DERA Grant Awards Recipient

Mrs. D. Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, is the happy recipient of DERA project funding to assist classroom training of junior high and high school students in the role of Satellite Communications in disasters. This comes only weeks after India launched its amateur radio Communications Satellite.

(Derail story inside.)

DERA receives Award in Chennai, India

DERA made presentations and bestowed awards on forty two tsunami response communicators at the NIAR Disaster Management Conference in Chennai and received an unexpected award in return.

(Details inside)

CAP Mobile Command Unit Tour

The Civil Air Patrol’s Mobile Emergency Command Center designed in part by DERA member Dan Ritchie was toured by visiting officials from India.

Dan Ritchie describes the complexities of the command center to Mr. Ajeer Vidy, Department of Information Technology, Government of India.

DisasterCom is the quarterly newsletter of DERA International. News items and articles are always welcome. ISSN 1521-1592 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 P.O. Box 797, Longmont, CO 80502 (USA)

E-Mail: DERA@disasters.org News Items: Editor@disasters.org http://www.disasters.org
A Note from your Editor

Our New Membership Drive is off with a bang!!! Please don’t pass up this opportunity to help strengthen DERA while becoming eligible for a lineup of exceptional prizes! See the prize listings on the next page. The back page of this Newsletter is a membership application to help you get started. Feel free to duplicate as needed, or request additional copies from us.
Sign up at least one new member today!

On May 15th, I was honored to be able to travel to Chennai, India and represent DERA at the NIAR International Conference. DERA’s relationships in India are long standing and very well respected by the Government of India. I am glad to be able to help maintain our relationship with those in the forefront of the tsunami disaster response in that country and continue this important part of our mission.

The photos below are just a small sampling of what we accomplished during that short visit.

Reduced to thousand of square yards of rubble, this beach scene in Chennai was the home of multitudes of Indian fishermen now left homeless. DERA was able to provide direct financial support to one such family still digging through the rubble 3 months after the tsunami.

DERA also toured some of the relief housing that had been constructed for the fishermen to the north of Chennai.

Grass hut villages constructed as relief housing for tsunami victims.

According to a DERA trained disaster responder in the region, because no transportation has been provided to the fishermen to move their catch from the shore to the reconstructed village, it will only be a matter of time, it is believed, before the fisherman will build directly on the shore once again.

Thank you all so much for your support.
Your editor,
-Catherine Lawhun
President of
Many Waters Resource Network, Inc.
providing volunteer engineering professionals for disaster response nationwide. 888-570-1344
We hope you received our letter in the mail regarding this exciting competition.

This year, we are having a membership recruitment drive from June 1 - August 31, and there are several exciting and valuable prizes available to those who recruit the most new members:

**FIRST PRIZE:** A Digitrex DSC-3500Z digital camera with 3.0 Megapixel resolution, 3x optical and 4x digital zoom, movie camera feature, built-in flash and 16MB memory with slot for 256MB Secure Digital card. Complete with PC/Mac software, USB cable and AA batteries. Retail value: $229.00.

**SECOND PRIZE:** Microsoft GPS receiver for PC with "Streets and Trips" software. Small GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) unit connects to PC by USB cable. Operating software and maps are on a set of CDs which come in the package. Retail value: $129.99.

**THIRD PRIZE:** A Raven X2 emergency light from Eternalight. The Raven X2 has red, green, blue and yellow lights which shine constantly at several brightness levels or can be set to strobe in a variety of patterns. Retail value: $59.95.

**PRIZES FOR ALL OTHERS:** Everyone else recruiting at least one new member will receive a bronze DERA medallion as a token of appreciation.

**VALUABLE OPTION FOR FIRST, SECOND, OR THIRD PRIZE WINNERS:** Instead of the listed prize, you may pass up the prize and apply the full retail value toward a Lifetime DERA membership for yourself or a friend.

The fine print: Only current members-in-good-standing of DERA are eligible to receive prizes. (Basically, that means that your own 2005 dues must be current). New membership applications must clearly identify the member to be credited with recruitment. (Online applicants can identify you in parenthesis after the new member's name.) New membership applications postmarked or entered online after June 1, 2005 and received by DERA before September 10, 2005 are eligible. In the event of a tie, prize winner will be decided by drawing. Void where prohibited by law. Recipient of prize is responsible for all taxes, duties, or government fees. Prizes not awarded remain the property of DERA. DERA will conduct this contest under the laws of the State of Colorado. Winners will be announced in the DERA newsletter.
Florida Senate Bill 442

A bill that eliminates the requirement that when a homeowner pulls their own permit, the "homeowner must supervise volunteers" and replaces it with "supervision of all work by an individual with construction experience" has been signed into law by Governor Jeb Bush.

