



# PCARA Update



Volume 27, Issue 7 Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association Inc. July 2026

## Cool Field

PCARA activities in June began with the monthly meeting at Putnam Valley Library. Greg KB2CQE began a discussion of two possible Field Day sites — (1) the previous location at George Washington Elementary School in Mohegan Lake, where Joe WA2MCR had already obtained permission from Lakeland Central School District — or (2) the proposed new location at Granite Knolls Recreation and Sports Complex, also in Mohegan Lake, which Jay NE2Q and David KD2EVI had been exploring with the Town of Yorktown. The advantages and disadvantages of both sites were described, then a vote was taken with a majority in favor of GW Elementary School.

Another decision taken at the June 6 monthly meeting was to allow the Internet Archive to copy PCARA Update newsletters to “DLARC” the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications.

A VE Test session followed the meeting with one previously-licensed candidate passing Element 2 and Element 3, qualifying for a new General license.

There was a PCARA Breakfast at Uncle Giuseppe’s in Yorktown on Saturday June 20th. Fourteen members were sat outside on a bright, though breezy summer morning.



Three stations were set up under the covered entrance of George Washington Elementary School for ARRL Field Day.

The main event of last month was ARRL Field Day, taking place over the weekend of June 27-28. In contrast to July 4th, Field Day weather was pleasantly cool, with the covered entrance of George Washington Elementary School providing protection against a Saturday shower and the bright sunlight of Sunday. Despite a few technical problems, there was good support from members, friends and visitors during set-up, tear down and the 24 hour round-the-clock operation. Thanks to all who contributed — see the full report on page 6.

After Field Day, PCARA begins its Summer Break, with no formal meetings in July or August. PCARA Breakfasts continue during those months with a VE Test Session immediately after the July 18 Breakfast. Please make a note in your diary of the *Continued on page 2* ⇨



Members moved outside during PCARA's June 20 breakfast at Uncle Giuseppe's in Yorktown.

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following events, including several nearby hamfests.

- Sunday July 12: **Sussex County ARC Hamfest**, Sussex County Fairgrounds, 37 Plains Road, Augusta, NJ. 8:00 a.m.
- Saturday July 18: **PCARA Breakfast**, 9:00 a.m., Uncle Giuseppe's, 380 Downing Dr, Yorktown Heights, NY.
- Saturday July 18: **PCARA VE Test Session**, 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley, NY. Candidates should contact Lou KD2ITZ for details.
- Saturday July 25: **New Jersey Antique Radio Club Hamfest**, InfoAge Science and Museums, 2201 Marconi Rd., Wall Township, NJ. 8:00 a.m.
- Saturday August 8: **Ramapo Mountain ARC Hamfest**, Christ the King Lutheran Church, 50 Erskine Road, Ringwood, NJ. 8:00 a.m.
- August 13 - 16: **Northeast HamXposition**, ARRL New England Division Convention, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA.
- Saturday August 15: **PCARA Breakfast**, 9:00 a.m., Uncle Giuseppe's, 380 Downing Dr, Yorktown Heights, NY.

Enjoy the Summer Break. We'll all look forward to resuming monthly meetings in September, along with some Fall hamfests.

## PCARA Board

President:

Greg Appleyard, KB2CQE; kb2cqe 'at' arrl.net

Vice President:

Bob Tarsio, N2CBH; bob 'at' broadcast-devices.com

Secretary:

Lou Cassetta, KD2ITZ; radiocassetta 'at' gmail.com

Treasurer:

David Fredsall KD2EVI; joanndavidss88 'at' verizon.net

Director:

Robert Gill AD2CT

*Vice President Emeritus: Joe Calabrese, WA2MCR.*

## Net night

Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association holds a roundtable net on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. and a directed 'Old Goats' net on Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m. Both events take place on the 146.67 MHz W2NYW repeater, offset -0.600, PL 156.7 Hz.

Join the roundtable to find out what members have been doing or join the Old Goats with net control Karl N2KZ for news and neighborly information.

## VE Test Session June

PCARA's most recent VE Test Session took place on Saturday June 6th at Putnam Valley Library. A Library Tag Sale was taking place in the North Parking Lot so vehicle space was tight. Fortunately, our volunteer examiners and candidate all found parking places.

We had one candidate from South Salem who had been licensed in the past. His previous Technician license had expired in October 2021 and was canceled by FCC after the two-year grace period which ended in October 2023.



*PCARA's June 6 VE Test Session took place in the Fireplace Room at Putnam Valley Library.*

On June 6, this candidate successfully passed both Element 2 (Technician) and Element 3, qualifying for a brand-new General Class license. He expressed interest in applying for his old call sign as a Vanity Call — but that would have to wait until FCC had issued a new call sign in sequence. Four days later, on June 10, FCC issued a new call in the current KE2 series with Operator Class General.

Volunteer examiners at the June 6 Test Session included Team Leader Lou KD2ITZ, Ken W1YJ, Verle W2VJ, Joe WA2MCR and NM9J. This was an ARRL-VEC test session, with testing and evaluation carried out on tablets, notebooks and smartphones using the ExamTools system.

That June 6 Test Session was PCARA's last event to make use of the old, 2022 Element 2 Question Pool. From July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2030 the **new Technician Class Question Pool** must be used.

PCARA's next VE Test Session is scheduled for Saturday July 18, 11:30 a.m. at Putnam Valley Library, following the 9:00 a.m. breakfast at Uncle Giuseppe's. Candidates should contact Lou KD2ITZ using radiocassetta'at'gmail.com. .

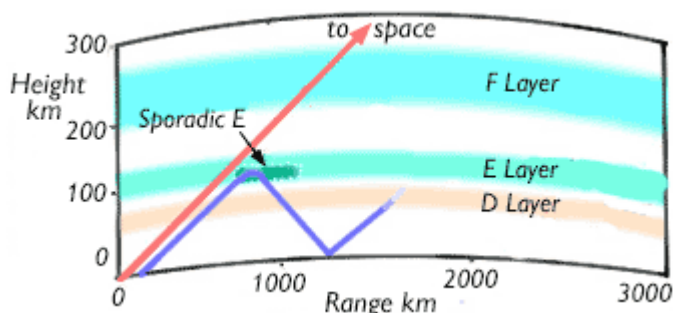
# Adventures in DXing

- N2KZ

## The sky is alive! The sky is alive!

On June 6, 2026, the Sun produced a solar flare and a filament eruption that launched an Earth-bound Coronal Mass Ejection (CME). This event traveled through space at high speeds, reaching Earth and triggering moderate to strong geomagnetic storm conditions shortly thereafter.

Solar activity really excites the DXing community. VHF DXers live for events that invigorate the ionosphere *and this was quite an event*. The CME energized clouds of ionized gas creating an irregular natural mirror for radio waves up 60 to 75 miles above the Earth. These characteristics usually reflect distant transmitted signals from between 600 and 1800 miles away — on a single hop — best heard on the 10 meter band, 6 meter band and on FM broadcast radio. When there is an E-skip opening, astoundingly strong signals from hundreds to thousands of miles away may ‘capture’ frequencies and completely over-ride the local signals you can usually listen to.



VHF radiation normally goes straight through the D, E and F layers of the ionosphere (red line) to outer space. “Sporadic E” propagation occurs when a cloud of intense ionization in the E layer reflects VHF waves back to Earth (blue line). This thin, dense layer of ionization may be caused by high solar activity ionizing meteorite dust.

It slowly became obvious that the June 6th event did not create a usual opening but a memorable solar mega-storm. Some typical E-skip began to be logged on June 8 and 9 and came to full fruition — breaking distance and maximum-usable-frequency (MUF) records — by mid-day June 10th.

