



Capers

September 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



**Meeting: Friday, Sept. 11, 8 p.m.
Stony Hill Fire Station**

From the President

I hope all had pleasant summer that included some fun ham radio experiences such as portable operation or visiting a radio museum.

September is a busy month for CARA. Our monthly meeting will be September 11. K1MK will present a program concerning the 100th anniversary of the MIT Amateur Radio Association. The April issue of QST contains K1MK's article on this subject. The MIT club was a club that contributed much to radio technology in the early days of radio. You might recall that T.O.M. was a member of this club.

The following day will be the VE exam so if you have not yet upgraded to Extra this is a chance to upgrade. The members of the VE team are also greatly appreciated for

their assistance to the amateur radio community.

After you have upgraded, the Western Connecticut Hamfest, sponsored by CARA, will be held on Sunday so you will be able to buy new toys to go along with your upgrade. Please attend the Hamfest and help with the setup and teardown as well as the various duties that occur during the Hamfest. Help the club have a successful event. This is CARA's annual fundraising activity. Please, also encourage your ham radio friends to attend.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Hamfest and club meeting.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

CARA Minutes for August 14

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, at 8 p.m. with 14 members in attendance.

The program for the evening was to have been a 1944 film on Hallicrafters' conversion of its standard production radios to military-grade mobile equipment. We were unable to get the audio/visual components to work properly so will try again at a later date.

During the business meeting Ken, KD1DD, reported that the 2 Meter repeater controller was sent out for repair and is supposed to be back in about a week. Upon its return a work party will re-install it and do other necessary maintenance at the repeater site.

The Hamfest is September 13, 2009 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM and Joe, AB1DO, reported that the planning is on schedule. The Hamfest flyer is in this issue of the August Capers and on-line at www.danbury.org/cara/hamfest.

A couple of items of general interest that came up were:

There is a small Ham Radio on-line publication, "K9YA Telegraph", at K9YA.org.

World Radio magazine continues to be available on-line.

Last, and most important, The CARA Picnic will be held at the home of Steve and Jennifer Simons, W1SMS and KB1LIJ. We thank Steve and Jen for hosting this event.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW
Secretary

2009 CARA-sponsored VE session schedule:

- September 12th
- December 5th

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—pre-registration is not required. But if you know you will be attending a session a "heads up" e-mail or phone call is always appreciated.

By the way, extra helping hands are always appreciated at license test events. If you're free on one or more exam dates please give Frank a call.

For further info, contact Frank Sileo, N1PE, frsileo@att.net, 203-438-0218.

September 12-14: VHF QSO Party

September is here, and according to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, that means the VHF bands are getting a workout. "If you've never experienced the fun of VHF+ operating, the ARRL September VHF QSO Party <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/sep_vhf.html> is a great place to start.

"With many HF radios now offering at least 6 meter SSB/CW capabilities -- and some offering 2 meters and 70 cm as well -- any amateur with a Technician class license or higher can experience long-haul communication on the VHF bands," he said. "Getting on the VHF bands is simple," he said. "If you have a radio that can transmit on both CW and SSB, that's great, but you can operate on either mode." When operating on VHF, Kutzko explained that

your Maidenhead grid square is the common geographical information exchanged
<<http://www.arrl.org/locate/gridinfo.html>>.

While there will be some contest activity on FM simplex (especially near large population centers), Kutzko said that most long-distance VHF+ QSOs are conducted on CW or SSB; that means horizontally polarized antennas: "A dipole for 6 meters is only 9 feet, 4 inches long and is an easy construction project," he explained. "Try to get the dipole in the air as high as possible, but even 15 feet off the ground will make some QSOs. If you have an antenna tuner that can handle 6 meters, you can try loading up another of your antennas on 6 meters with reasonable success.

For 2 meters and 70 cm, a horizontal loop will work nicely for SSB and CW contacts." You can find plans for simple VHF antennas at the Technical Information Service area of the ARRL Web site
<<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/other-v.html>>, in the Antennas chapter of The ARRL Handbook
<<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-HB2009>>, or in the VHF and UHF Antenna Systems chapter of The ARRL Antenna Book
<<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9876>>.

