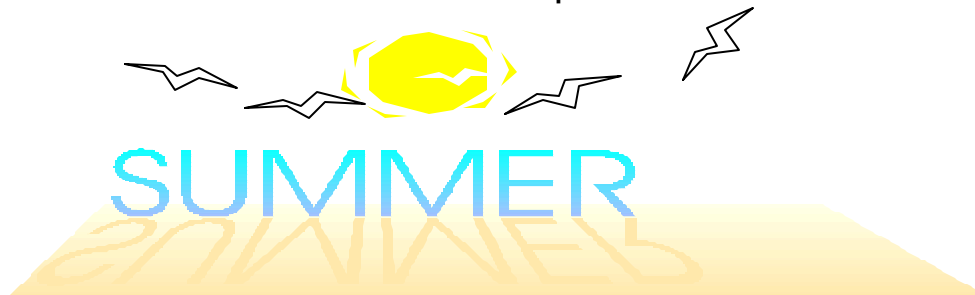




CAPERS

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, August 11 at 8 p.m.
AT OUR NEW LOCATION: STONY HILL FIRE STATION!

From the President

Summer is in full swing. I hope that you have had the chance to operate portable this summer. Summer is a great time for QRP portable operation.

Two new countries have been added to the DXCC list and they have been active recently. They are Montenegro (part of the former Yugoslavia, no prefix yet) and Swains Island, KH8. Hopefully you have had the chance to work them.

CARA has several on-going projects including the new 6m repeater. Expect to learn more about revisions to the bylaws and field operating rules (for CARA).

The new meeting location is truly excellent. The audiovisual system allows multimedia presentations and the room itself is very nice.

At the end of the month the Antique Wireless Association will hold its annual meeting in Rochester, NY and The New England Division (ARRL) convention will be held in Boxboro, MA. Both of these very different meetings offer excellent opportunities to learn more about ham radio. Don't forget the CARA Hamfest coming up on September 17.

I look forward to learning more about your summer activities.

73, Frank N8WXQ

Join Us at Our New Meeting Facility!

All club meetings and classes are held at the Stony Hill Fire Department, Route 6, Bethel, across from the Stony Hill Inn.

Directions: I 84 Eastbound, Exit 8 (Route 6), straight through the light at the exit, East on Route 6, past Target, about a half-mile on the right. I 84 Westbound, Exit 8 (Route 6), merge left past the gas stations, reversing direction and heading East on Route 6, past Target, a half-mile on the right. Or take Exit 9 on Route 84 Westbound to Route 6 Westbound and continue several miles. Cross Old Hawleyville Road. Fire Department will be on your left.



CARA meetings are held on the second Friday of the month beginning at 8 p.m., at Informal “rag chewing” begins at 7:30 p.m.

Welcome Tom W2MCJ!

CARA welcomes Tom, W2MCJ, as a new user of the club’s 2M repeater. Tom has been licensed since 1939 and currently resides in Danbury. If you here Tom on the air be sure to return his call. Sincere 73s, Tom, and a hearty Tnx to John W1JMA and Gene KL7CE for providing assistance and equipment to help get Tom back on the air.

Thanks to KB1IET and KB1IES for Education Efforts

A special thanks to Don, KB1IET and Martha, KB1IES, for their untiring efforts in behalf of training the next generation of hams. Many of their students have gone on to pass more advanced licenses and the nucleus of student members has been active at our meetings, on the repeater, the Sunday net and the recent Field Day event. If you hear these young folks on the radio be sure to return the call and provide any advice and counsel you can. Let’s continue to build on, and strengthen, the fine work that Don and Martha have begun!

Plan Now for September Hamfest!

CARA’s annual Hamfest will take place on Sunday, September 17. [See the flyer attached to this month’s issue of the CAPERS.](#) We’re counting on every member to do his or her part to promote and support this important club fundraiser and major fun event. Feel free to copy the flyer and pass it around!

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 Edmond Town Hall.

