



CARA PROVIDING 80 YEARS of AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

September 2026 edition CARA CAPERS-Lite
W1JMA Content Editor

Next Program Meeting Thursday 9/10 7:30pm at Stony Hill FD

Max Freedman N4ML

Max Freedman, N4ML, is one of our next generations of Amateur Radio operators. Licensed in 2016, at age 12, he has become an active contester and DXer, a 2026 WRTC competitor, Caribbean Contesting Consortium Member, and has activated rare DXCC countries like Bouvet Island as part of the 3YØK team. Max is active member in the YCCC, NCDXF, INDEXA, SEDXC, and the local Newington Amateur Radio League. He has made a vocation out of his avocation, working full time at the ARRL's Education and Learning Department. Max is involved in the Teacher's Institute and other programs.



Club Events: Pasta Night Tuesday 9/15 Vespucci Lodge 6pm

POTA at Squantz Pond 9/19 10am to 2pm



Ridgefield Safety Day Ham Station Sunday 9/20

CARA 80th Anniversary Dinner Thursday 9/24

New Fairfield Day Saturday 9/26

Presidents Message-Bud W1NSK

The last couple of months have been an adventure of sorts for me. I am happy to say that I am well on the mend. I thank those that reached out during this time. All is good in the camp and hope to resume driving again shortly.

As the seasons change to Fall a rejuvenation of the Bands with all sorts of activities is to come. More State QSO Parties, DX Contest Events as well as the granddaddy of Contests, ARRL Sweepstakes held on 2 different weekends. One for CW and the other SSB. This unique contest uses the ARRL Message header for the exchange to give participants experience with some Traffic handling tools.

Also, this is a good time to get any antenna work in before the weather starts. Repairs, stringing a new antenna up or whatever. The Club has an Antenna Launcher to shoot lines over trees and is very effective. Contact W1QH, Harlan and we'll gather a few club members to assist.

If you are reading this before our September Presentation Meeting at Stony Hill Firehouse, Max Freedman, N4ML will be our guest speaker. Max works for the League in it's Educational Department. He was on the Bouvet Island 3Y0K, DX-expedition last year, was recently in England at the WRTC (World Radio Sport Team Championship) Event. Spoke at The New England HamExpo in Massachusetts a few weeks ago, is a member of the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF), Caribbean Contesting Consortium, YCCC, INDEXA and SEDXC. Spread the word and be sure to attend!

Many CARA events to participate in this month:

Pasta Night is Tuesday the 15th at Villa Vesspucci in Danbury as always. Bring a friend, family member and have fun.

A Special Event is the celebratory Dinner for CARA's 80th Anniversary. It will be held in conjunction with "Big Eaters" Night at the Ballroom at Villa Vespucci. Seating is limited and going quickly. Check the sign up email blasts the have been sent. No walk ins are available as seating limited. Join US!

Remember our weekly "Elmer Net" is on the CARA Repeater as is our weekly Club Net 7:30. On Sunday Evenings. Join Us!

The Monthly Business Mtg. is on the 25th of September via Zoom. ALL are welcome as we plan for future events.

One last note, the Club is seeking donations of equipment. If you have some things around the shack to be moved on “to a better place”, Contact John, W1JGM. CARA is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

See you on the Air.....

CARA VP report- John W1JGM

Hard to believe that fall is almost here, the kids are back to school so please be careful of the stop school buses and the children waiting on the corners at bus time. Fall does not mean that activities slow down for the CARA club but increases. For the month of September, a very exciting presentation at our programs meeting. On September the 10th Max Freeman, N4ML from the ARRL education department we'll speak to the group about his exciting DXexpedition to Bouvet Island and other activities. I am sure that this will be an interesting and exciting presentation. If you can please spread the word to other interested parties and clubs, invite them to join us at 7:00 PM for conversation and 7:30 for the presentation at the Stony Hill Fire Department in Bethel CT.

On September 15th we will again meet for pasta dinner at the Amerigo Vespucci lodge at 6:00 PM. This social dinner has become more and more popular. Come join us for dinner and great conversation.

