



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

**Holiday Party
Friday,
December 12th
at 8:00 PM**

Bring Your Spouse or
Significant Other
Bring a Plate of Holiday
Fare to share



CAPERS

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

President – Frank Etzler – N8WXQ - phone - 860-350-3523
Vice President – Jeff Cantor –K1ZN - phone 203-798-6860
Secretary – Martha Babbitt – KB1IES - phone - 860-350-8804
Treasurer - John Ahle – W1JMA - phone - 203-438-6782



Issue: December 12, 2003

Holiday Party, December 12, at 8:00 p.m.

President's Message

Happy Holidays to all!

This month's meeting will be devoted to the Holiday Party. It is a great time to enjoy holiday treats and "rag chew" with your fellow club members. Please bring your XYL or OM and "harmonics".

Judy, N1TGK, is the food chairman. You can check with her regarding your pot luck dish. Please bring a dish to be shared by all.

We will have a gift exchange for those who want to participate. Bring a small ham radio related gift (< \$10) and you will be able to select another gift from the table.

The winter darkness brings the low bands alive with DX. We are also in the years of declining sunspot numbers which will

enhance DX on the low bands for the next few years. DX on the low bands is much easier using CW and the other digital modes. I encourage all who have not already done so to study for the Extra exam and practice their CW skills. DXCC on 160 and 80 meters are significant challenges.

Again, Happy Holidays and Good DX,

Frank, N8WXQ

Meetings

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.

Official 2003 Field Day Results!

This report was received a tad too late to make the November CAPERS, but it's

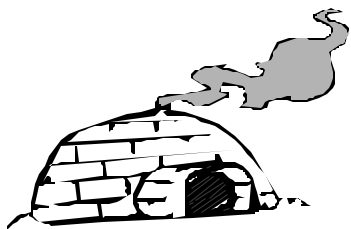
always welcome news! Jim, KD1YV reports that in the official tally for Field Day 2003, of all entrants everywhere, CARA finished 177th out of 2052 competitors – or in the 91st percentile. Of stations strictly in our 2A category, CARA finished 52nd out of a field of 422 competitors – or the 87th percentile.



Congratulations to CARA Field Day chairperson Jim KD1YV, and to all the hams and family members who pitched in to help make this year's Field Day great fun and a rousing success!

Winter Programs

Here's a look at meeting programs for the months just ahead. December's highlight is our annual holiday party. The January meeting features the yearly QSL card sort and pizza party. February is our joint YCCC meeting.



The Club also sponsors or supports a number of activities during the year where your participation can make a real difference. For example, volunteers are needed for Field Day, for the Hamfest, and as instructors for classes for new hams. There are lots of different jobs that need to be filled. And they're fun! Each of us has skills and time that can be put to good use. Ask around.

Find an activity that interests you! Together we can make CARA even better!

New General Class Question Pool

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released a revised and expanded Amateur Radio General class (Element 3) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2004, and must be used to generate all General written examinations administered on or after that date.



"The pool has been expanded to 432 questions," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, a member of the Question Pool Committee, who notes that all subelements grew slightly. "The largest increase in questions this time around was in our Operating Procedures and Amateur Radio Practices subelements," he said. The General class question pool does not contain any diagrams or symbols.

The new Element 3 question pool is available on the ARRL Amateur Exam Question Pools Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html> in Adobe PDF and ASCII text format. It includes all questions and answers relating to Element 3.

The Question Pool Committee now is turning its attention to developing an outline for an updated Amateur Extra class (Element 4)

question pool, which will be revised over the next 24 months, Jahnke said. It will go into effect July 1, 2006. The deadline to submit input to the Amateur Extra question pool syllabus is May 1, 2004.

Commenters may address specific Element 3 questions as well as inputs to the Element 3 syllabus and question pool to the Question Pool Committee via e-mail at, qpc@arrl.org.

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)

Shrinking...and Growing... Operating Classes

Since amateurs can no longer be licensed as Tech Plus, Novice, or Advanced, the number of amateurs holding these license classes is decreasing. Over the past year, the Tech Plus class has been decreasing at an average rate of 31 a day, the Novice class at 16 a day, and the Advanced class at 4 a day.

Over the past year, the Technician class has been increasing at an average rate of 49 a day and the general class at 6 a day.

What are we each doing to promote our valuable hobby?

(With Tnx to KZ1Z – Ed.)

FCC Adds Part 15 Spectrum at 5 GHz, but Turns Down ARRL Request

The FCC has made another 255 MHz of spectrum available in the 5.470-5.725 GHz band for unlicensed Part 15 National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices, including Radio Local Area Network (RLAN) devices. In a Report and Order in ET Docket 03-122 released November 18, the FCC said it was taking the action to alleviate crowding in existing allocations and to align U-NII bands in the US with bands elsewhere in the world. The FCC turned down an ARRL request to keep U-NII devices out of the 5.650 to 5.670 GHz segment to avoid interference with the Amateur Satellite Service.

