



Capers

March - 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, March 10,
Stony Hill Fire Station***

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

- ***Presentation on the 501(c)3 tax filing status.***

- ***Initial presentation & discussion of the new CARA Constitution and Policies.***

Other agenda topics:

- ***CARA Hamfest update***
- ***Field day update and discuss when to have club members organize antennas, ropes, and coax storage bins***
- ***KD1YV- Webmaster update***
- ***New England QSO Party – operating from W1AW***
- ***Short coffee break***
- ***Harlan - power point presentation on ferrite chokes and baluns***

President's Message - de AB1WV



Photo Credit: Greg Davis, KB1YHW

All,

Well, I have been busy with some family items this last month. My wife will be undergoing major surgery on Thursday, the 9th of March, so I will not be able to attend the meeting on the 10th.

Jay will of course lead the meeting and the initial presentation of the new constitution and policies. We will have a discussion and vote in the April meeting, so all are encouraged to attend.

One more reminder to all that annual dues are, well, past due. As of the March meeting, only those members who are current on dues will be eligible to vote on business. If you haven't already, let's get those payments in this meeting to our new Treasurer, Tom Coury, WX1T. We have a lot of important business coming up to consider and vote on, and your input is important.

If not before, I should see you all at the April meeting.

73

Marcus
AB1WV

Vice-President's Message - de N1NRP



Photo Credit: Greg Davis, KB1YHW

Greetings CARA members:

I can't believe how quickly time is going by. Spring is just around the corner. Thanks to all who attended February's meeting and paid their annual dues.

I'd also like to remind all members to renew their membership by March to continue receiving the monthly CARA Capers and be a part of the club's activities including financially supporting our repeaters and other club initiatives.

At this month's meeting, our guest speaker, Mrs. Cheryl Reedy, will explain the process for CARA to apply for 501(C)3 status as a non-profit organization. Therefore, I urge members to attend this important meeting. Mrs. Reedy was the former First Selectman of New Fairfield, and serves on the New Fairfield Board of Finance.

On Sunday, February 26 we held our first 6-meter "Rag Chew Net" on 50.200 MHz. USB simultaneously with the CARA 10-meter net on 28.990 MHz. USB, which is in the Technician Class portion of the band. It was a fun evening. I want to thank all those who checked in.

I realized I didn't have an antenna for 6M, so I thought about buying a dipole - but it wouldn't arrive in time. So, I thought I'd build

one, but didn't have the supplies - or maybe that's just an excuse for my laziness.

Harlan, W1QH, was nice enough to loan me his 6 Meter Squalo, which he and Oscar, KO1F built. I bought 50 feet of coax at RADIOSHACK, and had the antenna flying high in no time. I used the antenna analyzer that I borrowed from George, N1GS, which showed an SWR of 1:1. You can't get any better than that - and it performed well too.

Attempting to run two nets at the same time on two different bands would be difficult, so Marlon, KC1EHW, did a fine Job running the six-meter net, while I was NCS for the 10-meter net.

See you all at the meeting
73 -Jay Albano, N1NRP

February 10 CARA Meeting Minutes De N1GSA

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Marcus Swearingen President.

The Constitution and Policies and Procedures will be published to the membership with discussion to follow at the next meeting. Meeting Minutes from January was accepted as read.

Balance in the Treasury as of Feb. 9, 2017 is \$6831.07

Further upcoming expenses include the \$1000 for the Repeater Committee, March the Hamfest payment of \$35, Liability Insurance of \$200, NEQP Sponsored Plaque \$50, Secretary of State \$50.

Nominations for Treasurer were opened to the floor with none being heard. A vote was called

for and unanimous vote for Tom Coury, the nominee proposed by the Nominating Committee, was confirmed.

Jim Ritterbusch will be the new webmaster to update our website.

John Morelli spoke briefly regarding the 501(C)3 advantages. This is an advantage for receiving tax free donations from both private and corporate entities. A motion was made and seconded to proceed with this change. Motion and second to table this pending further information. This passed. John will speak to the person who helped with a local Fire Dept. in acquiring this designation.

The fourth Friday is still reserved here at the Firehouse. The planning meetings were brought up to be reinstated as a regular event. All members are welcome to be included in the conversations. While no official business can be transacted at this meeting, it is beneficial to discuss upcoming events.

Capers is always in need of information, pictures, and events.

John, W1JGM, was appointed as Chairman for the Hamfest. The date is proposed for August 27 with a payment of \$200 due to Newtown Town Hall, in March, to reserve our date. Flyers, notifications, etc. will be coming soon. Motion made seconded and discussed with a vote following which passed.

Repeater Committee reported on the linking plans for our machines. These were published in the last CAPERS. The machine has many, many capabilities that we have never used. It may be used in both stand alone and linked systems. Most of these can be accessed by computer and changed at any time. We now have these capabilities. Gregory brought a few parts to show what exactly these components are.

