



Capers

November - 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

*This in-person meeting will be conducted on Friday, November 8 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.*

Elmer Night is back!

Our next Program/Activity meeting is Friday 11/8 at 7:30pm Stony Hill FD.

Please send your questions in advance to treasurer@w1qi.org



The term "Elmer" meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams, first appeared in QST in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (now also VA3ZBB). Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio." Jan 10, 2021

CARA Monthly Program/Activity Meeting Agenda November 8, 2024 Stony Hill FD

[CARAW1QI] CARA Program Meeting this Friday 11/8 at 7:30pm at the Stony Hill
FD Doors open at 7pm att.net/Inbox

From: w1jma@w1qi.org **To:** caraw1qi@groups.io Sat, Nov 2 at 6:42 PM

CARA monthly program meeting will be held this coming Friday. It will be Elmer night and distribution of the General Class Study Manual for those interested in the class this winter. **Please send me your questions in advance so I can organize them.**

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

CARA Program/Activities Meeting - November

- **Welcome**
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Attendee Introductions
 - **Announcements**
 - Upcoming Events-November
 - Pasta Night Vespucci Lodge Tuesday 11/19 at 6pm
 - National Guard Event Thursday 11/14 at 9am in Torrington
 - Final POTA of the Season Sunday 11/10 10a-2p Putnam Park
 - Good of the Order
 - Past member Fred Pachaly N1KPY SK
 - **Program/Activity-Elmer Night**
 - **Distribution of General Class Study Books for those interested in Winter Class**
-

President's Message

de W1NSK



Welcome to November!

I cannot believe the holidays are just around the corner! Check the website and CAPERS for all details regarding the holiday Party and other goings on in the next month or two!

I will be getting an early Christmas present. A total hip replacement procedure on Nov. 13th! Although cautious, I am looking forward to its completion, less pain and more mobility. I should be “back at it, 100% “ by the December Holidays!

We had a great turnout at the New Fairfield Car Show and POTA event in October. Several club operating events are being held this month. Pasta Night, always a favorite, is November 19th. Join us!

We are looking for new ideas for club meeting presentations. If you have something you would like to share with the club or just an idea, let me know and we'll see what we can do.

We are a group of volunteers. If you haven't yet joined a committee, please let one of the officers know what your interests maybe and we'll get you involved! We are especially looking for a “Chief Information Officer” to work on publicity for club events and happenings. If you have an interest in this area let an officer know.

November is also the ARRL Sweepstakes event. The CW portion will be over by the time you read this, but the SSB portion is coming up on November 16/17. Lots of Activity especially on 10 Meters! Good time to earn your “Worked All States” Certificate!

See you on the Air!

Bud - W1NSK
CARA President



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

Vice- President's Message:

de W1JGM



CARA has a proven track record as a very active Amateur Radio Association - covering many aspects of the hobby from UHF, VHF, HF to Parks on The Air – POTA, Special Events, and Contesting. We strive to teach, enrich, and enjoy our hobby through friendship and sharing.

We encourage all members to participate in the varied aspects of this great hobby.

There's so much that applies from other aspects of life. Whether you're into astronomy, electronics, emergency preparedness, wireless experimental projects like robotics, public service functions, or just the ability to help your neighbor in an emergency - there's an activity within amateur radio for you.

A large part of amateur radio is "Elmering", which is a means to mentor others within the hobby. Significant knowledge can be learned from the experiences of other hams based on their "ham radio career", profession, and general knowledge.

I believe these are the fundamental reasons why CARA sponsors in-person Elmer Nights.

Here's your opportunity to ask other amateurs your questions, work hands on with equipment, and explore the hobby with likeminded people within a friendly atmosphere. These hands-on sessions are extended through our weekly TEAMS sessions on Sunday night at 8:00 pm on the club's TEAMS chat room. All members are welcome and encouraged to join the club mentors at this event. Weekly Emails are sent with the meeting credential link to join. Sessions normally last approximately an hour.

During October, we hosted Special Event Stations at the New Fairfield Lion's Club's annual car show at Squantz Pond State Park while concurrently operating our monthly POTA event. The CARA Special Event station at the New Fairfield Town Fair was also huge success, offering learning experiences for the public and CARA members. It appeared to me that all these activities were fun for CARA members who participated. These events are open for all members to participate in and are multiple means to get on the air.

Remember that this Friday's meeting at the Stony Hill Fire Department on Route 6 in Bethel will be an Elmer session. Bring your questions and any equipment that you have questions about to the meeting.

Come, ask, listen, share, learn, and be involved - then get on the air.

73,

John Morelli – W1JGM

CARA Vice-President



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

October 11 - Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

de CARA Secretary/Treasurer, John Ahle - W1JMA



CARA Business Meeting Minutes October 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Bud, W1NSK, President at 7:36pm. There were 13 full members in attendance.

The secretary report for the September Program Meeting and Planning meeting as published in CAPERS were accepted.

The treasurer's report for September 30, 2024, as published in CAPERS was accepted. John, W1JMA, informed those attending that he finally after 8 months has access to the IBOND account and withdrew all funds except for \$2500 that will mature in December and moved the remaining funds back to the Union Saving Account and purchased a 5-month CD for \$5k at 4.45% interest. The signers on the CD account are the President, VP and Secretary/Treasurer.

Steve, W1SMS, chair of the repeater committee reported that both machines are functioning. He also updated those present about the pending eviction from Spruce Mountain coming this spring. Discussions are underway to possibly put the repeaters at the old Hotel at exit 2 on 84 that will house the Danbury Innovation Center. There was discussion as to who was on the committee. Currently the committee consists of Steve. He does get help with maintenance chores as needed from the general membership.

Stephanie was not present, but John, W1JMA, reported that the website is functioning well and recent issues with HostGator have been resolved.

Activities Committee:

- Winter Field Day in January will be at the Ball Pond FD.
- The New Fairfield Car Show Special Event/POTA is this Sunday 10.13. Several members led by John W1JGM will activate this event.
- Our next POTA is Saturday 10/19 at 10am at Lovers Leap in New Milford.
- New Fairfield Day Special Event is also on 10/19
- The September 7th Special Event at the Danbury RR Museum was successful and those who requested certificates were delivered.

