



**Candlewood Amateur
Radio Association Inc.**
P.O. Box 3441
Danbury, CT 06810

**Special Location, Time
for Meeting this week
May 10th at 6:00 PM
Red Cross Emergency
Drill at Western Conn.
State Univ.**

**Have You Renewed
Your Membership
Yet?**

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



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

May 2002

Meeting Friday May 10 at 6:00 p.m.

President's Column

Jeff Cantor, K1ZN

Our April meeting featured Ken Neubeck (WB2AMU), a renowned 6-meter operator and author on the subject. Ken presented on "The magic band" and we found it to be a very informative and useful session. I await the summer 6-meter band openings to try and rack up some additional grids and DXCC entities.

The May meeting will be in the form of a "field trip." We will be part of an emergency management drill – providing communications to the EM forces. This will take place at the West side Campus of Western Connecticut State University. Directions to the event are contained in this CAPERS.

Upcoming events include our annual Field Day outing in Brookfield. This year we expect to break all-time

records so plan on joining us and operate.

I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting.

de Jeff/K1ZN

May 10 Meeting at WestConn

As Jeff noted in this month's column, the May meeting of C.A.R.A. will be held in conjunction with a state-wide emergency management drill. An emergency headquarters is being established at the West side campus of Western Connecticut State University.

From I-84 traveling West toward New York State, take exit 4 and make a right turn onto Mill Plain Road heading West. The campus entrance is directly across from the Super Stop and Shop on Mill Plain Road in Danbury. Follow the driveway to the top of the hill. Setup will be in the dormitory, which is the first left

off of the main driveway. Talk-in to the specific location for the meeting will be on 146.67 (-) (PL100).

Secretary's Report

CARA Meeting – April 12, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. by President Jeff Cantor K1ZN.

The question was asked if there were any new call signs or new members: New call signs were announced by Martha, KB1IES, and Don, KB1IET, who recently passed their exam; by Bud, N2DHA, from Redding; and, George, KB1HYH. Congratulations were extended to them.

There were new members: Lawrence, N1VRB, from Bethel, and Terry, N1USQ, from Danbury. Visitors: Joe WA1SB and Joe W1JM. One up-grade was reported: N1OCM has made Extra.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT - Frank N8WXQ reported the checking account balance was \$3,858.43. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS

REPEATER COMMITTEE – Ken KD1DD reported all repeaters were in good working order and the directional antenna had not been put up. Jeff asked that this be done - the quicker the better.

FIELD DAY – Jim KD1YV submitted a report to be presented in his absence. It

was reported everything was on track. Field Day will be held the fourth weekend in June. Jim asked that the club consider a motion to pay for 2002 Field Day pins. A motion was made and seconded that CARA pay \$100.00 to purchase twenty 2002 Field Day pins for the first twenty participants at Field Day. The motion carried. It was reported set-up will begin on Friday evening, June 21st. There was a brief review of any changes in the contest rules and it was noted there would be no change in the logging procedures.

HAMFEST – John W1JMA noted next Sunday was the Southington hamfest which is the first event in this area and asked for anyone who will be attending to take flyers for distribution. He reported letters will be going out the end of May. He CARA Hamfest will be held Sunday, September 22.

CT/NE QSO PARTY – Frank N8WXQ reported the CT QSO Party has ceased to exist and there will now be a North East QSO Party. He briefly stated the rules and reviewed what county abbreviations will be used. More information may be obtained from the web site at <http://www.negp.org>. This event will be held May 4-5. Frank noted that Massachusetts will sponsor an award for working all Massachusetts counties (eighty percent). He reported it has been requested that CARA sponsor a plaque for the leading Connecticut contester. He made a motion, seconded by Bob N1OCM, that CARA spend \$60.00 for a Connecticut award. The motion carried.

VE SESSION/TECHNICIAN CLASS – Jeff reported there was an open VE session last weekend primarily for the participants of the class run by James KE1AI. How the students performed

was not known and James would be asked to provide this information.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Jeff reminded club members the nominating committee will present an election slate at the next meeting, with the election to be held in June.

