



Capers

June 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, June 12, 8 p.m.
Stony Hill Fire Station***

From the President

June is a very busy month for CARA.

The next VE exam is June 6th at the Firehouse. For those wishing to upgrade this is an excellent opportunity.

At the beginning of 2009 World Radio Magazine, which has supported our hamfest for many years, stopped publication of its print magazine. The magazine was purchased by CQ publications and is available on the CQ web site at no cost. The online version is in color, unlike the print version, but retains the general flavor of the magazine in past years including familiar advertisers and columns. I know World Radio was a favorite of several of our members. Check out the online version.

This month club elections will be held in June. The present slate of officers has been

renominated. Nominations, however, are open thus this may be your opportunity .

Field Day will be held June 27-28th. CARA will be a 2A station during Field Day. 2A stations have 2 transmitters and are operating under emergency power.

Field Day has a long history in Amateur Radio. The first field day was held in 1933 with purpose of promoting portable operation. The station with the highest score in 1933 was W9ZZAL. Do you know what the ZZ stands for? A history of Field Day written by Rol Anders, K3RI, appears in the December 1999 issue of QST.

At present Field Day serves several purposes. It provides an opportunity to put a portable station on the air for 24 hours. Everything must go up quickly and work

properly. Part of demonstrating that the station working well is the number of contacts that you can make in this period. To make this happen requires considerable operator skill. New hams can learn from the old timers at this time.

Field Day is an excellent time to ragchew with your fellow club members and eat a few burgers while resting from the grueling pileups (HI HI).

One of the purposes of ham radio is to serve in times of emergency. Field day provides an opportunity to show off our skills to the general public and to government officials.

This month's meeting will be devoted to elections and field organization including assigning operator times. We need to keep both stations going 24 hours a day.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting and during Field Day.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

CARA Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, at 8 PM with 16 members and guests in attendance.

Ken, KD1DD, had tables set up during the meeting for selling radios and other equipment from the estate of a local Ham. This will be an on-going sale at future meetings and at the Hamfest on September 13, 2009.

The program for the evening was a video interview with Martin F. Jue, the founder of MFJ Enterprises. The presentation was obtained by Frank, N8WXQ, from www.amateurlogic.com/blog. They also had

a video tour of the MFJ manufacturing facilities. It doesn't take long for someone new to amateur radio to come across MFJ equipment and it's interesting to see and hear how the company developed.

There was a short break after the program during which Ken was able to sell some more equipment.

At the start of the business meeting Frank reported on the results of the New England QSO Party at W1AW where, unfortunately, he was a "party of one". Using the station's Icom IC-7700 and some of the metal that W1AW has in the air he was able to complete 550 QSOs for a score of 25,500 points. Our congratulations to Frank for an impressive performance!

The Secretary's report was accepted as was the Treasurer's report of \$10,276.78.

Using a communications program included in Microsoft Windows, Ken, KD1DD, reported a successful WiFi "Net Meeting" video conference that was held with Joe, AB1DO, and Ken on one end and Gene, KL7CE, on the other at a distance of 2.4 miles. With "Access Point" (repeater) equipment it is possible to serve up to 10 locations and the current plan is to link the area EOCs in Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, Redding and Ridgefield in addition to Danbury Hospital. Other locations can be added as the need arises.

The commercial grade "Access Point" hardware (without antenna) required for each location costs about \$140.

John, W1JMA, reported that Field Day preparations are on schedule. The June 12th meeting will include training on the logging program that is installed on our computers.

The election of club officers will be held at the June 12 meeting.

So far the slate includes: President- Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, Vice President- Harlan Ford, W1QH, Secretary- Bill Thoren,

N1TIW, Treasurer- Bill Webb, W1AFX, and Directors Dan Fegley, W1QK and Ken Weith, KD1DD. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the meeting.

Joe, AB1DO, reported that the Hamfest preparations are on schedule. The tentative list of vendors includes KJI, Quicksilver Radio, Radio Oasis and The Parent Shop.

So far the Seminars scheduled are: Air travel-proven mobile HF gear by KL7CE and Internet linking by K1RFD, the author of Echolink.

Once again: a reminder that we have received a request for help with the Yankee Peddler Hamfest on 25 July 2009 in North Haven, CT. Contact info is at myradiooasis@aol.com (George, K2ZZ) and info@qsradio.com (John, N1GNV). They support us and this is our opportunity to help them.

The meeting adjourned at 10 PM and Ken's sale continued both in the meeting room and in the parking lot.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW
Secretary

Changes To ARRL VHF/UHF Contest Rules Now in Place

The League's Programs and Services Committee has approved recommendations made by the ARRL's VHF-UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC) <http://www.arrl.org/contests/vuac.html> to change two rules in the ARRL's VHF/UHF contest program. These changes are in effect immediately, and include the 2009 June VHF QSO Party, scheduled for June 13-15 <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/june-vhf.html>.