Old Business

John, W1JMA, mentioned that one of the two rigs as part of the Lend/Lease program has been deployed to Win Farrell. Dan, W1QK, asked for his contact information to follow up on a CAPERS article. John said he would connect the two and send Dan a picture of Win accepting the Yeasu radio. There is interest in the second Icom radio and we are awaiting confirmation this will deploy.

The General Class is being prepared to begin in Early January and complete by the end of March. The study guides are in place. This will be a class both in person and via TEAMS.

The formal discussion on the revised Constitution and Bylaws concluded with setting the quorum at 8% of membership, plus any 2 of the elected Officers/Trustees. There were a few minor changes made. Many of the comments and suggestions were sent during the past 2 months of review by the membership and were incorporated into the final version sent to the membership via both the reflector and the CAPERS.

The final version will be sent to the membership for email vote **given there was not a quorum present based on the current constitution and bylaws.**

New Business

There was discussion on the November Program. Nothing was resolved.

The Club Stations on the Air program, initiated last year for the winter months of December to March, will again go forward this year. Steve, W1SMS and John W1JMA have graciously offered their home stations for this club event. Information and sign up will be distributed via the groups.io reflector as December approaches.

Bud, W1NSK, mentioned the ARRL books have been ordered and will be given to the Danbury Library upon receipt.

John, W1JGM, informed the club that the joint communications activity with the National Guard is set for Thursday 11/14 at 9am at the Torrington Fire Training Center. This will be a POTA-like event showcasing our ability to deploy into the field and compare our capabilities with the National Guard.

Steve, W1SMS, noted that the 2 candidates for ARRL NE Directorship were at the GNARC meeting earlier this week.

Dan, W1QK and Bud, W1NSK, discussed the recent Club Newsletter competition and some of the issues with the overall process, like how the newsletters scored

and why has that not been shared with entrants.

John, W1JMA, treasurer, presented the 2025 budget. The budget would be break even if the dues remained at the current \$35 level. If the dues were increased by \$5, this would generate \$250 profit. After discussion on what was included in the budget, a “straw poll” was taken, and a strong majority present opted for the \$5 increase. Since there was not a quorum based on the current bylaws, this will have to go out to an email vote.

Announcements

- Pasta night on Tuesday 10/15 at 6pm Vespucci Lodge
- ARES SET on Saturday 10/26 9-12pm

Good of the Order

Dave, WA1JGA, mentioned that the daughter of a founding CARA member, Walter Glover, W1VB(SK) has died at the age of 90.

Adjournment and Next Meetings

- October planning meeting on Friday 10/25 7:30pm TEAMS
- Next monthly meeting on Friday 11/8/24 7:30pm at Stony Hill FD

Meeting was closed at 9:15pm.

CARA Planning Meeting Minutes October 25, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Bud W1NSK at 7:32pm. 13 members were present on TEAMS for the meeting.

Bud acknowledged the recent votes that affirmed the Constitution/By-laws and 2025 Dues Rate for Full Members.

The new Constitution/By-laws allows for the separation of the business meeting from the program/activities meeting. After discussion, it was decided that the business meetings starting in January will be held on the 4th Thursday of each month on Teams at 7:30pm.

There was discussion about moving the monthly Program/Activities meeting from the 2nd Friday to the 2nd Thursday. Harlan, W1QH will investigate with Stony Hill FD if the room is available. More to follow on this topic.

Secretary Report: John W1JMA mentioned that the October Monthly Meeting and these minutes will be published in Capers in early November. John also noted that a certificate mailed to W7UDI has been returned to sender. The certificate was mailed following the March 2021 meeting. John W1JGM will investigate why the mailing address failed and will send the email address so the certificate can be emailed to W7UDI.

The Treasurer’s report will be included in this month’s Capers upon completion of monthly activities. The proceeds from the I bonds were reinvested in CDs. John also mentioned that the new 2025 dues form is ready for distribution. The form will include the new due’s structure and have the members’ interest survey as outlined in the bylaws and an area for each

member to note which 2 of the 4 standing committees they will work on.

Committee Reports:

- Repeater: Steve W1SMS submitted a written report of the status on the potential new locations for our 2m and 440 repeaters now that we have been evicted from Spruce Mountain by the City of Danbury. Based on recent correspondence, we must vacate by 3/31/25. There are 2 potential sites being evaluated; one is New Fairfield and one in Danbury.
- **Administrative Committee**
 - Stephanie reported on the IT subcommittee. She is developing a plan to migrate the domains from HostGator to Go Daddy.
 - Capers Subcommittee editor, Dan W1QK reminded those attending information for the Capers is due by the end of the month
 - License/Training Subcommittee: The General class is planned for Q1 of 2025. The books will be distributed asap to those technicians wishing to upgrade.
- **Programs and Activities Committee**
 - Winter FD is at Ball Pond on the 25/25th of January. Planning will be discussed in December and January.
 - Our final POTA for the 2024 season will be Sunday 11/10/24 10-2p at Putnam Park in Redding
 - The National Guard Event is on Thursday 11/14 at 9am at the fire training center in Torrington.
 - The first club stations on the air will be Saturday 12/21 at 1pm at W1JMA and W1SMS. Others are invited to open their stations to this event.

Old business:

- There was discussion on the HF equipment lending program.
- The November program will be Elmer's Night

New Business:

- There was discussion on the revised policy and procedures amended to reflect the new constitution and bylaws. There was discussion and agreement on using a parental release form should CARA want to publish pictures of minors in Capers and or the Website.
- The Christmas Party is planned for 12/26 at the Big Eaters should they be holding the event on Boxing Day.

