



CAPERS

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

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Happy Father's Day

Issue: June 2005

Meeting: Friday, June 10 at 8 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope each of you is enjoying the summer weather. Be sure to think about portable, mobile and QRP operation.

June is a busy month for CARA. Elections and Field Day operations are held this month.

A slate of officers has been selected however nominations from the floor can be made at the June meeting. Please consider service to CARA. Even small contributions are appreciated.

I extend my thanks and congratulations to the officers and directors and others who have served the club in the past year. Job well done!

Field Day is June 25-26. I am sure a good time will be had by all. Please plan to attend. Jim Ritterbusch, KD1YV will make a

presentation on Field Day Activities at the June Meeting.

On the DX front, K4RT, Brad Farrell, has filed a petition in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia requesting review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's denial of use permits for Amateur Radio for Desecheo (KP5) and Navassa (KP1) islands, and the agency's ban of Amateur Radio from these islands, generally. The proceeding may take many months to move forward. Thus, a legislative solution would be most welcome as it would save time and money. Brad, thus, asks that all US DXers contact their Congressmen supporting the bipartisan H.R. 5361. Further details can be found the current issue of the DX Magazine and at <http://www.scdxc.org/kp1-kp5.htm>.

I am sure that many are ware of the development of Motorola's development of "radio friendly" BPL. The ARRL appears to be enthusiastic – stay tuned.

I look forward to seeing each and everyone 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.

Field Day Saturday June 25

Get the latest information on Field Day at the June 10th CARA Meeting, but mark your calendars for Saturday, June 25 and Sunday June 26.

Keep your fingers crossed for good weather! Field Day is a once-a-year experience and not to be missed. You'll enjoy a great weekend of challenging ham radio activity, good food and spirited conversation. Get the latest information at the June 10 meeting.

FCC Staffer: BPL Faces Uncertainty

FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff member Bill Cross, W3TN, told the FCC Forum at Dayton Hamvention May 21 that "a lot of uncertainty" surrounds BPL, including questions as to its technical and financial viability and where, how and if it will fit into the communications future. Cross works in the WTB's Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division, and much of his work directly involves the Amateur Radio Service. Devoting nearly a quarter of his remarks to the standing-room-only audience to BPL, Cross discussed various aspects of the FCC's October 14, 2004, Report and Order in ET Docket 04-37. The R&O established new Part 15 rules to implement BPL systems. Cross said the Commission's expressed a lot of "potentials" and "coulds" in outlining its rationale for promoting BPL as another competing broadband pipeline.

"Whether BPL catches on will be a decision made by economics, both for those who want to provide the service and consumers who have to decide it is better for them than other broadband services," Cross said. He also said the FCC recognizes BPL's potential to interfere with Amateur Radio and other radio services.

"Also note that BPL is coming on the scene, at best, as the fifth player in a field already crowded with heavy hitters," he said.

"Currently we have cable, satellite, non-satellite wireless broadband and telephone lines available and providing broadband service." Cross said telephone companies already are looking at installing fiber optic cable to the home to expand available bandwidth for consumers. At the same time, he said, cable companies "have been spending gazillions of dollars upgrading their systems to digital systems so they can provide services other than traditional TV service."

Citing the current heavy level of advertising and even price-cutting by industry players for a bigger piece of a "fixed pot of dollars," Cross asked, "Where does BPL fit in?" Cross said he didn't believe anyone was now getting a barrage of offers for BPL-provided services. "Nor will we be anytime soon, from what I have read in the communications press."

Cross pointed out that FCC Part 15 rules require that licensed radio services such as Amateur Radio must be protected from harmful interference. He also noted that the FCC was careful to carve out reservations and set specific prohibitions regarding BPL deployment on certain parts of the spectrum allocated to civil aviation users, in addition to imposing some strict requirements to mitigate interference.

"You wonder, with all these restrictions--including some that prohibit BPL deployment in what appear to be very profitable areas--a reasonable question

might be: Who would want to go into this business?"

The current tug of war, he said, is between the three or four companies interested in BPL--who want less onerous restrictions--and the ARRL and other users who don't believe the restrictions go far enough. Both sides have filed petitions for reconsideration.

