Capers

April - 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: Dan Fegley – W1QK

This in-person meeting will be conducted on Friday, April 12 at the Stony Hill Fire House on Stony Hill Rd. in Bethel (Rte. 6). Doors open at 7:00 pm, gavel at 7:30 pm.

Meeting program:

Elmer/Mentor Night:
Ham Radio Related Question & Answer Session

Moderator: John Ahle – W1JMA
Submit questions/topics in advance to: w1jma@w1qi.org

CARA Monthly Meeting Agenda

April 12, 2024

Meeting call to order.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome new members and guests!
- Members introduction

Secretary Report:

- Acceptance of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes as published in CAPERS
- Correspondence if any

Treasurers Report:

- Acceptance as published in CAPERS
- Updates if necessary

Program: *Elmer/Mentor Night*

Committee Reports

- Repeater Committee Reports: Steve - W1SMS
- Website and IT Committee: Stephanie Fuda
    - Abandon CARARADIOCLUB.ORG domain
- Operating Activities Committee
    - NEQSO Party at W1AW Sunday 5/5/24
    - Field Day-Summer
    - POTA April 20th Squantz Pond
        - 3rd Saturday of Month 10-2 Location TBD
- Fund Raising Committee
- Membership Committee

Old Business

- Tech Class Status Report: John - W1JGM
- SSC Renewal Application Approval: Bud - W1NSK
- Status of Nomination Committee for June elections: Bud - W1NSK
- National Guard Communications presentation at June meeting
- May meeting at Danbury Rail Museum with Metro North ARA

New Business

- Motion to fund the $50 NEQSO Party CT First Place High Power Plaque: Vote Required – Dan -W1QK
- CARA "Bling" update and clarification
    - Rankin Textile Printing- existing relationship

    - Café Press- existing relationship
- YCCC joint meeting with CARA- October

Announcements

- NEQSO Party no longer recognizes CT counties, moving to a geo-political designation.
    - ***CARA will continue to administer the Worked All Ct Counties Award – No Change***
    - 4th Thursday of Month: Danbury Vespucci Italian American Club Big Eaters - Reservations required with W1JMA. Sign Up to be Circulated. No Tuesday pasta night.
    - Eastern VHF/UHF Conference: April 20th
    - Dayton is in May
    - Marlboro is in August

Good of the Order

Adjournment and Next Meeting

- Planning Meeting Friday 4/26 at 7:30 via TEAMS
- May Meeting Friday 5/10 at 7:30 in Person-Tentatively at Danbury Rail Museum

President's Message

de W1NSK

After an early Easter and with most of the major contest season behind us, it's on to bigger and more activities. I'm also happy to report that the ARRL has renewed our "Special Service Club" certificate. Only 3 clubs in CT have applied for and earned this designation.

With April - Hamfest Season is also upon us:

April 7th, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm: Southington Hamfest at Southington H.S.

April 14, 8:00 am – noon: Southeastern CT Amateur Radio Society Auction at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Gales Ferry, CT

April 19-21, 47th Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference and Flea market: Hilton Garden Inn, Windsor, CT

April 28th, Eastern CT Amateur Radio Assoc. Hamfest in Dayville, CT at Killingly H.S.

Our next Monthly Meeting is Friday, April 12. This month, we'll be trying something new - an Elmer/Mentor Night. Bring all the operating, licensing, technical questions you may have - no matter how basic. Examples: How do I use the club repeater? Is there a beginner's contest? How do learn more about Emcomm? What NETS can I operate? Here's your opportunity to ask about anything and everything you can think of about Ham Radio.

Our first club POTA activation will be on Saturday April 20th at Squantz Pond in New Fairfield. Join us from 10:00 am to around 3:00 pm. Either bring your portable station or assist those club members who will be operating. This is an excellent activity for newbies to learn.

Our Technician License class is well underway. Hopefully, soon we will have almost a dozen new licensees! Classes are moving right along.

CARA's nets are held on Sunday evenings. Get on 28.490 MHz. USB at 7:00 pm. The CARA weekly club net is held on our 2-meter repeater at 7:30 pm. Then, our Elmer/Mentor net is called up at 8:00 pm. Bring those questions you always wanted to ask or listen in and learn something new. This is primarily for new Hams, Technicians and those wanting to have a question answered. Nothing is too basic to ask. The focus is setting up to get your radio on the air with an antenna, operating techniques, and the like. Join Us.

Big Eaters Night" is Thursday April 25th, 6:00 pm at the Vespucci Italian-American Club in Danbury. Cost is $32 for all you can eat. *Wine and beer are included.* Reservation in advance is necessary. Please advise John - W1JMA at w1jma@w1qi.org

If anyone has an idea that they would like to present, or suggestions for presentations at a meeting, get in touch - and let's talk about it! Digital modes, CW, EME and Satellites are all of interest.

If anyone has an idea, they would like to see the club participate in, be involved with, or explore doing, let me know. Always looking for new ideas.

