



# Capers



## November - 2023

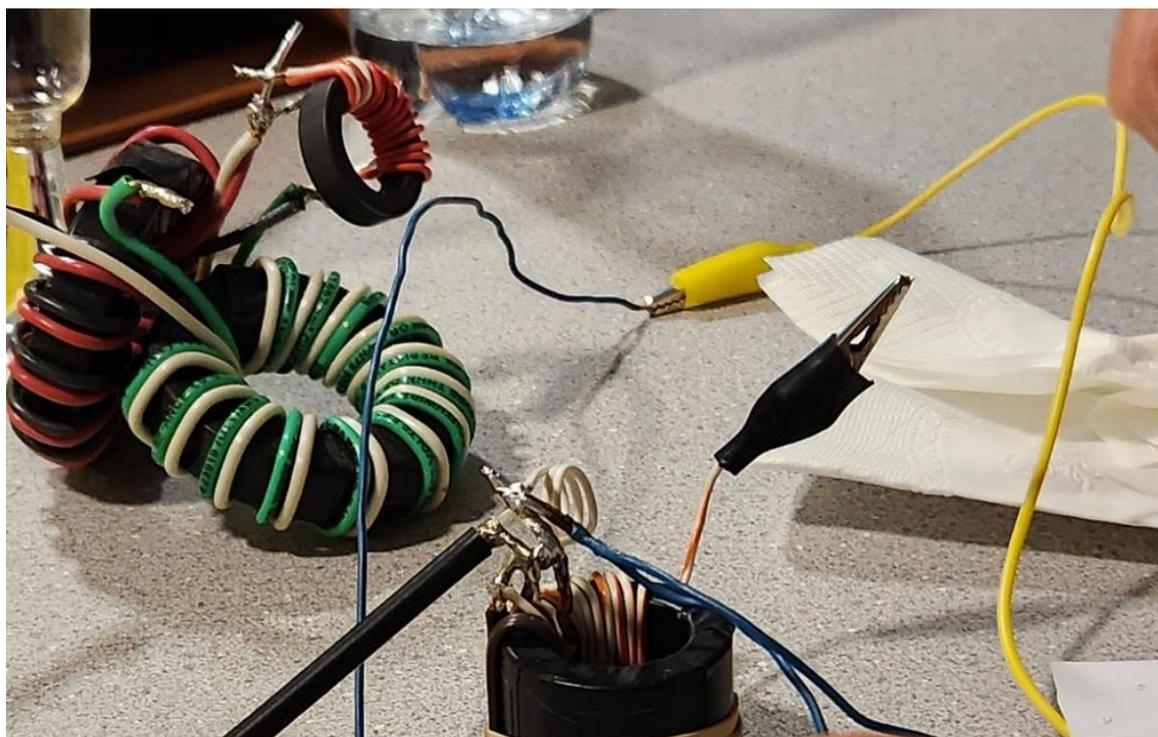
The Monthly Newsletter of The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 55 – Brookfield CT 06804 - 0055

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

*Editor: Dan Fegley – W1QK*

***This in-person meeting will be conducted on November 10  
at the Stony Hill Fire House on Stony Hill Rd. in Bethel (Rte. 6).  
Doors open at 7:00 pm, gavel at 7:30 pm.***



*Guest Speaker: Jim Anderson - AJ1MJ, will present a program on antenna baluns.*

Theoretical and practical information will be explained with some samples displayed and their performance reviewed.

# November 10 Meeting Agenda

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## **Meeting called to order**

- Welcome new members and guests!
- Members introduction

## **Secretary Report:**

- Acceptance of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes as Published in CAPERS
- Correspondence

## **Treasurers Report:**

- Acceptance as Published in CAPERS

**Program:** Baluns: Jim Anderson - AJ1MJ

## **Committee Reports**

- Repeater Committee Reports: Steve, W1SMS
  - City Agreement Update
  - 2m/440 Current Status
  - 220 plan and status
- Website, Reflector, IT Committee: Stephanie Fuda
  - New Website Update
    - Go Daddy for Website
    - IO for Reflector
- Operating Activities
  - Winter Field Day- January 27/28
  - POTA- Putnam Park 11/18/23
  - Club Station on the Air 12/9/23
  - Other
    - Ham Radio University in LI 1/6/24
    - Windsor Radio Museum 2/24/24
    - POTA Night
    - Digital Night
      - CW
      - FT8/FT4
      - RTTY
- Hamfest/Fund Raising Committee
- Membership Committee

## Old Business

- FD/WFD improvement project status
  - 40m ½ square repair not yet complete
- Holiday Dinner: Vespucci Lodge Thursday 12/28 at 7pm Cost \$33
- Maker Space Update

## New Business

- CARA Public Information Officer
- New CARA Badges for 2024

## Announcements

- CARA Pasta Night Tuesday 11/21 at 6pm

## Good of the Order

## Adjournment and Next Business Meeting

- Friday 12/8 7:30 Stony Hill FD



## **President's Message**

*de W1NSK*

The end of the year and Holidays will soon be upon us! What happened this year! The good news is Cycle 25 is upon us bringing lots of fun opportunities. Ten Meters is great!

As the weather turns chillier, it's a good time to do any antenna maintenance. Contest season is upon us! All kinds of operating events abound

from 160, HF to VHF, EME and Digital. Learn a new mode, get the station set up for it and enjoy!

This month's CARA POTA (Parks on The Air) will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> in Putnam Park in Redding. Operation usually begins with us gathering at 10AM and staying until 3PM or so. Bring your portable station, a friend to introduce to the hobby or just yourself and join us!

