



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

**Regular Meeting
Friday,
January 9th
at 8:00 PM**

Meeting Topic:
QSL Card Sort
(Square Dance?)
Pizza Party



CAPERS

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

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Treasurer - John Ahle – W1JMA - phone - 203-438-6782



Issue: January 9, 2004

Meeting: Friday, January 9 at 8:00 p.m.

President's Message

Happy New Year to all!

I trust that you have had a pleasant and enjoyable holiday with time for some radio as well. Perhaps Santa left some ham goodies for you. I thank all who have made 2003 a success.

January is the month to collect dues for the year. I hope that all will be back for 2004 and that you will bring some new friends along as well. Furthermore, I hope that all members will take the time, in the coming year, to improve their ham radio skills and to promote amateur radio in some way.

I have prepared a brochure that can be used to solicit new members and introduce amateur radio to local government and the general public. The brochure will be

distributed to members via a .pdf file for two-sided printing.

The January meeting is the annual QSL card sort. This is an enjoyable meeting for all. As usual, we will have pizza to give us energy to sort the cards! I look forward to seeing you at the "square dance" (HI HI). Maybe you will find some of your cards.

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.

Membership Renewal Time!



Just a reminder that the New Year also ushers in a new round of membership renewals. Please see the 2004 membership renewal form at the end of this month's newsletter. Complete the form and mail it with your check to John Ahle, W1JMA, club treasurer. Thanks!

Ham Radio In Space Reaches Another Milestone...

Ham radio in space has reached another milestone with the successful installation and checkout of the first Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Phase 2 equipment. The ISS now sports a new Kenwood TM-D700E dualband transceiver in the Zvezda Service Module--the crew's living quarters. ISS Expedition 8 Commander Mike Foale, KB5UAC, set up the new transceiver at NA1SS earlier this month. Only official approval is needed to begin operations. Activation of the new gear will mean a power boost for the NA1SS downlink signal, which could prove especially helpful in school group contacts. The additional equipment--which soon will include a slow-scan television (SSTV) system--also opens up new operational possibilities.

The Phase 2 gear will use the four antennas installed on the Service Module during space walks in 2002 specifically to support Amateur Radio operations. Addition of the new antennas, which will cover from HF to microwave frequencies, opened the door to deploying the two

separate ham stations aboard the orbiting outpost. Waiting in the wings is a Yaesu FT-100 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver that could go into space in January along with the new SSTV gear.

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).

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

New ARRL Antenna Design Course

If there's one thing that all radio amateurs have in common it's the need for an antenna. The ARRL Certification and Continuing Education program (C-CE) <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> opened registration Monday, December 22, for its new "Antenna Design and Construction" (EC-009) on-line course. Registration for

"Antenna Design and Construction" is scheduled to remain open until Sunday, December 28. These registration dates occurred before the January CAPERS publication date, but you may want to see if there are still openings by checking the ARRL Web site. The class will begin Tuesday, January 13, 2004.

Authored by Ward Silver, N0AX, "Antenna Design and Construction" joins "Antenna Modeling" (EC-004) as the C-CE program's second antenna-related course. It will use the ARRL publication Simple and Fun Antennas for Hams <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=&words=8624>> by Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, and Dean Straw, N6BV, for its textbook. Students must have a copy before starting this class, which takes 20 to 25 hours to complete.

Students who take "Antenna Design and Construction" must hold an Amateur Radio license to be able to complete some of the course's practical activities. They will become familiar with--and experience--antenna design and construction techniques. Optional antenna construction projects and experiments involving HF and VHF/UHF antennas of various types are available for the more adventuresome.

The registration fee for EC-009 is \$65 for members and \$95 for nonmembers, exclusive of textbooks and materials.

To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> Web page and click on EC-009. For additional information, contact the Certification and Continuing Education Program staff <cce@arrl.org>.

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.

Foundation for Amateur Radio Scholarships

The Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc (FAR), a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC, plans to administer 59 scholarships for the 2004-2005 academic year to assist radio amateurs. Comprised of more than 75 area Amateur Radio clubs, FAR fully funds seven of these scholarships with income from grants and its annual hamfest. The foundation administers the remaining 52 without cost to the donors.

FAR invites Amateur Radio licensees planning to pursue a full-time course of study beyond high school and now enrolled in or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school to compete for these scholarships. Awards range from \$500 to \$2500. Preference in some cases goes to residents of specific geographical areas or to those pursuing certain programs of study.

FAR encourages Amateur Radio clubs--especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin--to announce these scholarship opportunities at meetings, in newsletters, during training classes, on nets and on Web pages. Additional information and an application form is available by sending a letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2004, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively

to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

International Morse Code Gains New Home and new character!

The 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) may have eliminated the treaty requirement for prospective amateurs to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF access, but the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) hasn't forgotten Morse code altogether.

In Geneva on December 5, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M[MORSE] that specifies the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures. It also includes a new Morse code character to cover the "@" symbol used in e-mail addresses.

Once it's made available in English, French and Spanish, the draft new recommendation will go out to ITU member-states using a new procedure for simultaneous adoption and approval. On December 3, the draft new recommendation won the approval of Working Party 8A, which is responsible for the Land Mobile and Amateur services.

Within the ITU, the international Morse code has been defined by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), which is responsible for the public telephone and telegraph network--mostly landline. A couple of years ago, the ARRL pointed out to the US delegation to the ITU Radiocommunication Advisory Group that Morse code's role more properly resides in the radiocommunication realm, not wire, and should be the responsibility of ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R).

The transfer was agreed to, and International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Larry Price, W4RA, proposed the draft new recommendation at the November-December Working Group 8A meeting. The draft new recommendation is almost unchanged from its ITU-T text.