In example, an old DXing friend down in Mandeville, Louisiana, Loyd Van Horn W4LVH, logged NOAA weather radio WWG88 from Crandon, Wisconsin via E-skip on 162.450 MHz an amazing 1,007 miles away! (Yes! All the way up to 162 MHz! Astounding!) Listen in: Loyd posted his catch on YouTube for your enjoyment: <https://youtu.be/wgn2vmEFk80?si=djPQEfMhjfwbcbjg>.

Adding to the fun, when solar activity is incredibly strong, signals can bounce more than once! One stunning moment during this opening found the West Hun-

gary Contest Team (operating as HA1VHF) scraping the 6 meter CW signals of NT5A and NT5AT and several others from Texas at a distance of about 5400 miles!

Another DXing buddy, Mike Bugaj in Enfield, Connecticut (near Hartford) experienced quite a day on June 10th tuning around the FM band. From 3:30 p.m. to midnight, Mike logged stations ranging from 712 to 1647 miles away — 12 states and one province — 72 stations total — transmitting from Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Arkansas, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ontario! His very best logging was KPRF 98.7 from Amarillo, Texas coincidentally branded as “The Bomb!”



DXers from all over North America and beyond were having a field day with these conditions and it hasn't stopped. As I am writing this on Monday, June 22nd, E-skip continues to delight VHF DXers wherever they go. Legendary DXer Glenn Hauser in Enid, Oklahoma pulled in multiple stations in Arizona and New Mexico, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, ending with French Canadian stations probably in Ontario and Quebec.

Across the pond, listeners in the United Kingdom were treated to reception of various stations in North Africa such as Radio Zitouna from Tunis, Tunisia on 88.0 FM. Look at “UK FM DX WATCHDOGS” on Facebook and enjoy their fun. Many video postings of their loggings were posted along with log sheets.

Timothy Land in Kingsport, Tennessee logged 520 stations during June 10th alone. His totals for June 8, 9, 10, and 11 was an astounding 944 FM stations on E-skip!

My FM Broadcast DXing friends echoed the same sentiment over and over again: “It’s just like the DX we used to see every year in the 1960s, 70s and 80s.” I can attest to the same memories.

Back in the day of pure analog VHF TV — and — before the FM band became jam-packed with stations on every possible frequency — E-skip used to produce dramatic results over and over again.

TV channels 2 through 6 were magical and international. I remember seeing Cuban TV on a regular basis along with nearly daily occurrences of WEDU PBS Channel 3 in Tampa, Florida and dozens more from the deep south. All TV on channels 2 through 6 — from 600 to 1800 miles away and beyond — were part of the E-skip delivery department at any given moment.

Peak periods for E-skip are during the early summer especially June and July. A second peak is expected in mid-December like clockwork. When the sun is quite active, the maximum usable frequency can go way up to the top end of the FM broadcast band and beyond — 108 MHz + and as high as 200 MHz in extreme conditions.

Years ago, analog TV reception from my summer-time mid-Michigan QTH, my very long Channel Master VHF-only log periodic with pre-amp was aimed southwest towards Midland-Bay City-Saginaw (our closest TV market center.) If you continue that beam heading across the United States, it also aims at the Rio Grande Valley along the Mexican border. No wonder we would see Channel 3 from Corpus Christi, TX very frequently. A really fun catch used to be NTV: St. John's New-foundland CJON-TV on Channel 6. When I lived in Croton-on-Hudson, I once watched analog TV from Nebraska for more than an hour at 2 o'clock in the morning on a portable TV using just a single whip antenna. Ah! The good old days.

### Unusual Antenna Strategies

Many hobbyists focus heavily on towering masts and high-gain directional antennas. However, when it comes to E-skip, the rules of the game change entirely.

When it comes to E-skip reception, I have found that low antennas can often outperform those mounted on high towers. A low antenna can naturally attenuate conventional, local signals because physical earthbound surroundings block their path. I used to DX analog low-band TV using this exact method — just throwing a simple dipole (FM radio or channel TV channel specific) out on a back deck and having fun. Position your antenna to null out your terrestrial locals!



*Low, omnidirectional VHF-FM antenna. [Credit: Nicholas Langan].*

If you are looking to discover entirely new directions to focus on, my advice is to use an omnidirectional antenna as a “sniffer.” When you listen on an omni, all possibilities can reach you simultaneously.

Here are the statistics: E-skip stations at a distance of about 600 miles arrive to your antenna at about 30° above the horizon; 700 miles at about 20° to 25°; 900 miles at about 15° to 20°; and 1200 miles at 10° to 15°. Your local stations are line-of-sight and very low in overall height. If you use an omni-directional antenna in a location that is mounted low to the ground, you might find that you null your locals somewhat allowing more potential to grab E-skip stations from above.

If you stick strictly to a tight-nosed directional antenna, you are likely letting a majority of your potential catches pass you by. Keep the omni running to sniff out the openings, and only switch to the directional when you want to squeeze out that last decibel. Give it a try!

### High-Tech VHF DXing

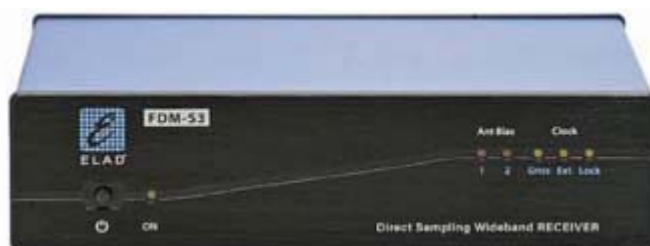
In just the last few years, reception techniques have vastly improved. In the old days, DXers would have to listen to single frequencies for extended periods of time just to hear a verifiable announcer ID for their log books. You needed lots of patience and had to endure great frustration in your pursuits. Want to see what is possible? Take a look at WTFDA's databases of VHF DX distance records: <https://stats.wtfda.org>. (WTFDA = The Worldwide TV-FM DX Association.)

Today's high-tech DXing is almost as automatic as amateur radio's FT8. Thanks to the broadly adopted Radio Data System (RDS), FM broadcasters continually send out encoded data containing time, station identification data and program information unique to their station. Receive an FM signal that is strong enough to 'lock' to a radio that can decode RDS data and you have an instant and quite accurate ID for your logs.



Here are a few examples of some of our local stations' RDS PI (Program Information) hex codes: WHUD Peekskill 692E, WQXW Ossining 8154, WFUV New York 63F9 and WSPK Poughkeepsie 85C0. As you can see, each of these alpha-numeric IDs is unique — creating quite definitive identities. Using PI data, you can log multiple exact IDs roll in on a single frequency as you listen to wild and crazy sporadic E-skip while conditions continue. Waste no time! See an ID and immediately search for more IDs on other frequencies!

Let's add another layer to your new-and-improved FM broadcast DXing experience. Now you can record not just one frequency but the entire FM band for analysis and decoding after the conditions fade away. Devices like the ELAD FDM-S3 Direct Sampling Wideband Receiver connected to external hard drives can chronicle not just one frequency but the entire FM band for scrutiny long after the propagation opening recedes.



*PC-controlled ELAD FDM-S3 direct sampling SDR covers 9 kHz to 108 MHz, up to 24 MHz bandwidth. [Credit: Elad]*

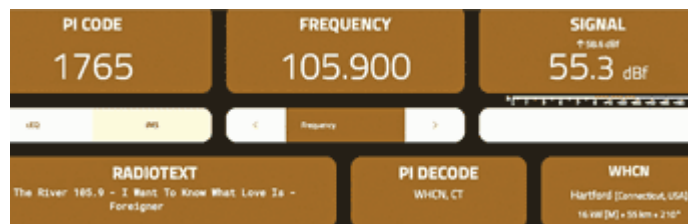
Just play back the recording of the band while it was open and relive it over and over again! Imagine being able to scour each and every FM broadcast frequency for top-of-the-hour announcer IDs or RDS data. Amazing!

