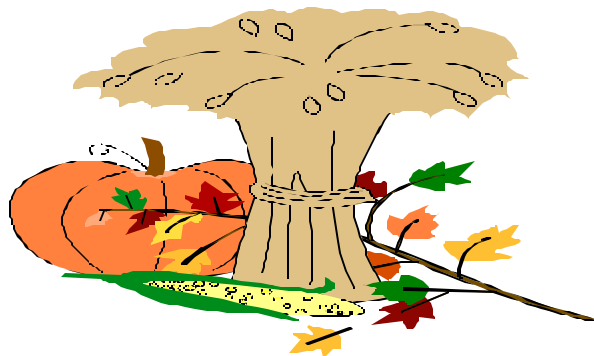




CAPERS

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



November 2006 ISSUE Meeting: Friday, Nov. 10 at 8 p.m.

From the President

Well, the Holiday Season is almost upon us again. I wish CARA members and the Amateur Radio community a Happy Thanksgiving.

I heard from our dear friend KZ1Z who reports that he is facing some significant health issues. Be sure to pass along your best wishes to him. On a brighter note expect you may have noted items from KZ1Z in the magazines recently. Expect to see even more in the near future.

This month will be a busy month for CARA.

We will be taking the first steps in getting up the new 6 meter repeater. For now it will be a beacon only with full service to follow.

Earlier this month KL7CE/W1, KB1MQB and I presented a program on amateur radio to a troop of Boy Scouts. The scouts enjoyed the

program. I encourage all members to enthusiastically promote amateur radio. At the meeting, we did some across-the-room PSK31 on 2m.

On November 18, the club will operate the November Sweepstakes (phone) from the firehouse. I have invited the scouts to participate. I am sure the pizza man will show up as well.

John, W1JMA, will present a program on things learned at the Boxboro Convention this past summer. He will discuss two topics: Powerpole installation and NVIS antennas for emergency communications. These antennas have nearly vertical radiation for regional coverage as opposed to low angle radiation for DX.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting.

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.

Radio Mobile and our 6m Repeater...

Thanks to Joe AB1DO for a very informative October program on Radio Mobile and how effective it can be in plotting the coverage and potential interference areas of radio mobile repeater systems. Joe's presentation included a plot of the coverage area for the club's 6m repeater. [See the coverage map in this issue of the CAPERS.](#) The distance between rings is 10 miles. The coverage pattern shown is for a 6m repeater with a signal level greater than 10 uV.

6m Tuned Cavities in Progress...



Work continues on modifying the tuned cavities or "cans" for our 6m repeater. The photo shows a "work in progress". A tuned cavity helps isolate the transmitter and receiver so they don't interfere with each other since both the receiver and transmitter are on the same chassis and share the same antenna. Thanks to the Repeater Committee for their work on the 6m repeater 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. A copy of the current roster is going out with this month's CAPERS to current active members. It will NOT be posted on the Web site or otherwise made publicly available. This information is based on what we currently have on file for you. If you have information you would like updated (phone number, email address etc.), please contact our treasurer Bill, W1AFX at w!afx@arrl.net and he will pass updates along to your editor so we can send out an updated list in the months ahead.

VE Schedule

The last Volunteer Examination session this year is scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd at the Stony Hill Fire Department.

For session times and additional information on what you need to bring with you, and to advise Frank, N1PE, that you plan to attend a VE session-- please contact Frank at frsileo@att.net.

Got Info?

Have an article for the CAPERS or an item for sale? Send your info to the editor, Barry KA1JDD at barry@connollyco.com.

You've Got (Air)Mail...

The October meeting was an opportunity for a little experimenting with "AirMail" – the digital messaging application. The Stony Hill Fire Department has proved to be a great location for our meetings and activities. If you



haven't come to a meeting yet since we moved to our new location, please stop by!

CARA Standing Committees

Here 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.)

Ridgefield EOC On-Line for Storm Support



John W1JMA and Bill W1WJB work with Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi. The Ridgefield EOC was activated Saturday, October 28th to help provide support and assistance as needed during the high winds and heavy rains of the late fall storm.

Minutes of September and October Meetings

September 8, 2006

The regular meeting of CARA was held at the Stony Hill Firehouse on September 8th. The meeting was called to order at 8 PM. Everyone introduced themselves to the three student hams (Jason KB1NFH, Austin KB1NFF, and Andrew KB1MWW).

The program for the evening was on "Air Mail" and presented by Bill Barrett W1WJB. The business meeting was called to order at 9:20 PM. The minutes were accepted. The Treasurer's report was accepted. The

Bylaws were moved to be accepted with the following changes:

Fiscal year – moved from April to January

Recording and Correspondence

Secretary – one position

Secret Ballot for Officers to voice vote

Secretary to have a book.

