



Capers

January - 2017

**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, January 13, @ Stony Hill Fire Station

Doors open at 7:30, meeting begins at 8:00 p.m.

***CARA Annual W1-QSL Bureau
DX QSL Card Pre-Sort & Pizza Party***

President's Message - de AB1WV



Photo Credit: Greg Davis, KB1YHW

Happy New Year all!!!

First up, this coming meeting, on January 13, 7:30 pm, we'll have our annual QSL Square Dance. For those new CARA members, we volunteer every January to pre-sort some of the ARRL W1 QSL bureau cards. Come on down and see why we call it a square dance. There will be pizza for all!! We will also have a very brief discussion and votes on Repeater Committee business, including purchasing some enhancements and corrections to the Motorola MSF5000 2m project; as well as discussion of some discretionary budget for the Repeater Committee.

Speaking of business, I need to give an important reminder to everyone. It's that time of year, again, and everyone needs to get their dues into Bill, our treasurer. If you have not paid dues by the March meeting, you'll be placed on the inactive list, and you won't be able to vote on any business until dues are paid.

This is a brilliant segue into the fact that we have had no one express interest in performing duties as the treasurer. Bill really needs to step down, and we need someone to step up. It would only take a few hours a month and Bill will walk you through it so that you are not overwhelmed. If you have any interest at all, please let someone on the Executive Committee or the Directors know so that we can discuss this opportunity with you.

I participated in the CARA NPOTA activation of TR-23 with a few of you on Dec 28th. I also had a fun time on January 1 UTC during the ARRL SKN, straight key night for a bit. Although my straight key fist is atrocious, I managed to make a few contacts and revel in the nostalgia of my father NOKYB. He still uses a straight key exclusively. It sits right next to his Bencher paddles, HIHI.

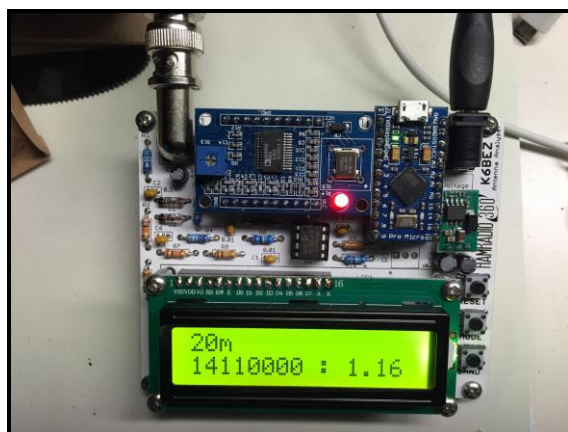
Also, since last Capers, I completed building an Arduino-based antenna analyzer. It was kind of a community build with the designer, K6BEZ, and the guys from a podcast I listen to; Ham Radio 360 Workbench, on HamRadio360.com. I had to source many of the parts, but they designed a PCB and sourced the rarer out of production germanium diodes in the bridge for everyone.

