



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

**Regular Meeting
Friday,
October 10th
at 8:00 PM**

Meeting Topics:
"Paper Chasing"
(Ham awards collecting)



CAPERS

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

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Issue: October 10, 2003

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President's Message

The past several months have been eventful. At the September meeting, Allen W1AGP, CT SEC, presented a program on the state of amateur radio communications in Connecticut. Allen is an extremely competent and informed individual, nonetheless, I think that town governments in CT have a long way to go with regard to interaction with the amateur radio community. There are, of course, some notable exceptions. Danbury, in particular, appears to be renewing interest. We all can help. It is our responsibility to always present Amateur radio in a positive manner.

The Hamfest held on September 14 was a great success. It appears everyone had a great time finding new goodies for the shack and ragchewing. I believe the club had a profit of about \$1,100. Thanks to

all who contributed to the effort. (I won't mention names just in case I forget someone.)

The new repeater controller has been installed. There appears to be a problem with the 440 port. The boards will be replaced as soon as possible. In order to handle the public relations and technical aspects, a formal repeater committee has been formed. George, N1GS, will chair the committee, but the technical aspects will remain with James, KE1AI, and Ken, KD1DD. George is also Danbury EC.

This past month I attended the TAPR meeting in Hartford. It is a technical meeting concerning digital communications. The meeting concerned itself with digital voice, pactor, and packet e-mail systems – linking amateur

radio with the Internet and the Hinternet. The meeting attracted hams from around the country.

At the October meeting, Ted, K1BV, will present a program on "paper chasing". Ted publishes an awards directory containing information on thousands of ham radio awards available. Some very impressive certificates are available. The CARA sponsored WACC award appears in the directory. Congratulations to Henry, KB1GQ, who was recently awarded WACC. WACC has been presented to many hams throughout the world.

I look forward to seeing you at the October meeting.

Frank, N8WXQ

Meeting Friday October 10th!

CARA's regular meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, beginning at 8 p.m., at St. Paul's Church Hall, Brookfield Center, CT. Informal "rag chewing" begins at 7:30 p.m.

VE Test Session

A VE test session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29th at 7 p.m. This is a full service test session and will be held at the Guilford P.D. Community Room, 400 Church Street (Rt.77), Guilford, CT 06437. Easy access from I-95 exit 58. Walk-ins are welcome, but a phone call or email is still appreciated if you are planning to attend. Call 203-457-9770, email n1knb@aol.com, or visit <http://qsy.to/n1knb> for further details.

Basic Spotter Training Class

The National Weather Service will be holding a Basic Spotter Training

Class on Saturday October 25 from 1-4 p.m. at East Haven High School. East Haven, CT.

RSVP to Glenn N1HAW 203-877-4012 (N1HAW@arrl.net) or Jim N1GPB 203-467-4709 (N1GPB@arrl.net) as seating is limited.

Directions to East Haven High School:
From I-95 (Western part of CT) travel I-95 north to I-91 north. Get off Exit 8, bear right off exit (RT 80). Continue straight on RT 80 east, going through 7 traffic lights and 1 flashing light (Fire House). At the 8th light, turn left onto Wheel Barrow Lane and travel up the hill to the high school.

From I-95 (Eastern Part of CT):
Travel I-95 south to Exit 52. Right off exit onto RT 100. Follow to the end and take a right onto RT 80 east. At traffic light turn left onto Wheel Barrow Lane and travel up the hill to the high school.

From I-91North:
Travel I-91 south to Exit 8. Take a left off the exit. Continue straight on RT 80 east, going through 8 traffic lights and 1 flashing light (Fire House). At the 9th light, turn left onto Wheel Barrow Lane and travel up the hill to the high school.

For additional information you can also contact Phil, WX1CT at phil@fairfieldcountyskywarn.com.

ARRL Rebukes FCC Commissioner's "Broadband Nirvana" Remarks

The ARRL has strongly objected to FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy's

suggestion that Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology will contribute to what she described as "broadband Nirvana." Addressing the United Powerline Council's annual conference September 22 in Arlington, Virginia, Abernathy expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL and recommended a combination of regulatory restraint and the elimination or substantial modification of existing rules as steps along the "path to Enlightenment," as she put it.

In a terse response faxed September 25 on behalf of the League's 155,000 members, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, asserted that Abernathy overlooked some significant issues in her Nirvana analogy.

"Nightmare is more like it," Sumner declared. "The technical showings submitted by the ARRL and others in response to the Commission's Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in ET Docket No. 03-104 clearly establish that BPL is a significant source of radio spectrum pollution. It cannot be implemented without causing harmful interference to over-the-air radio services."

Sumner told Abernathy that while BPL industry groups, such as the one she addressed this week, prefer to deny the evidence, the FCC is obliged to work to a higher standard.

In its comments in response to the FCC NOI, the League characterized BPL as "a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions" and said the Commission's Part 15 rules "should be modified so as to prevent interference to users of the HF and low VHF spectrum" from the outset.

More information is on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/e> t03-104. To date, more than 4600 comments--many from the Amateur Radio community--have been filed in response to the FCC's BPL NOI. They are available for viewing via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>.

Nets

CARA Weekly Net: Sunday nights at 7:30 p.m. 147.30+ (PL 100)

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

Tips Net: Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on 146.73- (PL77) (linked statewide).

