



Capers

October 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, October 8...Stony Hill Fire Station

From the President

Hello Everyone,

Well, Fall is finally here and now we will probably be doing indoor hamming, such as contests and nets. Speaking of which, be sure to attend our next meeting when Frank, N8WXQ, will give a talk about HF propagation software, something that might give you an edge when DXing.

Our Hamfest went very well this year. Thanks to all who stepped up to the plate and helped out, especially Joe, AB1DO, our Hamfest chairman ! Kudos also to the gang that stood (sat?) by the tables and sold tickets and batteries! We did quite well for the treasury. Thanks also to Judy and Bob for making sure everyone had some coffee and a snack.

The repeater had some work done, a new antenna was installed and the 440 was re-linked in, the guys did a great job ! However, Murphy visited the site and has seen fit to disable the 2 Meter amp since all the fine work was done -- a new amp is on order at last report.

The BEARS had a Special Event Station operating on Sep 25th commemorating P.T.Barnum's 200th Birthday. I was able to make contact with them and hope more of you did also. Great Job, Guys ! We'll look to you for advice on doing the same for CARA's 80th in 2011.

Bill, W1AFX, is spearheading a display effort at the Danbury Library this Month to promote Amateur Radio and maybe get us some new members.

See ya all at the meetin'.....**73, QH**

Report From the Repeater Committee

On September 18 Harlan W1QH, Ken KD1DD and Steve W1SMS visited the CARA repeater site to test/repair/replace the 440MHz antenna and 144/440MHz diplexer. On behalf of the work party, Steve W1SMS produced the following report of activities.

To: Repeater committee
From: Steve W1SMS
Subject: Repeater site work session notes

Work party: Harlan W1QH, Ken KD1DD & Steve W1SMS

Initial agenda: Install new 144/440MHz diplexer, Test and replace (if necessary) 144/440 Diamond antenna, test complimentary feed line, Test and remove for repair (if necessary) 144 folded dipole antenna, Power on & Test 440 repeater.

Actual activities: Replace diplexer, Replace defective Diamond antenna with new one and test, Remove defective folded dipole antenna, Remove defective 440 amplifier and power on 440 repeater (~2.5 watts RF output to duplexer array), link 144 & 440 repeaters, Test 220MHz feed line (OK).

Follow up activities: Repair folded dipole antenna – KD1DD, Repair 440 amplifier- W1SMS (return to manufacturer if necessary).

Next repeater site activity(ies): Install repaired 440 amp, install repaired 144 folded dipole antenna, relocate 50MHz antenna on tower, trim offending brush and trees.

Observations and comments: Offensive audio from packet radio (perhaps cover speaker with tape and/or sound deadening foam) add small sign to inform other site users that sound is normal and to not tamper with radio, add CARA repeater contact sign (name - telephone # - email address) to all equipment cabinets, bring all

system documentation up to date (including block diagram, schematics, manuals, notes, sketches list of hardware, on-site & with repeater contact. Best in electronic format so some documents will need to be scanned to PDF format).

Future activities: To be decided.

NOTE: Special thanks to Ken, KD1DD, for his solo trek to the repeater site Sept. 26, under terrible weather conditions, to diagnose and service the repeater.

CARA Web Reflector Operational

"Thanks to the excellent work of Jim KD1YV, the CARA web reflector is now operational. There will be various enhancements and adjustments as we move forward. At the moment, we have a "short" list of members registered. This will grow after the next week. Please announce the reflector's presence at the upcoming meetings and when using the club repeater.

This service is for all members and friends and will serve as a club intercom for use in keeping everyone up to date on events & happenings as well as immediate broadcasts (i.e. 'need help at an antenna party...')

Operation of the reflector

-- To post a message to the "LIST" (that is everybody that is registered, just send an email to: cara@mailman.qth.net)

-- To reply (to the LIST) to a message that is received over the reflector; you have to hit your Reply-All button on your mail reader.

-- To reply to (ONLY) the person sending a message; just hit reply on your mail reader.

This reflector will also pass attachments. If you decide to send attached files, please

use the minimum file size possible (i.e. convert to PDF format) or just send unformatted text. Please use common courtesy when replying as your text goes to everyone.

We look forward to having all members use this service and if you have any comments or questions; please direct them to me.”

Enjoy,

Steve, W1SMS

CARA VE session schedule:

- Saturday, December 4th

Sessions are held at the Stony Hill Fire Station at 59 Stony Hill Road (Route 6) in Bethel, CT.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. 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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Advanced SKYWARN Spotter Training Session

Where: Washington Fire Dept 109 Bee Brook Road Washington, CT (Litchfield County)

When: Monday November 1, 2010 6:30 p.m. local Time

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Albany, N.Y., along with the Washington Volunteer Fire Department, are sponsoring an Advanced SKYWARN Spotter Training Session.

The session is open to all SKYWARN Spotters who have attended a Basic Spotter Training Session in the past 3 years. The session will feature information on Severe Thunder Storms but will also focus on Severe Winter Weather including Nor'Easters, Blizzards, Ice Storms, and Flooding conditions from Ice Jams.. It will also focus on the proper methods to use to record snow and ice measurements for relay to the National Weather Service.

Any spotters wishing to attend should go to the Albany NY National Weather Service Forecast Office Website to register for the class.

P.T. Barnum Special Event Station



On Saturday, September 25, the Bethel OEM/BEARS operated a Special Event Station (KA1KD) commemorating the 200th birthday of P.T. Barnum, Bethel's native son.

