



Capers

May 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, May 8, 8 p.m.
Stony Hill Fire Station**

From the President

The New England QSO Party is this weekend, May 2-3. If you can, why not join the CARA team going to W1AW? *See the information in the minutes in this month's Capers for meeting place and time.* If you cannot, I hope that each of you will take the time to put New England on the air from your home QTH. I know the crew operating W1AW will have a good time. If you work all the CT counties, I remind you that CARA sponsors the Worked All Connecticut Counties Award. The contacts can have been made at any time but The NE QSO party is a good time do so.

As summer approaches I hope all are thinking about portable and mobile operations. These can be great fun. Perhaps you can put a rare grid or county on the air. Some are not too far away.

Field Day, held the 4th weekend in June, is coming up next month. Now is the time to begin preparations for operation. We will discuss this topic at the next two meeting with major focus at the June meeting. Field day is a great social and operating event. On the serious side, it prepares radio amateurs for operation of emergency stations under field conditions.

Elections will be held at the June meeting as well. Nominations are being sought for the various officers and directors. This is your opportunity to serve the amateur radio community.

Invention and Technology Magazine is an excellent publication devoted to the history of science and technology. In the Spring

2009 issue there is a fine article on the rediscovery of tube technology by an apparently young author. The article reminds us that technology not practiced results in the loss of valuable knowledge for the future. There is also an article on key 19th century inventions including the electric motor and telegraph.

This month's program will focus on Martin F. Jue. Nearly every radio amateur in the world has equipment made by MFJ Enterprises and its subsidiary companies (e.g. Ameritron). Antenna Tuners, Antenna Analyzers and Amplifiers are popular. We will have a video interview with Martin and a video tour of the factory. The video was prepared by the fine folks at Amateur Logic TV.

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

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

CARA Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2009

Minutes: CARA Monthly meeting, April 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, at 8 PM with 22 members and guests in attendance.

The program for the evening was presented by Kevin Johnson, formerly of Amphenol RF Division, and Troy Coverstone, KB1MBH, who is a newly hired Design Engineer in the RF Division. They gave an overview of the Amphenol RF connector product line and the challenges (AKA "problems") encountered as the devices become smaller, more connectors are packaged in a smaller space and the design-time from order-to-ship goes from months to weeks and even days.

I think we can all relate to Kevin's comments about using high quality coax and connectors and carefully following the instructions for installing those connectors. Another situation that he encountered in his work has also come up in the space program, namely designing in the English system and manufacturing in Metric. In both cases the problems can range from minor, such as poor fit of mating parts due to rounding errors, to major, such as calculating a system in inches that is to be constructed in centimeters!

Both during and after the presentation Kevin and Troy took questions and they also had copies of Amphenol catalogs available for those who were interested.

It was a very interesting and well presented program and we thank CARA member Carl Braun, W1ZGZ for arranging it.

After a short break we went on to the business meeting.

The Secretary's report was accepted as was the Treasurer's report of \$10,415.94.

Frank, N8WXQ announced that CARA would again be working the New England QSO Party from W1AW. We will be operating on Sunday, May 3, 2009 from 9:30 AM to 4 PM. We will be meeting at 8:30 AM for carpooling at the commuter parking lot at I 84, Exit 9. This is a good opportunity to visit and operate from W1AW. As soon as word gets out that the station is on the air, you will be working pile-ups as people try to get "W1AW" in their log books! Contest rules are on the web at www.neqp.org.

Dan, W1QK, who is a 40 year member of the ARRL, reported that he and Harlan, W1QH, scored a "Clean Sweep" in the November 2008 Sweepstakes by making contacts in all 80 ARRL Sections. Congratulations to Dan and Harlan!

John, W1JMA, reported that Field Day preparations are on track.

Joe, AB1DO, reported that Hamfest preparations are on schedule and printed fliers are available. The flyer is also available in PDF format on the CARA website, www.danbury.org/cara.

