



# Capers

September 2012

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Post Office Box 3441 - Danbury, CT  
Visit us on the Web at [www.CaraRadioClub.org](http://www.CaraRadioClub.org)

President – Roger Strong – KB1NYY – phone- 203-794-1665  
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, September 14, 8 p.m. @ Stony Hill Fire Station**

## CARA Minutes...

### CARA Meeting August 10, 2012

July and August meetings are informal and no official business is conducted.

There were 18 members and guests for this, our second summer get-together. The topics ranged from the repeater site to lightning strikes to questions about the packet station that is/used to be in Newtown.

Take a deep breath, the Hamfest and other fall business is on the horizon.

*Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary*

## ***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...

K1ARC American Red Cross Net, on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m., on 3.965Mhz, voice LSB, + or – 5Khz.

CW Connecticut Net, Nightly at 7 p.m., 3.533 Mhz (note correction to 3.533.)

WestConn Net: Nightly at 8:30 p.m. 147.18+

(PL 141.3). Linked repeater system:  
148.850 and 145.410, both PL 141.3.

*R-Com Weekly Net*. 145.47- (PL100)  
Thursday Evenings, 8 p.m.

## CONTESTING INFO FROM W1QK

*Some 2012 contesting info from Dan, W1QK:*

"I've scanned and attached two pages from the YCCC Scuttlebut for June, 2012 ([See files attached with this newsletter for those interested in the details...Ed.](#)) which shows W1QK in 7th place for CW in the Single Operator Assisted High Power category with a station and personal best score of 2,235,846 points and the YCCC CARA team consisting of W1QK, W1QH and NG1R in YCCC's 5th place for SSB in the Multioperator Single Transmitter High Power category with a score of 1.436,157.

"It's interesting to note that we just edged out Bruce King, W1CSM, who is a former CARA member who taught me loads of contest operating techniques back in the 1970's and visited our Field Day site in Redding this past June. His team's SSB score was 1,277,640. W1CSM's SOAHP CW score put him in 5th place in YCCC with 2,670,876.

"Another interesting fact is that both Bruce and I were on the YCCC Challenge Competition winning team (called the Spinnakers) in 1999 for the CQ World Wide DX contest.

"The W1QK team (and W1CSM's team) awaits the club's total score and hope that we help YCCC to achieve first place Worldwide in both contests and beat both the FRC (Fankford Radio Club) and PVRC (Potomac Valley Radio Club) our closest competitors.



**73/QK**

## Amateur Radio Too Focused on EmComm?

*By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU*

On the HamRadioHelpGroup, a Yahoo Group mailing list for anyone looking for help with anything related to amateur radio, one ham asked "Over lunch today I read the September issue of QST, which is heavily EmComm oriented. The articles were interesting, but the op-ed piece on page 98 seemed a little over the top to me...Has this focus of this intensity always been a part of ham radio and I just wasn't expecting it? How has it evolved over the years?"

To answer the question, another replied by posting Section 97.1, namely the principles behind the amateur radio service:

### Sec. 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

He went on to say, "I think that 97.1(a)

addresses your question."

I like that reply a lot. First, it shows that providing emergency and public-service communications has been a part of amateur radio since its beginnings. Some hams are extremely focused on this, and I applaud them. In my opinion, the piece referred to in the latest QST was not over the top.

I think, however, that some hams do sometimes go overboard on emcomm, and act as if it's the only reason that ham radio exists. It's not. As you can see, the rules describe five different "purposes" for amateur radio. Emcomm might be the first, but it's only one of five. We need to keep in mind the other four as well. I personally like (e), and would like to see amateur radio actually do more to promote international good will.

What do you think?

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*When he's not pondering the place of emergency communications in amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU, writes books about ham radio. He is currently feverishly trying to finish the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Guide. You can read excerpts from this upcoming book on his website, <http://www.kb6nu.com/>. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).*

### **FCC Releases Study on Amateur Radio**

*(Courtesy Betsey K1EIC and the ARRL...(Article Edited)*

On August 20 -- in response to a Spring 2012 Congressional directive -- the Federal Communications Commission released its findings on the Uses and Capabilities of Amateur Radio Service Communications in Emergencies and Disaster Relief: Report to Congress Pursuant to Section 6414 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

This report contains the FCC's "review of the importance of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications relating to

disasters, severe weather and other threats to lives and property in the United States; and recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio operators in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in the planning and furtherance of initiatives of the federal government." It also required "that the study identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications and provide recommendations regarding the removal of such impediments."

