



# CAPERS

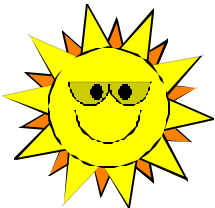
Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Post Office Box 3441 - Danbury, CT

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: June 2004**

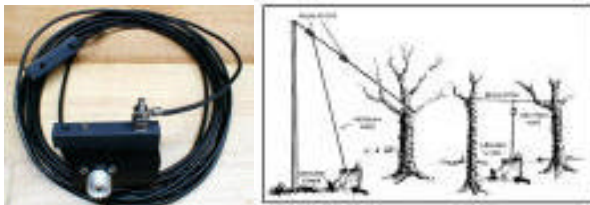
**Meeting this Month: Friday, June 11 at 8 p.m.**

## President's Message

June is an eventful month for CARA. Field Day and Elections are upon us this month.

In May, the crew traveled to W1AW to operate the New England QSO party. All had a good time operating the event. I hope that you were on the air from home or the road if you did not operate W1AW.

Last month's program involved antenna modeling. We learned something about the performance of antennas and how to use programs to determine the performance of antennas. This month's program will be a



joint YCCC CARA meeting. The subject of the program will be construction of antennas. Now that your theoretical skills are up to par lets get building!

Elections will be held this month. Last minute nominations are still welcome. Please come to vote. Next Year you will be asked to participate in some capacity. (*See list of committees in this issue – Ed.*) Think about how you can contribute to the success of the club. Even a small contribution can mean a lot. Thanks to George, N1GS for heading up the nominating committee.

The forth weekend in June is Field Day. I look forward to seeing you at field day for some operating and fellowship. The head town officials have received a copy of "Ham Radio Today" narrated by Walter Cronkite and an Invitation to attend Field Day. When officials visit please impress them with your skills. Our ability to contribute to emergency situations and receive favorable zoning regulations relies on the good name of radio amateurs.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting. 73 de

Frank, N8WXQ

## Meetings

CARA's regular meetings are held on the second Friday of each month (NOTE: April 16 exception), beginning at 8 p.m., at St. Paul's Church Hall, Brookfield Center, CT. Informal "rag chewing" begins at 7:30 p.m.

## HELP! GAS GRILL, COOK TEAM NEEDED FOR FIELD DAY



The CARA Field Day team is looking for a gas grill to use for cooking at this year's event, and volunteers to help with food planning, prep and cooking. Last year's team is not available this year. If you can help, please contact John, W1JMA.

## Field Day Update

### FIELD DAY

Field Day is a major event for CARA, with a number of important objectives: (1) To test our ability as amateur radio operators to communicate under simulated emergency conditions; (2) To get as many club members as possible working together on a noble and useful club project, and (3) To have fun and make as many QSOs as possible during the operating event!

CARA Field Day activities will begin Friday, June 25, at 6 p.m. at Brookfield Town Park on Candlewood Lake Road. The goal for Friday evening is to set up the food tent,

lines for the wire antennas, and the big loop, G5RV and the Lazy H.

The operations we're setting up for Field Day will be a 2a and a GOTA station. The first 20 participants for the 2a operation will receive the 2004 Field Day pin and the first 10 participants for the Get On The Air station will receive a 2004 GOTA pin.

IMPORTANT! A crew is needed to help with food planning and preparation. The former food crew is not available this year. The team also is requesting the use of a gas grill for the weekend. If you can help, please contact John, W1JMA.

Sign-up sheets for operating and for set up will be on hand at the June CARA meeting. The official contest period begins on Saturday June 26 at 2. p.m. and concludes at 2. p.m. on Sunday, June 27.

For further information, or to sign-up to help via e-mail, please contact John, W1JMA, at [w1jma@arrl.net](mailto:w1jma@arrl.net).

## Minutes for May 2004

The regular meeting of CARA was held at the St. Paul's Church Hall, Brookfield Center, CT. The program was on Antenna Modeling using NEC software, and was presented by Frank N8WXQ. The business meeting followed the program. The minutes were accepted and the Treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

For announcements: The W1AW team received 20,500 points at the NEQSO party. Frank received a certificate for being the only active station in Litchfield County.

There is a major disaster scheduled by ARES for the Hartford Area. There will be a check-in for a roster of second and third shift operators. Several people will be going to Hartford to sign in.

Next meeting is with YCCC. The program is on wire antennas.

