



# Capers

February 2009

**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 – W1QH – phone- 203-798-8096

Secretary – Bill Thoren – N1TIW - Phone – 203-744-5138

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

**Valentine's Day:  
February 14, 2009**



**Meeting: Friday, February 13  
Stony Hill Fire Station**

## Message from the President

I hope everyone enjoyed last month's QSL card sort. We completed the task in near record time. The cards, of course have been returned to the Bureau. This activity is greatly appreciated by the folks at the W1 Bureau and is a service to our fellow hams in New England.

Mark, N1MG will present February's program on restoring a Hallicrafters radio. Radio restoration can be a fun aspect of the ham radio experience. Perhaps Mark's presentation will stir your interest in radio restoration.

There are several sources for learning about radio restoration which you might find interesting. Bret's Old Radios (<http://www.bretsoldradios.com/>) sells a set of video's dealing with restoration of vintage radios, both electronically and cosmetically. The videos are several hours in length and give a good introduction to issues that need careful consideration. Marc Ellis has an excellent column in *Monitoring Times* dealing with restoration. In the December 2008 issue of *Monitoring Times* Marc gave one of the clearest

explanations of the Edison Effect that I have seen. His explanation shows a good understanding of both physics and electronics. At the Antique Wireless Association (AWA) meeting held in August, Marc led the Midnight Restoration discussion. The AWA (<http://www.antiquewireless.org/>) is a very fine organization. Anyone interested in the history of electronic communications and restoration of vintage equipment should be a member. Many of the members are extremely knowledgeable and the Journal is excellent.

Please continue to suggest future programs and either find individuals willing to make these presentations or present them yourself. Our overall goal is to provide presentations on the diverse activities that comprise Amateur Radio.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Meeting.

*73 de Frank, N8WXQ*

## **Skywarn Class This Monday Feb 9!**

To all SKYWARN Spotters and ARES Members in Litchfield and Fairfield Counties

From Steve Williams K1SJW CT ARES DEC SKYWARN



Special SKYWARN Training Session on Recognition and Reporting of Ice Jams in the Housatonic River on **Monday February 9th from 1830 to 2030 hours local time.**

Location of Training Session **Washington Volunteer Fire Dept 109 Bee Brook Road (Route 47) Washington, Connecticut.**

Instructors John Quinlan Senior Forecaster SKYWARN Program Coordinator NWSFO Albany NY, Steve DiRienzo Service Hydrologist NWSFO Albany NY

This is a special training session open to all SKYWARN Spotters, ARES Members, Members of Volunteer Fire Departments, Local Emergency Management Officials, Members of Law Enforcement Agencies, Public Works (Highway) Departments, and Local Government Officials in Litchfield and Fairfield County especially all towns bordering the Housatonic River in Connecticut.

The focus of this training session will be on recognition and reporting of Ice Jams in the Housatonic River. Ice Jams cause localized flooding and can quickly cause serious problems. Rapid rises behind Ice Jams can lead to temporary lakes with flooding of homes and roads along rivers. A sudden release of a jam

can lead to flash flooding below with the addition of large pieces of ice in the wall of water which will damage or destroy most things in its path.

Favored areas for Ice Jam occurrences in the Housatonic River are between Falls Village and the upper end of Bulls Bridge Pond near Kent and especially in several areas of New Milford.

For further information on Ice Jams and to view the Ice Jam Reporting Form please check the link below for the NWSFO in Albany NY.

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/aly/>

It is requested that anyone planning to attend this training class please forward an email to me so that I may get an accurate head count to pass along to the instructors.

Anyone that is connected to any Fire, Police, Public works, Emergency Management, or local government agencies in the towns bordering the Housatonic River is requested to pass on the information concerning this training class. We would like to get as many representatives as possible from the area towns bordering the Housatonic River to attend.

