



CAPERS

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Post Office Box 3441 - Danbury, CT
Visit us on the Web at <http://www.danbury.org/cara>

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



Holiday Social: Friday, December 9 at 8 p.m.

Issue: December 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy holidays to all CARA members and Radio Amateurs!

December is the time for CARA members to ragchew and share holiday greetings at the CARA Christmas social. You are encouraged to bring your spouse and children to the social. For those who choose to do so we will have a gift exchange. Bring a small gift with a value less than \$15-20 (Ham related). We will place the gifts on a table and a person bringing a gift can select another from the table.

In order to increase the cheer members are requested to bring a dish. Desserts are popular but less sweet items are most welcome too.

It is also time to thank all who have helped the club over the year. A special Merry Christmas to all who participated in Field Day, the Hamfest, New England QSO Party and Repeater Maintenance. The officers and directors deserve special thanks as well. We should thank the VE's that administer the instructors in the ham classes. The hobby is best served by those eager to help even in a small way.

You may wish to bring an interesting radio related item for an informal show and tell.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Party.

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.



Friday December 9 is our annual holiday social. Please bring the family—as well as a covered dish or dessert to share. For more information and to coordinate dishes please contact Judy Etzler at (860) 350-3523.

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

Got CW? Thursday is Newbie Night!

A reminder that Thursday is "newbie" night for amateurs interested in checking in to Connecticut's oldest continuously operating Amateur Radio net—the CW Connecticut Net on 3.640 MHz. Check-ins begin at 7 p.m. and Bill W1WJB assures all that the process is painless and fun!

The CW Connecticut Net is conducted nightly and is an element of the National Traffic System (NTS)-- and as such is a part of ARES when emergency operations are

underway. Messages go “at writing speed” on CW, just as fast as on a voice net. Another benefit: CW confers a valuable degree of “data denial” to casual public eavesdroppers.

Check-ins are really simple. For a full briefing on the how-to’s and what-next’s click on this link: <http://www.StudioOne-CT.com/JobPocket/CWNets.doc>.

You say you’d like to join in but you don’t have a code key? Not to worry. Bill’s thought of that too. Click for photos of a simple home-made key (what enterprising amateurs do best) at <http://www.StudioOne-CT.com/Images/KeyA.jpg> and <http://www.StudioOne-CT.com/Images/KeyB.jpg>

Remember: CW CT Net: 7 p.m. DAILY and, Thursday is “Newbie Night”.

Thanks to WB8IMY for Scoop on Digital Modes

Many thanks to Steve WB8IMY, editor of QST Magazine, for presenting “The Sights and Sounds of Amateur Radio HF Digital” at our November meeting.

Steve’s colorful presentation not only included a run-down on the various digital modes available but included audio clips of many sample transmissions to help identify the various modes by sound as well.

From RTTY to PSK31 and from Hellschreiber to MFSK16 and MT-63, Steve’s presentation ran the gamut from the familiar to the exotic. Steve credited IZ8BLY for carrying on quite a bit of research today on the digital modes and pointed interested parties to a number of Web sites with more information—particularly <http://xoomer.virgilio.it/aporcino>.

Nets

CARA Weekly Net: Sunday nights at 7:30 p.m. 147.30+ (PL 100)

CW Connecticut Net, Nightly, at 7 p.m. on 3.640. “Newbie Night” Thursdays.

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).



Repeat Announcement: W1AW 2005/2006 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " " CWs Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST) CWb Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST) RTTY Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " " CWf Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST) CWb Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST) RTTY Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " " CWs Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST) CWb Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975
21.0675 28.0675 147.555
RTTY: - 3.625 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095
28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160
21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30

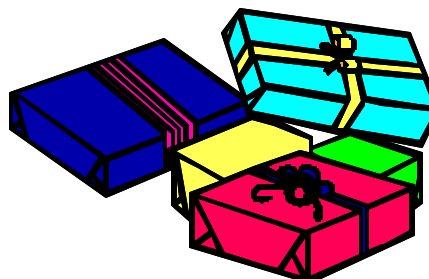
PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 100 in the November 2005 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.



National Weather Service Honors Ham Radio Dec 3

Newington, CT Nov 29, 2005 -- The seventh annual SKYWARN Recognition special event will take place Saturday, December 3. Cosponsored by the National Weather Service (NWS) and ARRL, SKYWARN Recognition Day is the National Weather Service's way of expressing its appreciation to Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to helping keep communities safe.

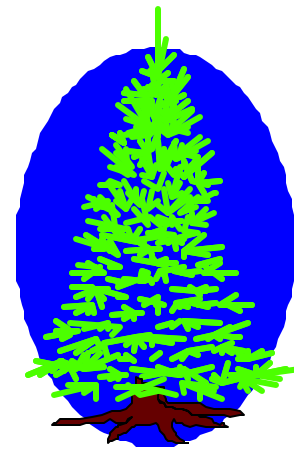
"Ham radio operators volunteering as storm spotters are an extremely valuable asset to National Weather Service operations since they are cross-trained in both communications and severe storm recognition," says organizer Scott Mentzer, N0QE, the Meteorologist-In-Charge at the Goodland, Kansas NWS office.

