



Capers

July 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, July 11 at 8 p.m.
Stony Hill Fire Station**

Message From the President

The summer is upon us again. I wish to extend best wishes for an enjoyable summer. I hope that you will have a chance to enjoy some portable, perhaps QRP, operation over the summer.

Field Day is now behind us. I thank all those who participated. Most of all I hope all had a good time. The reported score is 5,350 points with 1638 QSO's. This score is much better than last year and indeed better than of recent years. Again Congratulations! The Q team headed by W1QK is the winner of the CARA internal contest by a narrow margin. Participating members of the Q Team will receive CARA logo mugs in September. Be sure to visit the CARA shop for CARA Logo items.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Len Dryer, W1DCC. Len was a long time CARA member and was most recently seen at the June VE Exam where he seemed his usual self. Len taught several CARA sponsored ham radio licensing courses over the years. Len was truly a fine gentleman and will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

At this month's meeting, a video of the ZL8R DXpedition to Raoul Island, an active volcanic island in the Pacific, will be featured. This is another fine presentation by 9V1YC.

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

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

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 often moves to 3.973 to avoid ongoing early evening interference from a short wave operator.

CARA June Meeting Minutes 6/13/2008

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm by Frank Etzler, president.

The minutes of the May meetings were accepted as printed in the Capers.

The treasurer reported that CARA has \$8983.03 on account. The Hamfest committee purchased the raffle prize a Yaesu 2800.

The repeater committee reported work still being completed on the controller. The 6m machine is still interfering with the 2m machine.

Ham fest Update
Flyers and magazine letters have been sent

out. KJI has confirmed that he will be at the ham fest

The nominations for the next years officer slot is as follows:

President Frank Etzler N8WXQ

VP Harlan Ford W1QH

Treasurer Bill Webb W1AFX

Secy John Ahle W1JMA

Director Ken Weith KD1DD

Director Dan Fegley W1QK

Director Bill Thoren N1TIW

There were no nominations from the floor.

The secretary cast a single ballot for the slate.

Gene, KL7CE, will be traveling to the Cayman Islands in July. He plans on bringing his HF equipment.

Field Day Committee

John W1JMA made a presentation on the status of the Field Day preparations he and Oscar have been working on.

The meeting was closed at 9 p.m.

ARRL Still Has Concerns About Red Cross Background Check Policy

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written to Armond T. Mascelli, Vice President for Domestic Disaster response for the American Red Cross(ARC) to identify the ARRL's remaining concerns over the background check policy for ARC partners. Harrison emphasized that the Commencement of negotiation of a replacement Statement of Understanding (SOU) between the two organizations should not be further delayed while these Concerns are resolved and that he looked forward to signing a new SOU once additional edits to the background check Disclosure Form and clarifications of the background check Authorization Form are in place for those radio amateurs who volunteer their service to the Red Cross.

Harrison first wrote to Mascelli on November 28, 2007, setting out the

ARRL's concerns with the background check procedures recently implemented by the ARC. ARC now requires a background check for Amateur Radio volunteers seeking to support a Red Cross disaster relief Response for more than a seven day period. In the ARRL's view, Amateur Radio volunteers were being asked to consent to a more intrusive background check than was necessary or appropriate.

Mascelli's reply on May 8, 2008, addressed some of the ARRL's concerns and Harrison's latest letter to the ARC -- sent on June 30, 2008 -- recognizes considerable improvement in the forms related to the background check procedures that are linked via the ARC's Web site; however, Harrison also states that analysis of the forms has revealed two continuing problems:

* The Authorization for Background Investigation consent form still contains "some highly equivocal and broad language which, because of its ambiguity, will inevitably discourage substantial numbers of radio amateurs from participating in the background check process." This form was not included with Mascelli's reply and was not seen by the ARRL until later.

* The "Disclosure Regarding Background Investigation" can still be construed as overly broad, although this can be corrected by fairly simple edits.

Harrison told Mascelli, "We do not want the implementation of these additional changes to further delay the negotiation of the terms of a replacement SOU. A new SOU is, in my view, a critical and urgent matter. Because the old SOU expired on September 16, 2007, the vacuum thereafter has served neither ARRL nor ARC well." ARRL and ARC staff are ready to work on a draft replacement SOU, the text of which will be reviewed by the ARRL's Programs and Services Committee and approved by either the Executive Committee or the Board prior to completion.

Harrison concluded, "We look forward to continuing to provide seamless disaster response communications by Amateur Radio and to enhancing and expanding ARRL's proud partnership with the American Red Cross. I look forward to meeting with you and executing the new SOU once additional edits to the Disclosure Form, and adequate clarifications are included in the Authorization Form that appears on your web site for partner organizations are made, and when the new SOU terms are agreed upon."

Connecticut NTS Net Schedule

The following chart illustrates the current NTS schedule. Info provided by Howard w1hsr@arrrl.net.

Net Name	Days	Times (Local)	Frequencies
CT Phone Net (CPN)	M – Sat	6PM	3973 KHz
CPN	Sun	10AM	3965 KHz
CT Net (CN) (CW)	Daily	7PM	3533 KHz
Eastern CT Traffic Net (ECTN)	Daily	9:15PM	146.97, PL 156.7
Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net (NTVN)	Daily	9:30PM	146.88, PL 77
Western CT Traffic Net (WESCONN)	Daily	8:30PM	145.41, 147.12, 147.18, PL 141.3

FCC's Hollingsworth to Retire

On Thursday, July 3, Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH -- the man who has come to embody Amateur Radio Enforcement -- said goodbye to the FCC as he retired and began his life as a private

citizen. In May, Hollingsworth announced he would definitely retire; he had contemplated retiring in January 2008, but cited "several issues on the table that I want[ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community." While his successor has not yet been named, he was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth said that he has "loved" working for the FCC and has "always had great jobs, but this one involving the Amateur Radio Service has been the most fun and I have enjoyed every day of it. I've worked with the best group of licensees on earth, enjoyed your support and tremendous FCC support and looked forward every day to coming to work. The Amateur Radio Enforcement program will continue without missing a beat, and after retirement I look forward to being involved with Amateur Radio every way I can. I thank all of you for being so dedicated and conscientious, and for the encouragement you give us every day."

