



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



SEPTEMBER 2006 ISSUE
Meeting: Friday, Sept. 8 at 8 p.m.
STONY HILL FIRE STATION!

From the President

I hope that everyone had a great summer and I hope that you had time for some summertime operating.

September is an important and busy month for CARA. The VE exam and Hamfest are the third weekend of the month. The Hamfest is September 17. Be sure to attend and help at the Hamfest. This is the major fund raising activity of the club. Also invite all interested hams. As in recent years we will present ham radio programs at the Hamfest.

The program this month will concern Winlink 2000 and Airmail. Both of the applications provide messaging capabilities and offer links to the Internet for text messages. Airmail can be used

on HF and VHF to send e-mail to anyone. Airmail is popular with marine mobiles and RVers for sending e-mail via HF pactor. E-mail may also be received. The use of these programs in emergency communications will be discussed.

We have several business items to be discussed at the meeting. Changes to the bylaws will be discussed. CARA club rules for Field Day will also be discussed. These rules for Field Day will define participation rules for Field Day.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting and learning about your summertime activities.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

Join Us at Stony Hill FD!

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.

**It's TWO WEEKS before
the annual CARA
HAMFEST...**

**Do YOU Know Where
YOU'LL be helping out?**

Sign UP now!

Review Club Constitution and Revisions: Your Opinion Counts!

This month members will again be receiving a copy of the Club's constitution and by-laws with suggested revisions and modifications noted to help bring this working document "up to date." Please take a few minutes to read this document carefully and note any comments or changes you'd like to discuss.

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!

Amateur Radio Awareness Day is September 16

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 1, 2006 -- Security (DHS) <[National](#)
[target=externalhttp://www.ready.gov/america/npm/index.htm](http://www.ready.gov/america/npm/index.htm)>[National](#)
September is National Homeland Security Preparedness Month, and Saturday, September 16, is Amateur Radio Awareness Day. For the third straight year, the ARRL and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (<[ARES](#)>
[target=externalhttp://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec1-ch1.html](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec1-ch1.html)>[ARES](#)) groups across the US will join a coalition of more than 200 national, regional, state and local organizations taking part in Preparedness Month activities. ARES is a partner with DHS through the <[Citizen](#)
[target=externalhttp://www.citizencorps.gov/](http://www.citizencorps.gov/)>[Citizen](#) Corps program. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says local ARES groups and clubs will be making presentations to civic organizations, at schools and at regional fairs to showcase Amateur Radio.

"More than 4000 ARRL '<[Hello](#)'"
[target=externalhttp://www.hello-](http://www.hello-)

radio.org/Hello' campaign brochures have gone out in the past few weeks alone to prepare for the month-long initiative," he said.

To highlight Amateur Radio Awareness Day, ARRL public information officers (PIOs) will promote the DHS's

"<30"

[target=externalhttp://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0711.xml](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0711.xml)>30

Tips for Emergency Preparedness" to attract news media coverage. Some "tips" [target=externalhttp://www.arrl.org/pio/contact/2006/08/#SEPTEMBER](http://www.arrl.org/pio/contact/2006/08/#SEPTEMBER)>tips on promoting National Preparedness Month are on the ARRL public relations Web pages.

ARRL Public Service Team Manager Steve Ewald, WV1X, notes that the underlying theme of National Preparedness Month is to encourage everyone to be aware of and prepare for emergencies all year long.

"Amateur Radio operators, led by ARRL Field Organization leaders across the country, are encouraged to consider this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (<SET)"

[target=externalhttp://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html)>SET) -- as well as

all preparations and post-SET evaluations -- as a demonstration of your participation in National Preparedness Month," Ewald said. The target weekend for the 2006 SET is October 7-8.

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.

CARA Meeting Minutes June 9, 2006

The regular meeting of CARA was held on June 9, 2006 at St. Paul's church. The meeting opened at 8:10 PM. Two of the students from class attended, Brandon and Austin.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report of \$8585.65. The motion was approved.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Secretary's minutes. This motion was approved.

The field day arrangements will be discussed at the end of the program.

Hamfest – first cash payment has been accepted. Flyers are to go out. Many flyers have already been distributed. Ham Source and Radio Oasis will be there. Letters will go out next week to magazines. The facility rent is \$400 now.

Nominating committee: Same slate of officers was presented. Motion was made,

seconded, and so voted that the Secretary cast one vote for the slate. This was done. Meeting of New England Section Director will be on July 16th in Portland, ME. W1JMA will attend.

Repeaters: Last weekend, the backup power supply was checked. Digipeater was put on its own power supply. Decommissioned 220 repeater will be used to test 6 m repeater. Possibly modify this to become 440. Open chassis will be brought down. Modules ordered and are due next week (excerpt).

Last meeting to be held here at church and new location is at Stony Hill Fire house on Route 6. Meetings, exams, work sessions will be held here. Radio room has one radio. We can install radios. There is no rent, but they would accept a donation. It might be possible to have the hamfest here. We are scheduled in for 1 year. Our work meeting will be held at field day.

