



Capers

December 2008

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Post Office Box 3441 - Danbury, CT

Visit us on the Web at <http://www.danbury.org/cara>

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Treasurer – Bill Webb – W1AFX - phone - 203-775-0536



***Holiday Party: Friday, Dec 12 at 8 p.m.
Stony Hill Fire Station***

Message from the President

Season's greetings to all!

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contributions to CARA. CARA supports a number of activities including at least repeater maintenance, Field Day, the New England QSO party, a Hamfest that includes member-contributed seminars, VE Exams, monthly programs, and the CT Worked All Counties award. I hesitate to name those who have contributed because I may forget some deserving soul. Please take the time to congratulate yourselves! We are advancing Amateur Radio.

The December program is the annual Christmas pot luck. Please bring your family and a dish to share with others. I am sure that there will be plenty. We will

also have a gift exchange for those wanting to participate. The procedure is to bring one and take one. Gifts should be modest and ham radio related. A value near \$15 would be appropriate. I received a very nice bottle of wine last year but this may not suit all.

The New Year also is dues time. Be sure to renew and encourage others to join --particularly if they are new hams or think they may wish to become one.

Again, I extend my best Christmas and New Year's wishes. I look forward to seeing each of you at the Christmas Party.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

Minutes from November

CARA Planning Meeting

11-28-2008

The meeting was called to order by Frank, N8WXQ. Six CARA members were present.

Some of the Field Day equipment has been moved into the Bethel EOC by Ken, KD1DD and Bill, N1TIW. More is on the way.

A reminder that there will be a bring one/ take one gift exchange at the Holiday Party; HAM related (which covers a lot of ground). There is a suggested limit of \$10 to \$15.

Meetings coming up:

December-Holiday Party

January- QSO Card sort

February-N1MG: Radio equipment modification

March- N1PJG: Feedlines

There were also further discussions of CARA sponsored Technician Class license classes.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW
Secretary

40-Meter Band Plan Change

In preparation for the expansion of 40 meters in Region 1 on March 29, 2009, the HF Committee debated a band plan to incorporate the change from 7.000-7.100 to 7.000-7.200 MHz. The conference adopted the following plan:

* 7.000-7.025 MHz, CW, contest preferred (200 Hz maximum bandwidth)

* 7.025-7.040 MHz, CQ, QRP Center of Activity to be 7.030 MHz (200 Hz maximum bandwidth)

* 7.040-7.047 MHz, Narrow band modes (digimodes) (500 Hz maximum bandwidth)

* 7.047-7.050 MHz, Narrow band modes

(digimodes, unattended automatically controlled data stations) (500 Hz maximum bandwidth)

* 7.050-7.053 MHz, All modes (digimodes, unattended automatically controlled data stations) (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)

* 7.053-7.060 MHz, All modes (digimodes) (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)

* 7.060-7.100 MHz, All modes, digital voice 7070, SSB QRP Center of activity to be 7.090 MHz, SSB contest preferred (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)

* 7.100-7.130 MHz, All modes, Region 1 Center of Activity to be 7.110 MHz (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)

* 7.130-7.200 MHz, All modes, SSB contest preferred, Image Center of activity to be 7.165 MHz 2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)

* 7.175-7.200 MHz, All modes, priority for intercontinental operation (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
(*Courtesy KZ1Z*)

Dates Set for Dxpediton to Desecheo Island



The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has notified a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, that they will be able to mount a DXpedition to Desecheo Island (KP5, IOTA NA-095), February 12-26, 2009 <<http://www.kp5.us/>>. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on the Most Wanted list, kept by "DX Magazine." Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in

the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the USFWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

Per USFWS rules, only 15 operators will be allowed on the island at one time. "We have arranged with USFWS to allow a shift change about half way through the DXpedition," Allphin told the ARRL. "This has allowed a number of hams on our waiting list an opportunity to participate in this DXpedition."

Johnson said the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters. "We've had tremendous support from DX organizations all over the world and from numerous equipment and antenna manufacturers," he told the ARRL. "We are diligently working on the propagation studies to reach our hard to work areas of Asia and Europe. This and with our planned antennas, we should knock Desecheo off of the Most Wanted List for a long time to come." Desecheo is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe.

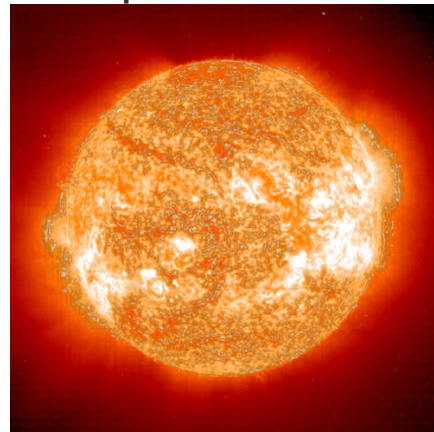
According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the lack of amateur activity on Desecheo is due to the USFWS not issuing the needed Special Use permits. "The USFWS has always claimed safety concerns as a reason to not issue the permits," he said. "Since the island was used as a bombing range, there is the possibility that unexploded, live munitions are still on the island. It is always a good thing when an entity that had activation difficulties in the past gets on the air again."

