

# CAM HAM

*A Newsletter for Amateur Radio in Cambria County*  
Winter 2007-2008, Volume 1, Issue 2

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## **SPECIAL EDITION OF CAM HAM**

So much is going on, things that would not wait until the April regular edition of CAM HAM. The Department of Emergency Services (DES) is undergoing changes and this also means some changes in the offering for county amateur operators.

## **CAMBRIA COUNTY DES GOES UHF**

After much discussion and planning the Cambria DES is modernizing the county wide emergency communications and bringing excellent innovations with it. The system now includes multiple tower sights; a highly configurable radio system and wireless WAN for the entire county. The bottom line is a vastly improved system for the county fire, EMS and police services.

Apart from the improved and innovative services, the new radio system offers the scanner listener better monitoring. A list of these frequencies is on the RACES web site at:

<http://www.hunter.homeftp.net/races>

Look for the Cambria UHF link under “news and updates”

Once the county system is completed, work will begin on the amateur radio systems. No specifics are available yet, but changes and improvements are planned.

## **RACES IS RE-ORGANIZED**

The Cambria County Department of Emergency Services and others interested parties met on January 8, 2008 to reorganize the county RACES. After much discussion, several items were settled. These include training, participation, and equipment. A small budget has been allocated to RACES and the county DES is very supportive of RACES. Here is a synopsis of the meeting.

- Current status of RACES was discussed.
- Liaisons were appointed to facilitate communication.
- A budget was allocated.
- Training standards were set which are FEMA ICS course 100, 200, 700, and 800 to attain NIMS certification
- A training date for interested volunteers is set for early April on ICS basics. (More on this later in this newsletter)
- RACES coordinator was appointed.
- Equipment needs and current status was discussed.
- Public service net will need to start on 145.210.

The County DES would like to have a trained pool of amateur operators numbering about 15 or 20.

After the initial training, there will be area training on current equipment installed at the Miner's Hospital, the 911 Center in Ebensburg, the Conemaugh Memorial Hospital in Johnstown, the IOC on Broad St in Johnstown, Red Cross, Johnstown, and Windber Medical Center. This would mean in the event of RACES activation, operators would know and be familiar with equipment locations in their area if they need to access and use it.

### **TRAINING SIGN UP!**

I do not know if there will be another newsletter between now and the next quarter, April 2008. I did feel it was important to share the news of the planned meeting and the plans including the upcoming training.

The Cambria County DES and the IOC plans an Incident Command Structure (ICS) training and a RACES organizational meeting in April 2008. I do not have a specific date or time, but it will be a weekend or evening. Please take a moment to email me to sign up for this training and meeting. I know it is hard to plan for without a specific date, but I will pass more information along to interested persons if I have your email. This information will include a program date, the meeting agenda and a tour of the IOC facility along with any other information that will need disseminated.

To sign up for further information, email me at [n3yfo@atlanticbb.net](mailto:n3yfo@atlanticbb.net)

I will also include your email on the distribution list for future issues of CAM HAM.

If you prefer to self-train or want to get a jump on the training, you can take the courses on line at:

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>

The ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800 courses are there and available for self study. To be certified, take the final exam and print a copy of your certificate for RACES. Taking all four courses makes you National Incident Management System (NIMS) certified as a volunteer.

### **IT'S SO IMPORTANT, I'M WRITING IT AGAIN!**

Please email me if you are interested in attending the April meeting and training sponsored by the Cambria County DES.

### **COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO IMPROVEMENTS IS IN THE FUTURE**

Details are sketchy as of now, but new amateur radio equipment is on order and some of the older 911 equipment will be converted for amateur radio use. It appears that the county is serious and supportive of an active and functioning RACES program. Cambria County has invested time and effort in paving the way, we need to do our part and cooperate. More details in later CAM HAM issues.

### **AND FINALLY...**

And for the third time, email me about the April training and meeting. I will pass details along, via newsletter or mass mailing. But you have to tell me you are interested in getting more information.

Thanks.