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UP-LINK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
**THE CHERRYVILLE REPEATER
ASSOCIATION II, INC.**



Board Meeting Wed. January 10, 2007

VOL. I No.3

Membership Meeting Fri., January 12, 2007

Happy New Year !

By Marc Lees

Yes, I hope all of you enjoyed the Holidays! It wasn't 'white' but I heard few complaints on that count.

It's a new year and CRA II will be busy. Hopefully, we'll help you keep busy while hunkered down for the Winter. How about sharpening your tech skills or reminiscing about your early radio experiences?

Well, at the next meeting we hope to entice you to try some of your basic skills with a fun exercise. Also watch UP-LINK and the CRA website for more detailed information.

Along with a New year we have elections for Board Members and Members-at-Large. The slate is announced in Feb. and voted on at the March meeting/Hamfest Setup.

We need more members to be involved, even if only one or two areas. "Many hands make light work" is what can make an organization thrive. Everyone doing a little beats a few doing it all and getting burnt out—right? Of course!

So, volunteer in some capacity for a meeting presentation (your 'stuff'), help with a phase of the Hamfest, attend a Wednesday night Board Meeting.

It's Chicken Soup for the Club.

Turkey Trot & Holiday Banquet End the Year in Service & Style

By Marc Lees & Photos by Ray Babecki



A picture's worth 1000 words - Glenn & Kathy Bukowski win the Grand Prize drawing at the Annual Awards Dinner.

The Turkey Trot run through Flemington had quite a turnout. Despite the poor cold & rainy weather, more than 1500 runners showed up to compete. Running and walking the short run on Thanksgiving morning was quite a sight. I worked up an appetite just watching the runners as they turned up Mine St to return to Main St and the Finish.

A handful of CRA members worked as 'Spotters' on this last event of 2006. Bill (WB1GOT), Ray (KA2YAK), Tom (KC2JRM & Alex (KC2JRN) and I (KC2MTR) showed up to witness the well-run event.

I look forward to next year's Turkey Trot that promises to be even bigger.

Upcoming Club & Public Service Events

March 9, 2007 Friday - CRA Meeting with Officer Nominations

March 23, HAMFEST Setup at North Hunterdon High School

March 24, 2007 Saturday AM- The CRA II HAMFEST at North Hunterdon High School

Up-Link

is owned and published by The Cherryville Repeater Association II, Inc. and is a free service to its members

It is for the sole purpose of informing its members and the community of the various activities and functions of the club.

We hope to promote the activity and enjoyment of the radio hobbyist. To inform the public of the services and value of the role that Amateur Radio communications can play in public functions as well as in times of an emergency.

Up-Link

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Swap/Shop

Like provide plenty of storage options. I am using one to house my 2 meter and 220 mhz mobile rigs

Cherry Finish SAUDER COMPUTER ARMOIRE...

The nice thing about a using a computer armoire for your ham station, is that when you are finished with your last QSO, you can close the doors and transform your Shack with all it's cables and power cords into a nice piece of furniture that makes your room look good.

* Armoire made of engineered wood laminated with dark cherry finish

* Space-saving cabinet conceals rigs, power supplies, tuner, SWR bridge, keyer, paddles and all cables.

* Slide-out keyboard/mouse shelf that can hold a laptop, key, mike and scrap paper

* The storage area for vertical CPU tower has removable shelves for storing manuals, books, or QST magazines

* 2 adjustable shelves

* Unit measures 66 inches high by 38 inches wide and 22 inches deep, it will fit into a corner.

* Full storage shelf measuring 33" x 20" capable of holding HT's batteries, chargers and other ham equipment, and or computer equipment.

* Large removable drawer measuring 8" x 10" with a 12 inch by 12 inch decorative cover can be used to hold tools or component boxes

* Sliding Keyboard shelf: 28-1/2"W x 11-1/2"D that can hold your laptop while operating.

* Unit is currently assembled

When new, the unit cost \$300. I was considering selling it on E-Bay or Craigs List, but thought that the club members might be interested. Contact Dave WB2AZE if interested...



