

UP-LiNK



W2CRA

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

"Community Service Through Communication"



October 2000

BOARD MEETING November 1 8:00 PM

CLUB MEETING October 13 7:30 PM

LICENSE CLASS OFF AND RUNNING

Barry Campbell, Education Chairman

The Amateur Radio license course is off to a great start. Fourteen people began the course on September 12, with more walk-ins expected by the second session.

This is the highest number of participants seen at a Cherryville license class for some time. It is also the first course we have taught after the FCC implemented its license restructuring which took effect on April 15, 2000. Several participants are affiliated with a rescue squad, and one with the American Red Cross. All have indicated they know the importance of amateur radio and RACES during emergencies. This area of New Jersey has had more than its share in recent years.



Cherryville Class of 2000

The new course will teach both the Technician and General class licenses, and the morse code training starts right at the beginning of the classes. Even though the 5 w.p.m. code is not required for the Technician class license, those who have the code credit and the Technician license can operate on the high frequency bands as Tech Pluses do now.

However this group of students will all pass the code, Technician and the General class licenses-I have confidence!

For those who would like to upgrade to General class can join the class sessions when the General class sessions are scheduled to begin, Thursday, October 19th. Current Tech Plus holders may find it useful to attend October 19 and thereafter, but Tech-only licensees may want to start attending early to learn the code, which is required for General class.

Classes meet each Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Code sessions with either George, W2RIJ or Roberto, K2PA run from 6:30 to 7:00, then the lectures go from 7:00 until about 9:00 p.m. There are two books for the entire course, ARRL's Now You're Talking for the Technician class and ARRL's General Class License Manual for the General sessions. The cost is \$19 and \$15 respectively.

The sessions are held at the Somerset County Technical Institute, North Bridge & Vogt Drive in Bridgewater (just 1/2 mile east of the Bridgewater Commons Mall).

HUNTERDON HAMS HONORED BY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CHIEF

Anon.

Harry Shepherd, Hunterdon County's Emergency Management boss had been invited to talk to the CRAII membership about Emergency Management and RACES, its communications arm. To the surprise of all present, Harry began by awarding special Certificates of Appreciation to six of the thirty-odd Hams who provided emergency communications during Musconetcong flood.

The certificates were awarded to: Pat-K2EVG, Sandy-WA2JVK, Charlie-WB2NQQ, Roy-WA2TWS, Patrick-N2ZVY, and Roberto-K2PA for their "...assistance over and beyond the call of duty during the recent flooding of the

Musconetcong River", and indicated that their "...dedication to the residents of Hunterdon County is greatly appreciated."

Following the awards, Harry delivered a lively and inspiring presentation describing the mission of Emergency Management and especially the role of RACES (the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service). He made it clear that during a widespread emergency we would need many more RACES operators than we currently have. (Mike Varas, the County RACES coordinator, says that his current roster contains only 42 operators, and asks "why isn't every CRAI member a RACES operator?")

Harry's presentation was warmly received by the members, and he was invited to make an encore appearance in the near future.

RACES TEST PROVIDES USEFUL INSIGHTS

Roberto Matos, K2PA (Deputy County RACES Coordinator)

On September 11, 2000, Harry Shepherd conducted an Emergency Management drill, to test the effectiveness of his RACES communications organization. This drill required the activation of the Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) of nine selected municipalities. The Emergency Management staffs of each municipality were expected to be on hand, and each EOC was provided a RACES operator.

The scenario was known only to Harry Shepherd, and each new situation that was introduced required a unique response from each EOC. A wide range of disciplines was needed to make the necessary responses meaningful.

The exercise commenced at 7:00 PM and ended shortly after 9:00 PM, and simulated an emergency that included many new problems not previously dealt with in our emergency drills.

This was a brand new experience for all of us. Harry thought it went very well. In my opinion it went well enough, but there were a number of glitches in the radio procedure that can be readily improved. Mike Varas and I are looking forward to receiving all of the operator's critiques, which will undoubtedly contain some improvement suggestions.

The participating municipalities and their operators were:

Bethlehem Township	Bruce, WA2EPY
Clinton Township	Nick, KC2EVJ
Franklin Township	John, W2GD -- Jim, WA2BZF -- Wayne, N2YIU
Glen Gardner Borough	Denis, KA2YYB

High Bridge Borough	Mike, KA2TOV -- Tom, AB2DW
Lambertville City	Ray, N2RVV -- Mark, KC2GRE
Lebanon Borough	Brian, N2RDL
Raritan Township	Leslie, KC2EIN
Readington Township	Dave, WB2AZE -- Marge, KC2GGV
Net Control (Hdqtrs)	Mike, KC2CMC -- Charlie, WB2NQV, -- Roberto, K2PA

My heartfelt thanks go out to all of the RACES operators for their participation in this first-of-its-kind drill.