#### Zoning:

Commission passed on the motion to change the language regarding towers and antenna in Danbury. It now goes to the Common Council.

#### Committee Reports:

Education---about 9 students are planning on taking the test. What do we do to keep them active? Mentoring: need to get permission slips to do this. Net: have students run their own net. Field Day: need medical release and parental permission/responsibility form to participate, unless parents are there. Encourage parents to come and participate.

Noted: June 5<sup>th</sup> is VE day.

Field Day---June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at Brookfield Town Park on Candlewood Lake Road. Three transmitters active. GOTA will be in food tent. We need bow men to launch lines over trees. Generator? Food Coordinator? Buttons---20 Field Day Pins and 10 GOTA pins will be purchased.

HamFest---All set to go. KJI is coming. Mailings to go out to periodicals next month. Flyers already out to other hamfests. Club Table?

Repeaters---Still working on Packet. Repeater is working well; autopatch active.

Nominating committee---things going well. Florida field office---Pete, KZ1Z.

Old Business -- Legitimate requests by organizations for use of CARA repeater must be made 4 months in advance of an event, with financial records of the requesting organization available covering the previous 4 years.

New Business -- Amateur rocket going up in the Midwest. Call and set up program for next fall.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM

Respectfully, Martha KB1IES

### **CARA Standing Committee Structure**

In keeping with the president's message opening this issue of the CAPERS, in the fall each member will be asked to serve on at least one committee:

#### *Repeater and Digital Equipment*

- Repeater coordination
- Repeater maintenance
- Packet cluster maintenance
- Other digital equipment

#### *Operating Activities*

- Field Day- June 2005
- New England QSO Party – May 2005
- WACC
- Special event station or fall contest

#### *Hamfest*

- Plan and organize – September 2005
- Publicity

#### *Membership*

- Annual dues notification and follow up
- Annual new member drive

#### *Education and Elmering*

- Organize or sponsor class for entry-level license
- Organize Elmer support network for new hams
- Organize two 3-person ARES deployment teams

#### *Program Committee*

- Organize and arrange monthly program
- Staff and Net Control for Sunday 7:30 p.m. CARA net
- CARA CAPERS newsletter



## 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)

## WX, SKYWARN Nets Moving



Beginning June 1, 2004, weather and Skywarn nets are shifting to a new, primary repeater for Hartford and Tolland counties.

The new primary repeater will be the 146.79 repeater in Vernon, CT, with a Minus (-) offset and a PL of 82.5.

Weekly weather nets will be held Thursdays at 9 p.m. except on the second Thursday of each month when the net will operate from the Soapstone weather net at 9 p.m. on 147.00 – which will also serve as the backup repeater.

The new nets on 146.79 will be called the Northern CT Weather or Skywarn net.

The move in repeaters is being made to achieve better coverage in Hartford and Tolland counties, particularly to the south down towards New Britain, Plainville, and other locations in southern Hartford County.

Additionally, the net will have the ability to link to the National Weather Service Taunton by both Echolink and RF, to get reports in a timely fashion. The group is also looking to secure more volunteers to help with net control duties. No experience necessary: training will be provided.

For additional information contact Roger K1PAI, skywarn coordinator for Tolland and Hartford counties, or Phil, WX1CT, Connecticut Skywarn D.E.C. at philb@ctweather.com.

## CARA 2004 VE Schedule

Make a note of the CARA-sponsored Volunteer Exam (VE) schedule for the remainder of the year:

-- Saturday, September 18

-- Saturday, December 4

These VE sessions are held at St. Paul's Church in Brookfield Center, the site of our regular monthly meetings. Registration for these exam sessions begins at 11:30 a.m. There is no pre-registration, but an e-mail in advance of the session, or telephone call,

would be appreciated so the examiners know how many potential candidates to expect. The current fee for new license exams or upgrade exams is \$12. Be sure to bring with you two forms of ID – at least one with your photo. Also bring the original AND copy of CSCE's and/or amateur license. The registration form will be supplied at the session.



Questions or comments? Check with Frank, N1PE, [frsileo@att.net](mailto:frsileo@att.net), 203-438-0218 (Ridgefield CT).

### ARRL EC Seminar June 12

The ARRL will offer a free Amateur Radio Emergency Communications seminar on Saturday, June 12, in conjunction with the Newington Amateur Radio League Hamfest in Newington. The PowerPoint presentation will include background information, group discussion of multiple disaster scenarios, testimonies from EmComm leadership, ARECC mentors and students, discussion about the ARRL EmComm courses, updates on emcomm tools being developed nationally and a quiz to determine personal preparedness.



