



Capers

January 2013

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

Visit us on the Web at 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

Check out the new
CARA Website
COURTESY AB1RJ



Friday, January 11, 8 p.m. @ Stony Hill Fire Station

CARA Minutes...

CARA Special Meeting December 28, 2012

Due to the tragic events in Newtown, CT on December 14th, we had cancelled the CARA Holiday Party and short business meeting that was scheduled for that evening.

This special meeting was called to order at 8 PM by CARA President Roger Strong, KB1NYY, with 11 members present. There were two items of club business that needed to be acted on.

Ron Cabral, AB1RJ, is updating the CARA website and gave a presentation on the expanded possibilities and flexibility that a web host service would offer. He proposed that we sign up with one of these services at a cost of \$100 per year.

John, W1JMA, made the motion that we appropriate \$100 to sign up with a web host. The motion was seconded by John, KB1LYP, and passed by a voice vote of the members present.

Club dues are due in January so we needed to vote on what we wanted the rate to be. After a discussion among the members present, Tom,

K1TJC, made the motion that we keep the base dues rate at \$30. The motion was seconded by John, KB1LYP, and passed by a voice vote of the members present.

Note: The senior and family rates will be based on the \$30 base rate and are figured as given in the CARA Bylaws.

This concluded the agenda for the evening.

Harlan, W1QH, demonstrated his new Owouxum (take that Spell Check!!) KG-UV920R-A 2meter/440 base station/mobile transceiver that he got from Radio Oasis. He was able to hit local repeaters from inside the Stony Hill Firehouse, on battery power with a mag mount stuck to a pie plate. I looked it up on-line and the features are impressive.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM

Addendum: Prior to the start of the meeting Roger, KB1NYY, and Harlan, W1QH, were showing off their new radio controlled "dragonfly" helicopters. The fun continued after the meeting. Amazing what such a small battery powered aircraft can do!

Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary

WHERE'S ELMER...?

CARA would like to start (and publish) a listing of subject matter experts who are willing to "elmer" or coach new and existing hams in specific aspects of ham radio – from antenna construction and setting up your first station to kit building, software defined radio, contesting, digital modes and more.

If you have a favorite skill and are willing to help, please send a note to the CAPERS editor.

Bill, N1TIW to Present at Bethel Library

Following is the promotional announcement issued by the Bethel Public Library for this informative program by our own Bill N1TIW.

**Samuel F.B. Morse: Artist and Inventor
presented by William Thoren
Tuesday, February 5
6:30-8:00 pm
Bethel Library Lobby**

When the name Samuel Morse is mentioned, the first thing that may come to mind is his invention--the first electromagnetic telegraph system. However, Morse's talent was not limited to science. He was also a gifted painter and sculptor. In this eye-opening program, we will discover the other side of Morse's extraordinary life and career. We'll even see a model of his telegraph, built by presenter **Bill Thoren**, himself a technical whiz with a deep interest in science, and experience as a technician in the chemical, electromechanical, and electronic fields. For adults and students Grades 6 and up.

Registration is required for this program. Register online, at the Reference Desk, or call (203) 794-8756 ex 4.

GOT NEWS?

If you have a news item or an "item to sell or buy" that you want to see in CAPERS, please send it to the editor, Barry KA1JDD, c/o barry dot connolly at yahoo dot com.

THANKS! to Ron, AB1RJ, for new CARA Website

To All - Happy New Year!

The new CARA website is active at:
<http://www.cararadioclub.org>.

The old site has an automatic redirect, but you might need to clear your IE/Firefox/Chromium cache (or hit CONTROL+F5 to force a refresh of the site).

BTW - I need content - I'm interested in volunteers to write some blog entries for the new site - please contact me if you're interested.

-- Ron Cabral, AB1RJ

PNWVHFS decision on FM frequencies for ARRL VHF contests

"I received this announcement from Barry K7BWH who is now maintaining the Pacific Northwest VHF Society website and is the new Western WA PNWVHFS Director.

With the recent election of new officers, there is a new direction for the organization from the new blood. Already they have announced that the next annual conference will be in Moses Lake, WA on October 11-12, 2013. Moses Lake is on I-90 between Spokane (on the East) and Seattle (on the West). It's actually 2 hours from Spokane by car.

For any of you that have not been to the PNWVHFS website lately, here is the basic link. Barry (below) gives the link to the FM contesting frequencies page for our area of the NW.

