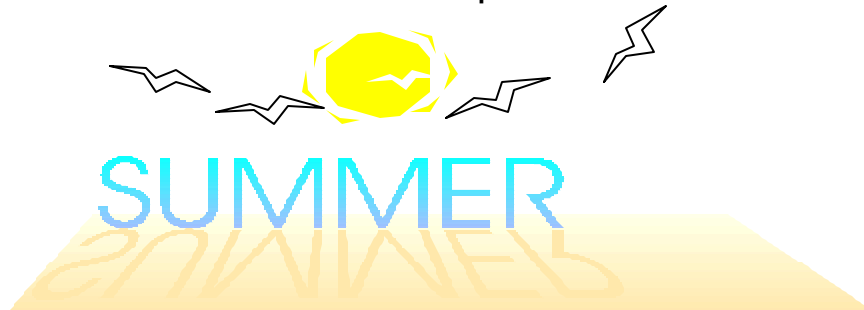




CAPERS

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 – Bill Webb – W1AFX - phone - 203-775-0536



Issue: August 2005

Meeting: Friday, August 12, at 8 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that everyone is having a good summer despite the rather hot weather. I also hope that you have taken the time to operate portable or mobile as this can be fun.

I had the opportunity to operate APRS in a drive to Wisconsin. It was interesting to see the path on the internet after arrival in 9 land. I also had the opportunity to work a bit of 2m DX.

In August we will again have an informal discussion and video program. This will be an opportunity to prepare for the hamfest in September. I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

Plan Now for September Hamfest!

CARA's annual Hamfest will take place on Sunday, September 18. See the flyer attached to this month's issue of the CAPERS for more details.



We're counting on every member to do his or her part to promote and support this important club fundraiser and major fun event. We also hope that every club member

will find a role to play at the hamfest, whether it's directing traffic, helping with set-up and take down, at the admissions desk, with refreshments, or coordinating tailgate activities at the Edmund Town Hall. Mark your calendar today!

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.

Amateur Radio Level II EmComm Course Registration

Registration for the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level II on-line course (EC-002) opens Monday, August 8, at 12:01 AM EDT, and will remain open until all available seats have been filled, or through the August 13-14 weekend--whichever comes first. Class begins Friday, August 26.

Thanks to the United Technologies Corporation (UTC), the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed to students who complete the course requirements and are upgraded by their mentor to "Passed" within the 8-week course time period.

Minutes for June 2005

The regular meeting of CARA was held at St. Paul's Church on June 10th. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM. The business meeting was held first. A motion was made to accept the Secretary's minutes. This was seconded and so moved. The Treasurer's report was waived until next meeting.

The repeater committee reported that three members went to the site on Wed, May 18th to check things out and perform routine maintenance. Discussion concerning the repeater concentrated on documentation, copy of license, manuals, and details on how the repeaters are connected.

Hamfest—letters will be sent to the magazines this week. Newington hamfest—flyers will be delivered. All other things are done.

Slate of Officers:

President	Frank N8WXQ
Vice President	Harlan KB1ILY
Secretary	Martha KB1IES
Treasurer	Bill W1AFX
Directors	Dan, John, Jeff

There was a call for additional nominations. The nominations were closed and the secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers.

Field Day--Power Point presentation given by KD1YV.

Respectfully,
Martha Babbitt, KB1IES

FCC Proposes to Drop Morse Code Requirement

NEWINGTON, CT, July 20, 2005--The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission recommended the change to its Part 97 Amateur Service rules in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235. Any rule changes proposed in the NPRM would not become final until the FCC gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any changes to its rules and concludes the proceeding by issuing a Report and Order (R&O) spelling out the changes and specifying an effective date.



That's not likely to happen for several months. The FCC declined in its NPRM to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges beyond elimination of the Morse requirement.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said in its NPRM, released July 19. This week's NPRM consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community--including one from the ARRL--that proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on the FCC's proposals in response to those petitions.

The Commission said it believes dropping Element 1--the 5 WPM Morse examination--would "encourage individuals who are interested in communications technology, or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become amateur radio operators." The FCC said it also would eliminate a requirement it believes "is now unnecessary and that may discourage" current licensees from advancing their skills, and that it would "promote more efficient use" of current Amateur Radio spectrum.

The FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 as the primary reason to go forward with eliminating Morse code as an Amateur Radio licensing requirement in the future. Among other changes, WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges, leaving it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised that the FCC proposed

altogether scrapping the Morse code requirement. The League and others had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors would closely study the 30-page NPRM and plan to comment further after they've had the opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the ARRL filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend Part 97 to complete the Amateur Service restructuring begun in 1999 but "left unfinished." The League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees already can easily upgrade to General. "We also note that, if our proposal to eliminate telegraphy testing in the amateur service is adopted," the FCC continued, "a person who is not a licensee will be able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing two written examinations, and that a person who is a Technician Class licensee will be

able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing one written examination." The FCC said it does not believe either path to be unreasonable.

