

Club Repeaters:

Eric:

146.610-

PL 127.3 hz

Waterford:

146.82-

PL 186.2 hz

QUARAE



Volume 4, Issue 4

April 2005

LARGEST-EVER MASS CASUALTY EXERCISE WILL PUT AMATEUR RADIO UNDER SCRUTINY

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members in Connecticut and elsewhere in the Northeast are poised to take part in what's being characterized as the most comprehensive terrorism response exercise ever conducted in the US. Sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security as a realistic test of the nation's homeland security system, the exercise—TOPOFF 3--will run Monday through Friday, April 4-8. Approximately 100 ARES volunteers primarily will support the American Red Cross. Connecticut Section Emergency Coordinator Chuck Rexroad, AB1CR, says that while governmental agencies will comprise the majority of those taking part in TOPOFF 3, Amateur Radio's cooperation with and assistance to the American Red Cross will be under scrutiny.

"We've been assigned evaluators and judges who will be watching what we do and how we do it to determine our suitability for such things in the future," he explained. Rexroad says at TOPOFF 2 a couple of years ago, evaluators pointed to massive communication problems that Amateur Radio could have helped to resolve, Rexroad said. "So we do hope that this will show that we are very relevant in responding to a disaster situation." The TOPOFF 3 scenario will depict a complex terrorist campaign beginning in Connecticut and New Jersey and leading to national and international response that will include Canada—where the exercise will be known as "TRIPLE PLAY"—and the United Kingdom—where it will be

called "ATLANTIC BLUE."

The only nongovernmental organization with a formal role in the recently released National Disaster Plan, the Red Cross has main responsibility for mass care. Rexroad anticipates that ARES will be providing its traditional "backbone" communication support among Red Cross mobile feeding stations, the organization's temporary stationary facilities and other Red Cross units. ARES also will be ready to provide back-up communication support the Connecticut Office of Emergency Management, he said Rexroad and Connecticut Section Manager Betsey Doane, K1EIC, have been gearing up for TOPOFF 3 for more than a year.

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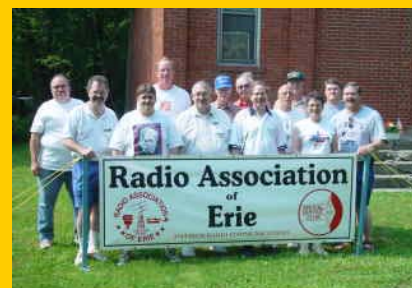
RAE Club Meeting

Thurs April 7th – 7 pm

at the RAE Clubhouse –

3940 Wagner RD off of Bargain RD off of
RT 99 in McKean.

See You There!



Officers and Contacts — 2005

President

Chris Robson, KB3A
crobson@robsonco.com

Vice President

Neal Shea, N3ZNP
twosheas@velocity.net

Treasurer

Frank Graziano, KD3D
kd3dfrank@hotmail.com

Secretary/Newsletter

John Lis, N3NKV
john@jjlis.com

Chairman of the Board

Robert Fuller, N3LBI
n3lbi@adelphia.net

Board Members

Bob LaPlaca, KC2HVX
Ron Prindle, N3BXL
Joe McLain, KB3ALU
Bill Marshall, KB3JSN

Membership Chairmen

Bob Schwimmer
bobn3faw@verizon.net

Clubhouse & Repeater Committee Chairman

Steve LaJohn, N3SRD
slajohn@adelphia.net

Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Rob Jacobs, N3OCL
n3ocl@velocity.net

Webmaster

Bob LaPlaca, KC2HVX
rlaplaca@adelphia.net

ARES/RACES E.C.

Dave Wellman, WX3E
ucdavid@aol.com

SKYWARN E.C.

Steve LaJohn, N3SRD
slajohn@adelphia.net



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. April 7th- General Membership Meeting

Time: 7 pm

Location: RAE Clubhouse on Wagner Rd
which is off of Bargain RD off RT 99

Tues. April 26th- Board of Directors Meeting

Time: 7 pm

Location: RAE Clubhouse

Sun. May 1st- March of Dimes Walk America Public Service Event at Presque Isle

Time: 10:30 am

Meeting at McDonalds 8th & Peninsula DR.
A Sign Up Sheet at the Next Club Meeting
or by Contacting Bob Fuller N3LBI at
898-1115 or e-mail n3lbi@adelphia.net

We'll Miss You Jack N3RKO!

It is with much sadness and sorrow that we report the March 28th passing of former RAE Vice President, Board Members, and Public Service Chairmen Jack Haven N3RKO .

