



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

**Regular Meeting
Friday,
November 14th
at 8:00 PM**

**Meeting Topic:
Ed Hare, W1RFI from
ARRL Discusses BPL's
Threat to Ham Radio**



CAPERS

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

President – Frank Etzler – N8WXQ - phone - 860-350-3523
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Treasurer - John Ahle – W1JMA - phone - 203-438-6782



Issue: November 14, 2003

Meeting Friday, November 14, at 8:00 p.m.

President's Message

The holiday season is upon us again. I hope that everyone will have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanks to George N1GS and the crew, the repeater system is running rather well and has battery backup. There are still a few bugs but I understand they can be resolved. I know George would appreciate any available help.

Broadband over power lines (BPL) appears to have great potential to cause harm to amateur radio. It appears that if BPL is in your neighborhood - you can expect S9 noise in the HF and low VHF portion of the spectrum.

Ed Hare, W1RFI, from the ARRL, will explain BPL and its potential for interference. The ARRL efforts to stop BPL also will be

discussed. BPL, at least for the moment, appears to be an important issue for Amateur Radio and the League. I encourage all to attend the meeting.

Volunteers are needed for next year's Hamfest and Field Day.

I look forward to seeing you at the November meeting.

Frank, N8WXQ

Meeting Friday November 14th!

CARA's regular meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, beginning at 8 p.m., at St. Paul's Church Hall, Brookfield Center, CT. Informal "rag chewing" begins at 7:30 p.m.

The Great Paper Chase

Thanks again to Ted Melinosky, K1BV, for his excellent overview at the October meeting of the many awards and recognition certificates that await the dedicated and persistent ham radio operator.



Ted K1BV (left) and Dan W1QK discuss a few of the more than 3,700 domestic and international awards available. Some examples of the unique award certificates that can be earned also are pictured on this page.



Coming Up ... And "Help Wanted"

Here's a snapshot of meeting programs for the months just ahead. December's highlight is our annual holiday party. The January meeting features the yearly QSL card sort and pizza party. February is our joint YCCC meeting.

The Club also sponsors a number of activities during the year where your participation can make a real difference. For example, volunteers are needed for Field Day, for the Hamfest, and for ongoing Novice class training. There are lots of different jobs that need to be filled. And they're fun! Each of us has skills and time that can be put to good use. Ask around. Find an activity that interests you! Together we can make CARA even better!

ARRL EC Course Registration

Registration opened Monday, November 3, 12:01 AM EDT (0501 UTC), for the on-line Level I Emergency Communications course (EC-001). Registration remains open through the November 8-9 weekend or until all available seats have been filled--whichever comes first. Class begins Tuesday, November 18.

Thanks to grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 175 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis.

Those interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) course in the future can sign up to be advised via e-mail in advance of registration opportunities. To take advantage, send an e-mail to prereg@arrl.org. On the subject line, indicate the course name or number (e.g., EC-00#) and the month you want to start the

course. In the message body, provide your name, call sign, and e-mail address. Please do not send inquiries to the prereg@arrl.org mailbox.

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 Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, dmiller@arrl.org; 860-594-0340.

CARA Minutes September 12, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM. Visitors included Joe Fluette, who is interested in getting into amateur radio, and David AB1CN. K1EIJ has upgraded to Extra.

Member Ed Bouley died on Wednesday, and the Secretary will send a card of condolences to his wife.

Program:

Allan Pitts, W1AGP, is in charge of Emergency Communications for Connecticut. He spoke of the tests of emergency procedures held at Bradley Airport. Brochures are available at ARRL headquarters regarding these procedures. Amateur radio operators can take an online emergency communications training course to better prepare them for ARES work. Time is the problem. We need 2 teams of 5 people (a squad) with 2 on HF and 3 on VHF.

Allen has rules regarding involvement in the emergency communications program. Homeland Security Agency wants a citizen's corps. National Guard has its own internal communication system, but wants to link with ARES for external communication. CT OEM is set up at Rocky Hill location, not in the armory. As far as the Coast Guard and military, we will wait to see if they develop their own system (MARS).

There will be an SET test in October. It will include weather people and will need monitoring.

Regular Business Meeting:

Report on the Hamfest -- set for Sunday, September 14th. Tailgaters will prepay, food is being taken care of by Judy. Set-up is directed by Ken and Eric. Signs will be on I-84 and talk-in will start at 7 a.m. Main gate will be covered by Bill and Bill W. Announcements by Jim. We have spent \$404 already. ARES and CARA forms will be available.

Minutes were waived.

Treasurer reported that \$3821 has been taken in so far this year, including a \$500 donation. The profit from the Hamfest will be announced after the bills are paid.

Repeater--verify membership before code is given for autopatch. Autopatch not working now since there is no dial tone. New controller has been installed. Interface for 440 is being designed. Noise problem will be addressed. Motion made but was withdrawn to buy a 440 PL tone deck for \$60. Battery backup for repeater was discussed. We already have what we need, and it does work. Danbury Emergency Operations Center is open.

Tower situation in Danbury -- Danbury counsel is still trying to formulate an opinion. Meeting closed at 10:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Babbitt, Secretary

CARA Minutes October 10, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM. Visitors included: Tony, unlicensed as of now, and Debby and Al, interested in seeing what amateur radio is all about. Guest speaker was Ted, K1BV, and the subject was Awards and how to collect them.

