

DISASTERCOM



DERA Newsletter

42 Years of Service

April 2004



Walter Green, DERA Member and Commander of the American Disaster Reservists, demonstrates the TVEOC at the DERA special session on Communications Interoperability at the FEMF Disaster Management Conference 2004 February in Orlando, Florida
(See story on page 5)

Words of Wisdom

from

Jerry Vehaun

"Emergency managers today must stay on the cutting edge of technology. They must be participants in a large array of things, which, for the most part, enable them to do their jobs in a much more efficient and timely manner. The emergency manager of today must also be willing to participate in conferences, round table discussions, and committees which may seem to take a lot of unnecessary time, but by being a participant, your input can be shared for the good of all."



Shawn Hudson, Many Waters Representative for the
DERA

Annual Membership Meeting held during the the FEMF Disaster Management Conference 2004 last month in Orlando, Florida.

(See *DERA Activities* page 7 and www.manywaters.org/DERA/index.htm)

New DERA Awards

Join us in implementing DERA's new Awards Program titled, "COINS for Exceptional Service".

Five categories of awards will comprise the new program ranging from Student Awards through Life Member and on to the prestigious, "GOLD for Exceptional Service" award. Coins can be mounted on plaques or presented in ribbons as shown here.

Nominations are now being accepted for the much revered Gold Coin Award. (see page 5)



Meet Jerry Vehaun

DERA congratulates Mr. Jerry VeHaun who has recently been elected Mayor of Woodfin, North Carolina.

Jerry Vehaun is an amateur radio operator, mortician, 911 Center operator, and chair of both the North Carolina Emergency Management Association and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) certification boards. Jerry became familiar with DERA while serving as President of IAEM.

(Read more on page 6.)

DisasterCom is the quarterly newsletter of DERA International. News items and articles are always welcome.

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Editor: Catherine Lawhun

Membership in this Nonprofit Association is open to all who share our commitment to effective disaster preparedness and response.

See Back Page for Membership Application

The Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association, International

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DERA International

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Partnerships & Affiliations Include

E I I P

A Personal Invitation

from your Editor

DERA, Many Waters and TVEOC will be attending and participating in the Static Exercise being hosted by the American Telemedicine Association, ATA, May 2-5 in Tampa, Florida. I would personally welcome anyone who would like to participate with us in this event.

This static exercise has been designed by David Balch and the scenario unfolds at the Port of Tampa where Explosions

aboard a Freighter produce blunt

trauma affecting a nearby Cruise Ship in port and sending an

unknown, but highly toxic vapor cloud drifting towards Tampa General Hospital and onto Raymond James Football Stadium which is packed with spectators.

The Virtual Emergency Operations Center will catalog and disseminate information as the scenario unfolds via Internet link from our booth (number 916) just opposite the Medical Emergency Operations Center. Many Waters will serve as a coordination point for dispatch of 4 Teams. Hazmat, DART, Dive Team and Marine SAR, while DERA will activate its emergency radio net with Echolink connect to our booth to monitor callout needs for non-local resources.

On Saturday May 1, The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, (USAMRMC) through its Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) will once again sponsor an open meeting exploring the potential applications of Army Telemedicine investments in response to disasters, emergencies and providing medical care to under-served populations. The theme of this one-day meeting is: "Army Telemedicine Partnerships: Meeting Medical Challenges in A Changing World". The

Topic is Eastern Europe. Presentations of these telemedical efforts by Army-managed telemedicine investigators will be accompanied by presentations from international experts focusing on the opportunities to leverage these telemedical technologies. Telemedicine's role as an enabler in the effort to reach out to, and deliver care to, populations in crisis and need will be discussed. For more information, please contact Lori DeBernardis at 301-619-7927.

Please look for coverage of both these happening in your next Newsletter.

Yours,

-Catherine Lawhun

Catherine Lawhun is also President of Many Waters Resource Network, Inc. www.many-waters.com whose non-profit component is registering available volunteer engineering professionals for disaster response nationwide. For more information call 888-570-1344

DERA Discussion Board

Please participate in the NEW On-Line Bulletin Board!!! View the Official Mission Statement now on-line!!!!!! Use the link below to review Member topics of interest and program areas and to voice your opinions.