The Radio Association of Erie has lost someone very special and unique, someone who would go above and beyond the call of duty.

May our thoughts and prayers be with his xyl Mary Pat and the family.



RAE General Membership Meeting Minutes March 3, 2005

Radio Association of Erie

March 3, 2005

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: KB3A, N3ZNP, N3NKV, KD3D, KC2HVX, KB3JSN,

Not Present: N3LBI, KB3ALU, N3BXL

Meeting brought to order by President KB3A at 7:00 pm at the American Red Cross.

Silent Key: A moment of silence was taken in memory of Leonard Czajkowski KA3EZL

Visitors: Richard Pent

Secretary's Report: N3NKV: Motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting as published in the QUARAE. Motion: WB3DOM, Second: KA3CPV . Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: KD3D provided report

Board of Directors Report: N3NKV provided an overview of what was discussed at the meeting. Items consisted of upcoming meetings at the clubhouse, linking of the repeaters, March of Dimes WalkAmerica, PEMA Weather Drill, 2005 Budget

Membership: N3FAW mentioned there are 3 associate members, 66 full members, and 19 life members = 88 for 2005. As of present, the transition for Kevin KE3V as new membership chair has not taken place.

ARES/RACES: KB3JSN mentioned the PEMA weather drill will be taking place on March 10th from 9 am to 12 noon. The connectivity grant should be done by second week of February

QUARAE: N3NKV needs articles for the QUARAE.

Website: KC2HVX mentioned that there have been no changes lately.

Repeater: No Report Available

Clubhouse: N3ZNP mentioned that we need to

work on trying to keep water out of the basement. One option was to install a piece of gutter on the south side of the building. Neil said that another option may be to add some fill dirt to that side of the building. He mentioned that McKean Township was willing to help us out. The March board meeting may take place at the clubhouse depending upon the weather. The April club meeting will take place at the clubhouse.

Contesting: Chris mentioned that there are various contests coming up during the month of March.

VE: K3LD- If anyone is interested to take a test, you have to contact Rob (N3OCL) cell phone #814-881-5238 or email at N3OCL@verizon.net so that we can make sure to have the test at the RAE clubhouse.

N3NKV also mentioned that the Wattsburg Wireless Association has VE Tests on the Second Saturday of each month at their Clubhouse.

Public Service: Jack N3RKO mentioned that March of Dimes Walk America will be on May 1st at Presque Isle. A signup sheet was passed around.

Jack mentioned that Doug AD4UL wanted to know if we should order more of the Emergency Communications Signs. A motion for the club to purchase 10 sets was made by WB3DOM and seconded by WB3IGK. Carried. The club will buy them and sell at cost.

Old Business-

KA3CPV mentioned that Rich Eisenberg thanks the club for purchasing the Now Your Talking book for the Center for Maritime Studies.

New Business-

John N3NKV mentioned that the Lancaster Hamfest was coming up on March 6th. The Ripley Hamfest will also take place on May 1st.

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March Minutes Continued

WW3JC mentioned that there is a new electronics parts store in town. Falconer Electronics is located behind Best Buy on Peach ST.

KB3A mentioned that there are 50 speed dial slots available on 61. If you are interested in one, please contact Lee N3APP.

The 50/50 winner was Bill KB3JSN - \$19.00.

Motion to Adjourn: Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lis
Radio Association of Erie
Secretary



Congratulations go out to Ron Seyboldt, WB3DOM. Ron won first place in the Western Pennsylvania High Power Single Operator Class in the 2004 PA QSO Party. It took Ron only 965 QSOs which equaled 172,292 points.

LARGEST-EVER MASS CASUALTY EXERCISE WILL PUT AMATEUR RADIO UNDER SCRUTINY Continued

Both hope the ARES role in the drill will provide graduates of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses a chance to put into practice what they've learned—on a national stage. With the drill just days away, Rexroad said he still needs volunteers. “People who can staff a permanent position, people who can set up a temporary position, people who can do shadowing and—the big one we’re missing right now—people who can temporarily put a radio in a mobile Red Cross van,” he explained. “The sections surrounding Connecticut have all offered to provide assistance, and we’re looking forward to support from Eastern and Western Massachusetts, Rhode Island and possibly even some people from New York.”