**SKYWARN and ARES Net Control Stations are requested to announce this class during the weekly weather nets and ARES nets for the weeks leading up to the class.**

Respectfully submitted

Steve Williams K1SJW  
ARES CT Section DEC SKYWARN  
Cell Phone # 860-480-2564  
Home Phone # 860-379-8392  
email address k1sjw@arrl.net  
Monitoring the KB1AEV Link System through the Winchester Civil Preparedness Repeater  
147.330 pl 141.3 Winsted

## Thanks for Card Sort Help!

Thanks to all the club members who helped with the January QSL card sort. The new sorting boxes helped speed the process and as usual the pizza and fellowship was top notch. Here are a few photos courtesy of Harlan, W1QH.



## Ham radio fills need after the storm

By Scott Sloan - [ssloan@herald-leader.com](mailto:ssloan@herald-leader.com)

As phone service faltered last week in Western Kentucky, the state's army of another age emerged.

Ham radio operators ventured to Red Cross shelters and emergency operations centers and drove the roads to connect family members, direct supplies and just keep communications up and running, replacing cell phones and traditional land-line phones.

In Henderson County, a ham radio operator spent four days at the emergency operations center providing supplemental communication for police, fire and emergency medical personnel.

"He was instrumental in helping out," said Kenny Garrett, communications officer and resource coordinator for Henderson Emergency Management.

Sixteen members from the Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club in Western Kentucky brought their equipment and relayed messages around the Bowling Green area, said Henry

Cantrell, better known as call sign W4HTB to members of the group he's known for more than 25 years.

Cantrell said group members set up at a main shelter in Bowling Green and then fanned out to nearby Brownsville and Smiths Grove.

The amateur radio enthusiasts helped shelter occupants find and locate family members at other shelters, some as far west as Paducah.

"They have been very helpful," said Bill Schlicht, emergency services director for the state's South-Central chapter of the American Red Cross.

Schlicht said their efforts "kind of ignited a fire in the spirit of the group," and people are now putting together radio kits to keep in their vehicles for future emergencies.

The group also connected with state Homeland Security officials in Frankfort to relay the number and status of area shelters, Cantrell said.

But the priority, he said, was directing cots, generators and other supplies.

"It was a relief to the county emergency management directors to let them know there was communication help if needed," said Chris Shaw, a local representative of the national group Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Shaw drove around Henderson and nearby counties offering service as communications remained down.

In fact, on Monday, his cell phone was still dropping calls as he was interviewed about his reliable ham radio.

"It looked like a tornado had come through," he said of the devastation he witnessed last week.

Closer to Central Kentucky, ham radio operators were ready to assist as they did in the 2003 ice storm, but found little to do.

"There wasn't much movement out here," said Bill DeVore, secretary for the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society and a member since 1979.

"But we were ready in case anybody needed us," DeVore said, noting that more than 40 amateur radio operators volunteered around the clock in 2003 to provide communication at area shelters and to assist Kentucky Utilities.

*(With Tnx to KZ1Z )*

### **2009 CARA-sponsored VE session schedule:**

- March 7th
- June 6th
- September 12th
- December 5<sup>th</sup>

All dates are Saturdays. Sessions will continue to be held at the Stony Hill Fire Station at 59 Stony Hill Road (Route 6) in Bethel, CT.



Registration begins at 11:30 AM. Walk-ins are always welcome--preregistration is not required. But if you know you will be attending a session a "heads up" e-mail or call is always appreciated.

For further info, contact Frank Sileo, N1PE, [frsileo@att.net](mailto:frsileo@att.net), 203-438-0218.

## **CARA Monthly Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2009**

This was our annual W1 Incoming Bureau QSL Card pre-sort and winter pizza party meeting. This year there were two sets of boxes to speed the sorting process and reduce congestion around the tables. The meeting was very well attended and we thank all those who helped on this project; "many hands make quick work".

