



November 2024

Edited by Brian Battles WS1O

ECARA OFFICERS

President	Paul Rollinson KE1LI	Paulrollinson@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Ron N1LSJ	roadranger@gmail.com
Treasurer	Frankie KB1DNO	rollinsonf@sbcglobal.net
Trustee	Mike K1MLG	
Member At Large	John KB1YZG	jdmjacobi@snet.net
Member At Large	Margaret N1NNP	
Trustee	Karen KC1GRH	carrkaren@hotmail.com
Permanent Trustee	Ed K1ZE	K1ze@sbcglobal.net

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...

By Brian Battles WS10

Welcome to the November 2024 edition of the *Sinepost*, ECARA's monthly newsletter. I've accepted the position of editor starting with this issue, and I hope you enjoy reading it. We would like to thank Jon Fournier KA1MPG, for several years of service editing and distributing the *Sinepost*, and for his efforts helping to coordinate the ECARA Field Day activities, hamfests and other work he has performed for the club. We also wish he and his family, Ron KA1MPI, and Margaret N1NNP, the best with their recent concerns.

All members are strongly encouraged to join the ECARA club email reflector, if you haven't already please 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. We're also working on setting a Discord server for the club; in the meantime you might want to get familiar with Discord at discord.com and install their app on your smartphone.

The club will be offering free Amateur Radio training classes including FCC license preparation starting in February 2025, please spread the word far and wide! We'll be making printed flyers available for you to help distribute wherever you work, shop, attend school, or anywhere else you go.

There are plans to hold another Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course in 2025. Last year several ECARA members became sworn-in and certified members of 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. We had a great turnout of ECARA members and other local hams for the 2024 training course, CERT and Amateur Radio go hand in hand, and attract a lot of the same service-minded people. About 28 of your neighbors completed the local CERT course in Putnam in 2024 and several have gone on to get their ham radio licenses as well, and some are now new members of ECARA—welcome! CERT has a lot in common with the Amateur Radio community service activity you've probably already been a part of, with additional in-depth training in basic first aid, search and rescue, traffic, emergency protocols and organization, and more. 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, organized the class in 2024; let him know if you're interested in taking part!

Keep in mind that the main purpose of ECARA is participation in Amateur Radio activities. This includes attending our monthly meetings, Field Day every June, checking into the weekly Thursday night nets, helping out at parades, public events, walkathons, marathons, bikeathons, fairs, emergency drills, club picnics and holiday parties, teaching training classes, assisting at hamfests, and any other activity the club offers. None of these are possible if you don't take part. For example, almost everyone in the club is licensed and equipped to operate on 2-meter FM. So take 10 minutes each Thursday evening at 7 to check in to the ECARA Emergency Net on K1MUJ. There's nothing to it, and it helps support the club's readiness capability, and helps show the community and the government that Amateur Radio is active and important. Please try to come to the regular club meeting at the East Putnam Fire Department, the second Monday of the month at 7 PM, we need you to take part in the club's business affairs and we enjoy socializing with our fellow members, this is how many of us became friends! Make sure you come out to Field Day the fourth full weekend of June every year at Gawron Farm in Thompson, we have a great time on and off the air, and great food, too. And there are plenty of other fun and rewarding events. Let's all step up our level of participation as we head into 2025. Maybe we'll even be able to recruit some new members, especially some fresh young blood! Don't sit back and let the same 2 or 3 people run every club event; most of our activities don't require an inordinate amount of effort if several members pitch in, and you can help prevent the people who seem to do everything from getting burned out if you raise your hand and help. Please be an active member, not just a call sign on a roster!

One way you can play an important role is right here in this newsletter. We enthusiastically welcome *Sinepost* article contributions from ECARA members or any other people who have information or ideas of interest to the club or the general Amateur Radio community. Even if you've never tried to write any sort of article in your life, everyone has

something to say...tell about an event, a project, a reminiscence from your past, how you got started, a ham radio friend, Elmer or beloved Silent Key you want to tell about, something you'd like to see happen in the future, pictures, cartoons, drawings...anything, we want to hear from you! Please email your contributions to brian@brianbattles.com

President's Message

By Paul Rollinson KE1LI

I hope this one and only President's message finds you well. At the November meeting I was elected as President to finish the term vacated by Brian AA1NN In October. This was per the existing bylaws and was necessary to complete the annual club business. My last meeting as President will be the holiday meeting on Dec-9. This meeting will be a dinner meeting at Woodstock Tavern, 35 CT-171 in Woodstock CT. at 6 PM. They are opening for us, so please try to make this meeting to support the club and this local business.

The only business I plan on addressing is the election of 2025 officers, unless something else is pending. This will be more of a social gathering.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian AA1NN for his efforts in revising the club bylaws. I know that he spent many hours on this project and he has laid the ground work for others to hopefully follow and build upon. Change never takes place quickly. There were questions about the revised bylaws and direction of the club that came to light during the October meeting. These are still unresolved, and I hope the next administration will be addressing this.