This is your club. We encourage active participation in one of numerous committees. Let anyone of the officers know of your interest and what you may want to get involved with.

Remember this is all about fun and our hobby!

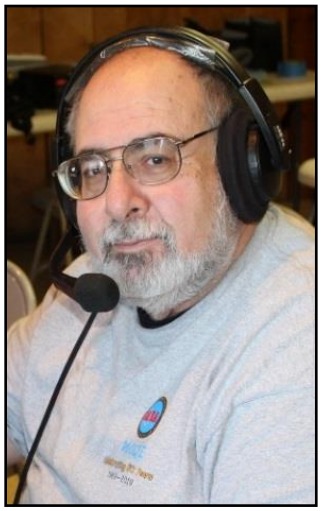
See you on the Air!

Bud – W1NSK
CARA President

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

Vice- President's Message:

de W1JGM



We've all probably heard the phrase: "April showers bring May flowers", but according to meteorological records, March 2024 was the second rainiest on record in Connecticut - with over 10" of rainfall.

As I've mentioned previously, "We don't need to shovel rain". Drier April days are coming along with warmer temperatures, so we'll resume outdoor CARA monthly club events in April.

Even with the usual cool weather, we've experienced some very mild days in March and several club members gathered at Squantz Pond State Park for an impromptu POTA activation.

Our first spring event is a Parks on The Air, POTA activation, which will be held at Squantz Pond State Park in New Fairfield. We'll meet up there on April 20 at 10:00 am and operate until around 3:00 pm. All are invited to participate.

Some important POTA changes have been announced recently. The Park Designator for United States Parks has been changed from "K" to "US". Canadian parks have been revised from "VE" to "CA". Park Designations for many other countries have also been changed. Refer to the POTA web site parksontheair.com for more information.

CARA's Technician-Level training class is progressing nicely and will conclude on April 21 with an FCC license test session. Testing will be done via laptop computers using the new on-line system, which will be CARA's first experience with this new testing method. CARA thanks the Northville Amateur Radio Association – NARA, VE Team members for conducting this test session.

Our next in-person club meeting will be on Friday, April 12 at the Stony Hill Fire Dept. on Rte. 6 in Bethel. Doors open at 7:00 pm, and the meeting will start promptly at 7:30 pm.

This month's program will be an Amateur Radio focused Question and Answer Session. Jot down your inquiries and either send them to John Ahle – W1JMA or Secretary/Treasurer, w1jma@w1qi.org, or bring your topics to the meeting.

CARA has experienced amateurs who will probably be able to answer them – or promise to research your question and provide an answer after the session. This Q&A Session will be moderated by John - W1JMA. Thank you in advance, John.

Many CARA members are veteran hams who've been licensed for several decades and willing to share their experiences in selecting a radio, installing antennas and proper grounds, setting up a station, plus techniques for casual operating and serious Radiosport contesting. They've dabbled with various modes including CW, RTTY,

SSB, and activities including POTA, portable and mobile operations. Some have integrated their station's computers to provide automation of radio functions, beam antenna rotation, and used Packet Cluster spotting networks to find those elusive and rare DX stations to contact.

CARA's website has been updated thanks to the dedication and continued efforts of both Stephane Fuda and John Ahle – W1JMA. Check out CARA's new web site at cararadioclub.org

CARA is **YOUR** club. Be an active member and be proud of it.

73,

John Morelli - W1JGM
CARA Vice-President

CARA is an ARRL-Designated Special Service Club

SSC recognition renewal application approved by ARRL: March 2024

March 8 - Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

de CARA Secretary/Treasurer, John Ahle - W1JMA

CARA Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2024

The meeting was opened at 7:30 by Bud W1NSK, President. Bud welcomed members, guests, and new members to the meeting. Will - KC1UHN, joined the club and was present at the meeting. There were 16 present at the meeting.

The minutes of the February meeting as published in CAPERS were accepted.

The treasurer's report as printed in CAPERS for the year to date ending 2/29/24 were accepted.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to liquidate our holdings in I Bonds and reinvest those proceeds into bank CD's. There are approximately $7343 in I Bonds currently.

Dan - W1QK, Roger - NG1R, and Harlan - W1QH, presented an Introduction to Radio Teletype - RTTY program. The program was well received by those present.

Committee Updates:

Repeater committee chair Steve - W1SMS, reported that both the 2m and 440 repeaters are functioning properly at this time.

IT Committee, Stephanie Fuda, reported that the new GoDaddy website is now live. Those who have seen the site had accolades for the work done.

Operating Activities:
The final Club stations on the air is scheduled for this Saturday the 9th.
The next POTA is scheduled for Saturday April 20th.
Field Day is June 22/23.

The Fund-Raising Committee discussed alternatives to a hamfest. The leadership is not too keen about having another hamfest given the amount of work required for decreasing attendance. Options such as an auction, a club table at the Nutmeg Hamfest, or fund-raising dinner were discussed as possible replacements.

Old Business:
John - W1JGM updated the group about the Technician Class that started this week and has 10 students.

