



CAPERS **Oct 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, Oct. 12 at 8 p.m.

Message From the President

The CARA Hamfest was one of the most successful CARA Hamfests of recent years. Special thanks go to Joe AB1DO and Jim KD1YV for organizing the event and ensuring proper advertising. All the members who helped in various capacities are also thanked. I hesitate to enumerate all in fear that I will leave someone out of the list.

This month John, W1JMA and crew will discuss emergency operations. In particular, the various courses available through FEMA and the ARRL will be highlighted. I would encourage those interested in emergency operations to read Roger, G3SXW's book "Contesting in Africa" Roger and crew have operated CQ WW CW from various countries in Western Africa over a decade or so. These operations are done Field Day style. These contest operations have much in common with emergency communications. It is not clear to me that many of the EOC operations have considered power requirements, the availability of feedline and the erection of simple antennas and support

structures. It would be wise to assume all existing antennas are gone during emergencies. Roger has thought about the choice of rigs and other equipment for operation in primitive settings. Some of Roger's operations have placed first in CQ WW - a major accomplishment.

John is also expected to discuss club operation in the November Sweepstakes.

As we are still near the solar minimum and coming upon the winter months, I hope all are getting their low band antennas in good operating order. There has been some good DX on 30, 40, 80 and 160m already this year.

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

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

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. 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.

Club Scores Another Hit With 2007 CARA Hamfest

Thanks to fine organization work by Joe AB1DO and Jim KD1YV—and the help of dozens of club members—the 2007 CARA Hamfest was a resounding success. A great turnout coupled with beautiful weather made this year's hamfest an event to remember. In addition to raising cash for the club's treasury, this year's event and the lessons learned will help us refine next year's program so that it's even better. **Check out some of the photos that appear in this month's issue of the CAPERS.** And thanks again to vendors, patrons and club members for a job well done!

Scheduled VE Sessions for 2007

■ December 1

This is a Saturday session, 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

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.)

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2007

The regular meeting of CARA was held at the Stony Hill Fire House on September 14th at 8 PM. The program was on Sound Card Software. The business meeting was called to order at 9:11 PM.

A motion to accept the secretary's report was accepted. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$6,724 and has the cash for the hamfest on Sunday.

The new controller has been purchased. The report was accepted.

The Hamfest is ready. Volunteers are needed for tickets and raffle tickets. Batteries are available. KJI, QuickSilver, and Radio Oasis will be there. Four seminars will be presented. Next year consider doing this on Saturday instead of Sunday and possibly have more vendors and tailgaters.

Repeater committee will meet the 2nd week after Hamfest. They need volunteers to get the equipment up the hill.

Region 5 ARES meeting, usually held in Bantam, will be in Danbury EOC on the 24th at 6:30 PM.

Club apparel ? –for recognition during events. Suggestion to have patches, or hats, or vests. Discussion followed without a decision. Logo must be designed first.

John W1JMA will take over as secretary when Martha relocates (Thank you)

VE Exams --- 7 upgrades

Commercial antennae stock available to be used to make you own.

Meeting adjourned at 10 PM

Respectfully,
Martha Babbitt KB1IES

Get Ready for JOTA



Jamboree on the Air will celebrate its 50th year this year when it gets on the air October 19-21.

Normally a 48 hour event, this year's JOTA will be 50 hours long in recognition of the

anniversary. The fun begins at 2200 (local time) October 19 and ends at midnight (local time) October 21.

An on-the-air operating event sponsored by the World Scout Bureau, JOTA was founded in 1958 by Les Mitchell, G3BHK. It has grown to become the largest international Scout event. More than half a million Scouts and Guides in more than 100 countries participate in JOTA, involving as many as 10,000 Amateur Radio stations.

The event relies on the Amateur Radio community and local hams for its success. Getting Boy and Girl Scouts (including Cubs and Brownies) on the air to talk with other Scouts around the world provides a great opportunity to expose youth to Amateur Radio. Some troops and clubs team up to make a big splash with lots of activities, radios and antennas, offering a variety of modes to experience. For others, JOTA provides an opportunity to coach a smaller group of Scouts and to just have fun talking on the radio. Scouts usually enjoy communicating by speaking into a microphone, but some radio amateurs are able to provide other modes, such as slow-scan TV or amateur TV, satellites, packet radio, RTTY or even EME!