GET INVOLVED NOW

Simply select your program area

[http:// manywaters.org/DERA/index.htm](http://manywaters.org/DERA/index.htm)

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DERA makes Headlines on Broadband over Powerline Issue

DERA submitted formal comments in December to the FCC addressing dangerous Interference to emergency communications systems resulting from Broadband services being transmitted over existing power lines as currently proposed. We are pleased to report that our comments were cited in an article appearing on page 75 of the March issue of QST magazine, the official journal of the ARRL.

DERA called on the FCC to require impartial field testing as well as additional public comment and full and open public hearings on this issue. DERA has taken a strong position against any possible premature implementation of this mode and would also like to make you aware that additional technical responses have been facilitated due to the filing that DERA made. One of special interest was from Dennis O'Quinn, DERA member and registered professional engineer with extensive Electromagnetic Compatibility expertise, a former military communications officer and commercial radio licensure examiner with a Ship Radar Endorsement initially issued in 1961. Mr. O'Quinn's comments were filed February 4, 2004.

O'Quinn's document is extremely important in several legal and technical areas:

O'Quinn is a recognized expert on electromagnetic compatibility issues.

O'Quinn endorses and includes by reference Barry West's FEMA filing with the FCC. O'Quinn's analysis completely supports the FEMA technical analysis. His endorsement must not be taken lightly. (See related article in this issue)

In his filing, O'Quinn sets the stage for potentially immense class action lawsuits based on property damages and personal injuries resulting from BPL signal bypasses around distribution transformers, and O'Quinn clearly puts utilities on notice that they may be the direct cause of personal injury, damages to electronic equipment, appliances and wiring in homes as a result of installing BPL systems as presently proposed. The aggregate potential financial liability for electric utilities delivering BPL can be measured in tens of trillions of dollars.

The O'Quinn filing, having been duly published by the FCC, means that electric utilities cannot use an ignorance defense should individual homeowners suffer loss as a result of power surges or lighting strikes that are bypassed around distribution transformers by BPL devices.

Those distribution transformers would have previously absorbed the load or been sacrificed in the process, as part of the existing, well-considered safety design of the nation's electrical system.

Despite overwhelming technical evidence against BPL and public comments showing 98.6% opposition to BPL systems as proposed, the FCC has moved the BPL proposal to the next stage in the approval process by issuing a Notice of Proposed Rule Making. The "Reply Comment" period for this proposal is open through May 3.

The FCC has an "Express Comment" web site, where individuals can type short comments directly on to a web form, without having to create a formal filing, which they may also do if they wish. That is at: <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload/>

You'll find a button to select the issue you wish to comment on...in this case Docket # 04-37, "Broadband over Powerline NPRM," then be taken to an entry form for typing your comments. Unfortunately, deployment continues on schedule in a wide area as of this writing. We **MUST** take action now and voice our concern.

For latest news, check: www.arrl.org



BPL: Urgent Issue for Emergency Management

By Joab Jackson

Responding to FCC's inquiry, the Federal Emergency Management Agency warned that sending data through power lines as currently proposed could disrupt FEMA's National Radio System. The chief telecommunications official of FEMA responded with strong concerns to a notice of inquiry issued last May by the FCC on whether, or how, the agency should regulate an emerging technology called broadband over power line, or BPL.

BPL systems use live utility company power lines as a conduit for data transmission by modulating radio frequency signals that are coupled with electricity transmissions. The technology could be offered to consumers as an alternative to cable modem and digital subscriber line service. Although no services are now offered, several companies have introduced products that let users send data over the power lines within their own homes. The FCC asked for more information on what effect power line radio signals would have on other licensed radio technologies using those same frequencies.

New Member Roster

Robert D. Carpenter
Huntington, WV

Donald A. Icamen
Costa Mesa, CA

Robert Lufter-Thun
Falls Church, VA

Adrian M. Meja
Nairobi, Kenya

Donald J. Wade, W8DEA
Massillon, OH

Gayle Mackenzie, R.N.
Winston-Salem, NC

Missy Moran
Alexandria, VA

Scott Gothard
Lake Forest, CA

Welcome to DERA!