Bud asked the secretary to put together a petition to the ARRL for the Special Service Club designation.

New Business:

It's time for the Board of Directors to form the Nominating Committee for officers starting on July 1st. The nominations should be brought to the May meeting. Bud will contact the board since no members were present at the meeting and select a chair for this task.

Discussion was had on two potential meeting programs. John – W1JGM is checking to see if the National Guard can be present in April. Dan - N2DGT, is checking to see if CARA and the Metro North ARA could meet at the Danbury Train Museum in May.

Dan - W1QK, will get the information regarding CARA's plaque sponsorship for the New England QSO party, which is held the first weekend in May.

Announcements:

- Pasta night is Tuesday the 19th at 6pm.
- The New England VHF/UHF Conference is in April.
- Dayton is the 2nd weekend in May.
- The Marlboro convention is in August.

The planning meeting is March 22, 2024, at 7:30 pm on TEAMS and the next monthly meeting is Friday April 12th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm.

CARA Treasury Report
March 31, 2024

Income: Full Member Dues 2024 $1625
Income: Associate Member Dues 2024 $20

Total Income: $1645

Expense: Donation-WA7BNM & POTA $50
Expense: Insurance-Eq. & Liability $305
Expense: PayPal Fees $12
Expense: Website/Hosting Fees $30.98
Total Expense: $397.98

Net Income for Period $1247.02

Cash: Checking $7883.44
Cash: Petty $50
Investment: I Bond $7343

Unrestricted CASH Balance: $15276.44

Number of full members: 48
Associate members: 1

March 8 - Meeting Presentation:

Introduction to Radio Teletype – RTTY

Thanks to Dan Fegley – W1QK, Roger Mitchell – NG1R, and Harlan Ford – W1QH, for preparing and presenting their ***Introduction to Radio Teletype - RTTY*** PowerPoint presentation with a RTTY demonstration at our March 8 meeting.

It was interesting to learn about Baudot, the origins of this mode, and how surplus Teletype machines found their way into many ham shacks – providing the means for RTTY use by amateurs.

Popular RTTY contests and integration of the N1MM Logger Plus program using MMTTY were discussed, including RTTY contesting keyboard macros.

Photos: W1JGM

Resources and references were included in the February and March issues of the CARA Capers.

April Meeting Topic:

April Program: Elmer/Mentor Night

This month's meeting is Friday April 12th at 7:30pm at the Stony Hill FD.

The program is Elmer/Mentor Night. Please email any questions you would like answered to w1jma@w1qi.org the CARA Groups IO reflector, and I'll keep track and categorize them for the meeting. This is a great opportunity for new and experienced hams.

73, John- W1JMA

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 & Meetings:

Apr. 7: Southington Hamfest and CT ARES Spring meeting CT

Apr. 8: Solar Eclipse & Solar Eclipse QSO Party

Apr. 8: CT ARES Region 5 South Meeting via Teams - 7:00 pm

Apr. 12 : CARA Monthly Business Meeting. In-person at Stony Hill Fire House, Rte. 6, Bethel. 7:30 pm Program: Elmer/ Mentor Question & Answer session

Apr. 13: OK/OM DX contest, New Mexico QSO Party, GA QSO Party, North Dakota QSO Party, IG-RY RTTY contest

Apr. 20: CARA POTA event. Squantz Pond State Park – New Fairfield. 10:00 am -3:00 pm

Apr. 20: Nebraska QSO Party, Michigan QSO Party, Ontario QSO Party, Quebec QSO Party, CQMM Contest

Apr. 18-21: Eastern VHF/UHF conference

Apr. 21: ARRL Rookie Roundup - SSB

Apr. 25: "Big Eaters" Dinner: Vespucci Italian-American club in Danbury. $35 Reservations required at w1jma@w1qi.org

Apr. 26: CARA Planning Meeting on TEAMS 7:30 pm

Apr. 27-28: BARTG Sprint 75 Baud RTTY contest, SP DX RTTY contest, Florida QSO Party

Apr. 29: CT ARES Region 5 Monthly meeting via TEAMS

Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24: CWops CWT 1300Z & 1900Z Wednesday, and 0300Z (Thursday) https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/

May 3: May 2024 Capers input deadline to 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.

2024 Total Eclipse: Where & When - NASA

Vin n2ohh via groups.io

Info on the 2024 eclipse

https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/

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.
June 8, 2024
September 7, 2024
December 7, 2024

73, Jon Bernon - AJ1U
CARA VE Session Coordinator

CT ARES Winlink Wednesday

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

W1SP-6	LITCCT	Litchfield	145.65 FN31JR
W1SP-7	NHAVCT	Oxford	145.63 FN31JK
W1SP-8	FAIRCT	Bridgeport	145.69 FN31JE

Next CT ARES WinLink Wednesday:
Wednesday, May 1, 2024

CT ARES Information:

Statewide ARES Spring Meeting
Southington Hamfest
April 7, 11:00 am

Statewide Weekly ARES Net: KB1AEV/NA1RA (NARA) linked repeaters: 8:00 pm

Statewide Weekly DMR Net: DMR repeaters: 8:30 pm

CT ARES Region 5 monthly meetings.:
Region 5 South TEAMS meeting is held on the second Monday of the month. The CT ARES Region 5 North & South monthly meeting is held on the last Monday of the month – currently via TEAMS but may be conducted in-person in 2024.