The Club will be hosting Jim Anderson, AJ1MJ at our November meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a live presentation at our regular meeting at Stony Hill FD. He will be discussing "choke baluns and impedance matching devices - "L" networks and transformers." Join us and learn! If anyone has an idea that they would like to present to the Club at a meeting, get in touch and let's talk about it! Digital Modes, RTTY, CW, EME and Satellites are all of interest!

Our Club Repeater on 2 Meters is operational back on Spruce Mountain! I thank the Repeater Comm. and especially Steve for their efforts.

The informal Spaghetti dinner is again at Villa Vespucci Lodge on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM. Stop on by for some socializing and “radio talk”. \$12 all included except beverage. It has also been decided to have our Holiday Party on Thursday December 28 at Villa Vespucci Lodge. On that evening the lodge hosts a “Big Eaters night” for \$28 plus \$5 gratuity totaling \$33.00 . Included is Salad, Pasta, choice of 2 entrees, with accompaniments, dessert, and coffee. Wine is also included. Bring friends, family, and Spouses!

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, ACTIVELY participate, and get on the Air!

Bud – W1NSK  
 CARA President



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

**Vice- President’s Message:**  
 de W1JGM



The leaves have turned the traditionally bright colors of autumn, and nights are cooler.

Pretty soon it will be time to light the wood stove, fireplace, or pellet stove or just turn up the heat.

As I’ve said previously, “activity breeds activity”. Despite the inclement weather, we’ve had some great events over the past month. Unfortunately, our planned W1QI Special Event Station at the annual New Fairfield day event was cancelled. Rain kept most of us from the rescheduled on-the-air POTA event at Squantz Pond State Park. Some of us were able to operate on a smaller scale on the Saturday and Sunday of Support Your Parks on- the-air event.

I operated from Pootatuck State Forest K-10079 in New Fairfield with Dan - N2DGT. David -KB1ZAC, Susie – KC1QVE and Dan – W1QK operated from Squantz Pond on Sunday, Oct. 22.

A group of us met at the Amerigo Vespucci Lodge for our monthly Pasta Night dinner. John - W1JMA and I sampled the monthly “Big Eater’s Dinner” at the lodge, which was superb with very generous portions of food and drink.

Thanks to Steve - W1SMS with assistance from John - W1JMA, our 2M meter repeater was returned to the

mountain and back in operation. CARA's 447.775 70 cm repeater is still operational and linked full time to the KB1AEV/NA1RA network.

We'll meet at the Amerigo Vespucci Lodge on November 14 at 6:00 p.m. for the monthly Pasta Night dinner.

Our monthly POTA will be on November 18 at Putnam Park, (pond side). Plan to attend, mingle and socialize with fellow CARA members, plus get on the air.

Information concerning our upcoming annual Holiday gathering will be posted to your e-mail. This year's dinner will be held at the Amerigo Vespucci lodge, in Danbury.

Our monthly in-person business meeting is November 10, at the Stony Hill Fire Department, Rt. 6 Stony Hill Rd. in Bethel. Doors open at 7:00 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

This month, our guest speaker is Jim Anderson – Aj1MJ. Jim will present his program: "The analysis of a ferrite toroid core choke balun", which is a timely topic for those contemplating antenna installations or improvements before the snow flies.

Remember this is your club, a club you should be proud of.

Have Safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving,

73,

John Morelli W1JGM  
Cara Vice-President

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**CARA is an ARRL-Designated  
Special Service Club**

## October 13 Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

de CARA Secretary/Treasurer, John Ahle - W1JMA



The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by VP John Morelli, W1JGM.

There were 7 members present and a newly licensed ham KC1TMS, Nick, who joined our club at the meeting.

The September monthly meeting minutes as published in CAPERS were accepted.

The Treasury report for the month of September as published in CAPERS was accepted. The treasurer, John, W1JMA made the following motions:

1. Donation of \$100 to the Ball Pond FD and \$100 to the Stony Hill FD. These donations are made to say thank you for allowing the club to use their facilities. After discussion the votes was unanimous.
2. John also made a motion to keep the current dues structure in place for the calendar year 2024. One member asked why there was not a budget presented to support this motion. After discussion, the vote was cast, and the motion passed with one abstention.

Steve, W1SMS, Repeater Committee Chair informed the group about the recent trip up the hill to reinstall the 2m repeater that failed earlier this summer. The machine is operational and, in a stand, alone mode with CW ID. It is not linked currently, but Echolink is functional.

Stephanie Fuda, Website Chair, was not present, but sent an email to inform the group that she has narrowed down the new website to 2 possible providers. Those providers are GoDaddy and Square Space. She will go over more details at the next planning meeting. Steve, W1SMS, will find out the cost of his website provider for comparison purposes.

It was noted that the CARA reflector seems to be working on a timelier basis over the last few weeks.

John, W1JGM, gave a membership committee update. There was some recent discussion with the New Fairfield CERT director about obtaining a license. John reminded the group that we still have the weekly Elmer net on Teams.

#### Old Business

The following motion was made regarding the sale of the remaining pieces of the Pool Box:

Whereas the DMR radio and SWR meter that were part of the Poole Box was put on the Hamfest Club Table for sale to the public and no interested parties came forward.

Whereas the DMR radio and SWR meter were offered to club members via the CARA reflector and no interested parties came forward.

Whereas, VP John Morelli, W1JGM, has offered \$100 for both items.

Therefore, by vote of the members present at the October 13, 2023, business meeting, the DMR radio and SWR meter will be sold to W1JGM for \$100.

After discussion the motion was passed with one nay vote. After the vote John remitted \$100 to the treasurer.

John, W1JMA updated the group on the status of the field day/winter Field Day improvements. All items are complete except for the 40m half square repair. John and Steve will retrieve the antenna from Dan and make those repairs.

