



# Capers

## December - 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**  
Editor: Dan Fegley, W1QK

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***Next CARA Meeting: Friday, December 8,  
Stony Hill Fire Station***

***Annual Holiday Gathering & Pot Luck***

*Doors open at 7:30 for socializing and conversation.  
Short business meeting begins at 8:00 p.m.*

***Agenda:***

- ***Pledge of Allegiance***
- ***Reading of Minutes***
- ***Treasurer's Report***
- ***Old Business***
- ***New Business***
- ***PARTY TIME including "Bring a Gift –  
Receive a Gift"***

***Happy  
Holidays!***

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



Photo Credit: W1QK

Hello All,

Well, here we are again. Another month gone, and Christmas is upon us.

I hope all of you are enjoying another season of family and friends this year.

Just a quick reminder that the December meeting is the annual holiday potluck.

The food is always great, and the fellowship even better.

There will be a gift exchange. If you want to participate just bring a gift. I'm sure there must be a nice little ham radio stocking stuffer around that you can offer. Who knows what you might get in return?

Work on the repeaters continues. We are really close. We tried re-deploying the Motorola, but there are some issues with muddled audio that hopefully just needs a bit of adjustment.

Thanks for making this a great year everyone; and here is looking forward to a great 2018.

--... ..--  
Marcus  
AB1WV



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



Hello CARA members and friends of CARA:

Now we are in the month of December. I'm looking forward seeing all of you at The Hearth Restaurant in Brookfield at 6PM on Tuesday, December 5th. We should have a wonderful sit-down holiday dinner - with so many good dishes to choose from at affordable prices (Dutch Treat). Please RSVP to me to advise me if you're planning to attend, so we can plan accordingly.

Then, our CARA December meeting is coming up on Friday, December 8th - with the traditional Pot Lock Holiday Gathering.

Remember, we'll be continuing the tradition of the "Bring a gift – Receive a gift", which is always lots of fun to end the year with all of you; great members and my wonderful friends of CARA. Try to keep it around \$15.

2018 promises to be a good year with lots of club events, so this is the time for everyone to get involved.

Some programs and activities were suggested and explained by one of our three Directors, Dan-W1QK, with a PowerPoint at the November meeting.

He outlined a year-long strategy for continuing the events that we've traditionally done, and left open additional speakers, programs and activities for the membership to decide.

He also challenged us to form a "CARA Program and Activities Committee" to accomplish this. Won't you consider becoming more involved with your club, to ensure that these plans become a reality?

It's not too early to start planning for Field Day. And - as announced at the September Planning meeting and the November General Meeting, we'll be looking for some "new blood" to lead the CARA Field Day effort next year. Dan - W1QK, Roger-NG1R, and Harlan-W1QH, and several others have done a great job in organizing FD for the past three years. Now, it's time for some other club members to step up to the plate and take over. Don't worry, you'll do fine - since you'll have the entire club backing you up.

Thanks go to John-W1JGM, for spearheading our very successful Hamfest. We certainly increased the treasury as a result of this successful event. I'm sure John would like to have more help as needed. Of course, you'll have help from other members.

This Spring, we'll be planning another Fox Hunt, plus an attenuator building event to add to the tape measure Yagi's you built.

In 2018, the events will keep going if all of you get involved.

It's your club, and only you can make it happen.

Merry Christmas And Happy New year!

73, Jay-N1NRP

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**November 10 - CARA Meeting Minutes**  
de N1GSA

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Marcus Swearingen at 8:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Round Table Introductions were given. 13 Members & Guests were present. Minutes of the last meeting were given and was accepted with one correction. Tom gave the Treasurers Report which ended with a Nov. 10 balance of \$6386.80.

John gave an update on the Repeater system. It has checked out as running well at this time. He suggested that it be returned to the Firehouse location and turned on for a week, at least, to check out under normal conditions. The Link will announce activation and deactivation, as well as the courtesy tone activated. It will link and unlink on remote command.

Dan has suggested some points for the club to work on for upcoming meetings.

The Banner appropriation that the City of Danbury has offered to pay for. He presented a design for approval.

After some additional modification, it will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for final approval.

The Foxhunt Certificates for the upcoming event were presented for acceptance. Motion was made, seconded and passed to make this a Club Sanctioned event.

