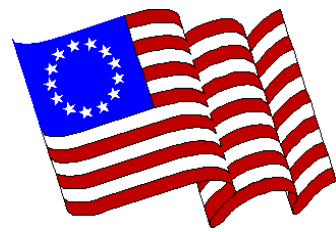
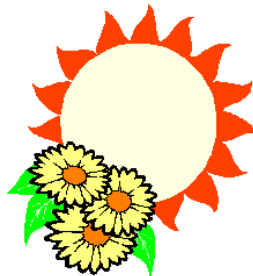
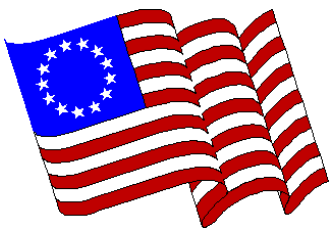




CAPERS

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

President – Frank Etzler – N8WXQ - phone - 860-350-3523
Vice President – Harlan Ford – KB1ILY – phone- 203-798-8096
Secretary – Martha Babbitt – KB1IES - phone - 860-350-8804
Treasurer - John Ahle – W1JMA - phone - 203-438-6782



Issue: July 2004

Meeting this Month: Friday, July 9 at 8 p.m.

FIELD DAY Special Edition

In this month's issue we feature a selection of snapshots from this year's CARA Field Day event. Thanks to John W1JMA and the team that helped make this year's program possible. And see John's report in this month's issue.



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.

The featured program at the July meeting is the DX video VP8GEO, South Georgia 2002.

CARA Hamfest September 12!

Yep, it's hard to believe but there are only about 60 days before the 2004 CARA Hamfest. The event will be held again this year at the Edmund Town Hall, on Sunday, September 12. See the flyer accompanying this month's CAPERS and tell you friends and fellow hams. This event is the Club's premier fund raising activity. Together we can make it successful AND fun!

Field Day 2004 Shines Despite Traditional “Brief Showers”

By John W1JMA

Well, another Field Day has come and gone. As I write this article I have not received the formal logs, but we made over 1000 qso's. Set-up Friday night and Saturday morning was a little wet, but by noon the sun was shining. We had over 30 members and non-members participate. We had a ham from Arizona come and join us. He was in the area for work training and found us by listening on the repeaters. Don and Martha had a couple of students from their class come and operate. By and large everyone had a great time and the operation went up and on the air without a hitch.

I would like to thank all those who participated and brought equipment. Special thanks to Judy Etzler who prepared and shopped all the food for the event. Although she could not be there, thanks to Frankie Etzler for bringing all the food to the site. Deb Ahle and Joe, AB1DO, and Martha did the cooking for the group.

The big loop and lazy H worked very well. It was a great thrill to see the GOTA station operating on the G5RV.

For those who could not make it, mark your calendar now for next year – 4th rainy weekend in June! ...73, John

Club Officers Elected at June Meeting

Elections were held at the June meeting and a slate of officers unanimously elected for 2004-2005. Frank, N8WXQ continues as club president; Harlan KB1ILY has been elected vice president; Martha KB1IES continues as secretary, and John W1JMA continues as treasurer. Congratulations all!

CARA Standing Committee Structure

I just a reminder to all members that these are the standing committees that help make CARA run. Our members and their ideas are our strength. Everyone will be asked to help where they can by signing up with one of

these committees in the fall. Give it some thought over the summer months!

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

Select a Committee
and share your
energy and ideas!
YOU can make a
difference in CARA!

June Meeting with YCCC Highlighted Antenna Construction, Deployment

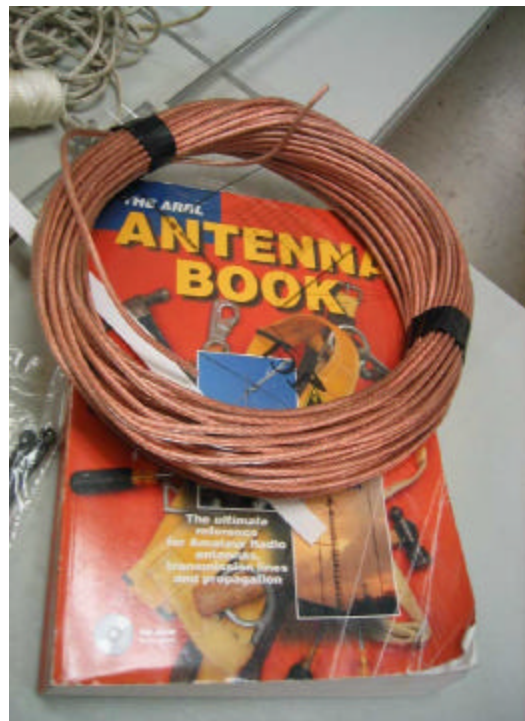


Our June meeting, held jointly with YCCC, highlighted tips and techniques for wire antenna construction – as well as practical advice on getting those antennas up in the air so we can use them! Thanks to Mike W1JQ and Joe N1KHB for their efforts and advice.



