



February 2025

Edited by Brian Battles WS1O

ECARA OFFICERS 2025

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web site: <http://www.ecara.net/>

Repeaters

K1MUJ	147.225 MHz (input +600)	CTCSS 156.7 Hz	Brooklyn, CT
DMR	444.800 MHz	CC1 CT ARES	Brooklyn, CT
DMR Net	KZ1M		South Killingly, CT

Weekly Thursday Night Nets

7:00 PM	ECARA Emergency Net	K1MUJ 147.225 MHz 2-meter repeater
9:00 PM	Flying Saucer Net	28.475 MHz USB

Here's the latest ECARA News...

President's Message

By Brian Battles WS1O

Welcome to the February 2025 edition of the *Sinepost*, ECARA's monthly newsletter.

So far we've gotten off to a great start this year. Innovation is happening; we are trying some new activities. In January we had a good turnout for ECARA's first time participating in Winter Field Day, we had several operators and we welcomed two guests, Terry and Rhondalee, members of the Northeastern CT CERT Team, who each made their first on-air ham radio QSO....we expect them to obtain their licenses soon!

We were joined on the Thursday night net by several members of the Middlesex Amateur Radio Society/Connecticut Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MARS/CARES), who were operating their new Echolink setup, connecting the W1EDH repeater in Glastonbury (147.09 MHz) to K1MUJ. There are a few minor things to be worked out, but it was great to hear about a half dozen MARS/CARES club members check into the ECARA net. Let's hope we can keep this as a regular thing. And please be listening for the MARS/CARES Monday night net at 7:30 PM if the Echolink is up and running.

There was club participation in the ARRL January VHF Contest, too. I was joined again by Ron N1LSJ to operate as a Rover and made contacts in 4 grid squares using SSB and FT8. Paul KE1LI hosted his usual multioperator effort, and some other members joined the fray.

Congratulations to ARRL New England Division Director Tom Frenaye K1KI on his election victory, Tom returns to that position after holding it for many years in the past. On February 1 Tom hosted an informative Zoom video conference that was attended by many amateurs including me and a couple of other ECARA members.

Several ECARA members have gotten online with Discord and we've been able to chit chat back and forth. If you haven't done so, install the Discord app on your smart phone or table or log in from your computer and join the fun! (By the way, MARS/CARES also has a Discord server you can join (W1EDH) and you can get info about the club on their web site.)

If you haven't done so already, please join the ECARA club email reflector; sign up at ecara-reflector+subscribe@groups.io (link also on the ECARA web site). Check your email regularly to watch for club news and information.

Another reminder that there are plans to hold another Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course in April or May of 2025. Please consider expanding your local community service efforts to include participation in the Northeastern CT CERT Team, which is sponsored by FEMA, Emergency Management and the Department of Homeland Security. It's an interesting and worthwhile training course, and all interested citizens are encouraged to participate. CERT has a lot in common with the Amateur Radio community service activity, with additional in-depth training in basic first aid, search and rescue, traffic, emergency protocols and organization, and more. It's not a huge commitment, there are a few events and drills each year, and it could be critical to be able to lend a hand if we are ever faced with a serious emergency. Training is free, and the NE CERT Team holds periodical drills and is called in to serve at local events, parades, demonstrations, fairs, exercises and so on. ECARA's John Turner K1JFT, who is with Putnam Emergency Management and is the NE CT CERT team leader; let him know if you're interested in taking part!

At the least, here are a few fun things to keep in mind if you haven't already been doing them. Put these on your calendar...or since it's 2025, set reminders on your smartphone:

- Take 5 or 10 minutes each Thursday evening at 7 to check in to the ECARA 2-meter Emergency Net on K1MUJ.

- Come to the regular club meeting at the East Putnam Fire Department, the second Monday of the month at 7 PM.
- ARRL Field Day 2025 is June 28-29 at Gawron Farm in Thompson.

If you haven't paid yet, please submit your annual club dues for 2025 (just \$20). Pay at the next meeting, or you can pay on line via PayPal, look for the link on the club web site at <http://www.ecara.net/> When you pay via PayPal, remember to include a couple extra dollars to cover the fee PayPal charges!

And once again this reminder: We urge you to send in *Sinepost* article contributions. Send along any information or ideas of interest to the club or the general Amateur Radio community. Please email your contributions to brian@brianbattles.com

73

Brian WS1O

Technician License Training Course

Coordinated by Ed Shekleton K1ZE

Chapter 1

Chapter 2 Signals K1ZE

Chapter 3 Electricity KA1MPG??

Chapter 4 Antennas W1UJ

Chapter 5/6 Radio gear KB1JDX?

Chapter 7/8 Regulations K1CSP?

Chapter 9 Safety

So far about 4 people have attended the first class and we hope more may attend, and that all who have begun the course will complete it and obtain their FCC Amateur Radio licenses in April. Classes are held on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM at the East Putnam Fire Department on Providence Pike.

For more info get in touch Ed Shekleton K1ZE...he's also easy to reach any Thursday night on the 10-meter Flying Saucer Net!

Secretary's Report (minutes) ECARA Monthly Business Meeting January 13, 2025

As transcribed by Ron Kimball N1LSJ, Secretary.

Opened at 7:02 PM at the East Putnam CT Firehouse

With President Brian WS1O presiding.

Members Present:

Brian WS1O President

John K1CSP Vice President

Ron N1LSJ Secretary

Dick KF6UX Treasurer

John KC1WFD

John K1JFT

John K1CSP

Michael K1MLG

John KB1YZG

Bill KA1KAC

Karen KC1GRH

Paul KE1LI

Frankie KB1DNO

Marshall AC1TA

Ed K1ZE

Rob KB1RS

James KC1UYZ

Norm KC1UWL

Glenn KC1VGS
Jeff W1QL
Brent KC1SJA
Johnathan W1JAS

The Secretary's report for December 9, 2024 was read and accepted.

The Treasurer's annual report was read and accepted.

Beginning balance \$4,840.42

Income: Dues \$793.31, Sale of donated equipment \$650, Hamfest \$1,017, \$300 Donation

Expenses: Motor Vehicle Tax 69.78, Ladder for trailer \$101.01, Field Day \$648.30

Connectors \$30, State filing \$50, Liability Insurance \$300, PO Box Rent \$72

Copying \$111.64

Ending balance \$6218

Paul KE1LI will fix the 2 band antenna at Gawron Farm

The ARRL January VHF contest is January 18-19

Winter Field Day is January 24, we will operate at Gawron Farm in Thompson (our usual summer Field Day site)

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 10 at 6 PM, Pizza will be provided, courtesy of ARRL CT Section Emergency Coordinator Phil Crombie, K1XFC

A new CERT class will start on March 5 and run for 3 weeks on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

A new weekly Technician license class will start on February 5 and run to April 2.

There will be a VE exam session on April 2.

We agreed to be at a 4H event in July.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM

Next Meeting

February 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the East Putnam Fire Department on Providence Pike. Note that we're starting an hour early because of the pizza party! Our regular business meeting will be called to order at 7:00 PM.

73 To All!