



CAPERS **May 2008**

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, May 9 at 8 p.m.

Message From the President

The next couple months are busy ones for CARA.

The New England QSO Party is this Sunday. I hope that all will have had fun at W1AW and those who could not attend spent at least a little time operating the QSO Party.

The 6m Repeater is scheduled to go up the mountain the day after the regular club meeting. Thanks are extended to all that have been involved. Please use the repeater. It should give excellent coverage as well as some DX during Sporadic E season which is almost upon us.

Elections are in June. Please volunteer or nominate someone for the various duties and offices. Even small efforts are

appreciated. My thanks to all that have contributed through the years.

This month's program will be presented by the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. This club is certainly one of the best in the world. The discussion will help us improve our contest skills. Good contest operators can make excellent operators in any situation as they are very familiar with equipment and its performance. Furthermore they have the stamina to handle high volumes of information.

Field Day is almost upon us and will be the subject of the June meeting. Special prizes will be given to CARA's best station. W1QK and I need volunteers to man the station including the overnight hours.

The CARA shop is open on the website. Please take the time to select items (hats, shirts, pins etc.). A small profit is returned to the club.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the next meeting. **73 de Frank, N8WXQ**

- **REMINDER: The New England QSO party is May 4. The CARA club will be operating from W1AW. Members interested in operating should be at the exit 9 parking lot near Rte 84 at 8:30 am for the trip to W1AW.**

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, 7 p.m., 3.640

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.

TNX to Gene KL7CE for April Program

Thanks to Gene, KL7CE, for a terrific program at our April meeting on Amateur Satellite Communications. Gene explained



the various types of satellites available and demo'd the station and antenna guidance



systems necessary -- including a neat motor-driven antenna system to lock on and track the satellites. Here are a few photos of Gene's presentation.



Licensing, Upgrade Exams June 7

The next VEC exams are scheduled for Saturday, June 7, at the Stony Hill Fire Station, 59 Stony Hill Road, Route 6, Bethel.

Exams begin at 11:30 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but if possible please give a heads-up call to Frank N1PE, (203) 438-0218, or email him at frsileo@att.net.

6M Repeater Site Help Needed on Saturday May 10

A work party is heading out Saturday, May 10, to move the 6-meter repeater site. Volunteers are needed to help with equipment transportation and installation. Please contact Joe, AB1DO or John W1JMA if you can be part of the team. You know what they say about "many hands making light work" so every bit of extra help would be appreciated.

Field Day June 27-29: Sign up for a Team Now!

Make plans now to participate in the 2008 CARA Field Day activities at Cadigan Park in Brookfield. Setup is Friday the 27th and Saturday morning the 28th. **Sign up now for one of two operating teams:** Frank N8WXQ or Dan W1QK.

CARA General Meeting Minutes April, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Frank, N8WXQ at 8:02 p.m.

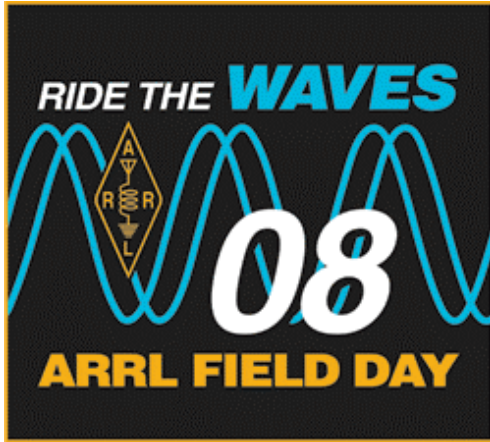
- The minutes of the previous monthly and planning meeting as printed in CAPERS was accepted.
- The Treasurer reported the balance at \$9357.10
- Frank welcomed Pete, KA1SYG and Andre, KB1QAU to the meeting.
- Gene, KL7CE, presented his program on Satellite Communications
- There was brief discussion about moving the 6m machine to the Hill

on 4/26. AB1DO was not in attendance so this move is unlikely.

- It was discussed and approved that club members with 6m equipment should monitor 52.525 simplex. This will be a nice 6m local "intercom" for club members. Thanks to Steve KF6AJ for this suggestion.
- The New England QSO party is the first weekend of May. The CARA club will be operating from W1AW on Sunday 5/4. Members interested in operating should be at the exit 9 parking lot at 8:30 for the trip to W1AW.
- John W1JMA gave a Field Day update. It is time for club members to mark their calendars for the 28/29 of June and join one of the two teams led by Dan W1QK and Frank, N8WXQ. The winning internal team will get a CARA coffee mug.
- Dan, W1QK, made a motion that we invest up to \$357 on an antenna launcher to be used at field day and other club events. The motion passed. Dan and Harlan will assemble the launcher when it arrives.
- Café Press, www.cafepress.com/w1qj, is the location for all CARA apparel and ham related items with our logo on it. A small royalty will be paid to CARA from each purchase.
- KL7CE will be issuing new membership badges.
- The Mt. Beacon hamfest is this coming Sunday.
- The Northeast VHF group is meeting on 4/18 in Enfield. KF6AJ is the local rep for this group
- Ken and Harlan shared pictures and information on the 4/5 pandemic flu drill that many CARA members participated in.

The meeting was closed at 9:45 p.m.

