



The Ellwood Echo

Volume 13 - Issue 12

December 2009

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ELLWOOD CITY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

2009 Is Drawing To A Close

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Next Test Session to be held
3rd Sunday of January, 2009
 Anyone wanting to take a test or classes, please contact Don Cripe, KE3MM, and he can direct you to the proper people.



We wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

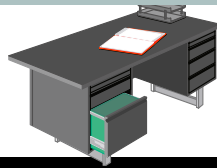


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HEALTH & WELFARE

Scherry Brewer - Therapy at Health South
 Carol Klingensmith- - Kidney Infection
 Everyone with the flu



THE EDITOR'S DESK

As this is the last Letter for this year I would like to thank All of our staff who have done the news letter and hope that they will stay on for the next year. If anyone would like to join us pleas contact any staff member. N3ZJM

MEETING NOTES

.With the limited amount of members at the meeting in November the election of officers all officers will stay the same for another term. It was suggested that we have a after Christmas meeting at fire mountain after the first of the year everyone to pay for their own bill. We will need a list of people that want to attend so we can make the arrangements to use the

back room and the date that you would like to have it. If anyone has any other suggestions or ideas pleas let us know your ideas.

**Next meeting
is on
December
6,2009**

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 you can email him at kb3iuu@arrl.net or ecara@qsl.net. As an ARRL affiliated Special Ser-

vice 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!

Monthly Western Pennsylvania Section News

The last scheduled ARRL sanctioned hamfest is behind us and looks like we have to wait till February 2010 before the next one. I guess with the holidays approaching we will have a lot of time to make up our wish lists for the New Year. I know I am hoping for some sunspots to assist in propagation. While there has been some nice DX openings I am sure we all agree that conditions have been far from favorable. Hopefully the next few months will see a change in that area. The PA QSO Party was an indication of just how strange propagation can be. I worked more sections during the first part of the contest than I did counties. I only missed three for the sweep and sad to say one was in WPA.

Effective November 1 Larry Keller AB3ER accepted the position of Section Emergency Coordinator. I am grateful to Larry for accepting this position and to John Szwarc for his service these past years. Larry can be reached at ab3er@arrl.net. We still need volunteers to help in the following areas: Section Traffic Manager Allegheny county EC, Cameron County EC, Clinton County EC and Somerset County EC. There is also a need for a Public Information Coordinator for the section. With over a thousand members in the section we need volunteers to step up and fill these vacancies so that services do not have to be reduced or eliminated. The traffic and ARES programs are an important aspect of ham radio and to be honest I can not manage these ar-

reas alone. I need you to come forward and lend a hand. All ARES activity is under the direct control of Larry and his assistant Harry Bloomberg. For ARES issues please contact Larry or Harry and for other areas contact me at n3mse@arrl.org.

The latest edition of QST listed the 2009 Field Day results. I was quite pleased to see that 51 separate entities submitted scores here in WPA. Many of these scores were quite high in their respective categories. Congrats to the clubs and I am sure most importantly everyone had fun.

On October 31 the Simulated Emergency Test was conducted in WPA. Unfortunately I was out of town due to two deaths in the family. I received numerous traffic messages upon my return and received a great many compliments on the way the SET operated. Thank you to all who participated. I want to remind all county EC and DEC's to file their reports so we can see how well we did in the event.

If you have not had a chance to operate on the digital modes as the cold weather approaches I encourage you to give a try on the various modes of operation. I have been particularly having a great time with FLDIGI or NBEMS A recent article in QST and the many fine demonstrations by Harry Bloomberg and Dave Kleber has been a tremendous asset to getting the information out to many people. If you have any type of com-

puter you can operate with this mode and there is no cost for software and no need for an interface. Additional information is available at <http://www.pa-sitrep.com/NBEMS/index.html> as well as a PowerPoint demo and links to software and other news.

As always I encourage you to join traffic net and help deliver messages to individuals in your community and throughout the country as we continue to keep the keep this activity running strong. The section net is on 3983 every evening at approximately 5:30 PM local time due to poor band conditions. Join the nets and lets all get Radio Active.