The Worldwide TV-FM DX Association (<https://wtfda.org/>) has been the authority on all aspects of the VHF DXer listening for decades and decades. WTFDA's

Mike Bugaj described for me the reception system used by another expert Connecticut VHF DXer: Bill Nollman:

*"Bill uses an Elad FDM-S3 SDR radio. It covers the entire FM band. You'd need a pretty new i7 computer with a ton of RAM for it to work. Make sure you have a few 2/3/4TB external drives to record into. The recordings eat space.*

*"I have an older Elad FDM-S2 that covers 6 MHz of spectrum max. It's nice, but I hardly use it anymore. It's sitting on a shelf. I have a TEF 6686 radio that I use as a web server. You can find it at <http://htfdct.fmtuner.org>. I use it for skip. For tropo I use an RSPDuo because it has two antenna inputs so I can phase. I also have an Airspy HF Discovery+ that I use. If you have overload from your NYC locals, then I would use the Airspy or either Elad SDR."*



*Screenshot of Mike Bugaj's FM web server at Hartford CT, web address <https://htfdct.fmtuner.org/>.*

You can view and use a worldwide map of many similar FM tuner webservers at: <https://servers.fmdx.org>.

For under \$100 USD, you too can own a miraculous multi-band multi-mode receiver based on the breakthrough TEF6686 integrated circuit. The TEF6686 is a single chip all-in-one radio receiver designed by a Dutch semiconductor manufacturer, NXP, primarily for use in high-end car radios. It can easily be easily within consumer receivers or as the basis of a server much like a computer device. Here's the one-sheet about the TEF6686: <https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/brochure/75017468.pdf>.

Using a TEF6686 handheld receiver, you can instantly decode RDS data and use it as a very inexpensive and very portable tool to elevate your DXing experience. You'll enjoy instant detailed identification for every FM station you hear! Take a good long look around the web at all the varieties of TEF6686-based



*AM/FM radio receiver based on the TEF6686 single chip.*

receivers and you will be amazed how many different ways this miracle chip has been utilized!

By the way, the big notation at the top of the TEF6686 screens, right next to the R·D·S logo (like

236 kHz,) is the bandwidth of the station that you are currently receiving.



*TEF6686 display during WNYC reception shows received bandwidth of 236 kHz along with frequency, signal to noise ratio, program type, call letters, PI code and show name.*

## The band is alive!

To all the naysayers that love to proclaim "The band is dead!" I offer this advice: *Keep searching for CW propagation beacons!* They are always on the air and waiting for your reception. If you can hear them, chances are *you* can be heard where they are transmitting from. This is especially true for the 6 meter and 10 meter bands.

In the United States, the allocated 6 meter frequency range for beacons is from 50.060 to 50.080 MHz. I have discovered, elsewhere on our planet, there are 6 meter beacons, (especially in Europe) between 50.400 to 50.500 MHz with a cluster around 50.480 MHz. The stateside 10 meter beacons can be found between 28.200 and 28.300 MHz. Look them up individually on QRZ.com as you log them for full details.

A terrific worldwide activity map for 2 meters, 6 meters and 10 meters can be found at: <https://n3tuq.com/dxmap.php>. Britain's RSGB offers quite a beacon list at: <https://rsgb.org/main/files/2024/10/RSGBs-Worldwide-List-of-HF-Beacons.pdf>.

These days, all TV broadcasts are digital and a majority of television broadcasters have moved operations to UHF frequencies unaffected by E-skip. Amateur radio comes to the rescue! These days we create our own E-skip on 10, 6 and sometimes 2 meters! You have to be fast and very, very patient. Sporadic E-skip earns its name! Here now and gone in a second. *Just keep sending CQ and your Maidenhead grid no matter how 'dead' the band sounds! Someone will eventually hear you!*

See you in September... See you when the summer's through...

73s and good DX de N2KZ "The Old Goat."



# Field Day 2026

## Ready, set, gottago

Preparation for PCARA's 2026 Field Day began in March when Joe WA2MCR applied to Lakeland Central School District for permission to operate for the *fifth* time from George Washington Elementary School in Mohegan Lake. Permission was granted.

Meanwhile Jay NE2Q had approached the Town of Yorktown with a plan to operate Field Day from Granite Knolls Recreation and Sports Complex, also in Mohegan Lake. This site stands at 640 feet asl, roughly 220 feet higher than GW Elementary School, with tall lighting towers reminiscent of the old Field Day site at Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt Manor.

Board members had checked out the Granite Knolls site on April 29 and Jay presented his reasons for using the site at the PCARA Breakfast in Downing Park on May 2. During the monthly meeting on June 6 Greg KB2CQE started a discussion of the merits of the two sites, with David KD2EVI presenting the case for Granite Knolls. A vote was taken, with the majority of members favoring George Washington Elementary School.

In the weeks prior to Field Day, Joe WA2MCR was testing a new notebook computer for logging and digital modes but experienced difficulty with accessing the N3FJP Field Day Log file across the local area network. The cause appeared to be Microsoft OneDrive, which had interposed itself between N3FJP's software and the shared database file. In another test, Ray W2CH brought his Yaesu FTdx10 HF transceiver out for connection to the notebook computer that he had previously donated for digital modes and logging.

On Friday June 26, David KD2EVI monitored delivery of the Call-A-Head portable toilet at George Washington Elementary School. David had permission to locate this essential item in the front parking lot, 500 feet closer to the entrance than its previous location behind the school.



*Call-A-Head portable toilet in easy reach.*

## Saturday set-up

Field Day began at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday June 27 at Joe WA2MCR's location, with equipment, table and chairs loaded into Bob N2CBH's and David KD2EVI's trucks. More tables were brought by Lou KD2ITZ. The temperature was a cool 70°F with the weather staying



*Mike N2EAB moves plastic containers of equipment to the covered entrance at George Washington Elementary.*

dry as setup got underway at George Washington Elementary School. Tables and chairs were located under the entrance canopy, with a growing pile of plastic boxes near the school entrance door. The school term had only just finished, and construction workers were busy inside, carrying out asbestos remediation. Members present at the start of setup included Lou KD2ITZ, Vincent KD2VAV, Bob N2CBH, David KD2EVI, Mike N2EAB, Ray W2CH and Marylyn KC2NKU.

With PCARA club signs posted outside the school, the next step was installation of antennas. Your editor recommended that support ropes should once again go over the *fifth* tree south of the school entrance — then we realized that the *first* tree by the entrance had been removed since last time. The tree count was revised and Mike N2EAB launched nylon monofilament lines to pull up twine followed by paracord for the G5RV antenna and for his 6 meter wire loop. The other end of the G5RV antenna would be supported on the school flagpole along with the fan dipole.



*L to R: Mike N2EAB, Vincent KD2VAV and Lou KD2ITZ prepare to hoist the G5RV and 6 meter loop antennas.*

Mike launched another line over the tree at the far northwest corner of the school grounds. This supported



*David KD2EVI guards the multiband fan dipole on the ground, prior to being raised between flagpole and tree.*

the far end of the multiband fan dipole that covers 40 – 10 meters. The RG-8X coaxial cable for this antenna descended toward the covered entrance, where it was very nearly dragged away by a high-sided van belonging to the construction workers. We raised the cable using clamps and placed traffic cones under the lowest stretch.

The three stations permitted by Class 2A were set up on tables under the school entrance canopy. Joe WA2MCR assembled his Icom IC-7410 and Dell notebook computer on the table nearest the street for HF operation with the multiband dipole.



