



# 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



**January Meeting: Friday, Jan 12 at 8 p.m.**

## From the President

Happy New Year to all radio amateurs and CARA members!

In the past few weeks there have been many changes to Amateur Radio. I hope all have studied the new band structure which became effective December 15. Digital operators, in particular, may need to QSY.

The FCC also announced the elimination of Morse code testing for all amateur classes. The changes in Morse code testing are not yet effective but are expected to become so sometime in February.

Although testing is no longer required, I think many will miss many Amateur Radio adventures if the time is not taken to learn Morse code--which has been used in electronic communications in some form or another since 1844.

HF and VHF DXing, QRP, Radio Contesting, EME and some kinds of emergency communication are enhanced through the use of CW. The family in Oregon who was trapped in an isolated area earlier this winter would have been well served by a 40m QRP rig and a dipole for NVIS. Such a radio

requires minimum equipment and power requirements and would surely have resulted in a more immediate response from authorities. CW is a skill and cannot be learned overnight but can be learned with some concentration. CW is probably a necessary skill for achieving 5BDXCC and the DX Challenge award.

This month's meeting will be devoted to the annual "square dance" (QSL card sort). We will be performing a presort for the W1 bureau. This is an opportunity for us to serve the amateur radio community. I will present a very short program on the bureau system and QSL card sorting. We will, as usual, have Pizza to quench the hunger. I hope to see each of you at the meeting.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ



## Join Us at Stony Hill FD!

All club meetings and classes are held at the Stony Hill Fire Department, Route 6, Bethel, across from the Stony Hill Inn.

Directions: I 84 Eastbound, Exit 8 (Route 6), straight through the light at the exit, East on Route 6, past Target, about a half-mile on the right. I 84 Westbound, Exit 8 (Route 6), merge left past the gas stations, reversing direction and heading East on Route 6, past Target, a half-mile on the right. Or take Exit 9 on Route 84 Westbound to Route 6 Westbound and continue several miles. Cross Old Hawleyville Road. Fire Department will be on your left. CARA meetings are held on the second Friday of the month beginning at 8 p.m., at Informal “rag chewing” begins at 7:30 p.m.

## Elmers and Mentors?

Here’s an idea suggested by club member Bill W1TIW. He notes that the PCARS (Portage County Amateur Radio Service) club in Ohio publishes a listing of club members who can be called on for assistance in specific areas of amateur radio. These are members who are willing to share their skills and experience in specialized areas of amateur radio. It may, for example, be a club member who has experience in DX contesting, in QRP, VHF, kit-building, packet, “boat anchor” restoration and other specialized areas—or simply a club member who has considerable experience with a particular brand of radio equipment—Kenwood, ICOM or Yaesu for example.

Those members willing to be contacted for advice and assistance are added to a simple “matrix” that matches talents and skills with individual mentors and the times when they are available to help. What do YOU think? If you agree that would be a helpful addition to the CAPERS (and for our members—particularly newer members), please send a brief note to the editor noting your skills and when you would be available to be contacted (“at night by phone, on the 2M repeater, on the weekend etc.”). We’ll then publish a list

of club mentors in the CAPERS that can be updated and added to as needs and skills change. I think many would agree that to keep our hobby vital and growing it’s important that we all share our knowledge and interests with as many members as possible.

Please send your responses, suggestions, and input to the editor, KA1JDD, [barry@connollyco.com](mailto:barry@connollyco.com). in the following format:

Call sign, area(s) of expertise/special interests, when and how you prefer to be contacted.

## Nets

*CARA Weekly Net:* Sunday nights at 7:30 p.m. 147.30+ ( PL 100)

*Connecticut Phone Net (CPN)* Monday through Saturday, 6 p.m., on 3.973 and Sundays at 10 a.m. on 3.965...

*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.)

*Note:* The CT Phone Net has moved to 3.973 to avoid ongoing early evening interference from a short wave operator on 3.965. Continue to check 3.965 for the CT Phone Net and for emergency ARES traffic, but be prepared to go to 3.973 in the event of interference.)

## New Era for Ham Radio - No Morse Code Testing

Newington, CT December 18, 2006 -- Morse code will no longer be a requirement for earning any Amateur Radio (often called "ham" radio) license in the US. In a statement last week, the FCC joined an international trend by announcing the elimination of testing for proficiency in Morse code for all Amateur Radio license classes. While many Amateur Radio operators continue to learn and use Morse code, now it is for their own enjoyment of the skill. The hams have been using newer digital, image, satellite, voice and other modern wireless technologies for years. Nonetheless, the FCC move to eliminate code testing (Report & Order in WT Docket 05-235) signaled the end of an era.

Since 1991 it has been possible to earn a "Technician" class Amateur Radio license without passing a Morse examination. The higher class licenses, "General" and "Amateur Extra," required at least 5 words per minute code proficiency. Within 72 hours of the announcement that the Morse requirement was being dropped, the ARRL staff reported a doubling of the requests for study materials for new or upgrading licensees.

The elimination of a Morse code requirement for all license classes ends a longstanding national and international regulatory tradition in the requirements for Amateur Radio licenses. The question of whether or not to drop the Morse requirement altogether has been the subject of often-heated debate over the past several years. The FCC action follows revisions to the international Radio Regulations resulting from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference in 2003. At that gathering, delegates agreed to authorize each individual country to determine whether or not to require that applicants demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an Amateur Radio license. The ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio,

had requested that the code requirement be retained for the highest license classification (Amateur Extra class), but the FCC, as expected, chose to drop it entirely. For more information see [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

(Courtesy ARRL Letter & KZ1Z)

## World Wide Web Archive

by Jim Ritterbusch, KD1YV

Have you ever wondered what a particular web page looked like in 1996? Well, there is hope for you yet, and it does not involve doctors or rubber rooms. The Internet Archive Wayback Machine is where you need to look. Point your browser to <http://web.archive.org/> where you can enter the address of a Web page. Here are the results I received by searching on [www.danbury.org/cara/](http://www.danbury.org/cara/)



You can see that the apparent inception of the CARA Web page was Feb. 20, 1999. Clicking that link displays an image of what the CARA Web page looked like *on that date*. It is pretty rudimentary by today's standards, but pioneering for its time. The links displayed will also bring you to archived version of those pages.

