



Capers

August 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, Aug 14, 8 p.m.
Stony Hill Fire Station**

CARA Picnic!

August 21. See Flyer Inside!

CARA Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2009

These minutes are compiled from notes taken by Harlan Ford, W1QH for Bill N1TIW.

A CARA Welcome to four new hams who were at the meeting:

KB1SQH, Daniel Barile
KB1SPA, James Mangi
KB1SOY, Paul Estefan and
KB1SOZ, Sally Estefan.

We welcome them to Amateur Radio and look forward to their participation in CARA.

John, W1JMA, gave a report on the results of Field Day. CARA had 30 participants and the scoring consisted of 950 bonus points, 591 CW QSOs and 1445 voice QSOs for a total of 2,050 points and a claimed score of 4,094.

The program for the evening was a video of a DXpedition to Peter 1 Island (3YOX) presented by Frank, N8WXQ.

The Hamfest planning is on schedule and hopefully the rainy weather pattern will have moved on by then!

Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary

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—pre-registration 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.

FREE!!!



Computer desk with hutch; sliding printer and keyboard drawers; hanging file drawer & CD rack; 60" wide X 30" deep, 66" high. Free to anyone who will haul it away. Call

N1TIW, Bill Thoren, at 203-744-5138 or e-mail him at wttthoren@sbcglobal.net .

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.

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>>.

Space Shuttle to Deploy Student-Built Satellites

The space shuttle Endeavour returned to Earth on Friday, July 31, but before it left orbit, it deployed four student-built satellites, all with telemetry downlinks in the 2 meter (70 cm) amateur bands.

The twin spherical satellites -- named Castor and Pollux -- were designed by students in cooperation with the Naval Research Laboratory as part of the Atmospheric Neutral Density Experiment (ANDE)
<http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/science/experiments/STP-H2-ANDE.html>. Both satellites will transmit 1200-baud packet radio telemetry on 145.825 MHz. Hams are encouraged to submit telemetry reports with special QSLs and mission patches planned (check the ANDE Web site for updates).

Castor and Pollux carry an FX.25 experiment that adds Forward Error Correction to standard AX.25 packets. The hope is that FX.25 will improve communication efficiency while still being compatible with existing packet equipment. The satellites also occasionally run

GMSK/FX.25 modulation experiments at 9600 baud.

In addition to Castor and Pollux, Endeavour also deployed student satellites from the University of Texas and Texas A&M. The tiny picosatellites, christened BEVO-1 and AggieSat2, respectively, are part of an ambitious experiment that will ultimately culminate in autonomous docking of picosats in orbit. For this mission, however, BEVO-1 and AggieSat2 launched as one unit and then separated to collect position data and test a new NASA Global Positioning System receiver known as DRAGON.

BEVO-1 transmits Morse code beacons (20 WPM) or packet radio data telemetry at 437.325 MHz. AggieSat2 beacons at 436.250 MHz. The satellites primarily transmit 9600-baud packet telemetry when over the United States. As with Castor and Pollux, reception reports are welcome
<<http://paradigm.ae.utexas.edu/ops/>>.

Orbiting at a relatively low altitude of 185 miles, these satellites should be easy to receive with standard FM transceivers and omnidirectional antennas. They should enjoy an operational life of 3-6 months and will likely re-enter the Earth's atmosphere within a year.

The '09 CARA Hamfest!

Sunday Sept. 13, 2009

Mark it on your calendar now and volunteer to help out. Contact Joe AB1DO.

CARA Picnic



What: CARA Summer Picnic

When: Friday evening August 21st
Starting at 5 p.m.

Where: The home of Steve, W1SMS
and Jennifer KB1LIJ

[33 Ball Pond Road, Danbury](#)

Directions: The home is located on a private drive directly off Route 39 (about ½ mile north of King Street). The driveway is across from Kingswood Rd. Look for the **CARA Picnic** sign.

Parking: Please park along the side of the driveway, starting at the bottom of the road.

What to Bring: A salad, side dish or desert you can share, and any other items necessary to satisfy dietary needs. The club will provide burgers, hot dogs and soft drinks.

Please RSVP: to ssimons@manitousys.com
or call 203-733-2110



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.

By
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

By
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@arrrl.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