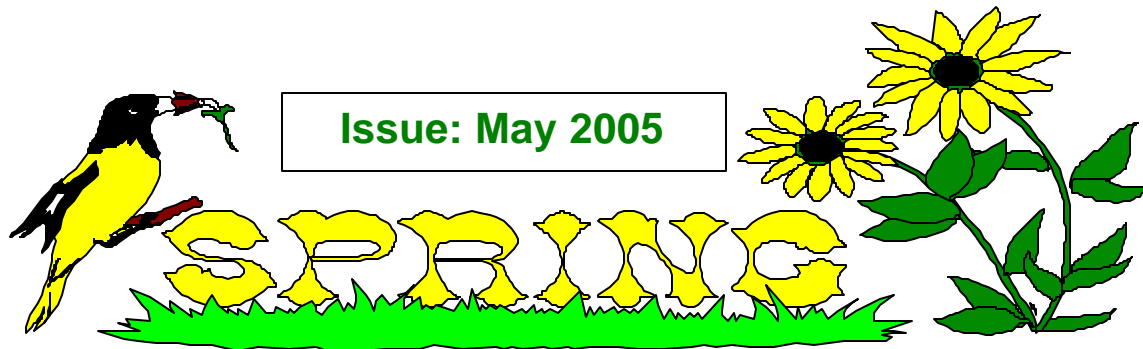




CAPERS

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



Meeting: Friday, May 13 at 8 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By our May 13 club meeting, the New England QSO Party will have come and gone. Once again CARA will have manned W1AW. I hope that each of you participated for at least a few QSO's. Those who have worked all CT counties should apply for the CARA sponsored the CT worked all counties awarded.

Elections will be held during the June Meeting. It is time to place your candidates in nomination. Please consider helping the club in other ways as well. Your assistance in even small ways is appreciated. My thanks are extended to all who have helped CARA in the past years.

At this month's meeting Gene, K2KJI, from KJI electronics (www.kjielelectronics.com) will present the program. He will tell us about all the latest amateur radio equipment. If you would like to purchase any equipment from

Gene, this would be a excellent. Gene has supported our hamfest for many years.

Most of all, I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

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.

April Program Highlights QSLing

Those of us who could attend the April meeting enjoyed a comprehensive presentation on the art of QSLing, or exchanging personalized ham station reply cards, with our amateur radio brothers and

sisters around the world. The program was presented by club president Frank N8WXQ, no stranger to QSLing, who has achieved an enviable record of QSL cards and displayed some of them as part of his presentation.

Some of the resources Frank recommended are www.eham.net, www.dxwe.org and www.golist.net for additional information. For callback data, Frank suggested www.ac6v.com and www.arrl.org. Of course, there are many other QSL-related sites available on the Internet as well. If you have not tried a Google search on "ham radio", try it some time when you have a few hours to explore the many "hits" you'll turn up. There's truly a wealth of information and many valuable resource and reference



materials.

For those of us who are ARRL members, Frank pointed out the valuable resource that the W1 Bureau provides handling incoming and outgoing QSL cards. See the ARRL web site for additional information. The service charge for handling about 70 QSL cards (a half pound) is a nominal \$4.

Nominating Committee Announces Slate for 2005 Elections

Nominating committee chairman Jeff K1ZN announced the following **nominees** for 2005 club officers at the April meeting:

- President: Frank N8WXQ
- Vice President: Harlan KB1ILY
- Secretary: Martha KB1IES
- Treasurer: (open)
- Directors: Dan W1QK; John W1JMA; Jeff K1ZN

NE QSO Party Sunday May 8

A reminder that the 2005 New England QSO Party is slated for Mother's Day, Sunday May 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at W1AW in Newington. The object of the NE QSO Party is to contact as many New England stations (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT) in as many New England counties as possible on 80-40-20-15-10m. New England stations can work anyone. This is a CARA-sponsored event, and if you can possibly participate for even an hour or two you'll have a great experience. For more details, see <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

At the April meeting, Ken W1NG, held up the CARA-sponsored award he received as the top scorer in the 2004 NE QSO Party. A handsome plaque indeed!

New Member Welcome!

Welcome to new ham and new CARA member John KB1LYP. John is a graduate of the new ham training classes conducted by Don KB1IET and Martha KB1IES. Welcome John, and we hope to see you at many future CARA meetings and events.

