



# The Ellwood Echo

Volume 13 - Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2009

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ELLWOOD CITY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

## We Honor Our Silent Keys

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This issue has some very sad news for all to read. I can't put the correct words in print so page 6&7 have some of the things that will let all know what has happened and we will put more in at a later date. This is a very sad time for all of us. Jim N3ZJM

**Next Test Session to be held**  
**3rd Sunday of**  
**September, 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

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## HEALTH & WELFARE

Scherry Brewer - Doing well after heart valve replacement, still fighting infection

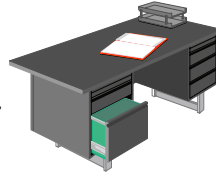
Marian Oliastro - Out of hospital and undergoing therapy at home.

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

As Jim said on the cover page, this has been a sad time for our club's members. We have lost four loved ones in the last year, three of which were within the last two months.

Not only are we saddened by the loss of our friends, but we come to realize that a big part of our membership is getting up there in age, and

many of us are dealing with a number of health problems. It's time for a reality check. Many of our members simply can't do what we used to do and enjoy so much before. Unfortunately we don't have a solid base of younger members to take up the slack. That is something we need to



consider in the months coming up.

In the meantime, we are still family, and we gather around those of our family who are hurting right now with all the love we can give them. May God watch over each and every one.

W3MHO

## MEETING NOTES

No meeting due to family illness. The next meeting will be held on September 13 rather than the first Sunday due to Labor Day weekend.

Next meeting  
is on  
September  
13.2009

## 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!



## AMATEUR RADIO STATION WX4NHC FEATURED IN NATIONAL COMMERCIAL

### AMATEUR RADIO STATION WX4NHC FEATURED IN NA- TIONAL COMMERCIAL

WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC)

<http://www.wx4nhc.org/>, is featured in a 60 second radio spot for Duracell batteries. The commercial, which begins airing this month, highlights the efforts of an all-volunteer army of ham radio operators for WX4NHC. Narrated by actor Jeff Bridges, it describes the important role that radio amateurs play during severe weather conditions -- enabling communications with emergency medical teams, police and fire departments -- when the power goes out. The narration underscores the importance of a reliable battery to power the portable ham radios, which are crucial to WX4NHC's work. Listen to the spot here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/HURRI->

CANE\_60\_PREPAREDNESS\_MI  
X.MP3>.

"This commercial is being played nationally during hurricane season and will help promote awareness of Amateur Radio and the public service we do to provide emergency communications, especially during and after hurricanes, when we have experienced complete electrical and conventional communications blackouts for periods of days and weeks," WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, told the ARRL.

Ripoll said that he and WX4NHC Amateur Radio Coordinator John McHugh, K4AG, worked with the ACME Marketing Firm and Duracell for several weeks to help produce the radio commercial. "It captures the essence of Amateur Radio volunteer public service and the important role of Amateur Radio performs during emergency communications in 30 seconds," Ripoll said. "The President and Creative Director of ACME and the Duracell national representative also flew down to Miami and received a tour of NHC and of the WX4NHC station where they learned about our many modes of communications, including our portable VHF/UHF radios and other portable battery operated equipment."

"With this new spot, we are helping to showcase the important contributions made by the Miami ham radio operators," said Duracell's Bob Jacobs. "These heroic teams are working to save the lives

of others.

When storms strike, the radio operators are donating their time to make sure communications stay intact, facing intense pressures and dangerous conditions to those in need. We're proud that our batteries can help power these life-saving efforts."

# September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1 2 3 4 5

6 *ECARA Meeting* 7 8 *Paul Oliastro* 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27 28 *Don & Sally Cripe* 29 30

## Anna M. 'Peggy' Wright

Mrs. Anna M. "Peggy" Wright, 66, of 412 Old Zelienople Rd., Franklin Township, went home to Glory on Monday, August 17, 2009, at 325 p.m. in Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Wright was born on April 27, 1943, in Frisco to the late Clyde E. Miller and Ethel McKinney Miller. Peggy was a member of the Lincoln High School class of 1961 and was a lifetime member of the Lillyville Church of God. Peggy had worked for many years as a babysitter and also at Quinn's Clover Farm and Blue Sky Drive In. Most recently she worked for Hessler Bus Co., AKA First Student, and was co-owner of Wright's Hauling. Mrs. Wright was a past Deaconess and a current member of the WCSC at her church, along with being a Sunday school teacher for many years for the Jr. Boys and Girls class and the Kindred Spirit Class of the church. A lover of animals, Peggy was very involved with the 4H in raising and showing sheep. She also enjoyed traveling and participating with Dona Boots doing a monologue for her painting "Rusty Bucket" and loved life.

Peggy is survived by her husband, Jim E. Wright, whom she married on May 12, 1962; one daughter and son-in-law, Lorraine and Scott Silvester, Ellport; one son, Keith Wright, Franklin Township; one sister, Kathy Szakelyhidi, Ellwood City; many nieces and nephews, friends, and the Van 6 kids.