#### New Business

John, W1JMA, discussed the revisions and changes to the Worked all CT Counties Award administered by CARA. In summary, the PDF Certificate will be emailed to the recipient and there will be no fee for the award. The revised form to apply for the award will be put on the website.

The Hamfest 2024 and CARA PIO discussion was tabled to the November meeting.

The club plans on holding its Christmas party on Thursday 12/28 at the Vespucci Club "big eaters" Thursday night dinner. Some members will be going to the "big eaters" dinner this month to sample the fare and make final recommendations. The cost is \$25. The event will be open to all members, family, and friends of CARA.

John, W1JMA, discussed a new operating program for the winter, CARA Club Station Days. John described the plan of having 3-4 host stations once a month for a couple hours to allow other club members to operate their stations. The concept was put to a vote and approved with one abstention. John will begin to solicit one or two more host stations in addition to his station and that of Steve W1SMS.

Steve, W1SMS, discussed the potential opportunity to have a club station at the Danbury

Hackers building. The Hackers are moving to a former hotel on the west side of Danbury. Steve has had some preliminary discussions and toured their new facility. More on this as the relationship develops.

## November 10 Meeting Presentation by Jim Anderson, AJ1MJ

### Announcements

- The information Pasta dinner is this coming Tuesday at the Vespucci Lodge, 6pm.
- New Fairfield Day has been cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Our next POTA event is Saturday 10/21 at Squantz Pond 10am-3pm
- It was recently learned that Don Wicks, WB1DSB, CARA president in the early 1990's has died at the age of 96, this past February. His obituary will be published in next month's CAPERS.
- Jim Anderson will present at our November meeting on Baluns.



I will relate how the analysis of a ferrite toroid core choke balun was confirmed with an actual measurement of attenuation. I'll also explain how the "L" network and impedance transformer used to interface to an end-fed half wave vertical for 20 meters were analyzed for 50 Ohms without residual reactance.

The meeting was closed at 8:47pm  
Respectfully submitted,  
John Ahle – W1JMA, Secretary/Treasurer

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### CARA Planning Meeting via TEAMS: October 27, 2023

No minutes from this meeting were submitted to CAPERS.

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The math amounts to some algebra (first year), but with the addition of the imaginary part representing reactance. I will go into this to a degree that participants would be able to do it themselves.





What I would like to accomplish with the results of this, is to help fellow hams improve their analytical abilities of antenna and transmission line projects.

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### James Anderson – AJ1MJ

I was educated in undergraduate school at Carnegie Tech (Carnegie Institute of Technology, in Pittsburgh, PA). Since then, the college amalgamated with Mellon Institute and is now known as Carnegie Mellon University. My degree from there is BSEE.

I worked about two years at a company near Pittsburgh in VHF (160 MHz) communications.

I left Pittsburgh in 1965 to work for the Perkin-Elmer Corporation. There, I was doing electronics for an airborne laser scanner for night reconnaissance. This is also where I was introduced to lasers and supporting optics (for the 500-nanometer band, ha-ha!) In 1970, I went to RCA in Hightstown, NJ as the "optical guy" for a laser scanner putting high resolution imagery on high resolution reconnaissance film. We had to solve several new technical problems to make that system work.

In 1974 I worked at what was then called Hewlett-Packard (now "Agilent") where an optical detector was proposed for spectroscopic gas analysis. We worked in the ultraviolet and even the vacuum UV. This included diffraction gratings and both semiconductor and vacuum (photomultiplier) photodetectors.

After that, there was the work at Macbeth division of Kollmorgen Corporation in Newburgh, NY, where optical instruments such spectrophotometers were produced. Zenon flash lamps were used, and their own spectrum was deteriorated by the spectroscopy of the eroding metals, so that we were working on a solution to either suppress or compensate for the tungsten and barium emission.

Later, working for Barnes Engineering here in CT, we were working on attitude control for satellites, using CO<sub>2</sub> emission in the thermal infrared. At that time, I had suggested using a CO<sub>2</sub> laser in an optical heterodyne system that could greatly improve sensitivity and thereby functionality. However, it would have required some significant development to produce a viable product. More to the point in Ham Radio, I have been working on the physics of ferrite materials to better understand the consequences of the two contributions of relative permeability ( $\mu'$  and  $\mu''$ ) as a function of frequency. This led to an analysis of devices using ferrites for devices such as choke baluns and impedance matching devices - "L" networks and transformers. This allowed experiments and mathematical analysis (predicting performance) to come to rather encouraging agreement.

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*The CARA 2023 Holiday Party:  
Thursday, Dec. 28 7:00 pm at the  
Vespucci Club.*

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The dinner is \$28 plus a \$5 tip, total cost \$33 per person.

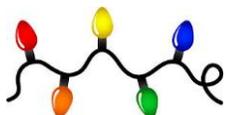
Reservations are required we must give a count to the facility by 12/14/23.

Please don't delay in signing up. Salad, bread, pasta, chicken, a second entree, vegetables, dessert, coffee, wine, and beer. Other drinks are a cash bar.

The link below has the sign-up details. This party is open to CARA members, their families, and friends.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4A9A92CA2FCCF8-45721812-holiday>

*73, John- W1JMA and John- W1JGM*



### *New Operating Program for the Winter Months: CARA Club Station Days*

At the October meeting, a new program was approved to organize monthly CARA Club Station Days. Since we do not have a formal club station at this time, it would be nice to have 3 or 4 members offer to host up to 3 members of the club at their home stations during the months of December through March, when we are not doing club POTA outings.