All ARES/RACES volunteers, ARECC course participants, and Field Organization

leadership are invited. Course participants at every ARECC level -- Mentors, Certification Instructors, Certification Examiners and current students -- are encouraged to come and share with everyone their experiences. Field Organization Leadership -- SMs, SECs, DECs and ECs -- are also invited to join in the brainstorming with ideas for motivating volunteers and coordinating activities.

Attendees will receive handouts and be eligible for a prize drawing at the end of the seminar. The seminar will be held at ARRL HQ, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT from 12 o'clock Noon to 4:00 PM on Saturday, June 12 and is open to all interested hams. Seating IS limited. Contact Dan Miller, K3UFG, [k3ufg@arrl.org](mailto:k3ufg@arrl.org) <<mailto:k3ufg@arrl.org>>, (860-594-0340; FAX 860-594-0259) at ARRL HQ if you plan to attend. For more information on the NARL 2004 Hamfest Weekend, see the NARL Web Page at <http://www.narl.net>.

### More Level I Seats again in June!

Registration opened Monday, June 7, 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time 0401 UTC), for the on-line Level I Emergency Communications course EC-001).

*Registration remains open through the June 12-13 weekend or until all available seats have been filled--whichever comes first.*

Class begins Tuesday, June 22.

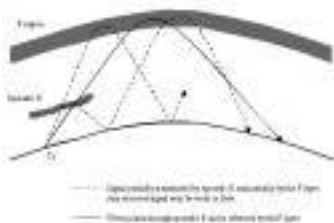


Thanks to our Level I grant sponsor, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During the June registration period, approximately

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

## Sporadic – E!



A reminder from KD1YV that we are entering that time of year when we can expect to see Sporadic E band openings. As Jim says, "While these are best on 6 meters, they often hit 10 meters and less often on 2 meters. The band will suddenly open for a couple of hours to far away places 1000-1500 miles away!" And isn't that one of the main reasons we love this hobby! Nothing like a nice DX surprise to brighten the day.

## First Echolink contact surprise!

Don, W1EJM, installed Echolink at his home in Florida this spring. Browsing through the station listings, he noticed W1QI-R, connected and gave his call sign. To his surprise, Pete, KZ1Z came back immediately, remembered Don from his years in CARA, and the two had a nice QSO!

## FOR SALE



Yaesu 1000 MP for sale. Very clean; excellent condition. SP8 external speaker with filters, DVS-2 voice recorder, hand mike, Yaesu desk mike. Selling as a package: \$1,475. Contact John, W1JMA, at [w1jma@arrl.net](mailto:w1jma@arrl.net), or 203-438-6782.

## FCC chairman responds to request

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell has assured US representatives Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), and Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), that the Commission will act "as expeditiously as possible" on Amateur Radio restructuring. Walden and Ross wrote Powell a month ago to urge adoption of the ARRL's restructuring Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) "in its entirety" along with rules changes needed to put it into place. Powell said the League's petition was one of many.

"At this time, the Commission staff is reviewing and analyzing carefully all of the petitions, comments and proposed rule changes in this area," Powell responded May 21. "Because this matter is of great importance to you and the almost 700,000 amateur radio operators nationwide, the staff is working diligently to create a comprehensive solution to address the proposals the petitioners have submitted." The next step in the process, he said, will be to prepare a notice of proposed rule making for the Commission's consideration.

In addition to the League's filing, Powell pointed out, the Commission received 17 other petitions for rule making that address examination requirements and operating privileges for Amateur Service licensees.

The various proposals attracted more than 5000 comments, he noted--more than 800 of them on the ARRL's petition alone.

In their letter to Powell, Walden and Ross expressed their belief that the ARRL's plan "will encourage the development, refinement and use of new technologies; increase the number of young people involved in Amateur Radio; and provide incentives for Amateur Radio licensees to pursue technical self-training and opportunities for volunteerism in the best traditions of our country."

### **FCC Extends BPL Reply Deadline**

The FCC has extended to June 22 the deadline to file reply comments (comments on filed comments) in its broadband over power line (BPL) Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), ET Docket 04-37. The FCC acted this week on a request from the National Antenna Consortium and the Amherst Alliance (NAC/Amherst) for a much longer filing deadline extension.

