



# The SinePost

The Monthly Newsletter of the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association



## A Message from the President

### 2014 Officers

#### President

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#### Treasurer

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#### Permanent Trustee

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#### Trustee

Pending Election

#### Trustee

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#### Member at Large

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#### Member at Large

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Webster, MA  
KA1MPG  
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June 2014

Members All...

Half of my year as president of ECARA has already passed and I could not have done it without all of you, thank you!

The turn-out at the QVEC 911 Call Center for our May meeting was awesome. The Woodstock Road Race host gives a "thank you" to all the hams who assisted in the Memorial Day event. Field Day is coming up in just a few weeks and I hope to see all of you at Allen Hill Tree Farm even if just for a short visit. At this month's meeting we will be voting on a replacement trustee for Tom Sansoucy's previously occupied position. This is a six month term.

Catch you on the air!

73's  
Al, K1AGL  
President

### **NEXT MEETING**

**DKH DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE**

**320 Pomfret Street (Route 44) • Putnam,  
Connecticut 06260 • Main Phone: (860) 928-6541**

**Get Directions**

**Monday 7PM, June 9**

ECARA Monthly Meeting 5/12/14 at QVEC

Meeting called to order at 1900hrs.

Attending Members:

K1AGL, Al  
K1CSP, John  
K1DMB, Doug  
K1JSH, Jamie  
K1NLX, Peter  
K1ZE, Ed  
K1KAC, Bill  
KA1MPG, Jon  
KA1MPI, Ron  
KB1DNO, Frankie  
KB1JDX, Vinny  
KB1YZG, John  
KB1ZOW, Brittany  
KB1ZPA, Cathy  
KC1BLH, Tiffany  
KE1LI, Paul  
N1MD, Mike  
N1NNP, Margaret  
N7BEO, Christy  
W1EQ, Bob

Visitors, Guests & Past Members:

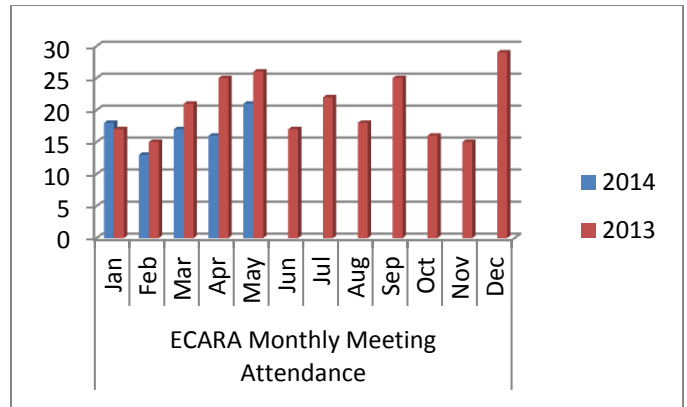
N0FQY, Bill

**Secretary's Report** - Motion made, seconded and carried to accept April club minutes as posted in this month's SinePost.

**Treasure's Report** – Expenses for April: \$50 for state required corporate filing; Receipts for April: \$95 dues. Ending balance \$9,510.41. Motion to accept the report as posted was seconded, and carried.

#### Old Business:

- "Easy-Up" purchase – still nothing done yet
- Field Day status from Jon: everything set to go for June 27-29 at the Allen Hill tree Farm, but porta-potty needs to be ordered and with its drop-off to be the same location as last year; set-up starts at 2PM Friday, 27 June; interference filters to be built (Ed, K1ZE, not able to attend this year); calls to be used are KZ1M and K1MUJ. Ctc: KA1MPG, Jon
- K1AGL, Al, to contact W1INY for Field Day for airing a promotional announcement.
- K1NLX, Pete, to contact the Bulletin to publish a Field Day press release.



- Jog w/Judy report from Jamie: everything went well, 5 operators on hand.
- Reminder that Skywarn class being held on 5/20 at NDDH in Brooklyn.
- Club website is being worked on but numerous reports of no home page visible. Committee (WB1CCL, Lynn; KB1JDX, Vinny; K1JSH, Jamie) to look into this.

