

# The SinePost

The Monthly Newsletter of the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association

November 2022

## A Message from the President

Greetings Fellow ECARA Members!

As we get to the end of 2022 I'd like to say it's been a pleasure to complete my first year as president of the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association (ECARA). As a relative newcomer to the area I don't know all of our members and area hams that well yet, but I'm working on it. For those who don't know, I grew up in East Hartford (EHHS '75). I started in Amateur Radio in 1976 when I was a teenage DJ at WHUS at UConn and the station's Chief Engineer Mike Staines, WM1KE (then WA1PTC), now an SK, became my Elmer and close friend. I was licensed as a Technician (WA1YUA) in the olde days when you had to pass a Morse code exam and a written test. After more than a dozen years of on-and-off activity, in 1989 I joined the Middlesex Amateur Radio Society/Connecticut Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MARS/CARES) club in Portland, CT, which operates the W1EDH repeater and packet system, and I served several years as its president. I also worked at ARRL HQ in Newington from 1989-1995 as Features Editor for *QST* Magazine. In 1991 I upgraded to Amateur Extra class (yep, I had to pass the 20 WPM Morse code test, too) and became a VE. Nowadays in addition to my "real job" as a database programmer, I'm the silly Sunday morning DJ on WINY, so you get to hear my babbling every week on 222 meters AM and 3.08 meters FM.

I'm also currently vice president of MARS/CARES and I'd like to see both clubs I want everyone in ECARA to know that you are warmly welcome to participate in any of that club's activities, and to subscribe to their email reflector (<https://groups.io/g/w1edh>), and I have informed the MARS/CARES folks that we'd love to have them join ECARA events, too.

When I moved to Pomfret in 2018 the first local ham I met was Paul Rollinson, KE1LI. I happened to be casually operating mobile (rover) in the September 2018 VHF contest and I heard him loud and clear on 3 bands, with his bazillion element antennas. I told him I

was from Pomfret he asked where I lived, it turned out we were neighbors about ½ mile apart and he invited me over and we became good friends. Not only did he help me hang up a G5RV antenna in my yard, he invited me to get involved with ECARA. I've had a lot of fun getting to know the gang, participating in our banquets, picnics, Field Day, hamfests, the Woodstock Memorial Day 10K, nets, and so on. And, of course, getting suckered into...I mean, encouraged to serve as president last winter.

We seem to be getting back to normal after the pandemic, and it's nice to have a chance to socialize and take part in operating activities. I hope we continue to have a vibrant, active club and to be involved in more community service opportunities. It looks like we have some fun club projects, with antennas and towers to tinker with, a new trailer, and so on. I would like to see us look into helping to recruit new people as hams, new club members and to provide VE sessions. I'm also putting out feelers to try to arrange some informational programs at our meetings, like Digital For Dummies (to teach those of us who know very little about DMR, D-STAR, Winlink, etc) and possibly someone to do a demo on satellite operation (MARS/CARES has a couple of satellite enthusiasts with portable equipment). And other ideas for special presentations are welcome!

By the way, if you have not yet done so, please subscribe to the ECARA reflector at [https://groups.io/g/ecara-reflector/](https://groups.io/g/ecara-reflector) so you can be sure not to miss any messages or announcements.

Remember, we have to organize a Nominating Committee for 2023 officers and decide what equipment we want to request grant money for, to go into the trailer. My boss at WINY, Gary Osbrey, also welcomes ECARA to assist again this year at the Holiday Dazzle Light Parade in Putnam the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 27. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting November 14 at the Municipal Complex in Putnam and at our holiday party at Classic Pizza in Brooklyn on December 12. Bring family, friends, new hams, neighbors, strangers, etc...

