



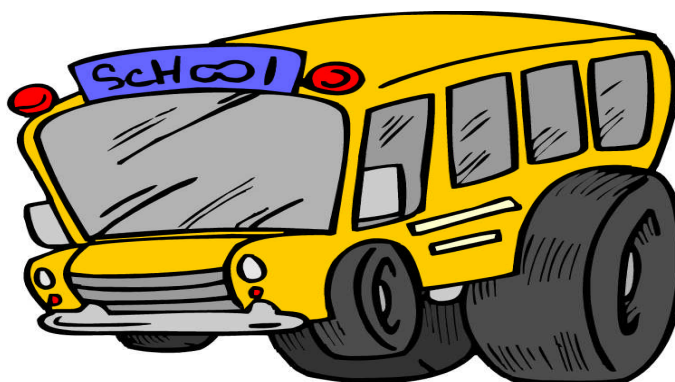
Capers

September 2010

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

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

President – Harlan Ford – W1QH – phone- 203-798-8096
Vice President – Barry Connolly – KA1JDD- phone - 203-748-1033
Secretary – Bill Thoren – N1TIW - Phone – 203-744-5138
Treasurer – Bill Webb – W1AFX - phone - 203-775-0536



Meeting: Friday, September 10...Stony Hill Fire Station

From the President

Greetings for September!

September is National Preparedness Month and we'll have a short video starring a local ham (!) at our meeting on the 10th.

Speaking of Preparedness, I hope all will be helping out as much as possible at our HAMFEST on the 12th -- contact Joe, AB1DO – it's gonna be a busy weekend!

I am also asking that we get a work party together to get our repeater work done -- the snow will be coming soon!

73 QH



CARA 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 frsileo@att.net.

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SHELBY HAMFEST
September 5, 1965

THE GRAND PRIZE

Hundreds of Dollars in OTHER Nice Prizes
 Food? Your Choice of Fresh Pit Barbecue, of Southern Fried Chicken . . . All You Can Eat
 Bingo, Entertainment For All The Family.
 Special Table Reserved For Members Of The 'Southern Coffee Club' on Sunday Morning.
 Sunday School at 11 A.M., Under Direction of Sunday School Study Group.
 'Eye Ball' QSO And Get-Together Saturday Night.
 Plenty of Trading and Swapping
 Mobile Units Listen On 3865 kc. Sunday A.M.
 Play Ground Equipment For The Children.
 Plenty Of Shelter In Case Of Rain.
 Trailer And Camping Facilities On Saturday Night.
 Admission: Still at 'Economy' Level: \$ 3.00

**SEE YOU IN SHELBY DAY BEFORE LABOR DAY
 AT THE BEAUTIFUL CEDAR PARK!!!**

Hamfest Flyer... "Back in the Day."



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.)



Sponsored by Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

Western CT Hamfest



Sanctioned by ARRL

- **Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010**
(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)
- Tables \$15 (includes 1 admission)
- Tailgating \$10 (includes 1 admission)
- Ham Radio Equipment
- Computer Gear
- Door Prizes
- Refreshments
- Free Parking

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

- Raising Towers Safely (Steve Simons, W1SMS)
- (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. 12, 2010
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

Report on the CARA Meeting of August 13, 2010

Since there are no official meetings during July and August (CARA Constitution, Article IV) I will call this a "Report."

The meeting was started by President Harlan Ford, W1QH, at 8 PM with 16 members present.

The main topic for the evening was plans for the Hamfest. Our Hamfest is Sunday, September 12, 2010 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. We have been attending other Hamfests and now it is our turn to show other clubs how it should be done. Setup is at 7 AM and we need as many people as possible then, and during the following five hours. The CARA Hamfest is where most of our operating funds come from.

Steve, W1SMS, reported that his tower installation is at 121 feet and will shortly be sprouting "ornaments."

The program for the evening was a video of the 2009 DXpedition to Desecheo Island presented by Frank, N8WXQ. It's always interesting to see how the many problems are solved during these events, but at least on this one there weren't thousands of crabs crawling all over everything! During the video I saw printing on a non-disposable coffee mug at one of the operating positions -- "Choose to Re-use."

Our thanks to Frank for another example of radio operations far from the easy chair in the spare bedroom.

The meeting closed at 9:30 PM and moved to the parking lot.

-- **Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary**

ARRL September 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 \(Starts 1800 UTC Saturday Sept. 11th through 0300 UTC Monday Sept. 13th\)](#) 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."



