

The SinePost

The Monthly Newsletter of the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association

March 2023

Presidents Message

by Brian Battles WS1O

Greetings and welcome to the Spring of 2023 (did you remember to turn your clock forward?)

This club has been around since the year I was born, 1957, and we continue to be an active and valuable asset to the community...because of you! Thanks for being a part of the group and supporting Amateur Radio and your community.

We're looking forward to an active and exciting year. We have the new tower getting set up at Gawron Farm in Thompson (our Field Day site), which means we'll also have a year-round potential club station operating site, especially once our new trailer is ready to go!

We have our annual hamfest down the street at the Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park's Raceway Restaurant from 8 AM to noon, on Sunday, April 23, with a flea market and VE session...spread the word! We'll also be assisting with public service communication at the O'Putnam 5K race on Sunday, March 12, at 11 AM.

Later in the year you can participate in the Jog with Judy in Woodstock; the Woodstock Road Race on Memorial Day; we have the Deary Road Race in Putnam, the VJ Day parade in Moosup, and the Brooklyn Fair all in August; and then Thompson Community Day in September.

We have classes for new hams: ECARA offers FCC license preparation class for anyone who wants to study for a Technician class Amateur Radio license, every Wednesday evening starting April 5, at the East Putnam Fire Department, 263 Providence Pike in Putnam, CT, from 7-9 PM. To sign up send an email to ecara.radio@gmail.com. Tell your friends, coworkers, relatives and random strangers!

We're also going to be equipping and preparing our very own official high-tech emergency communication trailer. That will be underway any time now...radios, antennas, power supplies, and so forth have to be installed and you're invited to join the work parties to put things together.

Thanks to John Szamocki, K1CSP, several of us (myself included) are now equipped with nice Motorola 2-meter FM hand-held transceivers and mobile rigs, all programmed for several local repeaters and simplex frequencies (146.52 and 146.40 MHz). I've even hooked up a new KPC TNC and started tinkering around with packet after about 20-something years of being away from it.

In addition, several members were QRV with the CQ WW 160-meter contest. I worked Paul, KE1LI, and he worked a few zillion stations over the last weekend of June. There seemed to be plenty of activity, even my basic Icom IC-7300 into a G5RV wire antenna heard a lot of signals. Paul and I also had a chance to operate during the ARRL January VHF contest. I drove around to 2 grid squares (FN41 and FN31) as a rover, with some help from Derek May, KB1ZOY. I want to go out roving again in the ARRL June VHF contest and I'd like to try to hit all 4 of the grids that intersect right near here (FN31 and FN41 are within spittin' distance), so I'll be trying to recruit a co-operator to join the party, you should try it, it's easy and fun! I also enjoyed operating Winter Field Day with the Middlesex Amateur Radio Society/Connecticut Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MARS/CARES) club, of which I'm vice president. We had a good gang operating W1EDH at the Senior Center in Portland, CT.

Also, thanks to John for his emergency communication PowerPoint presentation at the February meeting at the Putnam Town Hall. We're hoping to have several ECARA members sign up for the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training courses that will be coming up soon. John Turner, K1JFT, working hard to coordinate the CERT classes, please contact him if you're interested.

I've asked around about trying to get the MARS/CARES W1EDH 2-meter FM repeater (147.09 MHz) linked to our K1MUJ (147.225) machine in East Killingly/Brooklyn; my understanding is that the only thing stopping us is that the W1EDH site does not have an internet connection to use EchoLink, so maybe that can be worked out. I'm seeing what I can do with that club. It would be nice to have more inter-club activity and wide-area repeater coverage for emergencies.

Speaking of which we've had good participating in the Thursday night 7 PM ECARA Emergency Nets on K1MUJ and I hope you'll remember to check in. Thanks to John, K1CSP, for serving as Net Control. And if you get a chance (and can stay awake till 9 PM) check into the Flying Saucer Net with our trusty Trustee Ed Shekleton, K1ZE, at 9 PM on Thursdays on 28.475 MHz USB.

Cameron Chandler, KB1JLG, has been running 2-meter FM Skywarn nets on K1MUJ whenever the weather is threatening, we appreciate you checking in there, too.