Announcements:

- The informal pasta dinner is Tuesday 11/19 at 6pm at the Vespucci lodge. All Welcome.
- ARES SET this Saturday 9-12

Good of the Order

- It was noted in QST that former member Fred Pachaly N1KPY became a Silent Key.
- John W1JGM reminded those attending that club members can have Microsoft 365 as full membership perk

Adjournment and next meetings:

- The program meeting on Friday 11/8 will be held at the Stony Hill FD and will be Elmers Night
 - The next business meeting will be held on Friday 11/22 at 7:30pm on TEAMS.
 - Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.
-

CARA Treasury Report October 31, 2024

Income:	Full Member Dues 2024	
		\$1940
Income:	Interest Income	
		\$ 242.80
Total Income:		\$2182.80
Expense:	Donations : WA7BNM, POTA, BPF, NEQSO	\$350
Expense:	Insurance – Eq & Liability	\$305
Expense:	PayPal Fees	\$15.60
Expense:	Website/Hosting Fees	\$52.15
Expense:	Event Banners	\$141.63
Expense:	Repeater Repair and Antenna	\$979.90
Expense:	Coffee & Donuts ARES Meeting	\$75.15
Total Expense:		\$1919.43

Net Income for Period \$263.37

Cash: Checking	\$6654.99
Cash: Petty	\$50
Investment: IBond/CD	\$7587.80

Unrestricted CASH Balance: \$14292.79

Number of full members: 57

Associate members: 0

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 CARRA Sunday club NETS:

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

The CARRA 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 CARRA 10M or 2M Net Control Operator.



Upcoming Contests, Hamfests Events & Meetings:

Nov. 8 CARRA Monthly Program/Activity Meeting. In-person at Stony Hill FD, Bethel. Elmer Night. Gather at 7:00 pm, gavel at 7:30 pm.

Nov. 9 -10: WAE DX RTTY, OK/OM CW contests

Nov. 10: CARRA monthly POTA activation – Putnam Memorial State Park – Redding. Contact W1JMA - CARRA POTA coordinator. **NOTE :Changed from Saturday to Sunday.**

Nov. 14: CT National Guard Communications Training Event. 9:00 am. Litchfield County Fire Training Center, Torrington

Nov. 16-17: ARRL Sweepstakes – SSB

Nov. 19: CARRA Monthly Pasta Night Dinner - Vespucci Italian-American club in Danbury on Vespucci Dr. \$ 12 cash for bowl of pasta with meatball and/or Italian sausage link with delicious sauce, salad, bread & butter. Cash bar for soda, wine, and beer. 6:00 pm.



Nov. 22-24: CQWW DX CW HF Contest

Nov. 22: CARRA Monthly Planning Meeting on TEAMS: 7:30 pm

Nov. 25: CT ARES Region 5 Monthly meeting via TEAMS.

Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27: CWops CWT contest - 1300Z & 1900Z Wednesday, and 0300Z (Thursday)

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

December 1: December 2024 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.html>

Editor:

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

de W1QK:

Elmer E. Smith

Why do hams use the term "Elmer"?

*In the amateur radio context, the term "Elmer" refers to a mentor or teacher who helps newcomers learn about radio operation and technology. There is **no** connection to Elmer Fudd, the cartoon character.*

*The origin of the term comes from the name **Elmer E. Smith**, who was an early amateur radio operator and a significant figure in the 20th century. He was known for his willingness to help and teach others about radio.*

The term has since evolved to describe anyone who takes on a mentoring role

in the amateur radio community, guiding newcomers through the complexities of radio operation, licensing, and technical knowledge. The concept emphasizes the importance of community and support in the hobby.

Rick Lindquist (WW1ME) traces the origin of the term Elmer to March 1971 issues of QST magazine, the term appeared in a "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk (W9BRD). Rod's mentor was a ham named Elmer and the message was that every new ham should have an Elmer to help them.

"Elmer" was a common male name during the early days of ham radio, but dropped off in popularity by the end of the 1930's.

Ham Terms to know:

What are the origins and opinions of the amateur radio terms "lid" and "appliance operator"?

Lid

Others may have a more plausible answer, but my recollection is that a Morse code operator who sends sloppy, erratic code sounds like he's using the 'lid' off a jar rather than an actual telegraphy key. The term generally means a poor operator who causes problems for other operators.

Appliance Operator

I'm a new ham here and in reading a thread about being "ghosted" when attending a ham radio club meeting one of the members here mentioned "appliance operators".

Feeling I might be one myself I looked up a definition and found this article which dates to 2005 and in doing so was 13 years ahead of its time on some of the ham radio opportunities around in 2018.

Before I post the link to that article, I'd like to give a very brief (but accurate) reason why I became a ham just 5 weeks ago.

I and my wife are avid hikers (and 74 years old) and we sometimes go where cell phone coverage doesn't exist, but a repeater might be in reach. Thinking we could use an extra margin of safety in the event of an injury or needing to report something bad happening on the trail I decided to get on 2 meters.

So far have used the HT on several hikes just seeing if it would hit the repeaters (it did) and made the 5 to 10 miles (round trip hikes) without incident or the need to use the HT for its intended safety purpose. That will be the case 99% of the time I'm sure, but a twisted ankle isn't a pleasant thing, so.....

Anyway, here's the link to the article and feel free to comment on what it means to YOU to have "appliance operators" sharing the airwaves with folks who have a varied set of interests that don't revolve around the mechanics of modifying a rig or building the ultimate antenna.

<https://www.eham.net/articles/11116>

Ham radio has so many different facets that the term appliance operator is meaningless. You might as well call a CW operator a code head. My main issue is with operators who get licenses for limited purposes - say family communications but are otherwise not interested in the hobby or public service.

Ham radio is social networking. Talking or communicating should be one of the main reasons for getting a license. Your purpose for getting licensed is perfectly fine, but there are issues. One is that relying on ham radio for emergency assistance is problematic at best. Is anyone listening? Will they even respond? If you are not involved with a club or ARES group, no one will know who you are and may not respond. On the other hand, if you have a personal connection, they are more likely to help.

By all means use your radios while hiking, but make connections through a repeater, check into nets, volunteer for events. That way people will know your call and respond if you need help. You can tell people of your plans and ask them to listen for you.

I monitor eight or nine frequencies in three bands whenever I can. Rarely, I hear visitors or new operators calling and I try to respond. Try to be proactive.

Operators with all types of interests. I knew one guy that had never talked on the radio - he only used code. I know others that have never talked below 2 meters and others that have never talked above 6 meters. A friend of mine and a long time (55+ years) ham had never used the 220 band until he borrowed one of my radios.

These days serious home-brew radios are the exception but experimenting with antennas is easy. A roll-up j-Pole might be a good thing to have in the wilderness. Even if you only have a 2-meter HT you should know how to program it, how to use simplex and how the band plan works. What is a valid simplex frequency? What part of the band is used for weak signal or sideband? We once had a group of hang glider pilots who got ham licenses and set themselves up in the weak signal SSB area of the 2-meter band using FM. Not cool. They didn't know any better and moved off to another part of the band when they were informed of the band plan.

