



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

**Next Program Meeting Thursday 12/11 Stony Hill FD**

**CARA EVENTS HELD IN NOVEMBER**  
**ARRL November SS SSB**



**David ZAC, John JGM and John JMA setting up the operating station at the Ball Pond FD**

November was our first attempt at running a club contest station for the ARRL Sweepstakes-SSB. We set up an 80/40 skeleton sleeve as an inverted vee from a very tall tree and a 20/15 skeleton sleeve on a push up tripod mast. We operated as Multi operator with one transmitter. Our hours of operation were 4pm to 10pm on Saturday 11/15 with 2 breaks for thunderstorms! We made 57 contacts and many of the operators have not had real contest experience (remember FD is not a contest). Overall, some 15 members came and helped set up, operate and give moral support. Many lessons learned... Next year we will do the same but move our operating times to Sunday afternoon...



**80/40 Skeleton Sleeve in the back tree & 20/15 off tripod**





**David ZAC and Harlan QH opened the contest on 20m**



**Charlie IBR and Stephanie UZC**





***Dan DGT and Matt GCT***



***John JMA and Vic WV1V***

## **Presidents Message**

**Happy Holidays! May there be a new radio in your holiday season!**

The annual CARA Christmas Party is December 18<sup>th</sup> at Anthony's Lake Club in Danbury at 6:00 PM. As of this writing, only 2 seats are left. Contact me if interested.

Our next meeting is at the Stony Hill Firehouse on Rt. 6 in Bethel on December 11. Doors open at 7 and the meeting begins at 7:30. It will feature another Elmer Night subjects including POTA, APRS and a bit about the CARA operating event in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest we will be holding on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM. This is at the Ball Pond Firehouse in New Fairfield. Join us for a bit of operating, radio talk and lunch. Sign up for a one-hour operating slots on the circulating Sign Up Genius.

Our Business Meeting via Zoom is on Monday January 5th 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!

Dues for 2026 will soon be due. They will remain unchanged at \$40/year. Payable via PayPal on our website or of course cash or check.

To all of you and your families, the best of the holiday season and Happy New Year as well!

Bud W1NSK President

### **VP Message**

First, I would wish all a very pleasant and safe Holiday season.

As an organization, we have kept the level of activity high with several events and look forward to continuing through the winter months. The ARRL Sweepstakes contest was a very successful learning event. Many of our members who have never operated a contest before were able to work many stations in their first HF contest. I will say that this contest was not an easy one and everyone jumped in with enthusiasm and came out with additional knowledge and satisfaction of accomplishment. To continue this, we will operate the ARRL 10 Meter Contest as a club station. The contest officially runs from 00h00z Saturday, December 13th till 23h59z Sunday, December 14th. (7pm Friday night till 6:59 Sunday night. **We will operate only on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4PM from the Ball Pond Vol Fire Co...** This should be a fun event and an easier contest to log. You can find the contest rules at [ARRL 10-Meter Contest Rules v1.3b](#) Check it out.

Other activities this month are, CARA Presentation Meeting at Stony Hill Fire Dept, December 11. Doors open at 7PM. We have several subjects planned to include a presentation on APRS and POTA camping.

This month we will celebrate the holidays together at Anthony's Lake club at the Vespucci Lodge December 18<sup>th</sup> 6PM, Reservations required, contact Bud (W1NSK).

Remember this is your club, enjoy it and get on the air.

Wishing all a Safe and Happy Holiday!!

W1JGM VP

**CARA Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday 12/1/ 2025**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by Bud W1NSK, President.
  - There was a quorum: 11 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
  - **The treasurer presented the 2026 budget based on the \$40 dues structure and 50 members. After discussion the budget was approved.**
  - **The treasurer noted that the latest CD was 3.7%.**
  - **The treasurer noted that the 2026 dues collection process will begin in December.**

