



The Ellwood Echo

Volume 13 - Issue 6

June, 2009

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ELLWOOD CITY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

FIELD DAY 2009 IS COMING UP

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There's a lot coming up this month!

Breezeshooter's Hamfest is June 7th, and we will once again be doing VE Testing

Flag Day is June 14th, and, can you believe it?, the first day of summer is June 21st! That is also the day we honor all of our wonderful dads.

Field Day 2009 is coming up the weekend of June 26 - 28. That includes our annual club picnic on Saturday the 27th.

So get ready for a very busy month.....

Next Test Session to be held

3rd Sunday of July, 2009

Anyone wanting to take a test or classes, please contact Don Cripe, KE3MM, and he can direct you to the proper people.



June 21

Regular Features

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HEALTH & WELFARE

Butch McGee - Doing better

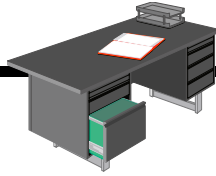
Bob O'Conner - Health Concerns

Scherry Brewer - In therapy, coming home soon

Marian Oliastro - continuing laser work on eyes

Bill Continelli - Improving

THE EDITOR'S DESK



Again I have asked all to let us know what you wanted in the news letter and haven't herd anything so will keep doing the best that I can with the articles that I can find. Dayton was a very good and if you missed it you missed a very good one had a very good time and learned a lot
N3ZJM Jim

MEETING NOTES

..The May meeting was held at the EmComm Center since the weather has turned warmer. Under discussion were plans for the upcoming Ellwood City Festival and preparations that needed to be made. Also the present status of the EmComm Center and future plans. The upcoming Field Day was discussed, and it was decided

to hold the annual club picnic on Saturday afternoon, the 27th.

The next meeting will be held on June 7th following Breezeshooters unless otherwise announced.

**Next meeting
is on June 7
at the
EmComm
Center**

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 Toni Swager, KB3BXP. You can call at 724-336-2409, or email her at 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!

WPA SECTION NEWS

On May 2 I attended the Atlantic Division cabinet meeting in Gettysburg along with the other six section managers from the division. This was our yearly meeting to discuss issue and gather information for us to help the amateurs we represent in the individual sections. This year we were fortunate enough to have Laura Smith the new chief enforcement person for the FCC. Laura shared her views with us on enforcement and her approach to it. It was a pleasure to meet her and to understand her support for this great hobby. Harry Bloomberg and Dave Kleber presented an informative demonstration of the NIBEMS program that we are using in emergency services in this section. The demo was met with great enthusiasm and interest. An article by these two men has been accepted for an upcoming issue of QST. With this in mind I want to extend the following invitation to all. There will be a demonstration of the NIBEMS digital mode on Saturday May 30th. The demonstration will be presented by Harry Bloomberg W3YJ, the Western Pennsylvania Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator. This digital mode is easy to install on any computer or laptop and the software is free. It performs exceptionally in high-noise conditions and is a reliable communications mode which is perfectly suited for emergency communications work. In fact, the WPA section has adopted NIBEMS as the standard digital mode for the section. The demonstration will be held on the Altoona campus of Penn State University and will start at 11 AM. All ARES Emergency Coordinators

and all local ARES members are invited to attend. If you have a laptop and HT, bring them along. You will have the opportunity to install the software and try it out on the spot. A laptop and HT is all that is required to get started in the mode. The meeting room we have reserved accommodates up to 70 people. If you would like to attend, please e-mail Drew McGhee KA3EJV at drm6@psu.edu. This will allow Drew to keep a head count of how many people will be there. If you are an EC, please forward this message to all local ARES members. We'd like to see as many people as possible attend, and it should be a lot of fun too. This invitation is also extended to amateurs in other sections of the division. Also any group that would like to have Harry attend a meeting to demonstrate this should contact him to arrange a schedule.

At the recent Two Rivers hamfest I had the privilege of presenting Bill Guthrie, W3LDB, a certificate of merit as he celebrates 75 years as an amateur radio operator. Congratulations Bill and enjoy the hobby for many years to come.

For those of you into contesting you may be interested in a group known as Allegheny Valley Contest Group. Here is a brief statement about that group. Allegheny Valley Radio Association has been formed to promote contest activity in Western Pennsylvania. Membership is free for licensed hams with an interest in radio sport. Even if you already have membership in a local club, you may find weekend contesting to be an enjoyable addition to your hobby. Our primary method of communi-

cation is the internet. If you are interested in learning more, please visit our reflector at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AlleghenyValleyRadio/>, where membership may be requested. You can also send us an e-mail at 3wpa@arrl.net.