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

ConnARES Area One (North) VHF Net: Mondays, 8 p.m., alternately on 147.30+ (PL 100), or 146.73- (PL 77 or 100).

Conn ARES Issues Net: 3.965 Mhz +/-, Thursdays @ approx 6:15 p.m. (following CT Phone Net)

ConnARES Area One Reminder

ConnARES Area One (North) VHF Net is currently meeting weekly, on Monday nights at 8 p.m. The net will be held alternately on the CARA 147.30+ (PL 100) repeater, and on the New Milford repeater, 146.73- (PL 77 or 100). Announcements will be made at the beginning of each net confirming the repeater in use for that evening.

The ARES issues/discussion HF Net is held on Thursdays, on 3.965 MHz, immediately following the CT Phone Net,

which begins at 6:00 p.m. and signs about 6:15 p.m.

For additional information contact Bill, W1WJB, DEC, Area One, bill@StudioOne-ct.com.

Amateur Radio Enforcement “The Riley Way” Marks Five Years

Close to 1000 Amateur Radio enforcement cases have crossed his desk since Riley Hollingsworth was tapped five years ago to resurrect the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement efforts. That doesn't include countless ham radio "situations" he's resolved through informal counseling on the telephone or through an exchange of e-mails.

At the time he took the job in the fall of 1998, Hollingsworth--whose official title is Special Counsel for Enforcement--called it "a new day for Amateur Radio" after years of amateur enforcement neglect on the Commission's part. As he sees things today, rules compliance and on-air behavior have improved since the new sheriff rode into town, but there's still lots to do.

"I'm fairly satisfied with the progress that we've made in five years," Hollingsworth said in modest acknowledgment of the milestone, "but I think we need at least five more years of this type--of this level—of enforcement, because the bands have quite a long way to go. It's no time to rest."

Five years ago, Hollingsworth began with a "top-10" list of alleged high-profile Amateur Radio offenders. By and large, he's slowly--and most would say successfully--worked his way to the point

that many of today's cases appear comparatively mundane. But they get the same level of attention.

"The biggest problem we have now, I think, stems from conduct-type problems--lack of courtesy, taking serious offense and reacting to what is perceived as deliberate interference," Hollingsworth said this week. "Ninety percent of the interference that's reported to me is not deliberate." As he regards all enforcement cases, the remaining 10 percent are "serious."

"I think a lot of the 'radio rage' has subsided, but I wish that people would be a little more aware of just how valuable Amateur Radio is and how they sound on the air," said Hollingsworth. That's a message he's repeated often on the hamfest circuit.

Looking out on the Amateur Radio enforcement horizon, Hollingsworth said he'll "keep pedaling" and chipping away at the enforcement workload. He'll also continue to look to the assistance and cooperation of his fellow radio amateurs, whom he called "just good people."

Amateurs "have got to stick together and cooperate and stay away from the infighting because they've got some very serious external threats," Hollingsworth said, citing BPL as just one example. "To the extent that they're not rowing together, it makes those threats more dangerous."

In his many public appearances--including several at Hamvention--Hollingsworth has stayed "on message" over the five years of his amateur enforcement tenure. "I just want

everyone to realize what they have," he said. "We have incredible frequencies, power, modes, and so forth." He said a realization of the value of Amateur Radio itself is a deterrent to potential rule breakers, but he said Amateur Radio enforcement is "permanently ensconced" at the FCC.

While he's had some very interesting assignments and enjoyed nearly every day of his tenure with the FCC, he says the past five years have been the highlight of his 30-year FCC career.

"My greatest satisfaction is thinking that I may have paid back a debt," said Hollingsworth, who's been licensed since age 13. "It's the most rewarding thing I've ever done with the Commission."

Rohn Files for Chapter 11

Rohn Industries (<http://www.rohnnet.com/>) has filed a voluntary petition for Chapter 11 bankruptcy September 16 in the US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana. The best-known manufacturer of tower and tower hardware for the Amateur Radio community, the Peoria, Illinois-based company manufactures towers, antenna support structures and "infrastructure equipment" for the telecommunications industry. In business since 1948, the firm also makes security fencing and provides design and construction services.

The impact of Rohn's troubles on the Amateur Radio community is not clear, but at least one major antenna products supplier reported earlier this summer that

it was having problems getting Rohn products, although it continues to offer them. Ward told the ARRL that Rohn intends "to execute the orders we have and to continue to take orders in the normal course of business."

(Several items in this issue courtesy of the ARRL Letter)

Editor's Note:

Just a reminder that we're always looking for interesting features and news articles for the CARA CAPERS. Paid-up members are also welcome to place no-charge classified ads for ham-related items. Just drop an email note to the CAPERS editor, Barry Connolly, KA1JDD@arrl.net, or call: 203-748-1033.

Although as early as possible is preferred, our deadline for articles for each month's edition generally is the Friday before the regular Friday monthly meeting.

Want the CARA CAPERS by e-mail?

Signing up for the e-Capers is simple. Just send e-mail to KD1YV@arrl.net.

CARA Web Site

Visit the CARA Web site at: www.danbury.org/cara. You'll find a wealth of club information -- including an archive of former CAPERS newsletters.