73
John V. Rodgers, N3MSE
W. Pa. Section Manager



December 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Keith Wright

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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**ECARA
MEETING**

13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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**Paul &
Marian
Oliastro**

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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**Christmas
Eve**

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



27	28	29	30	31
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**Bill
Continelli**

Debbie Reid

**New Year's
Eve**

National Weather Service/ARRL SKYWARN Recognition Day: December 5

The 11th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will take place this year on Saturday, December 5. Radio amateurs will operate from many National Weather Service (NWS) offices around the United States. The purpose of the event is to recognize Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local National Weather Service office. The event is co-sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service.

Traditionally, hams have assisted the National Weather Service during times of severe weather by providing real-time reports of severe events and storm evolution. The assistance that radio amateurs provide to the NWS throughout the year is invaluable.

SKYWARN Recognition Day this year will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on Saturday, December 5, 2009. (That means the event officially begins on Friday evening in the United States). To learn more, check the NOAA Web site. - Steve Ewald, WV1X, Supervisor, Field Organization Team

ARRL Officials Attend Emergency Managers Confab The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) 2009 Annual Conference

was held earlier this month in Orlando, Florida. ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD and Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK represented the League. During the event, Dura and Sarratt networked with emergency management staff from around the United States giving Amateur Radio exposure in the superb five-day conference. The results of this interaction were a clear invitation by all that Amateur Radio needs to maintain its status as a significant contributor to the readiness and response capabilities of this country.

The IAEM Conference and EXPO promoted current trends and topics, information about the latest tools and technology in emergency management, homeland security and overall preparedness. Sessions included stakeholders at all levels of government, the private sector, public health and related professions that exchanged ideas and information on collaborating to protect lives and property from disaster. This year's conference attendance was a record breaking 2043 attendees, including emergency managers, homeland security officials, first responders, NGO's, military, private industry and

Amateur Radio.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate was the Keynote Speaker. Mr. Fugate was previously the Director of Florida's Division of Emergency Management. He talked about the need to build teams, relationships and partnerships with all sectors of volunteer or unpaid professionals in all phases of emergency management.

Not surprisingly, many emergency management staff are Amateur Radio licensees--something that comes forth clearly in the many discussions that were had. Dura and Sarratt had discussions with IAEM leadership on pending legislation and regulatory issues. Outgoing President Russell Decker, in one of his last official acts on behalf of the IAEM-USA Board came forth with written support of Amateur Radio with Senate Bill 1755 and House of Representatives Bill HR-2160. This effort was spearheaded within the IAEM by Past President Larry Gispert, KR4X. Additionally, IAEM leadership expressed the strong desire that Amateur Radio and the ARRL participate more actively in IAEM around the country and at future annual conferences through training classes, workshop sessions and informational exhibits. -- Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, ARRL Southeastern Division Director

FCC Issues Public Notice on Amateur Radio and Government Disaster Drills

In September, the ARRL released guidelines that address numerous aspects of the issue of business communications in the Amateur Service. After last month's ARES E-Letter report on the policy paper, the FCC released a Public Notice clarifying the Commission's rules relating to the use of Amateur Radio by licensed amateurs participating in drills and exercises on behalf of their employers. Entitled Amateur Service Communications During Government Disaster Drills, the Public Notice addresses participation by paid employees of organizations taking part in drills.

The Public Notice -- DA 09-2259 -- affirms that the Commission's rules "specifically prohibit amateur stations from transmitting communications 'in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer.'" The Public Notice states that, in order to facilitate participation by employees who wish to engage in government-sponsored drills and emergency exercises on behalf of their employers, a waiver can be requested from the FCC by the government agency sponsoring the drill or exercise (and not by the individual who wishes to participate in the drill or exercise). The government entity conducting the drill must include in its waiver application the following information:

- * When and where the drill will take place;
- * Identification of the amateur licensees expected to transmit amateur communications on behalf of their employer;
- * Identification of the employer(s) on whose behalf the amateur(s) will be transmitting; and
- * A brief description of the drill.

