



Capers

March 2010

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Post Office Box 3441 - Danbury, CT

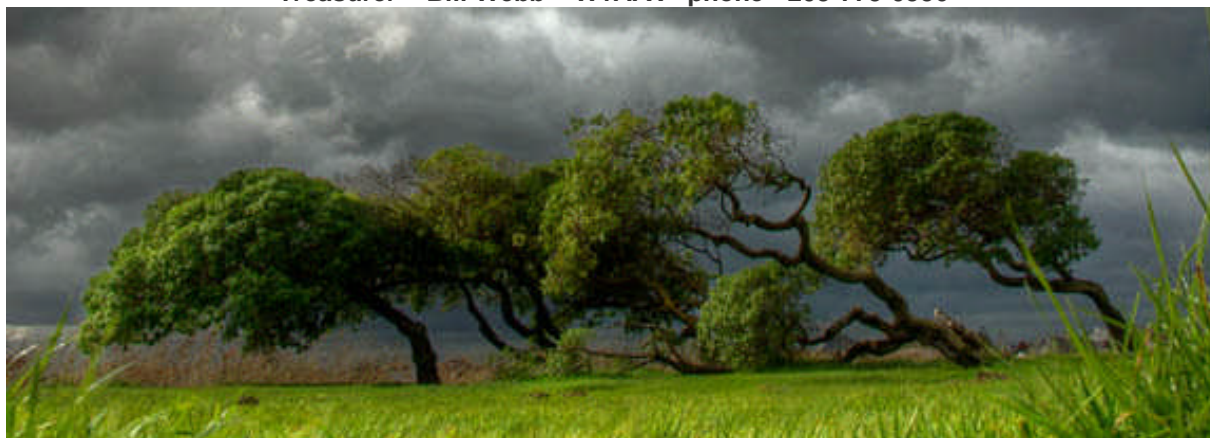
Visit us on the Web at <http://www.danbury.org/cara>

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, March 12
Stony Hill Fire Station**

Message from the President

Spring is almost upon us so better weather is just ahead. Also good news is that the sunspots are beginning to return after a few years. Recently, I made a few DX contacts on 10 meters. It has been several years since I worked DX on 10.

This month's program will be presented by Ted, K1BV. Ted publishes the DX awards directory (<http://www.dxawards.com/>) listing thousands of certificates for various amateur radio operating achievements.

Ted's efforts are a great service to the amateur radio community and this service has continued for many years. Ted will certainly have example awards and explain the application process. Did you know that CARA sponsors the Connecticut Worked All Counties Award and a few certificates are issued each year. Do you have one yet?

On May 1 and 2, the New England QSO Party will be held. This is an opportunity to get on the air. CARA will operate from W1AW on Sunday May 2. Ken, KD1DD, is planning to operate W1QI on May 1.

Next Month's meeting will be the last meeting before the event. We will need operators for both stations. We need a few Extra class hams in addition to newcomers.

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:

- 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.

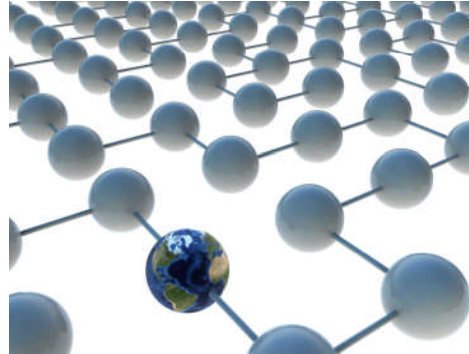
Registration begins at 11:30 AM. Walk-ins are always welcome; pre-registration is not required.

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

**Paid your dues yet for
2010?**

**Use the handy form in
this month's
CAPERS!**

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.)



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

CARA Meeting Minutes February 12

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, at 8 p.m.+- with 18 members and guests in attendance.

The program for the evening was a discussion of antenna tower construction by CARA member Steve Simons, W1SMS.



Over the years Steve has done many tower projects and had good practical information on the ins and outs and ups and downs of taking down old towers and re-assembling them and also putting up new towers

Some general thoughts:

- The ad says "**ANTENNA TOWER--FREE** needs to be taken down ". May want to pass on this one. In the long run, new may be better and cheaper.
- Carefully plan and document the project right from the start. Too soon we forget, write it down and take pictures.
- Collect materials, safety equipment and tools.
- Put together a crew of people to help with the erection of the tower.
- There is no place here for horseplay so make sure everyone understands that safety is first.

And finally, The Person Up The Tower Is In Charge!

Three references that Steve has found useful are:

Up the Tower by Steve Morris, K7LXC
Rohn Ham Tower Catalog
Low-Band DX by John Devoldere, ON4UN

Steve is usually recovering from a tower project, building a tower or planning a tower so anyone interested in this subject should contact him. Steve has done several programs for CARA and again we thank him for a very interesting presentation.

The business meeting followed the program. The Secretary's report was accepted as was the Treasurer's report of \$10,730.70.