The organizations said the June 1 reply comment deadline would not allow stakeholders adequate time to prepare comments that address the full two-part National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) BPL study. The FCC said the NTIA has indicated it soon will submit comments and a technical appendix that will include key findings of the Phase 2 report, which is due for release later this year.

"We believe that three weeks should provide ample time for review and analysis of this information, and accordingly grant the extension for that period," said FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Edmond J. Thomas, who signed the May 26 Order Granting Extension of Time. NAC/Amherst had sought to have the FCC postpone the filing comment deadline until either September 1 or two months after the public release of the NTIA's Phase 2 study--

whichever came later.

Noting that its Part 15 rules already permit Access BPL systems and that its February BPL NPRM places additional requirements on BPL systems over and above current Part 15 requirements, the FCC asserted that any further delay would diminish the Commission's ability to protect licensed users now occupying the HF spectrum. A further extension, the FCC added, also would "needlessly increase regulatory uncertainty" about BPL.

The FCC turned down a request that it reissue in substantially greater detail the provisions of its proposed BPL rules concerning interference prevention and mitigation and the enforcement of standards.

The FCC does not routinely grant such time extensions, and it denied earlier petitions, including filings from the ARRL and NAC/Amherst, to extend the initial May 3 comment filing deadline. The League and others had said commenters needed more time to digest the NTIA's Part 1 BPL study, released April 27.

### **ARRL Logo Merchandise**

No axe to grind here and this isn't a commercial – just thought members who are not aware might be interested to know that ARRL logo clothes and merchandise are handled by Barker Specialty Co. To see what's available you can go to their website at [www.barkerspecialty.com/newDesign.jpg](http://www.barkerspecialty.com/newDesign.jpg).

### **T30ES Update**

Pete, KZ1Z, recently met with Eric T30ES and provided this update. Eric completed his Peace Corp assignment earlier in the year and spent some time touring the Pacific, then went on to Australia, New Zealand and



Africa. He is gathering some of his media together into a presentation on his experiences that he would be happy to share with interested groups. He plans to get a graduate degree in public health at Penn State, and may eventually return to Kiribati. Eric's stateside call is N1JSY.

### **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).

### **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.



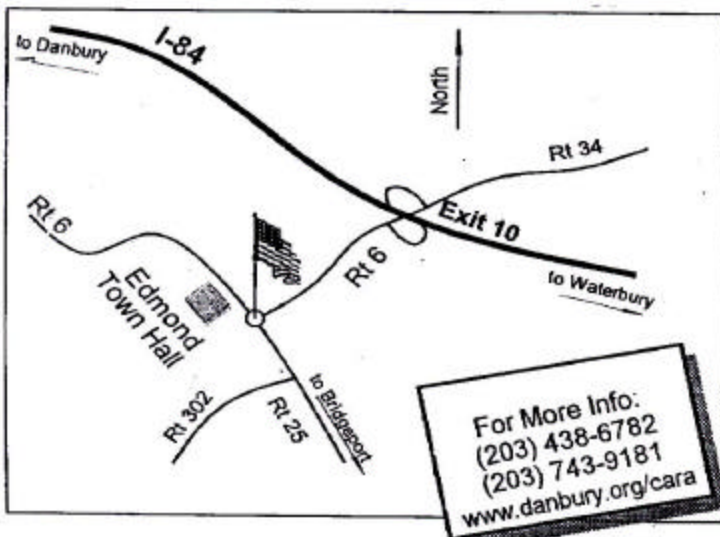
# Western CT Hamfest

Sponsored by Candlewood Amateur Radio Association  
(CARA)

- **Sunday, September 12, 2004**
- **Edmund Town Hall, Route 6, Newtown CT**
- **Set-up 7 a.m.**
- **Doors open 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**



**Talk-in on 147.300+  
PL 100**



- **Admission \$5 (under 10 free)**
- **Tables \$12.50 (includes 1 admission)**
- **Tailgate \$8 (includes 1 admission)**
- **Ham Radio Equipment**
- **Computer Gear**
- **Door Prizes**
- **Refreshments**
- **Ample Parking**
- **Rain or Shine**
- **ARRL Sanctioned**



**Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA) Hamfest, September 12, 2004**  
c/o Bill Schaefer – N1PJG, 63A Taylor Avenue, Bethel CT 06801, (203) 798-2831

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ tables, at \$12.50 each. I need \_\_\_\_ do not need \_\_\_\_ electricity.

Amount enclosed: (\$ \_\_\_\_\_). Please make checks payable to C.A.R.A.

