



NEWS LETER

Rome Radio Club, Inc

Volume 3, Issue 2

December 2007

2007 Club Wrap-up

Our club has had another good year. We started the year meeting at the Bernie Bus Facility at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park. Later in the year, we moved the meetings back to the Steifvater Associates facility, also at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park.

Russ, WB2JIL, has done a fantastic job with providing programs for the meetings. We have had a number of great fantastic programs, including some technical presentations by Dave, W5IXM.

We had a very successful Ham Fest in August. If you didn't get a chance to attend this year's, try to attend next year's, as it promises to be another great one.

Our VE Team continues to provide monthly testing for all those that want to get or upgrade their amateur license. The team is a Bata team for the FCC.

We have started a service of recording the business part of our meetings and posting them on the internet for members to listen to. This helps to provide a reminder of what went on and to allow those members that can't attend the meetings to here what is going on.

We also, as you can tell by reading this article, re-started our club's news letter. With the fresh start, we have a fresh new format.

There was an attempt to hold a Field Day event at our club's repeater site; how-

ever, that fell through when some of the planned participants had to change there plans at the last minute (we have all had those times). A smaller group did participate in Field Days at the home of Bill (K2GVI) and Joan (KA2TSC).

Here's to a great new year for our club—73



Special points of interest:

- *Next Month's Club Meeting will be a dinner at the Kings Buffet on January 2nd 2008.*
- *Annual Dues are Due by The January 2008 Meeting*
- *Straight Key Night on New Years Eve—see QST for details*

NORAD Tracks Santa

For more than 50 years, NORAD and its predecessor, the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) have tracked Santa. The tradition began on Christmas Eve in 1955 after a Colorado Springs-based Sears Roebuck & Co. store advertisement for children to call Santa on a special "hotline" included an inadvertently misprinted telephone number. Instead of Santa, the phone number put kids through to the CONAD Commander-in-Chief's operations "hotline." The Director of

Operations, Colonel Harry Shoup had his staff check radar data for any indication of Santa making his way south from the North Pole. Indeed there were signs of Santa and children who called were given an update on Santa's location. Thus, the tradition was born.

Beginning at 2:00 am MTN on Christmas Eve, you can track Santa Live as he makes his historical journey around the world! To Track Santa, go to

<http://www.northpole.com/NoradSanta.asp> and enjoy. The site includes a wide variety of activities for kids, parents, and teachers.

Have a Happy Holidays—73



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Oneida-Madison Counties ARES — Oneida County RACES



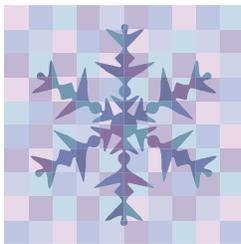
This year both Oneida-Madison Counties ARES and Oneida County RACES continued to develop its membership, skills and capabilities to provide emergency communications to their served agencies. For ARES, the primary served agencies are the three local chapters of the American Red Cross, and the National Weather Service. For RACES it's the Oneida County Emergency Management Center.

We have been busy this year. Besides having two OMEN (Oneida-Madison Emergency Nets) each month for training and information, we have participated in a number of public service events, training exercises and real-time emergencies.

Back in February 2007, we were kept busy for two weeks straight with snow spotter nets, SKYWARN activations and joint MARS/RACES/ARES drill called Op-

eration Deep Freeze. We learned a lot.

In March, a train derailed in Oneida, NY and ARES supported the Red Cross shelter that was opened. RACES supported Oneida County with back-up communications between the on site command post and the 911 center. Once again, we learned a lot.



There were a number so SKYWARN activations this past summer/fall session, with a couple of them being for Tornado Warnings. One more then one occasion, the NWS made it a point to contact us and thank us for the "Great Job" we were doing. There was one session that lasted about 8 1/2 hours.

ARES members participated in the Utica Boiler Maker Race the Tour-de-cure, Rome's Honor America Days Parade, the Shrine Circus in Utica the

Empire State Games, and the Pumpkin Patrol along the Thru-way corridor.

In October, we conducted are annual SET (Simulated Emergency Test). This year we participated as part of the Utica Red Cross Chapter's Disaster Drill. Our role was to be ready with back up emergency communications within the Disaster Response area and outward to neighboring chapters. We practiced passing both tactical and formal traffic.

Its been a busy year. Thanks to all that contributed their time and efforts, their resources, and their expertise o make every one of our activates a great success this year. Next year will be full of its own unique activities—we hope to see and hear you then—73.



Editor's Notes—Its the Season

Yes, it is the Season.... It doesn't matter what your religious beliefs are, it seems that December is special to all. Young or Old, Big or Small, it has that effect on us all. It's the real beginning of Winter (according to the calendar) and we should be getting some significant snow about now. But its also that time when we get together and celebrate with a lot of good cheer.

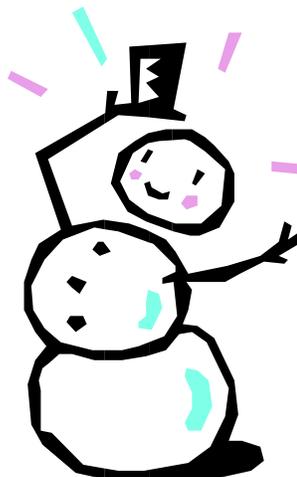
For some, there will be some ham items under the tree awaiting us on Christmas morning, for others, we'll have more time to get on the air. Maybe there will be a big band opening to enjoy—it might even be in the "Magic" band.

