

ECARS – Richfield Springs Grant Report

In 2023 ECARS awarded a grant to the Richfield Springs Community Center in Richfield Springs, NY, to work with a local radio club (the Chenango Amateur Radio Association) to develop programs to interest youth in Amateur Radio. The ECARS board approved the grant and this is a report we received later as to how they have been using the funds and their plans for the future. Note we approved their request for another use of the funds:

“We were able to pull off a very successful Fox Hunt in October. Tom and Jon from the Chenango Amateur Radio Association came and taught students and adults how to make their own receiver from PVC pipe, clamps, metal tape measures and wire. They learned how to build, solder, and use the receivers. Two transmitters were hidden within the town limits and the group was tasked with finding them using the receivers they built. Even though it was a fairly cold and windy day, it was a lot of fun and sparked their interest in HAMM radio. The CARA supplied all of the materials and lunch for everyone, the local school supplied the soldering tools and space. Unfortunately, it has been a busy year and while we are working towards our next step, we haven't gotten there yet. Next we will be holding study sessions with the CARA for everyone to receive their licences to transmit. The CARA will be giving us the test for free. We have about ten students and adults looking to take the exam.

“I wanted to ask you if it was okay for us to use some of the grant money to acquire some study guides and pay for a portion of each person's licensing? The CARA has been very generous with supplies and knows several sources for acquiring radio parts that would not cost as much as what I had originally planned. I thought that by offering to pay a portion of the license fees we may be able to gain interest from students who may be low income and otherwise wouldn't attempt the exam if they could not afford the fee in the end. Please let me know if that's ok.

“I don't remember if I sent you images of the fox hunt, so I am attaching some below. It's great seeing how inspired these kids are to learn something new and frankly, something old and finding that it's still relevant and useful. We learned that one of the adults that participated has a son that is doing work at University in conjunction with NASA and that they communicate with space stations using HAMM radio. Thank you again for the generous donation that led to us getting in touch with CARA and forming this great partnership.”



