



Capers

September - 2020



The Monthly Newsletter of The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 55 – Brookfield CT 06804 - 0055
Visit us on the Web at <http://www.cararadioclub.org>

Next CARA Meeting: Friday, September 11

***This meeting will be conducted via Zoom Video Conferencing
Sign onto Zoom at 7:00 for socializing and conversation***

***Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
Zoom conference invitation emailed to CARA membership.***



Special Meeting Presentation by:
Dennis Egan - W1UE,
President - Yankee Clipper Contest Club, YCCC

President's Message – de W1NSK



It is the beginning of September and one can feel a touch of Fall soon to arrive in the air. I, as many of you are saying what happened to summer? COVID-19 is still affecting many of us at work and socially. As luck would have it, the day of our cancelled Hamfest was beautiful. Next year we will be back better than ever!

We will continue our Zoom Monthly and Planning Meetings for the foreseeable future. Look for the email the week of the meeting for log in information. We continue to have a robust Presentation schedule. Last month the Pitcairn Island DX expedition was amazing. This month Dennis Egan, W1UE, President of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) will be joining us in a joint CARA/YCCC Meeting. Dennis is an accomplished contester in many modes. He has done DX expeditions including 2019 CQWW WPX CW from Roatan, and 2016 CQ WW DX SSB from India.

In October, Mark Gilbert, N1MG, and I, will present on Boat Anchors and their restoration. If you have some old gear from a long time ago i.e. Tubes that glow in the dark, join us to not only celebrate their continued usefulness but restoration ideas as well.

In other club news Keith Iwanicki, W1RKI, will be helping to focus the club's youth initiative. Keith a middle school teacher at John Reade in Redding has gotten more than a dozen students licensed and on the air. Some are now general and Extra Class ticket holders. The importance of nurturing, "Elmering", and helping to perpetuate and grow this hobby of ours that we love cannot be understated. If anyone has any ideas in this effort contact Keith and let him know.

As many of you know from firsthand experience, Tropical Storm Isaias visited on August 5th, causing extensive power outages and tree damage. Our Repeaters on Spruce Mountain were affected by damage caused. Hats off to the Repeater Committee for getting them back on the air from alternate sites quickly!

See you all on Friday September 11 at 7:15 for our Monthly Zoom Meeting!

73,

Bud Kozloff – W1NSK

September 11 - Meeting Agenda:

Socializing & conversation – 7:00 PM

Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance – 7:30 PM

Roll Call

Review of agenda

Introduction of Guest Presenter – W1NSK

Special Presentation: Dennis Egan – W1UE, President – Yankee Clipper Contest Club, YCCC

Q&A with Presenter

CARA Business meeting to follow:

Review and Acceptance of minutes from last meeting

Treasurer's report

Standing Committee Reports

Old Business:

MS Office 365 for Non-Profits

New Business:

Sander Pool gift

Keith Iwanicki – W1KWI Youth Group

Certificate of Appreciation for W0GJ & Jim Ritterbusch

New Business:

FOX Hunt?

Announcements

Meeting adjournment

Socializing & conversation

Vice- President's Message:
de W1JGM



Welcome to the end of summer. Under normal times, I would be writing to thank everyone for their great effort and the fantastic success of our annual Hamfest. Unfortunately, this was not to be, as with many other events that were required to be cancelled.

My own niece's wedding was reduced to just the immediate wedding party and parents. They will hold their wedding party on their first anniversary - and so will we have our annual hamfest again; bigger and better next year. "The Biggest Little Hamfest in Western Connecticut". Save the date of August 22, 2021.

As many may have heard, Tom Coury WX1T is relocating to Massachusetts. We wish Tom and his family the very best and thank him for all his contributions, hard work, and dedication to the association for many years as our Treasurer and active member. Tom - stay in touch. We have the technology including Zoom for meetings, EchoLink to access the repeater, and of course 75 meter SSB too.

I've received no further information concerning the restoration of the power lines to the repeater site on Spruce Mountain. It doesn't appear that this will progress with any urgency. For now, the repeater is

working from our backup site in New Fairfield. The CARA 447.775 MHz. UHF repeater is off the air.

As I've mentioned for way too long now, especially as some schools and businesses are re-opening; continue to exercise the necessary precautions when outside your home. Be situationally responsible.

Plan to join us for our September business meeting and monthly presentation on Friday September 11, 2020 on the Zoom platform. The meeting invitation will be posted on the club's website.

And most important: "let's never forget" what happened 19 years ago on September 11th.

Stay safe and 73:

John Morelli -W1JGM, CARA Vice-President

August 14 CARA Monthly Meeting Minutes
de N1GSA



Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Pres Bud Kozloff, W1NSK

Meeting was started with a presentation from Glenn Johnson - W0GJ, showing his DX-pedition to Pitcairn Island. This was an island that the HMS Bounty landed on. Participant cost was roughly \$6500 each. He showed a video slide show that documented the entire trip. This lasted about 1/2 hr. He then stayed

around for a brief Q&A session. He said that at the present, there is a supply ship for the island that lands every 2 to 3 weeks. All the people living on the island could have not been more hospitable. The population is aging with the young folks leaving for higher education and not returning to live. The island is only about 2 miles long and 1 mile wide. Preparation for an event like this takes about 1 ½ to 2 yrs. It took nearly 14 months to get the container back from New Zealand.

July Minutes were voted accepted as recorded in the Capers.

Treasurer reported starting balance of \$5331.13 and an ending balance of \$5280.18. Treasurers report accepted.

Repeater Committee Chair, Gregory, reported extensive damage to Spruce Mountain after the storm last Tuesday. They went to the mountain on Wednesday and retrieved the 440 repeater and reprogrammed it for 2 meters. This was then installed at the Company A Firehouse in New Fairfield. It will take the City of Danbury some time to find funding for repairs to the mountain. This area is mainly for the lighting and IFR radio for the Danbury Municipal Airport. There is also Police and Fire radios located on the mountain. Spruce Mountain could be an alternative site if permission could be obtained. Gregory also has sent out a blanket invitation for anyone with interest in the Repeaters to join the Committee. He also mentioned looking into solar backup for our repeaters. He has given a minor visual inspection of the antennas and reports that they are generally in good shape.

John spoke about the Microsoft 360 progress. He has spoken with Mike Walters who hoped it would be straightened out by now but with the storm and its damage things are on hold at the moment.

The lady that Dan spoke with, Jennifer Doyan, is willing to assist with moving to a new web host. We need a list of information to be included on the site.

The equipment from Sander – W1SOP, has been donated to CARA. We will need to go over and pick this up. We also need to form an antenna removal party. This should be kept with our other materials and could be lent out for member use. It is also a concern to store all our equipment so that it can be kept in one location. John will look into what is available in the area and the costs. A quick look brought out between \$65 and \$110 per month depending on size.

We are still working on the list of club equipment. This will be useful for both our knowledge and upkeep as well as a list for insurance purposes. This should also include model numbers, serial numbers, and photos where possible. It is thought that ARRL insurance would cost \$1.40 per \$1000 value per year.

Dave Coelho has been working on drafting a fundraiser letter.

We do still need Chairman for the Website Committee, Membership Committee, Development Committee. There also is a need for someone to investigate Grants available for Non-Profit Organizations. There could also be funds available thru Region 5. This does come available from time to time. THIS is a very complicated project, but sometimes available.

Upcoming programs for meetings are still needed. There are some lined up but always room for more. November is still open. January card sort is up in the air with the threat of COVID still looming. John mentioned a program would be good on Winlink. There is both HF and VHF hookups that could be explained. February would be the next open month.

The budget forecast could be generated starting with Calendar year 2021 as we know where we are for 2020.

John Mentioned about a letter of appreciation to Glenn for his presentation on Pitcairn.

