



Capers

June 2008

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 – John Ahle – W1JMA – Phone – 203-438-6782

Treasurer – Bill Webb – W1AFX - phone - 203-775-0536



***Meeting: Friday, June 13 at 8 p.m.
At Co-op Agriculture Center, Rte 6, 100 yds East of Stony Hill
Fire Station!***

Message From the President

I hope all are ready for summer. Time for portable operation-- and sporadic E season on 6m is upon us. Listen to the CARA 6m repeater during June and July for long distance signals. Better yet, listen to the SSB portion of the band.

The Forth weekend of June is Field Day. As in the past, CARA will have a 2A operation for the event. We will also have a friendly competition between the two CARA stations based on the number of QSO's and the number of hours of operation. Be sure to sign up for one or more hours of operation. CARA's past performance during field day has been quite respectable. Having 24 hour

coverage of both stations would allow us to score near the top of the 2A class.

June's program will concern Field Day operation. Elections are also held in June. Nominations are open until just prior to the elections.

In case you are ready to upgrade your license, the CARA VE exam is June 7.

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

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

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, 7 p.m., 3.640

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

Licensing, Upgrade Exams June 7

The next VEC exams are scheduled for Saturday, June 7, at the Stony Hill Fire Station, 59 Stony Hill Road, Route 6, Bethel.

Exams begin at 11:30 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but if possible please give a heads-up call to Frank N1PE, (203) 438-0218, or email him at frsileo@att.net.

Field Day June 27-29: Sign up for a Team Now!

Make plans now to participate in the 2008 CARA Field Day activities at Cadigan Park in Brookfield. Setup is Friday the 27th and Saturday morning the 28th. **Sign up now for one of two operating teams: Frank N8WXQ or Dan W1QK.**

CARA Moves 6m Repeater to Spruce Mountain.

Since January 2007, W1QI has been QRV on 6m (See Capers of February 2007). However, it was still located in the basement of the QTH of Joe de Groot, AB1DO, where it has been quietly working and undergoing tests. During this period Curt Seaton, W1FSM, assisted in fine tuning the repeater and duplexer.

By the summer of 2007 we were ready to move the repeater up to the top of Spruce Mountain, but we hit a snag. A five-property development had started at the end of Spruce Mountain Trail, our trail head and all the debris that had been collected from clearing the development site had been dumped in such a way that our access was blocked.

By the following spring this blockage had been removed and we once again had access. On May 10th we pulled together a work party consisting of KD1DD, KF6AJ, KL7CE, W1JMA, W1RNA, N1MG and AB1DO. Together with the aid of the Ridgefield Fire Dept, who offered their "Alligator" and its experienced driver Craig Dibble, the 6m repeater slowly made its meandering way through the woods to the top of Spruce Mountain. In all the Alligator had to make two trips: one for the repeater, controller and power supply; the second for the impressive duplexers. Without the help of the Alligator we just couldn't have done it and we would once again like to express our gratitude to the Ridgefield FD for their assistance.

The following week, May 17th, a second work party consisting of KD1DD, KL7CE, W1JMA, N1MG, N1TIW, KA1JDD, N2FEX and AB1DO ascended the hill. The work party hauled tools, equipment, a ladder and the folded dipole antenna. Once there, we split into two groups (after a slight diversion which required a third work party to extract KL7CE's truck from sliding down the hillside). Group A mounted the 6m antenna

(a folded dipole), while Group B mounted the impressive brackets (graciously offered and prepared by KF6AJ) on which the 7ft duplexer would rest horizontally!

The repeater and its power supply were moved to a new rack (which they will eventually share with the 220 repeater) and everything was hooked-up step by step, taking measurements along the way to ensure all was well. After a slight adjustment to the transmit pass band of the duplexer the 6m repeater was once again on the air! Its deviation level is currently on the low side and there is some de-sense going on, but these will be addressed in our next work party, targeted for June 7th.

It is great to see such a group of club members come together to work on this project. As chairman of the CARA Repeater Committee I would once again like to thank everyone who was involved. Couldn't have done it without you.