Dan suggested that we increase our efforts to come up with various programs for our meeting nights. He had tried to organize some speakers for tonight's meeting but due to other commitments, those that were approached were not able to attend. The annual card sort has been setup and will be our January meeting.

The March DIY meeting was suggested.

Field Day preparations should also be started in March.

April meeting could be a “Doctor is In” night. Joel Hallas could be invited as a speaker.

May could be a Field Day review along with a refresher on N1MM+ logging software. Nominations for elections, IOTA event planning, etc.

June should be a finalization of Field Day Planning. It may be worthwhile for anyone interested in Chairing this year’s Field Day to start planning now.

August should finalize Hamfest planning as well as start of New Fairfield Day planning. ARES and emergency communications could also be discussed.

October could be a joint meeting with CARA and YCCC as preparations for contest season.

Dan’s suggestions will be put on the reflector as well as printed in the upcoming Capers for all to think about and work on.

He was thanked for his effort and time invested for this presentation and suggestions.

Charlie brought up about the possibility of a Tax-Exempt Certification. As we are now a 501c3 organization it could be much easier to achieve. We should look

further into receiving donations utilizing our 501c3 status.

We also need to investigate storage and utilization of equipment gained with this.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. We will only have necessary business transacted.

Tom WX1T was celebrating a birthday, and was presented a Birthday Cake.

Business Meeting Adjourned at 9:10  
Marcus gave a presentation from Ward Silver, N0AX, on Impedance Matching for antennas and coax.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gary S. Adams, *NIGSA – Secretary*

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**CARA 2M Repeater Update:**  
de W1JGM

The re-commissioning of the Motorola MSF5000 VHF and linked UHF system was worked on by Jay- N1NRP, Marcus-AB1WV, and John – W1JGM, on Saturday, November 11.

The Spruce mountain repeater was turned off, and the Motorola remotely energized by DTMF. The audio quality through the VHF to the linked UHF was clear and acceptable, but the re-transmission of the audio on the VHF repeater was of poor quality i.e. "muddy". I decided to de-energize both the VHF and the UHF until such time we can get a service monitor to the site to see if adjustments can be made to clear up this audio issue.

## CARA & Friends Find the Fox

de N1NRP, W1QK & KC1IBR

Photo Credits: KC1EHW, N1NRP, W1QK, AB1WV, KC1IBR



At 2pm on Sunday, November 12, CARA members and friends met at Danbury's Candlewood Lake Town Park Boat Launch, where they were greeted by the CARA Fox Hunt Referee, Marlon - KC1EHW, and his able assistant, Alan - K2DMV.



Participants signed in either as team or solo hunters. Everyone was given contact information, and a map of the greater Danbury area – showing the 5-mile radius, within which, the Fox was hiding.

While everyone was anxiously awaiting the start of the event, they were chatting and checking out each other's antenna and tracking equipment – at least what

was visible, and comparing some notes – but giving away no searching plans nor secrets.

There was an interesting assembly of the tape measure Yagis, a commercially-manufactured Yagi, and a single loop antenna ready to go; along with HT's programmed to the official hunt frequency of 146.565 MHz.



The team of Charlie-KC1IBR, and Joe-KC1IBQ planned a very unique search approach. Joe would be driving his Jeep, and Charlie would be scanning with his recently-fabricated tape measure Yagi. Charlie was holding the antenna up through the opening in the top. This gave them the advantage of being able to sniff and drive simultaneously.

This wasn't exactly the most conventional way to travel around the streets of Danbury. Yes, they did report later getting lots of looks while hunting. It was about 45 degrees outside, and Joe had the heater cranked up.



Harlan-W1QH and Dan-W1QK, used Harlan's four-element Arrow Yagi, which was cleverly supported by a four-foot wooden pole, fitted with a paint brush bracket at the top.