At this point in the planning process, we are looking for Host Stations. As of today, we have 2 host stations, Steve, W1SMS and myself have offered to be host stations. We are looking for another 1 or 2 members willing to host.

Please contact John Ahle W1JMA at [w1jma@w1qi.org](mailto:w1jma@w1qi.org) if you are willing to host.

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### **OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM:**

Purpose: Experienced club members host a two-hour block of time for other club members to tour

and operate from their shack using the W1QI call sign. During that time, they could:

- hunt parks
- special event stations
- chase dx
- operate SSB, CW or FT8/4 if available

Procedure:

- Secure 3-4 experienced hams willing to host and welcome no more than 3 members to their shack to operate.
  - The host operator will be the control operator to the extent of their license privileges.
- Will use sign up genius to manage the monthly process
- Use HAMRS as the logging program.
  - ADI output will be required for club records
- Will ask each station to link by TEAMS Video during the operating sessions

Proposed Dates:

- **Saturday December 9 1-3**
  - W1JMA Ridgefield
  -
- **Saturday January 13 1-3**
  - W1JMA Ridgefield
  - W1SMS Danbury
  -
- **Saturday February 10 1-3**
  - W1JMA Ridgefield
  - W1SMS Danbury
  -
- **Saturday March 9 1-3**
  - W1JMA Ridgefield
  - W1SMS Danbury

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*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.*

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## 2023 Ham Exam Schedule



Upcoming 2023 Amateur radio exams:

<http://www.arri.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

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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.



**CT ARES news:**  
**CT Section Emergency Test**

[ct-ares] CT ARES 2023 SET – FINAL

**Phil Crombie,**  
**K1XFC** <crombiejr@snet.net>Unsubscribe

*Editor:*  
*Submit your Simulated Emergency Test report to*  
*Phil – K1XFC, CT Section Emergency*  
*Coordinator, SEC.*

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

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**CT ARES Winlink Wednesday**

Put your 2M FM Winlink Packet station on the air to participate in the monthly ARES Winlink Wednesday message practice. Try to use the WISP nodes in our area:

W1SP-6    LITCCT    Litchfield  
145.65    FN31JR

W1SP-7    NHAVCT    Oxford  
145.63    FN31JK

W1SP-8    FAIRCT    Bridgeport  
145.69    FN31JE

----- Original Message -----  
From: "Mike Walters W8ZY" <w8zy@hotmail.com>  
To: "Announce@ct-ares.groups.io" <announce@ct-

ares.groups.io>  
Subject: [ct-ares] Winlink Wednesday  
Date: Tue, 24 Oct 2023 00:29:07 +0000

Hello,

Next Wednesday is the first of November and therefor Winlink Wednesday for CT ARES. Now is the time to think about getting a message in to be a part of the training group. Here are the specifications for your message.

1. Send your message to KB1OVQ by 7PM Wednesday November 1st.
2. Use the Winlink Check In form for your message.
3. Include the following in your message:
  - a. Your Name and Callsign
  - b. Your Location
  - c. Your connection method (FM, VARA, Telnet)
  - d. The actual node that you connect to
4. The question of the month is "Do you have leftover Halloween candy?"

Get those messages in and make sure that you do not forget.

Thanks

Mike, W8ZY

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1a. REGION 2: A "DAM" Drill (Nov 11,2023  
From: Douglas Sharafanowich  
<WA1SFH@gmail.com>  
Date: Wed, 01 Nov 2023 19:27:43 EDT

\*Hello CT ARES members in REGION 2\*

We will be holding a FUN FALL Drill in 2 Weeks

\*PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR for....\*

DATE: \*Saturday - Nov. 11\*

WHAT: \*A "DAM" Drill\*

HOURS: \*1030 - 1200\*

More information about this \*"DAM" Drill\* is available at:

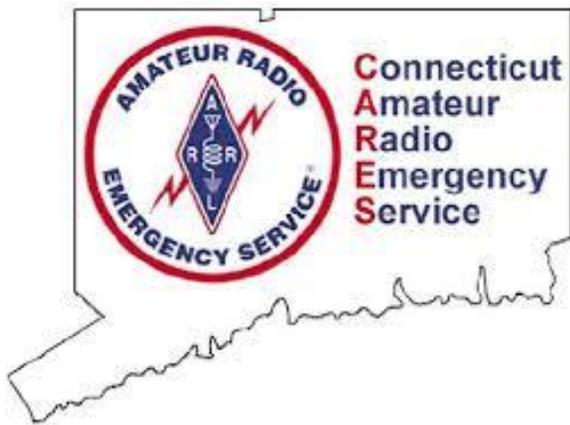
[http://www.ctaresregion2.org/events/a-dam-drill/9045/?filter\\_reset=1](http://www.ctaresregion2.org/events/a-dam-drill/9045/?filter_reset=1)

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\*73, Douglas Sharafanowich - WA1SFH\*  
ARES \*D\* istrict \*E\* mergency \*C\* oordinator  
(DEC)  
Region 2 - Connecticut Section  
email: wa1sfh "at" arrl "dit" net

AND...

ARRL \*S\* ection \*Y\* outh \*C\* oordinator -  
Connecticut Section  
email: connecticutSYC "at" gmail "dit" com



Next CT ARES Winlink Wednesday:  
**Wednesday, December 6, 2023**



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

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[CARA Members] Things you might not have known about Samuel F. B. Morse

Vincent Tompkins via CARA  
<cara@cararadioclub.org>

To:  
Cara@cararadioclub.org

Mon, Oct 23 at 8:01 PM

Art and Science: Samuel F.B. Morse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VF7FKrgIo8>

73,  
Vin - N2OHH

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## Sign Up for Ham Bootcamp

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about Amateur Radio, improve your station, expand your skills, and get on the air. Ham Bootcamp sessions are free, but you do need to register to attend. The next Ham Bootcamp will take place on November 11th, 2023 from 10 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time. You can register for Fall 2023 Ham Bootcamp using [this link](#).