The FCC also said that it's already addressed some of the other issues petitioners raised in its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140. In that proceeding, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming proposal aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands to provide additional phone spectrum. Under the plan, Novice/Tech Plus licensees would be granted CW privileges in the current General CW subbands.

A 60-day period for members of the public to comment on the FCC's NPRM in WT 05-235 will begin once the NPRM appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments will be due within 75 days of the NPRM's publication in the Federal Register.

Consumer Product Safety Commission Safety Alert

Portable Generator Hazards

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed, but they also can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire.



Every year, people die in incidents related to portable generator use. Most of the incidents

associated with portable generators reported to CPSC involve CO poisoning from generators used indoors or in partially-enclosed spaces.

Carbon Monoxide Hazards

NEVER use a generator in enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces. Generators can produce high levels of CO very quickly. When you use a portable generator, remember that you cannot smell or see CO. Even if you can't smell exhaust fumes, you may still be exposed to CO.

If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air RIGHT AWAY. DO NOT DELAY. The CO from generators can rapidly lead to full incapacitation and death.

If you experience serious symptoms, get medical attention immediately. Inform medical staff that CO poisoning is suspected. If you experienced symptoms while indoors, have someone call the fire department to determine when it is safe to re-enter the building.

Follow these safety tips to protect against CO poisoning:

- NEVER use a generator indoors, including in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, and other enclosed or partially-enclosed areas, even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO build-up in the home
- Follow the instructions that come with your generator. Locate the unit outdoors and away from doors, windows, and vents that could allow CO to come indoors.
- Install battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with battery back-up in your home, according to the manufacturer's installation instructions. The CO alarms should be certified to the requirements of the latest safety standards for CO alarms (UL 2034, IAS 6-96, or CSA 6.19.01).

- Test your CO alarms frequently and replace dead batteries.

Electrical Hazards

Follow these tips to protect against shock and electrocution:

- Keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. To protect from moisture, operate it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure. Dry your hands if wet before touching the generator.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator. Or, use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Check that the entire cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- NEVER try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "backfeeding." This is an extremely dangerous practice that presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer. It also bypasses some of the built-in household circuit protection devices.
- If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install the appropriate equipment in accordance with local electrical codes. Or, check with your utility company to see if it can install an appropriate power transfer switch.
- For power outages, permanently installed stationary generators are better suited for providing backup power to the home. Even a properly connected portable generator can become overloaded. This may result in overheating or stressing the generator components, possibly leading to a generator failure.

Fire Hazards

Follow these tips to prevent fires:

- Never store fuel for your generator in the home. Gasoline, propane, kerosene, and other flammable liquids should be stored outside of living areas in properly-labeled, non-glass safety containers. Do not store them near a fuel-burning appliance, such as a natural gas water heater in a garage. If the fuel is spilled or the container is not sealed properly, invisible vapors from the fuel can travel along the ground and can be ignited by the appliance's pilot light or by arcs from electric switches in the appliance.
- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool down. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

ARRL Board Adopts Modified Regulation by Bandwidth Proposal

Following considerable discussion and debate, the ARRL Board of Directors has approved a modified set of recommendations to regulate the use of amateur spectrum by emission bandwidth rather than by emission mode. Last April, the ARRL Executive Committee reached consensus on a set of regulation-by-bandwidth proposals (which can be found on the web at,

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/bandwidth.html>)

to serve as the basis of an FCC Petition for Rule Making. Following additional fine tuning based on hundreds of comments from the amateur community, the Board formally adopted a further-modified plan at its July 15-16 meeting.

The revised plan includes a stipulation that the League "will promptly undertake a procedure to establish a band plan to be utilized with the proposed subband allocation petition, and, until such time as that band plan is in place, the existing band plan will be in force." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, remarked after the Board's 12-3 vote that improved band planning is critical to the success of the League's regulation-by-bandwidth proposals and will require the

support of the amateur community at large.

"I think it's fair to say that the Board recognizes that regulation by bandwidth is not going to work without a spirit of cooperation among amateurs pursuing different interests," he said, "any more than current regulations would be adequate without a spirit of cooperation." Sumner pointed out that under the current rules, RTTY and data enthusiasts may, by rule, operate in the low end of the CW subbands. "They don't, because to do so would disrupt amateur CW," he said.