A CLOSE CALL

NWS and Steve W3EEE

SEPTEMBER 15, 2000: 10380 lightning strikes light up the night when a cold front rolls through. Some came a little too close. Here is a short story from Steve to help us remember to think about our lightning protection.

"Greetings,

Yesterday evening, as most of us were aware, a cold front laced with flash-boomers rolled through. No problem. Living on a ridge I take more than the usual precautions; feed-lines all grounded at point of entry, disconnected from radios, power lines unplugged from wall (less heroic than it seems; I find it easier to yank one plug at night or during storms than turn thirty-eleven things off; same with my office zone).

Even so it has not been unusual with nearby strikes for the end of a coax to go "CRACK!" and on occasion be so scarred as to need replacement. Three things happened when we took a hit right in the backyard last night:

1> My daughter, to whom I was reading a bedtime story, inadvertently learnt an interesting new word.

2> The 'D' connector end of a 'puter keying interface exploded; charred, toast. And it wasn't plugged in at either end. Just lying on the bench curled up a few inches from the coax ends.

3> Oddest of all, my hoity-toity 21" CAD monitor (unplugged from power!) has taken four or five de-gauss cycles to restore anything like normal colour balance and rectilinearity.

All good fun."

Steve

RF Safety Rules Now In Force For All Amateurs

Starting September 1, every US amateur is required to fully comply with the FCC's RF exposure guidelines.

The regulations, which went into effect January 1, 1998, require US Amateur Radio operators to read and understand the rules and, where necessary, perform technical evaluations to determine that their stations are compliant with the new regulations. Up until now, only hams who have had to file an Amateur Radio application with the FCC have had to certify compliance with the RF exposure rules. As of September 1, all amateurs must comply.

Under the regulations, an amateur station must not exceed the maximum permissible exposure limits for transmitter operation. There is some good news with this development. Many of our stations are exempt from a routine exposure evaluation because the power levels, station configuration or operating duty cycles are presumed to comply with the Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE) limits. Our mobiles and portables are excluded provided they use push to talk or equivalent operation. Our fixed stations are excluded provided the PEP power input to the antenna does not exceed the levels shown in the following table. If an evaluation is required the ARRL and FCC both provide details on various evaluation methodologies suitable for amateur use.

BAND	POWER THRESHOLD (watts)
160 m	500
80 m	500
75 m	500
40 m	500
30 m	425
20 m	225
17 m	125
15 m	100
12 m	75
10 m	50
6 m	50
2 m	50
70 cm	70
33 cm	150
23 cm	200
13 cm and above	250

"These regulations are not a major burden on the Amateur Radio Service," said ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI. "Most hams are already in compliance with the MPE

requirements; some hams will need to conduct a simple station evaluation."

A complete description of the rules is available on the ARRL Website at www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety/.

Address questions about RF safety and the FCC exposure guidelines to ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, ehare@arrl.org.

The FCC has numerous web pages devoted to RF safety and compliance. A good starting point is www.fcc.gov/oet/dockets.

THANK YOU KEITH

WA2EPY

We Cherryville members have enjoyed and benefited from Keith Burt's work on the Uplink for many years. I have not attended club functions on a regular basis for several years due to other commitments but could always count on being kept up to date on club and hobby happenings when Keith's Uplink arrived in the mail every month. As most are aware, Keith has relocated to beautiful San Luis Obispo in 6-land.

Unfortunately for us, Keith is no longer able to fulfill the editorship of Uplink. We haven't heard the last of him though. He has promised periodic contributions to the newsletter. I think I speak for the membership at large in saying: **Thank you Keith, not just for your hard work on Uplink, but for all the years of service you have given the club. The very best of luck in California or wherever you may go.**

I have volunteered to fill the Uplink editor slot. Fortunately for me, KA2YYB has also volunteered to help. I realize there are big shoes to fill; the high standards and high expectations established by N5RA but with Denis' help, I think we can continue to bring you a high quality, monthly newsletter. All comments, suggestions, advice, guidance and material for publication will be gratefully accepted. I look forward to hearing from you.