NEW BUSINESS

ARCEX 2002 – Rosty N2FEX reported there will be a state-wide disaster preparedness drill. This will be a full-scale exercise beginning May 8th through May 11th. This exercise will simulate a severe winter storm; he noted the simulation is based on an actual storm that hit the state in 1979. He asked for volunteers to man a radio on Friday night, May 10th. It was noted May 10th was the next CARA meeting night. After some discussion it was decided to hold the next meeting at the operations center at West Conn. as this would be a good way for club members to see a disaster exercise at first hand and to get some experience.

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 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Etzler, N1TGK
Recording Secretary

CARA Visits the Bridgewater Grange

by KB1IET and KB1IES

Saturday, April 21, 2002, Bridgewater Grange member Martha (KB1IES) attended a Connecticut State Grange meeting, where

a representative of the National Grange was sharing new program directions and initiatives for Grange members.

The Grange is a nation-wide service organization. Originally dedicated to improving the life of farmers, it now also focuses on improving the life of members within a community. The new initiative for local Granges is to increase public service programs. The time Martha (KB1IES) spends in public service, with CARA for example, will be credited to Bridgewater Grange in their endeavor to increase community service.

Amateur radio and public service go hand-in-hand. Martha's OM, Don (KB1IET), learned he was scheduled to give a 15-minute presentation on amateur radio on April 24th, at a meeting of the Bridgewater Grange at which two women from the community were being recognized for their unselfish service to Bridgewater.

The problem of what to say regarding amateur radio and its use in service to the community was solved thanks to the help of Bob (N1OCM). Station KB1IES was moved to the Grange hall for a demonstration of amateur radio capabilities. Panic set in when almost no signal was received from the CARA repeater on our whip antenna. A truck rim was being used as the ground plane with very little benefit. An accidental movement of this heavy rim shorted it to the building's hot air heating ducts, and suddenly we had a 5 X 9 signal! After a 5-minute introduction to CARA and amateur radio, Don, acting as control operator, contacted Bob via simplex on 146.55. Don and Bob rag-chewed about Bob's experience in emergency communications at Ground Zero in New York with the Grange members and guests listening in.

The effect in the Grange Hall was absolutely electric. We wish you could have seen the wide-eyed attention paid by one and all as Bob related some of his experiences at Ground Zero. The applause as Bob and Don said 73's was loud and extremely enthusiastic. Discussion after the meeting continued to show the impression this demonstration made and the extreme interest in amateur radio that was generated by our QSO. Grange members also

expressed admiration for Bob and what he had done. It was a great experience and we're glad we had the opportunity to represent CARA and amateur radio to members of this long-established service organization.

73's

Don (KB1IET) Martha (KB1IES)

Help Publicize CARA Hamfest!

John, W1JMA, would appreciate help getting the word out about the September CARA hamfest. It's not too early to start now because our event follows close on the heels of the summer vacation months. If you are planning to attend regional hamfests over the next few months, please contact John for a supply of CARA hamfest flyers that you can take with you and leave on literature tables for distribution.

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!

Ham Radio on the Web: URLs Worth Checking Out...

VANITY CALL SIGNS

Thinking about getting a vanity call sign but not sure what call to pick? K8ZT has researched all the in's and out's in a definitive article entitled, "Choosing Your Ideal Vanity Call Sign." The author admits there's no one answer for everyone, but does give you a selection of key criteria: from personalized considerations (your initials, a nickname etc.) to "cute" call signs that spell words, to optimized character sets for DX phonetics and CW character sets. You can read the article at <http://www.vanityhq.com/articles/choosevanity.html>.

SUN CLOCK

Sun clock, a useful, colorful worldwide time clock screen saver, keeps you in touch with time zones around the world and sun and moon events. The clock

can be downloaded free from
<http://www.mapmaker.com/sunclock.htm>

MORE ON ANTENNAS...

O.K., so your editor is fascinated with information about antennas of all shapes and sizes. Bear with me. If you share the itch to cut-and-try new antennas for your station, or for field day, here's another useful site on the Web. Check out <http://packetradio.com/ant.htm> for a quick index to much of the Ham Radio Operator's Antenna Handbook. Here in a nutshell are antenna designs for dipoles, yagis, beams, loops and more. The illustrations are clear and easy to follow. There are handy antenna length cutting and element spacing charts, as well as some simple but neat designs for home-built j-poles, vertical dipoles and more. The step-by-step project for building a 6-meter j-pole from sturdy plumbing copper tubing includes a "click here and design your own" custom feature. Definitely worth a look!

