



# CAPERS

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

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**OCTOBER 2006 ISSUE**  
**Meeting: Friday, Oct 13 at 8 p.m.**  
**STONY HILL FIRE STATION!**

## **From the President**

Last month was a busy month for CARA with the VE exam and the Hamfest. We also enjoyed a large turnout to see the program on Airmail given by Bill, W1WJB.

At VE exam 6 people passed exams. It is nice to see young people (as well as some not so young people) upgrade to General. It is important for CARA members to project a positive image for Amateur Radio and encourage others to join our ranks.

The Hamfest was also a success. It was clear the people were enjoying themselves and buying appeared to be brisk. The club earned almost \$1,000 in spite of some extra expenses to upgrade our signs which will be used again in future years. The programs were well attended. My thanks to all who helped at the Hamfest. Particular thanks to

Joe AB1DO and Jim KD1YV for heading up the effort.

This month's program will be by Joe, AB1DO who will discuss Radio Mobile. Radio Mobile is a program which incorporates topographic information to determine VHF coverage for repeaters and other types of stations. The program would allow, for instance, one to determine the best location for a repeater. This program is freeware written by VE2DBE. Your ability to reach repeaters could also be determined.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Perhaps you found a goodie at the Hamfest that you would like to share.

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.

## **BIG THANKS to All Who Helped Out at the CARA Hamfest!**

Thanks to all the club members who turned out on Sunday September 17 to help with the annual CARA Hamfest at Edmond Town Hall in Newtown. From setup to cleanup and everything in-between, it was a great piece of work. The weather was beautiful and the tailgate area especially was crowded with sellers and buyers.

A hearty thanks to Jim KD1YV and Joe AB1DO for all the effort they put forth to organize this year’s event. From flyers to new directional signs they made sure potential attendees new about the event and how to get there. Financially, the event was a success for the club and the raffle of the Alinco 2M HT proved to be a good investment. Our series of indoor classes were again greeted with good attendance and well-received. Our thanks to all the presenters who invested so much of their own time in delivering good information to our fellow hams on everything from software-based radios (Joe AB1DO) , to emergency battery power (Ken KD1DD) to digital messaging (Bill W1WJB). Our classes are

one of the features that distinguishes our Hamfest from so many others and helps raise it a professional notch.

Once again, our sale of heavy-duty Gel Cell batteries proved popular. Thanks to Rosty N2FEX and Bill N1PJJ for rounding up and herding those buffalo-sized heavyweights!

Special thanks to Judy N1TGK who did her usual fine job as chief cook and hostess for our food service area and to all who helped her. Thanks to John W1JMA and Jim KD1YV and Joe AB1DO for announcing events and door prizes—as well as to all who pitched in to move tables and chairs, collect admissions, help vendors set up outside and indoors and give directions to visitors. There were too many of you to list every name here, but know that everything you did was much appreciated and contributed to the success of this year’s Hamfest!

**A few snapshots from this year's event appear later in this issue of the CAPERS!**

## **Review Club Constitution and Revisions**

This month members will again be receiving a copy of the Club’s constitution and by-laws with recommended changes and modifications discussed at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> work meeting incorporated in the document. Take a few minutes to read this version carefully. We’ll be finalizing it at the October meeting.

Thanks again to Bill, N1TIW, who has done the lion’s share of the work on this important project.

## **Club Membership List to Be Distributed to Current Members**

A number of members have asked to receive a copy of the current membership roster with address, call sign, phone and email information in order to better keep in touch with other members. Our plan is to distribute the current list in November by email only to

current active members. It will NOT be posted on the Web site or otherwise made publicly available.

If there are any members who for whatever reason do not want all or some of their personal information distributed, they must send an email by Friday October 27, expressly stating which information they would not like released, to the newsletter editor, Barry, KA1JDD. Please send e-mails to [barry@connollyco.com](mailto:barry@connollyco.com) and copy Club Treasurer Bill W1AFX , [w1afx@arrl.net](mailto:w1afx@arrl.net). Thanks!

### **FCC Launches New Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau**

The FCC has formally launched its new Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) <.

[target=externalhttp://www.fcc.gov/pshs/](http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/)>. The PSHSB will assume some functions that had been under the umbrella of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), where the Amateur Radio Service will remain. WTB Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division Chief Michael J. Wilhelm, WS6BR, has assumed a role within the new bureau, however.

"The events of September 11, 2001, and last year's hurricane season underscored America's dependence on an effective national telecommunications infrastructure," the Commission said. "The new bureau will build on the Commission's longstanding commitment to meet the needs of public safety by promoting robust, reliable and resilient communications services in times of emergency." Addressing interoperability issues will be a part of that process, Acting Bureau Chief Ken Moran told the Commission September 26.

The PSHSB is responsible for the combined public safety-related functions previously spread among other bureaus and offices. It will include Policy, Public Communications Outreach and Operations and

Communications Systems Analysis divisions. Wilhelm will serve as deputy chief of the PSHSB's Policy Division. The Public Communications Outreach and Operations Division will operate the FCC's Communications Center and the High Frequency Direction Finding Center.