*Joe WA2MCR sets up the Icom IC-7410 HF transceiver with Dell notebook for operation on the multi-band dipole.*

This location meant that the 6 meter station was moved to the table by the entrance doors. It was using the club's Yaesu FT-897D ex-Henry KB2VJP. The same table supported the network router, uninterruptible power supply (UPS) and network server for the N3FJP contest logging software that was installed on notebook computers along with WSJT-X for digital modes.

The third table was occupied by a new radio — Ray W2CH had brought along his Yaesu FTdx10 HF transceiver, which was cabled to the G5RV antenna for use on 80 – 10 meters. The FTdx10 is a modern, com-

pact hybrid SDR transceiver introduced in 2020, with color touch-screen display, spectrum scope and built-in USB soundcard. For logging and digital modes, it was connected to an HP notebook computer previously donated by Ray W2CH.



*Ray W2CH and David KD2EVI begin set-up of Ray's Yaesu FTdx10 HF transceiver with the G5RV antenna.*

The FTdx10 was a new challenge for operators, with its numerous settings accessed from the touch screen, the cluster of front panel controls around the VFO knob and the complex menu accessed from the FUNC knob.

Ray's "FTdx-10 Nifty! Mini-Manual™" was consulted on numerous occasions to adjust band,



*Yaesu FTdx10 HF/50 MHz transceiver.*

mode and power levels. Power output seemed low on 20 meters, possibly a result of positioning the Array Solutions bandpass filter *after* the MFJ antenna tuner.

AC power was provided from around the corner of the school building by Bob N2CBH's Honda EU2000i generator which ran reliably until fuel was exhausted on Sunday afternoon.

Bob also provided sturdy ground connections at the generator and alongside the three stations. Mike N2EAB kindly volunteered as Safety Officer and made sure that power, coaxial and network cables were securely taped down or tied up.

While Mike was off-site, David KD2EVI acted as Safety Officer.



*L to R: Mike N2EAB and Bob N2CBH check safety of cables.*

Thanks to the early start, station setup was completed before lunch time. While waiting for operations to begin, we enjoyed a visit from Hudson Division Director Ed Wilson N2XDD, accompanied by Assistant Director Nicole AD2IM. Ed left behind several items of ARRL merchandise — thank you.



*Hudson Division director Ed N2XDD (center) and Assistant Director Nicole AD2IM (left) paid a visit on Saturday.*

With antennas and radio equipment all set up, there was a short afternoon shower, damping down the parking lot. We were grateful for the sturdy metal roof keeping everyone dry.

### On the air

Despite a bad power connector on the Yaesu FT-897D, operation commenced on-time at 2:00 p.m. Saturday and your editor was relieved to see that the local area network was reliably sending QSO details from N3FJP's Field Day logging software on the three notebooks to the central file server. The main bands at the start were 20 meters and 40 meters SSB — station operators Joe WA2MCR and Ray W2CH reported radio conditions that were not so good, with deep fades on signals that should have been S9+.

Meanwhile the “free VHF station” on six meters was concentrating on FT8 mode and found a number of contacts, both local and DX. Mike N2EAB was rotating the wire loop antenna for optimum coverage with 6 meter DX including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Cuba and Puerto Rico.

6 meters was not the only band employing FT8. Both HF stations were also capable of this increasingly popular mode, which provided a boost to the number of contacts and points scored.

During Saturday afternoon Nic KD2SKY and son Ed KD2STB brought Nic's three grandchildren to the site. Under supervision, two of the youngsters completed phone contacts, earning a bonus of  $2 \times 20$  points for Youth Participation.

Another welcome visit in the afternoon came from ARRL Eastern New York Section Manager John Fritze

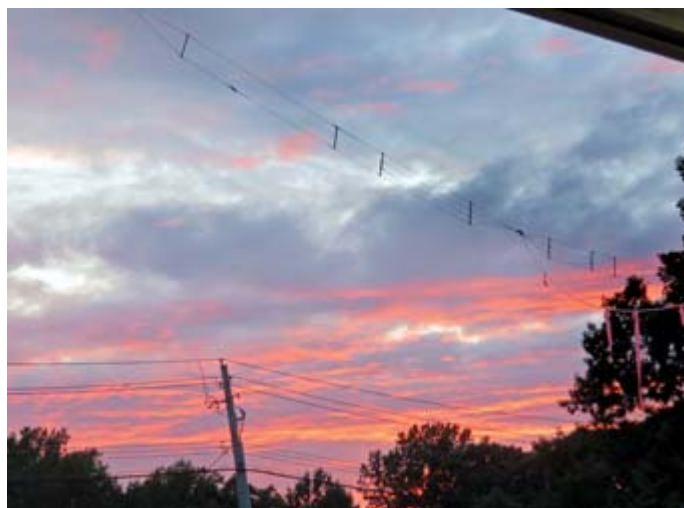
K2QY and Linda K2QYL.



*David KD2EVI and Ray W2CH operate 20 meter SSB while Section Manager John K2QY looks on with Linda K2QYL.*

### Evening delights

When your editor returned to the site at 7:30 p.m., the evening crew were enjoying a meal from “Wild Fusion” Asian Sushi Grill & Bar, located around the corner in Mohegan Lake. There was an impressive ‘red-sky’ sunset promising fine weather for Sunday. Lights came on around the school building and we noted that the old, flicking sodium lamps under the entrance canopy had been replaced by LEDs, giving plenty of illumination for the operating positions.



*Red sky at night illuminates the multi-band dipole.*

I left the overnight crew around 10:00 p.m. as one station changed band down to 80 meters. Overnight operators included Lou KD2ITZ, Bob N2CBH, David KD2EVI, Joe WA2MCR and Verle W2VJ. Joe reported that the bands stayed open overnight, with Lou and Verle staying on-site in tents. There were two visits from Yorktown Police Department, checking that we had permission to operate overnight. Fewer flying visitors were experienced this year, with Lou observing just a couple of bats visiting the school entrance in search of their insect evening meal.



Lou KD2ITZ and Joe WA2MCR operating overnight on 20 meters.

### Bright and early.

When I returned to the site around 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, the temperature had dropped to 68°F with dense mist. Lou had been operating CW on 40 meters, so I plugged my memory keyer into Joe's IC-7410 and continued with more of the same.

There were complaints that the automatic logging of FT8 contacts from WSJT-X to the N3FJP logging software on 20 meters was failing to transfer Class and Section, so manual entry was needed. This was possibly a result of power outages overnight interrupting the computer-to-radio USB connection.

Ken W1YJ brought coffee and doughnuts at 10:30 a.m., reviving spirits for some of the overnight operators.

The Honda generator ran out of gasoline at 11:45 a.m., having completely exhausted the on-site fuel supply. I volunteered my gallon can — which was enough to keep the three stations running until shutdown at 2:00 p.m. EDT.

### Teardown

By 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, the temperature had risen to 80°F and it was time to secure the logging computers, drop the antennas and bundle the equipment ready for removal. There was a good turnout of members for this part of the operation, and the area in front of the school entrance was cleared by 2:30 p.m. Tables, chairs, storage boxes, cables and other equipment were loaded onto vehicles then restored to their respective owners.

### Results

A total of 21 radio amateurs took part in PCARA's 2026 Field Day effort, along with distinguished visitors representing the ARRL Hudson Division and Eastern New York Section. The QSO count reported by N3FJP's software was 133 CW, 201 Phone and 186 Digital Contacts, making a total of 520 QSOs.

Bonus points were claimed for copying the W1AW bulletin (100 points), 100% Emergency Power (200 points – Class 2A), Public Place, Public Information Table, Publicity through Social Media (tnx Karl N2KZ), Safety Officer (tnx Mike N2EAB) — all 100 points each — plus 40 points for the two youth operators who made contacts.

