meetings to happen in the near future. This has been a long and involved project, but progress has been made. It is hoped that this will be finalized and presented for a membership vote in early 2017.

New business. The next meeting is planned for a presentation by the YCCC (Yankee Clipper Contest Club) **The time for the meeting was discussed to be moved to start at 7:00 with the formal presentation starting at 7:30, to accommodate the distance traveled by some of the participants.** This should be an informative meeting for all interested in radio, not only for those who are or want to get involved in contesting. It is planned to have a question and answer period for all. Motion made and seconded to change the time. This was discussed and voted in the affirmative.

Holiday party for the December meeting was discussed. There were no takers to chair the coordination of food. There will be a “bring one-get one” gift bag with a

limit of \$15 for this. Gifts should be Ham Radio related. This party is open to family and friends.

The January meeting is usually our QSL card square dance. This is to sort QSL cards that come from the ARRL. This is our service to ARRL to help with this sorting. There is a fee that ARRL charges for the QSL bureau service so all should have an account with ARRL. W1JMA, John usually makes arrangements to get the cards here and return them to ARRL headquarters. The purchase of fiberglass masts was brought up again. The 13 poles, 2 guy rings, 6 tent stakes, and carry bag are all included at a cost of \$90 per set. They are available for pickup in Pennsylvania. Dan will travel to pick up these kits. Motion made and seconded that the club purchase 2 sets at a cost of \$180. Discussion followed with a vote in the affirmative.

The ARRL convention will be Sunday at the Meriden Hamfest.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04
Respectfully submitted by:
Gary S. Adams – Secretary

October 14 CARA Meeting Review:

MCV Demonstration by KO1F & KB1SOQ



Oscar Fuller, KO1F

Photo Credit: W1QK

The Connecticut Region 5 Emergency Communications Vehicle was deployed to the CARA meeting on October 14th thanks to Oscar Fuller, KO1F and Al Russo, KB1SOQ.

CARA members walked through and saw the full range of communications equipment and other capabilities of the MCV.

The region 5 MCV is housed in Danbury and serves all of region 5. This vehicle is equipped and capable of providing support for emergencies and planned events.

Many thanks to Oscar and Al for this special opportunity to get an “up-close” view of the MCV and its capabilities.



Combined CARA and YCCC meeting: November 11:

- YCCC “Introduction to Contesting” PowerPoint
- “Ask the Contester” Panel discussion.

The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association, CARA, is hosting a joint CARA/YCCC WCT Area Meeting on Friday, November 11, 2016 at the Stony Hill Fire Department in Bethel, CT.

Doors open at 7:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:30.

We're planning to present the YCCC "Introduction to Contesting" PowerPoint, provided by K1KP - thanks Tony.

The highlight of the meeting will be an "Ask a Contester" panel discussion - similar to the event held during the YCCC meeting at the Boxboro convention in September.

Panelists: Peter Chamalian - W1RM, Ken Bolin- W1NG, Mike Loukides - W1JQ and Dan Fegley - W1QK.

Of particular interest will be questions and answers about the upcoming contest season, station preparation, plus operating tips and techniques.

Come prepared to ask questions, learn, share, and socialize with other YCCC and CARA members.

Peter Chamalian - W1RM



Originally licensed as KN2UTV (1956), I got my general and spent the next period heavily involved in traffic handling. In 1964 I moved to Connecticut to work at ARRL HQ and received W1BGD as my call. In the same year, I started contesting. Because I couldn't put up any towers my efforts were small until the later 1960's when I build my station at the ole K2UTV QTH in Cortland Manor, NY. In 1978 we bought our present QTH.

