



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



**Issue: September 2004**

***Meeting this Month: Friday, September 10 at 8 p.m.***

**ALERT!! CARA HAMFEST!!  
SUNDAY, SEPT. 12, EDMUND TOWN  
HALL, NEWTOWN. SETUP 6:30 a.m.  
DOORS 8:30 TEARDOWN 12:30**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Once again the fall season is upon us. I hope the each of you had a pleasant summer with perhaps the chance of some portable operation.

Invention and Technology magazine contains many articles that may be of interest to hams. The magazine focuses on the history of technology. The Fall 2004 issue has articles on the development of the transistor radio and GPS. Those who have interest in the history of radio will find the development of the portable radio, which began in the 1920's to be an interesting saga.

My summer travels to me to Milwaukee, Wisconsin the home of AES. The AES store in Milwaukee is a large and well kept store. Most of the catalog items are on display. I had a chance to operate the Icom 7800 (~11 k\$) there. This is a very nice radio for those who can afford it. If you are in the area, I would encourage a visit.

Our friend, Pete Kemp, KZ1Z, has completed his move to Florida. He tells me that he is enjoying his new community. Unfortunately, he has had to weather some medical setbacks and a hurricane which fortunately pretty much bypassed his new QTH. Pete sends 73 to all the CARA folks.

September is a busy month for CARA. In addition to the regular meeting the hamfest and VE exam is held this month.

Be sure to attend the hamfest. Patronize the vendors and help with the setup and tear

down. Remember the hamfest is our most important activity of the year and is a significant source of funds.

The September program will be presented by George N1GS who will talk about alternate power sources and how to incorporate them into your station. In emergency situations you cannot rely upon commercial power. I expect the program to be fun and informative.

It is important that each of you contribute to the operation of your club. Even small contributions are welcome. You will be asked to sign up for some activity. George, N1GS. Bill, N1PJJ and Dan W1QK and all their helpers deserve our thanks for their leadership with the repeater, hamfest organization and packet cluster over the past year.

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 beginning at 8 p.m., at St. Paul's Church Hall, Brookfield Center, CT. Informal "rag chewing" begins at 7:30 p.m.

### **Work Meetings are Open to All!**

Just a reminder that all members are invited to attend CARA Tuesday night work meetings during the year. The Work meetings are held the second Tuesday following a Friday club meeting and are not just for club officers.

Work meetings, which are held at St. Paul's Church, usually start at 8 p.m. They are an opportunity to discuss and follow-up on club activities and issues that require more time than is available

at regular club meetings. The input and opinions of all club members are welcome.

Here's a snapshot of the August work meeting and some of the assembled club members.



At the meeting, Dan, W1QK, presented Club President Frank, N8WXQ, with a certificate of appreciation awarded to CARA by Tom K1KI, ARRL New England Division Director, on behalf of the ARRL and Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) for CARA's years of work in the ARRL W1 Incoming QSL Bureau (our traditional January program).



Dan received the certificate this summer at Boxboro from Art, W1RZF, coordinator for the W1 QSL Bureau.



Our thanks to all who steadfastly show up every January and sift through the packs of QSL cards! It's a valuable benefit for all Dxers!

### **CARA Hamfest Sunday, Sept. 12!**

Yes, it's this weekend! The CARA Hamfest will be held at the Edmund Town Hall, on Sunday, September 12. Helpers are needed for setup starting at 6:30 a.m. The doors to the event open at 8:30 a.m. Take-down will be at 12:30 p.m. Talk-in is on the 147.30 repeater. 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!*

### **Fall Meeting Program Review**

Here's a review of the club programs coming up this fall. In September, look for a presentation by George, N1GS, on how to set up and use battery power effectively in your shack. In October, Ken, WB2AMU, will review the ins and outs of six meters "the magic band". And in November, Jim, KD1YV, will demonstrate how to "speak loudly while carrying only a few watts" when he covers the challenging field of QRP QSOs. The December meeting is our traditional holiday get-together. January is the annual QSL card sort event and pizza party. Mark your calendars now and join us for these programs!

### **CARA Standing Committees**

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.

#### *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

### **W1QI Packet Node Operational**

The W1QI packet node is up and running on 145.73 (S) and is connected to the YCCC cluster. Our thanks to Dana, N1OFZ, for hosting the node.

### **Ham Radio "Only Reliable Communication"**

Once again, Amateur Radio has proven its value in an emergency. With conventional telecommunication systems unreliable and power out after the Category 4 Hurricane Charley blasted across the Florida Peninsula August 13, Amateur Radio has proven to be a communication mainstay.

