



Capers

January- 2020



The Monthly Newsletter of The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 741 – Hawleyville, CT 06440-0741
Visit us on the Web at <http://www.cararadioclub.org>

Next CARA Meeting:
Friday, January 10 – Stony Hill Fire Station, Rte. 6. Bethel, CT

Note time change for this meeting:
Doors open at 7:00 for socializing and conversation. Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.



2019 DX QSL card pre-sort in support of the W1-QSL Bureau - Pix credit: W1JGM

This month's meeting activity:

The W1-QSL Bureau by Eric Williams – KV1J, QSL Bureau Co-manager

Presorting DX QSL card "Square Dance" & pizza party

CARA January Monthly Meeting Agenda **Friday – January 10, 2020 - Stony Hill Fire Dept**

Informal Meet & Greet 7:00– 7:30 pm

Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance 7:30 pm

1. Introduction of guest(s) – AB1WV
2. Roll call and sign in
3. Secretary's Report (Minutes review: December 2019) – N1GSA, WX1T, W1QH
4. Treasurer's Report
 1. CARA Financial report – KC1IBR
5. Committee Reports:
 1. Repeaters – WR1Z, W1JGM
 2. Membership Report – W1JGM
 3. Events
 - i. Winter Field Day at Ball Pond FD, New Fairfield - W1JGM + others
6. Old Business:
 1. Proposed new President's Plaque – W1QK
 2. CARA Website update – W1JMA, W1QK
 3. Discussion/planning – combined CARA/YCCC meeting – W1NSK
 4. Microsoft Office 365 proposal update – AB1WV, W1JGM
 5. Vote on proposal to change meeting time from 7:30 PM gathering and 8:00 PM meeting start time to 7:00 PM gathering and 7:30 PM meeting start time – AB1WV
7. New business:
 1. CARA Participation in Winter Field Day Planning update – W1JGM + others
 2. February meeting – WR1Z: Program "Cut the Cable"
 3. March and beyond meetings?
 4. CARA Repeater Coordinations - renewed for 3 years with the CSMA – W1QK
8. For the good of the Association:
 1. General Q & A (as time permits): Discussion of any member questions regarding any aspect of ham radio or the club
 2. Reminders: Monthly planning meeting – January 24, Input deadline for February Capers – Wednesday, February 5.
9. Break for refreshments
10. Meeting activity – Annual W1-QSL Bureau DX QSL card pre-sort in support of the W1-QSL Bureau: Eric Williams – KV1J, Co-manager.
11. Closing of meeting

President's Message – de AB1WV



Happy New Year!!!

This is a reminder that we have a great meeting coming up on January 10th. It is our annual pizza party and QSL Card Sort Square Dance. As most of you know, we don't actually dance, but we volunteer to sort cards for the ARRL QSL Bureau once a year. A very short business meeting will be held followed by pizza and the card sort. Join us for food and fun.

This also serves as an additional notification that we will be voting on the motion to move the meeting times up by a half an hour. We have not been able to get a quorum yet, so it is important that everyone who can get there attends.

On the subject of attendance, I know that some of you may have been scared away for a bit with all the hub-bub around presentations and the motion to bring presentation ideas to the meeting a while back. You will all be glad to know that we have had quite a few people step up and we have sources that we can tap for the next several months. Please come back to the meetings. You no longer have to bring an idea or volunteer to give a presentation. We miss you.

That's all for now. Hope to see you all at the meeting on January 10th.

Marcus
AB1WV

Vice- President's Message:
de W1JGM



Happy New Year.

I trust that everyone had a safe and fulfilled holiday with family and friends. I did. And with all that behind us, welcome to 2020.

With the start of the new year, there are many events and responsibilities ahead, not just in our organization but in life. The first and most important is our health. Without our wellness, nothing else really matters.

There will be many events that will require some of your time. Remember, this is your club - and it requires you for us to be successful. Help where you can - but most importantly, enjoy the events you are involved in.

We'll start the year with Winter Field Day.

WFD will be held at the Ball Pond Volunteer Fire Co., Fairfield Dr. New Fairfield. CT 06812.

The firehouse is on the west side of town, so if you're coming to New Fairfield from Danbury, use Clapboard Ridge Road - Rte. 39 northbound. It's a little over 5 miles from Exit 5 off I-84. The event will be held on the 25th and 26th of January.

We'll meet at the FD around 10:00 am for setup. The event starts at 1900 UTC (2:00 pm EST) Saturday and runs to 18:59 (1:59 pm EST) Sunday. Please look for the sign-up and come enjoy the event with us.

More information about Winter Field Day, including the results from previous years is at <https://www.winterfieldday.com>

With the start of the new year, please remember that your club dues are due. Visit the home page of our club's website at <http://cararadioclub.org> for information on some easy ways to pay your dues and the dues schedule. Dues must be paid by the March meeting to remain a CARA member in good standing. Remember, this is one of the few ways that we can support the functions of our club. Please be a supporter.

