



Capers

December - 2024

The Monthly Newsletter of The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

Mailing Address: 120 Fire Hill Road Ridgefield CT 06877.

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

Editor: Daniel Fegley – W1QK w1qk@snet.net

This in-person Program/Activity meeting will be held on Friday, December 13 at the Stony Hill Fire House on Rte. 6 (Newtown Road) in Bethel. Gather at 7:00 pm. Meeting begins promptly at 7:30 pm.

Meeting Topic: Introduction to DX'ing



DX is a ham radio term that stands for "distance" or "distant". DX'ing is the hobby of making contact with distant radio stations or identifying distant radio signals. It's one of the oldest specializations in amateur radio.

CARA Monthly Program/Activity Meeting Agenda December 13, 2024 Stony Hill FD

CARA Program/Activity Meeting this Friday 11/8 at 7:30 pm at the Stony Hill FD
Doors open at 7:00 pm, meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

*We have started something new,
please bring some snacks and/or soft drinks to share.*

CARA Program/Activities Meeting - December

- **Welcome**
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Attendee Introductions
- **Announcements**
 - **January 2025 Program/Activities Meetings moving to 2nd Thursday of month at 7:30 SHFD**
 - **January 2025 Business Meetings moving to 4th Thursday of month on Teams**
 - Upcoming Events
 - Christmas Dinner at Big Eaters on Thursday 12/19 7pm
 - Club Stations on the Air- Saturday 12/21 1-3pm
 - 2025 Dues are due
 - Good of the Order
- **Tonight's Program/Activity-Introduction to DX'ing**





CARA Has been an ARRL Affiliated Club since 1946 – 78 Years in 2024

Vice- President's Message:

de W1JGM



It's December 2024 and the year has gone by. The CARA organization has made many forward-facing changes and continued to improve on the events and services we offer.

Several revisions to the Constitution and by-laws were enacted this year to make the club more accessible and to provide additional time spent on the technical and learning aspects of the hobby.

In 2025, the 2nd Thursday of each month will be an educational night at the Stony Hill Fire Dept unless announced otherwise. The doors open at 7:00 pm. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm. This night will be dedicated to furthering your knowledge of the hobby thru presentations, Hands-on work sessions, project building and answering your questions and many more events.

The club's monthly business meeting will be held on MS Teams on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm to conduct the business of the club. The link to the meeting will be published on the club's website calendar page and may also be sent out on the club's reflector.

In the past year, we have participated in several special on the air events, monthly POTA activations, several hands-on educational events and bringing several new licensed hams into the hobby.

For 2025, we will start off the year by presenting a General license class. This will be a great opportunity for the technician class license holders to upgrade and enjoy the HF bands.

As 2024 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each member of the amateur radio community and especially our club members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Remember that this is your club, be active and enjoy all that it has to offer.

John Morelli – W1JGM
CARA Vice-President



CARA is an ARRL-Designated
Special Service Club
ARRL SSC recognition renewal application
approved: March 2024

November 22 - Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

de CARA Secretary/Treasurer, John Ahle - W1JMA



CARA Business Meeting Minutes November 22, 2024

The November business meeting was held via teams on Friday 11/22/24 at 7:30pm. Bud W1NSK, President presiding. There were 7 members in attendance. 2 officers and 5 members. A quorum was met. There were no new members.

The October 11 and 25 meeting minutes as printed in CAPERS were accepted. John W1JMA, Secretary mentioned that the 2nd WACC awards was generated.

The October 31 Treasurer's report as presented in CAPERS was accepted. John W1JMA, Treasurer mentioned that approximately 35% of the club membership has renewed their 2025 membership and paid the new \$40 dues structure. John mentioned that those using PayPal had a cost to CARA of \$1.89 per transaction. There was discussion about the ease of using PayPal and Venmo. Rosty W2ROS, paid his dues via Venmo thru the PayPal link. John also updated the membership that the annual donation to the Stony Hill FD, \$100, was made as approved the officers and board members per constitutional/by-law authority.

Repeater Committee

- Steve W1SMS, Repeater Chair, reported via email that he is pursuing 2 other possible sites for our repeaters that must be off Spruce Mountain by 3/31/25. The eviction came from the current Mayor of Danbury. There is a 2m repeater being tested from Steve's qth with the same frequency as our current Spruce location but with a PL of 162.

The following updates were made from the subcommittees of the Administrative Committee:

- IT/Website- process will begin to migrate our domains to GoDaddy where our website is located.
- Dan W1QK, editor of the CAPERS reminded the membership of the due dates for the next issue.
- We are awaiting confirmation from the Stony Hill FD for the 2025 exam dates. The next exam is Saturday 12/9.

Program and Activities Committee:

- Winter FD is 1/25-26/25 at the Ball Pond FD. Planning will occur in January
- The Club Stations on the Air program will begin on Saturday 12/21 1-3pm at the QTH of W1JMA and W1SMS. Sign-up sheets will be sent out in December.
- A formal donation request will be made to the membership on Giving Tuesday 11/26. Bud asked that the request be sent via our groups.io twice during the day. PayPal will be offered to donate.

Old Business

- The CARA HF lend program has the ICOM yet to be deployed. Any deployment will have to be after WFD. John W1JGM will follow up with Ed to determine his interest in using the Icom.
- The General Class to be taught starting this January-March by W1JGM, W1QH, N2DGT and N2OHH are in planning mode. Books have been distributed to 5 interested members thus far.

New Business

- The CARA Christmas party is scheduled for the Big Eaters on Thursday 12/19 at 7pm. The cost is \$35. Sign up information to be distributed to members via groups.io.
- After some discussion the December program meeting will be on DX. Bud will source either a speaker or a DXpedition Video for the night
- The ARRL LOTW presentation will be at the February Program meeting. The ARRL will join us virtually.

- Starting in January the program meetings will be moved to the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7pm.

- John W1JGM debriefed the group about joint activity with the CT National Guard on 11/14. A good time was had by all and it was a very good working relationship with the Guard.

Good of the order

- John W1JGM reminded members that CARA offers Microsoft 365 as part of your membership.

Adjournment and next Meetings

- The program meeting is Friday 12/13 at SHFD at 7:30pm
- The next business meeting is Friday 12/27 on Teams at 7:30
- Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

CARA Treasury Report November 30, 2024

Income:	Full Member Dues	
		\$2760
Income:	Interest Income	
		\$ 242.80
Total Income:		
		\$3022.80
Expense:	Donation- WA7BNM&POTA&BPFD, NEQSO	\$450
Expense:	Insurance – Eq & Liability	
		\$305
Expense:	PayPal Fees	
		\$37.72
Expense:	Website/Hosting Fees	
		\$268.98

Expense: Event Banners
\$141.63
Expense: Repeater Repair and Antenna
\$979.90
Expense: Coffee & Donuts ARES Meeting
\$75.15

Total Expense:
\$2258.38

Net Income for Period
\$764.42

Cash: Checking \$7156.04
Cash: Petty \$50
Investment: IBond/CD \$7587.80

Unrestricted CASH Balance: \$14793.84

Number of full members: 58
Associate members: 0

[CARAW1QI] Please Consider
Supporting CARA on Giving
Tuesday- Results

John W1JMA

From:w1jma@w1qi.org To:caraw1qi@groups.io

Wed, Dec 4 at 12:16 PM

**We received \$375 for HF activities
from 3 donors. Thank you.**

CARA is a 501c3 entity. **Your donation to CARA is tax deductible.** Please consider supporting CARA in giving for HF Activities (POTA, FD, Special Event Stations) or Support our Repeater System (2m and 440).

