

Capers May - 2023



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, May 12, 2023

This meeting will be conducted only in-person at the Stony Hill Fire Dept. in Bethel. Doors open at 7:00 pm, gavel at 7:30 pm. No TEAMS credentials will be available.

Dear ARRL Affiliated Club.

This Monday, May 1, ARRL will launch a survey for members, encouraging their participation as we consider a dues increase.

The survey will include some short questions about raising dues and modifying the way some membership benefits are bundled. The survey will also include an opportunity for members to share their feedback.

The participation of every member is important. Please encourage all the ARRL members in your radio club to complete the survey in May.

The survey will open on May 1 at www.arrl.org/take-dues-survey. This is a member-only page. Members need to be logged into the ARRL website to take the survey. Members who are not logged in may select the Login button on the top of the web page, and they will be prompted to enter their ARRL website username and password. If they have not logged in since April 2022, they should use these **Login Instructions**.

Thank you in advance for urging all ARRL members to complete the survey.

73

Mike Walters, W8ZY ARRL Field Services Manager

PS: this message was sent to club Presidents, Secretaries, Newsletter Editors, and Contact Persons. We're grateful for all you do to help keep your club members informed and engaged.

May 14 Meeting Agenda

Pledge of Allegiance

Business meeting

Acceptance of minutes as published in CAPERS

Treasurers report

Committee reports

Repeater

Website

Nominations

Old business

ARRL VOTA/ CARA Participation: May 13 at Ball Pond Fire House, New

Fairfield

On Site Meetings at Stony Hill

Sander Pool "Radio Box"

Parks On the Air May Event: May 21 at Putnam Memorial State Park Pond,

Redding

New business

Field Day: Volunteers for committees: antennas, food, computers/network, radios, setup/tear down, operator sign-up sheet.

Announcements:

CARA monthly informal Pasta-Night Dinner: May 16, 6:00 pm

CT Proclamation of 2023 Amateur Radio Year.

Dayton 2023 Hamvention.

Goshen Hamfest: May 20

ARRL Member Survey on Website

Skeleton Sleeve Antenna - Description and Assembly information



President's Message - de W1NSK

Spring is here! More activities come with the nicer weather. Antenna Projects for one. Build that new antenna you've been thinking about! A start may be the Skeleton Sleave Antenna Project the Club will be doing at our next meeting. Learn How to build one! Also this month is the Dayton Hamvention May 19-2Ist. If anyone would like a ride out and back let me know as I have room in the SUV. I'm hoping to leave Weds and return Sunday. Contest University is held all day Thursday with several seminars every hour. This is a great learning experience even if you're not a hardcore contester.

This month's CARA POTA (Parks On The Air) will be held on the 21st at Putnam Park Pond in Redding. Operation usually begins with us gathering at 10AM and staying until 3PM or so. Bring your portable station or just yourself and join us! Field Day is rapidly approaching. This event held the last weekend in June will be again at the Ball Pond Fire House. Plans call for two stations to be set up and operate the entire event. This on-air activity runs from 2PM Saturday to 2PM Sunday. We need folks before and after to help set up and tear down. Antenna raising will take place the week prior. More to come at this month's meeting.

The Club is looking for presenters at our meetings. It has been suggested that Club presenters may be more interesting and relevant than some of the "celebrities" we've had in the past. Let me know if you're interested in doing something. It doesn't have to be long with many PowerPoint slides. A simple half hour talk about a project or experience related to Ham Radio is good. Especially looking for topics such as Digital Modes and RTTY. Also, this month is the Goshen Ham fest on Saturday May 20th. Makes for a nice country drive on a Spring Day! Hours are 8AM to Noon at the Goshen Fairgrounds just north of Litchfield. The informal Spaghetti dinner is again at Villa Vespucci Lodge on May 16th at 6PM. Stop on bye for some socializing and "radio talk". \$12 all included except beverage.

The Nominating Committee is still looking for a Treasurer position candidate. If interested, please contact John Ahle or Dave Coelho asap. An important survey will soon be available to all ARRL members on the ARRL Website. Please take the few minutes to do this survey. It involves club dues restructuring and ARRL finances going forward. If you are not yet an ARRL Member, please join now! The current 3 year rate may prove to be a deal!

This is your Club, and your active involvement is what makes it fun for all. meetings are held the second Friday of the Month. Doors open at 7PM and the meeting starts at 7:30. Meetings are now held at the Stony Hill Fire House in Bethel on RT. 6.Come out to a club meeting, see some old friends and make new ones, get involved in a club committee and get on the Air

Bud – W1NSK CARA President

Vice- President's Message: de W1JGM



CARA's first outdoor Parks On The Air – POTA event held at Squantz Pond State Park was a fantastic start to the outdoor season. Unfortunately, propagation wasn't the best, making contacts challenging, However, it was a successful event that was enjoyed by those who attended. Special thanks to Dave -KB1ZAC and Suzie - KC1QVE for their efforts to prepare and supply great food. If you haven't been to a CARA club POTA event, plan to join us on May 21 at Putnam Memorial State Park in Redding, We'll be set up will near the pond. Use the east entrance on Rte. 58 if travelling south from the Greater Bethel/Danbury area.

On May 13, CARA will be operating W1AW/1 as part of the yearlong ARRL Volunteers on the Air (VOTA) event at the Ball Pond Fire Company in New Fairfield. We'll operate as a mini-Field Day setup. Setup begins at 11:00 am with operating from noon to 4:00pm, which may be extended if operators are available. We There were 9 people present in person at Stony Hill are planning for 20M and 40M CW and Phone.

CARA's Sunday evening Elmer Night is an informal review of the Amateur License Exam questions continues. Discussion topics are varied because of revisions since veteran members passed their license exam. All are welcome to participate. Advise me if

you would like me to email you the TEAMS meeting credentials.

This month's meeting at Stony Hill Fire Dept Friday May 12 at 7:30 includes a business meeting, then presentation about Skeleton sleeve antennas by W1QK. An on-the-air demonstration of the completed antenna is planned.

Thanks, and get on the air.

Remember this is your club!

