



CARA CAPERS Lite January 2026

Happy New Year
2026 ARRL Year of the Club

The next program meeting will be Thursday January 8th at
7:30pm on Teams. Here is the link:

The program will be on batteries for ham radio

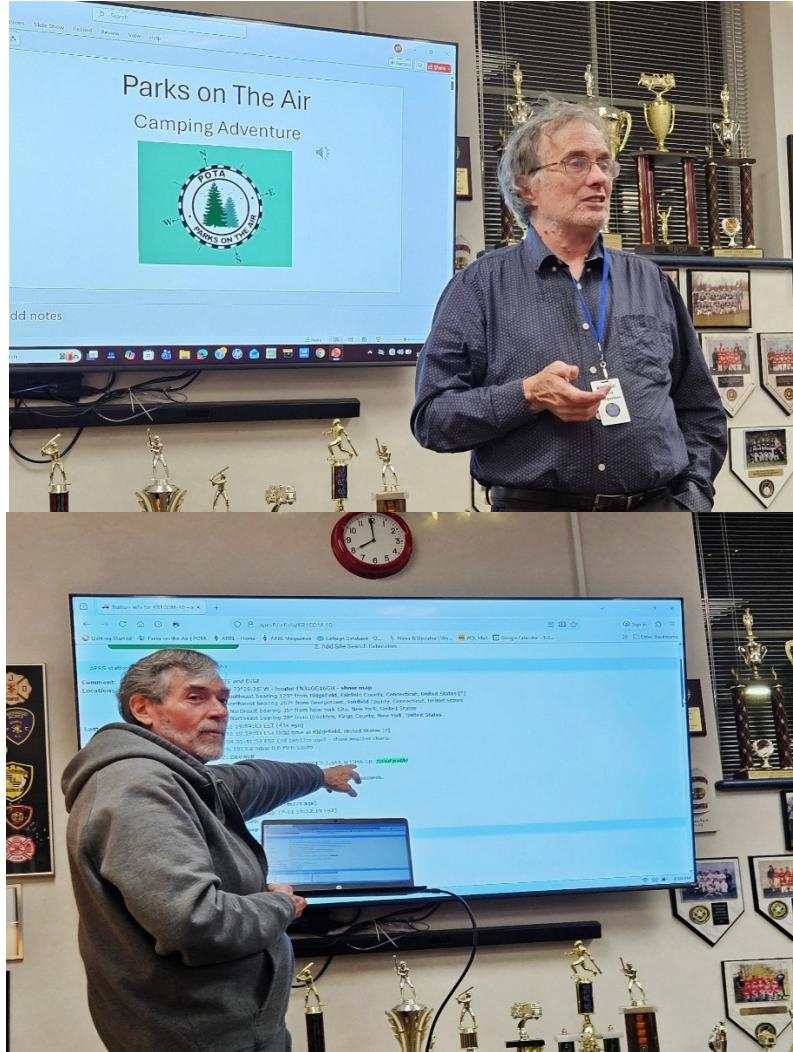
[Program Meeting: Batteries via Teams](#) | [Meeting-Join](#) | [Microsoft Teams](#)

The next CARA business meeting is Monday 1/5 at 7:30pm on Teams

- Major Topic: Winter Field Day Saturday/Sunday 1/24-1/25 Ball Pond Fire Department

December Activities!

December Program Meeting on POTA and APRS



If interested in David's POTA video look for his POTA channel on YouTube!

10 Meter SSB Contest at Ball Pond FD

Several members participated in the ARRL 10m Contest in early December. We operated one rig and a wire antenna for 10m. Another fun operating event to expose members to a contest Technician class licensees can participate in. We made close to 100 qso's for the few hours we operated as W1QI.

CARA Christmas Dinner at the “Big Eaters”

Twenty-five members and families attended. Those who attended enjoyed good conversation and excellent food!





President's Message

How time flies! Welcome to 2026!

As many of us do, I always set a few goals for the new year. Along with the standards: Eat Less, Read More and get more exercise, doing something new and pushing

comfort zones is always good for the “personal growth category”. Considering that, I for one plan on doing something new in the Amateur Radio category this year. For me, getting my Extra after 22 years as an Advanced Class (Yes that’s code for dinosaur!) is on the docket. Being an “HF Guy” I’m also looking to explore the VHF / UHF World. 30 years ago, I operated CW/SSB on 2 and 6 meters. I’d like to do that again. AND finally play with the Satellite thing!

