



CARA CAPERS-Lite

February 2026 Issue via our CAPERS Blog

W1JMA Content Editor

Next Program Meeting Thursday 2/12 On TEAMS

Next Club Event: Subs & Soda while we Hunt POTA

Saturday 2/21 Noon to 4pm Ball Pond FD

Winter FD at Ball Pond -SET UP



Operating and gathering 😊





The food was delicious and abundant



Ham Radio University Attendees-January 10th



Presidents Message February 2026

It is now February, and we are in the middle of a New England Winter. Many of us have ALLOT of snow and zero Temperatures or worse.

Focus: Stay Warm.

Good time to Upgrade to General if you're a Tech! Plenty of online classes are available. Or upgrade to Extra if you haven't. Morse Code is a wonderful mode close to an Art Form. It was a "Rite of Passage" years ago as it was a requirement for ALL licenses! For a simple station, CW Mode will go further and be easier to copy than an SSB signal. When I was first licensed, I ran a 75 CW Watt Transmitter with a 60 FT end fed

wire that was only 20 Feet up and worked the world! Code Practice Broadcasts are every day on W1AW if you'd like to work on your code speed. Also Code Proficiency Certificates from ARRL up 40 WPM if you are so inclined. Check the web Site for further details.

We are looking for a Publicity Chair. If this is something you'd like to do let me know.

Additionally, if there is some way you'd like to contribute to CARA either putting together an Event, Program or something you would like to see the Club do, let me know!

Activities are the life blood of clubs. We've had several successful gatherings, the latest for Winter Field Day. Kudos to Susie and Stephanie for the great food they put out for us all! Our next "Event" will be a POTA Hunt at the Ball Pond Fire House on Saturday February 21st from Noon to 4 PM. Bring a sandwich and drink and join us. Operate our station, socialize and have some fun.

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

Our next meeting is Virtual meeting on February 12th. Doors open at 7 and the meeting begins at 7:30. It will feature a presentation on the use of VNA Analyzers. Look for the email with the Meeting Link.

Our Business Meeting via Zoom is on February 12th at 7:30 PM. Look for the email Zoom link to be sent.

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

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

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

Stay Warm and C U on the Air! - Bud W1NSK

VP Message for February

January was one for the books, Coolest temps in years, the most snow in many winters, yet the CARA club has operated Winter Field Day and weekly nets and Elmer sessions, Met for Pasta Dinner and had an enjoyable time. We continue this into February with a hunt for POTA Parks and a “Subs and soda” style lunch. Bring your own lunch and drink event. This will be a simple POTA remote style setup held again at the Ball Pond Fire House, February 21st from 12 to 4. **This is not a Park to Park but a POTA hunt.** It should be fun and allow those who have not hunted or activated POTA. This event is open to all, come and get on the air, and yes, we will be warm inside the firehouse. Further, we will meet at the Amerigo Vespucci Lodge on February 17th 6PM. We will try to give an interesting presentation at each of our Sunday night Elemer sessions on MS Teams. You can join by clicking the link in the weekly E-mail.

Check the Club’s website for winter field day photos and info.

Remember the club offers the MS suite for products including an e-mail account at (your call @ W1QI.ORG). Contact me to get set up. This is no cost to you.

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

Dues are due for 2026, please see the club’s website at www.cararadioclub.org for ways to pay. \$40 dues support the operational expenses of the club.

Stay warm and get on the air. John W1JGM

CARA Business Meeting Minutes-January **Thursday 1/29/26**

- The December Business meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Bud Kozloff, W1NSK, President.
 - There was a quorum: 7 members were present
 - The meeting was held on Teams
- The minutes from the previous meeting as presented in the CAPERS Blog were accepted.
- The Treasurer's report as presented in the CAPERS Blog was accepted
 - 45 members have paid their 2026 dues as of this meeting
 - The interest earned in 2025 on the CD's generated over \$400. Equivalent to 10 members

