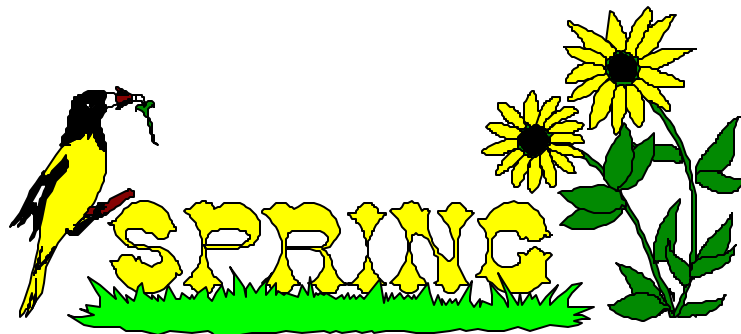




# CAPERS

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, April 21 at 8 p.m.**

**Issue: April 2006**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well it is finally spring! I hope your antennas survived the winter and you found some good DX on the air. [This month's meeting will be a week late due to the Easter holiday. The meeting will be held on the 21st.](#)

The program this month will be provided by the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC). Hopefully this will help us develop at least some skills at contesting. YCCC is one of the premier contest clubs in the country.

On May 6-7 the New England QSO Party will be held. I hope that each of you with HF privileges will take the time to call CQ and operate at least a few hours. CARA will operate from W1AW on Sunday May 7. I hope that several will sign up. The event is a lot of fun. I would like a couple of Extra

Class operators and a few of the newer hams to sign up. Of course all are welcome.

The time of the year to nominate a new slate of officers has come again. A chairman for the nomination committee is needed. Any CARA member can nominate any other member or himself/herself for office.

There appears to be considerable progress on the 6m repeater. I hope to see the repeater on the air before the fall. A new repeater controller with deluxe features has been purchased and will be installed.

I look forward to seeing each of you at this month's meeting

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

## Meetings

CARA's regular meetings are generally 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. The April meeting will be held on Friday, April 21.

## CARA 2006 Field Day Update



Field Day 2006 is coming soon. The team captains met recently to discuss progress and everything is coming together for the big weekend. We'll have two stations in operation for the full 24 hours of the event.

Several elected officials and Emergency Operations officials will be invited to take a close look at how we can set up and operate a fully functional communications station in the field. We expect to get good press and media coverage as well. Don't forget that YOU are part of the publicity campaign. Invite your family, friend, and neighbors to stop by on Saturday afternoon and see what HAM operations is all about. Think about inviting those in your church, social, or civic organizations as well. Even your kids might like to see you in action and better understand what is going on.

The newly designed official Field Day Pins (see image above) have arrived along with

other supplies ready for use in June. We'll have food, fun, and be able to demonstrate HAM radio capabilities while accumulating points toward Field Day recognition.

Now is the time to mark your calendars for the weekend of June 24 and 25. At the May and June meetings we'll be confirming schedules and commitments. – Oscar, KB1LQV

## 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

### **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 Local VHF Net (now part of Area  
5) :* 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).

### **VE Schedule for 2006**

Please make a note of the Volunteer  
Examination schedule for the remainder of  
2006:

June 3rd  
September 16th  
December 2nd

For additional information on what you need  
to bring with you, and to advise Frank that  
you plan to attend a VE session, please  
contact Frank, NIPE, frsileo@att.net.

### **Minutes for March Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Candlewood  
Amateur Radio Association was held on

March 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in  
Brookfield Center. The meeting opened at  
8:00 p.m. with introductions. The program  
was on industrial non-radiating application  
for high power RF and Microwave energy.  
Steven Kf6AF was the speaker.

The business meeting began at 9:36 p.m. A  
motion was made, seconded and so voted to  
accept the Secretary's minutes. The  
treasurer reported a balance of \$8,934.64 in  
the accounts. A motion was made,  
seconded and so voted to accept the  
Treasurer's report.

