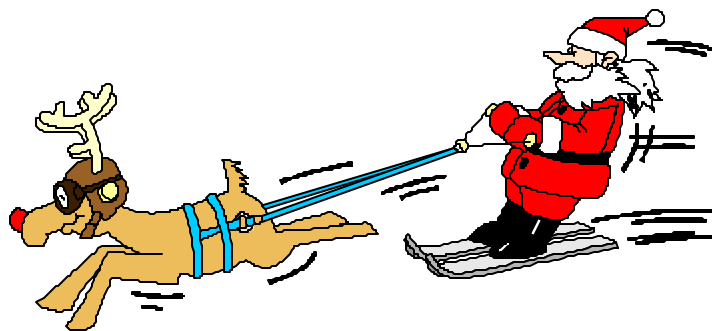




CAPERS

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

President – Frank Etzler – N8WXQ - phone - 860-350-3523
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Issue: December 2004

Holiday Party this Month: Friday, December 10 at 8 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Holidays to all CARA members and their families.

It is so quickly December and the Holiday Season. December is time for the annual CARA Holiday Party. Come to the meeting and bring your family to the meeting.

Members will bring holiday goodies for the pot luck. Please bring a dish. A good time will be had by all. The holiday party is a good time for some old fashioned eyeball rag-chewing. We look forward to your stories.

There will be a gift exchange. Those who bring a gift will be able to select another from the gift table. Your gift should be under \$15 and ham related in some way.

At the meeting we will have a short presentation on PRB-1 legislation in

Connecticut. In the next month or so your help will be needed to influence the legislature. All contact with the legislature must be coordinated. We need to all sing the same song.

Remember pay your dues in January. Dues are officially due January 1.

I hope all are sharpening their low band DX skills. I caught some very nice 80m DX during the CQ WW CW contest.

I wish you and your family the very best for the holidays and the New Year. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. I thank everyone for their contributions in the past year and look forward to your contributions in the coming year.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

Meeting Program Review

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!

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 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. Sign up for one of these committees in 2005 if you have not already done so.

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: Second Monday of each month, 8 p.m. on CARA repeater: 147.30+ (PL 100)

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

ARRL Participating in Efforts to Set BPL Standards

Working with industry through the IEEE Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Study Group <[target=externalhttp://grouper.ieee.org/groups/bpl](http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/bpl)> and in other venues, the ARRL is taking part in efforts aimed at defining and establishing key BPL technical standards. Among other issues, these standards will address the avoidance of interference from BPL to licensed radio services. The study group has held three meetings this year, and the next session is set for January 14 in San Diego. The study group met most recently in Piscataway, New Jersey, on October 13, the day before the FCC adopted new Part 15 rules to govern BPL deployment. ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, told those attending that gathering that any BPL standards must address issues of electromagnetic compatibility (EMC).

"The consensus of the committee is still that dealing with emissions and EMC is very high on the importance list," Hare said later. In terms of EMC, he said, the components of any IEEE BPL standard should "include the needs of the BPL industry to have a workable environment in which to manufacture and market BPL technology while addressing the need for licensed radio services to operate in an environment that does not result in harmful interference."

Hare's presentation focused on explaining why the BPL industry's measurements using spectrum analyzers and test probes differ from the impact BPL emissions have on communications receivers attached to typical amateur antenna systems.

"I also continued to extend our offer to work cooperatively with industry representatives," Hare said. The ARRL and the FCC's Enforcement Bureau have a long history of cooperating in resolving Part 15 interference complaints resulting from power line noise.

Hare and ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI--who attended a July study group meeting in Piscataway--have been charged with drafting the part of the

IEEE study group's "white paper" dealing with affected radio services, including Amateur Radio. Other aspects of the document will include safety; compatibility between access BPL and in-home BPL; compatibility with utility distribution systems, and security, privacy and authentication issues. *(Courtesy ARRL Letter)*



White House Appoints Adelstein to New Term on FCC

President George W. Bush has tapped FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein to serve the remainder of a five-year term expiring in 2008. Sworn into office in November 2002 to complete the rest of former Commissioner Gloria Tristani's term that ended in June 2003, Adelstein is one of two Democrats on the five-member FCC. Without reappointment, his tenure on the FCC would have ended when the 108th US Congress adjourned. When the FCC adopted its BPL Report and Order in ET Docket 04-37 October 14, Adelstein was among those acknowledging the technology's potential to interfere with Public Safety licensees, federal government users and Amateur Radio operators.