It was announced that George, K2ZZ of Radio Oasis and John, N1GNV, of Quicksilver Radio are sponsoring the Yankee Peddler Hamfest in North Haven, CT on 25 July 2009. Since they will be there as vendors and will have to keep track of their booths, they have asked for help running the operation. Please contact George at myradiooasis@aol.com or John at info@qsradio.com if you will be able to help out. They support the CARA Hamfest and this is our opportunity to return the favor.

Harlan, W1QH and Oscar, KO1F will be starting Ham Radio classes for the Technician License on 5 May 2009 at the old Red Cross building at 471/472 Miry Brook Road. They hope to have the course completed by the June 6, 2009 VE test session. So far they have 14 people signed up. If you are interested please contact Harlan or Oscar.

Ken, KD1DD, reported on the pandemic flu drill that was conducted by the local EOCs, Danbury and New Milford hospitals and the Connecticut Department of Public Health on April 7 from 9:30 AM to 12 Noon. The drill included video conferencing among participants and the main goal was: "To practice and improve local and regional capacity to coordinate, execute, monitor, and maintain community mitigation measures in response to a pandemic influenza event". The Amateur Radio function was to provide backup communication support from our facilities at the local EOC locations.

Ken also reported on further testing of the Wi Fi system he, Gene, KL7CE, and Joe,

AB1DO, are setting up as a backup emergency system, independent of the local repeaters. So far the signals are strong and there is good coverage of the area of interest.

Oscar, KO1F, reported on the very successful ARES Region 5 Spring Training. Over 70 attendees came early and stayed late, a good indication of the interest shown in this excellent event! Betsy Doane, K1EIC, has a very good write-up on the Workshop in her Section News Summary sent out on April 20, 2009.

Two items that I brought up at the meeting were:

1) Smoke detectors (and Carbon Monoxide detectors) have a finite service life, generally 10 years for the former (listed somewhere on the unit or in the manual) and when test results or the display is "abnormal" (as given in the operating manual) for the CO detectors.

2) We need some other members to be Net Control for the Sunday 7:30 PM Net. The script for the net is on page #5 of the October 2008 CARA "Capers". Contact Harlan or me if you are interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 PM

Bill Thoren, N1TIW
Secretary

The current membership roster is being sent along with this month's Capers. If any corrections need to be made please contact Barry KA1JDD at barry.connolly@yahoo.com.

Tnx for April Program!

A big CARA thanks to Kevin Johnson (formerly of Amphenol RF) and to Troy Coverstone, KB1MBH, of Amphenol RF, for their informative presentation on connectors at our April meeting.



A reference from Kevin and Troy's presentation is included with this month's Capers. It lists the most common RF connectors, prices, and how to order from Jan Electronics.

Some quick tips from the pros?

- Always assemble connectors carefully. Follow the instructions precisely, since even a small deviation can throw impedances way off.
- Use quality connectors. Like so many things in this life, you get what you pay for. Cheap knockoffs can lead to bad mismatches or premature failure of your antenna system.
- The engineering trend today is toward smaller, ganged, molded connectors that facilitate custom designs and still deliver top-notch performance.

Helpers Needed for Yankee Peddler Hamfest in July

As Bill, N1TIW, notes in the minutes for the April meeting, George, K2ZZ, of Radio

Oasis, is looking for 4-5 CARA club members to help with the Yankee Peddler Hamfest in North Haven, CT, on Saturday, July 25. Volunteers will be working with members of the Meriden ARC,

In return for helping out, George will donate a radio to the club for the fall CARA hamfest, plus make a \$100 contribution to the club.

If you can help, please contact George at 914-533-2758 or e-mail him at myradiooasis@aol.com.

2009 CARA-sponsored VE session schedule:

- June 6th
- September 12th
- December 5th

All dates are Saturdays. Sessions will continue to be held at the Stony Hill Fire Station at 59 Stony Hill Road (Route 6) in Bethel, CT.



Registration begins at 11:30 AM. Walk-ins are always welcome--preregistration is not required. But if you know you will be attending a session a "heads up" e-mail or phone call is always appreciated.

By the way, extra helping hands are always appreciated at license test events. If you're free on one or more exam dates please give Frank a call.

For further info, contact Frank Sileo, N1PE, frsileo@att.net, 203-438-0218.

