

QUA - RAE

The Official Newsletter of the Radio Association of Erie

DISASTER DRILL SUCCESSFUL



The Erie International Airport held its Disaster Drill this year last Wednesday. Twenty-one people volunteered to fill the role of crashed victims of a downed aircraft.

The drill began about 6:30pm and completed shortly after 10pm. During that time, Emergency Medical Services, Fire

& Rescue Personal, the American Red Cross, the Emergency Management Agency and Amateur Radio Emergency Services personal responded. The word drill doesn't do this photo any justice, for if it wasn't for a smile, you might actually think they were injured. Thanks to our make-up crew.

About twenty-five licensed communica-

tion operators working under the direction of Dr. Tom McClain, N3HPR, participated in this event. It was a great opportunity to test procedures and get first hand experience should a real life emergency ever occur. When the event was over, many said they were glad it was only a drill!

Photo by Jack Haven.

Radio
Association
of Erie

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EOC ChairmanSteve LaJohn, N3SRD
slajohn@adelphia.net**Membership**Bob Schwimmer, N3FAW
Bobn3faw@adelphia.net**Newsletter Editor**Bob LaPlaca, KC2HVX
kc2hvx@hotmail.com**Repeater Chairman**Bill Craig, N3ZUD
bcraig@velocity.net

R.A.E. Foxhunt with GPS? By Ron Prindle N3BXL

As I recently read an article in MONITORING TIMES, I gazed out the window and commented to myself what beautiful weather we were having this year. It was too bad we did not have more club events outdoors to take advantage of such nice conditions?

As I was reading an article about "Having Fun with a GPS Receiver" I thought of a neat idea for a Foxhunt. What about having a Foxhunt after

all, but have a category of with or without a GPS during the event?

Why? Well, how good is GPS anyway, in the conditions of a radio location situations? Would not the results of a simple Foxhunt prove that issue? After all, not all of us have GPS receivers, which is GOOD for this experiment! We could conduct a Foxhunt with and without GPS receivers and see just how effective they really are in locating a transmitter, and it would get ALL of us out in the good weather while it lasts! Continued pg.6

A Message From Our VE Team

Test sessions are of short duration today due to only having one code exam instead of three and only three classes of license instead of the five. There are also less people testing, although upgrading is the aim of many of those testing. At the August session, John Beck of May-

ville, N.Y. and Jose' Molina of Erie earned the Technician license. The next Erie test session will be held at Panos Restaurant, 1523 East 38th Street on Saturday, September 7, at 8 A.M.

Special thanks to Norma and her team for spending their Saturday mornings promoting our hobby!!
THANK YOU

Norma W3CG

Disaster Strikes Again

The local Emergency Management Agency will be sponsoring the second emergency preparedness drill here in Erie. On Sunday, September 15, 2002 the Bayfront Bash will take place at 8AM.

Word has it this event will involve about 200 victims involved in some kind of simulated terrorist attack. As

you can imagine this will require more support than the airport drill from Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES). Please tune in to 146.610 the W3GV repeater Sunday nights at 9pm for more information.

General Meeting Minutes– August 1, 2002

Board Members Present: N3ZUD, N3FAW, N3RKO, N3BXL, N3ZNP, and K3LD

Not present: N3LBI, KE3XR and KA3WYO

Meeting brought to order by President N3ZUD at 7:16

Secretary's report- K3LD: motion to accept the minutes that were read at the meeting

Motion: KB3B Second: K3TJM

Treasurer's report- KE3XR: not present

Board of Directors report- Bill (N3ZUD) no board of directors, not enough for a Quorum.

Membership- N3FAW: 163 members

Contest- KB3A: NA QSO CW this weekend NA QSO phone will be August 17, KB3B will be setting up a station at the EOC that day for anyone to work the contest. QSO parties for Ohio and Hawaii will be August 24 & 25 PA QSO is in October and he would like our club to do a lot better. Some people would like to work out of the E.O.C. and he thinks we should have something set up. That will be discussed at the next meeting. Also Chris (KB3A) is donating a SB200 amplifier to the club to keep at the EOC. Doug (AD4UL) has donated a G5RV which is up and operational at the EOC

QuaRae: KC2HVX (Bob) N/A

Public Service- N3RKO- Paddle Erie August 24, 2002, he has enough volunteers and wanted to thank everyone who has helped this year. Jack has put a lot in work setting up the events and getting volunteers. THANK YOU JACK.

