

# CARA NEWS WIRE

Culpeper Amateur Radio Association

[WWW.W4CUL.COM](http://WWW.W4CUL.COM)

Repeater: 147.120, PL 146.2

Tower and Antenna Located on Clark Mountain in Orange, VA

The CARA is a Culpeper Virginia based amateur radio organization whose members enjoy and practice the use of amateur radio for personal and multi county emergency communication services and activities. The CARA NEWS WIRE is a publication intended to help inform members of CARA and the local governments served and covered by the CARA resources.

## TRANSMISSIONS FROM THE CARA OFFICERS AND STAFF

### TRANSMISSION FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Everyone:

This is our second edition of the Cara News Wire and we had an overwhelming positive response. I was able to locate the first president of CARA. I am looking forward to hearing from him soon. The postcard mailings brought in three more members, kudos to Bernie, kj4vov.

Dennis and I attended the weekly brunch at Country Cooking in Culpeper on Wednesday I want to encourage everyone to come by, the chowing down starts at 11 am. I took pictures and when we go to Linda for a 4th of July celebration we will publish them. I want to thank Ralph kd4lib for giving me an old membership list of March 1999. Several were called and invited to come back to see us. I talked to Sally Hager w4hlf and Robert Lee k4dcn. It was a very pleasant and enjoyable conversation. I have my fingers crossed we will be able to meet them at our next meeting.

My condolences go out to Quinton on the loss of his sister last month.

From what I understand a lot of amateurs enjoyed Field Day and made a lot of contacts, we would like to hear all about it in coming

editions or any contact you make. Please feel free to contact ki5llb (Linda) or w6lwg (Dick).

In closing, I want to say I have been able to keep Dennis off the lawn mower, so the neighborhood is safe again.

73's to all  
Barbara, KI4SXQ, President  
Culpeper Amateur Radio Association (CARA)

### CARA OFFICERS and STAFF:

President: Barbara, KI4SXQ, Fauquier County, VA. Email: [KI4SXQ@yahoo.com](mailto:KI4SXQ@yahoo.com)

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Board of Directors:  
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Quinton WD4WHY

Ralph, KD4LIB

Repeater Committee:  
Den, K0UN  
Quinton, WD4WHY  
Jim, K9SP

Postcard Manager:  
Bernie, KJ4VOV

### ***TRANSMISSION FROM THE VP:***

Tom, AJ4BX was unavailable for comment at the time of this publication. Future editions will have words of wisdom from the CARA VP.

### ***TRANSMISSION FROM THE Treasurer:***

Jim, K9SP was unavailable at the time of this publication. Future publications will have CARA membership numbers and other relevant information. No money matters will be published.

### ***TRANSMISSION FROM THE Secretary:***

Quinton, W4WHY was unavailable for comment at the time of this publication. Future publications will have an edited version of the previous CARA face to face meeting minutes and other comments.

### ***TRANSMISSION FROM THE Newsletter Editors:***

Linda, KI5LLB

Hey You Guys, because of all I have heard from Dick, Dennis, and Barbara I believe the news letter is a hit with most, if not all of the club members. It is wonderful to hear so many encouraging comments. While I am pleased to hear your good comments, I hope anyone wanting to see something different or something more in the news letter will feel totally free to let Dick or myself know what you would like to change or add. Also, I must have your

involvement by asking you to write out short examples of how ham radios were used by you or someone you know during personal or community disasters. These events could be from the past, both distance past and recent past (ex: the last storm in your area). It is important to let people know all sides of using ham radios, so we are looking for interesting or unusual ways any of you are using your radios in your daily life, as well.

### ***ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES:***

This section will contain information that may not be posted elsewhere in this publication..

The W4CUL website is still undergoing redesign. A summary of the proposed changes will be provided in future face to face and Live Wire publications. There is no "Go Live" date at this time.

This meeting is each 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. It is at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church. The church is located at 115 North East St Culpeper, VA 22701. It starts at 7:30pm and ends at 9:00pm (est).

The Talk-In is on 147.120, PL tone is 146.2. The next **Face to Face** meeting and future planned CARA events can be found in the **Calendar of Events** Section of this publication.

**Special VE Test Sessions:** From Den, K0UN. Barbara and I talked having VE sessions on demand. Is that a good idea? Please provide your comments and thoughts at the next face to face meeting.

