



# The SinePost

The Monthly Newsletter of the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association



## A Message from the President

May 2020

Hello ECARA members and associates.

As the warmer weather starts to move in, we become restless and want to get out and enjoy ourselves by doing the things we enjoy the most. Whether it be traveling, golfing, fishing, camping or maybe hanging an antenna from a tree, we are all still working with restrictions and social distancing. From watching the news, it looks like things are starting to loosen up and hopefully we can gradually return to what we are accustomed to as normal. On that note, I hope we will be able to have Field Day this year. I have spoken to Steve up at the farm (Field Day Site) and he is anxious to have us use his property again for Field Day. He is getting the tractors ready for us to mow the fields flat for our use. Wood is stacked up by the fire pit and will be ready for the bon fire. I am confident that even if we are under some restrictions at that time, we will be able to adapt our operations to have a safe and successful Field Day.

Other events in June are the ARRL June vhf contest (June 13-15<sup>th</sup>) and ARRL Kid's Day (June 20<sup>th</sup>). Make sure you turn the radios on and make some contacts with the contesting stations to help them out. You can help out with Kid's Day by just answering a CQ from a youth station on the air and exchanging some basic information with them such as age, location and your favorite color.

I have learned that Contest University, usually held at Dayton Hamvention, will be offered as a ZOOM meeting free of cost this year. I attended this one year at Dayton. It is very informative and they offer a lot of tips to make life easier and more productive during contests. This is a great way for new hams interested in contesting to hear from the pros. Contest University will be held on Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> 8:45 am EDT or 12:45 UTC. Subjects discussed will include: Effective Low Band Receiving Antennas, 2020 Solar Cycle, Everything you need to know about USB and Serial interfaces, Digital Contesting hints and kinks, Optimizing your station for contest operations and a variety of other things. To register for this, please go to the ARRL Website and search Contest University for the link to register.

On Monday May 11, 2020 7:00 PM the monthly ECARA meeting will be held remotely on the K1MUJ Repeater. (147.225 MHz + PL 156.7). I will be net control and the meeting will be held over the repeater in net format. All are invited to check in and attend the meeting. It seemed to work out well last month. I will talk to you then. Be safe.

73

John Szamocki K1CSP

### 2020 Officers

#### President

John Szamocki  
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#### Vice President

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#### Trustee (2020-2021)

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

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**Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association**

**SECRETARY REPORT**

April 13, 2020

Due to the Covid 19 Global Pandemic the April 13, 2020 meeting was conducted over the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio repeater K1MUJ.

Meeting was called to order by ECARA President John Szamocki at 1900 hours.

A radio roll call was taken with the following members being present:

Members Present: John Szamocki, John Turner, Frances Rollinson, Ed Shekleton, William Grovesteen, Paul Rollinson, Joseph Honyak, Phillip Mazzarella, Michael Gardner, John Turner III, Elizer Iturrino, Terry Glagowski,

Non-members: Henry Yakey, Daniel Arruda, Bruce Bennett

Secretaries Report:

President Szamocki made motion to accept secretary report as published in the Sinepost.

Treasurer Frances Rollinson made correction to the balance as stated in last month's secretary report. Balance is \$8632.03.

With the correction the secretary report was accepted as published.

Treasurers Report:

Frances Rollinson indicated that there was no activity for this month so balance for April is still \$8632.03.

Motion made to accept the Treasurer's report as read. Accepted

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Flea Market cancelled due to CoVid 19 concerns. The Raceway agreed to pass the fee on to next year for the 2021 flea market in 2021.
2. President Szamocki asked for a vote to accept John Turner III as a new club member. Vote taken and accepted. John Turner III is now a member of ECARA.
3. Committee Status:
  - a. Emergency Communication Committee members;  
John Turner, Al LaFleur, John Jacobi
  - b. Equipment and Repeater Committee members:  
Ed Shekelton, John Jacobi, John Szamocki
  - c. Field Day Committee: June 26, 27, 28, 2020  
Jon Fournier, Ron Fournier, Margaret Fournier, Elizer Iturrino
  - d. Contest Committee:  
No Current Members
4. Jog with Judy Road Race has been moved to October with time and date to be determined.
5. Field Day planning for June 26,27,28 2020 with Jon Fournier. Tabled to next meeting.

6. Day Kimball Radio Equipment- John Szamocki, Paul Rollinson and John Jacobi surveyed site, fixed loose antenna and made further plans to set radio up for use after events slow down regarding CoVid 19.
7. Woodstock Memorial Day Road Race is still scheduled as planned. Per Paul Rollinson they have added a 5K leg onto the race. Paul Rollinson will keep all members updated on event as he will be net control.