It is our sincere aim to help you achieve your professional and personal goals.

Special Thanks to New members

For distinctive participation in the DERA Annual Meeting

Suzanne Boccia,
Emergency Management and Homeland Security Specialist with Walsh Environmental in Colorado was instrumental in developing the agenda for this meeting as well as helping organize the layout and topic of the Exercise Scenario. Many thanks to Suzanne for her time and commitment to getting this event off the ground and making it happen.

Howard Pierpont,
Business Continuity Manager for Intel Corporation was in attendance a long way from his home state of Oregon. Howard was a strong contributor on several of the main topics on our new online discussion board. Thank you Howard for providing ideas gleaned from your many years of service in a large multi-dimensional organization.

Sarone Kennedy,
Project Manger for SUMA International brought international diversity to the table from his home country of the Bahamas and helped our discussion to include the needs of our membership outside of the United States.

The Hazards of Wild Fire along the WildLand-Urban Interface

Special request from Board Member
Tony Mendes

We have been in some discussions with several other land use, planning, conservation and local community advocacy groups talking about empowering local governments, agencies and organizations, especially regarding planning for this particular hazard and its attendant vulnerabilities. I'd appreciate very much if you could spend some time brainstorming and soliciting ideas from other knowledgeable members of your greater community, addressing the following issues:

1. Regarding living in the "WildLand-Urban Interface", which area of effort, in your community, is/has been more effective or has the greatest potential impact:

A. Mitigation Activities (after the fact of growth/development) minimizing damage/destruction from fires to existing buildings and infrastructure in the WUI (defensible space, fire resistant shingles/siding, wet/dry fire hydrants, etc.)? and Why? ...or...

B. Prevention Activities (before the fact) minimizing or eliminating the potential for damage/destruction by not allowing growth or construction of infrastructure into areas of know hazard (i.e.-WUI)? and Why?

2. What are some of the success stories, lessons learned, areas of concern, outstanding issues that come from your community's experience with the WUI? How can we all learn from your successes and your challenges/failures? What would you like to share? How would you do things differently in the future ("if only we would have....", etc)?

3. What partners are most interested, most effective, most efficient within your greater community in terms of dealing with the before, during and after-effects of the WUI? Why? How can we re-create success within our partners in local-state-federal governments, private-non-profits, business and industry, community/faith-based organizations, fraternal organizations, advocacy groups or associations, neighborhood and community associations, etcetera?

4. Any other thoughts, ideas, concerns or issues for communities within the WildLand-Urban Interface?

Thank you very much for taking some time and giving this some thoughtful energy. I really appreciate your

assistance. Just drop me an email with your responses and comments. Please give me a call if any of this is unclear... Thanks again.

Tony Mendes
Senior Mitigation Specialist
Creating Safer Communities
FEMA Region VIII/Denver
303/235-4790 (phone)
303/235-4729 (fax)
tony.mendes@dhs.gov

Critical Issue – EMPG Proposed Funding Cuts

The EMPG program is one of a slew of federal grant programs that support state and local efforts to prepare for terrorist attacks and other disasters. But it's the only program that historically has covered personnel costs.

If Congress agrees to a proposed funding cut and restructuring of the Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program, many departments will lose funding for staff.

The fiscal 2005 budget would cut this grant from 179 million in FY04 to 170 million for FY05, but it would also limit the amount of EMPG grants that can be used for personnel costs in fiscal 2005 to 25 percent of the total award, down from 50 percent in fiscal 2004. The budget proposal also would shift the focus of the program from supporting planning for all types of disasters - the so-called all-hazards approach - to emphasize terrorism preparedness.

Daryl Lee Spiewak, president of the International Association of Emergency Managers and director of emergency management for the Brazos River Authority in Waco, Texas said small, one-person emergency management offices will be hardest hit by the cuts.

In many small towns, he noted, emergency planners are part-time staffers, and with a severe cut in federal support for those workers, the capabilities for disaster management are likely to fade.

We all need to track this proposed EMPG funding cap and communicate with our lawmakers.