### ***FIELD DAY 2011:*** (Den – K0UN)

Robert was ready, set, go on Field Day. He spent a large part of the day responding to as many callers as possible and made dozens of contacts for himself and for CARA.

Are there others who want to publish participation in Field Day?

## ***CARA CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

Future publications will have a two month "look ahead" calendar showing all events and activities posted by the CARA and members.

July 10, 8:00PM – W4CUL Net, 147.120 repeater, PL 146.2

July 17, 8:00PM – W4CUL Net, 147.120 repeater, PL 146.2

July 18, 7:30PM CARA Face to Face Meeting

July 24, 8:00PM – W4CUL Net, 147.120 repeater, PL 146.2

July 31, 8:00PM – W4CUL Net, 147.120 repeater, PL 146.2

July 6, 11:00 – W4CUL Breakfast

July 13, 11:00 – W4CUL Breakfast

July 20, 11:00 – W4CUL Breakfast

July 27, 11:00 – W4CUL Breakfast

August 7, 8:00 – W4CUL Net, 147.120 repeater, PL 146.2

August 14, 8:00 – W4CUL Net, 147.120 repeater, PL 146.2

August 15, 7:30 CARA Face to Face Meeting

August 21, 8:00 – W4CUL Net, 147.120 repeater, PL 146.2

August 28, 8:00 – W4CUL Net, 147.120 repeater, PL 146.2

August 3, 11:00 – W4CUL Breakfast

August 10, 11:00 – W4CUL Breakfast

August 17, 11:00 – W4CUL Breakfast

August 24, 11:00 – W4CUL Breakfast

August 31, 11:00 – W4CUL Breakfast

EVENT REPORT: Last Wednesday June 29, at 11:00 several members of CARA met for the weekly breakfast at Wendy's. Barbara and Dennis were among the attendees. Barbara was armed with her camera and took several pictures of the various members. I will try to get the pictures of that breakfast in this area, but if I cannot I will ask Dick to put them in the next issue and I promise to learn how to embed pictures in future.

Others are welcome to comment on any net, face to face meeting, breakfast, or event the club is involved in. I will put all comments in the next issue of The CARA NEWS WIRE.

## ***MEMBER: ITEMS FOR SALE***

Members having radio gear, antennas, coax or any amateur radio related items for sale can advertise them here.

This is a repeat add, because it was not sold at the time of this printing.)

I have a ICOM 756 PRO 3 HF plus 6 meters, 100 watts out, spectrum scope. I bought it new Feb. 2008 and it is in near mint condition. Comes with matching ICOM power supply bought at the same time. \$1850 with ICOM hand mic, or \$1950 with ICOM SM-20 desk mic instead of the hand mic. I have all packing materials, handbook, and 12 volt cord. KI4ORU, Wayne at 540-234-8985. P.S. no trades please, TNX.

Hello all,

I thought I would offer some stuff that I am selling to my fellow ham's before I put the stuff on Craigslist. I am doing spring cleaning a little late but maybe somebody wants some of this

stuff.

Item 1. Cannon Rebel XTi digital 10.1 mega pixel SLR camera. Includes stock 18-55mm lens, 75-300mm zoom lens, battery & charger, memory card, manual, usb cable and original box.

\$400 for the whole kit...

Item 2. Panasonic home stereo system. It has 5 cd rotary changer, AM/FM tuner, Dual cassette deck, cabinet and 2 speakers.\$100

Item 3. Sony surround speaker set. 5 speakers (center, 2 front and 2 rear). \$50

If you are interest you can contact me at [jahillegass@gmail.com](mailto:jahillegass@gmail.com) or call me 540-846-5820  
First come first served....Thanks,  
John Hillegass K4GTI

### ***MEMBER: ITEMS WANTED***

In this section members can post Items Wanted. Please provide the best description you can of the item(s) you are seeking.

I am looking for a 220 radio. Linda, KI5LLB

### ***MEMBER: ITEMS FOR AUCTION***

In this section, members can offer up items for auction at any of the club functions where such an activity can be conducted. All proceeds from the auction are donated to the club treasury.

Tom gave this antenna to Chris before the last meeting.