Please feel free to check out our 6m repeater: Input: 52.130MHz PL 100, Output: 53.130MHz.

Ed. Note: A separate "photo album" with highlights from the May 10 and May 17 6M repeater installation adventure is being sent as a separate document along with this month's CAPERS.

CARA Minutes for May 2008

5/9/08

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 pm by Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, President.

- The report of the secretary was accepted as printed in the Capers.
- The treasury has \$9025.03. The report was accepted. CARA now has its own Federal Tax ID number.

- The 6m repeater will be relocated to the repeater site on May 10 at 9am.
- There was a Field Day update given. Please sign up for a team. Dan, W1QK is one captain and Frank, N8WXQ is the other. Field Day is June 28 and 29 at Cadigan Park.
- Hamfest Flyers were distributed for the fest on September 14. Please bring the flyers to local hamfests for distribution.
- The program was presented by 2 YCCC members, Dave W1CTN, on Junk Box Tuners. The second part of the program was Low Power Contesting with no sunspots!. This was presented by Mike W1JQ. His talk focused on operating on 160-40 meters.

The meeting was closed at 10:30 pm.

John M. Ahle, W1JMA
Secretary

Looking to Buy or Sell Ham Radio or Computer Gear?

Just a heads-up that classified ads in the CAPERS are free to all dues-paying members.

Have an old antenna tuner that's gathering dust for you but could be a real find for another club member? Looking to buy a Heath AT-1 transmitter like the one you used just after you got your first license? -- or a home for that old Kenwood 530 that's packed in a carton in your basement? One ham's surplus gear is another ham's treasure.

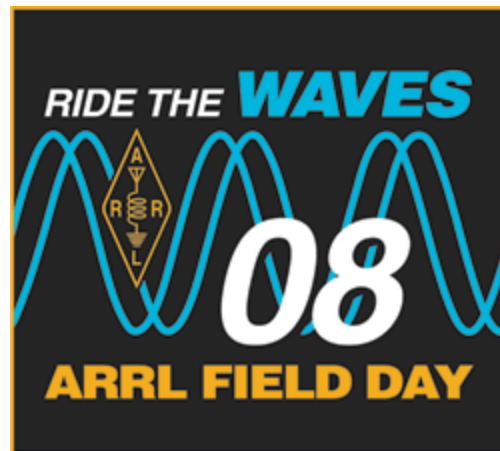
If you're looking to buy or sell a piece of gear or an antenna...let fellow members know. Drop an email to barry.connolly@yahoo.com and I'll post it in an upcoming CAPERS.

6M FM "Where to Listen" Frequencies,

Now that our 6-meter repeater is kicking some serious RF, what better time to get active on 6 FM (and SSB), especially with summer skip on the way. Here are some FM simplex and repeater frequencies worth checking out, courtesy of Mark N1MG.

	RX	TX	Encode								
					19	53.41	52.41	100	Albany	NY	
					20	53.01	52.01	173.8	Bolton	MA	
					21	53.03	52.03	71.9			
					22	53.05	52.05	136.5	Arundel	ME	
					23	53.07	52.07	71.9	Billerica	MA	
					24	53.09	52.09	162.2	Pelham	MA	
0	52.525	52.525	100	NatSimplex	25	53.11	52.11	107.2	West Hills	NY	
1	52.49	52.49	100	Simplex							
2	52.51	52.51	100	Simplex	26	53.13	52.13	100	Hudson	NH	
3	52.54	52.54	100	Simplex	27	53.15	52.15	162.2	Tolland	CT	
4	51.5	51.5	100	Simplex	28	53.17	52.17	136.5	Harriman	NY	
5	52.4	52.4	100	NatSimplex	29	53.19	52.19	162.2	E. Hartland	CT	
6	52.02	52.02	100	Simplex	30	53.21	52.21	71.9			
7	53.01	52.01	162		31	53.23	52.23	162.2	Greylock	MA	
8	53.03	52.03	123	SC, WV	32	53.25	52.25	71.9	Waltham	MA	
9	53.05	52.05	162.2	Bristol CT							
10	53.05	52.05	71.9	Auburn	NY	33	53.27	52.27	71.9	Framingham MA	
11	53.19	52.19	100		34	53.29	52.29	162.2	Cranston	RI	
12	53.21	52.21	131.8	Montague	NJ	35	53.31	52.31	114.8	Mt Beacon	NY
13	53.23	52.23	107.2		NC	36	53.33	52.33	100	Quincy	MA
14	53.27	52.27	77	Milford	CT	37	53.35	52.35	71.9	Amherst	MA
15	53.31	52.31	71.9	Mt Wachusett	MA	38	53.37	52.37	136.5	Parsonsfield	ME
16	53.35	52.35	100	Hackensack		39	53.39	52.39	71.9	Vernon	CT
NJ						40	53.41	52.41	127.3	Pelham	NH
17	53.37	52.37	114.8	Nyack	NY	41	53.43	52.43	88.5	Walpole	NH
18	53.39	52.39	88.5	Terryville							
CT											

