



The SinePost

The Monthly Newsletter of the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association



A Message from the President

2020 Officers

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March 2020

Hello Members and Associates of ECARA,

We had an informative business meeting at Day Kimball Hospital on February 10th. At the meeting I spoke about some of the things I want to get accomplished for the year. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to form some committees for specific subject/events. The committees that I mentioned at the meeting were Flea Market Committee, Emergency Communications Committee, Field Day Committee, a Contest committee, and Equipment /Repeater committee. We managed to form the Flea Market Committee that consists of Jon Fournier (KA1MPG), Ron Fournier (KA1MPI) and Margaret Fournier(N1NNP). I will also help out with the various committees. Thank you for volunteering.

I am still looking for volunteers for the other committees. Please pick an aspect of amateur radio you enjoy and volunteer for that committee. Success is achieved if what you're doing isn't a chore but something you enjoy. For the contest people out there, I hope to set up an antenna at the farm in Thompson on a permanent basis and participate in some contests there. This will provide an opportunity for new hams to experience operating in a contest and relying on the contesters to show their abilities to the newcomers. At the meeting we had the opportunity to meet the new ARES Area 4 representative Tim Rodgers KC1TWR. Tim is from the Groton area and is replacing Vinny (KB1JDX). Tim has joined ECARA and has introduced himself to the group as our ARES representative. Tim is very active in amateur radio and belongs to several other clubs. Welcome Tim.

We met Tom Walsh KC1GGP from Dudley, Ma. Tom attended the February meeting and is becoming a member. Tom is an active ham who primarily operates HF. Welcome Tom.

Tables are going fast for the ECARA Flea Market on Sunday April 26, 2020 at the Raceway Restaurant at Thompson Speedway. This year we also got permission to have outside vendors who wish to tailgate sell. If you need a table, contact Jon Fournier KA1MPG@arrl.net. Bill KA1KAC and I attended the Algonquin Amateur Radio Flea Market in Marlboro, Ma. We passed out flyers for our flea market. Several people indicated that they would be there. The March meeting is Monday March 9, 2020. It will be a dinner meeting at the Golden Greek Restaurant 474 Putnam Pike Dayville, Ct. If you plan on eating get there around 6PM. A brief meeting will follow dinner at about 7PM. If you have a name tag with your call sign on it please wear it to the meeting to help new members learn who everyone is. Hope to see you there.

73, John Szamocki K1CSP

**Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 10, 2020
7:00pm Day Kimball Hospital Conference Room**

Present: John Szamocki (k1csp),
Bill Grovesteen (ka1kac),
John Jacobi (kb1yzg),
Frank Swatland (n1ars),
Frankie Rollinson (kb1dno),
Paul Rollinson (ke1li),
Ron Fournier (ka1mpi),
Margaret Fournier (n1nnp),
Jon Fournier (ka1mpg),
Peter Johnson (k1nlx),
Mike Therrien (n1md),
Ed Shekelton (k1ze),
Eli Iturrino (k1qm)

Also Present (Prospective Members):

Tim Rogers (kc1twr) New Region 4 South Co-Ord,
Tom Walsh (kc1ggp)

- 1) **Call to Order:** John Szamocki called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Old Business:

- 2) **Secretary Report:** (John Turner not present due to vacation)
- 3) John Szamocki indicated that some did not receive Sign Post. He stressed a team effort concept which would then be reported back to the group. John S. recommended that committee's should be formed that included a Contesting Committee, Field Day Committee, Field Repeater and Equipment Committee, and Flea Market Committee.
- 4) John S. indicated that the approval of funds was made for the Thompson Flea Market slated for April 26, 2020.
- 5) A motion was made by Paul Rollinson to accept the January Minutes and was seconded by John Jacobi. Minutes were approved.
- 6) The Treasurer Report was given by Treasurer Frankie Rollison, and accepted.
- 7) Ed Shekelton was willing to coordinate thru Vinny Mazarella for a VE Session at the upcoming Thompson Ham Radio Flea Market. Ed felt he had enough VE's for the task.
- 8) John S. indicated that he was made aware that a Dipole Antenna wire at the DK Hospital Dipole was now disconnected and free to the elements. Paul R. stated he would check that status with the Hospital point of contact.

