



# The SinePost

The Monthly Newsletter of the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association



## A Message from the President

June 2015

### 2015 Officers

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#### Member at Large

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Members All...

June is finally starting to feel like summer...at least it is not SNOWING!

Thanks to the members that worked the Angel Ride event; and also to Paul, KE1LI, FOR SETTING UP AND RUNNING net control as well as to the operators that handled the check points for the Woodstock 10K Road Race (Woodstock has their own version of Heart Break Hill).

Field Day will be here in a few weeks. Are you making plans to come out and contact the world? It sounds like we will be a 5A classification, and K1ZM will be the call station with the K1MUJ call for the GOTA station.

The DMR repeater is now On the Air!

I hope everybody can make it to the June meeting, and to the Field Day event (2 weeks later)!

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 8<sup>th</sup>**

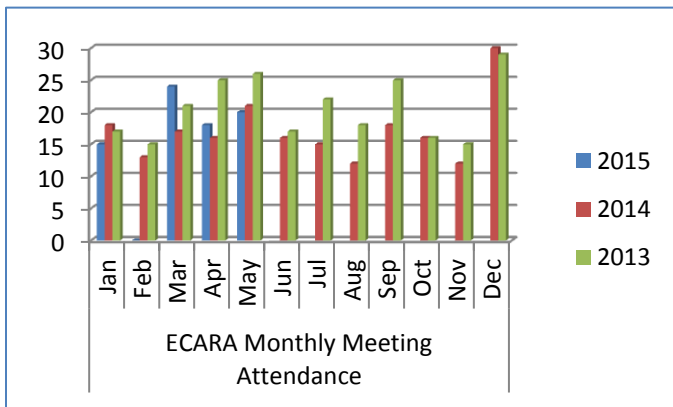
ECARA Monthly Meeting 5/11/15 at DKH, Putnam.

Meeting called to order at 1908hrs.

Attending Members:

K1AGL, Al  
K1CSP, John  
K1DVM, John  
K1NLX, Peter  
K1VGF, Kevin  
K1ZE, Ed  
KA0ERL, Ken  
KA1KAC, Bill  
KA1MPG, Jon  
KA1MPI, Ron  
KB1DNO, Frankie  
KB1JDX, Vinny  
KC1BLH, Tiffany  
KC1BLI, Bob  
KE1LI, Paul  
N1NNP, Margaret  
N1XAE, Ray  
N7BEO, Christy  
W1EQ, Bob  
W1YFF, Bob

Visitors, Guests & Past Members: none



K1AGL presiding. Quorum established to conduct business.

**Secretary's Report:**

Motion made to accept April minutes as published in the May SinePost; seconded and carried.

**Treasure's Report:**

Beginning Balance: \$9262.99; Deposits – none; Expenses – digital repeater \$1810.00; Ending Balance: \$7452.99. Motion made to accept the April Treasurer's Report; seconded and carried.

**Old Business:**

- Discussion on, and status of equipment on South Killingly (SK ) tower site. It was proposed that the simplex packet radio be left in service and that the packet repeater be "re-crystallized" (change of frequency) as a backup to the K1MUJ repeater. The cost for the re-crystallizing is \$100.

The repeater would then be added to the existing combiner. Motion made to authorize \$100 for the re-crystallizing, seconded and carried.

- Name badges were made available at the meeting for those members needing to claim. Unclaimed badges will be mailed after field day in June. Ctc: KB1DNO
- The Jog w/Judy event on May 2<sup>nd</sup> went very well. A sufficient number of operators were available for all posts. Ctc: KB1JDX
- Last month it was proposed that some token of appreciation be given to NDDH for frequently allowing the club to use their convenient facility for license classes and licensing examinations. KB1JDX discussed with NDDH and learned that a class on setting up the radios (go kits) would be beneficial. Also, it was proposed by club membership a permanent antenna be installed on the building; a brief discussion ensued. KB1JDX to further investigate. Ctc: KB1JDX

**New Business:**

- K1AGL provided and demonstrated new field day signs for the event.
- Nothing heard from the Rail to Trail event. KE1LI to follow up.
- A reminder that Sky Warn training is at Ashford Town Hall 7-10PM tomorrow.
- Reminder that the Woodstock 10K Road Race is on Mon., 25 May (Memorial Day). Meet at the commons at 8:30AM, or on the net same time. Ctc: KE1LI
- Angel Ride secured permission to use the K1MUJ repeater for the event on Sun., 24 May.
- Discussion on public service announcements (PSA). The ARRL has PSAs for field day, K1AGL played one for the meeting to hear. Discussion followed about customizing for ECARA, forwarding to WINY, posting on the club web site, and adding to the SinePost. A motion made to implement the above, seconded and carried. Ctc: K1AGL
- KA1MPG gave an update on plans for this year's field day event at the Allen Hill Tree Farm. Set-up will be on Friday, 26 Jun at 2PM. Potluck dinner will be on Sat., 27 Jun at 6PM. He will be writing and article for publicity, and give to W1EQ for publishing. Also, invitations to selected public officials will be generated. KZ1M will be used for the field day call sign, and K1MUJ for the GOTA kit. Please let him know what food is being brought to the dinner. The requisite porta-potty was discussed. A motion was made to authorize KE1LI an NTE amount of \$150 to order, seconded and carried. Ctc: KA1MPG
- A motion was made to authorize up to \$20 for office supplies needed by club secretary, seconded and carried.
- K1DVM, John voted in as new member. Welcome aboard, John!!!

Good of the order: none

Meeting adjourned at 1950hrs.

## What is Field Day?

By KA1MPG



Amateur Radio has proven time and again it is the only form of communication that is truly reliable whenever there is a major disaster such as a hurricane or earthquake.