**Committee Reports**

- Repeater Committee: Steve W1SMS Chair
  - The 2m machine is stable.
  - Equipment removed from Spruce Mountain not needed at this time is in storage in Danbury.
  - 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.
  - The two Yaesu repeaters have yet to be cleaned and repaired.
- Stephanie reported that all is well with our website. **There was discussion about an ARRL Website Contest. Steph will file our website as an entry.**
- CAPERS blog content is due on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was discussion about an ARRL newsletter contest. **It was discussed we should file by January our last 12 CAPERS thru 8/25 in the old format. Someone will have to take this on and file the documents and application form.**
- VE Testing is next scheduled for first Saturday in December. **John W1JMA will contact Jon, AJ1U for the dates in 2026.**
- The next club POTA is in April 2026

- **It was discussed and decided to Operate as a club effort the ARRL 10m Contest on Saturday 12/13 from 10am to 4pm at the Ball Pond FD. We will have one rig and Mike, W8ZY will bring a 10m Yagi. One-hour operating slots will be available from 11am to 4pm after the set up at 10am.**
- 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 is being stored in N2DGT's shed

### **Old Business**

- There was follow up discussion on the club's ARRL Nov SS SSB contest effort. Overall, it was a great success. 14 club members came out to participate. The major take away was to move our effort to Sunday afternoon next year.
- Bud reported there were 16 members and family signed up for the Christmas Dinner on 12/18 at the Vespucci Club. 2 seats remain.

### **New Business**

- The December meeting will be another Elmers night. POTA and APRS will be some of the short presentations. Other topics are welcome
- John W1JGM noted that Jon K1RFD had donated a 2m rig for the APRS project.
- We discussed the Winter FD at the Ball Pond FD the last weekend of January. We will go with the same set up of rig and antennas as we did for the ARRL SS SSB. We will use the N3FJP winter FD logging software which has been installed on the club computer.
- John W1JMA mentioned that he will now allow QRZ log proof for the "Worked all CT counties" award. **He will update the documents and update the website and QRZ page with this information. There was no objection to this change.**

### **Announcements**

- Ham Radio University in Long Island is Saturday 1/10/26



### **Adjournment**

- The next business meeting is scheduled for **Monday 1/5 at 7:30** on Teams. This is a change due to Christmas and New Years falling on our normal business meeting date
- The next program meeting is **Thursday 12/11 at the Stony Hill FD** at 7:30
- The meeting was closed at 8:20pm

### **Approved 2026 Budget**

Category	Amount
Dues Full Member: 50@40	\$ 2,000
Insurance: EQ and Liab	\$ 350
Internet: Web and Domains	\$ 350
Donations to Ball Pond FD	\$ 250
Donation to Stony Hill FD	\$ 150
PayPal Fees	\$ 50
Field Day/Operating Supplies	\$ 200
Misc	\$ 150
Repeater Repairs-Minor	\$ 500
Total Expenses	\$ 2,000
Income/Loss	\$ -

### CARA Treasury Report-November 30, 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	\$3446

**Total Income:** **\$5420.19**

Expense:	PayPal Fees	\$28.46
Expense:	Website/Hosting Fees	\$46.34
Expense:	Repeater Maintenance	\$1385.61
Expense:	Insurance	\$305
Expense:	2022 Hamfest	\$ 50
Expense:	FD Pins	\$77.62
Expense:	Misc Supplies	\$61
Expense:	Rent Donation	\$400

**Total Expense:** **\$2354.03**

**Net Income for Period** **\$3066.16**

Cash: Checking-Unrestricted	\$8056.69
Cash: Checking-Restricted	\$425
Cash: Petty	\$50
Certificates of Deposit-USB	\$10356.29

**Total Cash/Investments** **Balance:** **\$18887.98**

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.

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## CARA VE Testing Information

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

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

### Test Dates

2026 TBD

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

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### CARA Merch: Update

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

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

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



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

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

W1SP-6	LITCCT	Litchfield	145.650	FN31JR
W1SP-7	NHAVCT	Oxford	145.630	FN31JK
W1SP-8	FAIRCT	Bridgeport	145.690	FN31JE
KX1EOC-10	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 ARES DMR Net: DMR repeaters: Sunday @ 8:30 pm

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

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

[hford01@snet.net](mailto:hford01@snet.net)

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

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*APRS Digipeaters operated by CARA Members*

144.390

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

