



Capers

April 2011 Issue

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

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

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Meeting: Friday, April 8, 2011 8 p.m. @ Stony Hill Fire Station



Greetings to All,

I hope you all have survived the winter without any undue circumstances; my G5RV is still flying so I guess I better get it higher. (Hi Hi)

We have some activities coming up, The CARA 80th Special Event Station on May 8th, The New England QSO Party at W1AW, also on May 8th, and Field Day is approaching-FAST!

Frank, N8WXQ, is heading up the NEQP/W1AW activity and needs additional Ops to help (and spell) him. Please contact him to make arrangements. I have attended this in the past and it's a great experience to operate at W1AW—you get to use some really top-of-the-line rigs, and the antennas are top-notch.

Dan, W1QK, and Jim, KD1YV, are heading up the CARA 80 special event station. They also need ops and antenna riggers. Please contact either one and help out. CARA only turns 80 once, so please come and support YOUR club.

Bill, N1PJG, has agreed to help out on our Field Day preparations, but he also needs help, it's too much for just one guy. Please get in touch with him so we can all enjoy Field Day.

The Repeater Committee is still proceeding with plans for repairs/improvements to the W1QI Repeaters. They should be asking for work parties very soon to get things back in order.

73,
QH

CARA VE session schedule:

Sessions For 2011

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.

June 11, 2011
Sept 10, 2011
Dec 3, 2011

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., 3.533 (note correction to 3.533)

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.)



CARA Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2011

The meeting was called to order by CARA President Harlan Ford, W1QH, with 17 members present.

Oscar Fuller, KO1F, announced that there is to be an accelerated CERT course the evenings of May 10 and 12 with a final session on Saturday, May 14. For further information contact Oscar at 203-744-8062 or oscar@voidstar.org. (Note: as of March 31 the course was full. However, if there is enough interest, he will try to schedule another course for a future date.)

The program for the evening was presented by Harlan Ford, W1QH, who reminded us of where the ARRL came from, namely the American Radio *Relay* League. The National Traffic System has always been an important part of Amateur Radio and, as Harlan pointed out, the technology changes but the importance of getting the message through remains.

There is a wide range of opportunities in the NTS, locally and nationally. If you would like to see what is involved in this important aspect of Amateur Radio see the ARRL website. Log on to ARRL select "public service" select "NTS" select "learn more".

After a short break we went on to the business part of the meeting.

The Treasurer's report of \$11,118.69 was accepted.

The Secretary's report was accepted.

We will be operating W1AW during the New England QSO Party on May 8, 2011. We will be carpooling again this year so contact Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, to sign up.

This year we will also be operating a Special Event station at the same time as the NEQSO Party to celebrate the 80th anniversary of CARA (1931-2011). We will be operating from Bennett Memorial Park in Bethel, CT using the call sign W1QI. Anyone interested in helping with this Special Event station please contact Dan Fegley, W1QK, at 203-775-9525 or w1qk@snet.net to sign up.

According to Hamfest chairman, Joe de Groot, AB1DO, all preparations are on schedule.

At this time we still need an overall Field Day Chairman (or co-chairmen). We have an experienced crew but the event does not happen by itself and we need one or two people to coordinate the effort. In the past we have had very few "woopses" and we would like to keep it that way. Thank you.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary

This Month's Quote

"Radio is just a fashion contrivance that will soon die out. It is obvious that there never will be invented a proper receiver."
(Thomas Edison)

The Irish Taxi Driver

A British passenger in a taxi in Dublin leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from the edge of the bridge over a river .

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then the still shaking driver said, "Be-Jesus, I'm sorry, but you scared the devil out of me."

The frightened Brit apologized to the driver and

said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten an Irishman so much.

The driver replied, "Will the Saints in Heaven forgive me, it's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab..... I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."

ADVISORY

We are all aware of the tragic events that are continuing to happen in Japan. Our hearts go out to all who are suffering through this terrible time. The Amateur community has been asked to stay off the following HF frequencies which are being used for emergency traffic:

- 3525 kHz +/-5 kHz
- 7030 kHz +/-5 kHz
- 14100 kHz +/-10 kHz
- 21200 kHz +/-10 kHz
- 28200 kHz +/-10 kHz

Please honor their request.

Biblical Origin of the Internet

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader called "Abraham of Com" did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot.

And "Dot of Com" was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she had often been called "Amazon Dot Com".

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel far, from town to town, with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham didst look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How might I do that my dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns, and drums in the land between, to send

messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long, and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever moving from his tent.

But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secrete (look it up, it means to hide) himself inside Abraham's drum and was accused of insider trading. And the young man did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung.

They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Siderites, or NERDS for short.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land. And indeed did insist on making drums that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others".

And as Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known 'eBay', he said, "We need a name that reflects what we are".

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators". 'YAHOO!' exclaimed Abraham.

And that is how it all began.

Al Gore had absolutely nothing to do with it.