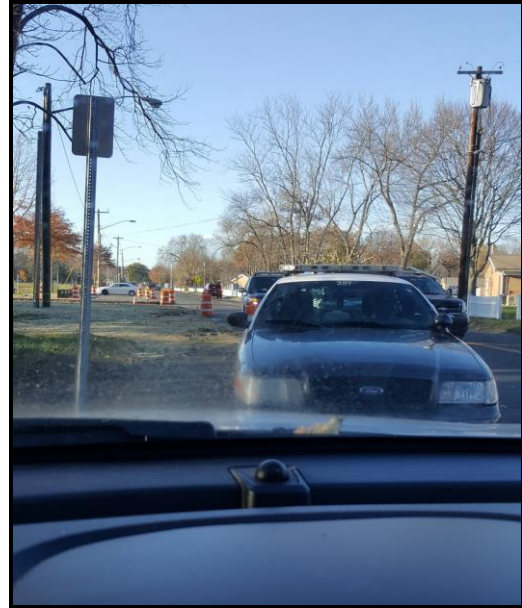
This arrangement allowed switching quickly between vertical or horizontal polarization to take advantage of cross-polarization attenuation.

They also used a 100-dB step attenuator to decrease the received signal while scanning for the direction in which to travel. They started taking the first several bearings by stopping to assemble the antenna outside the car. Then, they switched to the routine where Dan held the Yagi outside the window to enable taking bearings while in motion. There was considerably more wind resistance than they anticipated while travelling.

Yes - it would have been helpful to have some winter gloves on too.

I was a little concerned about how this event would transpire, because of several factors: Did I make it too easy find the Fox? Was my signal going to be heard well enough at the starting location? Did I select an appropriate place? And, how long would it take?

At 2:19 pm, Marlon advised me that all stations were registered, so I activated the Fox, and sat back to wait until the first team found me.



BINGO! - the first car pulled up at 2:55 pm, with an antenna on the trunk - and also a light bar on the roof.

You guessed it - it was one of Danbury's Finest.



I waved as he proceeded to exit his vehicle. The officer asked if I needed any help. I introduced myself, told him that I was the Vice-President of the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association,



showed him my Danbury Emergency Operations badge, and explained about the fox hunt.

I showed him the transmitter and the mag-mount antenna hidden on the rear side of my vehicle.



Within a few minutes, there were **four** more City of Danbury patrol cars that arrived to check out this operation.



Then, Marlon and Alan pulled up to drop off the sign-in sheet. I could sense they were a little nervous when seeing so many police cars surrounding me. They high-tailed it to the Three Brothers Diner on White Street in Danbury, where they would greet the participants after locating the Fox.

Now, with the “Law” gone, I was alone again – waiting and monitoring the Fox’s transmitter – while it was sending out its brief, unique, and melodic tones; followed by a short CW message.

At 3:03 pm, I noticed a white Jeep coming down the road toward me, with a tape measure Yagi sticking up though the top. I became anxious, and ducked down in my seat as the vehicle pulled up alongside my car.



It was Charlie-KC1IBR, in the front seat-holding their tape measure Yagi through the roof, with Joe-KC1IBQ driving.

I yelled: “You found it - number one at 3:03 pm!” Both were hootin’ and hollerin’ with delight.

Their tracking training from Stanley-WA2NRV, WECA Director At Large, really paid off. I congratulated them both, and they drove off to go to the diner.

A short 10 minutes later - at 3:13 pm, I noticed a brand new, shiny Ford Escape with a vertically-polarized Yagi sticking out the passenger side window. It was the “Q Team” of Harlan-W1QH, and Dan-W1QK; both CARA Directors - for a second-place finish.

Third place winners were GBARC members; Larry-AB1JC, and David-KB1LTW, who used a combination of Yagi and loop antennas. Harlan and Dan passed Larry and David on North Main

Street during the hunt, then again at Rogers Park shortly after finding me.

At 3:45 pm, I began giving out some “clues” to my location. I mentioned that: “I was near this place when back in 1969, there was an attack on the Union Savings Bank and the downtown Danbury Police Headquarters, and our school was evacuated to another building at my location”.

The second clue is that: “there’s a school named for the same place near where the Fox is hiding”.

It appeared that neither of these clues proved to be very useful, as no additional teams found me hiding under some trees at the extreme south end of Memorial Drive, just past Rogers Park Middle School and the duck pond.

At 4:20pm, I called for the official end of the hunt, and advised everyone to meet at the Three Brothers diner on White Street, where we enjoyed swapping stories and details of our experiences during the hunt.



**Participants:**

Charlie-KC1IBR, Joe-KC1IBQ, Dan-W1QK, Harlan-W1QH, Larry-AB1JC, David-KB1LTW, Marcus-AB1WV and his daughter, Tori, Mike-N1MPL and his friend, Sasha, David-KB1ZAC, Alan-K2DMV. Marlon-KC1EHW, Referee, and Jay-N1NRP, The Fox.