New Milford Amateur Radio Association will be holding a Technician Licensing class starting in March.

Updated pamphlets are needed to be present at OUR licensing events to try to increase membership.

Motion made and seconded to change the date of the April meeting from the 14th to the 7th if the room is available due to Good Friday.

Vote called and passed.

Possibility of changing the day of the meeting from the 2nd and 4th Friday to Tuesdays was brought up. Discussion followed. Thoughts and comments were asked for.

Any other business was called for. None being heard, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Gary Adams -Secretary

Member Thoughts & Opinions:

At last month's CARA meeting, there was some talk about possibly changing the meeting night.

Personally, I believe it should remain. I remember asking that question years ago, and was reminded that a Friday was better day because the week nights are school nights. It is important to get younger hams into the club, and not interfere with their school studies or school activities.

If we have a Friday meeting that is on, or very close to a holiday, then, by all means, we should change the meeting to a different Friday, to allow members to go away, if they wish, for that long weekend. As long as we

notify the membership for two months in advance, it should not pose a problem

As you heard, I proposed changing the April 14th Meeting to Friday 7th , because of the observance of Good Friday and many of the a Religious observances that will be taking place.

A Friday night is the safer bet for CARA club meetings. I hope we will keep it as is.

Thanks for reading.
Dave Coelho, WA1JGA

CARA REPEATER COMMITTEE

Re: Repeater Committee 20 Feb. 2017
Status Report

CARA Repeater Committee Members 2017

KB1YHW chair, W1QK trustee, AB1WV CARA president-ex officio, N1NRP, W1JGM, W1SOP, WX1T. CARA members interested in serving, please contact the chair.

CARA Linked 2m Meter / Motorola Upgrade Project Report:

CARA 2m repeater service was transferred to the Yaesu DR-1x repeater on Spruce Mountain at 2:30pm Saturday 18 Feb 2017.

Linked repeater service into the NA1RA & KB1AEV ARES networks is temporarily unavailable.

The Motorola Linked repeater system will require downtime off the air while certain receive audio system diagnostics are performed.

March 5 Update – de N1NRP:

Jeff Dwyer, N1AKN, assisted the CARA repeater committee on March 4 in trouble shooting issues with our Motorola MSF-5000 2-meter repeater.

The repeater checked out OK - but we discovered an issue with the antenna, which appears to be intermittent with a possible loose connection.

Our next step is to get to the top of the tower and do a visual check on the antenna and its connections.

We're also thinking of putting a single band 2- meter repeater antenna in its place - then further monitoring of the repeater will resume before installing it in its permanent home on Spruce Mountain. Many thanks Jeff, for your assistance.



Jeff - N1AKN



Photo Credits: N1NRP
(L-R) N1AKN, W1JGM, KB1YHW

CARA's New Treasurer – WX1T de W1QK & WX1T

At the February 10 CARA meeting, a vote was taken to replace our Treasurer. Tom Coury, WX1T was nominated at the January meeting. There were no additional nominations, and Tom was elected unanimously as our new club Treasurer.

Bill, W1AFX served as CARA treasurer for 12 years. He holds an Extra class license and has been a member of the club since 1973.

Bill is also active with the Brookfield ARES group and is the trustee for their KX1BK station, located at the Brookfield PD.

Bill has served on the CARA Repeater committee many years ago, when the repeater was located in New Fairfield on Gillotti Road and signed the WR1ADN callsign.

Thanks Bill, for your many contributions to CARA, and congratulations Tom, for being elected to the Treasurer position on the CARA Executive Board.



Photo credit: KB1YHW
(L-R): WX1T & W1AFX

Tom Coury, WX1T is a resident of New Fairfield and has been licensed for 27 years.

Tom was born in Kankakee Illinois and raised in New Jersey. In 1971 (two weeks after graduating from Bergen Catholic High

School), he moved to Cheshire CT. In 1973, Tom relocated to Moline, Illinois, and was employed at the John Deere Plow and Planter works as a casting grinder in the cast iron foundry. In 1979, Tom moved back to Connecticut where he took a job as an Electronic Technician at Consolidated Controls Corporation (now DRS Technologies) on South Street in Danbury. Now semi-retired after 35 years of service he went back to DRS where he works part time as a Test Engineer in their Naval Nuclear Instrumentation and Control Group. Tom received his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Fairfield University in 1995.

He earned his Novice license back in 1990 and was assigned the call KA1WDL. He then tested for his General and Advanced tickets after which he was assigned the call KD1CX. In 1991, he then tested for and received his Amateur Extra ticket and was assigned the call WX1T.

In November of last year, he participated for the first time in the Connecticut Phone Net. A few months later Tom became a net control station, and shortly thereafter, was appointed as the Connecticut Phone Net Manager.