Donations Checks can be mailed to
CARA C/O CARA
Treasurer 120 Fire Hill
Road Ridgefield CT 06877

OR Use PayPal

Donate to Support HF
Activities: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/NQWR4AKCCE3KQ>

Donate to Support Repeater
System: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/V3D7YLC5TKYZW>

Thank you and have a wonderful Holiday Season!

CARA Merch: Update

In July, 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/>





Photos: W1QK



Weekly CARA Sunday club NETS:

Informal 10M Net: 28.490 MHz. USB 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Net Control: Vin – N2OHH

The CARA Net: W1QI 2M FM Repeater – 7:30 pm.

Net Controls: David - KB1ZAC, Charlie - KC1IBR.

Contact Vin – N2OHH or David – KB1ZAC respectively if you would like to be a CARA 10M or 2M Net Control Operator.



Upcoming Contests, Hamfests Events & Meetings:

Dec. 13: K1USN Slow Speed Test - SST

Dec. 13: CARA Monthly Program/Activity Meeting. In-person at Stony Hill FD, Bethel. Introduction to DX'ing. Gather at 7:00 pm, gavel at 7:30 pm.

Dec. 13-15: ARRL 10M contest

Dec. 19: CARA Holiday Dinner - Vespucci Italian-American club in Danbury on Vespucci Dr. Big Eaters Event. \$ 30 + \$5 cash tip. 7:00 pm

RESERATIONS REQUIRED.

See page 35 for full details.

Sign up link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA9A92CA2FCCF8-53507766-cara>



Dec. 21: OK DX Contest

Dec.27: CARA Monthly Planning Meeting on MS TEAMS: 7:30 pm

Dec. 28: Big Stew Perry 160M "Top Band" Distance Challenge contest

Dec. 30: CT ARES Region 5 Monthly meeting via TEAMS.

Dec. 11, 18, 25: CWops CWT contest - 1300Z & 1900Z Wednesday, and 0300Z (Thursday)

<https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/>

January 3 : January Capers input

deadline: w1qk@snet.net

Editor: Dates, links, and other details for this column • provided by:

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

For current scores, visit:

<https://www.3830scores.com/index.php>

Use this link to access the WA7BNM Contest Calendar website:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.htm> •

Editor:

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



Our Ham Cats, CW & CQ,
both wish you a happy holiday
season.

de W1QK & WA1KRG

Background information for Dec. 13 meeting: Introduction to DX'ing

Here are some tips for DX'ing:

Listen more than you transmit

Experienced DXer's spend more time listening than transmitting.

- **Look for telltale signs**

A different accent, a "fluttery" signal, or a station talking about their QSL manager may indicate a rare location.

- **Look for pile-ups**

A pile-up is a cacophony of noise on the band, and a rare station may be hidden underneath or to the side.

- **Start on the 14 MHz band**

During daylight hours, start by listening on the 14 MHz band, and move higher in frequency if conditions seem good.

- **Learn about propagation**

DXers learn about propagation so they know when the band will be open to certain parts of the world.

DXing can lead to the pursuit of DXCC Awards, and trips to operate in rare DXCC entities, called DXpeditions.

Amateur radio DX

Main article: [Amateur radio](#)

[Amateur radio operators](#) who specialize in making two way radio contact with other amateurs in distant countries are also referred to as "DXers". On the [HF](#) (also known as [shortwave](#)) amateur bands, DX stations are those in foreign countries. On the [VHF/UHF](#) amateur bands, DX stations

can be within the same [country](#) or [continent](#), since making a long-distance VHF contact, without the help of a [satellite](#), can be very difficult. DXers collect QSL cards as proof of contact and can earn special certificates and awards from amateur radio organizations.^[8]

In addition, many [clubs](#) offer awards for communicating with a certain number of DX stations. For example, the [ARRL](#) offers the DX Century Club award, or DXCC. The basic certificate is awarded for working and confirming at least 100 entities on the ARRL DXCC List.^[9] For award purposes, entities/areas other than nation-states (countries) can be classified as "DX countries". For example, the French territory of Reunion Island in the [Indian Ocean](#) is counted as a DX country, even though it is a [region of France](#). The rules for determining what is a DX country can be quite complex and to avoid potential confusion, radio amateurs often use the term *entity* instead of country. In addition to entities, some awards are based on [island](#) groups in the world's oceans. On the [VHF/UHF](#) bands, many radio amateurs pursue awards based on Maidenhead grid locators.

In order to give other amateurs a chance to confirm contacts at new or exotic locations, amateurs have mounted DXpeditions to countries or regions that have no permanent base of amateur radio operators.^[8] There are also frequent [contests](#) where radio amateurs operate their stations on certain dates for a fixed period of time to try to communicate with as many DX stations as possible.

DX'ing equipment

Equipment used in DXing ranges from inexpensive portable receivers to deluxe equipment costing thousands of dollars. Using just a simple AM radio, one can easily hear signals from the most powerful stations propagating hundreds of miles at night. Car

radios are also used for DXing the AM broadcast bands.

Inexpensive [shortwave radio receivers](#) can receive signals emanating from several countries during any time of day. Serious hobbyists use more elaborate receivers designed specifically for pulling in distant signals, and often build their own antennas designed for a specific frequency band. In general, an inexpensive desktop or "[PC Radio](#)" will be able to "hear" just about what a very expensive high-performance receiver can receive. The difference between the two types is that the expensive receiver will have more filtering options and usually better [adjacent channel interference](#) blocking, sometimes resulting in the difference of being able to receive or not receive a signal under poor conditions.

Enthusiasts utilize personal computers alongside radio control software tailored for FM reception, such as XDR-GTK, specifically designed for use with devices like the Sony XDR F1HD and NXP TEF668x-based receivers. This software utilizes the connection and simultaneous control of multiple radio receivers. Additionally, tools like FM-DX Webserver, accessible directly through a web browser, further enhance the experience for FM & AM enthusiasts. These setups enable hobbyists to engage in [diversity](#) reception, allowing for comprehensive "A to B" comparisons of various antennas and receivers to optimize signal reception, along with the option to scan remotely.

Many simple wire antennas can be made inexpensively. Having two [dipole antennas](#) at right angles to each other (for example, one running north–south and one running east–west) can produce dramatically different reception patterns.