Roger made a motion for a donation of \$50 to Company A in New Fairfield. This could go far with relations. This was passed unanimously.

Logbook of the World was brought up as they are looking for donations to support. With the possible loss of international mail especially, in a post COVID world, this could be the only way to get confirmation from foreign countries. John made a motion, which was quickly seconded, to send a \$50 donation to LOTW. This passed.

Dan will look into a commemorative plaque from our usual vendor. This will have a budget of \$45. Motion made, seconded and passed for this. Motion made, seconded and passed for up to \$25 to update the Perpetual Presidents Plaque.

There has been some interest in having another Foxhunt. Harlan has the Fox. Bud will investigate further to get this event started.

Motion to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Gary S. Adams Sr. , N1GSA - Secretary

Attendees: W1JMA, AJ1MJ, N1IBQ, KC1IBR, NG1R, WR1Z, W1QH, W1NSK, W1QK, N2OHH, K1SZO, N1GSA, AB1WV

August 28 CARA Monthly Planning Meeting Minutes

ZOOM Meeting called to order at 7:36pm by Pres. Bud Kozloff

There were 7 people present

John reported on the Repeater Committee. He has heard nothing from City of Danbury regarding progress in access to Spruce Mtn. He said that we may need to acquire some additional wire for the 220 Machine. This will be brought up at the regular meeting.

Marcus and Mike have contacted Tech Soup and it is a problem on that end to get connected with 360.

Bud reminded that Sander's wife has donated all his equipment to the club. We will generate a donation document for her to use for tax purposes. Rosty has looked at the house and reported that there are a couple tripods on the roof that will need to be sealed up when they are removed. We will try to get a work party together in Sept or Oct for this removal.

Charlie has received documents about a few more items to be added to the Club inventory. We still need to get the radios, computers, antennas, and coax listed for this.

Bud spoke about the upcoming website revisions. Jennifer Doyan has been given a preliminary list of things needed on the site. The website committee needs to adjust and update this info.

John has sent an email to Fred - K1VR, about a presentation for the club and has heard nothing further.

He will try to contact Val Holtzfield to do a presentation on DXing. Bud and Gary (from Redding) are doing a program in OCT about Boat Anchors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm

Respectfully Submitted

Gary S Adams Sr. , N1GSA - Secretary

Last Month's program:
de W1QK



<https://pitcairndx.com/>

CARA thanks Glenn Johnson – W0GJ, for his very informative presentation on the 2019 DxPediton to Pitcairn Island at our monthly August 14 Zoom meeting.

This Month's program:



Our Guest Presenter will be Dennis Egan – W1UE, President of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club.



Dennis visited CARA at the October, 2018 meeting.

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

To promote the fun, satisfaction and competitive thrill of radio contesting

To assist our members in the development of their operating and technical skills

To win the club competition of the major amateur radio contests

We would love to have you join us!

The YCCC was founded in April 1977 and now boasts over 300 members located from New York City to Maine, Cape Cod to Upstate NY.

YCCC members have excelled in all areas of amateur radio contesting, DXing, technical design, and public service.

Club meetings are normally held the first weekend of even-numbered months. Local meetings and 'Contest Universities' are also held around the club territory as organized by the club's Area Managers. You must attend a meeting to join the club. However, for the past several months, YCCC meeting and special events have been held on the Zoom video conference platform.

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.

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

WRTC 2018 Experience Speed Talk - Dennis Egan, W1UE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDnm4n0Rulk>



Editor: [Rick Palm, K1CE](#)

August 19, 2020

ARRL Hires First Director of Emergency Management

As another step in ARRL's increased focus on strengthening its emergency communications capabilities and long-standing working relationships with federal and state agencies and private emergency response organizations, ARRL has hired Paul Z. Gilbert, KE5ZW, of Cedar Park, Texas, as its first Director of Emergency Management.

Gilbert brings more than 30 years of experience in public service in both his professional and amateur radio endeavors. Beginning with his appointment as Emergency Coordinator in 1987, he has held multiple positions in the ARRL Field Organization. Currently in his second term as South Texas Section Manager, he has also served for more than a decade as the West Gulf Division's Assistant Director for Public Service, acting as liaison between Division leadership and local, state, and federal emergency management organizations.

Professionally, Gilbert most recently was Radio Officer, HQ Staff, for the Texas State Guard, where for the past 6 years he has been responsible for planning and implementation of the organization's communications capabilities. Previously he was a Public Safety Radio Coordinator for a Texas agency, charged with overseeing that organization's large-scale disaster communications response and identifying and eliminating in-state interoperability issues.

Gilbert, who has an Amateur Extra-class license, is a member of Army MARS, and

holds numerous DHS certifications, including COML, COMT, COMT Instructor, and AUXCOM Communicator. He is a member of the FEMA Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG), a graduate of the FEMA Emergency Management Institute's Exercise Design Course, and was a founding member of the Texas Division of Emergency Management Communications Coordination Group.

In his new role, Gilbert will manage a team responsible for supporting ARRL Emergency Communications programs and services, including the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) and National Traffic System (NTS), as well as lead the continued modernization of those programs in consonance with the future emergency communications needs of the public and ARRL's key partners. – ARRL

ARES® Briefs, Links

ARES volunteers along the eastern seaboard were on alert to support needed communication as Hurricane/Tropical Storm Isaias worked its way north. Southern New Jersey Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) Tom Devine, WB2ALJ, was among several SECs who said their Sections were on alert but not activated for tropical storm winds, flash flooding, and tornadoes. "All county teams were prepared, and SKYWARN teams were requested to provide weather data to the regional National Weather Service (NWS) Office," Devine said, adding that other SECs from the mid-Atlantic states were in communication.

The Hurricane Watch Net activated twice for Isaias -- on July 31 and on August 1. ". . . members of HWN collected and forwarded many surface reports from the coastal areas of South Carolina and North Carolina to the National Hurricane Center by way of WX4NHC [at the National Hurricane Center],"

Graves said. - *excerpted from the report of Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, The ARRL Letter*

In North Carolina, Winlink-templated SPOTREPS were sent to the North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) ESF2 Desk [ESF2 is the Emergency Support Function for Communications] through the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Agency (CISA) SHARES program's extensive Winlink radio email system. "That's a very robust system, devoid of frequency, bandwidth and data rate limitations," said Tom Brown, N4TAB, the state's AUXCOMM coordinator, RACES Officer and ARES Section Emergency Coordinator. "There are nine SHARES RMS gateways in North Carolina, primarily at governmental facilities, and many counties have SHARES client stations as do other authorities," Brown said.

ARRL 2020 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Scheduled for October 3 - 4 Weekend

The 2020 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will take place October 3 - 4. The annual, nationwide exercise provides ARES volunteers the chance to test personal emergency-operating skills and communication readiness in a simulated emergency deployment. ARRL is asking participants to adhere to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and local health department COVID-19 [guidelines](#) by staying home, maintaining safe distances when around people, and following recommended cleaning and disinfecting practices.

ARRL Field Organization leadership at the Section and local levels -- as well as many other volunteers who are active in public service and emergency communication -- are developing emergency scenarios with a variety of agencies and organizations they've

partnered with in the past during real emergencies and disasters.

Given the ongoing pandemic, an in-person emergency exercise may not be possible this year, but volunteers are encouraged to adapt to the circumstances. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service. Any time we spend on the air will contribute to developing and practicing our personal radio communication capability.

Volunteers with ARES, the National Traffic System (NTS), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), SKYWARN™, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and other allied groups and public service-oriented amateur radio groups are among those eligible to participate in the SET to practice emergency operation plans, nets, and procedures.

ARRL has long-standing [relationships](#) with several national organizations including the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Salvation Army, among others.

