



Capers

June 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, June 10, 2011, 8 p.m. @ Stony Hill Fire Station

From The President:

Hey CARA

We got lots to do this month, Drills, Contesting, Field Day, Barbeques, Fellowship, and enjoying Summer!

Drills, ah yes, drills....The Red Cross is having their annual exercise on the 3rd thru 4th, so you may hear some activity on our repeater and also Bethel's (147.030) and some simplex. The National Hurricane Center will be doing it's annual test on the 4th, they'll be doing voice tests on 3.950, 7.268, 14.325, 211.325, and 28.425MHz (14.325 primary) from WX4NHC Saturday from 9 to 5. Lastly, Ridgefield has it's Triathlon on the 5th which should be interesting to listen in on. BUSY Weekend!

Contesting - The ARRL June VHF QSO Party is on for the 11th-12th. VHF 50MHz and up.

Field Day - June 25th-26th, We'll be operating at a new location this year, Putnam Park in Redding. This should be a real fun experience for all.

Barbeques, Fellowship, and enjoying Summer.....We'll all have our respective Barbeques and Cook-outs, sharing the Fellowship of good friends and neighbors, and enjoying Summer, so.....

ENJOY!

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.

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 +/- on Thursdays @ approx. 6:15 p.m. (following CT Phone Net.)



May 13, 2011 CARA Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by CARA President Harlan Ford, W1QH, with 19 members and guests present.

The program for the evening was a presentation by Harlan, W1QH, and Dan, W1QK, of their construction and operation of two Elecraft Transverters, the Model XV222 and the Model XV432. These units allow the use of an HF transceiver in the 222 MHz and 432 MHz bands.

Their talk, complete with comments on the construction and audio that was recorded during operation of the completed units, was a good introduction to transverters.

Not being that familiar with transverters I took a look at the Elcraft and Downeast Microwave websites. The Elcraft site had some interesting comments by users about modifications they did to improve operations in their specific situations. The DEMI site had a good talk-through on how to work a transverter into your transceiver and style of station operation.

Our thanks to Dan and Harlan for a useful program on how to add bands without having to add more transceivers.

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

The minutes of the April meeting, as published in the Capers, were accepted.

The Treasurer's report of \$10,345.27 was accepted.

This year CARA operated two stations during the May 8, 2011 NEQSO Party.

First of all we operated W1AW from ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT. We do this every year and this time the participants were Frank, N8WXQ, Roger, KB1NYY, Gene, KL7CE, and John, W1JMA.

During the same time period we also operated a Special Event Station celebrating CARA's 80th Anniversary. Using the club callsign W1QI, Roger, NG1R, Harlan, W1QH, and Dan, W1QK, operated from Dan's home QTH in Brookfield.

The results of these two events will be reported later.

According to Field Day co-chairman Bill, N1PJG, preparations are on schedule. Sign-up sheets for operating times will be available at our June 10 meeting.

The election of club officers will be held at the June 10 meeting and the nominating committee, Gene, KL7CE, and Roger, KB1NYY, has submitted the following slate.

President: Roger Mitchell, NG1R
Vice President: John Will, KB1LYP
Treasurer: Bill Webb, W1AFX
Secretary: Bill Thoren, N1TIW
Directors: Harlan Ford, W1QH, Dan Fegley, W1QK, Joe de Groot, AB1DO

Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the meeting.

Steve, W1SMS, gave an update on the repeater site. The 2 meter machine is operating on low power and there are plans to replace it with the Motorola unit that we are purchasing. In the near future a work party will be organized to install the repeater and do some needed maintenance at the site.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

-- Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary

FEMA Administrator Calls Amateur Radio "The Last Line of Defense"

In an [FCC forum](#) on earthquake communications preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)) Administrator Craig Fugate described the

Amateur Radio operator as "the ultimate backup, the originators of what we call social media." The forum-- held May 3 at FCC Headquarters in Washington, DC -- brought together officials from the White House, the Department of Homeland Security ([DHS](#)), the United States Geological Survey ([USGS](#)), FEMA, the FCC and the private sector. Fugate and FCC Bureau of Public Safety and Homeland Security Chief Jamie Barnett gave the opening remarks.



In an earthquake communications preparedness forum sponsored by the FCC, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate praised Amateur Radio, saying "...when you need Amateur Radio, you really need it."

Later in the forum, Fugate spoke more on Amateur Radio. "During the initial communications out of Haiti, volunteers using

assigned frequencies that they are allocated, their own equipment, their own money, nobody pays them, were the first ones oftentimes getting word out in the critical first hours and first days as the rest of the systems came back up," he told the forum. "I think that there is a tendency because we have done so much to build infrastructure and resiliency in all our other systems, we have tended to dismiss that role 'When Everything Else Fails.' Amateur Radio oftentimes is our last line of defense."

Fugate said that he thinks "we get so sophisticated and we have gotten so used to the reliability and resilience in our wireless and wired and our broadcast industry and all of our public safety communications, that we can never fathom that they'll fail. They do. They have. They will. I think a strong Amateur Radio community [needs to be] plugged into these plans. Yes, most of the time they're going to be bored, because a lot of the time, there's not a lot they're going to be doing that other people aren't doing with Twitter and Facebook and everything else. But when you need Amateur Radio, you really need them."

You can watch a [video of the forum](#) on YouTube. Fugate's remarks begin at 18:55.

(Excerpt from ARRL letter)

"Field Day" is Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26. Please set aside at least one hour to operate and/or log for another operator during this once-a-year major event. This year we're operating from a new location at Putnam Memorial State Park in Redding, located at the intersection of Routes 58 and 107. Park in the lower main lot nearest the statue of Israel Putnam. Take the trail through the main gate, past the pond on the left, and at the first fork make a left and proceed up the hill to our Field Day encampment. Good times. Great Experience. SEE YOU THERE!



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

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**