You might want to invest in a satellite distress beacon to carry alongside your HT if you are truly concerned about summoning aid in an emergency in the back country. Also, in California you can join CalStar/Reach for very little money. They will then med-evac you at no charge if possible.

Have fun and enjoy your hikes.
Lauri-CoyoteFrostbite

Smiles, 6UMU... welcome to the wonderful world of amateur radio ! And let me be one of the first to tackle your question.

First off, I don't think there is anyone out there that can rightly call another ham an "AO"..... Maybe years ago, when hams did build a lot of their own equipment- but those days are gone. Hams might have called each other that out of jealousy-- they envied the guy with the \$\$ store-bought goodies... but today everyone can afford and owns the same toys... and why not?... they are great bargains that just about anyone can afford, at the same level. The

prices of radio stuff today make building your own strictly something you want to do, not Have to do.

Remember too that few built their own receivers- 'homebrewing' was mostly transmitters.

Maybe the 'real hams' today will assemble components modules, modify existing radios, design and fabricate antennas-- but the true dye-in-the wool experimenters are rare ducks these days. Yes, they are out there, but there are very few that can build a direct conversion 10 Gig SSB transceiver- let alone design one... or even understand what I just said.** :)

I will, in a friendly way, challenge you, or anyone else one out there- to show me a ham that has built his own station from the IC/transistor/tube level up- Any takers? And I'm looking for something meaningful- like nothing less than a multiband HF/VHF all mode transceiver.

Of course, there are no takers-- we are all Appliance Operators.

6UMU, Enjoy your hobby at whatever level you desire... and if anyone calls you an "AO" send that clown my way.... I will pick his bones clean :) Lauri



John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, Editor | October 31, 2024

**All Treats, No Tricks, in ARRL
November Sweepstakes**

Halloween is here,
which means ARRL
Sweepstakes is
knocking at the door.
No tricks, though,
said ARRL Contest
Program Manager
Paul Bourque, N1SFE.
“If the band
conditions are as
good as they were
this last weekend, we’re in for a real treat.”



The CW weekend of ARRL Sweepstakes is
November 2 — 3. **ARRL Sweepstakes is the
“oldest domestic contest, beginning in
1930,” with competition at the individual,
multi-operator, and school club levels.**

Editor:

*Fun Fact: CARA Founder, Joe Feeley –
W1ADW won the first CW Sweepstakes!*

In this contest, multipliers are the 85 ARRL
and RAC Sections; each may be worked once
in the contest, regardless of band. The
exchange is daunting for contest first-timers,
but familiar to those who have operated it
before. Contacts may be made on 160, 80,
40, 20, 15, and **10** meters, but because
multipliers **may only be worked once,**
activity tends to cluster on the bands that
are open and populated.

Phone weekend will be November 16 — 18.

See the full rules and additional information
at www.arrl.org/sweepstakes.



September 25, 2024

Editor: [Paul Bourque, N1SFE](#)

Sights and Sounds

POTA and Contesting: A Great Combination

Seasoned contester and chairman of the
California QSO Party Dean Wood, N6DE, and
passionate Parks on the Air (POTA) activator
and contester John Owens, NN6U, joined
Kevin Thomas, W1DED, for an interview on
his YouTube channel, W1DED Worldwide
Ham Radio.

Dean and John discuss how portable
operations such as POTA are breaking down
traditional barriers to contesting. State QSO
parties, like the California QSO Party, are
encouraging POTA activators to participate,
offering special awards and incentives.

The video is available
at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuPezzuTDZ0>.

– *Thanks to Dean Wood, N6DE*

Autumn kicks off the major Ham Radio Contest season.

Two of the year's biggest events are the ARRL November Sweepstakes and the CQ Worldwide.

Contesting is a great way to improve your operating skills and a great excuse to upgrade your station. It's also your best opportunity to work some new States or DX Countries.

This year CQWW SSB is October 26th-27th, and **CW is November 23rd-24th**. Sweepstakes CW is November 2nd-4th, SSB is November 16th-18th.

New -- or even not-so-new -- to Radio Contests? **Click here for some tips** on how to make the most of them. Every licensed Ham has at least some operating privileges on the HF Bands, and with the sunspot cycle improving daily this year's events should provide a whole lot of fun.

2024 Ham Exam Schedule



Upcoming CARA 2024 Amateur radio exams:

I have scheduled the following times for ham radio testing at the Stony Hill Firehouse.

All sessions are at 11:30 am on Saturdays.

December 7, 2024

73, Jon Bernon - AJ1U

CARA Volunteer Examiner Session Coordinator



CT ARES Information:

Annual Connecticut Section Simulated Emergency Test - SET

Phil Crombie, K1XFC CT Section
Emergency Coordinator

The Connecticut SET was held on Saturday October 26 from 0900 to 1200 hours. The purpose of the SET was to engage as many ARES members as possible **in testing their emergency communications capabilities**. We do this following a probable scenario that could

impact Connecticut. This year was a failure of the state-wide 911 system. On SET Saturday we tested VHF, UHF, HF and digital communications modes. We also activated many local EOCs.

The [ct-ares] 2024 CT SET - CONCLUDING MESSAGE

Phil Crombie, K1XFC

From:crombiejr@snet.net

To:announce@ct-ares.groups.io

Sat, Oct 26 at 12:03 PM

The CT ARES 2024 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) has concluded. I thank everyone for taking the time to participate in this morning exercise. The Alert Level is returned to 0 – INACTIVE. Results and lessons learned will be communicated at a later date.

73,

Phil Crombie, Jr., K1XFC

Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC)

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Connecticut Section

Cell: 860-338-6332

crombiejr@snet.net

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/>

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, November 6



“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 w1qk@snet.net for placement in the CARA Capers.

**FOR SALE: Nothing for sale
submitted this month**



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

Executive Board:

President – Bud Kozloff, W1NSK
w1nsk@w1qi.org
Vice President – John Morelli, W1JGM
w1jgm@w1qi.org
Secretary – Treasurer
John Ahle – W1JMA, w1jma@w1qi.org

Directors:

David Coelho, WA1JGA
davidcoelho52@gmail.com
Vincent Tompkins – N2OHH
n2ohh@w1qi.org
Rostyslaw Slabicky – N2ROS
w2ros@w1qi.org

CARA is an IRS 501(C)3 Organization.