John Morelli - W1JGM **CARA Vice-President**

April 14 Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

de CARA Secretary, Gary Adams - N1GSA



Meeting called to order at 7:37pm by Pres. Bud Kozloff.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Firehouse.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as printed in the CAPERS.

Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$????? Ending balance of \$6536.73

There will be a bill coming in for a battery amounting to \$26.00.

Repeater Committee reported that we are back in the good graces with City of Danbury. They are no longer requiring all the paperwork that was talked about. There has been no progress with coordinating the Danbury Fire Dept, Dana Underhill and Paul Gibson to make the trek to the top of Spruce Mtn. At the present time the repeaters are working properly.

Website Committee: No report.

Nominations: We are still looking volunteers for a Secretary. Please notify any Director with suggestions or volunteers.

Membership: As of the 1st of April, there were 51 members of the club. Question raised regarding Courtesy members and their voting rights.

Bud put out a request to try and increase participation. He asked for a volunteer to renew the snacks on meeting nights. Dave Coelho volunteered. There was also a mention of putting out a call for anyone that needs a ride. This was well received. Either phone calls or radio requests could be good means of communication. Dan will put something about this in the future issues of Capers.

There are 2 things on the agenda regarding changes to the Constitution. One amendment is to add three words consisting of "more than \$500" to the spending and voting threshold. At present, we are unable to vote to spend any money due to lack of the required quorum.

VOTA/CARA participation: John – W1JGM, has us scheduled for operation on 20 and 40 meters to use the W1QI/1 callsign. The plan is to do a "mini Field Day" type event, on Saturday May 13th at 11:00 am, for this event at the Ball Pond Firehouse. We could have one station with CW, one on SSB, and possibly another that could be used as needed.

There was much discussion about changing the Constitution to reflect a Monthly Business meeting and a presentation meeting on a separate date. This

would also require a change to relax some of the requirements to make an expenditure. Rosty volunteered to rewrite the Constitution to reflect these changes. This would be voted on at a future meeting. This could also increase participation at both evenings. Bud will coordinate with Marcus and others to put forth some recommendations.

John – W1JGM, spoke about the conversation last month about being a sister club with NARA. This discussion could have been misconstrued and reconciled without any formal acknowledgement of sisterhood.

The Pool Radio box was the next topic. There were no bids received as of this meeting. This was tabled until the planning meeting.

Park on the Air will be April 15th at 10:00 am at Squantz Pond State Park.

New Business: Looking for presentations for upcoming meetings. Dan will make up a bill of materials for a skeleton sleeve build. These will be built at the next meeting and can be tested the next day at BPFD during the W1AW event.

Looking for a Chair to lead the Membership Committee. Bud will try to get a list of the new Hams in the area so that they may be invited to POTA, VOTA, or Pasta Night events. We could also try to sort the QRZ licensee list to show licensees in a certain zip code.

Field Day will come up quickly. We need a Chair for this event. There is much to be done and it is easier with more hands to share the duties. Bud will not be around for much of this event due to his ARRL CT Section Manager position.

The next Pasta Night will be April 18th at the Vespucci Lodge in Danbury.

Bud spoke about what has been going on at the ARRL. This included the 40 ARRL Affiliated Clubs in Ct with 200 members. ARRL operated with a 1.5-million-dollar loss last year. This is being investigated and will have some changes in the next few months.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted, Gary S. Adams - N1GSA, Secretary

April 28 CARA Planning Meeting Minutes de N1GSA

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Pres. Bud Kozloff.

There were 5 people present.

There was considerable discussion regarding the need for minutes at a planning meeting.

There has been an offer submitted for purchase of the Ending balance of \$6536.73 TS 2000. This was received late because the member did not get the email as to the offer timing. This will be brought up and discussed at the next regular meeting. This is the only bid that has been received at this time. WV1V - Victor Schirmer is the submitter.

Secretary. John - W1JMA, will send an email to see if anyone has an interest in being Treasurer. The current Danbury Fire Dept, Dana Underhill and Paul Gibson to candidate for Treasurer is willing to take Secretary if someone will take Treasurer.

The next POTA event is set. This will be at Putnam Park on Sunday, May 21, due to conflict with the Goshen Hamfest.

Field Day will be upon us before you know it. There is a need for someone to step up and be Chairman to coordinate this event. We do have the date reserved at Ball Pond Firehouse. Without participation, it doesn't make sense to come together to have this event. We have done this long enough that we know what must be done: antennas, radios, food, etc.

Hamfest was the next discussion. John - W1JGM and John – W1JMA, were planning to have a preliminary meeting soon. It was brought up that we could have this totally inside at the PAL building. Most everyone brings their own tables anyway so this should not be a problem. The time has been changed to start at 10am

and conclude at 2pm. This will make it easier for those who travel a distance to arrive.

There has not been much done on the Website recently. We will need to talk to Stef about this.

The ARRL is going to do a survey regarding dues and membership. This will be on their web Meeting called to order at 7:37pm by Pres. Bud Kozloff. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There were 9 people present in person at Stony Hill Firehouse.

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The Poole Radio box was the next topic. There were no bids received as of this meeting. This was tabled until the planning meeting.

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Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted: Gary S. Adams - N1GSA, Secretary



CARA Has been an ARRL Affiliated Club since 1946 – 77 Years in 2023

Volunteers on the air

From: Pete W1RM <w1rm@comcast.net> Date: May 8, 2023 at 4:59:08 PM EDT

Subject: [yccc] W1AW/1 - CT

The fun begins tomorrow (May 10) at 00z. Please work W1AW/1 on as many bands/modes as you can.

If you operate in Connecticut and would like to be one of the W1AW/1 operators, let me know. There is always room for more!

Pete Chamalian, W1RM

W1RM@Comcast.net

From: Pete W1RM

Date: Fri, 30 Dec 2022 11:08:08 EST

Starting Jan 1, there is a new, year-long, activity called volunteers on the air. Full details can be found here: http://www.arrl.org/volunteers-onthe-air

Part of this activity is the operation of W1AW/n throughout the year, just like the operation during join to help our new Hams. the 100th anniversary.

I am the manager for W1AW/1 in Connecticut. We will be on the air for two weeks, May 10-16 and again September 27 – October 3.