PCARA's entry was submitted to ARRL by Joe WA2MCR on June 30th through the ARRL web site for an additional 50 points, making a total of 790 bonus points in all. Here is a summary of the claimed points for 2026 (**bold** column below) along with a comparison of scores from previous years and a breakdown by band and operator.

### Peekskill/Cortlandt ARA, W2NYW, Class 2A

|           | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2011  | 2012  |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| QSO pts:  | 718   | 733   | 968   | 853   | 1019  | 1109  | 694   | 879   | 968   |
| Power:    | 15    | 11    | 12    | 10    | 14    | 10    | 10    | 14    | 15    |
| Partcpts: | 15    | 11    | 12    | 10    | 14    | 10    | 10    | 14    | 15    |
| Tot scor: | 2,096 | 2,328 | 2,996 | 2,798 | 2,906 | 3,460 | 2,746 | 2,602 | 2,920 |

|               | 2013 (1A) | 2014  | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---------------|-----------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| QSO pts:      | 775       | 722   | 816  | 813  | 731  | 829  | 1366 | 712  |
| Power:        | 2         | <150W |      |      |      |      |      | 100W |
| Participants: | 14        | 16    | 19   | 22   | 22   | 29   | 25   | 24   |
| Tot scor:     | 2040      | 2460  | 3018 | 2734 | 2886 | 2764 | 3662 | 2234 |

|               | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | <b>2026</b> |
|---------------|------|------|------|-------------|
| QSO points:   | 940  | 1060 | 792  | <b>839</b>  |
| Power:        | 100W | 100W | 100W | <b>100W</b> |
| Participants: | 27   | 19   | 21   | <b>21</b>   |
| Total score:  | 2810 | 3090 | 2434 | <b>2468</b> |

### Breakdown by band, in order of QSO number

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 40 meters – 246 QSOs; | 20 meters – 145 QSOs |
| 6 meters – 81 QSOs;   | 80 meters – 36 QSOs  |
| 15 meters – 12 QSOs   |                      |

### Breakdown by operator in order of #QSOs

| Operator | QSOs | %  | Operator | QSOs | %  |
|----------|------|----|----------|------|----|
| KD2ITZ   | 112  | 22 | NM9J     | 59   | 11 |
| KD2EVI   | 53   | 10 | WA2MCR   | 53   | 10 |
| N2EAB    | 51   | 10 | N2CBH    | 45   | 9  |
| KE2GOF   | 34   | 7  | W2VJ     | 30   | 6  |
| W2CH     | 21   | 4  |          |      |    |

The breakdown by operator may not be completely accurate as some members forgot to update their call sign and initials in the N3FJP logging software.

Charles N2SO submitted a *separate* entry to ARRL for his Class 1D home station, adding 234 points to PCARA's Aggregate Club Score. John KE2DTY submitted a similar home entry, adding 222 points for the Aggregate Club Score.

### TNX everyone

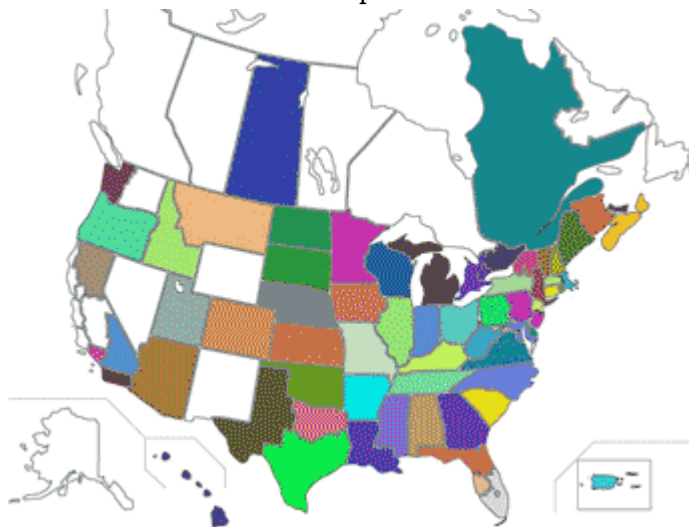
Despite Saturday's poor conditions and missing out on the "Media Publicity" bonus points, PCARA's

2026 claimed score of 2468 points was a little **higher** than the 2434 points from 2025. Fortunately, there was plenty of assistance from members during set-up and teardown, with time to spare before the event started at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday June 27. We also benefited from the generosity of members who loaned modern equipment and donated notebook computers for logging and digital modes.

A special thank you to all members and friends who contributed to Field Day 2026 including — Bob N2CBH, David KD2EVI, Edward KD2STB, Gabe KE2IQT, Greg KB2CQE, Gregory KE2IMP, Jesse KE2DZI, Joe WA2MCR, John KE2IMG, Ken W1YJ, Lou KD2ITZ, Mary Ellen KE2GNZ, Marylyn KC2NKKU, Matthew KD2TNS, Mike N2EAB, Nic KD2SKY, Ray W2CH, Robert KE2GOF, Verle W2VJ, Vincent KD2VAV and Zee KE2FRX.

### Statistics

Analysis of results from the N3FJP contest software shows that once again W2NYW's three stations with simple wire antennas produced good coverage across the North American continent, from New England to the east, through the south and southwest, out to the Midwest and north to parts of Canada.



Map shows ARRL and RAC Sections worked by W2NYW during Field Day 2026. [Credit N3FJP]

Compared to 2025, coverage of the west coast was not so solid — this might be explained by reduced solar activity as we slide down from solar maximum in the



Field Day 2026 took place on the downward slope of the solar cycle. [Graphic credit NOAA].

summer of 2024. NOAA reported in its Space Weather Summary for June 22-28: “G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm conditions were observed on 25 Jun due to coronal hole influence. No other space weather storms were observed during the summary period.”

Most activity was on 40 and 20 meters, with just a handful of stations heard on 15 meters. Meanwhile the 6 meter band was open at times to 27 ARRL Sections: AL, AR, CT, EMA, ENY, EPA, GA, IA, IL, LA, MDC, MO, MS, NC, NFL, NH, NLI, NNJ, OK, PR, RI, SD, SFL, SNJ, TN, WI, WMA.

### Visitors welcome

Despite the uncertainty about location and lack of media publicity, we had a number of visitors who dropped in after seeing the notice on Google Groups, the announcement on Facebook, the signs posted on Lexington Avenue — or hearing mention of the event on PCARA's weekly nets. Lou KD2ITZ, David KD2EVI and others engaged visitors in an explanation of Amateur Radio and Field Day, with an invitation to make a HF contact using call sign W2NYW under supervision.



Lou KD2ITZ and Mike N2EAB guide visitor Jesse KE2DZC (center) through an HF SSB contact.

Nic KD2SKY brought along son Edward KD2STB and grandchildren Kate, Jack and Thérèse.

### Moral of more modes

The three notebook computers connected by USB cable to HF/50 MHz transceivers with built-in sound cards allowed data modes to be used on all three stations this year. FT8 already predominates on 6 meters, but use of data modes on the HF bands gives additional opportunities to earn 2 points per QSO.

For successful data mode operation, each computer needed to be set up alongside its companion HF transceiver so the software (N3FJP, WSJT-X etc.) could be configured for radio, contest, COM ports and audio ports — with levels correctly set. This is not a trivial task and you might want to make yourself familiar with

the procedure if you have not experienced it yourself yet. Adjustment of Windows 11 security was also needed to ensure sharing of the central database file.