Sumner said that if the FCC ultimately implements the modified ARRL recommendations, there's no reason to believe that amateurs will operate right up to the absolute limit of what the FCC says they may, any more than they do now.

The regulation-by-bandwidth issue dominated the Board's second meeting of the year in Windsor, Connecticut. After a great deal of give and take among its members, the Board ultimately okayed raising the maximum bandwidth proposed for frequencies below 29 MHz from 3.0 kHz to 3.5 kHz. A provision permitting the continued use of double-sideband AM with bandwidth of up to 9 kHz was retained.

Significantly, the Board also agreed that maximum permitted bandwidth should be defined in terms of necessary rather than occupied bandwidth. In addition, the modified proposal removes the exception for independent sideband (ISB) emissions and drops certain mode restrictions on Novice and Technician class operators.

The ARRL proposal would leave two important FCC rules unchanged. Part 97.307(a) says: "No amateur station transmission shall occupy more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice." Part 97.101(a) reads: "In all respects not specifically covered by FCC Rules each

amateur station must be operated in accordance with good engineering and good amateur practice."

Per the Board's motion, the ARRL Executive Committee will review the final rule making petition, which will be filed with the FCC at the Committee's discretion. The Board began work on the bandwidth concept in 2002.

In other action, the ARRL Board adopted a resolution to establish an ARRL VHF/UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC) to address contesting issues over a period of no more than three years. The new panel, to be comprised of "exceptionally qualified and recognized members of the VHF/UHF community," will seek input from VHF/UHF contesting "public," identify important issues and "seek the sense of the 'public'" on those issues.



Amateurs to get "new" FM satellite (Aug 3, 2005) -- PO-28 (POSAT-1)-- Portugal's first satellite, launched 12 years ago--will be turned over to Amateur Radio use in the very near future. That was the word this past weekend from AMSAT-UK Secretary Jim Heck, G3WGM, during the AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium in Guildford, England. Launched September 25, 1993, the satellite operated as a packet store-and-forward BBS (9600 baud FM FSK) on Amateur Radio frequencies for several weeks in early 1994.

Over the years, PO-28's primary usage has been commercial, although plans have called

for eventually shifting its operation to ham radio use. G3WGM reports that following lengthy negotiations it has been agreed that the satellite can be switched permanently to amateur frequencies. The changeover is expected to take a couple of weeks. The Portuguese satellite was built at the University of Surrey as part of a collaborative satellite technology program that involved industry and academe. Uplink frequencies will be 145.925 and 145.975 MHz. Downlink frequencies will be 435.075 and 435.275 MHz.

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.

Amateur Radio PCSat2 installed on ISS during space walk



Newington, Conn., August 3, 2005.
The astronauts did a lot more than fix insulation while they walked in space recently. The <[PCSat2](http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/pcsat2.html)> Amateur Radio package has been installed on the exterior of the International Space Station (ISS) as Materials International Space Station Experiment 5 (MISSE5). Astronaut Soichi

Noguchi, KD5TVP, unfolded the suitcase-like Passive Experiment Container (PEC) holding PCSat2 and other experiments mounted atop the ISS P6 truss structure at around 1110 UTC August 3 during a space walk with

Astronaut Steve Robinson. Noguchi deployed the "tape measure" antennas by pulling up a couple of Mylar strips that allowed the antennas to pop out.

Built by US Naval Academy students under the guidance of APRS guru Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, PCSat2 will operate in cooperation with the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (<[ARISS](http://www.rac.ca/ariss)> [ARIS S](http://www.rac.ca/ariss)) program. It will provide a 10-meter PSK31 multi-user transponder, an FM voice repeater for possible use with ISS crew members and an AX.25 packet system for use as a UI digipeater and for telemetry, command, control.

Bruninga says PCSat2 may be ready for use within a few days, but he asked that stations not attempt to use the system until it's been checked out and an announcement made. In the meantime, Bruninga has invited well-equipped ground stations to help capture early telemetry on the alternate downlink frequency of 437.975 MHz during PCSat2's first few days of activation.

<[More](http://www.ew.usna.edu/~bruninga/pec/pc2ops.html)> information is on the USNA Web site

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 if you have not already done so. Talk to any of the club officers at a regular 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, September 17

Saturday, December 3 and localities still use the 30-50 MHz "low-VHF" band for public safety communications--spectrum that some BPL pilot projects also have occupied.

Ross said BPL interference on HF would be proportional to the extent of the technology's deployment using medium-voltage power lines. "Broadband energy cannot be put on these lines without causing interference to radio receivers using the same frequencies," he explained to BPLW's Marc Strassman. He said BPL's potential to disrupt aviation operations is so great that the National Telecommunications and Information

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 courtesy of the ARRL Letter, and special thanks to Pete KZ1Z)

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