The Connecticut Phone Net meets Monday through Saturday at 6:00 pm local time on 75 meters (3.973 MHz, SSB), plus every Sunday morning at 10:00 am local time on 75 meters (3.965 MHz, SSB). The Connecticut Phone Net is a "section level" traffic net operating as part of the ARRL National Traffic System. Please note that, although the Connecticut Phone Net is a traffic net, **ALL** amateurs are welcome!

In May 2015, Tom joined the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA). In January 2016, he became a net controller for the CARA Net, which meets each Sunday evening at 7:30 pm local time on 2 meters (147.300 MHz, PL 100 Hz). Tom's also a member of the CARA Repeater Committee and has been active with many club activities including the W1QI repeater site painting project, Field Day, and the New Fairfield Day Special Events station, N1F. Tom is also a

member of the NARA club, the YCCC and the ARRL.

Tom has been busy assembling a complete Kenwood station consisting of the following components:

Kenwood T-599 Transmitter and R-599 Receiver (the infamous "Kenwood Twins")
Kenwood S-599 Speaker (for the Twins)
Kenwood TS-440S HF Transceiver
Kenwood TS-711A 2 Meter Transceiver
Kenwood TS-811A 70 cm Transceiver
Kenwood TS-940 HF Transceiver
Kenwood TL-922 1500 Watt Linear Amplifier
Kenwood PS-50 Power Supply
Kenwood SP-430 External Speaker
Heil Pro Set Elite Headset
Bird 43 Wattmeter
SignalLink USB Digital Communications Interface
MFJ-564B Paddle
MFJ-407D Deluxe Electronic Keyer
Hamcrafters WinKeyer USB Keyer

Recently, Tom acquired an ICOM-746 transceiver (for shame) for its 6 meter capabilities so he can participate in the Sunday night CARA 6-meter net.

Last year Tom erected an EZ-Way RBS-40 tower that currently holds his Jetstream JTB3 2m/70cm antenna. This year, Tom is planning to erect a Hy-Gain TH-6 tri-band beam antenna on the tower (and maybe some other antennas).



ARES News & Upcoming events:

Connecticut ARES Net – Area 5

Connecticut ARES Region 5 conducts a weekly net each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

NARA analog repeaters for this net:

New Milford: 146.730 MHz -600 kHz PL 192.8 Hz

Washington: 441.850 MHz +5 MHz PL 77 Hz

Woodbury: 444.800 +5 MHz PL 192.8 Hz

Warren: 53.970 MHz –1 MHz PL 110.9 Hz

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



Reminder: Next CARA meeting has been rescheduled to April 7 instead of April 14 (Good Friday).

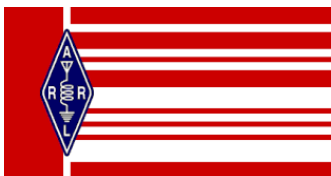
Upcoming Hamfests & Other Events:

March 19: Southington Hamfest
Southington High School

<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

The North East Weak Signal Group 2 Meter Net:
Every Thursday at 8:30 PM local
144.250 MHz W1COT, WZ1V or K1PXE
Net Control

ARRL News:



SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB007
ARLB007 FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band

ZCZC AG07
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 7 ARLB007

From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT February 21, 2017
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB007
ARLB007 FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band

The FCC has invited comments on the ARRL's January 12 Petition for Rule Making to allocate a new, contiguous secondary band at 5 MHz to the Amateur Service. The League also asked the Commission to keep four of the current five 60-meter channels – one would be within the new band – as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP effective radiated power (ERP) limit. The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The FCC has designated the League's Petition as RM-11785 and put it on public notice.

Comments are due Monday, March 20. ARRL plans to file comments in support of its petition.

The proposed ARRL action would implement a portion of the Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) that provided for a secondary international allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz to the Amateur Service; that band includes 5,358.5 KHz, one of the existing 5 MHz channels in the US. The FCC has not yet acted to implement other portions of the WRC-15 Final Acts.

"Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly and more capably conduct those communications [and preparedness exercises], before the next hurricane season in the summer of 2017," ARRL said in its petition.

The League said that 14 years of Amateur Radio experience using the five discrete 5-MHz channels have shown that hams can get along well with primary users at 5 MHz, while complying with the regulations established for their use. "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA is aware of a single

**Amateur Radi
Control Lo
ime - 147.300M**

reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date," ARRL said in its petition. NTIA – the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which regulates federal spectrum – initially proposed the five channels for Amateur Radio use. In recent years, Amateur Radio has cooperated with federal users such as FEMA in conducting communication interoperability exercises.