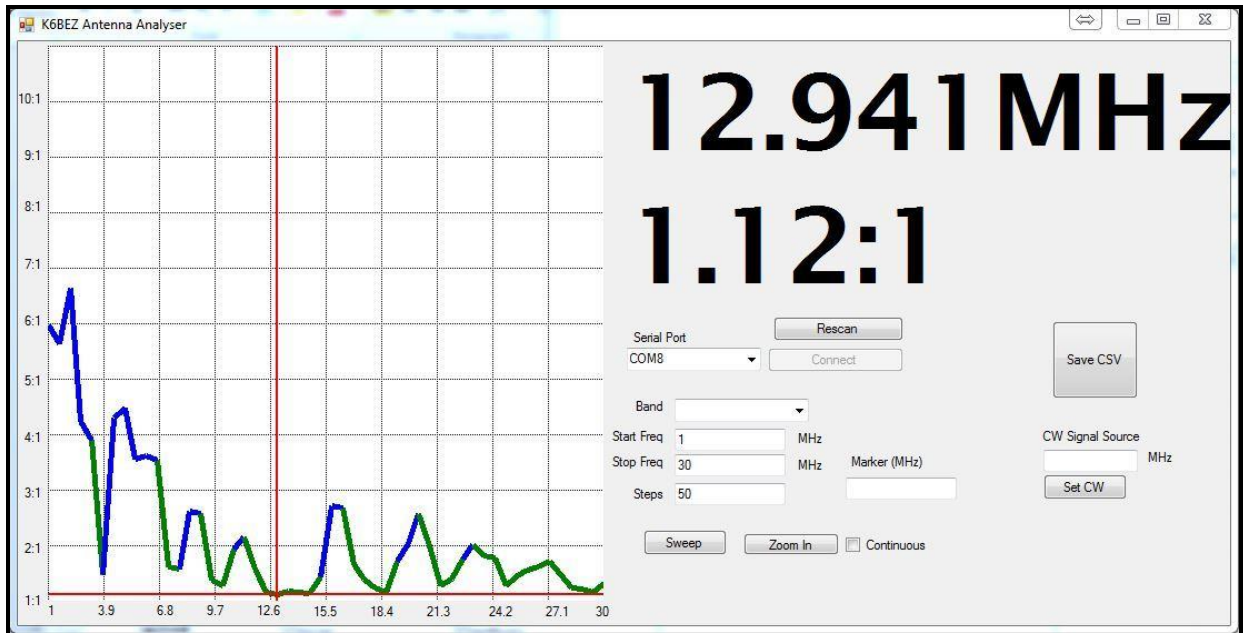
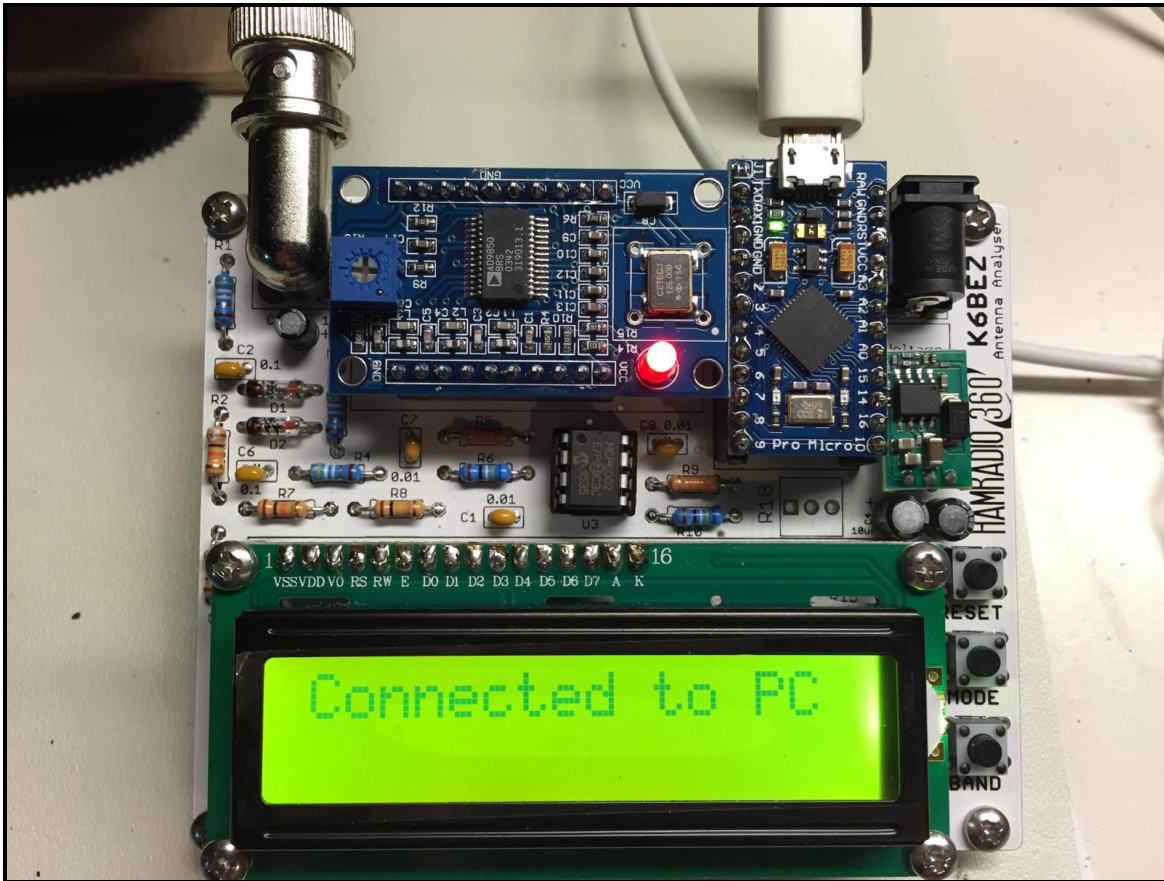
Final cost, if you had to source all the parts, and didn't have any lying around, would be about \$60-\$70. Over all, it works well, and I'm in the process of modifying the software to fit my needs better.

So, to paraphrase the last line of that commercial that's everywhere, "What's on your workbench?". We're always looking for articles for the Capers as well as presentations at our meetings. I'm sure many of you have projects going on that would be of interest to the rest of us. Let's share please!

73

Marcus - AB1WV





Photos and image credit: AB1WV

Vice-President's Message - de N1NRP



Photo Credit: Greg Davis, KB1YHW

Greetings CARA members.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas; and I'd like to extend a Happy New Year to all.

December's Holiday Gathering was a blast - I really had a good time. The pot luck was great; along with the "Bring a gift-Get a gift". I'm very pleased with my gift - you can't have enough multi-meters on hand.

December was active on the radio too; with several contests to participate in. The bands were quite unpredictable; especially 75 Meters. Trying to talk across town was difficult on the Connecticut Phone Net - we had a mobile station half way across the USA relay for us.

