



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

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monthly CARA Capers!**

**Meeting this week  
February 8th at 8:00 PM  
QSL Card Sort Party**

**Have You Renewed  
Your Membership  
Yet?**



# CAPERS

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

**President – Jeff Cantor – K1ZN**  
**Vice President – John Ahle – W1JMA**  
**Secretary - Judy Etzler – N1TGK**  
**Treasurer - Frank Etzler – N8WXQ**

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## February 2002

*Meeting Friday February 8th at 8:00 p.m.*

### **President's Corner**

**Jeff Cantor, K1ZN**  
**President's Column**

Well, it's almost February and it feels like early spring. I wonder how long this is going to last! In any event, I understand that our Repeater Committee members are going to try a "DXPedition" up the hill to the Repeater site to mount the directional antennae. We wish them all the best and extend our thanks for their efforts to complete the necessary work.

Our February meeting program is going to be the annual QSL card sort as a service to the W1-Buro. We will begin the program with a pizza dinner. Please try to minimize the amount of sauce and cheese that you transfer to the cards after dinner...hi hi. This program is always fun as we see the amount of DX activity our fellow hams engage in. Lets see how many cards Dan (W1QK) collects this year!

The March meeting will feature a guest speaker and a ham we all love and admire, Betsy Doane (K1EIC). Betsy is the Connecticut Section Manager to ARRL. She will bring us up to speed on matters of interest to Connecticut's amateur radio community. She will be joined by Gerry (KH6HU) who is leading the educational project for the League. The March meeting will be a fun evening as well.

Six meters is alive and well! I have worked 32 countries and over 175 grids to date. Many of these were worked over the last two months as the band has really come alive. Frank (N8WXQ) and Dan (W1QK) are also avid DX'ers and contesters on 6 meters. To extend information and hopefully excitement to others about 6 meters, Ken Neubeck (WB2AMU), a renowned 6 meter operator and author on the subject will come to our April meeting and present on "The magic band." Bring a fist full of green stamps as he might have some of his books on hand for sale.

CARA members take note: We have a number of new members in CARA, so come out and meet and greet them. Peace and 73s.

73 de K1ZN

## Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held the second Friday of every month, September through June at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in Brookfield, CT, near the junction of Routes 25 and 133.

Meetings start at 8:00pm (coffee, story swapping and all around rag chewing begin at 7:30pm).

This month's meeting will take place on **Friday, February 8th**

## Secretary's Report

CARA Meeting – January 11, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:57 p.m. by President Jeff Cantor K1ZN. Jeff announced this was a joint YCCC/CARA meeting and welcomed the YCCC members. There was an introduction by each person in attendance and their affiliated club membership. Jeff said the technical portion of the meeting would be presented followed by a break for refreshments after which the regular business portion of the meeting would be held. The business portion of the meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

MINUTES – As there was no business at the December holiday meeting there were no minutes. A motion was made by John W1JMA and seconded to accept the minutes for the November meeting as published in the Capers. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Frank N8WXQ reported the checking account balance was \$3,753.72. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report.

## OLD BUSINESS

Jeff reported that he attended the NE Division meeting. He gave a very brief overview about the new education project; FCC activities; the re-structuring of 40 Meters; and, the Walk 2003. He said he would give a more detailed update at the next meeting.

FIELD DAY - Jim KD1YV reported he is working on the park site and obtaining the necessary permits. He said Don would bring his RV to the site.

HAMFEST – John W1JMA reported the Hamfest was scheduled for the third Sunday in September and the town hall in Newtown is booked. The next step is to get the flyers ready to go out and to send notices to the magazines. A notice is on the web site. He reported a major vendor, KJI was on line.

REPEATER COMMITTEE – Ken KD1DD reported he received a directional antenna and the problem would be to get the antenna up to the site to install it in the winter. Due to the weather, no one will be able to drive all the way and that would involve carrying about 50-60 lbs. Jeff said it was imperative the antenna be up and running within the next couple of weeks. Ken said he needed two climbers and will ask Rosty [N2FEX](#) and get a work party together.

There was some discussion about the next steps necessary to get into compliance. A motion was made by John W1JMA, seconded by Frank N8WXQ, that CARA move the

frequency to 146.67. The motion carried.

CT QSO PARTY – Frank N8WXQ reported he received an e-mail from Tom K1KI that a New England QSO Party has been tentatively scheduled for the same weekend as the CT QSO party. He noted the New England structure could have more multipliers: all New England, all counties, all modes and all bands, and could be a very lively contest.