Here are some links that provide information and insight into this proposal.
www.dola.state.co.us/oem/Cema/hotopic.htm

See: [05 Budget Proposal](#) and [NEMA EMPG Position paper](#)

And where to write or e-mail them to express your opinion on this issue.
<http://www.visi.com/juan/congress>

CAP Studies CERT

Platte Valley Squadron, Missouri Wing - Civil Air Patrol learns about Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

PARKVILLE, MO -- Deputy Sheriff Michael L. O'Neal with the Platte County Sheriff's Department attended the weekly meeting of the Platte Valley Squadron (NCR-MO-140) of Civil Air Patrol on January 19, 2004. Deputy O'Neal is with the department's Emergency Services Division. Fourteen cadets, four Senior Members and three guests enjoyed a presentation on the FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training program. Senior leadership of the unit also met with Deputy O'Neal to brief him on CAP's Emergency Services and to discuss scheduling CERT Training for the unit in the spring.

The CERT program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies occur, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.

While CAP has long been associated with search and rescue missions, its work also includes disaster relief and communications, as well as counter-drug and homeland security missions. Last year the Air Force moved CAP, the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, under the umbrella of the new Air Force Homeland Security Directorate.

Satellite Imagery Provider for UN

The International Charter on Space and Major Disasters aims at providing a unified system on space data acquisition and delivery to those affected by natural or man-made disasters through authorized users. Since July 1, 2003, the Charter is available to support the United Nations with satellite imagery. Contact the UN office of Outer Space Affairs at osa@unvienna.org. Maps are produced by UNOSAT project headed by UNITAR and implemented by UNOPS. UNISAT is a UN-Private consortium providing satellite and related geographic information to UN development and humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners. www.unosat.org for further information

NDEC Launches www.disastereducation.org

The National Disaster Education Coalition (NDEC) is composed of federal government agencies and national not-for-profit organizations that work together to develop and disseminate consistent educational information for the public about disaster preparedness. The goal of the NDEC is to formulate information and advise the public about how to prepare and respond appropriately to natural and human-caused disasters. NDEC member agencies ensure that disaster safety messages are appropriate, accurate, research-based, and crafted appropriately for the audience by using understandable language.

Post Exercise Report on DERA's Joint Communication Interoperability Training Workshop held at the FEMF Disaster 2004 Conference

DERA member Walter Green, Commander of the American Disaster Reserve, a National VOAD member agency specializing in disaster information management demonstrated the Virtual EOC and Mark Moore, retired Department of Defense's Defense Special Weapons Agency Laboratory as the Director of it's Nuclear Reactor Facility and the Commander of its Emergency Response Team lead the exercise. Mark kept the scenario moving and Walter was wonderful at placing on the overhead the situation reports as they would be coming out of the VEOC once it was activated. This was quite impressive.

Much discussion followed and issues discussed included primarily multi jurisdictional and unmatched frequencies. Some of the solutions that were discussed were:

Radio Exchange- problems cited with this solution were political differences between agencies/departments making trust and a sincere desire to help almost impossible, lack of funding, etc.

Cell phone usage – problems cited with this solution were coverage areas in remote locations, and frailty of the systems during congested use typical during large responses.

Satellite Phones and related systems were discussed and said to have come down in cost considerably. They were sited as being the equipment of choice in most parts of Alaska.

Cross-band Repeater Systems were cited as a real solution with grant funding currently available for those who can act fast enough. Cross-band Systems need to be online by Sept 29 2004 to be eligible. It was addressed that in some counties, the Dispatch centers are already interconnected by hardwire.

Audio Bridges were discussed and the drawbacks to those known systems currently in use were cited. It was the general consensus of those who had had experience with the ACU-1000 that it was too difficult to work with so it was rarely used, and that it's range was not even applicable to most common situations.

The Virtual EOC

The principle function of the TVEOC is to gather and analyze wide area disaster information and provide incident documentation. This is especially helpful in multi-jurisdictional situations when the effects of an incident crosses state lines.