Emergency communications and ham radio are nearly synonymous. To become proficient in emergency communications takes practice.

That is what field day is all about. Every year approximately 30,000 Ham Radio operators gather at remote field day locations across the country to simulate conditions encountered after a major disaster. They practice their emergency communications skills and test their equipment under adverse conditions. At each remote location ham radio clubs setup complete stations where no facilities exist and power them using emergency power. These stations include radios, antennas, computers, and coax cables. Each station needs some sort of shelter such as a tent or a trailer. Some clubs setup as many as twenty stations. The ECARA will set five or six stations this year.



To make things more interesting for everyone field day is a contest. Each station tries to work as many other stations as possible during a 24 hour period while exchanging information with them. During emergencies ham radio operators very often relay information for different disaster agencies, usually under a great deal of

pressure, and under adverse conditions. The contest portion of field day simulates this relaying of information.

Field day has become a huge social event for ham radio clubs. More than twenty people usually attend ECARA field day each year. They gather, socialize, and have fun when they are not operating. Some spend the entire 24 hours at the field day site but most spend a few hours. I have made many close friendships during field days.

Saturday evening during field day there is always a potluck supper at 6 PM. If you would like to bring a dish or a dessert item please do so. The club always purchases hamburgers, hotdogs, and soda for those that attend. Every year I brew a batch of beer and share it with everyone. This year I made an American Cream Ale which will be perfect for warm summer weather.



The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association is always in need of relief operators. We try to keep all of the stations running for as much of the 24 hours as possible. If you can only operate for an hour or two that would be a big help. We will need help with setup which begins at 2 PM Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>.

If you have never operated before, field day is the perfect opportunity to do so. We will be running a “Get on the Air” station just for hams who have never operated. If you would like to improve your contesting and emergency communications skills there are plenty of experienced hams who will be more than willing to help you.

The ECARA is setting up field day at the Allen Hill Farm at 542 Allen Hill Road in Brooklyn, Connecticut. The contest begins 2 PM Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> and runs for 24 hours.

## Woodstock Memorial Day Road Race

By KE1LI

On May, 25th, Memorial Day, ECARA was once again asked to assist in the 35th running of the Woodstock Memorial Day Road race.

The route takes runners through the pastoral vistas of Woodstock only to end the last mile of this 10K race with a steep uphill climb on Child Hill Road.

The weather was good for the race with temperatures in the mid 60's at the start. The record field of 220 participants started promptly at 9:05 and the last runner crossed the finish line at 10:30 (ISH).

ECARA deployed to each mile marker and provided information along the course back to the finish line announcer. There were no incidents to report and the winning time was 34:50.

Many thanks to:

Christy, N7BEO & Pete, K1NLX Mile marker 1

John, KB1YZG Mile marker 2

Vin, KB1JDX and Jana, KB1LYF Mile marker 3

Al, K1AGL Mile marker 4

Bill, KA1KAC and YL, Ev Mile marker 5

And Frankie, KB1DNO Mile marker 6.

Without your help, my job as net control gets a lot more difficult.

I would like to ask some of the new hams to get involved in these events. We are always trying to grow our pool of operators that are trained in providing these services to the events we get involved with. They are fairly easy and a minimal commitment in time. And, in a lot of cases...FUN!

Don't be shy...step up and volunteer when the next event rolls around. As a new worker, you will be paired up with a veteran so you can learn the process.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the long week and remembered why we celebrate Memorial Day.

73,

Paul, KE1LI

## ECARA Calendar of special events 2015:

Club meetings held every second Monday of each month.

Event	Date	Purpose	Contact/Net Control	Attendance
Executive Meeting	Feb 2	define direction for year	K1AGL	Cancelled
ECARA Breakfast #1	TBD	Social event, Main St Grille, Putnam 0900	KE1LI	Members, family & friends
<del>ECARA Flea Market table set-up</del>	3/13	8PM, St Joseph's church hall, Dayville	K1NLX	10 attended
<del>ECARA Flea Market</del>	3/14	Club fund raiser	K1NLX	~150 attended
<del>VE Session</del>	3/14	Examination for those needing ham license	KB1JDX	~1 doz attended
<del>O'Putnam Road Race</del>	3/15	Safety & communications	KB1JDX	At least 5 attended
<del>Monthly meeting at QVEC</del>	4/13	Monthly business agenda at 911 facility	K1AGL	18 attended
<del>Jog with Judy</del>	5/2	Safety & communications	KB1DNO	5 attended
<del>Sky Warn Class</del>	5/12	Storm spotting & reporting, Ashford Town Hall 7-10PM	KB1JDX	Numerous attended
<del>Woodstock Road Race</del>	5/25	Safety & communications	KE1LI	10 attended
ECARA Field Day	6/26-28	Contesting & emergency readiness	KA1MPG	Members, family & friends, community
Deary Road Race	8/8	Safety & communications	KB1JDX	
VJ Day Parade	8/9	Safety & communications	KB1JDX	
Brooklyn Fair	8/27-30	Promote Ham Radio to public	KB1JDX	
Annual ECARA Picnic	Sep	Socialization, and business related activities (if any), BYOB & soft drinks	TBD	Members, family & friends
Thompson Community Day	Sep	Promote Ham Radio to public	KB1JDX	
Monthly meeting at QVEC	Oct	Monthly business agenda at 911 facility	K1AGL	Members, guests & visitors
ECARA Breakfast #2	Oct	Social event, Main St Grille, Putnam 0900	TBD	Members, family & friends
ARRL 2015 Simulated Emergency Test (SET)	Nov	Exercise in emergency communications	N1CLV	
ECARA Election of Officers & Xmas Party	Dec	Social & administrative event	K1NLX	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
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				