Marlon-KC1EHW, the Fox Hunt Referee, presented the first, second, and third-place winners and all participants with handsome certificates that were designed by Dan-W1QK, and printed by Harlan-W1QH.



Harlan-W1QH & Dan-W1QK



Charlie-KC1IBR & Joe-KC1IBQ

Joe-KC1IBQ, enjoyed his First-Place banana split, while Charlie-KC1IBR, enjoyed his burger platter.



David-KB1LTW & Larry-AB1JC



Marcus-AB1WV & Tori



Marlon-KC1EHW, Jay-N1NRP & David-KB1ZAC



Mike-N1MPL & Sasha



Jay-N1NRP & Marlon-KC1EHW



Marlon-KC1EHW, Alan-K2DMV, David-KB1ZAC & Jay-N1NRP



(L-R) Joe-KC1IBQ, David-KB1LTW, Larry-AB1JC, Marcus-AB1WV, Tori, Marlon-KC1EHW



*Charlie - KC1IBR, shared this information with your CARA Capers Editor.*

*Editor: What was the path that you followed to "close in" on the Fox?*

**KC1IBR:**

We proceeded out of the parking lot by taking a left (westbound). Once in front of the admission gate to the town park.

We pulled over, since it was obvious that the tape measures were going to be unmanageable with the wind while driving. Henceforth, the Yagi setup

would only be stuck up out of the roof when the car was stationary.

It was a total guess to take a left turn (southbound) onto E. Hayestown Rd. We pulled over twice on E. Hayestown Rd. to poke the Yagi out of the open top.

The signal was still present- though weak, and we were seemingly going in the right direction. It was obvious that the signal faded or disappeared when we pointed the antenna in the direction of the town park which was now behind us.

While at a traffic light at the intersection of Hayestown Rd. & Tamarack Rd., the signal seemed to be coming from the south or west of us. We continued on Tamarack (s/b) and turned left onto Virginia Ave. (e/b).

Knowing Danbury well, I was able to direct Joe's turn by turn driving.

The topography/elevations were paramount in my thoughts. At this point, and in search of high ground, we decided to go to the area of Virginia Avenue and Forest Avenue. We pulled off the road, and noticed that the signal had disappeared!

Reason: I surmised that it was because the hospital garage/building was right in front of us.

I suggested that we proceed down Hospital Avenue toward Osborne Street, where we pulled over on Granville Ave.

(southbound). There, it became obvious that we were headed in the right direction, since the signal was seemingly stronger and more directional... facing south we had a receivable field of about 300 degrees.

The fact that we picked up the signal again after having lost it because of Danbury Hospital, made us think that the signal was coming from the downtown area.

Next, we went west on White Street, left onto Patriot Drive (southbound), and left onto Pahquioque Ave. Then west on Liberty Street., and left onto Main Street (s/b). At at the Library, we lifted the Yagi out, and continued to get the signal strongest from the south.

We then went to the southernmost area of Elmwood Park on Main St., and took another reading with the same results.

We realized that a large, public park was just up the street, which made me think: maybe Rogers Park? We then made a stop at the Dunkin Donuts at the intersection of Main and South streets. The signal was still strong to the south, but weakened when pointing to the west.

We turned left onto Memorial Drive.

Halfway down Memorial Dr., we again lifted the Yagi up and out of the roof. Again, the signal was strong, except when pointing to the north.

We proceeded further into Memorial Drive, and stopped near the soccer field for a test... and there, it was obvious that we were on top of the Fox since we were getting a strong signal in a 360-degree rotation.

We drove a short distance further, just past the pond - and we spotted the Fox.

*Editor: Did you find there were issues with reflections that influenced your travel directions?*

**KCIIBR:**

Not sure - don't think so.

*Editor: Did you have the heater cranked Joe? I hope you were wearing Winter gloves Charlie.*

**KCIIBR:**

No gloves, but a warm hat and sweater!

*Editor: How much wind resistance did you experience with your tape measure Yagi? Did the elements blow around, or even roll up when travelling?*

**KCIIBR:**

There was too much resistance, and the elements rolled up, which meant that we couldn't leave the Yagi outside/atop the Jeep while moving.

