



Capers

January 2009

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 – W1QH – phone- 203-798-8096

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

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



**Meeting: Friday, January 9
Stony Hill Fire Station**

Message from the President

I hope that each of you had a fine holiday. Perhaps, Santa brought some ham radio goodies to the shack. I extend wishes for 2009.

As you probably know, it is now dues time again. Please forward your payments to W1AFX if you have not already done so. The dues help with repeater and other expenses that make the club viable. Repeater expenses can be significant in the case of, for instance, lightning damage.

At the January meeting, we will have our annual QSL card sort. We will be conducting the pre-sort for the W1 incoming bureau. This is a valuable service to our fellow hams. Perhaps, you will find some of your cards. The sorting process is a significant effort so come early and plan to stay a while. As usual we will have pizza available so that you won't lose your strength.

During the coming year, I will be asking each of you to think of various ways to publicize Amateur Radio. If time permits I will show a draft of an amateur radio poster. Please, suggest your ideas and plan to implement some of them.

I believe that we have most of the programs lined up for the spring months. Continue to suggest your ideas for future meetings. What have you done that might interest others?

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

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

75th Sweepstakes Memento Orders Accepted Through January 31



The dust has settled from the 2008 ARRL November Sweepstakes and the log submission deadline has passed. How did you do? If you submitted a log with more than 100 QSOs, you qualify for a Sweepstakes Participation pin! If you submitted a log with a Clean Sweep -- working all 80 ARRL/RAC sections -- you qualify for a Clean Sweep coffee mug!

According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, pins and mugs have a long-standing tradition as trophies in the November Sweepstakes. "This year's participation pin will feature the colorful 75th year logo," he said. "They are stamped with either CW or SSB, so be sure to tell us what mode you want in your order. The Clean Sweep mugs this year are quite special indeed; for the 75th running, this year's mugs are fine etched glass and will really stand out on your shelf or operating desk. We won't be offering etched glass mugs again anytime soon, so these are truly collector's items."

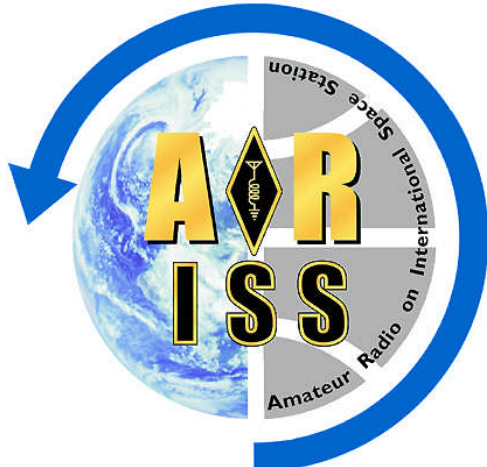
If you would like to order a Sweepstakes pin or mug, you can either send a copy of your Sweepstakes summary sheet (if you filed a paper log) or a copy of the first page of your Cabrillo file (if you submitted an electronic log via e-mail) with your check for the correct amount by January 31, 2009. You can also call Kutzko at 860-594-0232 and

he can take your credit card information over the phone. Sweepstakes Participation pins are \$6; Clean Sweep mugs this year are \$16. All costs include shipping charges.

Kutzko advises that these items are not in stock. "We will make our order to our supplier once we know how many requests we have," he explained. "Mugs and pins will likely be shipped in late March. The 75th running of the November Sweepstakes was a great event, with lots of participation and fun! Be sure to commemorate your effort with a pin or mug this year. All orders for Sweepstakes mugs and pins must be received by January 31, 2009."

ARISS Finalizes Plans for Silver Anniversary

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm> team is currently celebrating the silver anniversary -- 25 years -- of Amateur Radio operations from space. According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the crew on the International Space Station (ISS) has configured the radio to support cross-band repeater operations. They have also supported some SSTV downlinks and participated in a special test of 9600 baud packet radio operations on the simplex frequency of 145.825 MHz. After December 19, Bauer said he expects the ISS ham radio system to be on the 145.825 MHz frequency supporting 1200 baud packet. If PCSAT is configured during the week, he said double hop APRS is possible.



"During the week of December 21-26, we plan to support the cross-band repeater mode with a twist," Bauer said. "Our intent is to configure the radio for 145.99 MHz uplink -- including CTCSS tone of 67.0 and 437.80 MHz down. This will be performed in low power mode. We should also note that an extra-vehicular activity (EVA) is planned for that week -- Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, and Flight Engineer Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT, plan to perform a spacewalk on December 22. As per standard procedure, the ISS ham radio system will be turned off for the EVA."