Rexroad has been making the rounds to conduct briefing sessions prior to the drill. TOPOFF 3 ARES volunteers must be comfortable with a high-security environment, realistic-looking “injuries” and military aircraft flying overhead, Rexroad says. In terms of equipment, he says most operation will take place on VHF and UHF, with an HF link to the National Traffic System only. Headsets are advisable because of anticipated high noise levels. Volunteers will wear matching vests that say “Radio Communications” on the back and “ARES” on the front. Due to security requirements, all volunteers must register with ARES in advance. Information on the exercise and how to volunteer is on the Connecticut ARES Web site at <http://www.ctares.org>.

RACES Update

On Thursday, March 10, Erie County participated in the annual Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency "Severe Weather Preparedness Drill". The drill started at 9 AM and ended shortly before noon. Operators were alerted via pager and over the air. The Erie County EMA Office and the Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross were on the air, staffed by local RACES operators. A liaison station was established to pass traffic to Harrisburg via 75 meters.

The scenario started with a major fire / hazmat incident in eastern Erie. A short time later, severe storms entered Erie County. Various funnel clouds were sighted with a tornado touching down at the intersection of I-79 & Rt. 6N. Several businesses were destroyed as was a large portion of Edinboro. Funnel clouds were later spotted near Union City but did not touch down before entering Warren County.

Twenty four stations checked in from all parts of the county as well as a couple from Crawford County. Those checking in were asked of their availability and if this were a real emergency, "Could you respond?" Most felt that they could leave work or whatever if this was a real emergency. Erie County Public Safety and EMA officials ex-

pressed their gratitude and appreciation to all Amateur Radio operators.

Once again, WJET Channel 24 supported Amateur Radio by featuring us on their newscast. Thanks to all amateurs who participated! We hope that drills such as these will give Erie County's hams a chance to operate in a meaningful exercise to improve operating skills, develop relationships, and overcome issues that might develop in a real incident. Erie County government and its citizens will look to us for assistance when it is needed. Thanks for offering your skills and time to fulfill that important need. Future exercises are being planned. Please let us know what would be of help to you, or what could be improved. We hope to gather for another picnic soon.

73

Dave Wellman

WX3E

Erie County RACES Emergency Coordinator



Skywarn training will be held at the Hamot Medical Center Auditorium on Wednesday April 27th. Registration will be starting at 6 pm with the class starting at 6:30. If you are interested in attending, please contact Steve LaJohn N3SRD via e-mail at slajohn@adelphia.net or on the ARES/SKYWARN Net on Sunday Night.

Jersey Revisited

by Craig Hill K3PLV

This was my seventh yearly trip to Jersey and the sixth as a DXpedition. Jersey is an island in the English Channel about 14 miles off the coast of France and 100 miles south of London. Jersey is an independent country that issues its own postage stamps, has its own currency, and its own government. However Jersey has close ties to Great Britain and is loyal to the crown, although they are not represented in parliament.

This trip, Murphy was with me. I left Erie March 8th. My plane was delayed 45 minutes because of snow in Cleveland. I was afraid I would miss my Cleveland to Newark flight, but when I arrived, found that it had also been delayed. Actually as it turned out, it was delayed several hours. When I arrived in Newark, I found that my flight was one of the few that left on time. They put me on a later flight, which ended up being delayed for 105 minutes. In the meantime my friend, Pete K8PT, who I was supposed to meet in Newark had flown from Green Bay to Detroit and found his flight to Newark cancelled. They put him on a direct flight to London, but the flight was not for many hours. I was kicking myself for leaving my cell phone at home. It is useless in Europe and just something else to go through security with. But this day it would have come in handy. I won't make that mistake again. I arrived in London four hours late. I picked up my luggage and just then bumped into Pete. He had just finished reporting his luggage missing. Finding each other is rather remarkable as the airport is rather large. We checked into Flybe (Fly British European). Our plane had already left and they put us on the next flight. Of course they charged us 67 pounds (about \$130) extra because the later flight was more expensive and also the transfer fee.

We arrived on Jersey three hours late, which wasn't all that bad considering everything. We picked up our hired car (rental car) and drove to St. Aubin to check into the guesthouse where we stay. The keys to the Jersey Amateur Radio Society club station were waiting for us and we drove over to the station, which is in a World War II German Signal's bunker. I've always had trouble sleeping on flights, but this time had actually gotten about three



**Enjoying an eyeball QSO (L to R)
MJ1CYD, MJ1CYD's XYL, K3PLV and K8PT**

hours. Pete said he had slept for about one hour. We unpacked my equipment (Pete's equipment was with his lost luggage) and I used the club's FT-1000 Field and gave Pete my FT-900 and supply. Just then I heard a bang as Pete powered up my supply. He had forgotten to check the voltage switch on the supply and had powered it up still set on 120 volts (Jersey uses 240 volts, 50 Hertz). We looked around the station, but the only other supply we could find would only run the FT-900 at half power. We both intended to use amplifiers, but for the first day of operation we decided to just run barefoot.

