



CARA CAPERS-Lite  
March 2026 Issue via our CAPERS Blog  
W1JMA Content Editor

**Next Program Meeting Thursday 3/12 On TEAMS**

**Next Club Event: Southington Hamfest Sunday 3/22**

**Help Needed to man Club Table-Fund Raiser  
Contact John Morelli W1JGM**

**Subs & Soda POTA Hunt- February Operating Event**





On a cold Saturday afternoon, 15+ members of your club got together to have lunch, hunt POTA stations, ask questions and enjoy one another's company at the Ball Pond FD. We operated with one transmitter, 756p3 and the 40-10 End Fed Halfwave Dipole as a sloper. Many activators were thrilled to get 6 to 10 stations all at once 😊

### **Presidents Message - Bud W1NSK**

It's almost time to adjust our Clocks ahead an hour. Longer sunshine and hopefully warmer weather is soon to be upon us! Lot's going on with upcoming Club activities and operating events.

The weekend of March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> is the ARRL DX SSB Contest. This Global operating event gets large participation worldwide. Many less ham populated countries and DX are on the Air to work you! U.S. stations are hunted in this contest. You don't need to be a Big Gun Station to have fun. Nor do you need to operate for the full 48 hours. Try your hand one morning for an hour or two and see what you can work. 100 Watts and a

wire will get you more contacts and further than you think! If this “wets your whistle for contesting”, the next big one on SSB globally is the CQ WPX (World Prefix) Contest the last weekend of the month.

Speaking of DX. The Bouvet Dxpedition is now in full swing. They departed Cape Town, South Africa on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Bouvet is considered the most remote Island on Earth! Located in the middle of the Southern Ocean between South Africa and Antarctica. This group of 20 has traveled thousands of miles and are spending almost \$2 Million to put this place on the Air. These folks are operating CW, SSB and Digital Modes. Beware the Pileups are brutal! As with most in demand operations. They will be operating “Split”. Do not transmit on the frequency you hear them but transmit up 5-15KHZ. This is where they will be listening for calls. This spreads everyone out and keeps their frequency clear so we can hear them. Good Luck!

This month’s meeting will be Thursday evening March 12<sup>th</sup>, on Zoom. Our guest is Tom, N1CPE. He is Region One Director for the U.S. Army Military Auxiliary Radio System. This group of Hams Nationwide prepares as an emergency communications resource in partnership with the Armed Forces. They truly prepare for what we never want to see happen: “A Bad Day”.

This month’s informal Spaghetti Dinner is at the Villa Vespucci Lodge in Danbury on Tuesday evening, 6PM, the 17<sup>th</sup>. Join us!

Our Business Meeting via Zoom is on March 26th at 7:30 PM. Look for the email Zoom link to be sent. Join us and hear what’s going on. All are welcome!

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

Stay Warm and C U on the Air!

## **Vice President Message- John W1JGM**

It is hard to believe that the months are moving so quickly, yes, I know that the time is constant, and no day is faster than any other. It just seems that way. Just remember that Spring is only a few weeks away, and this winter will just be a memory of the photos of the snow and cold of 2026.

Our latest activity, Hunting for POTA Parks was a great success, everyone learned something and had a good time in the process.

There are many upcoming activities to enjoy. Just check the Club's website at [WWW.CARARADIOCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.CARARADIOCLUB.ORG)

If you have a friend or know someone that is interested in Amateur Radio, bring them along to the next event. All are welcome.

**One of the most important events is coming up March 22.** The Southington ARA Hamfest. The CARA club has reserved two vendor tables to sell the Amateur related equipment that we have gathered for this hamfest. **This is the club's main fund-raising event.** All the items have been donated so the profit margin is high. The other benefit of helping with the event is that you get to see other cool ham-related equipment and meet some of the amateurs from other club that you have spoken to on the radio. Please plan to attend and let me know you will be there, The hamfest runs from 8 am to noon. Set up at 6am. As always this is your Club, enjoy it.

## **CARA February 2026 Business Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 by Bud, W1NSK, president. There was a quorum. 12 members were attended via TEAMS.

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

The Treasurers report as presented in the CAPERS-Lite Blog was accepted. The 2 delinquent members will be removed from the club roster and groups.io at the end of the month.