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 WinLink 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

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/

Use this link to learn more about the K1USN Radio Club's SST slow speed CW contests:
http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html

Editor: Recent Posts to the CWops Reflector with credit to contributors:

Re: A1 Award
From: Dan Romanchik KB6NU
Date: Fri, 15 Mar 2024 18:22:21 EDT
Cool. Feel free to use LOL in our contacts. I think we should use more texting abbreviations in CW contacts.

73!

Dan KB6NU

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:

Yaesu FTDX 2000. 100 Watts, 160-6 Meters.
All Options and Digital Filters. $900.
Contact: Bud Kozloff – W1NSK
203-939-3708

New Threadless So-239 connectors!

Get in on the fad of threading your own connectors!

- Create proprietary thread patterns that only work with YOUR coax!
- Stop RF theft.
- Does not loosen like ordinary connectors.
- No galling or seizing!
- Easier to waterproof!

Battery powered ground rod!

Got lousy ground? Having a hard time diverting lightning? Have we got the cure for you!

- Turns any ground rod into an RF vacuum! Nothing gets out of this RF black hole!
- So effective a connection to your equipment or tower not necessary.
- Unlike corded ground rods, these are much easier to use on portable operations.
- Works on any ground rod, even our premium plastic rods!
- Use any battery, any voltage!
- Use positive terminal for northern hemisphere, negative voltage for southern hemisphere.

Source: **KF7P Metalwerks** April 1, 2024
From:chris-kf7p.com@shared1.ccsend.com

May issue input deadline: May 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.

This summary is reprinted as a courtesy of: The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association's Award-Winning monthly newsletter: "Voice Coil" http://www.mvara.org/Newsl/Current.pdf

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:
120 Fire Hill Road Ridgefield CT 06877.

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

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 very 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!

ARRL New England Division Newsletter: "Beacon":

https://nediv.arrl.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/New-England-Beacon-January-2024.pdf

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The ARRL Letter

John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, Editor **April 4, 2024**

Ham Radio's Many Roles During Solar Eclipse
In one of nature's most spectacular visual displays, on April 8, 2024, the sun will align with the moon and the Earth, casting a shadow that will transit much of North America.

Totality as seen in Madras, Oregon in 2017 [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo]

Spectacular Display and Gathering

Millions will gather along the path of totality - the section where the sun is fully blocked by the moon - to witness something that happens, on average, once every 375 years for any place on our planet. The moon's shadow path will begin over the South Pacific Ocean, and then it will cross into North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Weather permitting, the first location in continental North America that will experience totality is Mexico's Pacific coast, at around 11:07 a.m. PDT. The shadow will exit continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 p.m. NDT.

Ham radio will be there - operators will participate in scientific experiments, serve local communities that will be overrun with hundreds of thousands of visitors, and provide a valuable tool for communicating if the mobile phone networks become overloaded.

The diamond ring effect of the 2017 eclipse [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo]

Science

Regular sun and moon watchers will be out in force while many scientists, astronomers, and amateur radio operators will be "working" the eclipse. ARRL has partnered with Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI), a NASA citizen science project, to encourage hams to send and receive signals to one another before, during, and after the eclipse. The project will be led by Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, a professor of Physics and Engineering at the

HamSCI

University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. HamSCI participants will share their radio data to catalog how the sudden loss of sunlight during totality affects their radio signals. All radio amateurs are welcome to participate in the ionospheric research that is being conducted. Information is available at the Solar Eclipse QSO Party on the HamSCI website.

NASA plans to point a large telescope at the eclipse and broadcast the entire event across North America. The agency will host live coverage of the eclipse from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. EDT (17:00 to 20:00 UTC) on April 8 on the NASA YouTube channel. There will be live views of the eclipse from watch parties across the country, and even from NASA's Glenn Research Center in Ohio, which happens to be inside the path of totality.

In addition to NASA's plans, the Super Dual Auroral Radar Network (SuperDARN), a collection of radars located at sites around the world, will bounce radio waves off of the ionosphere and analyze the returning signals. Their data will reveal changes in the ionosphere's density, temperature, and location.

There is also the Radio JOVE project, which is made up of a team of citizen scientists dedicated to documenting radio signals from space, and especially from Jupiter. During the total solar eclipse, Radio JOVE participants will focus on the sun. Using radio antenna kits that they set up themselves, they'll record solar radio bursts before, during, and after the eclipse.

EmComm

Emergency communications groups, including those affiliated with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), will be active in the areas near totality. National Weather Service (NWS) offices are closely watching weather patterns in and around the eclipse path for any severe weather that could impact watchers and increase traffic. Many first responders, including law enforcement, medical personnel, and fire departments, will be ready to respond to any emergency that might occur during the eclipse. Those officials represent some of the served agencies that radio amateurs work to support.