Following pasta on September 19th we will meet at 10:00 AM as a club, at the Squantz Pond State Park in New Fairfield for our monthly POTA. As we get more and more Members at each outing, we have changed operating to “pass the mic”. This allows more operators to get on the air on limited band openings and is a lot of fun. September 24th is the event we have waited 80 years for, CARA's 80th anniversary. We will meet again at the Amerigo Vespucci lodge at 7:00PM on September 24th. The

cost is \$30.00 per person payable at the door. This is an event you would not want to miss. If you have not done so already, get your reservations into John Ahle W1JMA. Seating is extremely limited. Also available are 80th anniversary Polo shirts, these shirts are available through our website and are printed locally. The fun doesn't stop there on September 26th. We will have an on the air event at the New Fairfield Fair Day. This will be our 10th year of operating at this event. New Fairfield Fair Day is held at Memorial Field behind the town hall at the intersection of Route 37 and 39. We will be there from 10AM to 5:00 PM operating as W1QI.

If that is not enough events, please join us each Sunday evening at 7:15 pm on 3.965-megahertz LSB For our weekly HF net. the net is followed by our VHF Net on the CARA repeater; this is followed by our weekly Elmer's session on Ms. Teams. The link for our Elmer's session can be found in your weekly e-mail.

As we move into October, please plan our monthly program meeting at Stony hill fire department on October the 8th and the Connecticut convention add the nutmeg ham fest October 11th in Meriden CT . More to come to those two events as we get closer.

We hope you can attend most of the exciting events planned for September. Remember this is your club support it.

Useful Elmer Information provided by Dan W1QK

3a. **Re: *Diagnosing OCF dipole issue*** OCF is an off center fed dipole :ed
From: [N2GC - Mike](#)
Date: Fri, 21 Aug 2026 22:43:35 EDT

I recently had the same issue with signal drop on receive. It turned out to be a bad bulkhead connector on my entrance panel. I disconnect my coax when not using the radio especially in the summer months. Over time the female center conductor spread out and did not make a good connection with the center pin of the PL259. I replaced the bulkhead but you can also put a little solder on the center pin of the PL259 to get a tighter fit. Check that all your PL259 center pins are making a tight connection to their female counterparts.

73,

Mike N2GC

3b. **Re: Diagnosing OCF dipole issue**

From: [KQ2M - Bob](#)

Date: Fri, 21 Aug 2026 23:01:25 EDT

Mike makes an excellent point.

I once had an intermittent with the #2 position on a stackmatch. It drove me nuts trying to figure out what was causing the intermittent and a 50- 70 db drop in audio on receive until it was no longer intermittent but constant. It made me even nuttier when I swapped the connectors from antennas 1 and 3 with 2 during the contest and 2 worked great in the 1 and 3 positions but was Intermittent in the 2 position, and 1 and 3 worked great in the 2 position as well as in 1 and 3. It was a lot of fun finding this out because each swap necessitated another trip out to the tower and then coming back inside to test it!

I then inspected the connectors, noticing a light area of black on the #2 connector (at some point under high power, the connector must have arced) I fixed that but no joy. Now I was really annoyed. And this time I went out and looked again with a flashlight, while holding the cc of the 2 PL259 next to the cc of the 3 PL259. No difference that I could see but what I DID notice was that the center of the SO239 in the 2 position was a bit wider than the 1 and 3 SO239's! AHA! And then I really, really carefully looked at the 2 and 3 connectors again next to each other and THIS time I noticed that at the tip of the 2 connector, it was a tiny bit thinner because the very tip of the connector was shaved off on one side.

The light bulb in my head went on and I resoldered the 2 PL259 and left a tiny blob of solder on the tip and THEN I put it back in the 2 SO239. No more intermittent!

I felt like such an idiot, but then less so because I finally figured out what the problem was. Poor quality control on the stack match SO239's and a missing part of a tip of a PL259. The two together created just enough of a tiny fraction of an inch difference in spacing inside the stackmatch connector as to cause an intermittent!