The FLVOAD agencies lobbied for the following recap of replacement language:

20) Any disaster impacted one-family, two-family, or three-family residence repaired or replaced by a Disaster Recovery/Mitigation Organization or any Not-For-Profit Organization using volunteer labor when not holding themselves out to be contractors and assisting a property owner in mitigating unsafe living conditions. The organization, must:
   (a) Obtain all necessary building permits.
   (b) Obtain all required building code inspections.
   (c) Provide for supervision of all work by an individual with construction experience.

Now signed into law, these measures will provide a greater level of safety for the entire state and is a prime example of healthy mitigation strategy.

Florida Storm Watch

There are still approximately 50,000 roofs covered with Blue Tarps still waiting for repair across Florida as it watched the second storm of the season forming south of Cuba.

In the Panhandle, there are 8 sites where FEMA trailers have been provided for Hurricane Ivan victims left homeless and relocated after that storm last season more are still in trailers in Charlotte County from the devastation by Hurricane Charlie. The trailers, although desperately needed to relocate those left homeless, are structurally more susceptible to wind damage than their concrete block or wood frame constructed counterparts. This poses a considerable increase in the evacuation component that now needs to be planned for in the event of another major storm.

The 2004 hurricane season resulted in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) largest mobilization of emergency response and disaster recovery resources in the agency's history.

Earthquake Activity

On June 15th an earthquake, measuring 7.0, occurred approximately 90 miles west southwest of Crescent City, Calif., about 300 miles northwest of Sacramento, and just south of the California-Oregon state line, according to the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center.

The tsunami warning included a call for coastal evacuations from low-lying communities. It had been posted for entire Pacific coast from the California-Mexico border to Vancouver, Canada.

Another strong undersea quake - once again offshore of northern California - hit on June 17th, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The magnitude 6.6 earthquake occurred at 10:21 p.m., and no tsunami warning was issued. It was about 6.2 miles beneath the ocean floor and some 125 miles from Eureka - with an epicenter very close to the Tuesday quake.

This latest temblor came about nine hours after a widely-felt, 4.9-magnitude quake hit east of Los Angeles. Aftershock reports indicate there is a 10% chance of a strong aftershock within the next 7 days, and there is a small chance of an aftershock larger than the main quake. Three to 15 aftershocks are expected in the next 7 days.

On June 19th, several aftershocks registered off the coast of Northern California on the same day. One of them magnitude 5.0. Data taken from USGS http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/bulletin/
Emergency Medicine Mobile Simulation Lab

On May 12, 2005, the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center rolled out the State of Florida’s only emergency medicine simulation lab on wheels featuring SimMan® and SimBaby®. The lab, which features realistic emergency room and ambulance settings is built within a 45-foot coach and will take a realistic emergency medicine feel to physicians, nurses, and paramedics/EMT’s in rural parts of Florida.

This “Mobile Simulation Lab” will be targeted to the rural emergency medicine providers in the State of Florida. There are 33 counties in Florida deemed “rural” with more than one million residents of those counties. This educational tool is an essential part of getting those in the profession hands-on training in the ever evolving field of emergency medicine.

Featured in the “Mobile Simulation Lab” is SimMan® and SimBaby®, both of which are realistic, anatomically accurate mannequins equipped with a number of features, including a realistic airway system; an intravenous arm; physiologically correct carotid, femoral, brachial and radial pulses; and more than 2,500 cardiac rhythm variants, to allow for a variety of realistic patient care scenarios. SimMan® can produce spontaneous breathing, heart and lung sounds, as well as coughing, moaning and various voice sounds.

For further information contact:
Karen Crowe, REMT-P, RN
Phone: 800-766-6335 x24
Email: kcrowe@emlrc.org
Internet: www.emlrc.org

Civil Air Patrol at Dayton conference

DERA was in attendance at the conference, when on May 20, CAP’s national commander, Maj. Gen. Dwight Wheless, joined ARRL president Jim Haynie for the official signing of the CAP-ARRL agreement to help leaders of both organizations better use and integrate their resources in exercises and emergencies.