In its comments, the League said the amateur allocation at 5.650 to 5.925 MHz "has been subject to 'death by a thousand cuts.'" The FCC's most recent action leaves Amateur Radio with "relatively uncompromised access" to a 25-MHz segment at 5 GHz--5.825 to 5.850 GHz, the ARRL said. That includes a 20-MHz-wide satellite downlink segment, 5.830 to 5.850 GHz. Federal government users are primary over the entire band.

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.

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

FCC Mulls Responses to Complaints

The FCC is considering the explanation of a Maryland ham in the wake of complaints that he disrupted an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) net in September during Hurricane Isabel. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote Charles E. Cox Sr, WA3AE, on October 16, enclosing complaints alleging deliberate interference to emergency communications conducted on 2 meters by W3AAC at the Anne Arundel County emergency operations center.

In a handwritten note, Cox told the FCC that he was on the air, but he asserted that he was only trying to help and didn't believe he was interfering with the emergency net.

Several complainants--two off-duty FCC employees among them--tell a different story. A station identifying as WA3AE came on the net and uttered "irrelevant comments many times," according to one net control station, who also said that the operator was rude, "seemed intoxicated" and used inappropriate language. Cox told the FCC he has a speech impediment that makes him sound inebriated. The NCS contended that Cox ignored numerous requests to keep the frequency open for emergency communications, but Cox disputes that.

Hollingsworth said the FCC has Cox's response to the complaints under review.

The FCC also is reviewing a response from a California licensee. On October 15, Hollingsworth wrote Angel Carballo, KG6QKR, of Fremont enclosing a complaint alleging interference on 2 meters during a two-hour period. The complainant told the FCC that two repeaters in the south San Francisco Bay area "were being kerchunked." The amateur who complained said he was able to track the source of the interfering signal to an unoccupied vehicle sitting in a corporate parking lot. He said the transceiver appeared to be in cross-band mode, and he was able to spot the transceiver's display blink momentarily each time the repeaters were accessed.

After the complaining amateur approached corporate security and threatened to report the incident to the FCC, security personnel asked him to hold off while they tried to "solve the problem internally." The complainant, whom the FCC did not identify, said security subsequently brought out a man who went to the vehicle and shut down the transceiver. The FCC apparently was able to locate Carballo through the license plate and vehicle description the complainant provided.

In an October 25 reply to the Commission, Carballo told the FCC he believes he "made a mistake" setting up his radios and did not intend to maliciously interfere. He indicated that he had set up his mobile transceiver as a cross-band repeater on VHF and UHF frequencies--one of them 146.94 MHz--and monitored both frequencies from a handheld transceiver in his office.

Carballo said his transceiver is not capable of transmitting on two frequencies within the same band, so he could not explain the interference to the 146.23 machine. He also offered his apologies and asked the FCC to extend them to the complainant as well.

(Tnx to the ARRL Letter for several of the news items in this month's issue --Ed.)

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.

Want the CARA CAPERS by e-mail?

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

For Sale:

Two-year-old Glen Martin Engineering 1870 tower with Voyager tram system. This is a 70-foot aluminum tower, 18-inches on a side. Buyer must take down and transport tower. Seller says these towers sell for approximately \$4,000 new, and he is asking \$1,250.

This item: Contact Keith, KC1XU, at (860) 355-3327.

For Sale:

MFJ-224 2-meter FM analyzer. Tests: signal, discriminator, deviation, feedline loss and more. Brand new in the box. \$90.

Dell 750, Pentium 4 computer, with 21" Sony Trinitron monitor (dual input), 25 GB hard drive, 128MB RAM, one DVD/CD drive,

one CDRW drive, one 3.5" floppy drive, internal 56K fax/data modem, soundblaster card, speakers, keyboard, mouse. All manuals. Hard drive completely reformatted. XP Professional installed. All for \$475.

Antenna Specialist 6-meter beam, 3-elements. Brand new in the box. \$100.

440 Ringo antenna. Brand new. \$25.

Maxtor 80 GB external HD, firewire, with power supply and plug-in cable. \$100.

Isopole 440. Brand new. \$25.

MFJ-452 Morse keyboard keyer. Mint condition. \$75.

Above items: Contact Pete, KZ1Z, via email at kz1z@arrl.net, or on 147.30.

Haynie Promotes Ham Radio at Homeland Security Conference

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, this month used the Amateur Radio Today (<https://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8861>) CD presentation to promote the potential of Amateur Radio as a part of homeland security at the community level. Haynie served on a panel of national Citizen Corps affiliates during a Volunteers in Homeland Security Conference November 4-6 in Austin, Texas. ARRL became an affiliate of Citizen Corps (<http://www.citizencorps.gov>) - an initiative within the Department of Homeland Security (<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>)--in June during the ARRL 2003 National Convention. Haynie said Amateur Radio Today turned out to be the proverbial picture worth 1000 words for the crowd of some 300 conference attendees.

"When it was finished and they turned the lights back up, everybody applauded," he said. "I didn't have to say another word."

Haynie said several public officials on hand at the event also praised the capabilities of their local Amateur Radio communities in providing assistance during emergencies and disasters.