Don't forget our informal CARA 10-meter "Rag Chew Net" on 28.490 MHz., which meets at 7pm on Sundays. It's a lot of fun - and the time goes by quickly.

The CARA 2-meter net is held at 7:30 pm on our 2M repeater. I want to thank David KB1ZAC, Tom, WX1T, and all the other control operators for a fine job running this net. The Sunday night ARES and DMR nets are held at 8pm and 8:30pm respectively.

It's nice having the CARA 2-meter repeater linked into the state-wide system - thanks to the efforts of the CARA Repeater Committee.

I also want to thank Dan, W1QK, and Roger, NG1R, for spearheading the W1QI NPOTA activation of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary National Historic Trail, TR23, for the ARRL NPOTA, National Parks on The Air.

Thanks to all CARA members who participated.

73, Jay N1NRP

December 9 CARA Meeting Notes:

A brief business meeting was conducted at the December meeting.

A vote was taken to approve the additional funding for the purchase of the two new fiberglass mast kits from GoVerticalUSA in Wyoming, Pennsylvania.

CARA is still seeking a member to volunteer to serve as Treasurer on the Executive Committee.

2017 Dues are due at the January meeting.

CARA Holiday Gathering & Potluck

CARA, held their annual Holiday Gathering and Potluck on Friday, December 9, 2016 at the Stony Hill Fire Department in Bethel, CT.

All photo credits – KB1YHW





CARA Repeater Committee

5 Jan 2017 Status Report

Greetings CARA Members

CARA Repeater Committee Members 2017

KB1YHW chair, W1QK trustee, AB1WV CARA president-ex officio, N1NRP, W1JGM, W1SOP, WX1T. Welcome Tom to the CRC.

CARA members interested in serving, please contact the chair.

CSMA Coordination renewals

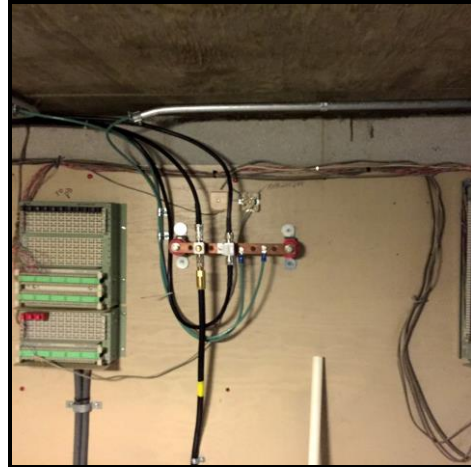
All CARA repeater coordinations were renewed in December, 2016 by W1QI Trustee – W1QK.

CARA Spruce Mountain 2016 Report:

The CARA 70cm repeater on the Yaesu DR-1X repeater unit is behaving and performing well. The KX1EOC Radio Club APRS digipeater is operating well.

CARA Linked 2m Meter / Motorola Upgrade Project Report:

The Motorola linked repeater system was commissioned at New Fairfield Company A firehouse for initial testing before 26 Nov 2016. Invaluable system experience is being collected. Programming & hardware upgrades are being planned. Spruce Mtn. 2m will remain dark for this test period.



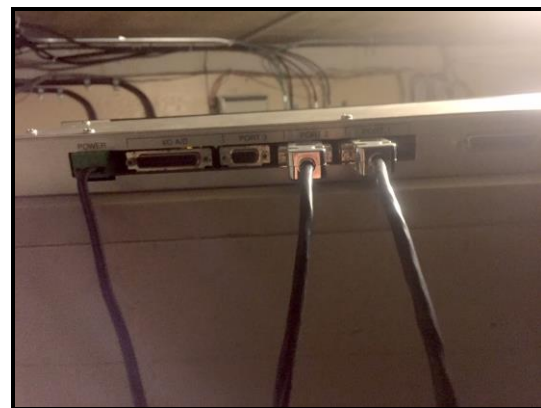
Feedline grounding system at New Fairfield Company A repeater site



ARCOM AR210 Repeater Controller on top of the UHF linking MSF5000



CARA Motorola MSF-5000 installation
November 19, 2016
All Photo Credits – W1JGM



Rear of ARCOM AR210 Controller with port connections to 2M repeater and 440 link

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 2015-17 Repeater Chair



ARES News & Upcoming events:

Connecticut ARES Net - Area 5

Connecticut ARES Region 5 conducts a
monthly net each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
The CARA Repeater: 147.300 (+600),
CTCSS 100.0 will be linked to the NARA
repeater for this net.

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 “Rag Chew Net”:

28.490 MHz. 7:00 p.m.

CARA 2M NET:

W1QI Repeater – 7:30 pm

CT SM Message:

December, 2016

Douglas, WA1SFH’s (Section Youth Coordinator)
presentation at CT Rivers Council Pow-Wow,
November 5, 2016, in East Windsor. He will be
presenting at the BSA University of Scouting (Adult
Leaders) in March of 2017 Douglas’ report for the
month of November included a note that the
Meriden ARC has formed a sub-committee to
bring youth into amateur radio; he’s connecting
with the Girl Scouts to bring services and
assistance to their efforts, and is meeting with the
Manager of their STEM Program.