Don't forget that on June 7 the Breezeshooters annual hamfest will be held at the Butler Farm show grounds. This is the largest hamfest in our section and a fun time for all who attend. Additional information is available at <http://www.breezeshooters.net/> I hope to see everyone in attendance. Remember that Field Day is just about 6 weeks from now and many groups have been working hard on plans for the big event. A locator is available at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> to help you find a location near you.

73

John Rodgers N3MSE
W. Pa. Section Manager

January 2009

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 <i>Joshua Cripe</i>	5 <i>Chuck & Jean Johnson</i>	6
7 <i>Breezeshooters Hamfest ECARA Meeting Following John Katsadas</i>	8 <i>Bob O'Conner</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Flag Day</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Father's Day 1st Day of SUMMER!!</i>	22	23	24 <i>Bob & Opal Drexler</i>	25 <i>Jim & Carol Klingensmith</i>	26 <i>Field Day Setup</i>	27 <i>Field Day Club Picnic</i>
28 <i>Last day of Field Day</i>	29	30			<i>Setup food booth at Ewing Park</i>	<i>1st day of Ellwood City Festival</i>

50 YEARS AND STILL HERE

An Article by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

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-Marts 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 an-

(Continued on page 7)

50 YEARS AND STILL HERE

An Article by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

(Continued from page 6)

tenna 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

FIELD DAY 2009

Again we are holding it at the Emergency Communication center on Mosser Drive so come on out and try your hand at operating still have space for more. The dinner will be held on Saturday evening this year don't miss it Please bring a covered dish to add to the table if you can, and maybe a couple of lawn chairs.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

.Thanks to SKYVIEW Radio Soc. <http://www.skyviewradio.net/> and N3DOK

June 7th 2009

Breeze Shooters Hamfest & Computer Show **This is the biggest area hamfest!** (View last years video) Location: Butler Farm Show Grounds. Route 68 East of Butler. Talk-in 147.300+ Contact: Robert W. Benna, N3LWP hamfest n3lwp@verizon.net <http://www.breezeshooters.net>
VE testing.

July 12th 2009

North Hills ARC hamfest. Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road. McCandless Township 15237. Talk-in 147.090+. Contact: Cathy Heiles, KB3OYS 412-600-3846 or kb3oys@arrrl.net www.nharc.org

July 26th 2009

Portage Amateur Radio Club. Location: Portage County Fairgrounds, State Route 44, Randolph, OH. Talk-in: 145.390-. Contact: Joanne Solak, KJ3O/8 at 330-274-8240 or kj3o@arrrl.net <http://Hamfair.com>

August 23rd 2009 *The best little hamfest in the world!*

Skyview Radio Society 49th annual Swap N Shop! ARRL Western PA Section Convention! - Location: Skyview Radio Society clubhouse grounds. 2335 Turkey Ridge Road. New Kensington, PA 15068. (View last years video) Talk-in: 146.640- 131.8pl. Contact: Bob Boehmer, KG3F at 412-860-0046 or SkyviewHamfest2009@verizon.net THE BEST breakfasts and lunches served – VUCC/WAS card checking – Musicians bring your instruments for the Skyview Ham Jam! Bring your high performance or antique cars for the Skyview car show! (Link to flyer that you can share-post-serve as a reminder)
www.skyviewradio.net

September 27th 2009

Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show. Location: Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. 164 Eastland Road. Talk-in: 146.730- 110.9pl. Contact: William R. Beckman, N8LXY at 800-CLE-FEST or info@hac.org
<http://www.hac.org>

CELEBRATE FLAG DAY
June 14th



WHAT'S COMING UP?

The All New Rochester Hamfest

"75th Anniversary Edition"

Saturday May 30, 2009

~ We've moved from the Dome Arena to the Barnard Carnival Grounds and Party House! ~

Gates open 8 AM - Rain or Shine

www.RochesterHamfest.com

RED HOT

FAMILY RESTAURANT
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6th Street & Factory Ave.
Ellwood City, PA

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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>

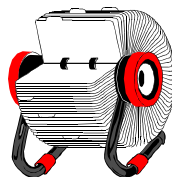
Please stop in and sign our Guest Book!

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

Your "I can" is more important than your "IQ."