### Ham Bootcamp - Getting Started With Ham Radio

Do you already have your Technician or General License and wondering how to use it to get on the air? We've created Ham Bootcamp just for you!...

[www.n1fd.org](http://www.n1fd.org)

[CARA Members] HAM BOOOT CAMP

**Bud Kozloff via**

**CARA** <cara@cararadioclub.org>

To: CARA REFLECTOR

The Nashua NH Club puts this excellent program together. Learn how to get on the air, operate repeaters, set up a 2-meter station and more. Well worth spending some time watching. If

you're a Technician and want to learn about all the different facets of our hobby, please watch....You'll be glad you did.

<https://www.n1fd.org/ham-bootcamp/>

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## True Neighbor Story (how to fix a problem)

Rick Laughlin

Former Firefighter / Medic (1981-2016)  
Updated Sep 12

*I caught my neighbor using my electrical outlets outside, and I told him I was going to call the cops and tell them what he was doing. He laughed and said I can't prove it. What should I do?*

As a master electrician, I solved my issue very easily. My (now ex) neighbor was using the outside outlet on my detached garage to build his addition. I turned the breaker off - he turned it on. I asked him to stop and he did not.

I simply rewired the neutral on the 120-volt outlet to convert it to 240 volts, watched (and grinned) as he burned up his table saw, his battery charger and a table router all within one day. He had no idea as to why.

If he had simply asked, as he should have, before using my power, I would probably have allowed it - at least for a reasonable amount of time.

EDIT #1:

I have had some suggestions that I could get into trouble with my "fix". I did disclose to the neighbor what I did a few days later and he called the sheriff's office. The deputy that came out listened to both sides and then asked ME if I wanted to charge the neighbor with theft. I

just let it drop and he moved out a short time later.

EDIT #2:

I have had some people say that I should have put "warnings" on my answer about the possibility of fire and personal injury. C'mon people! This is a REPLY to a post - NOT a TUTORIAL!!!

EDIT #3:

I'm about ready to turn off comments! READ THE ENTIRE POST BEFORE YOU ASK THE SAME QUESTIONS!!! Thank you!

EDIT #4:

I have had to disable comments due to people doing edit 2 & 3 over and over. THANK YOU to all of you who upvoted this!

6.6M views  
View 33,081 upvotes  
View 77 shares

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## 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.*



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## 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 [w1qk@snet.net](mailto:w1qk@snet.net) for placement in the CARA Capers.

## For Sale: Icom Radio

John Ahle via CARA  
<cara@cararadioclub.org>

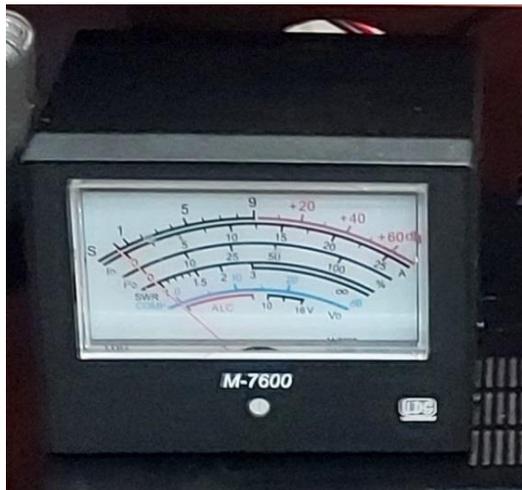
To: CARA Wed, Oct 4 at 10:39 AM

Good morning. I have the following items for sale from the estate of K2JHK:

Icom 7600 Base radio \$1300

Includes LDG M-7600 meter

If you are interested, please contact me, John W1JMA @ [w1jma@w1qi.org](mailto:w1jma@w1qi.org)



## AARC Flea Market - February 17, 2024

Hello,

The Algonquin Amateur Radio Club will hold their next Flea Market on February 17, 2024 at the 1LT Charles W. Whitcomb School, 25 Union St, Marlborough, MA 01752.

The link to download the Flea Market flyer is <https://www.qsl.net/n1em/2024flyer.pdf>

Feel free to add the information to your newsletter or pass it along to members.

Flea Market Coordinator, Algonquin Amateur Radio Club

[AARCFleaMarket@hortons.biz](mailto:AARCFleaMarket@hortons.biz)

Editor: The following is an unpaid message, just an FYI.



GigaParts to open 55,000 square foot Superstore focused on community engagement

With over 55,000 square feet, the new GigaParts store in Huntsville, Alabama will be one of the largest technology stores in the southeast. The site for this new store is located just 4 miles from the US Space and Rocket Center, at the entrance to the second largest research park in the US, and adjacent to Huntsville's new MidCity shopping and entertainment district. This location will serve as a prototype for future stores being added across the United States as early as 2025.

Renovations to the building began earlier this year and the new GigaParts should be ready to open in the **first quarter of 2024**, at which time the existing store at Paramount Drive will close. GigaParts has served Huntsville for over 25 years, selling and servicing ham radio gear, computers and networking equipment. This new, larger location allows GigaParts to not only showcase more of the products they currently sell, but also provides space to expand their existing product lines and add new product categories including **photography, astronomy, general aviation, and makers components**.

What distinguishes this new store from other big box stores is how it will serve as a hub for communities. A large classroom is the center for numerous learning opportunities and provides meeting space for clubs. A snack bar inside the store will provide a place to enjoy a casual game of chess or to just hang out while your computer is being worked on. GigaParts will be partnering with local product experts that will share their expertise with visitors wishing to explore some of the hobbies represented in the store.