If you are in Connecticut and would like to join the team to be W1AW/1, please fill out the application here: W1AW/1 - CT Operator Sign Up

Editor:

The yearlong ARRL Volunteers On the Air event continues, recognizing ARRL volunteer's support and contributions. Get on the air and make contacts with

as many ARRL volunteers or members as possible. There will be week-long activations of portable W1AW/n stations in all 50 states, and in several US possessions/territories. For a schedule of W1AW/N portable operations, see the W1AW Portable Activations Schedule. Be sure to upload your logs to LoTW and check your score online. Check out the full details at http://vota.arrl.org.

CARA Elmering TEAMS sessions continue

On Jan 6, 2023, at 8:24 PM, John Morelli via CARA <cara@cararadioclub.org> wrote:

Time is being set at 8 PM Sunday evening to assist anyone interested in becoming licensed or upgrading their license. We are asking anyone interested in assisting Elmering (coaching) new Hams get their license or upgrade.

Veteran CARA members are welcomed to

This is a time to ask questions you may have about operating, station setup, antennas, or anything else. Join Us!

W1JGM - John.

Editor:

TEAMS meeting credentials for CARA Elmer sessions will be posted to the CARA Reflector. Another benefit of paid CARA membership besides an annual subscription to this CARA Capers Monthly newsletter.



Weekly CARA Sunday club NETS:

28.490 MHz. USB 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm Net Control: Vinny – N2OHH

W1QI 2M FM Repeater – 7:30 pm

Net Controls: David -KB1ZAC or Charlie-KC1IBR,

John - KD2VUP



Upcoming Contests, Hamfests & Meetings:

May 12: CARA Monthly Business Meeting. Inperson only at Stony Hill Fire House in Bethel. Skeleton Sleeve antenna assembly.

May 13: CARA W1AW/1 operating event at Ball Pond Fire House, New Fairfield 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

May 16: CARA Monthly Pasta Night Dinner – Italian American club in Danbury 6:00 pm

May 20: Goshen Hamfest – Goshen Fairgrounds

May 21: CARA POTA operating event at Putnam Memorial State Park Pond, Redding 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

May 26: CARA Monthly Planning meeting

May 28: Memorial Day

May 29: CT ARES Region 5 meeting

May 10, 17, 24, 31: CWops CWT 1300Z & 1900Z Wednesday, and 0300Z (Thursday)

June 2: June 2023 Capers input deadline to w1qk@snet.net

Worked All Connecticut Counties Award, WACC –

Sponsored by CARA & Administered by CARA Secretary, Gary Adams - N1GSA. http://www.cararadioclub.org/activities

Use this link to access the WA7BNM Contest Calendar website:

https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html

Editor:

CARA has contributed financial support to WA7BNM for his Contest Calendar and 3830 Contest Scores websites for two years.

CARA POTA Event – April 15

Squantz Pond State Park, New Fairfield

Photos contributed by: Susan – KC1QVE, Glen Dains – W1GHD, Dan – W1QK































Sun, Apr 30 at 9:34 PM

Hi Dan.

I just noticed this in my Drafts Folder, thought I had sent it out right away...

Here's the Amazon link for that battery: Amazon.com: BtrPower 12V 50AH Lithium Battery,5000+ Deep Cycle LiFePO4 Battery with Built-in 50A BMS fit for Home Storage,Trolling Motor,RV,Off-Grid System,Solar Power System,Marine: Automotive

This is the charger I bought for it: Amazon.com: Foxsur Multifunctional Smart Battery Charger for Lithium/LiFePO4/Lead-Acid/AGM Batteries, 7-Stage 12V/6A 24V/3A Automatic Battery Charger/Maintainer for ATVs/Golf Cart/Motorcycle/Car/Marine (Red): Automotive

As to the award I'm working towards, it's called the N1CC award. It's earned by activating or hunting on 10 different

bands at ten different parks. I currently have 10 bands at two parks, and 5 or more bands at an additional four parks. It's more challenging than I originally thought, for several reasons. First, you need to carry an antenna for each of those bands! Second, propagation and band activity vary widely - there's not much happening on 80 meters during the day. Third, the terrain around here is tough for VHF/UHF.

To date, I've done 105 activations at 52 unique parks or trails in CT, NY and RI. We are fortunate to have so many parks nearby, and I've discovered parks that were previously unknown to me. Since I can't hike or kayak anymore, POTA lets me get outside and enjoy the parks at a level of physical activity I'm capable of handling.

One of my favorite activations was at Camp Columbia (K-1654) back in February, where I earned a Kilo Award and Repeat Offender Award during the same activation.

Dan,

It was great to get out and see everyone in person. I had gap in my log for more than an hour, because I spent the time visiting!

I ended up with 68 contacts on 10 bands, so it was a good radio day as well.

Talk to you soon...

Glen - W1GHD

2023 Ham Exam Schedule



Goshen CT 06756-2006

EXAM SESSION

05/20/2023

Sponsor: Southern Berkshire ARC

Date: May 20 2023

Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call

ahead)

Contact: Jonathan R. Bernon

(203) 232-7863 Email: <u>aj1u@arrl.net</u> VEC: <u>ARRL/VEC</u>

Location: Goshen Fair Grounds

116 Old Middle St Rt 63 Goshen CT 06756-2006



The annual CT ARES Region 5 Simulated Emergency Test was held on Saturday, November 19, 2022. Thank you if you participated. Results and comments will be discussed during future CT ARES Region 5 and CT ARES Region 5 South meetings.



Next CT ARES Winlink Wednesday: Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Upcoming 2022 Amateur radio exams:

http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session



Connecticut Phone Net - CPN

This net starts at 6:00 pm EDT Monday through Saturday on 3.972 – 3.973 MHz. Sunday: 10:00 a.m. EDT 3.965 MHz.



Visit this website to learn more about CT ARES and Winlink Wednesday:

http://www.ctares.org/

"When Everything Else Fails. Amateur Radio often is our last line of defense...When you need amateur radio, you really need them."