Kutzko advises that there are a few things to know about operating on 6 meters: In the US and Canada, there is a "calling frequency" on 50.125 MHz USB. Most SSB activity will take place between 50.125 MHz and 50.250 MHz. If conditions are exceptional, Kutzko said you may hear signals above 50.250: "CW signals can be found from 50.100 MHz to 50.080 or so. The frequencies between 50.100 and 50.125 MHz are a 'DX Window,' meaning it is reserved for QSOs between W/VE and DX stations. Please do not make stateside-to-stateside QSOs in the DX Window."

Because VHF+ antennas are relatively

small, Kutzko said that many amateurs operate from portable locations, such as a hilltop or a campground. Others operate the contest as a "rover," operating from their car or truck while transmitting from multiple grid squares over the contest period. "Tracking rovers during the contest is almost as much fun as the contest itself," he said.

The ARRL September VHF QSO Party runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, September 12 through 0300 UTC Monday, September 14.

Be sure to use those extra bands on your transceiver and get in on the fun you've been missing on 6 meters and up!
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/sep_vhf.html>

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

The '09 CARA Hamfest!
Sunday Sept. 13, 2009
Mark it on your calendar
now and volunteer to help
out. Contact Joe AB1DO.

Get Ready for 2009 SET

It's time to get ready for the 2009 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test! ARRL Field Organization leaders are planning an event that will actively involve members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS) and many other related groups that prepare for and respond to emergencies. Public service agencies and organizations in your community, ARRL Section or state will also be invited to participate.

You, too, are invited to be a part of this ARRL sponsored nationwide exercise on October 3-4, 2009, or whenever it is held in your area.

Although October 3-4 is the focal point weekend, ARRL Sections, ARES teams and nets may conduct their exercises anytime -- and especially during September through December. If you don't know who to contact, please touch base with your ARRL Section Manager and/or Section Emergency Coordinator or Section Traffic Manager for assistance. See page 16 of QST for Section Manager contact information or check the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/sections/>>. From there, you'll find links to ARRL section pages with appropriate contact information. There can be a role for you no matter what your level of experience. After all, it is a training opportunity to try out something

new under simulated emergency conditions, learn or practice useful skills in traffic handling and net operation, and observe emergency communications protocols and management.

ARRL Field Organization officials in your area and Section are planning the simulated emergency scenarios that will be used during the SET event. These scenarios are designed to help you gain valuable operating experience, or to practice what you have learned previously or to put your Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training into action. In any emergency -- real or simulated -- a number of public service or public safety agencies and organizations are often also involved in the response.

ARRL Section Leaders and local or district-level leaders are encouraged to work closely with these served agencies, and the SET is a great chance to demonstrate the capabilities of Amateur Radio in the community and beyond. For more information on whom the ARRL maintains a National Memoranda of Understanding with, check this page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/>>. Guidelines and specific SET reporting forms



for ARRL Section and Field Leaders will be posted online <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/>>. Please report your SET activities to your Section Leaders and to HQ.

(Some articles courtesy ARRL Letter)



Sponsored by Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

Western CT Hamfest

Sanctioned by ARRL



- **Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009**
(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.

By
Talk-in on
147.300+
PL 100

- Admission \$6 (under 10 free)
- Tables \$15 (includes 1 admission)
- Tailgating \$10 (includes 1 admission)
- Ham Radio Equipment
- Computer Gear
- Door Prizes
- Refreshments
- Free Parking

By
Battery Exclusive!
Big batteries at
rock bottom prices!

Commercial Vendors Include (tentative)

- KJI Electronics
- QuickSilver Radio Products
- Radio Oasis
- The Parent Shop

Don't Miss the Raffle!
Win a New Mobile Rig.

Seminars

- Air travel proven mobile HF gear (KL7CE)
- Internet linking (K1RFD, author Echolink)
- (to be determined)

Contact Information

- Joe de Groot - AB1DO: (203) 938-4880
- Email: ab1do@arrl.net
- Web site:
www.danbury.org/cara/hamfest.html

Directions

Take exit 10 off Rt. 84. Go West onto Rt. 6 (west bound 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. 13, 2009
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