Member of: Conn Wireless Association (CWA), Murphy's Marauders, YCCC, CW Ops #8

Some of my success:

PJ5ME – M/M winning the world in ARRL CW

W4BVV – M/M actually beating W3MSK for top M/M

W1BGD/2 – 1971 ARRL DX CW – SOAB Top USA

W1BGD/2 – 1974 - CQ WW CW Top USA, 5th World

W1BGD/2 – Top US, 20 Meter single band AA CW

PJ9DX – Top M/M world (twice)

PJ9J – Top M/S South America (with W1BIH)

K1KI – CQ WW CW Top M/S

K1EA – CQ WW CW Top M/M and new record

W1RM -- CQWW CW 15 meter single band, set the US record 4 different times

W1RM -- CQWW CW 2004 single band low power 40 top USA

W1RM -- IARU RadioSport Set the NA record single op CW only low power twice (beat my own record)

W1RM -- New England Division plaque
ARRL SS low power CW 2003, 2004

Ken Bolin – W1NG



- First licensed in 1959. Active contester and DX'er since the early 70's
- First licensed in 1959. Active contester and DX'er since the early 70's
- Past member of the ARRL DX Advisory and Contest Advisory Committees. Past Chairman of the Contest Advisory Committee.
- Active in most major contests and in some State QSO parties including the New England QSO Party
- Holder of DXCC on 11 separate bands. More than 300 countries confirmed on 9 bands.
- Currently #12 in the World and #2 in the US in the ARRL DXCC Challenge with 3163 band-countries confirmed.

Mike Loukides – W1JQ



As far as contesting experience: I've been a ham since '69; was attracted to DX contesting back when there were two weekends for each

mode, and I wouldn't even *think* of operating CW. I discovered CW in 2001, when I wanted to work a CY0 DXpedition on 160M. Then a few days later, I made 2 CW QSOs in the 160M contest; maybe a dozen in the 10M contest; and a couple hundred when ARRL DX CW came around. Now I'm one of those "can't stand phone" guys. Not really. But seriously, if you have a low power station, CW is a LOT more fun than phone. And the headache after a long weekend of contesting isn't anywhere near as bad. These days, I operate low power, with all wire antennas. I'm way behind on antenna work, but (as Candlewood members will remember) I love crazy wire antennas. Aluminum? Who needs that? I've been on the edge of trying out SO2R a couple of times, and chickened out.

Dan Fegley – W1QK



- Licensed in 1967 as WN3HUT, then WA3HUT; previously WA1KRG – which was issued to my XYL, Brenda as her vanity callsign.
- Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Director and W1QI club call trustee; Operated CARA Field Day for 49 years

- Host station & operator – W100AW
ARRL Centennial QSO Party, 2014 - Connecticut
- ARRL Centennial QSO Party – W100AW guest operator
- Member of North East Weak Signal Group – VHF contest club
- ARRL January & June VHF Contests – multiple top ten certificates – Single operator and Limited Multi-operator category, multiple division leader endorsements
- CQWW VHF – First place world plaque – QRP Hill Topper category, multiple certificates
- State QSO Parties – multiple plaques and certificates
- ARRL Sweepstakes CW & SSB, ARRL 10M and 160M Contests, IARU – multiple plaques and certificates; including QRP, multiple division leader endorsements
- New England QSO Party - CT plaque & multiple Fairfield & Litchfield County certificates
- CQWW DX SSB & CW – multiple certificates
- CQWW WPX RTTY – multi-operator plaque with NG1R
- 5BDXCC & VUCC on 50 MHz.
- CW Ops - CW Academy Advisor, CW Ops member #1506

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club is a special purpose amateur radio club devoted to the pursuit of operating and technical excellence. Our goals are simple:

- To promote the fun, satisfaction and competitive thrill of radio contesting
- To [assist our members](#) in the development of their operating and technical skills

- To win the club competition of the major amateur radio contests

The YCCC was founded in April 1977 and now boasts over 300 members located from New York City to Maine, Cape Cod to Upstate NY. YCCC members have excelled in all areas of amateur radio contesting, DXing, technical design, and public service.

[Club meetings](#) are held the first weekend of even-numbered months. Local meetings and 'Contest Universities' are also held around the club territory as organized by the club's [Area Managers](#). You must attend a meeting to join the club.

Club members also stay in touch through the club newsletter called the [Scuttlebutt](#), and through the Internet.

The value of YCCC membership is the opportunity to work side by side with the best. Cooperation and team work spiced with the strong spirit of competition is at the heart of YCCC accomplishments and contest victories.