A short business meeting was held prior to the sorting at which Treasurer Bill Webb, W1AFX, reported a balance of \$10,133.65.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW  
Secretary

## **CARA Planning Meeting Minutes January 23, 2009**

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

Frank, N8WXQ, brought a paste-up of a "who we are and this is what we do" poster he is designing using graphics and text to spread the Amateur Radio (and CARA) message. When completed it will be about two feet by three feet and copies on a durable material are intended for semi-permanent display at local Emergency Operations Centers, fire departments, libraries and other public places. Frank thinks 4 to 10 copies will be adequate.

**(Ed. Note: A PDF of this proposed poster accompanies this month's Capers as a separate file. Your opinions are welcome at the next meeting...)**

Ken, KD1DD, reported on the digital modes communication meeting that was held on Saturday, 17 Jan 2009 at the Ridgefield EOC. The "Air Mail" program seemed to hold the most promise. There are two actual tests coming up: a 2 meter simplex test in March and a verification test of the Air Mail program in April. These two tests

will be limited to local EOCs to identify any problems before we present proposals to others.

Ken, KD1DD, Joe, AB1DO, and Gene, KL7CE, will be investigating and reporting on setting up a local high speed wireless network (intranet) for emergency communications.

The meeting was closed at 9:20 PM.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW  
Secretary

## **Dave K1DAV Advises: Training Classes Scheduled March 2009**

First I wish to say thank you to each of you for continuing to volunteer your time, energy, and communications skills to support emergency communications in Connecticut. Each of you play a vital role in the support structure for various local and state government organizations and served agencies. It's the way many of us "give back" to our communities in time of emergency and special need.

As we work our way through another New England winter, your ARES leadership team has been busily putting together an event targeted at refreshing and enhancing our communications skills and bringing us up to date on the latest news / technologies. And of course, have some fun along the way.

Whether you are a stay-at-home operator, active in RACES programs, or part of Connecticut ARES, we have one thing in common - we enjoy the hobby of Amateur Radio and we want to help our communities when troubles strike. As such, it is vital that we keep our skills sharp and learn the latest tools and techniques that make us more effective when the time comes to respond

and serve – continuous training is our way of staying prepared.

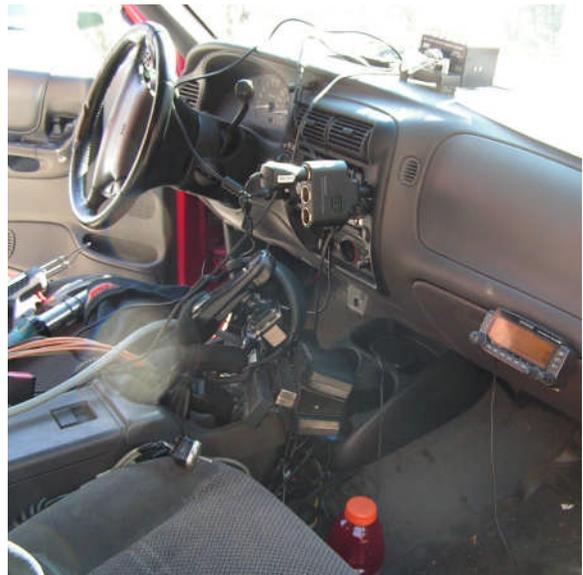
I'm asking each of you to "save the date" of **March 28, 2009** for a very special event. You are invited to join us in **Southbury, CT** at the Region 5 Headquarters facility for "**SPRING TRAINING**" - a day of information, training workshops, and of course, fun. Attached is the first flyer to provide you with a little insight on the day. We'll be sending out additional information over the next couple weeks that will provide more details on the workshops and the fun - and provide a way for you to register for the event.

In the meantime – **Save the Date!** – you'll be glad you did.

