



CARA

July 1995

CARA Capers

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

President's Report

Not long ago, I started out as one of those codeless Technician class amateurs going to ruin the ham radio hobby, and here I am president of CARA. It's kind of hard to believe, even for me. Only in America!

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the previous administration for a job well done. I hope that I can continue in their fine tradition of service to, for and by the club. Congratulations and welcome to the returning incumbents and newly elected club officials. I look forward to working with you over the course of the next year.

As mentioned by the previous executive, some club members lack enthusiasm in their involvement with club activities. I wish to do everything within my power to encourage volunteerism and promote involvement by all members. Remember, clubs do not run by themselves - they require the efforts of all members! Sign up for some club activity today!

As I write this, it's less than twenty-four hours since Field Day ended. I must commend all of those who worked so hard to make our club's participation in Field Day a roaring success. Special thanks to all those who operated and logged, some of you working for many hours at a stretch to ensure that all of the stations were operating for the full period. Kudos to John, N2DVX for his Herculean efforts over the past several months in organizing and orchestrating the event. Roses to Nancy, N1TGM and Rich, W1FBS for the magnificent cuisine served throughout the weekend.

Special Olympics is looming on the horizon. As you read this, we have likely just finished the tear-down activities, and are wending our way home to collapse for a day. At this time, let me express thanks in advance to all of those who volunteered their time and effort to make this another successful ham radio event.

Please mark your calendars and remember to help out and attend the upcoming club events. No club business will be transacted during July or August, but we will have programs. Radio Direction Finding skills (fox-hunting) will be presented by Doug, WA1KRX in July. This will be followed in August by a family picnic and fox-hunt at Squantz Pond in New Fairfield. In September, Marty, K1CVF will present a program entitled "What Is It?", pictures and fun with his radio collection. Don't forget the club's annual Western Connecticut Hamfest in September. This is a major source of funds to support club activities throughout the year, so spread the word. Encourage your friends, even non-hams to come - perhaps they will purchase a computer or scanner. As the date nears, talk up this event on the radio, especially on out-of-town repeaters.

Together, we will continue to make this club strong!

Very 73,
Jim Ritterbusch
KDIYV

Secretary's Report

John, N2DVX, opened the meeting and welcomed 2 visitors and moved into announcements. Members were reminded of the nightly 10M Net and the Sunday 2M Net; the CARA 440 repeater still needs a new home; Supermorse disks and James' (KE1EI) BBS software is available for those needing it; Doug, WA1KRX will present the July program on transmitter hunting; E-mail addresses may be sent to Frank, N8WXQ, for inclusion in the roster; and the June work meeting will be at 5PM Saturday, June 24 at the field day location.

John, N1NRR, reported the Nominating Committee's slate of officers as follows:

Directors: Pete, KZ1Z; Dan, W1QK; and Wayne, WA1PMA

Corresponding Secretary: Michelle, N1PNT

Recording Secretary: Sue, N1SLB

Treasurer: Frank: N8WXQ

Vice President: Ken, KD1DD

President: Jim, KDIYV

A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate as presented. The secretary cast one vote to accept the above listed individuals as our new Executive Committee.

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CARA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

On June 9 CARA members elected new officers for our 1995-96 year. Jim Ritterbusch, KD1RY, became president, with Ken Weith again taking on duties of Vice President. Treasurer is now Frank Etzler, N8WXQ. Susan, N1SLB, takes on duties of Recording Secretary and Michelle, N1PNT, fills the new position of Corresponding Secretary.

Congratulations to the new officers! CARA supports the many efforts represented by this team.

2 Meter Net Survey

President Jim will survey check-ins of the Sunday night 2M net regarding suitability of day and time of the net. Last year's general club survey indicated some dissatisfaction with the Net schedule. Be prepared to give an opinion when asked your preference.

July Meeting "How-to" on Fox Hunting

Doug Griffin, WA1KRX, will present the elements of direction finding at our July 14 meeting at St. Paul's church. Last year his instruction and very helpful handouts (and some real practice) produced a proud women's team of winners at the August Fox Hunt. Again this year Doug will have direction finding techniques and specific gear needed to be a successful hunter.

A New Ham in the future!

John, N1NRR & Bonnie N1PFV, had a baby boy on June 18, Patrick joins Tom and both boys will enhance many future CARA activities. Congratulations! Bonnie and John...

FOR SALE

Emergency Power: 4 used six volt, heavy duty, deep cycle, lead-acid batteries with connecting straps, for 6, 12, or 24 volt service. \$100.00 firm. Call Hal, KB1US, 792-1845.

90 ft. Rohn 25 tower with Ham-M rotator, antenna THDXX-6, multiband beam, 2M Junior Boomer, Swan 250, Kenwood 830C, Collins 75A-4. Numerous other items.
Call Ray James, days at 775-0408.

COMING EVENTS

Transmitter Hunt August 13
VE session Sept 9
Hamfest Sept. 17

ATTN: DXers & QSLers

Foreign Postage Rates & IRCs Going Up

Yes, QSLers, that means you! On July 9, 1995, foreign postal rates go up. The following reflect the increases:

Canada	1/2 oz. - \$0.46
	1 oz. - 0.52
Mexico	1/2 oz. - 0.40
	1 oz. - 0.46
All others:	1/2 oz. - 0.60
	1 oz. - 1.00

IRC.s (International Reply Coupons) available at Post Offices

1/2 oz. - 1.05

CARA to Sponsor Special Events Station Celebrates 55 Years of ARRL Affiliation

CARA celebrates 55 years of American Radio Relay League, ARRL, affiliation at our annual Hamfest on September 17. Special QSLs will be available for pick up at the Hamfest or by self-addressed, stamped envelope. Join the celebration!

GRAND FIELD DAY!

