



CAPERS

MAR 2007

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



March Meeting: Friday, March 9 at 8 p.m.

From the President

Well a new era in Amateur Radio has begun with the elimination of the Morse requirement. It appears from the sales of testing materials that we can expect many upgrades and new hams in the future. I hope many will get the HF bug and realize that there is quite a bit of good DX on the CW part of the bands and take the time to develop the necessary skill.

The attendance at the March VE exam may give us an indication of degree to the Amateur Radio Community can expect increased membership in the near future.

This month's program will be give by Del, K1UHF. Del is a well known UHF/VHF contester and a member of the West Mountain Radio Team. Dell will talk about radio in connection with R/C airplanes. Ham Radio operators have a segment of the 6m band devoted to this task. I hope that you will think about applications of telemetry and

telecommand applications in Ham Radio. A fairly recent issue of CQ VHF featured an article on a transatlantic flight of a model aircraft. Can you think of new applications to emergency communications? Integration of remotely controlled vehicles with ATV are obvious.

At the planning meetings we have been discussing a new segment of the meeting that will include a brief discussion of some aspect of equipment construction. The discussions can be on either complex or simple topics. We need individuals or groups to come forward and volunteer. The presentations should include a discussion of the major challenges of the construction project and how you solved the problems. Barry KA1JDD, your editor, has volunteered to be the first presenter. Next month a couple of such items are planned.

The New England QSO party will be held the first weekend in May. CARA will operate at W1AW on the Sunday of the contest. We will need a few operators for

the effort. I hope to see a few Extra Class Hams and some new comers. W1AW has had recent station upgrades and operating conditions should be better. Club members should also plan to operate from home as well.

Field Day is another chance for club operations. Get ready for June.

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

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

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n8 wx q



Join Us at Stony Hill FD!

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. The Fire Station will be on your left. CARA meetings are held on the second Friday of the month beginning at 8 p.m., with Informal "rag chewing" beginning at 7:30 p.m.

VE Sessions for 2007

Here's this year's schedule of CARA-sponsored VE Session exams. Please note there is a session Saturday, March 3.

- March 3
- June 9
- September 8
- December 1

All are Saturday sessions, and all will be held at the Stony Hill Fire Station starting at 11:30 a.m. Doors will be open about 11 a.m. An additional session may be scheduled in April or May.

For information on what to bring with you and to confirm you plan to attend a session, please contact Frank N1PE at frsileo@att.net

Radio Oasis at March Meeting

George K2ZZ of Radio Oasis plans to bring some items for sale to the March CARA meeting for the convenience of members. If there's a special item you're interested in, be sure to contact George with a 'heads up' so he can plan to have it on hand for you. You can read more about Radio Oasis and the products available from George's company at his website: www.radio-oasis.com/ or you can contact George at myradiooasis@aol.com.

NIMS Class Draws Large Attendance

The CARA-sponsored FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) 300/400 session at the Stony Hill Fire House on February 03 drew a large number of amateurs from around the area. Special thanks to Oscar KB1LQV for making the arrangements and to Officer Jared Turner of the Brookfield Police Department who was gracious enough to volunteer his time and considerable talent.

In this jam-packed session, students gained valuable insight into the organization and requirements of the National Incident

Management System as well as a better understanding of how we, as emergency communicators, can and should operate within this emergency incident management structure.

Photos from the class appear in this month's issue of Capers.

Those Oldies but Goodies...

Many thanks to Marty K1CVF for his presentation on antique metering and measurement devices at the February CARA meeting. Marty brought with him a couple of dozen intriguing measurement instruments, some over a hundred years old. Certainly makes us all appreciate today's LCD-screened multimeters and pocket-sized testers! Here are some photos from the February meeting!



Elmers and Mentors Wanted

We're looking for members who are willing to share their skills and experience in specialized areas of amateur radio with other club members. We'll publish member names, call signs, areas of expertise and contact information in the Capers.

Please send your input to the editor, KA1JDD, barry@connollyco.com.

New Look, Large Thanks...

If you've noticed a brighter new look to this month's Capers, thanks are due to Joe AB1DO, who revitalized the formerly black-and-white CARA logo and spiffed it up with a colorful new look.

And yes, for those who may have wondered, the circle of dots and dashes surrounding the CARA letters does indeed spell out W1QI, our club's repeater call sign. It also serves as a reminder of how vital and alive Morse code remains in the 21st Century despite its withdrawal as a formal Amateur Radio licensing requirement!

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.)

Note: The CT Phone Net generally moves 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 go to 3.973 in the event of interference.)

FCC ULS Hotline

The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has announced modified hours for Universal Licensing System (ULS) <<http://esupport.fcc.gov/>>Customer Support Hotline. Online customer support remains available 24/7 on the FCC Web site. The ULS includes the Amateur Radio Service licensee database.