"There are many positive things included in the FCC report to Congress," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "We are pleased that the Commission highlighted the existing Amateur Radio infrastructure to provide disaster and time-critical communications. They also recognized the flexibility of the Amateur Service in working with federal, state, local and tribal emergency service agencies to supplement existing communications.

While the FCC did hold Amateur Radio in a positive light in its discussion of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications, the FCC report was not as favorable in the portion of the study that addressed impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications. In the comments provided to the FCC as they prepared the study, the ARRL -- as well as numerous individuals -- cited the proliferation of specific land-use restrictions, such as deed restrictions and homeowners associations' covenants, that prohibit the erection of even modest Amateur Radio antennas.

The ARRL cited that such restrictions now apply to tens of millions of homes and condominiums. In communities across every state, these restrictions make finding suitable living arrangements that would also allow amateurs to participate effectively in providing support communications nearly impossible to find. The FCC disagreed with that assessment stating "...our review of the

record does not indicate that amateur operators are unable to find homes that are not subject to such restrictions. Therefore, at this time, we do not see a compelling reason for the commission to revisit its previous determinations that preemption should not be expanded to CCRs."

In the report, the FCC recommended that "DHS consult with the public safety, emergency management and Amateur Radio emergency communications associations and groups to identify training opportunities that will support better utilization of Amateur Radio operators for emergency communications, and to solicit views on how Amateur Radio capabilities could be further incorporated into response plans or initiatives. We also recommend that OEC include these recommendations in the NECP."

Henderson noted that it is significant "that the FCC recommends efforts be continued by DHS to facilitate the training and utilization of Amateur Radio across the emergency and disaster response spectrum -- from the public sector through to the various groups and organizations which provide support communications via the Amateur Service, including ARES, RACES, MARS or locally organized support groups. When served agencies and amateur groups plan and train cooperatively, it only enhances our abilities to serve our communities and the public."

With the delivery of the FCC's report to Congress, the ARRL will determine its next step in its efforts to find relief for amateurs who live under unduly restrictive private land-use regulations. "This means continuing ARRL's efforts on Capitol Hill and continuing to seek a Congressional directive to the Commission to extend those limited preemptions to include prohibition of effective Amateur Radio antennas and support structure that are imposed by private land use

restrictions. The FCC report to Congress is not the final action in this fight. It merely lays the groundwork for the next steps to be taken by the ARRL," he concluded.

Read the complete FCC report on the web at, [http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2012/db0820/DA-12-1342A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0820/DA-12-1342A1.pdf).

#### **Ham Radio Exemption to CT Handheld Mobile Phone Law...**

Also attached to this week's issue is a scanned document handed out by Bruce, KB1YHX (police officer at Danbury PD) at the CARA meeting on August 10. It details a new law that exempts CT hams using hand held radios from the prohibition on using hand held mobile telephones and mobile electronic devices while driving. He suggested copying your license onto the second page and carrying it in your vehicle - just in case you are stopped.

*(Tnx to W1QK – Ed.)*

Articles for Capers? Contact the editor, Barry, KA1JDD, at [barry.connolly@yahoo.com](mailto:barry.connolly@yahoo.com).

**Hamfest...this Sunday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown CT. See information in the flyer in this month's CAPERS. All hands needed to make this major club event a success!  
See you there!!**



Sponsored by Candlewood  
Amateur Radio Association

# Western CT Hamfest

Sanctioned  
by ARRL



- **Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012** (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
- Sauder Electronics
- Radio Oasis

**Don't Miss the Raffle!**  
Win a New Mobile Rig.

## Seminars

- Almost everything you always wanted to know about antennas - Jay Kolinski NE2Q
- tbd

## Contact Information

- Joe de Groot - AB1DO: (203) 938-4880
- Email: ab1do@arrl.net
- Web site:  
[www.danbury.org/cara/Hamfest.html](http://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. 9, 2012  
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