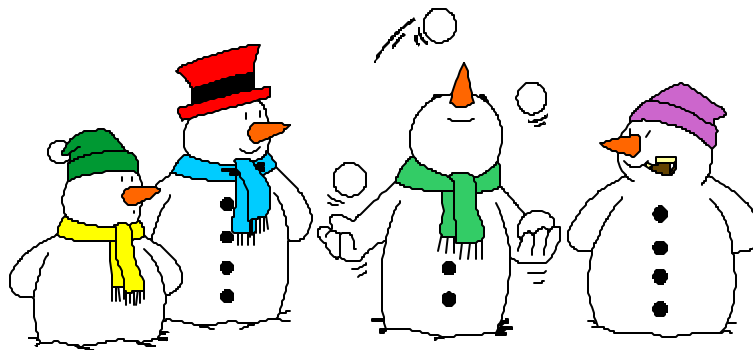




CAPERS

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: January 2005

Card Sort/Pizza Party this Month: Friday, January 14 at 8 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I hope that each of you had a pleasant Holiday Season. I hope that you had the opportunity to work some nice lowband DX. Unfortunately, the VU4 operation had to go from DX mode to emergency due to the disastrous events in South Asia. It is however fortunate that the group was able to help with the aftermath.

In January 2005, dues for the new year should be paid. John, W1JMA has already sent out the dues request. We thank you for your continued support of CARA and look forward to “rag chewing” with you over the next year.

The January meeting will be devoted to our annual “square dance” (aka the QSL card

sort). It is an excellent time to see all the interesting DX cards. It is also a great service project for the amateur radio community. The QSL bureau provides a very low cost way for DX stations to exchange cards. If your call has a 1 in it perhaps you will find some cards addressed to you.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting where we will enjoy the fellowship and some pizza too.

Please also remember to support the CT BRP-1 effort.

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 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. Talk to any of the club officers at Friday's meeting!

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.

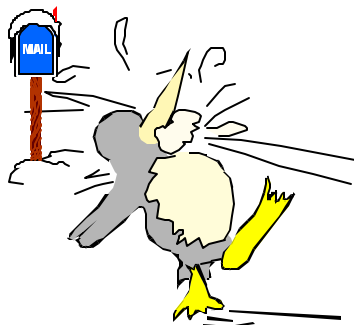
ConnARES Area One (North) VHF Net: Second Monday of each month, 8 p.m. on CARA repeater: 147.30+ (PL 100)

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

Membership Renewal/Dues Form in this Month's Issue of the Capers

Please see the membership renewal and dues form for 2005-2006 in this month's issue of the Capers. You can bring the completed form and your check to Friday's meeting, or mail it to John W1JMA at the address indicated on the form. In addition to supporting your club and its activities, your dues entitle you to receive the CARA CAPERS each month, and to place no-cost

ads for ham-related equipment you'd like to buy or sell.



Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course Registration

Registration for the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level I on-line course (EC-001) opened early Monday, January 03, 2005, and will remain open until all available seats have been filled or through the January 8 - 9 weekend --whichever comes first.

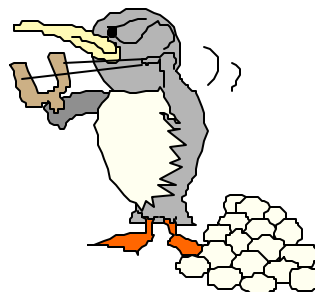
Class begins Friday, January 21. Radio amateurs 55 and up are strongly encouraged to participate.

Thanks to our 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, 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 <<<<<." [target=externalhttp://www.arrl.org/cce](http://www.arrl.org/cce)>>>>>. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, 860-594-0340 or send your query to cce@arrl.org.

ARRL Demands FCC Shut Down NY BPL Field Trial

The ARRL has once again asked the FCC to shut down a BPL field trial now under way in



Briarcliff Manor, New York. It's also asked the Commission to withdraw the system's Part 5 Experimental authorization. After the League's first shutdown request in October, the chief engineer of Ambient Corporation,

which provides the pilot project's BPL hardware and holds the Experimental license, suggested that Amateur Radio interference complaints had been addressed through improved software and notching performance. Not so, says a December 17 letter to the FCC from ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. Writing on the League's behalf, Imlay contends that the FCC is not sticking to its commitment to prevent interference to Amateur Radio from BPL systems and to enforcement where interference occurs.