The Virtual Emergency Operations Center is managed by the American Disaster Reserve, an all volunteer 501(c) 3 corporation with 63 members nationwide, and a member agency of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. The ADR does not provide direct services to disaster victims; instead the organization's mission is managing disaster information for government agencies and voluntary organizations. They work entirely by Memorandums of Understanding or MOU's with their respective client agencies and are currently providing service to clients in NJ, NY, VA and NC. The TVEOC is capable of providing assistance in any state, and is interested in developing additional supported organizations.

The TVEOC is not designed to provide disaster information to the general public. Instead, its pages are tailored to the specific information needs of user organizations. Information can be submitted using pre-designed forms, making it unnecessary for the sender to need access to email. The site has no fancy graphics, and reports are in straight text message formats designed for speed of access.

The TVEOC is managed by an incident command system staff and is compliant with NFPA 1600, 1561 and ISO 17799.

DERA AWARDS "Coins for Exceptional Service"

Copper – For student awards.



Any DERA member may purchase copper coins to present as a token of recognition to students, volunteers or others deserving of special, on-the-spot recognition. Medals may be affixed to plaques or used as souvenir "coins."

Bronze – Members only. 5-year members receive one free and may purchase additional coins to use as desired.



Pewter – Members only. 10-year members receive one free and may purchase additional coins to use as desired.



Silver – For Life Members only. One is sent free to each life member.

Gold – For exceptional service to DERA or for members who perform meritorious or heroic service above and beyond the call of duty during a time of emergency. Gold medals are awarded only by the Board of Directors upon nomination of an individual by five members in good standing. The medal may also be presented affixed to an award ribbon in recognition of unique and exceptionally noteworthy student research into disaster preparedness and emergency response.



Member's price for coins:

Copper: Three for \$15, ten for \$45.00 postpaid to U.S. Add'l postage for overseas.

Bronze: Three for \$25.

Pewter: Three for \$30.

Silver: Generally, additional coins are not for sale. Replacements for lost/damaged coins are \$15.

Gold: Not for sale. Nominations may be made to the Board of Directors.

Volunteer e-Newsletter

The Volunteer is American Disaster Reserve's monthly national e-newsletter. Supporting both the American Disaster Reserve and The Virtual Emergency Operations Center, our newsletter focuses on emergency management issues as they relate to the larger emergency management community, as well as those specific to our volunteer organization. Of vital importance is our belief in networking and a belief that exposure to other volunteer groups helps to inform and initiate alliances. Last month's issue focused primarily on an interview with NVOAD's president and executive director in relation to NVOAD's upcoming conference. The point of the article was to address the reasons why it is beneficial for volunteers to attend such conferences. As ADR/ TVEOC and DERA/Many Waters work towards our common goals, we look forward to increasing the overall effectiveness in the volunteer disaster and emergency management field. If you are interested in receiving *The Volunteer* in your email box, please email Candace Carman, Editor at carmantveoc@yahoo.com

Metropolitan Division SATERN Liaison Officer W9KMP

Kenneth Panczyk W9KMP has been appointed as the Amateur Radio Liaison Officer for The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division. The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division is centered in Chicago and includes 11 counties.

Ken has been an amateur operator since 1969, is an avid CW operator and teaches Scuba Diving. He retired from education where he was an elementary school principal. He brings great skills to this appointment and represents tremendous potential in building and adding to the good work accomplished by his predecessor Bill Davidson W9SWW. The Metropolitan Division has a traditionally active disaster response team that has greatly benefited from its amateur SATERN component.

I appreciate Bill's good work for the last eight years and the willingness of Ken to accept this important and demanding office.

Patrick E. McPherson
Major
National Director
SATERN

Request from NAIR

"GEM"

is the acronym for General Emergency Medical Net conducted daily on 7.080 Khz at 22.00hrs (16.30 UTC) in India to handle General, Emergency and Medical Traffic.

This contest is to celebrate the World Amateur Radio Day on the 18th of April, 2004 and 15 years of GEM Net on September 21, 2004 and to popularize it all over the world and help the needy people with Emergency Nets.

Date and Contest Period:
The third full weekend of April,
Beginning 1200 UTC (5.30 pm IST)
Saturday and Ending 1200 UTC (5.30 pm IST)
Sunday April 17-18, 2004
All stations may operate the entire 24-hour period.