The League said in its petition that while the Amateur Radio community is grateful to the FCC and NTIA for providing some access to the 5-MHz band, "the five channels are, simply stated, completely inadequate to accommodate the emergency preparedness needs of the Amateur Service in this HF frequency range," ARRL said. Access even to the tiny 15-kHz wide band adopted at WRC-15 would "radically improve the current, very limited capacity of the Amateur Service in the United States to address emergencies and disaster relief," ARRL said.

The WRC-15 Final Acts stipulated a power limit of 15 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP), which the League said "completely defeats the entire premise for the allocation in the first place."

ARRL said the FCC should permit a power level of 100 W PEP ERP, assuming use of a 0 dBd gain antenna, in the contiguous 60-meter band. "To impose the power limit adopted at WRC-15 for the contiguous band would render the band unsuitable for emergency and public service communications," the League said.

The ITU Radio Regulations permit assignments at variance with the International Table of Allocations, provided a non-interference condition is attached.

Interested parties may comment on RM-11785 using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at, <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.

NNNN
/EX

From the ARRL Contest Update:

February 22, 2017

Editor: [Brian Moran, N9ADG](#)

WORD TO THE WISE

DMR: Digital Mobile Radio

A [set of standards for digital voice and data communication](#) via radio and published by ETSI for professional (commercial) mobile radio users. Following an age-old tradition, commercial UHF and VHF DMR gear has been and continues to be repurposed for the amateur bands. As interest has grown, amateur-specific gear has become available. DMR appears to be quickly growing, and is attracting the attention of many newer amateurs because of its novelty, rapid innovation in hardware and services, utility of various [networks](#) and system operators, and inexpensive entry level radios. For experimenters, DMR building blocks (e.g. encoder/decoder modules, software, [digital radios](#)) are [available](#) from a number of sources and are being combined with inexpensive computing hardware. There are even [DMR hotspots in a USB form factor](#).

OPERATING TIP

Calling CQ for a State QSO Party

QSO Parties are normally based upon stations inside the state working stations inside and outside the state, and stations outside the state working in-state stations only. Calling CQ is different for each group. For example, a CQ message sent by a station inside the state of Illinois for the Illinois QSO Party would go something like this: "CQ ILQP DE KX9XXX." Stations outside of Illinois are looking for any stations inside of Illinois, so they'd use

“CQ IL DE W7DX.” In today’s licensing regime, any prefix can be located practically anywhere, and don’t forget about potential reciprocal operation: In another example, during [2016’s Washington State Salmon Run](#), RN6LHF/W7 was located inside Washington state, looking for Washington counties and non-Washington stations.

TECHNICAL TOPICS AND INFORMATION

When Microsoft *Windows* boots, it interrogates serial ports connected to your system to look for peripherals like mice. Unfortunately, this may have the side effect of switching some lines, such as DTR, that are connected to radios or other devices. There were [various techniques](#) in previous *Windows* versions to prevent this, but those techniques don’t work with *Windows* 10. However, if you’re using FTDI-based USB to Serial port hardware, Tom, VA2FSQ, suggests: “If you open the device manager in Microsoft *Windows* and double-click on the serial port, you can select Port Settings, and then Advanced. In this page, there are two options. One is ‘Serial Enumerator’ which should **not** be checked, and the other is ‘Disable modem ctrl at startup’ which should be checked. This solves the issue at least for the FTDI chipset.” (Tom, VA2FSQ, via Elecraft mailing list)

The Exchange

Much of what makes a radio contest a contest is the shared goal of exchanging information as quickly and efficiently as possible with other stations. Contest sponsors usually provide an example of a successful contact, which involves the exchange. The sending of the exchange is NOT a time to stand out from the pack. For maximum success, send the

exchange that the contest sponsors suggest, and what other stations are sending. Nothing more, nothing less. If you’re sending different information than other stations, please make sure your exchange is correct. It’s okay to ask someone if your exchange is appropriate if you’re unfamiliar with the exchange. Stations that you work want your exchange to be correct, too.

Most people use contest logging software, so the exchange formats for CW and RTTY contests are determined by the logger’s message macros. Using the default or contest-specific macros supplied by your logging program may not be enough – you can’t always assume that the version of the logging program you’re using has the messages right, either!

CT SM Message:

March, 2016

No CT SM Message available.

CARA Memories – Issue #1

de Dave Coelho, WA1JGA (WN1JGA)



Photo Credit: KB1YHW

Dan Fegley and I go in the “way back machine”. But that is for another story, at another time.

Dan asked me to share old time photos and stories about CARA and some great former CARA members. So, let’s call this CARA Memories Issue #1.

I would like to share some of my memories of when I first started into this great hobby of ours.

I attended a Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA) meeting, even before I received my Novice license. I was 15 years old and would get rides to club meetings with family, or CARA members, kind enough to take me.