In addition, we're working on some exciting benefits for members in good standing this year.

If you have issues paying your dues, please refer to the club Policy and procedures at <http://cararadioclub.org/images/documents/CARAPoliciesAndProcedures.pdf> for assistance.

Our next club meeting will be on January 10 at the Stony Hill Fire Department. Please note that for this meeting, doors will open at 7:00 pm and the meeting will start at 7:30 PM to allow time for our annual "DX-QSL Card pre-sort". Refreshments and Pizza will be served. Come help with this event, it should be fun.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

73, John Morelli - W1JGM
CARA Vice President

December 13 CARA Monthly Meeting Minutes de WX1T

Meeting called to order at 8:00 pm by President Marcus Swearingen.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Round Robin introductions were given with 12 people in attendance.

A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes as published in CAPERS. The motion was seconded and was passed by unanimous vote.

Charlie KC1IBR gave the treasurer's report. The opening balance was \$6888.18 and the closing balance was \$6906.30. The report was accepted by unanimous vote. Charlie mentioned how responsive and helpful Jim Ritterbusch (WO4X) has been when having to get items on the website and this was seconded by club president Marcus AB1WV.

Repeater Committee Report – Gregory WR1Z gave a recap of the repeater status from the planning meeting. John Morelli W1JGM talked about the 220 machine which was removed from the mountain previously. It was determined that the machine is not worth using. John presented a possible replacement machine for consideration. If we don't get a new repeater on the mountain we will lose our coordination with the CSMA. John also mentioned that the 6 meter machine needs some "elbow grease" to get it on the air. Another goal is to tie the Motorola 2 meter machine into the ARES system. John made a motion to buy all equipment needed to get a new 220 machine. A discussion followed to address John's motion. The vote was held and the motion passed 8 in favor and 3 against.

It was determined that the ongoing efforts to "perfect" the Membership list is no longer needed since a new membership list will be started in January for 2020. Charlie KC1IBR presented the idea of pro-rating by quarters members 65 years old if they turn 65 during the calendar year. John Ahle-

W1JMA made a motion making all dues one price for any and all members regardless of age etc. starting in 2021.

Christmas party recap. It was agreed by all that the party was really nice and the food was very good.

CARA website update. Dan Fegley W1QK is still working on getting a replacement for Jim KD1YV to maintain the CARA website.

YCCC Dual Meeting. Bud W1NSK is trying to get the YCCC to come to one of our meetings and do a presentation on the YCCC and contesting in general (April?)

Reviewed the list of people who have committed to do presentations in 2020. Bud W1NSK volunteered to do a presentation on "boat anchors".

The new meeting time could not be voted on due to a lack of a quorum.

Winter Field Day – We have permission to use Ball Pond Firehouse in New Fairfield for the winter field day.

QSL card sort will take place at the January meeting.

Charlie KC1IBR made a motion to donate \$150 to the Stony Hill Firehouse if there is not already and existing motion. A vote was held and the motion passed. Charlie will look a previous meeting minutes to determine if a motion has already been previously made.

Hamfest – John W1JGM volunteered to run the hamfest in 2020. John will look to see if there is a different venue we could use that is less expensive than our traditional venue. Mike W8ZY suggested looking into the Pettibone Community Center in New Milford for the hamfest.

Break at 9:30.

Mike Walters -W8ZY did a presentation on Microsoft Office for Non-Profits. Charlie -KC1IBR, made a motion to allocate up to \$400 to setup Microsoft

Office for Non-Profits for the CARA club. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Coury - WX1T, Secretary pro tem

December 27 CARA Monthly Planning Meeting Minutes de W1QH

Attendees: AB1WV, W1JGM, KC1IBR, NG1R, W1QH, W1QK, KB1ZAC.

KC1IBR: Member dues renewal inquiry- referred him to Marcus w/explanation.

Winter Field Day - Ball Pond FD, New Fairfield - John, Dan, Harlan and others to scout out Firehouse. Need volunteers, KC1IBR to create Sign-Up Genius for operators, etc.

Discussion about contacting members to ensure having a quorum for proposed meeting time change discussion and vote.

W1-QSL Bureau DX QSL card pre-sort to be done at January meeting. Pizza to be supplied by CARA.

January meeting will start earlier due to KV1J and other guests driving distance: Doors open 7pm, Gavel at 7:30 pm.

W1JGM to arrange for audio message on CARA 2M repeater - similar to Hamfest announcement. Guests will be invited to participate in this meeting/event.

Reflector not working as well as desired...maybe move to Groups I/O, or to MS 365?

P O Box--move to a Backus Ave. PO in Danbury; as Bill Webb no longer able to night drive.

Revised President's plaque - may be ready for January meeting...to be hung in Danbury EOC.

