



# Capers

January 2012

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



**Friday, Jan. 13, 8 p.m. @ Stony Hill Fire Station**

## Happy New Year!

Here's hoping that 2012 is a great year for every CARA member and his or her family!

Many thanks to all who helped make the 2011 Holiday Party a success. The food was great and it was wonderful to see everyone.

One side note: since the December meeting was a social one and not business, there will be no minutes from December in this month's CAPERS. – KA1JDD

## 2012 VE Schedule

As usual, all are Saturdays; starting time is 11:30 a.m. Walk-ins are always welcome.

March 3rd  
June 9th  
September 15th  
December 1st

Candidates may e-mail or call N1PE for any

additional info.

73, Frank Sileo N1PE

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## NET CONTROL OPERATORS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY NET!

Additional volunteer net controllers are still needed for the 7:30 Sunday evening CARA net.

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.

# W1AW 2012 Winter Operating Schedule

## Morning Schedule:

| <i>Time</i>         | <i>Mode</i> | <i>Days</i> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1400 UTC (9 AM EST) | CWs         | Wed, Fri    |
| 1400 UTC (9 AM EST) | CWf         | Tue, Thu    |

## Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)  
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

## Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

|                      |         |               |
|----------------------|---------|---------------|
| 2100 UTC (4 PM EST)  | CWf     | Mon, Wed, Fri |
| 2100 "               | CWs     | Tue, Thu      |
| 2200 " (5 PM EST)    | CWb     | Daily         |
| 2300 " (6 PM EST)    | DIGITAL | Daily         |
| 0000 " (7 PM EST)    | CWs     | Mon, Wed, Fri |
| 0000 "               | CWf     | Tue, Thu      |
| 0100 " (8 PM EST)    | CWb     | Daily         |
| 0200 " (9 PM EST)    | DIGITAL | Daily         |
| 0245 " (9:45 PM EST) | VOICE   | Daily         |
| 0300 " (10 PM EST)   | CWf     | Mon, Wed, Fri |
| 0300 "               | CWs     | Tue, Thu      |
| 0400 " (11 PM EST)   | CWb     | Daily         |

## Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975  
21.0675 28.0675 147.555

DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025  
21.095 28.095 147.555

VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160  
21.390 28.590 147.555

## Notes:

*CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM*

*CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM*

*CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM*

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying

Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices and



CW/digital bulletins is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The 9:45 PM ET phone bulletin is currently unavailable via W1AWBDCT. The audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

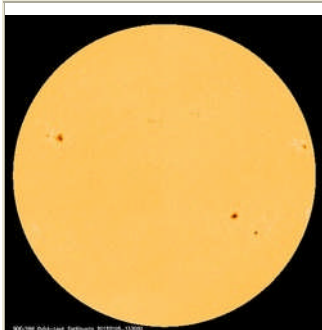
All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to [w1aw@arrl.org](mailto:w1aw@arrl.org).

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 99 in the January 2012 issue of QST or on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>.

## Solar Update



*The Sun, as seen on Thursday, January 5, 2012 from [NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope](#). This [MDI \(Michelson Doppler Imager\)](#) image was taken in the continuum near the Ni I 6768 Angstrom line. The most prominent features are the sunspots. This is very much how the Sun looks in the visible range of the spectrum.*

lowest reported weekly sunspot number average since [September 2011](#). The average daily solar flux was off 6.4 points to 143.1. Another problem seems to have cropped up with NOAA reporting of data that we use in this bulletin. Last month, the sunspot numbers had to be corrected. Now it appears that some of the geophysical data does not check out. Check the planetary A index for the last few weeks of December 2011 [here](#) and check the same dates [here](#). They should match, but they don't (unless the problem has been corrected by the time you read this). But the numbers for all of 2011 match what we have reported in the bulletin, and I suspect it is the correct version. The near term outlook is for solar flux at 140 on January 5-6, 135 on January 7-8, 130 on January 9-11, 125 and 135 on January 12-13, and then back to 140 on January 14-21. The next short term peak is expected at 150 on January 24-26. The

Tad "[We all live for the Sun](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: We're continuing to see good conditions, although sunspot activity has declined a bit. The average daily sunspot numbers for December 29-January 4 declined nearly 20 points (when compared to the previous seven days) to 88.1; this is the

expected planetary A index for January 5-9 is 5, 8, 15, 10 and 8, then back down to 5 on January 10-27. That predicted A index of 15 on January 7 -- if accurate -- will be the highest since October 25, when it was 27, and 31 the day before. That activity was sparked by a coronal mass ejection that affected earth around 1800 UTC on October 24. Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, January 6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by The Sunrays' [I Live for the Sun](#).

