



# The Ellwood Echo

Volume 14 - Issue 3

March 2010

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ELLWOOD CITY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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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**

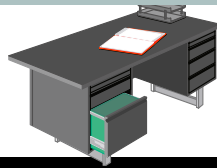
Anyone wanting to take a test or classes, please contact Don Cripe, KE3MM, and he can direct you to the proper people.  
Don Cripe at [cripe@comcast.net](mailto:cripe@comcast.net)

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## HEALTH & WELFARE

Jim Klingensmith N3ZJM recovering from sugary



## THE EDITOR'S DESK

With the bad weather that we have had this year I think that all who can get out should do so only with safety in mind and visit all of our shut in people it seems like we have a lot of them. And check with them

to make sure that they don't let their ham ticket expire if they need help please help them  
I hope that we can get back on track soon with regular meetings but it is up to the weather

Jim N3ZJM

## MEETING NOTES

There was no meeting in Feb. due to bad weather

Next meeting is on

## 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!

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

Few Americans realize that their cars can tattle on them. But among those in the know--civil libertarians, law enforcement agents and consumer advocates--a debate is surging over the black boxes technically called event-data recorders (EDRs). While some welcome them as a safety measure, others fear them as an Orwellian intrusion. Nearly one-third of vehicles on the road today--and 64% of this year's models--contain the little-noticed chips and sensors.

This week, the Federal Government is expected to issue rules requiring automakers to standardize the recorders and make the information uniformly downloadable with commercial software.

The new regulations are likely to make the black boxes better known and therefore even more controversial. Some consumer advocates, such as Public Citizen's Joan Claybrook, want tougher rules compelling automakers to install EDRs in every car because objective crash data will lead to the design of safer cars and highways. Privacy activists want the government to prevent police and insurance companies from checking drivers' black boxes without permission. "We have a surveillance monster growing in our midst," says Barry Steinhardt of the American Civil Liberties Union. "These black boxes are going to get more sophisticated and take on new capabilities."

Black boxes, or electronic data recorders (EDRs), are now standard equipment in a majority of passenger cars and light-duty trucks sold in the United States. Wired into airbag sensors, yaw and stability sensors, antilock brake and traction controllers, electronic throttle controls and engine monitors, EDRs soon will collect a bewildering amount of data in keeping with pending federal regulations aimed at standardizing information available from the devices. Those regulations, finalized earlier this year and set to go into effect Sept. 1, 2012 (on 2013-model-year vehicles), specify exactly how much and what types of information must be collected and saved electronically in the event of a crash or airbag deployment.

Most of today's late-model vehicles are equipped with EDRs, ostensibly to help manufacturers engineer better safety equipment in vehicles by analyzing data collected in crashes. In reality, what started as a simple tool for safety engi-

neers is now a key component that provides data to protect companies from safety-related lawsuits and to assist law-enforcement officials investigating car accidents.

EDRs collect information such as wheel and engine speed. The device, thought to be a first in the automotive industry, stores more than a few days' but less than a week's worth of data on the vehicle's operation. The EDR cannot be deactivated.

Today, almost every 2009 sold in the United States is fitted with an EDR, which will be able to record the 30 data points that the federal government will require of all EDR-equipped vehicles by 2012.

**Cost-conscious Korean companies such as Kia and Hyundai haven't installed EDRs, instead using sensors to deploy airbags but skipping the added cost and complexity of EDRs.**

And what about OnStar? The vehicle monitoring device is now standard on all General Motors cars and light trucks.

The modern world is full of sophisticated conveniences – wireless Internet, GPS, Twitter, OnStar - you're never alone anymore. But what if you want to be? It might come as a frightening realization, but pushing the button to get rid of the deceptively helpful robotic voice doesn't come close to solving the problem. Invisible to the naked eye, the OnStar connection lingers – whether you want it or not. True to its name, the OnStar is always on. Like a psychotic stalker, it's simply unwilling to hang up – that is, unless you're willing to take a hammer to your brand new Cadillac, because the GM dealership won't help you either. In fact, they will politely refuse to even attempt to locate and remove the OnStar modem, insisting that its operation is so intrinsically intertwined with the inner workings of your car that removing it would render your vehicle virtually inoperable. **Note that your OnStar modem can even record private conversations you have in your car. How many of your "private" and "personal" conversations have been recorded by OnStar in your car? The OnStar website says that OnStar will record any conversation you have through the OnStar modem with an OnStar representative. But does the recording stop when you hang up?**

