



# 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



*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*



**Meeting: Friday, February 10 at 8 p.m.**

**Issue: February 2006**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that all had a good time at last month's QSL square dance. The W1 bureau appreciates our efforts to serve the ham community.

The first weekend in January I attended the New England Division meeting where the director, K1KI, let us know what the League is thinking. Some of the issues discussed are highlighted below.

BPL continues to be a looming problem although it appears that it will prove to not be technically or economically viable. The new Motorola system which does not use HF frequencies appears to be OK and is installed at ARRL HQ. About 0.1% of zip codes are affected by BPL.

The FCC has made no movement on Novice refarming for the past 22 months. The

League continues to push for an entry level license with HF privileges. No decision on whether to have CW for Extra Class has been made.

The Ham Radio community appears to be growing albeit slowly. This is not the case for New England. New England has a negative general population growth at this time.

A growing concern is the need to raise the awareness of amateur radio to the general public who may not have particular interest in the hobby but may support it particularly for emergency communications. I ask you to consider ways to raise the awareness of amateur radio. Radio amateurs must be seen as friendly, trustworthy and helpful.

This month Marty, K1CVF, will present a program concerning **antique radio**. Those who have seen earlier presentations come

away with a greater appreciation of radio history.



For those with an interest in radio history, I recommend joining the Antique Wireless Association (AWA). The AWA has a fine publication and museum in the Rochester, NY area. ([www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org)). Incidentally, 2006 is the centennial of Phone. Who was the first to transmit phone?



I look forward to seeing each of you this month.

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.

### On the Radio: This Weekend (Feb 4-5)

*The following is excerpted from the ARRL bulletin. Thought it was worth including since it's a particularly active weekend and a good opportunity for many of us to make some contacts – Ed.*

Contests coming up this weekend include the North American SSB Sprint, Vermont QSO Party, the YL-ISSB QSO Party, 10-10 International Winter SSB Contest, the YLRL

YL-OM CW Contest, Minnesota QSO Party, FYBO Winter QRP Sprint, the AGCW Straight Key CW Party, Delaware QSO Party, Mexico RTTY International Contest, ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint and the ARS Spartan CW Sprint. Details on these events can be found in the February QST, page 99, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites.

### Get Ready For Field Day 2006!

Summer is on the way.....no, not global warming.....but the fourth full weekend in June. It's not too soon to start thinking about Field Day 2006. Planning has already started for this annual event with the confirmed reservation of Cadigan Park in Brookfield. We'll be at the park again for this year's field day.

Mark your calendars to do your part to make this event a great success and have some fun along the way. Elements of the "practical" side (tents, stations, food, power, etc) of the



event were reviewed at the planning meeting last week and we'll be talking more about this at the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Please come prepared to add your ideas and suggestions. Over the next couple months, we'll confirm more of the logistics and start taking reservations for operators. We'll see if we can't arrange for a few surprises along the way as well. This year, we're also working on some additional publicity.

We'll be looking for support and participation from every member to make this weekend in June enjoyable for all. Stay tuned for more information and updates.

– Oscar, KB1LQV

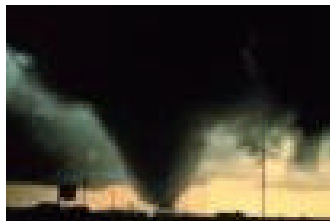
## EMCOMM Experiences Sought...

*Courtesy KZ1Z, Relayed from another Listserv ...*



Greetings everyone - This is to announce that "EMCOMMWEST 2006" will be held in Reno, Nevada over the weekend of May 6 and 7. It will be held at the Atlantis Hotel, Resort and Spa covering all day Saturday and a half day on Sunday. We always get some great press coverage from this each year. This event has been growing steadily for the last few years, and continues to attract Emergency Communications leaders, officials, operators and enthusiasts from all over the United States. Last year 11 states were represented, as far away as Louisiana and Iowa.

With Hurricane Katrina in recent memory, we would like to focus this years' theme around "What would happen if ..." Since we never know what mother nature could throw at us, it would be a wise thing to learn from those who lived through it and carried the amateur radio banner as we were called upon to serve our nation and communities.



Therefore, we are looking for an individual or team who would be interested in coming to EMCOMMWEST 06 this year, and giving us some firsthand knowledge in what it is like to conduct Emergency Communications on that level. We have been asked to use our conference to be an educational tool that we

all might learn and grow from. It is by personal example and that "hands on training" that we all learn to prepare our own sections to answer the call if (God forbid) anything such as Katrina ever happens again. I realize this must have been especially taxing for the PIO's involved as well as SEC's and DEC's.

If you or your leadership team worked the event and have knowledge and skills from this catastrophe that you would be willing to share with us, please contact me as soon as possible so that we might be able to put you on our schedule.

