



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

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

**Meeting this week
March 8th at 8:00 PM
ARRL Guests
Speak About
ARRL Education Project
and About Concerns to
Radio Amateurs**

**Have You Renewed
Your Membership
Yet?**



CAPERS

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Post Office Box 3441 - Danbury, CT

President – Jeff Cantor – K1ZN

phone - 203-798-6860

Vice President – John Ahle – W1JMA

phone - 203-438-6782

Secretary - Judy Etzler – N1TGK

phone - 860-350-3523

Treasurer - Frank Etzler – N8WXQ

phone - 860-350-3523

March 2002

Meeting Friday March 8 at 8:00 p.m.

President's Corner

Jeff Cantor, K1ZN

Our February meeting program was the annual QSL card sort as a service to the W1-Buro. The program included a pizza dinner. Once again Dan (W1QK) collected the most incoming QSL cards – congrats Dan!

The March meeting will feature a guest speaker and a ham we all love and admire, Betsy Doane (K1EIC). Betsy is the Connecticut Section Manager to ARRL. She will bring us up-to-speed on matters of interest to Connecticut's amateur radio community. She will be joined by Gerry (KH6HU) who is leading the educational project for the League. The March meeting will be a fun evening as well.

The April meeting will feature Ken Neubeck (WB2AMU). Ken is a renowned Six-meter operator and

author on the subject of Six meters. His presentation at our April meeting will be on "The magic band."

I have been asked by Herb (N1KWV) if CARA would be willing to provide communications service to SPARTA Cycling, Inc, the sponsor of the Housatonic Valley Classic cycling event. Herb will join us at the meeting and provide additional details about dates/times etc.

I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting.

73 de K1ZN

(Ed. Note: A copy of a letter regarding the Housatonic Valley Classic follows. If you are unable to attend the March meeting but wish more information, or to volunteer to help, you may contact Herb at N1KWV@arrl.net.)

SPARTA Cycling Request for Event Support

SPARTA Cycling, Inc.

To: Mr. Herbert Kommritz
9 Buckboard Ridge
Bethel CT 06801
February 25, 2002

Dear Herb,

Thank you for looking into the possibility of involving the area ham radio clubs in the technical production of the Housatonic Valley Classic. The event, with its 100 mile race course that loops through ten towns of the region, can certainly be considered one of, if not the most technically complex cycling competition in the country.

We had a great start in 2001 to the race and the national cycling press has responded by immediately ranking the Housatonic Valley Classic as one of the top six races in the USA. The top riders in the country will be in attendance. The event will be even bigger this year with the addition of a women's road race that will start in New Milford and finish in Danbury, running concurrently with, but about one hour ahead of, the men's event. Our hopes are to turn it into a Women's World Cup event for 2003.

The biggest problem last year was with our communication s system. We'd rented an airplane to carry a repeater and used Motorola radios from the same communications company that supplies the New York Marathon. Unfortunately, the system barely worked at best, and we find ourselves looking for solutions.

Expert communications are key to an event like the Housatonic Valley Classic. Area police, course marshals, event technical staff, EMS services, officials,

motorcycle marshals, team directors, and radio, television and print media must all be linked in a clear and disciplined system. We really need expert help and hope very much that you and your contacts in the ham radio world can advise and participate in the event.

All the best,

John Eustice.

(As noted in the president's column, interested parties can learn more about the event by attending the March CARA meeting, or contact Herb Kommritz directly: N1KWV@arrl.net.)

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 will take place on **Friday, March 8th**

Secretary's Report

CARA Meeting – February 8, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:57 p.m. by President Jeff Cantor K1ZN. There were a few new faces: Eric, from Danbury, who is brand new to this hobby; and Dave K1UQQ from Monroe.

MINUTES – A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes for the January meeting as published in the Capers. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Frank N8WXQ reported there have been only minimal expenses with the only substantial expense coming up the renewal for the insurance. The checking account balance was \$3,770.31. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS

REPEATER COMMITTEE – Ken KD1DD reported all repeaters were working well. He and John W1JMA, took the directional antenna up to the site but as they had no climbers they were unable to install the antenna. There was some discussion regarding the concern that not having the directional antenna installed would negatively affect the coordination effort. Ken confirmed the coordination was not related to the installation of the antenna. He expects to receive the paperwork from CMSA in a few days. He reported that it is the position of CMSA that CARA is fully coordinated.

There was some discussion there has been some repeater interference which will need to be taped and documented. A motion was made by Pete KZ1Z seconded by John W1JMA, that this topic be directed to the Repeater Committee and the Executive Committee. The recommendation is that this topic should be handled by these committees rather than in discussion at the regular meeting. There was further discussion which raised concern about working and making decisions behind "closed doors". It was noted that all work meetings are open to any member and the Repeater Committee reports to the full membership at each regular meeting. The motion carried.