Update on Constitution and bylaws! It was moved to have a committee to make the changes to reflect motions, meeting place, etc. The motion was seconded and so moved.

Program: Field Day Demonstration of software.

Meeting closed at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully,
Martha KB1IES

Minutes of Informal CARA Meeting July 14, 2006

Field Day Wrap-up was given. New antenna was constructed. Officers were given code for entry into building.

Report from education committee that we have 2 generals, 1 tech plus, and 1 element 3 passed. New teacher at Newtown Middle School will be taking class to become

technician and hopefully general so that the program can continue.

Hamfest reported that new signs are needed. Tom Smith, W2MCJ, was licensed in 1938 and is now in Danbury. John, W1JMA, is working to get him back on the air. He will be on 2m as of tomorrow. John will be in contact with family regarding equipment. Tom also wants to attend our meetings.

Bill, N1TIW, is working on updating the Constitution and bylaws. Check email for copy.

Club discussed how to spread information about amateur radio to the public. A "hello" program could be put together for civic and social clubs to make people more aware of amateur radio.

Respectfully,
Martha KB1IES

Minutes of Informal CARA Meeting August 11, 2006

Frank Sileo was recognized and thanked for his work with VE sessions.

Program was on Finland in July contest.

Discussion of Field Day

Hamfest – September 17th. Help needed with batteries, signs, set up, and clean up.

Constitution and bylaws – check your email.

Respectfully,
Martha KB1IES



**Don't Miss All the Great Stuff at
the CARA HAMFEST!!**



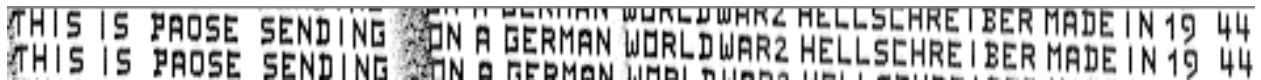
Are The Bands Going to Hell? *Pete Kemp, KZ1Z*

Here is your chance to operate one of the “new” digital modes that has a lot of history behind it.

For the past six or seven years I’ve enjoyed the leisurely pace of Hellschreiber. The blame for condition rests with Frank-N8WXQ during a CARA presentation. While playing different digital sounds, there was a raspy one I had heard, but really didn’t know much about. I knew about Hellschreiber from reading but had never tried it. Thus began my adventures.

This digital mode prints across your computer screen a bit like a fax. This is why Hellschreiber is sometimes dubbed the “fuzzy mode”. If you would like to hear what a Hellschreiber signal sounds like go to:

http://www.101science.com/101digitalsamples/HELLSCHREIBER_SAMPLE.WAV



Feld-Hell chugs along at 25 wpm, and some software allows you to print simple pictures like smiley faces and stars. You will find operators who like to rag chew, as well as many DX “quickie, 5x9 Good-bye” contacts. It always amazes me when a real DX station pops on. One afternoon I had a ZD7, St Helena Island, call me. It is thrill to be on the other side of a “pile up.”



A RICH HISTORY There is a rich history to this mode, which was originally patented in 1929 by Rudolf Hell. This digital system was developed for the German military. Hellschreiber was used extensively in portable field operations during WWII. This mode eventually was employed by some news services, remaining in use until 1980. Unlike teleprinters, Hellschreiber machines had only two moving parts, so were mobile and dependable. This method of transmission is also referred to as Field-Hell or Feld-Hell today. Hellschreiber is translated from the German, meaning Hell’s writer.

You don’t need a Hellschreiber machine from a flea market to get started. The combination of a computer, with soundcard, software and a few wires is all you need to join in the fun. If you are currently using computer generated digital modes, such as RTTY, SSTV or PSK31, you are already capable of Hellschreiber. IZ8BLY, MultiPSK or commercially available MixW, may all be acquired via the Internet.



ANYBODY OUT THERE? Until recently, Hellschreiber enthusiasts were sometimes frustrated by the low level of activity in the mode. In March 2006 a Feld-Hell club was formed. In four months nearly 400 members have signed up. The interest has been sparked! The club has stimulated a renewed interest in the old fuzzy mode. Membership is free. Achievement awards are available. In an interesting twist, to earn an award log data is sent by mail. Once verified, a serialized electronic certificate is issued. You print out your own award. Thus, there are no postage, processing or production fees. The club's home page has links to a cluster that spot digital stations, a monthly club newsletter and weekly HF nets.

You can learn about the Hellschreiber mode, join the club and get links to software at <http://www.feldhellclub.co.uk/> . If you wish to join, send an e-mail to: join@feldhellclub.co.uk with your name, call and address. You will receive an FH# in a return e-mail.

In Hellschreiber, QSOs are twice as good!

To-Do List

- Review the CARA Constitution and Bylaws and write down my suggestions
- Sign up to help at the CARA Hamfest Sunday September 17 (Talk to Joe AB1DO or Jim KD1YV)



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

- QuickSilver Radio Products
- Ham Source
- Radio Oasis

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