"No one wanted to disturb something with more than 150 years of history," said ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI.



To keep up with the times, however, the IARU proposed adding a new character--the commercial "at" or @ symbol--to permit sending e-mail addresses in Morse code. The draft new recommendation proposes using the letters A and C run together (.-.-.) to represent the @ symbol.

While the draft new recommendation is still a working document, it's expected to become a Recommendation within six months or so, pending approval by member-states.

FCC announces new Universal Licensing System interface

The FCC on December 14 unveiled a new on-line filing interface for its Universal Licensing System (ULS), on the web at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>, which includes the Amateur Service.

Among other features, the ULS's new look will include easier-to-read on-screen forms that guide users through filing and simplify such routine tasks as applying for license renewal, address change or vanity call sign. The FCC says the introduction of its new system, called "ULS License Manager," concludes phase one of an ongoing ULS overhaul by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

ULS License Manager will be compatible with most major Web browsers and computer platforms and no longer will require downloading Java and Java Script files. An FCC staffer involved with implementing ULS License Manager notes that all features may not be in place when the system debuts.



The ULS will require all filers to log into the system using an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) no longer will be accepted for log-in purposes, the FCC said.

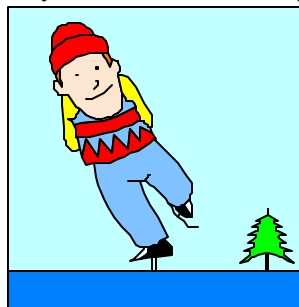
Once the new system is up and running, all licenses and applications in the ULS database will be converted to the new ULS License Manager filing environment.

There's also a new paper version of FCC Form 605, dated December 2003. One change is that Form 605 no longer requests a date of birth and will only accept an FRN and CORES password. There are no Amateur Service-related changes to any Form 605 schedules. The FCC says Amateur Service applicants may continue to use the March 2001 (or later) edition of Form 605, although it encourages use of the newest version. The new FCC Form 605 now is available via the FCC Web site at, <http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>.

To assist with any ULS issues after the changeover, the Technical Support Hotline staff will be available. Normal hours are weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time. Technical Support is available via the FCC Web site at,

<http://esupport.fcc.gov>, or telephone 877-480-3201 (TTY 202-414-1255).

ULS licensing support and forms information is available weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 5:30 PM Eastern Time via e-mail at ulshelp@fcc.gov, or telephone 888-CALLFCC (225-5322), Option 2 (users also may call 717-338-2888).



FOR SALE! Moving Soon, Gotta' Sell

Telex Hy-Gain Yagi, 4 elements, three bands, 20-15-10, with manual, pristine condition;

Rotator, Tail Twister T2X, untested but very clean, c/w cable, digital control

A steal at \$125 for the Yagi and the rotator, you pick up in Bethel.

Also, some boatanchors, free to a loving ham home as long as you will try to get them on the air.

Call 203 790 7041, Jim, KD1YV or Sue, N1SLB.

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, barry@connollyco.com, or call: 203-748-1033.

CARA Meeting Minutes

November 2003

The regular meeting of CARA was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brookfield Center, on November 14th. Three new people were present and recognized: Brent N1RRD, Mike Onorato, and Gene KL7CE.

Ed Hare, W1RFI, the ARRL Laboratory Manager, presented the program for the evening. The topic was Broadband Over Power Lines (BPL). This will impact Amateur Radio transmission, which is regulated by Part 15 of the FCC rules. The operator is responsible for harmful interference. The proposed broadband transmission will be "self-policed" by the manufacturer of the Broadband equipment and transmission. The presentation was detailed, informative, and well received by the members.

The business meeting was conducted at 9:30 PM. A motion was made to accept the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports. Field Day will be chaired by KD1YV. Hamfest site will be reserved by Bill Schaeffer (N1PJG). Volunteers are sought to chair and distribute flyers. The Repeater Committee has Rosti (N2FEX) as a member. Progress is being made. Ken (KD1DD) reported that the auto patch is still not fixed. For backup, there is a need to rewire the 220 and 440. A question was raised as to coordination. John (W1JMA) was at the meeting regarding this.

Packet Cluster report was made. Dan (W1QK) will make a simple packet setup at a future meeting.

Other business: Holiday Party will be held at next meeting. Judy (N1TGK) will coordinate food. Bring as grab bag gift (about \$10) to exchange.

ARES Certificates were handed out to various members.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM

December 2003

Members gathered at the St. Paul's Church on December 12th for the holiday party. Various members of the club provided food, drinks, and music. Everyone enjoyed being able to just share time and ideas with different members. Those who brought gifts participated in a grab bag. There was no program or business meeting. Next meeting will be for sorting QSL cards.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Babbitt, KB1IES

Want the CARA CAPERS by e-mail?

Signing up for the e-Capers is simple. Just send an e-mail to barry@connollyco.com.

And a Hearty Ham Thank You to Jim KD1YV, and Susan N1SLB, for all their help these many months printing and sending out the hardcopy and email versions of the CAPERS. Tnx and 73 Jim and Susan!



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Membership Application

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Class: _____ Phone: _____ VE: _____ ARRL: _____ Email Capers: _____x_____

e-mail _____

DUES:

Associate Member (non-ham) \$15

Full Member \$30 _____

Senior/Student (>65 yrs/ <18yrs)
\$23.50 _____

Family (2 members) \$52.50 _____

Family(3 members) \$65.00 _____

Family(4 members) \$75.00* _____

Send Dues to:

John M. Ahle W1JMA
120 Fire Hill Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877
W1JMA@aol.com

* \$10 each additional member