#### New Business:

- A reminder that the annual VHF contest on 146.52mHz will be held on 12-14 June. Ctc: KE1LI, Paul
- Motion made, seconded and carried to remove the inactive ECARA Trustee and vote on a replacement at the next meeting. Ctc: K1AGL, Al
- Thompson Day participation by the club was discussed. Vinny reported that last year was very productive in promoting the hobby and the club. Motion made, seconded and carried to pay the \$25 vendor fee by the 1 Sept deadline. Event is scheduled for Sun, 28 Sept, noon-4PM (rain date 5 Oct). Ctc: KB1JDX, Vinny
- Brooklyn Fair was discussed briefly. To date no invitation has been received. Ctc: KB1JDX, Vinny
- Reminder that Angel Ride is still looking for more operators for the 24-25 May event. Ctc: K1JSH, Jamie.
- The Ashford 300th Anniversary Parade was briefly discussed. Jamie to look at offering club resources for safety communications. Event on Sat, 11 Oct. Ctc: K1JSH, Jamie

Good of the order: None

Meeting adjourned at 1947hrs.

A special "thank you" to N7BEO to the homemade coffee bread served after the meeting.

## **Special Report:**

# **Field Day!! How We Did in The “Old Days”**

**by Bob, W1EQ**

As I started to think back to the “old days”, I realized that I would have to ask for some help from two of the “old-timers” of the club; Dave Sarault, N3XF and Ed Shekleton, K1ZE. My first recollection of Field Day (FD) was in the late 60’s. Ed remembers that his first FD was in 1967 and his call, at the time, was WN1HYN. The N, in the call sign, was the designated letter for novice hams.

Field Day was held on property owned by K1MYF, Bill Simmons, Sr. located on North Road in East Killingly. The elevation was excellent and the site was open, so it could get real hot. Ed’s first FD job was getting beer for Kevin, K1VGF and Doug, EI2CN. They were operated 2 meter FM. He does remember helping me set up 20 meter CW in the bus. Yes, the club had a bus, painted blue. I’m not sure of the circumstances that led up to the purchase of the bus. We may have gotten it for free or we spent some of our treasury money that was invested in the stock market. Ed remembers that Ed Sochon, K1DNW and Ted, W1PMR always took 40 CW. And they always argued over who they were working. In the “old days”, we did not use computers. The logging was done on paper. One person filled out the log, and the other filled in the dupe sheet. We used a WWII surplus generator which was 3 phase and the guys had to be careful about loading all 3 phases with different stations. Ed remembers when one operator plugged in an electric fry pan which caused three Drake power supplies to blow up from the surge and that event put all but one station off the air for the rest of that FD. Ed’s duties during the first ten years were on VHF in the bus. At the time the bus was used for the weekly 6 Meter ECHO net. We use to use the 50+ check-ins for FD 6 Meter contacts. Yes, folks, in the old-days the ECHO net and the Flying Saucer net were very active with high numbers of check-ins. Ed remembers that the bus had a propane gas heater but NO pilot. So, if you wanted heat, you went out and turned on the tank and ran back in a threw a match at it before too much propane poured into the bus. Most of those VHF guys had no hair on their arms from failure to do this procedure correctly.

Later, Ed says that John Dority, WA1GBA would bring his camper and they would operate in style. I think that’s when Ed got into the 40 meter business for FD. They put up a 40 meter quad loop between two commercial towers on the property and made 600 contacts on both modes, CW and SSB. The FD record of 1200 contacts on 1 band will never be broken. Ed recollects putting up 2 element

quads with weather balloons. If the wind didn't tear them down, the 80 meter station was king of the hill.

It took 2 ECARA meetings to decide on what kind of beer keg to buy. Dority wanted Michelob and the cheap guys wanted Bud. There was ALWAYS too much beer remaining on Sunday night. We would round up the neighbors and kill the keg. The bus, that was mentioned earlier, traveled to the local fairs and was used to send out MARS messages. The bus finally crapped out and was towed to the dump. Bill, K1MYF, let the club build a shack for the repeater. We lost the FD site when Bill became a SK.

Dave, N3XF, whose call was WA1DWE, remembers that K1MUJ FD operation was the cause of contest rule changes. One example that Dave shared was when one mobile operator would load up his car with FD hams, using their own calls, and drive down the road and have them exchange reports with K1MUJ. A rule was established to eliminate that practice. Also the using of nets, primarily the ECHO net check-ins, also resulted in a rule that outlawed that practice. Dave remembers some of the drinking highlights. Woody, W1OQG, drank a whole can of beer in 3 seconds...still a record that stands. Most of the drinkers were not contest operator, except for Woody, who as he drank more beer, made more contacts. And his CW speed increased. Word has it the K1VGF could hold his own. Dave remembers when he found three operators sleeping in the rain because their tent blew away. They were oblivious to the weather and didn't wake up until 9:00 a.m. He also remembers, as Ed mentioned earlier, that lots of equipment blew up. Someone had strung an 80 meter dipole over the top the 40 meter dipole and the antennas connected.....BOOM!

