



CARA CAPERS-Lite

April 2026 "Spring has Sprung" edition via our CAPERS Blog
W1JMA Content Editor

Next Program Meeting Thursday 4/9 at Stony Hill FD

Next Club Event: Club POTA 4/18 Squantz Pond 10am



Congratulations Dave WA1JGA

After 58 years as a Ham, I finally earned my Worked All States award! It was fun going through my *real* QSL Cards and checking off each state on the ARRL official form and filling in the info for each state. I contacted one of the ARRL card checkers here in CT, and he confirmed my QSL cards for verification. The process was easy.



My ARRL “WAS” Certificate arrived last week!

Presidents Message- Bud W1NSK

One of the things I do enjoy about living in New England, if you could call Fairfield County CT that is the change of seasons. Every three months things seem to change. Spring is always welcome. Especially this year. With Spring coming and the holidays many celebrate bring a general sense of renewal and optimism. I always try to mark this “Spring has Sprung” feeling with setting a few new goals for myself. When it comes to Amateur Radio this is always the case. In that spirit, I am challenging you to expand your horizons, adventure into a new area of the

many in our hobby and try something new. Whether it be getting on the CARA Repeater for the first time, building a simple Dipole antenna for a band you have never been on and stringing it up, trying CW, FT8 or whatever. I also challenge you to volunteer with an activity or responsibility with CARA. Contact me and we'll talk about a fit with your interests.

Many CARA events to participate in this month.

-Our informal club gathering for the Spaghetti Dinner at Villa Vespucci Lodge in Danbury at 6PM is Tuesday the 21st.

-Now that the weather is nice, our POTA Activations will be restarting. Saturday April 18th from 10am to 4pm at Squant Pond in New Fairfield will kick us off.

-Our Sunday nite weekly Elmer Net is on TEAMS and the CARA 2m Repeater is where our weekly Club Net 7:30pm is held; Join Us!

Looking ahead into May, CARA Members will be traveling to Newington on May 3rd to operate W1AW at ARRL HQ for the New England QSO Party. This is a remarkable set up with multiple operating positions, the latest top of the line radios and antennas galore. When you sign W1AW on the Air, the world will want to work you. We will be carpooling from RT 84 Exit 9 Commuter Lot that morning. Leaving about 8 AM and returning about 4PM. **Let me know of your interest.**

Our Program meeting is Thursday April 9th at the **Stony Hill Firehouse on Rt 6** in Bethel. W1JGM will be speaking about Test Equipment for the Shack and how to use them. Our Business Meeting via Zoom is on April 23rd at 7:30 PM. Look for the email Zoom link to be sent. Join us and hear what's going on. All are welcome!

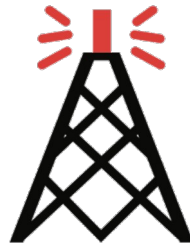


Vice President Message- John W1JGM

It is no April fool's joke, Spring is here, the trees are starting to bud, the forsythias are just starting to bloom with yellow flowers, and the Southington Hamfest is behind us. With that I would like to thank the members of the club that assisted in making the fundraising event possible and their continued support for the club. Thanks to; Vic – WV1V, Harlan – W1QH, Dave – WA1JGA, Dave –WB1ZAC, Lou-W1QJ, Dan N2DGT, John-W1JMA. If not for these members, the fundraising project would not happen. The next event we will be fundraising is the Goshen Hamfest to be held May 17 at the Goshen Fairgrounds. These events are the main means of support for the club. Remember the club accepts donations of equipment related to Amateur Radio to offer for sale at the events.