For the ham radio community, the new GigaParts store will bring a lot larger selection of products on display, working demos to get on the air, a lot more community engagement. For ham operators who don't find themselves within easy driving distance of Huntsville, GigaParts has opened [a survey requesting suggestions](#) on where to open their next location. Will the GigaParts Las Vegas store see a similar transformation soon? GigaParts representatives say, "that depends largely on

customer demand and the availability of real estate, but we hope so!"

According to Scott Wilhelm, Chief Operating Officer, "Increasing the scale of our retail operations allowed us to create a business model that we can duplicate in cities across the country. This store in Huntsville serves as a prototype to establish scalable systems and prove the business model ahead of opening two more stores in just a couple of years, and then really accelerating our growth after that."

When asked about how GigaParts selected these new product categories, Daniel Imsand, Director of Product Management said, "Over the years, we've noticed so many of our customers share similar interests outside of computers and ham radio. We find that a lot of our core customers are also pilots, photographers, amateur astronomers, or makers. A common thread is that our customers are, what we started calling, 'Thinkers.' They enjoy learning and discovering; most of them love puzzles and problem solving. The products we're adding in this new store provide more for our customers to explore. And, by fostering communities around these products, the barrier to entry to some highly technical hobbies becomes much lower."

"In a time where traditional big box stores are falling or failing," GigaParts CEO, Robby Sperr, said, "we are creating a more engaging experience where qualified customers are elevated and become the most important part of the experience for their fellow customers. This symbiotic partnership leverages the power of influencers in our marketing but also amplifies the voices of customer demands within our organization, ensuring our products and services are more relevant."

Patrick Bramlett, Vice President and co-founder, remarked, "There have been many changes in the technology sector since we opened in 1998. Adapting to those changes in the marketplace and supplying our customers with products and services to help them succeed has been our mission. We look

forward to continuing to serve with this larger facility and we expect this new format will help bring *Thinkers* together.”

The new GigaParts goes beyond technology for consumers. John Colbey, Sales Manager: “Selling IT products and services to businesses has always been a significant part of our business. This new store will showcase many of those services like VOIP phones, firewalls, managed services, and enterprise email solutions. We already remotely service businesses outside of our region and adding more stores in the coming years will improve our reach even more.”

### About GigaParts

Founded in 1998, GigaParts has a diverse mix of products, services and customers with stores in both Huntsville, Alabama and Las Vegas, Nevada, and a distribution center in Madison, Alabama. GigaParts services retail customers, small and medium businesses, as well as government agencies through a GSA contract. With almost 50 employees at the time of this press release, the new store will create up to 40 new jobs for direct hires and contract employees.

For more information:

<https://www.gigaparts.com/Huntsville>

[news@gigaparts.com](mailto:news@gigaparts.com)



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

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w1nsk@w1qi.org  
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CARA is an IRS 501(C)3 Organization.

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*Capers is the monthly newsletter of the  
Candlewood Amateur Radio Association  
Editor: Dan Fegley, W1QK  
[w1qk@snet.net](mailto: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 if proper credit is given to this newsletter and the author.

Ideas for, and contributions to the CAPERS should be submitted to: [w1qk@snet.net](mailto: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.

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/News/Current.pdf>

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 [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday.

### Subscribe to...

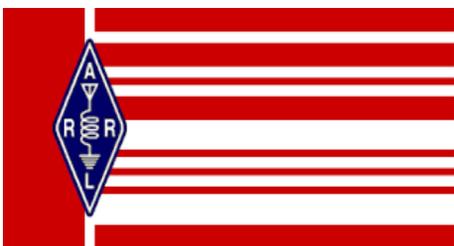
- [NCJ -- National Contest Journal](#). Published bimonthly, features articles by top contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint, and QSO parties.
- [QEX -- A Forum for Communications Experimenters](#). Published bimonthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns, and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

### Free of charge to ARRL members...

- [Subscribe](#) 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 [Facebook!](#) [Follow us on Twitter](#) and [Instagram!](#)



### About ARRL:



## ARRL CT Section News

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

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Log in to your ARRL member or guest online account to view and download logos. Need help logging in? Visit our [Member Support](#) page. [View/Download ARRL logos](#)

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Source: <https://www.arrl.org/copyright>



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

There are in excess of 400 contesters who are members of the club throughout New England, New York, and Canada.

YCCC has members who are some of the most proficient contest operators in the world.

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



### The CW Operators' Club

[cwops.org](http://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 popular & free on-line CW training classes.

<https://cwops.org/cw-academy/cw-academy-options/>

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

Use this link to learn more about the **K1USN Radio Club's SST** slow speed CW contests:  
<http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

A Tower project at Fort Des Moines...

From: Tom Weaver

Date: Mon, 23 Oct 2023 13:44:48 EDT

I'm managing and working on a self-supporting crank-up tilt-over tower installation at the Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center in Des Moines, IA. I thought the project might be of interest to some of you.

[Fortdesmoinesmuseum.com](http://fortdesmoinesmuseum.com)

The tower is from Tashjian Towers Corporation.

The Fort is developing a technology course and we're documenting the project as part of a "Radio and Related Technology" class. The museum has hosted a radio shack and held licensing classes and exams in partnership with my local club (DMRAA.com) for several years.

Lots of work and planning so far. We bolted a 2x10 perpendicular to each leg of the tower base with two 3/4" bolts a couple weeks before the excavation. After ensuring the 2x6" concrete form surrounding the footing was level, 5 strong men lifted the base, turned it over and guided it into place.