The waiver request must be filed and acted upon in advance of the drill. The waiver must be actually granted by the Commission before the amateurs participate in the drill. It is not enough to apply -- the waiver must be granted first.

Government entities requesting a waiver for their emergency/disaster drill should submit a written request addressing the factors listed above to Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 445 12th St SW, Washington, DC 20554, Attn: Scot Stone.

A waiver is needed only for those licensees transmitting messages on behalf of their employer during the State and local government public safety agency's "occasionally conducted emergency preparedness or disaster test or drill." This may, after analysis, turn out to be very few licensees or, by rearranging functions of participants, a waiver may not be needed. The Commission has also emphasized that only governmental agencies may apply for a waiver.

On October 27, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) granted the first waiver that allows amateurs who participate in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drill to communicate on behalf of their employers during the drill. The waiver request was made on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. That state conducted a full-scale exercise on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 from 8 AM-5 PM (EDT) to test their emergency response to the possible release of chemical agents at Blue Grass Army Depot, located near Richmond, Kentucky.

H1N1 Flu Guide Available

The Department of Health and Human Services Center for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships has announced a new resource for community and faith-based organizations: H1N1 Flu: A Guide for Community & Faith-based Organizations.

Community and faith-based organizations are essential partners in comprehensive state and local flu response, and this guide was created to support them this flu season. The guide provides specific action steps that community and faith-based organizations can take to help keep communities healthy during flu season, including:

- * Communicating important information about flu.
- * Supporting vaccination efforts
- * Linking vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations to vital information and resources

Visit <http://flu.gov/professional/community/> to download the guide. - Dennis Dura, K2DCD, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response

One Ham's Night Before Christmas

There have been several renditions of this poem over the years and we have put several in this newsletter. This is another version. I found this on the website of the GHRC, The Galatin Ham Radio Club out of Bozeman, Montana. It didn't give the name of the author, but I assume it was one of their members.

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse,
The rig was tuned up with the greatest of care
In hopes that the station I sought would be there.
My hubby was nestled all snug in his bed
But visions of rare DX danced through my head.
When out of the speaker there came such a splatter
I sprang to the dial to see what was the matter.

Away to the Collins I flew like a flash
And threw in the filter to cut down the hash.
With both gains turned back as far as they'd go,
I waited to see if his call I would know.
When what to my wondering ear should appear
But "MC2U, Mobile", solid and clear.
What a jolly old signal! I zeroed him quick
But I felt in my heart that it must be a trick.

In the many long years I had been in the game
I have ne'er worked a station with such an odd name.
I had contacted Danzig and Paris - Bombay
And some little village in Paraguay.
The QSL cards fairly covered the wall,
But MC2U would be the rarest of all.
At last he stopped calling, 'twas time to let fly.
If I messed this one up, I was sure I would die.
With quivering lips and shaking knees too,
I reached out my hand and the plate switch I threw.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard overhead
A racket, enough to awaken the dead.
My plate current jumped and the meters swung round,

And down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot
And his clothes were all covered with tarnish and soot.
A stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth
And something encircled his head like a wreath.
It circled his chest and his little round belly
Like a meat-ball surrounded by vermicelli.

It seemed rather strange, this peculiar attire.
Oh no! Could it be? My antenna wire!!!
He held up a feeder, the jolly old elf,
And we laughed till we cried, old St. Nick and myself.
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
As I watched from the window, he went straight to work,
And, in no time at all, he turned with a jerk.
And there on the roof, standing sturdy and tall
Was a beautiful beam, with rotator and all!