I will challenge you to do the same. Learn CW if you don’t already know it, Upgrade to General if a Technician Class. Try a new mode. 2 Meter CW? Check it out! And volunteer (You knew that was coming) to help do something with CARA. We are only as good as our people. Have an idea for a presentation? let me know, want to start a committee that will help the club? Maybe Publicity? Outreach to youth? There are plenty of things we need help with. Think about what may be of interest to you and help!

Our next meeting is Virtual on January 8th. Doors open at 7 and the meeting begins at 7:30. It will feature a presentation on Battery Power in our hobby and a bit about Winter Field Day will be held on the last Saturday

of January at Ball Pond Fire House. Join us for a bit of operating and radio talk. Sign up for a one-hour operating slot and setup/tear down help on the circulating Sign Up Genius.

Ham Radio University Road Trip is Saturday January 10th. Carpooling from Exit 2 Lot on 84 will leave at 6:30 AM for the trip to Long Island. Return is Approximately 6PM.

Spaghetti Night is on January 20th and Villa Vespucci at 6PM. Bring a friend or family and join us!

Our Business Meeting via Zoom is on January 22nd at 7:30 PM. Look for the email Zoom link to be sent.

We are looking for ideas for Presentations/Speakers for our Stony Hill Firehouse Meetings. If you wish to present or have an idea, let me know!

Dues for 2026 are now due. They will remain unchanged at \$40/year. Payable via PayPal on our website or of course cash or check.

A challenge for the New Year: Bring a prospective new ham to a club meeting, event or Class!

To all of you and your families, Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy New Year as well!

Bud W1NSK

VP Message

I trust everyone had an enjoyable holiday.

As an organization, we have kept the activity level exciting and will continue to present many interesting and exciting events, learning sessions, and activities. Each hopefully will add to your knowledge of the hobby and expand your horizon. Each week we meet on MS Teams on Sunday evening at 8PM for an open Elmer's session, and each month presents an informative topic at the presentation meeting, normally held at the SHFD.

For the months of January and February, the SHFD meeting room is in use by the FD and is not available to us. Also, the winter weather may preclude some from attending, so we will have our next two sessions on MS Teams. The meeting will open at 7PM and start at 7:30. The first topic will be “Batteries for Ham Radio” and then a discussion on Winter Field Day. Check your email for the link.

Activities coming up this month include a field trip to Ham Radio University on Saturday 1/10/26 out on Long Island. See your e-mail for details. Our regular Pasta Night dinner at Vespucci Lodge is Tuesday

1/20/26 at 6pm, CARA's Business meeting January 22nd on MS Teams and the big event for January "Winter Field Day" a 24hr event held each year at the Ball Pond Fire Co in New Fairfield; Saturday 1/24-1/25.

Remember this is your club and to make it operate efficiently it requires you. So be sure that your obligations are fulfilled by participating when you can.

January is the start of the new club year and Dues are due. They can be paid via PayPal, Cash, or check.

If you have not checked the website in a while spend a moment and check it out. www.cararadioclub.org

73 John W1JGM

CARA Treasury Report
December 31, 2025

Income:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Full Member Dues | \$2110 |
| Income: Interest Income | \$ 374.85 |
| Income: Donations | \$10.74 |
| Income: Sale of Donated EQ (net) | \$628.05 |
| Income: Club Table at Hamfests | \$3446 |
| Total Income: | \$6569.64 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Expense: PayPal Fees | \$50.87 |
| Expense: Website/Hosting Fees | \$263.17 |
| Expense: Repeater Maintenance | \$1385.61 |
| Expense: Insurance | \$305 |
| Expense: 2022 Hamfest | \$ 50 |
| Expense: FD Pins | \$77.62 |
| Expense: Misc Supplies | \$61 |
| Expense: Rent Donation | \$400 |
| Total Expense: | \$2593.27 |

Net Income for Period **\$3976.37**

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Cash: Checking-Unrestricted | \$8898.18 |
| Cash: Checking-Restricted | \$425 |
| Cash: Petty | \$50 |
| Certificates of Deposit-USB | \$10425 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Cash/Investments | \$19798.19 |
| Prepaid Field Day Food | \$142 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Number of full members: | 58 |
| 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@manitousystems.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 | 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

