



CAPERS

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Post Office Box 3441 - Danbury, CT
Visit us on the Web at <http://www.danbury.org/cara>

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 – Bill Webb – W1AFX - phone - 203-775-0536



Meeting: Friday, October 14 at 8 p.m.

Issue: October 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

September was a busy month for CARA. In addition to the regular meeting the VE exam and Hamfest were held.

The Hamfest was a great success - approximately \$1700 was raised. I want to thank Bill, N1PJG for his efforts in organizing the Hamfest. I also want to thank all those who took the time to help during the Hamfest in any manner. This help is essential for the success of the club. KB1ILY is, particularly, thanked for presenting again his program on packet radio. I think such programs provide an additional attraction. I also hope each of you went home with a few ham radio goodies.

Please welcome Jamie, KB1MQB, when you hear him on the air. He passed his test with flying colors at the recent VE session. Jamie visited our club during the July meeting and attended the hamfest.

This month we continue with our digital programs. Software defined radio will be the subject of the talk. Joe, AB1DO, will be the speaker. Joe is one of our members and we thank him for his willingness to share his experiences with us. I know that I look forward to learning more.

Oscar, KB1LQV, will, additionally, share some of his experiences while operating in Louisiana in the aftermath of the hurricanes and under real emergency conditions.

The new Connecticut law banning the use of electronic devices (cell phones) while driving is not expected to affect ham radio. It should be noted, however, that the ARRL is monitoring this situation and would like know if any ham runs afoul of this law while operating ham radio equipment. See the ARRL web page for more details.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the 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.

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 if you have not already done so. Talk to any of the club officers at a regular 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).

Remember to Use Full Call Sign!

Jim, KD1YV, notes that recent observations on the CARA repeater indicate an increasing use of just a callsign suffix (e.g. "JDD", "YV") as a shortcut to identify the caller. While this

may seem like a quick and innocent abbreviation it does not, of course, meet FCC regulations for identification of an amateur radio station. In fact, Riley Hollingsworth, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, has gone on record affirming this as part of Part 97 regulations that govern the amateur radio service. So, consider this a gentle reminder to always use our full callsigns when identifying ourselves on the air, and if you're a more-experienced ham be sure to provide a good example to newly-licensed hams!

Preparedness Kits Important for Emergencies

Bill, N1TIW, suggests we each think about putting together preparedness kits for emergencies that can be used both at home, in the event we're called on to "shelter in place" and on the road—for example in the case of a required evacuation, or if we're serving as part of a voluntary mobile emergency response team.

The recommended items in the following lists are from the San Francisco Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security, courtesy of Bill's research, but they're equally applicable to those of us here in the Northeast as well.

Home Emergency Preparedness Kit:

- Water: 1 gallon of drinking water per person and pet per day. Rotate every 6 months.
- Food: Ready-to-eat or requiring minimal water, such as canned tuna, canned fruit and vegetables, canned beans, raisins, peanut butter, granola bars, canned milk. And for families with children, stock some familiar "comfort foods". Include a manual can opener!
- First Aid Kit: disposable gloves, sterile dressing, soap, antibiotic ointment, adhesive bandages, eye wash, scissors, diarrhea medication, prescription medications and other personal medical supplies.
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Cash in small denominations

- Copies of important documents and phone numbers
- Unscented household bleach for water purification and disinfecting
- Personal hygiene items, like toilet tissue, soap etc.
- Sturdy, comfortable shoes; extra socks
- Work gloves
- Extra clothes suitable to climate, hat, rain gear
- Local map in case you're directed to evacuate by a specific route
- Extra prescription eye glasses, hearing aid or other personal items
- Plastic sheeting, duct tape and knife to cover broken windows
- Blankets or sleeping bag
- Extra keys to your house or vehicle
- Plastic garbage bags for waste and sanitation
- Formula, diapers, toys etc for infants and small children
- Extra cane, folding wheelchair etc for family members with special needs
- For pets: drinking water, bowls, food, leash, vet records, pet carrier, cat litter and tray etc.

Mobile Emergency Preparedness Kit:

- Pack items in easy-to-carry bag with ID tag; one for each family member. Consider keeping a "go kit" in the office and in your car as well as at home. Items may include:
- Water, food, manual can opener
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery-operated radio
- Loud whistle, to signal for help
- Personal medications and prescriptions
- Extra keys to house and vehicle
- Basic First Aid Kit
- Walking shoes, extra clothes, rain gear
- Extra eye glasses, hearing aid etc.
- Toilet tissue, plastic bags
- Dust mask
- Pocket knife or multi-tool
- Paper, pens, tape for leaving messages
- Cash in small denominations
- Copies of insurance and identification cards
- Recent photo of family members and pets
- In child's bag include favorite toy, game, book as well as card with reunification

information and out-of-area contact information.