DX communication

DX communication is communication over large or relatively uncommon distances. On the [UHF](#) or [VHF](#) bands which are typically used for short range or line of sight communications, DX may represent communication with stations 50 or 100 miles away. The UHF and microwave bands have also been used to accomplish [Earth-Moon-Earth communication](#) between stations worldwide.^[13] On the [low frequency](#) bands (30 kHz to 30 MHz), contacts between stations separated by more than 100 miles are often considered DX,^[14] but in amateur radio on the high-frequency bands, DX is referred to as stations outside of the receiver's country (see the section, Amateur radio DX).

Among [amateur radio](#) operators and [shortwave listeners](#), most traditional DX communication occurs on the [HF](#) bands, where the [ionosphere](#) is used to refract the transmitted [radio](#) beam. The beam returns to the Earth's surface, and may then be reflected back into the ionosphere for a second bounce. Ionospheric refraction is generally only feasible for frequencies below about 50 MHz, and is highly dependent upon atmospheric conditions, the time of day, and the eleven-year [sunspot](#) cycle. It is also affected by [solar storms](#) and some other solar events, which can alter the Earth's ionosphere by ejecting a shower of charged particles.

The angle of refraction places a minimum on the distance at which the refracted beam will first return to Earth. This distance decreases with frequency. As a result, any station employing DX will be surrounded by an annular *dead zone* where they can't hear other stations or be heard by them.

This is the phenomenon that allows [short wave](#) radio reception to occur beyond the

limits of line of sight. It is utilized by [amateur radio](#) enthusiasts (hams), shortwave broadcast stations (such as [BBC](#) and [Voice of America](#)) and others, and is what allows one to hear AM (MW) stations from areas far from their location. It is one of the backups to failure of long-distance communication by satellites, when their operation is affected by [electromagnetic](#) storms from the [sun](#).

For example, in clear [ionosphere](#) conditions, one can hear [France Inter](#) on 711 kHz, far into the [UK](#) and as far as [Reading, Berkshire](#). It is also possible to hear [Radio Australia](#) from [Melbourne](#) as far away as [Lansing, Michigan](#), a distance of some 9,835 miles (15,827 kilometers).^[c]

Source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DXing#:~:text=DXing%2C%20taken%20from%20DX%2C%20the,other%20two%2Dway%20radio%20communications>.

Editor: ARRL members can subscribe to receive these DX Bulletins as part of your ARRL Membership.

ARLD045 DX news

QST de W1AW

DX Bulletin 45 ARLD045

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT December 5, 2024

To all radio amateurs

ARLD045 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, OPDX, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

MALDIVES, 8Q. David, HB9ILL will be QRV as 8Q7IL from December 9 to 18. Activity will be on 40,

30, 20, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

SINGAPORE, 9V. Orion, OE3OGC is QRV as 9V1CF until December 10. Activity is in his spare time on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. This includes plans to activate Bukit Timah, SOTA 9V/SG-001, and the Coney Island National Park, POTA SG-0013. QSL to home call.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Special event station A60BHR will be QRV from December 11 to 16 to honor Bahrain's National Day. QSL via operators' instructions.

BAHRAIN, A9. Special event station A91ND marks Bahrain's National Day until December 16. QSL via EC6DX.

MOROCCO, CN. Ralf, DB4REB is QRV as CN2REB until January 30, 2025. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8 from Agadir and also from some POTA locations along the coast. QSL direct to home call.

CUBA, CO. A group of operators are QRV as T46W from Cayo Santa Maria, IOTA NA-204, until December 10. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters. QSL via LoTW.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, E7. Special event station E71YOTA is QRV during the month of December during the Youth On The Air operating event. QSL via ClubLog.

SAINT MARTIN, FS. Operators K9EL, K9NU, W9MR and W9AP are QRV as TO9W until December 13. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via W9ILY.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Special event station HL0YOTA is QRV during the month of December during the Youth On The Air operating event. QSL via ClubLog.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9. Allen, KH7AL is QRV as KH7AL/KH9 while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 40 to 10 meters using primarily SSB and CW. His length of stay is unknown. QSL direct to home call.

BELGIUM, ON. Special event station OQ24YOTA is

QRV during the month of December during the Youth On The Air operating event. QSL via ClubLog.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event stations PA24XMAS, PD24ELF and PI24XMAS are QRV until the end of December. QSL via operators' instructions.

EGYPT, SU. Special event station SU8YOTA is QRV during the month of December during the Youth On The Air operating event. QSL via ClubLog.

BELIZE, V3. Mike, VE7ACN will be QRV as V31CN from Manta Island on Glover's Reef, IOTA NA-180, from December 8 to 17. Activity will be on 80 to 20 meters using mainly CW, with some SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Mike, KC1NGS is QRV as V47NH from Nevis, IOTA NA-104, until December 17. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL via LoTW.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, VP2V. Look for operators AG9A, K2KW, K5PI and KD4D to be QRV as VP2V/home calls from Anegada, IOTA NA-023, from December 9 to 17. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and possibly various digital modes. This includes being an entry as VP2VMM in the upcoming ARRL 10 Meter contest. QSL via LoTW.

INDIA, VU. Operators VE3LYC, VU2RS, VU3WEW and VU3DXA will be QRV as AU2S from Sagar Island, IOTA AS-153, from December 9 to 13. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via VE3LYC.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, VU4. Krish, W4KVU is QRV as VU4A until December 11. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using SSB, and FT8 in MSHV mode. QSL direct to home call.

LATVIA, YL. Special event station YL24YOTA is QRV during the month of December during the Youth On The Air operating event. QSL via ClubLog.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 160-Meter Contest, NCCC FT4 Sprint, Weekly RTTY Test, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Kalbar SSB Contest, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, PRO CW Contest,

INORC CW Contest, FT Challenge and the QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits CW Sprint will keep testers busy this upcoming weekend.

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, NAQCC CW Sprint, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW and the Mini-Test 80 CW are on tap for December 9 to 11.

Please see December QST, page 59, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

NNNN

/EX

ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio®

Editor: ARRL members can subscribe to these weekly DX news bulletins.

The Use and Misuse of Lingo in Ham Radio

The Appropriate Use of Lingo in The Voice Modes

A point was raised by another operator last night about the proper terms to use on the amateur bands. The amateur bands are an inclusive area and a certain amount of freedom to use individual examples of terminology has always been a hallmark of the hobby. Having said that, however, there are good reasons to use a certain amount of standardized terms. Particularly when we are participating in disaster communications, this concept becomes vital. Even in non-emergency communications, however, the use of standard phrases makes the information we are attempting to convey easier to understand.

First, and foremost in my mind, is CLARITY. We want our message, be it a call sign, a name, or a

location to be clearly heard and understood by the other operator. If we use terms or phonetics of our own design, we risk having the person listening to us get confused or get the message incorrect. For this reason alone we as operators should learn, use and stick to the accepted phonetic alphabet as published by the ARRL and other radio organizations.