When the generator stopped for refueling, transceivers lost power and the USB connection from computer to radio went down. If regular AC power is unavailable next time, it might be worthwhile arranging UPS's for the radios.

A requirement for data modes FT8 and FT4 is computer time accurate to better than  $\pm 1$  second from UTC. In the absence of an Internet connection, two of the computers had VFAN pucks and GPS2Time software by VK4ADC for reception of UTC time from the GPS satellites. Unfortunately, our 6 meter station close to the school entrance was screened by the entrance canopy making satellite reception impossible. We may need to adjust location or bring USB-A extension cables next time.

### Final thoughts

With digital modes, there are so many settings for radio and computer that it could be worth preparing a card for each station recording *all* the relevant settings.

The 2004-vintage Yaesu FT-897D requires many RF, audio and control cables for its external ATU and SCU-17 USB adapter. It could be worthwhile seeking out a more modern radio for the free VHF station — and possibly adding a second antenna for 2 meter DX.

Bonus points could have been claimed for a number of activities that PCARA has carried out in the past, but there were no volunteers this year. Next time, perhaps we could try for...

- Alternate Power
- Educational Activity
- GOTA Station.
- Media Publicity
- Message Handling
- Message Origination to Section Manager
- Satellite QSO
- Site visitation (government/served agency)

- NM9J

## Cut price LiFePO<sub>4</sub> -KD2EVI

While watching **AmateurLogic.TV** last month (<https://www.amateurlogic.tv/blog/>, available on Roku and on YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@AmateurlogicTv>) I heard the host George W5JDX mention that he had purchased a 10 ampere-hour LiFePO<sub>4</sub> battery for \$11.00 from [batteryhookup.com/](https://batteryhookup.com/).

I went to the web site and ordered what was described as a 10 Ah battery. The battery was \$11.00 and FedEx shipping added \$10.25. I received a new, very well packaged "12.8V 12Ah RELi<sup>3</sup>ON®" battery. Accord-

ing to the RELiON website, <https://www.relionbattery.com/>, this is a deep-cycle battery designed for marine electronics such as fish finders and retails for \$109.95. The battery does not come with Anderson Powerpole connectors. Spade connectors are used and you will have to make or buy a power cord if you use Powerpole connectors on your radios.



RELiON 12.8V 12Ah LiFePO<sub>4</sub> battery. [KD2EVI pic.]

The battery did need to be charged and I already had a LiFePO<sub>4</sub> charger with alligator clips. The maximum discharge rate for the 12 Ah battery is listed as 20 amps, so this size battery is better used for VHF/UHF mobile radios and QRP HF rigs. Of course, you could run a 100 watt radio at reduced power (FT-8?) within its discharge limits.



Top view of RELiON battery shows spade terminals at right. [KD2EVI pic.]

Looking at the <https://batteryhookup.com/> web site shows a mixture of new and used (mostly tested) batteries. For instance — used, tested, 34 Ah batteries are listed for \$30.00. These batteries are supposed to have come from medical computer carts. They weigh 10 lbs and are rated at a maximum discharge rate of 34 amp.

A major marine retailer recently declared bankruptcy and closed dozens of retail stores — so I am speculating that this is where my battery originated. The inventory at Battery Hookup changes and I do not know how long the same battery that I purchased will be available.

If you are looking for a battery for portable operation, mobile use, or just want to have emergency power on hand at a very reasonable price take a look at **[batteryhookup.com](https://batteryhookup.com)**.

- 73 de David, KD2EVI

# Practical find

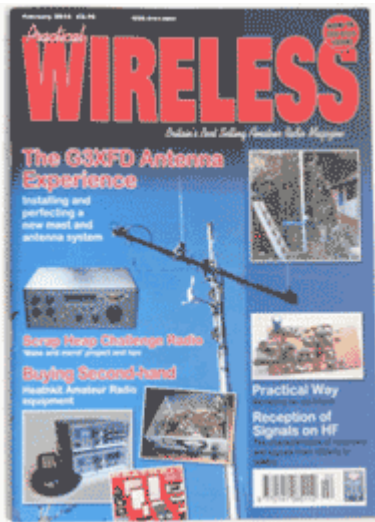
A few weeks ago, I was tidying up a pile of paperwork when I came across an unread magazine, still in its unopened transparent mailer.

After crossing the Atlantic, I had kept up subscriptions to several magazines from the United Kingdom. One was *RadCom*, the monthly magazine for members of the Radio Society of Great Britain. Like *QST*, *RadCom* is the official journal of a national society, partly intended to demonstrate to the licensing authority that radio amateurs are a serious bunch of people, concerned with radio science, education and public service.

The other U.K. radio magazine that I still subscribe to is *Practical Wireless*, published nowadays by Warners Group Publications PLC, a “niche” publisher of specialist magazines with titles such as *Stamp Collector*, *Campervan*, *Narrow Gauge World* and *Miniature Wargames*. It covers similar ground to *RadCom*, but with a little more humor and a personal approach to the hobby.

*Practical Wireless* has a long history — it was first produced in 1932 by the well-known British publisher of books and magazines, **George Newnes**. The long-time editor of *Practical Wireless* until his death in 1964 was F.J. Camm, brother of aircraft designer Sidney Camm. F.J. Camm’s other “Practical” titles such as *Practical Television* and *Practical Mechanics* led to the humorous name “Camm’s Comics”. A recent 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for *Practical Wireless* revived memories from readers who had been subscribing for a very long time.

I had begun reading *Practical Wireless* as a youngster in the early 1960s, when I would take 2 shillings of my pocket money to the newsagent’s stand at Chapel Street Station to purchase a monthly copy. A great deal of my early radio education came from those pages. One prolific author of the time was F.G. Rayer, G3OGR, who published numerous articles on home-built transmitters and receivers under his own name and various pseudonyms. A regular feature was the inclusion of colored “datacards” and full-size “blueprints” for construction projects, folded into the standard-size pages of the



A copy of *Practical Wireless* from February 2013 fell out of its unopened wrapper.

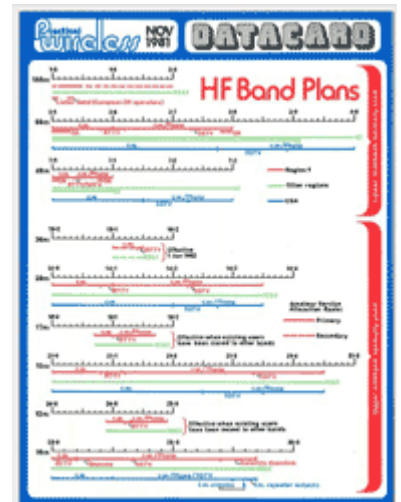
magazine. In those days, *Practical Wireless* covered a wide variety of radio, electronic and HiFi topics, but later changed to purely Amateur Radio.

The issue of *Practical Wireless* that fell out of its unopened wrapper a few weeks ago was dated **February 2013** — a period when I was still fully employed. At the time, the magazine was produced by **PW Publishing** of Broadstone, Dorset and edited by **Rob Mannion** G3XFD. Rob had been editor since 1990, following an earlier career working for the Independent Broadcasting Authority and as a medical/scientific writer. He would retire later that same year, with **Don Field** G3XTT taking over as editor from the December 2013 issue.

## What has changed?

What stands out from the pages of a U.K. amateur radio magazine from thirteen years ago? There were full-color advertisements from well-known dealers like Martin Lynch & Sons plus manufacturers like Yaesu — but some other dealers are missing from today’s pages. There was a column by Harry Leeming G3LLL recalling his days running a HiFi and Amateur Radio store not far from where I lived in Rochdale.

