

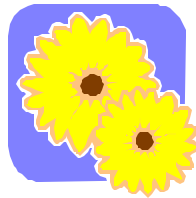


CAPERS apr 2007

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, April 13 at 8 p.m.

From the President

Well it is finally spring again. I hope all are enjoying the warmer weather. It is now time to begin outdoor amateur radio activities like new antenna projects and perhaps some portable operation.

The New England QSO party will be May 6-7. I hope that all will make at least a few QSO's to put New England on the air. CARA will again operate at W1AW on Sunday, May 6. We will be looking for operators. It would be nice to have a mix of Amateur Extra operators and some newer members. You may recall that W1AW has recently made some significant upgrades to the station. This will be an opportunity to see the upgrades first hand. The QSO party will occur before the May meeting.

This month we will have some more construction projects W1MG will present a program on converting CB radios to 10M operation. Even during the low part of the sunspot cycle summertime sporadic E propagation occurs on 10 meters (6 meters too!). I will also give a short presentation on construction of a 100 W dummy load.

This is an important station accessory and is an excellent project for those who are beginners in kit building. In future months we would like to see a short presentation on your construction project. The project can be simple or complex. Please volunteer. Last month Barry, your editor, gave a very nice presentation on his simple portable QRP station.

Elections are coming in June. We must now begin the nomination process. Please either volunteer to serve as an officer or nominate someone else for office. Service to the clubs enhances the enjoyment of Amateur Radio.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

Real/Cool R/C

A big thanks to Del, K1UHF, for a fascinating program in March on the cool hobby of R/C flight. Del, an avid VHF/UHF contester and a member of the West Mountain radio team, brought several R/C model aircraft with him, as well as the radio transmitters used to control them in flight. Del reminded us that hams interested in the hobby of R/C autos, ships and planes can use segments of the 6m band to send signals to their devices. That can be a significant advantage since the publicly-available frequencies can get pretty crowded, especially at large events with many participants and multiple models. Great pains are taken to make sure the control transmitting frequencies of nearby operators don't interfere with each other. It's easy to imagine the chaos and damage that could take place should the operator of an expensive R/C aircraft lose control because of QRM!

Del also explained that while many R/C aircraft are still powered by small gasoline-piston air-cooled engines—especially larger, heavier models—that there is a major trend today toward electrically-powered aircraft. Two developments in particular—high-performance, lightweight electric motors and light, high-capacity rechargeable lithium batteries—have fueled exciting model aircraft that can soar hundreds of feet and stay in the air for many minutes. Del demonstrated one small electric motor engine not much larger than a 35mm film canister that could develop an astounding one horsepower when revved up to full performance on its lithium battery cells!

To whet your appetite for building and flying R/C model aircraft, take a look at some of the photos accompanying this article. Kit-building can be fun as well as a challenge and many beginner model aircraft kits and their controllers are available on-line starting about \$200. Of course costs can quickly

escalate as features and performance options are added. A quick search on the Web under R/C models will turn up a wealth of information, clubs, instructional material and kits. Feeling ambitious? Take a look at the photo of the R/C B-52 bomber in this month's issue! Now, if it only came with a *saddle...*

Join Us at Stony Hill FD!

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. The Fire Station will be on your left. CARA meetings are held on the second Friday of the month beginning at 8 p.m., with Informal "rag chewing" beginning at 7:30 p.m.

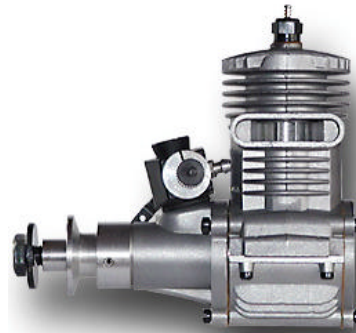
Scheduled VE Sessions for 2007

Here's this year's schedule of CARA-sponsored VE Session exams.

- June 9
- September 8
- December 1

All are Saturday sessions, and all will be held at the Stony Hill Fire Station starting at 11:30 a.m. Doors will be open about 11 a.m. For information on what to bring with you and to confirm you plan to attend a session, please contact Frank N1PE at frsileo@att.net

R/C
Inspiration...



Elmers and Mentors Sought

We're looking for members who are willing to share their skills and experience in specialized areas of amateur radio with other club members. We'll publish member names, call signs, areas of expertise and contact information in the Capers.

Please send your input to the editor, KA1JDD, barry@connollyco.com.

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 generally moves 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.)