This year's SET can be a chance to reach out to these partners -- at a safe distance and/or via online meetings and teleconferences -- to establish or review plans and develop working relationships.

ARRL Field Organization leaders have the option of conducting local or Section-wide SETs on dates other than the October 3 - 4 focal-point weekend, but no later than the end of the calendar year. Contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager or ask your Section Manager. Additional [information about SET and the reporting forms](#) are available on the ARRL website. - ARRL

Training Videos Available from SEC-ARES

The SEC-ARES group on groups.io is now open to all radio amateurs involved or interested in amateur radio emergency/disaster communications, with a focus on ARES. [join](#). The group has hosted a number of excellent presentations by subject matter experts on a diverse array of topics. Here are a few samples:

[Did you feel it?](#) A new earthquake reporting system. Speaker Oliver Dully, K6OLI

[Winlink](#) -- Speaker Phil Sherrod, W4PHS

[Winlink Basic Operation Workshop WK1](#) -- Speaker Oliver Dully, K6OLI

[Winlink Advanced Operation Workshop](#) -- Speaker Oliver Dully, K6OLI

Check them out!

ARES Resources

- [Download the ARES Manual \[PDF\]](#)
- [ARES Field Resources Manual \[PDF\]](#)
- [ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book \[Fillable PDF\]](#)
- [ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book \[Word\]](#)
- [ARES Plan](#)
- [ARES Group Registration](#)
- [Emergency Communications Training](#)

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national

organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

How to Get Involved in ARES: Fill out the [ARES Registration form](#) and submit it to your local Emergency Coordinator.



Editor: [Brian Moran, N9ADG](#)

September 2, 2020

NEW HF OPERATORS -- THINGS TO DO

The fall contest season is nearly upon us! Over the next few weeks there are smaller-contest opportunities to try modes that might be new to you, or contest formats that are enjoyable. For those that enjoy modern digital contests, RTTY could be very appealing. Compared to today's FT4/FT8, contacts can proceed at a faster rate, but signals in general have to be stronger, and errors can occur in the decoding, since there's no inherent error correction. If you're already set up for FT4/FT8, you're probably also set up for RTTY. Check out RTTYContesting.com's [Getting Started on RTTY](#) page, and for even more information, review [past presentations on Contest University's website](#). You'll probably also want to study up on the [use of a logging program, such as N1MM Logger+, in conjunction with a RTTY program](#).

There's a new contest for portable operators, the [Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operator's Challenge](#). The first outing will be October 3 and 4, and the spirit of the contest is extracting the maximum number of kilometers-per-watt. Though this contest has *NCJ* as one of the sponsors, it is not an official ARRL or *NCJ* contest. "According to the contest rules, scoring will be calculated using the distance between stations (Maidenhead grid squares) in kilometers divided by power output in watts. Fixed (QTH) stations will compete against portable (P) stations on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Allowable modes include phone, CW, and digital. For the 2020 event, the number of transmitters concurrently in use will be restricted to two."

Editor's note: The August 10, 2020 derecho destroyed over 14 million acres of crops, leaving over 200,000 people without power. Here's the [National Weather Service's take on the extent of the storm](#). What follows is a description of the impact to well-known contester Toni Radebaugh, N0NI.

The August 2020 Midwest Derecho - by Mark Obermann, AG9A

On August 10, 2020, a severe weather phenomenon known as a derecho developed over the Midwest, forming near the border of South Dakota and Nebraska. It traveled 770 miles at an average speed of 55 mph over five states before eventually dissipating over eastern Indiana and Ohio. Derecho means straight in Spanish and describes the fast moving and long lasting high straight-line speed wind storms that can generate hurricane force winds and produce tornados within the thunderstorms. While uncommon, they are generally most prevalent in the northern hemisphere during the months of June, July and August.

Wide swaths of the Midwest were affected, but the most severe damage occurred in

several different areas along its path. The highest estimated wind speeds reached 140 mph (equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane) and took place over Iowa. One of the amateur stations that sustained heavy damage was the contest station of Toni Radebaugh, N0NI, located near Rippey, Iowa. The weather forecast for that day included a 30 percent chance of rain with no mention of severe storms. The storm arrived at around 11 AM. In the roughly 30-40 minutes that followed, ten towers were either lost or severely damaged affecting a total of thirty-five HF Yagis. With area winds estimated in excess of 100 mph, many trees, including seventeen 100-year-old cedars on the west side of the towers (and just out of view in the photos) snapped and landed on multiple guy wires. This caused the towers to bend and break, bringing down the towers, antennas and other nearby towers that may have been in the way. The towers and antennas outside of the tree line were not affected, including a homebrew full-size 3-element 40 meter Yagi at 196', a real testament to the robust design of the towers and antennas at Toni's station. Toni stated that he had not lost a tower in 43 years, but when he finally did, it was spectacular.

In addition to the tower damage, trees came down on the house and the surrounding corn fields were crushed by the winds resulting in a total loss of much of this year's crop.

Toni vows to rebuild a number of towers and antennas as that is his favorite thing to do in Amateur Radio. This time, they may not go up as high, and of course, they'll be spaced farther away from the remaining trees.



*CARA has been an
ARRL Affiliated Club - since 1946*



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

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

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

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



Upcoming Contests, Hamfests & Meetings:

Sept. 11: Monthly CARA meeting via Zoom

Sept. 12; ARRL September VHF Contest

Sept. 12-13: Texas and Alabama QSO Party

Sept. 14: Region 5 South ARES meeting via Zoom

Sept. 19: WA QSO Party (WA Salmon Run), IA QSO Party, NH QSO Party, NJ QSO Party

Sept. 21: ARES Region 5 meeting via Zoom

Sept. 25: CARA Planning meeting via Zoom

Sept. 25-27: CQ WW RTTY Contest

Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: CWOps CWT Minitest Regular Sessions - 1300Z, 1900Z, 0300Z

Oct. 1: October Capers input deadline

Complete Contest calendar at:

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

New England and other local hamfests:

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

Upcoming CARA Calendar:

Sept. 11: CARA September Monthly meeting video conference via Zoom

Sept. 25: CARA September planning meeting video conference via Zoom

Oct 2: October Capers input deadline



New Contest!

October 3 & 4, 2020
foxmikehotel.com/challenge/

Portable Operations Challenge

The Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operations Challenge is designed to optimize equal operating conditions for portable operating during a contest involving non-portable stations. The scoring allows and encourages regular home-based station operations (“QTHers”) to take part while offering a handicap-style scoring algorithm to be more equalized for portable stations. The approach is akin to the handicap index in the sport of golf. More difficult courses are scored with a higher slope value, indicating a greater challenge to achieve a normal par score of 72 on that course with a handicap of subtracting strokes for golfers who do not typically shoot as

low a score as other golfers. A number of factors go into deriving the slope rating for a golf course but they represent the challenge that the course presents to each participant golfer and the golfer's capability for playing the course.

Similarly, a number of factors go into the challenge to make contacts in an amateur radio contest. These include RF power, mode of transmission, how far away a potential contact is and whether the operator is in a location away from the optimized shack at a ham's usual QTH. The conveniences at a conventional home station are almost always more productive than a portable operation for scoring points in an amateur radio contest. Additional power output, gain with directional beams, multiple radios and operators, are but a few of these accouterments of the QTHer that, for the most part, are not enjoyed by the portable operator.

The POC aims to make portable operations "on par" with more typical QTH-based operations while preserving the enjoyment of being in a new operating environment. Moreover, QTH-based operators can also easily participate in the action, challenging the handicapped-scoring for portable ops. Can the Super Station contester best the Little Pistol portable operation? If we use a scoring metric that reduces the advantages of QTH-bound stations to that of pure radio sport operating, is there a chance that an efficient portable operator or team can come out ahead of the current winning contest station operators? That's why this is called the Portable Operations Challenge!