Member email addresses

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Keith Wright - kb3daw@verizon.net

THE 2009 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND DAYTON HAMVENTION: THREE DAYS OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND FESTIVITIES

When Hara Arena closed its doors on Sunday, May 17 after three days as the 57th annual Dayton Hamvention <<http://www.hamvention.org>> came to an end, many agreed that this was one of the best Hamventions in recent memory. With so much to do -- including close to 50 hours of forums and the world-renowned flea market, as well as vendor tables that seemed to stretch for miles -- the arena floor was filled with excitement.

Held in conjunction with Hamvention, the 2009 ARRL National Convention was the largest exhibit at the event <<http://www.arrl.org/expo>>. At the ARRL EXPO, hams had the opportunity to do some kit building, pick up the latest League publications and Field Day T shirts, get a little competitive at the IARU table and drop off DXCC cards, as well as meet ARRL Officers, Directors and staff members.

One of the highlights of both the National Convention and the Hamvention was private astronaut Richard Garriott, W5KWQ <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/21/10660/?nc=1>>, son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL. In 1983, Owen Garriott was the first ham to make QSOs from space while aboard the space shuttle Columbia. Richard, a guest of the ARRL and AMSAT <<http://www.amsat.org/>> at Dayton, told convention crowds about his journey to the International Space Station (ISS) <http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html>. Ever gracious, he spent time with ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/10/21/10395/>>, in addition to speaking and signing autographs at the ARRL EXPO area, the ARRL Youth Lounge, and ARRL and AMSAT forums. Garriott also spoke at a Saturday afternoon forum, telling how he fulfilled his lifelong dream of experiencing space travel. Combining Amateur Radio and spaceflight, he had QSOs with more than 200 hams while on the ISS.

The busiest place in the ARRL EXPO was definitely the kit building area. Led by ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, with assistance from QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, and ARRL Instructors, hams (and non-hams, too!) sat down in front of a circuit board and soldering iron to build either a 24 hour clock or electronic keyer. "We saw a lot of people of all ages -- including a large number of kids -- coming over to build," Allison said. "A large majority had never built a kit before. They were so excited to be able to build something that they can use immediately." He pointed out that ham parents brought in their non-licensed children to build kits: "The little ones had a blast, and the parents were so proud that their kids are getting interested in Amateur Radio through the kit building projects."

The ARRL National Convention offered an expanded IARU exhibit area this year. Led by new IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, the booth was staffed by representatives from the three IARU Regions: The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) <<http://www.darc.de/>> from Germany represented Region 1 <<http://www.iaru-r1.org/>>, the ARRL represented Region 2 <<http://www.iaru-r2.org/>> and the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) <<http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/0-2.htm>> represented Region 3 <<http://www.iaru-r3.org/>>.

"It was exciting to see how many people came over to visit with us," Ellam said. "With the JARL processing applications for the IARU's Worked All Continent (WAC) <<http://www.iaru.org/wac/>> and 5-Band WAC awards, there was a steady flow of amateurs here." In addition to the WAC awards, the DARC sponsored a world flag identification contest and the ARRL offered a RUFZ <<http://www.rufzxp.net/>> CW copying competition throughout the event.

"It's certainly well known that hams from all over the world come to Dayton for the Hamvention," said ARRL International Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD. "We truly had an international flavor in the ARRL EXPO, though, as this was the first time that we had representatives from all three IARU regions in the IARU booth. We were glad to see many hams stop by and visit with IARU representatives from all corners of the globe."

A massive forum schedule was one of the key features of the Dayton Hamvention. In keeping with this year's theme -- DREAM: Digital Radio Enabling Amateurs to do More -- there were numerous forums featuring digital radio. ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, presented a forum on digital contesting. Tying in with this, Shelby Sommerville, K4WW, led a forum on RTTY, both from the operations side and from the contesting side. ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sar-ratt, W4OZK, piloted a multi-level forum on D-STAR.

According to ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, there were close to 35 new products featured at Hamvention. From a 2 meter transverter module for the Elecraft K3 to a traditional hexagonal five band Yagi from DX Engineering to antenna tuners from Ten-Tec and Palstar, there was definitely a wide variety of the latest in ham radio gear to satisfy even the most hard-to-please ham.

For more on the 2009 ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention -- including a look at some of the new and exciting products -- check out the July issue of QST. The 2010 Dayton Hamvention is scheduled for May 14-16.

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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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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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!

PO Box 25
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Phone: 724-752-3367
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".