



CAPERS **Aug 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, August 10 at 8 p.m.

*Note: This month's issue of the CAPERS is being distributed early because your editor will be out of town for two weeks.
– 73, KA1JDD*

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. C.A.R.A. 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

- 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

CARA September Hamfest



Sunday, September 16 is the date of the annual CARA Hamfest—the only hamfest in Western Connecticut!

The last page of this month's newsletter is a flyer promoting this major event. Tell your friends on the air, make copies of the flyer and distribute them or post them in prominent places. Please help get the word out, and mark the Hamfest date—September 16--on your calendar!

2007 ARRL PR Initiatives

The ARRL has two Public Relations (PR) thrusts for 2007. The first one concerns ARES and Public Relations. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said, "We lose many good media opportunities because ARES operations are not being covered by Public Information Officers (PIO). Far too often, anything provided to media about ARES activities in a crisis is not shared until long after the event, if at all. To correct this, encouragement is being given for PIOs not only to be media active during any ARES deployment, but also for Section Managers to appoint specific PIOs whose singular job is to work with the ARES Section Emergency Coordinator to talk with media during a crisis."



The second thrust of the PR campaign is the 2007 EmComm Campaign. There was a short delay on this campaign, due to the FCC eliminating the Morse code license requirement. Pitts and the ARRL Public Relations Committee immediately launched the "30 Day Code Blitz" with custom made audio Public Service Announcements and news releases (including a wire release); many interviews were given for radio and newspapers, and special materials were sent to PIOs and clubs for publication. Most of these materials pointed the public to the new PR Web page <<http://www.emergency-radio.org>>, which saw a spike of more than 857,000 hits in February alone.

The EmComm campaign materials include: The 2007 EmComm brochure ("Getting the Message Through"); the 2007 edition of the Swiss Army Knife for PIOs reference CD; a Web site <<http://www.emergency-radio.org>> based on emergency communications; Katrina - The Untold Story, a 5 minute DVD about hams providing assistance during and after Hurricane Katrina; a 30 second audio PSA; a 30 second video PSA, and the Talk on a Disk CD.

The 2007 EmComm brochure was partially made possible by a \$15,000 donation from Dayton Amateur Radio Association. Pitts said that the brochure has proved so successful that the initial printing of 100,000 copies was quickly used, and a second (unexpected) printing of an additional 60,000 copies was needed prior to Field Day last month. The Swiss Army Knife CD for PIOs remains a highly desired reference. It provides basic computerized files and information, how-to hints and quick references for PIOs.

Richard Lubash, N1VXW, produced the 5 minute video "Katrina - The Untold Story." "With his permission, we edited down the dramatic opening sequence, added in enhanced sound and created an excellent 30 second PSA. This video has shown great acceptance by television stations and has been aired thousands of times already in

2007," said Pitts. In addition, Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW, completed "Hello - The Movie," a 5 minute general video introduction to Amateur Radio. Unlike "Amateur Radio Today," both of these videos can be broadcast. The newest item in the ARRL PR arsenal is "Talk on a Disk," created as a suite of presentation materials keyed to go with the EmComm brochure. Designed to be used in live speaking presentations to groups, Pitts said it gives the potential speaker all they need to do a first class presentation on Amateur Radio and EmComm work.

Information on how to order PR materials can be found at the ARRL's PIO Web site <www.arrl.org/pio>.

(TNX KZ1Z and Excerpt, ARRL Letter)

CARA Minutes

June 8, 2007

The regular meeting of CARA was held at the Stony Hill Fire House on June 8th. The business meeting was held first. The minutes of the secretary were accepted as written in Capers. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$7424.65.

The Repeater committee reported that Kurt had helped fine tune the 6 M repeater. We have the cables, connectors and a new power supply. It will take multiple trips up the mountains to get the materials to the permanent site.

Hamfest – everything is on track for September. Notices will be sent to the magazines. 25 batteries have been obtained and flyers are available.

Election of officers – the current slate of officers with Austin recommended as secretary was submitted. There was discussion regarding the position of secretary since the position may need to be filled by a person who is not a minor. Nominations were closed. Single ballot was

cast for the unopposed offices. Martha will remain as secretary until she has relocated from this area.

Program for the evening was presented by Ken, Jim and John. Ken made a fox hunt antenna, Jim will present at a later date, and John presented information on Field Day. Signups and technical information were given out.

Respectfully,

Martha Babbitt (KB1IES) Secretary

Reminder: Digital Conference

September 28-30, 2007 - Hartford, Connecticut

The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work, and present new ideas and techniques. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications.