A "thank-you" retirement card for Paul Estefan was discussed...a card to be designed by W1QK - and signed by CARA members.

CARA Website Photo Rotator photos from W1QK & KC1IBR have been updated by Jim - WO4X. New Home Page information added by W1QK. Need to review links...some don't work right yet.

W1QI QRZ.com page is updated monthly by W1QK.

"If 2020 CARA membership dues not paid by 3/1, then one will be removed from CARA reflector, Capers distribution, etc."

Jan. 2020 Capers input deadline: Jan. 2.

Need: Dec. meeting minutes, Jan. meeting agenda, Pres. & VP messages, Preliminary Calendar from AB1WV and W1NSK, and any other content.

Respectfully submitted,
Harlan Ford - W1QH, Secretary pro tem

CARA Policies & Procedures – Important Meeting time change discussion & vote:

Editor – From the September Monthly Meeting minutes.

John – W1JGM, spoke about the meeting time. With the meeting time of 8:00pm it makes it a late night on numerous meeting nights.

John made a motion to change the start time of the Monthly meetings to 7:30pm.

After referring to the By-Laws it was determined that this could be brought up at this meeting and voted on to require an approval vote at the next meeting.

This vote was rescheduled to the January meeting due to the quorum voting requirements.

Please plan to attend the upcoming January Monthly meeting to discuss and vote on this important topic.

December Snapshot:



The delicious meal (minus dessert, of course) at the CARA Holiday Gathering buffet on Dec. 5 at Armando's Restaurant.

Photo Credit: KC1IBR

Last Month's Program:

Mike Walters – W8ZY, presented the concept of CARA applying for Microsoft Office 365 Essentials as part of their program to support 501C3 Non-profits, and how CARA membership could include this benefit.

Microsoft Office 365 Essentials gives a non-profit organization the opportunity to take advantage of the latest in e-mail, creation and collaboration software in a way that the organization can afford.

The program brings hosted Exchange e-mail, Microsoft Office and Microsoft Teams to each member.

This will give the organization the ability to hold virtual meetings, have subject matter teams work together and all with the latest security features.

This Month's Program:

CARA will assist the W1-QSL Bureau with a DX QSL card pre-sort at the January meeting.

Eric Williams – KV1J, QSL Bureau Co-manager will explain what the bureau does and how it works.

Here's a message from N1NK about WRTC cards through the bureau:

From: Jim Spears

Date: Tue, 17 Dec 2019 21:16:37 EST

I am a sorter. If folks think they got a lot of WRTC cards, you should have seen the pile I received and sorted. It is my understanding and Dennis/Eric can correct me that the WRTC organizers sent out a card for each and every QSO. There were a lot of QSOs which translates directly to a lot of QSLs.

Jim - N1NK

Re: WRTC cards through the bureau

From: Eric KV1J

Date: Tue, 17 Dec 2019 23:29:28 EST

Yes, they QSL'd 100%. I did the pre-sorting of them and it was over 6000 cards. Clear who was on seriously and worked most, if not all of the stations!

I worked them all as FP/KV1J but 3 of the stations busted my call.

73, Eric KV1J

W1 QSL Bureau Co-Manager

CARA Repeater Committee Chairman's Report

9 December 2019

Re: State of the CARA Repeater System
Report – Dec 2019

Greetings from Gregory G. Davis WR1Z,
CARA repeater committee chairman 2015-
19

CARA exchanged the Yaesu DR-1X UHF
and VHF repeaters purchased in July of
2015, with the upgraded Yaesu DR-2X
UHF/VHF repeaters in August of
2018. These repeater units are currently
sited on Spruce Mountain as follows:

1 Yaesu DR-2X repeater configured:

**447.775 MHz /-5 MHz PL100; OPERATIONAL
& ON AIR**

1 Yaesu DR-2X repeater configured:

**147.300 MHz /+600 kHz – PL100Hz;
OPERATIONAL & ON AIR**

An Arcom RC210 Link controller with the
external PL decoder has control of both
repeaters, allowing for remote control via
DTMF tones transmitted on frequency.

The 2m repeater has been operating with a
Diamond HA500 since 2010. The 70cm
repeater has been operating with a donor 8
bay folded dipole since 2015.

1 Maggiore Repeater configured:

**223.960 MHz / -1.6MHz PL 91.5; OFF the air,
awaiting repairs or replacement**

The 1.25m Maggiore repeater equipment
was malfunctioning. The unit is off the

mountain, waiting to be repaired, or
replaced. WR1Z will not personally invest
the time to repair the Maggiore, and
recommends the purchase of a new
repeater. Any other CARA member is
welcome to repair the unit.

1 GE MASTER II Repeater configured:

**53.130 MHz /-1 MHz PL 100; OFF THE AIR
Until Spring 2020**

CARA hired the services of Base Station
Suply KA0JQO Kevin Magloughlin (717)
342-9031 krmjgo@earthlink.net to rebuild,
configure, and test the CARA 6 meter GE
Master II repeater.