It's worth noting that "go kits" and other personal emergency kits can be personalized in many ways to fit your own unique circumstances. The lists here are starting points and provide food for thought. I'm sure we could each come up with more or different items. For example, as hams we'd most likely include a handheld VHF radio and repeater directory, and perhaps FRS (Family Radio Service) walkie-talkies so non-ham family members could keep in touch. There's no "right" or "wrong" "go kit". The important thing is to spend some time thinking about your unique situation and to construct a preparedness kit that works for you and your family.

Opinion on Impact of CT Cell Phone Law...

Betsey, K1EIC, our Section Manager, recently sent the following advisory. For those of you who may not have seen it, here is some background/opinion on the possible impact of the new CT cell phone law..

"Many of you have asked about the effect the new Cell Phone bill which is now law, will have on Amateur Radio mobile communications. SGL Mike Keane, K1MK writes the following:

"There is this new law. Stay calm; it's not the end of the world... It remains to be seen what has been written in the statute gets translated into practice. Section leadership and HQ are monitoring how this develops. If for any reason a ham is stopped be respectful, be non-confrontational and above all let us know the details. A Connecticut bill, HB 6959, now Public Act 05-220, is effective October 1. In most cases, this would not apply to Connecticut Amateur stations. The Act is concerned with mobile telephones and mobile electronic devices. The legislature added language on "mobile

electronic devices" to say "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other portable electronic equipment capable of providing data communication..." I know as hams we think of our radios as being highly capable, but a run-of-the-mill HT cannot provide data communications without first being augmented with additional equipment, specifically a TNC, keyboard and screen. Thus, for the vast majority of hand-held and portable users, their radios are incapable of providing data communications, and would not be considered to be mobile electronic devices as such are defined in Sec. 2(a) (8) of PA 05-220. The exception would be an APRS-capable HT.

The Connecticut law will prohibit a driver from "using" a packet/APRS station while in motion. A reasonable interpretation would be that simply leaving one's packet/APRS station powered-on and active while a vehicle is in motion is permissible. However, should a driver take his/her attention off the road while moving in order to read the screen or type at the keyboard of their packet station, he/she would then be in violation of the provision of Sec. 2(b)(1) of PA 05-220.

John Hennessee N1KB, Regulatory Information Specialist ARRL has indicated to your SM and SGL that ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay stated "the Bill clearly is not intended to apply to anything but telephones. It is not entirely clear that a "mobile electronic device" excludes Amateur Radio transceivers, but there is a good argument that they are in fact excluded."

For the Act, see

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/act/Pa/2005PA-00220-R00HB-06959-PA.htm>.

ARRL COO Testifies on Capitol Hill



NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 30, 2005--ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, testified on behalf of the League September 29 before the US House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Addressing the hearing topic, "Public Safety Communications from 9/11 to Katrina: Critical Public Policy Lessons," Kramer reiterated and amplified comments ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, delivered earlier this month to the House Government Reform Committee. As did Haynie's remarks, Kramer testified on the successful efforts of Amateur Radio operators who provided communications during the Hurricane Katrina response.

"Amateur Radio was uniquely suited to this task by virtue of the availability of HF communications covering long distances without fixed infrastructure," Kramer pointed out in his testimony. In addition to those who responded to support relief agencies in hurricane-devastated areas, thousands more radio amateurs outside the affected area monitored radio traffic and relayed health-and-welfare messages, he said.

Kramer noted that there's been a lot of discussion in recent years about public safety interoperability. "The Amateur Radio Service provides a good deal of interoperability communications for first responders in disaster relief incidents," he told the subcommittee. He said ham radio is able to fill this crucial role because even the

"interoperability channels" that exist in most Public Safety allocations are useless when the Public Safety communication infrastructure goes down.

"Interoperability, in short, presumes operability of Public Safety facilities," Kramer said. "While some 'hardening' of Public Safety facilities is called for, there is in our view an increasing role for decentralized, portable Amateur Radio stations which are not infrastructure-dependent in providing interoperability communication on site."

Kramer told Subcommittee Chairman Fred Upton and his House colleagues that Amateur Radio "is largely invisible to both the FCC and to Congress on a daily basis, because it is virtually self-regulating and self-administered," he said. "It is only during emergencies that the Amateur Radio Service is in the spotlight." Also testifying at the subcommittee session was FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin, and Kramer said he had the opportunity to introduce himself to the chairman before the subcommittee convened.

Martin also was on hand September 22 when Haynie's written comments were placed into the record of the US Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation hearing on "Communications in a Disaster." Alaska Republican Ted Stevens chairs that Senate panel.

Kramer noted that for the first time ever, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has provided \$170,000 in grant supplements to the ARRL to support the efforts of Hurricane Katrina emergency communicators in the Gulf Coast. The grants to the ARRL's "Ham Aid" fund, enable the League to reimburse some volunteers' out-of-pocket expenses on a per diem basis.

Kramer said he was honored to be chosen to provide the testimony on behalf of the ARRL. "I am proud of Amateur Radio's and our role in the Katrina relief effort," he added.