NET SCHEDULE (Weekly)

Hunterdon County Traffic and Emergency Net	Thursday, 8:00 PM	147.375
RACES/ARES Net	1 st & 3 rd Thursday, 8:30 PM	147.375
SkyWarn Net	Thursday 9:00 PM	147.015
HF Net	Tuesday 8:15 Meet first on	147.375
		Then to HF

MAJOR ANNUAL EVENTS

W2CRA Hamfest	March 10, 2007	Talk-in 147.375
		PL 151.4
W2CRA Field Day	June 22,23, 2007	147.375

Community Service Through Communication

External Battery Pack for your 'Go'

By Dave WB2AZE



Here is a nice portable external battery pack for your ARES go kit.

Although the ARRL recommends that you use spare battery packs for your HT, some of the newer radios do not allow you to charge the battery without the radio in place. My Yaesu Vx-150 is like that. To charge a spare battery I have to take the radio out of service! To get around this weakness, I constructed a portable external battery pack.

It basically consists of a Sealed Lead Acid battery that fits into a padded pouch. A lead with 30 amp Power Pole connectors is on one end and the other end is clipped onto the battery. An inline fuse holder is build into the lead to protect against shorts. The battery is a 12V 2.2 Amp battery that I purchased from www.batteries.com for about \$14.00.

The power lead is held onto the battery with 2 rubber bands, and the entire assembly fits into a padded pouch, which can be purchased from any ham radio store that sells the 'Pouch' holder for HT's. When ordering your 'pouch' you should give the approximate dimensions of the battery to the sales person. I settled for a slightly larger one for an older Icom HT. A 12v charger can be purchased

from Radio Shack. The one I have is catalog no 273-1662. It provides 300 M/A's for a good trickle charge. I cut the adapter plug off the end and attached 2 alligator clips on the wires. Using a VOM to determine the Positive and Negative leads, I marked the Pos with RED tape.

Looking at the pictures, construction is pretty straightforward. Strip about ¼ inch of insulation from the black hookup wire and solder 1 of the female battery lugs. For the Red wire, cut off and remove about 6 inches of wire. Strip the end of the wire and attach one side of the in line fuse holder. Solder this connection and wrap with electrical tape. On the other end of the fuse holder, strip the wire and attach another female battery lug. On the opposite end of the hookup wire, attach the Anderson Power pole connector. Insert a 3 to 4 amp fuse into the fuse holder. Attach the RED lead to the POS + side of the battery, and the BLACK lead to the NEG - side. Fasten the completed lead to the battery using 2 rubber bands. If a pouch is available, slip the whole assembly into the pouch.

Next check your radios manual to determine which lead is positive on

(Continued on page 4)

ARES Corner

From Dave WB2AZE

Its that time of the year again. Driving in bad weather, especially snow storms. It has happened to me, and it could happen at any time...getting stuck in the snow or a traffic jam for several hours (like 7 hours). With bad weather, you may have to spend the night in your vehicle. Here are some tips to make your 'stay' a little easier.

1. If you haven't yet, take the time to have your vehicle checked out, have your belts, hoses, tires, fluids, lights and battery checked. Get the car winterized. Replace the fuel filter. Carry road maps. If there is bad weather predicted, fill up the fuel tank. Carry some emergency cash in your wallet.

2. Carry the following items:

- a. A shovel, a small spade will do
- b. Highway flares
- c. First Aid kit, hand wipes, flash-light, important medications (samples from Dr. offices)
- d. Fire extinguisher.
- e. A blanket or sleeping bag. You can get one for \$25 at Walmart stores and they take up very little space.
- f. Food, such as granola bars, they can stay fresh for a couple of weeks
- g. Bottle of water. You can always thaw it out
- h. A cell phone, and HT
- i. A small air compressor (to inflate tires)
- j. Bag of sand or kitty litter for traction
- k. Extra gloves/socks/rain parka/emergency blanket (silver mylar from sport stores)
- l. Ice scraper
- m. Empty coffee can
- n. Votive candles, to provide emergency heat, they last for hours, but remember to open a window periodically to allow fresh air in.
- o. Waterproof matches to light the candle.

Optional Items:

Battery powered strobe light from radio shack \$20.00 runs off a C cell stick it on the roof, if you are stuck on back roads at night

Thermos...fill with hot beverage or water before leaving work, but remember what goes in eventually comes out.

These should allow you to survive if necessary, it won't beat a hotel room, use your best judgment.

External Battery Pack...

(Continued from page 3)

the DC cable, and attach the Anderson Power pole connectors, allowing for correct polarity.