VE- K3LD- Saturday August 3 will be at Panos on 38 St. East Saturday August 17 at 12:30 at Gannon

Education: N3BXL- Ron wants to have a repeater training class. He is planning on having classes at the EOC. He would like anyone interested in helping out let him know.

Skywarn: N3EOY Dave commented on how unusual the weather has been and that it seems more like spring storms. He thanks anyone that has helped and said we may have more yet.

ARES/RACES: N3BXL- Ron said he talked to Tom (N3HPR) and was informed that the RACES net at 6:30 on Sundays will be merging into the Skywarn net at 9:00 Sunday night, starting September 1. Ron thinks it should be sooner. He may put something on the .61 repeater.

N3BXL: Ron presented a check for \$500.00 from Verizon for the year of 2001, he will apply for another \$500.00 for this year.

N3BXL: Pizza sales were not enough to make money on. It was decided by the club to cancel

it.

A discussion was on what we can do to raise money. Decided to send out 10 50/50 tickets to all members so that all members have a chance at winning. Have a 50/50 twice a year one at Christmas and the other at Field days. See if we can make money that way, plus anyone can buy a chance.

Motion: N3BXL second: KA3QDM

Jack (N3RO) has donated a tower 3 @ 10' sections, plus a jin pole, base plate and house bracket for a raffle.

He also donated 1000 QSL cards for W3GV he had printed up.

50/50 raffle won by K3TJM

Jack (N3RKO) had some extra shirts from the walks that were raffled off winners were N3FAW, KB3B, K3LD, K3GJK, N3ZUD, NI3Q, and N3NKV

Motion to adjourn: N3ZNP Second: KB3EVS

Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Submitted by K3LD

RAE receives Ships Certificate



Thanks to the members that showed up for the MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND EVENT. Our club was rewarded this certificate. Thanks Hams!

Special Thanks

A Special thanks to the members who helped in the special event...Paddle Erie held on Saturday Aug.24 at Presque. They were: Bob N3LBI, Bob KC2HVX, Bob

N3FAW, Jim KZ3C, Neal

*As Of Now This Should Be
 The Last For The Year ~*

N3ZNP, Doug
 AD4UL, Don
 KA3QDM, Mike
 WB3IGK, Jack
 N3RKO. Our next event will be on Saturday September 7

again on Presque...Triathlon '02.

We Need Help ...Lots Of It... Please put your name on the sheet at the September 5th meeting.

As Of Now This Should Be the Last For The Year! Thanks...

~ Jack N3RKO

ARRL Announces New Gear for ARES Volunteers

NEWINGTON, CT, September 1, 2002

ARRL has announced that new gear for Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers is now available. The initiative to offer stylized ARES gear to volunteers arose during the ARRL Board of Directors' meeting last January--in the wake of Amateur Radio's deep involvement in responding to the September 11 terrorist attacks. The Board asked ARRL staff to look into the possibility of developing distinctive garments for use by ARES team members that would be similar to jackets and vests worn by other public service volunteers.

A questionnaire circulated among ARRL field volunteers indicated overwhelming interest in the idea. Results of the survey plus additional feedback from ARES volunteers led to arrangements to make available ARES vests, windbreakers and equipment bags.

ARES Vest



The ARES vest is a reflective-style garment similar to those worn by law enforcement officers or joggers. This orange "bib" can be worn over a shirt or jacket. Constructed of neon mesh with large front and

back reflector panels, the vest is imprinted with the words "AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS" on one side.

The vest is lightweight and easily folded and stored in your immediate-response kit. It features adjustable side straps, and one size fits most. The ARES vest retails for \$9.95 plus shipping and handling.

