The ECAR Dispatch
A monthly communication

Erie County ARES/RACES—The AUXCOMM group

Volume 1, Issue 2 **May 2025**

Are you ready for our next exercise???

Welcome to the second edition of the ECAR Dispatch! We will be using this medium to share stories and other useful information with members of the organization.

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Ed W2GUT — Editor

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

Perfect Storm Exercise in California Gets Results

The ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section (SJV) conducted "Perfect Storm," an amateur radio emergency exercise, on March 5 - 7.

Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) Dan Sohn, WL7COO, asked that a section-wide exercise be created that would engage both amateur radio operators and non-amateurs to become more active in their community's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

There were 120 participants from 9 counties within the SJV Section, including Calaveras, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, and two counties outside the section, Los Angeles and San Diego.

Both amateurs and participants equipped with General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radios gathered local situational awareness data. The exercise culminated with a two-hour period during which local groups forwarded their data to a mock Incident Command Post. At the same time, leaders of the groups were asked to participate in a live "hot wash" on Zoom, where the results were reviewed, and errors could be corrected in real time.

We wanted to engage many different organizations and especially young hams," said Hendricks. "It's important to tap into their excitement and engage them so when a disaster does strike, they can become a vital part of team."

The SVJ Section is now planning to have two exercises every year.

From the RO's desk..

https://www.forbes.com/councils/forbestechcouncil/2025/02/24/how-it-leaders-can-help-with-emergency-communications/

"How IT Leaders Can Help With Emergency Communications"
The article argues that ham radio, with its established infrastructure and global reach, offers a reliable solution for emergency communications.
Key Points:· Ham Radio's Role in Emergencies: Ham radio operates through repeaters, extending the range of low-powered radios. Unlike other radio options such as Land Mobile Radio (LMR), CB Radio, and GMRS, which have limitations in cost, range, or regional applicability, ham radio remains the most viable choice for global emergency communication.· Challenges to Widespread Use: The primary barrier to utilizing ham radio is the lack of knowledge among the general public. Many individuals are unaware of its existence or the need for licensing, resulting in underutilization of the available infrastructure.· IT Leaders' Role: IT leaders are well-positioned to bridge this gap by leveraging their expertise and resources. They can facilitate training programs, develop standardized channel plans, ensure power solutions during outages, and support local repeater networks. By doing so, they can activate a global emergency communication system that is already in place but underused. In conclusion, the article emphasizes that while the infrastructure for effective emergency communication exists through ham radio, its potential remains largely untapped. IT leaders have a pivotal role in harnessing this resource, ensuring that communities are better prepared for emergencies.
73, Joe Tedesco KC2DKP Radio Officer

From the EC's desk..

Our next public service event, the Ride for Roswell, is only a few weeks away on Saturday, June 28th. At press time we stand at ten volunteers. We could use a few more (last year we had 16.) If you haven't volunteered yet, there is a role for you! There are assignments for all skill levels: first timers to seasoned veterans. We can also accommodate time restrictions, so if you're worried about being constrained to an all day event, we can find an assignment for you to get you out early so your afternoon is clear for other things (like Field Day!) The first riders leave UB at 6AM, and we are generally packed up and ready to leave around 2PM. Please email n2jrs@arrl.net if you would like to volunteer, or you can volunteer during our Sunday net. Hope to see you at the Ride!

Vince Harzewski N2JRS
ARES Emergency Coordinator | Erie County Amateur Radio Emergency Service
RACES Assistant Radio Officer | Erie County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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

As our group continues to transform, it is important that each individual operator makes a decision on doing the same. Recent training in Net Control operations, Winlink, AuxComm, and I Am Responding are part of the new core tasks that we will be depending on to fulfill missions in both governmental and non-governmental roles. It's not enough just to come to a training; using the tools that have been put on the workbench builds that muscle memory.

Greg Ramsdell - KD2MIC
Asst EC/ 1st Asst. Radio Officer - Erie County ARES/RACES

Little bit of history..

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is an Organization of Federal Communication Commission (FCC) licensed amateur radio operators who volunteer to provide radio communications for state and local governments during times of emergency. Created in 1952 primarily to serve in civil defense emergencies, RACES operators provide essential communications and warning links to supplement state and local government agencies during emergencies.

RACES is organized to provide emergency communications for civil preparedness purposes only. RACES is a special part of the amateur radio services sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is conducted by amateur radio operators using their primary station licenses or by existing RACES stations. If the President invokes the War Emergency Powers Act, amateur radio operators enrolled with their local \emergency management offices would become limited to certain frequencies, while all other amateur operations would be silenced.

During an emergency, RACES is operated under the direct control of the activating emergency management office, as authorized by the FCC and the Commissioner of the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES).

RACES is authorized by Section 606 of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by Part 97.407 of the FCC. RACES guidance is also provided by FEMA document CPG1-15. Note: FCC rules, Part 97, still apply to all RACES stations and RACES operators participating in RACES operations.



These limitations led to the transition from RACES to a more comprehensive approach, resulting in the development of Auxiliary Communications (AuxComm) by the Department of Homeland Security.

The shift reflects the growing recognition that effective emergency communication requires a multi-faceted approach that can tap into diverse communication resources. During emergencies, the ability to quickly disseminate critical information, coordinate response efforts, and provide situational awareness to both emergency responders and the public is essential. AuxComm empowers emergency communication teams to utilize various tools to achieve these goals, including High Frequency (HF), Very High Frequency (VHF), Ultra High Frequency (UHF), satellite communications (SATCOM), microwave, Wi-Fi, digital, video, photos, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), and other modes.

In essence, the history of RACES highlights the essential role that amateur radio operators have played in emergency communication throughout the years. While the specific framework of RACES has evolved into AUXCOMM, the commitment and dedication of these operators to public service remains a cornerstone of emergency preparedness and response efforts.

ODDS AND ENDS

Monthly Meeting Location
Erie Co. Fire Training Tower
3359 Broadway
Cheektowaga N.Y. 14227

E-mail: ECARham@gmail.com

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 will be held on the 443.975Mhz Chestnut Ridge repeater. Both have a PL tone of 151.4Hz. Occasionally on the 147.255Mhz W2SO repeater.

Do you have something to submit for the Dispatch????

Do you have a story, news. 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 submissions to:

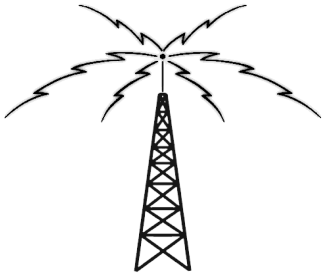
ECARham@gmail.com

ECAR email reflector:

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

Contact Ed W2GUT via email for an invite.

ed.w2gut@gmail.com



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