Most SLA batteries will charge in about 16 hours at a trickle charge. One way to monitor the charging is to place an analog VOM meter set to 500 Milliamps range in series. As the current starts to drop closer to zero, this is a good indication that the battery is nearing a full charge and the charger can be disconnected.

Here is what you will need to purchase to make this battery.

1 - 12 volt 2.2 A/H sealed Lead battery from www.batteries.com about \$14.00.

1 - inline auto fuse holder from Radio Shack about \$1.79.

2 - Female battery lugs, obtainable from any hardware store. 23 cents each.

1 - package of fuses 4 amp rating
1 foot of black/red hookup wire (about \$1.00 from Hardware Store 18 gauge).

1 - pouch to hold the battery, available from Ham Radio Outlet.

1 - set of 30 amp Anderson Power Pole connectors. These can be purchased online at www.powerwerx.com

1 - 12v 300 mah ac/dc adapter catalog 273-1662.

2 alligator clips.

Misc items needed: Soldering Iron, solder, electrical tape, rubber bands.



FCC DROPS MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT !

On December 15, the FCC published a press release describing changes to amateur licensing (WT Docket Nos. 04-140 and 05-235). Contrary to usual practice, the press release only describes the rule change and does not make the ruling available in its entirety.

We await the actual ruling but, in the meantime, the sections that our members will be most interested in are contained in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the press release which state that: the code requirement (Element 1) for General and Extra class licenses will be dropped, and Technician and Technician Plus licenses will grant the identical operating privileges.

The press release doesn't state whether Technician Plus privileges will be cut back to that of Technician or if Technician privileges will be expanded to those of T Plus (though we anticipate the latter).

In addition, the release details changes to the amateur band structure (see the UPLiNK from December for more details on the restructuring). The press release does not say when these changes to license requirements will take place but the usual time frame is 30 days after the changes are published so we'd expect the new rules to be in effect by the end of January 2007.

In a practical sense, this means that WCRA should prepare for more people than ever signing up for our HamFest VE exams to upgrade their licenses.

And a 'word to the wise': start visiting the test preparation sites or order your ARRL manuals for General or Extra class now so you'll be ready for your upgrade at the HamFest on March 24!

Time to Upgrade?

January VE Exams within 50 miles of Flemington
(Check www.arrl.org for details)

Jan 2: TRI COUNTY ARA/UNION CTY OEM, 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed): UNION COUNTY OFFICE BLDG 300 NORTH AVE E, WESTFIELD, NJ

Jan 8: SPLIT ROCK ARA: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed): HOPATCONG HIGH SCHOOL ROOM C-1 HOPATCONG, NJ

Jan 13: DELAWARE VALLEY RA: 12:30PM (Walk-ins allowed): HOPEWELL BRANCH-MERCER COUNTY LIBRARY, PENNINGTON, NJ

Jan 13: ELECTRONIC TECH SOCIETY OF NJ: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed), UNION COUNTY COLLEGE, CRANFORD, NJ

Jan 15: PENN WIRELESS ASSOC: 6:00 PM (No walk-ins): FALLS TOWNSHIP, FAIRLESS HILLS, PA

Jan 18: UNSPONSORED: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed): SENIOR CENTER, BELLMAWR, PA

THE FREAK LIST

by Ray Babecki, KA2YAK

In our last issue, we had info about Cherryville's repeater systems. Well, the 'peater is a lot of fun! But, our *real* "basis and purpose" is, "service to the public ... particularly with respect to providing emergency communications" (FCC 97.1). Towards that goal, we've compiled a select list of:

WORLDWIDE EMERGENCY VOICE CALLING AND COMMUNICATION FREQUENCIES.

We've **highlighted** the most important freqs. Most of these aren't Amateur, and are meant for authorized licensees only. FCC rules permit their use by others *only* when there is imminent danger to life/property AND when no other means of communication are available (FCC 97.405a, and FCC 80.311).