*Happy Holidays and 73!*

Brian Battles WS1O

ECARA President

## SECRETARY REPORT

October 10, 2022

Meeting was held at East Putnam Fire Station

Members Present: John Turner-K1JFT, John Szamocki-K1CSP, Jon Fournier-KA1MPI, Ron Fournier-KA1MPG, Margaret Fournier-N1NNP, John Jacobi-KB1YZG, Brian Battles-WS1O, Mark Harrison-AC1CP, Frankie Rollinson-KB1DNO, Paul Rollinson-KE1LI, Karen Carr-KC1GRH, Bill Grovesteen-KA1KAC, Michael Gardner-K1MLG, Marshall Gohn-KC1QXV, Ed Shekleton-K1ZE, Richard Kopplin-KF6UX.

Club President Brian Battles opened the meeting at 1915 hours and asked for a summary of the Secretary's report for the March 2022 meeting. Secretary Turner advised no meeting was held in September as only three members were present. No meeting in August due to the club picnic.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Frankie Rollinson reported the club account balance for October 10, 2022, was 8252.71.

### OLD BUSINESS

Frankie had suggested at the last meeting that a gift card in the amount of 100.00 dollars be given to both Steve Gawron and his friend Chelsea for providing the field day site and cooking the dinner for members participating in the event. Motion made to vote on it during discussion of new business.

Treasurer's Report- Treasurer Frankie Rollinson stated the current balance for the club account was 8,252.71.

## NEW BUSINESS

John Turner advised that the State of Connecticut is looking at training several CERT teams for the Northeast Connecticut area. These classes are approximately 26 hours long and cover subject matters such as Emergency communication, first aid, search and rescue, disaster preparation, etc. This would give the local jurisdictions access to trained individuals willing to help during a major incident. The proposal was discussed and it was determined that when more information on available training became known it would be given out to the membership to see who would be interested in participating in the certification.

John Turner presented a proposal for purchasing a 7 by 14-foot trailer that was owned by the South Killingly Fire Department. The trailer is currently owned by Chuck Kelleher of QVEC. He is looking to sell it for 3000.00 dollars. The trailer is in good condition and would be set up as a mobile communication center. A motion was made to purchase the trailer by Brian Battles and it was approved with a vote of 13 in favor and 3 opposed. John Turner and John Szamocki agreed to assist in purchasing and registering the trailer for club use.

John Szamocki presented a proposal for ECARA membership to be extended to GMRS License holders. John Szamocki currently runs the Stateline GMRS radio repeater with a tower in Dudley, Ma. and Killingly, Ct. This is a closed system that currently has approximately sixty members. GMRS License holders could become associate members under the by-laws. Associate members would be charged ten dollars yearly for dues. A discussion was held, and the membership agreed to allow GRMS License holders into the club as associate members.

John Szamocki and Paul Rollinson dropped off a 52-foot crank-up tower to the Gawron Farm where we currently hold our Field Day exercise. This tower could be permanently mounted on the site for use by members on any day other than Field Day. It was agreed that in the spring of 2023 the club would plan to permanently construct the tower on the farm.

Brian Battles discussed preparations for the Christmas party and the membership agreed to check out two venues. The first venue would be the crossing restaurant in Putnam, Ct. and the second would be the Golden Greek in Dayville, Ct. Paul Rollinson volunteered to check with both facilities and secure a location for the party.

John Fournier stated that he would contact Thompson Speedway and secure the location for the ECARA flea market in April.

Brian Battles stated that next month would be the nomination of club officers so a vote could be taken during the December meeting.

Voting in of new members. Two new members were voted into the club;

Mark Harrison-AC1CP of Webster, Ma.

Bruce Byberg- W2LTA of Woodstock, Ct.

Jon Fournier brought up starting up the SINEPOST newsletter that had been suspended. Jon offered to take over the writing and distribution of the newsletter. The membership agreed to this offer.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2020 hours

## November 2022 Club meeting

The Monthly ECARA business meeting is Monday, November 14, at 7 PM at the New Putnam Town Hall located at 200 School Street

## Christmas Party – December Meeting

The 2022 ECARA Christmas Party will be Monday December 12th at Classic Pizza in Brooklyn Ct. The Start time is 6 pm. The address is 597 Providence Rd Brooklyn, CT .