



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

**Page Down  
for your monthly  
CARA Capers!**

**Monthly Meeting Friday,  
October 11th  
at 8:00 PM**

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# CAPERS

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

**President – Frank Etzler – N8WXQ - phone - 860-350-3523**  
**Vice President – Tom Goodwin - N1GFE - phone 203-792-0381**  
**Secretary - Judy Etzler – N1TGK - phone - 860-350-3523**  
**Treasurer - John Ahle – W1JMA - phone - 203-438-6782**

## October 2002

*Regular Meeting Friday, Oct. 11, at 8:00 p.m.*

### **President's Message**

The past month has been an eventful one.

In September CARA held its annual hamfest. It would appear that all had a good time ragchewing and acquiring a few goodies for the ham shack. The hamfest was also a financial success for the club. The profit for the club was nearly \$1200. Congratulations and thanks to John, W1JMA, chairman of this year's event, and to all who helped organize and run the CARA Hamfest.

Thanks go to James, KE1AY, for his technical expertise that made the move possible. Thanks also to John, W1JMA, and Eric, KB1HYH, for assisting James.

This month's program is a timely one. James will give a program on repeaters. I believe that James will bring a great deal of repeater hardware for show and tell. The CARA Packet Cluster will also be discussed at the October meeting.

The CARA repeaters and packet cluster nodes are operated at considerable expense by the club. These facilities provide an excellent forum for members and fellow hams of all license classes to exchange technical information or to enjoy a ragchew. I encourage all to take advantage of these excellent resources. KZ1Z and I frequently have interesting QSO's about digital modes, mechanical television, new rigs and the state of education in America. Come join the fun with your own topics.

I look forward to seeing you at the October meeting.

**- 73, Frank, N8WXQ**

### **Mark Your Calendars for Monthly Meetings**

CARA 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.

All regular 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, October 11 at 8 p.m.**

## **CARA Hamfest: Great Turnout! Great Day!**



More than 300 hams, family members and electronics bargain hunters attended this year's CARA Hamfest on Sunday, Sept. 22, at the Edmond Town Hall in Newtown. The event was marked

by lots of vendor tables, great snacks and door prizes, beautiful weather and an impressive turnout. More than half of the club's membership also turned out to help with set-up, administration, and event support on Saturday and Sunday!



There was plenty of neat gear for sale – both new and “previously-owned” – from the latest digital gear to fondly-remembered “boat anchors” of the past. In addition to being a popular social



event for area hams, this year the CARA hamfest hosted the ARES District Emergency Coordinator meeting on site, chaired by new Section Emergency Coordinator Allen, W1AGP. Betsey, K1EIC, ARRL Section Manager, also attended the hamfest and the DEC meeting.

## **Hiram Percy Maxim II to Speak Monday October 7. All Invited!**

The public and all radio amateurs are invited by the Newington Amateur Radio League to hear Hiram Percy Maxim II speak at the monthly meeting of the NARL at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 7, in the Newington Senior Center, 120 Cedar St. (Route 175) in Newington. Admission is free.

Mr. Maxim II will show photos and family movies concerning his illustrious grandfather, inventor of the Maxim Silencer, and holder of numerous patents that his prolific mind produced. Hiram Percy Maxim also was a builder of early motor cars, and founder, with colleagues, of the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio.

Although the current Mr. Maxim was a very young boy when his grandfather passed away, and is not a "ham" as was his famed grandfather, the family memorabilia and recollections of tales about his grandfather promise to be of considerable interest.

## **Reminder: Sign Up NOW for No-Fee ARRL EC Course!**

CT hams should sign up now for the UTC-funded course which starts on October 7. "The response to the UTC courses has been wonderful, said Betsey Doane, K1EIC, "except that we need to increase our graduation rate". "We need to achieve an 80% graduation rate to complete our commitment successfully with UTC," Betsey explains. "Please help us! Volunteers and ARRL staff have spent untold hours on this project and I know you understand that we want to be successful and we want you to benefit."

If you signed up for a class but have not yet finished, please contact your mentor and make arrangements to complete the class.

You can register for classes by visiting the secure ARRL Course Registration Page at <https://www.arrl.org/forms/cce>,

and clicking on the blue hypertext link "Register" next to the class section you prefer.

To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/cce>, and the C-CE Links found there.

For more information you can also contact Certification and Continuing Education Program Coordinator Dan Miller, K3UFG, [cce@arrl.org](mailto:cce@arrl.org).

## **CARA Home Page**

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

## **Profiles: SAMUEL F.B. MORSE**

Samuel Finley Breese Morse, inventor of several improvements to the telegraph, was born in Charlestown, Mass. on April 27, 1791. As a student at Yale College, Morse became interested in both painting and in the developing subject of electricity. He would later become a well-known portrait artist. It wasn't until 1832 that he first became interested in telegraphy.

That year, Morse was traveling to the United States from Europe on a ship, when he overheard a conversation about electromagnetism that inspired his idea for an electric telegraph. Though he had little training in electricity, he realized that pulses of electrical current could convey information over wires.

The telegraph, a device first proposed in 1753 and first built in 1774, was an impractical machine up until that point, requiring 26 separate wires, one for each letter of the alphabet. Around that time two German engineers had invented a five-wire model, but Morse

wanted to be the first to reduce the number of wires to one.

Between 1832 and 1837 he developed a working model of an electric telegraph, using crude materials such as a home-made battery and old clock-work gears.



Morse's first telegraph device, unveiled in 1837, did use a one-wire system, which produced an EKG-like line on tickertape. The dips in the line had to be de-coded into letters and numbers using a dictionary composed by Morse, this assuming that the pen or pencil wrote clearly, which did not always happen.

By the following year he had developed an improved system, having created a dot-and-dash code. (His assistant Vail has been credited by Franklin T. Pope--later a partner of Thomas Edison--with inventing this "dots and dashes" version). This coding system was significantly better, as it did not require printing or decoding, but could be "sound read" by operators.

In 1838, at an exhibition of his telegraph in New York, Morse transmitted ten words per minute using the Morse code that would become standard throughout the world.

By 1854, there were 23,000 miles of telegraph wire in operation. Western Union was founded in 1851, and in 1868, the first successful trans-Atlantic cable link was established.

*(Courtesy KZ1Z and MIT Inventor's Website)*

## **Solar Report** *(Courtesy ARRL)*

Solar flux over the past two weeks has declined from more than 200 toward 150. After October 3 sunspots and solar flux are expected to rise, based upon the previous solar rotation.

We are now in the fall season, usually a great time for HF DX. Although solar activity is still fairly high, we have passed the peak of the sunspot cycle, and this fall will probably be far better for HF propagation than next fall.

The 10 and 12-meter bands now are opening to parts of the world that were unheard a couple of months back. For most of North America 10 and 12 should be open in the middle of the day toward Europe, during all daylight hours toward South America, and to Asia and the Pacific late in the afternoon to early evening. Twelve meters will generally open earlier and close later than ten meters.

## **For Sale**

For Sale: Colman Powermate 8 HP portable generator. 4000 watts/5000 watts surge. Electric start! Excellent condition. Priced for immediate sale @ \$ 250. Call Ken - KD1DD at 203-743-9181.



## **Nets**

*CARA Weekly Net* Sunday nights at 7:30 p.m. 147.3 +600 (PL 100)

*WestConn Net* Nightly at 8:30 p.m. .147.18+ (PL 141.3)

*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

## **Want the CARA CAPERS by e-mail?**

Signing up for the e-Capers is simple. Just send e-mail to [KD1YV@arrl.net](mailto:KD1YV@arrl.net).

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

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