Most ARRL Sections within the path of totality have been working with their local served agencies to provide communications volunteers through amateur radio. In New Hampshire, for example, where cell phone and road networks are expected to be overwhelmed, New

Hampshire ARES has local groups activated in many communities.

Public Information Coordinator of the ARRL New Hampshire Section Skip Camejo, AC1LC, said members across the state are ready. "A small team pulled from several NH-ARES groups will be providing limited communications support for the American Red Cross, using both HF and VHF. We will have an RV-based station in Lancaster, NH, and another in Pittsburg, both at locations provided by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation," he said. In the event of a mass-casualty incident or a need for emergency sheltering, the teams will travel to the scene with a state police escort. They're expecting 10,000 to 50,000 visitors on Monday in that community alone.

Other ARES groups have been preparing and drilling over the last few months. In the ARRL North Texas Section, a set of criteria has been established as reportable to the local served agencies' emergency operations centers. Look for more details on ham radio involvement during the eclipse in next week's *The ARRL Letter*.

Outreach

Many groups are holding eclipse festivals. Some amateur radio groups and clubs are taking advantage of these gatherings to get radio in front of the curious public. Vice Director of the ARRL Hudson Division Ed Wilson, N2XDD, is preparing an informational display for an event at his local library.

An amateur radio outreach booth at The Big E in Springfield, Massachusetts. [Nancy Austin, KC1NEK, photo]

The Suffolk County Radio Club on Long Island, New York, will be participating in the Solar Eclipse QSO Party from the Moriches Branch Library.
Wilson saw radio as a perfect addition to the library's eclipse activities. "Another club member and I went down to the librarian and spoke to her about the HamSCI event. We asked if we would be able to set up a ham radio station during the course of the day.

They loved the idea and approved it, and they invited us to some other events that they're having in the next few months," he said.
For clubs that may have a public presence during the eclipse, there are resources on the ARRL website detailing how to help explain the hobby to the uninitiated.

The total solar eclipse will be the last of its kind for more than two decades in the contiguous U.S. The next total solar eclipse on U.S. soil won't occur until March 30, 2033, and it will be viewable only in Alaska.

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

There are in excess of 400 contesters 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.

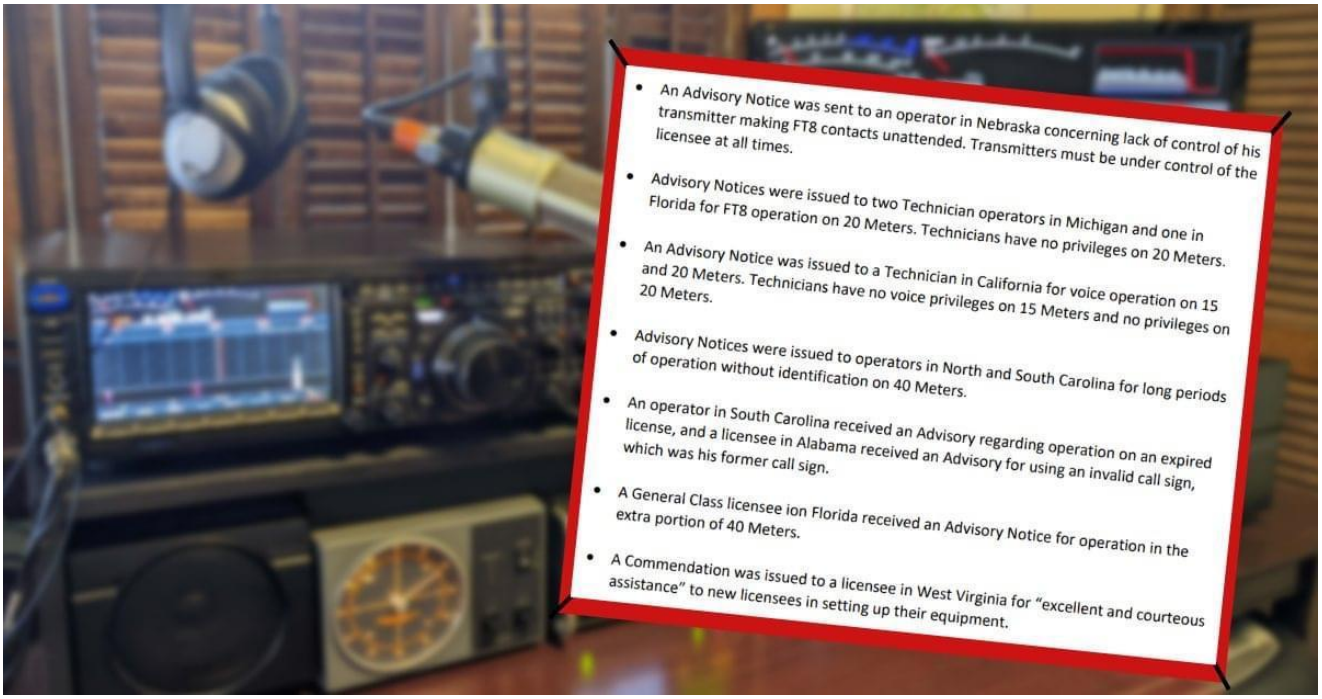
CARA has members of the YCCC.