"Those petitions are pending, and whatever is decided on them will affect the final rules for BPL and may very well affect its viability," Cross concluded.

Regarding Amateur Radio proceedings now before the Commission, Cross was unable to pin down for FCC Forum attendees when they might expect to see a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in response to 18 petitions for rule making filed by ARRL, other Amateur Radio organizations and individual licensees. The primary hot-button issue in that proceeding is the future of the Morse code requirement for access to HF amateur bands. The FCC also is considering proposals to create a new entry-level license class and to implement some additional Amateur Radio license restructuring, including automatic upgrades from Technician to General and Advanced to Extra.

Cross said he anticipates the FCC will combine the 18 petitions into one NPRM and invite another round of comments from the amateur community. "I suspect the proposed rule making will be coming out in late summer or this fall," Cross said. The comment period could extend into early 2006, he added, after which a Report and Order would be written.

The amateur community also can expect a Report and Order as a follow-up to its April 2004 NPRM in WT Docket 04-140, Cross said. The main proposal in that proceeding--ARRL's so-called "Novice Refarming" plan--would eliminate the Novice/Tech Plus CW bands and use that spectrum to expand portions of the 80, 40

and 15 meter bands. Current Novice and Tech Plus licensees would get CW privileges in the current General CW bands. Cross said commenters generally seem to support the proposal, although he cited requests to establish even wider phone bands, particularly in the 75-meter band."

Among other issues, the FCC also has proposed in the same proceeding to essentially do away with its rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 12 and 10 meters.

BIG E is Looking for HAM Assistance

Connecticut's Big E exhibition and fair takes place this year September 15 through October 2nd. Organizers are again looking for hams to staff the amateur radio exhibit at this well-attended event. It's a high-profile opportunity for ham radio and a chance to recruit new members to our hobby. If you can help, please contact Larry, K1EHJ at k1ehj@yahoo.com.

The KOP Story

By Frank W8NXQ

The history of early radio can be exciting to explore. Many challenges both technical and social were overcome in the early days of radio. The pace of progress was very fast in those early days.

At a recent hamfest, I had a the opportunity to purchase a rather thin book by modern standards that stimulated my interest in KOP. The title of the book is "Radio Listeners' Guide". It was published in 1925. The book contains a number of interesting chapters. There is, for example, a discussion of early receiver types and a chart comparing times in different cities across the world. Did you know that Europe didn't use standard time in 1925? The book contains a list of the broadcasting stations throughout the world and a callbook of US Amateurs. Yes, you will find HPM, T.O.M., in Hartford, CT.

In the listings of the broadcast stations located in Detroit, Michigan, my home town, I found KOP, which was owned by the Detroit Police Department. I decided to learn a little more about this station. The opening of the station is mentioned in the Strays column in the July 1922 issue of QST.

Before discussing the station it may be instructive to understand a little more about radio in the 1920's. In the '20's radio was high tech and of interest to many. Radios could be very expensive. I have an Atwater Kent Radio manufactured in 1929. It cost \$400 when new (or about \$8000 in current dollars). Radio was hot in the '20s and many innovations and discoveries are chronicled in the 1920's issues of QST.



In the 19th and early part of the 20th century, Detroit was a center for innovation and technical advance. Radio broadcasting had its beginnings in 1919 and 1920 in the form of experimental and amateur stations. The Detroit News began broadcasting with the amateur call 8MK in August 1920 on 200 meters. The reception range was about 100 miles and 300 stations could receive the signal. The station provided election coverage for the 1920 elections. In October 1921, the station became a limited commercial station using 360 meters and the call WBL. Within a few months, the station's call was changed to WWJ which is still on the air on 950 kHz. WWJ along with KDKA in Pittsburg are America's oldest radio stations. The Broadcasting Service was formally organized in December 1921. On March 10, 1922 there were 67 broadcast stations in the United States all operating on 833 kHz (360 meters).