Last year, 114 NWS offices across the country participated in SRD, says David Floyd, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at Goodland.

According to Floyd, in typical SKYWARN operations during severe weather, direct communication between mobile spotters and local NWS offices provides critical "ground truth" information for forecasters. "Spotter reports of hail size, wind damage and surface-based rotation in real time greatly assist the radar warning operator, since that information can be correlated with Doppler radar displays," he says. The result may be a more strongly worded statement to convey greater urgency or issue a tornado warning a few minutes earlier than would otherwise have been possible.

"While NWS offices utilize the real-time reporting of severe weather events to assist in warning operations, hurricanes Katrina and Rita have shown us that ham radio operators are equally important during the recovery phase of natural disasters," Floyd points out.

Floyd also cites the example of the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN). He notes that the HWN, which organized in 1965 during Hurricane Betsy, started out as an informal group of amateurs but has since developed a formal relationship with the National Hurricane Center in Miami via its Amateur Radio station WX4NHC. Ham radio operators and volunteers at Miami work together when hurricanes threaten to provide real-time weather data and damage reports to the Hurricane Center's forecasters.



BPL Group Urged to Accept Recent ARRL Proposals

In a Reply to Opposition filed this week, the ARRL maintains that changes it recently proposed to the FCC's Part 15 BPL rules provide a golden opportunity for the BPL industry and the FCC. The League was responding to a November 2 United Power Line Council (UPLC) Motion opposing and seeking dismissal of the ARRL's Petition for a Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, filed last month in the BPL proceeding, WT Docket 04-37.

"As a general observation, it is difficult to understand the rationale for UPLC's knee-jerk response to ARRL's Petition," the League said in its Reply to Opposition. "On its face, the Petition does no more than to state a reasonable basis for a principled accommodation for all concerned with, or about, access BPL. This would include BPL operators."

The ARRL contended that the UPLC "would better serve its members by embracing the ARRL Petition, rather than rejecting it" and said its proposals represent "the last clear chance to prevent substantial interference from BPL deployments."

The League's October Petition suggested that incorporating three elements into the BPL rules the Commission adopted last year would essentially resolve all issues that the ARRL and the Amateur Service have with access BPL:

* Prohibiting all access BPL systems from using Amateur Radio allocations--except the five channels at 5 MHz, which the current HomePlug system architecture does not notch.

* Prohibiting access BPL systems from using HF bands on medium-voltage power lines.

* Measuring signal decay from access BPL systems using a more accurate 20 dB/decade extrapolation factor rather than the 40 dB/decade factor the current rules support.

Calling UPLC's opposition to its proposals "short sighted," the League said the UPLC "cannot in good faith" argue that the present BPL rules are in any way sufficient to prevent or mitigate interference to Amateur Radio. "They are not sufficient, as has been demonstrated time and time again in BPL test deployments," the ARRL contended this week.

In the recent filing, the League said its Petition seeks to create additional rules governing BPL that, with those already on the books, would "be sufficient to allow ARRL to withdraw its pending Petition for Reconsideration" in the proceeding. In addition, the ARRL reiterated its position that certain BPL systems mentioned in the October Petition "present manageable interference potential" that "can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis." Its proposals, the League said, provide the BPL industry and the FCC with the opportunity to create an RF environment that's not substantially degraded for licensed radio services and that permits BPL to develop "without the competitive handicap of fundamental incompatibility with licensed services" and removes any remaining regulatory uncertainty.

The ARRL concluded by urging the Commission to "proceed expeditiously to issue a further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, adopt the proposed rules, and

remove the obstacles to a responsible rollout of access BPL that were either created, or not resolved, by the [BPL] Report and Order."

(This, and some other stories, courtesy of the ARRL Letter)

Spectrum Defense Fund 2006

As its name implies, the primary focus of the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund is to help the League remain vigilant in guarding the range of frequencies Amateur Radio enjoys. The Fund, which kicked off its 2006 campaign October 10, also makes it possible for the League to forcefully advocate on behalf of the US amateur community at the FCC and on Capitol Hill and at international conferences.

"A healthy Spectrum Defense Fund will ensure that ARRL's voice continues to be Q5 S9 in every corner of official Washington," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "As we ask others in official Washington to recognize the role of Amateur Radio and protect our spectrum, the strength of our voice comes in part from the generosity of all radio amateurs."

Hobart added that it's crucial for the League to maintain the momentum of the increased visibility Amateur Radio has earned as a result of its role in disasters and emergencies, such as the Hurricane Katrina response. She pointed to the positive and well-received testimony offered in Congress by ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and ARRL COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, on ham radio's Katrina effort.

