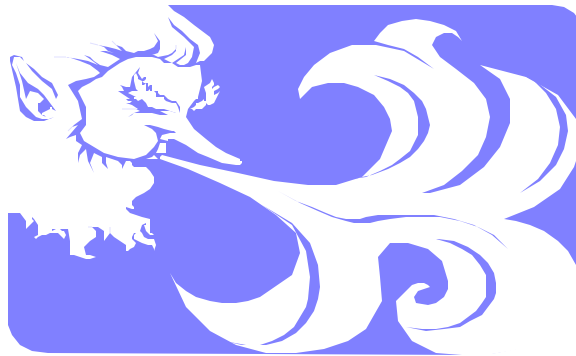




# CAPERS

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, March 10 at 8 p.m.***

**Issue: March 2006**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Once again spring is almost upon us. Still, I think that there is a bit of cold weather ahead. I hope all enjoyed Marty's program last month. I hope that a number of you had a chance to work 3Y0X.

Currently, CARA is considering several repeater improvements. It is expected that the repeater controller will be replaced. The repeater committee has agreed on a model. Details will be discussed at the meeting. A candidate 6m repeater frequency pair has been identified. Coordination will be sought shortly. It is expected that the 6m repeater will provide wide area coverage. Many have 6m built into various radios. You may be surprised to hear some skip in the summer months. We will need your help in checking out the new frequency for interference.

It is expected that the Packet Cluster will require some maintenance. We expect to hear from Dan, W1QK, on this matter.

This month's program will feature non-radio uses of RF by Steve, KF6AJ. This should be a different and interesting program.

I look forward to seeing each of you this month.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

## **Meetings**

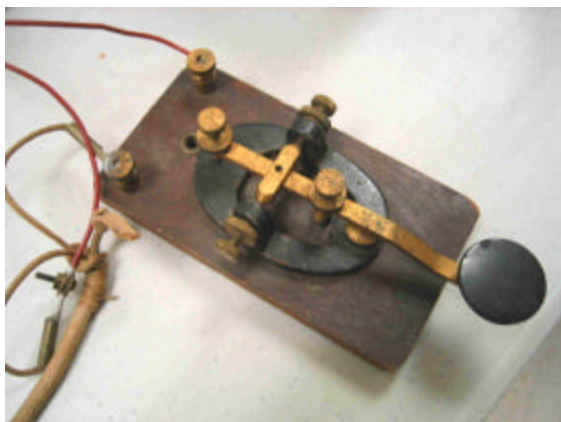
CARA's regular meetings are held on the second Friday of each month beginning at 8 p.m., at St. Paul's Church Hall, Brookfield Center, CT. Informal "rag chewing" begins at 7:30 p.m.

## Antique Telegraph Gear "Sparks" Interest at February Meeting

Special thanks to Marty K1CVF for bringing part of his comprehensive collection of antique telegraph sounders, straight keys, code practice sets and related memorabilia to the February meeting. It enabled us all to get a "hands on" look at the technology that started it all.



Marty has collected his unique examples from all over the world. And of course unlike some of today's plasticky-wonders, it's clear the gear from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century was built to last. Plenty of heavy brass and sturdy construction. It was evident from many of the older devices and radios that antique technology was rooted in MSMT (Mahogany Surface Mount Technology).



Photos of some of Marty's collectibles appear in this month's issue. Look in particular for the "toy" "code practice set" from the 1940s that still includes the original batteries, as well as a unique code practice machine that borrows from music box clockworks to produce the dots and dashes listeners would try to decode. There's also a fascinating Telegraph Company ID card issued to

a Mr. Frost, "Supervisor of Explosives". It's a safe bet that few employees argued with Mr. Frost.

Thanks again, Marty, for helping to bring to life for all of us what historically was a very exciting time for the fledging communications industry and the big business of messaging. It's a reminder of how astonishingly far we've come when you consider today's shirt-pocket- size 2M rigs and cell phones with video and instant messaging!

## CARA Hams Recognized for Katrina Work, ARES TopOff Participation

Several CARA members were recognized at the February meeting for their amateur radio work in support of Katrina humanitarian efforts.



Rod, N1FNE, section emergency coordinator, and Betsey, K1EIC, our Section Manager, presented certificates of



appreciation from the ARRL to Oscar, KB1LQV and Bob, N1OCM. Rod then surprised Betsey with a certificate from the ARRL for her own work in relaying critical messages in support of Katrina victims. Rod



and Betsey also presented specially-designed certificates of appreciation to CARA members who participated in the 2005 ARES TopOff emergency preparedness exercise. Certificates were presented to Rosty, N2FEX; Bill, N1PJG; John, W1JMA, and Barry, KA1JDD.

