

Stamford Amateur Radio Association (SARA)
2017 Annual Report and 2017 Dues Notice

We had another good year.

Highlights for 2016:

- SARA teamed with GNARC and other local hams to provide communications coverage for charity bicycle events including the Bloomin Metric, the Bike MS ride, the Bike 4 Bikes ride, and the Fairfield Half Marathon.
- We did our part for Field Day but the propagation gods failed us again. Well, they pretty much failed everyone. Still, we were:
 - 19 out of 326 in 3A national
 - 5 out of 20 in 3A New England
 - 1 out of 6 in 3A Connecticut
 - 120 out of 2697 in all classes national
 - 14 out of 155 in all classes New England
 - 2 out of 37 in all classes Connecticut

AND – we got our first two satellite contacts after years of trying.

Special thanks to Terry W1TSM (our fearless Field Day leader), Ernest KA1NGG (logistics), Steve KB1YLQ (logistics), Terry WA1JBO (logistics and setup), Emily N1DID (satellite contact), and Andy N2CN (our lone CW operator whose ears almost fell off).

- We hosted a moonbounce DXpedition – a moonbounce enthusiast who came to CT so that a bunch of European hams could finally get CT for their Worked All States. We put it together in two days from when we were contacted out-of-the-blue. A great location at Cummings Park beach, a 30 foot long 16 element 2 meter yagi, a bunch of radios, car batteries and a generator, and five successful contacts. We even got to see the liftoff of a Falcon 9 rocket lifting off from Wallops Island VA carrying supplies up to the ISS.
- The “Buddies on the Beach” Buddipole expedition was a great success, with three operators and about 12 club members participating – plus we drew the attention of a couple of other local hams.
- Our CERT members have been providing communications support to Stamford CERT. Some of our members participated in the state’s EPPI (Emergency Preparedness and Planning Initiative) Exercise in November, and most of them participated in the CERT support to the Stamford Balloon Parade, one of the largest CERT activations in CT. Our radio at the EOC is now also being used by the Emergency Management Director for a statewide VHF communications initiative.
- In early 2017, SARA is teaming up with GNARC to present a ham radio license class (technician) targeted at “second responders” such as CERT. We have filled up the class (20 attendees) with CERT members from around the area, a couple of police officers and firefighters (including one each from Stamford), and a couple of members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We have a waiting list to get into the class and expect we will be holding another class in the spring.
- We continue to have good attendance at the meetings and good programs thanks to Fred (K1FC), including building a ZS6BKW antenna. If anyone has any program suggestions, please let us know.
- We continue to hold four VE sessions a year and have had good attendance at most of them.

The Board wishes to thank all of you who participated in 2016.

Membership is open to all licensed hams, aspiring hams, and interested non-hams. Dues are \$25 for the year, which includes membership for you and members of your immediate family. Dues are \$10 for matriculated students and hams who live outside a 50 mile radius of Stamford.

New hams are welcome and we have an active "Elmer" program to assist in getting on the radio, including assistance in putting up antennas (for members only). We welcome questions on equipment selection, equipment use and programming, and operating procedure. New hams are invited to become members at no charge for the year in which they first become licensed.

Dues to SARA help us to fund the following:

- Costs associated with our website (ctsara.org)
- Business registration and taxes
- Mailman reflector
- Insurance
- Operation of 4 repeater radios at 2 sites plus their care and maintenance
- Field day operation which includes equipment, supplies and four meals

You can register for membership on-line using Paypal at
<http://www.ctsara.org/SARAdues.htm>

Paypal is the largest and most secure on-line payment transaction system in the world. You do not need to have an account with them in order to pay by credit card. If you don't want to register on-line, please print out and mail in the registration form below with your check.

Last Name _____ DUES Standard \$25 _____

First Name _____ Student/Out of area \$10 _____

City, State, Zip _____ DONATION \$ _____

Telephone (h) _____

Telephone (c) _____

Call _____ Class _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to SARA and mail them to
Ernest Laug
33 Vincent Ave
Stamford, CT 06905

Please put your callsign on your check if you are a ham.

When you fill out your membership form please be assured that the information you provide is for internal use only and is not circulated.