



# Capers

October 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 – Bill Thoren – N1TIW - Phone – 203-744-5138

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



**Next Meeting: Friday, October 10 at 8 p.m.  
Stony Hill Fire Station**

## Message From the President

The contesting season is upon us again. I hope all will participate in at least some of the contests. They provide an excellent opportunity to improve operating skills, better understand propagation and identify areas where your station could be improved.

The Hamfest is behind us. I hope all had fun. The club did well with a profit of nearly \$2000. Thanks to all for the effort. Special thanks to Joe, AB1DO, for spearheading the organization of the event.

At the work meeting several items were discussed. These include the formation of Special Interest Groups (SIGS) these groups can be of any size and be on any topic relevant to Amateur Radio. The SIG may recommend and organize a program at a regular meeting. Further, because much of the CARA property resided at W1JMA's house, we need to identify a new, secure location for the CARA property. Our

objective is to identify a location for all CARA property. We also have on the floor a proposal to purchase a high quality antenna for the 440 repeater. In addition to these items, we have scheduled programs on a variety of topics through March.

Pete Kemp, KZ1Z has a very nice article in CQ magazine on SSTV. Please take a look at it. It seems that Pete has a special fondness for his old and dear friend NI2B(HI HI). Pete has contributed greatly to amateur radio over the years.

This month's meeting will be provided by Marty, K1CVF. Marty will share with us some of his antique wireless apparatus. Marty always provides an interesting and informative program.

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

*73 de Frank, N8WXQ*

## Club Recognizes John W1JMA for Many Years of Service



At last month's meeting, Club President Frank, N8WXQ, thanked John, W1JMA, for his many years of service to CARA and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of CARA.

John, as most of you know, is taking a new job in Massachusetts. We will miss his energy, insight, good humor and leadership but of course wish him the best in his new endeavors. We hope John will be able to join us for some club events from time-to-time but understand he will be heavily engaged in his new assignment in addition to commuting until he and his family complete their move to Massachusetts.

Thanks, John, and a big "73" from all of us!

### 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.*

### CARA September Meeting Minutes 9-12-2008

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 by Frank Etzler, President.

Frank introduced Tom Frenaye, K1KI, the ARRL New England Division Director. Tom discussed some of the long term goals and plans of the organization, which will be detailed in *QST* in the coming months.

After a question and answer session with Mr. Frenaye we went on to the club business portion of the meeting.

The Secretary's report was accepted as was the Treasurer's report of \$8,058.

Joe, AB1DO gave a report on the preparations for the Hamfest, including an anti-rain dance.

Ken, KD1DD proposed that the club buy a Decibel Products DB420B antenna for the 440 MHz repeater system. A CARA club member would be able to obtain the antenna (which sells for \$1,255 wholesale) for \$300. Judy, N1TGK moved and Bob, AC8O 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The members of the club in attendance at the October 10, 2008 meeting will be asked to act on this request. The antenna and data sheets will be available at that meeting in order for the members to evaluate the request.

Field Day this year included a friendly competition between two operating teams designed to encourage both of our stations to be on the air for the full 24 hours. Field Day was a great success and the "Q Team" was the winner. CARA logo coffee/tea/other cups were presented to the team members. May we emphasize that both operating teams and everyone involved in the Field Day effort contributed to our excellent results this year!

An important item of business was to recognize the many years of service in all club offices (except, as he noted, Vice President) held by John, W1JMA. Club President Frank Etzler presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. John has taken a new job in Massachusetts and we wish him success in his new position!

William T. Thoren, N1TIW  
Secretary

### **CARA Planning Meeting 9-26-2008**

Frank, N8WXQ, called the meeting to order at 8 PM. Six club members were in attendance.

### Two items of business came up that we would like to present to the membership:

1) Other clubs and organizations have Special Interest Groups (SIG) made up of one or more members having an interest in some aspect of the club's activities. In the case of CARA, the groups could include Contesting, Emergency Operations, HF Operating, DX, VHF/UHF operating etc. The Amateur Radio Club I visit when I go to my sister's in Ohio has 6 members whose special interest is radio controlled aircraft. They fly at a member's farm and also meet for breakfast every Wednesday and talk RC aircraft. The Danbury Area Computer Society has about 12 SIG of various sizes and meeting formats.

2) Over the years CARA has accumulated computer and antenna system

equipment. This material needs to be rounded up and put into controlled storage (perhaps at an EOC location) so when we are asked to help in an emergency or exercise (S.E.T., for example) we can quickly respond.

Also discussed were the following:

Ken, KD1DD went over some maintenance and operational issues for the repeater site. These include problems with the 2M antenna, replacing deteriorated coax cable, moving the 6M antenna to reduce its interference with the 2M signal, replacing the container unit cooling fan and freeing up the container unit door hinges. The continuing problem of there being no access road to the repeater site was also noted.

### Upcoming meetings

October: Marty, K1CVF-- Antique Radio

November: Remote control of a radio station

December: Holiday Party

January: QSL card sort and pizza party

February: Mark, N1MG-- Oscillator

Circuits

March: Bill, N1PJJ-- Antennas and feedlines

A reminder, these planning meetings are open and all are invited.

