



Capers

May 2010

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, May 14
Stony Hill Fire Station**

Guest Editorial

**Reminder from the Field Day 2010
Chairman -**



We are once again looking forward to Field Day. The plans are coming together with volunteers for setup and take down. We have purchased the ropes to replace the worn ones on our antennas and have purchased spools and flags for the ropes.

Thanks to Gene, Dan, Harlan and Bill for furnishing equipment and other club members for good advice. Barry will get the ball rolling with the publicity campaign and invitations to local officials.

At our meeting in May we will have sign-up sheets for the two teams. The rules will be the same this year as last year for the points. Make sure you sign-up regardless of your mic/key experience.

Carl, W1ZGZ, has already requested a slot for the graveyard shift - thanks Carl. If you know a time you want to serve, please let me know and I will put you in a slot. I can be reached at j.mullis@sbcglobal.net

**-- Jamie, KB1MQB,
2010 Field Day Chairman**

CARA Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, with 19 members and guests in attendance.

The program for the evening was presented by Mike Loukides, W1JQ and Dave Arruzza, W1CTN from the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC). Both Mike and Dave are very experienced contesters and they passed along several useful tips.

- Much of the contesting action is on CW.
- Do not be intimidated, learn the code and jump right in.
- Listen and copy what you can at the higher speeds, listening for the patterns that make up letters, common groups of letters and common words.
- Contesting on CW can be easily done with low power and not a lot of metal in the air.
- Other places to get your feet wet in CW without doing widespread damage across time zones are the regional QSO parties such as www.floridaqsoparty.org and the New England QSO Party, www.neqp.org.
- Finally, most people will work with you, adjusting their code speed to what you can handle; if they don't, move on.

We would like to thank Mike and Dave for a very interesting presentation.

Note: The YCCC website is at www.yccc.org.

During the business meeting the Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report of \$10,730.20 were accepted.

As usual CARA will be operating W1AW during the New England QSO party. In addition we plan to operate a CARA club station somewhere in Bethel

Antenna work at the repeater site is being scheduled.

Equipment is being collected for Field Day and Chairman Jamie, KB1MQB, reported that preparations are on schedule.

Hamfest preparations are also on schedule as reported by Chairman Joe, AB1DO. Hamfest fliers were distributed to the members present at the meeting with the instruction that they be Distributed Far and Wide! "Thank you very much".

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM

Note: In my absence, The CARA Work Meeting this month was covered by Barry, KA1JDD. My thanks to Barry.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary

Minutes CARA Work Meeting 4/23/10

The meeting began about 7:30 p.m.

Attendees:
Frank N8WXQ
Ken KD1DD
Barry KA1JDD
Bill W1AFX
John KB1LYP

- Frank reported that a portable grill had been purchased for club use for Field Day and other events. The grill is compact and can easily be carried and stored.

- Ken reported no changes in repeater status. He is investigating other possible future sites for the repeater, since the current site has severe access restrictions.
- Information will be forthcoming on timing and directions for club members interested in participating in the Sunday session of the NE QSO Party from W1AW headquarters. Ken may head up a group at Putnam Park on the Bethel/Redding border on the Saturday before, if necessary permissions can be secured, or possibly at the Bethel Municipal Center.
- Preparations for Field Day 2010 are proceeding on schedule.
- Nominations for club officers are coming up. Everyone needs to give thought to candidates they wish to nominate.
- CARA Program ideas:
 - – Ken suggested bi-monthly “mini” flea markets where club members could bring gear, antennas, accessories to sell/auction/trade/donate.
- Upcoming CARA Programs:
 - – May, Bill N1TIW, on solar power/operations
 - – June Rehearsal for Field Day.

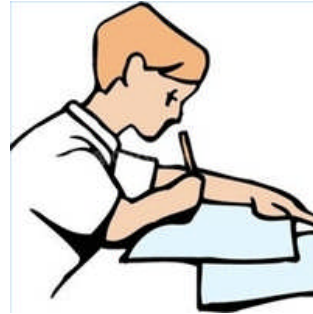
The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

-- Barry Connolly, KA1JDD

May Meeting Program

Bill N1TIW discusses solar power options and operations!

CARA 2010 Exam Schedule



Here is the 2010 CARA-sponsored VE session schedule:

- September 11th
- December 4th

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.

For further info, contact Frank Sileo, N1PE, in Ridgefield, CT at 203-438-0218 or fsileo@att.net.

Paid your dues yet for 2010?

Use the handy form in this month's CAPERS!

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.)

2009 NEQP SOLP Award to Mike W1JQ

Mike, W1JQ, gratefully acknowledged receiving the 2009 CARA-sponsored New England QSO Party plaque. Mike won the award for scoring First Place in the Single Operator, Low Power category in Connecticut.

Members will recall that Mike, and Dave, W1CTN, presented the CW contesting program at the April CARA/YCCC meeting.

Congratulations, Mike!

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration



Registration remains open through

Sunday, May 23, 2010, for these [online course sessions](#) beginning on **Friday, June 4, 2010**: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Design and Construction; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the [CEP Course Listing page](#) or contact the [Continuing Education Program Coordinator](#).

Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, reports: After 13 days of no sunspots, new region 1063 appeared late on Wednesday, April 28. Unknown at this point (early Thursday) is how strong or fast-growing this new sunspot region will be. Earlier region 1062 was only with us for three days, April 12-14. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday, April 30, including some e-mails about the European ash cloud and the possibility that 72 MHz propagation was depressed because no aircraft were in the sky. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#).

NEQP Portable Operation Tested at Putnam Park

During the May 1st New England QSO Party, Ken KD1DD and Jim, KD1YV, set up and operated a portable station at Putnam Park. The park, which is located on the Bethel-Redding border, has an upper field area 300' x 1000' at an elevation of 800 feet. There were plenty of trees and room for two large loops. There is plenty of shade and a solar-powered rest room.

Ken and Jim operated for four hours and logged 90 contacts including nine different foreign countries. They used a small generator and a 120-foot dipole with an auto-tuner, operating on 80 through 15 meters. They report it would make an excellent site for a future CARA Field Day event.

Here are some photos they snapped of the field and their setup.



Mobile Operation at Putnam Park



120-foot dipole and antenna tuner



KD1DD at the mike



KD1YV on the air



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

2010 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 _____