



# The SinePost

The Monthly Newsletter of the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association



## A Message from the President

January 2015

Members All...

Happy New Year, and may 2015 bring you good health and a lot of contacts.

I would like to thank the membership for electing me your President for another year. Please help me in making this a memorable year. I would also like to congratulate this year's newly elected/re-elected officers:

- VP: Vinny KB1JDX
- Sec: Pete K1NLX
- Treas: Frankie KB1DNO
- Trustee (1st of 2yrs): Mike N1MD
- Member at Large (1st of 2yrs): Christy N7BEO

Attention all members with their Tech license! A General Class will be starting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, Contact KB1JDX Vinny if you want to get into the class. Testing will be at our Hamfest in March.

Barring any weather issues after the adjournment of this month's meeting a presentation on DMR radios will be hosted by Ed K1ZE. If you have any ideas or willing to put on a presentation after the monthly meeting please let me or any other officer know.

This is your CLUB. Get involved in your CLUB.

Catch you on the air!

73's

Al, K1AGL

President

### 2015 Officers

#### President

Al Lafleur  
Quinebaug, CT  
K1AGL  
[k1agl@yahoo.com](mailto:k1agl@yahoo.com)

#### Vice President

Vincenzo Mazzarella  
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#### Secretary

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#### Treasurer

Frances Rollinson  
Pomfret Center, CT  
KB1DNO  
[rollinsonf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rollinsonf@sbcglobal.net)

#### Permanent Trustee

Ed Shekleton  
Willington, CT  
K1ZE  
[K1ZE@sbcglobal.net](mailto:K1ZE@sbcglobal.net)

#### Trustee

Dr Mike Therrien  
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N1MD  
[N1MD@arrl.net](mailto:N1MD@arrl.net)

#### Trustee

Phil Mazzarella  
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KB1JQA  
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#### Member at Large

Paul Rollinson  
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#### Member at Large

Christy Johnson  
Danielson, CT  
N7BEO  
[N7BEO@snet.net](mailto:N7BEO@snet.net)

### **NEXT MEETING**

**DKH DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE**

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

**Get Directions**

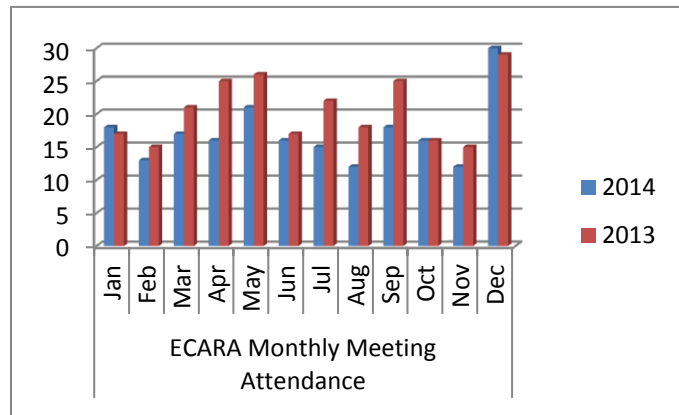
**Monday 7PM, Jan. 12**

ECARA Monthly Meeting 12/8/14 at Classic Pizza Brooklyn  
Meeting called to order at 1850hrs.

Attending Members:

K1AGL, Al  
K1CSP, John  
K1NLX, Peter  
K1VGF, Kevin  
K1WRP, Bill  
K1ZE, Ed  
KA1KAC, Bill  
KA1MPG, Jon  
KA1MPI, Ron  
KB1DNO, Frankie  
KB1JDX, Vinny  
KB1LYF, Jana  
KB1YZG, John  
KB1ZOW, Brittany  
KC1CUR, Ken  
KE1LI, Paul  
KT1NG, Tad  
N1MD, Mike  
N1NNP, Mimi  
N1XAE, Ray  
N7BEO, Christy

Visitors, Guests & Past Members: KC1CVO, W1UJ,  
KB1WRN, Jean, Suzon, Gail, Doris, Pat, Kye



K1AGL presiding. Quorum established to conduct business.