The repeater committee reported that a new  
Linkcom Controller Deluxe 2 has been  
ordered. The cost is \$1200. A motion was  
made to add \$50 for shipping to the previous  
suggestion. Discussion followed regarding  
additional costs. The new controller can be  
adjusted via radio, phone, or computer  
modem. The old controller will be kept as a  
backup unit. It will be made to be plug-and-  
play and then stored in the lock storage box.  
A motion was made, seconded, and so voted  
to purchase this new controller including  
shipping at a sum not to exceed \$1300.  
The committee is also working on the details  
regarding the 6-meter repeater. The site,  
mapping, and equipment are being studied.  
The primary coordination will be 53.130, with  
53.070 as secondary. Testing has been  
done with no response. Notices will be sent  
out. The type of antenna is also being  
studied.

Packet cluster—the microprocessor has  
been reset. The power supply is up and  
working again. Recycled computers might  
replace the microprocessor.

QSO Party – May 7<sup>th</sup> in Newington. Times  
are from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at  
commuter parking lot at Exit 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Field Day – We need a person to act as  
coordinator for networking computers.

June meeting – software training

Next meeting – Dan will check on availability of hall since 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday is Good Friday. YCCC will be meeting with us.

May program – possibilities are being considered.

Hamfest– Flyers are available. Speakers for mini courses – will be announced on flyers

CARA is 75 years old. It was started in 1931. Dan is working on collecting old photos, articles, etc. We could have a special events station at Hamfest. We could have a special event at Military Museum in Danbury.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 P.M.

Respectfully,  
Martha Babbitt KB1IES

## **W1AW 2006 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule**

### *Morning Schedule:*

Time Mode Days  
-----

1300 UTC (9 AM ET) CWs Wed, Fri  
1300 UTC (9 AM ET) CWf Tue, Thu

### Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1400 UTC to 1600 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM ET)  
1700 UTC to 1945 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET)

(Station closed 1600 to 1700 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM ET))

### *Afternoon/Evening Schedule:*

2000 UTC (4 PM ET) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri  
2000 " " CWs Tue, Thu  
2100 " (5 PM ET) CWb Daily  
2200 " (6 PM ET) RTTY Daily  
2300 " (7 PM ET) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri

2300 " " CWf Tue, Thu  
0000 " (8 PM ET) CWb Daily  
0100 " (9 PM ET) RTTY Daily  
0145 " (9:45 PM ET) VOICE Daily  
0200 " (10 PM ET) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri  
0200 " " CWs Tue, Thu  
0300 " (11 PM ET) 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 2230 UTC (6:30 PM ET), 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 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) 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 1400 UTC to 1600 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM ET), and then from 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

The complete W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

### **Skywarn Training Classes Offered Glastonbury:**

A reminder that a Skywarn training class will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2006, in Glastonbury, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., at the Glastonbury Town Hall, Academy School Wing, 2155 Main St. Glastonbury, CT. The class will be taught by NWS staff from Taunton, MA. All are welcome, especially those who are radio amateurs, and those who are first responders, police, fire, and EMS personnel. This is a highly informative and educational class, using Power Point and other forms of presentation. Even though you may have attended a class several years ago, it's time to refresh and renew. There is no prior registration required.

A Web site has been created for Hartford and Tolland County and you may want to check it out. As time goes by, more links and information will be posted. Please type in [www.hartford-tollandskywarn.org](http://www.hartford-tollandskywarn.org) to reach the site. For additional information contact Roger, K1PAI, Skywarn Coordinator for Hartford and Tolland counties.

### **Ham How-To Class**

A How-To class for licensed ham radio operators is being offered by the Connecticut Section of the American Radio Relay League [\\_www.arrl.org\\_](http://www.arrl.org)

([aoldb://mail/write/www.arrl.org](mailto:aoldb://mail/write/www.arrl.org)) . The single session 4 hour class will be from 9-1 on Sat. 29 April at the Meriden Amateur Radio Club [\\_www.meridenarc.org\\_](http://www.meridenarc.org) ([aoldb://mail/write/www.meridenarc.org](mailto:aoldb://mail/write/www.meridenarc.org)) and will be presented by Connecticut Section Technical Coordinator Joe Wonoski - N1KHB and Technical Specialist Mike Loukides - W1JQ.