ARRL and NPSTC Ink Pact

ARRL and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC)

<<http://www.npstc.org/>> have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). The League is an NPSTC member organization, and the MoA culminates efforts begun in 2003 to formalize the relationship between the two organizations. "This agreement promotes the concept of strength in unity," the MoA says. "Speaking with one unified voice provides a clear and strong message from the public safety community." The MoA also aims "to promote a consensus input decision-making process."

The NPSTC has been among the organizations that have asked the FCC to thoroughly explore the potential of broadband over power line (BPL) technology to interfere with public safety and other licensed radio systems. A federation of public safety organizations, NPSTC serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information for effective public safety telecommunications in the US and abroad.

Under the ARRL-NPSTC pact the ARRL designated Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, to be its primary representative to the Council (ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, is the alternate representative). Rinaldo will participate in NPSTC meetings and serve on committees and working groups.

The League also has agreed to provide "other expertise, advice and resources" to further the goals of the MoA and in support of the NPSTC Charter and to promote NPSTC as "the collective voice of public safety telecommunications." NPSTC agrees to provide a National Support Office that will, among other things, coordinate its outreach activities and provide "national level technical assistance to the public safety telecommunications community." In addition to the ARRL, the Council's 13 member organizations include the American Red Cross, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials -- International (APCO), the International Association of

Chiefs of Police and the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors. NPSTC celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. The Council will mark "10 Years of Progress" during its Committee & Governing Board Meetings June 11-13 in Denver, Colorado.

(Courtesy ARRL Letter)

Mike and Interface Connections Made Easier...



Here's a tip from Pete KZ1Z:

"Need help figuring out the right mike and interface connections for your gear? Check out and bookmark this helpful website:

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rg4wpw/date.html>. Roy G4WPW documents the proliferation of microphone connections used by various radio manufacturers and includes photos and schematics."

It's 10 p.m. Do You Know Where Your HF Privileges Are?

Here's another tip from Pete KZ1Z:

"Do you really know your new privileges? Misconceptions abound regarding the new Tech HF privileges. For an overview, check out

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/03/20/100/>

This article includes a very neat, easy-to-understand HF band chart. Knowledge is power. "

February Minutes

The regular meeting of CARA was held at the Stony Hill Fire House on February 9th at 8:00 PM. The meeting was called to order and the program was introduced. The program was on measuring instruments used in amateur radio.

The business meeting was called to order at 9:10 PM. A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to accept the Secretary's minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to accept the Treasurer's report of \$9203 in the account.

Repeater committee reported that 6 meters is up and running. Volunteers are needed to help install the repeater permanently in the spring. Ken is working on the controller. There have been no reports of interference so far.

W1AW will be the location of the QSO party in May. Details will follow.

Field Day committee reported that the location has been secured. More planning will be taking place in the next few weeks.

Hamfest is set for September. The location has been arranged. A temporary food service license will be issued. Seminars have been successful in the past, and volunteers are needed to be presenters this year. Suggestions for batteries, old television, airmail, videos, satellites, and NIS. Austin has volunteered to loan some stereo speakers for announcements.

March 3rd noted as next VE session. Time is 11:30 a.m. Motion to adjourn was made at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully,
Martha Babbitt, KB1IES

ARRL Offers Alternate to “Regulation by Bandwidth”

In the wake of recent changes in the Part 97 Amateur Radio rules, the ARRL has revised its “regulation by bandwidth” proposals to match the new reality, avoid some unintended consequences and temper some of the controversy the original petition had aroused. In a November 2005 Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306

<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-11306/RM-11306-asFiled.pdf>>)

<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-11306/RM-11306-asFiled.pdf>>, the League

asked the FCC to establish a regulatory regime that would segment bands by necessary bandwidths ranging from 200 Hz to 100 kHz rather than by emission mode. The ARRL now is urging the FCC to adopt a “subset” of the rules

<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-11306/appendixA.html>>

<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-11306/appendixA.html>> contained in its

original petition that largely affects only the amateur bands at 28 MHz and above.

“Because the proposals affecting the bands above 28 MHz had not aroused much controversy, they were retained in the shortened list,” ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, explained this week. “Regulation by bandwidth rather than by mode of emission remains controversial below 28 MHz because of its perceived potential impact on established operating patterns, so these proposals were removed from the list with one narrow exception.” That exception addresses the fact that current rules impose no effective bandwidth limit on HF digital operation.