The work was completed in Feb 2019. The
Repeater has been placed on Spruce
Mountain, but has not yet been connected
to the existing duplexer & antenna on
Spruce Mountain.

CARA has invested in repairs on a
MSF5000 2m repeater, and purchased an
MSF5000 UHF base station for use as a link
radio. These units are currently stationed at
Spruce Mountain, and will likely be moved
to the New Fairfield Company A Firehouse
site for additional configuration and
testing for possible deployment.

There will be expenses involved to
accomplish the work ahead, and will
proceed as CARA is able to authorize the
expenditures.

CARA Website Photo Rotator updated:

de W1QK

Thanks go to Jim Ritterbusch – WO4X, (formerly KD1YV), for updating the CARA website PhotoRotator on the home page.

The new photos were provided to Jim by Dan – W1QK, and Charlie – KC1IBR.

Also, the latest meeting and activity information is now posted on the website's home page.

Check out the CARA website at:
www.cararadioclub.org

More improvements coming soon.

Website committee: John – W1JMA, Bud – W1NSK, Roger – NG1R, and Dan – W1QK.

CARA Perpetual President's Plaque Project

de W1QK



The data has been researched and confirmed. Engraved plates need to be ordered and attached to a new, single plaque. The details about a revised \$90 quote will be discussed at the meeting, since only \$60 was originally approved for this project.



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

CPN Net Manager: Tom - WX1T



Weekly CARA 2M NET:

W1QI 2M Repeater – 7:30 pm Sunday

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

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

Upcoming Contests, Hamfests & Meetings:

Jan. 10: Monthly CARA meeting

Jan. 11-12: North American QSO Party - CW

Jan. 13: ARES Region 5 South meeting – Danbury EOC

Jan. 18-19: ARRL January VHF contest

Jan. 18-19: North American QSO Party – SSB

Jan. 24: CARA January planning meeting - SHFD

Jan. 25-26: Winter Field Day – Ball Pond FD, New Fairfield

Jan. 27: ARES Region 5 meeting – Goshen

Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29: CWOps CWT Minitest
Regular Sessions: 1300Z, 1900Z, 0300Z

Month of January: CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration on the air event

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:

Jan. 10 : CARA January Monthly meeting

Jan. 24: Monthly planning meeting – SHFD

Feb. 5: February Capers input deadline



YCCC News

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

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

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

Next scheduled YCCC Meeting:
February, 2020

More information on the YCCC website:
www.yccc.org

New book

From: Jack Schuster

Date: Wed, 18 Dec 2019 16:59:39 EST

I haven't seen it mentioned here so thought I'd plug this Book for new contesters at ARRL by Doug Grant. One of the highlights is a good sized picture of me with my name spelled

wrong...hi Good gift for an aspiring
contester. JACK W1WEF

Re: New book

From: Matt Wilhelm

Date: Wed, 18 Dec 2019 17:17:38 EST

<http://www.arrl.org/shop/Amateur-Radio-Contesting-for-Beginners/>

Re: Duga Radar

From: DJToman

Date: Sat, 21 Dec 2019 13:11:56 EST

For something perhaps a bit more informative and worth the time, perhaps this:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Russian_Woodpecker

Don

Reminder:

*CARA is registered for ARRL Affiliated Club Competition. Use: **Candlewood ARA** when submitting your Cabrillo Log.*

In order to make sure the club results are accurate and fair to all, the ARRL Contest Branch is renewing its effort to help clubs comply with the rules. (See [section 8 of the General Rules for All Contests at www.arrl.org/general-rules-for-all-arrl-contests.](#))

Here are the three changes:

- Online uploading of club "Eligibility Lists",
 - Use of six-character grid locators as locations, and
 - Deadline for submitting eligibility is now the contest start time
-



CT ARES News:

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 203.5 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.

Information about CT ARES Digital Net de W8ZY:

Hello,
Happy New Year and welcome to 2020. We want to continue the monthly Winlink test and invite anyone that is able to participate here is all that you have to do:

On Wednesday, send a Winlink message to KB1OVQ. This is the EOC in Newtown, and they are serving as the net control for these exercises. The message should be using the preformat function in Winlink and formatted as an ICS-213 message and contain the following:

- Your call
- Your location
- The node you connected to or if you use HF
- A brief weather report from your town

The important part here is to get used to the idea of using the forms and sending the form on Winlink. Last month we had a great turnout and the list is growing. Thanks to John and all the guys at the Newtown EOC for taking on this project.

Get those messages ready.
Thanks - Mike, W8ZY
CT ARES SEC



<http://www.ctares.org/>

2020 CARA Ham Exam Schedule:



2020 Amateur radio exams sponsored by CARA at the Stony Hill FD. Bethel:

Starting at 11:30 a.m.