We both got reasonable pileups going in a short time even with our low power. Later that evening we went out to get something to eat and take a break. When we got back we found that our 80/40 antenna had an extremely high SWR and was not useable. The station has an R-8 vertical that would work on 40, but 80 is a very needed band in the USA and Japan. Without 80 meter operation we would disappoint many people. With the antenna problems and being very tired we went back to the guesthouse to sleep.

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Ripley Hamfest 2005

The Ripley Hamfest will be coming up on
Sunday May 1st from 8 am to 12 pm at the Ripley, NY Fire Hall.
Just 300 feet south of the traffic light in Ripley at Routes 20 & 76

Homebrew Contest — Bring you best homebrew project to the hamfest. Judging will start at 9:30 am. The winner of the contest will receive a \$25.00 Gift Certificate to AES.

Admission: \$3.00 Tables: \$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00
Talk-In on 146.58

Prizes: AES Gift Certificates
Food and Beverages will be Available

For more Information Call or E-mail:

N3MLX — Joe Lis — 814-825-5565 — n3mlx@adelphia.net
N2LXD — Fred Krause — 716-736-4688 — emily2@cecomet.net

Online at <http://ripleyhamfest05.tripod.com>

Swap and Shop

For Sale—HEATHKIT SB-1000 (1000 watt) linear HF amplifier with manuals---\$500.00 or best offer. Contact Joe Ponchak KA3CPV at 836-9829 or via e-mail ka3cpvgrmpap@velocity.net.

For Sale from KC3LV Estate- Kenwood TS-430, PS- 430 Power Supply, MFJ Antenna Bridge 204B, Alliance HD73 Rotor, Mosley TA-33 Tri-bander, Micronta World Clock, MFJ 202B Noise Bridge, Ladder Line fed dipoles, Kantronics Packet Com3 , 5 Position Antenna Switch, Numerous books on antennas, Head Phones.

All these items are for sale along with various connectors wires and junk that Joe managed to collect over the years. If interested in any of this equipment call Ron WB3DOM at 456-0500 for details. Ron has all of the equipment at his home available for demonstrate.

Also available is an Ameritron AL-82 Call Don Eller K3GY for info.

If you have something an article or items for swap and shop for the QUARAE, please contact John Lis N3NKV via e-mail at john@jllis.com or via twisted pair at 825-5565.

The deadline for submissions is the last Friday of each month.

Radio Association of Erie
P.O. Box 844
Erie, Pa 16512

Jersey Revisited continued

The next morning after getting five hours sleep, we had breakfast. Breakfast consists of juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, sausage, grilled tomato, baked beans, toast, and tea. Breakfast is included with the room cost. It's always good, but after a couple of days we both feel like something a little lighter. I suggested we go to the station and make up a new antenna for 80 meters and replace the bad one. We found some old wire, some tools that should have been thrown out years before, and a 3.5 meter tape measure. The only soldering iron we could find was a 25 watt. But we turned out a crude looking antenna and put it in an inverted vee configuration off a mast on top of the three story bunker. That evening I went to the annual club dinner, which is a rather elaborate, multi course affair. Pete stayed back and operated.

The dinner went well and I got to see many of my friends. We talked about many things, amateur radio being only one of them. After the dinner I drove back to the station. My FT-900 had developed problems. It would shut down and then not want to come back on. We then started taking turns using the club FT-1000. The 80 meter antenna worked great. That is

until the wind picked up and it went extremely high SWR. The same thing happened to the 160 meter antenna. We finally shut down and went back to sleep. When we got to the guesthouse we found Pete's luggage in his room, but no sign of the equipment.

The next morning the proprietor of the guesthouse told us he had locked up the equipment downstairs. From then on Murphy left. We insulated the antennas off the masts and both stations worked fantastic. Conditions were quite good, better than in 2004. We worked hundreds of stations in North America on 80 and 160, had over 700 RTTY QSOs, and made about 7,500 QSOs. One of our friends who immigrated to Jersey in 1961 took us for a drive around the island and we saw parts that I had never seen before. It was sunny every day and got up to about 70 the day before we left. We had some of the locally grown produce. Potatoes were being harvested, along with fields of broccoli, brussels sprouts, and cabbage. Remember this is in early March and Jersey is six degrees further north than Erie. Who said you had to put up with Murphy?