Mrs. Wright was preceded in death by her parents, and one sister, Bertha Bartolomeo.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2009, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 9 p.m. in the SAMUEL TEOLIS FUNERAL HOME INC., 309 Spring Ave., Ellwood City, and on Friday from 10 a.m. until time of service at 11 a.m. at the Lillyville Church of God. Internment will follow at the church's cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lillyville Church of God or to the donor's charity of choice.

## Harold R. "Bob" O'Conner, SK



Harold R. "Bob" O'Conner, 65, of 308 - 14th Street, Ellwood City, went to be with the Lord on Saturday evening, August 22, 2009, in the emergency department of the Ellwood City Hospital. Although he had been ill, death was unexpected.

He was born in Harrisville on June 8, 1944 to the late Joseph C. O'Conner and the late Edna Stone O'Conner. Bob was a graduate of Lincoln High School and married his wife of 31 years, Linda I. Edinger O'Conner, on October 8, 1977, who survives him. He was employed by the Borough of Ellwood City, where he drove truck for the Sanitation Department. He was a member of the Zelienople Church of Christ and the Ellwood City Amateur Radio Association.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Jeffrey Eichler, of Ellwood City, and Harold "Bobby" O'Conner, Jr., of Texas; nine grandchildren, Amanda, Erica, Doug, Tabitha, Jeffrey, Glory, Gary, Antonio, and Angela; as well as three great-grandchildren also survive him. He is also survived by two sisters, Rachel Newton and Joan Derrow, both of Ellwood City.

He was preceded in death, in addition to his parents, by three brothers and a sister, William Bollinger, Shirley Cozart, David O'Conner, and Leroy O'Conner.

A memorial service will be conducted on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 11 a.m. in the TURNER FUNERAL HOME of Ellwood City, Sixth Street at Park Avenue, with Rev. Reid Moon, Bob's pastor, officiating.

Private interment will take place at a later date.

You may view the obituary, sign the guestbook, and send condolences online at [www.turnerfh.com](http://www.turnerfh.com)

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# UPCOMING HAMFESTS

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

## **September 5th 2009**

Uniontown ARC Gabfest. Location: Uniontown ARC club grounds, on Old Pittsburgh Great breakfasts and lunches served - Road just off of Rt. 51 and Rt. 119. Talk-in 147.045+ 131.8pl - Contact: Tony Alviar, KA3VOR at 724-430-1277 or Herb Shaffer, KA3WSO at 724-326-8810 [newsletter@w3pie.org](mailto:newsletter@w3pie.org) [www.w3pie.org](http://www.w3pie.org)

## **September 13th 2009**

Butler County Amateur Radio Association Location: Unionville Fire Hall on Route 8 north of Butler – Talk-in: 147.360+ 131.8pl - Web site: <http://www.w3udx.org/>

## **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](mailto:info@hac.org) <http://www.hac.org>

\* FCC: Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 10: On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the "Federal Register"

<<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-19104.pdf>>, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term. The notice in the August 11, 2009 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009," includes regulatory fees; these fees are expected to recover a total of \$341,875,000 during FY2009, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates. For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article, "FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year" <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1>>.

**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

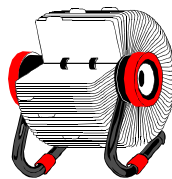
I write down everything I want to remember.

That way, instead of spending a lot of time trying to remember what it is I wrote down,

I spend the time looking for the paper I wrote it down on.

~Beryl Pfizer~

**Member email addresses**



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 Don & Sally Cripe - cripe309@comcast.net  
 Skip Davis - earln3ybp@aol.com  
 Bob Drexler - wa3zoe@arrl.net  
 Thomas Hartmann - *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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 Keith Wright - kb3daw@verizon.net  
 Carl Sacherich - n3ola@juno.com  
 John Rodgers - n3mse@arrl.org

## WHO PACKS YOUR PARACHUTE?

Charles Plumb, a US Naval Academy graduate, was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam.

After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a communist Vietnamese prison.

He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb. "I packed your parachute," the man replied.

Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!"

Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man.

Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers.

I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said "Good morning," "How are you?" or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time, the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?"

Everyone has someone who provides what he or she needs to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory -- he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute.

He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason.

As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize those people who pack your parachute.

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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.

Editorial Staff	Membership Chairperson:	Address mail to:
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Ellwood City Pa. 16117	Ellwood City, PA 16117	Ellwood City, Pa. 16117
ecara@qsl.net	kb3iuu@arrl.net	ecara@qsl.net

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

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E. C. A. R. A. OFFICERS			TRUSTEES
President	Keith Wright—KB3DAW	724 944 2725	Station Trustee:
1st Vice President	Jim Klingensmith — N3ZJM	724 752 3367	Butch McGee — K3YO
2nd Vice President	Carol Klingensmith—N3ZLF	724 752 3367	Trustee:
Secretary	Linda O'Conner—KB3IQP	724 752 9087	Elmer Brewer — W3ELB
Treasurer	Debbie Read—KB3IEQ	724	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!

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

**"SERVICE THROUGH COMMUNICATION".**