CARA Mailing Address:

120 Fire Hill Road Ridgefield CT 06877.

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



December issue input deadline: December 6

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.

Editorial:

**And now for some different viewpoints
to think about:**

<https://offgridham.com/2017/08/the-future-of-amateur-radio/>



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.

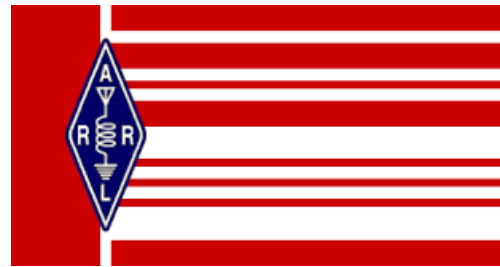
Subscribe to...

- [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!
- Find ARRL on [Facebook!](#) Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram!](#)



Official ARRL Flag



August 20, 2024

Editor: [Mike Walters, W8ZY](#)

Important Links

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

Find an ARRL Affiliated

Club: www.arrl.org/clubs

Find your ARRL

Section: www.arrl.org/sections

Find a license class in your
area: www.arrl.org/class

Find a license exam in your
area: www.arrl.org/exam

Find a hamfest or

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 an 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/>

Editor: Content from the CWops Reflector, Credit to all contributors:

KR2Q SS - CWops members worked

From: Doug KR2Q (438)

Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 07:07:03 EST

OK, all these post/shared reports for SS scores got me motivated to see how many member QSOs I had worked.

First, my totals for every Q

Band QSOs

160:

80: 19

40: 357

20: 153

15: 183

10: 36

Total: 748 Sections 82 Total Score
122,672

Of these Qs, 364 were with CWops members = 48.7%.
THANKS for the calls!

15 of the Qs were a first-time QSO this year with that
CWops member (for ACA award)="not bad!"

I spent 99% of my time running (I am just lazy). I never
looked for any mults.
In all my years of SS, I have never tried to get a sweep and
I have been 100% successful in never achieving a sweep.
<grin>

This year I missed NB NL and NNY.

Top 10 Sections by QSO count (3-way tie for #10).
Number is QSO count

IL	42
VA	40
MN	30
MDC	25
OH	23
NC	22
OR	20
WWA	19
EPA	18
TN	17
MI	17
WI	17

Sections with only one Q

DE	1
PE	1
WY	1
PR	1
VI	1

14 hours and 23 minutes in the chair.

Best "full hour" QSO rate = 94/hour (far below my usual
CWT one-hour rate).

That speaks to the quality of CWTs compared to all entries
and activities in the cw SS.

de Doug, KR2Q

[View/Reply Online](#) | [Reply To Sender](#) | [Reply To Group](#) |
[Mute Topic](#) | [Top ^](#) | [New Topic](#)

1b.

Re: KR2Q SS - CWops members worked

From: Ted Edwards W3TB

Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 07:30:44 EST

VERY interesting analysis.

And great to see TN on your list! Not only for Sweeps but
a great weekend for football here in Tennessee.

Thinking of sections missed:

— not worked SBAR in 3 years; where are they?
— where was WMA and DE?
— also missed YT, NL
— glad to be called by TER

73 de Ted Edwards, W3TB and GØPWW

and thinking about operating CW:

"Do today what others won't,
so, you can do tomorrow what others can't."

Ops' names

From: Pete Smith

Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 08:22:04 EST

I was impressed during SS by the number of people who
called me by name. I'm not well-known, which makes me
think there must somewhere be a Call History file that has
names as well as exchange info. Can anyone tell me?

--

73, Pete N4ZR

Re: Ops' names

From: Doug KR2Q (438)

Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 08:28:26 EST

Apparently, a lot of ops use real time connection to QRZ to
look up "other information."

I am not aware of any available lists that combine both SS
call hx file AND names, but that is pretty easy to do "on
your own" with some small db tricks and formatting in
(say) N1MM.

But I am also anxious to learn if there is anything like that
already available.

de Doug KR2Q

Re: Ops' names

From: Jim N7US #486

Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 08:35:36 EST

I haven't used Writelog for many years, but it had (has?) a
names call history file that could be loaded in addition to
the one for the contest.

Jim N7US

Re: Ops' names

From: JOSEP EA6BF

Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 08:37:55 EST

Believe almost all Contest programs have a Call History
File..73, Josep EA6BF

Re: Ops' names

From: Jamie WW3S #2775

Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 08:40:14 EST

MM allows you to load multiple call history files....I need to be in front of a pc to tell you how but you could load the cwss history and the names file simultaneously.

View/Reply Online | Reply To Sender | Reply To Group |
Mute Topic | Top ^ | New Topic
2f.

Re: Ops' names
From: Tim Shoppa
Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 08:49:35 EST
Everyone knows Pete N4ZR by now !!!!

It is certainly possible to "mash up" VE2FK's SS call history (without names) with the NAQP or CWOPS histories to add "name" that appears in the user text. We have one of these floating around for PVRC'ers for example. I kinda feel it's bad form to add that to a long exchange already, but if the run is slow enough later in the test, you'll do anything to feel like a human again.

If you operate a contest like WPX that has no history file, with the CWOPS history file mostly recently loaded, you will see names in the "info" part of the entry screen, too. (Smallish type below all the F-buttons and the beam heading/SR/SS line).

That said, QRZ lookups is a real possibility. While running at W3LPL in CQWWSSB, many times each hour we would have a DX operator come back with "Hello Francis" before his exchange which is clearly from a QRZ.com lookup.

How many of your name-using callers, called you "PETER" not "PETE"? That would be a sign it was read of QRZ dot com.
Tim N3QE

Re: Ops' names
From: Doug KR2Q (438)
Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 08:50:27 EST
Really? I am anxious to learn about that!

I did a Groups IO search (N1MM) revealed this from 2016. Maybe things have changed since?