Walk-ins are welcome, but it's helpful if candidates e-mail Jonathan Bernon, AJ1U, to AJ1U@arri.net

The following dates (Saturdays) for 2020 have been coordinated with the Stony Hill Firehouse Meeting Room scheduler:

March 7, June 6, September 19, December 5

Thanks & 73,

Jon – AJ1U
CARA VE Team Coordinator

Other upcoming VE exam sessions:

Washington Depot CT 06794-1201

01/11/2020

Sponsor: Northville ARA

Date: Jan 11 2020

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Gary Michael. Walters
(860) 938-2030

Email: w8zy@na1ra.net

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: Washington Volunteer Fire Station
109 Bee Brook Rd
Washington Depot CT 06794-1201

Litchfield CT 06759-3404

01/21/2020

Sponsor: Northwest Amt

Date: Jan 21 2020

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

Contact: Lawrence S. Polowy
(860) 283-4089

Email: lspolowy@snet.net

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: Litchfield Firehouse
258 West St
Park in Rear
Litchfield CT 06759-3404

Norwalk CT 06854-2164

02/01/2020

Sponsor: Greater Norwalk ARC

Date: Feb 01 2020

Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Tom J. Alessi
(203) 253-7745

Email: k1ta@arrl.net

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: Norwalk Fire Dept
100 Fairfield Ave
Norwalk CT 06854-2164



CARA will be using N1MM+ Contest Logger during the 2020 Winter Field Day.

For a free download, visit:

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

The following is **not** a paid advertisement. CARA is an ARRL Affiliated Club, and an ARRL Special Service Club, and we encourage you to consider joining the ARRL to support the programs that the organization sponsors – Editor.



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About ARRL:

Founded in 1914 by Hiram Percy Maxim, ARRL (American Radio Relay League) is the national association for Amateur Radio in the US. Today, with more than 161,000 members, ARRL is the largest organization of radio amateurs in the world. ARRL's mission is based on five pillars: Public Service, Advocacy, Education, Technology, and Membership.



So Now What? Podcast
<http://www.arrl.org/so-now-what>



CW Ops CW Academy:
Interested in learning CW or improving your skills?
Check out www.cwops.org

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.
CW training is available, and details can be found at www.cwops.org/cwacademy.

CW Ops 10th Anniversary Operating event – January, 2020

January 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the CW Operators' Club (CWops). In our ten years of promoting the use of CW in amateur radio communications, we've grown to more than 2,400 members worldwide. To honor our members' devotion to CW, and the efforts of many volunteers toward promoting its use and educating new devotees via our CW Academy, we're celebrating with a month-long on-air event in January, 2020. To learn more about CWops, visit our Website at <https://cwops.org>

All radio amateurs are invited to participate in our Celebration. Certificates will be awarded in various categories including certificates for working at least 25 members of CWops.

Complete rules and QSL info are available at <https://cwops.org/cwops-10th-anniversary-celebration/>

Look for CWops members and special event stations near 28 kHz up from the bottom of each band. We also suggest using the CW Club RBN Spotter at <https://rbn.telegraphy.de/>

NIC

Operator: W1QK - CWops Lifetime
Member # 1506

W1QK will operate as NIC during the month of January during the CWops 10th Anniversary operating event.

Contacts will be confirmed via Logbook of the World - LoTW, or via mail with SASE pse.

Visit the NIC QRZ.com webpage for details.

From the CWOps Reflector:

Re: On- line QST, a flop?
From: Tim Shoppa
Date: Fri, 20 Dec 2019 08:40:56 EST
I think on-line QST is great. It's a very real member benefit.

And what I especially appreciate: all QST's back to the first issue over a hundred years ago, are online with a useful searchable index. I can look at Sweepstakes results back in 1957, or a keyer article in 1969, or a transmitter construction article from the 1920's. WITHOUT having to keep a bunch of moldy smelly old QST's on the shelf in the basement.

Now there is just a little awkwardness in some of the online tools and organization. For example, archives of articles from 1915-2011 are viewable/downloadable as PDF, and articles since 2012 are in the proprietary pagesuite format that use the proprietary pagesuite viewer. This is a minor gripe for me, compared to having all this stuff online and searchable. I am hopeful that the ARRL will consolidate and streamline electronic access going forwards.

I have encouraged, and will continue to encourage, ARRL to make electronic archives and electronic new editions for both QEX and NCJ available. NCJ from the 70's and 80's really is a treat to read. Back before E-mail reflectors, NCJ was where the most hardcore contesters and world's best ops shared their stories and tales of station construction/operation.