Thanks and congratulations to all those who were recognized for their public service work. Their efforts exemplify the best traditions of amateur radio and help underscore the truth behind the message: "Amateur Radio: When All Else Fails!"

### Report: Amateur Radio Part of "What Went Right" in Katrina Disaster

*The 228-page report by White House homeland security adviser Frances Fragos Townsend was released Thursday. Ham radio was recognized under WHAT WENT RIGHT. -Ed.*

The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned

## Appendix B - What Went Right

Other organizations worked tirelessly to assist emergency responders that, due to the storm, did not have the equipment and means to effectively carry out their duties. Amateur Radio Operators from both the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the American Radio Relay League, monitored distress calls and rerouted emergency requests for assistance throughout the U.S. until messages were received by emergency response personnel. A distress call made from a cell phone on a rooftop in New Orleans to Baton Rouge was relayed, via ham radio, from Louisiana to Oregon, then Utah, and finally back to emergency personnel in Louisiana, who rescued the 15 stranded victims. 11 Ham radio operators voluntarily manned the amateur radio stations at sites such as the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Watch Net, Waterway Net, Skywarn and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network.<sup>12</sup>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned/appendix-b.htm>

11 Gary Krakow, "Ham Radio Operators to the Rescue after Katrina: Amateur Radio Networks Help Victims of the Hurricane," MSNBC, September 6, 2005, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9228945/>; American Radio Relay League (ARRL), "Amateur Radio Volunteers Involved in Katrina Recovery," news release, August 31, 2005, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/08/30/1/?nc=1>; Ben Joplin, interview by National Public Radio, All Things Considered, August 30, 2005, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4824598>.

12 American Radio Relay League (ARRL), "President Urges Orderly Amateur Radio Response in Katrina Recovery," news release, September 1, 2005, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/09/01/2/>; American Radio Relay League (ARRL), "Amateur Radio Volunteers Involved in Katrina Recovery," news release, August 31, 2005, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/08/30/1/>.

### CARA 2006 Field Day Update

At the last CARA meeting we were able to review the plan for this year's Field Day. Four of five team captains volunteered to

help Oscar, KB1LQV, with the event. Thanks to Frank, N8WXQ, and John, W1JMA, Stations 1 and 2 respectively will be handled. Bill, N1PJG is looking after logistics and support and of course Judy, N1TGK, will be making sure we are well nourished during Field Day.

There is a need for one more team captain to help with managing the computers, including configuration / software selection, installation, and operator training – please contact Oscar if you can assist. Speaking of computers, John confirms the acquisition of two laptop computers that will be used during field day operations – nice work John! The captains are now making sure the planning list they have is complete and the items will be available when needed. Oscar has contacted ARRL and they are planning to have pins and additional items available by end of March. Note: 2006 Field Day Pins will be awarded to the first 20 operators who sign up and show up for their time slot. We continue to make good progress with the planning and will continue to provide updates at the regular meeting and in next month's issue of CAPERS.

Each of our members need to start their own planning to reserve the weekend of June 24 / 25 to come out and participate in the 2006 Field Day exercise, contest, learning, food, and....oh yes....FUN. (Tnx to Oscar, KB1LQV, for preparing this article.-Ed)

### **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 Local VHF Net (now part of Area 5) :* 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).

### Great Britain to Institute Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

Telecommunications regulator Ofcom has unveiled plans to reform Amateur Radio licensing in Great Britain.



The main change is that Amateur Radio licenses will be issued for life, although licensees will have to confirm their license details every five years. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) says it welcomes the Amateur Radio licensing reforms.

"The RSGB are reasonably comfortable with Ofcom's recent announcement," RSGB General Manager Peter Kirby, G0TWW, told ARRL. "We never had an argument with electronic delivery. We had a big argument with regards to a 'lifetime' license with no checks and balances. Our concerns have been satisfied inasmuch as it is a lifetime license that has to be effectively renewed every five years or it lapses."

Paper licenses are going away too, for all intents and purposes, and Ofcom instead will provide an on-line service to issue electronic licenses. Hard-copy licenses will remain available for those lacking Internet access, but there will be an administrative charge. Starting October 1, Ofcom will take over from the Royal Mail the role of issuing, renewing and amending Amateur Radio licenses.

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

### Regulation-By-Bandwidth "Reasonable" ARRL Says

The ARRL says its Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306) to regulate the amateur bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by mode represents "a reasonable middle ground in a difficult regulatory area." In reply comments filed with the FCC February 21, the League said it was gratified to see more than 900 commenters responded to the admittedly "controversial" petition and noted that many "show the investment of a good deal of thought about the proposal." ARRL said it would have been concerned if the amateur community had not responded with a loud voice on all facets of the League's regulation-by-bandwidth proposal.