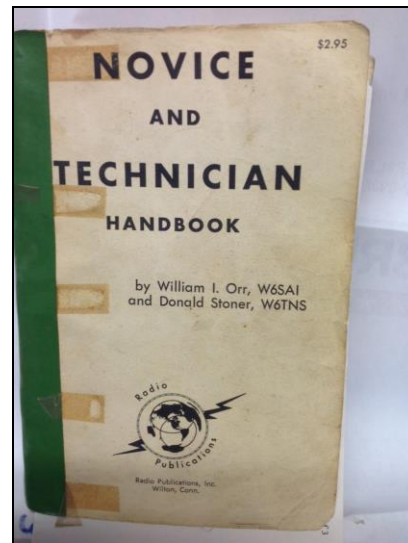
Yes, even back then, they were on the second Friday of the month. As some of the old timers from CARA would often say, the meetings were held on Fridays, so as not to interfere with younger members who were in school, etc.

They were pretty smart about that, and that thinking has served our club well!

Meetings in 1967 and 1968 were held at the old Sperry Rail HQ. Automation Industries at 44 Shelter Rock Road, in the employee’s cafeteria area.

DATE	TIME	CALL	FREQ	MODE	CLASS	OTHER DATA	NAME	1	2
3/1/68									
16:00	X	W1ADW	3735	579	579	3735 A1 15	16:40 First QSO	Joe Foskey	X
17:40	W1EID	X	3762	579	579	3765	18:00	Steve Smith	X
19:00	C.G.	W1WIC	3769	579	579	3765	19:50	W1WIC, Tony	X
19:50	C.G.	X						John Arnold W1EIT	X
20:40	C.G.	X							
21:00	C.G.	X							
17:40	X	W1EIP	3735	579	579	3735	19:20	Ray Smith	X
18:30	W1EIH	X	3765	579	579	3765	19:10	Thomas Gable	X
21:00	W1EIP	X	3762	579	579	3765	21:30		
22:30	C.G.	X							
3/2/68									
15:20	C.G.	X							
17:40	X	W1EIP	3735	579	579	3735			
18:30	W1EIH	X	3765	579	579	3765			
21:00	W1EIP	X	3762	579	579	3765			
22:30	C.G.	X							
3/2/68									
15:20	C.G.	X					16:10		
17:40	C.G.	K2RKS	3735	579	579	3735	17:40	F.B.R. Hays Schmitt - Hyde County	X
18:50	W1EIP	X	3735	579	579	3735	19:00	W1EIP, W1EIP	X
19:20	C.G.	X					20:00		
20:30	W1EIP	X	3735	579	579	3735	20:30	Steve Stoner	X
21:30	C.G.	X					21:35		
22:00	X	W1EIP	3762	579	579	3765	00:00		
22:00	C.G.	X					21:25		
21:00	C.G.	X	3765	579	579	3765	22:30	Hatman, N.Y.	X
21:00	W1EIP	X	3765	579	579	3765	22:30	Paul	X
22:00	C.G.	X					22:35		
22:00	C.G.	X					22:40		
22:00	C.G.	W1EIP	3735	579	579	3735	23:15	Rescue, N.S.	X
23:00	C.G.	X					23:00	Andy	X

All Photo Credits: WA1JGA
First page of my Novice paper logbook.



A great source of technical information.

I remember attending one of the meetings when our club had a mid-winter mini hamfest in 1967. No big vendors, just a time for members to buy, sell, or swap radios, parts, etc. It was at that meeting when I bought my first transmitter.



My first 5-watt crystal controlled transmitter – homebrew of course. Built by WA1FSU, now N1AOB