The Hon. W. Craig Fugate
Former Administrator, US Department of
Homeland Security, FEMA

CT ARES news:

A Team of CT ARES Volunteers assisted at the Danbury EOC KX1EOC City Hall station on Thursday, April 20 to survey and document roof-mounted amateur radio antennas.

Participants:

Oscar Fuller – KO1F Roger Mitchell – NG1R Harlan Ford – W1QH Dan Fegley – W1QK John Ahle – W1JMA Susan Mulvey - KC1QVE Carl Kristoffersen – KR1STF



[CARA Members] Skywarn Training Class: Tues, June 6 at 7pm at Putnam County EOC Auditorium 112 Old Route 6 Carmel, NY

Vincent Tompkins via

CARA < cara@cararadioclub.org > Unsubscribe

To:Cara@cararadioclub.org

Wed, May 10 at 3:41 PM Skywarn Training Class: Tues, June 6 at 7pm at Putnam County EOC Auditorium 112 Old Route 6 Carmel, NY

This Class is In Person

Registration required at

https://www.weather.gov/okx/SkywarnTraining What is SKYWARN?

https://www.weather.gov/okx/skywarnwhatis

73, Vin - n2ohh

Submit CT ARES news to CARA Capers to be included here in next month's issue.

New England QSO Party

A team of CARA Members including Bud – W1NSK, John – W1JGM, Harlan – W1QH and David – KB1ZAC operated W1AW at ARRL HQ in Newington on Sunday May 7 to activate Hartford County in the NEQP.

If you operated the NEQP, be sure to *indicate Candlewood ARA* on your log as your local affiliated club as part of the club competition.



Full details at:

www.neqp.org

"CW's Corner"

de W1QK & WA1KRG



CW

W1QK, WA1KRG, and brother, CQ celebrated CW's Ninth Birthday on April 30, 2023.

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.



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 items to wlqk@snet.net for placement in the CARA Capers.



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

Executive Board:

President – Bud Kozloff, W1NSK
w1nsk@w1qi.org
Vice President – John Morelli, W1JGM
w1jgm@w1qi.org
Secretary – Gary Adams, N1GSA
Mrclipper69@yahoo.com
Treasurer – Gregory Davis – WR1Z
WR1Z@w1qi.org

Directors:

Harlan Ford, W1QH - hford01@snet.net
David Coelho, WA1JGA –davidcoelho52@gmail.com
John Ahle, W1JMA – w1jma@w1gi.net

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

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: wlqk@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.

The input deadline is announced in the previous issue and again at the monthly planning meeting.

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.

This summary is reprinted as a courtesy of: The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association's Award-Winning monthly newsletter: "Voice Coil" http://www.mvara.org/Newsl/Current.pdf

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



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.

ARRL -- Your One-Stop Resource for Amateur Radio News and Information

- Join or Renew Today! Eligible US-based members can elect to receive QST or On the Air magazine in print when they join ARRL or when they renew their membership. All members can access digital editions of all four ARRL magazines: QST, On the Air, QEX, and NCJ.
- Listen to <u>ARRL Audio News</u>, available very Friday.

Subscribe to...

- NCJ -- National Contest Journal.
 Published bimonthly, features articles by top contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint, and QSO parties.
- QEX -- A Forum for Communications
 Experimenters. Published bimonthly,
 features technical articles, construction
 projects, columns, and other items of
 interest to radio amateurs and
 communications professionals.

Free of charge to ARRL members...

- <u>Subscribe</u> to the ARES Letter (monthly public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Contest Update (biweekly contest newsletter), Division and Section news alerts -- and much more!
- Find ARRL on <u>Facebook!</u> Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram!</u>



ARRL CT Section News

This space reserved in CARA Capers for monthly updates from our ARRL CT Section Leadership.



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

More information about the YCCC at: http://www.yccc.org/

FYI messages from the YCCC Reflector with acknowledgement to all contributors:

From: Chris NW6V <chrisrut7@gmail.com> Date: April 13, 2023 at 4:39:20 PM EDT

To: main@foc-members.groups.io Subject: Re: [FOC-members] Strings of Vs Reply-To: main@foc-members.groups.io

I assumed you all knew. N6TR (Tree) posted this on the WVDXC reflector.

"Been getting bits and pieces of the story.

This accident happened at N3BB's QTH while taking down a 3 L 40. As it got near the ground, the antenna needed to be twisted a little. Richard was on the ground and ran to grab an antenna element (something I am sure we have all done many times). As he did that - another part of the antenna came

in contact with the HV power line. You can see the transformer right next to his driveway. Richard was the current path to ground. The distance from one element tip to willing to help them get started in amateur the other one at the diagonal on that beam is radio. likely around 85 feet.

How devastating for all involved. Tree

Google Bard and ChatGPT: Ham Radio...

From: Gerry Hull

Date: Mon, 17 Apr 2023 15:13:48 EDT

Google's Bard:

Tell me what you know about W1VE:

B. Hull, a licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator from Hancock, New Hampshire, United States. He has been active in amateur radio since 1975, and has held a variety of call signs over the years, including WA4UUX, AK4L, VE1BXC, VE1CER, and VE1RM. He is a member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), and has served on the ARRL New Hampshire Section Board of Directors. (me: no!) He is also a member of the Quincy Amateur Radio Club (QARC). (me: no!)

Gerald is a software engineer by profession, and has worked for a variety of companies in the software industry. He is currently a Senior Software Engineer at a company that develops software for nurses. He is also a ham radio software developer, and has developed a number of software programs for amateur radio use.

Gerald is a very active amateur radio operator, and enjoys operating on a variety of modes and bands. He is also a DXer, and has made contacts with stations all over the world. He is a member of the ARRL DX Century Club, and has worked all 100 DXCC entities.

Gerald is a great asset to the amateur radio community, and is always willing to help others. He is a knowledgeable and

experienced operator, and is always happy to share his knowledge with others. He is a great role model for new hams, and is always

Here are some additional details about W1VE:

Call sign: W1VE Operator class: Extra

Location: Hancock, New Hampshire, USA Interests: DXing, software development,

amateur radio education Affiliations: ARRL, QARC

Occupation: Software engineer

I hope this information is helpful. Please let W1VE is the amateur radio call sign of Gerald me know if you have any other questions.

