



Capers

June 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



**Flag Day
June 14**

**Meeting: Friday, June 11
Stony Hill Fire Station**

From the President

Summer is again upon us. I hope all take the time to enjoy amateur radio by operating mobile on a cross country trip or by operating from a portable location.

June is a busy month for CARA.

The VE will be held on June 12. If you are ready to upgrade please consider attending the session. If you are an Extra class operator and you are not already a VE please consider helping the amateur radio community by becoming a VE. The test is not at all hard.

This month is also election month. Let us take this time to thank the officers, board members and others who have helped the club in various ways. Nominations are still open and welcome. Please volunteer to help your fellow club members. Service will help increase your enjoyment of amateur radio.

The big activity for June is Field Day to be held on the fourth weekend of June (26 and 27). This

month's program will be devoted to the final organization of Field Day. Field Day is a great opportunity to demonstrate your radio skills and to enjoy the company of your fellow hams.

If you are new to the hobby, I urge you to attend and spend some time operating. Field day is a good time to learn from the old timers. Everyone should plan to attend field day and operate the radios. It is important to operate the radios for the full 24 hours. As always, late night and early morning operators are needed. Gourmet food service will be provided by Judy, N1TGK. In addition to the great fun, Field Day has a serious purpose. It is our annual opportunity to practice our skills at operating in the field under emergency conditions.

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

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

CARA Meeting Minutes

CARA Meeting Minutes for May 14, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. by President Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, with 16 members present.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the meeting was held in the Lounge area instead of the Community Room of the Stony Hill Firehouse.

The Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report of \$10,459.29 were accepted.

CARA had two groups operating the New England QSO Party.

The first was our usual stint at W1AW with John, W1JMA; Roger, KB1STT; Gene, KL7CE, and Frank, N8WXQ, at the phone/key.

The second location was operated by Ken, KD1DD, and Jim, KD1YV, at Putnam State Park in Bethel. This Putnam Park location would seem to be a very good place to hold Field Day. There is a large open area with tall trees to anchor antennas and, best of all, there is no radio frequency interference, unlike our current site at Cadigan Park in Brookfield.

Ken, KD1DD, reported that the Diamond antenna is back from service and will be installed during our next work party at the repeater site.

Joe, AB1DO, reported that Hamfest preparations are on schedule and the flyers are available for distribution

Field Day preparations are also on schedule. Sign-up sheets for operating times and setup and teardown times are available. Contact Jamie, KB1MQB, to list your times.

Nominations for CARA officers are being accepted and the vote will be held at the June 11, 2010 meeting.

Bethel's Memorial Day parade is being held on Sunday May 23rd. A group from ARES will be participating this year. Contact Ken, KD1DD, if you would like to be in the parade.

After a short break we went on to the program about solar energy based emergency power by yours truly, Bill, N1TIW.

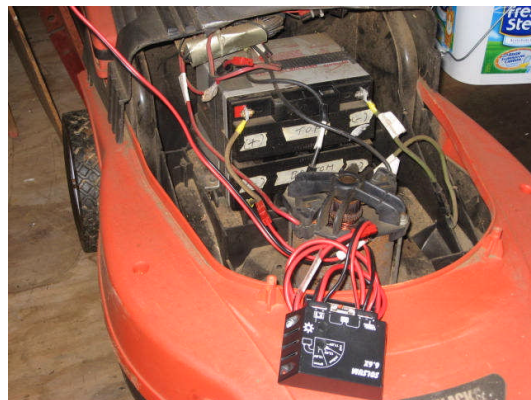
- The program for the evening was based on my presentation at the Region 5 CARES Spring Training on March 28, 2009. Following a summary of the program is a list of references for anyone who is interested.
- I have been interested in solar and other forms of alternative energy since 1988 when I first started subscribing to Home Power Magazine (www.homepower.com). I did not get involved with building a system until 2001 when I bought two 10 Watt, 12V solar panels. I connected them in series to get 24V at 0.6 A to charge my Black and Decker CMM-1000 lawnmower. A full charge took about three sunny days--which was OK because I use the mower a maximum of once a week. The panels were mounted on an "A" frame that I could set up in the yard next to the mower during the day and fold up and put away at night. I have now semi-permanently mounted the panels on my garden shed, running the wires inside to a patch panel so I can charge either the mower at 24V or individual 12V batteries for use as back-up power for my radio setup. The panels will be brought inside for the winter.