*(Some articles courtesy ARRL Letter)*

### **On the Air: ARRL 10 Meter Contest Sets Record**

As of January 5, almost 5200 logs have been received for the [ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#). Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, is happy to have sunspots back: "This just goes to show what sunspots can do for activity. When the solar flux climbed to 190 in September, it was like the first warm day after a long winter; people came out to play -- and play they did, in unprecedented numbers! Activity during this contest season has been nothing short of tremendous, and it seems to have reached a zenith for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Old Timers and new licensees from all around the world got on the air and had one heck of a good time on 28 MHz the second weekend in December, shattering the participation record by more than 2300 logs. And we still have a week to go before the log submission deadline!"

## **DXCC News: 2011 Sees Tremendous Increase in DXCC Applications**

With the coming of more sunspots, comes more DX. And when more amateurs are working DX, that means the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department -- especially the DXCC Desk and the ARRL Incoming and Outgoing QSL Bureaus -- goes into high gear.



"In 2011, we saw an increase in the number

of cards we received from ARRL members that were sent to foreign QSL bureaus, as well as the number of cards we sent out to the bureaus," said DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L. "In addition, the number of DXCC applications -- including those for initial awards and endorsements -- also increased."

As the number of QSL cards has increased, so have the number of DXCC applications. In 2010, the DXCC Desk processed 7134 applications for initial awards and endorsements; these 2010 applications included 853,462 QSOs. In 2011, the DXCC Desk processed 11,175 applications, containing 1,250,864 QSOs. "Comparing 2010 to 2011, this represents a 47 percent increase in the number of QSOs and a 57 percent increase in the number of applications," MVP Administrative Manager Sharon Taratula explained. "With all of the year's applications not yet fully processed, we've seen a substantial increase in the number of QSOs over 2010."

"Through December 31, 2011, the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau received 802,500 cards destined for foreign QSL bureaus from ARRL members in the US," Taratula said. "This represents an increase of 4 percent over the

2010 number of about 771,900 cards. In 2011, the ARRL shipped 799,675 cards -- or close to 5400 pounds of cards -- to foreign bureaus."

*Ham Radio in Hollywood: Amateur Radio Makes Its Debut on Last Man Standing*



*Make Baxter, KA0XTT -- played by Tim Allen -- records his video blog. Notice the tripod is on top of the 2011 ARRL Handbook, next to a stack of QSTs. Last Man Standing airs on Tuesday nights at 8 PM (Eastern) on ABC. [Screengrab courtesy of ABC]*

If you watched the January 3 episode of *Last Man Standing* -- the ABC hit situation comedy starring Tim Allen as Mike Baxter,

KA0XTT -- you were in for a treat. While this episode didn't feature Amateur Radio per se, it did show Mike's shack in the background. Viewers could see the DXCC, Worked All States, Worked All Continents and the Morse Code Proficiency Certificate -- all provided by the ARRL -- in the first scene. Later on in the show, Mike records his video blog. Sharp-eyed viewers spotted the *2011 ARRL Handbook* underneath the mini-tripod, next to issues of *QST*!

The episode airing on January 17 will introduce Mike Baxter as KA0XTT. According to *Last Man Standing* Producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, Mike will have a QSO on the show. "We had two Amateur Extra class staff members complete a QSO on 10 meters and we recorded it," Amodeo explained. "Unfortunately, we

were set up on a stage that is basically a Faraday cage. The very QRP signal made it radio-to-radio. We varied the RIT [receiver incremental tuning] to give it a little extra SSB sound, but I don't think the signal made it much past the stage walls. The recording will be on the show. We thought our ham viewers would get a kick out of it. Non-hams will think it's just distorted."



*In the opening scene of the January 3 episode of Last Man Standing, viewers get their first glimpse of Mike's shack - along with his impressive wall of ARRL awards and his QSL card collection. Mike's wife Vanessa (played by Nancy Travis) and his boss Ed (played by Hector Elizondo) also appear in the scene. [Screengrab courtesy of ABC]*

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## 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)

### 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.)



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