Citizen Corps is a federal volunteer effort aimed at enhancing public preparedness and safety by bringing together volunteers and first responders. In some localities, ham radio is being incorporated into a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) (<http://www.citizencorps.gov/programs/cert.shtm>), a Citizen Corps program. Haynie says the Citizen Corps affiliation is "part of the bigger picture of getting emergency communications aligned with what our government needs."

"Amateur Radio stands ready to serve the country as needed in times of emergency," he said.

Citizen Corps Liaison to the White House Liz DiGregorio, headed the three-day gathering and provided an overview of Citizen Corps. She has urged Amateur Radio operators to explore ways to expand their role in the community beyond being a last resort when other communication systems fail.

Those attending the conference primarily represented agencies and organizations serving Federal Emergency Management Agency (<http://www.fema.gov/>) Region VI. FEMA now is a part of the Department of Homeland Security (<http://www.dhs.gov/>). They included representatives of

volunteer organizations as well as FEMA officials and members of local law enforcement.

International Space Station Marks Five Years in Space

As of this month, the International Space Station has been in space five years and has had Amateur Radio and a permanent crew onboard for three years. The first component of the unique orbiting laboratory complex—home to the first permanent Amateur Radio station in space, NA1SS--was launched November 20, 1998. Since attaining orbit, the ISS has grown from a lone, uninhabited module into a continuously staffed, house-sized research facility. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program has been a part of the ISS since November 2000, when the Expedition 1 crew of William Shepherd, KD5GSL, Yuri Gidzenko, and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, arrived on board for a four-month tour.

"Together with our international partners we have learned how to build, operate and maintain a very complex spacecraft, through the good times and the bad," NASA Space Station Program Manager Bill Gerstenmaier said in marking the ISS's fifth birthday. "With this experience to guide us, we look forward to the future, with a vast expansion of the station on the horizon." The US, Russia, Canada, Japan and Europe have cooperated in making the ISS a reality as well as with making ARISS a success.

The first ISS element, the Russian Zarya functional cargo block (or FGB), was launched in 1998 from Baikonur, Kazakhstan. The shuttle Endeavour delivered the second element, the US connecting module called Unity, two weeks later.

The ARISS initial station gear went into space in September 2000. A month

later, the FCC granted vanity call signs NA1SS and NN1SS (the official ARISS Earth station at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland) to the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club for US ARISS operations. Russia has issued the call signs RZ3DZR and RS0ISS for ISS use.

Using the initial ham station gear, Shepherd—who dubbed the ISS "Space Station Alpha"—made the first ARISS school group contact on December 21, 2000, answering questions posed by students at Luther Burbank Elementary School near Chicago. Some 200 youngsters, teachers, parents and news media representatives were on hand to witness the event.

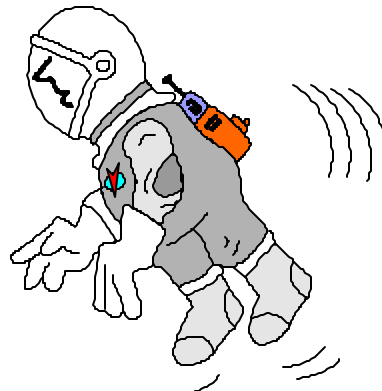
So far, 22 crew members have staffed the ISS. The current Expedition 8 crew of Commander Mike Foale, KB5UAC, and Alex "Sasha" Kaleri, U8MIR, arrived at the ISS earlier this month and has been settling in aboard the spacecraft. Residents have conducted research in a wide range of disciplines, and the ISS remains the largest and most complex international space research project in history. The February 2003 shuttle Columbia tragedy and the subsequent grounding of the NASA shuttle fleet at least for another year has slowed construction and trimmed crew complements from three members to two. The ISS' scientific capacity will triple with components awaiting the space shuttle's return to flight.

"At five years old, the ISS continues to grow," NASA says. "More than 80 tons of equipment and hardware are in the Space Station Processing Facility at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, being prepared for launch."

The capabilities of NA1SS also are slated to expand in the near future. During the recent AMSAT-NA Symposium and Annual Meeting in October, ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, outlined the delivery

of the so-called Phase 2 ham equipment to the ISS. Already on board is a Kenwood TM-D700E VHF/UHF transceiver. The unit will mean a significant boost to the power output of the ARISS initial station gear—from 5 W to 25 W.

Additional gear, including SSTV hardware,

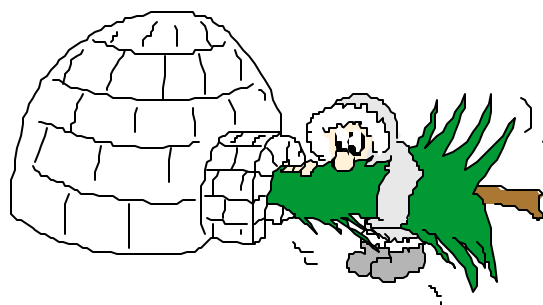


tentatively is set for transport in January.

For more information on the ISS, visit NASA's Human Spaceflight Web site



<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/home/index.html>



Happy Holidays to All...