As we get into the nicer weather, it is time for us to get out as a club and individuals and get on the air. Whether you enjoy POTA, SOTA or other events, enjoy the outdoors. The Club has several events planned for April. April 18th we will start our monthly POTA at Squantz Pond State Park in New Fairfield, Pasta Night April 21st at the Amerigo Vespucci Lodge, and Don't forget on May 3rd we will be at W1AW for the NEQP, this is a fun OTA event. At the next program meeting I will be given an informative talk on Test Equipment used for Amateur Radio by the average operator. This will be held at the Stony Hill Fire Dept, April 9th. Doors open at 7PM. Keep checking your E-Mail and the club's website for additional information

Echolink is now back operating on the air, try it, use it when you're away or out of range of the repeater. If you require information on the system, check out Echolink.org Our call is W1QI-R if you require assistance contact me and I will help. As always, this is your club. Enjoy it!



Scenes from the Southington Hamfest



CARA March 2026 Business Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Bud, W1NSK, president. There was a quorum. 9 members attended via TEAMS. A new member Matt St. Jean joined us on TEAMS.

The minutes of the February meeting as presented in the CAPERS-Lite Blog were accepted.

The Treasurers report as presented in the CAPERS-Lite Blog was accepted.

- The treasurer will increase the maturing CD from \$5k to \$7.5k in April.

Committee Reports

- Steve, SMS, submitted his report that the 2m repeater is operating without issue from this qth. He will begin some tower and antenna work when the wx cooperates. The tower will support 6m, 2m, 220 and 440.
 - The following sites have been moved to the top of the investigation list: Shelter Rock School, West Conn, New Fairfield High School, Hardware store property at top of Stony Hill.
- Stephanie reported that the website is up to date. John, JMA, mentioned the domain cararadioclub.org bill has been paid.
- The next VE session is June 6th at 11:30 Stony Hill FD
- The April POTA will be at Squantz Pond on 4/18 10AM
- Dave, ZAC, discussed the May **CLUB** POTA event; signup sheets have been distributed on groups.IO
- Fund Raising- Next Hamfest is Goshen in May. There are a few items left to sell. Help needed. The date is Saturday 5/16 from 8-1.

Old Business

- The Fund-Raising group raised \$1k+ at the Southington Hamfest. Thanks to all who helped.
 - **A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase a trade show tablecloth with the club logo. Amount approved \$150.**
- The CARA 80th Anniversary Celebrations are as follows:

- Dinner in **September** at the Big Eaters, members and guests to be invited. 4th Thursday of the month. More to follow.
- A Sub/Soda gathering of areas hams to celebrate will be at Putnam Park on **Saturday 7/25**. Invites will be sent to neighboring clubs.
- **Dan, QK and John JGM will work on T-shirt orders for the 80th.**

New Business

- April meeting will be in person at Stony Hill on Test Equipment-W1JGM Presenting
- **Tom Frenaye will be at the May Meeting to discuss ARRL issues.**
- The NEQP W1AW operating event is now on Sunday 5/3 in Newington. A sign-up roster will be sent. The date and location on the CARA website.
- The Club QSO party will be held at the Ball Pond FD on Saturday June 20 from 11-4. We will set up for FD before this event and leave up antennas for the following week's Field Day. **Signup sheets will be distributed.** Both events on the CARA website.
- Mike, W8ZY, discussed the 2 weeks that club members can operate as W1AW/1 from either their home or a club gathering. The first week is 5/20-26 and 10/7-13. CARA members participated in this several years ago from Ball Pond FD. More to follow.
- Field Day is June 27 and 28. Ball Pond FD will be the likely location again.
- It was discussed to give Roger NG1R a certificate of appreciation for the wx reports he has sent out over the years.

Announcements

- Pasta night on **4.21 6pm Vespucci Lodge**

The next program meeting is Thursday 4/9 at the Stony Hill FD at 7:30, the next business meeting on Thursday 4/23 at 7:30 on Teams.

The meeting was closed at 8:15 pm.