As the Holidays marking the end of the Year 2016
approach, we find ourselves adding up all the
activities and accomplishments of the past
twelve months. It’s been a busy time. An election
(national) following a very noisy campaign.
Concern about the future here in Connecticut, and
in the Country.... There’s a Chinese saying about
living in “interesting times”. We still have our lives
to live, and a future to live for.

Betsy, K1EIC and I were invited guests at the
Meriden ARC annual dinner on December 8th, with
Tom Gallagher, NY2RF as Guest Speaker. Tom’s
presentation on the current status of ARRL and

future plans was well received. Thank you Meriden, and thank you Tom.

Monthly club reports and monthly net activities continue to roll in, indicating lots of "action" in NTS and ARES. Thanks for keeping Betsey and me in the "loop".

While we're on the subject of NTS: how about sending "Seasons Greetings" radiograms to a few people you know – give the local nets some work! Give yourself some practice.

Meriden ARC moved their meeting place to Hope Hill Fire House at 143 (or 147) Hope Hill Road in Wallingford.

CARA has been working hard at a new Linked repeater system on 2 meters, currently located temporarily in New Fairfield, NorthWest of Spruce Mountain. Wishing you great success!

Think about ways to reach the younger generation just coming along. We need new hams. We also need new members in the American Radio Relay League – the Voice of Ham Radio.

Very Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a Safe and Healthy New Year 2017

de K1DFS (Chuck Motes)

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

Member & Station News:

de N1NRP

CARA members Jay, N1NRP and Marlon, KC1EHW, are both members of WECA, the Westchester Emergency Communications Association.

They received a Public Service Award for doing Vital Signs; 5K runs; Turkey Trot & United Way 5K run. For more information about WECA, visit:

<http://www.weca.org>



L-R: Marlon -KC1EHW, Joe - KC2ESU, Jay -N1NRP, Nina – N2AFN



L-R: Jay - N1NRP, Kathleen – KC2VCT, Marlon - KC1EHW

Photo Credit: N1NRP



From the YCCC Reflector:

PL-259: Crimp or Solder?

To all,
The technical team at Radio Ansonia would like to know if any of the membership are using crimp/solder PL259 connectors.

If you are, what manufacturer's tool kit are you using.

Our technicians are just getting tired of soldering the braid using the standard PL259.

73DaveW1CTN

I don't think crimping makes a long lasting solution outside connections, for use on antennas up on the tower or wire dipoles, etc. Plus I also hate with a passion aluminum braid in coax.

Solder all the way, don't be lazy.

73's Ed

Using Crimp/Crimp here. Despite having some really excellent equipment for soldering braid, I find crimp to be superior all around. Outside connections get some additional sealing and strain relief with a layer of adhesive lined heat shrink. Get a MIL-DTL-22520/5 style open frame crimper and dies. The DMC HX4 or the RFI RFA4009 are good choices. Expensive, but worth every penny in my experience. I mostly use parts from RF Industries. RFU-507-SI is mostly what I use for UHF connectors on LMR-400. It's important to use the appropriate connector for the cable type, and follow the instructions from the cable manufacturer, otherwise you are going to have bad experiences with crimping.

Greg, N2GZ

I use the tools and connectors available from Quicksilver Radio.

The connectors seem to be of good quality, and the crimp tools work fine. No complaints.

Henry K1WCC

I'm crimping. I bought a crimp tool on line for about \$29 a couple of years ago that looks and probably is exactly like the DXE tool for a lot more. Be sure it says for the size coax you're using. I bought crimp connectors from DXE and they've been fine. JACK, W1WEF

You just reminded me why I went to crimps...non copper braid on CATV RG11 that I use for phasing lines. Tape it up good, and it stands up fine. I use a layer of that tape that melds together followed by Scotch 270.

I felt the same way about crimping vs. soldering but once I used the DXE crimper and connectors on all the free RG-11 (thanks Comcast!) for my 80M 4sq, I was sold.

That was a year ago, and the wire verticals are held up by trees in my backyard, therefore, always some movement on the Alpha Delta dipole coax connector for each wire vertical. The crimped PL-259s are still solid.

73, Paul W0AD

I'd offer the suggestion that in the same way many of us know that a service loop on the tower connecting the beam should be made with a stranded coax to allow for the repeated flexing as the rotator turns, a crimped connection has a better chance of withstanding some amount of repeated flexing.

***If** the connection you are making will not experience any flexing or movement, a properly

executed solder connection will provide the most reliable connection.*

Each method has a strength and a weakness. In order for each method to fulfill the objective, the technique in construction _must be executed correctly, and with a sufficient quality of the tools used to achieve a quality connection.