These will be in Capers again. It was moved and seconded to accept this report. It was so voted. The vote on the changes will be at the next meeting.

Hamfest – new signs at \$24 each (7)

Batteries are being obtained

Deposit check is ready

Volunteers needed

Food – everything a dollar.

4 tables sold, ARRL

materials here, World Radio Subscriptions here

3 Presentations

Repeaters

6 Meter - crystals received, being tuned and tested. Controller is here.

VEC - next Saturday at 11:30 AM

New Business:

Absentee ballots for voting on officers?

Difficulty with time and validation.

WJ1D – note on simulated drill at 7 PM at VFW hall in New Milford

Marty Karr – silent key

State Convention on October 8th

EOC meetings 10/21 in Danbury, Dec in Bethel, and January in Ridgefield.

Meeting closed at 9:44 PM

Respectfully,

Martha KB1IES

October 13, 2006

The regular meeting of Candlewood Amateur Radio Association was held at the Stony Hill Fire House on October 13th. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM.

The program was on Radio Mobile with Joe AB1DO doing the presentation.

The business meeting was called to order at 9:40 PM. The Treasurer reported a net gain of about \$950 from the Ham Fest and a balance of \$9421.82. There was a motion made to accept the Treasurer's report. This motion was seconded and so voted.

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

Committees:

Repeater – we have 4 cans (3 need to be modified) for the new 6 m repeater. In a week or two the materials will be reassembled to be tuned. Question rose about installation. Discussion followed with the idea of temporarily installing an antenna to activate the repeater.

Ham Fest – Thanks to Jim and Joe for well run program. Signs cost \$200 and are stored at John's house.

VE Exam – December 2nd. We should expect a large group.

November Sweepstakes – operating from Stony Hill Fire House from 4 PM until 10 PM.

Discussed possible invitation to Fire Company to Christmas Party and possible donation.

Jamie will be running a training session for scouts at the Mormon Church in Southbury. Class will be at 7 PM and Frank will be helping. Question was brought up to

have club purchase some manuals to raffle off.

50/50 club – is there any interest?

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 PM.

