



**Candlewood Amateur
Radio Association Inc.
P.O. Box 3441
Danbury, CT 06813**

**Page Down for your
monthly CARA Capers!**

**Meeting this week -
January 11 at 8:00 PM
YCCC / Contesting**

**Renew Your
Membership
in January**



CAPERS

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January 2002

Happy New Year!!

Meeting Friday January, 11th at 8:00 p.m.

President's Corner

Jeff Cantor, K1ZN
President's Column

Lets hope and pray for a good, healthy and prosperous 2002 for all. We begin our club year with a general meeting on Friday January 11th at the church. Our January 2002 meeting will be devoted to a joint meeting with YCCC. For those of you getting serious about contesting, Ira Stoler (K2RD) will make a presentation on his small 2-transmitter contest station that has made big results in contest scores over the years. We hope to see a good turnout from YCCC members as this event counts for the required meetings in YCCC membership. We also have a number of joint CARA/YCCC members (yours truly included) who look forward to this meeting.

Next month will be our annual W1QSL Buro QSL card-sorting event. This has always been a fun event. We will bring in pizza to fuel the task, as well.

I look forward to seeing you at our January meeting. Meanwhile, I have been having fun on 6 meters with the great band openings lately. In addition to many new grid squares, I have added over a dozen new countries to my count these past few weeks. N8WXQ, get ready to check my next 100 grids!

CARA members take note: We have a number of new members in CARA, so come out and meet and greet them. Peace and 73s.

73 de K1ZN

Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held the second Friday of every month, September through June at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in Brookfield, CT, near the junction of Routes 25 and 133.

Meetings start at 8:00pm (coffee, story swapping and all around rag chewing begin at 7:30pm).

This month's meeting is a joint meeting with YCCC, and will include a topic on contesting presented by Ira Stoler, K2RD. It will be at **8:00 PM on Friday, January 11th**.

Secretary'Report

December

Holiday Party! 😊

A Face to the DXpedition Callsign

By Jim Ritterbusch, KD1YV

This past Saturday, a few of us were fortunate enough to have a face-to-face meeting with Eric, T30ES. On short notice, Pete, KZ1Z, was able to convene a group at the Bethel Office of Emergency Management.

Eric fascinated the group with tales of his life as a Peace Corps volunteer on Buratitari, Kiribati. This island is about 22 miles long, but very narrow. One can walk from the lagoon side to the ocean side in a matter of a few minutes.

Eric told us of using his ham radio to coordinate medical evacuation of an expectant mother who needed an emergency Cesarean section delivery to be performed on another island. Hospital authorities were not responding on their normal communications channel,

but Eric was able to raise telecommunications workers using the ham gear (out-of-band, but local rules).

He explained some of the ecological concerns of collection and distribution of fresh water throughout the island chain. His island has a surplus of fresh rain-collected water, while other islands in the Kiribati chain suffer from a shortage.

Eric told us of the local custom that people are not allowed to offend each other -- this helps them to maintain their status as "Happy People". He told of the differences between the educational systems from what we are used to -- at the end of grade 9, students must pass a test before being allowed to continue to their high school equivalent. He stated that the diet is very high in starch, and the primary source of protein is a variety of fresh fish. Pork or chicken are served as a treat at festive occasions.

Of course, we also discussed his ham operation there. His battery is in a questionable state, and somebody (probably a drunken local) stole one of his two antennas. Once again, our membership pulled through to donate funds and supplies to help Eric get his station refurbished.

Eric presented a video of a typical day in the life of a local schoolchild. He also showed some crafts made by the residents and himself (a model of a sword made with real shark's teeth from a shark that they caught and ate for his birthday).

All in all, it was a fascinating visit, and we look forward to working Eric on the air this year. A new operating schedule is going to be tried and adjusted. For details, see the T30ES web page at <http://people.mags.net/boem/kiribat11.htm>

Dues are Due - Renewal Time!

In case some of you forgot, it is time to renew your CARA membership. Changes made last year made the dues year concurrent with the calendar year.

Included with this issue of the Capers is a membership application. Simply detach it, attach your check for the appropriate amount, and mail to the CARA PO Box shown on the bottom. Of course our Treasurer, Frank, N8WXQ, will be happy to accept your renewals at the meeting this Friday!

FCC DENIAL LEAVES LEAGUE EYEING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON DEED RESTRICTIONS

Courtesy of the ARRL Letter Vol.21 #1

The ARRL got the proverbial lump of coal in its stocking in late December, but it wasn't from Santa. The FCC affirmed a November 2000 staff-level decision that declined to include privately imposed deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--under the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. That policy requires municipalities to "reasonably accommodate" amateur communication in antenna-related zoning and regulation. The ARRL a year ago appealed to have the full FCC review the earlier denial. The Commission turned down the League's Application for Review December 18 in a Memorandum Opinion and Order released December 26. "There has not been a sufficient showing that CC&Rs prevent Amateur Radio operators from pursuing the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service," the FCC said. The Commission said hams still can get on the air without installing residential antenna systems by operating away