Finally, in 1964 or 65 and when Dave was a new ham, he went up to the field day site to see what it was all about. He remembers walking into the 80 meter tent and watching this young guy running stations on CW with a Drake 2B receiver and a Viking transmitter. The operator was tuning the club's GPR90 receiver with his foot under the table looking for his next contact. He was logging and doing the dupe sheet by himself. Dave then decided that he wanted to be a contester. The operator was K1ZND, now K1ZZ, Dave Sumner, who is the CEO of the American Radio Relay League.

73's Bob Garceau, W1EQ

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Editor's Note: I really enjoy reading about the earlier days of amateur radio, then, a simpler time of life in my ever-so-humble estimation. As I was posting W1EQ's article above to this SinePost, it brought me back to

my early CW days since I was a novice (KN1NLX) in 1958 (age 13)!!! I do not remember contesting back then (although I might have) as I was usually more interested in just chatting with others. Me, 1958 as a Novice, KN1NLX...



I had a Heathkit transmitter with external VFO and what appears to be a Hammerlund receiver. (left photo)

Earlier, the owner of a local radio store, close by where I grew up, piqued my interest in ham radio after my visiting his store several times. I quickly became a ham and with his help,

built my first 40W 40M CW rig (transmitter) from instructions in a QST?? magazine article he gave me. I entered my proud construction into my 7<sup>th</sup> Grade science fair claiming that I could talk to anyone anywhere in the world with this odd looking device I built. Unfortunately, this did not get me even an honorable mention at that fair. I was devastated! (right photo)



Because the novice ticket only lasted a year back then, I quickly progressed to the next level, which I think was either a Technician or a Conditional Class ticket, perhaps both but not sure at this writing.

After proving to my parents that my interest in this endeavor was serious, I was able to provide enough justification for better equipment: an EF Johnson Viking Challenger 120W transmitter, a National NC109, dual-“superhet” receiver and a three element beam antenna...I was in heaven! (photos below)





In 1962 I apparently abandoned the Morse code mode of communication as I restructured my station but without a comfortable place for the Morse code keyer (the microphone is prominent with the J-38 keyer relegated to the top of the VFO).

When I later attended Windham Regional Technical School in the early 60's I set up my station there as part of an exhibit to promote ham radio (notice the QSL cards), and later started the radio club there. (photo below)

I am grateful to Mr. Grover (W1??), the radio shop owner, for mentoring my interest in ham radio, and my parents for encouragement and support. And lastly,

to all the SinePost contributors for their ability to inform, educate, and inspire through their articles. Maybe it is time for me to go find my vibroflex "bug" code keyer and do some contesting!

If anyone has any early ham radio photos, it would be nice to do a "Way Back When" section in the SinePost if there is any interest.

73s,  
Peter, K1NLX



## **INVITATION:**

by Vinny KB1JDX

### Ham Radio and Solar Power Open House

The Mazzarellas, Vinny KB1JDX and Jana KB1LYF, will be holding an open house on Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup> (tentative) from 10 am to 2 pm. While this will be tailored mostly for new hams, all are welcome. We'll be demonstrating our shack featuring five permanently mounted radios, four computers, security, and antenna system. We'll talk about proper setup of your first Amateur Radio station including power, antennas, and grounding considerations. Finally, you'll get a tour of our completely off-grid solar powered electrical system.



Location is 6 Ruth Street in Danielson, CT. We hope to see any new hams as well as veteran operators show up on Sunday. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

Questions? Please contact Vinny KB1JDX at

[vinny@mazzarellas.net](mailto:vinny@mazzarellas.net) or Jana at [jana@mazzarellas.net](mailto:jana@mazzarellas.net)

## **RECOGNITION:**

At ECARA's April meeting K1NLX, Pete (on left), was given a club logo shirt with personalized call sign by K1AGL, Al (on right) in recognition of Pete's service to the club.