--David Hyatt ,K1DAV

### VHF Contesting "Rover"

*Dan, W1QK, forwarded this story about a VHF Contesting experience and the VHF mobile "Rover" employed. Check out the rest of the pix at the URL in the article. –Ed.*



From: K8GP Grid Pirates Contest Group <k8gp2009@k8gp.net>  
Subject: [VHFcontesting] W8ZN/R Jan '09 VHF pix  
To: vhfcontesting@contesting.com  
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2009, 11:53 AM

"Hi All,  
Terry might be able to go into more detail about exactly what

happened this past weekend with W8ZN/R, but the short of it is the 903-10GHz rotator died about 20 mins into operating from our first stop at Reddish Knob, VA (FM08). 5&10 GHz weren't working, 2&3 GHz rx was way down and 1.2G wasn't transmitting. Turning the truck to point for the uwaves was not going to work for us. Working outside in the 0 deg wx was not an option, so we bagged it and went back to his place after operating for a few hours. I was back to my QTH by 9pm.

Amazingly Terry got everything working by Sunday, including replacing the bad uwave rotator, finding/fixing the bad keying line for 2-10GHz and fixing the 1.2G transverter. We ended up meeting again around 330pm to do a 4 corner grid at FM08/09/18/19. I managed to take some pix from Reddish on Sat. and one of the grids near the four corners, a commercial uwave site we stopped at on Sun eve.

Everything worked fine until the end of the contest. It was great to work those that we could in the short period of time we were on the air. Score to follow later, but obviously not a big one with only about 6-7 hours of operating time.

Lessons learned? Its hard to build a complete rover in a few, cold, winter nights before a contest and expect it to all work the first time out!

Check out the W8ZN/R Jan '09 VHF picture album here:"

<http://www.k1ra.us/wp/v/200901-w8zn-r/>

## **ARRL Looking for Volunteers**

Have a little free time? Want to meet new people with similar interests? Share your love of Amateur Radio - be an ARRL volunteer!

"My name is Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF, and I am the new membership manager for ARRL.

ARRL is looking for volunteers to give tours of the facility and W1AW at its headquarters in Newington, Connecticut.

ARRL gives hundreds of tours annually to visitors from all over the world and you can play an important role in shaping our guests' experiences! We will provide you with training to bring you up to speed on everything you need to know to give a great, 30-60 minute tour. While this is a volunteer position, you will be entitled to perks along the way - like thank you lunches with ARRL staff or free ham apparel and books.

We are looking for volunteers to give tours during the following shifts:

Monday 9am-12pm

Monday 1pm-4pm

Tuesday 3pm-4pm

Wednesday 9am-12pm

Wednesday 3pm-4pm

Thursday 3pm-4pm

Friday 9am-12pm  
Friday 1pm-4pm

This is a great way to meet new people and to share your enthusiasm for the Amateur Radio Service. To volunteer, call me at (860) 594-0297 or e-mail [dpetrilli@arrl.org](mailto:dpetrilli@arrl.org).

Thank you!"

73,  
Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF  
Membership Manager

P.S. If you are not interested in being a volunteer, but know someone that might be, please forward this e-mail on to them. A background and interest in ham radio is not required – just a willingness to get out and meet new people!

Diane M. Petrilli, KB1RNF  
Membership Manager  
ARRL - The national association for  
Amateur Radio  
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### **ARRL Issues Mobile Amateur Radio Operation Policy Statement**



On January 30, at the instruction of the Board of Directors at its January 2009 meeting, the ARRL Executive Committee

adopted a policy statement on mobile Amateur Radio operations. The statement addresses the growing number of proposed state and local laws and ordinances regulating the use of cellular telephone and text messaging, inadvertently affecting Amateur Radio mobile communications.

In its statement, the Executive Committee urges state and municipal legislators to limit the scope of their proposals, limiting them to devices such as full duplex wireless telephones and related hand-held or portable equipment. Alternately, it suggests that licensed Amateur Radio operation be listed specifically as an exclusion to the proposed regulations.

"At the start of each new session, you see a flurry of this type of proposal in state legislatures across the country," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND.

As of February 1, 2009, Henderson said that the ARRL is aware of proposals in 11 states: Georgia, Hawaii Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming, as well as several local city or town proposals.