TECHNICIAN CLASS – James KE1AI reported he has about 10 students in his class which is scheduled to last about 12-13 weeks.

FIELD DAY – Chairman, Jim KD1YV, was not in attendance. It was reported Seabury would be coming down to visit and help out. John W1JMA said he would be bringing a station.

HAMFEST – John W1JMA showed everyone the new flyer which will soon be ready to hand out to various vendors and taken to other ham events.

T30ES UPDATE – Pete KZ1Z reported the new battery should arrive shortly for Eric N1JSY (the Peace Corps volunteer in Butaritari). He reported there have been some difficulties in contacting Eric and he has moved to 21.307 to try to get better contact. It was noted the Africaner net may be easier for Eric to reach and it was suggested he may want to try to contact them for any helpful pointers.

ELECTIONS – Jeff reminded everyone that the elections will be held in June and offices of President, Vice President, and several Directors will be open. The nominating committee is to get working on this and make a report at the May meeting to present their slate of candidates. The election will be held at the June meeting.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Barry reported the membership renewal form has been attached to the newsletter. Renewals have been coming in.

CT QSO PARTY – Frank N8WXQ reported Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire had their QSO parties last weekend. He reviewed for the new people that a New England QSO Party has been tentatively scheduled for the

same weekend as the CT QSO party. Plans have still not been finalized as there have been some objections.

PACKET CLUSTER – Dan W1QK reported he installed a Pentium 133 upgrade for the computer and a new decoder board so he can reset from his house. The filter has been installed. There was discussion about the need to confirm if the new filter has fixed the problem about interference with the fire department. Dan stated the radio is old; it will receive but will not transmit. He requested a new radio in the price range of \$129.00. There was discussion about what the budget amount was for the cluster. It was noted the cap was about \$200-\$300 for this item. Frank noted the money was allocated but had not been spent; when the club voted to purchase items at a previous meeting, Frank personally bought those items and the club has not paid any money out of this budget year. A motion was made by John W1JMA seconded by Frank N8WXQ to approve the purchase of a new radio for the packet cluster with the price not to exceed \$150.00. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Jeff reported next month, Betsy Doane, K1EIC, ARRL Section Manager and Gary KA6UH would be speaking on the Education Project from the ARRL which is a new educational tool for school children.

ADJOURN

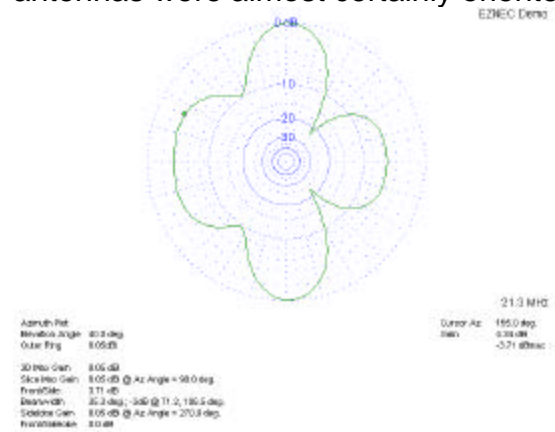
There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Etzler, N1TGK
Recording Secretary

EZNEC Antenna Modeling Software

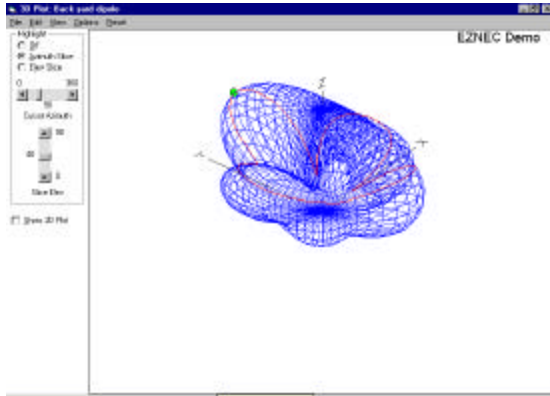
By Jim Ritterbusch, KD1YV

Following my recent frustration with not hearing Eric, T30ES, when other stations had at least some modicum of marginal copy, I decided that my antennas were almost certainly oriented



incorrectly. I decided to install an "Eric Special", pointed in his direction. With my few remaining unused trees, I was somewhat limited in possible orientations. I had one opportunity using some low supports spaced far apart. Before I installed anything, I wanted to get a model of how it would play. A quick Web search told me that Roy Lewallen, W7EL, had a Windows version of his EZNEC program. I had seen the DOS version years ago, and was duly impressed at that time.