Volunteers for road race John Turner, John Szamocki, Paul Rollinson, Frances Rollinson, William Grovesteen, Michael Gardner, Henry Yakey

New Business:

- a. Putnam Emergency Management requested volunteers in case of activation in Putnam Area. President Szamocki stated he has a list of eight members who currently have volunteered for the assignment. Ray Thornton requested to be added to the list.
- b. May Meeting to be held on K1MUJ repeater
- c. Marlboro Convention to be held on November 6,7,8- 2020 per Ed Shekelton

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion made by KB1JQA and seconded by KB1DNO at 1947 hours.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**K1MUJ/R 147.225 +, 156.7PL**  
**K1CSP will be Net Control**  
Please adhere to formal net procedures  
**Meeting at 7PM May 11<sup>th</sup>**



## Fractured Fairy Tales or a history of the Flying Saucer Net.

Borrowed from the Rocky and Bullwinkle Show!!



It was a different time way back when I started listening to the 10M ECARA Flying Saucer Net on 28.625 Mhz.

Our fearful leader Ed Sochon, K1DNW (Drink NO Water) ran the net from inception to Ed himself approaching

100 years old. Ed K1DNW was one of the best electronics teachers I have ever known. Even our own US Navy knew a good teacher during WWII, and kept him stateside teaching radar maintenance till he pulled a fast one and was assigned to the Pacific fleet on an aircraft carrier. The San Jacinto I believe. He had great stories of action which I always took as mostly fiction until reading history of the battles. He probably didn't tell it all!

Ed K1DNW helped EVERY ham in Eastern Connecticut and Western R.I get licensed and mentored them in getting on the air. Even dummy ME at 14 years old. WN1HYN. He had mentored at least 300-500 beginning hams.

