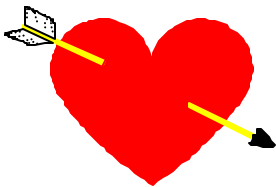




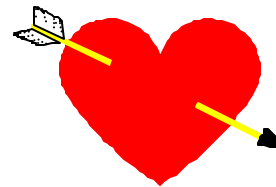
CAPERS

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



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*



Issue: February 2005

QRP Program this Month: Friday, February 11 at 8 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope all members have by this time paid their 2005 dues. Your support is both needed and appreciated. It is also time to beat the bushes (and towers) for new members. I hope each of you is going out to the community and telling about the good folks and good times to be found through Amateur Radio. Of course, emergency communications are vital too.

Ham activity this month is high. All should now know that the CT PRB-1 bill (SB-92/HB5918) is in committee now. Now is the time to contact your state legislators. For information see K1MK's web page (<http://www.qsl.net/k1mk/sgl/>). I strongly encourage you to read the available sample letters. Please, DO NOT use the word "tower" in your correspondence. Antenna and Antenna support structure are appropriate words.

Last month's meeting was devoted to the annual QSL cards sort. We were successful in sorting 3 boxes of cards in record time. We certainly had fun at the square dance (HI HI).

The program at the February meeting will be given by Steve McGee WA1PDF, Owner of QRPLABS. QRPLABS sells some fine looking and yet rather simple QRP radio kits. Steve will talk to us about QRP operation and be able to answer questions about kit building. Steve's kits look like a manageable challenge for those dying to smell the solder again.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Bring a friend.

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.

SB-92 Public Hearing Update

Betsey K1EIC, our Section Manager sent us the latest on the upcoming public hearing on SB-92:

First of all, let me thank everyone who wrote in support of SB-92 for your time and your support. We do indeed have a date for the public hearing:

Tuesday, February 8 at 1:00 p.m. Room 2B at The Legislative Office Building Hartford. The first two hours will be public testimony; the next hour is reserved for administrators and other State employees; then there will be more public testimony at 4:00 p.m. But there is more than one item on the agenda so the timing is not predictable.

For the official announcement please see <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/bul/2005BUL00204-R00-BUL.htm>.

If you are going to speak, you need to be at Room 2B at 12:00 noon to sign in as a speaker. If you are providing written testimony in person, you need to provide 50 copies of that testimony and submit it at room 3900 one hour before the hearing begins. If you are coming, it would be helpful to let either Mike, K1MK or me know so that we can keep you updated should there be additional information. Please be sure to watch the excellent video which gives helpful hints about testifying at hearings at http://ctnv1.ctn.state.ct.us/civics/Joining_the_Debate.wmv and to review the basics about attending hearings at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/codified.html>.

The work week is busy for many of you. Some of you may wish to provide written testimony to enter into the record. You have two options:

(1) Mail 50 copies of your testimony to Energy Committee, Legislative Office Building, Room 3900, Hartford, CT 06106.

(2) You may email your testimony but you must do that soon because emails need to be printed and copied. Indicate in the subject of the email something like, SB-92 Testimony for Public Record, address it to the Energy and Technology Committee and send it to: david.larkin@cga.ct.gov

Although the public hearing is scheduled, it's still important for you to ask your legislators to support these bills. Here's more from Betsey:

Radio amateurs in Connecticut have a golden opportunity to protect our rights to have effective antennas. State legislation has been introduced to ensure that municipal regulations comply with the federal regulations that require reasonable accommodation of amateur radio antennas. It is critical that you immediately write the members of the Energy and Technology Committee and ask each to support SB-92/HB-5918 and hold a hearing (now scheduled for Feb 8). Their addresses are on SGL K1MK's Web Page: <http://www.qsl.net/k1mk/sgl>.

- (1) Send a QSL card stating that you them to support this legislation.
- (2) Send an email or a letter to each member of the committee.
- (3) Write your State Senator and Representative and ask for their support of SB-92/HB-5918 and ask them to add their names as a co-sponsor.

Are you a novice at writing to your legislators?

Not to worry--SGL Mike, K1MK has everything you could want to know about how to do this. So PLEASE go to his Web

site <http://www.qsl.net/k1mk/sgl> and write today.

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).

MP3 Program on Hiram Percy Maxim, ARRL founder

Tony N1FIH recommends the following MP3 audio program on Hiram Percy Maxim, ARRL founder.