A copy of the handout on antenna resources and construction that Mike and John brought with them to the meeting is included in this month's CAPERS. Some particularly useful "words of wisdom" shared at the meeting:

- Wasps hate moth balls. Put a stocking sack with moth balls inside antenna pass-through sleeves coming into the shack to discourage the little critters from building homes in those nice sheltered areas
- Shrink wrap your connections from RGxx directly to dipole or other home brew antenna connections. It can be more waterproof than using PL connectors.
- Scrap pieces of Lexan can be used for inexpensive (read "cheap") insulators and antenna dipole and element connectors. Look for a minimum of ¼' up to 3/8". Lexan is available at plastics suppliers and also many glasers in the area. Reportedly, Home depot also sells Lexan sheets. Drill s-l-o-w-l-y to avoid melting, binding and cracking. If you need to drill a large hole with a hole saw bit, use lots of mineral oil to cool the drilling area. Lexan resists UV and lasts a long time.



FCC Turning Blind Eye in BPL Proceeding, ARRL Charges

The ARRL says the FCC apparently has already made up its mind about broadband over power line (BPL) and "wants no bad news" about the technology. In reply comments filed June 22 on the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket 03-47, the League called on the Commission to take "a fresh look" at BPL before enabling its deployment. Again asking the FCC to put the proceeding on hold for a year, the League recommended that the Commission in the meantime require BPL providers to conduct FCC-monitored interference testing with all stakeholders. The ARRL charged that while an overwhelming majority of comments oppose BPL due to interference concerns, the FCC continues to rely on what the League called "vacuous assurances that BPL would not cause harmful interference." Test data and a growing record of unresolved complaints indicate otherwise, the ARRL said.

"ARRL is of the view that this proceeding has been prejudged and will, in the end, be decided not on the technical issues that should control the outcome of this proceeding, but on the politics of the matter," the League commented. "Given the evidence on the Commission's table, it cannot now authorize BPL at the radiated emission levels proposed, and without substantial restrictions."

Among those restrictions, the League recommended keeping BPL altogether away from all Amateur Radio allocations, should the FCC decide to authorize BPL under its proposed rules. As an alternative, the FCC should guarantee that an interfering BPL system can be shut down immediately in the face of a valid complaint, "not after a BPL provider has taken months to discover that the interference cannot be resolved."

To date, the ARRL contended, the FCC has seemingly ignored the League's BPL technical studies as well as the National Telecommunications and Information

Administration (NTIA) Phase 1 BPL study that clearly demonstrate BPL's interference potential. Five additional technical evaluations accompanied the ARRL's reply comments.

The League questioned the NTIA's contention that BPL is a "win-win" situation and its deployment would lead to lower power line noise.

"Not so," the ARRL countered. "Licensed radio services operating in the sensitive HF environment should not have foisted upon them a substantial interference risk from unlicensed devices or systems whatsoever." The ARRL also faulted the FCC for neglecting to acknowledge or respond to a mounting number of interference complaints, most from amateur licensees living in BPL field trials areas. "The Commission has, as of this writing, adjudicated not a single one and has ignored repeated requests from licensed radio amateurs for even a confirmation of receipt of their complaints!" the ARRL emphasized. The League also expressed little confidence in utilities that have failed to resolve power line noise complaints to do any better with BPL complaints.

Earlier this month, the ARRL filed a well-documented and supported complaint on behalf of Jim Spencer, W0SR, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The League suggested such BPL complaints deserved careful analysis, but not the Commission's cold shoulder.

"What ARRL is unwilling to tolerate is the continuation of the Commission's sweeping of these complaints 'under the rug,' which is exactly what has happened in this proceeding," the League commented. The Commission must put its zeal over BPL aside and "take a fair look at them before any action is taken in this proceeding."

"The Commission has not proposed any rules which would predictably and reliably protect HF and low-band VHF radio systems from interference,"

ARRL concluded. "The interference resolution mechanisms that are adopted should be real, rather than merely illusory."

(Excerpted from the ARRL Letter)

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)

Old Habits Die Hard...

Bill N1TIW shares a story that many of us can relate to...proving that even when we know better, years of ingrained experience die hard! –Ed

"For over 20 years, I worked as a quality control (QC) inspector at several companies in the Danbury, CT, area. In October 1995, I got my Tech Plus in preparation for my future retirement – while my brain could still handle learning the code! Since my privileges were mostly UHF and VHF my HF operation was limited to short periods yearly at Field Day.