“Digital emissions using multiple carriers, such as OFDM [orthogonal frequency division multiplexing], can be designed for any bandwidth while staying within the existing rules,” Sumner points out, “so, the subset of proposed rule changes includes a bandwidth limit of 3 kHz on RTTY and data emissions below 28 MHz.” The proposed 3 kHz RTTY/data bandwidth limit aims to

avoid the possibility existing under the present rules that a single digital station could monopolize large MF and HF band segments.

In an Erratum, the ARRL also asked the FCC to retain the existing 500 Hz bandwidth limit that applies to certain automatically controlled RTTY/data stations under §97.221. The ARRL proposal would amend the definition of “bandwidth” in §97.3(a)(8) to read: “For a given class of emission, the width of the frequency band which is sufficient to ensure the transmission of information at the rate and with the quality required under specified conditions.” The rule references the definition of “necessary bandwidth” appearing in Parts 2 and 97 of the FCC rules.

If the FCC adopts the League’s revised proposals, the 10, 6 and 2 meter amateur bands would be segmented into subbands allowing maximum emission bandwidths of 200 Hz, 500 Hz, 3.0 kHz (with an exception for double-sideband, full-carrier AM phone), 16 kHz or 100 kHz. Above 222 MHz, the entire emission must be within the allocated Amateur Radio band to comply with §97.307(d).

Sumner concedes that the subset of proposed rule changes in RM-11306 would provide less protection to CW, RTTY and other narrowband modes than the League’s original proposals afforded, but not less than the existing rules provide. “In fact, protection against interference from wideband digital modes would be increased, not decreased, even by adoption of the subset,” he contended. Some confusion arose because of an inadvertent omission in the initial notice of a meeting on this subject between ARRL officials and FCC staff. This week’s Erratum addressed that issue. Additional consternation followed in the wake of a widely circulated, but erroneous, comment alleging “the complete absence of CW as a mode in the table of HF modes” the ARRL submitted.

The ARRL has proposed no change to §97.305(a) of the rules, which authorizes CW on all amateur frequencies except on 60 meters. The League has petitioned the FCC to permit CW and other modes on 60 meters, in addition to the presently permitted upper-sideband SSB.

After studying the topic several years, the ARRL Board of Directors continues to support the principles of regulation by bandwidth contained in the original RM-11306 petition. "Regulation by bandwidth provides a better regulatory framework, not only for the introduction of future digital emissions but for the protection of traditional narrowband modes as well," Sumner asserted this week. He expressed the hope that the subset of RM-11306 modifications offers an alternative that "will make it easier for the FCC to move at least part of the way in that direction."

FCC Universal Licensing System Hotline hours

(Feb 26, 2007) -- The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has announced modified hours for Universal Licensing System (ULS) <<http://esupport.fcc.gov/>>Customer Support Hotline.

Online customer support remains available 24/7 on the FCC Web site. The ULS includes the Amateur Radio Service licensee database. Effective March 5, customers will be able to reach the FCC ULS Customer Support Hotline Monday through Friday (excepting federal holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time.

Among other things, ULS Customer Support is a resource for those with technical concerns or with questions about which application purpose is appropriate for a particular filing, the information a particular ULS form or schedule requests and FCC Registration Number (FRN) password issues. Contact ULS Customer Support at (877) 480-3201, option 2 (toll-free); (888)

225-5322, option 2 (toll-free) or (717) 338-2888. TTY service is available at (717) 338-2824.

(Courtesy ARRL Web)

Are YOU Ready for Field Day!

Field Day 2007 is fast approaching. Mark your calendars now and set aside time for this challenging and fun annual club event.



Plans are well underway (see the flyer/report in this month's issue of CAPERS) and we're counting on all members to each do their part. Club members are needed for everything from tent setup and antenna launching to food preparation, setting up computers and transceivers and--of course--operating and logging contacts during the field day event.

If you can, set aside time for evening or overnight operating. It can be a uniquely rewarding experience.

Want to know more? You'll find more details at the April meeting, or contact Oscar KB1LQV at [opf Fullerjr at comcast.net](mailto:opf Fullerjr@comcast.net).

**Have YOU RENEWED your
CARA membership for 2007?**



JUNE 23 and 24, 2007
Always the Fourth
Full Weekend in June

CARA FIELD DAY UPDATE

Location

- **Catigan Park in Brookfield Confirmed Reserved**

Stations

- **2 HF Phone, class "A" (no GOTA stations)**
- **ICOM 7000s + tuners**
- **Antennas = big loop + small loop**

Tent status

- **Currently procuring a second large station tent**

Team Captains

- **Named at April Meeting**

Program Update

- **Full Field Day package released by ARRL**
- **Details at April meeting**