ChatGPT:

Tell me what you know about W1VE?

I'm sorry, but I don't have any information about something called "W1VE" in my database. Could you please provide me with more context or details about what you are referring to? This will help me better understand what you are asking and provide a more accurate response.

Interesting ...

73,

Gerry W1VE



The CW Operators' Club

cwops.org

The CW Operators' Club, commonly known as CWops, is an international organization, in membership and management, for amateur radio operators who enjoy communicating using Morse Code. Its mission is to foster the use of CW, whether for contesting, DX'ing, traffic handling, or engaging in conversations.

Visit the CWops website to learn more about CW Academy and how you can sign up for the Morphing of CWTs- A Modest Proposal popular & free on-line CW training classes.

https://cwops.org/cw-academy/cw-academyoptions/

To become a member of CWops: https://cwops.org/membership/

FYI: Messages from the CWops Reflector with acknowledgement to all contributors:

Re: Morphing of CWTs- A Modest Proposal

From: Dave Edmonds WN4AFP Date: Thu, 27 Apr 2023 17:43:36 EDT I've been missing the CWTs lately, but when I'm

playing, I usually set a personal goal for each CWT and I always have the same contest goal contest goal... My contest goal is to make sure that me and my the letter speed, I'll use Farnsworth spacing to slow QSO partner have a solid and complete exchange with down to their speed. Again, I rarely get a "?" in return. each contact and this goal never changes. My personal goal for the CWTs varies for each 1 hour event....sometimes rate, sometimes speed, sometimes than S&P. But, I will also S&P because in most S&P etc.... but I'm always trying to improve my skills which are uniquely different from any other op. CWT is state QSO parties, other than CQP, I S&P the entire a great place to stretch your CW abilities. Have fun and do it your way.

73 Dave WN4AFP 1208

Re: Morphing of CWTs- A Modest Proposal

From: Jim KK0U

Date: Thu, 27 Apr 2023 19:28:02 EDT

On Thu, Apr 27, 2023 at 09:22 AM, Doug KR2Q (438)

I hope others will chime in with possible solutions (or

solutes?...LOL).

de Doug KR2Q

Well, Doug, if you're not part of the Solution, you're part of the precipitate!

73, Jlm (ex-Chemst) KK0U View/Reply Online | Reply To Sender | Reply To Group | Mute Topic | Top ^ | New Topic

Re: Morphing of CWTs- A Modest Proposal

From: Doug KR2Q (438)

Date: Thu, 27 Apr 2023 20:16:05 EDT

Sometimes the solution is the precipitate (rain).

Doug KR2Q

From: Rob K6RB #3

Date: Thu, 27 Apr 2023 20:39:59 EDT

CWT is like a contest, but it's not a contest. As someone pointed out, it's an effective way to improve

your contesting abilities.

Take a listen to CQ WW CW. There are stations really trucking at high speed. Some runners, unfortunately, wait 10 QSOs or more before IDing, but that's another topic.

When I'm running in a CWT or any contest, if I'm sending at 28 or 30 wpm, and someone calls me at 20 wpm, I don't slow my sending, I still send at 28 to 30 but I add some Farnsworth delay by using my paddle rather than an F-key. I rarely get asked for a fill.

If I'm pouncing, instead, and someone is running at 25 to 30, I'll call at 28 to 30. If they are running at 20 wpm, I will switch to my paddle, and without slowing down

In CWT, I mostly run. Why? Because I enjoy that more contests in which I participate, I will have to do both. In time.

Running and pouncing are two different skills. When you're running, it is expected that you'll get the pouncer's call in one take nearly all of the time. If it

usually takes two or three takes, then you should be pouncing, not running. With pouncing, you have the luxury of sitting on a runner's frequency and taking as long as you need to get his call and exchange before you first call him/her. That's why I always recommend that beginning contesters hold off running until late in the game when the early runners are now pouncing and doing whatever it takes to make Qs - including slowing down.

With regard to the original posting about CWT speeds, I feel that CWT should be treated like any other contest (even though it's not). In CQ WW CW or WPX CW you will hear runners mostly going at 28 and up, especially in the beginning. Some are pushing 40 wpm. Some are trying to win a category or the whole enchilada. Some, like me, are just trying to have fun for as long as it's fun, then quit, and do something else.

Many of us do CWTs to hone our skills - both running and pouncing. If you want to maximize your end results, you have to keep striving to go faster, pull out the weak ones, and enter the calls and exchanges accurately. So, I'm not in favor of changing any aspect unmatched. of CWT. You'll find SO2R folks doing 2BSIQ, SO1R folks running and pouncing at a range of speeds using computer sending and paddling or bugging. Just like in any real contest.

Keep in mind that speed follows a QSO-rate bell curve. Once you hit a particular speed where your rate/accuracy are maximized, you will often find that pushing the speed up another notch may cause more requests for fills, and your rate will drop. But, you will hear folks going real fast, and if improving your contest skills is important to you, don't expect them to slow down - you have to copy faster.

Someone said that many CWT players are simply skimming, pointing, and letting the computer send and prefill. Yes, some do do that. But, if you look at the scores, where someone has not chosen "assisted," they are copying and typing in every call sign. That's what I do. Not because I think that those who use skimmers are taking the easy way but because I enjoy 73 - Rich, K1DJ the searching, copying and entering, and personally find using spotting much less fun (for me).

In virtually every popular contest some people are operating assisted, some are using prefill data, some are using a paddle and just using N1MM+ to log entries (no F-key macro sending). I accept what anyone else wants to do, or enjoys doing, and I don't expect everyone to operate unassisted because I do.

I know that since I started doing CWTs from the very first one to vesterday's sessions, my copying speed and accuracy have improved, my keyboard call/exchange entry has improved, and I feel much more confident in my abilities. In essence, CWT ain't broke, so let's not fix it.

Rob K6RB



N1MM Logger Plus is the world's most popular free ham radio contest logging program.

For CW, phone and digital modes, its combination of contest-optimized features is



https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/n1mmfeatures/

There is already a good N1MM+ POTA UDC. The wise folks of N1MM+ will help you download and install it if this is the first time you will be trying. Even I, almost entirely computer illiterate, managed it!