For soldering, an individual's skill and experience often is a factor each time we make a new connection, and a good soldering kit will cost some money. With crimping, skill can be less of a factor with a shorter learning curve, but at the expense of a VERY HIGH QUALITY crimping tool that usually costs well over \$100 new. Some of the crimp tools I've worked with at my job cost several hundred. And yes, crimp tools can wear down and need key components replaced. For crimp connections, however, its advantages are completely lost if the crimp tool is not specifically matched to the parts it was designed to crimp, or if the preparation of the parts before crimping is incorrect, or if the positioning of the parts about to be joined are not in the correct alignment. Crimps are more likely to fail when they aren't done to design specifications.

If you are shy about soldering, I would encourage you to get a bunch of scrap wires and practice soldering on them first. A well-kept soldering tool should have a nice shiny tip. Practicing with crimps is more costly, but if you are doing a piece that's going to be at the top of the tower, doing a practice crimp on a spare piece might ensure you won't have to make another trip or two up the tower.

-KA1IOR

There is a 'third' option for those who don't like attempting to solder the braid through the four holes:
<http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/pl259/>

I have used this with great success.

Tony, K1KP

When we were planning the cables for the WRTC2014 antennas, we had to decide between soldering and crimping. An informal poll of competitors yielded two approximately equal-size groupings of answers:

1. Crimping is OK, I guess, if you use the right tools and someone with experience does the work.
2. Crimping is unreliable and I will be very very upset if I lose the contest because a crimped connector fails. Please solder them.

We (and by "we" I mean K1QX) soldered the connectors on the cables to the antennas, since they would be outside and subject to mechanical stresses. 65 sets of three cables, two ends per cable, 390 connectors. Craig has retired from cable assembly so don't call him to build cables for you.

We purchased short RG8X jumpers to connect the power meters, and they came with crimped connectors. We chose the vendor after evaluating several and examining their build quality - there was considerable variation. And we bought a bunch of spares. None of the jumpers we purchased failed.

I prefer to make my own (soldered) cables, but sometimes I just run out of time and buy pre-assembled jumpers. My experience is that some manufacturers are better than others at crimping connectors on RG-213-size coax. I have had some failures of preassembled crimped connectors at the station in Maine, notably from one manufacturer. DX Engineering takes the extra step of doing a high-pot test on their assembled jumpers after assembly, I have actually seen the assembly/test area there, and very experienced workers with pride in their work do the job. In fact, I saw one cable get rejected for failing the final QC test. the assembler was embarrassed to have one fail in front of a visitor, but I assured her that I would rather see it fail in the factory than on my tower.

I do not like the K3LR method of attaching PL259s.

It relies on the soldered connection for both electrical and mechanical integrity and flexing a cable can result in the solder breaking where it meets the connector body. Solder is not a strong material. The threads on the inside of the PL259 body are supposed to thread onto the jacket of the cable to provide the mechanical connection.

This Web page is what I do: http://www.orcadxcc.org/content/pl259_va7jw/solder_pl259_r2.pdf

There are some similar sets of instructions that show the dielectric being cut off flush with the shield. I have found that leaving 1/16" of dielectric as shown in this version prevents shorts.

I also always ALWAYS use Amphenol 83-1SP connectors. The silver-plated body takes solder much better than nickel-plated, and Amphenol seems to hold their tolerances in production much better than the usual "flea market" connectors (I have had failures of the cheap ones, and never use them now). You can buy The Real Thing at DXE or places like Mouser. HRO, sadly, does not carry them.

The connectors may cost a couple of bucks more than the cheap ones, but by far the biggest failure mode in a ham station is connectors. If you are spending a few kilobucks on a radio, tower, antennas, etc., it is well worth it to use good connectors so you can stay on the air and not spend time chasing intermittent connectors.

One very useful tool I found at Dayton a couple of years ago is this one: <https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/dxe-ut-80p>

It is used to thread the body of the connector solidly onto the coax...the pin of the connector goes through the hole, and the back of the tool is threaded to match the thread on the connector. Saves scraping up your hands and is better than using pliers to grip the connector.

Great stocking stuffer for yourself.

It takes some patience to properly install PL259s. I screw up about one in every 10 or 20 times (usually by using too much heat and melting the dielectric, not keeping the soldering gun tip clean, or whatever), but once they pass my QC test, they last forever (after appropriate weather sealing of course).

I use a lot of LMR400 and solder the PL259s, even though Times does not recommend soldering the connectors. My personal opinion is that they had too many people screw up soldered connectors and now recommend crimps.

Of course, after 40+ years of installing PL259s, I am now dabbling in VHF where N-connectors are the norm. In some ways they are easier to install than PL259s, but I am not yet proficient at it and have had a couple fail.

Maybe in another 40 years I will be better at it.

73
Doug K1DG

Sigh. Here we go again.

Some thoughts in random order since K1DG has mentioned me in his post:

I made cable assemblies for a number of years as many of you know. I would ask the customer their connector preference and build accordingly.

