



BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

CERT



NASSAU COUNTY



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2023

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**The Lifeline of Crisis Communication:
The Vital Role of Radio During Disasters**

In the digital age, where information travels at the speed of light across the globe, it's easy to underestimate the importance of radio communication. However, when disaster strikes, and the infrastructure that supports our high-speed internet and cellular networks is compromised, radio isn't just a fallback; it becomes the lifeline that can mean the difference between life and death.



The Undeniable Significance of HAM Radio

HAM radio, also known as amateur radio, is one of the most reliable means of communication in an emergency. HAM radio operators have been integral to response efforts during countless crises, from natural disasters to man-made calamities. The 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan and Hurricane Katrina in 2005 are prime examples where HAM radio operators provided critical communication lines when other systems failed.

One of the unique benefits of HAM radio is its versatility in frequencies and reach. HAM operators can communicate locally using handheld radios, regionally using repeater systems, or globally using short-wave frequencies that bounce off the ionosphere. This flexibility allows them to adapt as the situation demands.

Continued on next page



**COUNTY, STATE
&
FEDERAL
ONE TEAM**

GMRS vs Ham Radio



GMRS

- ⊖ Close range (line of sight) communication
- ⊖ Popular outdoors
- ⊖ Limited channels/bands
- ⊖ Inexpensive
- ⊖ Requires a license



Ham Radios

- ⊖ Long-range communication (worldwide)
- ⊖ Popular with hobbyists, truckers, emergency responders
- ⊖ Can access multiple bands and frequencies
- ⊖ Higher-cost on average
- ⊖ Requires a test and license

Licensing for HAM radio is regulated by national bodies (like the Federal Communications Commission in the United States) and requires passing an examination that covers technical knowledge and operating practices. This ensures that operators are skilled in effectively managing radio communications during emergencies.

GMRS: The Citizen's Communication Tool

General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) is another crucial tool in disaster management. It operates on frequencies assigned for individual, family, and business use, allowing for more powerful equipment than Citizen's Band (CB) radios or

walkie-talkies. GMRS systems can also be connected to external antennas and repeaters, which significantly extends their range.

During the 2020 California wildfires, GMRS radios were used by communities to coordinate evacuation efforts and keep families in contact when cellular networks were down. GMRS requires a license in the United States, but no test is needed, making it more accessible for the general public to use in an emergency.

Short Wave Radio: Bridging Long Distances

Short wave radio, which includes the frequencies used by HAM operators for global communication, has the capability to bridge continents. This aspect becomes incredibly valuable when there is a need to disseminate information across vast distances without reliance on the internet or satellites.

For instance, when a powerful typhoon cut off parts of Southeast Asia, short wave radio was used to coordinate international aid efforts and share updates on the ground situation. No license is required to listen to short wave broadcasts, but transmitting on these frequencies typically falls under the regulations governing amateur radio.

Real-World Scenarios and Applications

In practice, these radio services are used in a variety of ways during emergencies:

HAM Radio: In the aftermath of an earthquake, HAM radio operators can establish a net control to manage communications, relay messages to emergency services, and provide updates on aftershock activity or evacuation orders.

GMRS: In a localized disaster, such as a hazardous material spill, GMRS can be used by local emergency coordinators to direct citizens to safety, communicate road closures, and organize community response teams.

Short Wave: During political unrest that leads to internet blackouts, short wave radio can be used by international broadcasters to provide uncensored news and information to the affected populace.

Radio communications hold a critical position in disaster management infrastructure. The need for licenses in certain bands ensures that there is a knowledgeable base of operators ready to step in when traditional communication systems fail. Whether it's through HAM, GMRS, or short wave radio, the ability to relay information, coordinate help, and connect with the outside world remains a vital function that these technologies serve during the most challenging times.

In a world where the unexpected can occur at any moment, these radio services provide a robust, tried, and tested means of communication that can withstand the severe disruptions that accompany disasters. Their role is not just about keeping conversations alive but ensuring that communities can band together and function cohesively when facing the unthinkable, making radio communications an indispensable tool in the disaster preparedness and response toolkit.

If you found this interesting and would like more information, you can search online for your local amateur radio club or ask us at the upcoming All-County meeting and we can help get you started.





Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)



Hello from the RACES and CERT Communications Group. Before we get to the October meeting, we would like to extend our CONGRATULATIONS to the CERT Class graduates.

Welcome Aboard !

Our monthly general membership meeting was held on Thursday, October 5th. During our business portion of the meeting we turned our attention to a quick review of ICS forms previously covered this year. Next month there will be a more in depth review prior to this year's table top exercise. This way, anyone will be able to participate in the tabletop regardless if they missed a previous training presentation. As CERTs you received an introductory to ICS forms during your basic class. The review will help give you more familiarity with the forms being used in this table top exercise. AT the table top exercise you will be given an event scenario. It will be your team's responsibility to populate the necessary forms with the information provided. This type of interactive training is essential and fun too.

After the meeting we refreshed our winter SKYWARN skill set. It was a review of the procedures and protocols for weather observations as well as re-portable criteria specific to weather awareness. This skill set is not only a valuable asset during activation / deployments, but can be of value during daily life. Whether you are out at a picnic, out on a boat or out for a jog it is always good to be aware of your surroundings. If you are not SKYWARN trained you can take an online class.

Online classes are given through Comet MetEd.