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

Hams Provide Communication for Boston Marathon

More than 250 Amateur Radio operators provided communication support for the 113th running of the Boston Marathon <<http://www.bostonmarathon.com>> on Monday, April 20, also known as Patriots' Day <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriots_Day>. With more than 26,000 official runners and 500,000 spectators along the 26 mile route, the marathon utilized amateurs at the starting line, along the course at each water and first aid station, and at the finish line.

"This is the largest public service event in New England in terms of the number of

Amateur Radio operators required for a one-day event, and we can always use more hams to help us," said Marathon Amateur Radio Communications (MARC) <<http://marc.mmra.org/marc/index.html>> Course Coordinator Steve Schwarm, W3EVE. "We're glad that the weather was cool and the number of ambulance requests this year was lower than past years, where we had higher temperatures and more medical issues."



Even with the more temperate weather, MARC Finish Line Coordinator Paul Topolski, W1SEX, said the medical tents at the finish line were near capacity by mid-afternoon. "Hams provided communications, status and logistical issue updates between the medical tents to our finish line net control as needed," he said.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) was active with operations at the State Emergency Operations Center in Framingham, with their operations room acting as a Unified Command Center (UCC) for the marathon. RACES members staffed the communications room at the SEOC, and ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager Mike Neilsen, W1MPN, staffed the UCC. Neilson fed status reports on any issues along the marathon route into the operations room, as well as issues from the UCC to the operations room.

"This is the first time we've had an Amateur

Radio Operator in the operations room of the UCC," said Massachusetts State RACES Radio Officer Tom Kinahan, N1CPE. "We have been coordinating with the Boston Marathon Net Control and the finish line communications in Boston to provide updates into our station and to our Amateur Radio operator in the UCC."

The Net Control center is located with a line-of-sight to the Boston area and to the entire 26 mile route in case simplex communication is required. More than a dozen repeaters were utilized to provide overlapping coverage to the marathon route. The Clay Center Amateur Radio Club, the Minuteman Repeater Association, the Framingham Amateur Radio Association and many other clubs in the New England area support the marathon operations.

With so many amateurs placed along the marathon route, ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, placed Eastern Massachusetts ARES on standby in case something went wrong along the marathon route, or a major incident occurred coincident with the marathon. "This is standard operating procedure for 'Marathon Monday'" he said. "We want our members to maintain a heightened state of awareness during the event."

(Some articles Courtesy ARRL Letter)

ARRL Newsletters Available

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-

weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service that lets them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site
<<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>>.

Have **YOU renewed your CARA membership for 2009?**

If you're not on the current membership roster, we do not show you as having paid your dues for 2009. Please contact Bill W1AFX.



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



Sponsored by Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

Western CT Hamfest

Sanctioned by ARRL



- **Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009**
(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 (tentative)

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

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

Seminars

- Air travel proven mobile HF gear (KL7CE)
- Internet linking (K1RFD, author Echolink)
- (to be determined)

Contact Information

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

Directions

Take exit 10 off Rt. 84. Go West onto Rt. 6 (west bound make a right, east bound make a left). Approx. ¾ 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. 13, 2009
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



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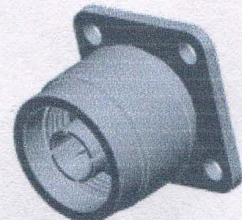
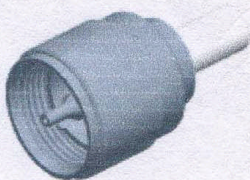
6 Truman St.

