



# The SinePost

The Monthly Newsletter of the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association

## A Message from the President

April 2020

### 2020 Officers

#### President

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Thompson, CT  
K1CSP  
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#### Vice President

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K1ZE  
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#### Trustee (2019-2020)

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#### Trustee (2020-2021)

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#### Member at Large (2019-2020)

Devendra Kalonia  
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#### Member at Large (2020-2021)

Peter Johnson  
Danielson, CT  
K1NLX  
k1nlx@snet.net

Hello Members and Associates of ECARA,

I hope everyone is well and dealing with the current COVID-19 situation. I know that it is difficult to go from a very busy society and way of life and then suddenly have to put the brakes on. Our whole social society has been made to adapt and overcome. Hopefully this will be over soon.

As you all know, we had to cancel the ECARA Hamfest/ Flea Market. As a club we will move on from this and look towards the future. We are financially stable and do not need the income from the Flea Market at this time.

Spring is in the air and we have had a few nice days to enjoy the outdoors. I believe that most of you are probable sitting this virus out at home, or working limited hours if you are in an exempt work status situation. This is a great time to check out the antennas on your roof and maybe renew some equipment/ cables that have been on the tower for a while. I strongly recommend that everyone check their equipment for functionality, including go kits and portable antennas. Make sure your 2 meter radio equipment has the proper frequencies and repeaters in them. At a minimum, you should have the K1MUJ Repeater along with the ECARA Simplex Frequency 146.400 MHz programmed in them. This is the designated frequency we use on simplex for emergency communications. We currently have portable suitcase base station radios available to us to deploy with these frequencies in them.

We have been asked by the Putnam Emergency Management to provide a list of radio operator /volunteers available to be called up in case of a deployment for the Corona Virus. They have plans in place for three locations in Putnam that may need Amateur radio support if situations change. I am relying on the members of the EMCOMM Committee to coordinate these efforts if called upon.

Recently Paul KE1LI has coordinated a Simplex Propagation Net on 2 meters to check the coverage area of local amateur radio operators on simplex FM. The tests were a success. Thanks for doing that Paul.

The ECARA monthly meeting will be held this Monday April 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM on the K1MUJ Repeater 147.225 MHz + PL 156.7. I will host the meeting as net control. There will be a callup of members of the board of Directors, followed by check-ins of regular members, and then other guests attending. I will then run the meeting in a normal fashion, with all traffic being addressed through net control. Hope to hear you on the Radio Meeting.

73, John Szamocki K1CSP

**Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 9th, 2020  
6:00pm Golden Greek Restaurant**

**Present:** John Szamocki (k1csp),  
Bill Grovesteen (ka1kac),  
John Jacobi (kb1yzzg),  
Frank Swatland (n1ars),  
Frankie Rollinson (kb1dno),  
Paul Rollinson (ke1li),  
Ron Fournier (ka1mpi),  
Margaret Fournier (n1nnp),  
Jon Fournier (ka1mpg),  
Peter Johnson (k1nlx),  
Christy Johnson (n7beo),  
Ed Shekelton (k1ze),  
Eli Iturrino (k1qm),  
John Turner (k1jft),  
John Tuirner III (kc1mme),  
Kevin McCarty (k1vgf),  
Jean McCarthy (guest),  
Paul Rohanna (kc1kli)

- 1) **Call to Order:** John Szamocki called the meeting to order at 19:05pm.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

ENDING BALANCE \$8633.03

**Business:**

This month's meeting was a dinner meeting held at the Golden Greek Restaurant. The normal order of business was suspended and a brief meeting on the following topics was held by President John Szamocki.

1. Motion made to accept treasurer's report was made and accepted.
2. Motion made to accept two new members into club, Timothy Rodgers and Thomas Walsh. Members were voted in by membership.
3. Raffle prize was discussed for flea market prize and it was decided a \$100.00 gift certificate to Ham Radio Outlet would be the prize. Paul Rollinson stated he would secure the card for the raffle.
4. Reminder to bring radio equipment for club table.
5. Radio Antenna was reported fixed at Day Kimball with more investigation needed into the operation and setup of a base station at the hospital.

MOTION TO ADJORN: 1920 hour

**NEXT MEETING**  
**K1MUJ/R 147.225 +, 156.7PL**  
**K1CSP will be Net Control**  
Please adhere to formal net procedures  
**Meeting at 7PM April 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **Spring time is for antennas. And some history.**

Our mild winter has passed. Warmer weather starts Hams thinking about repairing or building new antennas.