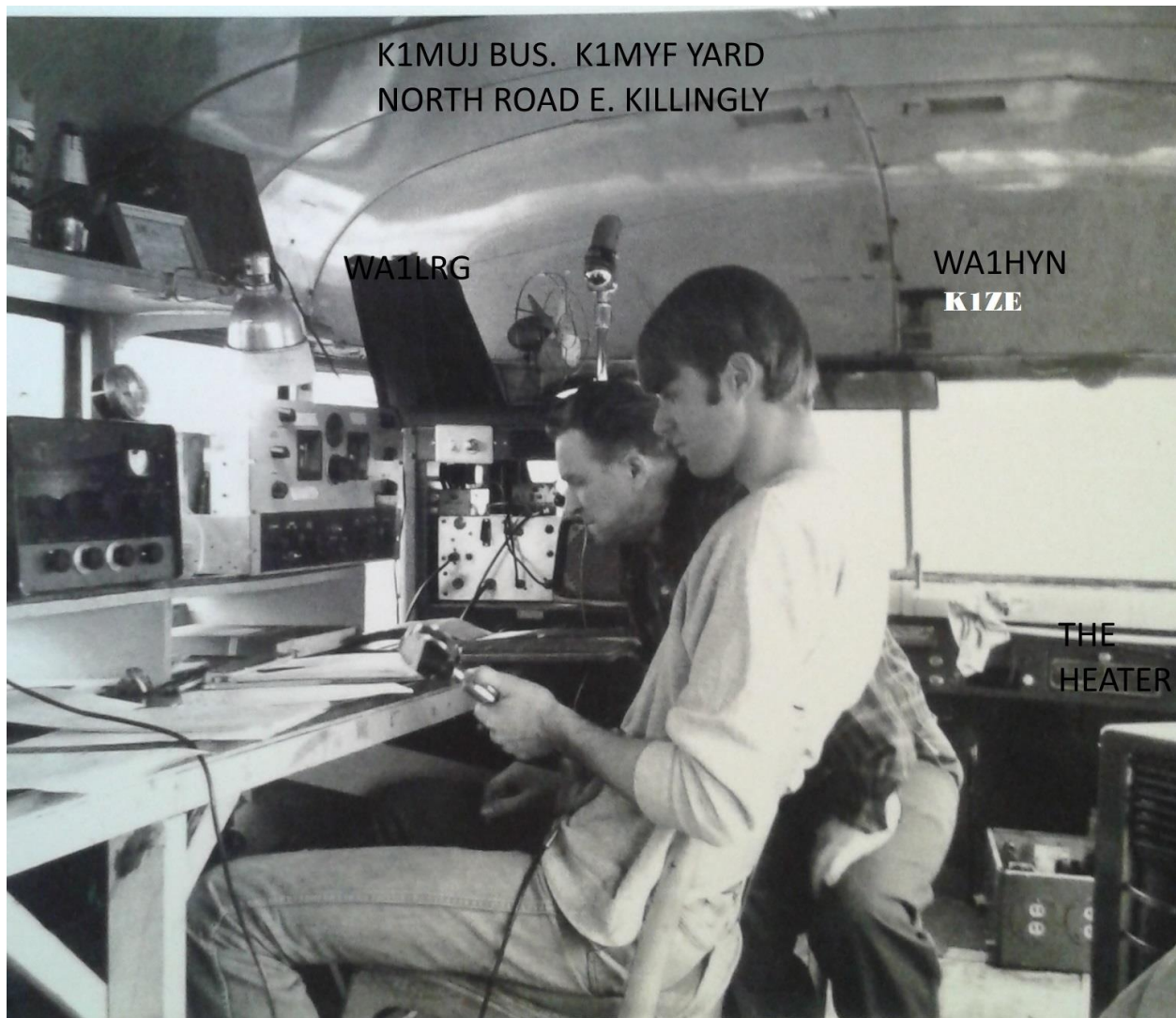


ECARA had a net on 50.538 Mhz Amplitude Modulated every Sunday morning at 9AM run out of a converted (we took the seats out) school bus parked in Bill's, K1MYF, back yard.

His wife was NOT thrilled. Getting Net

Control volunteers was not easy. The President for the year usually was forced to take any Net Control duties not volunteered for at the previous ECARA meeting. I ran a lot of nets up there during my years as prez.

Really big nets could run past 12 noon with normally 50-60 hams checking in. It was cold up there in the winter months. We had a propane heater inside but no way of shutting the gas off except the valve on the top of the tank. Starting procedure was. 1. Get a match ready. 2. Open the valve outside on the tank. 3. Run inside and throw the match at the heater. 4. Check to see if you had any hair left. Or if no success, 5. Air out the bus and repeat. Starting at number 1. Fun times. The ECHO Net ran until a few years ago. On SSB in the end.



We had a LOT of Technicians in ECARA (as we still do!!). The club decided to try and tempt the Techs to get upgraded and get on 10M and the HF bands. You current Techs already have upgraded privileges from the FCC for operation on 10M phone. Back when this started Techs were 6M and above only. A



second net was started with K1DNW basically running 2 nets simultaneously. Like single OP 2 Radio is popular now! He was WAY ahead of his time. Check ins were taken on both 6M AM and 10M AM(Amplitude Modulation). Ed would hold the opposite band microphone near his speaker so the members on 6M could hear the members on 10M and those Generals on 10M could hear the 6m Technicians. It was originally called "Some on 6. Some on 10". Certainly NOT FCC approved.

ECARA was even more of a social club back then and a round table of guest shacks were invaded by the thirsty hoard of "Some on 6. Some on 10". One Thursday nite a month they all got together and as hams, consumed radio tubes. Radio tubes being the 807 tube (beer) and the more powerful 813 tube (mixed drinks). It was impolite to visit and not consume one or the other. After an enjoyable evening of tube consumption the hams left for the home QTH. I have to assume from the condition they were in, some unusual things were sited on the way home. Until I get a different answer, I have to assume this was how the name Flying Saucer Net replaced the "Some on 6. Some on 10" net. Yes alcohol produces some unbelievable visions. Also it was the peak of the UFO sighting era. Roll all this together and you have the Flying Saucer Net.

ECARA and the Net Control station still offer a certificate for 3 consecutive check-ins with K1DNW's Mad Magazine type picture of a Space traveller.

Now you know why Ed K1DNW had Drink NO Water as his callsign phoenitics.

COMMEMORATING ORBITAL FLIGHT



*Flying Saucer Net*

THURSDAY  
9PM



28.475 MHZ  
NCS K1ZE ED

Ed continued to run the Flying Saucer Net on 28.625 Mhz Thursday 9PM for at least 40 years until age caught up with him around 100 years old. He would sometimes twist the wrong knob and send his transmitter up or down the 10M band and all would scramble to find where he landed and inform the others. It got to be very hilarious to listen to some nights. He was totally unaware of what happened. Paul KE1LI and I finally visited and while I kept Ed and Grandma Pauline busy in the kitchen, Paul locked all the knobs except the volume on Ed's radio. I felt bad doing that to Ed but he was always on frequency after that. Imagine us today at 100 years old. I'll be lucky to chew soft bread!! My log shows my last check in with Ed in June 2003. At some point he was bed ridden at home. He still recognized some of us when a visit was arranged, which surprised the nurse, as he didn't recognize her some days. Grandma Pauline was always happy to see Ed's pals and share a cup of coffee while chatting about old times. Pauline was head Quality Control at Capehart Electronics in Norwich.

George, KB1JDY, picked up the Flying Saucer Net Control duties in 2005 after Ed passed on. Thank you George.