Mark your calendar today and talk to Jim KD1YV, Hamfest event chairman, to see where you can help!

Review Club Constitution and Revisions: Your Opinion Counts!

This month members will be receiving a separate e-mail containing a plain text draft of the Club’s constitution and by-laws with suggested revisions and modifications noted to help bring this working document “up to date.” Credit for much of this work goes to Bill, N1TIW, who has carefully reviewed the current

document for changes that should be made—many simply because of changes that have occurred in meeting places and other administrative areas. But this is the club's –YOUR club's—working document and as such your review and comments matter. We will be sending out this document so you can read and review it and be prepared to make any recommendations you may have to refine or improve it at one of our upcoming fall meetings. And thanks, Bill, for taking the initiative and getting the ball rolling on this important project!

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:

September 16th at Stony Hill Fire Dept.
December 2nd at Stony Hill Fire Dept.

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, N1PE, frsileo@att.net.

Vanity Call Sign Fee to Drop September 6

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 1, 2006--The regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will drop slightly starting with applications received by the FCC on or after Wednesday, September 6, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) says. The new fee will be \$20.80 for the 10-year license term. This year promises to be a big one for vanity call sign renewals, since the initial round of vanity grants under the current system occurred in 1996. Licensees who want to retain vanity call signs issued under the current (post-1995) system must pay the regulatory fee when renewing.

"Consistent with our established practice, we plan to collect these regulatory fees in the August-September 2006 time frame in order to collect the required amount by the end of the fiscal year," the FCC explained in a July 17 Report and Order (<[R&O](#)>," [target=externalhttp://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-102A1.pdf>R&O](#)),

"Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2006," in MD Docket 06-68. The FY 2006 vanity fee is a bit higher than the \$20.10 for the license term that the Commission had proposed in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making last March. The current vanity call sign fee of \$21.90 remains in effect for applications received by the FCC before September 6.

License Renewal

Amateur Radio licensees may file renewal applications no sooner than 90 days of their license expiration date. While the regulatory fee payment is required from licensees wishing to keep their current vanity call signs after renewal, vanity holders can opt to get a

sequential call sign and avoid paying any fee when they renew. The WTB clarified filing procedures earlier this year in a <[public](#)> [target=externalhttp://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-06-509A1.pdf>public](#) notice.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says the FCC handled the Gate 1 vanity call sign license renewals from June without any delay or problems. "I'm sure Gate 2 will go just as smoothly if you use one of the automated methods of filing, such as via the ARRL or using the Universal Licensing System (<[ULS](#)>," [target=external?http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>ULS](#))," she predicted. "Paper filings to the FCC can be confusing and difficult." The FCC renewed nearly 3000 vanity call sign licenses during June and July.

Amateur Radio licensees holding vanity call signs granted prior to 1996 do not have to pay a regulatory fee when renewing. This is because Congress did not begin requiring the FCC to annually recover its regulatory costs until 1993. Additionally, such licensees are not specifically tagged as vanity call sign holders in the ULS.

Renewing a Vanity License through ARRL

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee (see "Processing Fee Schedule"). The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "<[ARRL](#)>" [target=externalhttp://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>ARRL](#) Member Instructions for License Renewals or

Changes" page. The "[Instructions](http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html)" for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers. There's additional information on the ARRL VEC's "[FCC](http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html)" License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page.

Doing It Yourself

Somma says the ARRL's new license renewal/modification Web pages contain complete information on license-filing procedures, including step-by-step instructions on how to renew or update a license using the [ULS](http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/).

