



# The Ellwood Echo

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April 2010

**Editorial Staff**

Carol Klingensmith, N3ZLF  
724-752-3367  
Jim Klingensmith, N3ZJM  
724-752-3367  
Linda O'Conner, KB3IQP  
724-752-

ELLWOOD CITY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

## It's Springtime in Amateur Radio Land

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**2010 DUES  
ARE NOW  
DUE**

**Please contact Dennis  
KB3IUU**

**To get them paid  
The form is on  
The last page**

**Help Dennis with this being his first full year in this position**

Next Test Session to be held  
**Upon request**  
Anyone wanting to take a test or classes, please contact Don Cripe, KE3MM, and he can direct you to the proper people.  
Don Cripe at [cripe@comcast.net](mailto:cripe@comcast.net)

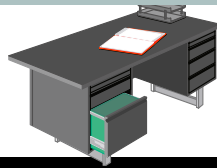
**Meeting**  
April 11, 2010 at 7:00 PM  
Mosser Drive,  
Shenango TWP

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**HEALTH & WELFARE**

Jim Klingensmith, N3ZJM	recovering from sugary
Carol Klingensmith, N3ZLF	recovering Heart Catheterization
Elmer Brewer, W3ELB	death of daughter, Scherry



## THE EDITOR'S DESK

I don't have a lot to say this month except keep all of our members in our hearts for all of the things that have happened this past winter. We have lost some very special people and valued members. Please come

to the meeting so you can get up to date on what has happened in the past few months that we had no meeting with the bad weather.

There are many things planned for this year. Don't be left out. We

need all to know what is going to happen.

Jim, N3ZJM

## MEETING NOTES

There was no meeting in MARCH. due to bad weather. The April meeting will be held at the Mosser Drive location on April 11th, due to the Easter

holiday at the beginning of the month. Please attend this meeting if at all possible to help us plan for the summer months.

Next meeting is on April 11th

## ARRL - JOIN OR RENEW THROUGH US

This is a great time to think about joining or renewing your membership with the ARRL. If you are already a member, you can renew your membership through the club, even though we no longer get rebates for renewals. If you are not a member of the ARRL currently, but are considering it, please join through us. We get a \$15 rebate for all new members who join

through the club, and \$2 rebate for renewals has been reinstated. we'd like to pass the savings on to you. If you are interested, please contact our Membership Committee in care of Dennis Neese, KB3IUU 413 Smiley Street, Ellwood City, PA 16117. you can email him at kb3iuu@arrl.net or ecara@qsl.net. As an ARRL

affiliated Special Service Club, we encourage all of our members to consider joining We are Special Service club affiliated with the ARRL, and we are very proud of that, but we need to keep at least half of our membership as members of the ARRL. So please help us keep up our good standing!

From: "William Continelli" <w2xoy.bill@yahoo.com>

INTRO:

This past September, a once popular radio service observed its 50th anniversary, without fanfare, celebrations, or even any notice from the radio community. What was this service, and why doesn't anyone seem to care?

This is Bill Continelli, W2XOY, and I'll be back in a moment with the answers, here on "This Week in Amateur Radio".

September 11, 1958. Some hams still remember the day, and a few are still angry. For that is the day that the FCC took away "our" 11 meter band and carved out the new Class D Citizens Radio Service. Amateurs were outraged at the time--not only did we lose frequencies, but the new 27 Mc CB Service represented a real threat to Amateur Radio. Affordable two way communications were now available to the general public, without a theory or code test. Many hams predicted the destruction of our hobby by this no test interloper.

In the beginning, there was some cause for concern. By 1960, the licensed CB population was 100,000. By 1962, the number of licensed CB'ers exceeded the number of hams. By the end of the decade, over 800,000 legal CB'ers were crowded on the 23 channels, along with an estimated two to three million unlicensed operators. In contrast, the ham population was stagnant at 250,000. CB'ers had their own specialty magazines (CB Horizons, CB Magazine and S-9), as well as regular columns in Popular Electronics and Electronix Illustrated.

In the mid 1970's, the CB population exploded, thanks to the oil crisis, truckers, CB songs on country radio stations, and an endless parade of "CB" movies and TV shows featuring a variety of good ol' boys, women in severely undersized clothing, and muscle cars with 102" whips. The FCC was inundated with applications at the rate of one million per month.

Articles about CB appeared in just about

every newspaper and magazine. Even the staid and stogy Consumer Reports tested some CB radios in one of their issues.