<http://www.pnwvhfs.org>

73
Steve Sala
K7AWB
DN17es
Nine Mile Falls, WA"

(Editor's Note: from Peter, KA1SYG:

It is important to note that this is a 7-land recommendation. In 1/2/3 land we use 146.55 more than 146.58, and our channel spacing is 15kHz. The rest is true.)

CW Skills Training Options...

Some interesting resources for CARA members who want to learn or improve their CW skills.--Enjoy - 73/ W1QK

With the smartphone app becoming nearly ubiquitous, are there any Morse code training programs? Sure! Recommendations include *Ham Morse*, *CWText*, and *Hot Paw*. If anything on a smartphone is cool, then morsing must also be, correct? (Thanks, Julio AK4VL and Tom WB8WOR)

There are many Morse training programs such as the ARRL's [training CD](#) that uses the Koch method of sending fast characters with lots of spacing or IKØYGJ's [Zen and the Art of Radio Telegraphy](#). Phil WØXI has a [CW practice resource page](#) and groups like [SKCC](#), [FISTS](#), and [CWops](#) offer lots of information and help! (Thanks, Jay W5JAY and Terry WAØITP)

Where were you in the Solar Cycle? Propagation Notes de K7RA...

The New Year brings dreams of solar cycles of old, so distant now, sweetly remembered for their profusion of sunspots. We hear many times from operators who began in the amateur radio service as teenagers at the peak of Cycle 19. With youthful optimism, they naturally assumed that radio propagation would always be like that, when a few watts and a modest radiator on 10 meters spanned the

globe during all the days and nights.

If you were age 13 to 17 in 1957 to 1959, the peak of Cycle 19, perhaps you were born between 1941 and 1945, and probably looked forward to the next peak in activity. That may have been a disappointment when Cycle 20 peaked around 1969, as that had a somewhat broader peak but at a far lower level. You can see it graphically at <http://wm7d.net/hamradio/solar/historical.shtml>.

These young adults, now 24 to 28 years old in 1969, might be busy starting families and careers, and no doubt fondly recalling simpler times and the tremendous propagation of their younger years.

Cycle 21 peaked around 1980, and the former teenaged ham of Cycle 19 was now 35 to 39 years old. This was quite an improvement over the last cycle, as was Cycle 22, which looked like an echo of Cycle 21. Cycle 22 peaked around 1991-1992, with a more pronounced double-peak. The former teenager was now 47 to 51 years old, solidly into middle-age, and still wondering if sunspot activity would ever roar back to the levels of the late-1950s.

The following cycle, number 23, was another double-peak, but significantly lower in 2000 to 2002 than the previous cycle. Perhaps another disappointment for the now 56 to 60 year old ham, who then sees solar activity slide into a long and low minimum over the next decade, impossible to imagine 60 years earlier. The 160 meter

operators, quite happy in this situation with a much quieter Sun, have no such longing for the active Sun of yesteryear.

Now the young ham of the late 1950s contemplates the peak of Cycle 24, apparently much lower than any seen in most of the past century, and expected to grow to maximum this year. Now we have many more tools to observe and measure both solar activity and propagation, and we know that activity could still increase significantly. Some foresee decades of lower activity, but of course predicting future solar activity is a very tricky proposition, and anything could happen.

At http://www.solen.info/solar/images/comparison_recent_cycles.png

you can see a comparison of recent cycles, from 21 to the current 24.

(Some articles courtesy ARRL Letter)

**CARA'S ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP FEE IS DUE
STARTING THIS MONTH.**

**PLEASE USE THE DUES FORM
ATTACHED OR SEE THE
FORM ON THE CARA
WEBSITE**



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

2013 Membership/Dues Application

Name: _____	Date: _____
Address: _____	
City: _____	State: _____
E-Mail: _____	Zip Code: _____
E-Mail Capers? (CARA News Letter): Y N (Default = "Y")	Phone: _____
Call Sign: _____	ARRL Member?: Y N
Class: E A G T N	VE?: Y N

Membership Rates:

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| \$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Full Member | \$45.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Family (2 Members) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (65+)/Student (Under 18) | \$60.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Family (3 Members) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate Member (Non-Ham) | \$75.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Family (4 Members) |

Send Check, Payable to "CARA"

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