Upcoming CARA Programs

For the May 13th meeting, Gene of KJI Electronics will be our guest speaker. He will discuss the new ICOM radios—in particular the 756 Pro III. Any members who would like Gene to bring a particular piece of equipment with him are invited to contact him directly through his Web site, www.kjielelectronics.com

In June, our primary program will be Field Day, which takes place the weekend of June 25-26. Contact Jim, KD1YV, if you can participate so he can finalize an operating schedule. Field Day is a fun event. Even if you have only a few hours over the weekend, you'll have a great time if you stop by. Operators are always needed and if you don't yet have your general ticket it's a great

way to get on HF (since control operators will be there) and make some contacts!

Our meeting theme in July –for the summer period when many of us will be taking to the road for vacations--will be “Operating Mobile.” Club members will demonstrate the best practices for installing mobile radios and antennas in your vehicle, as well as discuss electrical safety and safe mobile operating tips.

The “Kollege Of Packet Radio Knowledge”.

A one-time seminar on packet radio is being offered, covering ALL the basics, and taught in fully interactive classroom mode by two of our most expert Practitioners of The Art of Packet. Chuck, AB1CR; Betsey, K1EIC, will be your instructors and expert guides to this fascinating and sometimes complex field. Here’s the “scoop” as supplied by Bill W1WJB:

There will be four approximately one-hour classes in a single session on Saturday, May 14, as follows:

- 1) Introduction To Packet
- 2) Introduction To Packet Networks
- 3) Using The Flexnet Network, and FBB Bulletin Boards
- 4) Proper Setup And Operation Of Your Packet Station

A lunch break is planned. You may either bring your own, or step out for lunch, as you prefer. ALL your questions, confusions, and puzzlements will be answered at last!

Brand new, and would-be new packet operators are of course especially invited, and vital to this class in providing potential new instructors and also new packet-capable operators and stations.

Since our experts cannot give this course

very often, the intention is for people with some moderate packet knowledge to attend also and take advantage of this as a "train-the-trainer" event, so that they can go back to their club meetings, and do their own local courses and workshops to help others. We will provide the very same materials to these new "trainers" that our experts will use during the class.

Where: At the Connecticut Office of Emergency Management Area One HQ, in Bridgeport, at the State P.D. Troop G barracks.

When: Saturday, May 14th, 2005. 9am gather, 9:30 am, sharp, gavel to order.

Duration: Plan on 4 to 6 hours. We haven't done this before, so we don't know exactly how long it may run. A lot depends on the interaction between the attendees and the instructors. On-going unstructured discussions among the attendees may continue for some time afterwards, at the discretion of our host, Richard Fournier of the CT-OEM.

Bring: A notebook (or laptop). You will almost certainly want to take notes. In addition, there will be some very useful handouts.

Do NOT bring: Any packet hardware like TNCs or desktop computers, or any of the other usually proscribed items--- alcohol, drugs, firearms, etc. The State P.D. HQ security is very tight and strict. Travel light. The security of the parking lot, as you might imagine, is pretty good.

Entry will be by the front door lobby only. We'll escort in small groups of five or six as they accumulate between 9:00 and 9:25. The class will start promptly at 9:30 am. (We'll be monitoring 146.58 in the E.O.C. for talk-in, but we will also be checking the front lobby frequently during the entry period.)

RESERVATIONS are NECESSARY! We have room for 30 students, maximum! First come, first served. Email W1WJB@arrl.net

for your reservation. Include your name (obviously), callsign, and a phone number where we may contact you if something comes up to force a last-minute cancellation. You will get a reply confirming your rez.

Out-of-state ARES members will be placed on a waiting list, and as many as possible will be called back and accommodated on the Wednesday before the course; but Connecticut ARES members will have the first priority. So, don't hesitate to reserve right away, if you want to be in on this.

Contact Information:

Bill Barrett, W1WJB
Event Coordinator
203 438 3117

Via Packet: W1WJB@W1HAD
Best Email: W1WJB@arrl.net

BIG E is Looking for HAM Assistance
Connecticut's Big E exhibition and fair takes place this year September 15 through October 2nd. Organizers are again looking for hams to staff the amateur radio exhibit at this well-attended event. It's a high-profile opportunity for ham radio and a chance to recruit new members to our hobby. If you can help, please contact Larry, K1EHJ at k1ehj@yahoo.com.

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. Sign up for one of these committees in 2005 if you have not already done so. Talk to any of the club officers at Friday's meeting!