Effective March 5, customers will be able to reach the FCC ULS Customer Support Hotline Monday through Friday (excepting federal holidays) from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Eastern Time. Among other things, ULS Customer Support is a resource for those with technical concerns or with questions about which application purpose is appropriate for a particular filing, the information a particular ULS form or schedule requests and FCC Registration Number (FRN) password issues.

Contact ULS Customer Support at (877) 480-3201, option 2 (toll-free); (888) 225-5322, option 2 (toll-free) or (717) 338-2888. TTY service is available at (717) 338-2824. (Courtesy ARRL Web and KZ1Z)

ARRL Invites Comments on New HF Digital Protocol

The ARRL is seeking comments from amateurs concerning development of an open-source (non-proprietary) data communications protocol suitable for use by radio amateurs over high-frequency (HF)

fading paths. This is not a Request for Proposals (RFP). An RFP may or not be forthcoming depending on evaluation of the information received.

Specifically, the League is asking for comments and information on the following issues:

- Access Method: Is Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiplexing (OFDM) the best candidate technology, or should other competitive technologies be considered?
- Data Rate and Bandwidth: What data rates/throughputs are achievable at various bandwidths up to 3 kHz bandwidth?
- Adaptivity: What adaptive features should be considered, such as automatic adjustment of transmitter power, modulation waveform and coding, in order to maximize throughput and efficiency in two-way contacts?
- Robustness: What is achievable for reliable operation at power levels typical in the Amateur Radio Service and low signal/noise and interference ratios?
- Error control: What are the appropriate applications of error control suitable for HF channels? For example, how should Repeat reQuest (ARQ) and Forward Error Control (FEC) be applied to two-way contacts and one-to-many (roundtable and bulletin) transmissions?
- Activity Detection: What is an effective method of determining whether a frequency is busy prior to transmission?
- Operating System: What operating systems (such as Windows or Linux) are appropriate for Amateur Radio use with this protocol?
- Hardware: What practical and affordable hardware platforms are suitable for amateur stations? Consider the use of personal computers with or without sound cards. Provide any information about the need for an additional "box" if needed.

Please provide the following with your response: (1) name of respondent, (2)

respondent's contact information, (3) related experience, and (4) type of respondent: (individual, partnership, corporation or group). Do not include proprietary information as part of your response. Post, fax or e-mail your response by 1900 UTC, May 15, 2007, to ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI <w4ri@arrl.org>, 3545 Chain Bridge Rd -- Suite 209, Fairfax, VA 22030; Fax: 703-934-2079.

(Courtesy ARRL Letter)

Recommended Reading from KZ1Z

Hi all: If you're a newly upgrading amateur that's going to give HF a try for the first time this coming weekend, or even if you are an Old Timer, I STRONGLY URGE you to download the file in the attached link!
<http://www.arrl.org/HFWelcome/Welcome.pdf>

In it you will find some EXCELLENT information and advice about High Frequency operations that will come in handy very soon! Seriously, folks, this is real good stuff. Don't miss it! (This is the same as an insert in the March issue of QST.)
--73, Pete KZ1Z

...And Another Useful Resource

The potential of many new/upgraded hams hitting the HF bands soon, will surely raise many questions. To assist hamdom, care should be taken to demonstrate proper operating procedures on the air. Most mistakes happen because an op just don't know any better. Help them out, in a nice way, of course. Everyone can be an Elmer.

To assist newer operators refine their practices, and as a review for those who think they know it all, check this out:
http://www.southgatearc.org/news/february2007/operating_practice.htm

Written for and by Beligum hams, its contents pertain universally to radio amateurs of all levels. This site is written in English. --73, Pete, KZ1Z

NIMS Class Draws Participants from Around Region



Thanks again to Officer Jared Turner of the Brookfield Police Department for explaining the National Incident Management System to the many hams who attended the February 3rd class.

Remember Dues are Due for 2007!

Just a reminder to any CARA members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2007...there's no time like the present! See the attached membership renewal form and send it along with your check to Bill W1AFX.

See you at the March 9 Meeting!

CARA

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 3441, Danbury CT 06813

2007 Membership/Dues Application

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Class: _____ Phone: _____ VE: _____ ARRL: _____ Email Capers: _____ (default Yes)

e-mail _____

Full Member
\$30 _____

Family (2 members)
\$52.50 _____

Family (3 members)
\$65.00 _____

Family (4 members)
\$75.00* _____

* \$10 each additional member

Senior (65+)/College Student \$23.50 _____

Associate Member (Non-Ham)
\$15 _____

Student (Under 18)
\$5 _____

Send Dues to:

Bill Webb, W1AFX
12 Stage Road
Brookfield CT 06804
w1afx@arrl.net