CB's were sold everywhere---department stores, catalogue stores, discount chains, grocery stores, pharmacies and, of course, truck stops. It is estimated that by the end of the 70's, over 30 million CB's were in the hands of the general public. I remember conducting several informal surveys on the cars I saw. For a period of time, one in five---or 20% of all vehicles were equipped with 27 MHz radios.

But there is a big difference between a fad and a hobby. In the early 1980's, the CB bubble began to burst. Sales began a free fall. Many of the secondary CB manufacturers that had appeared in the mid 70's went out of business. Then some of the major companies, who had been in the CB field since the 50's, either folded or got out of CB radio. Big names such as Browning, Tram, Johnson, Pace and Lafayette disappeared from the ranks of CB manufacturers. Stores cut back on their CB inventory. CB antennas on houses and cars rusted, broke, or were simply removed by their owners.

CB radios began showing up at garage sales for \$5. Membership in REACT dropped by 80%. Ironically, during this time, ham radio was enjoying a renaissance, with the amateur population increasing almost 300% over the 1970 numbers.

This free fall accelerated in the 90's when affordable cell phones appeared. Sears, then a barometer of what the general public wanted, stopped selling CB's at their stores and even removed them from their catalogue.

Today, it is actually difficult to buy a CB radio in a local store. On an informal tour of Sears, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Target, and other local department stores, I found only two Wal-Mart's with CB radios in stock. Each had about five units in stock--and they have sat there, unsold, in the five months I've been monitoring. Even Radio Shack---which used to have shelves filled with all types of 27 MHz radios, has drastically cut back. Many Radio Shack stores---especially those in affluent neighborhoods---no longer carry

any CB radios. The rest have maybe one or two models. The shelves have been turned over to FRS/GMRS radios and, of course, cell phones. I've scanned cars in parking lots and on the highway. Less than 1% have a CB antenna on them. I've listened on the air, when skip is not present. Except for channels 6 (a special case), 11, and 19, the frequencies are quiet.

Does this mean that CB radio is dead? No, not by a long shot. The internet and truck stops are full of CB radios---usually high end models with lots of bells and whistles that appeal to the serious hobbyists or truckers. Having been tossed aside by a general public bored with 27 MHz, CB has returned to its roots--a die hard base of two to three million users that will never go away. No matter what other communications services come along in the future, there will always be those who will cling to 27 MHz.

What does this mean for ham radio? Well first, we can exhale now--CB won't kill us. And second, we can take comfort in the thought that there will always be die hard amateurs who, no matter what other radio service might appear, will always cherish their ham radio hobby.

I know, I'm one of them.

This is Bill Continelli, W2XOY, for "This Week in Amateur Radio".

## PITTSBURGH MARATHON 2010

.The Pittsburgh marathon is back for another run this spring! May 2, 2010, will be the date of the marathon's 21st running, and with registration already exceeding last year's participation of over 10,000 runners, it will be the largest in the history of the event. Once again, amateur radio has been asked to help make this event a success.

We will be providing communications vital to ensuring the safety both of those athletes running in the marathon and of the many spectators.

There are many positions around the 26.2 mile course that need to be covered, including mile markers, aid stations, buses and sweep vehicles, shadows for race officials, and others. To fully cover all of these positions, we will need over 150 volunteer

amateur radio operators, including you!

If you haven't already signed up to help with this year's event, please consider doing so. Online registration is quick and easy -- just go to <<http://www.rbhoffman.com/marathon/>> and fill out the form. You'll receive immediate email confirmation, and your assignment and detailed instructions will arrive in the mail during the last week of April. As before, there will be a pre-race meeting the day before the marathon, to review what to expect on race day, answer any questions you have, and provide your T-shirt, hat, vest, and marathon credentials.

I look forward to your participation.

73, Jeffrey Hutzelman,  
N3NHS

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ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section  
Section Manager: John V. Rodgers, N3MSE  
n3mse@arrl.org  
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# The K7RA Solar Update

We experienced a bit of a scare this week when four days went by without sunspots. That's right -- for the first time in three months, we saw more than a single day with a sunspot number of 0, and that last period was back during November 23-December 8. Until March 6, there were just three days since then without sunspots, each a bit less than two weeks apart: December 25, January 6 and January 19. Sunspot numbers for March 4-10 were 40, 35, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 12, with a mean of 12.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 81.3, 79.5, 78.3, 76.6, 76.3, 77.9 and 80.3, with a mean of 78.6. The estimated planetary A indices were 6, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2 and 7, with a mean of 3.9. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 1, 3, 3, 1, 2 and 6, with a mean of 2.9.