CARA Treasury Report
March 31, 2026

Income:	Full Member Dues	\$1135
Income:	Interest Income	\$ 96
Income:	Donations	\$41
Income:	Club Table at Hamfests	\$1106
Total Income:		\$2378

Expense:	PayPal Fees	\$31
Expense:	Repeater Electricity	\$86
Expense:	Insurance	
Expense:	Repeater 6m	\$530
Expense:	Website	\$23
Total Expense:		\$670

Net Income for Period **\$1708**

Cash: Checking-Unrestricted	\$10779
Cash: Checking-Restricted	\$175
Cash: Petty	\$50
Certificates of Deposit-USB	\$10521
Field Day Food Liability	-\$162

Total Cash/Investments **Balance: \$21363**

Number of full members: 59

Associate members: 0

Auxiliary members: 4

CARA Club Information

Officers

President

Bud Kozloff, W1NSK
W1NSK@Hotmail.com

Vice President

John Morelli, W1JGM
w1jgm@w1qi.org

Secretary – Treasurer

John Ahle – W1JMA
w1jma@w1qi.org

Directors:

David Coelho, WA1JGA
davidcoelho52@gmail.com
Rostyslaw Slabicky – N2ROS
w2ros@w1qi.org
Steven Simons – W1SMS
ssimons@manitousys.com

CARA is an IRS 501(C)3 Organization

CARA Mailing Address:

120 Fire Hill Road Ridgefield CT 06877.

CARA CAPERS/Elmer's Corner Blog Moderator

John M Ahle W1JMA
W1jma@w1qi.org

CARA routinely accepts donations of ham radio equipment that will either sell to club members or to the ham radio community at large; Sale proceeds to benefit the operating activities and repeater infrastructure of CARA. Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank You.

CARA VE Testing Information

VE Testing at the Stony Hill Firehouse Rt 6 Bethel.
All sessions are on Saturdays at 11:30 am.

Test takers need to register in advance by emailing aj1u@arrl.net with their name, the test they wish to take, and a contact phone number.

Check the CARA website for the scheduled dates!

Thanks,
73, Jon Bernon - AJ1U
CARA Volunteer Examiner Session Coordinator

CARA Merch: Update

In July 2024, Dan - N2DGT, made a motion to allow JSC Embroidery to set up a CARA website for CARA members to purchase hats, shirts, mugs, etc. with the CARA logo at no cost to CARA.

CARA will notify the membership of this opportunity monthly via CAPERS. The motion was seconded and approved. The link to the website is below.
Dan – N2DGT

<https://www.jse-repair.com/product-category/club-apparel/candlewood-amateur-radio-association/>



ARES and Winlink General Information
CT ARES Packet Winlink Local Nodes and APRS Frequency

Put your 2M FM Winlink Packet station on the air to participate in the monthly CT ARES Winlink Wednesday message practice session.

W1SP-6	LITCCT	Litchfield	145.650	FN31JR
W1SP-7	NHAVCT	Oxford	145.630	FN31JK
W1SP-8	FAIRCT	Bridgeport	145.690	FN31JE
KX1EOC-10	Fairfield	Danbury	145.030	FN31
W8ZY-10	Litchfield	New Milford	145.610	FN31 *
AC1DQ-10	Fairfield	Weston	145.050	FN31*

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

*VARA FM and Packet Capable

Statewide Weekly ARES Net: KB1AEV/NA1RA (NARA) linked repeaters: Sunday @ 8:00 pm. Statewide Weekly DMR Net: DMR repeaters: Sunday @ 8:30 pm

The CT ARES Region 5 South monthly meeting is held
Monthly – currently via TEAMS.

Send an email inquiry to Harlan Ford – WIQH, Region 5 DEC if you would like to learn more about CT ARES or be added to the distribution for CT ARES announcements and links to CT ARES meetings via TEAMS.

hford01@snet.net

Visit this website to learn more about CT ARES, <http://www.ctares.org/>

APRS Digipeaters operated by CARA Members

144.390

W1JMA-10 Ridgefield/Redding border
W1QI-4 New Fairfield-FD
KR1COM-10 Ridgefield Center- EOC
KB1FYZ-3 West Side of Danbury