The YCCC is an [ARRL](#)-affiliated club.

One of the requirements for submitting scores for the YCCC is that you live within the Club's jurisdiction as stated in the Club's By-Laws:

1. Club Jurisdiction. The center of the club shall be located at Erving, Massachusetts. The jurisdiction of the club shall encompass an area within a radius of 175 miles of the above location.



Visit www.yccc.org for more information.

CARA REPEATER COMMITTEE

Re: Repeater Committee 6 Nov 2016
Status Report

Greetings CARA Members

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.

CSMA 2016 Oct 23 Annual Meeting Report

CARA was represented at the Manchester CT annual meeting by KB1YHW. Dana Underhill KB1AEV, Statewide CSMA frequency coordinator reviewed the CARA repeater project plan and offered full support for testing the system at the New Fairfield site. Dana also reviewed and confirmed current status for all CARA frequency coordinations, now fully activated into the CSMA on-line system.

CARA Spruce Mountain 2016 Report

A proposed bush whacking with CARA and DFD did not materialize in October... A request to the DFD for ATV support has not yet had a response.

The CARA 2m repeater radio interference, on-going prior to fall of 2014, requires an investigation to clearly identify the source. Any mountain climbers with proper service monitor available 6a-6p, Monday through Friday.

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 before 31 Dec 2016. 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.

Yours in service,
Gregory G. Davis KB1YHW



CARA Motorola MSF-5000 2M repeater



ARES News & Upcoming events:

Leadership changes announced in ARRL CT Section and Region 5:



W8ZY

Mike Walters, W8ZY, former CT ARES Region 5 District Emergency Coordinator, was recently appointed as ARRL Connecticut Section Emergency Manager.



K2GAV

Ted Szypulski, K2GAV, former EC for the Town of Barkhamsted, was recently appointed as ARES Region 5 District Emergency Coordinator.

Ted has already initiated a new Yahoo Groups presence on the web for CT ARES Region 5.

Congratulations to both of these active CT ARES members.

Next Region 5 Monthly Meeting – November 28, Torrington PD. 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 check in - All are welcome.



Connecticut Phone Net – CPN

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

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. 3.965 MHz.

CARA Contributions:

Wednesday Net control: Harlan, W1QH

Net Manager: Tom, WX1T



Weekly Sunday CARA NETS:

CARA 10M NET

28.490 MHz. 7:00 p.m.

Net Control: N1NRP

CARA 2M NET

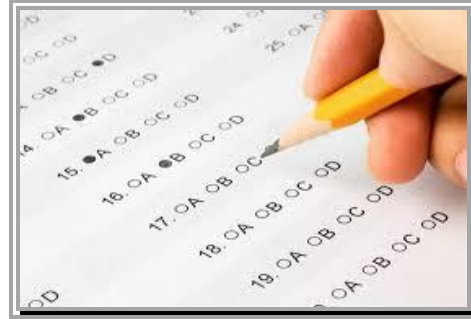
W1QI Repeater – 7:30 pm

Member & Station News:

de W1QK & N1NRP

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of former CARA member and friend, Andre Boucher, KB1QAU. Andre was living most recently with his family in Torrington.

CARA Ham Exam Schedule:



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

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.

From the YCCC Reflector:



From: "George Harlem"

To: "YCCC Reflector"

Subject: Pros and cons of underground utilities

Last night I had a CW QSO with a JA on 17

meters. I noticed a strange

thing-the lights in the basement were flickering

in sync with my sending.

Never saw that happen before. And the lights

were brighter than usual.

After the QSO I went upstairs and noticed that

the lights in the kitchen

were unusually dim. My XYL put a sweet potato

in the oven, but the power

went on and off. So I got my trusty VOM and measured some AC outlets in the kitchen. One was 140 volts. Another was only 90 volts. Getting the picture yet? I called my electrician and he came over at 10 pm. We pulled power from Eversource and turned on the 20kW standby generator (lucky to have that!).