Some observers had speculated that Amateur Radio would be shifted to the PSHSB, thus removing it from the WTB's market-based approach to regulation. Moving some of the WTB's current responsibilities to the new bureau could nonetheless speed up the process of moving Amateur Radio-related proceedings through the Commission.

The FCC Order setting up the new bureau is on the FCC Web site

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[target=externalhttp://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-35A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-35A1.pdf)>.

*(Tnx KZ1Z and ARRL Letter)*

### **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 2007
- New England QSO Party – May 2007
- WACC
- Special event station or fall contest

#### *Hamfest*

- Plan and organize – September 2007
- 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)

*Connecticut Phone Net (CPN)* Monday through Saturday, 6 p.m., on 3.973 and Sundays at 10 a.m. on 3.965...

*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.)

*Special Note:* The CT Phone Net is moving to 3.973 to avoid ongoing early evening interference from a short wave operator on 3.965. Continue to check 3.965 for the CT

Phone Net and for emergency ARES traffic, but be prepared to check 3.973 in the event of interference.)

### **NERPC Report: Towards a Rapid Response Capability**

The ad hoc National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC) isn't due to report to the Board until next January. However, with the anniversaries of Katrina and 9/11, ARRL members having a serious interest in emcomm are wondering about whether or not the ARRL is better prepared now than we were a year ago to cope with mega-disasters like Katrina. A major issue members are curious about is the ARRL's rapid response capability in Katrina-type disasters where our traditional decentralized ARES approach doesn't work satisfactorily to meet the needs of national-level served agencies.

Thanks to funding from a Corporation for National and Community Service grant, ARRL is making significant progress towards a national volunteer database of experienced and trained emergency communications volunteers who will be available for rapid deployment in case of major disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. The principles underlying the system were developed by the National Emergency Response Planning Committee for the project managers at ARRL Headquarters.

This system will allow prompt alerting and deployment of qualified operators to disaster areas outside their home ARRL Sections. It will enable the League to respond quickly to requests from national-level served agencies such as the American Red Cross for large numbers of qualified operators without the delay and confusion that has sometimes occurred in the past.

One way to populate the database would be simply to seek volunteers directly from the Amateur Radio community at large. However, the NERPC -- made up of present and past ARRL Section Field Organization leadership officials -- concluded that it is best

to work with and through the Field Organization to identify Amateur Radio emergency communicators who are trained, equipped, prepared, and willing to deploy outside their home Sections in case of major disasters.

At this time the system is not yet ready to "go live." Before that happens, Section officials will be briefed on what they need to know in order to facilitate cooperation of emergency communicators in their Sections with this exciting new national-level response capability. "Please stand by." - Kay Craigie, N3KN, Chairman, NERPC  
(Article courtesy ARES E-Letter)

### VE Schedule for 2006

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

December 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### NEW: Featured Shack of the Month

With this month's issue of CAPERS, we're kicking off a new regular item: the featured shack of the month. No contest, no rules. Everyone is a winner. Just send in a photo (A snapshot your editor can scan or a digital JPEG file of about 100K or more) of your ham shack, computer workstation or where you prefer to operate – mobile, mountaintopping, on vacation, on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hilton while on a business trip – whatever. As space permits we'll run a photo of your shack, rig, computer or you on the radio. Please also include a paragraph in your own words describing your shack or your favorite mode of operation ("You'll find me behind the mike on my mobile rig..." or "My software-defined radio takes little space and reaches the world...").

We all learn from each other in this great hobby of ours, and I'm sure we'll pick up tips from each other on what works, what's fun, what we'd like to emulate, or what we'd like to change in our ham shacks. To inaugurate the feature here's a snapshot of the "current" set-up at KA1JDD – subject to change without notice. As we all know, "shacks", workspaces and anywhere we set up and operate our rigs are always a work in progress! Send in those photos, folks. We'd love to see 'em and share 'em. – Ed.



**The shack at KA1JDD** occupies a corner of a small bedroom that doubles as a darkroom and general work area. The main rig is a Kenwood 940AT. A Yaesu FT-840 serves as a backup. 2M, 440 and 6M gear is on the left, along with an MFJ portable 20M radio and tuner combo that's handy for travel. The 940AT is AC power only. The rest of the station is connected through a 35 amp Astron power supply, power strip and Mountain Radio PWRgate Pro to a 70 AH gell cell for automatic emergency backup. Except for VHF, antennas are pretty much dipoles and G5RVs. A postscript: The only reason this operating position looks as neat as it does is that the previous table collapsed several months ago under the weight of one-too-many boat-anchor rigs and took with it a couple of pieces of gear! Hopefully this "slimmed-down" setup will have a better survival rate! Now, let's see some photos of other CARA member ham shacks and/or workplaces!

# CARA HAMFEST 2006!

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this annual club event a success!