To renew via the ULS, licensees should log into [ULS](http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/) License Manager Online Filing (click on "Log In") using their FCC Registration Number ([FRN](http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/about/gettingstarted1.html)) and Commission Registration System ([CORES](https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/coreWeb/publicHome.do)) [password](https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/coreWeb/publicHome.do). Anyone doing business with the FCC must supply an FRN on any application. Obtain an FRN by visiting the [ULS](http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/faq.html#3) and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. Applicants must supply their Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

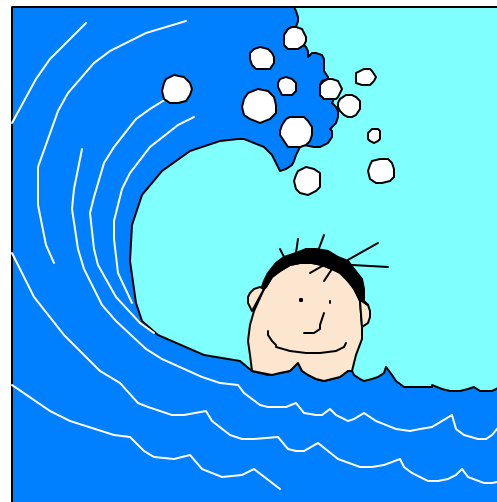
Licensees who want to keep a vanity call sign should select "Renew" under the "Work

on this License" option. Fees for electronically filed applications may be paid online or mailed to Federal Communications Commission, Regulatory Fees, PO Box 358130, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5130.

Regulatory Fees = Big Bucks

The FCC is obligated to collect nearly \$289 million in regulatory fees from various radio services during FY 2006 to fund its operations -- up by nearly 7 percent from FY 2005 -- plus another \$10 million allocated across all radio service categories, which may explain the upward revision in the Amateur Radio vanity fee from the figure the Commission had proposed in March.

The FCC plans to collect \$171,188 in Amateur Radio vanity call sign fee receipts from 8500 applications during FY 2006, up from \$166,443 in FY 2005.





Repeater Controller Work Carried Out at Bethel EOC

It may have been too hot to get out on the roof or work outdoors, but a group of CARA members who support the Bethel Office of Emergency Management (BOEM) gathered a week ago at the Bethel EOC (Emergency Operations Center) where the environment was (relatively) more comfortable. Their objective: to run some diagnostic tests on the Bethel 147.03 repeater controller. Ken, KD1DD, and Jim, KD1YV, performed much of the “heavy lifting” making adjustments, looking up diagnostic and test data on the Internet, marking connection information and validating features and settings. Larry N1URB, Bill N1TIW, Harlan KB1ILY, and Barry KA1JDD also pitched in as needed. All did their part when it came to the arduous task of making short work of pizza and soda over the lunch break. Thanks to all for a job well done!





Sponsored by Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

Western CT Hamfest

Sanctioned by ARRL



- **Sunday, Sept. 17, 2006**
(Rain or Shine)
- Edmond Town Hall
Route 6
Newtown CT
- Set-up 7 a.m.
- Doors open 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Talk-in on 147.300+ PL 100

- Admission \$5 (under 10 free)
- Tables \$12.50 (includes 1 admission)
- Tailgating \$8 (includes 1 admission)
- Ham Radio Equipment
- Computer Gear
- Door Prizes
- Refreshments
- Free Parking

Battery Exclusive! AGM batteries at rock bottom prices!

Commercial Vendors Include

- KJI Electronics
- QuickSilver Radio Products
- The RF Connection
- West Mountain Radio

Seminars

- Software Defined Radio
- Big Batteries for Ham Use
- Emergency Comms: What's a Digital For?
(Not a Presentation, but a Conversation)

Contact Information

- Joe de Groot - AB1DO: (203) 938-4880
- Jim Ritterbusch - KD1YV: (203) 775-1946
- Email: kd1yv@arrl.net
- Web site: www.danbury.org/cara

Directions

Take exit 10 off Rt. 84. Go West onto Rt. 6 (westbound make a right, east bound make a left). Approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile at flag pole make a right onto Rt. 25. Edmond Town Hall will be approx. 100 yds on left.

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA) Hamfest, Sept. 17, 2006
c/o Joe de Groot - AB1DO, 30 Sunnyview Drive, Redding, CT 06896. Phone # (203) 938-4880

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