As my eyes filled with tears that longed to be shed,
He peeked in the window and waggled his head.
"Don't thank me, my sweet, it's the least I can do
'Cause you see, dear YL, I'm an amateur too!"
Then he sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
And then, from the speaker, his voice, loud and clear,
"Do you know what my call letters stand for, my dear?"
His voice became dim as he faded from sight.
"M for Merry - C, Christmas, and 2 U a good-night

RED HOT

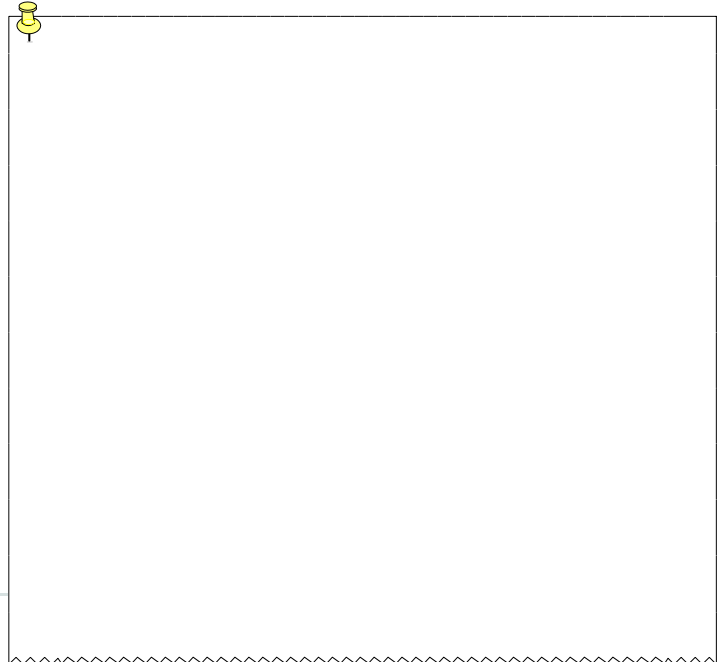
FAMILY RESTAURANT
Hot Dogs & Family Dining

6th Street & Factory Ave.
Ellwood City, PA

Phone 724-752-9717



WHAT'S COMING UP?



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>

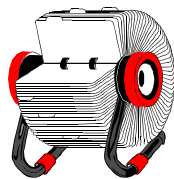
Please stop in and sign our Guest Book!

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

Fail not to call to mind, in the course of the twenty-fifth of this month, that the Divinest Heart that ever walked the earth was born on that day; and then smile and enjoy yourselves for the rest of it; for mirth is also of Heaven's making.

~Leigh Hunt

Member email addresses



- Bill Continelli - nteu61vp@hotmail.com
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- Skip Davis - earln3ybp@aol.com
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Teach The Children

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I had just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room, and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out. "What are you doing?" I started to ask.

The words choked up in my throat, and I saw that he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement: "TEACH THE CHILDREN!"

I was puzzled, what did he mean?

He anticipated my question, and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children. Teach them the real meaning of Christmas. The meaning of Christmas that nowadays has been forgotten."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it before the mantle. Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind. All the needles point Heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward Heaven.

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. Teach the children that the star was the Heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of the fulfillment of His promise.

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE. Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light, we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness.

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love Christ showed for us. Real love never ceases. Love is one con-

tinuous round of affection.

He then pulled from his bag an ornament of HIMSELF. Teach the children that I, Santa Claus, symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December.

He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood that He shed for us.

Next he pulled from his bag a GIFT and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that whoever believes in Him shall have everlasting life." (John 3:16) Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift. Teach the children that the wise men bowed before the Holy Babe and presented Him with gold, frankincense and myrrh. We should always give gifts in the same spirit of the wise men.

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherd's crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring strayed sheep back to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper.

He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will."

Suddenly I heard a soft tinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should bring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return.

Santa looked around and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, TEACH THE CHILDREN the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship Him, Our Lord, Our God, and Savior.

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.

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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.

..

E. C. A. R. A. OFFICERS

President	Keith Wright—KB3DAW	724 944 2725
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Treasurer	Debbie Read-KB3IEQ	724

TRUSTEES

Station Trustee:
Butch McGee — K3YO
Trustee:
Elmer Brewer — W3ELB

Carol

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

	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr
___ 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
 412 Smiley Street
 Ellwood City, PA 16117

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

Contact Us!

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Email: 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!

**The ELLWOOD ECHO
Editorial Staff
P.O. Box 25
Ellwood City Pa. 16117**

"SERVICE THROUGH COMMUNICATION".