For more information visit GEM Net
Website <http://www.niar.org/gemnet/>

Sarath Babu.R, VU3RSB
GEM Net
Net Controller

New Member – SUMA project leader

Hailing from Abaco, Bahamas, Sarone Kennedy met us at the DERA Booth during the FEMF Disaster 2004 Conference in Orlando, Florida and has joined DERA. He is eager to get involved. Sarone is a project leader for SUMA - Humanitarian Supply Management System Software.

In the early 1990's, DERA assisted PAHO with Beta testing for the SUMA system!

For about five years, DERA maintained some SUMA operations teams, and distributed over 100 copies of the software to emergency response agencies. It was...and is...a fantastic concept.

National Incident Management System

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge announced the approval of the National Incident Management System, the first plan to combine the federal, state, and local lines of government response to incidents. "This unique system provides all of our Nation's first-responders and authorities with the same foundation for incident management, in terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies," said Ridge

Mayor Jerry VeHaun

(continued from page 1)

In any event, I became a member and supporter of DERA, and continue to do so today. I have been the Emergency Services Director for Buncombe County (NC) for almost 32 years, and I have seen many changes over the years. When I first began, we had Civil Defense, EMS with no requirements for training, emergency dispatch with no 911, no Emergency Medical Dispatch programs, no Fire Marshal requirements nor much else to work with. About the only thing we had which actually worked well was an amateur radio network which allowed us to function during emergencies with emergency communications from anywhere we needed to communicate from. I have been very much impressed with the interest DERA has had in amateur radio since becoming a member some time ago.

Through the years I have sat on many task forces on the local, state and national levels which involved everything from hazardous materials to the restructuring of some FEMA response programs. To be really involved in emergency management, this is just a part of the job.

Emergency management today is a constant educational process, and if the local emergency manager does not wish to continue their education, they will find they have been left behind and are ineffective in their community.

If their state has a certification program, they should make every effort to become certified. If their state does not have such a program, they can enroll in the International Association of Emergency Managers and become a Certified Emergency Manager or CEM.

By being involved in the community served by the emergency management organization, the respect needed by the emergency manager will be much easier to obtain.

As examples, I have been President of our International Association, President of our state association on two different occasions, have served on numerous boards and commissions locally, state-wide and nationally and presently serve as Mayor for the Town of Woodfin, N. C. I also chair both the North Carolina Emergency Management Association and the IAEM certification boards.

Emergency managers today must build credibility into their program. To do this, they must have the training, retraining and knowledge to do the job. There are too many opportunities available for

education in the emergency management arena for any Emergency Management Director to say they did not have the opportunity to become educated about their position.

Hamfest India Awards DERA Member Mr. SURI

QST magazine called it the "Dayton Hamvention" of India, but DERA is proud to announce that the Best Presentation Award went to Mr. S. Suri, VU2MY and long term DERA member. Mr. Suri presented "Echolink: A New Revolution in Amateur Radio" with a live demonstration for all the participants., DERA was instrumental in assisting NIAR, the National Institute of Amateur Radio, with the Echolink setup over the course of the last few years. (See January 2004 DisasterCom article available on our website)



Relief for SPAIN

The Salvation Army continues to provide aid and comfort to countless families and emergency response personnel in Madrid, Spain, following a terrorist attack that killed 198 people and injured nearly 1,400. The Salvation Army responded after a series of 10 near-simultaneous bombs exploded throughout Madrid's commuter train system during the height of morning rush hour. Salvation Army personnel and volunteers are providing food, blankets, water and emotional support to people at the explosion sites, hospitals and make-shift morgue.

Two Salvation Army overseas officers (missionaries) from the Central Territory (Midwest), Major Elsie Cline and Captain Sandra Hunt, are playing critical roles in the response effort. Major Cline is assisting in logistics at The Salvation Army's headquarters in Madrid. Captain Hunt has been ministering at the makeshift morgue in Madrid's exhibition hall offering hope and comfort to families who are identifying the remains of their loved ones.