"The only reliable communication we have here is Amateur Radio," ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager Dave Armbrust, AE4MR, told ARRL earlier this week. He was one of the three dozen ARES volunteers at the Charlotte County command post. "We're out in the field trying to handle so many different things that it's almost overwhelming," he said five days into the activation.

The most severely stricken communities are in largely rural areas of western and central Florida made up of smaller towns. Among other storm relief duties, hams have been part of an effort to check on residents and determine what they need and to "make sure everyone's okay," Armbrust said.

Amateur Radio operators have been handling emergency traffic and assisting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in setting up HF

communication to the state emergency operations center in the capital of Tallahassee. ARES also has provided communication for search-and-rescue teams and supported American Red Cross and The Salvation Army humanitarian relief efforts. Amateur Radio volunteers also deployed to hospitals, some of which experienced spotty communication.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) on 14.265 MHz spent nearly five days in continuous operation. It's also used Amateur Radio for its logistical communications. *(Courtesy 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 +/- on Thursdays @ approx. 6:15 p.m. (following CT Phone Net).

### **ARRL Seeks Comment on Draft "Bandwidth" Petition**

The ARRL wants members' comments on a planned petition to the FCC seeking to regulate amateur subbands by bandwidth rather than by mode.

"The main objective is to make appropriate

provision for digital modes in the HF amateur bands, while preserving amateurs' prerogatives to use the traditional modes," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Regulation by Bandwidth" is the title of Sumner's "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial in the September issue of QST.

"The regulation of emission modes in Amateur Radio Service allocations is a limiting factor with respect to Amateur Radio experimentation," a synopsis of the petition concludes. "It leads to attempts to put new technology into a regulatory framework that was designed only to deal with older analog emissions."

FCC rules now permit RTTY and data emissions throughout the HF CW subbands, although informal agreements typically keep RTTY and data signals out of those parts of the CW band generally used for CW. The ARRL's petition proposes to limit bandwidth in the CW subbands to 200 Hz, which also will accommodate data modes such as PSK31.

In addition, the League's proposal would limit bandwidth in the existing "RTTY/data subbands" to either 500 Hz or 3 kHz, with phone emissions specifically prohibited in certain subbands where 3 kHz would be permitted. Under the proposal, these would include 3650-3725, 7100-7125, 14,100-14,150 and 21,150-21,200 kHz.

Sumner encouraged ARRL members to review the synopsis of the petition and the specific rule changes the League plans to propose. It is located on the web at,

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/bandwidth.html>  
(Courtesy ARRL Letter)

### **CARA 2004 VE Schedule**

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

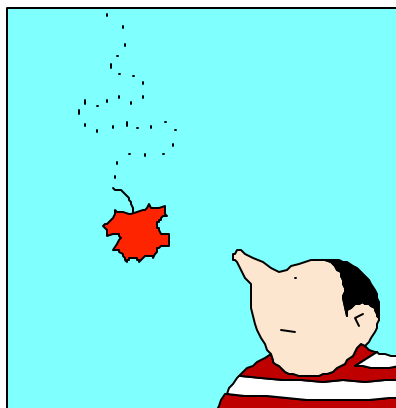
- Saturday, September 18
- Saturday, December 4

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).

### **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.



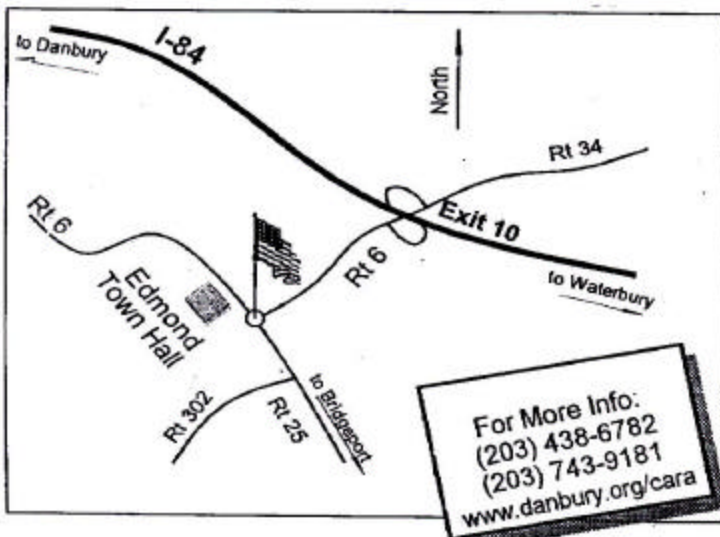
# Western CT Hamfest

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.