Enough club business....

I've been trying to work on my station prepping for yet another VHF contest in January. I looked at previous results and I hope to better them. All of you can help, and also test your station, weather its at home, mobile or portable. Yes, there are scores, but you don't have to submit one to participate. This really is testing your capability to communicate without assistance of repeaters on the VHF band. And you can schedule the attempt. Locally, there are only a few that participate, but anyone with an HT, 6/2/222/and 432 mainly, can try. I don't know of anyone in the club who can't get on at least one of these frequencies, FM. If I worked half of the club membership on at least one band, I would shatter my score of previous years. We also combine these contacts and compete in the local club category which we won in June of 2024 😊 . If you need help, please ask me now. With winter pending, it only gets more difficult to work outside on projects. I will be posting more as we get closer to the event.

Have a great Holiday season! May it be a time of gathering and enjoying family and friends. And I hope to see most of you on December 9 at the dinner party.

73

Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA) Horse Event

By Brian Horne N1BAM

On November 17 ECARA supported the Bay State Trail Riders association with their event at the old Thompson Raceway. This event was a series of trails and loops that totaled between 5 and 8 miles. This was a trail ride for horses, and not a

timed event like a 5k is. They were expecting 20-30 horses, but with the help of the nice weather they ended up getting 72 horses and riders for the event.

This event had a few unique challenges, there was no set start time or numbered bibs that we usually have on similar events. Riders would head out when they wanted and ride the trails in different ways adding loops or turning around mid-trail. Our role was to monitor and report back any safety concerns on the course, especially because this area is popular with dirt bikes. To do this, we tracked different horses by their outfits or their saddle blankets. We had "Orange Ears", "Pink Blanket", and "Hi-Viz Green leg wraps", which made for a more entertaining way to track than standard runner bibs.

We were concerned with the two crossings of East Thompson Rd. Luckily, we had constables and hams posted there, and that allowed all horses to cross successfully. As Net Control I was able to keep count on the number of horses on the far side of East Thompson Road as a way to monitor that they all made it back safely by using the check-ins from the posts. Another concern was vehicles on course since the roads weren't closed. We stationed posts along the other road crossings as well as blind corners to monitor and alert riders and cars or each other.

The event ran from 9 AM until just before 1 PM, there were 10 hams helping out, spread out along the course (including 2 first-time hams), we used the ECARA command trailer for Net Control.

They are a super friendly group (they fed us very well) and were extremely happy with the level of communication and support we were able to provide. This event happens every 6 months with the next event tentatively scheduled for May 18.

A huge thank you for the hams who helped me make this a successful event:

John K1CSP
Steve KB1VDL
John K1JFT
Elaine KC1UXE
Joe KB1MDF
Cindy KB1QCZ
Virgina KC1TCL
Marshall AC1TA
Grant KC1OMA
Brian N1BAM

From Valerie Clark BSTRA:

Thanks for all the assistance the ECARA club provided this past Sunday for the BSTRA event! We had a fabulous turnout, as you may have heard--77 riders! The weather was beautiful and there were lots of smiling faces and very happy horses too.

Having the communications and safety assistance was absolutely beneficial. I don't think BSTRA could have anticipated such a large number of participants. This was certainly a record for the Thompson ride!

We fortunately had no horse-related safety issues, but were clearly well-prepared for the possibility with ECARA and the Town constables and emergency management team here.

What was interesting to me, that I learned after Sunday's ride, was what may have been a preventative effect of ECARA's presence. Apparently, from the information shared with me by a friend, there was quite a bit of "chatter" on some Facebook pages frequented by ATV users that they were concerned about the visible presence Sunday along Baker Road of DEEP officials. If having ECARA here served to cut down on the dangerous activity that we often see on Baker Road, all to the good in my opinion! Many, many thanks for your assistance Sunday. We absolutely appreciate it! If anyone wants

to pencil in some 2025 dates and ECARA is interested in coming back to Thompson, I'm hoping to schedule rides here for May 18, 2025 and November 16, 2025! I'd love to do this again.

Secretary's Report (minutes) ECARA Monthly Business Meeting October 14, 2024

(as transcribed by Ron Kimball N1LSJ)

Opened at 7:03 PM at the East Putnam CT Firehouse with President Brian Savulis AC1NN presiding.