For more information and conference details check out www.tapr.org/dcc.html

NC Eagle Scout Named Young Ham of Year

Grant H. Morine, W4GHM, a 17 year old from Wilmington, North Carolina, has been named the 2007 Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY), announced YHOTY Award Administrator Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, and Award Committee Chairman Mark Abramowicz, NT3V. Grant was selected based on his commitment to Amateur Radio, along with his work in public service and his promotion of the Amateur Radio Service to others through the Boy Scouts of America.

Grant will receive his award as part of the Huntsville Hamfest, held in conjunction with the 2007 ARRL National Convention. The son of Bill, N2COP, and Pamela Morine, and the brother of Reid, W4RSM, Grant was first licensed in June of 2001 when he was 10; he holds a Technician class license.

His nomination told of the public service project that he spearheaded to earn the rank of Eagle Scout -- the construction and donation of 30 220-MHz J-pole antennas to the Carolinas Amateur Radio Emergency Services (CARES). The antennas are indoor back-ups for the CARES network of hospitals, located in some of the storm-prone coastal areas of the Carolinas.



To complete his project, Grant successfully solicited the donation of the needed raw materials from a local hardware store. He then organized a group of three adults and 10 Scouts to assemble the antenna systems at his home. After each antenna was completed, it was tested for proper performance before being handed over to CARES managers in October 2006.

Grant served as a Page in the North Carolina legislature in the summer of 2006. He was also appointed to serve on the Junior Crime Prevention Council of New Hanover County in 2006 by the County Commissioners. During his tenure, he was the sole representative under age 18 on this government panel. Grant is currently in his senior year at the Lyceum Academy. Grant hopes to enroll in the United States Naval Academy, after which he plans to attend Duke University's School of Law with an eye toward a long-term career as a military Judge Advocate General (JAG).

The 2007 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award will be presented on Saturday, August 18, 2007 at the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama. As the 2007 Young Ham of the Year, Grant will receive a trip to the Huntsville Hamfest, ham radio equipment, various books and magazines and an all-expense-paid week at Spacecamp in Huntsville. Amateur Radio Newsline will award Grant with a commemorative plaque at the ceremony.

The Amateur Radio Newsline "Young Ham of the Year" award program (formerly the Westlink Report Young Ham of the Year Award), is now entering its 21st consecutive year. It is presented annually to a licensed radio Amateur Radio operator who is 18 years of age or younger and who has provided outstanding service to the nation, his/her community or the betterment of the state of the art in communications through the Amateur Radio hobby/service.

(Ed. Note: You're receiving this issue of CAPERS earlier than usual because of the editor's summer travel schedule. If you have any articles or "For Sale" items for CAPERS, please send them along and they'll be included in the September issue. Thanks!)

HAMFEST HELP...

The next big club event coming up is the Sunday, September 16 Hamfest at the Edmond Town Hall in Newtown. Already signed up to help out? Great! If not, please contact Joe AB1DO or Jim KD1YV to find out how YOU can help make this important event a success!



Sponsored by Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

Western CT Hamfest



Sanctioned by ARRL

- **Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007**
(Rain or Shine)
- Edmond Town Hall
45 Main St (Rt. 6)
Newtown, CT
- Set-up 7 a.m.
- Doors open 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Talk-in on
147.300+
PL 100**

- Admission \$5 (under 10 free)
- Tables \$12.50 (includes 1 admission)
- Tailgating \$8 (includes 1 admission)
- Ham Radio Equipment
- Computer Gear
- Door Prizes
- Refreshments
- Free Parking

Battery Exclusive!
Big batteries at
rock bottom prices!

Commercial Vendors Include

- QuickSilver Radio Products
- Ham Source
- Radio Oasis

Don't Miss the Raffle!
Win a Brand New HT.

Seminars

- Mechanical TV - Those were the days
- Airmail - How it works, incl demo
- Satellite Communications - How to do it
- NVIS Antennas (courtesy of ARRL)

Contact Information

- Joe de Groot - AB1DO: (203) 938-4880
- Jim Ritterbusch - KD1YV: (203) 775-1946
- Email: ab1do@arrl.net
- Web site: www.danbury.org/cara

Directions

Take exit 10 off Rt. 84. Go West onto Rt. 6 (westbound make a right, east bound make a left). Approx. ¼ mile at flag pole make a right onto Rt. 25. Edmond Town Hall will be approx. 100 yds on left.

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA) Hamfest, Sept. 16, 2007
c/o Joe de Groot - AB1DO, 30 Sunnyview Drive, Redding, CT 06896. Phone # (203) 938-4880

Name _____ Daytime Phone # _____

Address _____ Evening Phone # _____

Please reserve _____ indoor tables @ \$12.50 each. Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I need _____ / do not need _____ electricity. Please make checks payable to CARA