Tim N3QE

Re: On- line QST, a flop?
From: Mark Adams K2QO
Date: Fri, 20 Dec 2019 10:21:41 EST
I read QST on my 12.9" iPad Pro using the app. It is an immersive experience on such a great screen. Being able to read comfortably in almost any light along with the ability to zoom into graphics and photos is a winner. And as mentioned, the old back issues don't get moldy or pile up to the point where a decision needs to be made regarding disposal. And my cover shot on the May 2019 issue looks nice :-)

I too would love to see NCJ and QEX online. I recently started PDF'ing NCJ by cutting off the binding and running them through my Fujitsu ScanSnap IX500. They come out OCR'd and fully searchable that way.

73,
Mark K2QO

Re: On- line QST, a flop?
From: K2DB Paul Mackanos
Date: Fri, 20 Dec 2019 10:46:29 EST
I think online QST is great, I have it on my Ipad, and my android phone. I am an old fart long in the tooth, but I've always kept up with the latest technologies. I thoroughly enjoy the online QST, of course my eyesight is really good. Best of luck I'm just one of those guys that's going to give it a thumbs up 👍😊
Paul K2DB

WA7BNM Cabrillo Form for the CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration
From: Bud Trench
Date: Sun, 22 Dec 2019 13:42:15 EST
Bruce, WA7BNM, has created a Cabrillo Form for the CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration. The form is available at:

http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/cwops10_cab3.php

Here is a description of the form, provided by WA7BNM:

“Use this form to manually enter your CW Ops 10th Anniversary log data if you used paper logging or logging software that doesn't produce a Cabrillo file. The form software will convert your info into a properly formatted Cabrillo file and submit it to the contest sponsor for log checking. You will have the opportunity to view and confirm the Cabrillo file contents before it is submitted.”

My thanks to Bruce, for his support.

73, Bud AA3B



Member and Station News:

Your news or story could be included here in the next issue of CARA Capers. Contact W1QK, Capers editor. Just snap a pix of your station, antennas, mobile installation, etc. and send it in!

From the YCCC Reflector - A nostalgic look back:

W1CSM Re: My first station
From: Bruce King W1CSM
Date: Tue, 17 Dec 2019 18:25:56 EST

Who can pass up the opportunity to brag/complain about their Novice rig?

Mine was the Walter Ashe kit, regen receiver, 6AG7-6L6 transmitter, TR switch by knife... 60 ft end fed wire at 25 feet. That was in Darien, CT in 1954 at age 14. Replaced the regen receiver with a shiny new National SW54, yeah, the one with no bandsread.

Had my first serious lesson in

high finance that year too. My Elmer, Guy W1DHO, called to say he had a BC-312 available for \$40. My 16 year old neighbor now with his driver's license called to say his idle "fancy" 3 speed English bike was available for \$40. I had \$40 to my name, what to do? Obviously I tried hitting up parents; their response was "get a job". I passed on the BC-312.

But the person who bought it sold it to me a year later for \$20... Had that receiver until 1965 when I upgraded and built the SB-100 transceiver and SB-200 amp.

Dan, W1QK, will remember the SB100 from Field Day outings with the Candlewood club in the late 60's.

My first contest was with the regen receiver in the Boys Life magazine SWL contest while waiting for my ticket to arrive. Did well enough to win a Thordarson transformer gift certificate. Think my grades slipped that year too.

73 Bruce W1CSM

Editor: Bruce is a former CARA member, officer and the first W1QI trustee.

First Rig
From: Bud W1NSK
Date: Wed, 18 Dec 2019 10:43:51 EST

After discovering the SX38 Hallicrafters Receiver my Uncle had in his attic (which I since inherited to my collection), and hearing people talk to each other on AM I was hooked!

A Novice Ticket was had in 1969 thru my Jr. High Radio Club, and I haven't stopped enjoying radio since.

My Dad sprung for a Hammarlund HG110 AC VHF Receiver for Christmas. It took every cent I had from allowance - raking leaves and shoveling snow, to buy a Johnson Ranger II from Federated Electronics on RT. 22 in NJ. I miss that store!

A 60' ft wire was run from the house to a tree about 25' ft high. Thankfully the forgiving matching Pi Network in the Ranger allowed me to successfully load up and work what I could hear on 40 & 80 CW.

50 years later I'm still pounding Brass!

Bud - W1NSK

Re: My first station
From: Frank W2YK
Date: Wed, 18 Dec 2019 08:29:10 EST

My first rig was my father's (W2PXC) homebrew 813, modulated with a pair of TZ40s. It was built into a wooden rack. AM and crystal controlled.. Got into everyone's radio when I was on 10 meters. And of course, being AM, everyone knew exactly who I was. This included a ham that lived 2 blocks away. I became an expert in installing bypass caps. Of course, that was easy to do back in 1966. I was mostly a phone operator then, but switched to CW when I moved to a 4-story walk-up apartment and had to put up an antenna in the middle of everyone's TV antenna. Before cable days! I still have an extra 813 or two, if anyone needs one. I have one mounted on a pedestal in my shack...

