



# Capers

May 2011 Issue

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



**Meeting: Friday, May 13, 2011 8 p.m. @ Stony Hill Fire Station**

## From The President:

Greetings, CARA-ites. It is finally May! Spring has sprung! CARA is 80 this year! Yes, our club has been in existence for 80 years. Our first celebration will be a Special Event Station on May 8<sup>th</sup>, coordinated by Dan W1QK. I hope we will have other celebratory activities during the year, as we only turn 80 once...

Also on May 8<sup>th</sup>, Frank, N8WXQ, will be heading up an operating session in the New England QSO Party at W1AW. This is an exciting opportunity for those who have not done so to operate at the ARRL's Flagship station in Newington.

Our annual Hamfest plans are well underway as evidenced by Joe, AB1DO's references to the 'fest on our website--Good Job, Joe.

Bill, N1PJG, who graciously volunteered to help out with Field Day, is still looking for some help with coordinating all our "toys" for this event – Yeah, it, too, is sneaking up on us – less than 2 months away!

I'd also like to personally thank Tom Buckley, WB2TRY, who took over publication of the Capers in Barry's absence, for a job well done. Thanks, Tom! I hope to have an "eyeball QSO" with you soon.

The latest gathering of the Repeater Committee says that many things have yet to be done, but at least the machines are operating and we can hold our nets on 2M again. Good Job, guys!

On an EmComm note, due to recent events, I think we should all review our Emergency Communications tools and procedures and be prepared. I hope we aren't needed.....but....

73, QH

## CARA VE session schedule:

### Sessions For 2011

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](mailto:frsileo@att.net).

June 11, 2011  
Sept 10, 2011  
Dec 3, 2011

### **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.

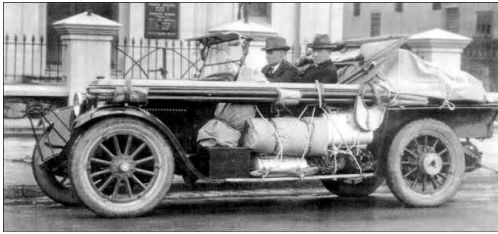
ConnARES Local VHF Net: (now part of Area 5): Second Monday of each month, 8 p.m. on CARA repeater: 147.30+ (PL 100)

Conn ARES Issues Net: 3.965 MHz +/- on Thursdays @ approx. 6:15 p.m. (following CT Phone Net.)



**Candlewood Amateur Radio Association  
80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1931 to 2011**

The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year (1931 to 2011)

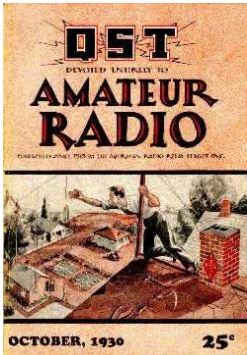


*Field Day c. 1930...got batteries?*

As part of the celebration, we are contacting current and past members and anyone else who may have information about CARA.

Items of interest would be newspaper clippings, newsletters, membership lists, lists of club officers, CARA certificates or awards, event announcements (Field Day, Hamfest etc.), financial records (cancelled checks etc) or anything else pertaining to the history of CARA. If you have something really interesting and do not want to part with it perhaps you could use it as a program for one of our monthly meetings or as a talk at the CARA Hamfest.

We have no place to store large quantities of material so loans of items or pictures or electronic media are acceptable.



*Some things don't change...*

This celebration will be going on during the rest of 2011 so if you come across something let us know. Who knows, if we get massive amounts of stuff we may extend the Anniversary into 2012!



*We've come a long way!*

Contact information: CARA, P. O. Box 3441,  
Danbury, CT 06813-3441  
[www.danbury.org/cara](http://www.danbury.org/cara)

Also, you can contact CARA club members.  
Thank you.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW CARA Secretary  
[wthoren@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wthoren@sbcglobal.net)

#### **April 8, 2011 CARA Meeting Minutes**

The Repeater Committee met prior to the general meeting and was called to order by CARA President Harlan Ford, W1QH.

In the last few months there have been problems with our 2 meter repeater system. It has survived for many years up there on the hill in the cold and heat of an uncontrolled environment for which it was never intended. It has further endured the indignities of a mouse (four legged variety) nest and droppings.

Commercial radio systems are now required to switch over to digital and there is a lot of analog gear coming onto the surplus market.

Gene, KL7CE, and Steve, W1SMS, have located a three year old Motorola repeater with

documentation and duplexer for \$500 and during the discussion Gene moved that we purchase that equipment. This recommendation was held over for formal action during the regular monthly meeting to follow (see below). There is also a need for enclosed cabinets at the repeater site for the new repeater and our other equipment.

Our thanks to Gene, Steve and others who have helped out with this project.

The monthly meeting was called to order by Harlan at 8 PM with 20 members and two guests from Charter Communications present.

The program for the evening was presented by representatives from Charter Communications, discussing their Charter 21 Community Access Television service. They are located in Newtown, CT.

Greg VanAntwerp and Rory O'Neil explained what it takes to produce a program for broadcast on CTV-21. This could be of interest to CARA as a way to get the message of our club and Amateur Radio out to the local community. This was a whole new idea for most of us, including me.