The first change concerns the Limited Rover category. The ARRL Programs and Services Committee accepted the VUAC's proposal that Limited Rovers may now compete on only the four lowest frequency

bands available for any given contest. For the January, June and September VHF Contests, this means 6 and 2 meters, as well as 222 and 432 MHz. For the August UHF Contest, this means 222, 432 and 902 MHz and 1.2 GHz. QSOs on other bands can be made by Limited Rovers, but they will not count toward the Limited Rover's score and will be considered a checklog. "We have already applied changes to the log-checking software that will adjust the Limited Rover's QSOs above the lowest four bands to zero-point QSOs," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X.

The second change concerns the ARRL UHF Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/uhf.html>. For the first time, Kutzko said, the ARRL Awards Committee voted to add Club Competition to the UHF Contest, beginning in 2009. "This is something that the VHF/UHF community has been asking for for quite some time," he explained. "The VUAC made their recommendations and the Awards Committee agreed. We hope to see VHF/UHF clubs across the country help increase participation and get involved with this fun contest."

According to Kutzko, these changes come on the heels of the redesign of the June VHF QSO Party Plaque Program. "In the past," he said, "plaques in the June VHF QSO Party have been awarded for first through tenth place in any category, regardless of location. As any VHFer will tell you, there are radical differences in propagation from one part of the country to another. We decided the plaque program needed to be based on Division, just like every other plaque program that the ARRL offers, not position in the standings."

Kutzko explained that the Programs and Services Committee agreed with this recommendation and voted in favor of it: "This change in structure recognizes the Division-level competition that takes place in the June VHF QSO Party, sometimes under

conditions of little to no propagation."

NOAA Predicts Solar Cycle 24

A new active period of Earth-threatening solar storms will be the weakest since 1928 and its peak is still four years away, after a slow start last December, predicts an international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center. Even so, Earth could get hit by a devastating solar storm at any time, with potential damages from the most severe level of storm exceeding \$1 trillion. NASA funds the prediction panel.

Solar storms are eruptions of energy and matter that escape from the sun and may head toward Earth, where even a weak storm can damage satellites and power grids, disrupting communications, the electric power supply and GPS. A single strong blast of solar wind can threaten national security, transportation, financial services and other essential functions.

The panel predicts the upcoming Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with a daily sunspot number of 90. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since number 16, which peaked at 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.

The most common measure of a solar cycle's intensity is the number of sunspots -- Earth-sized blotches on the sun -- marking areas of heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that solar storms will occur, but a major storm can occur at any time.

"As with hurricanes, whether a cycle is active or weak refers to the number of storms, but everyone needs to remember it only takes one powerful storm to cause expensive problems," said NOAA scientist Doug Biesecker, who chairs the panel. "The strongest solar storm on record occurred in 1859 during another below-average cycle

similar to the one we are predicting."

The 1859 storm shorted out telegraph wires, causing fires in North America and Europe, sent readings of Earth's magnetic field soaring, and produced northern lights so bright that people read newspapers by their light.

A recent report by the National Academy of Sciences found that if a storm that severe occurred today, it could cause \$1-2 trillion in damages the first year and require four to ten years for recovery, compared to \$80-125 billion that resulted from Hurricane Katrina.

The panel also predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles or solar minimum occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Cycle 23 and the start of Cycle 24. If the December prediction holds up, at 12 years and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its 2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms would start in March 2008 and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet sun since the last prediction has led the panel to a consensus that the next cycle will be "moderately weak."

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.

FOR SALE!

The following radio equipment as well numerous other pieces will be available for sale at the upcoming CARA meeting. These items are from the estate of Arthur Blackman, a former member of our club. All proceeds are going to his wife. Please see Ken, KD1DD, at the June meeting.

Heathkit HW-100 Transceiver with HP-23 power supply
Heathkit HW-101 Transceiver with HP-23 power supply
Radio Shack HT-202 2-Meter Handi-talki with 2 battery packs and hand mic
WWII Military Tank Receiver DC112
Heathkit 2-Meter Mobile transceiver HW-2036
Heathkit Test Equipment
Ameco 90 watt Transmitter
Heathkit code practice oscillator
Heathkit AR-3 Receiver
Eico VFO

Also FOR SALE:

Items for sale from N8WXQ:

Icom 756 pro \$1,000
Ameritron 811H (4 -811A tubes, 800 Watts PEP) \$500

2009 CARA-sponsored VE session schedule:

- 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

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>>.

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. $\frac{3}{4}$ 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. 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