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:
Second Monday of each month, 8 p.m. on CARA repeater: 147.30+ (PL 100)

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

CARA VE exam schedule for 2005:

Make a note of the CARA-sponsored Volunteer Exam (VE) schedule for 2005:

Saturday, June 4

Saturday, September 17

Saturday, December 3

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 \$14. 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).

CARA Minutes

March 11, 2005

The regular meeting of CARA was called to order at 8:00 PM. The program for the evening was on TOP-OFF 3. There was a video and presentation regarding this drill, which is scheduled for April 4th through 7th.

The business meeting was called to order at 9:30 PM. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Secretary's minutes. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$7,698.12. The liability insurance will be coming due soon, and it was moved that we pay that bill.

The NE QSO party is scheduled for the first weekend in May. CARA will be operating from ARRL headquarters on Sunday. Operators are needed, especially those with Extra Class licenses.

Field Day—we will need to get another tent. Jodi Rell will be invited to join us again at Brookfield Town Park.

Ham Fest—Bill reported that the flyers are 90% done. He is tweaking the final details. He was looking for suggestions for programs similar to last year's. Emergency power and Rig Blasters were suggested as possibilities.

BPL—UI is testing it in a commercial area of Shelton. It does not seem to interfere with Shelton's hams at this time, but we need to get base reading in the area first. UI gets to use BPL for its own use without cost. They want to be able to shut off people's AC and water heaters automatically from the station.

PRB-1 – died in committee. It will be submitted again using Public Safety Committee.

Repeater – nothing new to report

New Business:

1. Two weeks ago, John W1JMA met with Redding Health Department. They were interest in using Ham Radio with their emergency plans. John sent a letter out to all hams in that area seeking volunteers for ARES and CARA. There was no response.
2. Nominating Committee Chairman --- Jeff
3. Danbury Tower Regulations – gone to Common Council. Jeff will follow up.
4. Harlan's daughter has a camper trailer available. It is 16 or 18 feet long with awning. It could be converted into emergency communications trailer. A

committee consisting of Harlan, Ken, Bill, Oscar and Rosty will check this out.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 PM

Respectfully,
Martha Babbitt KB1IES

CARA Minutes

April 8, 2005

The regular meeting of CARA was called to order at 8:00 PM. New faces included John Will KB1LYP and Bob KI1N. The program was on QSLs and was presented by Frank N8WXQ.

The business meeting was called to order at 9:21 PM. A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to accept the Secretary's minutes.

The Treasurer reported that we have a balance of \$7,552.21. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

The NE QSO party plaque given to W1NG was shown. This year's party is May 8th (Mother's Day). Group is meeting at 8:30 AM at Exit 9.

Nominating committee reported that the following offices have candidates:

President	Frank N8WXQ
Vice President	Harlan KB1ILY
Secretary	Martha KB1IES
Treasurer	open
Directors	W1QK
	W1JMA
	K1ZN

Field Day -- June 25 and 26

Set up on Friday Night at 5 PM

Second tent has arrived. The cost is \$120. A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to pay for the new tent.

Student Club in Newtown -- Don KB1IET spoke of a proposal of having a student club in Newtown as part of CARA with a student

rate of \$5.00 per year for Middle School and High School level students. The College and Senior Rate will apply to those in college and over 65 years of age. A motion was made and seconded. Discussion followed. A vote will be taken at the next meeting. Several people are looking into location, day and time.

Ham Fest -- all paper work is done. Flyers were handed out to members for distribution.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM

Respectfully,
Martha Babbitt KB1IES

Spring Skywarn Training

A listing of Skywarn classes, supplied by Phil WX1CT, follows. Most require pre-registration. If you plan on attending a class that requires registration please do so now as these classes could be cancelled if enough people don't register. Updates to the class listing will be posted at <file://www.ctskywarn.com> www.ctskywarn.com and on the CTSkywarn list.

