

OCEC/RACES SIGNALS

For the support of County Government during emergencies



Oswego County Emergency
Communicators/RACES
200 North 2nd Street
Fulton, NY 13069

Oswego County Repeaters

147.150 MHz PL not req'd
146.850 MHz PL not req'd
442.350 MHz 103.5 PL

Other repeaters of interest

146.670 MHz PL 151.4 Syracuse
147.345 MHz No PL Phoenix

Packet FlexDigi User Ports

EOC Fulton 145.090 MHz K2QQY
Scriba 145.690 MHz KA2AON
Hannibal 145.770 MHz K1YHR

NETS

OCEC/RACES The 1st and 3rd Sunday
of the month at 2000 Hrs. 147.150 MHz

NYS RACES Net Every Sunday Morn-
ing at 0900 local on 3993.50 kHz

WEB SITES

OCEC/RACES
www.oswegoraces.org

Fulton Amateur Radio Club
www.fultonhamradioclub.org

Go to our web page for more links to
interesting places.

*A monthly meeting is held in the
lower level of the County Building
on Route 481 North, Fulton,
across from Mimi's restaurant.
Access is through the west door
until the meeting starts. Door is
secured after that. Use the after
hours button if late. Someone will
come up and let you in. Meeting
sign in is at 1850 hours local.*

Meeting Agenda for Wednesday, February 20, 2008

1850 - 1900 Sign In
1900 - 1910 Updates
1910 - 1925 Report from
Field Day Committee.
1925 - 1950 Mechanics of
activation
1950 - 2000 Break
2000 - 2045 Setting training
parameters.

Congratulations:
Judy LaMay, new ticket
holder of KC2SUM

OFFICERS

John K2QQY Radio Officer
Keith, WB2NVY ARO Admin
Jim N2MGU ARO Comms
Mark KC2JNI ARO Logistics
Bob WA2AFF ARO Ops & Plan,
Tom W2TQF ARO ARRL EC
John N2MKH Unit Ldr Packet
Steve KC2QXE Unit Ldr IT
Brien KA2AON Unit Ldr Skywarn

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 14 REPP Drill
November 6 EOC Activation

INSIDE

**Page 2 New net procedure
and The "NO-GO Kit".**

Page 3 A QRP Excursion.

**Page 4 & 5 From the shack of
KC2JNI**

New net procedures.

At our last on the air meeting the following procedures were adopted for evaluation.

During the next few on the air meetings we will try them out. If we decide that they help, we will incorporate them into our Standard Operating Guide.

1. When checking in to a net, say your call and then spell it phonetically. This comes about because we are used to our calls and sometimes give them so fast and slur the letters that those not familiar with the operator is apt to miss the call sign and have to ask to have it repeated.
2. Unless otherwise stated, the message form to use is our standard SMF01 form.
3. When giving the message include all of the headings, e.g.. TO, LOCATION (or at) DATE, ORIGINATOR, ETC. Be sure to break at the beginning and the end of the message body.

The "No-Go" Kit

By Don Rand, KA5DON

Published in World Radio Magazine for December 2007

Any Amateur Radio operator worth his/her salt has a "Go Kit" or at least a written list of things to grab in the event of an emergency. Many keep the box packed and in the car/truck/camper ready to go, many more have something partially packed.

Recently, I was involved in the State Level planning of an event that is rarely even spoken about: Pandemic Flu of the magnitude of the 1918 Influenza.

I will refer readers to the CDC site <http://www.PandemicFlu.gov>. ON the right-hand side of the first page is a link to Community Mitigation; some very interesting reading and guidance. It has some startling predictions and casualty numbers, but more importantly it has three very simple methods to mitigate the impact of an pandemic event. Let me start by clarifying some facts. 1. This flu is a novel virus, one the world will has never seen before. 2. No one in the world will have immunity from it. 3. It will take three to six months to develop any vaccine. 4. It will be a local event - worldwide (every town, city, state, country will be affected by it). 5. It will last from 12 to 18 months.

This event will not require a "Go Kit." It will require a "NO-GO Kit." The amateur Radio Operator will have to stay home. The first precept of mitigation is to eliminate contact with anyone outside of your home. (Social Isolation). At certain trigger points (see PandemicFlu.gov) schools will be closed, day care facilities will be closed and all extracurricular activities will be stopped. With that thought, you can imagine the cascading impact on work if someone has to stay home to take care of children. How many businesses will have to close because of that? How long can utilities (read power grid) be maintained with up to 30% of the workforce unable to work?

The second precept of mitigation is Social Distancing. If you do have to go out of your home, stay at least six feet away from anyone else. No hand shaking, no hugging, no public congregation. Will your local grocery store have people to stock the shelves, run the cash registers; will there be deliveries to keep them supplied? One of the major chains has already said they will cut back to nonperishable goods only (can goods, dry foods, etc). No fresh meat, and perhaps no dairy products.