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 pix of your station, antennas, mobile installation, etc. and send it to w1qk@snet.net Your Capers editor welcomes and encourages member input.



Recently installed W8IO 6ft Heavy Duty roof tower at the W1JMA QTH.





Ready to install the new 3-element Yagi.

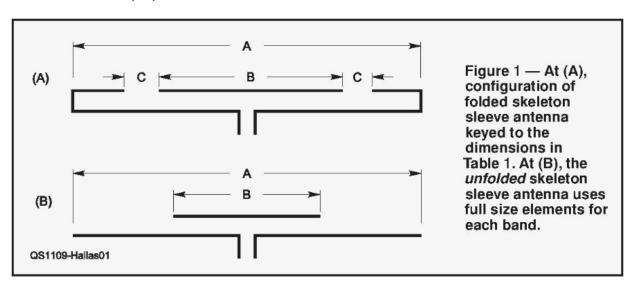


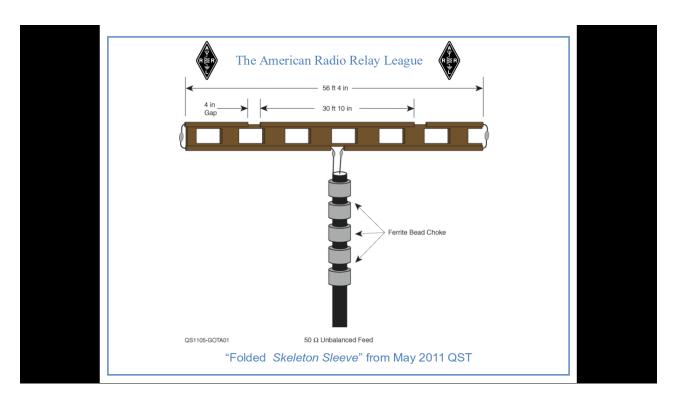
.....

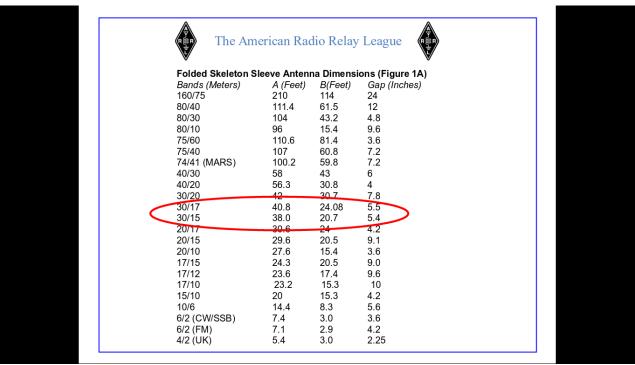
Skeleton Sleeve antenna assembly background information



Joel Hallas – W1ZR (SK)



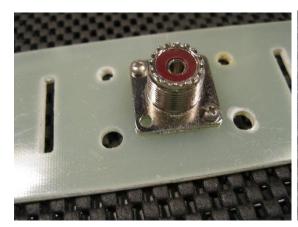




Above is some of the excellent information created by Joel Hallas – W1ZR. Notice the dimensions for most band combinations. I asked him if he used any formulas to come up with the numbers, and he said no. He created the model with trial and error, and then built it out to see if real life fit the model. That's dedication the ham radio way! I circled the information for the 30/17 model so you can get a rough idea of the dimensions.









Center and end insulator assembly details will be explained at the meeting.





http://www.hamclass.net/ranv/pres/HC16MultAnt.pdf

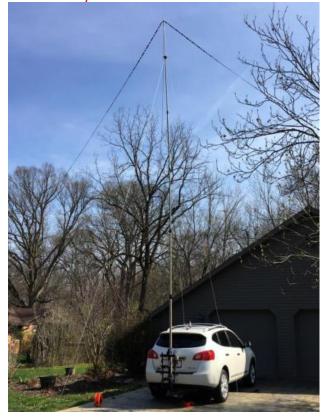
https://www.gsl.net/dk7zb/Duoband/open-sleeve.htm

A Rover Antenna for the 2016 INQP

After operating mobile in the INQP for 2013, 2014 and 2015 (which included winning the mobile category in 2014) I thought a change was in order to keep the experience fresh. My operating partner, Andy K9ELF, agreed. Our 2015 effort included over 500 miles of driving through 21 different counties and, as is typical of any mobile, operating from a moving vehicle with compromise antennas. Let me tell you, we were tired puppies at the end of that day. We settled on a Rover operation for 2016, which would still allow us to activate multiple counties but use a "real" antenna and with considerably less driving. Of course, that begs the question of what antenna to use. Some rovers will stage simple antennas, typically dipoles, in different locations in the days before the contest, and all they have to do during the contest is drive to a new spot, plug in, and start calling CQ. That's a great strategy but it does entail a fair amount of work to build (or buy) all those antennas, get permission of the various property owners to erect them, put the antennas up, and then take them down after the contest. We thought that an antenna we could carry with us that could be quickly deployed at each location and then stowed when it was time to move on made more sense. To make a long story short, we settled on a 40 and 20 meter folded skeleton sleeve dipole to be used from our rover locations, along with our tried and true mobile antennas (Hustler resonators) for use while driving from one location to the next or for brief excursions down to 80 meters while stopped or while moving. The May 2011 QST featured an article on just such an antenna and the author of that article (Joel W1ZR (SK)) graciously provided lots of advice via email on how to adapt the antenna to our situation. Most significantly, our antenna would need to be a bit longer compared to that in the article since ours would be hung as an inverted vee from an MFJ-1908H push up mast mounted to a bike rack on the back of my car. The October 2011 QST featured an article on how to adapt this design for other bands, although I have not built any of these. I have taken Figure 1 from the QST article and added my dimensions to it (see above). The wire lengths shown here are my final lengths. I used the tried and true method of building long and then trimming to resonance. But, building long and trimming to resonance is a bit tricky with this antenna as there are three different critical dimension that interact with each other and, thus, three different places you can trim. You can trim from the gap ends of either the 40 meter or 20 meter sections which, obviously, will end up making the gap bigger. Or, you can trim from the outside ends of the overall length, where the 40 meter section makes its U-turn, which means you are trimming double the length from the 40 meter section with each cut you make. What this comes down to is deciding where you will put the gap in your initial build. I made my initial 20 meter section 31 feet 6 inches long with a 2.5 inch gap, and then made the overall length of the antenna 60 feet long. That overall length ended up being overkill but I wanted to make sure I had plenty of slack. When I was done, I had trimmed from both the outside ends of the 40 meter section and the gap ends of the 40 meter section, and very little (about a half inch) off each end of the gap end of the 20 meter section. YMMV. If you decide to build this antenna, you may want to have some extra window line on hand in case you need to start over. Don't ask me how I know this.My window line was Part# 553 from The Wireman and my coax was Part# 129FF also from The Wireman. This coax is an RG58 with an aluminum foil shield between the braid and the dielectric. The foil seems to be strongly glued to the dielectric which made it very difficult to strip the foil off of the foam polyethylene. I'm not sure I would use this cable again for this reason. The ferrite beads were five FB56-31's from Palomar Engineers. Palomar also sells their beads in a single module, snap on or slip on. I attached the antenna to the top section of the MFJ mast (0.75 in O.D.) as follows: The mast was first wrapped (see left and right) with a rubber gasket material purchased from the plumbing supply section of a home improvement store: the rubber was attached with electrical tape to hold it in place and then further attached to the mast with a couple of plastic zip ties. The was done to provide a "sticky" or high friction surface on the fiberglass mast. I drilled four holes in the very center of the antenna window line and these holes were used to attached the line to the top of the mast, also using a couple of zip ties. The ferrite beads were threaded onto the coax and covered with a section of shrink tubing; the coax was then attached to the mast with a single zip tie about an inch below where the center conductor and the shield separate at the top of the coax. The coax wires were then soldered, one to each leg of the bottom wire (the 40 meter section) of the window line. I had teased the copper clad wire of the