*John M. Ahle, W1JMA
Secretary*



W1AW Frequency Measuring Test Scheduled for May 21

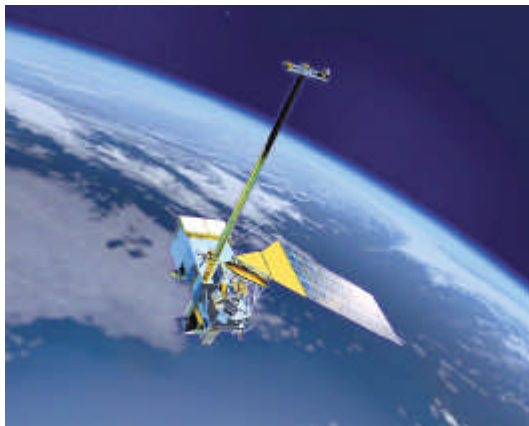
Capitalizing on the popular and effective automated online results reporting system developed by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, for the Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) <[target= blankhttp://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/)> in November 2007, W1AW will conduct a spring FMT. This FMT will begin on Wednesday, May 21 at 9:45 PM (EDT) (that's the same as 0145 UTC on May 22), replacing W1AW's normally scheduled phone bulletin. W1AW Station Manager Joe Garcia, NJ1Q, recommends that those planning to participate should listen to W1AW's transmissions prior to the event to determine which band -- or bands -- will be best for measurement purposes. In this edition of the FMT, listeners will be asked to measure the frequency of an audio tone, given an exact frequency for the carrier signal. The tone will be between 1000-2500 Hz. The carrier frequencies will be 3990 kHz (LSB), 7290 kHz (LSB), 14290 kHz (USB) and 18160 kHz (USB). Measuring audio frequencies of a modulated signal is a useful skill for those interested in digital modes. Proper tuning of these signals is important to obtain the highest quality performance. For non-digital users, it is also important to understand the relationship between the frequencies of the modulated signal's sidebands and its carrier. The techniques for measuring a modulating tone are described in the November 2004 QST in an article <[target= blankhttp://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/](#)>

<[target= blankhttp://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/2004/04fmtsilver.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/2004/04fmtsilver.pdf)> on the Frequency Measuring Test by H. Ward Silver, N0AX. The FMT Web page <[target= blankhttp://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/)> also has several interesting articles about measuring on-the-air signal frequencies. The FMT will start with a general QST call from W1AW at exactly 0145 UTC, transmitted simultaneously on the frequencies listed above. The test will consist of three 60-second key down transmissions for each band, followed by a station identification. The test will last for approximately 15 minutes and will end with station identification. W1AW will identify before, during and after the transmissions. There are no plans at this time for a West Coast station. As in the November 2007 FMT, your report should be submitted via the FMT Report form on the W1AW FMT Web site <[target= blankhttp://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/)>. Along with your call sign and e-mail address, enter your most accurate measurement on each band. There will be a window to list your equipment, describe the method you used to make the measurements and enter any Soapbox comments. Participants have 14 days to input their data. Participants may input their data more than once, although the final entry will be the one used for the results. W1AW will post the transmitted frequencies on the FMT Web site following the test. This will allow participants to quickly determine the accuracy of their equipment and methods. A complete package of results will be available via the FMT Web site after the 14-day reporting period is concluded. The results from the November 2007 FMT are available on the 2007 FMT Results Web site <[target= blankhttp://www.b4h.net/fmt/fmtresults.php](http://www.b4h.net/fmt/fmtresults.php)>.

Ten New Satellites in Orbit Use Ham Radio Frequencies

Ten satellites reached orbit April 28 aboard an Indian PSLV-C9 rocket launched from

the Satish Dhawan Space Center. The primary payloads were India's CARTOSAT-2A and IMS-1 satellites. In addition to the NLS-5 and RUBIN-8 satellites, the rocket carried six CubeSat <http://www.cubesat.org/> research satellites, all of which communicate using Amateur Radio frequencies. All spacecraft deployed normally and appear to be functional at this time.



The SEEDS satellite was designed and built by students at Japan's Nihon University. When fully operational, SEEDS will download telemetry in Morse code and 1200-baud FM AFSK packet radio at 437.485 MHz. The satellite also has Slow-Scan TV (SSTV) capability. Several stations have reported receiving SEEDS CW telemetry and the team would appreciate receiving more reports from amateurs at their ground station Web page http://sat.aero.cst.nihon-u.ac.jp/gs/english/cardform_e.html.

AAUSAT-II <http://aausatii.space.aau.dk/en/> is the creation of a student team at Aalborg University in Denmark. It will downlink scientific telemetry at 437.425 MHz using 1200 or 9600-baud packet. Can-X2 <http://www.utias-sfl.net/nanosatellites/CanX2/> is a product of students at the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies, Space Flight Laboratory (UTIAS/SFL). Can-X2 will downlink telemetry at 437.478 MHz using 4

kbps GFSK, but the downlink will be active only when the satellite is within range of the Toronto ground station. Compass-One <http://www.cubesat.de/> was designed and built by students at Aachen University of Applied Sciences in Germany. The satellite features a Morse code telemetry beacon at 437.275 MHz. Compass-1 will also provide a packet radio data downlink, which will include image data, at 437.405 MHz. Cute 1.7 + APDII http://iss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cute1.7/index_e.html is a satellite created by students at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. This satellite will not only provide telemetry, it will also offer a 9600-baud packet store-and-forward message relay with an uplink at 1267.6 MHz and a downlink at 437.475 MHz. Delfi-C3 <http://www.delfic3.nl/> was designed and built by students at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. It includes an SSB/CW linear transponder. The satellite will be in telemetry-only mode for the first three months of the mission, after which it will be switched to transponder mode. Delfi-C3 downlinks 1200-baud packet telemetry at 145.870 MHz. The linear transponder, when activated, will have an uplink passband from 435.530 to 435.570 MHz and a corresponding downlink passband from 145.880 to 145.920 MHz.



**PICK YOUR TEAM...SIGN UP NOW
FOR FIELD DAY 2008!**