### ***MEMBER SHOUT OUT:***

This section is dedicated to those members who want to provide a description of a recent memorable event which the readers may find interesting.

## ***AMATEUR RADIO AND EMERGENCY SERVICES***

For those new to amateur radio, the “hobby” serves not only the amateur, but in many cases,

amateur radio is used to supplement and support many governments and communities in times of natural and manmade disasters. Years ago, there was a community of amateur called to support their local communities under the title of Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES). The terms were actually coined in the days when civil defense volunteers would roam the streets at night looking and waiting for the evil threat to attack in the night. Of course the evil threat was any communist nation that had evil in its heart and a hatred for the United States. These amateurs served and were somewhat organized by a branch of the government now called Federal Emergency Management Agency or FEMA. FEMA is now managed and organized under the Department of Homeland Security. In many cases the FEMA regulations governing the use of amateur radio are highlighted and these governments provide limited funding to the amateurs so they may set up a meaningful and useful “ham shack” which can be used when needed.

More recently, the Federal Communications Commission using the Amateur Radio Relay League gave birth to the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). This organization has gained in numbers and in many areas across the US, has banded together with RACES to form a strong alliance in support of their local governments. Virginia is one such state. Under the ARES leadership in Virginia, the RACES organizations managed by FEMA are working with the FCC and ARES to support in a seamless way their respective communities.

In Orange county we have a strong ARES presence and have a small “shack” in the Orange Emergency Operations Center. Unfortunately, the aforementioned funding has not materialized, but we keep hoping for a goose that will lay a golden egg in our ham shack. Orange, Louisa and Spotsylvania counties are mandated by FEMA to have an amateur radio support system due to the proximity of the Lake Anna Power Plant. These counties all support each other and have a strong and supportive relationship with the red cross and many other volunteer civilian and governmental organizations such as the local fire departments,

911 centers, emergency medical services and of course the local law enforcement agencies.

There is much more detail available, and if anyone is interested in knowing more, please contact Dick Becker, W6LWG.

73, Dick, W6LWG  
ARES Emergency Coordinator, Culpeper and Orange Counties

## ***THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING TO WEATHER WATCHES & WARNINGS***

In this and future issues I am going to cover important information on preparing for disasters of all kinds before they happen and what to do when a disastrous event is happening. I hope you will find it both interesting to read now and useful during an actual event should you be involved in a disaster.

An important thing for us to be aware of, while understanding our audience, is that almost none of them pay attention to any form of watch or warning. This is especially true if it is only the first or second time they have heard it. Many of them do not know the difference between a watch and warning. Even more important is the fact that they don't know what to do in response to either one of them. Therefore, most of the information given to prepare the public for the pending disaster does little or no good. One reason this is true, is that a disaster usually happens unexpectedly and often with little time for many warnings. There is not enough time to repeat the watch or warning often enough for the public to have the opportunity to hear it repeatedly. Secondly, as previously stated, many people don't accept the fact that they could really be in danger, even a slight danger. This belief leaves no room that a serious emergency can happen to them.

Our main challenge is to educate the public on the difference between a watch and a

warning. The first step is to explain carefully what a warning is and how to handle that type of information. Then we need to explain what a watch is and what our response to that should be. Last, we must convince our audience that the threat of danger they are hearing about is real and that it really can happen to anyone of us, including them.

This is extremely important. Once people understand that they can be involved in a disaster and that an emergency can happen to them or around them, and they know what to do when they hear a warning or a watch, they will listen much more attentively to it. That, in turn, means that more people will be ready and able to face a disaster or an emergency. At that point, they will be equipped to help others around them, get ready for, and during the disaster or emergency.

Fortunately, we have help. A program called "SKYWARN Spotter Network" gives us a standard definition that we can all use to make the terms "WARNING" and "WATCH" very clear.

**WATCH:** Conditions are favorable for a possible severe weather event to take place in or around the area where you live.

A watch says conditions are such that a tornado, thunderstorm, flash flood, or rains heavy enough to cause flooding are possible given the meteorological information received from weather satellites. This information is usually accurate because these satellites are far enough out into outer space for them to see clearly, what we will experience before we can see if ourselves. Even though they are very often right, they are not always right, because weather conditions can and often do change to rapidly for the satellites to relay their information soon enough for meteorologists to correct the weather forecast. Therefore, the weather event could happen, but not be as severe as the watch said. It could be much worse than the original report. There is a possibility that the called for weather event may not happen at all. This is because atmospheric conditions change so rapidly.