Respectfully,

Martha KB1IES

November Sweepstakes Event

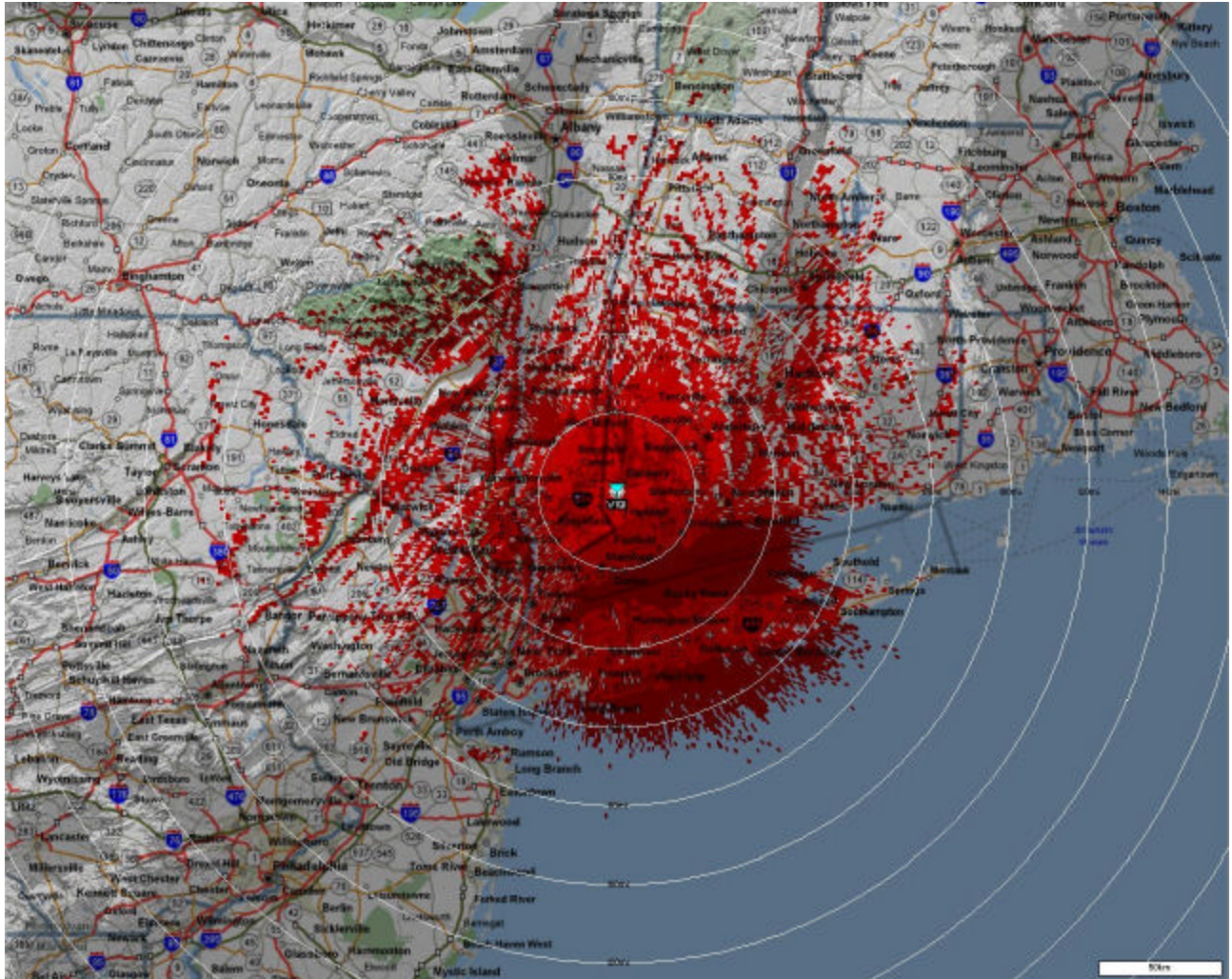


A reminder to all that CARA will be operating at the Stony Hill Fire Station for the November Sweepstakes Event. The club plans to set up at the firehouse and participate in the Saturday November 18 event from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. All members are welcome to come down and participate. We'll primarily be operating on 20 and 40 meters. For more information about the contest, check out page 103 in the October QST.



Coverage Map of the CARA/W1QI 6-Meter Repeater

Here's the map plotted by Joe AB1DO using
RadioMobile to show the coverage area of
the CARA 6-meter repeater.



W1AW 2006/2007 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time Mode Days

1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWs Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWf Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " " CWs Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST) CWb Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST) RTTY Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " " CWf Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST) CWb Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST) RTTY Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " " CWs Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST) 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 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), 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 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) 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 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 102 in the November 2006 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

ARRL Asks FCC to Upgrade 60-Meter Allocation, Privileges

The ARRL is asking the FCC to expand 60-meter operating privileges and substitute a

new channel for one that's often occupied by a federal government user. The League filed a Petition for Rule Making (PRM) <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/5MHz/5-MHz-Improvement-Petition-09-2006.pdf>> October 11. The FCC has not yet assigned a rule making (RM) number to the petition nor invited comments. The ARRL Executive Committee okayed filing the PRM when it met October 7.

"These minor rule changes will substantially increase the flexibility in the use of the channels in the 5250-5450 kHz band and will as well facilitate Amateur Radio emergency communications in this important segment of the HF spectrum," the ARRL said in its petition. "Amateurs have proven, through interference-free operation on these channels, that compatible sharing of the channels is possible."

The League wants the FCC to authorize General class and higher licensees to run 100 W effective radiated power (ERP) instead of the present 50 W ERP and to allow CW and narrow-band digital modes, including PSK31 and PACTOR 3. It also asks the Commission to replace the 5368.0 kHz center-frequency channel with 5358.5 kHz, so amateurs can avoid federal government digital traffic on the current channel. Operation on 60 meters would remain on a secondary, non-interference basis.

(Some articles courtesy ARRL letter and KZ1Z)

Consider Background Checks Carefully, League Urges...

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, is urging Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other ham radio volunteers to tread cautiously when submitting information for background checks the American Red Cross (ARC) now requires. The ARC, with which the ARRL has a Statement of Understanding (SoU) <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/fiel/mou/redcro.html>>, this summer notified local chapters that volunteers and staff members must submit to criminal background checks by October 31. Harrison says the requirement extends to ARES volunteers who support Red Cross disaster relief efforts. In a statement <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/fiel/RC-Background-Checks0610.pdf>> October 24, Harrison said the League recommends that anyone submitting personal information for a background check very carefully read what they are giving the ARC permission to collect.

"The Red Cross is requiring volunteers to grant permission for more than just a criminal background check," Harrison asserted. "They are also requiring permission to draw a consumer and/or investigative consumer report on the volunteer." Harrison said that could also include credit and mode-of-living checks.

"The Red Cross has stated that they will not use credit reports," he noted. "Requiring that volunteers authorize the procurement of a credit report is inconsistent with this assurance."

"The Red Cross has stated that they will not use credit reports," he noted. "Requiring that volunteers authorize the procurement of a credit report is inconsistent with this assurance."