window line out of the plastic insulation but left the insulation in place to provide a bit more rigidity to the assembly. I applied caulk to the open end of the coax; make sure that the exposed braid is either fully saturated with solder and/or covered with caulk to prevent water infiltration. Once the caulk had dried I added a second zip tie to the cable and the mast, just below where the shield and center conductor exit the coax. Finally, the shrink tubing was shrunk and two additional zip ties were used to further attach the coax to the mast above and below the torroids. Be careful that you don't over tighten the zip ties and deform the coax, possibly affecting it's RF properties. As a final gesture to structural integrity, I reinforced the gaps. Both gaps ended up spanning multiple windows in the window line, giving each leg a sloppy feel and allowing for more rotation in the ends of the antenna than I thought desirable. I used electical tape to spliced in a couple of sections of blank plastic (the wire had been cut out) from a spare section of window line. The resulting assembly would probably not win any prizes for beauty and might not be what you would want to do if the antenna is going to be exposed to the elements 24/7/365 but, in my case, the antenna will only be exposed for a little over 12 hours and I felt all of the above was "good enough." When the mast is raised the feed point of the antenna is at about 30 feet and the legs of the antenna are at 90 degrees from each other. The mast is guyed five ways: there are two rope guys to the luggage rack on top of the vehicle with a third rope guy tied to a concrete block placed on the ground directly behind the vehicle. The two legs of the antenna then form the final two guys and these are also tied to concrete blocks. The advantage of the blocks, in conjunction with variable length rope, is that they are easily moved one way or another, allowing for adjustment based on variability in terrain. They can also be quickly deployed and then put back into the car when it's time to move on, no need to pound anchors into the ground and and then remove. The whole assembly feels very stable and received its initial testing in ~10 mph sustained winds.I used a RigExpert AA230 antenna analyzer to test for resonance. Here are the final curves for 40M and 20M. The internal tuner of my Icom 756 ProIII had no trouble tuning anywhere within either band.

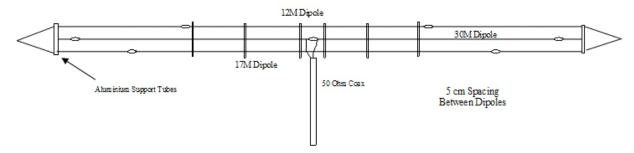




Multiband Sleeve Dipole

Posted on October 14, 2012

The Open Sleeve Dipole



The open sleeve dipole is a most interesting antenna in that only one of the three dipoles are connected and fed with the feedline. The other two dipoles are benign and go along for the free ride. I used this system for several year ago for a WARC Band dipole and the results are the same as if I had used separately fed dipoles. The antenna is about 15 metres long and the spacing of the dipoles is 5cm (2") the plastic spreaders can be any material such as 12mm plastic tubing with three holes drilled into them and the antennas are threaded through the holes. A simple piece of small diameter copper wire threaded around the main 30M dipole and around the plastic tube holds the spreaders from moving up the antenna. Each antenna has the standard "egg" insulator at the end.

I used polypropylene rope to hold the ends of each dipole out to the end sport which is 12mm aluminium tubing. The antenna was set up a few meters off the ground tied to one side of the house and a tree about 15M away from the house and then coupled the MFJ Antenna analyzer to it and the dipoles using the standard dipole formula were fairly close. A bit of trimming of lengths brought them very close to where I wanted to operate in the three bands. The antennas went higher in frequency by about 50 to 80 khz when the antenna was hauled up to the top of the tower.

Does it work. Yes. Exactly like three separate dipoles with no interaction between the bands. I used a 30M/17M vertical loop for a few years and this dipole setup works exactly like the loop. If there is 1 or 2 db difference, I do not notice the difference. The antenna exhibits a definite increase in gain and noise over other comparative dipoles cut for other bands. For example. If I listen to the 30M band on my 40M separate dipole and then switch to this 30M antenna, the noise and the signals increase. The same is true for the 17 and 12M bands.

My results are 214 countries on 30M, 142 countries on 17M and 68 countries on 12M. If I compare my 17M ability to work DX with another local ham about 2 km from me who is using a well tuned 3 el yagi then I am in the hunt after he works the DX first. On very weak signals that he will hear... I don't. But that is the difference between a 3el yagi and a dipole.

