

The SinePost
The Monthly Newsletter of the Eastern Connecticut
Amateur Radio Association
A Message from the President

October 2017

Hello members and associates of ECARA,

We find ourselves once again in need of ideas to increase attendance at club meetings and participation during club events. If you have any ideas please bring them to the next club meeting. If you have not attended a club meeting in a while, for any particular reason, please attend the next meeting and let us know why. If you have any ideas how to make this club better, please come to the next meeting and share them with us.

I would very much like to thank John (K1CSP) for organizing ECARA's participation at the Girl Scout camporee. It was a very fun and rewarding event. Thank you to Vinny (KB1JDX) and Phil (KB1JQA) for organizing the club's participation at Thompson Day. They set up their trailer along with several stations.

On Saturday October 14th ECARA will take part in the Simulated Emergency Test. This is a national event organized by the American Radio Relay League. This event will take place on the club repeater between 9 am and noon. The more checkins we get the better. Please monitor the club's repeater 147.225 MHz at 9 am for instructions and listen throughout the morning.

There has not been a lot of activity on the club repeaters. We need to utilize them more. I welcome any ideas on how to increase activity.

I very much need someone to take over as Sinepost editor.

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting which will be at Day Kimball Hospital.

Minutes from September 2017

Meeting opened at 7:05

Secretaries Report was accepted from the SinePost.

Treasurer's report accepted-- \$7271.43 beginning balance. \$7204.95 ending balance.

Old Business

Wolf Den Girl Scouts troop will have camp at Camp Laurel Wood in Spencer, Ma. ECARA members will teach 4 classes and set up 2 stations to provide hands on operating experience. The date will be Saturday Sept 16

Pat Weimer has volunteered to run the club fleamarket. The club voted and approved her request. She will check on the Better Living building at the Brooklyn Fair Grounds as a possible venue. The flea market will need to be in late April or May.

Hole in the Wall Gang is looking or help for event on 9/16

Technician class will begin 9/20. KB1JDX will coordinate class.

Thompson Day will be Sunday Sept. 24. KB1JDX and KB1JQA will set up their trailer for the event. Volunteers will be needed.

No word from the Boy Scouts about JOTA. Date will be 10/21 if we participate

K1NLX reserved the room at Classic Pizza for the Christmas Party.

New Business

Region 4 ARES meeting will be 9/14 in Plainfield

Simulated Emergency Test will be 10/14. Checkins important.

W1EQ acts as QSL manager for K1MUJ and KZ1M. 20000 contacts logged 2000 QSLs sent. Everything on Log of the World.

We need to contact individuals who have passed class and who have not come to club meetings.

Need to hold "Winter field day" to get tech class students more interested in the club.

Need a different, maybe lighter, antenna at the Boy Scout Camp so we can operate there more often. K1CSP will talk to Scout leader about options.

K1NLX may have a room to hold upgrade class. We may also be able to use room to teach contest operating procedures during a contest.

Meeting closed at 8:04

Vinny KB1JDX gave demonstration on GO Kits.



Girl Scouts Reach Out on Amateur Radio

“CQ, CQ. This is Kilo-One- Sierra. Girl Scouts Camporee, Spencer, Ma. Calling CQ.”

That is what was heard over 20 and 40 meters on September 16, 2017 from Camp Laurel Wood in Spencer, Ma. Members of the Eastern Ct. Amateur Radio Association were asked to set up an amateur radio learning event for the Scouts.

On Friday night, Ed (K1ZE), John (K1JFT), and I (K1CSP) set up a Carolina Windom wire antenna , a vertical antenna and easy up shelters in an open field at Camp Laurel Wood for the following days activities.

On Saturday morning we were set up and on the air with two HF stations at the Wolf Den Service Unit Annual Camporee in Spencer, Ma. The Wolf Den Service Unit is comprised of 15 Troops of Girl Scouts ages 6 to16 from Northeast Connecticut.

The Scouts camped out in tents from Friday evening to Sunday. They had various activities they could choose to attend throughout the weekend including archery, painting, first aid, sewing, crime scene investigation, cooking, beauty basics, pottery, sand art, scrap booking, zumba, yoga, country line dancing, and amateur radio reach out.

ECARA hosted four ninety minute segments of amateur radio reach out to the scouts. ECARA members who volunteered were: Ed (K1ZE), Jon (KA1MPG) Ron (KA1MPI), Margaret (N1NNP) John (K1JFT) and myself (K1CSP) Julie (KB1PUM) was also there helping out with CSI and other activities.

The class started out with a short introduction to amateur radio. It then led into a discussion about Morse Code and CW by Ed (K1ZE) and the different aspects of Amateur Radio. Some of the scouts spelled their names out and other messages on a CW keyer set up for them while Ed

(K1ZE) told them what they were typing. The girls really got a kick out of that. Some were later going to try sending code with their flashlights to each other.

Soon the scouts were on the air operating special event station K1S, that was set up for their camporee. Jon (KA1MPG) Ron (KA1MPI) Ed (K1ZE) and I (K1CSP) sat with the scouts at the radios teaching them how to call CQ and tune around on the bands. Other scouts spoke to each other over HT's practicing proper radio procedures. Margaret (N1NNP) spoke to the girls about her getting her amateur radio license.

The scouts made over a dozen contacts with stations all over the United States. One notable contact was with an elderly woman in South Carolina who was a Girl Scout when she was a kid and later became a scout leader when her daughters became scouts.

It was a great day to spend outdoors with the scouts and a good time was had by all, Thanks to all who volunteered for the event.