Haynie describes spectrum defense as an ongoing and all-encompassing activity that doesn't always involve a specific threat such as Little LEO satellites or broadband over power line. "It involves our advocating to be able to keep what we've got," he said. In his view, that means keeping ham radio in

prominent view of elected officials as well as of the public at large.

"It's by selling what we can do--and not what the League can do but what you can do as members," Haynie observed.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grants to provide Amateur Radio emergency communications training and to help reimburse volunteers' out-of-pocket expenses are further evidence of Amateur Radio's enhanced visibility, Hobart said.

"It's a matter of official record that this country cannot afford to be without Amateur Radio," she asserted. "We have visibility and recognition, and it's the ARRL's mission not to let anyone forget what we have done and are ready to do, anytime the need arises."

Preparations already are under way for World Radiocommunication Conference 2007 (WRC 07), which will consider agenda items that could impact Amateur Radio. The ARRL, as the IARU International Secretariat, funds IARU observers as representatives of Amateur Radio at such conferences. While they don't have a vote, they can lobby the delegates. The Spectrum Defense Fund supports these activities too.

Hobart thanked all who have contributed to the 2006 Spectrum Defense Fund, and she urged those who have not yet done so to take the opportunity to express their pride in the Amateur Service. "The care and feeding of our spectrum begins at home, with contributions from ARRL members," she concluded.

Giving is easy. Radio amateurs may contribute online via the ARRL's secure donor Web site <." [target=externalhttps://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/fdefense.html](https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/fdefense.html)>. The ARRL has been included in the 2005 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) <." [target=externalhttp://www.opm.gov/cfc/](http://www.opm.gov/cfc/)>. The League's CFC donor code is 9872.

For more information about the 2006 Spectrum Defense Fund or to discuss other ways you can support the ARRL's continuing work on behalf of Amateur Radio, contact ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH <mhobart@arrl.org>; (860-594-0397).

CARA Minutes

The regular meeting of CARA was held at St. Paul's Church on October 14, 2005. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM. The program was on digital radio.

The business meeting was called to order at 9:43 PM. The newest ham Jamie KB1MQB introduced himself. Oscar KB1LQV reported on his experiences down south in Gulfport, MI. When he arrived, there was nothing operating. In 30 minutes the network was set up. There were 4 shelters. In one hour the Red Cross Communications was set up. Bob N1OCM also went to Gulfport, but it was one month later. Cell phone and power had been restored. The work done there by amateur radio was in helping to shuttle supplies between emergency centers, health and welfare communications, and answering administrative questions. John W1JMA suggested "Bath in a Bag Kits" for the jump kit. The minutes were accepted.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$8,271.45. Hamfest profit was \$1591.50 with more to be recorded. CARA is seeking a chairman for next year. Bill N1PJJ will coach the next chairman. The motion was made, seconded and so voted for this to take place.

Harlan KB1ILY presented pins and certificates to Oscar and Bob for their work during the Katrina disaster.

Dan W1QK reported that the packet system is running. Repeaters: The site will be checked this fall.

Old Business: New CARA banner was displayed. Ken KD1DD will hold on to it.

Donated material has been received at Bethel EOC. This would be for a 6m repeater.

New Business: A proposal was made to drop the dues from \$30 to \$20 a year and also to grow the membership. There are \$1200 in operating costs for rent/phone/insurance.

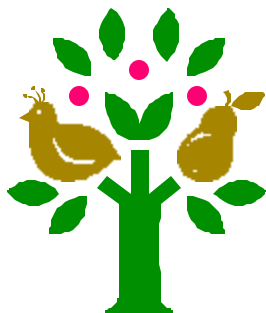
Buckmaster lists the hams in local areas. Volunteers are needed to send letters to hams in each town inviting them to join CARA. Frank N8WXQ will do Roxbury, Bridgewater, and New Milford. Oscar KB1LQV will do Danbury. James KD1YV will do Brookfield. John W1JMA will do Ridgefield. Newtown and Bethel will also be handled.

Nutmeg Hamfest is coming up. Offerings here were on a par with other hamfests.

Hurricane Response: was great by amateurs, but we need to continue to be prepared in the Northeast.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 PM.

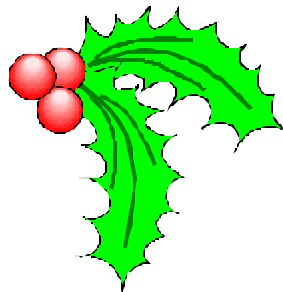
Martha Babbitt
KB1IES
Secretary



GOT NEWS?

Have a news story, a feature article or a "for sale" item for the CAPERS? Just send your item to the editor, KA1JDD, barry (at) connollyco.com.

SEE YOU AT THE



**HOLIDAY SOCIAL,
FRIDAY, DEC 9!**