Jon Fournier, KA1MPG, has made some improvements to the ECARA.net web site, we have membership forms on line plus our activity listing and other interesting stuff. If you have photos or news to post, send it to him. The membership form is at <http://www.ecara.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/ECARA-Membership-Application-1.pdf>, tell your friends to sign up! And we're on Facebook, so stop by and look around at <https://www.facebook.com/k1muj>

Keep listening to K1MUJ and watching the ECARA email reflector. If you haven't already, sign up at ecara-reflector+subscribe@groups.io. You're also welcome to join the MARS/CARES club reflector at w1edh+subscribe@groups.io

Looking forward to seeing you at our next club business meeting Monday, March 13, at 7 PM at the East Putnam Fire Department, 263 Providence Pike (we're no longer meeting at the Putnam Town Hall).

And one more thing...if you're doing anything interesting...share it! (*You must be doing SOMETHING worth telling us about!*) Don't make Jon KA1MPG, write the whole newsletter alone...every ECARA member is encouraged to contribute to the *Sinepost*, so get cracking and send something in!

SECRETARY REPORT

February 13, 2023

Putnam Municipal Complex

Members Present:

John Szamocki-K1CSP, John Turner-K1JFT, Brian Battles-WS1O, Bill Grovesteen-KA1KAC, Ronald Fournier-KA1MPI, Margaret Fournier-N1NNP, Jon Fournier-KA1MPG, Brian Savulis-AC1NN, Richard Lenihan-KC1SAJ, Lynn Lenihan-KC1SAK, John Jacobi-KB1ZYG, Mark Harrison-AC1CP, Paul Rollinson-KE1LI, Frances Rollinson-KB1DNO, Richard Kopplin-KF6UX, Ed Shekleton-K1ZE, **Carl Cecil-Guest**

16 MEMBERS PRESENT

Meeting Opened at 1900 hours by President Battles

Secretary's Report

The motion was made and approved to accept the secretary's report as published in the Sinepost.

Motion approved by the full membership.

Treasurer's Report;

8151.59 Beginning Balance

314.00 Collected

-211.90 Gift Cards

-225.00 Tower cement pad

-250.00 Raceway Deposit

7779.23 Ending Balance

The motion made to accept the treasurer's report as read was made and approved by the full membership.

President Battles announced to vote in three new members into the club.

Richard Lenihan, Lynn Lenihan and Richard Kopplin

Motion made to accept the above-named individuals as club members.

Motion approved by the full membership

John Turner motioned to vote on items in last month's meeting due to no quorum present. The below-named subjects were voted on and approved by the full membership.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made to accept the secretary's report for the December 2022 meeting as published in the Sinepost.

Treasurer's Report:

Club Treasurer Frances Rollinson was absent but forwarded her report by email.

A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report for December 2022.

Beginning balance:	8151.59
Dues:	+204.08
Gift cards for field day hosts:	-211.90
Cement for tower:	-225.00
Ending balance:	7918.77

Purchases of Gift Cards for field day hosts. \$211.90

Cement for radio Tower \$225.00

Old Business:

John Fournier provided an update on Hamfest stating a need for space within the facility for a VE session. John Szamocki indicated use of the bar restaurant may be used for this.

Jon Fournier also stated that he had a scheduling conflict with the Norwich Club, but it was resolved with Norwich changing their date to May.

The motion was made by Brian Battles to purchase a Yaesu FT4XR portable radio to offer as a raffle gift at Hamfest. The move was approved, and John Turner agreed to buy the unit.

A suggestion was made to provide table holders with a free raffle ticket.

John Szamocki provided an update on the purchase of the communications trailer. John stated that we should take delivery of the trailer toward the end of March. John added that he spoke with Wayne Gronlund from DEMHS, and he is purchasing an ICOM 7100 radio and a CSI DMR radio for the trailer. Frances Rollinson would check with our insurance carrier for insurance coverage. John Turner stated he would check on the registration of the trailer.

John Turner stated that the state was looking at May 2023 to start the CERT training for anyone who wished to be certified under Connecticut law. Approximately six members expressed interest in the class.

New Business:

John Szamocki stated that the O'Putnam Road is in March and he has not yet been contacted by the Hartford Marathon Commission which officiates the race. John said he would call the commission and check on their need for our assistance.

Brian Battles discussed the holding of a Technician Certification class. John Szamocki stated he would call Chief Walker of the East Putnam Fire Department and try to secure a room to hold the class. Ed Shekleton stated he would act as the contact for the class. The class would be held on Wednesdays for ten weeks.

Frances Rollinson stated that the Jog with Judy Road Race was scheduled for May 6, 2023. She would be the contact person for the race.

John Szamocki presented a PowerPoint Presentation on our agreement to assist the Connecticut State Police with communications in case of emergencies.

John Szamocki passed out Motorola HT 1250 portable radios to members, preprogrammed with local Amateur Radio and repeater channels.

Meeting adjourned 2005 hours