There is sure to be at least one of us out there working on part or all of an antenna field. It seems that the "best" antenna

work has to be done when there is snow to "grease" those electrons into working just right. Please, just remember to be safe.

Are you ready for the snow? Started your snow blower yet? Know where that shovel and ice scraper is? Is your generator ready to run if needed? These are all questions I just finished asking myself.

I remember one December back a few years ago, there was a group of hams that went to one of the local nursing homes and helped to give some good cheer to



some old friends, both in person and over the air. I'm sure that felt great for all. Won't it be nice to do something like that again? Why not take time to do something this year—send a card, radiogram, or just call a friend (Ham or not) that you haven't talked to in a long time. Let's spread the cheer.

Well, as the old desk sergeant use to say at the end of the morning briefing on the TV show Hill Street Blues, "be careful out there"-73.



Winlink Can Be Reliable in Emergencies

This is a reprint from the ARRL Website

With the [storms in the Pacific Northwest](#) dying down, throughout it all, Amateur Radio operators were there to help. After a visit on December 4 to the Oregon town of Vernonia, Governor Ted Kulongoski said, "I'm going to tell you who the heroes were from the very beginning of this...the ham radio operators. These people just came in and actually provided a tremendous communication link to us." The Oregon Office of Emergency Management said the radio operators were tireless in their efforts to keep the systems connected. When even state police had difficulty reaching some of their own troops, ham radio worked, setting up networks so emergency officials could communicate and relaying lists of supplies needed in stricken areas.

One of the modes used in Oregon during the storms was [Winlink](#). According to ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, "Winlink is an Internet-to-Radio digital network using HF or VHF components allowing amateurs to send and receive e-mail from any location in the world. This network can also handle file attachments, such as documents and images. To the end user, there is little or no difference in sending and receiving a message whether it's done directly through the Internet or through the Winlink system."

When Oregon's State Office of Emergency

Management was activated on December 3, hams over the course of the next four days used Winlink to pass message traffic. According to Marion County ARES Emergency Coordinator Dean Davis, N7XG, "The Winlink system performed perfectly, and the ARES team at the OEM were able to pass approximately 200 messages into and out of the State of Oregon Emergency Operations Center. The only mode of communications was the Winlink system for several Oregon counties for the first two days of the storm."

Davis continued: "What we proved during this event is that Winlink is a perfect system for Emergency services. It is not a single point to point system subject to failure, but rather a large network of computers linked together that is the

building blocks of Winlink."

Back in 2006, Amateur Radio volunteers involved with the International Health Service (IHS) in Honduras said Winlink has become key to effective communication. "Without Winlink, our communications effectiveness would be lessened considerably, and some of the service our teams provide would not occur," said Lor Kutchins, W3QA/HR8, while serving in Uhi. The IHS each year provides medical examinations, surgery and dental services to more than 3000 Hondurans, most having access only to IHS health care during the group's annual

visits.

"Winlink radio e-mail is serving the International Health Service very well in this operation," Kutchins added. He said IHS deployed medical/dental, surgical, and eye care teams in various communities, most equipped with VHF-FM or HF portable gear. IHS teams travel each February to remote villages with little or no communication or transportation infrastructure. "We make our own infrastructure with what we bring," Kutchins reports, "So, as well as being a truly practical effort to bring health care to populations that otherwise do not get it, this is a terrific exercise in disaster relief or EmComm in general." Before radio e-mail, all traffic was handled in lengthy voice nets three times each day, he said. "Now our nets are 10 minute affairs in which we highlight the urgent and important traffic for follow-up, besides exchanging pleasantries."

Winlink also played a role when hurricanes Rita and Katrina came ashore. Officials in Harris County (Houston, Texas)

requested that ARES provide reports of traffic volume on major highways leading into the county. "The procedure to accomplish this was developed by District Emergency Coordinator Ken Mitchell, KD2KW, and sent via Winlink to the North and South Texas Section Managers for e-mail distribution to ARRL members," former ARRL South Texas Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer,

KK5CA, said. "Winlink proved highly useful at the Harris County EOC, even though there was reliable Internet and e-mail."



WWW.ARRL.ORG

Up-Coming Contest Calendar

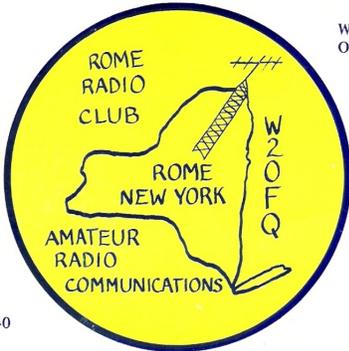
December	8 - 9	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	Rules
			Soapbox
			Logs received
January	1	Straight Key Night	Rules
	5 - 6	ARRL RTTY Round-Up	Rules
	19 - 20	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	Rules

Rome Radio Club, Inc



146/28/88
Repeater

Western NY
Oneida County



Rome, NY
U.S.A. 13440



Since 1934

We are on the web
<http://pages.prodigy.net/romeradioclub/>

Back to the Future — Club History

CQ Sweepstakes.....CQ
Sweepstakes.....CQ Sweep-
stakes.....this is.....

The time is November 1983
and as you guess it's the
Phone portion of the ARRL
November Sweepstakes. But
who are these two gentle-
men? And can anyone iden-
tify the equipment they are
using?