Frank K4FMH

POC DATES

First weekend in October, which is October 3rd & 4th this year, 2020. Contest operation time – 8-hour contiguous window within the 48-hours – chosen by the contestant to suit the appropriate region in the world where the entrant resides. The organisers wish the contestants to consider all dangers in the time window that they chose (e.g. putting up or taking down a portable station in the dark is not recommended). Operation outside of this 8-hour window contacting other POC competing stations is not allowed and will be controlled through log checking – this is to avoid entrants "cherry picking" of the best 8 hours from their log should the contestant operate a longer period than 8 hours in the POC. Contestants must also work within any local regulations, such as those to control the COVID-19 pandemic.

Examples:

A single operator portable station in Germany may decide to operate from 0800 UTC on Saturday 3 October until 1600 UTC on the same day. In eastern Australia however, another

single operator portable station may choose to operate from 2300 UTC on the 3 October until 0700 on the 4 October.

In this example both stations are operating from 10am for 8 hours local time (and hence operating while it is daylight). The German station has decided to operate on (local) Saturday, the Australian on (local) Sunday.



From the YCCC Reflector:

Nice website for weather

From: [Chuck W1HIS](#)

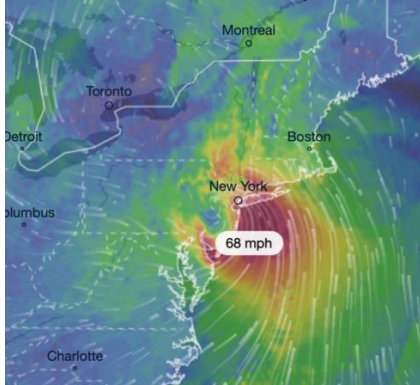
Date: Tue, 04 Aug 2020 15:48:19 EDT

<https://www.ventusky.com/>

This website is highly customizable by means of the column of buttons/menus at the left side of the page. As a ham you'll probably be most interested in its ability to show *wind*.

To give you an example, I'll attach a small, cropped, screen-shot. (I dunno whether this 1-MB .png image file will make it to you.) For this example I chose to display the horizontal vector wind field at 10-m height by means of streamlines with arrowheads, and one-hour maximum gust speed by means of color. The color code for max. gust speed was not included in my screen-shot; but, by moving a cursor, I was able to display the max. gust speed in the dark purple area offshore, south of NYC.

I chose to display the weather as of 2 PM Eastern Time. Past (actual) and future (predicted) weather may also be displayed.



-Chuck W1HIS



Many CARA members used N1MM+ Contest Logger during the 2020 ARRL Field Day.

For a free download, visit:

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

Check
this
out →

Fred, K1VR has compiled our list of "Contest Tips" and is now available on the "Contest Links" page. Use the drop down "YCCC Links (above)" → Contest Links" or [Click Here](#)

The Amateur's Code The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

Storm damage: N0NI-Iowa, N8OO
From: Charles Morrison
Date: Thu, 03 Sep 2020 12:50:38 EDT

Storm damage: N0NI-Iowa, N8OO-La

By now you may have heard of the storm damage at N0NI and N8OO caused by separate weather events. If you have not, here's info from Alex Tkatch KU1CW
"Two super stations suffered enormous losses this August.

N0NI, Toni in Iowa:
lost 1200 FT of tower (10) and 35 (!) antennas in weather phenomenon called "Derecho". (Nearly all damage was the result of trees falling on guywires or towers, but a 198ft tower in the clear survived.- N1RR.) Similar to category 4-5 hurricane. I operated many times from Toni's station .

Victor -N8OO, in Louisiana:
lost shack (flipped, moved) and almost all of the antennas in cat4 hurricane "Laura". No power until September 7 at least. Family house moved off foundation by 40cm or so.

Both probably will rebuild, but that is a LOT of work! ☺

N0NI after "Derecho"
Photos were post of N0NI.

CWOps act of Courtesy!

From: Greg - NS8O
Date: Thu, 13 Aug 2020 10:43:06 EDT
Hi all,

Just wanted to thank an unknown operator that I encountered in the 1300 UTC CWT yesterday. I was on the low end of 40 meters and had been running since the beginning of the hour. About 20 minutes later, I kept hearing a station also running but he was up frequency enough that it wasn't bothering my run. Then he slid down for some reason and was right on top of me. So I sent "QRL QRL" and magically he moved on. I wanted to thank who ever it was for being so kind, and I appreciated it! If I knew his call I would have thanked him/her personally!

It just goes to show what a great group CWOps is!

73 de NS8O Greg 149

Re: CWOps act of Courtesy!
From: Mark Beckwith
Date: Thu, 13 Aug 2020 11:14:35 EDT

A true gesture of courtesy, that is, but at the same time, simply responsible procedure.

Being able to tune your radio and copy the code are the first steps. I'd wager half the time someone seems rude, by "ignoring" your sending "QRL", in reality they can't really copy code well enough to know what you said, or they don't know how to use their radio well enough to actually be transmitting on the same frequency they are receiving on, so they never hear you send "QRL".

It is a sad state of affairs. Hiram had a word for this. Where is the Wouff Hong when we need it!

The other half of the time they are just being rude.

73 - Mark N5OT

Re: CWOps act of Courtesy!
From: ShelbyK4WW
Date: Thu, 13 Aug 2020 11:32:12 EDT

Unfortunately, I've experienced just the opposite. Several times I've had a station call/work me, then

move 20-30 Hz, and start calling CQ. I have my own way of handling them, after that happens.

Slower CW regular-event catalog
From: Tim Shoppa
Date: Thu, 13 Aug 2020 11:26:48 EDT

The recent conversation about slower CW events has been great reading! Please help me by suggesting other regular CW events (that occur at least once a month) I can add below.

The events below either encourage (via score bonus) or require (unless you have physical disability) using straight keys. Typical speeds are 10-15WPM but there are some slower and some faster. They also have suggested frequency ranges for participants.

SKCC "Straight Key Sprint" is 0000-0200UTC on fourth Wednesday of each month. That's Tuesday evening for those of us in North America.
https://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

SKCC "Weekend Sprintathon" is 36 hours, on the Saturday following the 6th of each month.
https://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

NAQCC QRP sprints are second Tuesday or Third Wednesday evening each month. There's a point bonus for using straight key but keyers are also heard. You can participate if not QRP you just can't get any awards. <http://nagcc.info/contests.html>

So, how do you tune in a CW signal?

From: ae7us
Date: Sun, 23 Aug 2020 18:45:09 EDT

With the K3 I use the autospot. The sidetone is not heard by the other station. I believe what the other station hears largely depends on how well they have you tuned in. Often when I listen to other stations in QSO, I notice that one of the stations is outside my passband, so I have to use the RIT. Also I often use the audio peaking filter on the K3 which often makes the difference between me being able to hear the station or not. This filter really pulls weak sigs out of

the noise. AFAIK the displayed frequency and the sidetone are independent of one another, and the sidetone is just what frequency you find easy to hear.

Re: So, how do you tune in a CW signal?

From: Skip

Date: Sun, 23 Aug 2020 22:24:24 EDT

For nearly all currently in-use equipment, it's pretty simple. The sidetone is generated at the pitch you choose. When the received signal pitch is the same as your sidetone pitch, you will transmit on the other stations frequency and it will be shown in your frequency display. How this happens is a function of all the DSP firmware in today's radios, but doesn't matter. That's called zero beat.