For example, Aug. 16, 2000, shows a more up-to-date CARA site, with a link to the Appalachian Trail operating event. Following that Wayback Machine archived link, the thumbnails and detailed photos of that event are even archived on this site.



Eighty-five billion pages going back to 1996 is what the Wayback Machine claims to have archived. I have only looked at a couple dozen, but they seem historically at least as accurate as my memory, and very probably more so.

Looking back at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) shows the first page from Jan. 24, 1997, ten years ago now! It references the ARRL BBS run by Luck Hurder, KY1T, a dial-up service that some of us remember, which was the predecessor of the League's rich Web content of today.

Whether you are trying to research some historical data, or just taking a trip down memory lane, the Wayback Machine provides a novel vehicle for your travels on the Information Superhighway.

### ARRL Challenges FCC Dismissal of Virginia BPL Complaints

The FCC has told five Manassas, Virginia, radio amateurs that its testing showed the city's BPL system complies with FCC Part 15 rules, and it dismissed their interference complaints. The League is questioning the Commission's conclusions, however. Six Manassas radio amateurs earlier this year complained of BPL interference to their mobile operations. FCC engineers took measurements at several locations in Manassas on October 25 and 26. Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Kathryn S. Berthot reported the results December 14.

"These measurements demonstrate that the Manassas BPL system is in compliance with the radiated emission limits specified in Section 15.611(b) of the Commission's rules at the two sites in areas we tested where emissions appear to be the highest," Berthot wrote, adding that the measurements showed the system is notching at 20 dB or greater to protect the 40-meter band. "Accordingly, based on the results of our investigation, we conclude that the Manassas BPL system is in compliance with the FCC's requirements, and the complaints are hereby dismissed." BPL proponent The United Power Line Council called the letter "complete and total vindication" of the Manassas BPL system. Not so fast, says ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, who responded December 21 on behalf of the League and the complainants

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/BPL-Manassas-2006-12-21.pdf>.

Imlay maintained that Berthot's letter raises more questions than it answers. Because the "alleged testing" took place in the presence of BPL operator COMTek and equipment maker Main.net but without the complainants, Imlay said, there's no independent means to evaluate the FCC's conclusions. "In ARRL's view, the Commission owes the complainants a far more comprehensive response to their two-year-old complaints than what is set forth in the terse and uninformative dismissal letter," Imlay wrote. Copies of his letter went to the five FCC commissioners and to the complainants. One complainant, George Tarnovsky, K4GVT, says neither he nor the other five complainants was alerted to the planned FCC testing. The others are Donald "Butch" Blasdell, W4HJL; William South, N3OH; Arthur Whittum, W1CRO; Jack Cochran, WC4J, and Dwight Agnew, AI4II. Imlay says Berthot's December 14 letter overlooks Whittum's May 2006 interference complaint, and, because of that, Whittum's complaint "remains pending and unadjudicated." Beyond that, Imlay contended, the Amateur Radio

complainants, as FCC licensees, deserve better treatment and protection from the FCC. Because the Commission -- and especially OET -- has exhibited "an overwhelming and obvious bias in favor of BPL" and "done everything possible to deny or obfuscate the substantial interference potential of BPL" on HF, Imlay wrote, the League is unwilling to accept what he called "the unsupported conclusions" in Berthot's letter. Those conclusions, he noted, vary substantially with the complainants' own observations and measurements, verified by the ARRL Laboratory staff.

Among other things, the League wants to know if any of the complainants were notified prior to the FCC's October testing, whether the OET is "routinely involved" in enforcement-related field measurements, when COMTek and Main.net learned of the planned testing, precisely where the FCC tested and how it determined the sites and the system's status during the tests -- including system loading. In addition, the League requested technical details of the testing, including measured emission levels. Imlay says the Amateur Radio complainants "have been stonewalled by the City and COMTek, and now they have been stonewalled by the Commission, after waiting patiently for two years for some action." If the FCC seriously intends to claim that the Manassas system complies with the rules, he continued, it "must be willing to provide the information necessary to support its dismissal order with documentation that is objectively verifiable."

*(Courtesy ARRL Letter)*

### **CARA 6M Repeater**

Members of the Repeater Committee displayed the new 6M Repeater at the December Holiday Party. Photos of the new repeater, showing circuitry and input/output connections are shown in the accompanying photos on this page. The unit is about the size of a small dormitory-size refrigerator—but with its rugged frame and beefy components, considerably heavier!

The output frequency of the new repeater is 53.130 Mhz and the input frequency is 52.130 Mhz. The PL is 100.



Thanks to all the CARA members who invested many hours of hard work to help bring the new repeater on-line!

**Holiday Party 2006**

The December Holiday Party at the Stony Hill Fire House was a festive event and the members and families who attended had a wonderful time. A big thanks and round of applause to Judy N1TGK for handling party details, and to all those who baked, cooked, helped or otherwise brought something special to share. It was a wonderful evening and a great way to celebrate another successful year for CARA and its members. Congratulations, also, to all those who received awards for special services rendered on behalf of the club-- and to those who advanced to new licenses.

See you January 12 for the yearly QSL card pre-sort!





Happy  
New  
Year  
To  
All!



See ya  
In  
2007!