Tests showed all was fine under generator power, but the wacky readings with mains AC seemed to indicate a break in the Eversource neutral between the transformer and our meter socket. Eversource showed up at 11 pm and opened the transformer pedestal and confirmed the worse-there was an open somewhere in the 48-year-old direct burial neutral (not in conduit). Who knows, tree roots, rocks, corrosion. So now I'm looking at excavating a brand new trench, burying a proper conduit (about 100 feet) and replacing the 230VAC feed to the house (along with cutting through the asphalt driveway and the brick front walk plus repairing the lawn irrigation lines that will undoubtedly be torn up in the process. The fortunate parts of this tale are (1) we installed that generator several years ago, and (2) no computers, appliances or humans were destroyed while there was no neutral connection to ground. The excitement made a nice backdrop to the debate that was playing on the small screen all that time.

George W1EBI

From: W1GD

Subject: Re: Pros and cons of underground utilities

In November 2012, I was still living in NJ. We had just endured Sandy and had lost power for 13 days. (Fortunately, the power didn't go out until Monday afternoon after CQWW SSB & I got to work the contest AND get my logs in!) A few days after the power was restored, I was in the basement shack getting reset for CQWW CW and the power went out. When I went back upstairs, some lights were still on. JCP&L got right out and determined one leg of my underground 240 VAC feed was open. They jumpered connections at my meter and restored

120V to all circuits. Only my amp, pool filter and sprinkler well pump ran on 240, so it wasn't a disaster. Crews were still busy with post-Sandy restorations, so they didn't get out to fix the problem until Tuesday before Thanksgiving (and CQWW CW). They used a detector of some sort and found where the connection was open. After they dug, they discovered that the aluminum feed from the transformer had opened up because the jacket had been nicked and the moisture eventually turned the aluminum wire into powder. The crew guessed the nick had happened when the cable was buried 26 years earlier. They installed a splice, so they didn't need to dig up my whole frozen yard or my fairly new driveway. And, I got to operate HP again. Maybe, Eversource can better pinpoint where the problem is and not have to dig up everything now.

GL,

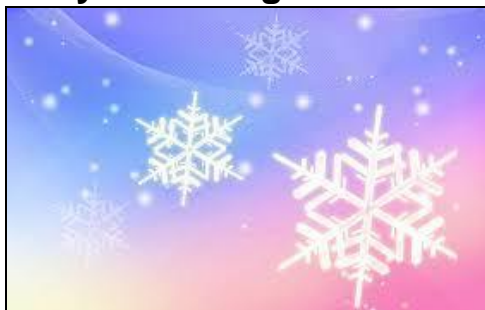
Gerry, W1GD

From: George Harlem

Subject: Re: [YCCC] Pros and cons of underground utilities

Maybe. The neutral here may also be jacketed underground although the connection to the transformer that I saw was superheavy stranded. A so-called "thumper" test could possibly locate the break, maybe even just before the short conduit up to the meter socket, but repairing that would still leave 48-year-old direct bury cables underground. They could fail next February under a foot of snow. I am inclined to do a "real" fix in October.

December 9 – Annual CARA Holiday Gathering



**de ARRL Contest Update:
K6QK operates the 2016 California
QSO Party - portable:**



K6QK in the California QSO Party consisted of K6ZH, NC6Q, N6EEG, N6ERD, and N7CW operating expedition style from Imperial County. Pictured are Joan, N6KIM, and Dave, N6EEG [Photo courtesy of Jim, K6ZH]

Upcoming Contests:

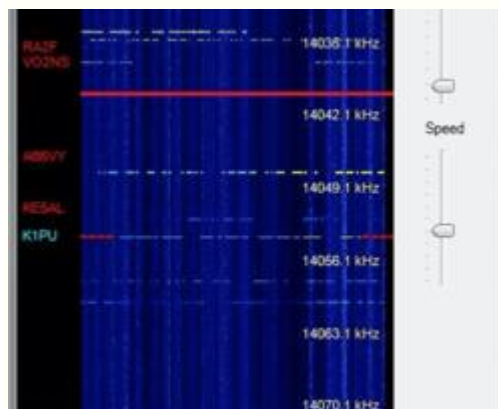
CW-Ops CWT: Nov. 9,16,23,30
LZ DX Contest: November 19
ARRL Section Sweepstakes – SSB:
November 19
CQ WW DX - CW: November 25-27