"Best FIELD DAY ever!" and "I'm glad I came." and "I'm glad you came." were comments heard as people departed the Field Day site. About 45 CARA members checked in to the Field Day site and racked up over 5,400 points. With WLAD's news spots and public service announcements and mentions in several area newspapers we attracted many visitors, many of which are currently hams and lots who were interested in what we were doing and some who anticipate being hams. A couple visitors even joined CARA as associate members. The weather cooperated in that lightning did not stop our operation. We had the usual high humidity and 80+ degree days.

Many thanks to all who provided everything from stations, tents, antennas, vans, the generator, pictures of Field Day, set-up and take down and round the clock radio operation. Special thanks to Nancy, N1TGM for her gourmet fare, (yes, from our food tent that was enjoyed by many. The club even made a few dollars at the food tent. Thanks also go to Rich, W1FBS for his help with in the food tent.

John, N2DVX, organized our Field Day and was particularly pleased with our "better than ever score." He hopes everyone had as good a time as he did at Field Day '95.

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August Meeting gives way to Fox Hunt and Family Picnic!

Sunday, August 13 CARA converges on Squantz Pond in Northern New Fairfield for a family outing that will include a picnic at 5:30 and a Fox Hunt at 3:00 PM.

Those attending will meet in the parking lot of the New Fairfield Food Center (at the junction of Route 37 & 39) at 2:30 to car/van pool to Squantz Pond State Park. Car pooling is suggested because of the \$8.00 per car entrance fee. Once in the park there is swimming and a playground, Restrooms and changing areas.

Bring your own picnic supper or BBQ grill and enjoy a nice setting on a summer Sunday. After the Fox Hunt we'll eat at in a specific area.

In case of inclement weather, tune to the CARA/PVRA 147.12 repeater.

FCC on the Internet!

The FCC has instituted an FCC homepage on the Internet World Wide Web (<http://www.fcc.gov>) as an entry point to the Commission's on-line resources. The page features selectable buttons to go directly to high interest items such as the Daily Digest, the Commission Agenda, Auctions, and current rule makings.

There also is a button called Getting Information, providing a tour of what information is available and where it can be found on the site. It provides links to available on-line documents. There also is a link to the FCC telephone directory.

A general mailbox for electronic mail to the FCC is: fccinfo@fcc.gov. (From the ARRL Newsletter)

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Committee Reports- Ken, KD1DD stated that the September 17 Hamfest is well under way and one table has been sold. He requests that members take fliers to other hamfests they may visit. John, N1NRR, reported that we are still awaiting the repair and return of the 440 amp. Sue, N1SLB, stated that the Elmer Program is up-to-date and matches have been made. Jim, KD1YV, Project Manager for Special Olympics read a list of volunteers to assist with the event. He formed two groups; those who have received credentials and those who have not reached HQ.

John, N2DVX, reminded the club of budget approval last January of \$1,000.00 to upgrade the repeaters. It was recommended that the CARA 220 machine be upgraded with a controller at this time. A motion was made and seconded to purchase a controller system for up to \$1000.00 for the CARA 220 repeater. A verbal vote was cast with no opposition.

After a short break the meeting continued with Field Day plans. Permission was granted for sleeping at the site. Sign-up sheets for operating hours will be available. Ken, KD1DD, will open a satellite station out of his van. Glen, WO1P, presented a demonstration of the CT logging program to be used at Field Day. Meeting adjourned at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie, N1PFV

CT AMATEUR RADIO WEEK FEATURES ARRL FIELD DAY

Connecticut Governor John G. Rowland designated June 19 to 25, 1995, as Amateur Radio Awareness Week in the state. This week includes the weekend of ARRL Field Day and is an ideal time for amateurs to obtain such public recognition.

Rowland, in his statement, cited the 9200 licensed hams in the state, as well as Amateur Radio operators' donation of their services "free to municipalities and civic organizations."

Rowland also noted the upcoming Special Olympics, to be held in New Haven, Connecticut, next month, saying that the organizers have "requested the radio amateurs of Connecticut to provide operational and backup communications for this important event; and ... will also provide international and domestic communications for the athletes to their families in their home countries and cities, and will perform these services on a volunteer, no-charge basis."

Finally, Rowland cited the 50 Amateur Radio clubs in the state, the upcoming ARRL Field Day, and Newington, home of the ARRL. The proclamation effort was spearheaded by Al Cohen, W1FXQ, of Newington, Connecticut. (From the ARRL Newsletter)

ARRL Land line BBS

As of June 1 the ARRL HQ HIRAM BBS is once again accepting uploads, at 203-594-0306. Uploads will be transferred to the appropriate File Area (or to HQ staff as requested) by SYSOP Jay Mabey, NU0X.

Hamming it up on CompuServe

While the Internet has been in the news a lot these days, CompuServe, a long standing online service (land line), still has some appeal to hams. The HAMNET forum (GO HAMNET) is a gathering place for hams from around the world to download files, swap and sell equipment and even get technical help online.

The sysop roster includes representatives from the ARRL, the National Amateur Radio Assn. (NARA), AEA, ICOM, InterFlex, MFJ, Drake, PacComm, Savant, Quantum, and JPS.

The Swap shop is a rapidly moving, 24 hour HamFest, with all kinds of deals going on. You have to answer quickly, good stuff goes fast. (the author has bought/swapped over \$3000 worth online).

The message base has over 20 areas to discuss ham, scanning, collecting, and pretty much any radio related topic, including the HOT TOPICS, which can turn into a Flame Fest (online jargon for a hot argument) at a moments notice. CompuServe has recently dropped their hourly charges to under \$5.00 per hour, and has added many 14,400 bps sites (Danbury is 744-4640), so for rich content, it is one of the better bargains around. --Jay Munro

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