



Capers

May 2012

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Post Office Box 3441 - Danbury, CT
Visit us on the Web at www.CaraRadioClub.org

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

June 23-24!



Save the Date!

Next Meeting: Friday, May 11, 8 p.m. @ Stony Hill Fire Station

CARA Minutes...

CARA Meeting April 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM by CARA President Roger Mitchell, NG1R, with 25 members and guests present.

Our speaker for the evening was Sean Kutzko, KX9X, ARRL Contest Branch Manager who gave a presentation on the November, 2011 CW/Phone Sweepstakes. Sean and Ward Silver, N0AX, wanted to participate in the Sweepstakes, but how and from where?

Their criteria were:

- 1) Pick a rare section
- 2) Get a Clean Sweep; that is, contact all 80 Sections
- 3) Operate "Multi-Single"
- 4) And last, have a good time.

They finally chose Puerto Rico, and then to improve their coverage of the US and Canada, they set-up in a small house on an island off the Northwest coast. To simplify their kit and reduce the bulk of luggage they took homebrew dipoles for 10, 15, and 20 meters. They used a Dog (toy) Catapult to launch the antenna lines into the trees on the site. From N6BT.com they had a Bravo 7K vertical for 10 to 40 meter operation .

As a major added bonus for the trip Sean and Ward got a guided tour of the Arecibo Observatory!! For me, that alone would have been worth the trip.

At the end of the Sweepstakes all of Sean and Ward's objectives listed above had been met.

We would like to thank Sean for taking the time to give his presentation.

Before he left, Sean presented Harlan, W1QH,



Dan, W1QK, and Roger, NG1R, with "Clean Sweep" awards for their participation in this contest. A second thank you to Sean.

Before the break Steve, W1SMS, showed the group one of his latest projects, a balanced dipole antenna tuner. He plans to use it and a second one with 40 and 80 meter antennas he is installing at his QTH. For now it is manually adjustable but later he will add motors for remote control.

After a short break we went on to the business part of the meeting. Both the minutes of the March meeting and the Treasurer's report of \$9740.38 were accepted.

Joe, AB1DO, reported that the Hamfest preparations are on track. The date is Sunday, September 9, 2012, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The flyer is available on the CARA website so print up some copies and spread them around. Joe is looking for another seminar so if you have a presentation or know of something please contact him. I did one last year and learned a lot preparing for it and more still during discussions after it was over. Go for it.

Steve, W1SMS, reported on the repeater situation. The 440 machine is operational but there are still problems with the 2 meter system. The repeater site needs to be "hardened" with a grounding system, enclosed equipment cabinets and battery backup, etc. Steve put a list of activities on the reflector so please contact him about helping out.

Dan, W1QK, and Harlan, W1QH, are coordinating Field Day -- which will be at Putnam Park in Bethel on June 23rd and 24th. We will be working on preparations at our May 11th meeting.

A Yaesu G-800SDX antenna rotor came to the meeting with John, W1JMA, was auctioned off and left with Dan, W1QK. If you have something to sell/trade/donate, bring it to the meeting.

The election of club officers will be at the June 8th meeting. The nominating committee is Steve, W1SMS, Carl, W1ZGZ, and Harlan, W1QH. Please contact them if you are interested in serving. Thank you.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary

2012 VE Schedule

All dates are Saturdays; starting time is 11:30 a.m. Walk-ins are always welcome. Candidates may e-mail or call N1PE for any additional info.

June 9th
September 15th
December 1st

73, Frank Sileo N1PE
34 Bryon Avenue, Ridgefield, CT 06877-4426

Home: 203-438-0218;

Cell: 203-731-7735

frsileo@att.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)

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.)

Tech Class Offered by CARA...

CARA has planned a Technician class
(entry level) for amateur radio in Newtown,
CT.

Sessions were scheduled to begin on
Tuesday, April 10, 2012, and will run for
eight weeks. The cost is expected to be
\$60 and includes the book.

Classes run from 6 to 9 PM each week,
with the test to be administered on
Saturday, June 9, 2012.

There will be eight instructors, all licensed
hams who are also prior instructors.

Those who complete the course, and
successfully pass the test, will earn their

ham radio license. Contact John Will,
KB1LYP, class coordinator, at 203-270-
8601, for more details.

Mailing lists, blogs, and podcasts are good sources of ham info

by *Dan KB6NU*

Whether you're a newcomer or an old-timer, the
Internet is possibly the best way to learn as
much as you can about amateur radio. On the
Internet, you'll find many, many ham radio
mailing lists, podcasts, and videos. In essence,
these resources give you access to hundreds, if
not thousands, of Elmers.

One mailing list that I always suggest to new
hams is the HamRadioHelpGroup
(<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>). The purpose of this group is to help
"those who are interested in getting started in
Amateur Radio or upgrading their license." This
mailing list has a good mix of beginners and
experts, and most questions are answered
quickly and correctly. One thing that I really like
about this group is that the moderators do a
good job of keeping the discussions on track,
and will squelch them when they stray off topic
or threaten to turn into flame wars.