(Several news items courtesy ARRL letter)

Hamfest Flyer in This Month's Capers

The CARA Western CT Hamfest is set for Sunday September 14 at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street (Rte 6) in Newtown CT.

It's never too early to start promoting this major fundraising event for the club. A flyer, courtesy of Joe, AB1DO, is part of this month's Capers. Feel free to copy and distribute the flyer wherever you can: other hamfests you attend, local postings in stores and supermarkets where allowed, and for inclusion in other newsletters.

It's also not too early to think about helping out. Contact Joe or Jim KD1YV and let them know you're available.

Take Advantage of 6 Meter Skip

Tired of the marginal conditions on the HF bands? Come join the crowd on the "Magic Band." Each summer regardless of where

the sunspot cycle is, sporadic E -- or E-skip -- blooms on 6 meters and sometimes even on the bands above that. What often appears to be a dead band jumps to life with signals -- some relatively close, only hundreds of miles away -- but some representing worldwide DX on 6 meters.

This year is no different. After a slow start, the 6 meter band came into its own in May and has been open in some direction from almost every location in the US almost every day. Sporadic E peaks around the summer solstice, on or around June 21, with a minor peak around the winter solstice, on or around December 21.

Each summer season has unique characteristics that are not predictable, but make the band so fascinating to follow. This year, the emphasis has been on paths to the west and northwest, extending much further east and south than normal. According to VHF expert and conductor of QST's "World Above 50 MHz" column Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, there have been several strong openings from Hawaii to the mainland that have included many areas other than the West Coast. Stations in the Mid-Atlantic, the Southeast and the Midwest have had good shots at KH6 in both May and June.

Zimmerman said that summer has brought a nice surprise: "The highlight of this season has been repeated openings to Japan that have mostly bypassed the West Coast and settled in the Southwest, the Southeast (especially Florida) and the Midwest; Japanese stations have even been heard, but not worked, on the East Coast. The latter is a very rare occurrence indeed."

Calling conditions to the Caribbean "outstanding," Zimmerman said that stations in that part of the world have been working the US and Canada, as well as many stations in Europe. "Ted Jimenez, HI3TEJ, in the Dominican Republic has even worked Japan, a tough path even on

10 meters. Inside the US, stations up to 1500 miles away have been easy to get, and there have been lots of openings where the West Coast and the Pacific Northwest worked the East Coast and the Southeast."

Six meter operators should be alert for very short E-skip that indicates a rare increase in the maximum usable frequency (MUF) to a point where 2 meter E-skip -- or very, very rarely 222 MHz E-skip -- is possible. Zimmerman said there have been several 2 meter sporadic E openings and one 222 MHz E-skip opening this summer.

After small 2 meter E-skip openings on June 3-4 from the Northeast to the Midwest, Zimmerman said the bands blew wide open during the ARRL VHF QSO Party on June 15 with a report of two 222 MHz contacts: John Butrovich, W5UWB (EL17), of Orange Grove, Texas, to Vince Pavkovich, N0VZJ (EN35), of Big Lake, Minnesota; and Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ (EM96), of Charlotte, North Carolina, to David Rush, W5DDR (EM84), McAlister, New Mexico. "This extremely rare event has happened less than half a dozen times in the last 60 years," Zimmerman said. "Two meter E skip was everywhere: Texas; all over the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic; New Mexico to West Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee; Colorado to Florida, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas; Idaho, Oregon and Washington to the Midwest; Wyoming to Illinois, and Nevada to Iowa, North Dakota and Minnesota."

Zimmerman said that conditions are likely to continue to be very good until the middle of July when the E-skip traditionally begins to

wind down. "Most areas of the country have not had good conditions to Europe, so that may still be something to look forward to," he said. "Two DXpeditions to rare Caribbean countries are coming up later in June -- to San Andres (HK0) and to St Barts (FJ). If you have an HF/VHF radio that covers 6 meters, put up a dipole or try your 80 meter antenna -- it should work on 6 meters as well -- and have some fun. You never know what you may work next."

Thanks to all who helped
make Field Day 2008 such a
success...and so much FUN!

It was a HOT weekend
punctuated by a brief but
memorable downpour as we
were packing up on Sunday!

See a selection of snapshots
from this year's event at
Cadigan Park on the next two
pages.

**Items for Capers? Send to the editor,
Barry KA1JDD at
barry.connolly@yahoo.com.**







Sponsored by Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

Western CT Hamfest



Sanctioned by ARRL

- **Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008**
(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 \$6 (under 10 free)
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- D-Star Presentation and Demo

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/hamfest.html

Directions

Take exit 10 off Rt. 84. Go West onto Rt. 6 (westbound make a right, east bound make a left). Approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile at flag pole make a right onto Main Street/Rt. 6/Rt. 25. Edmond Town Hall will be approx. 100 yds on left.

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA) Hamfest, Sept. 14, 2008
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 @ \$15.00 each. Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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