



# 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



**Meeting: Friday, January 13 at 8 p.m.**

**Issue: January 2006**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all CARA members and radio amateurs. I trust all had an enjoyable holiday season. It was nice to ragchew with everyone at the CARA Christmas Party.

This month's program will be the QSL card sort and pizza party. The cards have been received from the W1 bureau and are awaiting your assistance. It is always exciting to see cards from around the world. Maybe you will find some of your own cards in the pile.

The W1 bureau very much appreciates our effort with the presort. As most know, the bureau system uses volunteers to sort cards and deliver cards to individual hams. The QSL bureaus around the world make ham radio much cheaper and more enjoyable for

many hams. This is our opportunity to serve the ham community.

For those who are new to the hobby or those who have forgotten, the ARRL sponsors the Outgoing and Incoming Bureaus. The Outgoing Bureau is only for ARRL members and is located at HQ in Newington. There are several Incoming Bureaus which distribute cards to individual hams. The W1 bureau distributes cards to all US hams with a 1 in the call sign. It does not matter where you live in the country only that you have a 1 in your call. My cards come from the W8 bureau because my call has an 8 in it. Full information on the QSL bureaus can be found on the ARRL web site.

In our case we are conducting the presort for the W1 bureau from cards that have come from other bureaus around the world. We

will sort cards by the first letter of the suffix. For example cards for W1QK will go to the Q pile and cards for KD1YV will go to the Y pile. After we have completed the presort, the cards will go back to the bureau where they will be distributed the letter manager. KD1YV's cards, for instance, will go the Y manager and then be sent to KD1YV provided he (or any recipient) has sufficient postage credit with the Y manager. The Bureau system is only for DX cards.

January is also dues month. Please submit your dues as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing each of you 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.

### **West Virginia Miner KC8VKZ**

The only survivor of the January 3 mine explosion in Tallmansville, West Virginia is Randal McCloy Jr, KC8VKZ, of Philippi, West Virginia. At press time, he was listed in critical condition at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, where he is undergoing specialized treatment. Hams may wish to send a note of support on a QSL card to Randal McCloy Jr, KC8VKZ, PO Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435. -- tnx to Randy Padawer, K7RAN

### **Canadian Hams to Lose 220-222MHz**

Barring an outpouring of "compelling arguments to the contrary," Industry Canada will reallocate the 220-222 MHz portion of 220-225 MHz from the Canadian amateur service to the mobile and fixed services. Under the provisional reallocation, which will take effect January 25, the amateur service will be allocated the 219-

220 MHz subband on a secondary basis. Additionally, the amateur service may be permitted use of 220-222 MHz "in exceptional circumstances on a secondary basis to assist in disaster relief efforts."

*(Ed Note: Some articles courtesy ARRL Letter)*

### **ARRL Foundation Approves More New Scholarships**

The ARRL Foundation has announced the addition of new scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year. The ARRL Foundation Board recently approved additions to the 43 scholarship awards it now offers. The Yasme Foundation will fund five \$2000 scholarship awards in 2006 for students pursuing undergraduate studies in the sciences and engineering. Two of the five scholarships are designated as renewable for up to three additional years depending on student performance. The ARRL Foundation also approved The Seth Horen, K1LOM, Memorial Scholarship to honor Horen, a native of Stratford, Connecticut and avid ham radio operator. The Horen Scholarship award of \$500 is currently funded by contributions of family and friends.

To be eligible for an ARRL Foundation scholarship, an applicant must be an Amateur Radio licensee attending or accepted at an accredited two or four year college or university. Information and application forms for all ARRL Foundation-administered scholarships are available on the ARRL Foundation Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlf/>>. The application period for ARRL Foundation scholarships closes February 1, 2006.

### **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 2006
- New England QSO Party – May 2006
- WACC
- Special event station or fall contest

#### *Hamfest*

- Plan and organize – September 2006
- 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 from Bill W1WJB 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.

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.

Check-ins are simple. For a full briefing on the how-to’s, click on this link:

<http://www.StudioOne-CT.com/JobPocket/CWNets.doc>.

#### **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).

#### **Mixed Mode Nets To Debut on 147.30**

A series of new "Mixed Mode" nets will be launched in January on the CARA repeater, and on some other frequencies. The purpose of these nets is to help as many hams as possible to "get digital".

The nets will run immediately after the regular monthly ARES nets, which happen in our area the SECOND Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m. on the CARA repeater.

Also, on the CARA repeater, a weekly session will be held at 8:30 p.m. on Sundays, after the weekly CARA net. Additionally, a

similar series of nets will run over the Norwalk repeater immediately after the FIRST Monday monthly ARES net there. Weekly nets there are not yet scheduled, but are possible if desired. Stay tuned.