Contact information:

Phil WX1CT (ex KA1YIQ)

Connecticut DEC Skywarn

Packet: WX1CT @ WX1CT.CT.USA.NOAM

Connecticut Skywarn:

<<http://www.CTSkywarn.com>>

<http://www.CTSkywarn.com>

AMSAT # 26718

Basic Skywarn Training Class Stamford, Connecticut (Fairfield County)

Thursday May 5 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Hosted by:

Stamford Amateur Radio Association
(SARA)

Location:

Stamford Government Center

Tresser Boulevard

Stamford, CT

Registration:
Via E-Mail: basic@ctskywarn.com
Via Phone: (631) 924-0517 x412

For Directions:
<<http://www.ctsara.org/govdir.htm>>
<http://www.ctsara.org/govdir.htm>
Amateur Radio Talk-In:
W1EE Repeater (SARA)
146.655 MHz, -600 kHz offset, 100.0 Hz

Basic Skywarn Training (Windham County)

Thursday May 5 7:00-10:00 PM

Windham Ct Pomfret Community School
20 Pomfret St.
Pomfret Center, CT 7 PM - 10 PM

Registration: Not Required

May- 14th New London Basic

Basic Skywarn Training Class Mashantucket, Connecticut (New London County)

Saturday May 14 - 1:00-3:00 pm

Hosted by:
Mashantucket Pequot Museum and
Research Center

Location:
110 Pequot Trail
Mashantucket, CT 06338-3180

Registration:
Via E-Mail: w1ssn@arrl.net
(Scott Moore W1SSN, New London County
SKYWARN Net Manager)
Via Phone: (631) 924-0517 x412

Amateur Radio Talk-In:
N1NW Repeater (RASON)
146.730 Mhz, -600 Khz offset, PL 156.7 Hz

New London, Connecticut (New London County)

Advanced Skywarn Training Class
New London, Connecticut (New London County)
Wednesday June 8 - 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Hosted by:
Charter Oak Chapter of the American Red Cross,
New London, CT

Location:
American Red Cross
150 Eugene O'Neill Drive
New London, CT 06320

Registration (required):
Via E-Mail: register.okxskywarn@noaa.gov
Via Phone: (631) 924-0517 x412

Registration Information needed...
Name, current Skywarn ID number,
Amateur Radio Call Sign (if applicable),
Phone Number

Plan Now for September Hamfest!

CARA's annual Hamfest will take place this year on Sunday, September 18. See the flyer attached to this month's issue of the CAPERS for more details. We're counting on you to do your part to promote this important and fun event. We also hope that every club member will find a role to play in supporting this event, whether it's directing traffic, helping with set-up and take down, at the admissions desk, or coordinating activities at the Edmund Town Hall or in the parking area. Mark your calendar today!

Got News?

Have an article for publication? Want to place a classified ad in the Capers? Contact the editor, Barry, KA1JDD, at ka1jdd@arrl.net, or call 203-748-1033.

(Ed Note: Some articles in CAPERS may be courtesy of the ARRL Letter)

Western CT. Hamfest

Sponsored by: Candlewood Amateur Radio Association
Sanctioned by the ARRL

Sunday Sept. 18, 2005 (rain or shine)

Edmund Town Hall, Rt. 6, Newtown Ct.

Set-up 7:00 AM, doors open from 8:00 AM- 12:30 PM

A great start to our commercial vendor list that includes

KJI Electronics- The latest new gear & always brings a great inventory.

QuickSilver Radio Products - All kinds of antennas and accessories.

West Mountain Radio- RIGrunners, RIGblasters and their CBA II.

QRP Labs- Very exciting new QRP kits.

Tail Gate Area with great bargains on both new and "previously owned" rigs,
components and computer hardware.

**Once again we will be running several seminars
Free parking, GREAT door prizes, Coffee and sweets**

Directions

From Rt. 84 exit 10 go West onto Rt.6 (west bound make a right, east bound make a left). Approx. ¾
mile at flag pole make a right onto Rt. 25. Edmund Town Hall will be approx. 100 yards on the left.

Talk-in 147.300, PL 100 HZ

Admission \$5.00 (under 10 free)

Indoor tables 12.50 (includes 1 admission)

Tailgating \$8.00 (includes 1 Admission)

Contact information- Bill Schaefer- N1PJG

Phone #203.798.2831, Cell # 203.470.1125 or

Ken 203.743.9181, John @ 203.438.6782

E-mail bs7000@hotmail.com, web site www.danbury.org/cara

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA) Hamfest, Sept. 18, 2005
c/o Bill Schaefer-N1PJG, 63A Taylor Ave, Bethel, Ct 06801 phone #203.798.2831

Name _____ daytime phone # _____

Address: _____ evening phone # _____

Please reserve _____ indoor tables @ \$12.50 each.. Amount enclosed \$ _____

I need _____ do not need _____ electricity

Please make checks payable to CARA