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

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.



Bud W1NSK [CARAW1QI] They are Watching!
From:w1nsk@hotmail.com
To:caraw1qi@groups.io

ARRL Special Service Club Renewal Application

March 9, 2024

ARRL Section	New England
Club Name	Candlewood Amateur Radio Association
Call Sign	W1QI
Address	120 Fire Hill Road
City	Ridgefield
State	CT
Zip	06877

New Ham Development and Training

- Weekly Elmer/ Mentoring Net on TEAMS for Club Members
- Sponsor Technician Licensing Class
- Sponsor Exams 4x per year.
- Sponsor annual field trip to Ham Radio University in NY

Public Relations

- Maintains CARA Website
- Special Event Stations, i.e. New Fairfield Days, New Fairfield Auto Show
- Sponsor New England QSO Party Plaque

Emergency Communications

- Sponsors and maintains 2m and 440 repeaters.
- Weekly 2m Training Net
- Weekly 10m Net
- Many members active in region 5 ARES and Skywarn
- Members provide on ground communication at the Ridgefield annual 4th of July Fire Works
- Many members active in their town CERT/EOC

- Ridgefield
- Danbury
- New Fairfield
- Bethel
- Brookfield

Technical Advancement

- Antenna build sessions.
- Member Stations open house for club members during Winter Months
- POTA night to demonstrate portable stations.
- Programs to advance hobby, i.e. Introduction to RTTY, N1MM etc.

Operating Activities

- Winter Field Day
- Summer Field Day
- Monthly POTA activations from local parks
- Sponsors and administrators, the CT Worked All Counties Award
- New England QSO Party activates W1AW as a club outing

Miscellaneous Activities

- Continuously Active Radio Club since 1946
- Monthly newsletter
- Maintain Groups.io reflector for membership communications.
- Monthly Pasta night for social event at local Italian Center

Club President Name Bud Kozloff
Call Sign W1NSK

2nd Officer Name John Morelli
Call Sign W1JGM

CARA COMMITTEES

CARA has several committees which provide various services and information to CARA members and the public. If you want to learn more about these committees, please contact the committee chair (listed below) for more information.

Current Committees

Repeater: Steve Simons, W1SMS - Chair

Website: Stephanie Fuda, Chair

Membership: John Morelli, W1JGM - Chair

Programs & Activities: Bud Kozloff, W1NSK - Chair

I saw this in the ARRL bulletin today. Anthony made a presentation on N1MM for CARA during the dark days of the pandemic. Congrats to Anthony. 73, John - W1JMA

Special Achievement Award: Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT. [Photo courtesy of Hamvention®]

Luscre is from near Akron, Ohio, and he was first licensed in 1981. He has been a low-power operator, contester, and teacher throughout his amateur radio career. He received his Amateur Extra-class license in 2000. Luscre is active on HF and VHF/UHF, and he operates on CW, phone, and digital modes. His low-power contacts now top 115,000. Between licensing classes, club programs, webinars, hamfests, conferences, youth and school radio demonstrations, and other in-person and online talks, Luscre has presented more than 500 sessions since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has presented multiple times for Contest University, the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo, and Dayton Hamvention®. He holds a weekly class, "The Joy of Operating," for the Long Island CW Club. Anthony serves as the ARRL Ohio Section Youth Coordinator and he is an officer in the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club.

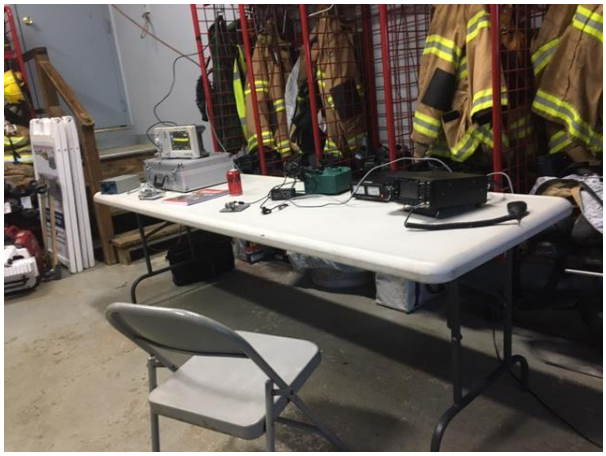
WinLink 2M CT Packet Gateways - Submitted by W1QK:

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	

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

Technician-Level License Class – March 24, 2024

Hands-on Demonstration Session conducted at Ball Pond Volunteer Fire House, New Fairfield. Photos: W1JGM



HamXposition Online Ticketing is OPEN!

