



CAPERS Dec 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 – John Ahle – W1JMA – Phone – 203-438-6782
Treasurer – Bill Webb – W1AFX - phone - 203-775-0536



Meeting: Friday, Dec. 14 at 8 p.m.

Message From the President

Happy Holidays to all CARA members and fellow Radio Amateurs!

December and the holiday season is upon us again. I hope that each has had an interesting and productive year. Low band DXing is great now -- particularly if you are willing to use your CW privileges.

This month's meeting is devoted to the holiday party. It is a time for feasting on goodies and "rag-chewing" with your fellow hams and their families. CARA members and their families are welcome to the holiday party. Please bring a dish of some

sort to the party. The dish can be a sweet treat or something more substantial. Judy, N1TGK will bring some of the basic items and some decorations to the gathering. I am sure that we will have a good time.

Some of the members enjoy exchanging gifts. We will have a table set up for this. The procedure: bring a gift, take another. Gifts should be around \$10 or so.

I look forward to seeing you and your family at the CARA party.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

TNX to Joel W1ZR



Special thanks to Joel W1ZR for his presentation at the November meeting. "The Doctor Is In..." columnist for QST, and tech editor for the ARRL, delivered a comprehensive review of the process involved in selecting a new HF transceiver.



And from Joel's charts, it was easy to see it's no easy task! Joel made it clear that the most expensive transceivers, while generally delivering more "bells and whistles," may vary widely in overall performance. There also were some surprises among moderately-priced transceivers with impressive specs. Lots of food for thought before you make that holiday transceiver purchase!

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

CARA General Meeting
Friday 11/9/2007

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

- Frank welcomed all present and our guest speaker, Joel Hallas, W1ZR. Joel made a presentation on HF rigs. Joel is a technical editor for QST.
- After the presentation, the meeting resumed at 9:48.
- The minutes of both the last General meeting and the Work meeting included in the November issue of the Capers were accepted.

- The Treasurer gave his report. At this time the treasury has \$8752.76. The report was accepted.
- The CARA Patch was displayed as designed by Joe, AB1DO. The group voted and accepted this design. There was discussion regarding a standard color for apparel. At this time the group was leaning toward grey. A final decision will be made at the next meeting. The patch will be sent to the Parent Shop for making.
- The new website designed by Joe, AB1DO went live on 11/9. Content will be maintained by John, W1JMA. The site is www.danbury.org/cara.
- The December meeting will be our holiday party. Judy asked that those coming bring food items and if interested a gift swap will be had for items of \$10 in value. If you bring a gift, you get a gift.
- Repeater Committee: After a long discussion regarding the current site, it was decided to have the 6m machine winter at its Redding test site. The committee is to tune the machine and install the 6m antenna as soon as possible. The committee is to also explore the feasibility of moving all our equipment to one of the following sites: Danbury EOC, Ridgefield EOC or Danbury Hospital.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:40.

John M. Ahle, W1JMA, Secretary

CARA Work Meeting Minutes

CARA Work Meeting 11/23/07

Stony Hill Fire House

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

- Programs were discussed and confirmed for the next several months. The only open month is May 2008. The website will reflect the upcoming programs
- Ridgefield EOC paid for the 4 batteries it received as part of the Hamfest
- Review of potential repeater sites was presented by Ken, KD1DD. The hospital and the Danbury City Hall present a major downgrade in HAAT for our repeater systems. Other potential locations were discussed. Next steps are to approach owners. No work done on the 6m machine to date.
- There is a vacancy in the trustee positions. Frank will ask an active member to fill this vacant position till the next elections. John will update website when the vacancy is filled.

The meeting was closed at 9pm.

John M. Ahle, W1JMA, Secretary

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.

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.)

Bethel ARRL SET

Here are a few snapshots from the Fall ARRL SET conducted by several members of Bethel's EOC team. For a more realistic test, an ad-hoc emergency communications center was set up at the Bethel Middle



School. On hand for the test were Ken KD1DD, Jim KD1YV and Barry KA1JDD.

A Two meter portable antenna was mounted on a ladder-and-mast "tower" outside the school cafeteria entrance. A G5RV was strung between two tall pines



and the feedline guided down over the "tower" and into the building. The rig, which could handle VHF and HF, operated on battery as well as A/C. Unpack-to-setup was less than 45 minutes. The station enabled reliable communication with other area EOCs in the SET and served as a good test of an "in-the-field" emergency "go-kit".





