



Capers

March 2012

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Post Office Box 3441 - Danbury, CT
Visit us on the Web at <http://www.danbury.org/cara>

President – Roger Mitchell – NG1R – phone- 203-790-9697
Vice President – John Will – KB1LYP- phone - 203-270-0475
Secretary – Bill Thoren – N1TIW - Phone – 203-744-5138
Treasurer – Bill Webb – W1AFX - phone - 203-775-0536



Friday, March 9, 8 p.m. @ Stony Hill Fire Station

2012 VE Schedule

All dates are Saturdays; starting time is 11:30 a.m. Walk-ins are always welcome. Candidates may e-mail or call N1PE for any additional info.

March 3rd

June 9th

September 15th

December 1st

73, Frank Sileo N1PE
34 Bryon Avenue, Ridgefield, CT 06877-4426
Home: 203-438-0218;
Cell: 203-731-7735
frsileo@att.net

Minutes from CARA Meeting, February 10, 2012

The meeting was called to order by CARA Vice President John Will, KB1LYP, with 23 members and guests present.

The program for the evening, "DC Powering of Ham Radio Equipment", was presented by CARA member Steve Simons, W1SMS, and Dan Gravereaux, N1ZZ, founder of West Mountain Radio.

Early Amateur Radio equipment was mostly powered by 115 VAC line voltage from the power grid. There were exceptions for mobile operation but vacuum tube gear needed high voltages and the large power transformers found on those boat anchors that are now gathering dust in dark corners of the basement.

"Modern" solid state equipment needs low voltage, high current power. Power supplies are still the backbone of our stations but now, in addition to providing power directly to various devices, they are used to charge batteries for mobile operation and backup during line power outages.



Steve and Dan's presentation dealt with methods of switching, connecting and monitoring the typically 12 VDC (13.8 VDC) output of our power supplies. Early on Dan mentioned that wire sizes printed on the wire are not necessarily correct. Not sure how they get away with that but it explains why some 12 GA wire I was working with recently was more like 14 GA or less. As always "buyer beware and be aware." In any case he stressed that you should use the correct size wire and, when possible, larger.

This program was very timely what with our recent experience(s) with power outages. The line of products that West Mountain Radio developed for putting together 12V battery based systems should be considered by anyone looking for rugged well-engineered solutions for keeping that equipment in good working order.

I have seen their equipment written up and reviewed in various places but had put off taking a serious look at where I could use it. Power outages get your attention. I am especially interested in the PWRgate with the CBA III Computerized Battery Analyzer and PWRguard next in line. There is a diagram on the West Mountain website showing how a DC

Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) could be configured. (An alternative setup is that of W1ZR as detailed in the December 2003 issue of QST.) Details of features available and operating instructions can be found on their website at westmountainradio.com.

Note: The September 2011 cover of CQ Magazine features Dan at his station. There is a RIGblaster just visible behind the computer keyboard; the rest of the West Mountain stuff is out of sight, as it should be (just don't look at my desk). On page 70 there is a short write-up of Dan's background and interests.



As mentioned above, this was very timely and we thank Dan and Steve for their presentation. After a short break we went on to the business part of the meeting.

We need to firm up plans for Field Day. Putnam Park worked well last year; will we be there again this year? We need a Chairman or Cochairmen. We also need someone for food preparation.

Steve, W1SMS, reported that the heat sensitive component causing problems with the 2 meter repeater was replaced and it is now back in operation. There are spurious tones (DTMF?) coming from somewhere in the repeater and Steve is looking into this problem.

The Treasurer's report of \$10,193.61 was accepted.

There was no business meeting at the January QSL card sort and Pizza Party and therefore no Minutes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 PM.

-- Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary

ARRL Publishes New Guidelines for 60 Meters

Thanks to the FCC Report and Order issued November 18, 2011, amateurs will enjoy a number of new privileges on the 60 meter band beginning March 5, including a boost in effective radiated power from 50 to 100 W, as well as the ability to use CW and certain digital modes.