Complete Contest calendar at:

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



Steve, N2IC, submits: "The Waterfall Bandmap (WB) combines a live waterfall display with call sign and frequency spotting information. The beauty of the WB is that you do not need complex and potentially unreliable tools to interface the WB to your station. The WB tracks the frequency of your transceiver, and obtains DX spots directly from N1MM+. Unlike other waterfall implementations, the WB does **not** require virtual COM port splitters, VSPE, Omnirig, separate telnet connections, and the like. N1MM+ provides all the information that WB needs to work with your SDR receiver or sound card I/Q output to synchronize with your non-SDR station transceiver. WB works with any radio compatible with LP-PAN (such as the K3), Flex 6000 series, and the majority of SDR receivers, such as the Perseus, QS1R, or SDRplay. Best of all, Waterfall Bandmap is freeware. More information is available from the [WaterfallBandmap Yahoo group](#).



Waterfall Bandmap provides a way to associate call signs with spectrum.



Nutmeg Connecticut Section Convention

Sunday, October 16, 2016
The Great 2016 Go-Kit Competition
Photo Credit: W1QK



The Great 2016 CT ARES Go-Kit Competition - organized by WA1SFH



Douglas, WA1SFH & Mike, W8ZY



Convention Main Ballroom



Jim, N1GTW, Jim, N3BEB
and Douglas, WA1SFH



Rich, N1UIL & Mike, W8ZY



N3BEB "Man-Pack"



KB1UQC Go-Kit



N3BEB "Man-Pack"



Mike, KB1UQC



N3BEB Go-Kit



Jim, N3BEB



ARES Region 5 Airborne Repeater



KX1BK HF/VHF Go-Kit,
built by Brookfield EC, W1QK



W1QK 2M FM voice & packet Go-Kit



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The WX1T Tower Project Story – Part 2

De Tom Coury, WX1T

This next phase of the WX1T tower project centers around installation of the re-conditioned rotor I bought on the Internet, installing an antenna on the tower, and telescoping the tower to its full height. This is the phase where things get more interesting and the tower actually becomes operational.

On October 7th I was fortunate to be able to get assistance from my good friend Art once again to help me with this next phase of this project. I should mention at this time that without Art, this project would not have progressed as well as it has. Art listens patiently to my plans and provides valuable criticism (while sometimes testing my patience), which usually results in preventing me from doing something catastrophic. Not to mention an extra pair of hands comes in very handy in a project of this type.

Now let's get back to the tower itself. Before installing the rotor on the tower, I took the "thrust" bearing off the tower mounting plate. This bearing is used to take the load of the antenna and antenna mast off the rotor. It is important that this bearing is installed properly so that the mast rotates smoothly and does not wobble at all.

Using the tilt-over winch on the tower, I tilted the tower to a near horizontal position. I removed the existing thrust bearing from the tower, and I noticed that it was not a thrust bearing at all. It was a tapered roller bearing that was installed in the bearing housing. I was convinced that this was not the original bearing. I gave the bearing a thorough

cleaning with mineral spirits and greased it up good - like I would do to re-pack a wheel bearing on a car.



Original tower bearing



I installed the bearing on the tower and also mounted the rotor in its position on the tower. The rotor control cable was routed through the back wall of my house to the HAM-IV rotor controller on my ham shack desk. Art and I went to town on the 9 ft. stainless steel mast with scotch-brite to make it look like new.



Stainless steel mast



We inserted the mast through the top of the tower though the bearing. We tried to rotate the mast by hand but the bearing was rubbing on the bearing housing which prevented the mast from turning.



