The ECAR Dispatch

Erie County ARES/RACES The AUXCOMM group

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www.ecarham.org

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The ECAR machines:

* Buffalo VHF 146.865(+) 151.4
* Buffalo UHF 443.525(+)151.4
* Orchard Park UHF 443.975 (+)141.3
* P25 system NAC 167
* Hamshack Hotline

6103148

Hamshack Hotline

conference bridge 1385

From the RO…

OK all let's talk…….

I am asked the question all the time in one of 2 ways,
Why doesn't the county use us for anything?
OR
Do I think the county will ever really use us in the event of a major disaster?
So let me answer the second question first, Yes I do believe the county would use the group and maybe even for more than a major disaster.
BUT let me ask you a question…..
Hypothetically let's say a house is on fire, your house…
Would you want a professional highly trained group of individuals to come in and put the fire out, A group who has worked together and are trained at a high level to accomplish a mission and know how each other work together….
OR
Would you want that hodgepodge group of people who are not all trained to the same level coming in and HOPEFULLY accomplishing the mission which in this case is putting your house fire out….
Now let's look at it from a county emergency coordinator perspective because the scale and type of operation we would be needed for would be many measures above a house fire.
That emergency coordinator has the job of putting the right assets in the positions they are trained and qualified in and have the ability to accomplish the mission given to them..
That mission will involve the protection of LIFE AND PROPERTY and they will need fully qualified trained accomplished individuals put into those positions.
Now at this moment does anyone in the group think we are at that kind of level, are we all trained in the same manner and have we all had the similar amount and types of training to accomplish the mission if it were to be handed to us…..
Something has to change or this will not move forward.
The county continues to provide equipment and repeater sites with more coming at no costs to the group.
We have a guaranteed meeting place every month.
We are on the county alerting system and more and more and what have we shown in return?
It's time to make a choice on if you want this thing we are doing to continue, the leadership and the FEW other members who do participate CAN NOT DO IT on their own anymore..
Things like the Ride for Roswell, a simple few hours on a Saturday where we were all done and on our way home no later than 13:00 or even a Sunday net..
Running a Sunday net is good practice at running a directed net something that is a skill that in an emergency is not something to be learned the day of..
Running a net or working the events gets you familiar with our other operators, their operating habits and gives us time to make mistakes so we can learn and not make them if we are ever called to work a county wide event.
And it builds the interpersonal relationships of our operators so we know how each other function and work in the team.
So here we are, after that long rant, now I am pretty sure you can answer the questions asked at the beginning on your own…..
So here's my challenge to you……

Continued page 2…

From the RO (cont'd)...

You give the group a little of your time, come to the meetings, get in on the Sunday net and maybe even take a net control slot in the rotation AND volunteer!!!!!!!!
The Ride has come and gone, an event where we used to have a lot of units on the course but sadly this year we didn't have a lot of operators but we do have Pumpkin Patrol coming up in October an event where we used to have upwards near 20 operators out in the field sitting on bridges out in the county.
We don't have that many bridges anymore but we can find a use for you if you do work the event.
You give the group that and I will work on opening the doors to more opportunities, expanding the repeater network and solidifying our position with the county.
You give the group that and I promise it will pay off..
As someone who has spent most of my adult life volunteering I know damn well it's not easy.
Family comes first, then local commitments if you a firefighter or first responded then your commitment to the group all in that order….
But we need that commitment.
I get being at UB at 5am on a beautiful June Saturday is not always the most fun exciting thing to do but you ask any of the members who have a few years doing the event and most would not trade those Saturdays for anything.
What we have learned and what we have added to the safety and running of the event is most likely un measurable and all for the cost of a few hours on a Saturday morning working with some very intelligent and dedicated radio operators.
And I have to say I wouldn't trade those Saturdays for anything, just ask some of those members about some of the things we have had to work through on the events of the past there are some crazy stories.
So there it is all the marbles are on the table and my challenge is out there..
I invite anyone who wants to work towards something more and to a point where we become a standard response capability if the county ever so needs to come out and come to the meetings.
Help me kick down any doors standing in our way by being the best trained and qualified communications experts we are and showing what we can do.
I have seen it! I know what we can do, so who wants to step up because this only works if you help us make it work..!!!!!!
Disagree with me, TELL ME my numbers and email are easily obtained so open the conversation!
Have an idea, something bothering you, want to do something for a meeting ??
Tell me, tell one of the leaders, or stand up at a meeting and shout it out.!!!!
Again open the conversation!
The lines of communications are open, will you use them?

73,
Joe KC2DKP

From the EC's shack..

NO REPORT THIS MONTH

From the 1st. Asst. RO's shack..

NO REPORT THIS MONTH

Are you ready for the next exercise?

SOUTHTOWNS OPERATORS - we are looking for a few good operators in the Southtowns to deploy APRS digipeaters. You may already have Enough spare equipment to fire one up. Think about it...

ECAR will be creating and distributing a standardized and channelized list of frequencies. Similar to the Ride for Roswell, these will be utilized for any activations or drills we may be involved in and will make it easier to switch on-the-fly. More to come.

Meshtastic - you may have heard about it. It can be an off-grid digital comms system. It is considered inexpensive. For our immediate purposes it probably only involves text messages. LARC members will be building out Mesh nodes and will try conducting Skywarn activations over that network.

THE ECAR DISPATCH

Monthly meeting location
3359 Broadway
Cheektowaga N.Y. 14227

E-mail: ECARham@gmail.com

We are the voices in the ether.

Have you been to ecarham.org yet??

Erie County ARES/RACES AUXCOMM is a volunteer communications group of FCC Licensed Amateur radio operators who are highly trained, motivated and are organized to provide communications in support to the County of Erie Emergency Services and other NGO's during times of disasters or when a need for enhanced communications and experience arises.

Join us on our net on Sunday's at 19:00 on the ECAR radio network OR come out to our meeting and say hi, we meet the second Monday of every month except for August at Erie County's Cheektowaga EOC. 73...

The Western New York Emergency net is held Every Sunday at 19:00EST on 146.865/443.525Mhz Except for the 3rd Sunday which is on the 443.975Mhz Orchard Park repeater.

Do you have something for the newsletter????

Do you have a story, any news or a project or review you would like to share with the group?

We are always looking for stories and information related to amateur radio and emergency communications to provide in the monthly newsletter that is put out to the membership to keep them informed.

Please try and keep it to under 500 words and please include any links to resources pictures or other information you want to include with the story.

Email your stories to:

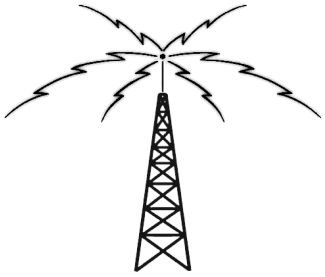
ECARham@gmail.com

ECAR email reflector:

Do you need an invite to the ECAR email reflector????

Contact Ed W2GUT at his email for an invite.

Ed.w2gut@gmail.com



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