On Wednesday, sunspot group 1054 emerged in the northeastern quadrant of the visible solar disc, and just south of the center of the field another sunspot group appeared on Thursday, number 1055. This brought the sunspot number from 12 on Wednesday to 31 on Thursday, March 11. The total area covered by sunspots increased 14 times from Wednesday to Thursday. NASA's STEREO mission shows a possible third sunspot group possibly appearing over the horizon in a few days. As of 0300 on March 13, we can see 88.23 percent of the Sun thanks to STEREO; two weeks later the coverage will expand to about 88.42 percent. We should see 90 percent coverage on June 18 around 2323-2335 UTC.

The 45 day forecast for solar flux has been shifting over the past few days. On March 9, it predicted solar flux for March 12-22 at 78, falling to 75 after March 23. On March 10, it shifted to 84 on March 12, 86 March 13-18 then 78 on March 19-22. On March 11 --

the latest available for this bulletin -- it changed to 85 for March 12-15, 83 on March 16, 81 on March 17 and 80 on March 18-19. Check here for the latest forecast. The new daily forecast appears sometime after 2100 each day.

Current planetary A index prediction from the same source shows the value at 5 on March 12-13 and 7 on March 14-15, then back to 5. Geophysical Institute Prague says watch for quiet conditions March 12-13, quiet to unsettled March 14-15, unsettled March 16 and back to quiet for March 17-18. David Moore, a shortwave listener in Morro Bay, California, regularly sends us articles of interest to readers. About 10 days ago he sent us this article from Astronomy Now about a project at the Royal Observatory Greenwich involving the public in an effort to analyze solar data. Don Kalinowski, NJ2E, of Cary, North Carolina also sent a link to this project, called Solar Stormwatch. Their idea is that there is too much data for the scientists to observe, so they hope to use a recently popular concept called "crowdsourcing" in which large numbers of people can expand the observatory's capabilities. This definitely sounds like a fascinating endeavor for many of our readers.

We received lots of reports about good conditions for the ARRL International SSB DX Contest last weekend. Andy Gudas, N7TP, of Amargosa Valley, Nevada, worked all continents in a half hour on 40 meters with 100 W and a simple wire antenna, an inverted vee.

Scott Bidstrup, TI3/W7RI sent a link to an interesting article in *Science News* about predicting sunspot minima by studying magnetic flows.

Jon Jones, N0JK, in Kansas, noted e-skip a bit early for the normal season.

On March 9 at 2320, he worked K2EK, from EL88 in Florida; around 90 minutes later, at 0052 on March 10, he worked AC50 from EL49 in Louisiana. Jon was in his car, but using a 5/8 wave 2 meter whip. He notes that March normally has the lowest occurrence of e-skip of any month of the year. He also reported that W0WOI in Iowa heard the TI2NA beacon in Costa Rica at about 0115 that day. Mike Schaffer, KA3JAW, in EL87 (Tampa, Florida), reported receiving TV signals from Central America around the same time. Around 2300, he heard YNTC, TV2 in Nicaragua. The strongest signals were around 2325, and gradually faded away around 2500.

Bob Alsaker, N7HJL in Phoenix, Arizona wrote: "I received my first license in 1960 (Novice call WV6NTQ) and have been active most of the 50 years since then (except for my 'vacation' in Vietnam). Back then, working all around the world was expected, even with modest equipment (50 W or less) and minimal antennas (ground mounted verticals with no radials). The past few months have been a real joy again, after what has seemed like an eternity with no sunspots and no DX. The recent ARRL CW DX contest was once again a blast! More than 50 countries -- with 9 new ones added to my DXCC. For all the hams licensed in the past decade, get ready for some real fun, especially if you like working DX. Us old-timers remember!"

*All times listed are UTC*

## Amateur Radio Bill Passes Senate, Moves to the House

Senate Bill 1755 -- *The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009* introduced in October 2009 by Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) -- has unanimously passed the US Senate and has been sent to the US House of Representatives for consideration and now sits in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The ARRL is asking its membership to contact the leadership of the Energy and Commerce committee, requesting support and action on moving S 1755 through the committee. S 1755 accomplishes the same things as HR 2160; HR 2160 was introduced in April 2009 by Rep Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). Since S 1755 has already been approved by the Senate, moving it forward in the House will simplify the process.

