



The Ellwood Echo

Volume 13 - Issue 11

November 2009

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ELLWOOD CITY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Holiday Season Begins

Inside this issue:

WPA Section News	4
Companion bill to HR2160	6
Amateurs help at Loma Prieta quake	8
	10
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November 11, 2009

As the holiday season begins for this year and we look forward to Thanksgiving with our families, let us not forget our military men and women overseas who won't be home for the holidays. Say "Thank You" to a military person or a veteran that you know.

Next Test Session to be held

3rd Sunday of November, 2009

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



Regular Features

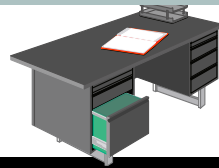
* Editor's Desk	2
* Web News	3
* Recipe of the Month	3
* Calendar	5
* General Info	9
* Club Information	11
* Membership Application	11

HEALTH & WELFARE

Scherry Brewer - Just admitted to the hospital again

Marian Oliastro - getting better

Carol Klingensmith- - Kidney Infection



THE EDITOR'S DESK

Indian Summer has come and gone, and at the moment it is windy and rain is pounding on my window. It's the end of October, and the leaves are coming down very quickly. It has been a strange year weatherwise, and it seems we went from winter to summer and back again with only a few days in between of spring and autumn. Autumn has always been a nostalgic time for me, and this year is no exception.

The year has been a hard one for

our country with all the "changes" the new administration has made. There is a definite feeling of unease in America these days. No one is sure what will happen next.

It has been a difficult year for our club and its members also. It actually began last November when Janie Brewer, N3KTZ, passed away. This year we have lost more dear friends. Butch McGee, K3YO, and Bob O'Conner, KB3GCT, and our president, Keith Wright, lost his mother. I'm sure

there were other losses I don't know about. I was laid up most of the summer with an infected leg, and the Klingensmiths and Johnsons had to deal with a zoning nightmare.

It's been a harder year than usual for us all, and we can only pray that things will get better from here. Love and blessings to all of you!

Marian, W3MHO

MEETING NOTES

.No meeting notes this month.

Next meeting
is on
November 8,
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

Recently I received an email from Section Emergency coordinator, John Szwarc, that he will be stepping down to spend more time with his family. I want to thank John for his hard work and dedication in bringing the ARES program back together here in the section. With this new opening as well as that of Section Traffic Manager I am asking for individuals to step forward to volunteer for the several positions of leadership roles that we currently have vacant. In addition to the position of Section Emergency Coordinator and Section Traffic Manager we also have openings for: North 1 District DEC, 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 I am hoping a few individuals will step forward to fill these vacancies so that we do not have to cut back on activities in these areas. If interested please contact me at n3mse@arrl.org

A few weeks ago ARRL HQ issued a document about the proper use of Amateur Radio with regard to use by indi-

viduals on behalf of their employers. FCC counsel Laura Smith recently explained proper operating guidelines under Part 97.113. A recent thread on the internet and on QRZ.com has stated that an FCC media person says this is incorrect. I caution everyone to abide by Laura's explanation and not get themselves in violation. I am sure this is being investigated by the proper authorities to see if a change to the rules is necessary.

On November 1, 2009 the Washington Amateur Communications (WACOM) group will be sponsoring a hamfest at the Washington Fairgrounds in Washington Pa. Additional information is available on their website at <http://www.wacomarc.org/hamfest.html>. I am hopeful that I will get to work many of you during this year's Pa QSO Party this weekend Oct. 10 and 11. This is a great opportunity to have fun in an operating event as well as to see how propagation in the section can be used during an emergency operation.

The Simulated Emergency Test for Western Pennsyl-

vania will be conducted on October 31. Contact your local emergency coordinator for details on the activities for your county. Every county should be participating in this year's test to demonstrate our abilities should the need arise. 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 6 PM local time. Join the nets and lets all get Radio Active.

