The ECAR Dispatch
A monthly communication

Erie County ARES/RACES—The AUXCOMM group

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ecarham@gmail.com

www.ecarham.org

Are you ready for our next exercise???

Welcome to this edition of the ECAR Dispatch! We use 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**
- **Chestnut Ridge UHF 443.975 (+)141.3**
- **P25 system NAC 167**
- **Hamshack Hotline 6103148**
- **Hamshack Hotline Conference Bridge 1385**

Where is EMCOMM going?

Watch this video: https://youtu.be/6foqe58vaPQ?si=8AWSyo5ydZqj4fD4

This video emphasizes the importance of emergency communication (EMCOMM) and encourages individuals not to overthink the terminology but instead focus on developing a robust communication plan. The speaker highlights that in large-scale disasters, first responders cannot help everyone at once, making self-rescue and self-sufficiency crucial.

Key takeaways include:

Layered Communication Plan (PACE): A good communication plan should have multiple layers: Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency. This ensures the ability to communicate even when infrastructure is disrupted.

Addressing Communication Gaps: The video points out that millions of Americans lack access to high-speed internet and reliable cellular coverage, making alternative communication methods vital.

Community Support: Being a prepared citizen and building personal communication resiliency helps frontline first responders focus on those most in need.

From the RO's desk..

NO REPORT THIS MONTH

73,
Joe Tedesco KC2DKP
Radio Officer

From the EC's desk..

NO REPORT THIS MONTH

Vince Harzewski N2JRS
EC / Asst. Radio Officer—Erie County ARES/RACES

From the Asst.RO's desk..

NO REPORT THIS MONTH

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

Little bit of history..

In the early days, amateur radio and hams were considered irritations and nuisances to the "real" communicators -- the commercial sector and the military. We were almost outlawed, and ultimately relegated to the "useless" frequencies of "200 meters and down." That was until it was demonstrated that we could actually be of use as a service. In 1913, college students/hams in Michigan and Ohio passed disaster messages when other means of communications were down in the aftermath of severe storms and flooding in that part of the country. A Department of Commerce bulletin followed, proposing a dedicated communications network of radio amateurs to serve during disasters. Five special licenses were reportedly issued. A magazine article noted that amateurs were now considered to be essential auxiliary assets of the national public welfare.

ARRL was formed in 1914, and disaster response communications as provided by radio amateurs became organized and useful. In 1920, amateur radio was used to help recover a stolen car, of all things! Soon, the use of amateur radio for natural disasters that we traditionally think of now emerged with hams active in responding to deadly flooding in New Mexico and an ice storm in Minnesota.

More organization followed, with a memorandum of understanding emerging with the American railroad system for amateur radio support when the railroad's wire lines were down: There was an ARRL Railroad Emergency Service Committee. There was even a Q-signal designated: QRR, a kind of land SOS. More reports of disaster response communications provided by amateurs appeared in QST, much as they do there and here in this newsletter today.

A major New England flood had amateurs supplying the only efficient means of communications from the devastated areas to the outside world, prompting the chairman of the Federal Radio Commission to say the future of radio depended on the amateurs.

Hams worked with the Burgess Battery Company for emergency radio power. Many of us old-timers, including myself, used those batteries when we were kids for our electrical experiments and kits. They looked like tall, thick candle columns! We learned our electrical principles from them. More organization followed, and traffic handling was recommended as the best way to gain discipline and proficiency to prepare for the efficiency and effectiveness needed in response communications situations.

ARRL Field Day was started to prepare amateurs for portable operation, as was necessary in disaster situations when commercial power and means of communications were down.

In 1935, the ARRL Emergency Corps was formed with the goal of having an Amateur Radio Emergency Station in every community -- a goal that remains just as urgent today as it did then! To wit, just look at today's emphasis on the neighborhood and community as "first responder" and on self-reliance in the post-disaster survival chain. More "served agencies" emerged as potential partners, including the Red Cross. In 1936, major flooding across a 14-state region served as the ARRL Emergency Corps' first major testing, serving well, and solidifying amateur radio's status as a critical disaster response communications asset and public service. Communications operating protocols and the appointment of Emergency Coordinators followed.

World War II meant a shutdown of amateur radio, but many hams joined the War Emergency Radio Service, which did provide some communications during the war period for natural disasters. After the war, ARRL reconstituted its disaster response communications programs and networks, and the first Simulated Emergency Test was run in 1946. The Cold War followed, and the government formed the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) for civil defense (CD) purposes. It served as the forerunner of the modern emergency management model that we know so well today. Throughout the 1960s and later up to today, the role, procedures, protocols, equipment, and techniques of amateur radio in public service, disaster, and emergency communications continue to evolve, ebb and flow. This evolution is fueled by advances in Amateur Radio technology and its application, lessons learned from each and every incident that involves amateur communications support.

ODDS AND ENDS

Monthly Meeting Location
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 is on the 443.975Mhz Chestnut Ridge repeater. Both with a 151.4Hz PL tone. Occasionally on the 147.255Mhz W2SO repeater.

Do you have something 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:

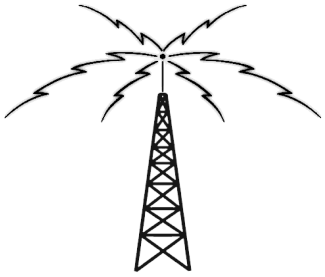
ECARham@gmail.com

ECAR email reflector:

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

Contact Ed W2GUT at his email for an invite.

ed.w2gut@gmail.com



ECAR Officers:

Joseph Tedesco KC2DKP
Radio Officer
kc2dkp@verizon.net

Greg Ramsdell KD2MIC
1st Assistant Radio Officer
Operations Officer
kd2micqrp@gmail.com

Vince Harzewski N2JRS
2nd Assistant Radio Officer
Erie County ARES EC
vh2@buffalo.edu