

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 Fulotn 145.090 mHz K2QQY
Scriba 145.690 mHz KA2AON
Hannibal 145.770 mHzK1YHR

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, May 21

1850 - 1900 Sign In
1900 - 2030 Radiological
Training by Renee.
2030 - 2100 Can you hear
me now? Drill - exercise.

This is a requirement for
membership in OCEC/
RACES.

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

INSIDE

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vice Award and Appreciation
Night.

Page 4 Hams respond to call
for "where's the beef?"

Page 5 An interesting list of
white papers.

IMPORTANT DATES

June 28 & 29 Can you hear me?

August 13 REPP Drill

November 6 EOC Activation

Service Award and Appreciation Night



2008 Service Award – Oswego County RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) Radio Officer John Darling, K2QQY, left, looks on as Oswego County Emergency Management Director Patricia Egan presents the county’s 2008 RACES Service Award to Mark Lewis, KC2JNI.

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS GO BEYOND COMMUNICATIONS

Fulton – A group of dedicated amateur radio operators were honored by Oswego County Emergency Management Director Patricia Egan recently.

The Oswego County Emergency Communicators/RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) work with the Emergency Management Office to provide an essential service in backup communications. “You have earned the respect, trust and gratitude of many in the Emergency Management Office and many other emergency services and community agencies in the County,” Egan told the members during their April 16 meeting.”

The 30-plus members of the all-volunteer service provide amateur radio communications site-to-site during drills and exercises for the Emergency Management Office, the Oswego County Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the Oswego County Local Human Needs Committee – and are ready to provide them during a disaster. During severe weather, the communicators group acts as weather spotters, radioing storm reports to the National Weather Service – Buffalo Forecast Office through the Skywarn program to help pinpoint storm locations so the NWS can issue accurate warnings. In their spare time, the group provides communications during CROP Walks and similar events.

“You are dedicated to the health and safety of the people of Oswego County,” Egan told the group. “You have taken what could have remained a personal hobby and taken it to the level of a valuable community asset.”

The Oswego County group is one of the most active RACES organizations in New York State, Egan noted. “Backup communications are critical during emergencies and disasters, but you go beyond that,” she said. “You perform many acts of community service throughout the year. There’s none like this group across the state.”

RACES Radio Officer John Darling, K2QQY, thanked Egan for her presentation to the group, adding that members appreciate the opportunity to practice their craft and readiness for emergencies.



RACES Appreciation Night – Members of Oswego County Emergency Communicators/RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) were honored by the Oswego County Emergency Management Office recently. Leaders of the group are shown above. From the left are Alternate Radio Officer (ARO) Robert LaMay, WA2AFF; Radio Officer John Darling, K2QQY; ARO Mark Lewis, KC2JNI, the recipient of the 2008 RACES Service Award; Brien Mathews, KA2AON, the recipient of the 2007 award and Group Leader Skywarn; and ARO Keith Conroy, WB2NVY.

As a highlight during “RACES Appreciation Night,” Egan presented the 2008 RACES Service Award to Mark Lewis, KC2JNI. A member since 2002, Lewis has been an Alternate Radio Officer since 2005. “I consistently hear his name mentioned when I inquire about the condition of RACES equipment,” the director noted. “He has provided very valuable – and cost effective –service on radios, repeaters, and your (communications) van . . . He truly meets the high standard of RACES and community service.”

The first and third Sunday of the month finds the members of the Oswego County Emergency Communicators meeting on the air to practice message handling and discussing better ways to operate during emergencies. A monthly meeting on the third Wednesday is held at 7 p.m. at the County Building in Fulton where other training programs, such as Skywarn by the NWS and Radiological by the EMO, are given and communication topics are discussed. This meeting is open to anyone interested in emergency communications and/or ham radio.

Darling said members have been active in achieving Incident Command System (ICS) training that meets or exceeds the First Responder level. This training is part of the Homeland Security mandates to have a common knowledge among responders of how to use the guidelines to manage an emergency. “RACES ranks among the highest of agencies in its effort to complete the training,” Egan said. “They are one of a very small group that has chosen to exceed the minimum training requirements.”

Through the generosity of Constellation Energy, OCEC/RACES have a growing web site at www.oswegoraces.org, which features the projects the group is involved in. They are also linked to the Emergency Management Office page at www.oswegocounty.com/emo.

Constellation and Entergy Nuclear also expressed their appreciation for RACES, which provides an invaluable service for nuclear power plant emergency planning, with small gifts for the members during the April 16 RACES Appreciation Night.

Anyone interested in the group may e-mail Darling at jdinosw@twcnv.rr.com or leave a message for him at the Emergency Management Office at 315/591-9150.

You've heard of RDF'ing how about SDF'ing?

April 26 – QRP To The Field and Steer Hunt. Submitted by Keith, WB2NVY

Saturday April 26 saw a variety of activity for several local hams in the Town of Van Buren in Onondaga County.

On Friday, Keith WB2NVY heard that his brother-in-law Harold Crandon had 6 yearling steers loose in the area between West Sorrell Hill and Brickyard Rds and needed help locating and rounding them up. NVY made some calls to Onondaga county hams & WB2PKO, N2MGU, and KC2NKH arrived at the Crandon farm on East Sorrell Rd. Saturday morning. NVY handed out Google Earth satellite photos to assist those not familiar with the area. Harold had 3 searchers on horseback searching and reporting back to him at the farm on cell phones. NVY, PKO, MGU and NKH drove around neighboring farmland looking for any sign of the six 800 pound yearling steers, keeping in contact via the 146.91 repeater. PKO made the first sighting on the north side of Brickyard Road just north of the Warners Thruway service area. NVY dispatched MGU and NKH to that location and called Harold on the cell, who called the horsemen on cell & directed them to the site. As the horsemen cut crosslots, we hams drove up and down Brickyard & Canton Roads making sure none of the strays got near the road. Unfortunately although there were several sightings, the herding them back to the farm was unsuccessful since they were in heavily wooded country and the yearlings were stubbornly evasive. Harold called off the search around noon to give the horses a needed a break. NVY allowed MGU, PKO and NKH to secure.

After lunch WB2NVY and K1YHR set up at the Shacksboro Schoolhouse Museum to participate in QRP To The Field, with Museums as the theme among participating QRP stations. Only the field portable vertical and radials were in place when NVY was called back to the Crandon farm. Harold secured a helicopter to assist in the search. NVY and many of Harold's friends and neighbors assisted. There were more sightings but no capture. The search was called off around 3:30 due to an approaching thunderstorm.

NVY returned to the Baldwinsville Museum where YHR had the QRP station all set up and had been operating all afternoon. NVY apologized that he couldn't work the contest and that he wasn't present to witness YHR make "the contact" out near Austin, Texas.(on milliwatts yet). NVY advised YHR of the imminent, approaching storm and helped dismantle the radials and lightning rod that he helped assemble a few hours earlier. All in all it was a flurry of radio-activity but little success.

Jim, I have heard of mag mounts but not nag mounts. Would the shoes be your ground plane? This must be good for a lot of one liners, hihi.

Ham radio responds to many calls and give their time freely. Kudos to those that responded. John K2QQY

The following was received from Rusty Seastrum, KE2PW, Chairman of the NY State Packet Committee

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