Second, the use of terms peculiar to another service, such as "Personal" when we mean "Name", mark us to other operators, sometimes unfairly. Here again, the ARRL has stated in many publications, that the use of misunderstood "lingo" is poor operating practice. Even the ubiquitous "Q" signs of CW are not appropriate to phone operations. Their original purpose, as a kind of shorthand that shortened the time necessary to send a message in Morse Code, still exists, but ONLY in Morse Code. The use of QRM or QTH may be very frequent on the voice ham bands since most operators know the meaning of these terms, but a few operators insist on using arcane Q signs. All this does is confuse the other operator. If these individuals are doing this to make it appear that they are super hams, they should stop. All it does is irritate the rest of us, and slow the passage of information down due to having to repeat the term in plain English. Why not do it in plain English to begin with.

Third, as the operator who brought the subject up noted, we are under observation very often. Government agencies, relief organizations, law enforcement, fire and EMS entities are the very clients we serve when disaster strikes. We, as radio operators, must be cognizant of how we present ourselves to these agencies. That means being as professional as we can while we do our "thing", Radio Communications.

As a reminder to all amateur radio operators, here is the phonetic alphabet in its proper form, courtesy of the ARRL. ALFA, BRAVO, CHARLIE, DELTA, ECHO, FOXTROT, GOLF, HOTEL, INDIA, JULIET, KILO, LIMA, MIKE, NOVEMBER, OSCAR, PAPA, QUEBEC, ROMEO, SIERRA, TANGO, UNIFORM, VICTOR, WHISKEY, X-RAY, YANKEE, ZULU.

If you are telling someone your name, it is your NAME, not your "personal". If you are telling someone where you live, it is your address, not your QTH, unless of course, you are using Morse Code. Same thing for QRU. You are asking if the other

operator has anything for you so just say that. Don't make the other operator puzzle around the shack trying to figure out what the heck QRU means. Same thing for QRL, QRO, QTB etc. These terms are appropriate for Morse Code, not voice comms on FM. Please do NOT use the "10-code" on amateur radio. Not even 10-4! Q-signs or codes have their place in the CW mode, but they are not really appropriate for voice communications. By the way, a frequently heard term on amateur radio is the term "73". Note please that I said "73", not 73's. The term which is shorthand for "best regards" per the latest definition from the ARRL originated with telegraphers in the 19th century. It should not be pluralized. It is "73".

OK, I have made a pest out of myself for long enough. Just remember, the purpose is to get the message across clearly, not to confound us by trying too hard to sound like an old hand. When in doubt, just say it in plain English, that usually works best.

73 - N1GY

Source: <http://www.n1gy.com/the-use--and-misuse--of-lingo.html>



[John E. Ross, KD8IDJ](#), Editor | November 7, 2024

2024 ARRL Field Day Results Published

Results are published, and the numbers are in. They paint a picture of a very active 2024 ARRL Field Day. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were reported during the 24-hour event. That is up from 2023's 1.25 million contacts. That's likely indicative of the continued rise of Solar Cycle 25 leading up to the event, but more people also participated this year.

Entries were received from all 85 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sections, as well as from 27 different countries from outside the US and Canada. "It is encouraging to see a rise in participation year to year," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE. "ARRL Field Day is amateur radio's premier event, and the hams turned out for it."

Field Day is whatever you make it. For some participants, it's a contest; for others, it's a social gathering and club activity. Other groups use Field Day to showcase what amateur radio is all about to the public. Some groups use Field Day as an opportunity to introduce youths to amateur radio.

Class A, B, and C scores are included in the 2024 QST results article. The scores for Class D, E and F stations and club aggregate scores are listed in the 2024 line scores on the web, as well in the digital edition of QST.

Results are available now on the ARRL Field Day website at <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdresults.php> and in the December issue of QST.





November 20, 2024

Editor: [Paul Bourque, N1SFE](#)

Results and Records

2024 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW Raw Scores

The raw scores for the 2024 ARRL November Sweepstakes – CW are now available at contests.arrl.org/rawscores.php?cn=sscw. Raw scores are computed before any log checking score reductions. These scores may differ from the claimed scores calculated by your contest logging software. If you find any errors or have questions, contact the ARRL Contest Program Manager at contests@arrl.org.

Operating Tip

Many contest sponsors offer access to log check reports (LCRs), also known as UBNs. Viewing your LCR from previous events can help you improve your contest scores by seeing where most of your errors are made. The most common errors are busted call signs or inaccurate exchange information. LCRs for ARRL sponsored events, for example, are available at contests.arrl.org/logcheckreports.php. The reports for ARRL events will be sent to the email address provided upon log submission.

That's all for this time. Remember to send contesting-related stories, book reviews,

tips, techniques, press releases, errata, schematics, club information, pictures, stories, blog links, and predictions to contest-update@arrl.org.

73, Paul, N1SFE

CARA 2025

Ham Exam Schedule



CARA 2025 Amateur radio exams:

2025 schedule for ham radio testing at the Stony Hill Firehouse to be announced.

All sessions have been previously scheduled at 11:30 am on Saturdays.

73, Jon Bernon - AJ1U

CARA Volunteer Examiner Session Coordinator



CT ARES Information:

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 on the last Monday of the
month – 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, the weekly 2M FM nets, and Win
Link Wednesday:
<http://www.ctares.org/>



Editor: Rick Palm, K1CE - November 20, 2024

The ARRL National Traffic System is an integral part of the League's public service program and has seen a resurgence in activity over the past couple of years. Much of the progress has been the result of the work of a panel of senior experts comprising a select committee that is overseeing and promoting an overhaul of the network. Subscribe to The NTS Letter, published monthly, free of charge to ARRL members. The editor is Eastern Massachusetts, Western Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Section Traffic Manager Marcia Forde, KW1U.

Hurricane Milton: Florida's Sumter County ARES Responds

Last month's Hurricane Milton was an extremely destructive tropical cyclone, which became the second-most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded over the Gulf of Mexico. Milton made landfall on the west coast of Florida less than two weeks after Hurricane Helene devastated the state's Big Bend region.

The horrific effects of this storm were seen everywhere in Sumter County. Many roads were impassable because of flooding, downed power lines, and fallen trees. Residents suffered costly property damage, many of whom may never totally recover. Members of Sumter County ARES (SCARES) stood ready to serve their communities. SCARES Emergency Coordinator Mark Newby, KX4LEO, announced Alert Level 3, "Monitoring," on Tuesday, October 8th. SCARES members maintained contact with EC Newby for updates and assignments.

Newby kept SCARES members and the local amateur radio community informed through email, announcements on the local repeater, and through posts on the Sumter County ARES website. A SCARES member and Sumter County

SKYWARN Coordinator ignored sleep to keep us informed about storm conditions throughout the event. Amateur radio operators who are registered volunteers with Sumter County Emergency Management also activated, staffing two local shelters and the radio room in the EOC. These volunteers in the radio room provided us with continual updates about conditions and response efforts in Sumter County. They maintained communications between the local EOC and state EOC, as well as communications with their volunteers in shelters and deployed ARES personnel.