"ARRL continues to believe that its petition is a measured response to progress in digital telecommunications technology and successfully balances the interests of all, regardless of which of the polarized opinions in this proceeding, if any, constitutes a 'majority' view," the League's reply



comments said. "To the extent that the success of this philosophy necessitates the

participation and cooperation of all amateurs in the development of, and increased reliance on, modernized voluntary band plans, ARRL is optimistic that such participation and cooperation will be available" as it has in past "transitional phases" in Amateur Radio's history.

The ARRL is asking the FCC to replace the table at 97.305(c) with a new one that segments bands by necessary bandwidths ranging from 200 Hz to 100 kHz. Unaffected by the ARRL's recommendations, if they're adopted, would be 160 and 60 meters. Other bands below 29 MHz would be segmented into subbands allowing maximum emission bandwidths of 200 Hz, 500 Hz or 3.5 kHz, with an exception for AM phone.

The ARRL says the changes it's proposing constitute a balance "between the need to encourage wider bandwidth, faster digital communications and the need to reasonably accommodate all users in crowded bands."

The League's reply comments countered criticism that its petition represents "overregulation wrapped in a different cloak," that increased reliance--and confidence--in the ability of voluntary band plans to substitute for subband regulation by emission mode is misplaced, or that the ARRL's proposal caters to a small minority of digital enthusiasts and experimenters. Many of those who commented expressed a desire to leave things as they are, some because they feel the advent of digital technology may threaten their favorite mode.

"They are comfortable with the status quo, because the current regulations are not encouraging toward digital modes and, therefore, the current regulatory scheme, they feel, 'protects' them," the League said. "The comfort level with the status quo is high for these licensees, and they have not hesitated to tell the Commission so."

The League emphasized, "All should be accommodated by the regulatory structure of

amateur subbands, and technology changes demand regulatory changes in this instance."

Its plan, the League said, "attempts to segment emission modes of similar bandwidths in a manner that accommodates the varied needs and interests of all, while insuring compatibility by grouping like-bandwidth emissions together."

Citing repeated efforts to gather input from the Amateur Radio community at large and from its members since its regulation-by-bandwidth concept was first aired in 2002, the League called the petition "the most thoroughly vetted regulatory proposal" it's ever developed.

"The ARRL petition does not favor one mode at the expense of another," the League reiterated in concluding its reply comments. "It merely allows expansion of the repertoire of options that amateurs may pursue compatibly."

*The ARRL petition is available on the FCC Web site*

<[http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6518181567](http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6518181567)>. The League's reply comments are on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/bandwidth/Bandwidth-Petition-Reply-Comments-2-6.pdf>>.

*(Some articles courtesy ARRL Letter)*

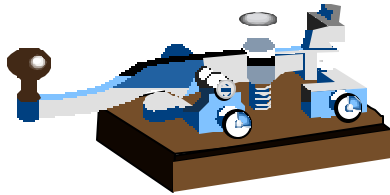
### **Little Known Facts...**

"He came from a very poor home. And it was necessary for him to go to work at a very early age. So he did. He started out as a jeweler's apprentice. He did that to support his widowed mother. But two things ended that career: one, his heart wasn't in it; and two, he was a terrible jeweler. He once wrote that his creations in gold and silver were so bad that people would hide them from public view.

So, of course, he turned to acting. He told his mother that he was going to pursue a career

on the stage. He even wrote two stage plays. That didn't last long either, but this time for a different reason. One day he got his hands on a popular science book of the day and that changed everything - both for him and for us. He fell in love with science, and especially electricity.

He was able to work his way through a local college as an administrative assistant. There he excelled. He dove into every science book he could find, and in 1817, there really were not too many science books to be found. But he did find the writings and discoveries of a genius named Benjamin Franklin to be fascinating. Electricity had just been discovered a few years earlier, and he was beside himself with anticipation.



He put together the first homemade batteries and started experimenting with the idea of wrapping different lengths and diameters of wire around a soft iron core. Back then what little wire existed wasn't insulated, so he used wax to insulate the wires. Yes, he invented insulation for electric wires. And he found that with a simple little 21-pound piece of iron and some wire and a little current, he could lift more than 750 pounds with ease. That, of course, literally changed everything. He had invented the electromagnet.

And if you think about it folks, it would be difficult to name a piece of machinery that does not use a transformer or electric motor today. It was considered the invention of the century. Considering how it changed the world, I guess it was. And you may want to know one more little invention he came up with. Something that was probably the other great invention of the century: a way for people to communicate over long distances instantly. Yes, the telegraph. He invented it. So we want to thank and honor the inventor

of the electromagnet and the telegraph: Joseph Henry!

Yeah! Joe Henry. Yes, I know you've been told that Sam Morse invented it the telegraph, but he didn't! It's a Little Known Fact that Joseph Henry invented the telegraph nine years before Sam Morse. As a matter of fact Joe taught Sam Morse how it worked. Now, to give credit where credit's due, Morse did invent the code that is used on the telegraph. And he is the one who patented it and got all the credit.