Go to https://www.meted.ucar.edu/education_training/course/23

The SKYWARN Weather Spotters Guide can be downloaded at:

https://www.weather.gov/media/ilx/Spotter_Training/Spotters%20Guide_New.pdf

If you would rather take a local class you can email us at nassaucountyny.races@gmail.com

A final note to our membership regarding our Thanksgiving Food Drive. RACES along with Faithful Response, a 501 c3 not for profit organization, are holding its annual Thanksgiving food drive for those Long Island families in need. By donating you are not only feeding those who are hungry, but also showing kindness and support to those who are less fortunate. Won't you please help make it possible for this annual charitable tradition to continue?

Any in-kind donation, no matter how large or small, will make a difference. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated, and will make a difference in the lives of so many people, right here on Long Island.

We will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items and gift cards at the November RACES General Membership meetings.

If you need further information or have any questions please contact us at 516.417.0416.



If you SEE Something SAY Something



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)



Interested or just curious about Emergency Communications? We invite you to attend our next RACES / CERT Communications meeting on Thursday November 2nd at 7:30pm in the lecture hall, 510 Grumman Road West, Bethpage NY. Hope to see you there.

73

RACES Leadership

Website: www.nassauraces.net

Email: nassaucountyny.races@gmail.com

If



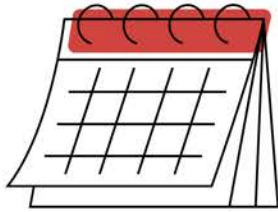
If you SEE Something SAY Something

Narcan Training

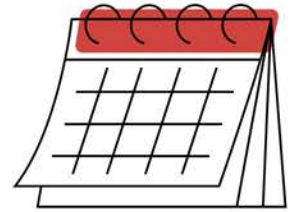
Session Dates

Date	Location	Time
Sep 7, 2023	Baldwin Park - Community Room, 3232 Grand Ave, Baldwin	6:00 PM
Sep 12, 2023	Bellerose Village Hall, 50 Superior Road, Bellerose Village	6:00 PM
Sep 12, 2023	Henry Waldinger Library, 60 Verona Place Valley Stream	6:00 PM
Sep 21, 2023	Island Trees Public Library, 38 Farmedge Road, Levittown	6:00 PM
Sep 27, 2023	Wantagh Senior Center, 1150 Seamans Neck Road, Wantagh	3:00 PM
Sep 28, 2023	Hempstead Town Hall, Nathan L.H. Bennett Pavilion. 1 Washington Street, Hempstead	7:00 PM
Oct 12, 2023	Franklin Square Public Library, 19 Lincoln Road, Franklin Square	6:00 PM
Oct 18, 2023	Island Park Library, 176 Long Beach Road, Island Park	7:00 PM
Oct 19, 2023	Hempstead Town Hall, Nathan L.H. Bennett Pavilion. 1 Washington Street, Hempstead	7:00 PM
Oct 23, 2023	Freeport Memorial Library, 144 W. Merrick Road, Freeport	6:00 PM
Oct 27, 2023	Levittown Public Library, 1 Bluegrass Lane, Levittown	3:00 PM
Nov 13, 2023	Merrick Senior Center, 2550 Clubhouse Road, Merrick	3:00 PM
Nov 14, 2023	Woodmere Fire House, 20 Irving Place, Woodmere	6:00 PM
Nov 15, 2023	West Hempstead Library, 500 Hempstead Avenue, West Hempstead	6:00 PM
Nov 16, 2023	East Rockaway Library, 477 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway	6:00 PM
Nov 16, 2023	Hempstead Town Hall, Nathan L.H. Bennett Pavilion. 1 Washington Street, Hempstead	7:00 PM
Nov 21, 2023	Island Trees Public Library, 38 Farmedge Road, Levittown	3:00 PM
Nov 30, 2023	Peninsula Public Library, 280 Central Avenue, Lawrence	6:00 PM
Nov 30, 2023	Elmont Memorial Library, 700 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont	6:30 PM
Dec 4, 2023	Salisbury Senior Center, 460 Salisbury Park Drive, Westbury	3:00 PM
Dec 7, 2023	Baldwin Library, 2385 Grand Avenue, Baldwin	6:00 PM

Register online at
toh311.net/narcan-signup



Planned Events & Trainings



FEMA offers a large variety of online courses that are free of charge and will help to further your preparedness education. If you do not have a FEMA ID, you can register for one here.

[:https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid](https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid)



**Emergency Management Institute -
Independent Study (IS) | Course List**

FEMA Emergency Management Institute
(EMI) Independent Study Course List

 [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov)

All-County Meeting - Wednesday December 6th at 7:00pm

New CERT members who attend the meeting will be issued their ID cards and apparel. Existing members will also be able to pick up their new updated ID cards.

Meeting to be held at the OEM Lecture Hall at 510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage, NY, 11714.



Please welcome the Fall of 2023 CERT graduating class



Please send in any photos you have taken of news worthy items or from any CERT events that you have attended and I will select some to be used in the newsletter. Send images to:

rdelucia@nassaucountyny.gov

Calendar of Events

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2 RACES Meeting 7:30pm	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6 DIV 1 & 2	7 HAPPY	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		HANUKKAH				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30 31



CERT Division Meetings
7:00pm



RACES Meeting
7:30pm

Important Dates

RACES Meeting - To be combined with the Dec. 6th All-County meeting.

CERT All-County Division 1 & 2 Meeting - Wednesday December 6th at 7:00pm.

OEM Lecture Hall
510 Grumman Road West
Bethpage, NY 11714



NASSAU COUNTY CERT COORDINATORS

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