



# Capers

September 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



**Next Meeting: Friday, September 12 at 8 p.m.  
Stony Hill Fire Station**

## Message From the President

I hope that each of you has had an enjoyable summer filled with a few enjoyable ham radio activities.

The CARA contingent has just returned from Boxboro. I noted that KD1YV, W1QH, W1QK, AB1DO, K1EIC, N1TIW and W1JMA were also in attendance. The event was well attended and enjoyable. At least a few rigs were purchased. I hope that I did not miss anyone.

W1JMA is leaving the area soon as he has taken a new job. We wish John the very best but we will miss him greatly. He has provided exemplary service to the club for many years. I believe he has served in all capacities as an officer of the club. We will be looking for a new secretary to replace John.

The Hamfest is coming later this month (**Sunday Sept. 14!**). Please talk up the Hamfest on the air and otherwise. We look forward to seeing you at the Hamfest. I

remind all that this is CARA's only money-making activity.

At this month's meeting, Tom, K1KI, the ARRL New England Division Director, will discuss some of the new initiatives from the League. The League will be seeking information from each of you. Activities for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ARRL are under way.

The future meetings for the fall include K1CVF who will make a presentation on vintage radio in October and a presentation on remote rig control in November.

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

**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 often moves to 3.973 to avoid ongoing early evening interference from a short wave operator.*

### **Sept. National Preparedness Month**

ARES groups are reminded to sign up for National Preparedness Month. Groups and individuals can register to become members by visiting <http://www.ready.gov>, and clicking on the National Preparedness Month banner.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said that more than 1,200 national, regional, state and local businesses and organizations have pledged their support and joined the 2008 National Preparedness Month Coalition. Sponsored by the department's Ready Campaign, National Preparedness Month helps to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses, and communities on emergency preparedness.

The Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps <http://www.citizencorps.gov> are specifically encouraging individuals across the nation to take important preparedness steps. These steps include: getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about the different emergencies that may affect them, as well as taking the necessary steps to get trained and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts.

Allen G. Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL Media and PR Manager stated: "Linking up with the Ready.gov people and participating in September's National Preparedness Month is an easy win. All you have to do is sign up. Most ARES groups are already engaged in activities that fit into their structure, so why not get credit for your actions? Of course if you do something more with this opportunity, so much the better. Go to <http://www.ready.gov>, and click on the National Preparedness Month banner."

### **Simulated Emergency Test Oct 4-5**

The venerable ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is slated for October 4-5 this year, although ARES groups are free to conduct their exercises anytime between September and December for convenience. All can participate. The exercise is not limited to ARES, but also RACES, NTS, SKYWARN, SATERN, and other groups.

Testing your plans and capabilities is mission critical, and the annual SET is designed specifically for this purpose. Make sure to participate. Individual operators should contact their ECs for schedules and plans.

### **TIPS: PocketMod**

Helpful tool! Pocketmod takes up to 8 full size pages, turns them into a single sheet of paper, which folds into a pocket-sized booklet. <<http://www.pocketmod.com>> -- Tnx: Jerry Reimer, KK5CA

### **ARRL's "Big Project" Makes Big Impact on Youth**

Since 2001 when the Education & Technology Program -- also known as the "Big Project" -- started, ARRL has expanded the scope of its educational outreach programs by providing grants of station equipment and instructional resources for professional development to more than 300 schools (with more schools added each year) <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>>. The Education & Technology Program has expanded the highly successful teacher development program in electronics, robotics and space -- the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>>.

>From humble beginnings in 2003, a single gathering of 12 educators came together at ARRL Headquarters to become the Teachers Institute, with the goal to promote wireless technology literacy. Since then, the Teachers Institute has provided teachers from elementary schools to the university level with the basic tools and teaching strategies to introduce the science of radio, space technology, weather, microcontroller basics and robotics in their classrooms. In 2008, the Teachers Institute program has expanded to six four-day sessions that now include ATV and radio astronomy, more hands-on instruction of project kits -- such as a seismometer, a 24-hour clock and A BOT Instructor's Board -- to enhance the teachers' ability to instruct basic robotics, a fox-hunt activity and satellite contacts.

Each year, the League receives gratifying reports from the schools that participate in the Education & Technology Program. The schools tell us that the resources we offer are bearing fruit -- both in terms of licensing students and teachers and engaging them in wireless technology, both in the classroom and in after-school activities.

"The Education & Technology Program is truly one of ARRL's most significant projects," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "The contributions of ARRL members make a direct connection to teachers and their students, opening the door to Amateur Radio and other exciting areas of science."

**Items for Capers? Send to the editor, Barry, KA1JDD, at [barry.connolly@yahoo.com](mailto:barry.connolly@yahoo.com).**



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)
- Ham Radio Equipment
- Computer Gear
- Door Prizes
- Refreshments
- Free Parking

**Battery Exclusive!**  
Big batteries at  
rock bottom prices!

## Commercial Vendors Include

- KJI Electronics
- QuickSilver Radio Products
- Radio Oasis
- The Parent Shop

**Don't Miss the Raffle!**  
Win a New Mobile Rig.

## Seminars

- The Ins and Outs of CW
- Satellite Communications - How to do it
- 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](http://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