On Friday Oct 20th the 4'x4'x7' deep pit for the tower footing was dug by two operators running a hydraulic water jet and giant vacuum truck rig. It took a mere two hours and was a very interesting process to witness.

The attached video shows the powerful vacuum tube already 7 feet into the ground. The high-pressure water jet operator just kept carving off dirt from the sides until it was finished. Grass surrounding the site hardly got muddy - remarkable.

I've also attached a short video that shows the tower base suspended in the pit from the attached 2x10's on our four-foot square (treated) 2x6" concrete form. In the video you can see the beginning of the leveling process to ensure the three tower legs are precisely vertical prior to the concrete pour.

Cheers, 73... de Tom W0FN

[https://cwops.groups.io/g/main/attachment/61391/0/IMG\\_0.MOV](https://cwops.groups.io/g/main/attachment/61391/0/IMG_0.MOV)

[https://cwops.groups.io/g/main/attachment/61391/1/IMG\\_0.MOV](https://cwops.groups.io/g/main/attachment/61391/1/IMG_0.MOV)



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 unmatched.



<https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/n1mm-features/>

**CTY-3334 Country Files - 19 October 2023**

Jim Reisert AD1C

Oct 19 #80303

The Country (CTY) Files were updated on 19 October 2023:

<https://www.country-files.com/cty-3334-19-october-2023/>

For installation instructions, start at:

<https://www.country-files.com/>

Hover your mouse over the word Contest in the menu, then select the software you are using.

To install the file, follow the link to your software at the top of the page.

If you are interested in a bigger CTY.DAT for everyday logging, you can get it here:

<https://www.country-files.com/big-cty-19-october-2023/>

Note that the release notes (and Version Entity) for this larger file are different than what is shown below. There is a separate link to them.

As a reminder, there is an RSS feed of the latest country file announcements:

<https://www.country-files.com/feed/>

Here are the release notes:

19 October 2023 (CTY-3334)  
VER20231019, Version entity is Poland, SP

Added/changed Entities/Prefixes/Callsigns:

- \* GB6WLS is Scotland, GM
- \* KK6CSE and N3QIP are both Hawaii, KH6
- \* W5MSC and WA7MOS are both Alaska, KL
- \* LU5JAH/I, LU5JIB/I, LU5JSB/I, LU9JDZ/I, LU9JZX/I and LU9JZY/I are all Argentina, LU
- \* UA0QNV/3 is European Russia, UA

Removed Entities/Prefixes/Callsigns:

- \* KD9IAH in Hawaii, KH6
- \* K8VEZ in Alaska, KL
- \* LU1HB/S and LU7DZ/D in Argentina, LU
- \* SP9KJU/ARCO in Poland, SP
- \* R4DB/8 in Asiatic Russia, UA9

Though I am subscribed to this reflector so that I can make these announcements, I do not see most messages posted to it. If you have any comments or corrections to the country file, please contact me directly.

73 - Jim AD1C

Jim Reisert AD1C, <jjreisert at alum.mit.edu>, <https://ad1c.us>

### Logging state QSO party rovers

What's the preferred way of logging rovers in state QSO parties? Log the contact as W1XXX/CNTY so the future spots aren't marked as already worked?

Jim N7US

Charlie N9CO  
Oct 23 #80344

What's the preferred way of logging rovers in state QSO parties? Log the contact as W1XXX/CNTY so the future spots aren't marked as already worked? /Jim N7US/

Yes.

VE9AA - Mike Oct 23 #80345  
You say yes, I say no. (credit to "The Beatles")

I always log Rovers as just the base call. I don't do LOTW but if I did, the QSO's would match.

If I see him spotted later, (if I am assisted) it's much easier for me to type in just the base call and hit spacebar to see if he's a dupe rather than type WA1ABC/DEF/GHI/JKL/Whatever. The E/W and the log window instantly tell me all I need to know. No extra typing; no risk of a typo on a county and/or county line. I bet there are other opinions other than yes and no.

### Thank you to all N1MM contributors and developers.

Mike KM2B  
Oct 30 #80485

I wanted to write a short note to offer my sincere thank you to all the folks who have built N1MM.

I used it at home for CQWW SSB this past weekend, for the first time WITH spotting and the band map along with a recommendation from the President of my club K2CS (Rochester DX Assn), to use VE7CC cluster for spotting.

I have never set up and used the band map and spotting functions in N1MM before during my casual contesting. Just the entry window and the list of contacted stations. However, for CQWW SSB, I wanted to set it up in the manner that one of my club members sets up all our stations with N1MM, with band map and spotting during Field Day, which I do participate in.

I carefully read the very detailed documentation for setup of the band map and cluster use and descriptions of each button option. The documentation is truly benchmark in detail and clarity.

Then, at the start of CQ WW SSB, I found cluster VE7CC in the list of clusters from the drop down in the clusters window, clicked connect via the telnet window, then went to the pane next to that and logged in with my call sign. I set the spots to expire at 30 minutes after reading about the big size of the file if it is set too long.

Then, I opened the band map window and over a few minutes period many spots began to show up!! Some red, some green and later, some gray.

I had installed an XChipi-X FTDI USB to COM port that enabled my FT-1000MP to connect to my computer and N1MM recognized that instantly after setting the COM Port.

As the contest progressed the bandmap window, on 10m, after a few years of hearing hiss, was PACKED!

Also, I noticed that if I clicked the call sign above the entry window, then, the entire Call Sign and exchange AND CQ Zone were automatically filled. Having the call show up and the CQ Zone auto fill GREATLY, GREATLY helps in the SSB contest because of the difficulty hearing during the contest. In the past, without the band map and spotting, I would sometimes listen to someone's call 5-8 times before I thought I was hearing it correctly. (I know, sometimes the spot is wrong but, still, if it is right it helps!)