Bill Barrett, W1WJB, Connecticut ARES District Emergency Coordinator for Special Projects, will be organizing and sometimes net controlling these innovative nets. The "Mixed Mode" R & D effort has the blessing of the Section Manager, Betsey, K1EIC, and the Section Emergency Coordinator, Rod, N1FNE, as well as the permission of the CARA club officers and repeater trustees; however, this effort is NOT limited to ARES members. All stations are cordially invited to join in and develop their stations' capabilities. It is intended as a mutual help and assistance resource, where we can all share our knowledge and opinions.

The nets are called "Mixed Mode" because VHF-FM voice and also various digital modes can be run over the same frequencies. This makes it much easier to get someone to work with, on-the air in realtime, while one tests and adjusts for optimum results. The nets will be opened in the conventional---voice---manner, and then various tests with multiple receiving stations, and their helpful comments, can be run efficiently with quick and simple voice comments and feedback.

RTTY at 45, 75, and 100 baud can be tested and fine-adjusted, along with SSTV, PSK31, Peer-To-Peer Packet, AMTOR, PACTOR, ASCII, and any other voice-channel capable digital modes desired. It's a Digital Village Green.

Testing has demonstrated that the vast majority of repeaters will pass most digital signal types quite well. The CARA repeater has been tested already with a variety of digital modes with excellent results.

Several operational guidelines have been widely agreed to, such as to NOT engage in digital modes during traditional "drive-time"

periods, even if the repeater is quiet. In addition, either at the beginning or at the end of a series of tests or exchanges with another station, voice identification is required as a courtesy to all, and to assure listeners without digital modes on-line at that moment that operations are appropriate and proper. Also, if two stations are capable of working on a simplex channel, that they should make contact on the repeater, but are encouraged to then move to a simplex channel for working, especially if operations will be long in duration. Obviously, checking that "it all still works" through the repeater after a series of simplex tests has been done is fine, to be sure nothing has changed for the worse.

The ARRL Repeater Handbook shows that one excellent frequency for digital and voice operation is 145.51, a so-called "set-aside" for "digital and experimental modes". 145.53 is another such good simplex choice.

Two years ago, an HF net was run weekly on 3.600 MHz (dial-indicated LSB); but was perhaps not on the best night. If there is demand for it, it could be re-started anytime. 3.600 is a good choice for HF testing and working as well.

Mixed Mode Net - Monthly, SECOND Monday, right after the ARES net.

Mixed Mode Net - Weekly, 8:30 p.m. Sunday, after the CARA weekly net.

Mixed Mode Net - Monthly, FIRST Monday, right after the Norwalk ARES net.

2 meter simplex - 145.51, 145.53. Special set-aside frequencies. Anytime.

HF - 3.600 MHz, Lower Sideband, "dial" indicated. A net may re-start soon.

Local Packet - 145.05. KB1ILY, W1WJB, others. Access is usually CALLSIGN-1. "H" or "?" will usually get you a short help from these individual station mailboxes. The frequency is also one of those used by the

Connecticut Packet Network. There is a BBS at W1HAD-4.

*(Tnx to Bill W1WJB)*

### **CAPERS ADS**

I am looking for a couple of things:  
- a Tektronix oscilloscope cart, either the small one with the angled side rails or the larger one with two shelves and a storage drawer.  
- thermocouple wire, any type.

Also, does anyone know of an electronic equipment salvage yard in western CT or eastern NY state? Thanks. Please contact Bill, N1TIW, wtthoren@aol.com

### **Minutes**

November 11, 2005

The regular meeting of CARA was called to order at 8 P.M. The program for the evening was on Digital Mode with Steve Ford WB8JMY presenting. The business meeting was called to order at 9:28 PM. Motions were made, seconded, and so voted to accept the Secretary's minutes and the Treasurer's Report.

#### **Old Business:**

**Field Day:** We had 4,944 points and were in the top 16% in New England. We were within the top 12% over all. The refunds were returned to the club from Field Day and from the Hamfest. Next year's chairmen are Oscar and John.

**Repeaters:** The Repeater Committee made its report. There also was discussion on a possible 6m repeater. John, Rosty and Ken will explore various aspects.

**Hamfest:** James and Joe will take the leadership. Bill will assist. Grounding bus bars have been donated to the club.

**Education:** Stipend has been offered for the advisor of the class. Discussion as to where

this is to go. Principal is checking with school authorities also.

CARA Net: keep comments short (about 2 minutes).

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 P.M.

Respectfully,  
Martha KB1IES, Secretary

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP AND PAID YOUR  
DUES FOR 2006! SEE  
ATTACHED FORM....**

### **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.*



**CARA**

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 3441  
Danbury CT 06813

**2006 Membership/Dues Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ VE: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Capers: \_\_\_\_\_ (default Yes)

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Full Member  
\$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Family (2 members)  
\$52.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Family (3 members)  
\$65.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family (4 members)  
\$75.00\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \$10 each additional member

Senior (65+)/College Student \$23.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member (Non-Ham)  
\$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Student (Under 18)  
\$5 \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Dues to:**

**Bill Webb, W1AFX**  
**12 Stage Road**  
**Brookfield CT 06804**  
**w1afx@arrl.net**

*Revised 1/7/06*