SCARES members responded to requests from members of the local amateur radio community to assist them in storm preparation. Our own Planning Section Chief, Operations Section Chief, and Emergency Coordinator took turns monitoring the local repeater to respond to information requests and to relay storm-related information to the EOC and others. The Sumter County ARES Incident Commander (AIC) announced Alert Level 2--Activation and Deployment--at 4:00 AM on Wednesday, October 9th. At the request of Sumter County Emergency Management, SCARES members responded in the field to provide communication between the EOC and National Guard teams who had also been deployed for rescue and damage assessments. Sumter County ARES facilitated the delivery of formal health and welfare traffic between local storm-affected individuals and loved ones.

From this real-life incident we learned the importance of pre-planning, training and exercises. We learned what we did well and identified areas we need to improve upon. On behalf of the corporate officers and command staff of Sumter County ARES, I want to thank these members who volunteered their time, energy and equipment to respond to Hurricane Milton and the needs of our county: Ron Fournier, N8BKB; Verne Betlach, K4VEB; Jeff Taffuri, KO4NCC; Gene King, KI4LEH; Spike

McKenzie, N4EBF; Hank DuPont, KQ4DAF; Greg Madore, K1MGR; Gil Chapin, WB2UTI, and Gabriel Leon, KG4LEO. -- Mark Newby, KX4LEO, Emergency Coordinator, QST NFL, November 2024

Hurricane Milton: Alachua County (Gainesville), Florida, Overrun by Evacuees; ARES Responds

As Hurricane Milton upended the lives of many across the Florida peninsula, in the northern portion of the state, the Gainesville area experienced an influx of evacuees up the I-75 evacuation corridor with no available hotel rooms and dwindling gasoline. They flocked to area shelters, which reached a combined total of 621 overnights. The County had to open a 4th shelter.

Eric Pleace, KO4ZSD, rose to the occasion and staffed the sudden opening. The area's power losses were less severe, and all of our repeaters survived. As part of our training/updating during Milton, we tested Jon Simond's, KC4NWK, UHF repeater and found it had astonishing coverage. We're now up to four great potential VHF/UHF repeaters we can utilize. Read the county ARES group's draft After Action/Improvement Plan, which will be discussed at the active group's November meeting. Alachua County administrators have invested well over \$100,000 in equipment and infrastructure for our group of ARES volunteers, making it possible for the county to get a return on its investment due to generous federal matching funds for local county disaster efforts. – Gordon Gibby, KX4Z, QST NFL, November 2024

Hurricane Milton: Lessons Learned by First-Time ARES Responder

By Gary Konecky, KQ4STK

Hurricane Milton was the situation for my first ARES deployment. It was educational. I learned, first of all, that "disasters are local." It does not

matter what is happening in the next county over: where you are is what you will have to deal with.

Secondly, the response by the state was a textbook example of how to do things right: hurricane preparedness and response started nearly a week before the arrival of the storm. Evacuation orders were given days before the onset of hurricane conditions. Recovery resources were mobilized days before landfall.

I live in central Florida, which was hard hit by Milton. In mere days, Duke Energy had restored power here. Public works cleared roads of fallen trees and other debris in mere hours in contrast with New Jersey's efforts after Hurricane Sandy, when the same task took the better part of a week.

That said, no prep nor response is flawless. For at least a week before Milton, meteorologists and hurricane forecasters were predicting a severe hurricane. People spent days stocking up on food and filling their cars with gasoline. The result was that even before Hurricane Milton made landfall, gas stations were out of gas. This situation continued for several days after the passage of the hurricane. Lesson learned: if you live in an area facing an impending disaster, do not let your vehicle fall below half a tank.

My plan was to shelter in place. I live in a solid building on relatively high ground. I procured an ample supply of items needed: a solar generator, flashlights, candles, battery-powered fans with solar panels, camp stove, camp stove fuel, canned goods, and water. I charged my batteries for my radios, testing them on local nets.

Deployment

The night before landfall, I was asked to deploy with ARES, which works with the county's EOC – it runs a top-notch operation and is well equipped and staffed. It is responsible for administering the disaster response plan. I learned that teamwork and effective

communication with others are critically important.

I was deployed to a special needs shelter that cared for evacuees with serious medical issues. The County Department of Health (DOH) deployed a sizable, excellent professional staff to the shelter. Their care was exemplary. The shelter was in a school. School cafeteria workers fed residents. The custodial staff kept the shelter clean. If a shelter resident had a dietary restriction, however, he/she needed to bring their own food. For sleeping accommodations, the shelter staff furnished cots; if you wanted a sleeping pad, sheets, pillows, or blankets, you had to bring your own. Under federal law, schools are gun free zones. Therefore, I was glad to see that the sheriff's department officers were deployed to this shelter for law enforcement.

I was not going to leave my beloved dog at home, and I took her along to the shelter. She stayed in my car while I set up the radio station. When I took her out of the car, I had to deal with Animal Control, which treated us poorly. Even when the shelter manager was willing to work with me about this, Animal Control refused.

There were multiple government agencies (school, health department, sheriff's department, EOC, animal control) plus ARES personnel all involved at the shelter. This is where the weak spot is: These agencies had other responsibilities too, not just disaster relief to cope with. So, multi-agency coordination is crucial, but was lacking at this shelter. The shelter may or may not be under the jurisdiction of the EOC, but is effectively staffed by DOH, school personnel and others. DOH's disaster response was flawless, but was not coordinated well with the EOC. The EOC and ARES thought I was to report to the shelter manager, an employee of the school district. DOH thought their field manager was the shelter manager. I got caught in the middle. It took an hour of phone calls from me to ARES

coordinators, and from ARES to the powers that be to iron this problem out.

The school district administrators had not allowed a shelter inspection for a couple of years and nothing pointed out in the last inspection had been addressed. I had arrived at the shelter with the EOC-supplied radio (my thanks to the county for supplying ARES with radios), a rollup antenna, lots of coax, and two toolboxes filled with miscellaneous tools and supplies. I had everything I needed but the one thing that an earlier shelter inspection would have told me I needed was several feet of PVC pipe. A field inspection would have told me that the building is basically nothing but metal, and hence I would need a PVC pipe so that I could attach my antenna to a fence outside, away from the building, and thereby get the antenna to work. Fortunately, when I was deployed, Tony McGhee, KT4WM, who had been deployed at this school previously, had been assigned as my person to call in case of issues. Tony came to the rescue, bringing PVC pipe and more supplies. The lesson is, when possible, ARES volunteers should be deployed in pairs. If this is not possible, each person deployed should have a nearby back-up person assigned to them to assist with equipment, supplies, and experience to help out if necessary.