New Business:

- 1) Jog with Judy Road Race will be held on May 2, 2020 at 10:00am in Woodstock. Eli Iturrino agreed to be Net Control and John S./John T. will provide the radio suitcase go-kit gear and

assist as was done last year. Eli will coordinate all further plans for that effort. Frankie Rollinson stated that she might assist.

- 2) Paul R. mentioned that our assistance is also required for the Woodstock Memorial Day Road Race. He asked for volunteers for that effort and stated that we can email him if interested.
- 3) John S. indicated that Dinner Meetings at the Golden Greek are now scheduled for March and May.

NEXT MEETING



Golden Greek Restaurant

474 Putnam Pike • Dayville, CT 06241

**Monday 6PM, Dinner,
Meeting at 7PM March 9th**

Getting on 33 CM / 900 Mhz FM simplex.

Our ham band at 902 Mhz or 33CM is from 902.0 to 928.0 Mhz. It is a HUGE band of frequencies for amateurs. Imagine having all the spectrum from 2 Mhz to 28 Mhz available to play in! We need to "Use it or lose it" as the 5G cellular platform being planned needs large amounts of spectrum to provide high speed wide band signals. It is a shared band and hams are secondary users. The National calling frequency for 902 (think 146.52 Mhz Simplex) is 927.5 Mhz. Out West some states are not allowed to use that frequency and shift up to 927.6 / .7 / .8 Mhz to avoid the primary users.

For years the hams active on 902 have been crowded down around 902.1 Mhz for CW / SSB / etc with transverters the only way to get on the band. I use a 144 Mhz radio as an IF with a transverter to multiply the signals to 902.1 Mhz for SSB and CW. There isn't much activity except for VHF contests or a big tropo band opening. There are beacon stations that run continuous CW so we can check out our antennas and receivers up there. It isn't a cheap way to be QRV on 902 Mhz.

WOSKY.COM , Sky from Colorado, has been selling surplus commercial Kenwood TK-981 FM radios online programmed for the FM Simplex frequencies of 927.5/.6/.7/.8 Mhz. He is running out and only has a few left. And the price doubled, too! Was around \$70 but now \$110 for the newest radios. The newest radios put out 30 watts and are delivered with mobile mount, microphone and power cord. I cut off the Kenwood power plug and installed PowerPoles. Antenna connector is a N female connector. My radio puts out 18 watts and is an older model. Well worn but works well. You may be able to find the Kenwood TK-981 elsewhere on-line or on E-Bay.

KE1LI has been helping club members to get outfitted on the VHF bands and encouraging them to go mobile during the VHF contests. This radio adds another band easily to the existing 6, 2, 440 bands most of us already have. FM is easy because being channelized eliminates the problem of having to tune around to find each other. Very important when mobile.

Also important for newer hams. If all you have is a scanner, program 927.500 Mhz in and you may be able to hear us.

There will have to be an antenna build night before the June VHF contest. WA5VJB has a site called Cheap Yagis. The yagi antennas are made on a wood or PVC boom with copper house wire elements. Very easy to build. You will need good coax like LMR-400 as coax losses at 902 Mhz are very high for normal RG-8 type cables. Other options are Quagi antennas or worst case verticals. Maybe one of each!! Verticals are used with 902 Mhz repeaters but most hams in the VHF contests only have horizontally polarized beams. Lots of lost signals if one person uses a vertical antenna and the other end uses horizontal.

You may be able to talk to VHF contest stations on hilltops in June and September. W2SZ on Mt. Greylock, Mass should be easy to hear from hills in Windham County using 927.500 Mhz.

Hope to hear you on 927.500 Mhz. 73 Ed K1ZE



Fox Hunting

In an effort to rekindle the love of Fox Hunting, RASON, together with SCRAMS and Tri-City Radio Clubs are anticipating training and hunting events. Likely sometime upcoming in April or May in Norwich, I intend to start with a short presentation Chip -n1mie- and I created some years ago, followed by a tape measure 2m antenna building party, complete with antenna analyzers and all that fancy soldering stuff! Once this date has been settled on I will send out an equipment list and instructions for you to look over. You can use this antenna to transmit on for Field Day or portable operations as well!