I can't supply gain graphs and charts. I have no way of measuring gain or losses and I cannot plot the patterns. To be sure... they will be very similar to standard dipoles because that is exactly what they are. It sure is convenient to be able to work all three bands with no switching and have an SWR of less than 1.5 to 1. There is no reason why the same technique could not be applied to other combinations such as 40M/30M/17M. I am planning to put another on up in the near future cut for 3.5 mHz and the second antenna cut for 3,8 mHz which will give me good SWR readings on both ends of the band and that solves the traditional problems of antennas in that band.

73 de Lee ZL2AL

Source: https://www.zl2al.com/1558/multiband-sleeve-dipole/

Harbor Freight Pick-Up Tool Review



Very useful with one exception

This is a very useful tool to reach things that are unreachable without it. It's fairly durable with one exception - after you've used it a while, one or both of the rubber gripper screws holding it on might loosen up. Chances are pretty good that both the gripper and the screw will fly off in some random location where you can't find either one. So - after some thought about improving the attachment method, here's the quick and easy engineering solution I came up with:





How to prevent losing the screw and rubber "grippers".

- 1. Remove the screw and drill a 1/8" hole completely through the rubber gripper where the screw was previously attached.
- 2. Then, re-attach the gripper with a 1/8" diameter 1/2" long aluminum pop rivet.
- 3. Use a 1/8" diameter aluminum washer (included with the package of pop rivets) Orient the gripper so the opening on the ridge of the gripper aligns with the flat metal surface of both metal parts.
- 4. You're back in business and won't need to be concerned about losing one of the screws and a gripper.





One gripper of my Harbor Freight Pick-Up tool popped off while using it to gather the trash that's routinely thrown from vehicles passing my house. I pick up this trash on a weekly basis to discourage further "unwanted deposits". The most "popular" litter are those small 2 oz. plastic liquor bottles. I suspect they are purchased at the nearby package store, promptly consumed, then thrown out the window. It's amazing that most that are discarded include the red caps.

What's up with people who litter? They need to carry a litter bag in their cars. Geesh!

CARA POTA Guidelines

Purpose: To set forth operating guidelines for CARA sanctioned POTA events.

- Those members who plan on bringing their stations shall sign up so the POTA coordinator can set up the operating schedule
- Those members who plan on participating w/o equipment will sign up as an operator
- Multiple stations will coordinate operating conditions and band plan
 - Each station will use the CARA filters for the band assigned
 - o Each station shall determine their respective operating mode
 - o Stations shall change operating bands each hour, example:
 - First hour of operation: station 1 on 40m; station 2 on 20m; station 3 on 15m; etc.
 - Second hour of operation: station 1 on 15m; station 2 on 40m; station 3 on 20m; etc.
 - Third hour of operation: station 1 on 20m; station 2 on 15m; station 3 on 40m; etc.
 - Repeat
- Use this activation as a means for new or inexperienced hams to get on the air!
- Have fun!!

Approved Friday 8/12/22

Local Repeater Reference – Compiled and submitted by W1JMA

State	Freq	PL	Call	Other
CT	147.300	100	W1QI	FM
CT	147.120	100	W1HDN	FM
NY	145.130	136.5	K2PUT	FM
CT	147.030	100	KA1KD	FM
CT	146.775	100	N1LLL	FM
CT	146.730	151.4	NA1RA	FM
СТ	146.475	100	W1NLK	FM
СТ	447.775	151.4	W1QI	FM
CT	443.650	114.8	W1HDN	FM
	CT CT NY CT CT CT CT	CT 147.300 CT 147.120 NY 145.130 CT 147.030 CT 146.775 CT 146.730 CT 146.475 CT 447.775	CT 147.300 100 CT 147.120 100 NY 145.130 136.5 CT 147.030 100 CT 146.775 100 CT 146.730 151.4 CT 146.475 100 CT 447.775 151.4	CT 147.300 100 W1QI CT 147.120 100 W1HDN NY 145.130 136.5 K2PUT CT 147.030 100 KA1KD CT 146.775 100 N1LLL CT 146.730 151.4 NA1RA CT 146.475 100 W1NLK CT 447.775 151.4 W1QI

Source:

Repeaterbook.com

August 2022 CARA Standing Committees

Repeater Chair: Greg Davis, WR1Z

John Morelli, W1JGM

Marcus Swearingen, AB1WV

Charles Setaro, KC1IBR Dan Fegley, W1QK

Sunday CARA Net Chair: David Teagarden, KB1ZAC

Charles Setaro, KC1IBR John Kerwick, KD2VUP

Website John Ahle, W1JMA

Roger Mitchell, NG1R

Stephanie Fuda

Hamfest Co-Chairs: John Morelli, W1JGM & John Ahle, W1JMA

Marcus Swearingen, AB1WV

Bud Kozloff, W1NSK

Membership Chair: John Morelli, W1JGM

Programs Bud Kozloff, W1NSK

Marcus Swearingen, AB1WV

CARA Capers Editor: Dan Fegley, W1QK

Social Media Asuna Gilfoyle, W2FUR

Youth Keith Iwanicki, W1KRI

Development Open

Events Open

Submitted to Capers – December 2022 by W1NSK

CARA Proposed Calender of Events - 2023

May 7 NEQP CARA W1AW Operation. ARRL HQ. Newington, CT

12 Monthly CARA Mtg. Stony Hill Firehouse. Bethel, CT

16 Spagetti Dinner. Villa Vespucci Lodge. Danbury, CT

? Field Day Planning Meeting TBD

? Ham Fest Planning Meeting TBD

26 Planning Mtg. Stony Hill Fire House. Bethel, CT

June 9 CARA Monthly Mtg. Stony Hill Fire House. Bethel, CT 7:30 PM

? Field Day Planning Mtg. TBD

? Ham fest Planning Mtg. TBD

20th Spagetti Dinner. Villa Vespucci Lodge. Danbury, CT

23-24 ARRL Field Day TBD.

30 Planning Comm. Mtg. Stony Hill FireHouse. Bethel, CT 7:30PM

Submitted to Capers – December 2022 by W1NSK