

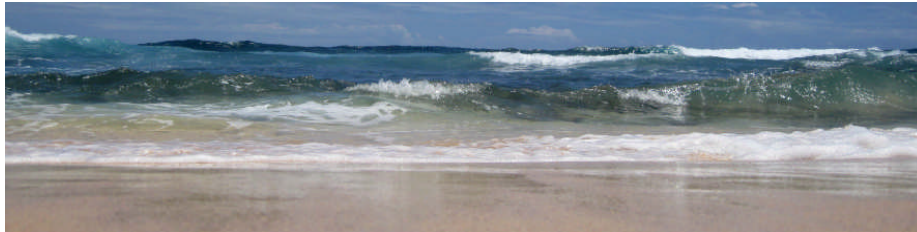


Capers

August 2011

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Post Office Box 3441 - Danbury, CT
Visit us on the Web at <http://www.danbury.org/cara>

President – Roger Mitchell – NG1R – phone- 203-790-9697
Vice President – John Will – KB1LYP- phone - 203-270-0475
Secretary – Bill Thoren – N1TIW - Phone – 203-744-5138
Treasurer – Bill Webb – W1AFX - phone - 203-775-0536



Meeting: Friday, August 12, 2011, 8 p.m. @ Stony Hill Fire Station

From the President:

It has been an eventful summer so far, including the fact that we have been fighting a lot of heat. Just think how delightful October will feel. Or think back to January when we thought we would never dig out from all of the snow or get rid of the ice dams on the eaves. I feel cooler already.

Field Day seemed to be a success at the new site. There is really a lot of space up there and, and it will allow us to experiment with some other antenna configurations. Can anyone say half-square or bobtail curtain? All it would take is a little more wire and rope and we could do some antenna comparisons as a part of the event.

Speaking of Field Day and thinking ahead to other events like our imminent Ham Fest, there are a couple of things we should be thinking of doing to improve the management of the events and to make sure we do not lose our "institutional memory" of how these events should be organized and run. At our planning meeting I learned there is a Field Day Manual which was created by club membership in the past, which outlines what needs to be done, what is needed, and how to organize the event. The manual is a great resource and should be considered a living document that should be updated with site information and technology changes as we apply them. We are exploring the idea of posting the manual and similar documents on our web site so that they are available to everyone. We should create documentation of all of our recurring events so that new members (or officers) can learn how things are done and maybe offer suggestions for improvement.

On another topic, I feel that one of the responsibilities of the hobby is to introduce others to it and to be available as an elmer for newer members. I would like to see us attract more people into the hobby and to encourage those who pass their license tests to join our club. Please think about how we can do this and share your suggestions on the reflector or at the next meeting.

On a personal note, I have not been doing a lot with radio since Field Day. I did borrow a 2M beam from W1QH with tripod and mast and tried some hill-topping during the recent VHF contest. I made the trek to Mount Mohawk and operated from the peak creating some local interest among hikers, bikers and picnickers. Not a lot of contacts, but an enjoyable experience.

I hope your summer is going well and your propagation is great.

73,
Roger NG1R

CARA VE session schedule

Exam 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, but is helpful and appreciated.

For further info, contact Frank Sileo, N1PE, in Ridgefield, CT at 203-438-0218 or frsileo@att.net.

- **Saturday, Sept 10, 2011**
- **Saturday, Dec 3, 2011**

OPERATORS FOR SUNDAY NET!

Additional volunteer net controllers are still 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. Contact Harlan or Bill to see how you can help.

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)

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.)

July 8, 2011 CARA Meeting Minutes

CARA has informal meetings in July and August.

The meeting was called to order by CARA President Roger Mitchell, NG1R at 8 PM with 17 members and guests present.

Roger presented the program for the evening which was a November 23, 2010 You Tube video of Amateur Radio aboard the International Space Station (ARISS). There was a short tour by Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC, of a portion of the space station that ended at the operating position which was (not surprisingly) sandwiched in among a lot of other equipment. There is not much real estate for anything up there. Doug demonstrated the transceiver by making several contacts with operators in the fly-over zone, using the Space Station call sign NA1SS. Adding the Space Station to the log has been very popular and I read elsewhere that they are a bit pressed to keep up with the QSL card requests.

Our thanks to Roger for an interesting program. There are links to this video and other aspects of ARISS at the ARRL website.