Members Present:

Brian Savulis	AC1NN	President
Ron Kimball	N1LSJ	Secretary
Frankie Rollinson	KB1DNO	Treasurer
Brian Battles	WS1O	
Bill Grovesteen	KA1KAC	
James Walker	KC1UYZ	
Glenn Fontaine	KC1VGS	
Tom Frenaye	K1KI	
Dave Whitney	KC1UXG	
Dick Kopplin	KF6UX	
Angie Henrichon	KB1UWC	
John Beck	KC1WFD	
Mike Gardner	K1MLG	
John Turner	K1JFT	
John Szamocki	K1CSP	
Elaine Turner	KC1UXE	
Ed Shekleton	K1ZE	
Marshal Gohn	KC1QXU	<i>(now AC1TA)</i>
Karen Carr	KC1GRH	
Paul Rollinson	KE1LI	

Former ARRL New England Division Director Tom Frenaye K1KI addressed the club for about an hour on his candidacy for ARRL New England Division Director.

Ed K1ZE spoke in support of the incumbent Fred Kemmer AB1OC, who is running for reelection.

The Secretary's report for July as posted in the *Sinepost* was accepted.

The Treasurer reported that August's beginning balance was \$5,957.08.

Since then we have received a \$300 donation from Brian AC1NN for the liability insurance, dues of \$71.67, and \$600 from the sale of donated equipment from one of our SKs, for a total of \$971.67.

We spent 19.68 for excise tax on the trailer, \$30 for connectors, \$50 for legal filing for the State of CT, \$200 for two gift cards for our Field Day hosts, \$300 for liability insurance, \$72 for our PO box rental, and \$111.64 for copying - for total expenses of 4783.32.

Our ending balance is \$6,145.43.

This report was accepted.

We discussed the latest proposed revisions to our bylaws, at which time some members questioned the text of the new proposed bylaws, and others whether they were needed, at which point Brian AC1NN resigned his membership and office as president and left the meeting.

Ron N1LSJ took over running the meeting at 8:30 as the highest-ranking officer in attendance. We will elect a new interim President at the next meeting.

We discussed a new Technician license training class to start the first Wednesday in February.

The Amateur Radio Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is Saturday, October 26, at 9:30 AM on the K1MUJ repeater. Please check in. There may be deployments to EOCs etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Secretary's Report (minutes) ECARA Monthly Business Meeting November 11, 2024

(as transcribed by Ron Kimball N1LSJ)

Opened at 7:03 PM at the East Putnam CT Firehouse with Secretary Ron Kimball N1LSJ presiding.

Members Present:

Ron Kimball	N1LSJ	Secretary
Frankie Rollinson	KB1DNO	Treasurer
Brian Battles	WS1O	
Bill Grovesteen	KA1KAC	
James Walker	KC1UYZ	
Dick Kopplin	KF6UX	
Angie Henrichon	KB1UWC	
John Beck	KC1WFD	
Mike Gardner	K1MLG	
John Turner	K1JFT	
John Szamocki	K1CSP	
Elaine Turner	KC1UXE	
Ed Shekleton	K1ZE	
Marshal Gohn	AC1TA	
Karen Carr	KC1GRH	
Paul Rollinson	KE1LI	
Brent Smith-Bussey	KC1JSA	
Mark Duplisea	KC1TPF	

We elected Paul KE1LI as interim President. He took over running the meeting.

The Secretary's report for October was read and accepted.

The Treasurer reported that October's beginning balance was \$6,145.43.

Since then we received dues of \$58.93

Ending balance is 6,204.36 .

This report was accepted.

We will try to do another Technician course starting the first Wednesday in February.

We voted to hold our Christmas party on December 9 at the Midway in Ashford at 6 PM. 74 Ashford Center Rd, Ashford, CT 06278

We voted to require people paying dues using PayPal to also pay the 3.5% PayPal fee.

Brian WS1O will be taking over the *Sinepost*. Please send him reports on our activities.

2025 Officers:

Brian WS1O was nominated for President.

Ron N1LSJ was nominated for Secretary.

Dick KF6UX was nominated for Treasurer.

Mike K1MLG was nominated for Member at Large.

John KB1YZG and Bill KA1KAC were nominated for Trustee.

We still need a Vice President, nominations will be reopened at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM

☐ SINGLE

☐ MARRIED

☐ IT'S COMPLICATED

☐ IN A RELATIONSHIP

☒ HAM RADIO OPERATOR

Next Meeting/Annual Holiday Party

The next meeting is our annual holiday party, which will be held Monday, December 9, at 6 PM at the Woodstock Tavern, 35 Route 171 in Woodstock; bring your family and friends, we hope all members will attend! **PLEASE CONTACT KAREN KC1GRH ASAP FOR A HEADCOUNT!** (Send her your name and call sign.) **carrkaren@hotmail.com** This will also be our election of officers for 2024, please be present to vote, and nominations will be open from the floor if you or someone you know is willing to serve. Nominees so far are:

President

Brian WS1O

Vice President	?
Secretary	Ron N1LSJ
Treasurer	Dick KF6UX
Member At Large	Mike K1MLG
Trustee	John KB1YZG, Bill KA1KAC

It's also a good time to pay your annual club dues for 2024 (just \$20). Pay at the holiday party, 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!

73, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year To All!