

WALTON RADIO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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WRA ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2008

At the regular meeting of the Walton Radio Association at the first of the new year, the following persons were elected to office or re-elected to their office.

President	James E. Stewart
Vice President	Craig Loudon
Secretary	Paul DeAndrea
Treasure	Al Mongardi
CW Net	Horace Staley
2 Meter Net	John Hampel
Del. Co. Emr.Cdntr	John Nichols

NEW WRA MEMBERS

The WRA is pleased to welcome the following new members to the club:

Richard Kelly W2RRK, who lives at 30 Bruce Street in Walton. Rich holds a General License and already has been active in club events.

Donald Reinshagen K2DGR, who lives in Fishs Eddy. Don holds an Extra License. He likes to collect and trade radios.

Heather Reinshagen N2HLR, who is Donald Reinshagen's daughter. Heather holds a General License and she is thirteen years old. Between Heather and Horace Staley we must have one of the youngest and oldest members of any Amateur Radio Club in the area.

PLANNING FOR FIELD DAY

Our Field Day Plans for this year will include the addition of a phone station. Aiden Miller and Frank Falknor have created the following plan for the WRA's participation in Field Day:

Location –Aidin Miller's Farm

- Two CW rigs located in the Mobile Home
- One Phone Rig in the Garage

Radios –(3)

- Aidin's, The Club Rig and Craig's. All at 5 watts

Power-Aidin has one battery, and I have a second one and we will need a third battery.

Antennas-Extended Zepp and 40M for the Mobile Home Rigs and the Trapped Dipole for the Phone Rig.

Operators- For CW-5 probable and possibly two more. For Phone any club member who wishes to operate We should cover the daylight at least.

Set Up-The Friday afternoon at 1 p.m. before Field Day. The 40M and Trap Dipole should be mounted end to end and not broadsided.

Logging-As previously done.

We will build on this as the day approaches.

WRA TRIVIA CONTEST (Adin Miller)

1. Who was responsible for inventing the Barometer?
2. Where is the coldest place on earth that had the lowest temperature ever recorded?
3. Which two months are named for historical figures?

The answers are found on page four

5K AND 10 K RUN PLANS

The revised 5K and 10K Covered Bridge runs will be held on June 14th in Delhi. Both races will start simultaneously from lower Main Street in the Village. The races will start at 9:30 A. M, and will run over largely separate courses.

Those club members who have volunteered to help cover the event should assemble at the Gazebo on the Village Square at 8:45 A.M. to find out where their locations on the course will be.

We will be using the 146.520 FM simplex frequency to cover the event. At this point the following operators have volunteered to work the event:

W2RRK	Rich Kelly
AA2RM	Bill Holland
KC2LAB	John Nichols
W2CD	Frank Falknor
AB2PA	Donnie Howard
W2TKB	Truman Bristoll
KB2RLH	James Stewart
KC2IKQ	Dennis Klimowski
KC2JVD	Pauline Klimowski

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SET EXERCISE

Rich Kelly W2RRK was the net control operator for a National Weather Service Simulated Emergency Exercise in late April. The WRA's 146.955 repeater was used for the event. Our Delaware County Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator, John Nichols was visiting in Florida and was unable to participate in the exercise.

**AMERICAN RED CROSS RESPONDS
TO ARRL CONCERNS REGARDING
BACKGROUND CHECKS**

(Reprinted from the ARRL)

At the ARRL ARES forum at the Dayton Hamvention, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, announced that the American Red Cross (ARC) has finally moved to issue the of background checks for ARES volunteers.

In November 2007, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN wrote to the American Red Cross regarding concerns voiced by ARRL volunteers. In 2006, the Red Cross stated it would implement background checks that included, among other things, credit checks and a “mode of living” check for its staff and volunteers, including ARES volunteers providing services to the Red Cross during disasters. ARRL saw these portions of the background check as unneeded and inappropriate for ARES service.

In a letter dated May 8 of this year, Armond T. Mascelli, ARC Vice President for Disaster Response Services replies to President Harrison: “I can now report back to you that (these) actions have been completed and the changes have been instituted which I trust resolves the concerns detailed in your letter. This effort took considerably more time and attention than originally envisioned, but I believe the results will now benefit our respective organizations.

A new background consent form now (is) to be used by all Red Cross chapters for ARRL members and other partner organizations. The form and related process is limited to the name and social security number verification of the individual, and a criminal

background check. References and suggestions to other related investigative possibilities have been stricken.”

Harrison said that, “We are very pleased that the American Red Cross has addressed some of the issues that we raised regarding their background investigations and that we can move forward in a relationship that has existed for a long, long time. The American Red Cross shared a productive relationship for many years, which has been of benefit to both organizations and to the public. We are glad that throughout the past months we have been able to negotiate the issues that we had and have finally come to resolution.”

With the background check issue resolved, the ARRL will be working with the ARC in the negotiation and creation of a draft for a new “Memorandum of Understanding “ (MOU) or similar document to replace the one which expired last year; Dura and Keith Robertory of the ARC will be leading the effort. When completed, the draft of the MOU will be presented to the leadership of both organizations for approval.

“While we believe that the Red Cross is implementing some changes that will address some of the concerns expressed to them by the ARRL, at this point it is a work in progress,” said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. “There are many questions yet to be answered \, but we believe the Red Cross is progressing in good faith to complete the changes to their policy and their background check consent form, which was the primary concern expressed to the Red Cross by ARRL. There will be more clarifications and information in the near future. Please keep an eye on the ARRL website for updates as we know them. We are very much aware of your concerns and have conveyed them to

the Red Cross. We expect the Red Cross to address these and other concerns on (the) subject of their background check policy in the near future.”

“The ARRL is very pleased that the Red Cross has responded appropriately to our concerns about the background check issue, said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. “We believe it now will be possible to go forward to negotiate a statement of understanding between the two organizations. We look forward to renewing and expanding the relationship with the Red Cross.”

Dura warns that when requesting a background check on the ARC website, volunteers from partner agencies, such as the ARRL or ARES, should select, “I am an ARC partner” when asked “What is my Red Cross role?” Otherwise, he says, volunteers will see the background check form that asks for “everything.”

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Evangelista Torricelli and Vincenzo Vivani.
2. Vostok Station, Antarctica (minus 128.6 F 1983).
3. July-(Julius Caesar)
August- (Augustus Caesar)

LOCAL NETS AND REPEATERS

2 METERS:

WRA NET WEDNESDAYS @ 7 PM ON
THE 146.955- MHz REPEATER PL 127.3

W2LZ REPEATER 147.315+ MHz

H.F. NET

WCN WESTERN CATSKILL CW NET
MONDAYS @ 7 PM 3.545