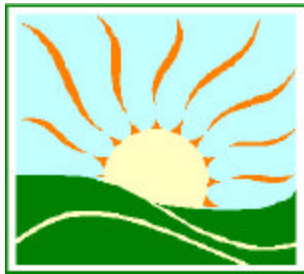




CAPERS

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

President – Frank Etzler – N8WXQ - phone - 860-350-3523
Vice President – Harlan Ford – KB1ILY – phone- 203-798-8096
Secretary – Martha Babbitt – KB1IES - phone - 860-350-8804
Treasurer - John Ahle – W1JMA - phone - 203-438-6782



Issue: August 2004

Meeting this Month: Friday, August 13 at 8 p.m.

Meetings

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.

Tropospheric Ducting?

Yes, that's a monkey hanging from the ductwork in the ceiling at the July CARA meeting at St. Paul's Church in Brookfield. The tropical island theme decorations were for an upcoming church program -- but provided an interesting counterpoint to the July program: a video on the 2002 VP8GEO Dxpedition to South Georgia!



While we can't hold over the island theme, we do look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the August 13 meeting. Eric Griffin, N1JSY/T30ES,

is planning to join us to tell us a little about his island experiences with the



Peace Corps on Kiribati, and the challenges of portable operation as T30ES – which included sharing one of the island's few 12-volt auto batteries!



You won't find unusual décor at every CARA meeting, but we can promise you interesting programs, good friends, stimulating conversation and an opportunity to learn more about our hobby.

We hope to see you on the 13th...

Give Meeting Time Some Thought

One of our members has suggested that meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. rather than 8 p.m. so that our programs can adjourn earlier. Please give this suggestion some thought and be prepared to present your views at the August meeting.

Minutes of June 2004 Meeting

CARA Minutes for June 11, 2004:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM. The program was a joint meeting with YCCC and CARA. The speaker was Mike W1JQ and Joe N1KHB. After a brief break, the

meeting was reconvened. The minutes were accepted as published. The Treasurer reported that we have \$5801.46 in the bank.

Upgrades: Harlan, KB1ILY, to Extra Class

Committees:

VE Session was held on June 5th. This was the first time CARA had an occasion to provide special needs accommodations. Additional discussion later if needed.

Field Day –John has 10 GOTA pins and 20 Field Day pins. Setup of antennas at 6 p.m. on Friday. Rest of setup is on Saturday at 8 a.m. Need: archers, grill, cooks, van, and camper. Work Meeting- 7PM

Repeater- everything working smoothly

Nominations:

President	Frank Etzler
Vice President	Harlan Ford
Secretary	Martha Babbitt
Treasurer	John Ahle
Directors:	Bill Schaeffer
	Jeff Cantor
	George Slater
Trustee:	Dan Fegley

The nominations were closed. The membership was all in favor. The Secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Babbitt, KE1IES
Secretary

CARA Hamfest Sunday, Sept. 12!

Yep, it's hard to believe but there are only about 30 days before the 2004 CARA Hamfest. The event will be held again this year at the Edmund Town Hall, on Sunday, September 12. See the flyer accompanying this month's CAPERS and tell you friends and fellow hams. *This event is the Club's premier fund raising activity. Together we can make it successful AND fun!*

Fall Meeting Program Preview

Here's a preview of the club programs coming up this fall. In September, look for a presentation by George Slater on how to set up and use battery power effectively in your shack. In October, Ken Nuebeck will review the ins and outs of six meters "the magic band". And in November, Jim Ritterbusch will demonstrate how to "speak loudly while carrying only a few watts" when he covers the challenging field of QRP QSOs. Mark your calendars now and join us for these interesting programs!

CARA Standing Committees

Just a reminder to all members that these are the standing committees that help make CARA run. Our members and their ideas are our strength. Everyone will be asked to help where they can by signing up with one of these committees in the fall.