Zero beat is a mixed bag. In the olden days, even if all the callers initially got exactly zero beat, by the time they began calling it all would have drifted a bit. Today, our signals are sterile and stable, almost like NIST: They don't drift, they don't chirp, keyers send perfectly formed Morse, and they all sound the same. If you call CQ, most will reply zero beat ... they matched the pitch of your tone to their sidetone [or much more likely, their radio did it for them]. You won't be able to pick out any except by waiting [and sometimes waiting more], and finally a lone signal will drop a call in a short silent period between everyone else. Being able to do that is also a cool skill to develop.

But, as a caller ... move just a little off, up or down, maybe 50-100 Hz, use your ears not the dial, and you will be the nudist at the prude-ist beach. [:=) He'll hear you, get at least part of your call, and you get the Q.

To your actual question, you are transmitting on your dial frequency. All the rest is hocus pocus.

73,

Fred ["Skip"] K6DGW #142
Sparks NV DM09dn
Washoe County

4a.

Re: So, how do you tune in a CW signal?

From: Mark Beckwith

Date: Mon, 24 Aug 2020 10:18:04 EDT

Hey Dennis,

Great to work you on the air! You must already be doing something right!

I'll chime in with a little added opinion from the peanut gallery. My professional career was built on the ability to match audio pitches, so this is an area where I have some knowledge and expertise. I have been around through the years where zero-beating the other signal was the gold standard. The reason it worked so well then and works so badly now is that back then operators were still not perfect at zero-beating so they were not dead on top of each other as much as they are nowadays. Nowadays, it seems like most newer operators allow the transmit frequency to be set using digital technology. Or, as we old-timers might be inclined to job, "point and click." In fact, you may or may not be aware that this problem got so bad when spot resolutions got down to 10 hertz that the wise software creators made it so you could tell your program to customize how inaccurate you wanted this process to be.

It's all very interesting. The takeaway is that being close - is GOOD. Being the exact same frequency as someone else transmitting at the exact same time - is BAD, and being able to intelligently and deftly control the variable gives you the greatest opportunity for the most success.

Not knowing how your exact radio works unless you coincidentally have a radio that I have used before, which could be the case, I can tell you that radios are not all the same about this. Some have a sidetone that tracks your offset and some don't. Some have a "monitor" which is different from a "sidetone" and the two don't behave the same in a given radio (i.e. the "monitor" tracks, but the sidetone is a fixed oscillator, or even better, tracks to the beat of a different drum, or even better than that, the sidetone can be adjusted by the user, but is not related to the CW offset - I have seen all of these things on different radios over many years).

So, that being the case, I believe the very best thing you can do is to set up a second receiver, and just play with that set up until you have confidence in your exact circumstances and can put your frequency wherever you want, with accuracy, 100% of the time. There are no good contest operators who cannot do this.

Other readers may not put it in those terms, but I stand by that statement. It's just part of the skill necessary to be as competitive as possible.

That said, then you can put your frequency wherever you feel you want it to be, and not wonder if it is really there or not.

Over the years I have had students who are tone-deaf. They are not able to match pitch. However, I successfully taught them to do it, and then they were less tone deaf. A majority of people can do this automatically, fresh out of the box. However some can't. The good news is, it is a skill that can be learned.

73 - Mark N5OT

Re: So, how do you tune in a CW signal?
From: Wes Attaway (N5WA)

Date: Mon, 24 Aug 2020 18:47:59 EDT
I would like to chime in on this thread about CW offsets. I have been operating CW since 1955.

My feeling is that while some of the comments are good (re needing some "offset") they are more complicated than necessary.

Part of the problem (or maybe my take on this) is how the CW offset is being accomplished. I think a key element is what your CW receive bandwidth is set for. If you drop down to settings below about 500 cycles (or maybe a little more or less depending on your hearing) then you are going to run into situations where you have too many knobs to twiddle as you alternate between the TX and RX modes.

Things move fast in the CW contests. Twiddling with knobs is just an added waste of time for both the runner and the pouncer.

I routinely use 500-cycles for my CW setting. This allows for plenty of maneuvering room with the main tuning dial, so that you can easily offset your TX signal a little bit and still be able to hear the other op's exchange. Perfect tone from the other station has nothing to do with this. All you need to hear is the exchange. I operate an entire session without ever changing my offset or without doing anything other than tuning in the other station with a slight offset that is a sort of off-the-cuff jump before I have to make the call. If I was using a real tight RX bandwidth setting on the radio then this setting would certainly have to be tweaked many times during a session.

I have never experienced any need in contests for real tight bandwidths. All I need to do is hear the exchange and to get the other station to hear the exchange. I know the runners pick out stations with all kinds of tone offsets. In fact, as an S/P station you really have no idea how the runner has their radio(s) set up.

I suppose one situation you could run into is that on some rare DX station the pileup might be so big that you have to go to a tight bandwidth. This is an exception and not likely to happen in a CWT session.

One interesting thing that often happens to me in the CWTs is that I end up attracting two stations as I S/P. A run station will finish an exchange and two or three stations, along with me, may call. There is a slight hesitation/void because maybe the run station didn't pick out a call. I try to be quick to fill the void with another call. I can't count the number of times the running station comes back with an exchange and a runner close by will also come back with an exchange. I simply send one exchange and log them both and they both log me. This wouldn't happen if I was fiddling with the CW offset knob or if I had my RX bandwidth setting too tight.

Wes Attaway (N5WA)

Re: Curious - CW Sidetone Frequency
From: Björn SM7IUN
Date: Mon, 31 Aug 2020 13:03:32 EDT

The late professor Sten Harris made a scientific study on sidetone pitch in the 70's at Lund University.

The conclusion was that a pitch between 400 and 500Hz was optimal from a "correct reception in the presence of noise" perspective if the test subject had "normal" hearing.

I find that a bit low for comfort myself and prefer a little above 600Hz. When conditions are bad, I tend to go up a bit. But then my hearing may not be "normal" after spending a lot of hours listening to HF radio in headphones in my youth.

Björn SM7IUN

Re: Curious - CW Sidetone Frequency
From: Mark Beckwith
Date: Mon, 31 Aug 2020 13:42:28 EDT
OMG. Was it published? Is there a paper? I would DRINK THAT UP.

73 - Mark N5OT

5c.

Re: Curious - CW Sidetone Frequency
From: Paul, N6EV
Date: Mon, 31 Aug 2020 16:35:13 EDT

Mark,

I found Sten Harris's research articles here:
<https://www.researchgate.net/scientific-contributions/2064408992-Sten-Harris>

The article in question is titled "Recognition of Telegraphy Signs at Different Listening Levels and Frequencies" but his other works may be of interest too.

In my search I found some other interesting links:

<https://www.amateurradio.com/studies-on-morse-code-recognition/> Article discussing various studies in the 90s.

<http://elecraft.365791.n2.nabble.com/CW-Pitch-Resolution-td7579837.html> 2013 discussion of the topic on the Elecraft mail list.

<http://jakemandell.com/adaptivepitch/> Adaptive pitch test referenced in that Elecraft discussion. I scored 0.6 Hz differentiation. 😊

<https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a305780.pdf> A thesis by Jesse Washburn, 2nd Lt, USAF titled "Improving the Morse Intercept Operator's Audio Display" that cites Harris's work.

Sip away!

73 Paul N6EV #380

<http://N6EV.com/>

Replacing ear cushions on Yamaha CM500
From: Rob K6RB

Date: Fri, 28 Aug 2020 12:44:55 EDT

Those of you who use Yamaha CM500s have no doubt discovered that the ear cushions deteriorate quite readily. I found a good replacement for them from Pilot Mall (www.pilotmall.com).

It is designated "Headset Replacement Protein Leather Ear Seals." They cost \$10 plus \$3 postage.

First, you remove the old deteriorated ear cushions by pulling at one point along the periphery until it exits the headset slit, then continuing to do so until it is free. You may have to cut portions off where it is adjacent to a headset wire.