42	53.45	52.45	71.9	Fort Kent	ME	64	53.97	52.97	71.9	Hudson	NH
43	53.47	52.47	71.9	Marlboro	MA	65	53.99	52.99	71.9	Lenox	MA
44	53.55	52.55	91.5	Washington	ME	66	53.41	52.41	136.5	NYC	NY
45	53.57	52.57	103.5	Portland	ME	67	53.41	52.41	156.7	Montville	CT
46	53.59	52.59	71.9	Concord	NH	68	53.43	52.43	100	Rochester	NY
47	53.61	52.61	71.9	none	CT	69	53.45	52.45	88.5	Bolton	CT
48	53.63	52.63	100	Mt Mitchell	NC	70	53.47	52.47	100	Minn,	
49	53.65	52.65	71.9	Haverhill	MA	71	53.55	52.55	114.8	Minn, ME	
50	53.67	52.67	123	Oakham	MA	72	53.59	52.59	77	Bridgeport	CT
51	53.69	52.69	71.9		MA	73	53.73	52.73	141.3	Keene	NH
52	53.71	52.71	97.4	Harrisville	RI	74	53.79	52.79	156.7	Yaphank LI	NY
53	53.73	52.73	107.2	Manhattan	NY	75	53.85	52.85	156.7	New London	CT
54	53.75	52.75	71.9			76	51.81	51.21	100	Europe	
55	53.79	52.79	71.9			77	51.83	51.23	100	Europe	
56	53.81	52.81	71.9	Marlboro	MA	78	51.94	51.44	82.5	Kingsland GA	
57	53.83	52.83	71.9			79	51.98	51.48	100	Puerto Rico	
58	53.85	52.85	71.9	Sharon	MA						
59	53.87	52.87	71.9	none							
60	53.89	52.89	100	Pepperell	MA						
61	53.91	52.91	71.9	Fall River	MA						
62	53.93	52.93	88.5	Brookline	NH						
63	53.95	52.95	71.9								



Connecticut NTS Net Schedule

The following chart illustrates the current NTS schedule. Info provided by Howard w1hsr@arrl.net.

Net Name	Days	Times (Local)	Frequencies
CT Phone Net (CPN)	M – Sat	6PM	3973 KHz
CPN	Sun	10AM	3965 KHz
CT Net (CN) (CW)	Daily	7PM	3533 KHz
Eastern CT Traffic Net (ECTN)	Daily	9:15PM	146.97, PL 156.7
Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net (NTVN)	Daily	9:30PM	146.88, PL 77
Western CT Traffic Net (WESCONN)	Daily	8:30PM	145.41, 147.12, 147.18, PL 141.3

Red Cross Responds to ARRL Regarding background Checks

At the ARRL ARES forum at the Dayton Hamvention, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, announced that



The American Red Cross (ARC) has finally moved to the issue of background checks for ARES volunteers.

In November 2007, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, wrote to the American Red Cross (ARC) regarding concerns voiced by ARRL volunteers. In 2006, the Red Cross stated it would implement background checks that included, among other things, a credit check and a "mode of living" check for its staff and volunteers, including ARES volunteers providing services to the Red Cross during disasters. ARRL saw these portions of the background check as unneeded and inappropriate for ARES service.