The meeting was closed at 10 PM

Bill Thoren, N1TIW  
Secretary

### **CT Worked All Counties!**

The following stations have been awarded the Connecticut "Worked All Counties" award:

N4US, WC6DX, KA1LOR, WA5SWN

Congratulations to each of these stations for this noteworthy achievement!

## CARA Hamfest '08 Fun and Profitable!

Joe, AB1DO, chairman of this year's Hamfest estimates that the club netted close to \$2,000 on this year's Hamfest, the club's primary annual fundraiser.

The Hamfest got off to a slower-than-usual start Sunday because of the early morning damp weather, but by late morning it had cleared substantially. The good news: we sold more highly-profitable inside tables than last year. Batteries were a hot item again and an early sell-out at the event. Pre-paid orders were taken for additional batteries, to be delivered as available. Our seminars were a popular attraction again this year. The raffle tickets we sold netted almost three times the cost of the FT-2800 prize rig, so the club did well there too.

All-in—all it was another memorable club event and kudos go to Joe for heading it all up and to all those CARA members who volunteered to help make the day such a success!

**Check out this month's issue of Capers for some snapshots from the event!**

## CARA Seeking Net Control Ops



Are you prepared to fill-in from time to time as CARA NCS? We could use a little more “depth on the bench” to pinch hit for Bill, Harlan and others from time-to-time. [You'll find a script attached to this month's CAPERS](#) (courtesy of W1QH) that can help make it easy.

Keep it near your 2M rig and you can be ready whenever your help is needed.

## IARU Booklet Promotes Ethics, Operating Issues

A 67-page booklet, "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur" by John Devoldere, ON4UN, and Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW, is available for free download from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/Eth-operating-ENarri-SITE-1jul2008.pdf>> This is an "Americanized" version of the booklet the authors wrote for an international audience. An international version also is available <<http://www.iaru.org/Eth-operating-EN-iaru-SITE-1july2008.pdf>>.

At its June 2008 meeting, the IARU Administrative Council endorsed and recommended the principles set out in the booklet as a means of encouraging all radio amateurs "to operate to the highest levels of proficiency, with proper consideration for others using the amateur radio bands" and as a tool "to teach newcomers and others correct operating behavior." The booklet mainly addresses HF operating issues, but the principles are also applicable to VHF and higher bands.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer and IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed appreciation for Devoldere's and Demeuleneere's efforts: "The authors are well known, experienced HF operators who are concerned about on-the-air operating standards and who decided that 'It's better to light a candle than curse the darkness.' Anyone who reads their booklet will learn something, no matter how experienced they may be."

*(Courtesy ARRL Letter)*



## CARA Net Script

{ Before starting the net--"Before I call up the weekly Candlewood Amateur Radio Association Net, is there anyone who needs to use this frequency?" -- if no answer, proceed with net. }

"Calling the CARA Net, Calling the CARA Net for [ insert Date ]

The CARA Net is a directed net. You need not be a member of CARA to join our net as all amateurs are welcome. All traffic will be handled through Net Control. Your Net Control Station this evening is <your call>, my name is <name>, and I am located in <your QTH>. If any station has Emergency or Priority traffic, please call now."

{ if no response, proceed }

"The first part of the net is for check-ins. The second part of the net will be open for questions regarding rigs, computers, or other radio related comments.

At this time we will accept check-ins. To prevent "doubling" please let the repeater drop after you say "this is". Then give your name and callsign.

{ Accept first batch of check-ins...ASK ONE STATION TO ACT AS ALTERNATE NCS!...and acknowledge all who checked-in. }

" <callsign>, Good Evening, <name>. Do you have anything for the net?" {take each station in turn }

{ periodically say , "This is < your call> for the CARA Net are there any additional check-ins, please call now." add additions to the list and acknowledge them. Continue with list. }

{ On to part 2..} "This is <your call> for the CARA net. The second part of the net is for any new business or amateur radio related questions regarding rigs, antennas, or computers. Are there any questions at this time?"

{ Take & moderate questions/answers. }

{ pre-close } "This is <your call> for the CARA Net. Are there any further topics for discussion, your callsigns please. "

{ Assuming no response...} " Nothing heard. "

{ Close } " This concludes the CARA net for <date>. The CARA Net operates on Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm local time on 147.300, with a PL of 100. All Amateur radio operators are invited to participate.

CARA meets the second Friday of every month at 8 pm at the Stony Hill Firehouse in Bethel, CT. All Amateur radio operators are invited to attend. "

" This net is sponsored by the Candlewood Amateur radio Association. Correspondence can be directed to:  
CARA  
P O Box 3441  
Danbury, CT 06813  
The Club's website is located at:  
[www.danbury.org/cara](http://www.danbury.org/cara)."

( Optional ) "All participants are invited to QSY to 28.490Mhz ( FM ) after this net."

"This is <your call> net control returning the frequency to normal amateur use.  
Good Night All..."

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# HAMFEST 2008