## **Special Report:**

# **ECARA Field Day**

**by Jon, KA1MPG**

Field day is proof ham radio operators are a unique, some might say crazy, bunch of individuals. We enjoy setting up radio stations in a field, and operating for 24 hours straight under often adverse conditions. The field days that stand out most to me are those when the mercury reached over 100 degrees. Those were not pleasant but we still had a great time. The sleep deprivation is not much fun either, however, only the craziest among us operate the entire 24 hours without sleep. Most who attend field day operate for a 2 to 4 hour period.

The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association will set up six complete stations this year. We will need a lot of operators to man these stations. If you can only operate for a couple of hours, that would be a big help. If you have never operated before, we are setting up a GOTA station. GOTA stands for get-on-the-air. This is a station set up specifically for those who have never operated before. There will be a coach to teach you how to operate in a contest such as field day. For those of you who have operated before, but feel you need to improve your contesting skills, the other five stations will be run by experienced testers who will gladly help you improve your contesting skills.

Ed K1ZE will set up a dedicated Morse Code station on the HF bands. Vinny KB1JDX, Phil KB1JQA, and Jana KB1LYF will set up two complete stations: VHF and a 75/160 meters. Mike N1MD will set up a digital mode station. Al K1AGL will run the GOTA station. My dad, Ron KA1MPI, and I will set up a single sideband HF station.

Saturday evening at 6pm we will have our annual pot luck supper. Please make a dish if you can. Dessert items are also needed for the pot luck supper, and to keep the operators fueled during the night. My Field Day Amber Ale is done fermenting, and I will share it with anyone who attends field day. The club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and soda.

I cannot stress how much we need relief operators for all hours of field day. We are very much in need of CW operators because of the passing of Neil N1DGF this past year. Neil was a long time participant at EARA field day. He operated a great many hours every year, mainly CW.



The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association will be holding field day this year at the Allen Hill Tree Farm located at 542 Allen Hill Road in Brooklyn, Connecticut. Setup begins at 2pm Friday, June 27 and will last for many hours into the evening. The contest part of field day begins at 2pm Saturday, June 28 and will end at 2pm Sunday, June 29. Teardown will begin immediately after the contest ends and should take no more than a couple hours. We will need extra help for both the setup and teardown.

73

Jon KA1MPG

2014 ECARA Field Day Chairman

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### **Special Report:**

## **2014 Dayton Hamvention**

**by Bob, W1EQ**

The Dayton Hamvention is the largest in the world. It is held at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. Approximately 25,000 people will attend over the Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning event. There were 120 exhibitors and 700 flea market sites available for browsing. It's not possible to do browse in one day as the flea market, alone, takes a good part of the day to inspect.

I along with Ed, K1ZE and John, K1CSP have been to Dayton a number of times. Doctor Mike, N1MD, had this trip on his bucket list, so this was his first.

We piled into Ed's Subaru at 5:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14. It's a 13 hour drive out to Dayton. Ed, Doc. Mike and John swapped driving duties. I declared myself ineligible because I had reached the age limit for driving to Dayton, 75.

A pretty dull trip, except for driving through 2 areas of a tornado warning in Ohio. We arrived at 7:30 p.m., checked into the hotel and then ate dinner at the Outback restaurant.

We spent all day Thursday, attending Contest University with over 100 attendees. The classes lasted until 5:00 p.m. Dave, N3XF and Brad, NP2B joined us for the day. Explaining what CU is all about would take a couple of articles to the newsletter. Best ways to find out about CU is to Google and check it out. For supper we were supposed to go to Crab Shack, per Dave's instructions, only to find out that the place had closed. I'm embarrassed to say that I forgot where we ended up, but the food was good.

Friday morning, first day of the Hamvention. We arrived at 7:30 a.m. found a parking spot in the handicap section with no problem. It was around 50 degrees, a bit chilly. The flea market opened at 8:00 a.m. and the convention hall at 9:00

p.m. We split up and agreed to meet in Section 21 of the arena. I have included a



picture (left) of the view from Section 21. We browsed, inside and outside and met periodically in Section 21 to compare notes and take a nap. We departed the hamvention at 3:00, and all took a nap in our rooms from 4 – 6:00 p.m. In the evening, we all attended the 160 meter banquet, which featured a speaker from the FT5ZM Amsterdam Island DXpedition. Later we spent a

few hours in the hospitality room sponsored by various contest clubs and watched a splendid performance by a band of hams singing tunes like “Stand by Your Ham” to the beat of “Stand by Your Man”. Very funny!