*Editor: Did you hold the Yagi up through the sun roof during the entire hunt?*

**KCIIBR:**

No... Only when we pulled over.

*Editor: Do you believe that the use of a wooden pole in the future would be advisable?*

**KCIIBR:**

In our case... perhaps... but it may have made it more difficult, since the antenna had to be angled in and out of the top of the Jeep.

*Editor: Did you encounter any locals, or the Danbury police during the hunt - if so, what were some of the comments?*

**KCIIBR:**

A patrol car passed us when we were parked on Granville Avenue - with the Yagi up through the roof. He didn't seem to notice it when he went by us.

*Editor: Did you see any of the other teams during the hunt?*

**KCIIBR:**

Joe mentioned he saw someone coming out of East Pembroke road

*Editor: What type of radio did you use?*

**KCIIBR:**

We used Joe's Baofeng 82-c HT. The big problem that we knew going into this was that the S-meter is kind of useless, and seemingly not that responsive; so, we were relegated to using just the audible sound of the transmitter to judge the direction. Surprisingly, that worked for us. I can tell you that no one was more

surprised than Joe and me that we had finished first!

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Everyone agreed that a fun time was had by all, and said they looked forward to having another CARA fox hunt in the Spring. I'll keep you posted.

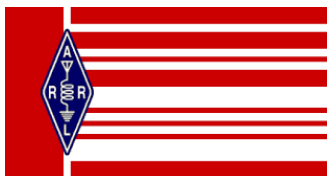


Tori



Thanks to all who made this a fun event.  
73, Jay - N1NRP

CARA Vice-President – aka, The Fox



CARA is an ARRL – Affiliated Club

## ARRL Connecticut Section News:



ARRL CT Section Manager,  
Chuck Motes, K1DFS.  
No November SM message available.



## 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 pm Sunday

**CARA 2M NET:**

W1QI Repeater – 7:30 pm Sunday

**CARA PSK Digital NET:**

28.100 MHz. 7:00 pm Tuesday

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

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



## Upcoming Contests, Hamfests & Meetings:

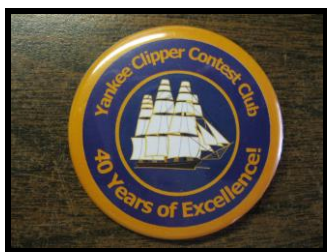
Dec. 1-3: ARRL 160M contest  
Dec. 2-3: 10M RTTY Contest  
Dec. 8-10: ARRL 10M contest  
Dec. 11: ARES Region 5 South Meeting –  
Danbury EOC  
Dec. 16: OK DX RTTY Contest  
Dec. 18: ARES Region 5 Meeting  
Dec. 30: Stew Perry 160M contest  
Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27 CWT 1300Z, 1900Z, 0300Z  
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**New England and other local hamfests:**  
<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

**Complete Contest calendar at:**  
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

## Upcoming CARA Calendar:

Dec. 5: Holiday gathering at the Hearth –  
contact N1NRP for details  
Dec. 8: CARA meeting and Holiday Gathering -  
doors open at 7:30  
Dec. 22: Monthly CARA planning meeting –  
SHFD – Begins at 8:00 pm  
Jan. 3: January Capers input deadline  
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## YCCC News

The next scheduled meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be Sunday December 3rd from Noon to 4pm at the Auburn-Webster Elks Club - Holiday Dinner  
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Connecticut ARES Region 5 conducts a weekly net each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

New Milford: 146.730 MHz -600 kHz PL 192.8 Hz  
NARA analog repeaters for this net:

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.

## 2017 CARA Ham Exam Schedule:



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

December 2 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](mailto:frsileo@att.net)

## Other upcoming VE exam sessions:

**Sponsor:** Northwest Ambulance  
**Location:** Litchfield Firehouse, 258 West St.  
Litchfield, CT  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Dec. 12.  
Please feel free to direct questions to:  
[w8zy@hotmail.com](mailto:w8zy@hotmail.com)  
Walk-ins are welcome, and we'll be testing for all classes.



CARA used N1MM+ Contest Logger during the ARRL 2017 Field Day.

For a free download, visit:

<https://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php>



CONVERSATION

The November 2017 QST's announcement of the 2017 ARRL 10 Meter Contest announcement [contained an error](#). Contest participants "... may choose to choose to operate CW, Phone, or Mixed. Stations in the Mixed category may work stations on both modes for contact credit -- i.e., once on CW and once on phone."