Repeater and Digital Equipment

- Repeater coordination
- Repeater maintenance
- Packet cluster maintenance
- Other digital equipment

Operating Activities

- Field Day- June 2005
- New England QSO Party – May 2005
- WACC
- Special event station or fall contest

Hamfest

- Plan and organize – September 2005
- Publicity

Membership

- Annual dues notification and follow up
- Annual new member drive

Education and Elmering

- Organize or sponsor class for entry-level license
- Organize Elmer support network for new hams

Organize two 3-person ARES deployment teams

Program Committee

- Organize and arrange monthly program
- Staff and Net Control for Sunday 7:30 p.m. CARA net
- CARA CAPERS newsletter

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., bi-weekly, alternately on 147.30+ (PL 100), or 146.73- (PL 77 or 100).

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

KZ1Z is On The Air!

Pete, KZ1Z, reports his new SteppIR vertical antenna is up and he's officially on the air from his new Florida QTH.



Despite the poor band conditions he christened the new antenna with QSOs with Larry N1URB and Betsey K1EIC. The photo shows Pete in his new shack



and there's also a picture of the "stealthy" SteppIR installed in his yard (below, center, and barely visible against the green foliage).

Pete reports, "This is a very interesting antenna, a radical design: a green fiberglass pole with a metal band that raises and lowers inside the antenna

shaft depending on operating frequency – thus always a great match. There are no coils or tuner." Pete installed the antenna with 16 ground radials. The 18-foot tall antenna handles 6-20 meters and is hardly noticeable to neighbors. The antenna's control box can be interfaced with a computer to raise and lower the antenna automatically, taking the dial position from the radio.

EXTRA! EXTRA! We also hope many of the CAPERS readers caught the July 30 Danbury News-Times article "Ham Radio Expert Driven by Fun, Public Service" that profiled Pete, and many of his ham radio experiences over the years. Terrific PR for all of us who are active in and enjoy this hobby! If you missed it, check the on-line News-Times archives.

"73" from all of us in CARA, Pete, and here's to many more QSOs down the road!

ARRL NE Convention August 13-15

Just a reminder to all that the annual ARRL NE Convention is slated for the weekend of August 13-15 at Boxboro MA. This is a premier amateur radio event and a unique experience. For more details check out the event website at www.boxboro.org.

Call-Sign Updates...

The ARRL bulletin advises that the FCC has ceased issuing 2x3-format Amateur Radio vanity call signs with the prefixes WC, WR, WK and WT. WC prefixes had been issued for RACES stations, WR for repeaters and WK and WT call signs for special-use licenses.

In other call sign news, the FCC's new vanity call sign fee of \$20.80 for a ten-year license term goes into effect Tuesday, August 10. The old fee had been \$16.30. All vanity call sign applications received at the FCC on or

after Tuesday, August 10, must be accompanied by the new, higher fee.

How-to Ham Class Proposed

Joe Wonoski, N1KHB, ARRL Connecticut Section Technical Coordinator recently sent out a preliminary announcement of an ARRL Conn. Section-sponsored ham class planned for some time this coming winter. Joe's "early advisory" is intended to get feedback from individual hams and local clubs on what topics they would like included in this class.

The proposed class is not a licensing or upgrade class, but rather a how-to class for any hams who would like to learn or improve their skills in areas such as, but not limited to, the following:

Soldering, feedline/connector installation, wire antenna building, homebrewing (a broad area that needs further definition), and any other areas of interest. There is also the possibility of including some sort of group project(s).

Suggestions for the format, content, and even the duration of this class are all welcome. Let Joe know what those topics are that you want to see covered and if it is popular enough, he will try to get it in. Joe anticipates that this class will be held at some reasonably convenient and geographically central site. This is a Section level activity, but he will entertain offers from clubs or groups who would like to provide a suitable site for this event.

Please contact Joe with your thoughts, suggestions and ideas for the class. You can reach him at N1KHB@aol.com, or by phone (reasonable hours please) at 203-457-9770.

CARA 2004 VE Schedule

Make a note of the CARA-sponsored Volunteer Exam (VE) schedule for the remainder of the year:

- Saturday, September 18
- Saturday, December 4

These VE sessions are held at St. Paul's Church in Brookfield Center, the site of our regular monthly meetings. Registration for these exam sessions begins at 11:30 a.m. There is no pre-registration, but an e-mail in advance of the session, or telephone call, would be appreciated so the examiners know how many potential candidates to expect. The current fee for new license exams or upgrade exams is \$12. Be sure to bring with you two forms of ID – at least one with your photo. Also bring the original AND copy of CSCE's and/or amateur license. The registration form will be supplied at the session.