This will be followed by another day, most likely at Mohegan Park in Norwich, where I hope you will bring your new antennas and whatever equipment you use to share and exhibit. Bring everything! My plan is to have three foxes. The first will be visible at the other end of the field where you can play with your new antennas, and everyone can help everyone else to see how they work when you try different things. Once we are comfortable with that, I will turn on the second fox which will still be in the area, but hidden from view to try your new found or rusty skills.

I expect a lunch break, hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill, perhaps a pot luck of salads and desserts? Bring drinks.

Then there will be fox number three! This one will be somewhere else close by. Team up and work together to find it!

My first fox hunt was at ECARA years ago, and I was bitten. All of our clubs were heavily invested in fox hunting for years, and I still enjoy doing this today.

Club presidents, please make sure a copy of this gets to SCRAMS and Tri-City, any other clubs I missed, and anyone else you feel may be interested, maybe the Civil Air Patrol group. I need you Fox Hunting Champions to come help with this!

Please contact me, Chuck Newman -na1cn- at ka1cqr@yahoo.com with your interest and good and bad dates. Saturday's for both sessions are nearly mandatory for me.

For those also interested, there is a public group at [CTFOXHUNTER@groups.io](https://groups.io/g/CTFOXHUNTER). Paul -n1tup- has been putting out a fox in the wild in the Manchester area since the beginning of the year and leaves it out for about a week or so until it is time to feed him fresh batteries. This fox has been very wily. Keep an eye on that group for the frequency and PL information with status and hints for it.

Bestest 73's's
Charles A. Newman -NA1CN-

17 Thomas Avenue
Norwich, CT 06360
(508)826-3458
grid FN31wm
EchoLink Node 711268
DMR 3109399

Note from the editor: I'm assisting Vinny in publishing the monthly Sinepost. The learning curve is pretty steep so if I've made some mistakes, I hope to correct them in the future.

73, Paul, KE1LI

For Sale:

Kenwood TS-940S HF transceiver w/500kc cw filter, manuals - near mint electrically and physically. 1 owner/nonsmoker/never used portable. Steal at \$675.

Heathkit SB-221 2 KW HF amplifier works/looks like new. Expertly wired. Extra 3-500Z. \$775.

Heathkit HW-8 QRP rig. Manual, expertly wired - works perfectly \$175.

Heathkit DX-100 and HX-10 Marauder transmitters, nice/dynamite AM rigs. Make offer.

Swan 500 HF transceiver and matching 117c power supply. Worked when last powered up. \$175

Contact Bob/KR1U at oldradiodoc@gmail.com or 860-928-2628.

Lightly used QTY KT-8900R 2/440 mobile, complete.

I'm selling for a friend (non-ham) take bought a used car with this installed.

