



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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December *Holiday Party*: Friday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m.

From the President

Happy Holidays to all CARA members and Radio Amateurs!

This month is the CARA Holiday Party. The party is a chance to ragchew with your fellow members and extend holiday cheer.

Members and their families are welcome to the gathering. Each is expected to provide a pot luck dish of some kind. For those who are cooking-challenged something can surely be found at your supermarket deli. In addition to the fellowship there will be a few small surprises.

On December 15, several changes to the Amateur Bands will occur. You should become familiar with the changes as some may affect your operating privileges particularly if you operate digital modes. While the changes are generally positive a

few may find it necessary to QSY. The ARRL website, of course, has the details.

The club operated the November sweepstakes from the firehouse. All who participated had fun but we learned some technical lessons that will allow for more successful operation from the firehouse in the future. KB1MQB helped a scout make his first HF QSO!

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

November Program Highlighted NVIS and PowerPole Connectors

Thanks to John, W1JMA, for an interesting program in November on NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) and the proper “use, care and feeding” of PowerPole connectors.

For those of you who may have missed the November meeting, NVIS is the wave property that results when a horizontal wire (dipole, beverage etc.) antenna is mounted quite close to the ground—from several feet to well under a half wave of the operating frequency. The resulting antenna pattern is something like an open umbrella. Everything “under” the umbrella—out to a couple of hundred miles or so—enjoys generally good coverage. Long-distance skip is minimized. Rough or mountainous terrain is less of a problem. NVIS can be very effective in setting up local communications nets—important for the military in setting up a reliable area of communications over a tactical area, and of course extremely useful for hams under emergency operating conditions where a reliable “net” covering a geographic disaster area is essential. John described it at one point like “squirting a garden hose at the ceiling” and wetting a very large area under the ceiling. Other benefits of NVIS include a theoretically lower noise level and the ability to communicate effectively at reduced power levels—something that’s also very important under emergency conditions where battery power and longevity comes into play.



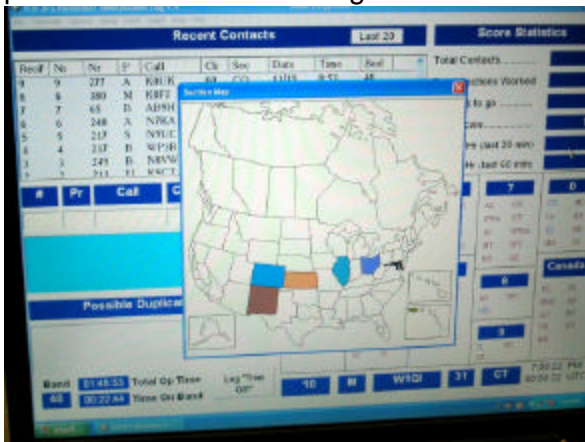
And speaking of emergency power, John’s discussion of the popular “PowerPole”-style of power connectors underscored the utility of these convenient plugs as a “standard” in emergency communications. Many of us are familiar with the interlocking red and black connectors that make it easy to interchange equipment or “hook up” to available power at a field emergency headquarters site. They’re equally useful in the shack to standardize connections and minimize the change of a mis-connected (oops!) pole between a battery or power supply and the equipment that’s connected to it. John also discussed the proper way to crimp connectors, along with tool options, wire sizes and other considerations. Several club members have the specialized crimping tools for these connectors and have offered to loan them to club members making up a batch of cables. Ask around at the next club meeting. Thanks again, John, for an informative program!

November Sweepstakes Event

As Frank, N8WXQ, mentioned in his message to members this month, the club conducted its first “field event” at the new Stony Hill Fire Station location on November 18. The HF “Sweepstakes” is an annual contest sponsored by the ARRL.



Club members set up a large wire quad on a portable structure alongside the building, fed with a smart tuner, and set up operating positions inside the meeting area.



Band conditions were challenging and there were some feedback glitches with the HF antenna, but those of us who were able to participate had a good time making contacts, munching on pizza and learned a lot that will help us the next time we set up for a "Field Day" type of HF event. Thanks to everyone who participated!

FCC "Omnibus" Amateur Radio R&O Takes Effect December 15

NEWINGTON, CT (November 15, 2006) -- Just a little over a month after the Federal Communications Commission released the Report and Order (R&O) in the so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) to the public, a revised version appeared today in the Federal Register. The changes in the R&O

will take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST, 30 days after its publication.

As expected, the Report & Order as published clarified two items that had raised some concerns when it was first released last month: That the 80/75 meter band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7.075-7.100 MHz band.

Still to be resolved are three controversial aspects of the Proceeding: Expansion of the 75 meter phone band all the way down to 3600 kHz (thus reducing the privileges of General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees, who had RTTY/data privileges in the 80 meter band, and CW privileges of General and Advanced class licensees) The elimination of J2D emissions, data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter, of more than 500 Hz bandwidth (thus making PACTOR III at full capability illegal), and The elimination of access to the automatic control RTTY/data subband at 3620-3635 kHz.

The ARRL Board is discussing the possibility of a petition to reconsider several items in the R&O. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, commented: "The release of the R&O in the Federal Register has started the countdown clock. We are all looking forward to being able to use the refarmed frequencies starting on December 15. We are still anxiously awaiting the release of the Report and Order for 05-235, the Morse Code Proceeding. We are hopeful that the Commission will be able to move on that petition and address the outstanding issues in the Omnibus R&O soon." *(Tnx to ARRL Web and KZ1Z)*

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.

Bethel OEM Hosts Area 5 ARES Members

In November, the Bethel Office of Emergency Management hosted ARES members from the surrounding area and



Harlan KB1ILY launched the net from the BOEM radio room. Visitors had an opportunity to tour the operations center and the Bethel 147.03 repeater room and backup system.



Thanks to Jim KD1YV for hosting the visitors, providing refreshments and taking photos for this article!

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.

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.)

CQ...CQ...CQ...

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season to
CARA members and families and a
very Happy New Year!