73 - Frank W2YK

Re: My first station
From: Bruce Herrick
Date: Wed, 18 Dec 2019 09:23:28 EST

First RX was an Echophone EC-1 given to me by a friend of my dad. Echophone was the civilian division of Hallicrafters during the WWII. Schematic was identical to an S-38.
TX was a DX-40. Antenna was an 80m dipole strung between a neighbor's chimney and a different neighbor's tree. KN1TMM arrived in Yarmouth, ME Sept. 5, 1961. 1st QSO was with KN8CGG in Okemos, MI. Only XTAL was 3.735. Still have the DX-40 & all novice logs and QSLs. 1st contest was the 1962 Novice Roundup, which I won for the state of ME. The contest period was 2 weeks, and I had 22 Qs and 10 sections. My certificate says "Outstanding operating achievement!"

73,
Bruce WW1M

Re: First Rig
From: pineapple Lane
Date: Wed, 18 Dec 2019 09:23:44 EST
December 1958, Colorado Springs, Colorado:

K0SLD called CQ. Rock Bound on 7150 khz. I worked California!
20 watts home brew 6L6 metal tube and Dad's old Hammarlund shortwave receiver. I was so nervous on the hand key!

Within a year I was sporting an HT32A and SX110, and it didn't take long to discover CONTESTING,

which I'm still hooked on 61 years later! Layne AE1N (ex-K0SLD, KW6DG, DL4FU, KS6SX, W7HOI, K7GN)

Re: My first station
From: Dick Green WC1M
Date: Wed, 18 Dec 2019 23:57:33 EST

My first rig was a Viking Adventurer transmitter and a Hallicrafters SX-96 receiver. They originally belonged to my Dad, who was licensed as a teenager in NYC and went on to teach radio and Morse code as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army for six years during WWII. I thought he did his basic training at Ft. Dix, NJ and taught code at Ft. Monmouth, NJ, but Whitey's post makes me wonder if it was the other way 'round. Dad didn't have much time for ham radio after the war, but he did put up a "doublet" in the backyard of the first house my parents bought in TN in the mid-1950s. I think he built the Viking Adventurer, but don't know what he may have used for a receiver before the SX-96 arrived. My mother gave it to him for Christmas one year, soliciting donations from all our relatives for what was then a super-expensive radio listing for \$249. Dad setup a station in a walk-in closet in the basement, but having recently started a business manufacturing wheel weights, he had almost no time to use the radio equipment. Anyway, one of my strongest childhood memories was as a 5 or 6 year-old stealing into the closet and playing with the knobs and flipping switches on Dad's radios, pretending I was flying an airplane. I was also fascinated by Dad's Vibroplex bug.

That was my introduction to ham radio, and because of that memory, I always wanted to be a ham, just like Dad. And like him, it was all about CW for me. After years of dreaming about getting a license, and finally living in a house where I could set up a station, I met W1ECT (ex-WA3ECT), who became my Elmer. Mike pointed me in the right direction to learn CW and taught me a lot about ham radio. Got my ticket in December 1983 at the age of 30, licensed as KA1LBW (was that really 36 years ago???) Still a lot of nostalgia when I think of that call: "di-dah-di-dit dah-di-di-dit di-dah-dah" or "Lima Bravo Whiskey!" for the rare SSB contact -- never dreaming that my 10-minute meter would hit 350/hr from 8P in CW WW SSB (but I still hate Phone...) I had previously setup a Cushcraft 5-band vertical in the side yard for SWLing, so I was able to get on the air shortly after the ticket arrived. A long wire from the house peak to a tree for 80m followed, later replaced by a Carolina Windom. My first QSO was on Christmas eve 1983 with KB4ETQ in NC on 21.113 MHz CW. No QSO

has produced a greater thrill than that first one, though many first-country, DXpedition contacts and tough mults have equaled it. First DX was with VE3OFM three days later. First QSO with EU came in mid-January 1984 with ON8DU. I was in heaven.

There followed a long succession of rigs, about half of them tube-based, and most of them acquired and sold at hamfests. And there have been many upgrades to the antennas over the years. When we finally owned a home with enough space for decent antennas, I built a station for my first passion, DXing. That's where I learned to tune, listen and pounce.

But as I started to run out of countries to work, my interest shifted to contesting and stayed there, especially after I experienced the thrill of running pileups. Now I was the DX! Consequently, more and more aluminum, wire and steel found its way onto our property and a lot of equipment, wiring and switches found its way to my shack. Mike used to say that DXers build solid, reliable stations capable of working the world, while contesters push the envelope by putting as much metal in the air as they possibly can, always on the hairy edge of something breaking, just to squeeze out an extra dB. Sound familiar?

My log now has nearly 200,000 QSOs, the vast majority having been logged during contests over the past 20 years since I joined YCCC. I only wish I had started when I was much younger!