I make up my own CH files to show things that I am interesting in, beyond what is required. Works fine, but requires a bit of db and formatting skills to make to go much faster (than doing it by hand, one line at a time).

de Doug KR2Q

[SNIP]
Quoting from the manual:

"There can be only one Call History table present in the Admin database at a time, and it remains in the database unless replaced with another. A Call History text file can be imported manually, or associated with a specific contest on the Associated Files tab of the Contest Setup dialog. ... "

There is only one Admin database; it does not change when you change log databases. Therefore CH files are not specific to a particular log database. If you do not associate the correct CH file with a contest by naming it under the Associated Files tab in the Contest Setup window, you will be at the mercy of past history, i.e. the order in which you have invoked various contest instances and/or done manual imports of CH files. This is independent of whether you change log databases or not.

The best way to use CH files is to name the appropriate Call History Filename for a particular contest type under the Associated Files tab in the Contest Setup when you create an instance of that contest. From then on that CH filename will be associated with that contest type as follows: the file name will be remembered and prefilled for you the next time you create a new instance of that same contest type. This association between CH files and contest types is stored in the Admin database, not the log database, which means it will continue to apply even when you change log databases.

73, Rich VE3KI

Re: Ops' names
From: Gary, AF8A
Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 08:57:11 EST
For Apple Mac users, SkookumLogger has a call history file....and it displays the op's name parenthetically in the entry window, even though it is not part of the SS exchange.

A unique feature is the 'build your own' nature of the CHF. SL has an Update Exchange Database command that I use after most CWTs. Kudos to fellow CWop and CQ Contest Hall of Fame member Bill, K1GQ, for writing, maintaining and advancing SkookumLogger. So sometimes it pays to live on the dark side...in Apple's clutches...but it is well worth it, at least it has been for me.
73 de Gary, AF8A Cleveland, OH

Re: Ops' names
From: N3JT Jim #1
Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 09:12:26 EST
Yes, oftentimes I am addressed as "James" in a contest or even during a ragchew despite my just having sent "Jim" as my name -- and all the while QRZ.COM showing:

James ("Jim") Talens

I know the other guy spawned QRZ.COM quickly, sort of a spoiler about his copying ability during a non-contest QSO.

Pete, N4ZR, knows I am not cheating that way because I always call him Pedro!!

Jim, N3JT



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.

6-Meters

From: Pete W1RM

Date: Sat, 02 Nov 2024 15:38:33 EDT

I am utterly confused. I get on 6, FT8. I call CQ and according to PS Reporter, lots hear me of stations with great signals, and yet I get few responses. On the HF bands, I have the same with signals, but I run stations like mad. I use WSJT-X, RC7 and MSHV.

I'm baffled by the results. Any suggestions?

Pete Chamalian, W1RM

W1RM@Comcast.net

Re: 6-Meters

From: N1JFU - Steve

Date: Sat, 02 Nov 2024 17:30:34 EDT

If you are talking specifically about today, this was one of the biggest western EU openings on 6m that I've ever experienced. I too had a hard time completing on digital modes, there were far too many folks on. 50.313, 50.323 and 50.318 were all wall-to-wall.

Most of the contacts I made today were on SSB. It just works better for that kind of opening, the hard part is getting folks away from the keyboard :)

-Steve

6 meter standard practice -sequence when working EU using FT modes

From: Eric KV1J

Date: Sat, 02 Nov 2024 18:14:11 EDT

Just FYI - The standard practice for NA stations working Europe on 50 MHz FT8 is for the NA stations to TX ODD on FT8 and

the EU stations will TX EVEN. This is to minimize the de-sensing of your transmissions with your local stations. Also 50.323 should be used only for intercontinental contacts.

See - <https://uksmg.org/ft8-code-of-practice.php>

73, Eric KV1J



Nashua Area Radio Society Ham Bootcamp, November 9th

October 18, 2024 by Anita Kemmerer

The Nashua Area Radio Society will be holding an online Ham Bootcamp on Saturday, November 9th from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Eastern Time.

Ham Bootcamp is a program to help new, inactive, and prospective hams gain the skills and information that they need to Get On The Air. It is open to any interested Ham or Prospective Ham in the US and Canada and there is no charge to attendees.



The morning session is geared toward operating on the VHF/UHF bands:

- Putting together a Station for Repeaters – How to pick an HT or Mobile Radio and an Antenna
- Radio Programming Tutorial
- Making Contacts and Joining a Repeater Net
- Getting Started with Amateur Radio Satellites
- Getting Started with Fox Hunting

The afternoon session is geared toward operating on the HF Bands:

- Putting together an HF Station for SSB, CW, and Digital
- Picking and putting up an HF Antenna, Feedlines, and Grounds
- Operating on the HF bands using SSB Voice
- Getting started with WSJT-X and FT8 Digital

We will also have a breakout session where attendees can choose one of the following sessions:

- Learning CW
- Finding DX, Logging and QSLing
- Portable Operating

... and more!

Registration is now open for the November 9th session.

You can get more information about Ham Bootcamp, including a link to register at n1fd.org/bootcamp

You must register to receive the link to join the web conference.

If you have any questions, you can contact us at bootcamp@n1fd.org.

Capers Follow up:

WHAT: ARES and POTA “GO BOX” Show and Tell DATE: Sunday, October 13, 2024

HOURS: 8:30 am – 10:30 am WHERE:

NUTMEG HAMFEST 2024

Maloney High School

121 Gravel Street Meriden, CT 06450

Open to ALL Hams

A Perfect excuse to “Get Organized” to “Go Portable”!

- Make Portable operations less of a hassle and chore.
- Eliminate the last minute hunting for gear before leaving.
- Banish the frustration of not having what you need at the operating site... because it is still back at the home QTH.

Note: For many hams on a budget, their “Go Box” does “double duty” as their Home Station.

The “Go Box” is probably **the best way to organize** your radio equipment for those times when you want to (or need to) “Grab-‘n-Go” for Portable Operations such as:

- Public Service Events
- ARES Drills/Exercises
- Real World Disasters

- **Parks On The Air** activations
- Day Trips to: the Park, Beach, Woods, or... the In-Laws.
- Weekend Get-Always
- Vacations

Don't Have a "Go Box"? **BUILD ONE!**

You can build/assemble your own "Go Box" in less than one day, and it will probably be better than my Proof of Concept example.

See: www.ctaresregion2.org/forum/prepared-to-go-go-go

BE CREATIVE!