Maybe a new band or just something the tuner in our radio can match. Dig thru any ARRL Handbook or Antenna Book for antenna ideas. I'll take a look at 4 examples and why you might choose them. Just remember there is NO free lunch with antennas. Meaning any shortcut detracts from a good working antenna. Low height is the biggest killer of performance.

#### 1. Prof. Peabody. "Sherman. Turn the Wayback Machine to 1930."

Hams back then mostly used a full wave length of wire as their preferred choice. Called a Zepp, a full wave dipole or 2 half waves in phase. They worked very well. They were BIG.

They had a very high impedance at

the middle. Definitely open wire for a feedline. Not 50 ohms without a big matchbox. I used one on 160M with great results. 500 + feet long. Very touchy to tune on any band with a manual matchbox (tuner).

The KING of antennas. Probably no chance of an internal tuner working with this, even with a 4 to 1 balun at the radio end of the open wire feedline. Feeling lucky?? Remember me standing in the Tech classes holding 2 yard sticks yelling 2 meters?? The King is smiling .

#### 2. Fast forward to the coaxial feedline days. Post WW II.

Hams of that era wanted an antenna that matched the WW II surplus 50 or 75 ohm impedance of the

coax cable they bought. They took the King of antennas and cut him in two, just to match the surplus coax they bought at an auction. The King is dead. But, HEY. We had an antenna that was 75 to 50 ohm impedance. 50 ohm in an inverted Vee shape. 75 ohm in a straight dipole.

We still use this today.

Big improvement. Now we have half an antenna. But our internal tuner (or no tuner) is happy. Half a dipole may function on 2 bands or more. A 80M half wave dipole works on harmonically related 20M and 10M and your internal tuner will probably match it OK. A 40M half wave dipole works on third harmonically related 15M fairly well.

One other option is an 80M dipole with a 40M dipole attached to one feedline. It should work OK on harmonically related bands from 80M to 10M. There will be some interaction. Lots of trial and error to get it working right. And it is a half of the King. The Queen almost smiles.

3. The lunch lady is upset.

The hams that burned up their transmitter trying to get 2 combined half wave dipoles to tune revolted! One of our club members burned up his Galaxy 5 transceiver trying to tune up a 2 dipole antenna. Dick KB1H was the helper on this project. I never owned a Galaxy 5 so it wasn't me.

Let's just move where we attach the feedline. This center feed is old school. So was born the off center fed half wave dipole. It is an 80M dipole with one end chopped off a bit and added to lengthen the opposite side of center. An 80M version has 50ft on the left of the feed and 83ft on the right of the feed.

Oh, the feed isn't 50 or 75 ohms now. You need a 4 to 1 balun to get close to what your tuner can tune. It isn't balanced and you also need a choke to keep RF off the feedline.

But it sort of works on most bands.

The nice fat donut representing the radiation pattern of the half wave dipole is all squished on this version.

But, yes, it sort of works on most bands, depending on height and exactly where the offset feed is located.

Hams South of us tried to use the radiating feed line of the off center fed dipole to "improve" it. Moonshine was involved. Voila. The Carolina Windom off center fed dipole. Use 20ft of feedline that is already trying to radiate as part of the whole antenna. So the needed choke up at the 4 to 1 balun was moved down the feedline 20ft. (10ft in a 40M version). Part of the feedline radiates now. Throw a little vertical radiation in and some of the RF fills in the poor areas of the horizontal pattern.

This is all way oversimplified. I

actually bought one brand with the idea of leaving it in the Caribbean.

It worked pretty well at 40 or 50 ft.

But at 30 ft (not many tall palm trees down there) it sucked. I used it at Field Day a few times and had interference complaints that I never had with just a dipole. The King is laughing. The Queen is frowning.

4. The English are well balanced.

G5RV wanted a great performing antenna on 20M that might work on other bands. He chose a 102ft dipole (3 half waves) fed with a open wire matching line. It was a very good DX antenna on 20M. The other bands... not so much. It fit in his small English garden. He probably had to use green coated wire so that his wife couldn't see it. His design has been tweaked so many times by so many hams that I would not be surprised if his ghost haunted all hams stealing his callsign for their butchered versions. Some sort of work. The King and Queen both smile at Mr Varney for his 20M antenna. Those crazy English.