In addition to the HamRadioHelpGroup, you
might also want to join a more targeted mailing
list. For example, if you're interested in learning
Morse Code (hint, hint), you might join the
SolidCpyCW list
(<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SolidCpyCW/>).
If you just bought a Yaesu FT-60 hand-held
transceiver, you might want to join the FT-60 list
(<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FT-60/>).
Chances are that no matter what your interest,
there's probably a mailing list to discuss that
interest.

I'm subscribed to a lot of amateur radio mailing
lists and could probably spend most of my day
just reading and replying to them. In order to
get the most out of them, without them taking
away from my on-air time, I only read those
threads that I am really interested in, and even

then, I quit reading them once they have started to drift off-topic. I also un-subscribe myself from lists that cover topics that I'm no longer interested in.

Blogs, podcasts and videos

In addition to getting on a few mailing lists, you might want to read a few blogs and subscribe to podcasts. These are also great sources of information about amateur radio. I blog about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com, and lots of hams find it a good source of information. You can find a list of other ham radio blogs that I'd recommend on my home page.

Podcasts are also a good source of information. One podcast that you might want to check out is the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast (<http://www.myamateurradio.com>). Since 2008, Jerry, KD0BIK, has been producing PARP, and currently has more than 50 different episodes online. For other podcasts, consult the list on Jerry's home page.

Finally, there are literally thousands of amateur radio videos on the net. On YouTube alone, there are approximately 32,000 of them. The American Radio Relay League has its own channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ>), but perhaps the most popular amateur radio video channel is the K7AGE channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE>). K7AGE has more than 6,200 subscribers and his videos have garnered more than 2.1 million views!

Whatever source or sources of information you select, remember to not let them take up too much of your time. Ham radio is about more than just reading, listening, or watching. It's about doing!

(When he's not answering yet another e-mail, Dan blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches ham classes, and ragchews on 30m and 40m CW. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.)

ARRL EXPO at Dayton Hamvention®

As part of the [ARRL EXPO](#) -- part of the 2012 [Dayton Hamvention®](#) -- the ARRL is pleased to present a plethora of DX activities. Visitors to the ARRL EXPO will see a lot of activities relating to DX, including DXCC card checking and a chance to drop off QSL cards for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau, as well as representatives from the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) and IARU Member-Societies. The Dayton Hamvention will take place May 18-20 at Hara Arena, located near Dayton, Ohio.

Get *Internationally Connected* at the ARRL EXPO

The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club ([DARC](#)), the Japan Amateur Radio League ([JARL](#)) and the Radio Society of Great Britain ([RSGB](#)) will be on hand within the ARRL EXPO. "The theme of the 2012 Hamvention is *Internationally Connected*," explained ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "What better way to get connected than meeting with fellow radio amateurs from around the world?" In addition, representatives from the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) -- including IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, IARU President Emeritus Larry Price, W4RA, IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, and IARU Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD -- will also be on hand in the ARRL EXPO area to greet visitors.

JARL Awards

Representatives from JARL will be accepting applications for certain JARL awards ([AJD](#), [WAJA](#), [JCC](#), [ADXA](#), [ADXA-Half](#) and [Fuji](#)), as well as the IARU's Worked All Continent ([WAC](#)) and 5-Band WAC awards at the JARL table within the ARRL EXPO. Amateurs who qualify for these JARL and IARU awards will be issued the certificates right on the spot. JARL staff member Masa Ebisawa, JA1DM, will also be checking applications for other JARL awards;

certificates for these awards will be mailed from JARL Headquarters *after* Hamvention.

Applicants for JARL awards do not need to have the QSL cards with them; a list showing the call signs of stations worked, date, band and mode (or other data required by each award) of the contacts is sufficient. Applicants will need to sign and attach a statement to the application, verifying that the QSL cards of the contacts listed are in their possession and that the items are correctly listed. Applicants may use a [DXCC Record Sheet](#) for their QSL card list. Ebisawa will be glad to answer questions about JARL activities, including [reciprocal licensing procedures](#). Check the JARL website for [more information about JARL awards](#), including award fees.

IARU Region 3 Operating Award

JARL will also be accepting applications for the [IARU Region 3 Operating Award](#). JARL will forward these applications to the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters ([NZART](#)), which administers the award. NZART will then send applicants their award certificate with any endorsements *after* Hamvention.