#### Secretary's Report:

Correction to November Old Business: "The March ECARA flea market is set for Saturday, 15 Mar"; should read: "14 March".

Motion made to accept November minutes as corrected and as published in the December SinePost, seconded and carried.

#### Treasure's Report:

Beginning Balance: \$8552.90; Deposits - dues \$68.83 (less PayPal fees); Expenses - Brooklyn Fair ticket reimbursements \$40; Ending Balance: \$8581.73. Motion made to accept November's Treasurer's Report was seconded and carried.

By Executive Order with Pres, VP, Sec & Treas a decision was made for the club to pay the gratuity on all party meals, less those for alcoholic beverages, as a gesture of appreciation for those attending the club party and business meeting.

#### Old Business:

- N1XAE (Ray), N1ASP (Jesse) & KC1CMG (Phil) welcomed as new members of the club.
- Fleamarket flyers have been published and are available at the next several club meetings for members to take and distribute. Ctc: K1NLX

#### New Business:

- Secretary requested authorization to purchase:
  - Book of 1<sup>st</sup> Class postage stamps - \$9.80
  - USPS 5lb postage digital scale - \$24.99
  - Mobile field desk for use at meetings - \$69.50 (Duluth Trading)
 Durable goods to be added to club inventory. Motion made, accepted & carried.
- KA1MPG (Jon) volunteered to be this year's field day chairperson.
- Motion made to send a Hank's Restaurant gift card to owners of Allen Hill Tree Farm in appreciation for use of their property for 2014 field day. Card to be in same amount of past gift (\$100). Accepted and carried.
- Dues amounts for 2015 discussed. Motion made to keep dues same as 2014, carried & accepted.
- List for club membership badges for new members & existing members who have yet to receive one will be generated and ordered now that the Technician class has been completed. Motion officially made to do above, accepted & carried. Ctc: KB1DNO
- Final nominations were made and closed for the following executive positions:
  - President - K1AGL
  - VP - KB1JDX
  - Secretary - K1NLX
  - Treasurer - KB1DNO
  - Trustee (1st yr) - N1MD
  - MLG (1st yr) - N7BEO, KA1MPG
- Voting conducted with the following being elected/re-elected:
  - President - K1AGL
  - VP - KB1JDX
  - Secretary - K1NLX
  - Treasurer - KB1DNO
  - Trustee (1st yr) - N1MD
  - MLG (1st yr) - N7BEO

Good of the order: General Class coming up in mid-January for those technicians who are interested in advancing their licensing privileges. Ctc: KB1JDX

Meeting adjourned at 1927hrs.

A special “thank you” to all those who made the time to attend the club’s Christmas party at Classic Pizza in Brooklyn...we all had a great time!

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### **General Class:**

By KB1JDX – an open invitation

ECARA is excited to announce our first ever (or in a really long time) General license class!! This has been many years in the making with a lot of push from Al K1AGL. :) This is the second level of Ham Radio license and gives you privileges on all the HF bands (if you haven't gotten the first, let me know that you are interested and I'll follow up with you on that). The class itself is free but the study material will cost around \$25 (we'll be ordering in bulk, more to follow for those that register). The class will be held at the [Barnstormers Contest Group](#) in East Killingly and starts on January 14th.

Below is the link to register:

[General Class Sign Up](#)



**! General Class Sign Up**  
Please enter the information below to sign up for the Ham Radio General class starting on January 14th, 2015 in Killingly, CT. The classes typically run for 8 conse...  
[View on docs.google.com](#) Preview by Yahoo

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### **Yesu FTR60r Review:**

By KA1MPG

The Yeasu FT-60R is a dual band handheld FM transceiver. This radio operates on 2 meters and 440 MHz. The output power on both bands is 5 watts with the supplied battery. This radio is compact and it is also rugged.

Yesu made the FT-60R easy to program. I was able to program memories for regular repeater operation without consulting the manual. After briefly consulting the manual I was able to program in CTCSS frequencies and non standard repeater offsets. Yeasu does offer easy to use software and a USB cable for \$40 so you can use a computer to program the memories.