When you get the new ear cushions, place a small amount of super glue around the inner circumference of the smooth side and then orient and press it onto the headset. That's it.

When you're done, it looks like this...



Works great and much better quality than original ear cushions.

Rob K6RB



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!

Back at the lighthouse for International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend

August 24, 2020 by [dan kb6nu](#) [1 comment](#)



Yesterday, I found myself back at the [Pointe aux Barques lighthouse](#) near Port Austin, MI for the Sunday portion of the [International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend](#). Unlike [last year](#), when I was there for the National Lighthouse Weekend, I was only operating on Sunday this year. Like last year, the weather was perfect, and I had a great time.

Like last year, I made the majority of my contacts on 40 meters, and even more specifically, 7030 kHz. Unlike last year, 20 meters was open, and I heard many Europeans. Unfortunately, only YL3CW was able to hear me sufficiently well enough to copy my call and give me a signal report. I also heard KH6TU working the Hawaii QSO Party. He actually heard my 12 W signal, but not well enough to copy my call sign and the exchange. That would have been quite a haul for 12 W!

Unlike last year, my lovely wife, Silvia, didn't accompany me. Instead, my friend Harold came

along for the ride. In years past, he and I spent a lot of time doing bike rides together. I'm not sure how much he enjoyed the amateur radio (he slept through most of it), but I'm glad I was able to get him out of the house for a day and a half.

The second most memorable QSO of the day was with W1QK in Connecticut. He was operating from the Avery Point Lighthouse in Groton, CT.

All told, I operated for a little over four hours and made ten contacts. I think I'd have made more if I hadn't been chasing DX on 20 meters. Now that I think about it, what I really should have done is tried 15 meters. Perhaps I would have had some success there. Band conditions were so good that I might have even given 40-meter phone a try. Oh, well, next year.

I also think it's time to tinker with antennas. The 66-ft. doubet fed with twisted pair ha worked pretty well, but it doesn't tune up real easily on 30 meters, and it would be nice to get a little more signal out on 20 meters. I'm thinking of maybe some kind of fan dipole.

Related Posts:

1. [Ham Radio in the News – Lighthouse Edition](#)
2. [I worked the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, eh?](#)
3. [Amateur radio in the news: International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend edition](#)
4. [Amateur radio in the news: Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend](#)

filed under: [operating](#), [special events](#) tagged with: [arlhs](#), [kx-3](#), [lighthouse](#)

Comments

[August 28, 2020 at 11:14 am](#)

Hello Dan.

Nice to make the contact with you from Avery Point Lighthouse ILLW: US 0190, ARLHS USA 023 on the UCONN Campus in Groton, CT. Check out W1QK/LH for details about our ILLW operations including a link to our 2014 report. I see we're both members of CWops too.

73 – Dan – W1QK CWops # 1506



Mike – N1MPL at the Avery Point Lighthouse on the UCONN Avery Point Campus in Groton, CT for the 2020 ILLW.

Morse Code - Imagined

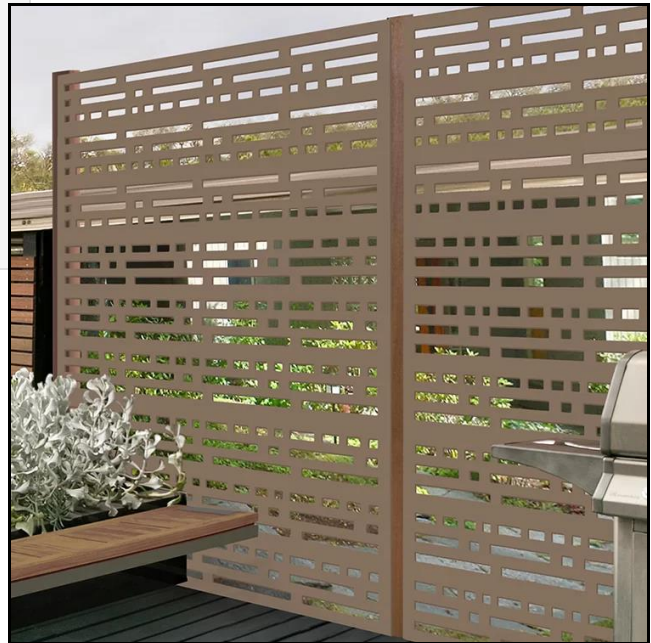
Vincent Tompkins <n2ohh@hotmail.com>

To: Dan Fegley

Wed, Aug 19 at 5:03 PM

I just saw Lee WW2DX tweeted this link. He sent it a couple of days ago.

<https://www.wayfair.com/outdoor/pdp/xpanse-2-ft-h-x-4-ft-w-morse-privacy-screen-xpan1040.html?refid=CNXY1&piid=31296793>



2 ft. H x 4 ft. W Morse Privacy Screen

See More from [Xpanse](#)

Rated 4.6 out of 5 stars.

4.6 [162 Reviews](#)

\$34.99

~~\$35.99~~

3% Off

Editor – Should get some of these panels and put them up around my deck. Thanks for sharing Vinny.

2020 CARA Ham Exam Schedule:



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

Two updates.

1) The VE session in Bethel on September 19 has been canceled.

2) VE session in Woodbury at the Fire House at 25 Quassuk Road on September 12 at 10 am will take place as scheduled with candidates being required to phone first. No walk-ins. See below.

Woodbury CT

EXAM SESSION

09/12/2020

Sponsor: Candlewood ARA

Date: Sep 12 2020

Time: 10:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)

Contact: Jonathan R. Bernon
(203) 232-7863

Email: aj1u@arrl.net

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: Woodbury Fire Dept
25 Quassuk Rd
Woodbury CT 06798-9999

Thanks,
Jon, AJ1U
CARA VE Team Coordinator

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>

CWT Results – W1QI – August 19/20:

CWops Mini-CWT Test - 1300Z Aug 19

Call: W1QI
Operator(s): W1QK
Station: W1QK

Class: Single Op LP
QTH: Connecticut
Operating Time (hrs): 1

Summary:
Band QSOS

80: 14
40: 33
20: 27

Total: 74 Mults = 70 Total Score = 5,180

Club: Candlewood ARA

Comments:

Thanks for the contacts. Operating all 3 CWT's today as W1QI-Walt-CT, in honor and in memory of one of CARA's Charter Members - Walt Munzer (1900-1960) W1QI has been the Candlewood ARA club callsign since 1969. Walt was an accomplished CW operator.

73-Dan, W1QK #1506

Posted using 3830 Score Submittal Forms at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

CWops Mini-CWT Test - 1900Z Aug 19

Call: W1QI
Operator(s): W1QK
Station: W1QK

Class: Single Op LP
QTH: Connecticut
Operating Time (hrs): 1

Summary:
Band QSOS

40: 20
20: 59
10: 1

Total: 80 Mults = 75 Total Score = 6,000

Club: Candlewood ARA

CWops Mini-CWT Test - 0300Z Aug 20

Call: W1QI
Operator(s): W1QK
Station: W1QK

Class: Single Op LP
QTH: Connecticut
Operating Time (hrs): 1

Summary:
Band QSOS

80: 29
40: 29
20: 18

Total: 76 Mults = 60 Total Score = 4,560

Club: Candlewood ARA



Editor: [Rick Lindquist, WW1ME](#)

August 27, 2020

ARRL Seeks National Club Coordinator

ARRL is seeking a National Club Coordinator who will act as the primary point of contact for Section Affiliated Club Coordinators. Section Affiliated Club Coordinators work with clubs to foster and coordinate activities to promote recruiting and training of new radio amateurs, endorse ARRL membership, and impart a positive image of amateur radio within the community.