To summarize the process (taken from their handout):

- Decide on the program we would like to produce (scenes from Field Day or the Hamfest, for example).
- Put the idea in writing on the CTV21 Proposal form.
- Submit the Proposal to the CTV21 office.
- Complete the training classes that the Community Access Production staff sets up for our crew.
- Reserve the equipment and/or studio time that we need to complete the project.
- Submit our finished project for airing on CTV21 by filling out a transmission application.

The process involves a commitment of time and effort and would be a good way for interested people to get some training in producing a TV

program. It's my impression that even though this would be a CARA production, our crew could include anyone; friends, spouses, children, grandchildren etc. With the current emphasis on expanding marketable skills, this might be a way to build up someone's resume.

Another way to utilize Community Access TV would be to submit our events, such as the Hamfest and Field Day, to the CTV21 Community Bulletin Board.

Our thanks to Greg and Rory for letting us know about this service.

After a short break we went on to the business part of the meeting.

The Secretary's Report was accepted.

The treasurer's report of \$10,624.20 was accepted.

Gene, KL7CE, made a motion to purchase, for \$500, the Motorola repeater system that he and Steve, W1SMS, have located. There would be other expenses involved in putting together a working system. After a discussion among the members, an amount, not to exceed \$1,000, was approved by the members present.

We also need (an) enclosed cabinet(s) for the repeaters, power supplies and other equipment plus other miscellaneous hardware at the repeater site. It was moved that we allot an amount not to exceed \$500 for these additional items. After a discussion the \$500 was approved by the members present.

Again this year CARA will be operating from W1AW during the NEQSO Party on May 8. Contact Frank, N8WXQ, if you are interested.

Also during the May 8th NEQSO Party we will be operating a special event station to celebrate CARA's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We will be using the club call sign W1QI. Contact Dan, W1QK if you are interested in operating this event.

Field Day 2011 will be in a new location, Putnam Memorial State Park in Bethel, CT.

The park is located at the intersection of CT State Routes 107 and 58. The set-up will start on Friday evening, June 24. Setup will conclude Saturday morning, June 25 with station operations starting at 2:00 PM (1800 UTC). Field Day ends at 1:59 PM (1759 UTC) on Sunday, June 26.

The election of CARA officers will be held at the club meeting on June 10. The nominating committee this year is Gene Gregory, KL7CE, and Roger Strong, KB1NYY. Please contact them with your suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

*Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary VEC Seeks Lifetime License Credit*

### **Anchorage VEC Seeks Lifetime Credit...**

In a *Petition for Rulemaking* filed with the FCC on April 15 (see below for link), an Anchorage VEC -- one of 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators in the US -- asked the Commission to give permanent credit to radio amateurs for examination elements they have successfully passed. This would, in effect, create a license exam credit that would be valid throughout an amateurs' lifetime, never expiring.

Currently, Amateur Radio licenses are good for 10 years. Hams may renew their license not more than 90 days before it is set to expire. If a ham fails to renew their license before it expires, but less than two years after it expires (called a grace period), they can reapply for their license and call sign and do not to retake any examination for the license. Under the current rules, hams may not apply to renew the license after the two year grace period. Instead, they must start all over and take new examinations to receive an Amateur Radio license.

In its *Petition*, Anchorage does not think that this is fair. "Does the passage of time somehow invalidate a person's knowledge? We think not. We believe that any applicant who can demonstrate that they have passed certain elements at some previous date or who have held a license grant for a particular class of license, again on or before various applicable dates, should not have to be re-examined on those elements before a new license can be granted. It seems unfair to allow some applicants to claim element credit for items previously passed and not others."

The Anchorage VEC also believes that if a person can show proof of having held a license grant for a specific class of license, they "[have] in fact demonstrated that they have earned credit for having passed the elements required for that class of license." Anchorage's plan calls for the 14 VECs to handle these applications.

Noting that the questions on the various exam elements have changed over the years to reflect changes in both technology and FCC rules, Anchorage maintained that a license granted in 1960 and a license granted today are both valid licenses "even though they were examined on material that anyone can see is significantly different. "

Anchorage proposed that applicants applying for their license after the two year grace period be granted "a new sequential call sign appropriate for the area where they currently reside. Once the new license grant has been issued, the applicant could then apply for a different call sign if they so desired, including a previously held call sign if it is available, by making use of the vanity call sign program."

*(Excerpt from ARRL letter)*



Sponsored by Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

# Western CT Hamfest



Sanctioned by ARRL

- **Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011**  
(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
- Sauder Electronics
- Radio Oasis

**Don't Miss the Raffle! Win a New Mobile Rig.**

### Seminars

- Station grounding and lightning protection - Steve Simons W1SMS
- Life of Samuel Morse (incl demo of his sender/receiver) - Bill Thoren N1TIW

### Contact Information

- Joe de Groot - AB1DO: (203) 938-4880
- Email: ab1do@arrl.net
- Web site: [www.danbury.org/cara/Hamfest.html](http://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. 11, 2011  
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**

### Elecraft Transverter Project: A work in progress

If you've wondered about Elecraft, the up and coming amateur radio equipment manufacturer, then [plan to attend this month's meeting](#) when Dan, W1QK and Harlan, W1QH will explain the recent assembly, test and alignment of the Elecraft 222 MHz. and 432 MHz. transverter kits. You'll learn kit construction and soldering techniques along with what a transverter is, how it operates, and how they are used with the Elecraft K3 high performance transceiver. Listen to contacts made during the recent VHF Spring Sprint operating events and see how they will be integrated into the W1QK VHF Contest Station. – **W1QK**