January 1 is the start of a new year long 'operating event' -- the [ARRL International Grid Chase](#). The object of the game is to make as many contacts with as many different grid squares as possible on a monthly and yearly basis. Contests or modes that exchange grid information are a natural for this challenge, but **any** valid contact uploaded to LOTW is eligible, and it's not even necessary to exchange the grid square as part of the contact, as long as the uploaded contact information has valid station grid square information. See the [ARRL IGC web page](#) for more information.

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club's email reflector was bursting with contesting tips, which were assembled into by Fred, K1VR, into a [document that you can view on YCCC's website](#) (PDF). It's potentially ironic that the first tip is "Don't be afraid to read the competition's newsletter."

Thanks to the ARRL:

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

Check out [www.cwops.org](http://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”

CW Ops “CWT” Every Wednesday Regular Tests:

Full Speed Start: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1), 1-hour

each session Exchange: name/number

(members) name/SPC (non-members) Avoid DX pileups!

CW Ops CW Practice Sessions:

For: On-air practice at 13+ wpm for CWA

students, graduates, others wishing to have real-

time CW practice with others similarly afflicted

with a love of CW and a need to improve

proficiency, with a goal of 25+ wpm.

Purpose: To improve CW through on-air practice at a time and place when others are likely available.

Time and place: 7035-7045 kHz every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday around 6-8 pm local time.

That means possible overlap with other time zones, which may mean 5 pm in Texas and 7 pm in New York.

Conditions at this stage of the sunspot cycle make a comparable plan on 20m and higher for international contacts a risky proposal so for now we will limit this to 40m local evenings. 73 Jerry, AC4BT, CW Academy Manager

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### Messages from the CWOps Reflector:

A message from Wayne, N6KR – Co-founder of Elecraft:

#### CW

I find that CW has many practical and engaging aspects that I just don't get with computer-mediated modes like FT8. You'd think I'd be burned out on CW by now, over 45 years since I was first licensed, but no, I'm still doin' it :)

Yes, FT8 (etc.) is a no-brainer when, despite poor conditions, your goal is to log as many contacts as possible with as many states or countries as possible. It's so streamlined and efficient that the whole process is readily automated. (If you haven't read enough opinions on that, see "The mother of all FT8 threads" on QRZ.com, for example.)

But back to CW. Here's why it works for me. YMMV.

CW feels personal and visceral, like driving a sports car rather than taking a cab. As with a sports car, there are risks. You can get clobbered by larger vehicles (QRM). Witness road rage ("UP 2!"). Fall into a pothole (QSB). Be forced to drive through rain or snow (QRN).

With CW, like other forms of human conversation, you can affect your own style. Make mistakes. Joke about it.

CW is a skill that bonds operators together across generations and nations. A language, more like pidgin than anything else, with abbreviations and historical constructs and imperialist oddities. A curious club anyone can join. (At age 60 and able to copy 50 WPM on a good day, I may qualify as a Nerd Mason of some modest order, worthless in any other domain but of value in a contest.)

With very simple equipment that anyone can build, such as a high-power single-transistor oscillator, you can transmit a CW signal. I had very little experience with electronics when I was 14 and built an oscillator that put out maybe 100 mW. Just twisted the leads of all those parts together and keyed the collector supply--a 9-volt battery. With this simple circuit on my desk, coupled to one guy wire of our TV antenna mast, I worked a station 150 miles away, and was instantly hooked on building things. And on QRP. I'm sure the signal was key-clicky and had lots of harmonics. I've spent a lifetime making such things work better, but this is where it started.

Going even further down the techno food chain, you can "send" CW by whistling, flashing a lamp, tapping on someone's leg under a table in civics class, or pounding a wrench on the inverted hull of an upside-down U.S. war vessel, as happened at Pearl Harbor. Last Saturday at an engineering club my son belongs to, a 9-year-old demonstrated an Arduino Uno flashing HELLO WORLD in Morse on an LED. The other kids were impressed, including my son, who promptly wrote a version that sends three independent Morse streams on three LEDs. A mini-pileup. His first program.