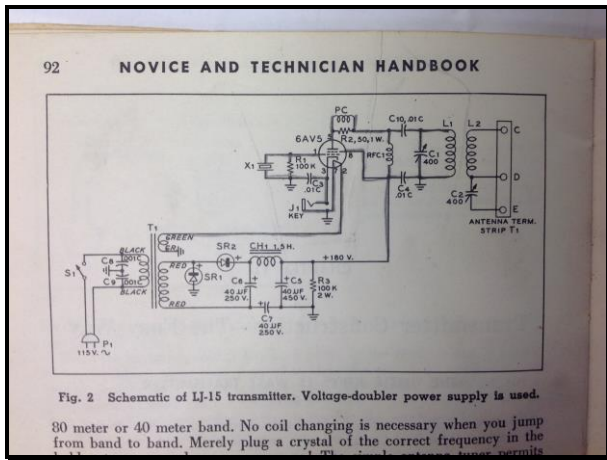


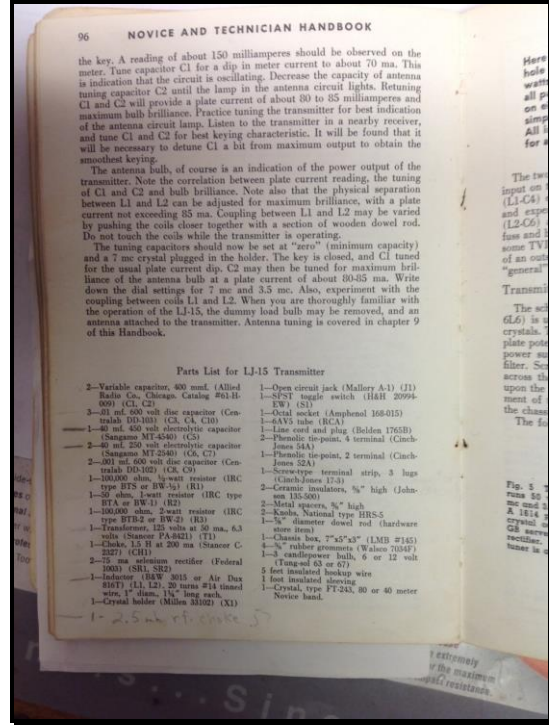
Fig. 2 Schematic of LJ-15 transmitter. Voltage-doubler power supply is used.

80 meter or 40 meter band. No coil changing is necessary when you jump from band to band. Merely plug a crystal of the correct frequency in the holder. Power permits

Schematic of my first transmitter.

The XMTR was homebrewed by Steve Stone, formerly WA1FSO, now N1AOB. He had a \$10.00 price tag on it, but he sold it to me for \$5.00. It was a 5-watt transmitter, crystal controlled, for 80 or 40 meters. Well - I kept that rig in my

basement until my Novice license arrived on March 1, 1968. My antenna was a long wire antenna that I used for shortwave listening. That single conductor that was also the feedline as well. I just bent over the 20 AWG single wire, and put it into the SO-239 connector on the rig, and I was on the air as WN1JGA !



Transmitter parts list.

My first contact was with Joe Feeley, W1ADW. Joe was my Elmer, and I learned CW from him, and took my Novice exam in his radio room at his home at 44 Stone St., Danbury. Joe was a former WWII Navy radio man. He was one of the founders of CARA. He is also mentioned in the ARRL book: ARRL- THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS. More about Joe in a future CAPERS issue.

Oh, I forgot to mention, to tune up the rig, you simply had to hold up a small neon lamp next to the tuning coil, and tune for maximum brilliance!!!!



Tuning for maximum smoke (uum...brightness) using a neon bulb



My first shortwave receiver – a Hallicrafters S-53, later replaced by a Hammarlund

Great memories... to be continued with you all, in another issue of CARA CAPERS!

Dave Coelho
WA1JGA - (formerly WN1JGA!)

Thanks for sharing Dave, we look forward to the next installment – de W1QK.

Member and Station News:

Your story could go here in the next Issue of CARA Capers!

Upcoming Contests:

CWT: March 8, 15, 22, 29

March 11: Idaho QSO Party

March 12: Wisconsin QSO Party

March 18-19: BARTG RTTY

March 24-26: CQWW WPX SSB

May 6-7: New England QSO Party

Complete Contest calendar at:

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

2017 CARA Ham Exam Schedule:



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

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 VE exam sessions:

Washington CT firehouse on Bee Brook Road at 9 AM Saturday morning on the following dates:

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.

Sponsor: Northwest Amt

Location: Litchfield Firehouse, Litchfield, CT

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

March 14, April 11, May 5



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

Check out www.cwops.org

“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

From: 365 Days of Amazing Trivia!

2017 Page-A-Day Calendar Friday,
January 27, 2017

During the early days of radio, what would it have meant if a ship sent out the message “CQD”?

It was a general distress call; “CQ” was a call to all stations and the “D” was for “distress.” A more common signal with the same meaning later developed: “SOS.” When the Titanic needed to call for help, its radio officer tried “CQD” multiple times before sending out an “SOS.”

Homebrew Keyer Paddles de W1QK

Last month’s CARA Capers included some detailed information about how the K1EL Winkeyer was designed and can be integrated into your station for CW operation. In this issue, I’ll explain some options for homebrew CW paddles.

There are many ideas that can be researched on-line on how to fabricate a home-brew keyer paddle as an alternative to buying a Bencher BY-1 paddle, for those want to join in the CW fun.

Spring cleaning – recycling wire.

What Exactly Does THHN Mean?

THHN is a name given that means Thermoplastic, High Heat, Nylon coated...and while that may not matter to you when scrapping, it is still a cool thing to be able to know. It has to do with what temperatures that the wire is resistant to, because don’t forget that all wire that has electricity running through it has a level of heat.