from home, while mobile or at club stations. The FCC said it recognizes the importance of preserving the integrity of contractual relations that CC&Rs represent. It asserted that the ARRL had submitted no specific evidence that would persuade it to abandon its long-standing policy of excluding CC&Rs from PRB-1. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed disappointment in the Commission's ruling. "The biggest problem Amateur Radio operators face today is being able to put up an antenna," Haynie said. "Our only approach now is to get a bill into Congress." The FCC itself even hinted that Congressional action ought to be a next logical step. "However, should Congress see fit to enact a statutory directive mandating the expansion of our reasonable accommodation policy," the FCC declared in its MO&O, "the Commission would expeditiously act to fulfill its obligation thereunder." Haynie conceded that extending PRB-1 protection to CC&Rs would be "a tough sell" to members of Congress. He noted, however, that it's getting more difficult all the time for amateurs to find desirable housing that does not come with deed covenants and restrictions. "It's extremely serious for the amateur community, because it restricts what hams will be able to do in the future," he said. The topic is likely to be the focus of additional discussion at this month's meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors. In its Application for Review in late 2000, the ARRL maintained that the FCC should have the same interest in the effective performance of an Amateur Radio station and in the promotion of amateur communications regardless of whether the licensee's property is publicly regulated or privately governed by homeowners' associations and their architectural control committees. A copy of the FCC's Memorandum Opinion & Order in RM-8763 is available on the

FCC Web site
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-01-372A1.doc>.

CARA Home Page

Please visit our home page at
<http://www.danbury.org/cara/>

Frequencies of Note

National Simplex - 146.52

Cara, 2 Meter - 146.67- (PL 100)

Cara, 220 - 223.96 (PL 91.5)

Cara, 440 - 447.775 (PL 114.8)

DX Cluster - 145.73

Bethel - 147.03+

New Milford 2 meter -146.73 (PL 77)

New Milford 441.85 (PL 77)

R-Com Repeater: 145.47, PL100

Space News

AO-40 "OFFICIALLY IN THE 'DEAD ZONE'"

Courtesy of the ARRL Letter Vol 21 #1

AO-40 satellite ground controllers have begun adjusting the spacecraft's attitude as it enters a period of unfavorable sun angles. AO-40 command station team member Stacey Mills, W4SM, says that AO-40's operating schedule has been modified slightly to reflect the decreasing attitude longitude (ALON). "As expected, the satellite has lost sun sensor lock, so we are now officially in the 'dead zone'," Mills reported. The satellite is currently in a long period during which Earth eclipses the sun near perigee--its point closest to Earth.

These periods will continue well into next June. The satellite relies on solar panels for its power. In late November, Mills said that necessary adjustments to AO-40's attitude to compensate for unfavorable sun angles over the next several months would lead to some down time for the spacecraft's transponders. The attitude shifting necessary to compensate for the unfavorable sun angle will leave AO-40's antennas pointing away from Earth for several weeks. To save power, the transponder passbands were being turned off at various times, and the RUDAK digital transponder was scheduled to be off for up to five days. Mills has said there will be periods of no transponder activity and a much longer period of limited--but progressively increasing--transponder activity. "AO-40 command stations will make every effort to activate AO-40's transponders, even if for only a short time each orbit, when conditions are appropriate," he said. Mills said he anticipated being able to keep the transponders active through the eclipse period for an hour or so right after perigee. Yoshi Takeyasu, JA6XKQ, of the JAMSAT SCOPE team, recently announced the release of several new photos taken by the SCOPE cameras aboard AO-40. The photos are available on the JAMSAT Web site <<http://www.jamsat.or.jp/scope/011215/>>. For more information on AO-40, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/>>.

Emergency Communications Course

Courtesy of the ARRL Letter Vo.21 #1

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course January registration: Registration for the Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (EC-001) will

open Monday, January 7, 2002, at 4 PM Eastern Time. Registration for Level II (EC-002) will open on Monday, January 14; registration for Level III (EC-003) will open January 21. Courses must be completed in order, starting with Level I. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Certification and Continuing Education Coordinator Dan Miller, K3UFG, cce@arrl.org.

Nets

CARA Weekly Net Sunday nights at 7:30 p.m. 146.67- (PL 100)

Westconn Net Nightly at 8:30 p.m. .147.18+ (PL 114.8)

Tips Net – Tuesday evenings at 7:30 on 146.73-(PL77) (linked statewide)
R-Com Weekly Net: 145.47, PL100
Thursday Eve, local time, 8PM

Want the CARA CAPERS by e-mail?

Signing up for the e-Capers is simple. Just send e-mail to KD1YV@ARRL.NET.

We'll take care of the rest, and your next e-Capers will arrive in your e-mailbox!

We are now distributing the e-Capers in Adobe Portable Document Format (.PDF), and the comments of doing so have been very encouraging.

Editors Note

Happy New Year! 2002 is here and brings with it a new opportunity to enjoy ham radio. We as a group of amateur radio enthusiasts face new and continuing challenges this year. With CC&R issues, antenna zoning issues, or threat to the amateur bands, we need to stay abreast of what's happening with our hobby. As this area's amateur radio club we have a responsibility to stay informed and involved with the issues that effect our hobby and our club. Please join with your elected officers and committee members in getting involved during 2002. Lets all become involved with its programs and share our talents with the club. If you know a Ham that is not coming to CARA, why not invite him or her to the next meeting?

73

Ed – N1WMM