"Based on the Commission's complete inaction to date with respect to documented interference complaints at various BPL test sites, the commitment seems vacuous," Imlay said. "ARRL demands that this BPL site be shut down immediately, pending compliance determinations and a demonstration that the system can operate without causing harmful interference." ARRL member Alan Crosswell, N2Y GK, a resident of the community, has documented interference, complaints and related information on his "BPL in Briarcliff Manor" Web site <." [target=externalhttp://www.columbia.edu/~alan/bpl/](http://www.columbia.edu/~alan/bpl/)>.

Imlay says another complaint from Crosswell

and the League's own observations on December 16 confirmed the existence of harmful interference on 20 meters "sufficient to preclude virtually all Amateur Radio communications."

ARRL observations December 16 indicated that BPL noise "precludes or repeatedly disrupts" ham radio communication using typical receivers. The harmful interference was noted at a distance of approximately three-quarters of a mile from the modern, affecting a wide area, "unlike Part 15 point-source radiators," Imlay said.

The December 17 letter went to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David Solomon, FCC Deputy Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Chief Bruce Franca and OET's Experimental Licensing Division Chief James Burtle. *(Excerpted from ARRL Letter)*

License Restructuring, Morse Requirement are Open Issues

The ARRL does not anticipate the FCC will offer up any proposals on the Morse requirement and further restructuring of the Amateur Radio licensing system until sometime in mid-2005, possibly sooner. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau continues to review thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making--including one from the ARRL.

The various petitions called for eliminating or altering the Morse code requirement and changing other sections of the Amateur Service Part 97 rules, including further restructuring of the amateur licensing system.

In addition to agreeing on other changes affecting Amateur Radio, World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), left the choice to require Morse proficiency for HF access up to individual countries, and several already have dropped Morse code as an examination requirement. That has not yet happened in the US.

Before the FCC adopts any changes in the Morse requirement and the license structure, it must complete its comment review, issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) reflecting its interpretation of consensus within the amateur community based on comments received and invite further comments on the NPRM. The FCC then will review those comments before issuing a Report and Order that spells out any final rules. The ARRL does not anticipate any changes in the Morse requirement or in other Amateur Radio licensing requirements before 2006, possibly later.

While this rule making process is under way, no changes have been made in the Amateur Radio Service rules. The 5 WPM Morse code requirement (Element 1) to gain HF privileges in the US remains in place, and no proposed automatic upgrades or other rule changes have been put into effect. The ARRL has posted answers to frequently asked questions on its own restructuring proposals <." [target=externalhttp://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html](http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html)>.

Nominations Sought for 2005 Dayton Hamvention Awards

Dayton Hamvention now is accepting nominations for 2005 awards that honor the accomplishments of outstanding individuals in the worldwide Amateur Radio community. The 2005 Dayton Hamvention--which will host the next ARRL National Convention--takes place May 20-22.

There are three award categories: The title "Radio Amateur of the Year" is bestowed upon an individual radio amateur who has demonstrated a long-term devotion to the overall advancement of Amateur Radio. The Technical Achievement Award goes each year to a radio amateur who has made an outstanding contribution in the area of Amateur Radio technical advancement. The

Special Achievement Award is presented to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio in any area. The award often goes to a respected radio amateur who has spearheaded a significant ham radio-related project.

Nominations are due by February 20, 2005. Additional details on these awards and a nomination form are available on the Dayton Hamvention Web site <[. "target=externalhttp://www.hamvention.org/nominate.htm">](http://www.hamvention.org/nominate.htm). Nominations also are accepted via US mail to Dayton Hamvention Awards, PO Box 964, Dayton, OH 45401.

FCC Approves First Software Defined Radio

The FCC for the first time has approved use of a software defined radio (SDR) device in the US. This new class of equipment allows users to share limited spectrum, increases flexibility and reduces interference concerns. "This is the first step in what may prove to be a radio technology revolution," FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell said after the November 19 action. "The industry's pioneering work to find more creative and efficient use of our airwaves will continue to bring benefits to consumers."

The Laboratory Division of the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology issued a Grant of Certification to Vanu Inc, a software development company, for a cellular base station transmitter. SDRs can change frequency range, mode or output power without resorting to hardware changes or switches. This programmable capacity permits radios to be highly adaptable to changing needs, protocols and environments. An FCC rule making proceeding, ET Docket 03-108, is pending to further streamline SDR requirements.

The ARRL has told the FCC that Amateur Radio is "a fertile testing ground" for SDRs and that the technology would be especially

valuable to facilitate disaster communications.

(Several items courtesy ARRL Letter)

Have an item for publication?

Have an article for publication? Want to place a classified ad in the Capers? Contact the editor, Barry, KA1JDD, at ka1jdd@arrl.net, or call 203-748-1033.



**Remember to renew
your 2005 membership!
Complete the attached
renewal form today.**



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