Questions or comments? Check with Frank, N1PE, frsileo@att.net, 203-438-0218 (Ridgefield CT).

ARES Com Plan to Enhance EmCom Capability

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted a resolution encouraging further development and expansion of an inaugural network to enhance the emergency communications capability of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). The action came during the Board's meeting July 16-17. The Board had charged an ad hoc committee, dubbed "ARESCOM," with developing an augmented ARES telecommunications system that would include rapid and accurate handling of long-range emergency communications. ARESCOM recommended deployment of a digital e-mail system based on Winlink 2000 software. The Board encouraged the deployment of e-mail via Amateur Radio--"as exemplified by Winlink 2000"--to meet the needs of served agencies and others involved in providing disaster communications.

"The digital network will provide a value-added service for ARES and will continue to be viewed very positively by our served

agencies," the committee said in its report to the Board. "This allows ARES to be viewed as modern and necessary instead of antiquated and invasive."

The committee, chaired by Great Lakes Division Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT, said situations arise when ARES must "pass message traffic across the nation quickly and accurately." It also said the need for such a nationwide ARES capability is likely to increase in light of the ARRL's Citizen Corps partnership with the Department of Homeland Security.

Winlink 2000--a worldwide Amateur Radio digital radio e-mail system--already is widely used by the blue water boating and recreational vehicle communities. Members of the ARRL Programs and Services Committee witnessed a Winlink 2000 demonstration at ARRL Headquarters the day before the board meeting.

The ARRL Board extended the committee's charter until its January 2005 meeting so ARESCOM can complete an implementation plan that ensures that ARES has "the prominent role" in managing the national network and that ARES officials and appropriate ARRL Headquarters staffers have an chance to critique the network's operation to ensure it meets the requirements of ARES and its served agencies.

ARRL Board OK's Grassroots Lobbying Effort



The ARRL Board of Directors has formalized a grassroots congressional lobbying program

with an initial focus on BPL. Acting July 16 during its second meeting of 2004 in Windsor, Connecticut, the Board acknowledged the need to "immediately begin a BPL grassroots lobbying campaign." Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, who headed the Ad Hoc Committee on Grassroots Lobbying, sees the creation of a national "political machine" as a practical way to protect Amateur Radio spectrum.

"We're really, in essence, changing the culture of how we operate," Fallon said after the meeting. "We're going to use our embers as constituents to talk to key legislators." While the campaign will zero in on BPL in the near term, it eventually could expand to support bills dealing with spectrum protection and with and deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) and their impact on amateur antennas.

"It can be more effective for two or three constituents to walk into a lawmaker's office to pitch their cause," Fallon said. Such contacts, he pointed out, also can pave the way for subsequent meetings between League officials and members of Congress or their staff members.

To establish a coordinating structure, the Board created the positions of Division Congressional Action Chair, Congressional Action Coordinator and Congressional Action Assistant. The Board authorized the League's 15 division directors to appoint qualified volunteers to these positions.

Under the plan the Board adopted, the Division Congressional Action Chair, one in each ARRL division, would be a cabinet-level volunteer with some experience in lobbying activities. There would be at least one Congressional Action Coordinator in each state, ideally selected in consultation with section managers. These volunteers also would be members of the director's cabinet. Working with the director, the Congressional Action Coordinator will designate and develop a number of Congressional Action Assistants

to "accomplish the mission of getting the ARRL message to legislators," the ad hoc committee's report explained.

Fallon said the grassroots lobbying effort will fold into a comprehensive broadband over power line strategy, which the Board discussed at length but did not make public. The Board expressed the hope that the lobbying effort could be up and running by fall.

other business, the Board:

- * approved a system to automatically recognize long-term League membership and to express appreciation of that support through a system of awards.

- * designated the next Dayton Hamvention as ARRL National Convention 2005. Hamvention will take place May 20-22 at Hara Arena near Dayton, Ohio.