The Saturday itinerary was the same as Friday. Weather still cold. More walking, resting and napping in Section 21 (photo right). Back to the hotel at 3:00 and a nap for everyone. In the evening, we attend the Contest Dinner. The keynote speaker was Doug Grant, K1DG who is one of the leaders of WRTC 2014. A sobering part of the program is when the master of ceremonies reads the list of the silent keys (SK) who passed away during the past year. Our own N4XR, Victor Paounoff was on the list.



We left at 7:30 a.m. Sunday for the trip back home. It was boring. John taught me how to access EchoLink on my ipad. I couldn't find anybody to talk to so we tested by talking to each other on the K1MUJ repeater via EchoLink...while in the back seat, side by side.

We got back home at 10:30 p.m safe and sound. Great trip! Did we spend any money? I will just speak for myself; I bought an Elecraft SWR bridge. I also, while on the road, bought Ed's Yaesu FT7900 2M/440 mobile radio.

W1EQ, Bob Garceau

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## ECARA Calendar of special events 2014:

Club meetings held every second Monday of each month.

Event	Date	Purpose	Contact/Net Control	Attendance
<del>Executive Meeting</del>	1/20	define direction for year	K1AGL	9 attended
<del>ECARA Breakfast</del>	3/8	Social event, Main St Grille, Putnam 0900	K1AGL	~20 attended
<del>O'Putnam Road Race</del>	3/9	Safety & communications	KB1JDX	11 attended
<del>ECARA Flea Market table set-up</del>	3/14	8PM, St Joseph's church hall, Dayville	K1NLX	~12 attended
<del>ECARA Flea Market</del>	3/15	Club fund raiser	K1NLX	19 vendors 184 entrants
<del>VE Session</del>	3/15	Examination for those needing ham license	KB1JDX	12 examinees
<del>HT Battery Project Part 1</del>	3/28	Refurbish battery packs of older HTs for distribution to new members if needed, BYOB	KE1LI	~10 attended
<del>HT Battery Project Part 2</del>	4/11	Complete project, BYOB, 6:30PM	KE1LI	~10 attended
<del>Jog with Judy</del>	5/3	Safety & communications	K1JSH	5 attended
<del>Sky Warn Class</del>	5/20	NDDH 69 South Main Bklyn: 7-10PM	KB1DGY	All interested hams
<del>Woodstock Road Race</del>	5/26	Safety & communications	KE1LI	6 attended
Ham Station Open House	6/22	Demo of State of the Art Ham Station	KB1JDX	Any ham
ECARA Field Day	6/27-29	Contesting & emergency readiness		Any ham
Deary Road Race	8/9	Safety & communications		TBD
VJ Day Parade	8/10	Safety & communications		TBD
Brooklyn Fair	8/21-24	Promote Ham Radio to public		TBD
ECARA Breakfast	9/TBD	Social event, Main St Grille, Putnam 0900	TBD	Members, family & friends
Annual ECARA Picnic	TBD	Socialization, and business related activities (if any), BYOB & soft drinks		Members, family & friends
ECARA Election of Officers & Xmas Party	12/8	Social & administrative event		Members, family & friends

## Membership Application Form:

Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association Membership Application / Renewal				
<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership; <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Membership		Today's Date:		
If you are already a "Ham", please complete below then the yellow area:	If you are an aspiring "Ham", please complete below then the yellow area:	ADDITIONAL INFO (not required, but helpful)	PLEASE SELECT ONE:	
CALL SIGN:	FIRST & LAST NAME:	YOUR DOB:	<input type="checkbox"/>	INDIVIDUAL (\$20/yr)
LICENSE CLASS:	STREET ADDR:	SPOUSE NAME:	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY (\$30/yr)
HANDLE (nickname):	CITY, STATE, ZIP:	SPOUSE DOB:	<input type="checkbox"/>	SENIOR (\$15/yr)
FIRST YEAR LICENSED: ARRL MEMBER: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		DOM:	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDENT
CURRENT PHONES (home& cell) HOME: CELL:			<input type="checkbox"/>	1 <sup>st</sup> Year ECARA course
CURRENT EMAIL:		Would you like to receive the SinePost? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/>	PROVISIONAL
ECARA Treasurer, PO Box 63 Dayville, CT 06241, Phone # 860 928 5147, Fax # 860 928 3844				