- Several photos of my equipment appear in this month's Capers.
- References and useful equipment:
 - *Emergency Power for radio communications by Michael Bryce, WB8VGE, which is available through ARRL.*
 - *Panels, charge controllers and other accessories are available from, among many other suppliers, Ham Radio Outlet and Sunforce Products, www.sunforceproducts.com.*
- I recently purchased two more 10 Watt solar panels from the local New Milford outlet of The Solar Store, www.usasolarstore.com. I will be using these on my demo system for Field Day and the CARA Hamfest.
- For finding out how much current a 120 VAC load draws, I find the "Kill A Watt" Electric Usage Monitor, www.p3international.com very helpful. The model I have can also calculate the cost of operating a device over time. They are widely available at the Big Box Stores and elsewhere.
- I am always interested in different ways to move electrons and when I came across a device called an Aeroflexor I dipped into my Toy Fund and sent off for one. I figured you guys would find it interesting, and I was not disappointed! Information and videos are available at www.flexorenergy.com.

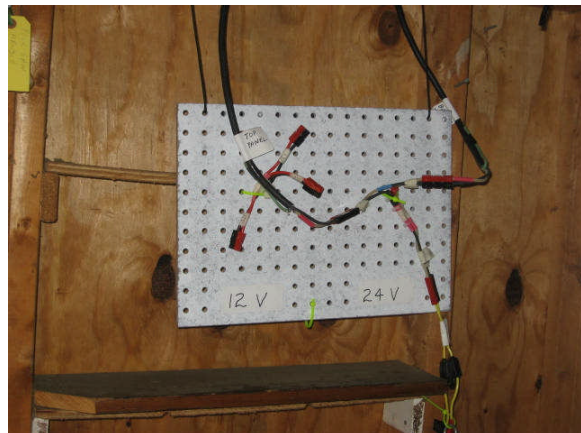
I hope you found this interesting and will, perhaps, be inspired to try something of your own.



Solar array mounted on shed



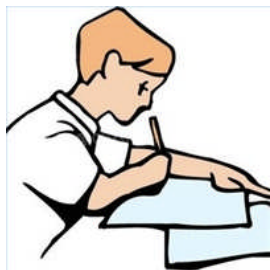
Lawn mower charging system



Voltage switching patch panel

Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary

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.

WANTED TO BUY !!

Ken, KD1DD, is looking for a used computer tower case with six (6) or more 5.25" external drive spaces for a radio project. The case can be in rough condition and none of the internal electronics are needed. Ken is also looking for six (6) used CD-ROM drives—preferably black—which don't need to work.

If you can help, please see Ken at the CARA meeting or call him at 203-743-9181.

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.)

**Paid your dues
yet for 2010?**



**Use the handy form in this
month's Capers**



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 _____

ARES Members Join With Bethel CERT for Memorial Day Parade

ARES Members of the Bethel EOC emergency radio communications team joined with other Bethel CERT (Civil Emergency Response Team) members for this year's town Memorial Day Parade.

Ken, KD1DD, made arrangements to pick up and tow the CT State Animal Response Team (SART) trailer with his Radio Communications vehicle. Barry, KA1JDD, rode "shotgun." The weather was great and the beefy brakes on Ken's truck managed to hold the SART behemoth in check even after the trailer's electronic brake system gave up the ghost somewhere between Ridgefield and Bethel.

This is the first year that the Bethel EOC ARES and CERT teams marched as a group. Following are a couple of photos from the event.





Sponsored by Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

Western CT Hamfest



Sanctioned by ARRL

- **Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010**
(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

- Raising Towers Safely (Steve Simons, W1SMS)
- (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. 12, 2010
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**