On Friday, December 19, three DXpedition team members, USFWS personnel and an unexploded ordnance (UXO) expert will go out to Desecheo to sweep and clear the assigned area of unexploded ordnance and other hazards. "We are uniquely fortunate for a 'sneak preview' of our operating site the week before Christmas," Johnson said.

"We will spend a day on Desecheo clearing hazards from our operating sites. Rarely does such a most-wanted entity have an opportunity for a sneak peak to optimally plan logistics, stations and antennas." There will be no radio operations on this trip.

The KP5 DXpedition team will assemble in Puerto Rico on Sunday, February 8 for mandatory UXO training. They will spend the next few days training, preparing and staging the several tons of equipment for transport to the site and set out for Desecheo on February 12. Allphin said that as soon as they land on Desecheo, two stations will be "immediately activated. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on February 26."

Solar Update



We had our last glimpse of sunspot group 1008 as it was about to slip over our Sun's western horizon on November 18. No sunspots have emerged since then, but it seems a reasonable assumption that we will see more Solar Cycle 24 spots, but we do not know when.

There is a prediction from USAF/NOAA that shows solar flux rising to 70 on December 8-9. This is just tracking a possible reappearance of the region that birthed sunspot group 1007 that we saw in the Sun's southern hemisphere from October 30 through November 6.

High latitude regions may see some aurora caused by another solar wind stream from a coronal hole. But that same USAF/NOAA forecast mentioned earlier shows a planetary A index to 5 (a very quiet level) until December 4-6 when they expect a planetary A index of 8, 15 and 10. The planetary A index is calculated with data from a collection of mid-latitude and higher magnetometers around the world, and 12 is a drop from the November 25 planetary A index of 17, when aurora was observed in Polar Regions.

For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>.

(Some articles courtesy ARRL Letter)

On_Line Courses Available

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration remains open through Sunday, December 7, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, December 19, 2008:

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2;

Antenna Modeling;

HF Digital Communications; and

Radio Frequency Propagation.

Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor.

Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the

student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient.

To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <<http://www.arrl.org/cep/student>> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

November Radio Equipment Sale a Success

Ken, KD1DD, reports that the November radio equipment sale was a success. All but a few items were sold and club members who bid on the items walked away with (or lugged away in the case of some of the vintage gear) substantial bargains. Thanks for Ken for putting it all together and for the hours spent spiffing up gear, testing it for workability and transporting and setting up the mini-flea market. Here's a couple of snapshots from the meeting!



ARRL Triple Play WAS Award Announced

As of January 1, 2009, the ARRL will offer another award:

The Triple Play Worked All States Award
<http://www.arrl.org/awards/#tripleplay>>.

This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state:

CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the starting date and must be confirmed via Logbook of the World (LoTW) <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

In their July 2008 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors decided to implement this new award. Based on a suggestion by former ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director Hans Brakob, K0HB, the League's Programs and Services Committee referred the award's parameters to the Board where it received enthusiastic approval.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Triple Play Award is a one-time award -- once you have made the required 150 confirmed contacts via LoTW, you're done. "Even so," Sumner writes in "It Seems to Us" in the January issue of QST, "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). The Triple Play Award is not a contest, but Sumner points out that the ARRL RTTY Roundup <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/rtty.html>>

takes place the first weekend in 2009, with the North American QSO Party (CW and Phone)

<<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>>

following soon after. "Contesters are among the most loyal devotees of LoTW," Sumner writes, "so participating in these three events should take care of all of the easy states, as well as some of the more difficult ones." He warns that it can be addictive once you begin making your contacts for the Triple Play Award!

The rules for the Triple Play Award state that two-way communication must be established on the amateur bands with each state on each mode (the District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland). There is no minimum signal report required. Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Club station applicants must include their club name and call sign of the club station or trustee on their application. The Triple Play Award will be issued on sequentially numbered certificates, starting with #1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application as submitted via LoTW. There are no endorsements for this award.

Contacts made through repeater devices or any other power relay method may not be used for WAS confirmation (a separate WAS award is available for satellite contacts). All stations contacted must be land stations; contacts with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted. The only exception to this rule is permanently docked exhibition ships (such as the Queen Mary) and other historic ships will be considered land based.

Triple Play Award applicants who reside in the US must be ARRL members to be eligible to receive the award. DX stations do not need to be ARRL members.

**Merry Christmas and Happy
Holidays to all from your newsletter
editor KA1JDD!**

W1AW 2008/2009 Winter Operating Schedule



Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555
RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM

CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

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

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

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.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 100 in the November 2008 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html> .

