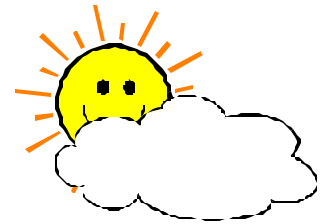




# CAPERS

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: March 12, 2004**

***Meeting: Friday, March 12 at 8:00 p.m.***

## **President's Message**

Spring is upon us. I know that each of us is ready for the upcoming warmer weather.

The specter of BPL still is with us. Be sure to monitor the ARRL and FCC web pages for future developments. Be ready to send a rational but still vitriolic letter to officials when the time comes. BPL is bad for radio.

This month's meeting should be interesting. Packet radio will be the theme. Not just plain old packet either!

Packet radio is for transferring text and digital files via radio. Packet on VHF and UHF frequencies is particularly easy to implement. You just need a plain old 2m radio and a TNC as well as an ASCII terminal or computer. These items can be purchased used for very reasonable prices. Communication is made at 1200 baud or

9600 baud with 1200 being by far the most popular. Recent developments and more specialized gear allow one to set up a local Hinternet that functions at much faster speeds and that functions much the same as the commercial Internet. The Internet uses packets anyway.

Packet radio is not so much fun for keyboard-to-keyboard communications but is very useful for transferring files via Radio.

Dan, W1QK, will demonstrate the use of the Packet cluster. If you are interested in DX on HF, VHF and UHF frequencies the packet cluster is an essential tool. On the cluster you will see the stations (with frequencies) that are being heard locally, nationally and even globally. The cluster also provides current reports of solar conditions. The YCCC network provides New England-wide spots as well as others via an Internet connection. The Cluster allows you to send

e-mail and short messages to your DX friends.

With the advent of the Internet the bulletin boards of old have largely disappeared. The use of such bulletin boards and direct station-to-station connections do allow for transfer of error-free text and binary files during times of emergency.

APRS is another type of packet. Al, K1LTJ, will tell us about this increasingly popular form of packet. APRS allows one to see on a map the position of other stations. Pager type messages, which might include the weather or other information, can be exchanged.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

73 de 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.

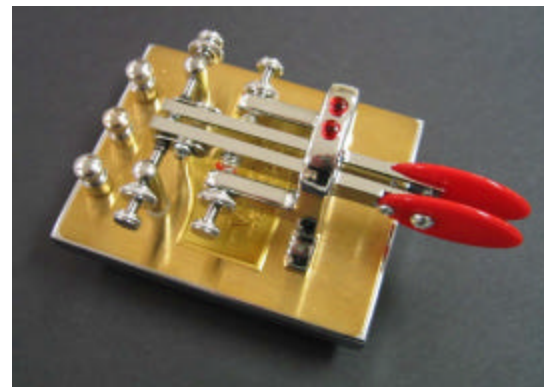
### CARA Recognizes KZ1Z for Lifetime of Achievement

At the February meeting of CARA, Club President Frank Etzler and other club officers recognized Pete, KZ1Z, for his many years of service to ham radio and to CARA, and



particularly for his work on behalf of amateur radio education.

The award included a framed certificate of

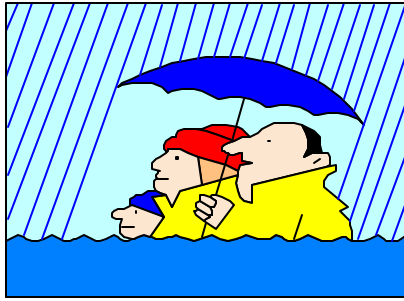


appreciation and a presentation-grade CW paddle engraved "KZ1Z 73 de CARA".

### Membership Renewal Reminder

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2004, 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!

## 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., bi-weekly, 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)

## Ecomm I and II Classes Offered

Registration opens Monday, March 1, 12:01 AM Eastern Time (0501 UTC), for the on-line Level I Emergency Communications course (EC-001). *Registration remains open through the March 6-7 weekend or until all available seats have been filled--whichever comes first.* Class begins Tuesday, March 16.

Thanks to the grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 175 seats are being offered to ARRL members

on a first-come, first-served basis. Senior amateurs are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

*Registration opens Monday, March 8, 12:01 AM Eastern Time (0501 UTC), for the Level II Emergency Communications on-line course (EC-002). Registration remains open through the March 13-14 weekend or until all seats are filled--whichever occurs first. Class begins Tuesday, March 23.*

Thanks to the grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 60 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis.