Another column by Chris Lorek G4HCL (SK) described second hand Heathkit amateur radio equipment. Chris originally hailed from nearby Preston and joined our special event activities in SW Lancashire such as the Banks Steam Party. His picture of a crystal-controlled Heathkit HW-202 2 meter FM transceiver kit reminded me of how Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Society (IL) integrated a used HW-202 as link transceiver between their



Example of a ‘Datacard’ included with a vintage *Practical Wireless*.



2013 advertisement from well-known dealer Martin Lynch & Sons featured transceivers such as the Yaesu FT-897D and FT-60E.

brand-new  
Kendecom 220  
MHz repeater  
on 224.54 MHz  
and the 2 meter  
BARS machine  
on 147.33 MHz.

In 2013,  
the Rev George  
Dobbs G3RJV  
(SK), founder of the G-QRP Club, was still contributing  
a column to Practical Wireless entitled “Carrying on the  
Practical Way”. This was mostly about simple QRP



Heathkit HW-202 2 meter FM transceiver  
had six crystal-controlled channels.



projects, and  
was often ac-  
companied by  
an appropriate quotation. For example ‘It is vain to do  
with more what can be done with less’ (William of Oc-  
cam). G3RJV was Vicar of St. Aidan’s Church in Sud-  
den, Rochdale from 1984 to 2008 and he kindly judged  
the construction contest at Bury Radio Society during  
my time in Rochdale.



QRP/home brew enthusiast Rev. George Dobbs, G3RJV  
(right) presents construction contest prize to Martin G3VC  
for his home-built GDO at Bury Radio Society in 1985.

Worth noting — in 2013 there was no mention  
whatsoever in PW of FT8 mode or the Icom IC-7300.  
The original IC-7300 would not be announced until  
2015 and WSJT-X with FT8 was not released until 2017  
(so recent!). Chinese handi-talkies from BaoFeng,  
Wouxun and Quansheng appeared in Moonraker’s  
dealer advertisement.

Finally, with my editor’s hat on, I could see that  
the layout of a 2013 *Practical Wireless* was easier to  
read than today’s issues as published by Warners. Even  
so, there is plenty of good material in the modern *Prac-  
tical Wireless*. You can find subscription details for both  
UK and USA at: <https://www.mymagazinesub.co.uk/practical-wireless>. Old issues of *PW* can be found at [https://www.worldradiohistory.com/Practical\\_Wireless\\_Magazine.htm](https://www.worldradiohistory.com/Practical_Wireless_Magazine.htm) .

- NM9J

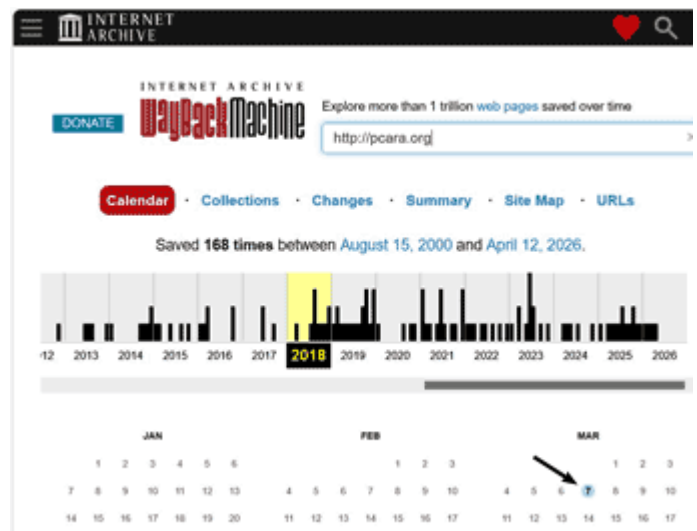
## Up with DLARC

On May 28, your editor  
received an e-mail message  
from Kay Savetz K6KJN (for-  
merly Kevin Savetz) asking  
whether back-issues of the  
*PCARA Update* could be in-  
cluded in **DLARC**. DLARC is  
the Digital Library of Amateur  
Radio & Communications — a  
free online amateur radio li-  
brary which is a project of the **Internet Archive**, the  
online library best known for The **Wayback Machine**.



### Internet Archive

If you would like to see what an Internet site  
looked like ten, twenty or thirty years ago, the place to  
visit is the Wayback Machine, <https://web.archive.org/>.  
Type the name of a web site (such as <http://pcara.org>)  
into the search box and you will be presented with a  
range of site snapshots, possibly going back as far as  
1996 — the year the archive project began. Click on  
one of the calendar links and see what a web site  
looked like in years gone by.



Carrying out a search on the Internet Archive’s Wayback  
Machine. This screenshot shows that a snapshot of web site  
*pcara.org* was captured on March 7, 2018 (arrowed).

(And if you can find the newsletter site for Decem-  
ber 26, 2014 on the Wayback Machine, you may find a  
way to view *PCARA Update* newsletters from December  
2000 to December 2014.)

Today the Internet Archive, headquartered in San  
Francisco, contains more than 1 trillion web pages plus  
56 million books and texts, mostly accessible through  
the Wayback Machine. A single copy of the Internet Ar-  
chive library occupies 200+ petabytes of server space.  
(Petabyte =  $10^{15}$  bytes, or 1000 terabytes).

## ARDC

Amateur Radio Digital Communications is a California-based foundation that got its start in the mid-1980s when Hank Magnuski, KA6M was assigned 16.7 million IP (Internet Protocol) addresses in the Class A range 44.0.0.0/8 for use by licensed amateur radio operators worldwide. This block, known as AMPRNet or 44Net, still includes >12 million IP addresses for amateur radio use. In 2019 ARDC decided to sell one quarter of the addresses for commercial use — 44.192.0.0/10 is now owned by a well-known e-commerce company. ARDC then established a grant program to make use of the proceeds from this sale.

In December 2021, ARDC made an \$880,000+ grant to the Internet Archive to establish the **Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications** (DLARC). DLARC would be an online, open-access resource to preserve the past, present, and future of amateur radio and communications. The project would include three areas of work:

- a scanning program to digitize relevant print materials
- a digital archive to curate native digital material including websites and web-published material
- a personal archiving campaign to preserve the record of notable individuals involved in ARDC.

## DLARC

The Internet Archive was looking for a lead curator of DLARC and

chose **Kay Savetz** K6KJN. As a youngster, Kevin Savetz had been impressed by his father Steve K6KJN's mobile installation and became licensed in 1989 as KC6GWQ



Kay Savetz, K6KJN.

when he entered college in Arcata CA to study journalism. After graduating in 1992 he freelanced for numerous computer publications such as *PC Magazine* and *Computer Shopper*. He was especially interested in the history of Atari 8-bit computers like the Atari 800 and became highly familiar with the Internet Archive as he uploaded Atari material. (The Atari 400/800 model from 1979 was popular with radio amateurs as it was built into a well-shielded aluminum casting to comply with upcoming FCC rules limiting RF interference.)



Digital Library of  
Amateur Radio &  
Communications

Kay Savetz works for the Internet Archive with his time paid for by Amateur Radio Digital Communications. He has been working through a list of amateur radio clubs provided by ARRL asking if their newsletters can be added to the archive. They might be PDFs posted to a club's web site or in the form of paper copies which can be scanned. In the case of PCARA, Kay asked for permission to take copies of PDFs available through the web site. The request was brought to the attention of PCARA Board members then raised at the June 6 monthly meeting —where it was approved.