General Admission only: $15

Convention Package PLUS $139
Includes:
* General Admission
* **NEW** Thursday Night Comedy Kickoff
* Friday DX Dinner
* Saturday Grand Banquet

This is a savings of $12 versus purchasing these items separately!

Online ticketing is available now.
If you wish to stay overnight, discounted hotel rates are available through July 25th.

Visit our website for all details and to purchase tickets in advance:
https://hamxposition.org

73,
Bob - K1IW
HamXposition 2024

Comedy Show Thursday 8/22 at 8PM
Seminars & Forums Fri, Sat, and Sun
Flea Market Hours: Fri 12-5, Sat 9-5, Sun 9-1
Exhibit Hall Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-1

Impromptu POTA event – March 14, 2024

Photos submitted by Harlan Ford – W1QH

New England QSO Party – May 4-5, 2024

Rules

Object: To contact as many New England stations (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) in as many New England counties as possible on 80-40-20-15-10m. (New England stations work anyone)

Date: First full weekend of May (May 7-8, 2022, May 6-7, 2023)

Contest Period: 2000Z Saturday until 0500Z Sunday (4pm EDT Saturday until 1am EDT Sunday) and 1300Z Sunday until 2400Z Sunday (9am EDT Sunday until 8pm EDT Sunday).

Categories: Single-operator high power, low power(150w or less) and QRP(5w or less) categories, plus multi-operator, single transmitter and multi-transmitter. Mobile categories are the same except not Multi-Multi. Use of spotting assistance and self-spotting is permitted in all categories.

Contest Exchange: Send signal report and state/province (DX stations send signal report and "DX"). New England stations send signal report, county and state.

Valid Contact: Work New England stations once per band/mode. New England stations work anyone (and must copy the county for New England stations worked). CW contacts must not be made in the phone band segments. Mobiles that change counties are considered to be new stations, and can be worked for both multiplier and QSO Point credit. County line QSOs should be logged as two separate QSOs. Crossmode, crossband, and repeater QSOs are not permitted.

QSO Points: Count one point per phone QSO, two points per CW (includes digital modes)QSO.

Multiplier: Stations outside of New England use counties as multipliers for a total of 68 (CT/9 MA/14 ME/16 NH/10 RI/5 VT/14). New England stations use states(50)(Count DC as MD), Canadian provinces(14 – VO1/VO2 are separate) and DXCC countries as multipliers. Note that CT switched from counties to Regional Councils of Government (2024).

Scoring: Total score is QSO points times the multiplier. Mobiles count QSO points per county and multipliers from all counties (counted once).

Suggested frequencies: CW – 3540 7035 14040 21040 28040, SSB – 3850 7180 7280 14280 21380 28380.

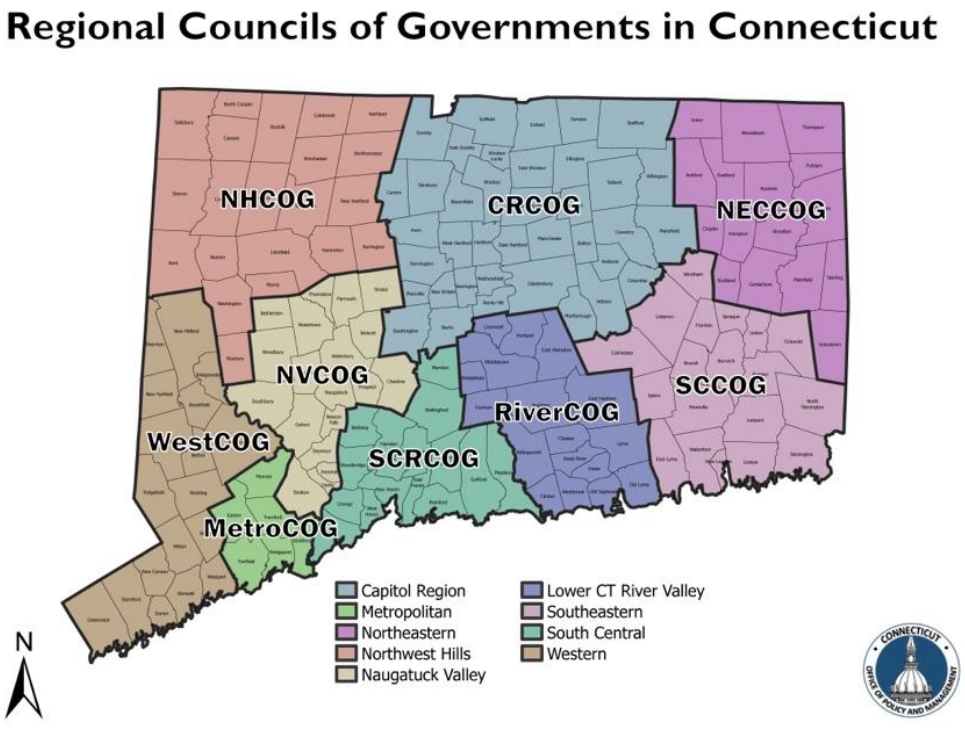
What Happened to Connecticut Counties?