Finally, to do CW you don't always need a computer, keyboard, mouse, monitor, or software. Such things are invaluable in our daily lives, but for me, shutting down everything but the radio is the high point of my day. The small display glows like a mystic portal into my personal oyster, the RF spectrum. Unless I crank up the power, there's no fan noise. Tuning the knob slowly from the bottom end of the band segment to the top is a bit like fishing my favorite stream, Taylor

Creek, which connects Fallen Leaf Lake to Lake Tahoe. Drag the line across the green, sunlit pool. See what hits. Big trout? DX. Small trout? Hey, it's still a fish, and a QSO across town is still a QSO. Admire it, then throw it back in.

(BTW: You now know why the Elecraft K3, K3S, KX2, and KX3 all have built-in RTTY and PSK data modes that allow transmit via the keyer paddle and receive on the rig's display. We decided to make these data modes conversational. .like CW.)

Back to 40 meters....

73,

Wayne - N6KR

### Re: CW

TU, TU! Wayne really gets to the heart of why CW is great and as he says, a personal and visceral connection. My ex-college roommate, John, K4BAI, and I chat a couple times a week on 80M CW. Sure, we both have free long-distance phones, email or even 75M SSB. But exchanging notes on the things happening in our professional lives, families, other friends and ham radio activities, abbreviated and condensed to 15-20 minutes of QSK dits and dahs at 25-30wpm in the evening is a rewarding experience that the other modes could never match. That "conversation", all in the head taking only occasional notes for discussion, also reinforces skills for contests.

Try it yourself with a friend.

73, Jim, K4QPL

### Re: Good excuse for a junk box!

Fri Oct 27, 2017 3:25 pm (PDT) . Posted by:

["John Nelson" k0io65](#)

In Jr High just after I received my tech WØDRE call, I ordered a bunch of parts from Allied Radio and built the 6U8-6146 6-meter transmitter that was in the 1961 Handbook. What a thrill to see that 50-watt light bulb dummy load glow. By 1964 when I passed my General, I had 46 states on 6 including several on

aurora CW. I pretty much gave up on 6 in favor of HF. In 2004 I used the tank circuit of my first transmitter to build a tuner for 6 to use with my FT100. It was October and I worked 2 KH6's on SSB! State No. 47 on 6!. Then I bought a 6N2 Thunderbolt. Some guy driving from Seattle to Dayton dropped it off here in IA, Paid a hefty price for it. The first thing after turning it on was the swinging choke was shorted and Peter Dahl custom wound one for me -- about \$275 -- then I discovered it needed a Z-50 rf choke. I savaged the Z-50 out of my first transmitter. With 700 watts out, one night there was aurora enhanced sporadic e and KL7NO was worked for state No. 48 and also using the T-bolt I worked W1QT -- in Oregon and finally a station in ND for 6-meter WAS. So my first rig and its parts Worked All States on 6-meters. I always managed to be "off" of six during years when there were great "F" openings. I still get on sometimes -- on the CW low-end. K-3 now. The T-bolt is in storage out in "the shed."

So parts of my little 6-meter AM-CW HB 6-meter rig worked all states.

There is nothing like a GOOD SOURCE OF PARTS.

KØIO 402

### Up for an 'expedition' challenge?

Mon Oct 30, 2017 3:31 pm (PDT) . Posted by:

["Gary Stone" n5pht](#)

Hello,

Hey, the POTA (Parks on the Air Program) is gaining popularity and people around the world are chasing Parks. I have been fairly active in the program myself - mostly as an "activator" giving out contacts from Parks. However, I have also worked quite a few.

In my case, and I suspect it would fit the bill for some others, I need 10 US States for the POTA WAS Award. If you live in one of these States and live near a State Park or other entity that counts (National Parks Units for example). It is easy to check for the

list at the below URL if you live near something that counts.

So, if you do and are up for a challenge it is not difficult to make some quick contacts.

The States I need: (and suspect others would need many of them): AL, AK, HI, IA, LA, ME, MS, NE, NV and RI.

If I have peaked your interest send me an email with any questions or hop over to the POTA Web page below.

It is really as simple as setting up in the Park, making contacts and sending your .adi file to a regional "uploader." Self-spotting is encouraged and if you really get into it there is a Facebook page and other tools. The rest is automatic!! Neat. So maybe you have a State Park near your home and want to have a little portable fun. Plenty of CW ops will work you for sure but if you do SSB that would be appreciated - I have not as yet but may one day.