The regular meeting was called to order after a brief break. The minutes were moved to be accepted as presented. Treasurer

reported a total income of \$4330.40 with \$3042.67 expenses, leaving us with \$1287.73 profit. The profit from the Hamfest was \$1126. The treasurer's report was moved to be accepted.

Repeater committee:

George reported that the repeater was working fine. On Saturday a crew will be working on the new repeater. Telephone has been repaired, but is not connected. Danbury EOC has a digipeater on it. This is only for emergencies and is on 145.03. CARA repeater will be primary. Battery backup is now on and will be good for about 1 week without power. Concerning the coordination of 147.30, the update has been sent. Nothing has been received back. Discussion followed on Echolink and making announcements.

New business:

Simulated national emergency--Skywarn coordinated, started on Fri afternoon to Saturday morning. Danbury ARES--looking for new members. The Red Cross is also involved. FEMA -- 40 minutes to determine if it is a real emergency. 20 minutes to notify public.

Update on Packet cluster situation. No conclusion regarding New Milford tower.

Other discussion:

Contesting coming up.
Jeff---Programs
Nov.---K1RFI---Broadband internet
Dec.---Party
Jan.---OSL sort
Feb.---YCCC and CARA joint meeting

Sponsoring of new class: Place? Leaders? Dates? Field Day and Hamfest for upcoming year.

Paul Estefan---Director of Civil Preparedness Emergency Communications Center in Danbury, wants to work with amateur radio community to get tower ordinance changed in Danbury first!

CARA might want to run special event from ECC. Elmers sought to help new hams.

Meeting closed at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Babbitt, Secretary

AMATEUR RADIO SUPPORTS CALIFORNIA FIRE DISASTER

Ham radio volunteers have played a major supporting role in the ongoing fire emergency in Southern California.

ARRL San Diego Section Manager Kent Tiburski, K6FQ, says hams continue to supplement communication at shelters in the area. "We've been busy," Tiburski said October 29. "This is by far the worst disaster we've ever experienced." He estimated that approximately 200 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) volunteers have participated so far in the fire emergency with about 100 in the field at any given time.

Tiburski says hams have been assisting American Red Cross relief efforts, primarily in terms of logistics and working with damage assessment teams. Others have provided liaison between the California Department of Forestry and the Red Cross, which is providing meals and shelter for firefighters.

San Diego Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) Coordinator Paul Cook, N6RPF, reports he and other SATERN members have been providing communication assistance for The Salvation Army's relief efforts. They've had help from other amateurs as well, he said.

Elsewhere in California, ARRL Orange Section Manager Carl Gardenias, WU6D,

says that Amateur Radio operators continue working with relief agencies in that part of the state.

At the Red Cross shelters, hams have been "shadowing" shelter managers, communicating shelter supply requests, and helping with health-and-welfare inquiries for shelter clients, Gardenias said. Amateur Radio also is serving to keep shelters in touch with the Red Cross regional headquarters.

(Courtesy ARRL Letter. Steve Ewald, WV1X, contributed information for this report)

Nets

CARA Weekly Net: Sunday nights at 7:30 p.m. 147.30+ (PL 100)

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

Tips Net: Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on 146.73- (PL77) (linked statewide).

R-Com Weekly Net: 145.47- (PL100) Thursday Evenings, 8 p.m.

ConnARES Area One (North) VHF Net: Mondays, 8 p.m., alternately on 147.30+ (PL 100), or 146.73- (PL 77 or 100).

ConnARES Issues Net: 3.965 MHz +/-, Thursdays @ approx 6:15 p.m. (following CT Phone Net)

ConnARES Area One Reminder

ConnARES Area One (North) VHF Net is currently meeting weekly, on Monday nights at 8 p.m. The net will be held alternately on the CARA 147.30+ (PL 100) repeater, and on the New Milford repeater, 146.73- (PL 77 or 100). Announcements will be made at the beginning of each net confirming the repeater in use for that evening.

For additional information contact Bill, W1WJB, DEC, Area One, bill@StudioOne-ct.com.

SKYWARN Recognition Day

The fifth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will take place this year on Saturday, December 6, 2003. This is the day that Amateur Radio operators visit National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other operators around the world. The purpose of the event is to recognize Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather, and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local National Weather Service office. The event is co-sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service.

SKYWARN Recognition Day this year will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on December 6, 2003. Scott Mentzer, the creator and promoter of the event, strives to involve more NWS offices and Amateur Radio operators each year. In 2002, participants logged nearly 23,000 QSO's during the 24-hour event. Last year nearly 70 countries were contacted. To learn more about this year's event, check out the NOAA Web site: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>. This site includes a link to a list of participating National Weather Service offices and their call signs.

Editor's Note:

Just a reminder that we're always looking for interesting features and news articles for the CARA CAPERS. Paid-up members are also welcome to place no-charge classified ads for ham-related items. Just drop an email note to the CAPERS editor, Barry Connolly, KA1JDD@arrl.net, or call: 203-748-1033.

Want the CARA CAPERS by e-mail?

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