Next there were two slide shows by Harlan, W1QH:

1. Field Day 2011
2. The work party doing maintenance at the repeater site

Thanks to Harlan for documenting these club activities.

Roger thanked everyone who participated in Field Day. With the new location at Putnam Park there were a few problems that need to be ironed out and it is not too early to set up a schedule for next year.

Our other major event is the Hamfest and Chairman Joe de Groot, AB1DO, reported that everything is on schedule.

The new club year has started and Roger moderated a discussion of possible club activities.

A construction project (kit?) on a day other than a meeting night

Operating event such as "take a hike with an HT"

Antenna test to find the actual coverage area

Programs for meeting nights could include:

- Echo-link
- APRS
- D-Star
- Digital Modes

Activities and programs are always needed so if you come across something or would like to do a presentation let someone know about it.

The meeting adjourned at 10 PM. -- **Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary**

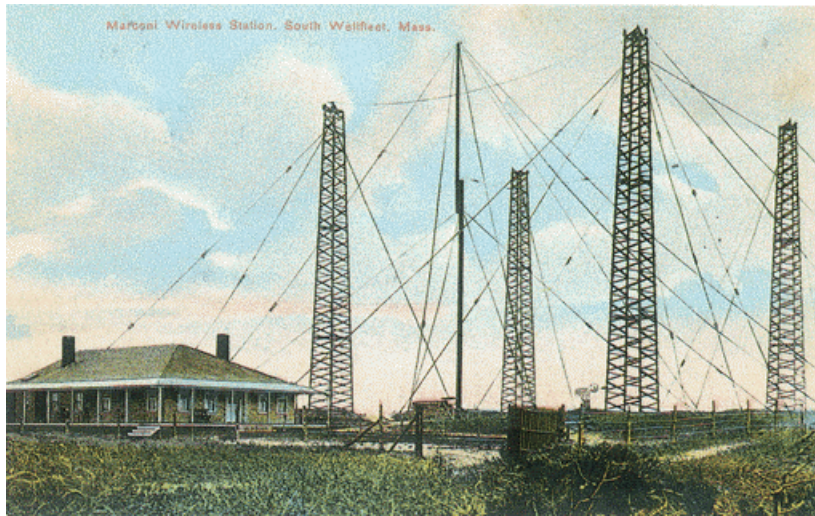
Chatham Marconi Maritime Museum - Revisited

Last weekend I visited the recently opened Chatham Marconi Maritime Center on Rt. 28 in Chatham. The museum is located at the wireless station site built by Guglielmo Marconi in 1914. Many know the site as the Chatham Radio WCC; ship to shore communications (RCA purchased the facility from Marconi after the First World War). It was last used to pass traffic in 1993 and abandoned in 1997. In 1999 the property was purchased by the town and concept of a museum began to percolate.

The museum was chartered in 2002 and volunteers began working on opening the main receiving building; the museum opened in July 2010. The building features vintage radio receivers, teletype machines, a directional Antenna (similar to the receiving loop found in the ARRL antenna book) and the diorama of the facility as it was in days gone by. There are videos, slide shows and the ability to send and receive CW using period Morse code keys. When you arrive at the museum, there is an introductory video about the history of WCC narrated by the late Walter Cronkite; in addition there is a video on the efforts the station made in tracking and locating German U-Boats in the Atlantic during the Second World War. (The station was "requisitioned" by the Navy from RCA during the war)

WCC was one of Marconi's 10 wireless radio stations. In addition there is an amateur radio station, WA1WCC. On this visit the station was open and staffed. The station has 2 HF operating positions and 2m APRS. The ham antenna farm has grown since my last visit. Today they have a tri-bander, 30m and 40meter dipoles. The operator on duty was trying to work the new Southern Sudan DX entity on 20m CW. Efforts are underway to re-rig the 60 ft poles that held the rhombic antenna used by WCC; the goal is to put up 160 and 80 meter loops. There is also planning underway for a special event station commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Titanic sinking. 35 minutes up the road from Chatham is the original Marconi transmitting site where cross Atlantic DXing began in 1903 and the SOS was received from the Titanic. The remnants of that site (**see postcard below**) can be accessed from the Marconi beach off Route 6. For more information about the Chatham museum go to their website: www.chathammarconi.org.

If you are on the Cape, both sites are worth the visit. – 73, John W1JMA



Marconi Wireless Station, South Wellfleet, MA, as it looked in 1902.



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**