## **Committee Reports**

- Steve, SMS, submitted his report that the 2m repeater is operating without issue from this qth.
- Stephanie reported that the website is up to date. John, JMA, mentioned the domain cararadioclub.org bill will be coming in March.
- The next VE session is Saturday 3/7 at 11:30 Stony Hill FD
- Dave, ZAC, discussed the May **CLUB** POTA event; sign-up sheets have been distributed on groups.IO
- The Southington Hamfest is Sunday 3/22. This is a major money-making event for the club. Help is needed at the event. **John, JGM**, is coordinating. Contact him to attend and help.

### **Old Business**

- The February Subs and Soda POTA hunting event was well attended at the Ball Pond FD. 15 members came out to eat lunch, operate and socialize with other members.
- The CARA 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations are as follows:
  - Dinner in **September** at the Big Eaters, members and guests to be invited. 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. More to follow.
  - A Sub/Soda gathering of areas hams to celebrate will be at Putnam Park on **Saturday 7/25**. Invites will be sent to neighboring clubs.
  - **Dan, QK**, will follow up on pricing for commemorative T shirts for club members.
  - All these events are now on the club website calendar

### **New Business**

- The March meeting is on TEAMS about MARS
- April meeting will be in person at Stony Hill on Test Equipment
- **Bud will contact Tom Frenaye** to see if he can come to the May Meeting
- The NEQP W1AW operating event is now on Sunday 5/3 in Newington. A sign-up roster will be sent. The date and location on the CARA website.
- The Club QSO party will be held at the Ball Pond FD on Saturday June 20 from 11-4. We will set up for FD before this event and leave up antennas for the following week's Field Day. **Sign up sheets will be distributed.** Both events on the CARA website.

- Mike, ZY, discussed the 2 weeks that club members can operate as W1AW/1 from either their home or a club gathering. The first week is 5/20-26 and 10/7-13. CARA members participated in this several years ago from Ball Pond FD. More to follow.

**Announcements**

- Pasta night on **3.17 6pm Vespucci Lodge**

The next program meeting is Thursday 3/12 on Teams at 7:30, the next business meeting on Thursday 3/26 at 7:30 on Teams.

The meeting was closed at 8:28pm.

**CARA Treasury Report**  
**February 28, 2026**

Income:	Full Member Dues	\$979
Income:	Interest Income	
Income:	Donations	
Income:	Club Table at Hamfests	\$-40
Total Income:		<b>\$939</b>
Expense:	PayPal Fees	\$27.62
Expense:	Repeater Electricity	\$85.59
Expense:	Insurance	
Expense:	Misc Supplies	
Expense:	Rent Donation	
Total Expense:		\$113.21
<b>Net Income for Period</b>		<b>\$825.79</b>

Cash: Checking-Unrestricted	\$9744
Cash: Checking-Restricted	\$425
Cash: Petty	\$50
Certificates of Deposit-USB	\$10425
Field Day Food Liability	<b>-\$162</b>

**Total Cash/Investments**  
**Number of full members: 56**  
**Associate members: 0**  
**Auxiliary members: 4**

**Balance: \$20482**

## **CARA Club Information**

### **Officers**

#### **President**

Bud Kozloff, W1NSK  
W1NSK@Hotmail.com

#### **Vice President**

John Morelli, W1JGM  
w1jgm@w1qi.org

#### **Secretary – Treasurer**

John Ahle – W1JMA  
w1jma@w1qi.org

### **Directors:**

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

**CARA is an IRS 501(C)3 Organization**

### **CARA Mailing Address:**

120 Fire Hill Road Ridgefield CT 06877.

### **CARA CAPERS/Elmer's Corner Blog Moderator**

John M Ahle W1JMA  
W1jma@w1qi.org

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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.

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### **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 [ajlu@arrl.net](mailto:ajlu@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

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#### **CARA Merch: Update**

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

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

Dan – N2DGT

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



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

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

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

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

**\*VARA FM and Packet Capable**

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

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

Send an email inquiry to Harlan Ford – 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](mailto:hford01@snet.net)

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

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**APRS Digipeaters operated by CARA Members**

**144.390**

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