New Frequency Coordinator For NNJ

A new, independent agency has been formed to provide Amateur Radio frequency coordination for the New York City/Long Island, Northern New Jersey, and downstate New York region. The Metropolitan Coordination Association Inc—or MetroCor--was organized by a volunteer group of concerned Amateurs. MetroCor intends to address spectrum usage issues in one of the most densely populated areas of the country, which has been without such services for several years. MetroCor has notified the FCC, the National Frequency

Coordinators' Council Inc, the ARRL, and the spectrum management councils in adjacent states of its intention to voluntarily provide coordination services for facilities operating on frequencies above 29.5 MHz. The ARRL's Brennan Price, N4QX--the League's point man for repeater and coordination issues--says MetroCor is the only entity that has notified the ARRL of its intention to provide coordination services for the region. But he points out that the ARRL does not certify frequency coordinators. "Frequency coordinators derive their authority from the voluntary participation of the local amateur community that they serve," he said. MetroCor has defined its service area to include Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester counties in New York, and the Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties in New Jersey. These areas, along with Dutchess County in New York, and the entire state of Connecticut, were formerly served by the Tri-State Amateur Radio Club. TSARC has been inactive for several years. Additional details are available on MetroCor's Web site, <http://www.qsl.net/metrocor> or by calling MetroCor evenings before 10 PM at 973-875-4772; e-mail metrocor@qsl.net.

SPACE RADIO

A lot has been happening overhead the past month. AO-27 has been returned to analog FM service following a computer crash on July 31. Ground control requests that you wait to hear the bird in analog mode (no data being sent) before using it. Uplink is 145.850 and downlink is 436.800 MHz.

Three new satellites were launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome aboard a refitted Russian SS-18 "Satan" ICBM. The Saudisat-1A, Saudisat-1B and Tiungsat all appear to be functioning. They will be capable of 9600 baud store and forward packet as well as FM analog repeater operation. Two meter uplinks and 440 MHz downlinks will be used.

The space shuttle Atlantis carried the first amateur gear for the International Space Station when it lifted off September eighth. Atlantis delivered the ARISS VHF and UHF hand-held transceivers as well as a TNC for packet, a specially developed headset and signal adapter module plus power adapters and interconnecting cables.

The ARISS initial station gear will be installed temporarily aboard the Functional Cargo Block module and use an existing antenna that's being adapted to support FM voice and packet on 2 meters but not on 70 cm. The ARISS gear will get a more permanent home aboard the Service Module next year, once VHF and UHF antennas can be installed.

CRA PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Denis KA2YYB

- OCT 13 "APRS, theory and practice"**
(Automatic Position Reporting System)
Ronald Hepburn N2LCZ and Ken
- NOV 10 "Overview of Hurricane Floyd 1999"**
Harry Shepherd, Hunterdon O.E.M.
- DEC 8 CRAII Awards Banquet**
- JAN 12 "What's Happening at the ARRL"**
Frank Fallon N2FF,
ARRL Hudson Division Director
- FEB 9 "The Future of Amateur Radio"**
Steve Mendelsohn, W2MF
- MAR 12 "About verticals..."** (in the works)

JOTA

Jamboree On The Air is scheduled for October 21 and 22. This is a great opportunity to get on the air and help introduce boys and girls to the fun of amateur radio. The Jamboree starts 0001 local time on the twenty first and runs until 2399 local time on the twenty second. Some activity carries over from Friday to Monday to take advantage of DX time differences. The following table lists the official calling frequencies for the event.

JOTA CALLING FREQUENCIES		
BAND	PHONE	CW
80	3.740 & 3.940	3.590
40	7.270	7.030
20	14.290	14.070
17	18.140	18.080
15	21.360	21.140
12	24.960	24.910
10	28.390	28.190

Get on the air and call "CQ Jamboree". Once contact is established move off frequency to continue the QSO. Calling CQ 10 to 15 kHz off the calling frequency often yields more contacts. Remember, this is not a contest but an opportunity for fun and a chance to bring new people to the hobby. Need more information? Go to www.arrl.org/ead/#scout. See you on the air!

HAMFEST CALENDAR

Oct. 14	Garden State ARA	Leonardo, NJ
Oct. 15	Hall of Science ARC	Queens, NY
Oct. 20	Sussex Co. ARC	Newton, NJ
Oct. 21	Tri-City ARC	Waterford, CT
Oct. 22	RF Hill ARC	Sellersville, PA
Oct. 22	Radio Central ARC	Farmingdale, NY
Oct. 29	Great South Bay ARC	Lindenhurst, NY
Oct. 29	South Mtn. Rptr. Assn.	Carlisle, PA

PUBLIC SERVICE

N2UYV

The Battle of the Bands will be held Oct.14 (Saturday Night) starting at about 5:00 P. M.. We need about 10 people for the event. It usually lasts until about 8:30 or 9:00. We help with parking and general safety communications. The event is at Hunterdon Central High School in Flemington Just off Route 31.