SIX METERS

And speaking of antennas, you'll find straightforward instructions for constructing a basic wire dipole for 6M that uses a Unadilla VHF balun at http://www.users.bigpond.com/lionelc/6met_erd.htm. The author includes a useful SWR chart for this indoor/outdoor antenna and describes his on-air results. Be prepared for those band openings this summer!

RUN OUT OF SERIAL PORTS BUT NEED ONE TO CONNECT A TNC?

Like many of us out there, I have a newer computer with USB ports but only one serial port. Often more than one piece of software or ham gear requires a serial port connection, so you may have to pick and choose what gets connected. Yes, you could add a card with more serial ports, or an outboard

switch box -- but there may be a simpler answer for those who don't like poking around inside their PCs. Searching the Web I found a USB to serial port converter that claims to enable the use of a TNC and other serial devices. I have no experience with the device, or the company, but you can find out more and make your own decision at <http://www.buxcommco.com/page3/bccpage3.htm>. The company also offers a range of ham accessories and components on its Web site. - Editor

(The following news briefs are courtesy of the ARRL Letter...)

ARRL Will Process License Renewals, Address Changes

ARRL members daunted by the FCC's Universal Licensing System <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>> can ask Headquarters to file their license renewal or change-of-address applications free of charge. ARRL members wishing to take advantage of this service should download Form NCVFC 605 (that's the form used by volunteer exam coordinators) from the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/ncvec605c.pdf>, print it, fill it in and mail it to ARRL VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. The response of those wanting ARRL to process renewals has been very positive. For the first three months of 2002, ARRL handled 1721 applications for members--up from 514 for the same period in 2001. The ARRL VEC staff now can process any member's FCC license application request, except for a vanity call sign application. Remember: Renewal applications may only be filed within 90 days of your license expiration date.

YHOTY Nomination Deadline

Nominations close May 30 for the Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award for 2002. Created in 1986, the award recognizes one young radio amateur under the age of 18 in the continental US for his or her contributions to society through Amateur Radio. Nominating forms and additional information are available at the Amateur Radio Newsline Web site, <<http://www.arnewsline.org>>. All nominations and materials required by the official rules must be received by Amateur Radio Newsline by May 30, 2002.

Kolibri-2000 Satellite Transmitting on 2 m, 70 cm

The Russian-Australian scientific-educational Kolibri-2000 microsat--has been launched into space from the International Space Station (see "Space&Beyond: Kolibri-2000 Shows Youngsters That Space is Vital to Mankind," by Tony Curtis, K3RXX <<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2001/12/16/1/>>).

Now known as RS-21, the satellite has been sending telemetry on 435.835 and 145.825 MHz. Scientific equipment aboard includes a ternary flux-gate magnetometer and electric field and high-energy particle analyzers. The microsat was delivered to the ISS aboard a Russian Progress cargo rocket launched last November 27. Prior to jettisoning the rocket, ISS Crew Commander Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DUO, positioned a transport/launch container holding the satellite in the Progress vehicle's hatch. After the transport cargo vehicle separated from the ISS March 20 and reached a specified distance, the satellite was launched following a radio command from Earth. For

additional information, visit the Kolibri 2000 Web site <<http://www.kolibri2000.ru>> (in Russian) or e-mail Aleksandr Papkov, plis@kaluga.ru.

Editor's Note:

Just a reminder to our readers that we're always looking for interesting features and news articles for the Capers. Special thanks to KB1IET and KB1IES for the article they wrote for this issue describing their role as CARA goodwill ambassadors to the Grange, and for promoting the value of amateur radio.

If you'd like to recommend a news item, a useful Web site you've discovered while surfing the Net, 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.

73 de KA1JDD

CARA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

Just in case you have not yet done so, be sure to renew your CARA membership for 2002. A renewal application is included in this month's newsletter for your convenience. If you're already a member, how about clipping the renewal form and keeping it handy for prospective new members you meet in "eyeball QSOs".



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**