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association 80th Anniversary 1931 to 2011

The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year (1931 to 2011)

As part of the celebration, we are contacting current and past members and anyone else who may have information about CARA.

Items of interest would be newspaper clippings, newsletters, membership lists, lists of club officers, CARA certificates or awards, event announcements (Field Day, Hamfest etc.), financial records (cancelled checks etc) or anything else pertaining to the history of CARA. If you have something really interesting and do not want to part with it perhaps you could use it as a program for one of our monthly meetings or as a talk at the CARA Hamfest.

We have no place to store large quantities of material so loans of items or pictures or electronic media are acceptable.

This celebration will be going on during the rest of 2011 so if you come across something let us know. Who knows, if we get massive amounts of stuff we may extend the Anniversary into 2012!

Contact information: CARA, P. O. Box 3441,
Danbury, CT 06813-3441

www.danbury.org/cara

Also you can contact CARA club members.

Thank you.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW CARA Secretary

wthoren@sbcglobal.net

NCVEC Deletes Question from Amateur Extra Question Pool

Due to the FCC revising the rules concerning Spread Spectrum, the Question Pool Committee of the National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (NCVEC) has decided to delete a question from the Amateur Extra class question pool. According to QPC Chairman Rol Anders, K3RA, when the Spread Spectrum rule change goes into effect, the answer to question E1F13 in the Amateur Extra class question pool will no longer be correct.

In March 2011, the FCC -- acting upon a 2006 Petition for Rulemaking filed by the ARRL -- eliminated the requirement that amateur stations transmitting Spread Spectrum use Automatic Power Control (APC) to reduce transmitter power. At the same time, the Commission reduced the maximum power of a Spread Spectrum emission from 100 to 10 W PEP. Anders encouraged those who administer Amateur Radio license exams to remove question E1F13 as soon as possible, but advised that it must be removed when the rules change goes into effect. The changes to Sections 97.311 and 97.313 of the Commission's Rules will be effective 30 days after the Report and Order is published in the Federal Register. The current Amateur Extra class question pool is effective through June 30, 2012.



Operating Tip

If you are a guest operator at a home station, don't forget to say thanks to the host family along with the ham who invited you! While they may not have built the station, their hospitality is important to your success.

Radiation and Radio

With so much concern over the damaged nuclear reactors in Japan, sensitivity to the word "radiation" is very much higher than usual. In general, the public is not aware of the many meanings of the word nor are they sensitive to the differences in types of radiation. Since hams use electromagnetic radiation to communicate, it behooves us to be able to coherently explain why "our" radiation is OK and not a threat to others.

Radio waves are [non-ionizing radiation](#) that does not contain sufficient energy to separate electrons from atoms and create ions. That effect only occurs at frequencies orders of magnitude higher than for radio signals. As you learned during your licensing studies, radio frequency energy only results in thermal (heating) effects to the body. The amount of heating depends on the frequency and power levels involved. Radio waves have not been shown to cause biological effects, such as genetic damage or cancer. Radiation from nuclear sources, such as radioactive substances, can cause biological effects because it is [ionizing radiation](#).

Furthering the confusion, the word "hot" is used to refer to both thermally hot and radioactive materials. Radioactivity can heat up materials (the inside of the Earth is kept hot from radioactive decay) but not vice versa. Only ionizing radiation from radioactive materials has enough energy to cause significant health hazards.

Exposure to ionizing radiation is measured in sieverts - a term unfamiliar to most people. Because it is an unfamiliar measurement, we find it difficult to assess the importance of numeric values. Normal background levels of ionizing radiation are so low that even a small release of radioactivity can cause a change that sounds alarmingly high.

An explanation of permitted versus recommended levels of ionizing radiation was also discussed in an NPR interview on Mar 21st with Dr. Harold Swartz, professor of radiology and medicine, Dartmouth College. A [transcript](#) of that interview is available online and may be of interest in explaining the relative numbers we are encountering.

Risk from exposure to radiation is not an easy thing to quantify in a single, brief statement. There are many factors involved and it is rare that we have all of the data or the expertise to evaluate that risk. Nevertheless, since we work with "radiation" every time we get on the air, it's important to be able to help our families and neighbors distinguish between what does and does not constitute a risk.

73, Ward NØAX



JUST A THOUGHT...

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, or my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own best friend . . . I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avante garde on my patio. I am entitled to a treat, to be messy, to be extravagant.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 A.M. and sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60's, 70's, 80's and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love . . . I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon, if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set.

They, too, will get old. I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I, eventually, remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child is lost, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep

grooves on my face.

So many have never laughed and so many have died before their hair could turn gray. As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore . . . I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day (if I feel like it).

(Sent to me by a friend. Tom Buckley)



NOTICE

**THIS DEPARTMENT REQUIRES NO
PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM.**

**EVERYONE GETS ENOUGH EXERCISE
JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS, FLYING
OFF THE HANDLE, RUNNING DOWN
THE BOSS, KNIFING FRIENDS IN THE
BACK, DODGING RESPONSIBILITY,
AND PUSHING THEIR LUCK.**