73

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

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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*Turn clocks
back 1 hour*

*Thomas
Hartman*

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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*ECARA
Meeting*

Election Day

*Veterans
Day*

*Linda
O'Conner*

Skip Davis

*Jim
Klingensmith*



Bob Rowley

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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*Chuck
Johnson, Jr*

22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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29	30
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ARLB031 Senate Introduces Companion Bill to HR 2160

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB031
ARLB031 Senate Introduces
Companion Bill to HR 2160

ZCZC AG31

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 31 ARLB031
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT October 7,
2009

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB031
ARLB031 Senate Introduces
Companion Bill to HR 2160

October 6, Senator Joe Lieberman (D-CT), along with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), introduced Senate Bill 1755, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009. Similar to HR 2160 -- also called The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- that was introduced this past April by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX-18), the bill, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study on emergency communications. S 1755 points out that "There 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."

"We are delighted to have the sponsorship of both the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and especially to have the support of Senator Lieberman from the ARRL's home state," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "The bill could not have a better pedigree." Lieberman is the Chairman of the committee, while Collins is the Ranking Member.

Like HR 2160, S 1755 calls on DHS to undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief and then to submit a report to Congress no more than 180 days after the bill becomes law. The study shall: Include a review of the importance of Amateur

Radio emergency communications in furtherance of homeland security missions relating to disasters, severe weather and other threats to lives and property in the United States, as well as recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts and improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives. Identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use regulations on residential antenna installations; and make recommendations regarding such impediments for consideration by other federal departments, agencies and Congress.

In conducting the study, S 1755 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to "utilize the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations, including the Amateur Radio, emergency response and disaster communications communities."

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

S 1755 makes note of the fact that Section 1 of the Joint Resolution entitled Joint Resolution to Recognize the Achievements of Radio Amateurs, and To Establish Support for Such Amateurs as National Policy -- approved October 22, 1994 (Public Law 103-408) -- included a finding that stated: "Reasonable accommodation should be made for the effective operation of Amateur Radio from residences, private vehicles and public areas, and the regulation at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage amateur radio operations as a public benefit." The bill also pointed out that Section 1805© of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 757(c)) directs the Regional Emergency Communications Coordinating Working Group of the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate their activities with ham and Amateur Radio operators among the 11 other emergency organizations, such as ambulance services, law enforcement and others.

ARRL New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI said that Amateur Radio operators in the State of Maine

have "an outstanding relationship" with their Congressional representatives -- plus Governor John Baldacci is KB1NXP!" Both Connecticut and Maine are part of the League's New England Division

Frenaye said that Maine Section Manager Bill Woodhead, N1KAT, dropped off a letter at Senator Collins' office in Lewiston two weeks ago, asking for her support. "After that, we had amateurs in Maine write the Senator," he said; more than 40 Maine hams wrote Senator Collins.

The Senate bill points out many positive things that Amateur Radio operators do, including "provid[ing] on a volunteer basis, a valuable public sector service to their communities, their States, and to the Nation, especially in the area of national and international disaster communications."

It mentions that amateurs provided emergency and disaster relief communications services during both natural and man-made disasters. "The Amateur Radio Service has formal agreements for the provision of volunteer emergency com-

munications activities with the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service, the National Communications System, and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, as well as with disaster relief agencies, including the American National Red Cross and the Salvation Army," the bill reads.

Right now, S 1755 has been read twice in the Senate chamber and referred to that body's Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. HR 2160 -- now with 27 sponsors -- is in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