Objections to EDRs and OnStar won't grow until tiny RFIDs--radio frequency identification devices--are more prevalent and are used by private or public entities to monitor individual travel. RFIDs could theoretically allow a parent to track a teen, an insurer to watch for high-risk driving or law-enforcement officials to track a person driving from point A to point B, compute the speed and issue a speeding ticket without so much as starting a patrol car or turning on a radar gun. **The government is also looking at the possibility of combining an EDR with a GPS. The device, which would be mandatory in every car, would record the number of miles you drive, where you drive, when you drive, the roads you drive on, and the speed you drive at. The EDR/GPS device would then transmit the data to the government through cell towers. The government would then analyze your mileage and driving habits, then send you a bill for your "fair share" of the "carbon tax". Environmentalists are enthusiastic about this EDR/GPS device. They say it would cut down on "unnecessary" driving, and tax those who pollute our planet.**

"When citizens can't go down to the grocery store without getting a citation, when every conversation in your car is recorded, when they receive a bill from the government for that Sunday drive, then we'll see a reaction,"

## W1AW Announces New Schedule for Digital Bulletin Transmissions

Beginning Monday, March 15, W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, will alternate the digital modes used for its digital bulletin transmissions. While Baudot, PSK31 and MFSK16 still make up the digital mode complement, W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says that the schedule will be altered to give more exposure to PSK31 and MFSK16. "Because of time constraints and the varying lengths of digital bulletins, there were many instances where only Baudot was used," he said. "With the new schedule, amateurs preferring either PSK31 or MFSK16 will find these modes no longer secondary." The regular callup will

be made using the mode that is transmitted first. The digital bulletin times remain at 6 PM and 9 PM (Eastern Time) daily. The Tuesday and Friday Keplerian data bulletins will continue to be sent using just Baudot and PSK31.

The new digital schedule is as follows:

- Monday: Baudot, PSK31, MFSK16
- Tuesday: PSK31, MFSK16, Baudot
- Wednesday: MFSK16, Baudot, PSK31
- Thursday: Baudot, PSK31, MFSK16
- Friday: PSK31, Baudot, MFSK16

"Given time constraints and bulletin lengths, all three modes may not always be transmitted," Carcia explained. The com-

plete W1AW schedule can be found on page 100 of the January issue of *QST*, or on the ARRL Web site.

# SECTION MEETING -

The WPA Section Meeting is TENTATIVELY planned for Saturday, June 12, 2010. Proposed location is Brookville, PA. I have not been overwhelmed with response on this and hesitate to make commitments until I know if this is feasible. Please let me know if I am on the right track here ??? Send comments to AB3ER@YAHOO.COM or through the NTS to AB3ER, 724-325-2220.

Topics so far include new PEMA Organization, Emergency Power, Callout, Who and How? Section Propagation, Building a Local Team and Served Agencies, GO-KIT Display. Section Organization. What do you want to hear (besides the next Powerball winning number)???? I'll try a questionnaire on the Yahoo Group to motivate some response.

NEW EC -

Thanks and congratulations to Skip Kauffman, K3CC who has accepted the EC position for Potter County. Great to have you on board! Monthly Reports- Please get them in on time. Monthly Report due dates

are:

EC Reports due to DEC 2nd of the month

DEC Reports due to SEC 6th of the month

SEC Report due to the SM & HQ 10th of the month

Thanks for your help! We are getting closer to an online system-stay tuned.

NET ROSTER -

Keeping Rosters current is difficult. Please contact your EC with YOUR NAME, CALL, EMAIL ADDRESS," HOW TO CONTACT ME" AND ARES EXPIRATION DATE.

ECs should forward to DEC's with the February Monthly Report. DEC's should forward them to me with their reports.

SEC, DEC's, and EC's -

A current listing of section SEC, DEC's, and EC's will be posted to the files section of the WPAARES Yahoo Group.

Net -

The Preamble and Roster will be posted on the Yahoo Group files sometime this week. I would like to begin a rotation of net control duties in

March. Watch the Yahoo Group for a request for volunteer net control.

WEBSITE -

I've been neglecting this project too long. How about some ideas??

73,

Larry Keller, AB3ER  
SEC WPA ARES

# Disaster Prep Tips

As we start a new decade, let's review some of the basics of Amateur Radio disaster preparedness. The following are tips from John Covington, W4CC, of Dallas, North Carolina.

You must make sure you're personally prepared for a disaster before you can even consider helping with Amateur Radio. If you are preoccupied with personal matters, you won't be able to help ARES®. To be ready for disaster communications, do the following: Train regularly with your local ARES® group.