Your creative design and build may be exactly the thing that get someone else to build his own "Go Box"... or modify their existing "Go Box".

BRING IT!

Come with your "Go Box" to the Nutmeg Hamfest for Display, Judging, and Awards or Show & Tell

AWARDS

- Best ARES VHF/UHF "Go Box"

This will include Voice and Digital/Data capability (Win Link, "Classic" Packet Radio)

- Best ARES HF "Go Box"

This will include Voice and Digital/Data Capability (Win Link/HFVARA)

- Best ARES VHF/UHF/HF "Go Box"

This will include Voice and Digital/Data capability for each radio as appropriate.
(VHF/UHF Win Link, VHF/UHF "Classic" Packet Radio, Win Link/HF VARA)

- Best POTA 100w (max) radio "Go Box" *

- Best POTA QRP "Go Box" *

* Where POTA "Go Box" includes: Cases, Backpacks, Camera Bags, etc.

The 2024 "ARES Go-Kit Competition" organized by ARRL CT Section Manager, Douglas – WA1SFH. Photos: W1QK





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

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

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

From the CARA W1QI Groups io Reflector:

Re: [CARAW1QI] CARA Sunday Night: 10m Net 7pm 28.490 and 7:30pm 2m 147.300 & Elmer Net 8pm(TEAMS)

att.net/Inbox **Steven Simons W1SMS** **From:**ssimons@manitousys.com **To:**caraw1qi@groups.io
Sun, Nov 3 at 5:49 PM

Steve,

The “North” repeater (162.2 PL tone) is just for experimentation for the time being.
The main repeater (Spruce Mtn. 100 PL tone) will remain active through the first quarter of next year.

Kindly let me know if you should have any questions or comments.

73, Steve W1 SMS
ssimons@manitousys.com



CARA October Events

New Fairfield Car Show – October 13: W1JGM

The New Fairfield Lions Club's 31st Annual Car show was held on Sunday, October 13th. The show was held from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

It attracted many vintage, custom, and hot rods. The car show was held at the upper field of Squantz Pond State Park, which allowed us to do a special event, while activating a POTA park.

Photos contributed by: W1QH, W1JGM, N2DGT





CARA member: Alan Clair- WIAS







CARA Special Event Station Operation:

New Fairfield Fair Day: Saturday, October 19

Certificate Details

W1QI was activated on Saturday, October 19 from the New Fairfield Green in in conjunction with their New Fairfield Fair Day.

A special certificate for making contact with W1QI can be requested here:
<https://cararadioclub.org/>

<https://cararadioclub.org/special-event-station>

New Fairfield Fair Day– October 19: W1JGM

The New Fairfield Fair Day was rescheduled for October 19th because it was rained out in September. We set up at 9:00 am at Memorial Field, located at the junction of Routes 37 and Route 39 behind the New Fairfield Town Hall. The Fair ran till 4:00 pm, and we used the W1QI club callsign.

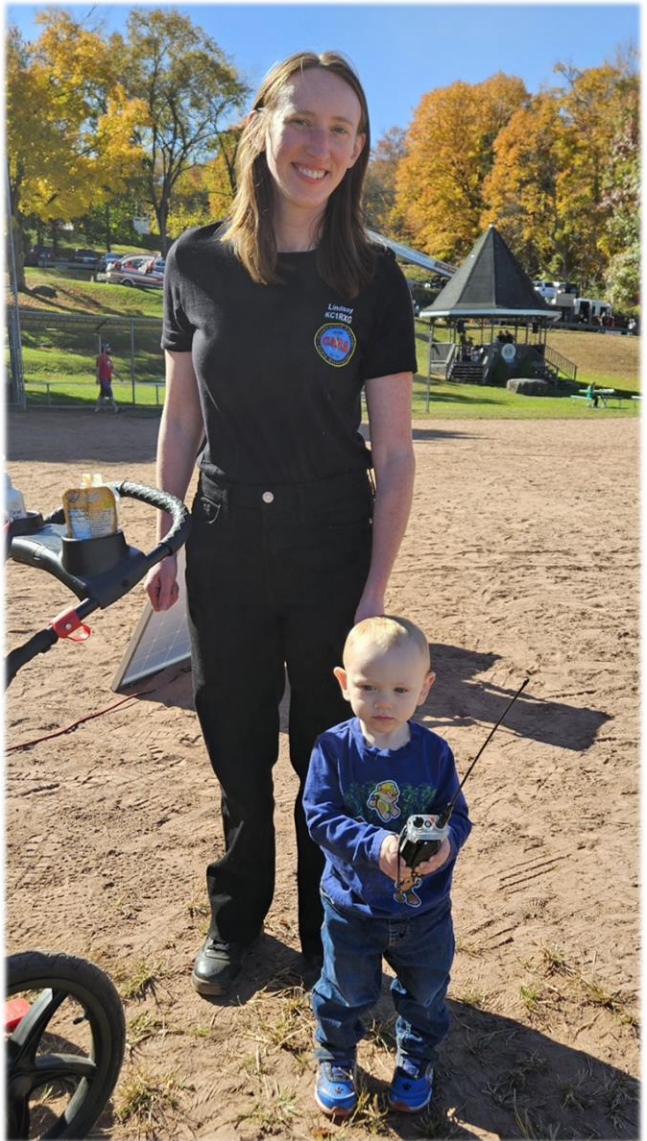
Photos contributed by: N2DGT, W1QH, W1JGM















NF Parks and Rec Town Fair Day 2024

Photos by Great Scott Photo and Drone-CT LLC, Lee Scott-Owner





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

Former CARA member: – Fred Pachaly - N1KPY, SK

*It is with regret to report the passing of Fred Pachaly – N1KPY.
Fred was a former CARA member and active for many years.*

Tue, Oct 22 at 8:02 AM

Me and my Nano

John Ahle – W1JMA



I recently had to take my 40m and 80m antennas down to have some tree work done. The goal was to clear away the growth since my last major tree work was completed 4 years ago and take advantage of some very tall trees and sloping terrain.