(NB: Unbeknownst to me at the time, N1MM worked at my Dad's wheel weight factory in TN while on summer vacation from MIT in the late 60s or early 70s (forget which.) That's an amazing coincidence, as I was to meet Tom for the first time through YCCC here in New England in the early 2000s.

About 10 years later, we discovered the connection after a random comment about living in TN one of us made in a reflector post. Turns out our parents were very close friends in TN. Tom says working in my Dad's factory was the worst job he ever had and that it convinced him to stay in college and get his degree. I have no doubt! I remember hauling 70-lb lead ingots around that place. Glad I got into software instead...)

73, Dick WC1M

CARA Capers: Swap and Shop

CARA Swap & Shop Policies:

CARA assumes no responsibility for transactions made or inaccuracies in ads. You are responsible for checking your ad and notifying us of any corrections. Swap and Shop listings are open to licensed CARA hams, based on space available. Please submit your list to w1qk@snet.net for placement in the CARA Capers. **Yes – Free advertising for CARA Members.**



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*CAPERS is the monthly newsletter of the
Candlewood Amateur Radio Association
Editor: Dan Fegley, W1QK*



A brief word from our editor...

CARA CAPERS is the monthly publication of the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (CARA) and is intended to present news, issues, and opinions of interest to CARA members and the Amateur Radio Community.

We encourage contributions of articles, letters to the editor, etc. and welcome newsletter exchanges with other clubs from around the country and around the world. Permission is granted to reprint material contained herein as long as proper credit is given to this newsletter and the author.

Ideas for and contributions to the CAPERS should be submitted to: w1qk@snet.net.

Submissions must be received no later than the last Friday of the month preceding month of issue, *unless otherwise specified*.

Submissions should be in MS Word format or ASCII text. Photos should be in .jpg format.

Material received after the deadline will be used in the next month's CAPERS if it's still current and /or newsworthy.

The CAPERS is published by CARA Capers Editor. All material contained herein is considered the opinion of the author and not necessarily that of CARA.

Announcements of events are for informational purposes and do not necessarily constitute an endorsement by CARA. No responsibility for accuracy is assumed by the CARA Capers editor or newsletter staff.

Courtesy of: *The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association's Award-Winning monthly newsletter: "Voice Coil"*
<http://www.mvara.org/News/Current.pdf>

Just in time for the Superbowl:

<https://youtu.be/HMimG2NV01Y>

Team Budweiser Clydesdales:
#1 Superbowl Commercial of ALL time

Team Clydesdale Budweiser

<https://youtu.be/PU92XeqhRSA>

Super Bowl's Baby Clydesdale: A Budweiser Story

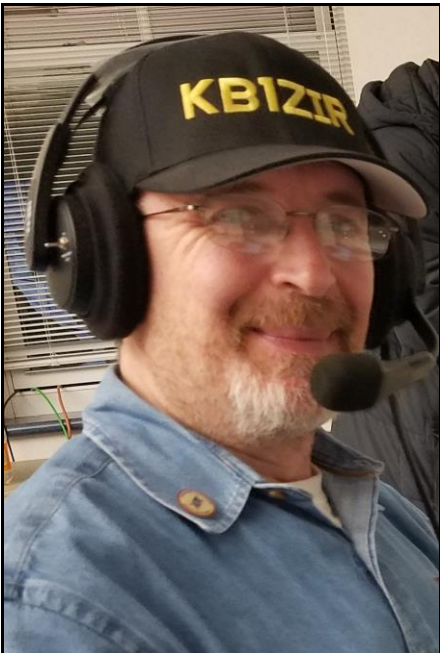
| Nightline | ABC News

CARA Winter Field Day: 2018 & 2019

Stony Hill Firehouse, Bethel - Team W1QI; Category: 2 Indoor

Photos: W1JGM, W1QH, KC1IBR, W1QK





Preliminary CARA /2020 Calendar

CARA Program and Activities Committee: Marcus – AB1WV, Bud – W1NSK

January

- 2 – Deadline for January CARA Capers input
- 6 – Scheduled release of January Capers
- 10 – Monthly meeting – Annual W1-QSL Bureau QSL card pre-sort and pizza party
- 24 – January planning meeting
- 25-26 – Winter Field Day, Ball Pond Firehouse, Fairfield Drive, New Fairfield

February

- 5 – Deadline for February CARA Capers input
- 10 – Scheduled release of February Capers
- 14 – Monthly meeting – “Cut the Cable”: presentation by Gregory Davis – WR1Z
- 28 – February planning meeting

March

- 4 – Deadline for March CARA Capers input
- 9 – Scheduled release of March Capers
- 13 – Monthly meeting – Presentation: TBD
- 27 – March planning meeting



NOTE: 2020 Annual CARA Dues are due in January

CARA membership and dues renewal information is available on the CARA website.