Our response to a watch should be one of caution. We could do things to prepare, like get flashlights out and make sure we have batteries in or near the flashlight. It is a good

idea to have extra batteries in case the power is off in our area for a long time. Maybe our Get Ready Plan calls for candles. If so, they put them in a reachable place even if it is dark and where we can find them quickly and easily. Make sure matches are close to the candles. Fill jars or clean buckets with fresh clean water for cooking, drinking, or cleaning ourselves. Fill the bathtub and/or buckets with fresh water for flushing the toilet or cleaning up messes. Get blankets, clothes, shoes, jackets and other essential personal items like medicine, food, important papers, and small necessary belongings you can carry with you if conditions get worse.

A watch is usually first. It is less severe in its predictions than a warning. It usually calls for conditions that are not as harmful to people and/or property as a warning would call for. A watch says pay attention to me, and you should be careful, but a warning says pay attention to me, "RIGHT NOW." It might, also, add or else. It demands actions be taken to prevent harm to people, but there may be no way to prevent harm from happening to property. Another difference between a warning and a watch is the time you have to respond to the coming event. Usually the watch started days or at least hours ahead of time you can spend more time preparing for the disaster or emergency. A warning comes as the event is about to happen. It demands quick thinking and immediate response. There is usually, little, or no choice as to what you have time to do. The preparation time is over, the watch is now a warning, and it is time to act. You may have to leave your home or even the area you have been living in. Gas should be in your car, you should be packed and ready to load what you are taking with you into your car, and it may be time to get going.

**WARNING:** According to SKYWARN a "WARNING" is when conditions are not only favorable, but are likely for any one of the severe weather events, called for in an earlier watch, in or near the warning area to happen at any moment.

Some severe weather conditions that a watch informs us may be about to happen are: **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM**---A storm that produces hail  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter or larger and/or wind gusts of 58 mph or more,

**TORNADO**---A violently rotating column of air attached to a thunderstorm and in contact with the ground, **FUNNEL CLOUD**---A rotating, funnel shaped cloud extending downward from a thunderstorm that doesn't reach the ground, **DOWNBURST**---A strong downdraft with an outrush of damaging wind on or near the ground, or a **FLASH FLOOD**---A rapid rise in water, usually within 12 hours of a period of heavy rain or other causative agent (i.e., dam break).

Government agencies, as well as many private agencies and volunteer organizations have prepared systems designed to help prevent harm from happening to people and/or property. Any or all of these preparations are ready to inform individuals of what can or will happen. There is one huge obstacle to the preparations being successful. That obstacle is the very people that all of these preparations attempted to help. None of the systems that are in place will do any good if they do not reach the people and if the people do not respond to them.

The first step in getting ready for any disaster is to have a way to get the warning or the watch to the people that need it. Several ways to receive these warnings or watches are in everyone's home. They are TV sets, radios, some cell phones, and even computers capable of getting on the internet. Any of these things can become tools that can receive these warnings and watches. By using them to receive these messages, anyone of us could save our life or another person's life. (Have the people in your classes check their devices to find out which ones can be used to receive information before and during a disaster or an emergency. Ask them to make sure at least one of their devices runs on batteries. Inform them that there needs to be extra batteries in case the power is off for a long period.)

We as individuals, together with others as members of the community where we live have to become informed and willing to follow the instructions given on how to get ready for what could happen. (The rest of this class is going to help you as presenters to inform individuals and groups around the area about what they can do to **BE RED CROSS READY**.)

As a summary--- some things that need to be covered and stressed are: The nature of the hazard, any misinformation you encountered and

corrected, the time frame of the hazard, what watches are and what we need to do when we get them, what warning are and how we must respond when we receive them, where risk areas are ( It is usually possible for us to identify likely problematic areas before a disaster), and what safety actions to take in all possible major severe events that usually happen in and around our area.

This was written by Linda Beard KI5LLB

( I hope to see others enter articles from other club members here. It will not be an interesting news letter if I am the only one writing articles for it.)

***THANK YOU FOR READING THE CARA  
NEWS WIRE***