Our local metal scrap recycler is Novella’s on Thorpe St. in Danbury:

https://iscrapapp.com/yards/us-connecticut-danbury-novellas-scrap-yard/?view_pricing=1

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

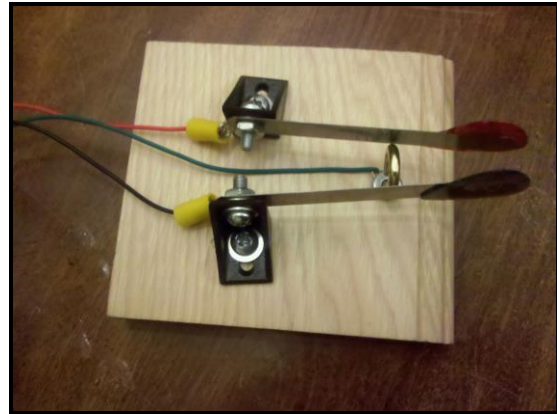
<http://www.cararadioclub.org/activities>

The Bencher BY-1 is sold by HRO for \$154.95. Keep your eyes open at the next hamfest, as you may find one in very good condition at a reasonable price – like NG1R did. Or – negotiate with the seller, which is half the fun of attending hamfests, isn't it?



Bencher Model BY-1

This homebrew paddle is made from some metal strips which appear to be a hack saw blade, two plastic brackets, guitar picks, and some common hardware attached to a piece of wooden baseboard.



MFJ makes a compact and relatively inexpensive paddle. Their model MFJ-561 is available from HRO for \$24.95.

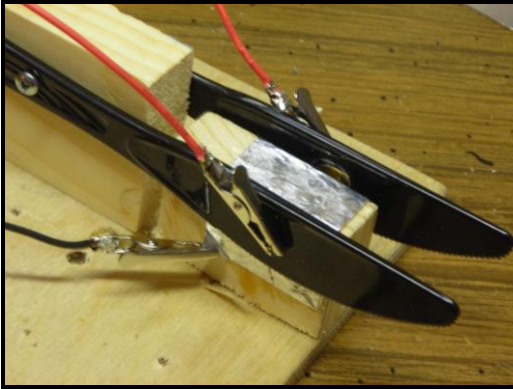


MFJ Model 561



Homebrew Keyer Paddle

However, there are several paddles, which can be made with some common materials purchased at your favorite home improvement store or recovered from your junk box. Every ham needs a treasure-trove of “stuff” that’s available to home brew something, since that’s our tradition, of course.

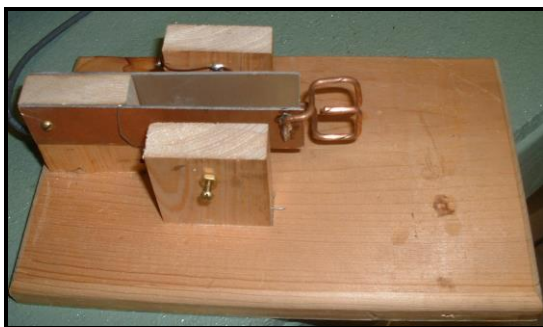


Plastic knives & some wood blocks

What could be simpler than two plastic knives attached to some wood blocks. A strip of foil (or even a strip from a beverage can) could be fashioned. This idea is so simple that there are no adjustments required – just select that “prime position” to attach the knives to the block.

However, I’d use machine screws and ring terminals instead of the alligator clips and some CAT5 Ethernet cable to connect a 3.5 mm stereo plug, which attaches to your keyer.

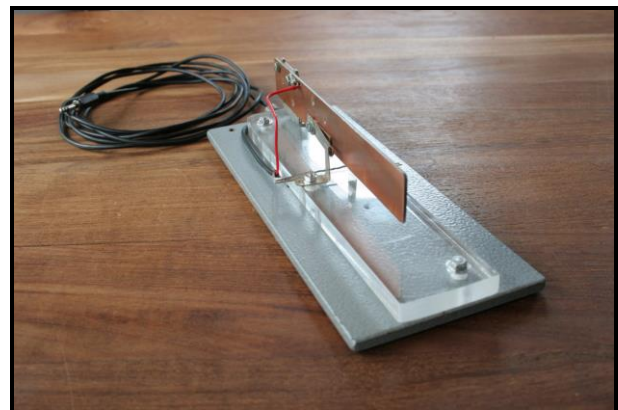
Two sections of PC board cut to the proper sizes with some #8 solid wire bent up for the handles and attached to a wood block will also work.