NNNN
/EX

Amateur radio operators on front lines during Loma Prieta quake

By Marianne L. Hamilton

Los Gatos Weekly-Times

Posted: 10/17/2009 08:22:03 AM PDT

When the next Big One hits, critical communications by cell phones and landlines will likely be impossible. But in any disaster, several Los Gatos residents will be on the front lines of emergency communications services. They're all amateur radio enthusiasts, more commonly known as ham radio operators. Ham operators span virtually every demographic, although in Silicon Valley a large percentage make their living as engineers. The two pursuits go hand in hand, says Jack Marshall, an electrical designer and engineer at Boston Scientific who's tinkered with amateur radio equipment for over a decade. "I got started with it because it connected so well with being an engineer. Suddenly everything I'd been studying made sense, because radio transistors really drove all engineering innovations in the first place." Marshall and his colleagues all say they live in a constant state of readiness for the next natural disaster. In fact, embedded within the FCC's licensing regulations is verbiage stating that ham operators must do everything possible to "provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life, and immediate protection of property when normal communications systems are not available." Every ham takes this mandate seriously.

Bob Wolbert, now an engineering consultant, was living and working in San Jose when the Loma Prieta earthquake sent the South Bay shaking. After seeing the filing cabinet in his cubicle move a full 2 feet and watching a ceiling tile rocket downward, he dove beneath his desk. When the cataclysm subsided, he ran home and turned on his radio, gave his call sign and asked how he might be of assistance.

"The first day I was assigned to the San Jose Office of Emergency Services, providing communications in and out of the city," he recalls. "There wasn't that much going on in San Jose. But the Santa Cruz side of the mountains was having a lot more trouble, so the second day I was sent to C. T. English Middle School."

The Red Cross had set up a shelter at the Summit Road school, providing food and lodging for local residents displaced by the quake.

"I was able to help them get messages to the outside world," Wolbert says. "Few people in the area were dead or had serious injuries, the way they were in San Francisco and the East Bay, so the urgency here was greatly reduced. But we did have the only means of communications for several days."

During the series of aftershocks that continued to rattle locals in the aftermath of the quake, Wolbert and his fellow hams served as a human seismograph.

"Someone would get on the radio saying they'd just felt a shock, and would relay it to the next station. Sure enough, a minute or two later that operator would sign on and say they'd felt it, and so on. The aftershocks went on that way for about a week before everything quieted down."

Wolbert, who's been a ham operator since the age of 12, is also a long-time member of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service organization, a national network of hams who supplement emergency communications provided by police, fire departments and offices of emergency services.

"That's why I was immediately assigned to a station after the earthquake; I was a known volunteer," Wolbert explains. "On the first night I was holding the microphone for Mayor [Tom] McEnery in San Jose while we were relaying a message to Mayor [Art] Agnos in San Francisco."

Each week, all ham operators stage an on-air meeting called a "net," short for "network." During this session, ham operators sign on and run through drills that keep them rehearsed in the event that they may be needed during a natural

(Continued on page 10) —

RED HOT

FAMILY RESTAURANT
Hot Dogs & Family Dining

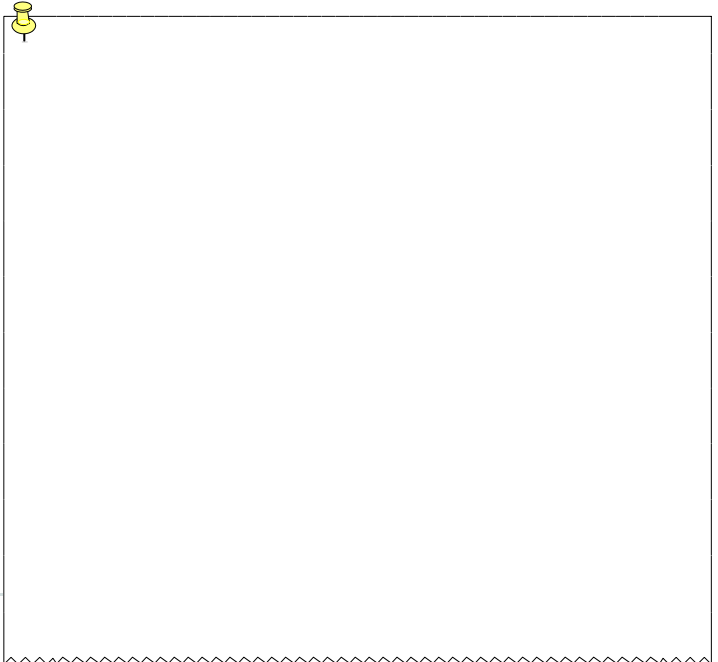


6th Street & Factory Ave.
Ellwood City, PA



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>

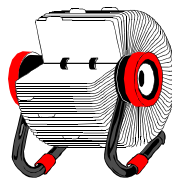
Please stop in and sign our Guest Book!