I found that Roy has made a very feature-rich demo version available so that you can try before you buy. I downloaded and installed it - it was a snap! Using it was pretty simple, too. It includes numerous sample antenna input files as well as an extensive help utility. The only thing that seems to be missing in the demo version is that it will not model complex antennas as well as the full version. You can download the complete version on-line with a credit card for \$89, or \$99 for a CD by snail-mail.



Talk about feature-rich software - I quickly modeled my antenna and within a few minutes, I was plotting the far-field radiation pattern that I could expect to get. This version of EZNEC creates both 3-D plots and the more traditional 2-D plots. The figures here represent the kind of plots you can expect with this software. Go to the EZNEC Web site <http://www.ez nec.com> for the demo and ordering pages.

FCC Redesigns Amateur Service Web Site

The FCC has redesigned its Amateur Radio Service Web site and changed the URL to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/>.

The new layout makes it easier to find information on topics most requested by amateurs, including licensing, amateur exams, filing an application, changing an address or using the Universal Licensing System (ULS). The refurbished site also provides links to recent Amateur Radio-related news from the FCC.

"The new design is a part of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's continuing effort to meet the needs of the Amateur Radio Service operators

as identified in focus groups, letters, phone calls, and e-mails," the FCC said in a news release.

The new design clusters FCC public notices, news releases, and other official documents affecting Amateur Radio operators on the right side of the page. On the left side of the page, the new navigation scheme displays information on the Amateur Radio Service, the sequential call sign system, licensing and vanity call signs as well as amateur-related communications policies such as reciprocal agreements. The site also offers links to information on the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1, the Part 97 Amateur Service rules and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and ULS sites.

The site, launched on February 20, includes a search engine for the entire FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov>>. Direct questions or comments concerning the FCC's Amateur Radio Service Web site to Bobby Brown, babrown@fcc.gov, or Jennifer Bush, jbush@fcc.gov. For information concerning the Amateur Radio Service, contact Bill Cross, bcross@fcc.gov; 202-418-0680.

(Thanks to the ARRL Letter)

***** **FOR SALE** *****

For sale: Amplifier, VHF-UHF, Mirage BD-35. New in box. Call Jim, 203-790-7041 or email to: KD1YV@arrl.net.

For Sale: Network your hamshack PC to your otherhome PCs! Two Linksys 10/100 EtherFast cards, new in box, plus Netgear 10/100 4-port hub. Call Jim, 203-790-7041, or email to KD1YV@arrl.net.

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

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!

URLs of Note

Check out <http://eqsl.cc/eqslcard/PostageAccount.cfm> for news regarding ARRL acceptance of the new eQSL Card Mailing System for DXCC credit, and <http://solar.spacew.com/sunnow/> for real-time pictures of the sun's surface activity, updated every minute.

Editor's Note:

As the new editor of the CARA Capers, I just wanted to take a moment to thank my predecessor, Ed N1WMM, for all his help and advice, and for the fine job he performed as Capers editor. I'm sure I speak for the entire club, Ed, when I say a Really Big Thanks and 73 from all of us. I'd also like to extend special thanks to Jim, KD1YV, who will be continuing his excellent editorial and production support for CARA Capers. Jim, as many of you know, not only handles the distribution of our e-mail and snail-mail copies of the Capers, but is a contributor as well. Check out Jim's practical review of EZNEC antenna modeling software in this month's issue.

Just a reminder to all of our readers that we're always looking for interesting features and news articles for the Capers. If you'd like to recommend a news item or submit an article or classified ad, just drop me a note at KA1JDD@arrl.net, or give me a call: 203-748-1033. Although as early as possible is preferred, our deadline for articles for each month's edition is the Friday before (one week before) the regular Friday monthly meeting. Thanks!

73 de KA1JDD



Candlewood Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 3441, Danbury, CT 06813
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please Print

(check one) NEW membership _____ RENEWAL membership _____

Name: _____ Call: _____

Class _____

Family member #2 _____ Call: _____

Class _____

Family member #3 _____ Call: _____

Class _____

Family member #4 _____ Call: _____

Class _____

Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

I want to receive the club newsletter via e-mail: Yes _____ / No _____

I am an ARRL member: Yes _____ / No _____

I am a certified Volunteer Examiner Yes _____ / No _____

I AM APPLYING FOR:

_____ Full CARA Membership - \$30.00 (individual) \$45.00 (family of 2)
\$55.75 (family of 3) \$64.25 (family of 4) (requires all applicants to be licensed amateurs.
Includes all CARA privileges)

_____ Student (<18 years) / Senior citizen (>65 years) reduced rate
of \$23.50 (individual)
(Full membership requirement and privileges as above)

_____ Associate membership \$15.00 (individual)
(Available to unlicensed persons having an interest in radio. Includes
all CARA privileges and activities except voting rights)

**Make checks payable to "CARA" and mail check with this form to:
CARA, P. O. Box 3441, Danbury, CT 06813**