

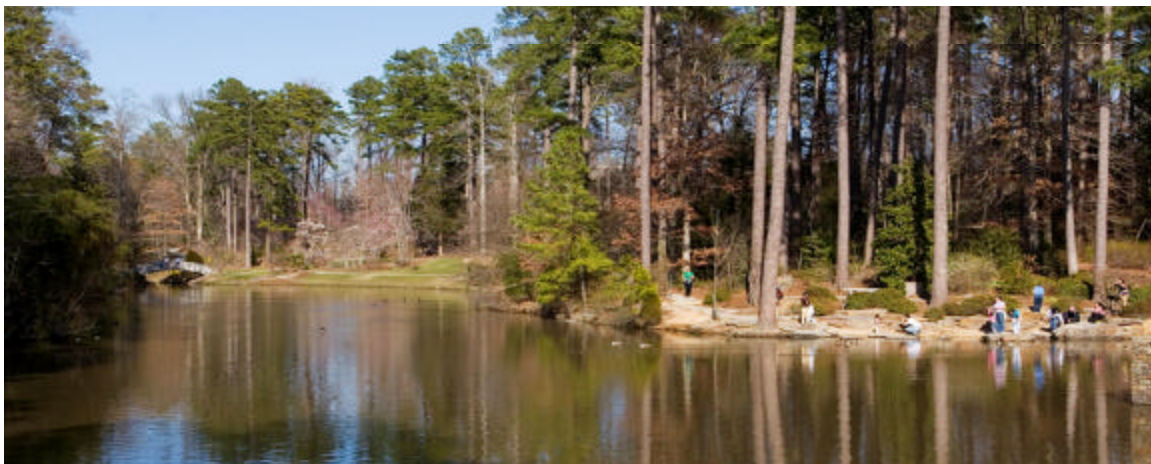


CAPERS **Nov 2007**

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, Nov. 9 at 8 p.m.

Message From the President

I hope all of you have finished your antenna maintenance for the winter and are beginning to enjoy the winter DX season. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

As we are now near the solar minimum DX should be quite good on the 160, 80, 40 and 30 meter bands. DX is easiest in these bands if you use CW and the digital modes. I was able to work 3B7C (9175 mi) with very loud signals on 80 m.

HF DX is great fun and this month's program will be given by Joel, W1ZR aka QST's Doctor who will give a program on selecting an HF rig. I am sure the newer hams will find the program to be essential. The price range of HF rigs is great and

there are differences that may not be apparent from the brochure. When selecting your rig you must consider your operating style and where the rig will be used (mobile, portable or at the home station) I have noticed that digital mode operation varies quite a bit between manufactures. In this regard my FT-817 is great.

For those interested in DX, I recommend G3SXW's two books (Contesting in Africa and Up Two) Roger is an excellent writer and captures the spirit of ham radio. I highly recommend Contesting in Africa to those involved in Emergency operations. Roger has a great deal of experience in operating under primitive conditions and he shares many details.

The 6m repeater failed to go up the mountain. The team was willing and able but politics and a BIG pile of dirt made progress impossible. Details will be discussed at the meeting.

Joe, AB1DO has made some more prototypes of the CARA logo. We should be able to recommend at least one design for application to apparel.

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.

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

CARA Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2007

Stony Hill Fire House

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 by Frank Etzler, N8WXQ.

- Frank thanked Jim, KD1YV and Joe, AB1DO for their leadership on the successful hamfest held in September. Frank also thanked all those who helped at the hamfest.
- Frank reported on the Emergency Communications program at the Nutmeg hamfest presented by the CT Department of Homeland Security.
- Frank announced the meeting for November will be on HF Transceivers, presented by W1ZR.
- John W1JMA presented the program on Emergency Communications.
- The minutes of the September meeting were accepted by those present.
- The treasurer's report was presented. The cash position after the hamfest is \$8720.76. The hamfest profit was \$1763 plus there is \$200 in Accounts Receivable at this time. The report was accepted by those present.
- Joe reported on the Hamfest. It was reported that most vendors were happy with the outcome of the day. Discussion was had on improvements and the fee structure for next year.
- The repeater committee informed the membership that the 6m machine will be moved on Saturday

10/20/07. Help was solicited with the upcoming move. In addition, there was a discussion on the current status of the box on the hill and its disrepair. There was discussion on looking for a new home for our repeater systems given the disrepair of the box and the road to access the site.