E-Z Way tower top section

At this point, I decided to scrap the old bearing and buy a proper thrust bearing for this application. Since this E-Z Way tower is old, and E-Z Way is out of business, I knew it would be difficult to find a suitable bearing. After researching the web, I found a thrust bearing used for Rohn towers of similar size on DX Engineering's web site. The bearing arrived two days after I ordered it, and when I unpacked it, I was amazed at how well it was constructed. I was convinced it would work great for my application if I could mount it to the tower in the same location as the original bearing.



DX Engineering tower thrust bearing

The new bearing outside diameter is larger than the old bearing but luckily it just fit on the tower mounting plate. So now, the trick was to perfectly center the new bearing on the mounting plate and drill new mounting holes. This turned out to be more difficult than I thought it would be, due to clearance issues with the tower structure and the existing holes in the bearing mounting plate. After wearing out my drill bit and a trip to Lowes in Danbury to get another bit, we got the bearing mounted dead center.

(Ed note: This type of thrust bearing is designed to run dry. DO NOT use any grease.)

Next, we slid the mast through the thrust bearing and clamped it in the rotor. I went down to the ham shack while Art stayed with the tower as I used the HAM-IV controller to turn the rotor. Art reported back that the mast was rotating smoothly and without any wobble. Then we traded places so I could observe the mast rotation and I was absolutely thrilled with how well the mast was moving. That was a huge hurdle we had just overcome and now we could move on to actually mounting an antenna to the mast.



Original thrust bearing with rotator and mast installed.



New thrust bearing with rotator and mast installed.

I was originally going to mount a Diamond 2 meter vertical to the tower that I bought at the Southington Ham Fest last year. But in the mean time, I acquired a Kenwood TS-811A 70cm all mode radio off the Internet so I needed to get a suitable 70cm antenna. I decided to pick up a Jetstream dual band antenna at the Nutmeg Hamfest last month. I installed the new antenna to the top of the tower mast using a piece of cheap coax I had laying around. And now after 7 years of waiting to have an operational tower, I finally was able to put the tower to use. What a great feeling!



A beautiful sight indeed

Now that there was an antenna mounted to the mast, I had to put the tower in the vertical position and crank the tower up to its fully extended position. This was another first for the tower project. First, I tried the antenna on 2 meters with my Kenwood TS-711A radio. I had not been able to hit the PVRA Prospect repeater before, but with the tower and new antenna, I'm now able to hit this repeater as well as the New Milford and Woodbury repeaters. Whoopee! I then tried the 70cm radio and had similar results. And I should also mention that this was my first experience on the 70cm band and that was very gratifying.



E-Z Way tower - cranked up for use with Diamond Dual-bander installed
All Photo Credits: Tom Coury, WX1T

The next phase of the project will be to take the Hygain TH-55M Tri-Band beam antenna elements out of the garage, give them an inspection, create a list of parts needed to put it all back together, get it all back together, then get it up on the tower. Sounds like a lot of work doesn't it? Wish me luck and stay tuned...

FB with the completion of this part of the project Tom, and many thanks for sharing the story with Capers readers.
- de W1QK

Your antenna, station, operating activity, or story, etc. will go in this space.

Just send it to your CARA Capers Co-Editors:

Jay Albano, N1NRP
jjalbano@aol.com

Dan Fegley, W1QK
w1qk@snet.net

ARRL CT Section News - October:
de Chuck Motes, K1DFS

October 30, 2016

Notes from the new Section Manager:
This is my first Section monthly newsletter, and I hope to make it a regular event. Betsey (K1EIC) and I enjoyed meeting so many people at the Nutmeg Hamfest this month. Thanks for stopping by the CT Section table to say "Hello!". I'm privileged to be the Section Manager for Connecticut, and will carry forward from my predecessor, who has agreed to stay on as Assistant Section Manager. At the Forum, that morning I announced the members of the Section Cabinet, including the new Section Emergency Coordinator, Mike Walters (W8ZY) from the Western side of the state. Mike replaces Wayne Gronlund, who has taken the jobs of Assistant SEC and representative to the State Interoperability Committee.