In addition to maintaining lines of communication with Section Affiliated Club Coordinators, the National Club Coordinator will develop presentations for in-person audiences and electronic media. The



National Club Coordinator will also maintain affiliated club records and provide information and support to Affiliated Club Coordinators so they can assist clubs in keeping the ARRL affiliated club database current. This individual will also process applications from clubs seeking ARRL affiliation.

The National Club Coordinator will design, write, and produce a newsletter and contribute content for *QST*, the ARRL website, and social media venues. The incumbent will also represent ARRL at amateur radio events, deliver presentations on the work of ARRL and the value of

membership, and interact with members on behalf of the organization.

The successful candidate will be able to conduct business in a professional manner, effectively represent ARRL at amateur radio events, and maintain productive working relationships and open communication between staff and the Field Organization. He or she will have at least 3 years of similar or related experience; past service as a club officer is a plus.

Applicants should have a 2- or 4-year college degree or possess job-specific skills acquired through on-the-job training or an apprenticeship.

The ideal candidate will exhibit courtesy, tact, and diplomacy on the job and be able to build relationships and solicit cooperation both within and outside the organization. Other skills include a working knowledge of Microsoft *Office*, desktop applications, online videoconferencing tools, and managing social media platforms.

For complete information on this opening, see the full [job description](#), which includes instructions on how to submit a resume.



In Brief...

Derecho Takes Down 1,200 Feet of Tower and 35 Yagis The popular contest station of Tony Radebaugh, N0NI, in Rippey, Iowa, lost some 1,200 feet of tower and 35 Yagis in the August 10 derecho event. Winds of 140 MPH or greater caused extensive property damage in some areas. "Trees falling on guy wires is what did me in," Radebaugh said. "Everything outside of the trees stayed up, including a three-element full-size 40-meter Yagi at 196 feet. A two-element 40-meter XM240 on the same tower snapped." The violent, fast-moving storm complex raked a 700-mile path from Nebraska to Indiana. Winds of more than 70 MPH hit Chicago, and more than 300,000 lost power. Iowa was the hardest-hit state, with some 10 million acres of corn and soybean crops wiped out. Residents had little or no warning before the so-called "land hurricane" struck.

Announcing:

- The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) has announced the election of 22-year-old Philipp Springer, DK6SP, to its Board of Directors,



effective immediately. Springer is a member of the IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group and the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), where he is responsible for leading activities for the Youngsters On The Air (YOTA) Team Germany program. He was a competitor at World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) 2018. At the same time, WWROF announced the departure of veteran board member Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV

FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees

- 08/28/2020
- Amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed this week. Included in the FCC's fee proposal are applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees.
- The FCC proposal is contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "**Ray Baum's Act**."
- The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its *NPRM*, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service that had been excluded by an earlier statute. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.
- "[A]pplications for personal licenses are mostly automated and do not have individualized staff costs for data input or review," the FCC said in its *NPRM*. "For these automated processes — new/major

modifications, renewal, and minor modifications — we propose a nominal application fee of \$50 due to automating the processes, routine ULS maintenance, and limited instances where staff input is required.”

- The same \$50 fee would apply to all Amateur Service applications, including those for vanity call signs. “Although there is currently no fee for vanity call signs in the Amateur Radio Service, we find that such applications impose similar costs in aggregate on Commission resources as new applications and therefore propose a \$50 fee,” the FCC said.
- The FCC is not proposing to charge for administrative updates, such as mailing address changes for amateur applications, and amateur radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees. “For administrative updates [and] modifications, which also are highly automated, we find that it is in the public interest to encourage licensees to update their [own] information without a charge,” the FCC said.
- The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. “The Commission has proposed to eliminate these services — but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover the costs of these services,” the FCC said.
- The Ray Baum’s Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC dropped assessment of fees for vanity call signs several years ago.
- Deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the NPRM appears in the *Federal Register*. File comments by using the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System (**ECFS**), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. This docket is already open for accepting comments even though deadlines have not yet been set.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-to-reinstate-amateur-radio-service-fees>

Capers: Swap and Shop

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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.

Quantity	Item	Price each
1	MFJ-259B	\$150.00
2	Fiberglass Mast Kits with tripod and antenna accessories	\$75.00
1	IC-706 Mk II G	\$600.00
1	Ameritron SDA-100 Screwdriver Antenna	\$400.00
1	West Mountain Radio TARGETuner	\$120.00
1	2 M Antenna with feedline	\$20.00
1	440 Cushcraft Ringo Ranger	\$50.00
1	10' Push Up Canopy with sidewalls and leg weights	\$50.00
1	Camp Chair	\$25.00
1	Skeleton sleeve antenna 80/40 M	\$40.00
1	Skeleton sleeve antenna 20/15 M	\$30.00
1	Skeleton sleeve antenna 10/6 M	\$20.00
1	ICOM IC-756 Pro III Transceiver	\$800.00
1	Go-Kit with following Equipment	\$1,200.00
	ICOM IC-7000 Transceiver	
	LDG IT-100	
	Yaesu FT-8900	
	Kantronics KPC-3+	
	West Mountain Powergate	
	West Mountain Rigrunner	
	USB Hub	
	Tigertronics Signalink	
	Speakers	

Contact: Roger – NG1R; 203-790-9697 or roger.mitchell@snet.net

Currently on E-Bay: Distribution Block Compatible With PowerPole PP15-PP45 1-In to 6-Out

New

1-1 \$6.00 (each)
2+ \$5.70 (5% off each)

More than 10 available / **138 sold**

US \$6.00

New Version for 2017!

Distribution Block housing for Anderson Powerpole connectors, this fits the PP15-PP45 (15a-45a) #1327 housings. **Using the 1337G1 45A PCB Contact.**

You asked, I listened! So here it is!



This allows using seven pairs of connectors to make a distribution block! Allows you to have one input and six outputs, or however you want to combine, etc. Lay them into half of the housing and solder together and install the other half and your done!

Condition:

Volume pricing:

Quantity:

Unit Price:

There is no provision for fuses so you must fuse your output cables. Easy to make and to assemble, i provide the housing and screws and you provide the rest of the parts. (connectors not included, just shown for demonstration!)

These are 4 5/8" long by 1 5/8" wide by 7/8" tall.



The default color I make these is Black, however many other colors are available! If you have a special need or want for one in a different color just contact me for color availability. I can also provide other colors not in stock with a slight lead time, usually 4-5 days, to obtain whatever color you desire.

Any Questions Just Ask! 73

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/Distribution-Block-Compatible-With-PowerPole-PP15-PP45-1-In-to-6-Out/173207301852?hash=item2853f5aedc:g:kU8AAOSwa81Z-CN5>

A Note on any buyer issues...

For all my listings of fabricated items if you have any issues with them please contact me before leaving feedback!! Any fitment problems or suggested changes are welcome!!

A Note on Feedback...

I do my best to make my customers happy! If you have an issue with your purchase Contact Me! If you have questions, Contact Me! Problems with the item you bought Contact Me! There is no point in leaving useless negative feedback that does nothing to resolve the situation. Once you leave a negative i no longer inclined, as most sellers are, to continue trying to help. A negative feedback is the same as breaking off any further attempt at communication! I do my best to keep up leaving feedback for buyers, with the amount of transactions being completed i may only get around to finishing off feedback once or twice a month, sometimes sooner, but i will leave feedback! And if you leave feedback before i do that only gets my attention to get my butt in gear and get it done on my end. Thank You!

A Note on Shipping Costs...

Due to the increase in shipping costs with USPS, along with eBay taking 10% of the shipping with their "shipping final value fee" I have had to increase my shipping costs. I hate doing this but it's only fair, I only charge what it costs me to ship, if it costs me \$2.00 to ship i only charge the buyer \$2.00, that's just honest business in my opinion. But now that eBay is taking the 10% if a buyer pays me \$2.00 i only get \$1.80 and those pennies add up really fast every month! So to combat the shipping cost increase I am raising my shipping costs! I apologize to anyone that thinks this may be unfair, but that is a fact of doing business on eBay these days!

