



# Capers

April 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, April 9  
Stony Hill Fire Station**

## ***Message from the President***

Spring has finally arrived. I hope all are enjoying the warmer weather. This is also an excellent time to do some antenna maintenance before the leaves come out. Also, Happy Easter to all!

This month's program will come from the YCCC (Yankee Clipper Contest Club). It will concern CW contesting. I think you will find the talk to be interesting. CW contesting can be quite pleasurable. I find it easier to beak pile ups and generally listen to DX stations using CW. RTTY is also a good mode for contesting. CW does require practice. You may find CW skimmer (<http://www.dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer/>) to be helpful in this regard. (The hard core CW guys won't need this but it will make life easier at the beginning.) CW learning software will also be helpful. Remember CW is a skill and like other skills requires practice.

On May 1-2 the *New England QSO Party* will be held. CARA will participate on Saturday as W1QI. On Sunday we will operate from W1AW in Newington. As the April meeting is the last meeting before the contest, sign up will occur at this month's meeting. A caravan will leave the commuter parking lot at I-84 Exit 9 at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 2, and arrive at W1AW about 9:30 a.m. If you can't make these events try to operate from your home or mobile station.

We also begin the process of nominating officers for the coming year. Please select your victims!

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:

- 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](mailto: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**

## The K7RA Solar Update

New sunspot group 1057 appeared on March 23; by March 24, it was 38 times its original size. It covered 10 one-millionths of the solar hemisphere on Tuesday, and on Wednesday, it grew to 380 one-millionths. On Thursday, new sunspot group 1058 appeared, and the total area for both groups expanded to 401 millionths of the solar hemisphere. The total sunspot area has not been this large since February 8 when the total was 460 one-millionths.



The largest area covered during all of 2009 was 380 on October 29, followed by 310 on December 18. March 23-April 3, 2008 was a period of very strong sunspot activity, and on March 26-28, the area covered by three sunspots was 520, 510 and 410 one-millionths of the solar surface.

The average daily sunspot numbers were down nearly 5 points this week to 24.6. Sunspot numbers for March 18-24 were 28, 24, 25, 25, 17, 26 and 27, with a mean of 24.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 85.8, 84.4, 83.5, 84.8, 82.5, 83.9 and 84.4, with a mean of 84.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 5, 4, 7, 2, 2, 2 and 3, with a mean of 3.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 5, 0, 0, 0 and 2, with a mean of 1.9.

The spring equinox was last Saturday, March 20, and HF radio conditions are good with quiet geomagnetic conditions. NOAA and the US Air

Force predict solar flux of 88 for today, March 26 and 89 for March 27-31. This is higher than the average solar flux for this week -- 84. Last week it was 87.6 and the week before, it was 78.6. Our reporting week for data at the end of this bulletin is always Thursday-Wednesday, and we haven't reported a weekly average solar flux above 89 since our [February 19th update](#) that had 90.6 on February 11-17.

NOAA predicts a bit more geomagnetic activity -- but not much! -- rising from a planetary A index of 5 on March 26, to 7 on March 27 and 8 for March 28-31. Geophysical Institute Prague expects quiet to unsettled conditions March 26, quiet March 27-29, quiet to unsettled March 30-31 and a return to quiet for April 1 -- the day that NOAA predicts a planetary A index of 5. Last week for the first time we presented the trailing 50-day average of daily sunspot numbers, 27.34.

*(Courtesy ARRL Letter)*

## ARRL Continuing Education Online Course Registration

Registration remains open through Sunday, April 25, 2010, for these [online course sessions](#) beginning on Friday, May 7, 2010:

Amateur Radio Emergency  
Communications Level 1;

Antenna Modeling;

Radio Frequency Interference;

Antenna Design and Construction;

Propagation;

Analog Electronics, and

Digital Electronics.

Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor.

Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient.

For more information or to register for any of these courses, visit the ARRL website Continuing Education Program [page](#) or [contact](#) the Continuing Education Program Coordinator.

## CARA Minutes for March 12, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, with 21 members and guests in attendance.

Frank called for everyone to introduce themselves and we recognized Marty Folan, KB1TWE, a new ham who had just passed his license exam and was visiting CARA. By the end of the meeting he had paid his dues and is now a member. We give a warm welcome to Marty.

The program for the evening was presented by Ted Melinosky, K1BV, who publishes the DX Awards Directory of 3,312 awards from 119 DXCC countries and writes the

“Awards” column in CQ Magazine. Ted keeps the Directory up to date and it is available at [www.dxawards.com](http://www.dxawards.com).



Right at the start he pointed out that: 1) there are certificates for just about anything and 2) the certificates are worthless, except to the person earning the award! But how else can you have so much fun? Awards can be sponsored by clubs, individuals, counties, etc. and may be open for short or long periods of time.



Ted presented his program to CARA several years ago and it was good to see him again.

During the business meeting, the Secretary's report was accepted as was the Treasurer's report of \$11,040.20.

So far 27 members have paid their dues. The membership application is available on the CARA website or in the Capers. Please pay your dues as soon as possible. Thank You.

As soon as there is a conjunction of good weather and a willing crew, we will work on the CARA repeaters. Contact Ken, KD1DD or Joe, AB1DO if you are available for this important club activity.

The New England QSO Party is on May 1 and 2 this year and a group from CARA will be operating W1AW on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be carpooling from I-84 Exit 9 and if you are interested in going, please contact Frank, N8WXQ.

During the Field Day discussion, John, W1JMA, made a motion that we provide up to \$250.00 for expenses. The motion was seconded by Gene, KL7CE, and was passed by the members present. Among the expenses to be covered are wire reels to store the loop antennas and a new extension cord from the portable generator to the operating positions.

As reported by Joe, AB1DO, the Hamfest planning is on schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 PM.

*Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary*

### **CARA Field Day June 26-27**

Plans for the 2010 CARA/ARRL Field Day are moving along on schedule. The event will be held once again this year at Cadigan Park in Brookfield, CT. The dates: June 26 and 27.



This is always a great club event (even on those RARE occasions when it rains – hi hi)

with lots of fellowship, food and fun. This year's theme is "Explore the World." Detailed information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).



Help will be needed for the antenna launches on late Friday afternoon, June 25<sup>th</sup>, for setup on Saturday morning, June 26, and for the take-down of tents and antennas on Sunday, June 27. Please plan to be on hand to assist with these important tasks as well as to schedule time over the course of the event to operate a station and to serve a stint as logger for an operator. We'll be running two stations, both SSB and CW. We've done very well in previous years, but it takes a little bit of help from every available club member to make the event successful and to spread the work that needs to be done across as many hands as possible.

There will be opportunities at the April and May meetings for new members to learn more about this event, and for both new and experienced members to sign up to help as well as reserve operating slots. The June meeting will be devoted to checking gear and procedures and for reviewing assignments. Please make it a point to be on hand for the June 11 CARA meeting AND for Field Day!

### **Copy for CAPERS?**

Contact [KA1JDD@arrl.net](mailto:KA1JDD@arrl.net) or [barry@connollyco.com](mailto:barry@connollyco.com).