Similar in content to the 2005 class, planned topics include antenna construction and adjustment, along with antenna tuners and analyzers. We will also cover choosing and working with plastic and metal materials for construction of electronics projects along with adhesives, sealants, and fastener selection. There will also be instruction in soldering and an example of basic circuit calculations resulting in a small project to take home.

The class is free and open to licensed amateur radio operators. Seating space is limited, so please reserve by contacting Joe Wonoski at [N1KHB@aol.com](mailto:N1KHB@aol.com) or call H. 203-457-9770 or B. 203-785-2998.

### **Torrington:**

The National Weather Service in Albany NY has scheduled the spring SKYWARN Spotter Training Session to be held on the following date, time, and location.

*When:* Monday April 24th, 2006 at 6:30 pm

*Where:* Torrington City Hall Auditorium 2nd floor of 140 Main Street, Torrington.

*Talk-in Freq.* 145.370 pl 77.0 (part of the Link System)

All spotters are urged to attend a training session even if you attended previously. It is always good to review the topics covered in preparation for the upcoming severe weather season.

The National Weather Service requests that you pre-register for this session so they can get a head count of attendees ahead of time.

The preferred method for registration is to go to the National Weather Service Albany NY web page which is: [www.erh.noaa.gov/aly](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/aly) and click on the button at the top of the page for Spring SKYWARN Training Sessions. Then fill out the registration form and be sure to click on Litchfield County as the location you are registering for.

The other method is to call the following phone number (518)-435-9580 from a touch tone phone, then press #7 and follow the instructions for registering for the class.

If anyone has any questions about the session or about SKYWARN in general feel free to contact Steve, KB1IUZ.

[swilliams7739@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swilliams7739@sbcglobal.net)

Steve Williams KB1IUZ  
SKYWARN Coordinator  
Litchfield County, CT.  
ARES Area 5 Coordinator  
Winchester/Winsted, CT.

## **Radio Celebrates 100 Years of Voices**

Newington, CT Mar 17, 2006 -- "Hello!" -the first spoken word to be heard over the radio a century ago. The ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, is celebrating 100 years of voice over the airwaves in 2006.

As a boy, Reginald Fessenden heard his uncle describe Alexander Graham Bell's telephone. The 10 year-old asked, "Why do they need wires?" He then spent much of his life trying to figure it out.

His early attempts at voice transmission were unintelligible. Then, on December 23, 1900, he was able to pass a voice message by radio to his assistant. His first word was "Hello."

Later, while working to improve wireless

Morse code type communication between land stations and ships at sea, he continued his voice experiments. Working in secrecy, he planned a surprise for a 9 p.m. broadcast on Christmas Eve in 1906. Shipboard radio operators had been tipped to listen for something special during the December 24 transmission, but no one could have anticipated what happened. At the appointed hour, radio operators across the North Atlantic were surprised to hear, not the expected Morse code tapping, but a voice coming from their radios, calling "CQ, CQ". It was Fessenden beginning the very first "radio program." After a brief introduction, he played music. The planned Bible readings by Mrs. Fessenden and his secretary had to be quickly covered by the inventor as the first cases of microphone fright occurred when both women froze.

While commercial broadcasting didn't begin for another 14 years after Fessenden's historic first broadcast in 1906, thousands of inquisitive amateur hobbyists began to experiment with this new fangled technology. They were, and are still, called "Amateur Radio" operators. They labored in attics, barns, garages and cellars to perfect what we now call radio. In the USA, they formed the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

These Amateur Radio operators, also known as "hams", continue to be at the forefront of developing technologies years in advance of when they are rolled out to the public. FM, television, and even our small mobile telephones were all used by Amateur Radio operators many years ahead of the public.