Web site created and maintained by Marian Oliastro, W3MHO
for the ECARA
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When asked if my cup is half-full
or half-empty
my only response is that I am
thankful I have a cup."

Sam Lefkowitz

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(Continued from page 8)

disaster (Wolbert was instrumental in keeping the lines of communications open between fire and emergency services personnel for several days during the recent Lockheed fire, which burned dangerously close to his Empire Grade home). Nets also help hams make sure their "go-kits" — which contain battery-operated radio equipment and other gear — are functioning at the highest level.

"We can be deployed in the event of the next Big One," notes Jonathan Knowles, a technical strategist at AutoDesk and active town volunteer. "We grab our kits, and go. Then we're instructed on what frequency to tune into and where we're assigned to help out. That might be a police station or a hospital, or even a rooftop if we need to get up to a certain elevation to relay a signal.

"Some ham operators also may be asked to drive around and report on damage. In some cases we'll follow government officials, to provide communications for them as they're checking on things."

The nets are invaluable in giving ham operators the chance to practice their on-air skills, Knowles says. "In regular conversations both people can talk at the same time, and still hear each other. Radio doesn't work that way: the strongest signal wins, or you get crazy interference. It's very important to have strict protocols for beginning and ending transmissions. Our nets are all very crisp, kind of like the talk between air-traffic controllers."

Regional and county nets keep ham operators further rehearsed, with some drawing upwards of 50 or more participants. One of the most devoted net navigators is Ed Muns, who gave up an engineering career at Hewlett-Packard for life as a winemaker. His passion for ham was indirectly responsible for his vocational shift.

"I've been a ham operator since I was 15," Muns says. "At one point I'd moved to Colorado, and wanted to come back to Los Gatos. I told the real estate agent that I was a ham operator, and would need to find a property that was high enough to relay a signal. He actually brought me topographic maps; amazingly, the first place we looked at was the place I eventually bought."

The 77-acre property, which had once been a vineyard, was mostly a tangle of overgrown weeds and vines. But it did have the one thing Muns sought: uninterrupted sightlines on a high ridge that would allow a clear relay of a radio signal. Today, Muns Vineyards produces award-winning pinot noir, and Muns is a frequent ham "contester." These ham enthusiasts take part in competitions to see who can contact the most far-flung ham stations within a specified amount of time, and exchange information.

"I kind of backed into the vineyard, and it turned out to be my second career," Muns says. "I actually started building my house on Oct. 17, 1989. We were moving dirt around, and I had a semi-truck here. Then around 5 p.m. the ground shifted, and the truck moved sideways; we're only about 3 or 4 miles from the epicenter. A county geologist said our ridge pushed up an entire 2 feet."

Though Muns was not actively involved in the post-quake communications effort, he says he'll never forget the terror and trauma he and his neighbors felt on that day. With their safety in mind, he's constructed an 80-foot antenna tower on his property, to ensure the most efficient signal relay possible. And he relies on contesting to keep himself ready to lend a hand when the next huge temblor rolls through.

"It turns out that contesting and emergency communications have a lot in common," he says. "The equipment and skills you need are very similar, and the communications are very structured. You have to be very efficient, because in an emergency people's lives are at stake."

More information about ham radio operation can be found at the Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association website, www.scc-ares-races.org/aresraces.htm.

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
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:
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
 413 Smiley Street
 Ellwood City, PA 16117

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

Contact Us!

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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".