The lineup is as follows:
Section Manager (SM) Chuck K1DFS
Assistants (ASMs): Emeritus AI, W1FXQ; Betsey, K1EIC; Jim, KD1YV, Wayne, N1CLV

Official Observer Coordinator (OOC) Chuck, NA1CN
Public Information Coordinator (PIC) Dana, KA1WPM
Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) Mike, W8ZY
Assistants (ASECs): Rod, N1FNE; Brian, K1BRF; Art, AF1HS; Wayne, N1CLV
State Government Liaison (SGL) Jon, WF1H
Section Traffic Manager (STM) Anne, K1STM
Section Youth Coordinator (SYC) Douglas, WA1SFH
Technical Coordinator (TC) Steve W1SMS

October meeting highlights of the Amateur Radio Club of the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut: (from their meeting minutes):
The group agreed that they will be referred to as "The Amateur Radio Club of the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut." Or simply as "W1VCM". Also, the shack will become the "Gordon Horn Memorial Station – W1VCM". the station can be called "the Horn Memorial Station."

ARRL had asked members to send letters to their senators in Washington, DC, to request that the Senate pass the Amateur Radio Parity Bill that was sent up to them by the House of Representatives. Feedback from that effort during October indicated that a very large response from the amateur radio community was achieved. Stay tuned for more news, as the Senate won't take up the matter until after the national elections.

Meriden Amateur Radio Club, October 16th hosted the 24th Nutmeg Hamfest and CT State ARRL Convention at the Sheraton Four-Points Hotel in Meriden. It was very well attended and provided an additional stop for vendors from the Nearfest held in New Hampshire on Friday and Saturday.
Betsey and I really enjoyed seeing everyone at the hamfest—it was a wonderful show. Congratulations to the Meriden ARC for doing all the details. Next year is the 25th! MARC's

newsletter.

"Key-Klix" for September-October was full of news and activities for the members. Castle Craig The summer 10-10 QSO party was August 6 and 7th. December 8th will be the Holiday dinner at Brother's Restaurant with Tom Gallagher (NY2RF), Betsey Doane(K1EIC) and Chuck Motes (K1DFS) attending.

Thanks for adding the Section Manager to the "mailing list".

A note from ASM Betsey K1EIC:
I would like to publicly thank DEC Steve K1SJW, PIC Dana KA1WPM and STM Anne, K1STM for putting together a picture that Steve found on Ebay of me and my twin Barb K1EIR when we were grammar school kids just after having been licensed. Anne did the braille on the plaque! What a treasure!

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association's October newsletter was also full of information. The state Region 5 Emergency Comms truck was deployed to their October 14 meeting for members to inspect. The club operated two stations (special event call N1F) on September 17th for New Fairfield's annual "Day". 92 contacts were made using SSB and CW on 40M, 20M and 15M.

CARA Repeater Committee members along with members of the New Fairfield Fire Department installed the new repeater antenna on the tower in preparation of the TECH Event.

The Insurance City Repeater Club/Bristol Radio Club provided amateur communications for the Bristol Mum Parade on September 25th. ICRC/BRC also helped replace a damaged antenna at the top of the Red Cross tower at their Farmington Headquarters. In September, the PL for the 146.685 MHz repeater in Bristol was changed to 77.0 Hz, bringing it into conformance with the other ICRC/BRC repeaters.

If clubs would like, feel free to send newsletters to the Section Manager. We'll extract a few notes from the newsletters and publish them in the Section News monthly for all to enjoy. Email addresses:

Chuck Motes (SM): motes@comcast.net .

Veterans Day is coming up soon, as is Thanksgiving Day near the end of the month. It's time to prepare for the end-of-year holidays (and straight-key night!). Please remember those in the military, who are in harm's way, and away from their loved ones on behalf of our country.

(-.../...--)

Chuck Motes, K1DFS
ARRL Section Manager
Connecticut Section

ARRL Connecticut Section
Section Manager: Charles I Motes Jr, K1DFS
k1dfs@arrrl.org



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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, 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 – or earlier if possible.

Many thanks/ 73- Jay, N1NRP Dan, W1QK

Welcome November and Happy Thanksgiving.