"These proposals are usually intended to regulate cellular telephone and text messaging by drivers as a matter of safety but, when they are written in very broad terms, can include Amateur Radio mobile operations in the 'net' they cast," Henderson continued. "The Executive Committee's policy statement gives a good, concise background of the role the Amateur Service plays in public safety and service communications. It also highlights the differences between communications conducted by cellular telephone and those using Amateur Radio. Finally, the statement offers some suggested statutory language for state motor vehicle codes which would protect Amateur Radio mobile operation."

The ARRL recognizes that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents.

The policy statement raises the fact that cell phones utilize full duplex communications -- where the user is talking and listening simultaneously. The Executive Committee statement says "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile, private land mobile or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect."

The ARRL Policy Statement also recognizes the responsibility of the amateur community to conduct its activities in a manner that does not create unsafe operation of their motor vehicle. "Safety has to be a top concern at all times," Henderson concluded.

The ARRL Policy Statement can be found on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>.

### **Laura L. Smith to Succeed Hollingsworth**



Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth

served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/03/10198>.

A 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law, Smith began her legal career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division.

In 1998, Smith left the FCC to become Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the Industrial Telecommunications Association (ITA). In that role, she monitored FCC and legislative proceedings and participated in all regulatory proceedings relevant to the private wireless industry. She was instrumental in the formation of the Consensus Group, a group of public safety and private wireless entities responsible for drafting the "Consensus Plan," a proposed resolution for interference in the 800 MHz band; this was adopted by the FCC in 2004.

Smith has served as an industry consultant and written columns for a variety of trade publications including "Mobile Radio Technology Magazine" and "The Private Wireless Magazine."

In an October 2008 letter to then-FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, urged Martin to name a successor to Hollingsworth. Calling the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program "spectacularly successful," Harrison reminded Martin of the "long period in the late 1980s and 1990s during which the Commission was essentially uninvolved in enforcement in the Amateur Service. The Amateur Service, consisting of some 680,000 licensees of the Commission, is in essence a self-regulating service; however, due to the shared frequency allocations in

the Service and the long distance propagation of amateur communications, a very few rule violators can cause severe disruption in the Service. On the other hand, even a minimal Commission presence has a very strong deterrent value."

Upon learning of Smith's move to the Amateur Radio enforcement role, Harrison remarked that he was "very pleased to see the Commission move forward with the hiring of a new Special Counsel responsible for enforcement of the Amateur Radio Service rules. The Commission acknowledges the self-regulating environment we maintain, but also understands that we need their assistance occasionally to resolve a few situations. They have continually reassured us that this is an important matter for them, and Ms Smith's hiring confirms that."

### **Copps Named Interim FCC Chairman**

On Thursday, January 22, President Barack Obama named current FCC Commissioner Michael Copps as Acting Chairman of the Commission. Copps will serve as Acting Chairman until a new Commissioner/Chairman is confirmed.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, congratulated Copps on his appointment. "Whenever we have sought a meeting with him or his staff, his door has always been open to us," he said.

Currently serving a second term as FCC Commissioner, Copps began his first term with the Commission in 2001. Before his appointment to the FCC, he served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Trade Development at the US Department of Commerce.

*(Excerpts from ARRL Letter)*

**Have YOU renewed your  
CARA membership for  
2009?**

**If not, use the attached  
registration form and  
return it to Bill W1AFX.**



Candlewood Amateur Radio Association  
P.O. Box 3441, Danbury CT 06813

## 2009 Membership/Dues Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ VE: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Capers: \_\_\_\_\_ (default Yes)

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Full Member  
\$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Family (2 members)  
\$52.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Family (3 members)  
\$65.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family (4 members)  
\$75.00\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*\$10 each additional member

Senior (65+)/College Student \$23.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member (Non-Ham)  
\$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Student (Under 18)  
\$5 \_\_\_\_\_

**Send check payable to CARA**

**To:**

**Bill Webb, W1AFX**  
**12 Stage Road**  
**Brookfield CT 06804**

**w1afx@arrl.net**  
**203-775-0536**