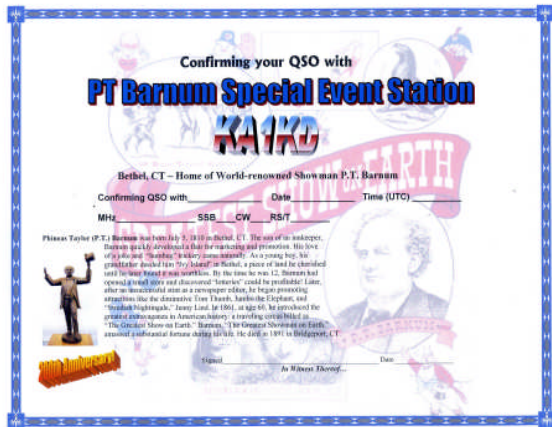


Thanks to all who stopped by to visit us and/or operate for a time. Our tent (CERT pop-up) was set up in P.T. Barnum Square, across from Famous Pizza. We had planned to operate on 40, 20 and 15 meters

but band conditions for us were best on 20 meters. We also operated the Bethel 2m repeater for local contacts.



From 9-4 p.m. on Saturday we made over 60 contacts, reaching in the U.S. from Canada to Florida and out to California, with a full range of states in between. We also had QSOs with Italy and Germany. All this was accomplished with 100 watts and a simple wire dipole strung between two trees overhead.



We prepared a handsome Special Event certificate (courtesy KA1JDD) that's available to anyone who made contact with us and sends an SASE with \$1 for postage.

Thanks to Ken KD1DD and Barry KA1JDD who were on hand from start to finish on Saturday.

73 de Jim, KD1YV

OPERATORS NEEDED FOR CARA SUNDAY NET!

Additional volunteer net controllers are needed for the 7:30 Sunday evening CARA net. Right now, Bill, N1TIW and Harlan W1QH are handling the lion's share of the work. Some additional volunteers – even for one or two Sundays a month – would be appreciated.

Any licensed club member can handle the net. There's a simple script to guide you and it's excellent practice in net operation for ARES work you may be involved in.

Don't be shy. Please get in touch with Harlan, "QH" to let him know your availability. You'll be added to a list so we can alert you when your help is needed to cover an upcoming net.

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.)

THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE CARA HAMFEST!

Joe, AB1DO, reports that this year's Hamfest (September 12th at Edmond Town Hall) was another successful event for the club. Thanks to all the members who were on hand for setup and cleanup, to staff the ticket tables and collect money, conduct the seminars, run the refreshment stand, conduct the raffles and do all the "heavy lifting" (those huge 12v UPS batteries don't move themselves!) It was a smooth team effort and it showed in the results. Here are a few snapshots from this year's events. If you couldn't be there...there's always next year and, as the saying goes, many hands DO make light work!



CARA Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2010

The meeting was called to order by CARA President Harlan Ford, W1QH, at 8 PM with 20 members and guests present.

The Secretary's report was accepted.

The Treasurer's report of \$9,660.52 was accepted.

On Saturday, September 25, 2010 there will be a special event station in Bethel as part of the town's celebration of Phineas Taylor Barnum's 200th birthday. Contact Jim, KD1YV, or Ken KD1DD for details.

Hamfest Chairman Joe, AB1DO, had some final comments on preparations for our September 12th Hamfest. ARRL Section Manager Betsey Doane, K1EIC, will be there so stop by and say hello.

New Business and the program for the evening was a roundtable discussion, moderated by Steve Simons, W1SMS, concerning the future directions of CARA as a club. Other members of the Working Group, besides Steve, were Harlan, W1QH, Bill, N1PJG and Oscar, KO1F.

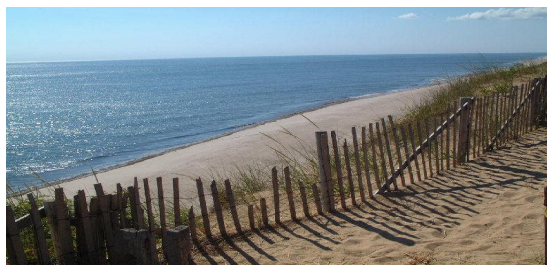
The tone of the meeting was uniformly positive and the results will be presented to the membership at a future meeting. The club belongs to everyone and each member is encouraged to "adopt" an area of interest; for example social activities or technical topics. For myself, I will be working to compile a history of CARA. So if you have any pictures, documents, newspaper clippings, souvenirs etc. let me know. I do not plan to keep everything in my basement (if you have seen it you know why!) but I can collect some things and also act as a clearinghouse to catalog private collections. If you have any suggestions, let me know.

Ken, KD1DD, announced that there would be a work party going up to the repeater site

on Saturday, September 18 to do antenna work and other equipment maintenance. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

-- *Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary*

New Marconi Museum on Cape Cod



"This past August I visited the newly opened Chatham Marconi Maritime Center on Rt. 28 in Chatham. The museum is located at the wireless station site built by Guglielmo Marconi in 1914. Most might know the site as the Chatham Radio WCC; ship to shore communications.

The museum was founded in 2002 and volunteers have been working on opening the main receiving building these past 8 years. The building features vintage radio receivers, teletype machines, a directional Antenna (similar to the receiving loop found in the ARRL antenna book!) and the diorama of the campus as it was in days gone by. There are videos, slide shows and the ability to send and receive cw using period Morse code keys. When you arrive at the museum, there is an introductory video about the history of WCC narrated by the late Walter Cronkite. WCC was one of Marconi's 10 wireless radio stations. It operated from 1914 till its closure in 1997. In addition there is an amateur radio station. The day I visited the station was locked but is used for contesting and special events. For more information you can go to the website: www.chathammarconi.org.

If you have a chance to visit, it's worth the trip." – 73, *John W1JMA*