The third precept is personal protective equipment. If you must interact closely with people outside your home wear a protective mask and practice absolute hand washing any time you touch "common use" equipment. Do not touch your face or other parts of your body until you have used a hand sanitizer or soap and water.

Now what part of this affects the Amateur Radio Operator? Be prepared; make sure you have as much stored non-perishable food as you can possibly have three to six months would be best. If you are fully reliant on local utilities (don't have your own well), make sure you have stored waters and means to sterilize city water (boiling, treating) and an alternative method of supplying electricity. Now is the perfect time to consider solar power at least to recharge batteries as there is no guarantee there will be gasoline to power generators since it takes people to run the gas stations, deliver the gas, run the refineries.

The CDC(PandemicFlu.gov) predicts that 30% of the people of the world will be ill because of a Pandemic Event, with the mortality rate of up to 2% (worst case scenario) of those who do become ill. The numbers are staggering, but can be mitigated down to just above seasonal flu rates if the three precepts are rigidly adhered - Social Isolation, Social Distancing, and Personal Protection Equipment.

Get your NO-GO KIT ready. At the very worst, you will have three months supply of food in the house and an alternate power source for the first Post Pandemic Flu field day.

Don Rand was originally licensed in 1979 as WL7AGN, then KL&JS. Relicensed in 2003 as KD5WHC. He has been a Registered Nurse since 1974 and involved in Medical Emergency Planning and Response for over 30 years. Retired 01 Sept 2005 from U. S. Army with 30 years, 10 months, 23 days of service. Can be reached at don.rand@us.army.mil.

CONTRIBUTORS PAGE

Touring the world during a QRP Excursion



Summer of 2007. What a full powerful QRP station looks like set up for a world wide excursion. Keith worked a guy in Wales, U.K. We were both stunned! The little 20m rig puts out only 4 watts into my portable HF vertical.

The following is contributed by Keith, WB2NVY, about this year's cold weather excursion. (unedited)

Last Saturday 2/2/08 Dave and I attempted to participate in the FYBO (Freeze Your Butt Off) QRP contest. We used his 20m rig set up in my dining room (temp 72F) & portable vertical with 8 radials outside on our sideyard. Since the ground was frozen, I made a hole with a hammer and a 3/8" diameter spike, then we dropped the vertical's ground rod into the oversized hole and strung out the radials and stomped them into the snow. Outside temperature was about 32F. There was a multiplier available that was inversely proportional to the station ambient temperature, encouraging contestants to operate outdoors in the wx, but we opted against it. We used my emergency dc power supply with a built-in 120vac inverter to power the 4W rig and my computer speakers. We used Dave's honkin heavy duty paddles, which require 1/4 pound force and have a 3/8" contact spacing. Dave's whole arm moves when he keys. We made 1 or 2 contacts that way including N4BP, then took it upstairs to my shack and tried it on my 2 el 20m attic beam, which can only swing 45 degrees either side of north w/o hitting rafters. We had to do some adaptorizing to go from the BNC on his QRP rig to the PL-259 connector on my RG/8U beam coax. Not much help. N4BP had 14.060 MHz monopolized. Then we tried my Icom IC706 at 5W on 40m with my 40m end fed dipole, and made a contact or two. In my shack we used my Bencher paddles. These are hair-trigger with .5mm spacing requiring only the slightest touch. It didn't take long for gorilla Dave to hammer them into submission jamming them into an unstoppable series of dahs while trying to give a report to one of the few contacts we made. After a few hours and as many contacts we decided this was a lot of fun and we should do it again. During our debriefing, we felt part of our problem with the vertical might be that the vertical's ground was wobbling around in the oversized hole I made, not making a good ohmic ground connection. I expect we'll do this again in the Spring.

CONTRIBUTORS PAGE



From the KC2JNI radio shack.



A restored Heathkit SB-102 transceiver, 100 watts on 80 thru 10 meters.
Shown with the Heathkit SB-600 Speaker which contains an Hp-23A high voltage power supply.
The microphone is a Shure model 444D.



Under the hood of the SB-102. A real nice restoration.

CONTRIBUTORS PAGE (cont'd)



Copying PSK-31 on 14.070 MHz. Full copy with an S-meter reading of zero from France.
(Now if it would only translate voice QSO's as well, hihi)



Another restoration. A Heathkit HW-101 transceiver running 100 watts on 80 thru 10 meters.
This is a very popular rig on the market today.
A Shure 444D microphone shown connected to make those SSB contacts.

Thanks Mark for sharing your shack with us and hopefully encourage others to look into restoration of some of the older boat anchors and hollow state rigs.

Looking for more contributions for next month. Send them in, 73 John K2QQY