



CARA CAPERS-Lite
November 2025 Issue via our CAPERS Blog
W1JMA Content Editor

Next Program Meeting Thursday 11/13 Stony Hill FD

CARA EVENTS HELD IN OCTOBER

CARA October Program on Repeaters and inexpensive 2m Yagi antennas was presented by Steve W1SMS.



Details of the program and how to build this antenna are in the Elmers Blog on the CARA website. Thanks, Steve, for an informative and detailed presentation.

CARA Sponsors first “Subs and Soda” get together at Putnam Park



Members from CARA and GNARC met up at Putnam Park US-1707 on Saturday October 18th for the first area “Subs and Soda” lunch. CARA coordinated this event to coincide with our monthly POTA event. Overall comments: “we should do this

more often!" It was nice to meet hams from Norwalk and see many CARA members enjoying the fine WX and fellowship.

CARA POTA EVENT at Lyons Club Car Show



Several CARA members activated Squantz Pond US-1719 with the New Fairfield Lyons Club at their annual car show on Sunday October 19th.

Presidents Message November 2025

The holidays are fast approaching!

Our next meeting is at the Stony Hill Firehouse on Rt. 6 in Bethel. Doors open at 7 and the meeting begins at 7:30. We will be discussing our ARRL Sweepstakes SSB operation on Saturday November 15th (4-10PM) at the Ball Pond Firehouse in New Fairfield. This is the biggest domestic contest of the year. Details of Antenna's and equipment will be reviewed. Specifically, operation of the club ICOM Pro3 Transceiver. Also, a review of the basic rules including the contest exchange and basic use of the logging program N1MM. Sign up for a one-hour operating slot on the circulating Sign Up Genius.

November 18th is our Monthly informal Spaghetti Dinner at Villa Vespucci Lodge in Danbury. We gather at 6PM. Cost is \$10 for All you can eat spaghetti and meatball dinner with Salad and Bread. Bring a friend, family member or a perspective new Ham!

Our Business Meeting via Zoom is on Monday December 1st. at 7:30 PM. Look for the email link to be sent.

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

As you know our repeater site has moved to a temporary location and is operational. The process of finding a new location for its operation is underway. We need your help as there is a great deal of work that needs to be done. Contact me if you're able to pitch in!

One last note, Our Christmas Party will be as it has been in the past at Anthony's Lake Club located at The Amerigo Vespucci Lodge in Danbury. Stay tuned for the date.

Bud W1NSK-President

VP Message for November 2025

The past month has been a world wind of activity for the members of the CARA Association including POTA activations, Sub n Soda luncheon, Car shows and monthly dinners. With no stopping in sight, the members of the association are working hard to keep the activity level high with many wintertime activities planned. Don't worry, the heat is on so no one will need to bundle up during the activities. Coming up on the November 13th at 7PM (Meeting starts at 7:30) is our program meeting at the Stony Hill Fire Dept in Bethel. On Saturday our club will participate in the ARRL Sweepstakes contest to be held

at the Ball Pond Fire Co. In New Fairfield, Set up at 2pm, operating times (4pm to 10PM). Then on November 18 we meet at the Amerigo Vespucci club in Danbury at 6PM for dinner. For \$10, this is an affordable way to have dinner with some of the members. Thanksgiving falls on our regular business meeting, so it will be moved to December 1st. This meeting is held on MS Teams, so you are cozy and warm at home. The meeting door on your computer opens at 7PM. The meeting starts at 7:30PM.

If the above is not enough for you to get enough of the hobby, members are always doing other tasks with APRS, Helping with ARES and the local EOC. And of course, some of the members continue activating a POTA park even in the cold. And of course, there are many on the air events to explore on the radio.

So come join your favorite activity, be involved, help make the association active and enjoyable, and meet the newer members of CARA.

John Morelli W1JGM-VP CARA

CARA Business Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 23, 2025

- The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by Bud W1NSK, President.
 - There was a quorum: 8 members were present
 - The meeting was held on Teams
- The minutes from the previous meeting as presented in the CAPERS Blog were accepted.
 - The only correspondence received during the month related to questions about the 440 repeater
- The Treasurer's report as presented in the CAPERS Blog was accepted
 - **The treasurer noted a CD was coming due in November and would be rolled over**

Committee Reports

- Repeater Committee: Steve W1SMS Chair
 - All is stable and seems to have an acceptable coverage footprint – however the repeater “hears” better than it “talks”.
 - I have the RF power into the duplexer set to 70 watts (the radio is capable of 100 watts) and do not want to increase as it will stress the amplifier section.
 - My suggestion is to increase the RF power using an external amplifier and operate at 125>150 watts. An amp rated at 250>300 watts is needed.
 - I am trying to get a de-commissioned Motorola amp through my sources – cost free > ~\$500.
 - The next project is to add a local Raspberry Pi based Echolink to the system – this will eliminate the

(current) RF link, provide better audio as well as being integrated so that an Echolink or received signal would have priority – whichever signal arrives at the repeater first.