The Detroit police department, first organized in 1865, also had an innovative spirit. In the 19th century police work was conducted on foot. The residents enjoyed the security of the comings and goings of the neighborhood officer. In 1897, the department began using bicycles to apprehend criminals who were speeding away on their own bicycles. HPM mentions in his book, "Horseless Carriage Days", that bicycles were the fastest form of transportation of the day. In 1908 motorcycles were first used and experiments using automobiles (a Packard was chosen) began in 1909. In the early years police cars were parked outside the station and the officers were dispatched from the station. They could also be dispatched from other locations by telephone but the officers had to wait for the incoming calls.

In 1921, Detroit Police Commissioner William P. Rutledge began experimenting with patrol vehicles equipped with radios. Rutledge had a radio transmitter installed at police headquarters and in 1922 the Federal Radio Commission, the forerunner of the Federal Communications Commission, issued Detroit the first provisional commercial radio license, KOP on March 18. Broadcasts began on 833kHz and soon moved to 1050 kHz. KOP was the 88th broadcast station licensed in the United States.



There were significant technical problems in implementing the use of radios in automobiles. The vacuum tubes, which comprised the internal workings of the radio receiver, were fragile and required extensive cushioning. The electrical systems of the automobiles available then were not powerful enough to operate the radios, so six-volt batteries had to be mounted on the running

boards. The battery was only good for four hours before it had to be replaced.

KOP was licensed as a broadcast station and as such had to conform to the Commission's rules. The program format was certainly unusual – music interspersed with police calls. In 1922 there were no public service bands. Radio was finding its way. Considerable friction between the Department and the FRC existed as the music did apparently interfere with police business. In the beginning, local politicians did not always lend their enthusiastic support as they were not yet impressed with unproven technology. Nonetheless, KOP was the first station to dispatch cars via radio. The communications were one way.

By March 1924, the Detroit News and the public were convinced of the utility of radio dispatched police cars and by 1928 such cars had become a permanent fixture in the Department. Two-way radio communication was established elsewhere in 1933 by the Bayonne, N.J. police department.

The KOP experiment ended on November 28 1925 but newly formed public service stations took its place. The station was the 88th broadcast station licensed in the United States and should be recognized as the antecedent station for all stations on the public service bands. The foresight of the Detroit Police department is laudable.

ARRL Encouraged by New Motorola BPL Technology

The ARRL this week said it was encouraged to learn of Motorola's just-announced Powerline LV system--a BPL system that takes radio interference concerns into consideration from the outset. The Powerline LV system avoids using medium-voltage power lines and introduces broadband signals only on the low-voltage side of the power transformer, greatly reducing the system's radio interference potential.

"We know that medium-voltage power lines are no place for broadband energy, since there is overwhelming technical evidence that radio interference from BPL is unavoidable if MV lines are used," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "By confining their Access BPL system to low-voltage lines and by adding hardware notch filters for additional protection to Amateur Radio frequency allocations, Motorola has addressed our interference concerns."

Sumner explained this week that until Motorola Powerline LV came along, opposing BPL and opposing BPL interference were essentially one and the same. During product development, Motorola invited ARRL's suggestions and welcomed its input. Sumner said he hopes other BPL system providers now will see the benefit of cooperating with the ARRL that Motorola is now enjoying. "However, we can and should remain critical of the FCC's Report and Order, which makes no effort to distinguish between good and bad ways of pursuing BPL," he added.

Sumner says the League is looking forward to seeing the first Powerline LV system in operation. The ARRL will continue to work with Motorola "to ensure that their new product is indeed the first BPL system that is a solution, not a problem," he said.

There's more information about Motorola's Powerline LV system on the company's Web site [target=externalhttp://www.motorola.com/mediacenter/news/detailpf/0,,5519_5509_23,00.html](http://www.motorola.com/mediacenter/news/detailpf/0,,5519_5509_23,00.html).

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).

CARA VE exam schedule for 2005:

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

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 \$14. 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).

FCC Launches New Info Service

The FCC Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) is launching the Consumer Information Registry, an expanded and improved e-mail service that will deliver customized information about the FCC's actions and related developments in telecommunications and other communications services.