Late last year, the ARRL HF Band Planning committee surveyed 60 meter operators to gather opinions about how to best use the new privileges. On the subject of creating a specific band plan, the survey results indicated little consensus beyond the fact that 5403.5 kHz should retain its status as a de facto "DX channel." On the other hand, survey respondents made a number of suggestions for general operating practices.

Based on the survey results and subsequent research, the committee declined to propose a specific band plan for 60 meters at this time. The committee instead created a "Recommended Practices" document that is now available for downloading from the ARRL Web.

The link can be found at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-publishes-new-guidelines-for-60-meters>.

The 60 Meter pages on the ARRL Web will also be updated to reflect the changes brought about by the Report and Order.

The April issue of QST magazine will also include an article by ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, which offers a detailed discussion of the new 60 meter privileges and recommended operating practices.

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)

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 +/- on Thursdays @ approx. 6:15 p.m. (following CT Phone Net.)



CARA NET SCRIPT REPEATED!

Following is the latest version of the CARA 7:30 p.m. Sunday Net script for the net control operator in charge. SAVE THIS COPY! Any licensed club member may assume control and open the net if no assigned net control operator is on hand to open the net.

CARA NET SCRIPT

"This is Net Control for the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association Net

"Before I call up the weekly CARA Net, is there anyone who needs to use this frequency". If no answer, proceed:)

"Calling the CARA Net, Calling the CARA Net for (date _____)

"The CARA net is a directed net. You do not have to be a member of CARA to join our net. All amateur radio operators are welcome. All traffic should be handled through net control. The Net Control Station this evening is (call sign _____). My name is (name _____) and I'm located in (town & state _____).

"If any station has a priority message, please check in now.

"Any station with an announcement please check in at this time."

No response, proceed:

"The first part of the net is for check-ins. The second part of the net will be open for questions relating to amateur radio and computer-related issues.

" A reminder, we are using the format "this is," let the repeater drop out to check for doubling, and then give your identification

"At this time we are accepting check-ins. Your call sign, name and location please..."

Accept first batch of check-ins. Ask one station to act as Alternate Net Control Station for the evening. > List and acknowledge each check-in one-by-one <...

"(Call Sign) ...Good evening (name). Do you have anything for the net?"

Take each operator in turn...

Periodically ask "Are there any additional check-ins at this time? Your call sign, name and location please...." Do this for two additional check-in sessions during the net. Ask in turn if they have anything for the net.

"The second part of the net is for any new business or amateur radio related questions regarding rigs, antennas or computers. Are there any questions at this time?"

Take and moderate questions/answers...

"This is (call sign _____) for the CARA net are there any further check-ins or topics?"... Assuming no response:

"Nothing heard.

"This concludes the CARA 2M net for (Date _____). The CARA net operates on Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on 147.300 Mhz with a PL of 100 Hz. All amateur radio operators are invited to participate. CARA meets on the second Friday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Stony Hill Firehouse on Rte. 6 in Bethel, CT. and is open to everyone interested in amateur radio.

"This net is sponsored by the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association. Correspondence may be directed to CARA, P.O. Box 3441, Danbury CT, 06813.

"The club's Website is located at www.danbury.org/cara.

"This is (call sign _____), Net Control thanking everyone who checked in this evening. This frequency is now returned to regular amateur use at (Time _____) local time.

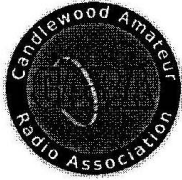
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Congratulations to Roger N1GR and Dan W1QK.

Working as a team in the CQWW WPX SSB Contest they took **FIRST PLACE** in the First

Call Area, #15 in North America, and #11 in the United States. Below is a copy of the certificate that was awarded to them.





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

2012 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 _____

**Send check payable to
CARA**

To:

**Bill Webb, W1AFX
12 Stage Road
Brookfield CT 06804**

w1afx@arrl.net
203-775-0536