The next event is November 5. It is a Horse event. It starts about 8:30 A.M. in Blackwells Mills. Six or seven people are needed to cover the event. It is low key and we get lunch too!

HOLIDAY PARTY

Tim-N2UYV

The Holiday party will be held instead of the normal club meeting. Bill Greenhalgh - W2NCN, Cheryl Mc Laughlin KB2RWY and I are getting things set up for the party. It will be a magical night at the Coach and Paddock. The same location as last year. The menu has not been finalized yet, but the plan is for a sit down dinner. The Cost will be \$25 per person. There will be a cash bar. The Hors d'oeuvre will start at 7:00 P. M., and dinner will start at 8 P. M. There will be door prizes and lots of fun. Early responses can be sent to Bill Greenhalgh W2NCN. He can be reached at (908) 369-3191. Reservations must be into Bill or Cheryl before November 30th. Advanced payment is requested but you can pay at the door as we have done in the past. The club needs at least 50 people to attend. We have really enjoyed these parties in the past, the food is good, the company is great, and Tim's jokes.... Well, 2 out of 3 ain't all bad.

CRA II CLUB INFORMATION

The Cherryville Repeater Association II, Inc. is a non-profit New Jersey Corporation dedicated to Community Service Through Communication. **Meetings** are held on the second Friday of each month at **7:30 PM** at the **Flemington Baptist Church** unless otherwise announced. Visitors are always welcome! Also, everyone is welcome on the Thursday Night Traffic Net, at 8 PM every Thursday, followed at 9:30 by the Swap-Net, and the ARES-RACES net at 8:30 PM on the first Thursday each month (immediately following the traffic net), all on the 147.375 repeater.

UPLiNK

A CRA II Publication

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Many thanks to all those who have contributed articles or information for this publication, including: The ARRL, ARRL Letter, QST, The Hudson Loop, W2CGX, N5RA, K2PA and all not mentioned for their help. This newsletter is an open forum for the Cherryville Repeater Association, II Inc. and its members, of general interest Club and ham radio related interest items. The opinions contained herein are those of the authors who have contributed their work. The officers and members of the CRA II Inc. are not liable for its contents.

Articles and information are always welcome, and may sometimes be edited for content, punctuation, grammar, and newsletter space.

Deadline for submission for all issues is two weeks prior to the Board meetings.

THE CHERRYVILLE REPEATER ASSOCIATION II

CLUB INFO:

Club Info Line	Website	Packet
(908) 788-4080	www.qsl.net/w2cra	W2CRA 145.51

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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Emergency	KC2CMC	(908) 806-3998	varas@sprintmail.com
-Mgmt/ RACES	K2PA	(908) 788-8253	k2pa@arrl.net
Education	W2CGX	(908) 725-0478	barryc@compubell.com
VE Testing	W2CG	(908) 788-2644	mjgrozi@postoffice.ptd.net
Field Day	N3QDC	(215) 766-8066	n2qdc@worldnet.att.net
Holiday Party	KB3RWY	(908) 253-8783	
Merchandise	N2VWL	(908) 475-4716	n2vwl@juno.com
Traffic net	N2MIF	(908) 638-6172	
Programs	KA2YYB	(908) 537-2501	ka2yyb@arrl.net
Refreshment	KB2YJX	(908) 725-0478	
Roster	W2CG	(908) 788-2644	mjgrozi@postoffice.ptd.net
Scholarship	N2ZVY	(908) 479-6346	kc2boh@worldnet.att.net
SkyWarn	N2VWL	(908) 475-4716	n2vwl@juno.com

NET SCHEDULE:

Hunterdon County Traffic and Emergency net	Thursday, 8:00 PM	147.375
Races net	1st Thursday, 8:30 PM	147.375
SkyWarn net	Thursday 9:00 PM	147.015
Swapnet	Thursday, 9:30 PM	147.375
Complex repeater net	Sunday, 7:30 PM	147.015

MAJOR EVENTS:

W2CRA Hamfest	March 17, 2001	Talk-in 147.375
W2CRA Field Day	June 23, 2001	147.375

UP-LINK
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