To be eligible for the IARU Region 3 Operating Award, hams must present the completed [application](#), listing at least seven contacts from entities in IARU Region 3 whose amateur societies are Member-Societies of the IARU. These countries include Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, China (PRC), Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), Fiji, French Polynesia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn Island, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu and Vietnam. Applicants must also have at least one QSO with one of the following: the US Territories in the Pacific from Guam, Northern Marianas, American Samoa, Wake Island, Baker Howland Group, as represented by ARRL, or the Chago Archipelago (VQ9), as represented by RSGB. No QSL cards are necessary, but only contacts made after April 5, 1982 are eligible.

There are 34 available entities for the IARU Region 3 Award. Hams who present seven QSOs will be awarded the Basic Award. Hams who present 15 QSOs will be achieve the Silver Endorsement, while those who present 20 QSOs will receive the Gold Endorsement. The award fee is US \$4 or four IRCs.

ARRL Card Checking and Outgoing QSL Bureau Services

ARRL staff and [DXCC](#) volunteer card checkers will once again offer full DXCC card checking -- including deleted countries and cards for 160 meters -- and award application processing this year at the ARRL EXPO. They will also be able to check applications and QSLs for the Worked All States ([WAS](#)) and the VHF/UHF Century Club ([VUCC](#)) awards. Applications will be limited to 101 cards (more cards will be checked as time -- and volunteer card checkers -- becomes available). Use the new [Online DXCC](#) tool and save money on your application! Remember to bring a printout of your application, card list *and* your cards (in the order in which they are entered into the Online DXCC) with you to Dayton.

ARRL members will also be able to drop off their QSL cards to be sent through the [ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau](#). If you have QSLs that you would like to send through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau (your QSLs going to foreign stations -- no US-to-US QSLs, please), you can save the shipping cost to ARRL by bringing them to Dayton and the League will transport your cards to the Bureau in Newington.

In order to take advantage of this exciting benefit, all of the standard QSL Bureau rules must be followed: Cards must be sorted by DXCC country, they must go to countries where a bureau exists and you must be an ARRL member to use the Outgoing QSL Bureau. Hams utilizing this service do not need to box the cards, but they should be wrapped with rubber bands; ARRL will weigh the cards on-site in the ARRL EXPO area.

The rates are **\$6** for the first .5 pounds of cards or portion thereof. Keep in mind that approximately 75 cards weigh .5 pounds. The rates increase to **\$12** for one pound, and then **\$6** for each additional half-pound. For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds of cards should include the fee of **\$18**. A package of only 10 cards or fewer costs just **\$2** and 11-20 cards are **\$3**. Members can pay for this service via check, cash or credit card.

The ARRL EXPO -- located in the Ballarena Hall (near the 400-numbered booths) of the large Hara Arena -- will include more than 20 exhibits staffed by ARRL program representatives.

TAPR Dates Set: Sept 21-23

The dates have been set -- September 21-23 -- for the 31st Annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference ([DCC](#)) in Atlanta at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel. The DCC schedule includes forums, demonstrations, a Saturday evening banquet and an in-depth Sunday seminar. This conference is for everyone with an interest in digital communications -- from beginner to expert. Technical papers are also being solicited for the conference proceedings. You do not have to attend the conference to have your paper included. The submission deadline is July 31. Please send papers to Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, or you can make your submission via [e-mail](#). Papers will be published exactly as submitted and authors will retain all rights. For more information,

please see the [DCC website](#) or call TAPR at 972-671-8277.

“On Deck” in Radiosport...

This week:

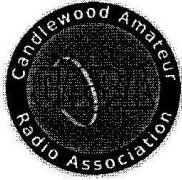
- April 28-29 -- Florida QSO Party; Nebraska QSO Party; 10-10 International Spring Contest (Digital); SP DX RTTY Contest; Helvetia Contest; QRP to the Field
- April 29 -- BARTG Sprint 75
- May 1 -- AGCW QRP/QRP Party

Next week:

- May 4 -- NCCC Sprint Ladder
- May 5 -- Microwave Spring Sprint (local time)
- May 5-6 -- New England QSO Party; Indiana QSO Party; 7th Call Area QSO Party; 10-10 International Spring Contest (CW); ARI International DX Contest; Araucaria VHF Contest
- May 8 -- ARS Spartan Sprint
- May 9-10 -- 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 information. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the [ARRL Special Event Stations web page](#).

(Some articles courtesy ARRL Letter)



Candlewood Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 3441, Danbury CT 06813

2012 Membership/Dues Application

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Class: _____ Phone: _____ VE: _____ ARRL: _____ Email Capers: _____ (default Yes)

e-mail _____

Full Member
\$30 _____

Family (2 members)
\$52.50 _____

Family (3 members)
\$65.00 _____

Family (4 members)
\$75.00* _____
* \$10 each additional member

Senior (65+)/College Student
\$23.50 _____

Associate Member (Non-Ham)
\$15 _____

Student (Under 18)
\$5 _____

**Send check payable to
CARA**

To:

**Bill Webb, W1AFX
12 Stage Road
Brookfield CT 06804**

w1afx@arrl.net
203-775-0536