- A complementary (housekeeping) project is to add remote control and metering capability using a Raspberry Pi with a web server – this would enable a control op full control and metering of the system.
- AC power – I am keeping track of the power used by the 2m repeater operating at my QTH – looking back at September and October, the Motorola repeater uses approximately 3kWh/day. **I'd like to get reimbursed for the power.** There was extensive discussion on why the KW/day was so high; it is due to the engineering specification of a Motorola Repeater. The yeasu repeaters are less costly to operate.
- The most important open Repeater item is the search for a new site. We need a dedicated few that will continue what I started as well as beating the bushes for new possibilities. We do have a couple of long-term opportunities, but we need a few close in options too – either just in case something falls through or if a site may be acceptable for a remote receive site.
- **Bud will be forming a “search committee” more to follow**

- Innovation center: The brakes have been tapped on this opportunity as I am receiving mixed signals as to their plan.
- Stephanie reported that all is well with our website. The blog process is a bit cumbersome but is working well.
- CAPERS blog content is due on November 3rd.
- VE Testing is next scheduled for first Saturday in December. Jon, AJ1U is working on the dates for 2026.
- The next club POTA is in April 2026
 - Our October POTA was also our first “subs and soda” event, and it was well attended. It was suggested that we do this again in May 2026
- The next hamfest is Southington in March of 2026 to continue our fundraising efforts through the sale of donated equipment. The current inventory of equipment will be stored in N2DGT’s shed

Old Business

- Continued planning and discussion on the November SS SSB on Saturday 11/15 from 4-10pm at Ball Pond FD.
 - **A sign-up sheet will be circulated to gauge interest in this operating event.**
 - We will operate with 1 station, the Icom 756p3
 - We will use 1 computer for logging using N1MM
 - We will focus on 80,40 and 20m.
 - We will use the 80/40 skeleton Sleeve
 - We will use a 20m hamstick

New Business

- Ideas and topics needed for the November meeting. Anyone with an idea or presenter should contact Bud W1NSK
- The December meeting will be another Elmers night. POTA and APRS will be some of the short presentations. Other topics are welcome
- **Bud, W1NSK, will be organizing the Christmas Party at the Big Eaters in Danbury in December.**
- John, W1JGM, would like to get a tablecloth with our logo on the front to cover tables at POTA's or Special Event Stations
- Dan, N2DGT, mentioned that there might be an opportunity to do a special event station at the Danbury RR Museum in December

Announcements

- Pasta night is Tuesday 11/18 at 6pm Vespucci Lodge
- ARES SET is Saturday 10/25 in the morning.
- Ham Radio University in Long Island is Saturday 1/10/26

Adjournment

- The next business meeting is scheduled for Monday 12/1 at 7:30 on Teams. This is a change due to Thanksgiving falling on our normal business meeting date

- The next program meeting is Thursday 11/13 at the Stony Hill FD at 7:30
- The meeting was closed at 8:35pm

CARA Treasury Report
October 31, 2025

Income:	Full Member Dues	\$1030
Income:	Interest Income	\$ 306.14
Income:	Donations	\$10
Income:	Sale of Donated EQ (net)	\$628.05
Income:	Club Table at Hamfests	\$3476
Total Income:		\$5450.19

Expense:	PayPal Fees	\$28.46
Expense:	Website/Hosting Fees	\$46.34
Expense:	Repeater Maintenance	\$1719.61
Expense:	Insurance	\$305
Expense:	2022 Hamfest	\$ 50
Expense:	FD Pins	\$77.62
Expense:	Equipment labels	\$57

Total Expense:		\$2284.03
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Net Income for Period		\$3166.16
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Cash: Checking-Unrestricted	\$8156.69
Cash: Checking-Restricted	\$425
Cash: Petty	\$50
Certificates of Deposit-USB	\$10356.29

Total Cash/Investments	Balance:	\$18987.98
Prepaid Field Day Food	\$142	

Number of full members: 58
Associate members: 0
Auxiliary members: 3

CARA Club Information

Officers

President

Bud Kozloff, W1NSK
W1NSK@Hotmail.com

Vice President

John Morelli, W1JGM
w1jgm@w1qi.org

Secretary – Treasurer

John Ahle – W1JMA
w1jma@w1qi.org

Directors:

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

CARA is an IRS 501(C)3 Organization

CARA Mailing Address:

120 Fire Hill Road Ridgefield CT 06877.

CARA CAPERS/Elmer's Corner Blog Moderator

John M Ahle W1JMA
W1jma@w1qi.org

CARA routinely accepts donations of ham radio equipment that will either sell to club members or to the ham radio community at large; Sale proceeds to benefit the operating activities and repeater infrastructure of CARA. Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank You.

CARA VE Testing Information

VE Testing at the Stony Hill Firehouse Rt 6 Bethel.
All sessions are on Saturdays at 11:30 am.

Test takers need to register in advance by emailing ajlu@arrl.net with their name, the test they wish to take, and a contact phone number.

Test Dates

Saturday December 6, 2025

Thanks,
73, Jon Bernon - AJ1U
CARA Volunteer Examiner Session Coordinator

CARA Merch: Update

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

CARA will notify the membership of this opportunity monthly via CAPERS. The motion was seconded and approved. The link to the website is below.
Dan – N2DGT

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



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

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

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

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

*VARA FM and Packet Capable

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

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

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

Send an email inquiry to Harlan Ford – W1QH, Region 5 DEC if you would like to learn more about CT ARES or be added to the distribution for CT ARES announcements and links to CT ARES meetings via TEAMS.

hford01@snet.net

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

APRS Digipeaters operated by CARA Members

144.390

Monitor APRS Activity at APRS.TO or APRS.FI

N1GS-4 West Side of Danbury
W1JMA-10 Ridgefield/Redding Border

KX1EOC-15 New Fairfield- EOC
KR1COM-10 Ridgefield Center- EOC
KB1FYZ-7 West Side of Danbury