T30ES UPDATE – John W1JMA said he gave Eric some co-ax out of the field day box. A motion was made by John W1JMA, seconded by Jim KD1YV to appropriate funds to purchase 100 feet of new co-ax for field day. The motion carried. Pete KZ1Z gave an update on Eric N1JSY, the Peace Corps volunteer in Butaritari, for the benefit of the YCCC guests.

#### NEW BUSINESS

ELECTIONS – Jeff asked if people would start thinking now about new officers for the club, as elections will be in about three months. He announced he would not run again for President and John announced he would not run again for Vice President. He said it is time for some new people to get involved.

PHOTOS – Pete KZ1Z said he would like to bring his digital camera to the next meeting to take pictures of anyone interested in sending a picture to Buckmaster to be published with his or her information. He could set up the camera and take pictures during the card sort.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The motion

carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Etzler, N1TGK  
Recording Secretary

#### **N1PNT, Ham Radio Featured in Danbury News-Times Article**

Michelle, N1PNT, and amateur radio were the subject of a January 24 page one story in the Newtown section of the Danbury News-Times. The article described N1PNT's experiences with ham radio, including the fact that her dad Jim KD1YV introduced her to shortwave, and that she met her husband Chris, N1NIQ through ham radio. The story highlighted the requirements to become a ham as well as some of the fun, and public service, aspects of the hobby. The News-Times acknowledged the importance of ham radio in providing emergency communications, citing the ham radio support at Ground Zero in New York as one example. The extensive, and very positive article closed with instructions on how to contact the ARRL for more information about amateur radio.

#### **ARRL Board Adopts Modified Novice Band Refarming Plan**

Courtesy of ARRL Bulletin #7, 1/22/02

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted a modified proposal to reform the Novice bands, now that the FCC no longer issues Novice licenses. The Board met January 18-19 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee had proposed allowing

Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to operate CW on General-class 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter CW segments at up to 200 W output. The panel recommended refarming the current Novice/Tech Plus CW subbands, in part to allow expansion of phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters.

The Board approved a modified plan that would leave in place or slightly trim the amount of additional phone spectrum the committee had recommended for 75 and 15 meters. The amended plan would drop the US phone band to 3725 kHz on 75 meters but leave it at 21,200 kHz on 15 meters. The original plan called for dropping both by 25 kHz.

The 75-meter proposal would expand the phone band by 50 kHz for Generals over the present allocation and by 25 kHz for Advanced and Extra licensees. On 15 meters, Generals would get another 25 kHz of phone spectrum, but phone privileges for Advanced and Extra class operators would stay the same.

The Novice Spectrum Study Committee's original recommendations for 40 and 10 meters were accepted. The ARRL plans to propose the modified refarming plan to the FCC later this year along with other regulatory requests.

### **ARRL Field Day, Affiliated Club Competition Changes Announced**

Courtesy of ARRL Bulletin #7, 1/22/02

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 29, 2002--The ARRL has adopted rule changes affecting Field Day and the ARRL-affiliated club competition. The changes were included in the report of the

Membership Services Committee (MSC), presented to the ARRL Board of Directors at its January meeting in Fort Worth, Texas.

The primary Field Day change--effective with this year's event June 22-23--phases out the Novice-Technician station and replaces it with a new station category, the "Get-On-The-Air"--or GOTA--station. A GOTA station is intended for operation by Novice and Technician operators or by generally inexperienced or inactive amateurs as well as by as-yet-unlicensed or "under-licensed" operators working under the privileges of a licensed control operator. Under the revised rules, any Class A Field Day entry operating at least two transmitters may include a GOTA station, which will not count as an additional transmitter for the purpose of entry category.

The GOTA station may operate on any Field Day band and mode, but only one GOTA transmitter may be in use at any given time. The GOTA station may complete up to 400 QSOs to be counted toward the group's total Field Day score. A Field Day group can claim 100 bonus points, if its GOTA station successfully completes 400 QSOs. The GOTA station does not affect the additional VHF/UHF station provided under Field Day rule 4.1.2.

Field Day 2002 will mark the first in which stations throughout the Americas have been invited to participate. As approved at the July 2001 ARRL Board of Directors' meeting, all International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 countries--North and South America--may take part in Field Day starting this June.