Bauer said that from December 28-January 3, the cross-band repeater will be reconfigured for what he called "a special experiment. This will be a test of our L-Band uplink capability, which, to date, has not been proven out. Plan for an uplink of 1269.65 MHz and a downlink on the standard frequency of 145.80 MHz, using low power," he said. "Given the substantial cable losses of the L-band system, we hope some 'big guns' are able to penetrate through, keep up with Doppler and make the connection."

A special certificate is being developed for those who communicate with the ISS from November 30, 2008 to January 15, 2009. This certificate will be awarded to those who have had two-way communications with the ISS on voice, packet (APRS) or through the voice repeater. Those who hear the ISS from space in any of the ARISS operations

modes -- voice, SSTV, school contact, voice repeater or digital - will also be eligible to receive a certificate.

To receive the certificate, Bauer said to note the ARISS mode of operation (such as SSTV, voice or school) on your QSL and whether the contact was one-way (receive only) or two-way. "You should send your self-addressed, stamped envelope to the normal ARISS QSL volunteer distributor in your area of the world," he explained. "On the outside of the QSL envelope, please include the words '25th Anniversary Certificate.' Make sure your envelope is big enough to accept an 8.5 x 11 inch certificate and includes the proper postage." If you do not know where to send your QSL, check the ARISS Web site [http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm#ARISS_Update--25th Anniversary of Ham Radio in Space](http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm#ARISS_Update--25th_Anniversary_of_Ham_Radio_in_Space) to find the one that serves your part of the world.

"We will be sending your certificate to the volunteer distributors in bulk after the event is over," Bauer said. "This saves workload and money. So do not expect to see it until 1-2 months after the event closes on January 15."

Bauer reminded hams that due to ISS flight requirements related to spacewalks and vehicle activity, the radio onboard the ISS may be off for some portion of this schedule. School contacts and general QSO opportunities by the crew will also preempt this schedule for short periods of time. "But remember that if you hear these," he said, "you still qualify for a commemorative certificate. Enjoy the ARISS ops on ISS!"

CARA Minutes

CARA Planning Meeting, 12-26-2008

The meeting was called to order by Frank, N8WXQ. Seven CARA members were present.

Upcoming meetings:

January- QSL Card sort

February- N1MG: Modifying HAM radio equipment

March- N1PJG: Feedlines

Programs for the following months are in discussion and will be listed when they are finalized.

John, W1JMA will reserve the Field Day site.

Note: We need an overall Field Day chairman.

At our next meeting, Steve, KF6AJ, will have some comments on the January 17 to 19 VHF contest. Contest details are on page 82 (Contest Corral) of the January QST.

I (Bill, N1TIW) would like to start a Special Interest Group for emergency power/alternative energy. I do not see it as an official committee but rather an informal gathering of members (nonmembers?) to discuss and build solar, wind, fuel cell etc. systems. I'm not sure if this would fit within the club's structure but would be interested in your comments. I can be contacted at wthoren@sbcglobal.net or 203-744-5138.

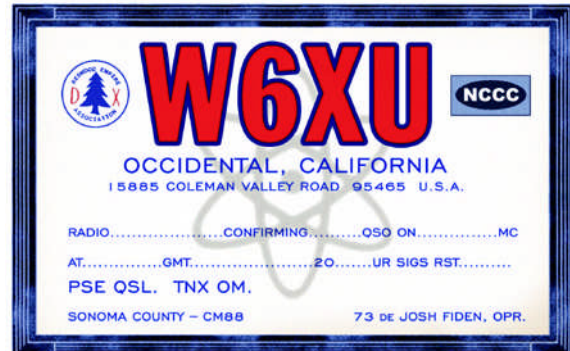
The meeting was closed at 9:15 PM.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW
Secretary

January QSL Card Sort

Our January meeting is the annual QSL incoming bureau QSL card sort. This service that we perform benefits all of us who use the ARRL's QSL bureau. It's a great (and

economical way) to exchange QSL cards with hams all over the world. And, you never know when you may find a card directed to you that you were waiting for!



To make it even more fun, the club provides pizza and refreshments during the event. So if you can possibly make it, please join your other club members in this fun project.



By the way, you'll get a chance to see some really interesting and even rare QSL cards along the way, an added incentive to getting on the radio and making contacts with fellow hams, ham expeditions and special-event stations!



Annual Holiday Party







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

2009 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 check payable to CARA

To:

Bill Webb, W1AFX
12 Stage Road
Brookfield CT 06804

w1afx@arrl.net
203-775-0536

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