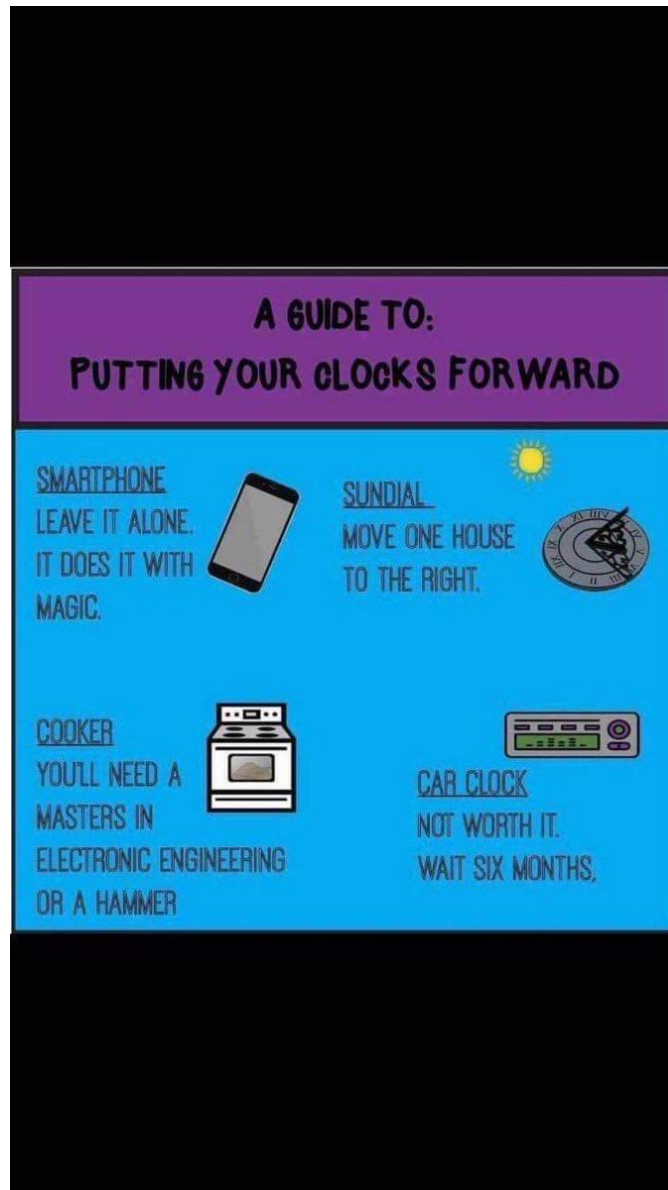
Comes complete with stubby antenna.

\$75, contact me for additional details. Paul, KE1II

paulrollinson@sbcglobal.net, 860928-5147



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead Saturday Night.



ECARA Nets

Windham County Weather Net	Wednesdays – 8 PM	147.225/R
ARES Net	Wednesdays – 8:15 PM	147.225/R
Flying Saucer Net	Thursdays – 9 PM	28.475 USB

AMATEUR RADIO FLEA MARKET

Sunday

April 26, 2020

8 AM to 12 PM

RAIN OR SHINE

ADMISSION: \$3.00 DONATION

TO BENEFIT: Eastern Conn. Amateur Radio Assoc.

(Previously The Pomfret Hamfest)

**Raceway Restaurant at Thompson Speedway
205 East Thompson Rd, Thompson CT 06277**

Tables are \$15 each. Please reserve in advance

VE test session, Limited spaces available, Must Pre-register

For more information and table reservations
contact Jon KA1MPG at KA1MPG@arrl.net or 508 943-4467
WWW.ECARA.NET

Talk in on 147.225 Mhz PL 156.7

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 st 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				

Event	Date	Purpose	Contact/Net Control	Attendance
O'Putnam Road Race	15-Mar	Safety & Communications		
Hamfest	28-Apr	Annual flea market and VE Session	KA1MPG	
Jog with Judy	2-May	Safety & Communications	K1QM	
Radio in the Park	3-May	Social and "Get on the Air" event at Wolf Den	KB1JDX	
Woodstock Road Race	25-May	Safety & Communications	KE1LI	
ECARA Field Day	6/22/2023	Contesting & emergency readiness	KA1MPG	
Kid's Day	June	Demonstration and promote Amateur Radio services to youth	K1CSP	
Annual ECARA picnic	August	Socialization, and business related activities (if any), BYOB & soft drinks	TBD	Members, family & friends
DKH 5K Road Race	August	Safety & Communications	KB1JDX	
VJ Day Parade	August	Safety & Communications	KB1JDX	
Brooklyn Fair	August	Promote Ham Radio to public	KB1JDX	
Harvester 5K Road Race	September	Safety & Communications	TBD	
Thompson Community Day	October	Promote Ham Radio to public	KB1JDX	
Woodstock Road Race	October	Safety & Communications	TBD	
BSA JOTA	TBD	Demonstration and promote Amateur Radio services to youth	K1CSP	
Dazzle Light Parade	November	Safety & Communications	TBD	