As the schools do not let us make needed site inspections, I think it would be a good idea if at the end of a deployment, ARES volunteers prepared a brief document so that the next ARES volunteer would have a better idea of what they may be getting into. The following would be an example for the school where I was deployed:

“Off the cafeteria/multi-purpose room is a storage room used by cafeteria workers to store disposable items such as paper cups, plates, trays, etc. The radio should be set up in that storage room. The feedline should be run through the double-doors to the right of that room. Outside those doors is a courtyard with a chain-

link fence. A non-conductive pole (PVC pipe or a 2”x4”) can be attached to the fence and an antenna mounted on the pole. The doors tend to pinch coax, and the doors also have sharp edges. Therefore, something needs to be wrapped around the feedline to protect it from being crimped, and to protect it from being cut.”

Additionally, the school has a back-up generator. Do not assume it will work and even if it works, it may not supply power to the part of the school where your station is. Therefore, plan accordingly. That said, there is a limitation to this as people in the school could move things, resulting in this information being out of date. Something is often better than nothing, I suppose.

The next big lesson, and this is a lesson for everybody, not just ARES volunteers: Disasters happen in places that you don't think they would happen. Hurricane Helene destroyed a part of the country that is not prone to hurricane destruction. The result was unimaginable devastation, a very slow government response, and no significant aid for the devastated remote areas, especially in the early days of the disaster. It was citizens, not the government, who provided the first significant aid and comfort to the victims in that area. I am proud of the ham radio operators who stepped into this breach and did all they could to help.

Where I live, I have high praise for the government response. If you are going to get hit by a hurricane, the best place to be is in Florida. The response in Florida to Milton was textbook perfect (except for the aforementioned lack of coordination between agencies at the local level). That said, however, the lesson I have learned is that you are largely on your own in a disaster, post-onset. Ham radio is the only communication that can be counted on in an emergency. Cell phones fail. The internet goes down.

If a hurricane doesn't get you, an earthquake might. If an earthquake doesn't get you, a flood

might. If the flood doesn't get you, a fire might, and so on. Therefore, the lesson that Milton taught me was that you, and only you, can be counted on in a disaster. Help may be delayed, maybe by hours, maybe by days, maybe by weeks. I say this because even before Milton made landfall, the winds were so powerful that ambulance service had to be suspended. Hours after Milton made landfall, the calls for assistance came in hard and fast: Person after person, calling because a tree fell on their house, or their house was flooding. Those calls went unanswered because the roads were impassable due to flooding or debris. That is why I say you need to work on the assumption that you will be on your own and no help is coming.

The Go-Bag

If you are deployed, you are going to your assignment and you are not leaving your assigned location for the duration. Therefore, not only do you need your properly stocked go-bag, you need to secure your property. You also need to safeguard important legal documents, as your home could be destroyed. Also, secure your antennas.

The little things, some seemingly of no consequence, matter. When I arrived at the shelter, the parking lot was nearly full. In addition, emergency services vehicles were parked in a no parking zone. As I had equipment to unload, I asked the shelter manager where I should park and I was told to park with the emergency service vehicles that were parked in the no parking zone. The problem is that if people see a civilian vehicle parked there, they may think they can park there, and that would have caused a problem at this shelter.

Fortunately, a friend had given me ARES logo magnetic placards that I stuck on my car. I also wore an ARES shirt that had the bold, large words "AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS."

My thanks to Doug Lynch, W4DBL, for checking on everyone in ARES for needs and well-being checks. Not only are we responsible to those we are helping, but we are also responsible for our fellow team members.

Thanks also to Jim Jaeger, KO4KUS, for asking me to deploy, and troubleshooting any issues.

Conclusion

I am a new ham and survived my first ARES deployment. Having had a very positive experience, I will be volunteering again. You don't have to be a veteran, experienced ham to help when disaster strikes. Therefore, I encourage everyone (experienced hams and new hams alike) to get involved with ARES.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Communication and coordination (including a clear chain of command) among all the agencies involved in a disaster is crucial.

Try to get as much information about where you are going as possible. If possible, site inspections should be done before disaster strikes.

Have a go-bag. Include in your go-bag things you want, as well as what you need, as the shelter may not have them.

If you have a pet, be prepared to deal with animal control.

ARES volunteers should bring things that they don't think they will need (e.g., PVC pipe). Secure your property before you deploy or evacuate.

Seemingly inconsequential things (e.g., car magnetic signage and t-shirts) matter.



ARES® Resources

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

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

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES.

Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an amateur radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

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

Support ARES®: Join ARRL

ARES® is a program of [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#). No other organization works harder than ARRL to promote and protect amateur radio! ARRL members enjoy many benefits and services including digital magazines, e-newsletters, online learning ([learn.arrl.org](#)), and technical support. Membership also supports programs for radio clubs, on-air contests, Logbook of The World®, ARRL Field Day, and the all-volunteer ARRL Field Organization.

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Support programs not funded by member dues at [www.arrl.org/donate](#)

This document lists CT DEMHS
Towns by Region:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEMHS/Emergency-Management/Resources-For-Officials/Regional-Offices/Towns-by-Region>

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

"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 Winlink Wednesday

Put your 2M FM Winlink Packet station on the air to participate in the monthly CT ARES Winlink Wednesday message practice session. Try to use the W1SP nodes in our area:

W1SP-6 LITCCT Litchfield
145.650 FN31JR

W1SP-7 NHAVCT Oxford
145.630 FN31JK

W1SP-8 FAIRCT Bridgeport
145.690 FN31JE

KX1EOC Danbury EOC Greater Danbury Area
145.630

Next CT ARES Win Link Wednesday:
Wednesday, January 8
January 1 is New Year's Day



"Tuning in together"

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 w1gk@snet.net for placement in the CARA Capers.

For Sale:

Cushcraft 13B2 2M monoband Yagi (SSB/CW/FT8) Excellent condition. \$150 OBO.



Kantronics TNC has no model #. Probably their first one. I have no paperwork. Includes DC and connection cables for a Kenwood TS-700SP. Asking \$25.



The Yaesu Speaker / Phone patch is a model SP-980P. Includes cables for POTS phone line and a Yaesu FT-101E. Asking \$80 - open to offers.



Contact Jon – W1KBW (formerly KA1RLX)
Pick-up in New Fairfield.
Cell: 203-746-8033

**There's an extensive list of
FREE items to CARA members
and items **for sale** from Terry –
N1ACI on the last pages of this
month's Capers.**

Contact Terry via E-mail or phone.

**He lives in Southbury and is
assisting the XYL of a Silent Key.**



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

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CARA is an IRS 501(C)3 Organization.

CARA Mailing Address:
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*Capers is the monthly newsletter of the
Candlewood Amateur Radio Association
Editor: Daniel Fegley, W1QK
w1qk@snet.net*



January 2025 issue input deadline: January 3

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.

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.