Series: [Cavalcade Of America, The](#)

Duration: **29:25**

Broadcast Date: **3rd February 1937**

Starring: [Various](#)

Download File Size: **6.74 MB**

“Interwoven with the amateur radio operators of America Hams as they call themselves is

the history of the American radio relay league, which was founded by Hiram Percy Maxim, engineer and inventor. Mr. Maxim became interested in amateur radio in 1907 through the activities of his son. Father and son together developed one of the most dominant amateur radio stations in their part of the country. In those days amateurs talked to each other in dots and dashes, actual voice communication was to come later. One evening in 1914 Hiram Maxim sits at the key to his transmitter at his amateur station in Hartford Connecticut..."

CARA VE exam schedule for 2005:
Make a note of the CARA-sponsored Volunteer Exam (VE) schedule for 2005:

Saturday, March 5
Saturday, June 4
Saturday, September 17
Saturday, December 3

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).

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.

Hamvention Invitation!

It's that time again -- time to begin preparations for the big event of the year -- Dayton Hamvention 2005! The 2005 Annual EmComm Banquet is scheduled for Friday, May 20, 5:30 p.m. And, for the 2nd year in a row, you are all invited to join us at Ryan's Restaurant, 1760 East Stroop Road, Kettering, OH 45429 (927) 296-0528, http://www.ryansinc.com/frameset_locations.html, for the 2005 Annual EmComm Banquet. Take 675 east to Wilmington Pike. Turn left on East Stroop. Ryan's will be on the left.

Don't forget to submit your nomination for "Mentor of the Year!" If at all possible, that award is presented at our annual banquet. Last year, we had two Mentors-of-the-Year! Please RSVP to Dan, K3UFG, k3ufg@arrl.net, or call (860) 206-3379 evenings and/or weekends. Space is limited though plentiful. See you there!!!
Dan, K3UFG

Minutes for November 2004

The following minutes are published for the record. There were no minutes for the December holiday meeting –Ed.
November 12, 2004

The regular meeting of CARA was held on November 12, 2004 at St. Paul's church in Brookfield, CT. The program was presented by Jim KD1YV on QRP operation. The business meeting began at 9:25 PM. The minutes were moved as presented. This was seconded and so voted.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$6,903.71 in the account. The dues notices will be sent early in December. There was no old business.

New business:

Hamfest—Do we keep the fees the same? Good idea of having the programs. Redesign the flyer. Get the flyers out early to the vendors. Cost will be the same as far as we know.

Spring programs—new ideas welcome

Thank you for the scout JOTA for all the help (Harlan)

Next month is Christmas Party with a brief program on PRB1. Grab bag gift (\$10 – 15). Check with Judy regarding the food.

Card Sort—January

Kit building in spring

Work meeting—Tuesday of

Thanksgiving week

Repeater Committee—220 and 440 discussion.

Field Day---Chair is Jim R.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM

Martha Babbitt, Secretary

Community Education Project Holds Inaugural Session

Even a blizzard didn't stop several hearty Mainers from attending the first meeting of the ARRL Community Education Program (CEP). The Saturday, January 26, session was held in the southern Maine city of Saco. Coordinated by Bill Barrett, W1WJB, the CEP is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to explore the best ways Amateur Radio can work with local emergency managers and with Citizen Corps councils. The CEP has targeted a dozen communities from Maine to Oregon to learn about the value of Amateur Radio to community safety and security between now and August.

"Even though a blizzard was well under way

in Saco--only 'essential government employees' were to report to work that day-- emergency management officials from a number of area agencies trekked to the town hall auditorium," Barrett recounted. "A sizeable group of 11 radio amateurs also slogged through the snowstorm, while 20 others were standing by on the air."

Barrett said those participating from home served as the "other end" for the program's demonstrations and assisted in clarifying various points of his program.

Created by Barrett to be much more "conversation" than "presentation," the lively exchange of questions and answers gave the Maine emergency officials a much better idea of what Amateur Radio is and what sorts of applications it can be put to. It also helped acquaint the emergency officials with the community of local radio amateurs.

Indeed, Barrett kept the program's spotlight focused on the true stars of the show--the local hams, who also fielded the vast majority of questions.

In addition to repeater basics and an explanation of the very large territory covered by linked repeater systems, demonstrations included digital text communications and APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System).