S 1755 points out that "[t]here is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

If enacted into law, S 1755 would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study -- and report its findings to Congress within 180 days -- on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

The study shall:

- Include recommendations

for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.

- Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
- Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations, and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
- Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996)).
- Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose, in residential areas. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations, including Amateur Radio,

emergency response and disaster communications.

Please contact Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA-30) and Ranking Member Joe Barton (R-TX-6), urging them to send this bipartisan bill to the House floor for adoption. A sample letter can be found here. Send your letters urging consideration of S 1755 by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to Rep Waxman via fax at 202-225-2525, and to Rep Barton via fax at 202-225-1919. Also, please fax a copy of your letters to the ARRL's Washington representative, Chwat & Co at 703-684-7594.

For more information on S 1755, please visit the ARRL Government Relations Web page.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

April 4 - Easter Sunday

April 11 - ECARA meeting (see page 2)

RED HOT

FAMILY RESTAURANT  
Hot Dogs & Family Dining

6th Street & Factory Ave.  
Ellwood City, PA

Phone 724-752-9717



VISIT OUR WEB SITE !!

Stop by and visit the ECARA online! Keep in touch with fellow members on the Members' Page or browse through the Photo Album. Visitors are WELCOME!

<http://www.qsl.net/ecara>

Please stop in and sign our Guest Book!

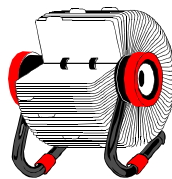
Web site created and maintained by Marian Oliastro, W3MHO for the ECARA © 2002 - 2009

And Spring arose on the garden fair,  
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;  
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast  
rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.

~Percy Bysshe Shelley, "The Sensitive Plant"

Member email addresses

- Bill Continelli - nteu61vp@hotmail.com
- Don & Sally Cripe - cripe309@comcast.net
- Skip Davis - earln3ybp@aol.com
- Bob Drexler - wa3zoe@arrl.net
- Thomas Hartmann - [twhartmann@verizon.net](mailto:twhartmann@verizon.net)
- Gary Hutchinson - garyka3tyk@windstream.net
- Amy Johnson - Tweetyj1@comcast.net
- Chuck & Jean Johnson - n3etv@comcast.net
- Chucky Johnson - n3hx@comcast.net
- Carol Klingensmith - carolsue@zoominternet.net
- Jim Klingensmith - jamesh@zoominternet.net
- Frank Marlowe - Wb3jqy@comcast.net



- Dawn McGee - k3dlm@arrl.net
- Bonnie Neese - kb3iuu@verizon.net
- Dennis Neese - kb3iuu@arrl.net
- Linda O'Conner - boblin01@zoominternet.net
- Marian Oliastro - w3mho@comcast.net
- Paul Oliastro - pauln3zzi@comcast.net
- Jason Reighard - kb8sfc@gmail.com
- Rob Reppert - ebrowley@verizon.net
- Bob Rowley - @outdrs.net
- Bruce Watson - aa3lx@aol.com
- Keith Wright - kb3daw@verizon.net

SB QST ARL ARLB010  
 ARLB010 ARRL Seeks Input for New IARU  
 Region 2 Band Plan

The International Amateur Radio Region 2 (IARU R2) conference -- held later this year in El Salvador -- brings together delegations from the national Amateur Radio Societies in the Western Hemisphere. One of the topics on the agenda will be the Region 2 HF band plan. This band plan is "harmonized with" -- spectrum management-speak for "very similar to" -- the IARU Region 1 and Region 3 band plans.

According to ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, many hams in the USA probably did not know there was such a thing as a Region 2 band plan until recently. Now, however, many more American hams have heard of it, but may not know how -- if at all -- this band plan affects them. Here are important facts for American hams to keep in mind:

\* IARU band plans are voluntary guidelines. They do not have the force of FCC regulations.

\* It would be inappropriate to incorporate Region 2 band plans into the FCC rules, and the ARRL has no plan to petition the FCC to do so.

\* Most other countries do not have the detailed sub-band regulations that are in Part 97 of the FCC Rules; for amateurs in those countries, IARU band plans offer the only guidance on frequency use.

\* The recognition of a calling frequency or band segment for a particular purpose or mode in the IARU band plan does not convey any special rights or exclusivity of use.

