

# The HAM'ER



April—June 2014

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*Did you Know ?*

## Front Page News

Spring is the time of year when some people will look around for mushrooms. Some people will start planting flowers, others will get ready for planting vegetable gardens, or will be mowing lawns and landscaping. Nature will also be busy planting, growing mushrooms, and anvils in the sky much like this one shown below.



## Message from the Emergency Coordinator

One of things that I enjoy about being the Emergency Coordinator is that I pick up all kinds of data about our county in the way of emergency communications and how it is handled. Last year my staff and I learned about the workings of the Indianapolis International Airport AOC/EOC building. This year one of the things that we learned is the workings of the Hendricks County Communications Center.

CHECK IT OUT ON PAGE THREE IN THIS ISSUE .....

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*Ron Burke KB9DJA*

## Why Amateur Radio When All Else Fails?

*The following article was written by CHARLIE RISTORCELLI NN3V*

During presentations on Amateur Radio contributions to emergency and disaster response, invariably questions arise from non-hams trying to understand how it is that Amateur Radio is such an effective and reliable communication system, available to the public at no cost, but is also an avocation. Hams invariably respond by emphasizing Amateur Radio's use of modern technology, the dedication of individual hams to their public service role, that hams bring their own equipment to the service, the non-pecuniary nature of ham radio, et cetera.

Yet the public remains puzzled. Except for the non-pecuniary aspect, those answers also apply to the commercial systems. And the public seldom understands the cost savings anyway. I offer the following as a better approach for explaining Amateur Radio value in emergency and disaster response radio communications services.

In today's Internet-savvy culture, Amateur Radio's distinguishing characteristic for emergency service communications is that it is an "Application Mash-up." It is a primary reason that Facebook, eBay, et cetera are so successful. Let's examine three principal characteristics of Amateur Radio under this moniker.

**Operating time.** Individual hams operate frequently. Thousands of hams practice their skills and ensure their equipment is fully operational every day of the week, not just during some pre-scheduled emergency communication test.

**Operating Interests.** Hams have diverse interests and a variety of talents. Some try to operate independently of the commercial power grid. Others operate at very low power, gaining practice in techniques to overcome adverse conditions. Some only use home-brewed antennas, learning exceptional antenna construction skills. Many operate nets where they control traffic flow, and routinely switch frequencies to overcome poor conditions. These and innumerable other examples develop thousands of special skills that contribute to instant value added to Amateur Radio and hence the public, over other systems.

**Self-sufficiency.** The skills hams acquire in all of the above allow overcoming the most adverse of conditions. Hams have no expectation that their "IT Department" will come and fix their computer, or that an electrician will restore their power sources, or some other repairman will arrive to fix failed equipment. Hams do it all themselves. The ham operating in an emergency situation is self-sufficient.

The web-centric definition of "Application Mash-up" is: "An application that combines data and/or functionality from more than one source." When an emergency occurs, what do hams do? They bring astonishing diversity of talents and assets to the table, in terms of capabilities, as the commercial infrastructure fails due to a number of factors. This is a human and equipment resource treasure that cannot be duplicated by any amount of money from any government or private resource. It is the essence of how Amateur Radio is the emergency communication service that never fails.

So when someone asks why Amateur Radio When All Else Fails? The answer is simple: "Because Amateur Radio is an Application Mash-up." — **Charlie Ristorcelli, NN3V, Poway, California, nn3v@arrl.net**

### **MONTHLY HOSPITAL NET:**

***EVERY THIRD THURSDAY AT 9:30am on 147.570 MHz***

This net will be running from either HRH, or IU Health West Hospital. Show your support by checking in to this net when possible. The net controller is practicing his/her skills on the radio for the hospital.



**ARES WEEKLY NET EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT**

**7:30 PM 147.015**

# DID YOU KNOW?

All of the police and fire agencies in Hendricks County are dispatched from one center, yes including the Sheriff's Dept.

When you make a phone call for an emergency, whether from an old agency dispatch phone number or 911, your call will be routed to this communications center located in Plainfield.

All dispatchers are trained to handle police, fire and medical emergencies. The center is manned by a minimum of five dispatchers at all times-24 hours a day.

The HCCC receives information, evaluates it then dispatches police, fire, medical in response to requests for assistance by the public.

These dispatchers are CPR certified, and also are certified as Emergency Medical Dispatch, meaning they have the specialized training which allows them to provide medical assistance based on a series of questions over the phone prior to the arrival of responding units. They can deliver detailed instructions for CPR, childbirth, and minor first aid.

Employees are certified to operate the computer for BMV files and National Crime Information Center wanted files. The center averages of 416 runs per day or over 17 runs per hour.

*" Every Second, Every Day, We Are Here For You"*



## Hendricks County ARES Contact Info:

VISIT US AT: [www.hendricksares.org](http://www.hendricksares.org)



LIKE US ON: [Hendricks County ARES](#)

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## Upcoming Events: Year 2014

**DAYTON HAMVENTION                      MAY 16-18**

**PARK TO PARK RELAY                      JUNE 14**

**FIELD DAY                                      JUNE 28-29**

**INDPLS HAMFEST                              JULY 12**

**BEDFORD HAMFEST                              OCTOBER 4**

**FT.WAYNE HAMFEST                              NOVEMBER 15-16**

**(For more detailed information about a Hamfest visit our Website.)**



### ARES TRAINING CLASS DATES :

**APRIL 12** : Net Control Class—For those who want to be Net Control operators and for those who are, this class will give you information, and keep you up-to-date.

**APRIL 19** : N.T.S. Class—Those hams who want to learn and use the National Traffic System.

| APRIL 2014 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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