*I just wanted to say thank you to all the folks who contribute to the program N1MM. I truly had fun in the CQ WW SSB contest in what was, really, my first moderate effort at a contest with some of the cool features of N1MM setup by me on my modest station.*

*Thank you to all the N1MM contributors. It made this past weekend effective and fun (almost addictive) and made participation in the contest MUCH easier and made me more effective.*

*Thank you to all contributors for making my contest weekend effective and fun.*

*Editor: An appropriate time to recognize and thank those who have developed and support the N1MM Logger + program*

## Rig Expert

From: Ed Parish  
Date: Thu, 02 Nov 2023 16:00:43 EDT

I recently purchased a Rig Expert AA 230 Zoom. Many of you have a Rig Expert and speak highly of them. When I went to use it a couple weeks after first installing the batteries and setting it up, the unit was dead. Batteries were completely drained. So, I put in some new batteries, used it, turned it off and put it away. Yesterday I went to use it and it was dead again, the new batteries were dead again. I again put new batteries in it, measured the voltage and there was no indication of any current draw. A couple of hours later, as the unit was on my bench. I heard the power up tones. The unit powered itself on and when I tried to shut it off, it wouldn't let me. So, apparently that is how it drained two sets of brand-new batteries. Has anyone ever seen such bizarre behavior? I now must send it back on my dime for them to fix some bizarre behavior. I'll stick with the inexpensive and somewhat reliable MFJ analyzers!

Re: Rig Expert  
From: N2WQ  
Date: Thu, 02 Nov 2023 16:13:26 EDT

Sorry you are having a bad unit. Sounds like a faulty on/off button.

I have had 4, currently having the AA-55, and haven't had any quality problems. I had twice self-inflicted pain and Yuri VE3DZ provided outstanding service, beyond what's considered normal.

We are so fortunate to have many choices in ham radio. If you think MFJ is more reliable and provides better customer service, do buy and use them.

Rudy N2WQ





## 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](mailto:w1qk@snet.net) Your Capers editor welcomes and encourages member input.

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### Donald Wicks - WB1DSB (SK) Former CARA member and President



December 28, 1926 ~ February 5, 2023 (age 96)

### Donald “Don” Wicks

Don passed away peacefully at the age of 96 in his home on Sunday, February 5, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his wife Luise of 61 years, daughter Barbara “Barb” Wicks, daughter Diane Bustamante and husband Steve and their children, Antonio and Maya; sisters-in-law Christine Wicks and Ann Wicks, brother-in-law Bela Schwartz and his wife Crystal; cousins, nieces and nephews.

CARA Monthly POTA event - October 22  
Squantz Pond State Park K-1719, New Fairfield, CT

Photos: W1QK





CARA POTA Event Oct. 22, 2023  
W1QK 40M/20M Skeleton Sleeve  
Squantz Pond State Park, K-1719,  
New Fairfield, CT



AC Filter

Harbor Freight Predator  
1400 W peak, 1100 W continuous

100 Ft. 12x3  
Extension cord



## 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
  - Each station shall determine their respective operating mode
  - 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!!

The next POTA will be on Saturday, November 18 at Putnam Memorial State Park (pond area) in Redding from 10:00 am to 4:00pm. If you are planning to bring food for the group, please advise W1JMA. 73 See you at the POTA. John - W1JMA: [w1jma@w1qi.org](mailto:w1jma@w1qi.org)

## Local Repeater Reference – Compiled and submitted by W1JMA

Town	State	Freq	PL	Call	Other
Danbury	CT	147.300	100	W1QI	FM
Danbury	CT	147.120	100	W1HDN	FM
Carmel	NY	145.130	136.5	K2PUT	FM
Bethel	CT	147.030	100	KA1KD	FM
New Canaan	CT	146.775	100	N1LLL	FM
New Milford	CT	146.730	151.4	NA1RA	FM
Norwalk	CT	146.475	100	W1NLK	FM
Danbury	CT	447.775	151.4	W1QI	FM
Danbury	CT	443.650	114.8	W1HDN	FM

Source:  
Repeaterbook.com

Submitted by W1QK:

### WinLink Packet Gateways

CALL	COUNTY	LOC./FREQUENCY	GRID	REGION	EMG.	POWER
W1SP-1	TOLLCT	Tolland 145.65	FN31UV	3	Y	
W1SP-2	WINDCT	Brooklyn 145.61	FN41AT	4	Y	
W1SP-3	NLONCT	Ledyard 145.63	FN31XK	4	Y	
W1SP-4	HARTCT	Avon 145.69	FN31OT	3	Y	
W1SP-5	MIDDCT	Haddam 145.69	FN31RK	2	Y	
W1SP-6	LITCCT	Litchfield 145.65	FN31JR	5	Y	
W1SP-7	NHAVCT	Oxford 145.63	FN31JK	5	Y	
W1SP-8	FAIRCT	Bridgeport 145.69	FN31JE	1	Y	

Source: <https://ctares.org/data-comms-winlink-packet/>



**CY2024 Membership Form (not valid after 12/31/24)**

Name and Call:

--	--

Email and Cell Phone Number:

--	--

Street Address:

--

City, State and ZIP:

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License Class(E,A,G,T), ARRL Member(Y/N)? VE(Y/N)?

--	--	--

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PayPal: [paypal.me/CARADUES](https://paypal.me/CARADUES)

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Additional Family Member:	\$15
Associate Membership: Licensed Ham under 16 years or non-ham:	\$20

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