*Courtesy:*  
*Allen Pitts, W1AGP*  
*Media and Public Relations Manager*  
*(860) 594-0328*  
*<mailto:[apitts@arrl.org](mailto:apitts@arrl.org)>apitts@arrl.org*

## **Amateur Radio to Remain within FCC Wireless Telecom Bureau**

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 17, 2006--The FCC has approved a proposal to create a new Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PS&HSB) that would assume some functions now under the umbrella of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB). But it appears that the Amateur Radio Service--now within the WTB's Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division, headed by Michael J. Wilhelm, WS6BR--will remain within the WTB, according to Anthony Dale, Acting Director of the FCC's Office of Managing Director (OMD).

"The Critical Infrastructure piece--that's things like taxi cabs, Amateur Radio, chemical plants, all that type of thing--those are not public safety-specific functions," Dale said in response to a reporter's question following the FCC open meeting. "The plan is to keep those in the Wireless Bureau."

Creation of the new bureau was a topic of some discussion during a meeting earlier this month of the ARRL Executive Committee. With the complete details of the reorganization still uncertain, however, the League is adopting a wait-and-see attitude for now.

Mika Savir, an attorney advisor within the FCC's OMD, presented the proposal to the Commission. "By this action, the Commission would take an important step to better address public safety, homeland security, national security, emergency management and preparedness and disaster management," she said. "As you know, the Commission has a statutory mandate to assist in promoting the safety of life and property, as well as the national defense, through the use of communications."

An official document spelling out just which functions and services will end up where has not yet been made public, and even Dale did not appear to be entirely clear on specifics.

He and others stressed that some PS&HSB functions may overlap those of other bureaus.

The FCC said the changes are subject to Congressional notification before they become effective. In addition, the Commission must work with the National Treasury Employees Union Local 209 to secure its approval for issues affecting the Commission's workforce.

The last changes affecting the functions of the WTB occurred in 2003. This reorganization has been several months in the planning. Some observers had speculated that Amateur Radio would be shifted to the PS&HSB, thus removing it from the WTB's market-based approach to regulation. Moving some of the WTB's current responsibilities to the new bureau, however, could speed up the process of moving Amateur Radio-related proceedings through the Commission.

The PS&HSB will have three divisions: Policy, Public Communications Outreach & Operations, and Communications Systems Analysis. In addition, the bureau will have a front office consisting of senior leadership and management staff.

The new bureau would be the seventh within the FCC. Commissioner Michael Copps said the proposed reorganization goes beyond "reshuffling" of the bureaucracy. He expressed the hope that creation of the new Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau would be viewed as "the first step in putting the FCC out front--where it long should have been--in providing communications security for all Americans in this dangerous age."

The Commission voted unanimously to approve creation of the new bureau. (*ARRL Web*)

# 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](mailto:w1afx@arrl.net)

*Revised 1/7/06*

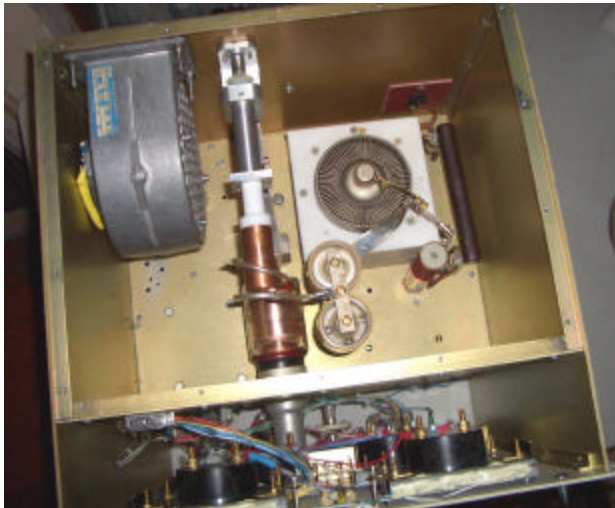


### Highlights of March Meeting

Here are some highlights from the March CARA meeting at which Steve, KF6AJ, presented an interesting program on radio and non-radio RF applications. Special thanks to Harlan, KB1ILY, for providing the photos for this feature!



**Steve, holding a plasma generator.**



**Top view of 6M amplifier that was converted from 13M to 6M.**



**Close-up of a liquid-cooled microwave power generator.**



**Close-up of RF matching network showing stepper motors.**

### **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.*