Think about how you might best be able to help during a disaster. Some of us are good at installing antennas and equipment, others of us are better at operating on the air. Not everyone is suited to doing every job. Sometimes just having helping hands, spare equipment or supplies can be helpful even if you cannot operate the radios yourself. Generators need fuel, operators need coffee, and stations need to be set up. Figure out where you best fit in. Decide how you can help out if you stay home: Can you deploy at a shelter or EOC for a few hours? Operate from home?

If you must evacuate, can you deploy from where you have evacuated to, such as a shelter?

Have all resource materials you need in printed form. Don't depend on computers, PDAs and so forth as they may not work in a disaster, require electricity and are relatively fragile.

If you use a computer regularly in your on-the-air operations, make sure you practice doing things such

as calling nets and handling traffic the pencil-and-paper way once in a while. Remember, you may not be able to spare the amp-hours or the table space to run a computer.

Have an Amateur Radio ready-kit to supplement your personal ready kit. Some items to include:

- \*Portable radio, antenna and power supply or batteries (2 sets)

- \*Headset or earphones (you may be operating in a noisy area)

- \*Any cables you could possibly need

- \*Pencils and Paper

- \*Clipboard (firm writing surface, you may not have one otherwise)

- \*Radiogram forms (helpful but not absolutely required)

- \*Operating aids (pink card, Field Resources Manual, list of ARRL numbered radiograms, and anything appropriate for your local area)

- \*Small tools (multi-tip screwdriver, multitools, etc.)

- \*ARES® Identification Card, if appropriate

- \*Important phone numbers and frequencies

- \*Map of the area

- \*Flashlight

- \*Poncho - very small to store, only around \$2 and can be useful when you least expect

If carried in lieu of a personal ready kit, a few other items may be helpful:

- \*For a short deployment, a bottle of water plus some crackers or something to eat requiring no preparation could make things much more bearable for you

- \*Medicine

- \*Toilet paper - small packets from MRE kits are very handy and don't take up much room

- \*Moist towelettes

Here are a few other suggestions from your editor based on his perspective as a Registered Nurse:

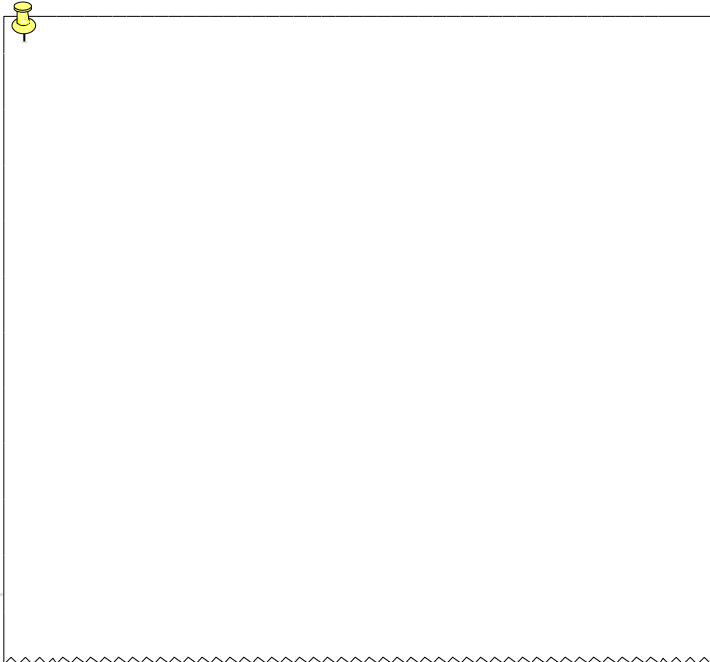
- \*Know CPR.

- \*Know the location of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and how to use it.

- \*Know the signs/symptoms of a heart attack and stroke.

Also, be prepared physically, mentally and emotionally for the sometimes overwhelming demands of a disaster or emergency environment. Hope for the best, but expect the worst. You are at risk for witnessing horrific scenes. Protect your self and especially young hams; participate in psychological and grief counseling, if necessary. Your mental health is just as important as your physical health.

WHAT'S COMING UP?



**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>

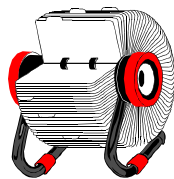
Please stop in and sign our Guest Book!

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

Sometimes we need an angel for ourselves.

Sometimes we are destined to be an angel for others.

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
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- Chucky Johnson - n3hx@comcast.net
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- Bruce Watson - aa3lx@aol.com
- Keith Wright - kb3daw@verizon.net

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## 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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P. O. Box 25  
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ecara@qsl.net

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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.

..

**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  
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  
 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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Editorial Staff  
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**"SERVICE THROUGH COMMUNICATION".**