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

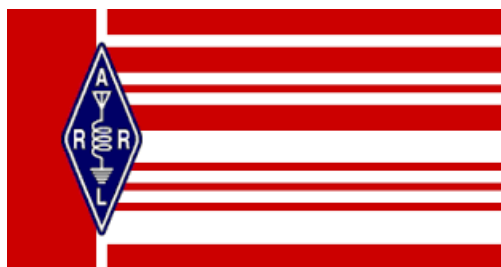
Subscribe to...

- [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!
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Official ARRL Flag



August 20, 2024

Editor: [Mike Walters, W8ZY](#)

Important Links

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Club: www.arrl.org/clubs

Find your ARRL

Section: www.arrl.org/sections

Find a license class in your

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Find a license exam in your

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convention: www.arrl.org/hamfests

Email ARRL Clubs: clubs@arrl.org

ARRL Club News is published every month (12 times each year). **ARRL members may subscribe at no cost** or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page at www.arrl.org/opt-in-out. Archived issues can be found at www.arrl.org/club-news



What is N1MM logger + ?



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

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

<https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/downloads/n1mm-full-install/>



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 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/>



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

There are in excess of 400 testers 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.

Several CARA members are also members of the YCCC.

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

Editor: From the YCCC Reflector with credit to all contributors.

Help on grounding

From: Arthur Bernstein
Date: Mon, 11 Nov 2024 12:40:24 EST

From: ARTHUR BERNSTEIN
Subject: Help

This may be a little off topic. I've been a ham almost 62 years and have questions about station grounding.

Specifically, my radio gear are all bonded with same lengths coaxial braid to a copper back plate. This back plate is grounded with 1 1/2" wide copper strip to several ground rods, 2 3 footers and 2 8 footers. All daisy chained together with heavy copper. My tower is grounded to one of the 8 ft ground rods. My vertical's on ground radials are also bonded at this point . I need to add more wire to the system.

This is all separate from my house's electrical ground. All electrical grounds on outlets, for example, register 0.1 ohm (could be multimeter leads.)
The radio and antenna ground is separate from house ground .

Measuring the difference between the two ground system shows about 29-30 ohms. My soil conductivity is lousy (according to maps 0.1 umo.)

Is what I've been doing for years wrong? Dangerous? I think I've read connecting radio ground to house ground a bad idea Why?

Any ideas or suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks --73, Art., N2KA..

Re: Help on grounding

From: Tony Brock-Fisher
Date: Mon, 11 Nov 2024 12:45:46 EST

Your grounds want to be tied together at the ground rod at the service entrance.

There are multiple functions/purposes for the grounding system. For lightning protection, you want the ground system to prevent any voltage differences between

equipment in the event of a strike - therefore they should all be tied together at a common point - the service entrance ground rod.

It is also good practice to run a ground cable with ground rods paced on it around your house - this acts as a partial Faraday cage.

-Tony, K1KP

Re: Help on grounding

From: K2TR - Fred
Date: Mon, 11 Nov 2024 13:08:07 EST

Hi Art;

You should heed Tony's advice and tie your house ground to your tower ground.

The way that it is connected now any lightning discharges will go from the antennas, through your equipment, to the ground pin on all of your three pole grounded AC outlets.

It can also happen the other way if lightning hits your power line. By bonding the two grounds together the discharge will bypass your ham equipment instead of going through it.

Another thing to double check is to make sure that the power ground and neutral are connected at one and only one place; the main service panel. One trap of this is that some older ham amplifiers wired for 240 volts would draw 120 volt power for the fan and/or filaments from the ground terminal of the AC plug.

K2TR - Fred Lass

Re: Help on grounding --- Reference book

From: Ray Conrad NM2O

Date: Mon, 11 Nov 2024 16:52:12 EST

Here's a book on the topic:

<https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/133989>





Win Link 2M CT Packet Gateways - Submitted by W1QK:

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	
KX1EOC	Fairfield	Danbury EOC 145.63		5	Y	
W8ZY	Litchfield	W8ZY QTH 145.610	FN31			

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

The W8ZY-10 gateway is back up in New Milford on 145.610.

It is set up for 1200 baud packet and VARA.

Please give it a try if you can and let me know how it works.

Mike Walters W8ZY [<w8zy@hotmail.com>](mailto:w8zy@hotmail.com)

CARA Proposed 2025 Budget:

Category	Amount	Amount
Dues Full Member: 50@35	\$ 1,750	
Dues Full Member: 50@40		\$ 2,000
Insurance: EQ and Liab	\$ 325	\$ 325
Internet: Web and Domains	\$ 350	\$ 350
Donations to Ball Pond FD	\$ 250	\$ 250
Donation to Stony Hill FD	\$ 150	\$ 150
PayPal Fees	\$ 40	\$ 40
Field Day/Operating Supplies	\$ 200	\$ 200
Misc	\$ 135	\$ 135
Repeater Repairs-Minor	\$ 300	\$ 300
Total Expenses	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750
Income/Loss	\$ -	\$ 250



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.

CARA November 10 POTA Event

Photos: W1QH & W1QK



David – KB1ZAC and Ron – N1IBQ





KB1ZAC's POTA station





W1QK's POTA Station



W1JMA, CARA Secretary/Treasurer and KB1ZAC announced reaching the POTA 1K achievement milestone and recognition award.

[CARAW1QI] 9 bands in a small garden - G5RV

Vin N2OHH via groups.io **From:**n2ohh@yahoo.com@groups.io **To:**CARA Reflector Sat, Dec 7 at 1:28 PM

Page 59 has an article about the G5RV by Louis Varney callsign G5RV

<https://www.worldradiohistory.com/UK/Ham-Radio-Today/80s/HRT-1983-01.pdf>



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 for placement in the CARA Capers.

There's an extensive list of **FREE items to CARA members from Terry – N1ACI on the last pages of this month's Capers. Terry lives in Southbury.**

The items are **free, except those with a **cash price in red**.**

There are a lot of items.

People interested in item(s) should **email me at brenntl@proton.me or call or text me at 203-233-1052. First come first serve.**

Transceivers/Receivers

- **Heathkit HW-101** and SB600 speaker/power supply. Have not tried to power it up User manual included.
- **Icom IC-735**. Was used in a mobile application User manual included.
- **Yaesu FT-901DM**. Powered up: main tuning knob doesn't free wheel as it should, but works. The frequency display is intermittent in the MHz digit. Receiver works, but transmitter not tried. User manual included.
- **Kenwood TR-2500**. Not able to verify whether in working condition, with user manual.
- **Hallicrafters S-38 Receiver**. Not able to verify whether in working condition.
- **Hallicrafters SX-42 Receiver**. Powers up, but not able to verify whether in working condition.
- **Globe Electronics** CW only Novice transmitter using an 807 tube.