For more information on the 2007 Jamboree on the Air, please visit the ARRL JOTA Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota>> where you can find general rules, suggested exchanges and recommended frequencies. There will also be a place on the ARRL Web site to tell your JOTA stories at <<http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/Stories/>>.

(Several articles courtesy ARRL Letter)

SET Scheduled for October 13

America was abruptly reminded of the critical role of Amateur Radio in 2005 as



Amateur Radio operators came from all over the country to provide emergency communications when other systems failed during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In 2007, Amateur Radio operators continued to provide lifesaving services in many floods and wildfires around the country.

Because of the complexity of today's normal communications systems, they are often overwhelmed in a disaster. These painful lessons are being tested again on October 6 and 7 as Amateur Radio operators around the country conduct their annual Simulated Emergency Test.

(Ed. Note: The 2007 SET for Area 5, CT, will be Saturday Oct 13 from 8:30 to noon. For more info please see:

<http://www.ctares.org/SET%20PH%20v1.3.pdf>

This year, Amateur Radio operators will be replicating many scenarios that have crippled normal communications in the recent past. These include flooding, wildfires, bombings, ice storms, hurricanes and earthquakes. Something new for this year are plans for responses in case of pandemic flu and the probability that large populations will need to shelter at home and not be able to go out.

Using emergency powered radios and working with local agencies, hams will establish radio communications networks that can be used should there be a failure or overload of normal services.

While the ARRL has scheduled the Simulated Emergency Test for October 6-7, some ARRL Sections have scheduled their SET for different dates. (AREA 5: SET Oct 13) Please check with your Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator for the date of the SET in your Section.

Danbury Hosts September ARES Area 5 Meeting



The Danbury EOC (KX1EOC) hosted the September ARES Area 5 meeting at the Danbury City Hall EOC at West Street and Deer Hill Avenue. Harlan KB1ILY served as host and chairman of the meeting that included representatives from almost a dozen surrounding towns.



Guest speakers included Dave Hyatt, Brian Fernandez and Paul Estafan, director of emergency management for the City of

Danbury. ARES representatives discussed the net hosting schedule, ongoing training and EOC progress and status by community. The next meeting of the Area 5 ARES team will be held October 29 at the Bantam Borough Hall. The meeting concluded with a tour of the Danbury EOC, its new equipment and operating stations.



Duh...Ever Think Somebody Might be Listening, Dude?

Some hams in Florida got an earful when they heard what turned out to be teenagers planning various robberies over the Jupiter Farms 444.400 MHz CERT repeater.

On September 8, Al Moreschi, AG4BV, of Jupiter, and John Levey, KI4HTL, a retired police officer, of Palm Beach Gardens, overheard, according to Moreschi, "what sounded like men talking about committing a burglary and we were monitoring them on one of the local ham repeaters." Moreschi said he and his fellow hams notified local law enforcement agencies of the break-in, but the alleged thieves "didn't describe the house well enough to get the exact address." The amateurs kept listening for the vandals to show up again on the repeater.

On September 21, they were in luck. This time the hams were ready and had set up recording devices to capture the break-in as it transpired. Moreschi said he and his fellow hams recognized the voices and started recording; they also called the police. The last transmission heard over the air by the suspects was, "Code Red, Code Red, Code Red. There are cops everywhere, dude!"

Three suspects were captured and arrested: one at the scene, one who was walking down a nearby road and one at a local grocery store. An official with the local sheriff's office said that the suspects were charged with burglary for the two break-ins; the three are suspects in other local robberies, as well. The tapes made by the hams are in the custody of the sheriff.

Moreschi said that the suspects might also be facing charges from the Federal Communications Commission for operating without an amateur license. "We don't know how these kids got hold of the ham radios. Their transmissions came right over the CERT repeater, and that has a special tone and you have to have a special tone to key it up," Moreschi said.

**Check out the photos
from this year's
HamFest! And thanks to
all who helped make it a
success!**

CARA HamFest 2007