"These are important services that we need to protect from harmful interference," Adelstein said, "and I'm glad we made every effort to do so in this [agenda] item." Adelstein called recent BPL tests "very useful" in developing techniques to mitigate interference. "It's clear that some of these

systems can co-exist very well with existing licensees," he said. (*Courtesy ARRL Letter*)

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Seeks Radio Amateurs

CQ, CQ CQ! The US Coast Guard Auxiliary <" [target=externalhttp://www.cgaux.org/](http://www.cgaux.org/)> is looking for Amateur Radio operators or prospective amateur licensees.

"Like every other emergency based service, the Coast Guard operates every day, in good weather and in bad," says Wayne Spivak, KC2NJV, of the USCG's National Public Affairs Department. "We, in the USCG Auxiliary operate whether there is power to operate the normal modes of communication, such as phones, or whether the weather is bad, and the normal means of communications are out of service."

At times like these, the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary rely on the Auxiliary Net (AuxNet), a backup radio network, to maintain communication with both the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard. In areas where there is no regular Coast Guard presence, the Auxiliary may rely solely on its AuxNet for communication. In areas with a large USCG presence, the AuxNet operates in both a support and backup capacity.

The USCG Auxiliary is seeking ham radio volunteers because amateurs "are good communicators," Spivak says, in particular because of skills they've developed both in everyday radio operation and participation during emergencies in RACES, ARES and SKYWARN. He suggests Amateur Radio and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary are an ideal fit.

To find out more, visit the USCG Auxiliary Public Service Articles Web site. The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is open to all US citizens over the age of 17. A security background check, paid for by the US Coast Guard, is required before an applicant is accepted. Visit the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Web site <" [target=externalhttp://www.cgaux.org/cgauxw](http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxw)

[eb/getzip.html](#)> to start the process.

CARA Minutes

September 10, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brookfield Center, CT. The program for the evening was on batteries, power supplies, and safety. George N1GS gave a Power Point presentation regarding Gel batteries, contacts, and thermal protection. Bob N1OCM talked about ARES and the practical aspects of getting power for emergency use. Ken KD1DD presented safety tips for connecting the gel batteries safely to radio equipment.

The business meeting was called to order at 9 PM. It was moved, seconded, and so voted to accept the minutes. It was also moved, seconded, and so voted to accept the Treasurer's report. The Hamfest is proceeding on schedule. KJI will not be coming. Inside table reservations were scarce. Tailgating is unpredictable. Options were discussed. It was decided to open at 7:00 AM with help setting up. Help will be needed for the food. Three programs will be offered during the day. Batteries, APRS, Hurricane net, and Antenna modeling were suggested. It was also suggested we have information regarding Amateur Radio, ARES, Skywatch, CARA, and signup forms for CARA. Members are to talk about Hamfest on the repeater and with friends.

New business: Question was raised about another meeting place. A request was made for the use of the repeater for unconnected digital modes. This would not be during drive times. RTTY would be sent, possibly through EchoLink. It was moved, seconded and so voted to allow the use of the repeaters for experimentation.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM

Respectfully,
Martha Babbitt (KB1IES), Secretary

October 8, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM. The program for the evening was on ducting and propagation and presented by Ken Neubeck (WB2AMU). At 9:25 PM the business meeting was called to order. Treasurer's report was given. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and so voted. A new member was introduced: Oscar Fuller (KB1LQV). There was no old business.

New Business:

K1MK is in the beginning stages of introducing PRB1, a bill concerning reasonable accommodations for telecommunications. Hopefully, this will be closely related to federal guidelines. A suggestion was made to move the meeting to an earlier time, starting at 7:30 PM. The motion was seconded, discussed, but was not passed. There will be no change in meeting time. Bill was nominated to be the Hamfest chairman.

A camporee is scheduled at Danbury Airport on October 16, 2004. Tours will be given of the Fire Station, EMT, EOC, and Police Station. Harlan will be at the JOTA location, and is looking for assistance. Time is from 8 AM to 4 PM. Buses will start at 9 AM. John, W1JMA, will get pamphlets for Harlan.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM

Respectfully,
Martha Babbitt (KB1IES), Secretary