New London, CT 06320

Local (860) 442-4386

Fax (860) 447-8164

www.janelectronics.com



900	BNC Male To UHF Female Adapter	UG255/U
400	UHF Female To N Male Adapter	UG146/U
8	UHF Male To BNC Female Adapter	UG273/U
20-RFX	BNC Male Crimp for RG-58 Connector	
999-RFX	BNC Male Crimp for RG-8X Connector	
01-RFX	N-Female to N-Female	
02-RFX	N Male Soldering Type RG8	
68-RFX	Reducing Adapter for RG59 types	
85-RFX	UHF-06 Reducer for RG-58 Type Cable	
AC-RFX	UHF Male Cap and Chain	
AP	Right Angle UHF Male To UHF Female Adapter	MX103/U
H	Hood for 83-1R adapts for RG8 types	UG106/U
J	UHF Female To UHF Female Adapter	PL-258
SP-15RFX	UHF (PL-259 Type) Male Soldering Type	PL-259
T	T Type UHF Female To Male To Female	MX412/U
65	Hood for 83-1R adapts for RG58 types	UG177/U
77	UHF Male To UHF Male Adapter	
BNCP-UHFJ	BNC Male to UHF Female Adapter	
MUHFP-UHFJ	Mini-UHF Male To UHF Female Adapter	
NJ-BNCP	BNC Male To N Female Adapter	
SMAJ-BNCP	SMA Female To BNC Male Adapter	
SMAJ-UHFP	SMA Female To UHF Male Adapter	
SMAP-BNCJ	SMA Male To BNC Female Adapter	
SMAP-BNCP	SMA Male To BNC Male Adapter	
SMAP-NP	SMA Male To N Male Adapter	
SMAP-UHFJ	SMA Male To UHF Female Adapter	
SMAP-UHFP	SMA Male To UHF Male Adapter	

phenol PN	Description	Ref Only	MOQ	25 pcs	100 pcs	500 pcs	Ir
0-RFX	BNC Male Crimp for RG-58 Connector		25	\$ 0.93	\$ 0.88	\$ 0.78	
99-RFX	BNC Male Crimp for RG-8X Connector		25	\$ 3.17	\$ 2.94	\$ 2.64	
2-RFX	N Male Soldering Type RG8		25	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.59	\$ 2.91	
P-15RFX	UHF (PL-259 Type) Male Soldering Type	PL-259	100	\$ -	\$ 1.19	\$ 1.02	
5-RFX	UHF-06 Reducer for RG-58 Type Cable		25	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.26	
J-BNCP	BNC Male To N Female Adapter		100	\$ -	\$ 8.05	\$ 7.57	
00	BNC Male To UHF Female Adapter	UG255/U	25	\$ 10.36	\$ 9.95		
UHFP-UHFJ	Mini-UHF Male To UHF Female Adapter		100	\$ -	\$ 8.05	\$ 7.57	
00	UHF Female To N Male Adapter	UG146/U	25	\$ 9.54	\$ 9.20		
1-RFX	N-Female to N-Female		100	\$ -	\$ 2.89	\$ 2.35	
MAP-NP	SMA Male To N Male Adapter		100	\$ -	\$ 5.36	\$ 5.04	
MAP-UHFJ	SMA Male To UHF Female Adapter		100	\$ -	\$ 8.05	\$ 7.57	
MAP-UHFP	SMA Male To UHF Male Adapter		100	\$ -	\$ 8.05	\$ 7.57	
MAP-BNCJ	SMA Male To BNC Female Adapter		100		\$ 6.91	\$ 6.50	
MAJ-UHFP	SMA Female To UHF Male Adapter		100	\$ -	\$ 8.05	\$ 7.57	
MAJ-BNCP	SMA Female To BNC Male Adapter		100	\$ -	\$ 5.36	\$ 5.04	
MAP-BNCP	SMA Male To BNC Male Adapter		100	\$ -	\$ 8.05	\$ 7.57	
7	UHF Male To UHF Male Adapter		100	\$ -	\$ 17.78		
	UHF Female To UHF Female Adapter	PL-258	25	\$ 5.64	\$ 5.09		

	UHF Female Adapter	MX103/U	25	\$ 7.63	\$ 6.90		
	UHF Male To BNC Female Adapter	UG273/U	25	\$ 10.61	\$ 10.21		
CP-UHFJ	BNC Male to UHF Female Adapter		100	0	8.33	7.83	
-RFX	Reducing Adapter for RG59 types		100	0	0.29	0.28	
	Hood for 83-1R adapts for RG8 types	UG106/U	25	3.97	3.52	3.16	
	Hood for 83-1R adapts for RG58 types	UG177/U	100	0	2.91	2.44	
D-RFX	UHF Male Cap and Chain		25	1.23	1.19	0.96	