August POTA at Lover's Leap
5 Operators sharing one microphone



Unum for EFHW 40 with counterpoise and Coax Choke

CARA August Business Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 by John W1JGM, VP. There was a quorum. Bud, W1NSK, President was in attendance.

The July minutes treasury reports as presented in the CARA Capers-Lite Blog were accepted.

Committee Reports:

- Repeater: Steve, W1SMS, clarified that the containers to be placed on his property were given to him personally and he will cover the costs for their installation. He will put our repeaters in these containers until a permanent home is found. CARA will continue to reimburse Steve for the electricity usage.
 - It was noted that 2 members of the club have expressed interest and have relevant experience and would like to be part of the repeater committee. John JGM will discuss with Steve.
 - John JGM informed those in attendance that the New Fairfield EMD has expressed interest and support for helping CARA locate our repeaters at the NF Middle School and is arranging a meeting to discuss with town and school officials. This location is on high ground and could enhance our repeater's reach in our service area.
- Website and IT: Stephanie was not at the meeting, but the website is functioning and updated for current activities.
- The CAPERS Blog due date is September 4th.
- Next VE test is 9/5.
- Fund Raising: The Nutmeg Hamfest on October 11th and a table has been secured inside for CARA to run a club table.
- POTA: Saturday September 19th at Squantz Pond 10am to 2pm.
 - There will be one station, and we will pass the microphone around. It was discussed to either make or buy an extension cable for the microphone.

Old Business:

- The 80th Anniversary Big Eaters dinner is scheduled for September 24th. Invitation and sign-up sheet has been posted. 20 seats reserved. Only 5 seats left as of this meeting.
- The 80th Anniversary shirt ordering process is now on the website and via groups.io.

- There was discussion led by John W1JGM regarding the use of a new w1qi@w1qi.org email address for all non-financial club business, especially CSMA and the FCC. The new process is being implemented and tested. There is still some work needed on the email forwarding method.

New Business:

- September meeting will have Max Freedman from the ARRL
- October meeting is **open**
- Ridgefield Safety Day Ham Station is Sunday 9/20 from 9am to 2pm at the East Ridge Middle School.
- New Fairfield Day is Saturday 9/26 from 12-4
- NF Car show is Sunday 10/25

Announcements:

- Pasta Nite is Tuesday 9/15 at 6pm Vespucci Lodge
- Meshcore now has **#ctares** channel for CT ARES activities.

The next program meeting is Thursday 9/10 at 7:30pm Stony Hill FD and business meeting on Monday 9/28 at 7:30pm on Teams.

Meeting closed at 8:26pm.

CARA Treasury Report August 31, 2026

Income:	Full Member Dues	\$1175
Income:	Interest Income	\$ 334
Income:		
Income:	Club Table at Hamfests	\$1965
Total Income:		\$3474

Expense:	Field Day	\$182
Expense:	Repeater Electricity	\$191
Expense:	Insurance	\$305
Expense:	Repeater 6m	\$530
Expense:	Admin	\$140

Total Expense: **\$1348**

Net Income for Period **\$2126**

Cash: Checking-Unrestricted	\$6891
Cash: Checking-Restricted	\$175
Cash: Petty	\$50
Certificates of Deposit-USB	\$14911
Field Day Food Purse	\$245

Total Cash/Investments **Balance: \$21782**

Number of full members: 60

Associate members: 0

Auxiliary members: 4

CARA Club General 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 – W2ROS
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 Club Merch



1Embroidery.com – Custom Embroidery & Printing — No Minimums. Just Your Vision.

80th Anniversary Polo Shirts now available

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
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W1SP-7	NHAVCT	Oxford	145.630	FN31JK
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W1SP-8	FAIRCT	Bridgeport	145.690	FN31JE
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KX1EOC-10	FAIRCT	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 – W1QH, 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
W1QI-4 New Fairfield
KR1COM-10 Ridgefield Center- EOC
KB1FYZ-3 West Side of Danbury