Ed, the only aluminum braid I know of in coax is used in 75 ohm cables: 59, 6 and some 11. It cannot be soldered. IF you are going to make a lot of connectors for RG59 and RG 6 I recommend the compression connectors AND get the correct tool. I have both the new and old crimp connectors here and the compression method is far better and weather resistant.

Using the appropriate tool really means using the right die. I have one tool and multiple dies for each kind of cable. Davis RF, The RFC and DX

Engineering all sell good tools and dies.

I also do not agree with K3LR's method for installing PL259s. As DG explained, the inside of the plug has threads that adds mechanical strength when installed properly. I know of another way to install the plug in that you fold the braid back over the outer plastic cover and then thread the plug on the coax with a pair of vice gripes. Not one I would use either.

I highly recommend the DX Engineering tool DG suggested for threading the plugs on to the coax. I have arthritis and the tool helps tremendously threading the plug on to the coax.

<https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/dxe-ut-80p> I had mixed results with their coax prep-tools. They work well on Davis Buryflex and LMR cables (foam) but I had problems with RG8 and RG213 with the PVC insulation.

DG and I discussed WRTC connections and the decision was made to solder them all. I disagree that being out in the weather would have been bad for crimp connections. But the customer is always right and the assemblies were built accordingly.

Now, for installing PL259s, I know many of you have been successfully using irons and Weller guns. For my needs, neither was fast enough and my predecessor at Radioware taught me how to use the "Solder-it" butane torch.

<http://www.solder-it.com/shop/item.aspx?itemid=247>

In a June issue of QST a few years back, there was an article on using butane torches to install PL259's. The author was rather "ham fisted" IMHO and gave the process a negative review. He over-heated the plugs and melted the coax. Careful use of the torch makes a far better connection to the plug and braid ensuring a good electrical and mechanical connection to the PL259 plug. I made several connections, cut them in half and sent them to ARRL to show that it could be done without destroying the coax as their reviewer had.

PL259s: For solder, I highly recommend you use silver plated plugs not the nickel plated plugs. I exclusively used Amphenol 83-1SP (silver plate.) RFI and Andros make similar connectors and can be acceptably used as alternatives. If you are making RG8X, I also recommend you use silver plated UG176s. Solder flows better on silver plated connectors and adapters. For crimp connectors, you have to buy the correct PL259 for the assemblies you are making as the sleeves are of different sizes. Buying cheap connectors is being penny wise and pound foolish.

Finally, I recommend using flooded shrink tubing on all connectors and did this for all assemblies that I sold. You get two benefits: More mechanical strength from the adhesive and you get a certain degree of weather proofing by sealing the back end of the connector. This does not mean you are completely weatherproofed but ample layers of Scotch 33 or 88 tape will solve that problem.

73, Craig, K1QX



CARA activated **W1QI** from the **Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, TR23** on Wednesday, December 28, 2016.

We had 2 stations on the air from 1458 UTC (9:58 am EST) to 2000 UTC (3:00 pm EST). We operated on various modes and bands, under challenging propagation conditions.

We used Half-Squares on 40M and 20M, Skeleton Sleeves on 17M/12M and 15M/10M.

We also participated in the CWOps CWT event from 1900 UTC to 2000 UTC as W1QI. Our exchange was: CARA TR23.

This NPOTA activation was from the Stony Hill Volunteer Fire Department on Route 6 in Bethel CT, which is coincidentally **both** our club's meeting location, and is located **right** on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail.

CARA members who participated in antenna setup on Tuesday, Dec. 27:

Marcus – AB1WV, Harlan – W1QH, Roger – NG1R, Scott – N1CWV, David – KB1ZAC

CARA members who participated on Wednesday, Dec. 28:

Marcus – AB1WV, Roger- NG1R, Harlan – W1QH, Dan – W1QK, John – W1JGM, Scott – N1CWV, David – KB1ZAC.



NG1R



W1QH



NG1R & W1QK
All photo credits: AB1WV



N1CWV & W1JGM



W1QH & KB1ZAC

The W1QI NPOTA log with 133 contacts, and the CWT log with 39 contacts, were uploaded to LoTW on December 28, 2016.

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, TR23

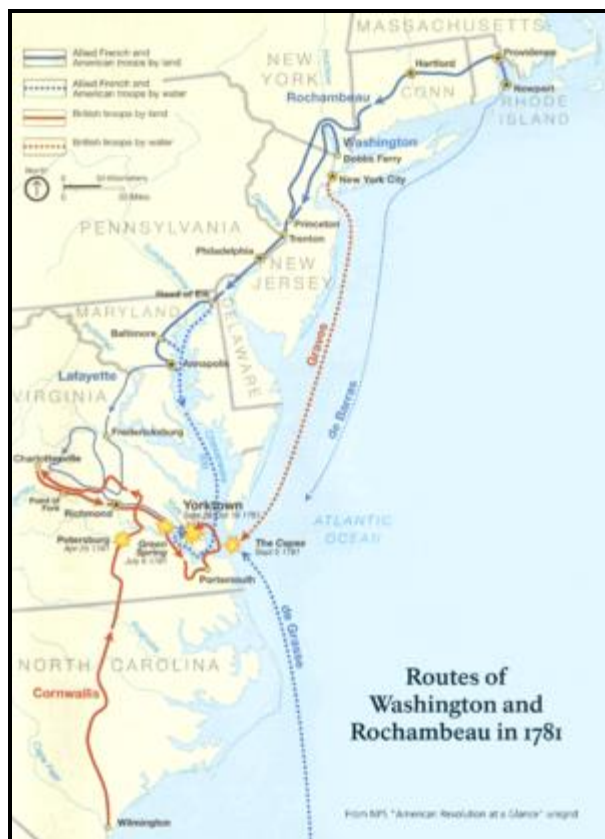
Background Source: Wikipedia.



[Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau](#)

In 1780, French King Louis XVI dispatched Rochambeau, 450 officers, and 5,300 men to aid Washington and the colonial forces. They arrived in Narragansett Bay off Newport, Rhode Island, on July 10, 1780.

In June 1781, Rochambeau prepared to march from Rhode Island to join the Continental Army near White Plains, New York. He divided his force into four regiments. The French forces marched across Connecticut to join George Washington on the Hudson River at Dobbs Ferry, New York. The advance party was led by Armand Louis de Gontaut or Duc de Lauzun. Lauzun's Legion marched ahead of the main army and stayed ten to fifteen miles to the south protecting the exposed flank from the British.[3]



On June 28, 1781, the first division resumed its march heading south on Artillery Road and Middlebury Road ([Route 64](#)) through the town center of Middlebury, then continuing along [Route 188](#) and Waterbury Road into the center of [Southbury](#). The French army continued west along Main Street South and River Road through Southbury, crossing the [Housatonic River](#) into the town of [Newtown](#) using a bridge built in by the Colonial troops in 1778 at Glen Road. The French army continued along Church Hill Road through the center of Newtown where they set up their tenth camp west of the town center. The officers stayed in [Caleb Baldwin's Tavern](#). Rochambeau reorganized his troops into two brigades in Newtown. The first division resumed its march on June 30, heading west on West Street and Castle Hill Road, then turning north along Reservoir Road and west

again on [Route 6](#). The Reservoir Road portion is well preserved and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. **The French army marched along Route 6 and Newtown Road into Danbury.** In Danbury, the French troops used West Wooster Street, Park Avenue, and Backus Avenue to reach the Ridgebury section of the town of [Ridgefield](#). The eleventh camp was set up on July 1 in Ridgebury near the Congregational Church.

The combined American and French armies marched through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, a route that allowed them to evade British troops. They reached Williamsburg, Virginia, in late September 1781.

On September 22, they combined with troops commanded by the Marquis de Lafayette.

The French royal fleet blocked the Chesapeake, preventing the British from either delivering reinforcements from New York or evacuating General Cornwallis' army by sea. A three-week siege of Yorktown led to Cornwallis' surrender on October 19, 1781.

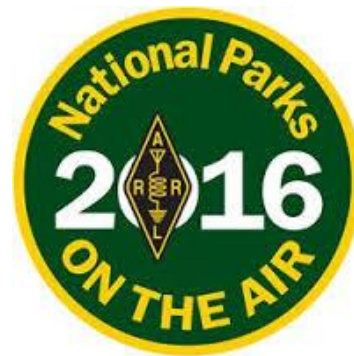


[Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown](#) by [John Trumbull](#), depicting Cornwallis surrendering to the French troops of Rochambeau (left) and American troops of Washington (right). Oil on canvas, 1820.

Washington's force then moved to defend northern posts. Rochambeau's force wintered in Williamsburg, then marched north in the summer of 1782 to Boston,

Massachusetts. The return for both armies was much different than the original march by welcoming them as they passed every town and city along their return route.

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 signed on March 30, 2009, included a provision designating the Washington–Rochambeau Revolutionary Route as a National Historic Trail.



CT COMPUTER FAIRS:

We're back at Platt Tech This Saturday 1/7/17

Enfield is back on Sunday 1/15/17

Meriden is back on Sunday 1/29/17

These shows are packed with deals

Show Hours 10-3:30

[CLICK HERE FOR DIRECTIONS](#)



The N1MM+ logger contest logging program coordinates outstanding CW operation with the K1EL WinKeyer USB for automated CW operation during regular CW operation and contests.

The current model is the WKUSB-SMT and is available at www.hamcrafters.com.

There's a free utility called WKscan that enables identifying the USB port that your WinKeyer 3USB is attached to:

<http://www.hamcrafters2.com/WKscan.html>

2017 CARA Ham Exam Schedule:



2017 Amateur radio exams sponsored by CARA at the Stony Hill FD:

- March 4
- June 10
- September 9
- December 2

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

Other upcoming exam sessions:

There will be VE sessions at the Washington CT firehouse on Bee Brook Road at 9 AM Saturday morning on the following dates:

January 7

April 8

July 8

October 14

Please feel free to direct questions to w8zy@hotmail.com

Walk-ins are welcome and we will be testing for all classes.