Thanks for being there, and your efforts in all that you have done is deeply appreciated by us all. 73

Don Carlson, KQ6FM,  
Nevada Section Emergency Coordinator /  
Public Information Coordinator and  
Vice President - EMCOMMWEST, Inc.  
[kq6fm@charter.net](mailto:kq6fm@charter.net)

### **New Technician Class Question Pool**

In January of this year, the National Conference of Volunteer Examination Coordinators (<[NCVEC](http://www.ncvec.org)> [target=externalhttp://www.ncvec.org/>NCVEC](http://www.ncvec.org)) Question Pool Committee released the new Technician (Element 2) Amateur Radio examination question pool. The new Element 2 question pool is available for viewing or download in these formats:

<[Adobe](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.pdf)" [target=externalhttp://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.pdf](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.pdf)>[Adobe](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.pdf) PDF,

<[MS](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.doc)" [target=externalhttp://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.doc](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.doc)>[MS](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.doc) Word .doc file,

<[RTF](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.rtf)" [target=externalhttp://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.rtf](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.rtf)>[RTF](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.rtf) and

<[ASCII](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.txt)" [target=externalhttp://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.txt](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.txt)>[ASCII](http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.txt) text. Other versions may be available on request.

The new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2006, and it will remain valid until June 30, 2010. The current Element 2 question pool that became effective July 1, 2003, will expire June 30, 2006. The new Technician pool contains 396 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination. This question pool contains no graphics or diagrams. The QPC requests that anyone spotting possible errors or suggesting corrections contact the <mailto:[gpcinput@ncvec.org](mailto:gpcinput@ncvec.org)>Question Pool Committee via e-mail. Reference the question pool (ie, Technician, General, Amateur Extra) in the subject line, and include the question number(s) involved plus a brief explanation. Interested parties also welcome to forward comments and suggestions for new questions or changes in topic areas for any of the three question pools, Element 2, 3 or 4. Jim Wiley, KL7CC, of the Anchorage VEC chairs the QPC. Members are Perry Green, WY1O, of the ARRL VEC and Larry Pollock, NB5X, of the W5YI VEC.--NCVEC

*(Some articles courtesy ARRL bulletins.)*

### **Joel Harrison, W5ZN, Elected ARRL'S 14th President**



ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, of Judsonia, Arkansas, will be the League's president for the next two years. He'll succeed Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who chose not to run for a fourth term in the uncompensated, volunteer post. Gathering in Windsor, Connecticut, for its annual meeting, the Board voted 10 to 5 to choose Harrison over ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, the only other nominee.

Harrison, 47, said he believes Amateur Radio is looking at a different society--and pool of potential licensees--in the 21st century than in the past.

"One of the things we need to do over the next few years is realize that Main Street USA is not the Main Street USA it was years ago," Harrison commented after the vote. "We all remember those days when we became interested in radio and the magic that it provided to us. The magic is still there, but Main Street has changed."

Harrison says this means that the League needs to focus on doing a better job of attracting the average person on the new Main Street of today "into the magic of Amateur Radio."

First licensed in 1972 as WN5IGF, Harrison says he's interested in virtually all aspects of Amateur Radio, from HF DXing and contesting to VHF/UHF/microwave and moonbounce. He's an ARRL Life Member. His wife, daughter and son all are Amateur Radio licensees. He'll become the League's 14th president since its founding in 1914.

Harrison said the ARRL's initiative to create an improved entry-level license also will be among his top priorities as he assumes office.  
radio.

Harrison said he will continue and build upon the League's emphasis on Amateur Radio's emergency communication role--especially in improving its response to catastrophic disasters like Hurricane Katrina--and on Haynie's "The Big Project" initiative to get ham radio into schools, known formally as the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP).

In addition, the Board re-elected ARRL CEO and Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, and COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B.

## **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 2006
- New England QSO Party – May 2006
- WACC
- Special event station or fall contest

### *Hamfest*

- Plan and organize – September 2006
- 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)

*CW Connecticut Net, Nightly,* at 7 p.m.

on 3.640. “*Newbie Night*” Thursdays.

*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).

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP AND PAID YOUR  
DUES FOR 2006! SEE  
ATTACHED FORM....**

## **GOT NEWS?**

*Have a news story, a feature article or a “for sale” item for the CAPERS? Just send your item to the editor, KA1JDD, barry (at) connollyco.com.*

**CARA**

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 3441  
Danbury CT 06813

**2006 Membership/Dues Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ VE: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Capers: \_\_\_\_\_ (default Yes)

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Full Member  
\$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Family (2 members)  
\$52.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Family (3 members)  
\$65.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family (4 members)  
\$75.00\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \$10 each additional member

Senior (65+)/College Student \$23.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member (Non-Ham)  
\$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Student (Under 18)  
\$5 \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Dues to:**

**Bill Webb, W1AFX**  
**12 Stage Road**  
**Brookfield CT 06804**  
**w1afx@arrl.net**

*Revised 1/7/06*