The old time regulars left us one by one as age caught up with them. New calls started showing up in the log.

Other interests forced George to leave Net Control duties after 2012.

Again. Thank you George. George still fills in when the current Net Control Station (NCS) is AWOL. His high check-in of 21 hasn't been broken.

Jay, W1UJ, re-started the Flying Saucer Net when he was President of ECARA in 2013. The frequency moved down to 28.475 Mhz to allow the new Technician licenses to check in. Phone privileges for Techs are 28.300 Mhz to

28.500 Mhz. We also started finding older HF radios to give to new Techs that only had a 2 Meter hand held.

Antenna help was also offered. Thursday night contesting took up Jay's time and after his year as President of ECARA plus Flying Saucer Net NCS duties Jay had to drop the FSN.

Never volunteer. One of many discussions on why ECARA does not retain the new Technicians from KB1JDX's Tech classes as well as we should, centered on getting everyone capable of operating on the High Frequency

(HF) bands starting with 10 Meters. The mostly dead bands will start showing life as soon as the sun wakes from the many year nap it has been taking. Getting new hams on a basically dead band talking to hams they now know will get them ready for 2021 or 2022 when 10M comes to life with the active sun. Instead of just local hams you know, suddenly European and South American hams will fill 10 Meters and the other HF bands.

In a weaker moment I must have volunteered to re-start the 10M Flying Saucer Net. In 2018 ECARA re-started (getting old! This re-starting!!) the Flying Saucer Net on 28.475 Mhz Upper Side Band (USB) Thursday nite 9PM with K1ZE as Net Control Station.

Wow. The first few weeks we had newer hams KC1IIS, KC1IOX (S.K), KC1IOZ, KB1YZG, KC1ELZ, KC1IJX (K1QM), and not so new hams KB1ORX (NI1A), K1BAB, and the old NCS KB1JDY and W1UJ. Plus lots of not new hams.

Not everyone hears all the others well so the net has to operate in a wheel/ spoke fashion with one station always turning it back to the central Net Control. If we operated in a round table fashion some of the hams would not hear their turn when it passed to them. There have been 85 unique callsigns checked in the past 2 years. One or 2 DX stations have checked in and it gets busy with net members

wanting a quick QSO (chat) with the long distance station. Soon it will be stations outside the USA checking in. Can't wait. I am guilty of not stopping and asking for new check-in stations often enough during the net. I really am working to be better.  
Just can't train a dumb old dog.

Another group dedicated to activating 10M is the Ten Ten group. The activity generator they use is collecting numbers from other 10-10 members. You need to collect 10 numbers to get your own number from them.

Most of the check-ins on the Flying Saucer Net have a 10-10 number. We have 10 to 15 check in on a normal week and you can collect the 10 numbers you need just from people on one Flying Saucer Net.

Stop by any Thursday night at 9PM 28.475 Mhz and join us. Yell for help if you need to improve antennas to hear most. You will hear me even way out here in Willington, CT. There are many checking in from Western Mass and you may not hear them. If you tune in 28.475 and don't hear anything just wait a few minutes for me as NCS to come back on. There is usually a space weather topic each week. Plus gardening tips.

Help ECARA keep a 60 plus year old net on the air. Any volunteers for Net Control?  
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-

### **70CM Propagation Test**

Hi All,

Well, simply put, the 2M Prop test works much better if we ever had to communicate that way.

I did get some check-ins:

W1HJY/M  
KB1YZG  
KB1JDX/M  
K1CSP  
W1UJ  
NI1A



So why do this? Well, before automated repeater systems, that's how you communicated: DIRECT. We tend to rely upon these hidden helpers on hilltops a bit too much. I have never experienced an occasion where we lost our repeater due to a storm but it could happen. And if it did, then there's a very good chance that passing information without the use of repeaters will be required.

It's also to prove a point. There's a few in the club that are VHF contesters, yours truly being one of them. I would expect that if I can work you on these bands during a Prop Test, then I should be able to get you in the logs during a contest. Just 1 additional contact can make a huge difference when you multiple that point by the grids worked in a contest.

So I hope to work most of you next month during the June VHF contest, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2PM to June 14<sup>th</sup> at 11PM.

Thanks to all that participated and to those that tried. I know I learned something by this exercise.

73, Paul, KE1LI

#### **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, they 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

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



### Woodstock Road Race 2020

I received notice this week that the 2020 version of the Woodstock Road Race will be canceled due to Covid-19. They will not be rescheduling this event.

Thanks to those that have volunteered. I will put your names on the list for next year...LOL

73 and Stay safe., Paul, KE1LI

## 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
CURRENT PHONES (home& cell) HOME: 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	Canceled	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	Canceled	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