I hope I have not dashed every idea you had for an antenna in the trees.

Some of these may work OK depending on local conditions at your QTH (house if you forgot Q codes already).

Height will improve even a poor

performing antenna. So there is hope for all antennas. Did I get a smile out of you while reading this??

73 Ed K1ZE



## The Tri-City ARC Wellness Net

The Tri-City ARC is holding "The Wellness Net" at least for the duration of this pandemic to let hams communicate with each other, and to provide or request assistance. It is being held on the Salem 147.060 (+) (156.7) repeater from 1300 to whenever. It has been running for close to an hour as more people check in. This is also available on EchoLink on the "NA1CN-R 147.060 Salem, CT" node 711268, where I move EL from RASON to Salem for a couple hours during the day. All are welcome.

Best regards,

Charles A. Newman -NA1CN-

## 2M Propagation Test

Hi All,

Over the last month with the issues of Covid-19 I sent out a quick email to the reflector to test 2M propagation in the event we lost repeater function. It was a fairly simple test with Me (KE1LI ) acting as net control and others checking in and relaying any stations I couldn't hear. The first test was on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and a follow-up on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Below is the list of stations that checked in and could pass info in the event it was required. Thanks to all that participated. We can try this again in the future and maybe coincide it with a VHF contest so the contacts can add points to our scores.

Let me know if anyone would like to test other bands.

73, Paul, KE1LI

KE1LI (Net Control), Pomfret, CT  
 W1UJ, Webster, MA  
 W1TJL, E. Hartland, CT  
 K1ZE, Wilington, CT  
 KB1DNO, Pomfret, CT  
 KB1YZG, Dayville, CT  
 AC1FZ, Woodstock, CT  
 KA1KAC, Dudley, MA  
 KC1IIS, Windham, CT

K1CSP, Thompson, CT  
 KB1DGY, Ashford, CT  
 WA1VVS, Dudley, CT  
 KB1ZOY, Pomfret, CT  
 K1JFT, Putnam, CT  
 KB1JDX, Danielson CT  
 KC1CVU, Chaplin, CT  
 KB1TIM, Putnam, CT  
 N1ROZ, Belchertown, MA

**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](mailto:oldradiodoc@gmail.com) or 860-928-2628.

**Fox Hunting update:**

Are you itching to go do something and maintain social distancing? Go to Groups.io and join CTFOXHUNTER. Fox hunting is alive and well in the Manchester (W1BRS 145.110 repeater) area. There are currently two, soon to be three foxes out just looking to be found! They are all on 146.550. The original is on PL 88.5 and has been going out since the beginning of the year. They are still working out bugs of raising more than one fox at a time, how it modulates and ID's, etc. The current plan is to raise one them on 88.5, 100.0, and 114.8. When someone can hear the fox, thy post where they can hear it from which gives you a starting point. Go to the area, choose a PL and key and press DTMF 1 on your radio.

Remember, it's "Tally Ho The Fox!", not "There Goes The \*\*\*\*\*!".

Charles A. Newman -NA1CN-

**ECARA Nets**

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

## 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 <sup>st</sup> 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				

### Temporary Ham Radio Q-Codes for our times:

- QLD: I am locked down.
- QUA: I am quarantined.
- QPD: I am in the middle of a pandemic.
- QTP: I have toilet paper. Want to trade for a new car?
- QFC: I am flattening the curve.
- QHG: I need a hug.
- QSH: I am sheltering in place.
- QHS: I have hand sanitizer. Want to trade for two new cars?
- QSD: I am observing social distancing.
- QCV: I hate Coronavirus

Editor's note. Please do not take this seriously. It's April and we all need a chuckle these days.  
Stay safe, LI

Event	Date	Purpose	Contact/Net Control	Attendance
Radio in the Park	5-May	Social and "Get on the Air" event at Wolf Den	KB1JDX	
Woodstock Road Race	25-May	Safety & Communications	KE1LI	
Kid's Day	6/20/2020	Demonstration and promote Amateur Radio services to youth	K1CSP	
ECARA Field Day	6/27-6/28	Contesting & emergency readiness	KA1MPG	
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	8/27-30/2020	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	
Jog with Judy	31-Oct	Safety & Communications	K1QM	
BSA JOTA	TBD	Demonstration and promote Amateur Radio services to youth	K1CSP	
ECARA election of officers & Xmas party	14-Dec	Social & administrative event; officer election	TBD	Members, family & friends