The brightly colored, royal blue jacket makes the wearer immediately recognizable as an ARES volunteer. It features an embroidered ARES logo on the front and the words "AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS" in white lettering on the back. The jacket is 100% Nylon and has a snap front and a polyester lining. There's a bottom drawstring to keep out drafts, plus side slash pockets and elasticized cuffs.

ARES Windbreaker



ARES members may personalize their windbreakers with FIRST NAME and CALL SIGN (optional) for an additional \$4. Sizes are medium (M), large (L)

and extra-large (XL). The windbreaker retails for \$30.95 (sizes 2X are \$34.95 and 3X are \$38.95), plus shipping and handling.

ARES Equipment Bag



The ARES equipment bag is a high-quality equipment and sports bag with many, many pockets. It comes in black only. The bag offers lots of places to store hand-held radios, spare batteries, paperwork and manuals, portable rigs, coaxial cable, clothing, and more. It's perfect for use as an immediate-response kit!

The ARES equipment bag is embroidered with an attractive three-color ARES logo. It includes both hand and shoulder straps, heavy-duty zippers, Velcro and quick-snaps. It's great for travelers or as an airplane carry-on too. The bag measures 20 inches long by 11 inches tall and 10 inches wide. It retails for \$24.95, plus shipping and handling.

Ordering ARES Gear

All orders must be placed through ARRL's authorized agent--[Barker Specialty Company](http://www.barkerspecialty.com/arrl) (www.barkerspecialty.com/arrl).

ARES stickers, decals, patches and other public service supply items are available directly from ARRL's online store.

Radio Association of Erie

P.O. Box 844
Erie, Pa 16512

[http://
home.surf.free.com
/~n3ntj/rae.html](http://home.surf.free.com/~n3ntj/rae.html)

A Special Service Club



R.A.E. Foxhunt with GPS? Continued...

Here's the proposal. There would be two categories of Foxhunters. One with the ability to locate his starting position with a GPS fix and one with a start position identification using a county map. Actually, both radio operators would be using maps, both carry a pen/pencil, and use a watch. After all, a Foxhunt is a timed event! Timed when you start it and when you stop it! The point being, how accurate must the position be to locate the "lost radio?"



A Foxhunt can be an individual's event when he or she has the time to run it any day of the week or a

group function, on a fixed day and given hours. I see only one limitation, battery life of the fox itself! Which should we do?

Issues like the positioning of the fox, on private property, invasion of that property and all that need to be worked out ahead of time, by the fox operator and the club. The point of the activity, is to record your start position, the time you started and the

final location of the fox itself, whereby the winner of each category would be based on his or her ability to begin the furthest away from the fox and locate it the quickest!

Was a GPS receiver a real advantage? Only the raw data can draw that conclusion.

The event would begin much like the activity the Civil Air Patrol takes, knowledge of a downed aircraft occurs in a known area at such and such a time. The object is to locate that emergency transmitter as soon and as efficiently as you can. The Civil Air Patrol, to the best of my knowledge, does not rely on such devices as GPS on the location of downed aircraft, but maybe they do in some parts of the country. What I'd like to see is how efficient would it be for any foxhunter, to use or not use a GPS receiver in his activity? An R.A.E. Foxhunt experiment event might just produce something interesting in this application? We would need operators equipped with and without GPS receivers and DF equipment! We would need a lot of R.A.E. member participation to make the data reli-

able. Maybe several events before drawing a conclusion? You think?

All we need is a FOX, a coordinated effort to position one, and a scoring system to collect the data and then announce the "downing of the Fox" to the Amateur Community. Like the situation of the CAP, there must be a time limit for the event when it is considered to be a loss. I figured there would be reports of the Fox's battery failure, and it would be over!

Just a thought! Ever done a Foxhunt? Have you a GPS receiver too? How about using them together? What category would you like to compete in? Questions only you could answer, but let's try one soon, before the

weather turns nasty and the joy of being outside closes down for our regular indoor bench work. Interested? I think we could resolve the issue and have fun with our own GPS's and at the same time write an article of our own on a new tool on the operation of a Foxhunt, or not? There's only one way to find out, how about it?