W1AW

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL

W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, is a living memorial to the "Father of Organized Amateur Radio", located at ARRL Headquarters in Newington CT. When visiting ARRL HQ, most amateurs choose W1AW as the place to see where Amateur Radio comes alive.

Scheduled Transmissions

W1AW transmits on-the-air code practice and bulletins of interest to hams. The bulletins are also available via [email](#) and on the [Web](#).

Transmission Schedule

Pacific	Mtn	Cent	East	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
6 am	7 am	8 am	9 am		Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
7-9 am 10 am-12:45 pm	8-10 am 11 am-1:45 pm	9-11 am noon-2:45 pm	10 am-noon 1-3:45 pm	Visiting Operator Time				
1 pm	2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	5 pm	Code Bulletin				
3 pm	4 pm	5 pm	6 pm	Teleprinter Bulletin				
4 pm	5 pm	6 pm	7 pm	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
5 pm	6 pm	7 pm	8 pm	Code Bulletin				
6 pm	7 pm	8 pm	9 pm	Teleprinter Bulletin				

6:45 pm	7:45 pm	8:45 pm	9:45 pm	Voice Bulletin				
7 pm	8 pm	9 pm	10 pm	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
8 pm	9 pm	10 pm	11 pm	Code Bulletin				

W1AW's schedule is at the same local time throughout the year. The schedule according to your local time will change if your local time does not have seasonal adjustments that are made at the same time as North American time changes between standard time and daylight time. From the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) = Eastern Time + 4 hours. For the rest of the year, UTC = Eastern Time + 5 hours.

Morse Code Transmissions

Frequencies are 1.8175, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz.

Slow Code = practice sent at 5, 7-1/2, 10, 13 and 15 words per minute (wpm).

Fast Code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm.

Code practice text is from the pages of *QST* magazine, the League's membership journal. The source is given at the beginning of each practice session and alternate speeds within each session. For example, "Text is from July 1992 *QST*, pages 9 and 81," indicates that the practice session's plain text is from the article on page 9 and its mixed number/letter groups are from page 81.

Code bulletins are sent at 18 wpm.

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

World Wide Web: You can also find [W1AW code practice](#) here on *ARRLWeb*, in MP3 format. Other resources can be found on the *ARRLWeb* [Learn CW](#) page.

W1AW Qualifying Runs are sent on the same frequencies as the Morse code transmissions.

West Coast qualifying runs are transmitted on approximately 3.590 MHz K6YR. At the beginning of each code practice session, the schedule for the next qualifying run is presented. Underline one minute of the highest speed you copied, certify that your copy was made without aid, and send it to ARRL for grading. Please include your name, call sign (if any) and complete mailing address. The initial certificate is available for a \$10 fee. Subsequent endorsement stickers are available for a \$7.50 fee.

Teleprinter Transmissions

Frequencies are 3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095 and 147.555 MHz.

Bulletins are sent at 45.45-baud Baudot and 100-baud AMTOR, FEC Mode B, 110-baud ASCII will be sent only as time allows.

Keplerian elements for many amateur satellites will be sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6:30 PM Eastern Time.

Voice Transmissions

Frequencies are 1.855, 3.99, 7.29, 14.29, 18.16, 21.39, 28.59 and 147.555 MHz.

Miscellanea

A **DX bulletin** replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 8 P.M. Eastern time Thursdays and 8 P.M. Eastern time Fridays.

ARRL Headquarters and W1AW are closed on New Year's Day; Presidents' Day; Good Friday, Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving and the following Friday; and Christmas Day.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: voice on the hour, teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

The **W1AW Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) Web Page** is found [here](#). Details on W1AW's FMTs and other FMTs are available on this page.

Qualifying Run Schedule

W1AW

Local (Eastern)			UTC		
Date	Time	Day	Time	Date	Notes
Nov 7	9 AM	Wed	1400z	Nov 7	35 - 10 WPM
Nov 20	7 PM	Tue	0000z	Nov 21	10 - 35 WPM

K6YR (with K9JM or K6KPH as alternates)

UTC		Local (Pacific)			
Date	Time	Day	Date	Time	Notes
Nov 15	0500z	Wed	Nov 14	9 PM	10 - 40 WPM with K9JM on 3590 kHz

Visiting W1AW

W1AW is open to visitors during normal operating hours: from 8 AM until 4 PM on Monday through Friday. FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 10 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 3:45 PM Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

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