Local CAP members were on hand to discuss the organization’s programs, and the CAP Wisconsin Wing displayed its new, 35-foot state-of-the-art Mobile Command Center, which was custom-built for CAP by Winnebago Corporation using a Homeland Security grant.

Officials from the Government of India and the National Institute for Amateur Radio (India) were given a special in-depth tour of the unit. The goal was to provide information and ideas for implementation in their own country.

DERA partner NAIR president Mr. Suri and Mr. Ajeer Vidya, Government of India are given a tour of the CAP Mobile Command Center

“Civil Air Patrol has one of the largest unified communications networks in the nation,” said Lt. Col. Maurice Thomas, CAP, who is also an avid ham radio hobbyist, N3ADV. “Federal, state and local agencies call on CAP members every day for communications support in search and rescue missions and disaster relief. CAP needs ‘implementers’ for its communications technology, and the highly skilled ham radio operators throughout the nation are a natural resource.”

DERA Grant Award Recipient

Mrs. D. Bharathi Prasad – VU2RBI
Team leader and extraordinary emergency communicator during the December 26th Tsunami Disaster addresses a standing room only crowd at the Dayton Convention on May 20. An adept public speaker, Mrs. Prasad is also a school teacher back in India and is very enthusiastic about teaching her students the science of radio communications. She was especially hoping to purchase a hand held satellite antenna in order to teach the students about the new communications satellite launched from India on May 5th. This antenna and a handheld radio would be easily transported to all the various school locations in her District near New Delhi. DERA saw this as an opportunity to assist and sent her back to India with the antenna in order to further our mission for advancing training of youth in Disaster Preparedness in all countries.

Mr. Prasad, Barathi’s husband looks on in admiration during his wife’s presentation.

The Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness is proud to present the

15th World Conference on Disaster Management

July 10th-13th Toronto, Canada

More than 1500 delegates from over 40 countries will attend the 15th WCDM
Visit: http://www.wcdm.org/main.html to view the entire program
Instead, the judge found poor preparations and "overwhelming evidence of negligence" by the workers during the storm, which dumped seven inches of rain in seven hours. NDSU suffered its damages in two campus buildings after water flowed from the Fargo Dome mechanical room through the school's steam tunnel.

Judge Douglas Herman based his ruling on seven days of testimony in a civil trial that ended May 4. Herman's ruling gives NDSU the total amount it was seeking. Rick Johnson, NDSU general counsel, called it a major amount but said it wouldn't be a windfall for the university.

The city appears to have taken the location and in the precise same manner "Given all of this, it is hardly surprising that the Fargo Dome flooded at the exact location and in the precise same manner for the second time in a decade," Herman wrote.

"Over 225,000 of our nation's response personnel have completed Incident Command System and National Incident Management System courses currently available online through the FEMA Virtual Campus," said Brown.

The two courses were jointly developed by FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). These new courses integrate the NIMS guidelines and meet the NIMS Baseline Training requirements. Q-462 and Q463 are the first in a series of Incident Command System courses developed in web-based and blended learning format to meet all-hazards, all-agency NIMS ICS requirements for operational personnel. Now available are:

Q-462 - Introduction to All-Hazards NIMS ICS for Operational First Responders. This course is web-based, self-study, interactive and equivalent to NWCG I-100 (Based on standard learning objectives).

Q-463 - Basic All-Hazards NIMS ICS for Operational First Responders. This course is web-based, self-study, interactive and equivalent to NWCG I 200 (Based on standard learning objectives).

These two courses can be found at the FEMA Virtual Campus http://training.fema.gov/ and then clicking on "Online Training (NETC Virtual Campus)" on the upper left.

Herman ruled otherwise. A 1993 rainstorm that also caused extensive damage should have led to more preventative measures, he wrote in his decision for Cass County District Court.

During trial, the city's attorneys argued that city officials couldn't have predicted or prepared for the storm and shouldn't be held liable.

Herman ruled otherwise. A 1993 rainstorm that also caused extensive damage should have led to more preventative measures, he wrote in his decision for Cass County District Court.

Despite the forewarning, no workers, no pumps and no sandbags were in place when the first reports of likely flooding came during the 2000 storm, Herman wrote.

"Given all of this, it is hardly surprising that the Fargo Dome flooded at the exact location and in the precise same manner for the second time in a decade," Herman wrote.

