



Capers

February 2010

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, February 12
Stony Hill Fire Station**

Message from the President

I hope that you enjoyed the QSL card sort last month. This activity is a great service to the amateur radio community. The W1 bureau greatly appreciates our effort.

At this month's meeting Steve, W1SMS will present a program on raising towers. Many hams wish to have the benefits of a directional antenna. In order to get sufficient low angle radiation the antenna must be located at an appropriate height for the chosen band. Steve will share his experiences in raising towers. If you wish to learn even more about towers you might also like to investigate related books. Steve Morris, KL7XC has written a book, "Up the Tower" which discusses tower construction. It is available from Champion Radio Products (<http://www.championradio.com>). Dave, K1TTT has published a book on setting up a contest station which includes a tower construction and placement. His book is available on lulu.com.

The spring months should provide some interesting programs. Next month Ted, K1BV,

will discuss awards chasing and the numerous certificates that you can earn. Later, Bill, N1TIW will discuss solar power and the YCCC will present a program of interest to contesters.

The New England QSO party will be held the first weekend in May. CARA will operate both W1QI and W1AW during the contest. This is an excellent opportunity for new hams to get on the air. Please plan to operate W1QI, W1AW or your home station during the contest. Mark your calendars.

If you have not yet paid your 2010 dues please do so.

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

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

CARA 2010 Exam Schedule

Here is the 2010 CARA-sponsored VE session schedule:

- March 6th
- June 12th
- September 11th
- December 4th

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.

For further info, contact Frank Sileo, N1PE, in Ridgefield, CT at 203-438-0218 or frsileo@att.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.)

ARRL Aid to Haiti Hams

While the communications infrastructure in earthquake-ravaged Haiti is being rebuilt, there is need for Amateur Radio communications.

To assist in this effort, the ARRL's Ham Aid program is providing equipment for local amateurs to use. On Friday, January 22, the League sent a programmed Yaesu VHF repeater with a microphone, as well as ICOM handheld transceivers, Yaesu mobile 2 meter rigs with power supplies and Kenwood mobile 2 meter rigs. Comet antennas, Larsen mobile antennas with magnet mounts, coax and batteries were also included in the package.

Most items were donated by their manufacturers; the repeater and power supplies were purchased by the ARRL several years ago using post-Hurricane Katrina grant funds. (*excerpt ARRL News*)

ARRL On-Line Course Registration

Registration remains open through **Sunday, February 21, 2010**, for these [online course sessions](#) beginning on **Friday, March 5, 2010**: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the [CEP Course Listing page](#) or contact the [Continuing Education Program Coordinator](#).



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

2010 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

W1AW 2010 Winter Operating Schedule



Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

0200 " (9 PM EST) RTTY Daily
 0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE Daily
 0300 " (10 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
 0300 " " CWs Tue, Thu
 0400 " (11 PM EST) CWb Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

 CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475
 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555
 RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095
 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555
 VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290
 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
 CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
 CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM



CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is

given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. *Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.*

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 100 in the January 2010 issue of QST -- or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html> .

CARA Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2010

This was our annual QSL card sort and pizza party.

Every January CARA helps the W1 DX Card Incoming Bureau by presorting the cards that they receive from international

Amateur Radio stations. We sort the cards into 26 bundles alphabetically according to the first letter of the station call sign suffix. For Example a card that is being sent from overseas to N8WXQ would go into presort bundle "W". We then return the sorted cards to the bureau where the sorting process continues until each individual operator finally receives their cards.

The process is labor intensive and we very much thank the 17 members and guests who participated in this year's "square dance". The sorting went faster than in some years and we were finished in good time.

Again, thanks to all who helped out.

There was a short business meeting where it was announced that Jamie Mullis, KB1MQB, will be Field Day chairman. This is a major event for the club and we all need to get involved to make it a success so please give him your full cooperation. This is our chance to present Amateur Radio and the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association to the community and also work on our operating skills.

CARA Planning Meeting, January 22, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, at 8:15 PM with 6 members and one visitor, Richard Proctor, in attendance. Richard is interested in the Amateur Technician License and we had a lively discussion with him about how to proceed. Richard joined CARA at this meeting and we welcome him to the club and wish him luck in his studies.

The main topics for the evening were upcoming programs for our meetings and the New England QSO Party on May 1 and 2, 2010. CARA will be operating the ARRL station, W1AW, on Sunday, May 2 and we would like as many members as possible to make the trip to Newington for this event. There are several operating positions so

this is a good chance to see the League station and get experience operating a range of equipment.

It's time to renew your CARA membership so please send in your renewal as soon as possible. A membership form is included in this issue of the Capers and it can also be printed off the CARA website.

The Treasurer's report as of 1-22-2010 was \$10,976.38.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary

Soldering Difficult Connections

(Article courtesy KB6NU)

“Almost three years ago, I blogged about [splicing my 40m dipole](#) back together. The problem was that the wire had corroded, and I just couldn't solder it properly. This episode came to mind when I read the following e-mail by Chuck, W5USJ, to the [grp-l.org mailing list](#):

Not a new thing and came up recently — problems soldering oxidized wire like coax shield and connections that are bright nickel plated and so on.

I used to have the old type rosin flux used for soldering copper plumbing. It worked really well for difficult surfaces (used sparingly). But that's no longer available in favor of fluxes that will work with lead-free solders.

What I found that works really well is something called NoKorode Regular Paste Flux made by Rectorseal. It's designed for

lead-free solder but seems to work well on just about any metal. On the label there is this note: “Non-aggressive paste flux. Works on copper, galvanized iron, lead, tinned steel and other metals.”



One particular problem I have is with the shield on RG-174, the silver plated stuff anyway. With regular solder, even with high heat the solder wouldn't stick well and often the insulation melted to the point of damage.

I had prepared some 174 with a short pigtail of twisted shield.

With the NoKorode, I applied a really thin coating on the shield. Then when I applied the solder it completely

wicked into the shield almost instantly with complete coverage. As the name suggests, it does not seem to be corrosive in any way.

On some RCA connectors with what looks like nickel plating, I lightly dipped the end of my solder into the paste. Then tinned the area around the holes for the connections. That worked great too when I attached the wires; it was much easier to make a proper connection. No where near as much time was needed to heat the joint to get the solder to stick to the bright nickel surface.

It doesn't take much to do the job with this flux and used sparingly should be fine for soldering other than electronics circuits. I'm going to try it with some of the bright metal finish on connectors like PL-259s. The 1.7oz container that I bought should last a very long time.

If you go to the Rectorseal website, you'll find that they make a whole bunch of different fluxes for use in different situations.

“UPDATE

I just got this update from W5USJ:

Got some replies asking where to find the flux I used. One mentioned a few times was ACE hardware. My source is a local hardware, plumbing supply, lumber yard, welding supply, mini-Walmart affiliated with no national chain. It's located in the county seat city of Emory, population 1100, Rains County, population

11,000. Sort of a rural location you might say...8^)

Also, I'd expect some plumbing supply stores would handle the NoKorode brand. Oatey has a similar product and a much bigger name in the brand stores. But the NoKorode seemed like a better idea to me. So I haven't tried the Oatey brand.



Do you know that your dues are due? You do? Then why don't you send your dues in with the convenient dues form included in this month's CAPERS? Put the dues on your to-do list. You'll be glad you did.....Phew!