Each served-agency attendee got specially a created booklet aimed at the non-ham, non-technical audience as well as a companion resource CD--both produced by ARRL through the CNCS grant. The materials are intended to be shared with other personnel at the served agencies, spreading the word on ham radio even wider. *(Excerpt)*

Some New Wrinkles in 2005 Field Day Rules

Those planning to participate in this year's Field Day will need to bone up in advance on a few changes in the rules for the ever-

popular operating event. Field Day this year takes place June 25-26. The 2261 Field Day entries for 2004 were the most ever. While similar in format to a contest, Field Day is primarily a means to exercise and demonstrate Amateur Radio's emergency operating capabilities while having fun at the same time. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says that among other things rule changes for 2005 expand eligibility for bonus points.

"All groups will be eligible for some kind of bonus points," Henderson said. "Make sure you carefully read Field Day Rule 7.3." That rule spells out how to qualify for such bonus points as 100 percent emergency power, media publicity, message handling, making satellite contacts, using an alternative power source and copying the W1AW bulletin, among other things. Many bonus point categories are available to all entry classes.

Henderson notes that some large clubs often compete among themselves to see who can claim the highest number of transmitters. Under the revised rules, all transmitters must be on the air with an operator to count toward a club's entry class. "You have to actually have individual people and sufficient equipment capable of operating simultaneously," Henderson emphasized, referencing Rule 4. "The key word there is 'simultaneously.'"

The Field Day exchange consists of the number of transmitters on the air followed by the participation category (A through F). Operators would send "3A," for example, for a club or non-club portable setup with three transmitters on the air at the same time. Rule 4 also specifically prohibits switching and simulcasting devices.

The 2005 Field Day rules also modify the number of transmitters eligible for bonus points that a group can claim for its operating class. "You can only claim the emergency power bonus points for up to 20 transmitters," Henderson explains. "That's a maximum of

2000 emergency power bonus points." There no limit on the number of transmitters eligible participants may have on the air, however. Field Day rules already generally prohibit the use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode.

In addition, Field Day 2005 will introduce a new "Youth Element" bonus category (Rule 7.3.15). Clubs or groups operating in Class A, C, D, E or F now can claim 20 bonus points--up to a maximum of 100--for each person aged 18 or younger, who completes a valid Field Day contact. Single-operator Class B stations can earn a 20-point bonus if the operator is age 18 or younger. Two-person Class B setups can claim a 20-point bonus for each operator age 18 or younger, for a maximum of 40 points. The maximum number of participants for Class B entries remains at two.

Another rule change clarifies that Get On The Air (GOTA) stations--instituted a few years ago to encourage new or comparatively inexperienced operators to gain operating practice--use the same exchange as the "parent" station. The maximum transmitter output power for GOTA stations is 150 W, and GOTA stations may only operate on the Field Day HF bands.

Free transmitters do not count toward a group's total, and GOTA stations and free VHF stations for Class A entries do not qualify for bonus point credits.

Henderson encourages Field Day participants to submit their Field Day summaries electronically using the Web applet form

<." [target=externalhttp://www.b4h.net/cabforms](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms)> : "You may input your summary information at that site for a 50-point bonus," Henderson points out.

The Maritime Radio Historical Society's K6KPH, comprised of former operators of the KPH commercial shore station, now an historic site, again will augment W1AW Field

Day CW and RTTY bulletin transmissions for West Coast participants.

The complete 2005 Field Day packet now is available on the ARRL Web site

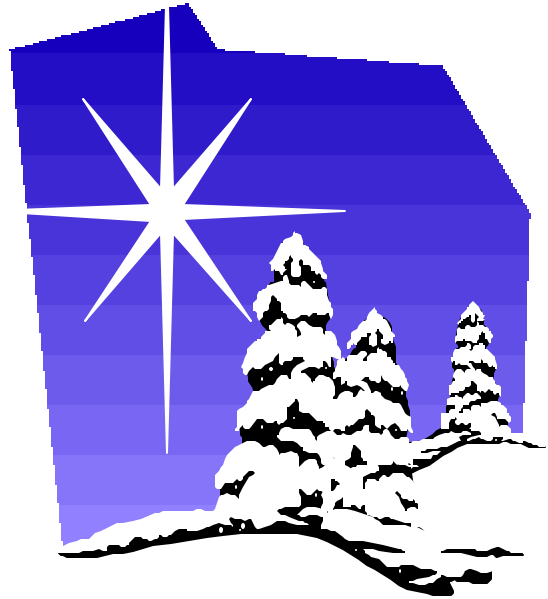
<"
[target=externalhttp://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/05-fd-packet.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/05-fd-packet.pdf)>

(Several items in this month's newsletter 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