To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>> and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, <[dmiller@arrl.org](mailto:dmiller@arrl.org)>; 860-594-0340.

## FCC Proposes Rules for BPL Systems

The FCC this week released its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. The 38-page NPRM--in ET Dockets 03-104 and 04-37--proposes amendments to FCC Part 15 rules to define so-called "access BPL," make rules specific to BPL systems and provide measurement guidelines for BPL devices and systems. It would make no changes to Part 15 emission limits for unintentional radiators, however. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while Part 15's current limits on unintentional radiators on HF may be appropriate for short-duration, narrowband emissions, they are inappropriate for the sort of

long-duration, broadband emissions BPL would employ. He compared short-duration, narrowband emissions at the Part 15 radiated emission limit to a helicopter flying overhead.

"The noise is deafening, but is tolerable because it doesn't happen very often nor last very long," he observed. "To a radio user, having BPL in the neighborhood would be like having the helicopter hovering constantly overhead."

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, offered an example most hams could relate to. "The limit for an unintentional emitter on HF is 30 uV/m at 30 meters from the source," he said. "If you take a dipole cut for 3.5 MHz and put it in a 30 uV/m field, you'll have a noise reading of S9 plus 16 dB at your transceiver."

The FCC proposal takes a broader view of interference... the NPRM concedes, Amateur Radio operations "are likely to present a difficult challenge in the deployment of Access BPL in cases where amateurs use high-gain outdoor antennas that are located near power lines." Noting that power line noise already presents a significant problem for hams, the FCC said, "we therefore would expect that, in practice, many amateurs already orient their antennas to minimize the reception of emissions from nearby electric power lines."

The NPRM emphasizes that under the proposed rules, operators of Access BPL systems would be responsible for eliminating any harmful interference that may occur.

Sumner suggested that, with licensed services and government users taking up large portions of the HF spectrum, protecting all licensed HF users could prove to be a nightmare for BPL providers. He noted, too, that while the FCC maintains that licensed services must be protected, the proposed rules place the burden of initiating corrective action on the shoulders of the licensed

services. "And as a practical matter, the FCC's proposed rules offer no protection at all to mobile and portable stations," he added.

Sumner also said the ARRL would continue to combat the "misconception" that BPL systems are viable as a "last mile" broadband technology for rural dwellers. "In low-density areas, the economics just don't work," he said.

The NPRM is available on the FCC Web site in Microsoft Word format <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.doc)> or as an Adobe PDF file <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf)>.

Interested parties may file detailed comments on the NPRM via the main FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. The comment deadline is 45 days after the NPRM has been published in The Federal Register, and that is not expected to happen for another week or two. The FCC also is accepting brief comments on the NPRM via its ECFS Express page <<http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload/>>.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.

*(Excerpted from ARRL Letter, 2/27/04)*

### **FOR SALE: Headsets**

For those who may be interested, a number of headphone/mic headsets that formerly were stocked by RadioShack but now have been discontinued, are being offered for sale by Harlan, KB1ILY. Harlan says, "I have a set myself and think they are great for

listening without disturbing your partner and vice-versa. I have not yet tried the mic with my rig but the mic has a 600 ohm impedance and is unidirectional. The 'phones ( made by KOSS ) are full coverage for your ears and quite comfortable. There are none available locally". Originally priced at \$49.99, they are now priced at \$9.97 while supplies last. Those interested should contact Harlan at [hford01@snet.net](mailto:hford01@snet.net).

### **Reminder: Skywarn Training**

Please mark these dates on your calendar and pass the word around.

A training class, taught by the National Weather Service (NWS), will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2004, from 7:PM to 10:PM, at the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave, Farmington, CT.

A second Skywarn class will be held on Monday, April 19, 2004, from 7:PM to 10 PM, at the Manchester Community College, in Manchester, CT. All radio amateurs and interested parties are welcome to attend.

Even if you have attended in the past year, it would be worth your while to refresh your knowledge of severe weather. For additional information contact Roger K1PAI, [k1pai@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k1pai@sbcglobal.net).