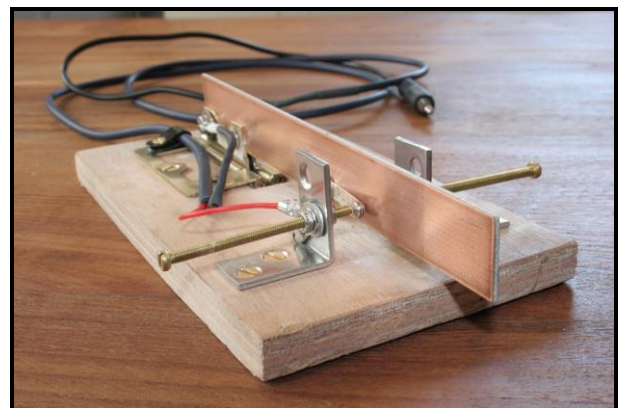
Wood block & solid wire



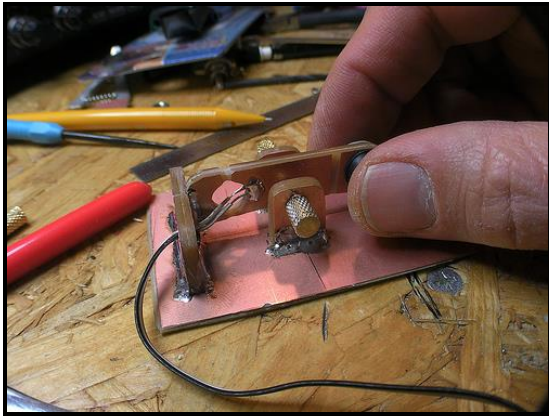
It doesn't get much easier than this design.



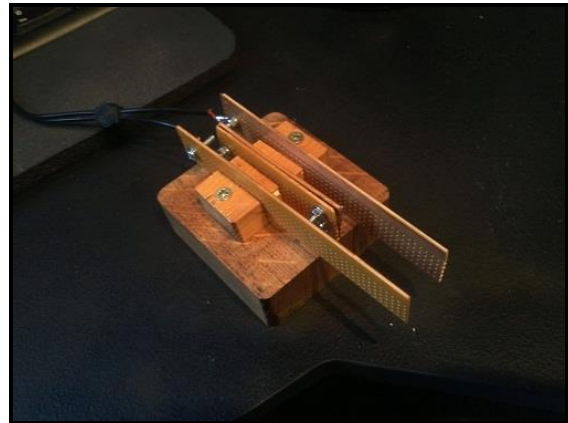
In keeping with the PC board material idea, this homebrew paddle consists of some plastic blocks, an aluminum base to add to weight and some machine screws.



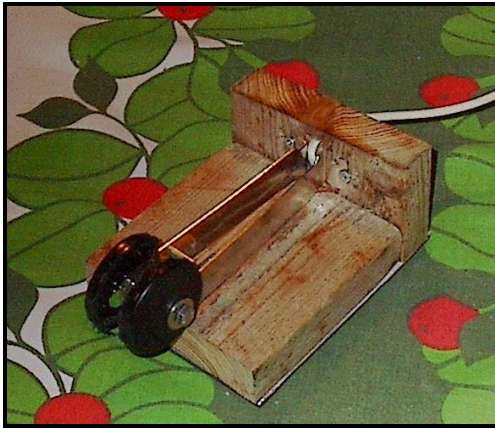
I’d advise using something substantial for your homebrew keyer paddle base. A nice piece of ¾ inch plywood will do the job nicely.



A generous use of PC board material was soldered together to construct this homebrew paddle.



Perf board, wood blocks, and machine hardware.



Some copper strips and a few blocks of wood for this one.



A single hardwood block and some brass machine hardware will also work FB!



Wood blocks, some machine hardware, and a hack saw blade is all you need.

The addition of an aluminum or steel plate for a base will keep your homebrew keyer paddle where you want it.

I also use drawer liner as an additional "anti-skid" material under my paddles to keep them in place when I'm operating.

<http://www.homedepot.com/p/17-in-Wide-Drawer-Liners-for-Tool-Chests-and-Cabinet-Drawers-DRLINERS-3/204087389>

Some CW Trivia:

At the third international radiotelegraph conference in 1912, it was agreed that ships would listen for distress signals on a wavelength of 600 meters. This is a frequency of about 500 kilohertz. (The calling and distress frequency for the Great Lakes was 410 kilohertz.) International law required each ship to cease transmitting for three minutes at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour. During this interval, they were required to listen for distress calls. At this conference, the recent *Titanic* disaster was fresh on the minds of the delegates, particularly the British. Consequently, many advances were made concerning the cooperative use of wireless for safety at sea.

It is interesting that the use of "CQ" as a general call was displaced by "QST" in 1911. Radio amateurs, or hams as they are more commonly called, continue to use both. "CQ" is used as "calling any station" and "QST" is used as "calling all stations"

Wireless and radio literature of the early and mid-20th century is rich in documenting the use of maritime distress signals. Only the surface of the subject is covered here. Yet, perhaps next time a reference to "SOS" is seen, there will be a little more appreciation of its lineage.

Source: <http://www.telegraph-office.com/pages/arc2-2.html>

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