Check out:

<https://wwff-kff.com/>

If you scroll around on that page you will find a place to enter your location and see what is near you - actually here is that URL:

[https://wwff-kff.com/geo-map/73 de N5PHT](https://wwff-kff.com/geo-map/73%20de%20N5PHT)

### [Steampunk Computers](#)

Thu Nov 16, 2017 11:16 pm (PST) . Posted by:

["Fred Jensen" auburnham53](#)

Lady Ada of Lovelace was a collaborator with Charles Babbage on his Difference Engine [and later the Analytical Engine] which could be described as "Steampunk Computers." The DE was designed to compute tables of logs and other functions using finite differences. The AE was actually what we might call a computer, and Lady Ada became known as the "World's First Computer Programmer." There is a reconstruction of the DE in the Computer Museum in Mtn. View CA, google "difference engine" and pick Wikipedia for a photo. It "works" if

you crank it long enough, sort of like those little mechanical hand-held gizmos [Curta?] that passed for calculators years ago.

Ada, the language, began around late 60's in the US Dept of Defense. Software had gotten complex and it was becoming difficult if not impossible to develop and test without there always being mistakes. There was an interesting [at least for me] fall-out from that effort: a plethora of what might be called "cottage industries" popped up providing development platforms, quality assurance processes, testing and compliance, compilers, and the like. They grew into full fledged, multi-billion dollar industries in their own right as the Ada effort proceeded.

For the US Air Force at least, Ada was to replace JOVIAL, of which they had millions and millions of lines of code running systems on the ground, in airplanes, and other weapons and support systems. JOVIAL [allegedly "Jules' Own Version of the International Algorithmic Language" where "Jules" is Jules Schwartz who headed the development effort at SDC in the early 60's], was somewhat unique as HOL's of the day went. There was no operating system per se, everything was compiled together into a single, monolithic image that was loaded into memory. If you needed to make a change, you did it all over again.

I met Jules once at a conference and in an informal conversation between sessions, I asked him if there was any significance to the fact that the most prevalent character in the JOVIAL syntax was the dollar sign?

Every line ended in a \$, they surrounded all array subscripts, were in all function and subprogram calls ... basically everywhere. He just smiled and changed the subject.

If you're ever in Silicon Valley, don't miss the Computer Museum. Even my wife, who has no tech interest at all, really liked our guide's descriptions of the people [and business intrigues] behind many of

the things with the blinking lights.  
73,  
Fred ["Skip"] K6DGW #142  
Sparks NV DM09dn  
Washoe County

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## For Sale:

### Alpha 99 High Performance Amplifier

Alpha 99 high performance HF amplifier. 10-160 Meters including WARC bands. Manual tuning. Wired for 240 VAC. Uses two 4CX800 tubes. Full power (1500 watts) output with 55 watts input. This amp is clean both inside and out. The amp was purchased from Alpha in 2002. SN 9902240255. There are no scratches, no rubbed-off lettering, or dents in the case. This is a one-owner amplifier. Non-smoking environment. There are no mods. Included with the amp is a factory operating manual. Includes two new spare matched Svetlana 4CX800 tubes in unopened boxes with receipt. Extra spare parts also included. This amplifier will NOT be shipped - however, original cartons are included. Inspection, demonstration, and local pickup in South Salem, NY. No trades. Being sold by the XYL of WA2EVH (sk).  
Call to make an appointment to check out this awesome amplifier.  
Pictures available to email.  
Serious potential buyers please.  
Asking \$3200. (914) 548-2040.



### ICOM IC-757 Pro III

I'm selling my Icom 756 Pro III. Very Good Condition. I have the original Box. Harlan recently used this radio, and can vouch on its condition. This is the same model radio that CARA uses (from the Danbury EOC) for Field Day. Contest season has started. I am reducing the price to \$1150.

If interested let me know.  
73, John - W1JMA



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### Member and Station News:

*Your story could go here in the next Issue of CARA Capers. Contact W1QK, Capers Editor*

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**CARA is an ARRL Affiliated Club**

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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 Dan Fegley, your Editor.  
If possible, text should be submitted in Microsoft  
Word format, and images in .jpg format. Please use  
picture files that are sized for publication.

**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- Dan, W1QK