A new, more transparent procedure will be followed this year for considering possible changes to the Region 2 band plan. The ARRL is cooperating with this procedure by inviting input to be sent to the ARRL Board of Directors' Band Planning Committee. The committee will review the existing Region 2 band plan, consider input from the amateur community and make recommendations to the ARRL Board for submission to IARU Region 2.

The inadvertent omission of the AM center of activity frequency (calling frequency) -- 3.885 MHz on 80 meters -- has already been noted, and this will be one of the recommended revisions.

The deadline line set by Region 2 for gathering input and formulating recommendations is rather short.

Amateurs who would like to submit input should take the following steps:

\* First, study the existing IARU Region 2 band plan posted on the Region 2 Web site at <http://www.iaru-r2.org/band-plan>. The Region 1 and Region 3 band plans are also posted there, so be sure you are looking at the band plan for Region 2.

\* Next, formulate a clear statement of any change you propose. Include a brief explanation of why you think the change would be beneficial. Please include your name and call sign in your input.

\* Finally, send your input via e-mail to [bandplan2010@arrl.org](mailto:bandplan2010@arrl.org) no later than April 5, 2010. Messages will be automatically acknowledged.

If you live in another country in Region 2, please contact your national Amateur Radio Society for information on how to submit input for the band plan process.

## Newsletter and Club Information

The "Ellwood Echo" is published monthly. It is the voice of the Ellwood City Amateur Radio Association, Inc. of Ellwood City, PA. Information contained in this newsletter (unless copyrighted) may be reprinted with credit given to the author and the ECARA. Contributions to the newsletter must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Material submitted will be used at the discretion of the editor. Letters for the "FEEDBACK!" column, please mark ATTN: FEEDBACK on the envelope. Views and opinions that are a part of articles or letters in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the ECARA.

**Editorial Staff**

News Letter  
P. O. Box 25  
Ellwood City Pa. 16117  
ecara@qsl.net

**Membership Chairperson:**

Dennis Neese, KB3IUU  
413 Smiley Street  
Ellwood City, PA 16117  
kb3iuu@arrl.net

**Address mail to:**

ECARA  
PO Box 25  
Ellwood City, Pa. 16117  
ecara@qsl.net

The ECARA meets monthly at the Tree of Life Wellness Center in Ewing Park. The meetings are on the first Sunday of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Visitors are welcome. E-Board meetings are currently combined with the regular meeting unless a special meeting is called.

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**E. C. A. R. A. OFFICERS**

President	Keith Wright—KB3DAW	724 944 2725
1st Vice President	Jim Klingensmith — N3ZJM	724 752 3367
2nd Vice President	Carol Klingensmith—N3ZLF	724 752 3367
Secretary	Linda O'Conner—KB3IQP	724 752 9087
Treasurer	Debbie Read-KB3IEQ	724

**TRUSTEES**

Station Trustee:  
Jim Klingensmith —N3ZJM  
:  
Elmer Brewer — W3ELB  
Carol Klingensmith — N3ZLF

**Ellwood City Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
Membership Application**

	<b>1st qtr</b>	<b>2nd qtr</b>	<b>3rd qtr</b>	<b>4th qtr</b>
___ FULL	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5
___ FAMILY	4	3	2	1
___ ASSOCIATE	\$15	\$11.25	\$7.50	\$3.75
___ JUNIOR (to age 21)	Free	Free	Free	Free
___ SENIOR (65 and over)	\$10	\$ 7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

DATE \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Y ( ) N ( )  
 BIRTHDAY \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ ANNIVERSARY \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive the newsletter each month by \_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_ Regular Mail

Is this application for a \_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_ Renewal

DUES PAID: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ METHOD OF PAYMENT: \_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL TO:**

**ECARA Membership Committee**  
 Dennis Neese, KB3IUU  
 413 Smiley Street  
 Ellwood City, PA 16117

**ELLWOOD CITY AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Contact Us!**

PO Box 25  
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Phone: 724-752-3367  
Email: [ecara@qsl.net](mailto:ecara@qsl.net)

**N3EC**  
Repeater  
145.170 MHz  
100 Hz PL



**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Ellwood City Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc. was founded in August of 1997 to provide an Amateur Radio presence in the Ellwood City area, It is our desire to serve our community where we can and to teach young people, or anyone who is interested, the benefits and advantages of becoming a "ham radio" operator. We are a Special Services Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Many of our members belong to Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Skywarn, helping the National Weather Service. It is more than just a hobby!

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**"SERVICE THROUGH COMMUNICATION".**