"September is known for good tropospheric propagation," Kutzko said, "as opposed to June, which is known for sporadic-E, or E-skip. As the summer winds down, the sporadic-E season comes to an end and good tropo conditions flourish. A modest station -- say a 50 to 100 W SSB/CW transceiver and a small Yagi on 2 meters -- can, with favorable conditions, make QSOs several hundred miles away. If conditions are excellent, QSOs of more than 1000 miles are possible." When operating on VHF, Kutzko explained that your [Maidenhead grid square](#) is the common geographical information exchanged.

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.” But remember: SSB and CW QSOs use horizontally-polarized antennas, while FM uses vertical polarization. You can find plans for simple VHF antennas at the [Technical Information Service area of the ARRL Web site](#), in the Antennas chapter of [The ARRL Handbook](#), or in the VHF and UHF Antenna Systems chapter of [The ARRL Antenna Book](#).

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. Many stations monitor this frequency to listen for band openings. Stations can call CQ on the calling frequency; if somebody answers, the stations will find a new frequency on which to conduct their QSO. It is considered poor etiquette to monopolize the calling frequency for QSOs.

Activity will be centered on 50.125, 144.200, 222.100 and 432.100 MHz. These are the calling frequencies; it’s bad etiquette to monopolize them. But Kutzko said that most SSB activity will take place between 50.125-50.250 MHz, and CW between 50.100-50.080 MHz. If conditions are exceptional, Kutzko said you may hear signals above 50.250. But Kutzko advised that the frequencies between 50.100-50.125 MHz are a “DX Window,” meaning it is reserved for QSOs between W/VE and DX stations, so please do not make stateside-to-stateside QSOs in that range.

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 11 through 0300 UTC Monday, September 13. 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!

This Week on the Radio

This week:

- September 4 -- Russian RTTY WW Contest; Wake-Up! QRP Sprint; AGCW Straight Key Party
- September 4-5 -- [ARRL EME Contest](#); All Asian DX Contest (Phone); Colorado QSO Party; Brazil Independence Day BPSK31 CDX Contest
- September 5 -- WAB 144 MHz QRP Contest (Phone)
- September 5-6 -- Tennessee QSO Party
- September 6-7 -- Michigan QRP Labor Day CW Sprint
- September 7 -- ARS Spartan Sprint
- September 8 -- QRP Fox Hunt
- September 8-9 -- CWops Mini-CW Test

Next week:

- September 10 -- NCCC Sprint Ladder
- September 11 -- Ohio State Parks on the Air
- September 11-12 -- Arkansas QSO Party; FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend; WAE DX Contest (SSB)
- September 11-13 -- [ARRL September VHF QSO Party](#)
- September 12 -- North American Sprint (CW); SKCC Weekend Sprint
- September 16 -- NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint



**REMEMBER THE CARA HAMFEST
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12th**

FCC: 2x2 Call Signs Only for Advanced, Amateur Extra

In May 2010, John Gottschalk, KB1DDK, of Westwood, Massachusetts, requested a new call sign via the FCC's vanity call sign program. Gottschalk, a General class licensee, requested KK1CQ -- a 2x2 call sign -- and a waiver from the Commission allowing him to

hold the call sign. The [FCC denied both requests](#) on Tuesday, August 31, 2010.

Per [Section 97.19\(d\)](#) of the Commission's Rules, an applicant may request a vanity call sign from only the group of call signs corresponding to the same or lower class of operator license held by the applicant, as designated in the sequential call sign system. Hence, Gottschalk is not eligible to hold a 2x2 call sign (a Group B call sign), as these call signs are reserved and assignable only to Amateur Extra Class and Advanced Class licensees. As such, he requested a waiver to hold the call sign; Gottschalk told the FCC that the previous holder of KK1CQ was a close friend of his whom he wished to memorialize.

"When the Commission implemented the vanity call sign system, it provided that no licensee could receive a vanity call sign corresponding to a higher license class, because this would be [unfair to other licensees who passed the examination for that license class](#)," the FCC stated in its letter to Gottschalk. "The Commission also concluded that it was reasonable to require the licensee to upgrade to the requisite license class in order to be eligible for the desired call sign. We conclude that grant of your waiver request is not appropriate because you have not shown that you could not or cannot upgrade to an Amateur Extra Class operator license. We also conclude that grant of the waiver would not be in the public interest because it would deprive other, eligible licensees of the opportunity to request this call sign."

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