Station Equipment

- **Yaesu SP-901 Speaker**
- **Kenwood SP-70 Speaker**
- **MFJ-260C 300W Dummy Load**
- **Aries HP-5000 Active SWR/Power and Modulation Meter.**
- **Globe Electronics VFO Deluxe 5 Band**
- **Heathkit HM-102 RF Power Meter, 200W/2kW**
- **Heathkit Cantenna 50 ohm 1kW**
- **Heathkit Cantenna 50 ohm 1kW**
- **Heathkit 5PST Antenna Switch model HD-1234**
- **MFJ-906 6m Antenna Tuner**

Amplifiers

- **Amertron AL-811HD.** Excellent condition, but have not powered it up. **\$800**
- **Pride 100A Solid State Amp, 80-10m**

Parts

- **Used 18uH Heavy Duty Variable Roller Inductor.** E. F. Johnson 226-1-1 w/ flexible coupling.
- **Used Eimac 5CX1500A,** w/ socket, and SK806 chimney and all decoupling caps.
- **Eimac Tube Socket SK-410**
- **Eimac Tube Socket SK-510**
- **Capacitor, transmitting type,** Dale/Draloric 50pF/30kV 10% new.
- **0-140VAC 10A Variable Voltage Auto-transformer** (similar to a Variac).
- **0-240VAC 28A Variac Variable Voltage Auto-transformer.** Includes 6' input line cord 30A/250V Twist-Lok plug and 30A/250V output socket. **\$100 each**
- **0-240VAC 28A Variac Variable Voltage Auto-transformer.** Includes 6' input line cord 30A/250V Twist-Lok plug and 30A/250V output socket. **\$100 each**
- **Staco 0-140VAC 9A Variable Transformer,** Type J-901 (primary and secondary isolated) w/ face plate and knob.
- **Superior Electric Powerstat 0-135VAC 7.5A, Type 116U Variable Auto-Transformer**
- **Superior Electric Powerstat 0-135VAC 7.5A, Type 116U Variable Auto-Transformer**
- **Superior Electric Powerstat 0-140VAC 3A, Type 20 Variable Auto-Transformer**
- **Box of 200+ used Receiving Tubes.** All tested for emission and shorts.
- **Box of 15 Analog Meters**
- **HV Power Transformer 600V CT.** Condition is used, but in good condition. Pri.: 0,197,208,218,219,230,241VAC, Sec.: 600VAC CT, 300VA Size: 5 1/4"Wx4 3/4"Dx5 1/4"H. Wt.: 14.4 lbs.
- **Power Transformer 5.5V, 7.0V, 845V.** Condition is used, but in good condition. Hermetically sealed. (XFMR 196) Pri.: 0, 115VAC, Sec.: 5.5V, 7.0V, 845V all are CT. Size: 3 1/4"W X 3 1/2"L X 4 5/8"H. Wt.: 5.2 lbs.

- **Filament Transformer 5V @ 43A.** Condition is used, but in good condition. Used in a filament supply for a 5CX1500A tube. Primary: 0,198,208,218,230,240,250VAC. Size: 4 1/2"W X 4 1/2"L X 4 3/4"H. Wt.10.6 lbs.
- **Filament Power Transformer 6.3V@6A, 6.3V, 5V** all are CT. Condition is used, but in good condition. Hermetically sealed. (XFMR 195). Pri.: 0, 115VAC, Sec.: 6.3V@6A, 6.3V, 5V all are CT. Size: 3 1/4"W X 3 1/2"L X 4 5/8"H. Wt.: 7.0 lbs.
- **Power Transformer 24V** Stancor P8664. Condition is used, but in good condition. Primary taps: 115VACSecondary: 24VAC CT. Size: 5 3/4"Wx6 3/4"Dx7 3/8"H.
- **Power Transformer 95 or 115VAC. 750VA.** Condition is used, but in good condition. Primary taps: 0,108,115,125,198,208,218,220,230,240VAC Secondary: 95 or 115VAC. Size: 5 3/4"Wx6 3/4"Dx7 3/8"H. Wt.: 34.0 lbs.
- **HV Power Transformer 1,850V CT.** Condition is used, but in good condition. Hermetically sealed. (198) Pri.: 0, 115VAC, Sec.: 1,850V CT. Size: 4 1/8"W X 5"L X 5 1/4"H. Wt.: 15.2 lbs.
- **HV Power Transformer 2,600V.** Neeltran Type 1681A. kVA: 3.9. Condition is used, but in good condition. Pri.: 0, 208,215,220,225,230,235,240VAC. 60Hz 1PH Sec.: 2,600VAC. Shielded, Insulation 5kV. Size: 10"W X 10"L X 9"H. Wt.: 74.6 lbs.
- **HV Power Transformer 2,380V.** Neeltran Type 3222, kVA: 3.17 Condition is used, but in good condition. Pri.: LO Side: Lo,Med,Hi,XHi; HI side: 200,210,220,230,240VAC. 60Hz 1PH Sec.: 2,280/2380VAC. Shielded, Insulation 7.5kV. Size: 10"W X 10"L X 9"H. Wt.: 78.4 lbs.
- **HV Power Transformer 2,170V.** Neeltran Type 3353, kVA: 3.17 Condition is used, but in good condition. Pri.: LO Side: 1,2,3,4,5; HI side: 180,200,210,220,240VAC. 49-61Hz 1PH Sec.: 2,170VAC. Shielded, Insulation 7.5kV. Size: 10"W X 10"L X 9"H. Wt.: 83.4 lbs.
- **HV Power Transformer 4,000V.** Neeltran Type 1971. kVA: 2.0. Condition is used, but in good condition. Pri.: 0, 190, 200, 208,215,220,230,240VAC. 60Hz 1PH Sec.: 4,000VAC. Shielded, Insulation 10kV. Size:7"W X 8"L X 9"H. Wt.: 57.8 lbs. There are 2 available.
- Rack Mounted 27.12 MHz Industrial RF deck w/power supply (8877 not included).

People interested in item(s) should email me at brenntl@proton.me or call or text me at 203-233-1052. First come first serve.

[CARAW1QI] CARA Christmas Dinner Thursday 12/19 at 7pm

att.net/Inbox

John W1JMA.CT via groups.io From:w1jma.ct@gmail.com@groups.io To:caraw1qi@groups.io

Sun, Dec 8 at 8:19 AM

We have 25 signed up so far. We have 3 tables of 10 reserved. 5 seats left, sign up now!

The annual CARA Christmas Dinner will be held on Thursday December 19th at 7pm. The dinner will be at the Big Eaters at the Vespucci Club in Danbury. 10 Christopher Columbus Ave, Danbury, CT 06810, United States



The dinner is open to CARA members, families, and friends. The cost is \$30 cash at the door and \$5 tip for the wait staff. The dinner includes bread, salad, pasta, 2 meat courses, dessert, coffee, soda, and wine.

Sign up link below: **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA9A92CA2FCCF8-53507766-cara>



CARA Membership/Dues Application & Interest Survey for Calendar Year 2025

JOIN CARA!

Full membership rate is \$40.

An Associate member is any interested non-licensed person or licensed amateur under the age of 16. Associate members are not granted voting privileges.

Family membership is a full membership rate plus \$15 for each amateur within the nuclear family.

<https://cararadioclub.org/join-cara>