In a letter dated May 8 of this year, Armond T. Mascelli, ARC Vice President for Disaster Response Services replied to President Harrison:

"I can now report back to you that [these] actions have been completed and changes have been instituted which I trust resolves the concerns detailed in your letter. This effort took considerably more time and attention than originally envisioned, but I believe the results will now benefit our respective organizations.

"A new background consent form now [is] to be used by all Red Cross chapters for ARRL members and other partner organizations. The form and related process is limited to the name and social security number verification of the individual, and a criminal background check. References and suggestions to other related investigative possibilities have been stricken."

Harrison said that "We are very pleased that the American Red Cross has addressed some of the issues that we raised regarding their background investigations and that we can move forward in a relationship that has existed for a long, long time. The American Red Cross and the ARRL have shared a productive relationship for many years

which has been of benefit to both the organizations and to the public. We are glad that throughout the past months we have been able to negotiate the issues that we had and have finally come to a resolution."

With the background check issue apparently resolved, the ARRL will be working with the ARC in the negotiation and creation of a draft for a new "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) or similar document to replace the one which expired last year; Dura and Keith Robertory of the ARC will be leading the effort. When complete, the draft of the MOU will be presented to the leadership of both organizations for approval.

"While we believe that the Red Cross is implementing some changes that will address some of the concerns expressed to them by ARRL, at this point, it is work in process," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "There are many questions yet to be answered, but we believe that the Red Cross is progressing in good faith to complete the changes to their policy and their background check consent form, which was the primary concern expressed to the Red Cross by ARRL. There will be more clarifications and information in the near future. Please keep an eye on the ARRL Web site for updates as we know them. We are very much aware of your concerns and have conveyed them to the Red Cross. We expect the Red Cross to address these and other concerns on subject of their background check policy in the near future."

"The ARRL is very pleased that the American Red Cross has responded appropriately to our concerns about the background check issue," said

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We believe it now will be possible to go forward to negotiate a statement of understanding between the two organizations. We look forward to renewing and expanding the relationship with the Red Cross."

Dura warns that when requesting a background check on the ARC Web site, volunteers from partner agencies, such as the ARRL or ARES, should select "I am an ARC partner" when asked "What is my Red Cross role?" Otherwise, he says, volunteers will see the background check form that asks for "everything."

Hamfest Flyer In This Month's Capers

The CARA Western CT Hamfest is set for Sunday September 14 at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street (Rte 6) in Newtown CT.

It's never too early to start promoting this major fundraising event for the club. A flyer, courtesy of Joe, AB1DO, is part of this month's Capers. Feel free to copy and distribute the flyer wherever you can: other hamfests you attend, local postings in stores and supermarkets where allowed, and for inclusion in other newsletters.

It's also not too early to think about helping out. Contact Joe or Jim KD1YV and let them know you're available.

6M Photos Sent With This Issue

Look for a separate document in your e-mailbox attached to this month's issue of the Capers. It's a photo album highlighting some of the extensive work done on the repeater site during the month of May. The repeaters are the core of our club communications operations and many thanks go to Joe AB1DO and his team for making sure all that equipment is not only up-and-running but tuned for peak performance. It's a demanding job, but one that pays dividends to all of us throughout the year.



Sponsored by Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

Western CT Hamfest



Sanctioned by ARRL

- **Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008**
(Rain or Shine)
- Edmond Town Hall
45 Main St (Rt. 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 \$6 (under 10 free)
- Tables \$15 (includes 1 admission)
- Tailgating \$10 (includes 1 admission)
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- D-Star Presentation and Demo

Contact Information

- Joe de Groot - AB1DO: (203) 938-4880
- Jim Ritterbusch - KD1YV: (203) 775-1946
- Email: ab1do@arrl.net
- Web site:
www.danbury.org/cara/hamfest.html

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 Main Street/Rt. 6/Rt. 25. Edmond Town Hall will be approx. 100 yds on left.

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA) Hamfest, Sept. 14, 2008
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 @ \$15.00 each. Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I need _____ / do not need _____ electricity. Please make checks payable to CARA