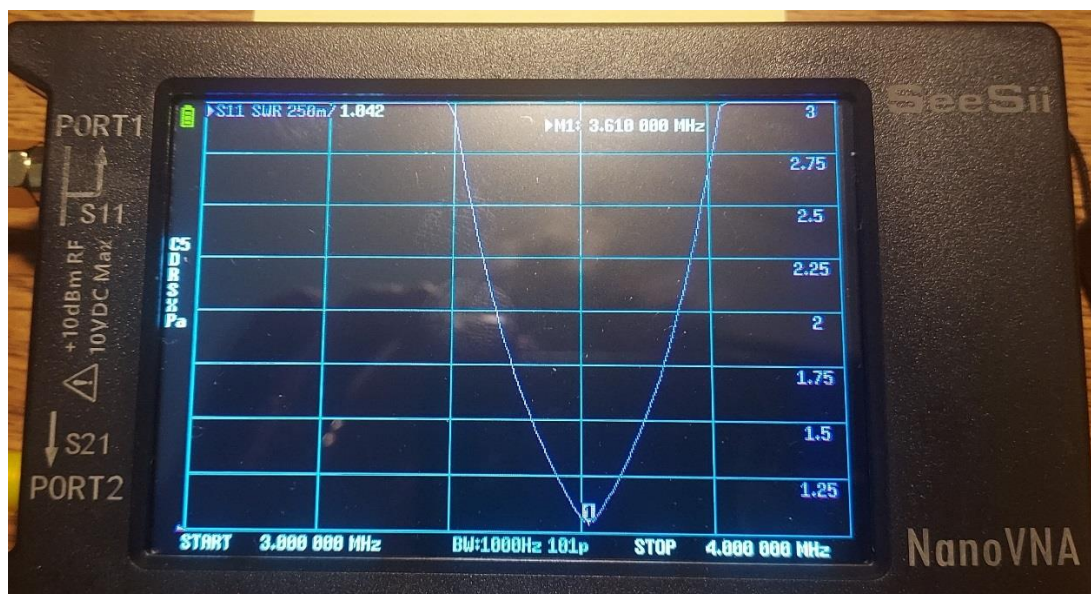
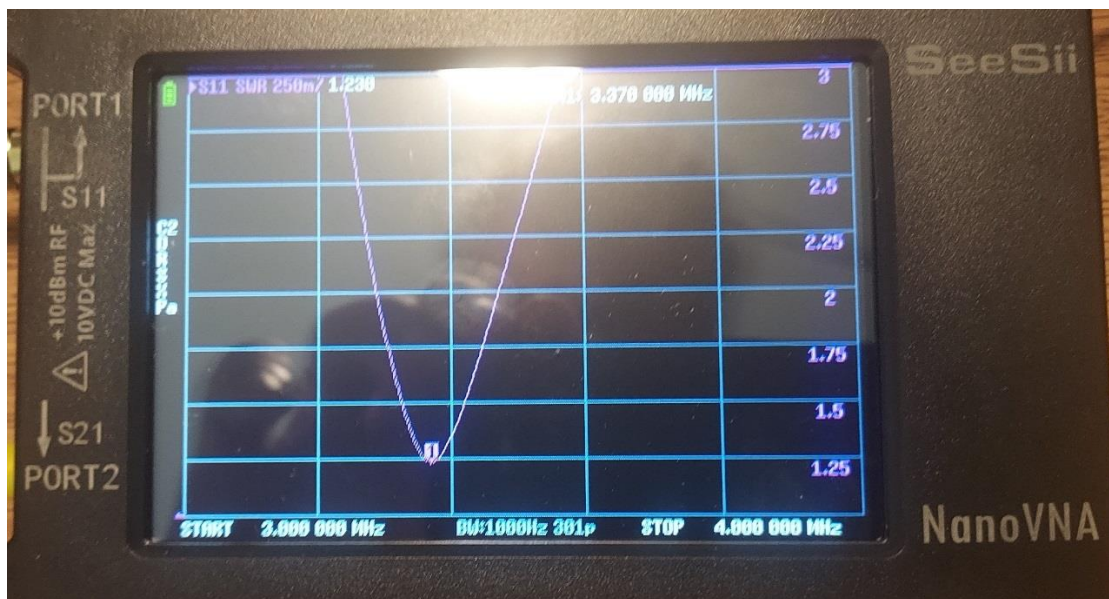
A day or so after the tree work was completed, Dan, N2DGT and I put up my new 160m inverted Vee at 70ft, 80m Full Wave Loop (in a vertical plane, not horizontal) at 65 ft and 40m Half Square.

I purchased a VNA NANO H4 antenna analyzer during the Amazon Prime Sale Days. After watching a couple of YouTube videos on how to use the Nano for SWR measurements, I went ahead and measured the new 160m antenna to discover the resonant frequency was 1.75mhz, well below the 1.8mhz band edge; it was too long. Based on those measurements and applying the Dipole antenna formula ($468/\text{freq in MHz.}$), I calculated that 14 feet had to be removed. After removing the 14 feet, the new resonant frequency was 1.842.

I decided to check the 80m loop that had been up for several years. I found that the resonant frequency was 3.370, again outside the lower end of the band, so again using the Loop formula $1005/\text{Freq}$ in MHZ, I calculated that I needed to remove about 11 feet from the loop to bring the resonant frequency to 3.6mhz.

Below are pictures of the 80m loop's SWR Curves before and after removing wire. I also ran the swr curves for the 40m ½ square and found the resonant frequency in the lower end of the band as it was designed for.

I find the VNA Nano a very helpful tool for \$70! I did compare the Nano to the MFJ analyzer, and it was spot on.



CARA Equipment Loan Program – November Update



Photo : Winslow Farrell – KC1OAJ

From: Winslow Farrell
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 10:38 AM
To: John Ahle
Subject: Re: Yaesu

Hi John, Wanted to send over a blurb on the lending program:

I would like to thank CARA and the radio lending program for helping me to reach a new level of interest in ham radio as a hobby. The use of a modern HF/6-meter radio, enabled through the CARA lending program has been enlightening. Once set up and grounded antennas deployed, I was able to receive and send strong, intelligible signals, both digital and analog voice -- opening up the world of "magic frequencies".

I look forward to working with CARA to earn a General license this winter and expanding my knowledge of radio and electronics. I also plan to return my loaned radio shortly and augment my decades old Kenwood with a modern 'rig'.

73, Win KC1OAJ , Easton CT

