



Capers

December 2010

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

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

President – Harlan Ford – W1QH – phone- 203-798-8096
Vice President – Barry Connolly – KA1JDD- phone - 203-748-1033
Secretary – Bill Thoren – N1TIW - Phone – 203-744-5138
Treasurer – Bill Webb – W1AFX - phone - 203-775-0536



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HOLIDAY GREETINGS**

Meeting: Friday, December 10, 8 p.m. @ Stony Hill Fire Station

From the President...

Hi to all and Happy Holidays!

This Month we will have our Annual Christmas gathering. While we won't be having a formal meeting, we may discuss a few things for the future.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Holiday meeting, and reminding folks that some will be bringing food dishes to the gathering and some will be bringing Grab Bag gifts. I think we'll all have a wonderful time.

The Grab Bag will be a BOGO (Bring one, Get one) with a suggested max of \$15.00. Next Month will be our QSL Square Dance and maybe you'll find a "lost" QSL Card during the "dance."

See you all there – Gathering at 7:30ish. “The trouble will begin at 8” – *Mark Twain*

73, QH

CARA VE session schedule:

- **Saturday, December 4th**

Sessions are held at the Stony Hill Fire Station at 59 Stony Hill Road (Route 6) in Bethel, CT.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. 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.

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OPERATORS NEEDED FOR CARA SUNDAY NET!

Additional volunteer net controllers are needed for the 7:30 Sunday evening CARA net. Right now, Bill, N1TIW and Harlan W1QH are handling the lion's share of the work. Some additional volunteers – even for one or two Sundays a month – would be appreciated.

Any licensed club member can handle the net. There's a simple script to guide you and it's excellent practice in net operation for ARES work you may be involved in.

Don't be shy. Please get in touch with Harlan, "QH" to let him know your availability. You'll be added to a list so we can alert you when your help is needed to cover an upcoming 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., 3.533 (note correction to 3.533)

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.)

CARA Meeting Minutes for November

The meeting was called to order by the club president, Harlan, W1QH, at 8:00 p.m.

There were 19 members present. Ken, KD1DD, had a display of used ham gear for sale set up on a table to the rear of the meeting room.

Harlan introduced our guest speaker, Scott, NE1RD, who presented a program entitled "The 100 lb DXpedition." Scott's presentation centered on planning and carrying out fun –but budget-conscious, low-weight—DXpeditions to "reasonable" locations. Scott likes to build his own gear and antennas, and assembles them with a view toward packing them for easy transport as airport baggage items. His antennas, for example, are constructed in modular fashion to fit in a golf bag travel case. He often combines his DXpeditions with a family vacation, and he described in his presentation a recent trip with his wife to a rental home on the island of St. Thomas. Scott often "scouts" his locations in advance using Google earth, and tries to combine his DXpeditions to coincide with a significant contest so he's assured of a lot of band activity. Scott emphasized that it was important to (1) Plan ahead and know your goals; (2) Test all your gear beforehand; (3) Understand the tradeoffs you will need to make in terms of antenna, transmit power; (4) Allow for rest periods and to have fun.

Some other tips for success: Never be afraid to call CQ even on lower power. If the other station can hear you they have no idea you are QRP. Respond promptly with QSL cards either hardcopy or via eQSL, ARRL Logbook of the World etc.

Thanks, Scott, for a presentation as well-planned and executed as your DXpeditions!

Treasurer's Report: Bill W1AFX reported the treasury balance as \$10,811.87. A motion made at last month's meeting by Joe, AB1DO, to suspend dues for calendar year 2011, was withdrawn, due to some unexpected club expenses regarding the repeaters. A special budget meeting will be scheduled after Thanksgiving.

Repeater Committee: Ken, KD1DD, reported that he and Bill N1TIW had traveled to the repeater site. Repairs and adjustments were made to several repeaters, but there are filter tuning issues that need to be resolved and which may require additional expense. A new controller has been installed and programmed. The backup battery is dead and a new battery is available but weighs 150 pounds and will require some method of transport for it to be installed.

Dan W1QK discussed a special event station in conjunction with the NE QSO Party. Ken KD1DD recommended Bennett Park in Bethel for the site and noted that a town permit would be required. Dan agreed to be on the committee but other members' help also is needed to plan the event. KD1YV and KA1JDD offered to help. A QSL card and/or certificate would also be needed. The date of Saturday, May 7, 2011, was proposed.

There was some discussion about the installation of a 2-meter transceiver and antenna at the Stony Hill Fire Station. A secure operating position is being sought that would be accessible to area hams as needed.

Plans for the Annual Holiday Party were discussed. Those planning to attend and bring a dish to share are asked to contact Joe AB1DO, who has agreed to maintain a list of items.

There also will be a holiday "grab bag" – bring a gift, take a gift – in the \$10-\$15 range.

Finally, there was closing discussion about the reflector, and a reminder about recommended operating procedure.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barry KA1JDD
(for Bill N1TIW who was traveling)*

Understanding LF & HF Propagation - Free eBook

RSGB's Propagation Studies Committee has released a free eBook written by G0KYA and G3NYK. The book is now available for download... http://www.infotechcomms.co.uk/Understanding_LF_and_HF_propagation.pdf

-- Pete, KZ1Z

This Week on the Radio

- December 1 -- QRP Fox Hunt
- December 2 -- ARCI Topband Sprint

Next week:

- December 3 -- NCCC Sprint
- December 3-5 -- [ARRL 160 Meter Contest](#)
- December 4 -- TARA RTTY Melee

- December 4-7 -- ARS Spartan Sprint
- December 8 -- CWops Mini-CWT Test

All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the [ARRL Contest Branch page](#), the [ARRL Contest Update](#) and the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the [ARRL Special Event Stations Web page](#).

IMPORTANT CAPERS **NOTE:**

Because of family commitments over the next five months, I will not be able to edit and publish CAPERS until late spring/early summer.

If someone would like to take the helm, at least temporarily, please contact me before December 30th and I will be glad to pass along templates and tips.

Otherwise this (December issue) will be the last you receive for a while.

Notices and minutes can now readily be shared by everyone via the CARA Reflector, which should minimize any inconvenience.

Thanks, and 73,

Barry, KA1JDD