Even though the radio is easy to program it has 1,000 memories. The cable and software will speed up the process.

The display, keypad, and knobs on the FT-60R are just the right size despite the radio's compact size. The FT-60R comes equipped with a 1400 mAh NiMH battery which lasts a long time. You should have no trouble operating a lengthy public service event with one battery. If you want to purchase additional batteries they sell for \$36. The receive audio and transmit audio are excellent. I have only one complaint about the radio and it is a small one. The radio has an SMA antenna connector instead of a BNC connector. You can purchase an SMA to BNC adapter for \$9.

For the price the Yeasu FT-60R is packed with so many features. The most impressive feature is 1000 memory channels. Few handhelds have that many memories. The memories are arranged into banks of 100 and you can store offsets and CTCSS frequencies along with names for memory channels. There are many different scanning modes and 50 pairs of memories just to define frequency ranges you want to scan. The FT-60R has an extended receive frequency range. It can receive from 108 MHz to 520 MHz and 700 MHz to 999MHz. There are so many other features such as the ability to program the radio to receive only if a given CTSCC frequency is used and an emergency beacon feature.

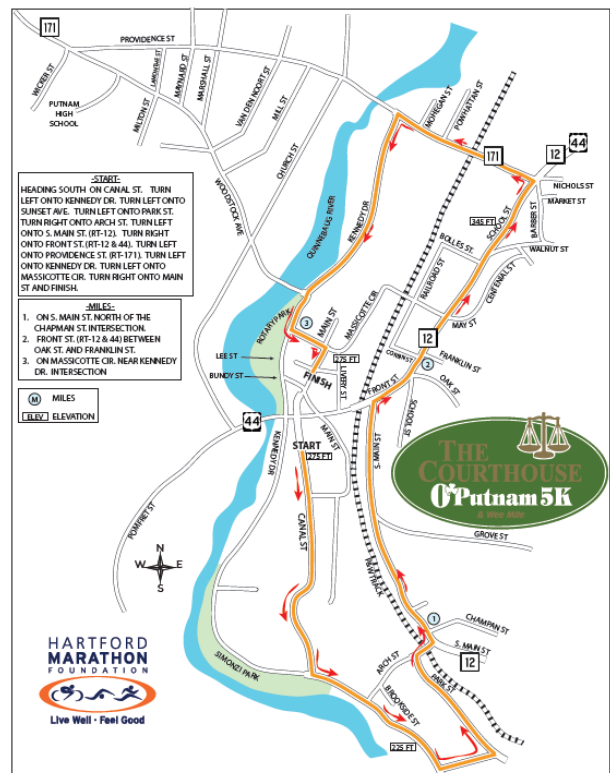
The Yeasu FT-60R sells for \$149. Considering the features, performance, and quality of this radio it is well worth the money.

## O'Putnam Road Race: By KB1JDX

The O'Putnam 5k Road Race is on Sunday, 15 March, the day after our fleamarket, Saturday, 14 March,

The race begins at 1230. We will need 5-6 operators and we would probably want to be in position for around 11. Meet on the 147.225 (K1MUJ) repeater around 11 and deploy from there.

Click here for details:  
[O'Putnam Official Website](#)



## **DMR Presentation Overview:**

By K1ZE

DMR (**D**igital **M**obile **R**adio) is based on a worldwide digital standard just like Packet and RTTY/PSK. The standard was developed by radio users and manufacturers. It can transport (carry) voice and low speed data. Amateur use of DMR was slow to catch on as the only available commercial radios were very expensive (for us hams). In the last year a company called Connect Systems, Inc. started importing a DMR radio for under \$200. We hams, being dollar frugal, jumped on the chance to experience a new mode for a lesser price than the expensive commercial radios. Sort of like the cheap Chinese hand-helds most of us use now. Fifty dollars for a hand held radio was unheard of just a few years ago. Yes, they work. Yes, they have helped new hams get on the air. So the CSI CS-700 has done the same to Digital Mobile Radio. Now there is an explosion of DMR repeaters and users.