The ongoing problem of the access road up to the repeater site was again noted. In order to properly maintain the building and equipment we need a way to get at least a 4-wheel drive vehicle up to the site.

Field Day planning is on track. We have been reminded that during Field Day we should keep the boat trailer parking area clear of our vehicles.

The New England QSO Party will be held on May 1 and 2 this year. Contact Frank, N8WXQ, if you would like to travel to the ARRL to operate from W1AW on Sunday May 2nd. Contest information can be found at www.neqp.org.

There was a discussion of having CARA purchase a video projector. Since we have access to A/V equipment from other sources the suggestion was put on hold for now.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary

On-Line Courses Available



Registration remains open through **Sunday, March 21, 2010**, for these [online course sessions](#) beginning on **Friday, April 2, 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](#)

W1AW Announces New Schedule for Digital Bulletin Transmissions

Beginning Monday, March 15, [W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station](#), will alternate the digital modes used for its digital bulletin transmissions. While Baudot, PSK31 and MFSK16 still make up the digital mode complement, W1AW Station Manager Joe Garcia, NJ1Q, says that the schedule will be altered to give more exposure to PSK31 and FSK16. "Because of time constraints and the varying lengths of digital bulletins, there were many instances where only Baudot was used," he said. "With the new schedule, amateurs preferring

either PSK31 or MFSK16 will find these modes no longer secondary."

The regular callup will be made using the mode that is transmitted first. The digital bulletin times remain at 6 PM and 9 PM (Eastern Time) daily. The Tuesday and Friday Keplerian data bulletins will continue to be sent using just Baudot and PSK31.

The new digital schedule is as follows:

- Monday: Baudot, PSK31, MFSK16
- Tuesday: PSK31, MFSK16, Baudot
- Wednesday: MFSK16, Baudot, PSK31
- Thursday: Baudot, PSK31, MFSK16
- Friday: PSK31, Baudot, MFSK16

"Given time constraints and bulletin lengths, all three modes may not always be transmitted," Garcia explained. The complete W1AW schedule can be found on page 100 of the January issue of *QST*, or on the [ARRL Web site](#).

(Some articles courtesy ARRL letter.)

ARDF Update: Foxes, Fitness and Fun in 2010

By Joe Moell, K0OV, Contributing Editor

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator
k0ov@homingin.com

"Geeks in the woods!" That's how Jay Hennigan, WB6RDV, of Goleta,

California, describes Amateur Radio Direction Finding ([ARDF](#)). Several times a year, Jay gets together with friends for a session of this international Amateur Radio sport -- also called foxtailing and radio-orienteering. California hams (and would-be hams!) arrive from cities as far away as San Diego, San Luis Obispo and Lancaster to these local events.



As they set out, five 2 meter "foxes" are somewhere in the woods, transmitting for one minute each in sequence. Armed with a special ARDF set or just a handheld transceiver with a measuring-tape Yagi and attenuator, they see how fast they can run or walk from the start to each transmitter in optimum order and then back to the start, or perhaps to a separate finish point. To help them navigate, they carry compasses and special orienteering maps, but they aren't allowed to have GPS displays or other high-tech navigation aids.

Standardized ARDF courses provide a good test of equipment performance and hunter skill. It's friendly competition combined with great exercise. It attracts "techies" and "jocks" of all ages, who don't need a ham license to get started. And for some, it leads to medals at

national and international competitions.

Similar informal sessions take place regularly during weather-friendly months in other places around the country, including Albuquerque, Boston and Cincinnati. If there are no such opportunities in your area, why not get the ball rolling yourself? Read about the [international rules](#) and [simple equipment](#) then talk it up at your local radio club. A future championship foxtailer may be sitting there, waiting for your encouragement and support.

Surfin': Using the Internet as a Public Service Radio Scanner

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU
Contributing Editor

March 05, 2010

[RadioReference.com](#) provides live audio feeds of public service radio communications from far and near.

Monitoring the public service radio channels in town can be as exciting as watching [Rust-Oleum](#) dry on my

tower. There is not a lot of radio action in the burbs, so I listen to the action in the neighboring communities. But that has become a frustrating endeavor, since most of the big city public service communications are scanner-proof, using systems such as trunking and encoded digital transmissions to foil my vintage scanner.



To thwart scanner-proofing, my old ARRL Headquarters pal, John Nelson, K0IO, suggested listening to live public service radio feeds over the Internet.

John recommended RadioReference.com that among other things, provides live audio feeds of public service radio action from hither and yon (and maybe your hometown, too).



John points out that "what is interesting is there are recordings of

radio transmissions from QRP hand-held transceivers used by public service personnel on the ground that you normally cannot hear with a scanner."

By the way, RadioReference.com also has an extensive online database of public service radio frequency assignments in the U.S.

And for more radio action than you can imagine, John suggests the live audio feeds of the New York City Fire Department that you can access [here](#).



- Articles for CAPERS?
- Items For Sale or Swap?
- Old gear for free?

Send Your items to the CAPERS editor, KA1JDD @arrl.net.