- Frank presented some artwork for the CARA Logo. After discussion, some members said they would work on other designs to present at future meetings.
- Joe, AB1DO, has been working on a new CARA website. He demonstrated the new site and its structure. He and John, W1JMA, will update the content and move the site into operation before the next meeting. If anyone would like to review the current work in process, the site is www.danbury.org/cara/sneakpeak/
- John, W1JMA, discussed a club effort for the November Sweepstake on 11/17. He offered his home and would bring a sign up sheet next month for operations between 4pm and 10pm 11/17.
- The meeting was closed at 10:17pm. Submitted by John Ahle, W1JMA

CARA Work Meeting Minutes

10/26/07

The meeting was called to order at 8pm by Frank, N8WXQ.

6 meter machine

- We were unable to breach the barriers put up at the trail head to move the 6m machine from its

current location to the repeater box. The town has been notified of these barriers and is expected to report back to the repeater committee before the November meeting.

- Alternate sites were discussed. A site in Bethel is too expensive for our treasury and ruled out. Another site is being investigated. KF6AJ is looking into this site.
- If not options are available to us, the machine will winter in Redding. A discussion ensued about a new antenna for the Redding site.
- Additional work on the repeater will be done during November.

Programs for the spring meetings

- Frank asked if someone would do a program for February
- March and April programs are all set, one is on Verticals by K1OF and the other on Satellites by KL7CE

New Members

- There was discussion on ways to attract new members
- Hold two special event stations was discussed. The Bridgewater Fair was discussed as a possible location
- It was discussed that existing members should try to greet and include any visitors to the meetings.

The meeting was closed at 9:15.
Submitted by John Ahle W1JMA

<p>REMINDER: All members are invited to attend and participate in the monthly CARA Planning Meeting—generally the fourth Friday of each Month, 8 p.m., at the Stony Hill Fire Station.</p>

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.)

Ham Radio Software

As many of you already know, the Internet can be a great resource for free or low-cost ham radio software—everything from logging programs to voice keyers to rig control applications. For just two resources of many, check out

www.dxzone.com/catalog/Software/ and www.dxsoft.com/.

If you have a favorite program or resource for ham radio software, please send an email to KA1JDD@arrl.net and I'll share it in the newsletter.

Got Your CARA I.D. Card?

Thanks to Gene, KL7CE, CARA members are sporting new club photo ID cards. If you missed the on-site badge sessions that Gene recently conducted, you can still get a personalized badge by sending a small (2x2-inch) digital JPEG file (head and shoulders) to Gene, c/o KL7CE@arrl.net.

Here's a snapshot of a typical badge to give you an idea of the information required and the photo size.



Amateur Radio Band Choices

(For CARA members new to HF...Article Courtesy eHam.net)

Just as many of us have a favorite fast food that we come back to time after time Radio Amateurs tend to have a favorite band that they use more frequently than other bands. The question of what band to use may be secondary to that favorite band. But the first question should be what band(s) am I licensed to use? From the beginning of the licensing process you will find out what bands your license covers.

Next it is a matter of having the right equipment for the bands you want to use. As an entry level license generally covers VHF(2m) and UHF(70cm) and many beginning hams will use one of both of these bands. Also hand-held single-band or dual-band radios for these bands are affordable and don't require a sophisticated antenna or power source. Most metropolitan areas also have amateur repeaters to extend the coverage when using VHF or UHF radios.

Popular Bands

So what are the bands that most Radio Amateurs use? The table below shows bands that are relatively common and how and when they are in use. Again your license will determine which bands and what portions you are eligible to use.

	Band (meter)	MHz	Use*
HF	160	1.8 - 2.0	night
	80	3.5 - 4.0	night and local day
	40	7.0 - 7.3	night and local day
	30	10.1 - 10.15	CW and digital
	20	14.0 - 14.350	world wide day and night
	17	18.068 - 18.168	world wide day and night
	15	21.0 - 21.450	primarily a daytime band
	12	24.890 - 24.990	primarily a daytime band
	10	28.0 - 29.70	daytime during sunspot highs
	VHF	6	50 - 54
2		144 - 148	local and medium distance
UHF	70 cm	430 - 440	local

* It should be noted that band conditions vary for many reasons and thus all of these bands can at times take on the characteristics of others. This table should be considered a general guideline.

HF Bands

For amateurs who have an interest in long distance communication the HF (high frequency) bands will be of great interest. These bands offer propagation to all parts of the world at some time during the day, night or season. Do you want to talk to Japan from the east coast or Europe from the west? There will often be a time and a band where this communication is possible.

During a sunspot high cycle conditions are best for the higher HF frequencies and during a low cycle the low frequencies are often in demand with all kinds of variation in between. Magazines such as QST and CQ Amateur Radio publish charts monthly that predict the best propagation to different areas of the world. These are just best guesses and will help you to choose your times and bands but there is no substitute for getting on the air.