A long time ago (1960) Connecticut eliminated county government. County names have remained "on the books" and on maps ever since, and mostly used to deal with interactions with the US Census and other Federal programs. Every square inch of the state is within the boundaries of 169 different towns where local control is the basis of most local government decisions. Over the years, a series of regional planning districts (Council of Governments) have been assembled to deal with regional transportation, air quality and other areas where cooperation between towns is necessary.

In 2019, the state formally requested that the US Census Bureau approve a proposal to recognize Connecticut's nine planning regions as the statistical equivalent of counties for the purpose of tabulating and publishing future Census data. This went through a two-year review process and was finally approved in mid-2022. This year (2024) will see the first release of data based on regional planning districts.

The New England QSO Party will recognize the change beginning with the 2024 NEQP. This change will add one multiplier in CT, making for a total of 68 in New England. We will work with software authors to make sure that the "county" change is reflected in current software versions. There will be several other contest rules changes as well, noted elsewhere.

There may be some confusion with those giving NEQP contact information and with those outside of New England. The log checking process will make sure that all entries are scored the same way, with the same list of 68 multipliers.



New Connecticut multipliers for the NEQP

CTCAP Capital Region
CTGBR Greater Bridgeport
CTLCR Lower CT River
CTNAU Naugatuck Valley
CTNOE Northeastern
CTNOW Northwest Hills
CTSOE Southeastern
CTSOC South Central
CTWES Western

For additional information:

History
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/23bc7986213547a79cb8a5dafa84d68d

Map of Regional Planning Districts
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/IGPP/ORG/COGs/PDFCOGspdf.jpg

Towns in each District
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/IGPP/Municipal-Directories/Municipalities-Planning-Region-COG.pdf

Federal Register publication
https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/06/06/2022-12063/change-to-county-equivalents-in-the-state-of-connecticut

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How A Container Ship Secures Containers

Design, Safety, Container Locating

Contributed by: Brenda Fegley – WA1KRG

https://youtu.be/JebcH4_LVEU?si=t13JaK-9hCvfsVI5

Life Inside the World's Largest Container Ships Ever Built

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5cytTTQ470

Could tugboats have helped avert the bridge collapse tragedy in Baltimore? https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/business/nation/story/2024-03-29/could-tugboats-have-helped-avert-the-bridge-collapse-tragedy-in-baltimore

How to broadcast a MAYDAY emergency call

How to broadcast a MAYDAY emergency call if a vessel or person is in grave and imminent danger and immediate assistance is required:

• Check that your VHF radio is on and high-power setting is selected
Select Channel 16

156.8 MHz

Channel 16 (156.8 MHz) VHF-FM is designated by the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) as the national distress, safety and calling frequency. All vessels must monitor this channel while underway.

• Press the transmit button and say slowly and clearly:
"MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY"

"THIS IS… "
(say the name of your vessel 3 times. Say your MMSI number and call sign)

"MAYDAY, THIS IS…"
(say name of vessel)

"MY POSITION IS…"
(latitude and longitude, true bearing and distance from a known point, or general direction)

“I AM…”
(say nature of distress eg SINKING, ON FIRE)

“I REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE”

“I HAVE…”
(say number of persons on board PLUS any other useful information – such as sinking, flares fired, abandoning to life raft)

“OVER”

• Now release transmit button and listen for reply

• Keep listening to Channel 16 for instructions

• If you hear nothing then repeat the distress call

Vessels with GMDSS equipment should make a MAYDAY call by voice on Ch 16 or MF 2182 kHz after sending a DSC Distress alert on VHF Ch 70 or MF 2187.5 kHz

DSC Radio Emergency Procedure
• In an emergency, press the DSC radio’s red button for 15 seconds and then transmit a voice message on Channel 16.

• Prepare for sending/receiving subsequent distress traffic on the distress traffic frequency (2182 kHz on MF, Ch16 on VHF)

• NOTE: The nature of distress can be selected from the DSC radio receiver’s menu.

Information from our Safe Skipper App
“A well written and detailed app for yachts & inland craft also quite useful for ocean going vessels – well done.”

Source:

https://www.safe-skipper.com/broadcast-mayday-emergency-call/

CY2024 Membership Form (not valid after 12/31/24)

Name and Call:

Email and Cell Phone Number:

Steet Adress:

City, State and ZIP:

License Class(E,A,G,T), ARRL Member(Y/N)? VE(Y/N)?

Please mail check payable to CARA, Mail to 120 Fire Hill Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877
PayPal: paypal.me/CARADUES

Please scan form to: Treasurer@cararadioclub.org

Full Membership: licensed Hams over 16 years of age:	$35
Additional Family Member:	$15
Associate Membership: Licensed Ham under 16 years or non-ham:	$20

CARA is a 501c3 entity, dues are NOT considered a donation.

This space reserved for additional content submitted by CARA members.