ARRL Announces 2005 Toy Drive



NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 28, 2005--In the wake of unprecedented hurricane devastation in the Gulf Coast region, the ARRL has announced it will again sponsor a toy drive to brighten the holidays for youngsters left homeless or displaced as a result of the storms. Country singer and ARRL member Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, has agreed to serve as the honorary chairperson for the 2005 toy drive. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, is urging the Amateur Radio community to pitch in.

"Last year, hams from all over the country brought smiles to children during the holidays," Haynie said. "We made a lot of friends, and we did a lot of good. No one expected that we would need to do it again so soon, but Katrina's destruction has changed the plans of a lot of people."

Last year, individual radio amateurs and clubs across the US joined together to collect new toys for youngsters affected by a series of four hurricanes in Florida. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says the 2004 effort was a success beyond anyone's wildest dreams, and there was no question in his mind about doing another toy drive for the latest hurricane victims.

"Not only can it be done, it really must be done. It is simply the right thing to do," he said. "We are asking hams from all over the country to begin gathering new toys for shipment to Memphis, Tennessee. ARRL

Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, has secured a receiving warehouse and is recruiting ham volunteers there."

Ham radio clubs and individual amateurs should send new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls aged 1 to 14 to ARRL Toy Drive, 1775 Moriah Woods Blvd--Suite 12, Memphis, TN 38117-7125. Plan mailings and shipments to arrive prior to Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 24, for distribution over the holidays.

"Just as we did last year, we are asking the donors to please put a QSL card into the box with the toy," Pitts added. Non-hams are encouraged to join this effort too.

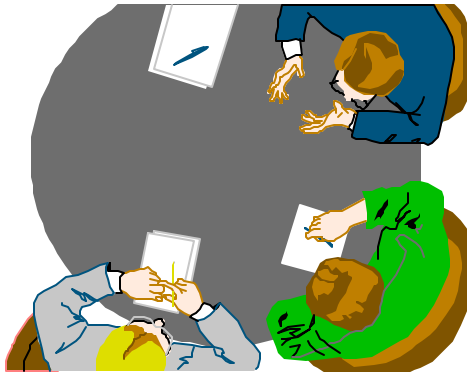
Once at the warehouse in Memphis, volunteers will sort and stock the gifts. "Early in December, we will divide the toys among the various agencies and states that need help the most at that point in time,"

Pitts explained. "We are making these arrangements so that we can maximize the areas receiving aid while maintaining the unique identity that this is the Amateur Radio Community's response."

Pitts says he's heard from many Amateur Radio clubs that are already gathering toys together. "Please check with your local club and see if they are planning a mass shipment," he urged. "If not, perhaps you can help organize one for your area."

Monetary donations to purchase new toys for special age groups and to help cover operational expenses also are welcome. Those wishing to donate money instead of toys can send a check to ARRL Toy Drive, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

NCVEC Question Pool Committee announces new schedule



The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has announced that the Question Pool Committee (QPC) has adjusted its schedule for revising Amateur Radio examination question pools. This decision was prompted by recent FCC announcements, changes in radio communication technology and recommendations from VECs. "The QPC feels it is imperative to produce a new Technician Class pool now to better position the Amateur Radio Service for growth in the years ahead," the QPC said in a statement released September 9. "The new schedule impacts previously announced release dates for all three question pools."

The Technician class (Element 2) pool now tops the schedule and is due for release in January 1, 2006, effective July 1, 2006.

General class (Element 3) pool updates, previously scheduled to become effective on July 1, 2008, will be released December 1, 2006, and become effective July 1, 2007.

The Extra class (Element 4) pool originally scheduled for 2005, will be released on December 1, 2007, and will become effective July 1, 2008.

Barring major rules changes, subsequent updates to all pools will follow the traditional four-year cycle, the QPC said. Selected by representatives of the 12 VECs attending the NCVEC's annual conference. The QPC

consists of Chair Jim Wiley, KL7CC, Anchorage VEC; Perry Green, WY1O, ARRL VEC, and Larry Pollock, NB5X, W5YI VEC. A team of associates representing various VEC organizations as well as experts selected from the amateur community will assist the QPC. Interested persons are encouraged to submit questions to the NCVEC QPC via the NCVEC Web site.

Bethel OEM Gets New Packet Antenna



Jim, KD1YV, displays fancy footwork on the roof of the Bethel Municipal Center as he attaches mounting brackets for a new 2M Packet antenna that was installed for the Bethel Office of Emergency Management (BOEM) on September 24th. Jim and a team of "helpers" that included BOEM director Clarence Rees, Bill N1TIW, Ken KB1HQE, Larry N1URB and your editor KA1JDD, spent a good part of the day tracing cable runs, removing old antennas and refurbishing connections to help make sure the BOEM was up to spec and ready for any emergency. Photo courtesy of N1URB.

Got News?

Have a news story or a "for sale" item to list in the Capers? Please send items *no later* than the Friday the week before the scheduled Friday CARA meeting. Send your news items to: barry@connollyco.com.



Thanks to all who helped make the 2005 CARA HAMFEST another successful event for our club!