At this presentation I hope to show ECARA attendees how other Connecticut clubs have jumped at the chance to install DMR repeaters for their club use. I'll go into the history behind Connecticut's entry into DMR and how we adjusted the rules to help emergency communications in this state, plus a whole lot of techie stuff just to possibly bore you. DMR can be thought of linked repeaters on Steroids. CU Monday, 12 January, at the regular ECARA meeting.

(The DMR presentation is currently scheduled to take place immediately after the club business meeting for those interested in attending. – editor)

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## **US Virgin Islands DX-pedition:**

By K1ZE

We will have to get W1EQ to give his presentation on his first trip to KP2 USVI. It was very informative...and funny. USVI are 3 islands that are US territories. On the island of St. Croix there are 3 houses for weekly rent with radios and antennas already set up. For ham radio all you need is swim suit, shorts and sunscreen (bug spray is good too)!



This year, W1EQ was unable to be the third Musketeer so Dave, N3XF, and I went alone. Dave is ex-WA1DWE originally from Danielson but now lives in western PA (we went to Killingly High School together in our much younger years). We flew down to play in the ARRL 10M contest. This is a very fun contest. There are lots of hams on St. Croix and we are members of the radio club there, too (see above pix).

The house I rent has a 30ft crank up tower with a 3 element beam on top. We also put up a Hexxbeam to include 17M and 12M for playing during the week. The house also has 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, and a salt water pool for creature comfort.



Average temp during our stay was 85deg...every day, and just a 10deg cooler at night. Above pix is of the hexx-beam. It has 5 bands in one antenna (20M thru 10M with 17m and 12m, too).

We did quite well in the low power category. Just the radio. No additional amplifiers. We made almost 2400 QSOs (contacts) and both of us got a good night's sleep as the 10M band died at night. We operated 2 hour shifts during the contest with the off operator spending time in the pool. Certainly not Field Day conditions.

It is always fun to hook up with the local hams while on island and they are all very helpful. All are involved with USVI emergency management as they are the communicators during hurricanes; just like ECARA supports Connecticut Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES).

Always a fun trip. Wives and/or girlfriends spend the weekend at the beach while the guys play radio contest.

## ECARA Calendar of special events 2015:

Club meetings held every second Monday of each month.

Event	Date	Purpose	Contact/Net Control	Attendance
Executive Meeting	Jan TBD	define direction for year	K1AGL	
ECARA Breakfast	Mar TBD	Social event, Main St Grille, Putnam 0900	KE1LI	
ECARA Flea Market table set-up	3/13	8PM, St Joseph's church hall, Dayville	K1NLX	
ECARA Flea Market	3/14	Club fund raiser	K1NLX	
VE Session	3/14	Examination for those needing ham license	KB1JDX	
O'Putnam Road Race	3/15	Safety & communications	KB1JDX	
Jog with Judy	May	Safety & communications	TBD	
Sky Warn Class	Unk	NDDH 69 South Main Bklyn: 7-10PM	TBD	
Woodstock Road Race	May	Safety & communications	TBD	
ECARA Field Day	Jun	Contesting & emergency readiness		
Deary Road Race	Aug	Safety & communications	KB1JDX	
VJ Day Parade	Aug	Safety & communications	KB1JDX	
Brooklyn Fair	Aug	Promote Ham Radio to public	KB1JDX	
Annual ECARA Picnic	Sep	Socialization, and business related activities (if any), BYOB & soft drinks	TBD	
Thompson Community Day	Sep	Promote Ham Radio to public	KB1JDX	
Monthly meeting at QVEC	Oct	Monthly business agenda at 911 facility	K1AGL	
ECARA Breakfast	Oct	Social event, Main St Grille, Putnam 0900	KE1LI	
ARRL 2015 Simulated Emergency Test (SET)	Nov	Exercise in emergency communications	N1CLV	
ECARA Election of Officers & Xmas Party	Dec	Social & administrative event	K1NLX	

# 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
HOME:	CURRENT PHONES (home& cell) 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				