But it was Joseph Henry who invented it. Sam Morse said so many times, too. He tried to give the credit to Joe, but too many people had come to believe that since he invented the code, that he also invented the device. But he didn't. So our hats are off to you Joe. You literally changed the world - twice!"

(Tnx to: <http://www.littleknownfactsshow.com/>)

### **No FCC Decision Yet on Morse Requirement**

Just when the FCC will act on the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, remains hazy. The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) last July proposing to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. The Amateur Radio community has filed more than 3800 comments on the proceeding, and additional comments continue to show up, even though the formal comment deadline was last October 31 (with reply comments by November 14). The next--and most-anticipated--step for the Commission is to formally adopt any revisions to its rules and conclude the proceeding with a Report and Order (R&O) that spells out the changes and specifies their effective date.

"There really is no news," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer told ARRL this week on background. "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not

making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention."

Beyond eliminating the Morse requirement, the FCC declined proposing any other suggested changes to the Amateur Service.

The proceeding began with 18 petitions for rule making--many just calling for the elimination of the Morse requirement but some asking for more far-reaching changes in the Amateur Service rules. The various petitions attracted a total of some 6200 comments. The FCC subsequently consolidated the petitions--including one from the ARRL asking the FCC to establish a new entry-level license class and to retain the Morse requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants--into a single proceeding designated WT 05-235.

The FCC has not proposed extending HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. In its NPRM&O the FCC suggested that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, "codeless Techs" could gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination.

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have \*no\* impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees.

Before it releases an R&O on the Morse code proceeding, however, the WTB wants to wrap up action in another Amateur Radio-related docket--the "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140, released April 15, 2004. A dozen petitions for rulemaking, some dating back to 2001, were consolidated in the Omnibus proceeding.

In that NPRM, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming plan aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands and expanding

portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. The FCC also agreed with an ARRL proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF subbands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit). WT 04-140 further proposed to essentially do away with FCC rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 12 and 10 meters.

### **VE Schedule for 2006**

Here is the 2006 Volunteer Examination schedule:

March 4th  
June 3rd  
September 16th  
December 2nd

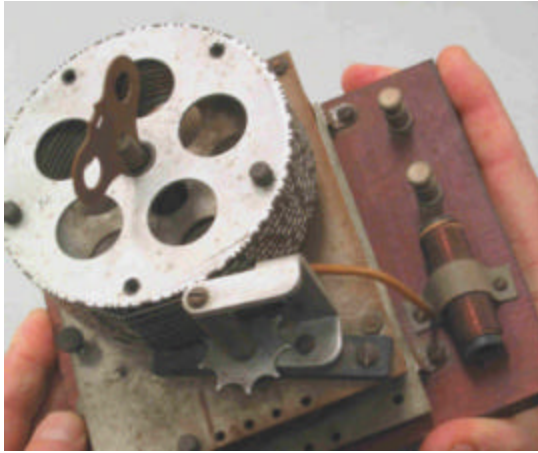
For additional information on what you need to bring with you, and to advise Frank that you plan to attend a VE session, please contact Frank, N1PE, frsileo@att.net.

### **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.*



## More Photos From the February Meeting!



This unique code practice device used a clockwork-type mechanism—like a music box—to activate dots and dashes. Looks like the forerunner of the WWII Enigma encoding machine to me!

This “toy” code practice set was a Holiday



gift to a youngster c. 1940 (note the gift card in the front of the box. It says, “from Mother”. Many of us received similar gifts and excitedly strung wire between a friend’s house and our own. The batteries are dated Jan 1940. Any bets on whether they’d still fire up the buzzers in those keys?

This mint condition “sounder” looks like it just came out of the box to go on-line at a new railroad terminal some where between New



York and Wichita. This is one piece of equipment that looks like it could take a bullet and still keep on clicking!



Mr. Frost’s ID Card showed he was not a man to be trifled with. We’ll bet he most likely had the last word in any business discussions (You’ll note I resisted the urge to say he was known for shooting his mouth off...oops! –Ed.).



This BC-348 is a c.1940s military receiver that Bill, N1PJG, is restoring and was kind enough to bring to the February meeting. Not part of Marty's show-and-tell collection, it's nevertheless an excellent example of the durable technology that served as the foundation for today's amazing communications revolution.

Here's another "oldie but goodie"—this one



from the collection of Frank, N8WXQ, who was kind enough to tote it to February's meeting. This tabletop radio was the Cat's Meow in its day—which I'm guessing is the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Hard to imagine this was the home entertainment center equivalent of today's wall-mounted plasma TV's with Dolby 5.x sound. Anyone out there know if you can download MP3 files to this?

# 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*