I retired this year, upgraded to General, and took the tiger by the tail and showed up for the Northeast QSO party at W1AW. Ken KD1DD and I settled into one of the studios and started operation on 40 meters. I was uneasy about operating , so spent a long

time logging for Ken, but finally he talked me into taking the mike. There was very little activity, so we were calling "CQ" a lot and after one transmission Ken said 'What did you just say??' Turned out I had transmitted 'QC QC, calling QC W1AW over..."

All those years of answering the phone at work 'QC Department, Bill here" will need to be erased!"

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, 203-438-0218 (Ridgefield CT).

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, or call: 203-748-1033.

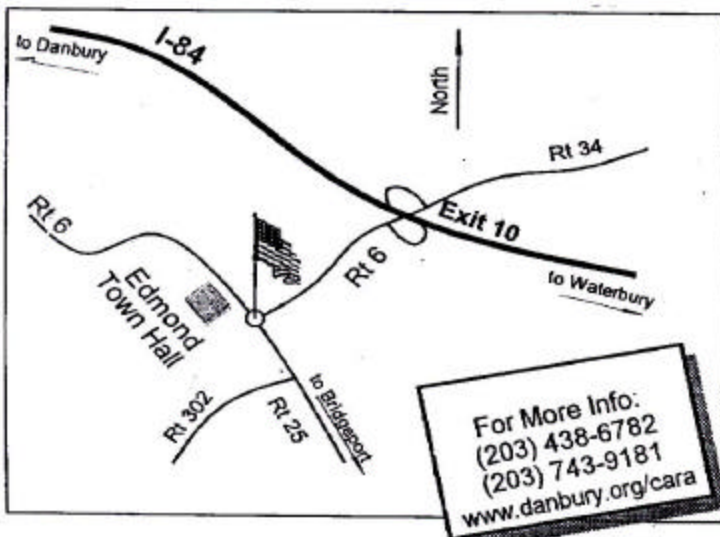
Western CT Hamfest

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) _____

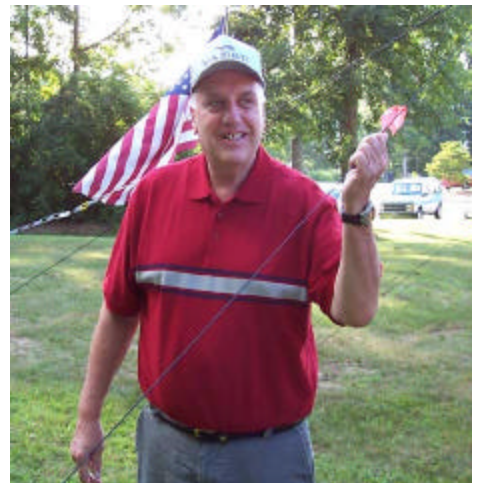
Address: _____ Phone # (evening) _____

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

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



Field Day 2004



Antenna Tips & Resources

ARRL Antenna Book

Reflections II (Maxwell, available from ARRL)

www.cebik.com EVERYTHING you need to know

<http://ac6v.com/antprojects.htm> <http://www.iland.net/jbritton/> (knot knowledge)

Antenna Supplies: Radioware (www.radio-ware.com)

Wireman (www.thewireman.com)

RadioWorks (www.radioworks.com)

Cable Xperts (www.cablexperts.com)

McMaster-Carr Supply Company (www.mcmaster.com) (plastics, hardware, etc.)

West Marine (www.westmarine.com) (you'd be surprised what you can find here)

Alternative Launchers: <http://www.qsl.net/wd6cmu/launcher3.htm> (potato cannon); <http://www.wtsherrill.com/> (big shot)

Pictures of big antennas: www.antenna.be
www.tcibr.com

Antenna analyzer: MFJ 259B/269B (www.mfjenterprises.com) Expensive but indispensable

Antenna Simulators: EZNEC: www.eznec.com (expensive)

MMANA: www.qsl.net/mmhamsoft/mmana/ (free)

Length of a $\lambda/2$ wave dipole: $468/f$ (MHz) Length of a $\lambda/4$ wave vertical:

$234/f$ (MHz) Length of an "extended double zep": $1170/f$ (MHz)

f (MHz)	Half-wave	Quarter-wave
1.83	256'	128'
3.5	133' 9"	66' 10"
3.9	120'	60'
7.15	65' 6"	32' 9"
10.1	46' 4"	23' 2"
14.2	33'	$16\frac{1}{6}^{11}$
18.1	25' 10"	12' 11"
21.25	22'	11'
24.93	18' 9"	9' 4"
<u>28.5</u>	<u>16' 5"</u>	<u>$8\frac{1}{3}^{15}$</u>

Table of
dipole and
vertical
lengths for
typical
frequencies