### **ConnARES Area One Reminder**

ConnARES Area One (North) VHF Net is currently meeting bi-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 Harlan, KB1ILY, [hford01@snet.net](mailto:hford01@snet.net) or Bill, W1WJB, DEC, Area One, [Bill@StudioOne-CT.com](mailto:Bill@StudioOne-CT.com).

### **ARES Information Attached**

See the attached information sheet about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Current members who have not already updated their data sheets for this year – and those interested in joining ARES for the first time -- are invited to complete the application/update form included in this issue of the CAPERS. For more information contact your local EC or DEC, or contact Bill, W1WJB, [Bill@StudioOne-CT.com](mailto:Bill@StudioOne-CT.com).

### **Editor's Note:**

Just a reminder that we're always looking for interesting features and news articles for the CARA CAPERS. Contact the editor, Barry, KA1JDD, [barry@connollyco.com](mailto:barry@connollyco.com), or call: 203-748-1033.



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

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



Each year hundreds of thousands of Americans volunteer their time and energies for the improvement and safety of their communities. Mechanics turn into firemen when the alarm sounds. Hairdressers become EMT's . Engineers turn into auxiliary policemen. America has a long and proud history of these "Minutemen" who answer the call to service in times of emergency....

**...and in Connecticut over 500 of them are “Hams!”**

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a national, voluntary organization of FCC licensed Hams (shortwave) radio operators who provide emergency. communications in an emergency. Organized through the American Radio Relay League. This group has provided emergency communications services for everything from shipwrecks to the disaster of 9-11. It is a specialized field requiring training and federal licensing.

- ARES’ Skywarm program provides critical ground observations to the National Weather Services.
- The National Traffic Service has provided long distance emergency communication and free radiograms for families for decades.
- The Red Cross uses ARES to provide emergency communications in a disaster. So does the Salvation Army, OEM, FEMA, and hundreds of county and municipal governments.

When the World Trade Center was destroyed and cell phones were useless, who provided critical communications? **ARES** When an ice storm knocked out power and communications to thousands of people in Northwest Connecticut, who was on the scene allowing different agencies to talk to one another when other systems failed? **ARES**

Because each radio station operator is independent but still can talk to each other, it works....

- Even when the phones are down
  - When there is no fax machine
  - The internet is gone
  - The “trunk line” is jammed
- And the cell phone is dead

**You can learn more about the ARRL and ARES at:  
[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)      [www.CTAres.org](http://www.CTAres.org)**

ARES is not another club—it is a service. While some clubs are affiliated with ARES, appointments are made through the section management and active members are expected to participate in continued training, education and events. There is a command structure with formal plans for action. We are especially looking for people who can form teams and go to a disaster site in a crisis and set up mobile communications.

### **TO JOIN OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION**

The form on the other side of this paper is used for both initial application and annual updates. Members **MUST** update their contact information annually. (You are of no use if we can’t contact you in an emergency!) Fill out the form and give it to your local EC or DEC, or send to Bill Barrett, W1WJB, [Bill@StudioOne-CT.com](mailto:Bill@StudioOne-CT.com).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_



## CT AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE



Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Pager: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Radio Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

IF OPERATING PACKET, THE CALLSIGN OF YOUR HOME PBBS IS: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate bands/modes you can operate: H = Home, M = Mobile, P = Portable, A = All Three

	160	80/75	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2	220	440	Other
CW														
FM														
RTTY														
SSB														
PACKET														
PSK-31														
OTHER DIGITAL														

Can your home station operate without commercial power  Yes  No  
 If yes, what bands? \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL EMCOMM CLASSES COMPLETED  LEVEL 1  LEVEL 2  LEVEL 3  
 OTHER Emergency Communications Training **in the past year** \_\_\_\_\_

Activities **in the past year** \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of your EC or DEC or STM \_\_\_\_\_

Registration is for one year.

ACTIVE members are required to participate in 1 training and/or 1 event or ARES meeting per year.

(Simply checking into a net does not count as participation in an event for this purpose)

RESERVE members are encouraged, but not required, to have continuing education or participate in events/meetings.

All registrations should be returned to and signed by the EC or DEC for your locality or unit or the STM. The EC, DEC or STM will verify and send copy to SEC for inclusion in the database listings. Listings can be seen at [www.CTares.org](http://www.CTares.org) website