Committee Reports

- Repeater Committee: Steve W1SMS Chair- was not in attendance but sent an email update:
 - The 2m machine is stable.
 - **At this meeting, the vote to reimburse SMS for electricity was affirmed.**
- There was no update on the website and IT subcommittee
- The next VE test is in March. The website has been updated for the tests in 2026
- The following items were discussed under the activities committee:
 - POTA will begin again in April
 - David KB1ZAC is assigning W1QI calls for the May POTA
- The next hamfest is in Southington in March of 2026 to continue our fundraising efforts through the sale of donated equipment.
The treasurer was asked to send in the table rental fee to SARA. The cost is \$40. *It was requested to set up a sign-up sheet via sign-up genius for help with this hamfest scheduled for Sunday 3/22 in Southington.*

Old Business

- Winter FD was a great success. More than 20 members came out to gather at the Ball Pond FD for the event. The food prepared by Susie and Stephanie was excellent and abundant
- 7 members attended Ham Radio University. The link to the programs is available on the Elmer's blog. Those who went enjoyed the varied programs. CARA had the largest contingent of any CT clubs at the event.
- 2026 is CARA's 80th anniversary.
 - **We decided to have an anniversary dinner at the May big eaters in Danbury**
 - We decided to have a special event station, BBQ and POTA either on
 - Saturday 8/22 or 8/29 at Putnam Park or
 - Saturday 9/12 at Squantz Pond
 - Permission is being sought to use Putnam upper field

New Business

- The February 12th program meeting will be on using the VNA-NANO on TEAMS
- The March 12th Program will be on MARS again using TEAMS
- The April meeting will be an in-person meeting at Stony Hill FD on Test Equipment
- On Saturday 2/21 from Noon to 4pm we will have a get together at Ball Pond FD
 - Subs & Soda while we hunt POTA
 - **Signup sheet being circulated**
 - We will set up a rig and operate 20m
 - Most POTA activity on 20m

Announcements

- Pasta night is on 2/17 at 6pm Vespucci Lodge

Good of the Order

- Microsoft Office 365 is available to CARA members- See W1GJM

Adjournment

- The next program meeting is **Thursday 2/12 on TEAMS at 7:30pm**
- **The next business meeting is Thursday 2/26 on Teams at 7:30pm**
- The meeting was closed at 8:32pm

CARA Treasury Report
January 31, 2026

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Income: | Full Member Dues | \$735 |
| Income: | Interest Income | \$ 0 |
| Income: | Donations | \$0 |
| Income: | Club Table at Hamfests | \$-40 |
| Total Income: | | \$695 |
| Expense: | PayPal Fees | \$20.35 |
| Expense: | Repeater Electricity | \$85.59 |
| Expense: | Insurance | |
| Expense: | Misc Supplies | |
| Expense: | Rent Donation | |
| Total Expense: | | \$105.94 |
| Net Income for Period | | \$589.06 |
| Cash: | Checking-Unrestricted | \$9345.25 |
| Cash: | Checking-Restricted | \$425 |
| Cash: | Petty | \$50 |
| Certificates of Deposit-USB | | \$10425 |
| Total Cash/Investments | | Balance: \$20245.25 |
| Number of full members: | 47 | |
| Associate members: | 0 | |
| Auxiliary members: | 4 | |

CARA Club Information

Officers

President

Bud Kozloff, W1NSK
W1NSK@Hotmail.com

Vice President

John Morelli, W1JGM
w1jgm@w1qi.org

Secretary – Treasurer

John Ahle – W1JMA
w1jma@w1qi.org

Directors:

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

CARA is an IRS 501(C)3 Organization

CARA Mailing Address:

120 Fire Hill Road Ridgefield CT 06877.

CARA CAPERS/Elmer's Corner Blog Moderator

John M Ahle W1JMA
W1jma@w1qi.org

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

CARA VE Testing Information

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

Test takers need to register in advance by emailing aj1u@arrl.net with their name, the test they wish to take, and a contact phone number.

Check the CARA website for the scheduled dates!

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

CARA Merch: Update

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

*VARA FM and Packet Capable

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

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

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

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

hford01@snet.net

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

APRS Digipeaters operated by CARA Members

144.390

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