- * directed the filing of an application with the FCC for an experimental license authorizing low-frequency operation for specified Amateur Radio stations.

- * directed the filing of a petition with the FCC to permit security of data for computer-to-computer communications on domestic transmissions above 50 MHz.

- * established as policy that ARES groups and any group using the ARES logo shall formally acknowledge ARES as an ARRL program, including in their bylaws or other organizational documents, and agree to abide by all rules and guidelines the League establishes. Since both ARES and Amateur Radio Emergency Service are registered ARRL service marks, ARES groups are to utilize the R symbol in any printed or

electronic media and note that the logo is used by permission. All ARES records, membership rosters and other data pertaining to the ARES program, wherever located, are the property of the ARRL.

- * resolved to have President Haynie appoint a study committee to recommend effective means of promoting "constructive relations and open lines of communication" between the League and the Amateur Radio industry. The committee will solicit input from the Industry Advisory Council and report to the Board at its January 2005 meeting.

- * recognized and thanked ARRL Chief Operating Officer Mark Wilson, K1RO, for his longstanding service and dedication to the League and wished him well in his future endeavors. Wilson has announced that he'll be leaving ARRL in September to move to New Hampshire. He's been a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff for 24 years.

The official minutes of the July 2004 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors are available on the ARRL Web site <:"
[target=externalhttp://www.arrl.org/announce/board-0407/](http://www.arrl.org/announce/board-0407/)>.

(Tnx to ARRL Letter)

Editor's Note:

Just a reminder that we're always looking for interesting features and news articles for the CARA CAPERS. Contact the editor, Barry, KA1JDD, barry@connollyco.com, or call: 203-748-1033.

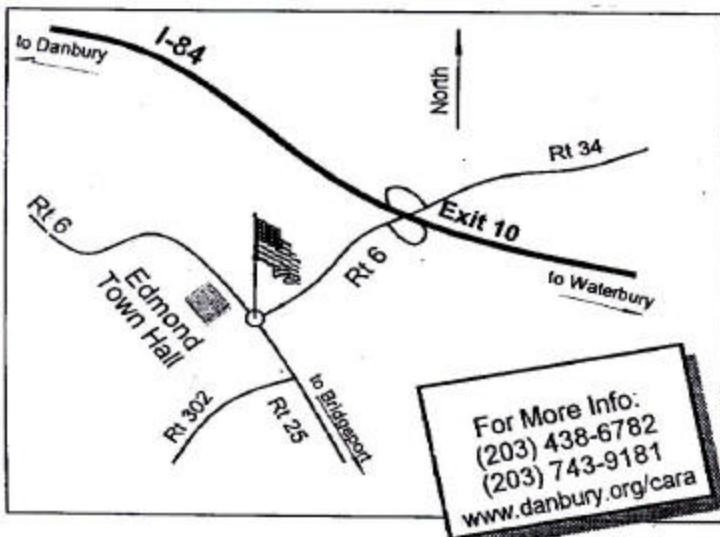
Western CT Hamfest

Sponsored by Candlewood Amateur Radio Association
(CARA)

- **Sunday, September 12, 2004**
- **Edmund Town Hall, Route 6, Newtown CT**
- **Set-up 7 a.m.**
- **Doors open 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**



**Talk-in on 147.300+
PL 100**



- **Admission \$5 (under 10 free)**
- **Tables \$12.50 (includes 1 admission)**
- **Tailgate \$8 (includes 1 admission)**
- **Ham Radio Equipment**
- **Computer Gear**
- **Door Prizes**
- **Refreshments**
- **Ample Parking**
- **Rain or Shine**
- **ARRL Sanctioned**



Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA) Hamfest, September 12, 2004
c/o Bill Schaefer – N1PJG, 63A Taylor Avenue, Bethel CT 06801, (203) 798-2831

Name: _____ Phone # (daytime) _____

Address: _____ Phone # (evening) _____

Please reserve ____ tables, at \$12.50 each. I need ____ do not need ____ electricity.

Amount enclosed: (\$ _____). Please make checks payable to C.A.R.A.