## Where to find it

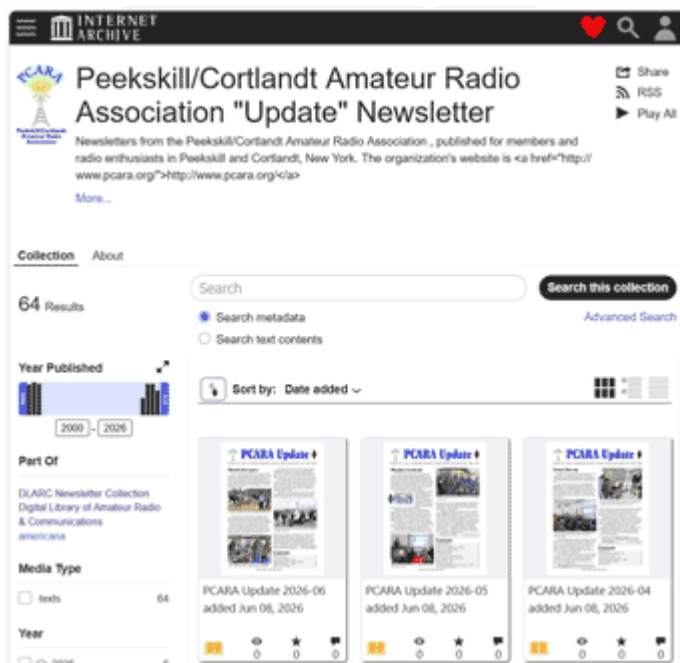
The general home page for the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications is at <https://archive.org/details/dlarc>. At the time of writing, the collection contains over 160,000 items of radio history including newsletters, magazines, books, podcasts, videos and presentations — all relating to radio of the non-commercial kind. The full collection of 73 *Magazine* is also available, along with a limited number of early *QSTs*. You can carry out a search of the DLARC **metadata** to find a particular publication, or you can carry out a **full-text** search of the entire contents of the library. To get familiar with the process, try a full-text search for your own call sign — or someone else's call — to find publications where they might have received a mention.



Home page of the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications at <https://archive.org/details/dlarc>.

*PCARA Update* issues can be found at: <https://archive.org/details/peekskill-cortlandt-ara>. Once you have located a particular issue, you can flip right and left through the pages in your browser, or you can scroll down to download a copy in various formats including PDF, pure text and EPUB.

As well as newsletters, over 4,000 books are available from the DLARC lending library. Donated books are scanned and added to the archive. They may be



Issues of the 'PCARA Update' have their own page on DLARC at: <https://archive.org/details/peekskill-cortlandt-ara>.

checked out for a limited period of time with a free Internet Archive account. See: <https://help.archive.org/help/borrowing-from-the-lending-library/>.

If you have any historic amateur radio material of your own that might be of interest to DLARC — whether printed or digital — you can contact Kay Savetz K6KJN using [kay@archive.org](mailto:kay@archive.org).

### ARDC relevant web sites

**Amateur Radio Digital Communications:** <https://www.ardc.net/>

**DLARC:** <https://archive.org/details/dlarc>

**PCARA on DLARC:** <https://archive.org/details/peekskill-cortlandt-ara>

**Kay Savetz site:** <https://www.savetz.com/>

**Radio World article:** <https://www.radioworld.com/news-and-business/news-makers/dlarc-the-radio-geeks-doomscrolling-antidote>

- NM9J

## Windows 10 clemency

In "Windows 10 reprieve", *PCARA Update*, October 2025, p 13 I explained how Microsoft support for Windows 10 computers would officially end on October 14, 2025 unless the computer was enrolled in Microsoft's **Extended Security Updates** program. This program would keep registered Windows 10 PCs up-to-date with critical and security updates until October 13, 2026, one year after the official end of support.

I have several Windows 10 computers, including an Acer notebook donated to PCARA by Charles N2SO for logging and contest activities. After enrollment in

the ESU program, they have all been updating themselves automatically with the latest monthly patches from Microsoft.

One of the other Windows 10 computers is an HP Probook, used for Zoom meetings and a variety of radio activities including digital modes, radio programming and antenna modeling. With October 2026 rapidly approaching, I was on the point of upgrading this notebook — when I became aware of a recent low-key announcement from Microsoft.



"This post has been updated to reflect that the Windows 10 Extended Security Updates (ESU) program for personal use devices is being provided for an additional year, with coverage now available through Oct. 12, 2027. This extension provides customers with more time to transition to a new Windows 11 PC while continuing to receive critical security updates." (<https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2025/06/24/stay-secure-with-windows-11-copilot-pcs-and-windows-365-before-support-ends-for-windows-10/>).

I had been worried that the soaring prices of memory and solid-state drives would make a new notebook computer too expensive. Microsoft's announcement removed the pressure to replace the old computer in the next few weeks. Hurrah!

Windows 10 computers that are *already* enrolled in the Extended Security Updates program should continue receiving updates until **October 12, 2027** without any further action. If your computer is not enrolled yet, follow the instructions in the October 2025 *PCARA Update* article. You will need to have a Microsoft Account and meet one of these three requirements:

- Synchronize your PC's settings and apps "to help move to a new Windows 11 device" — or
- Redeem 1,000 Microsoft Rewards points — or
- Pay \$30 USD.

Full instructions are in: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/end-of-support#FAQ3>.

- NM9J

# Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association

**Mail:** PCARA, PO Box 146, Crompond, NY 10517

**E-Mail:** mail 'at' pcara.org

**Web site:** <http://www.pcara.org>

**PCARA on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/pcararadio>

**YouTube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/@peekskillcortlandtamateur7670>

**PCARA Update Editor:** Malcolm Pritchard, NM9J

E-mail: NM9J 'at' arrl.net

*Newsletter contributions are always very welcome!*

Archive: <http://nm9j.com/pcara/newslett.htm>

## PCARA Information

PCARA is a **Non-Profit Community Service**

**Organization.** PCARA meetings take place every month (apart from July/August break). See <http://www.pcara.org> for current details.

## PCARA Repeaters

**W2NYW:** 146.67 MHz -0.6, PL 156.7Hz

**KB2CQE:** 449.925MHz -5.0, PL 179.9Hz

**N2CBH:** 448.725MHz -5.0, PL 107.2Hz

## PCARA Calendar

**PCARA Membership meetings are on summer break during July and August**

**Sat Jul 18:** PCARA Breakfast, 9:00 a.m., Uncle Giuseppe's, 380 Downing Dr, Yorktown Heights, NY.

**Sat Jul 18:** PCARA VE Test Session, 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Library. See below.

**Sat Aug 15:** PCARA Breakfast, 9:00 a.m., Uncle Giuseppe's, 380 Downing Dr, Yorktown Heights, NY.

## Hamfests

**Check with organizers before leaving.**

**Sun Jul 12:** Sussex County ARC Hamfest, Sussex County Fairgrounds, 37 Plains Road, Augusta, NJ. 8:00 a.m.

**Sat Jul 25:** New Jersey Antique Radio Club Hamfest, InfoAge Science and Museums, 2201 Marconi Rd., Wall Township, NJ. 8:00 a.m.

**Sat Aug 8:** Ramapo Mountain ARC Hamfest, Christ the King Lutheran Church, 50 Erskine Rd, Ringwood NJ. 8:00 a.m.

**Aug 13 - 16:** Northeast HamXposition, ARRL New England Div. Convention, Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough, MA

## VE Test Sessions

**Check with the contact before leaving.**

**Jul 9, Aug 13:** WECA, Westch Cnty Fire Trg Center, 4 Dana Rd Valhalla NY. 7:00 p.m. Contact VE, rcasino48'at'gmail.com.

**Jul 17, Aug 21:** Orange County ARC, Munger Cottage, 40 Munger Dr., Cornwall NY. 6:00 p.m. Contact VE: joed99'at'verizon.net.

**July 18:** PCARA, 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley NY. Must contact VE radiocassetta'at'gmail.com.



Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association Inc.  
PO Box 146  
Crompond, NY 10517