Complete Field Day rules and information packet will be available on the ARRL Web Contest Forms and Rules page in early February. Field Day 2002 pins and T-shirt may be ordered now via the ARRL Web catalog.

The Board also adopted the MSC's recommendations regarding club competition. In accordance with the advice of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee, five specific changes were approved and will go into effect November 1, 2002, when the "General Rules for All ARRL Contests" are updated for the 2002-2003 contest season. Under the revised ARRL club competition rules:

The Board has altered the requirement that a member must attend at least two club meetings a year in order to be allowed to submit a score for a club in the unlimited and medium categories. The new rules will allow participation by "a member in good standing," as defined by the club. "In part, this change recognizes that the dynamics of many clubs have changed," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Many clubs hold meetings on the air and on the Internet. Many clubs have large, active participation on club e-mail reflectors." Henderson said that by allowing clubs to define their own standard for "member in good standing," clubs can include more operators as active participants in contesting activities.

Medium and unlimited clubs now may define their club service area either as a 175-mile radius circle or as an entire ARRL section. This change will allow clubs from larger states that encompass entire ARRL sections to compete with each other. Clubs may select one definition or the other but not both.

The percentage of operators who must be members of a club in order for the club to claim a score from a multi-operator station has been reduced from 66% to 50%.

A station owner no longer must be a member of a club in order for a guest operator at the station to claim the score for that club. (TNX ARRL Web)

### **ARRL Going to the Mat on 70-cm Band Threat**

Courtesy of ARRL Bulletin #7, 1/22/02

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 28, 2002--ARRL officials have met with FCC staff members as part of the League's effort to stave off a band threat on 70 cm. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, delivered an ex parte presentation to Hugh van Tuyl and Karen Rackley of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology staff on January 14. At issue was SAVI Technology's plan--already tentatively agreed to by the FCC--to deploy unlicensed transient RF identification devices between 425 and 435 MHz at much higher field strengths and duty cycles than Part 15 rules now permit for such devices.

"We told them that this was the worst possible choice of bands for these RFIDs," Imlay said. "Besides, there's no technical justification for that choice of frequencies." The request to use 70 cm has more to do with economics than technology, he said, because SAVI needs to bring down the cost of RFIDs in order to make a profit.

Imlay added that the ARRL would "do whatever it takes" to stave off the threat, and that could include further direct appeals to FCC staffers. (Excerpt.)

## **New HF Amateur Radio Antenna Installed on ISS**

Courtesy of ARRL Bulletin #7, 1/22/02

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 25, 2002-- Amateur Radio on the International Space Station gained a new HF antenna today--although there's no HF gear aboard the ISS as yet. The antenna--the second of four slated for installation aboard the Service Module--was put into place during a space walk--or EVA--conducted by Expedition 4 Crew Commander Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DUO, and astronaut Dan Bursch, KD5PNU.

The antenna is a flexible-tape design--similar to, but longer than, a VHF-UHF antenna installed during a January 14 EVA by Onufrienko and astronaut Carl Walz, KC5TIE, who remained inside the ISS to monitor the EVA. ARISS Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said the antenna would be installed at the end of the Service Module in the 2 o'clock position (6 o'clock is pointing toward Earth).

The HF antenna is a 2.5-meter (8.2-foot) long flexible tape. Bauer thinks it will definitely work on 10 meters and speculated that it might work on 15 or 20 too. .  
(Excerpt)

## **CARA Home Page**

Please visit our home page at <http://www.danbury.org/cara>

## **Frequencies of Note**

*National Simplex* - 146.52

*Cara, 2 Meter* - 146.67- (PL 100)

*Cara, 220* - 223.96 (PL 91.5)

*Cara, 440* - 447.775 (PL 114.8)

*DX Cluster* - 145.73

*Bethel* - 147.03+

*New Milford 2 meter* -146.73 (PL 77)

*New Milford 441.85* (PL 77)

R-Com Repeater: 145.47, PL100

## **Nets**

*CARA Weekly Net* Sunday nights at 7:30 p.m. 146.67- ( PL 100)

*Westconn Net* Nightly at 8:30 p.m. .147.18+ (PL 114.8)

*Tips Net* - Tuesday evenings at 7:30 on 146.73-(PL77) (linked statewide)  
*R-Com Weekly Net*: 145.47, PL100  
Thursday Eve, local time, 8PM

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We'll take care of the rest, and your next e-Capers will arrive in your e-mailbox!