Editor – Information provided to advise CARA members. I have absolutely no financial connection whatsoever with this vendor. I can tell you that they cost much less than what's offered by others.

Maybe place a CARA group order and get them for less than \$ 5.70 each?

If you're interested, contact WIQK.

CW key - what am I?

From: AI2Q

Date: Wed, 19 Aug 2020 20:03:50 EDT



About 40 years ago I helped a neighbor clean up an abandoned house. One of the things he gave me in return was an antique semi-automatic key that was found in the house.

Many years passed, and I had no idea precisely what it's history was, except that it was clearly a unique pre-radio landline semi-automatic key. My thought was that it was a predecessor to the "bug" that was later introduced for radiotelegraphy.

In any case, a few years back the Antique Wireless Association ran an article about it, and stated that there was only one such key known to exist. It was made by George W. Conkling. You can read all about it here, on the AWA Web site.

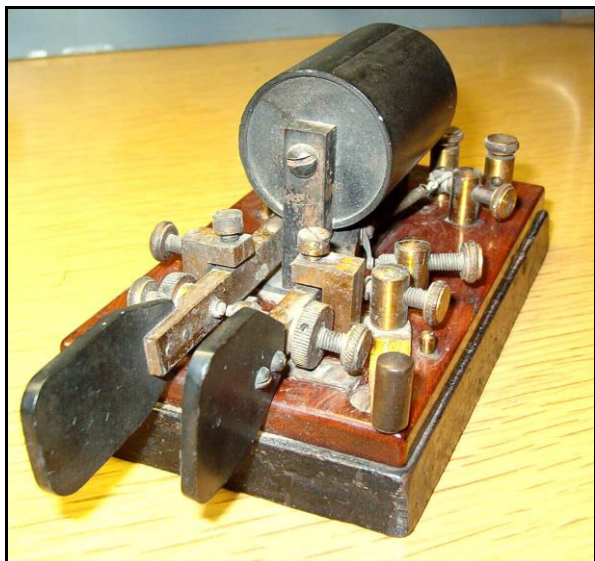
In any case, I sold my Conkling key to collector SM5LNE, Jan Skoldin, in Sweden, for \$11,000.

Yes. Jan gave me eleven grand! What's more Jan sends me an e-mail every year at Christmas time, just to say thank you.

Needless to say, my wife now permits me to bring any radio junk home, perhaps with the expectation that I will sell it to another willing ham for a similar sum! Hee hee.

I'm attaching a few photos of my Conkling key. It was in FB shape; way better than the one cited in the AWA article. If you look closely at my photo you'll see the original cotton cord that was part of its apparatus!

Vy 73, AI2Q, Alex



Visit us on the Web at
<http://www.cararadioclub.org>

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CARA is an IRS 501(C)3 Organization.
Consider supporting CARA in your estate planning.

*CAPERS is the monthly newsletter of the
Candlewood Amateur Radio Association
Editor: Dan Fegley, W1QK
w1qk@snet.net*



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 date indicated in the 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>

The [ARRL Ohio Section has a club newsletter competition each year](#), originally started by Joe, K8QOE, in 1992. His thought was that the competition would improve the quality of newsletters in general. Joe set consistent criteria and standards for judging, which have been borrowed by "a number of ARRL Sections and even Divisions." Any organization that publishes a newsletter via their website can benefit from suggestions by John, KD8IDJ, the Ohio ARRL Public Information Coordinator, as published in the [August 2020 Portage County Amateur Radio Society \(PCARS\) Radiogram](#):

- *Make the link to your newsletter large and predominant on your club's website*
- *Ensure that your website and newsletter display well on tablets and phones*

John also points out that many Ohio Section club newsletters are available via the [Ohio Section newsletter page](#). Oh, and the PCARS Radiogram?

It earned 2nd place in the Ohio Section newsletter competition, and first place in the Great Lakes Division!

CARA Standing Committees:

Updated: September 2020 by W1QK

Just a reminder to all members that these are the standing committees that help make CARA run and fun.

Our members and their ideas are our strength.

Please step forward to serve your club with one of these committees. You'll notice that several CARA members serve on multiple committees.

Talk to any member of the Executive Committee or Director to volunteer!

We're hoping to see your name on at least one of these important committees.

CARA Repeater and Digital Equipment:

Repeater coordination
Repeater maintenance
Other digital equipment

Chairman: Gregory Davis – WR1Z

Committee Members:

John Morelli – W1JGM
Marcus Swearingen – AB1WV
Vincent Thompson – N2OHH
Charles Setaro – KC1IBR
Dan Fegley – W1QK

CARA Operating Activities:

Winter Field Day, New England QSO Party, ARRL Field Day, New Fairfield Day Special Event Station, Peter Weinberger New Fairfield Car Show Scholarship Fundraiser Special Event Station, 2M Fox Hunt (hidden transmitter).

Chairman:
Committee Members:

Annual CARA Hamfest Fund-Raising event:

Chairman: John Morelli – W1JGM
Committee Members:
Marcus Swearingen – AB1WV
Bill Webb – W1AFX
Charles Setaro – KC1IBR

Membership:

Annual dues notification and follow up
Annual new member drive

Chairman: John Morelli – W1JGM

Education and Elmering:

Organize or sponsor class for entry-level license
Organize Elmer support network for new hams
Organize two 3-person ARES deployment teams

Committee Chairman:
Committee Members:

Youth Committee:

Committee Chairman: Keith Iwanicki -W1KRI
Committee Members:

Program and Activities:

Organize and arrange monthly program
Organize activities
Annual Holiday Gathering
Summer Pasta Party

Committee Members:
Bud Kozloff – W1NSK
Marcus Swearingen – AB1WV

Weekly CARA Sunday 7:30 PM Net:

Committee Chairman: David Teagarden –
KB1ZAC
Committee Members:
Tom Coury – WX1T
Charles Setaro – KC1IBR

CARA Capers:

Monthly newsletter staff
CARA Capers Editor:
Dan Fegley – W1QK

Development Committee:

Seek and obtain alternative sources of funding for
club events and activities

Committee Chairman:
Committee Members:

Website Committee:

Maintain the CARA Website

Committee Chairman:
Committee Members:

Charles Setaro – KC1IBR
John Ahle – W1JMA
Roger Mitchell – NG1R
Dan Fegley – W1QK

*Please advise your Capers Editor of any changes
to this list.*

THE POWER OF TEAMWORK:

Video Motivasi – Kerjasama Team (Team Work)
<https://youtu.be/oqRX02uhicc>



Preliminary CARA 2020/2021 Calendar

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

Last Updated 8/2/2020

September 11 - Monthly meeting via Zoom; Presentation by Dennis Egan - W1UE, President - Yankee Clipper Contest Club, YCCC

25 - Monthly planning meeting via Zoom

October 9 - Monthly meeting via Zoom; Presentation by Bud Kozloff - W1NSK and Mark Gilbert on "Boat Anchors and their refurbishment".

23 - Monthly planning meeting via Zoom

November 13 - Monthly meeting via Zoom; Proposed presentations by WV9I, Valarie on DXing, and another on Air Force MARS.

27 - Monthly planning meeting via Zoom

December 11 - Monthly meeting via Zoom; Proposed Presentation?

25 - Monthly planning meeting needs to be rescheduled

January 8 - Monthly meeting via Zoom - Annual DX QSL Card sort with KV1J and pizza party probably cancelled; Proposed Presentation - Dan Fegley, W1QK: ARRL's Logbook of the World, LoTW

22 - Monthly planning meeting via Zoom

February

March

April

May

June