DERA Activities *Members Please select your areas of Interest at on-line Bulletin Board*

<http://manywaters.org/DERA/index.htm>

Co-sponsorship of local volunteer projects

We encourage members to initiate local, self-sustaining projects, and try to help them find appropriate partners from throughout our membership. When no other source of "seed funds" can be found to get projects started, DERA will consider being the initiating partner, within our very limited budget. One such example is the MOE communications van stationed in Asheville, NC, which we co-sponsor along with the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society (WCARS). DERA and WCARS each paid half the cost to purchase this communications van and share in operating and maintenance expenses.

Publication of preparedness materials

We publish a wide variety of unique and useful reference materials for local emergency managers, volunteers, students and disaster researchers. Please visit our on-line library for a list of titles. DERA distributes printed copies of these materials at no cost and makes electronic copies of these and many others available at our online library.

Web-Based Resources

In addition to our own online library at www.disasters.org, DERA hosts the "Emergency Management Gold!" web resource site maintained by David Crews. EMGold! An extensive research library, summaries of late-breaking news, and a listing of current emergency management job opportunities are just a few of the site's features.

Student Awards

We provide award certificates, ribbons, medals (and in some cases, small cash awards) to students who conduct disaster preparedness or safety studies.

Meetings and Conferences

We directly sponsor or co-sponsor at least one major meeting or conference a year. Recent events were "Preparing for a Safer Tomorrow" symposia in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Asheville, NC, Denver, Colorado and Colorado Springs, Colorado. Other events where we were either major partners or program participants include the annual FEMF Disaster Management Conferences in Orlando, Florida.

Emergency Communications

During major disasters, we activate our Disaster Communications Center in Denver, CO, which is equipped with High Frequency radio and satellite telephone service. This provides a communications gateway for our many members who are amateur radio operators. On a regular basis, we encourage those members to participate in and fully support ARES, RACES, SATERN, MARS and similar established systems, with whom we do not compete. During catastrophic events (Orissa Supercyclone, Northridge Earthquake, Hurricane Andrew, Hurricanes Marilyn and Opal) and precautionary situations (Hurricane Isabel, western wildfires) we deploy portable communications equipment and a handheld satellite telephone in support of members needing communications augmentation.

International Projects

We actively seek disaster preparedness projects in developing nations which would benefit from the support of our organization and individual members. An example is work we have done with the National Institute of Amateur Radio in India. DERA provided NIAR with technical support and engineering consultation on several projects, sponsored an NIAR member on a disaster management exchange visit to the U.S., sent one DERA member to India as an infrastructure damage assessor in the aftermath of a catastrophic disaster, and sponsored NIAR officials on a speaking visit to the U.S. For several years, we have been the North American representative agency on the executive committee of the Global Forum of NGOs for Disaster Reduction. In another situation, we provided credentialing and NGO sponsorship of a member medical doctor on a mission to Eastern Europe.

Fund-Raising for Disaster Service Missions

Each year, our members make donations to the DERA disaster emergency fund, which we use to support disaster service organizations. All such funds are passed directly to relief organizations...DERA does not impose any administrative, management or overhead costs. Members often specify areas of interest, such as international disasters, medical/nutrition support for children, or search/rescue. Verifying the activities of beneficiary organizations through our extensive membership, we channel funds to those relief organizations we believe are providing the greatest service most efficiently.

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Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association

2004 Membership Application

(Express Renewal for Current Members: Include mail label, show changes, pay dues)

Name: _____ Organization: _____ Referred By: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Country: _____

E-Mail: _____ Radio Callsign: _____

Please Select Membership Category:

Professional / Technical / Academic
\$45.00 per year

Nonprofit Organization
\$65.00 per year

Executive / Management
\$75.00 per year

Gov't Agency or Small Business
\$75.00 per year

Volunteer, Student, Retired
\$25.00 per year

Corporate Membership
\$175.00 per year

Please Show Method of Payment

Check/Money Order VISA MasterCard Government IMPAC Purchase Order

CHARGE CARD NUMBER: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ EXPIRES: ___ / ___

Authorized Signature: _____

Include appropriate exchange rates for foreign currency. All checks or bank drafts must be negotiable through U.S. Banks. FEIN 39-1777651

Mail Application To:

DERA Membership
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502