Make sure you keep copies of this list in your vehicle, and with your emergency 'go-bag'

<u>Service</u>	<u>Authority</u>	<u>Freq, Mh</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Channel</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Air	Aircraft Emergency / Calling	121.5000	AM		Voice and close-in only
Alaska	Emergency Freq.	5.1675	USB		Alaska only; aero primary
Amateur	Maritime Mobile Net	14.3000	USB		Variable freq: +/- 25 khz.
Amateur	2 Meter SSB Calling	144.2000	USB		
Amateur	2 Meter FM Calling	146.5200	NFM		See ARRL for listening sched.
Amateur	1.25 Meter FM Calling	223.5000	NFM		(222.100 MHz. SSB)
Amateur	70cm FM Calling	446.0000	NFM		(432.100 MHz. SSB)
Amateur	33cm FM Calling	906.5000	NFM		(902.100, 903.100 MHz. SSB)
Amateur	23 cm FM Calling	1294.5000	NFM		(1296.1000 MHz. SSB)
Canada	SAR	5.7150	USB		
CB	Citizens Band (11 Meters)	27.0650	AM	CB 9	Call for 'REACT'
FRS	"National 'SOS'"	462.5625	NFM	FRS 1	No PL/CTCSS
High Seas	Caribbean Safety/Security Net	8.1040	USB		Daily, 1215 UTC
High Seas	Distress	4.1250	USB	HF4	300 nm day, 1000 nm night
High Seas	Distress	6.2150	USB	HF6	600 nm day, 1500 nm night
High Seas	Distress	8.2910	USB	HF8	1000 nm day, 2000 nm night
High Seas	Distress	12.2900	USB	HF12	2500 nm day
High Seas	Distress	16.4200	USB	HF16	
High Seas	Ships, aircrafts, survival crafts: Distress, safety, calling	2.1820	USB	MF	150 nm day, 500 nm night
High Seas	Maritime - Safety Broadcasts, Intership Safety/Ops Comms.	2.6700	USB	MF	150nm day, 500nm night
NJ	Emergency Management Radio	39.7600	NFM	EMRAD	NJ Statewide and Mutual Aid
NJ	Emergency Management Radio	39.8000	NFM	EMRAD	NJ Central - Hunterdon
NJ	Emergency Management Radio	39.8200	NFM	EMRAD	NJ Statewide
NJ	Emergency Management Radio	39.8400	NFM	EMRAD	NJ North
NJ	Emergency Management Radio	39.9200	NFM	EMRAD	NJ South
NJ	Advanced Life Support Dispatch	155.1750	NFM	ALS	131.8 TPL (JEMS 1, PL 100.0)
NJ	EMS - Statewide Coordination	155.2800	NFM		"Disaster" / JEMS 3 PL 100.0
NJ	EMS - Hospital ER - Ambulances	155.3400	NFM		"HEAR" / JEMS 2, PL 100.0
NJ	State Police	154.6800	NFM	SPEN 1	131.8 PL
NJ	State Police	155.4750	NFM	SPEN 2	131.8 PL
NJ	State Police	154.7250	NFM	SPEN 3	131.8 PL
NJ	State Police	153.7850	NFM	SPEN 4	131.8 PL (JEMS 4)
US	Marine - Emergency / Calling	156.4500	NFM	VHF 09	5-60 nm 24 hr
US	Marine - Emergency / Calling	156.8000	NFM	VHF 16	5-60 nm 24 hr
US	Marine - Emergency / Calling	157.1000	NFM	VHF 22A	5-60 nm 24 hr
US	Red Cross	47.4200	NFM		
WW	SAR - coordination	3.0230	USB		"Search and Rescue"
WW	SAR - coordination	5.6800	USB		
WW	SAR - survival crafts	8.3640	USB		
					<- Add YOUR emerg. freq. here
					<- Add YOUR emerg. freq. here

Announcing the "First Annual" W2CRA Crystal Set DX Contest

A Crystal Set, you ask?

Yes! What better way to limber up your building skills than to build one of these sets from the dawn of radio?

The contest will be to build a passive radio receiver and log the most (or most distant) stations during a 24 hour period.

There will be categories for reproductions of simple historic sets and for "state-of-the-art" sets with

multiple tuned circuits and filters.

The prize? A "suitable-for-framing" certificate to the people with

- a) the most contacts and
- b) the most points for distance contacts in each entry class.

Details will be announced at the January membership meeting then published on the web along with entry forms, rules, etc.



Swap & Shop—

Whatcha' Got? Please send in your 'wanna get rid of' items that may be of interest to another...space is *FREE!*



Cherryville Repeater Association II
P.O. Box 308
Quakertown NJ 08868
"Public Service Through Communications"

Place Stamp
Here...

Post Office will not
deliver unless bribed

The CRA II Meets the 2nd Friday of Each Month
The Board meets Each Wednesday Before the Monthly Meeting