1/17/2017 & 2/14/17

Sponsor: Northwest Amt

Location: Litchfield Firehouse, Litchfield, CT

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Upcoming Contests:

ARRL RTTY Roundup: Jan, 7-8

NAQP CW: Jan. 14

NAQP SSB: Jan. 21

ARRL January VHF: Jan. 21-22

BARTG RTTY: Jan. 28-29

Winter Field Day: Jan. 28

Complete Contest calendar at:

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

From the December ARRL E-Letter: **SKYWARN Recognition Day Webinar**

The 18th SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) was held December 3, 2016 from 0000UTC to 2400UTC.

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that SKYWARN volunteers make to the NWS mission, the protection of life and property. Amateur radio operators comprise a large percentage of the SKYWARN volunteers across the country. The Amateur radio operators also provide vital communication between the NWS and emergency management if normal communications become inoperative. During the SKYWARN Special Event, operators visited NWS offices and contacted other radio operators across the world.

This year, in the week before SRD 2016, there was a webinar that covered the basics of the event, how to participate, and a few changes that are in store for 2016. The webinar was on November 29 at 8pm ET. Registration for the webinar was [here](#). As with all ARRL webinars it will be recorded and posted to the ARRL YouTube channel afterward.

Popular TV Show *HamRadioNow* Adds "EmComm Extra"

The popular TV show/YouTube show/Podcast [HamRadioNow](#) is adding presentations on emergency and disaster response communications

subjects. *HamRadioNow* is an online television show, webcast, podcast, and a [YouTube show](#) for and about Amateur Radio. The host is Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, a radio amateur and broadcaster for 50 years. The show is recorded, not live, and there's no set schedule. Viewers can watch the show at any time on the [Episode Pages](#) on its website, or on its YouTube Channel. Or listeners can download just the audio and listen on their phones with the [RSS feed](#). The format is primarily a talk show with a pair of hosts and a series of guests. Co-host is David Goldenberg, W0DHG, an Emergency Coordinator. (Pearce has an ARES/PIO background).

Goldenberg and Pearce have announced that they are planning to produce a show whenever an incident occurs that warrants discussion of lessons learned. "The goal is to provide an interesting, entertaining and useful look at emergency/disaster response activity in the context of Amateur Radio," said Pearce. "We do in-depth shows (usually an hour or more), and can go way beyond a cursory summary of an event or drill," he said. Spurring this new aspect of the show was Hurricane Matthew. "We did an off-the-cuff show as *HamRadioNow* Episode 270, then a more formal show (Episode 274) featuring Emergency Coordinators from Florida and South Carolina in the storm's aftermath," Pearce said. There have been emergency/disaster response themed shows before, collected and published on an "[EmComm Playlist](#)" on the YouTube Channel. -- Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, Cary, North Carolina, [HamRadioNow](#)

Pennsylvania QSO Party, 2016 - the shake-down

I traveled from my home in Oregon to operate in Pennsylvania with Randy George, N3ZK and Frank Bobro, N3FB, to test out my new go-box under multi-operator contest conditions. I was able to transport the go-box on board as an airline carry-on (with no fuss from airport security) easily fitting in the overhead compartment. For contesting in the

Pennsylvania QSO Party, I used a Heil headset, foot switch, and tablet computer. I was surprised that with running pileups for two hours straight, the heat dissipation from the go-box was sufficient and no additional fans were required. The [N1MM contesting software](#) allowed sending digital voice recordings through Signalink, which worked very well.

The only additional piece of equipment I needed was a small folding table to hold the go-box, my computer, and I still had ample room for food and drink!



The author, Paul Lusardi, N0VLR, participating in the 2016 Pennsylvania QSO Party (photo credit N3FB).

The WX1T Tower Project Story – Part 3

De Tom Coury, WX1T

The WX1T E-Z Way tower – cranked up for use with a Diamond Dual-bander installed.



Photo Credit: Tom Coury, WX1T

During the Winter months, I'll be working on all of the Hy-Gain TH-6DXX Tri-Band beam antenna elements. I've inspected them, created a list of parts needed to put it all back together, and ordered them from Hy-Gain, which is now owned by MFJ. They have arrived, and I'm now working on cleaning the tubing, replacing the plastic trap caps, plus all the hardware as required. I'm also using conductive compound when re-assembling the element tubing and traps.

Stay tuned...

FB on your progress with this project Tom, and many thanks for sharing the story with Capers readers.

- de W1QK



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"CW is an art of incremental improvements over a lifetime, getting ever closer to an ideal of perfection which is always moving and always presents a new horizon to strive for." Carlo Consoli

**Worked All Connecticut Counties
Award, WACC – Sponsored by CARA:**

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

Here's an excellent way of soldering
PL-259 connectors to RG8X coaxial
cable that your CAPERS Co-Editor,
W1QK, highly recommends:

<http://www.n3sh.org/PL259>

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.

73- Jay, N1NRP Dan, W1QK