"The Registry is an Internet database that can be customized to deliver information on whatever topics the subscriber chooses," the FCC said in a news release this week. Among the many choices are "Amateur Radio and Related Interests" and "Ham Radio." The topic checklist also includes Broadcast TV and Cable TV, but subscribers can also specify topics not on the list.

Acting CGB Chief Monica Desai says the FCC is "delighted to be able to offer this valuable tool to everyone interested in communications issues." She says FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin has expressed an interest in ensuring that consumers continue to enjoy the benefits of the best communications system in the world. "I believe the Consumer Information Registry has the potential to play an important role in achieving that goal," she added.

The sign-up information is on the FCC CGB Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/contacts>. Subscribers will be asked to indicate the subjects on which they wish to receive information. The service is free, and subscribers may unsubscribe at any time.--FCC

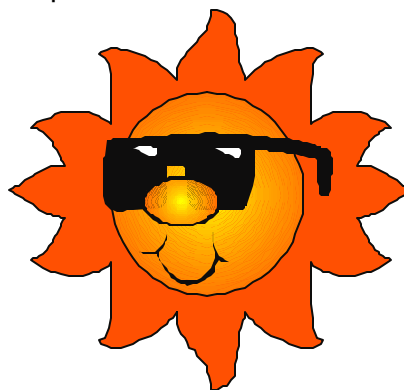
Plan Now for September Hamfest!

CARA's annual Hamfest will take place this year on Sunday, September 18. See the flyer attached to this month's issue of the CAPERS for more details. We're counting on you to do your part to promote this important and fun event. We also hope that every club member will find a role to play in supporting this event, whether it's directing traffic, helping with set-up and take down, at the admissions desk, or coordinating activities at the Edmund Town Hall or in the parking area. Mark your calendar today!

Solar Update

Heliophile Tad "Sunshine Superman" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: Solar and geomagnetic numbers for the past week were lower. All days were quiet except for Friday, May 20, when mid-latitude K and A indices indicated unsettled geomagnetic conditions, and planetary numbers indicated a geomagnetic storm.

Average daily sunspot numbers this week were down more than 39 points to 36.6. The average daily solar flux dropped by more than 19 points to 83.5.



Got News?

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.

(Ed Note: Some articles in CAPERS may be courtesy of the ARRL Letter)

Western CT. Hamfest

Sponsored by: Candlewood Amateur Radio Association
Sanctioned by the ARRL

Sunday Sept. 18, 2005 (rain or shine)

Edmund Town Hall, Rt. 6, Newtown Ct.

Set-up 7:00 AM, doors open from 8:00 AM- 12:30 PM

A great start to our commercial vendor list that includes

KJI Electronics- The latest new gear & always brings a great inventory.

QuickSilver Radio Products - All kinds of antennas and accessories.

West Mountain Radio- RIGrunners, RIGblasters and their CBA II.

QRP Labs- Very exciting new QRP kits.

Tail Gate Area with great bargains on both new and "previously owned" rigs,
components and computer hardware.

Once again we will be running several seminars
Free parking, GREAT door prizes, Coffee and sweets

Directions

From Rt. 84 exit 10 go West onto Rt.6 (west bound make a right, east bound make a left). Approx. ¼
mile at flag pole make a right onto Rt. 25. Edmund Town Hall will be approx. 100 yards on the left.

Talk-in 147.300, PL 100 HZ

Admission \$5.00 (under 10 free)

Indoor tables 12.50 (includes 1 admission)

Tailgating \$8.00 (includes 1 Admission)

Contact information- Bill Schaefer- N1PJG

Phone #203.798.2831, Cell # 203.470.1125 or

Ken 203.743.9181, John @ 203.438.6782

E-mail bs7000@hotmail.com, web site www.danbury.org/cara

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA) Hamfest, Sept. 18, 2005
c/o Bill Schaefer-N1PJG, 63A Taylor Ave, Bethel, Ct 06801 phone #203.798.2831

Name _____ daytime phone # _____

Address: _____ evening phone # _____

Please reserve _____ indoor tables @ \$12.50 each.. Amount enclosed \$ _____

I need _____ do not need _____ electricity

Please make checks payable to CARA