The city appears to have taken the proper precautions since the 2000 flood to avoid another repeat, Johnson said.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Dave Forster at (701) 241-5538

Children's Grief Course

A new online course entitled Navigating Children's Grief is now available.

The course is produced by The Children's Grief Education Association and provides Ten CEU's or 10 contact hours. For more information please contact:

Mary M. Lyles, MSW, LCSW
Children's Grief Education Association
info@childgrief.org (303) 246-3826 or visit: www.childgrief.org
International Seminar on Amateur Radio in Disaster Management  
Chennai, India  
May 18-20, 2005

The Lighting of the Lamp Ceremony kicked off the presentations at the seminar.

Left to right: Tamil Nadu Chief of Police, Mr. R.K. Arora, Govt. of India, Mr. Ujgar Singh, Govt. of India, Mr. N. Vittal, Former I.A.S., and Mr. Suri, President NIAR

On the dias, presiding over the conference were Shri Ujagar Singh, IAS, VU2UJS, Shri R.K. Arora, Group Coordinator, DIT, Shri Ajeer Vidya, JS &FA, DIT, Shri N. Vittal, IAS (Retd.), VU2NVO, Mr. Seppo Sisatto, OH1VR, Shri N.G. Nanda, VU2NG, Shri E. Radhakrishna, VU3LRE, Shri S. Suri, VU2MY at mic.

DERA presented this exceptional plaque to NIAR for their assistance in providing the equipment, personnel and coordination for the emergency response communications following the December 26th tsunami.

It was fitting for DERA to be on hand to present awards to the 42 individuals who manned the radios and traveled to and from the Nicobar Islands to provide relief and assistance to the VU4 team during the days and weeks immediately following the tsunami.

One young gentleman, Mr. Ram Mohan, had been previously trained by DERA here in the United States and certified as a Disaster Response Specialist. (See article in the March 2005 issue) His training was instrumental in facilitating the assistance that the VU4 team and the entire NIAR operations were able to provide.

Speakers from Germany, Finland, India and the United States were introduced by Mr. Suri, President of the National Institute for Amateur Radio (NIAR) Invited speakers addressed a crowd of over 230 which included an entire classroom of teenage youth in the prestigious conference room at the Savera Hotel.

Seppo Sisatto, PhD. from Finland, gave the keynote address on the Tampere EGlobal Conference. Speeches from that conference can now be viewed online in their entirety at www.eglobalconf.net.

DERA's presentation was entitled “Emergency Communication Practices in the United States”.

Policy issues were addressed in a question and answer session during the last quadrant of the program and current practices in the United States involving licensing issues and training for emergency response we discussed. Since the Conference, DERA has been instrumental in facilitating the gifting of the online courseware for the EMCOM series by the ARRL to NIAR for implementation throughout India. Eighteen speakers in all were hosted at this informative conference among them was the design engineer for the communications satellite that India successfully launched and is now renamed VO-52.

DERA editor Catherine Lawhun discusses the satellite launch scheduled for May 5th with satellite design engineer Nagesh Upadhyaya, VU2NUD.

DERA played a key role in this very informative and important conference.

SATERN Coordinator relocated

DERA Member Major Patrick McPherson will assume responsibility for the Salvation Army’s operation in Midland, Michigan. He and his wife Carmella are due there on June the 29th, 2005. He will continue his responsibility for the SATERN operation in addition to the corps responsibility, which is in the Eastern Michigan Division of The Salvation Army.

He has been the Disaster Services Director for the Salvation Army Metropolitan Division for the past 15 years.

In addressing those who have served under him these years, He writes, “None of us would have guessed the great opportunities given us in service to God and mankind….I am especially grateful for the vision of Salvation Army leadership as we forged new boundaries in the disaster arena.”

He also commended each of those on his staff saying that, “They are each representative of the highest ethic in integrity, industry and compassion for those victimized by disaster.”

Majors David and Deborah Dalberg will succeed him in the Chicago Metro Division.
Membership Invitation

Established in 1962

MISSION

Preparedness - Response - Education

DERA is a Nonprofit Disaster Service and Professional Organization.

Our members work together as a world-wide professional network of disaster researchers, response and recovery specialists, trainers, consultants, technical experts, and project managers.

We help disaster victims by improving communications and logistics, reducing risks and mitigating hazards, conducting community preparedness workshops, and by sponsoring preparedness and response projects.

We sponsor a school awards program that encourages students to study the effects of disasters and conduct projects to reduce hazards and improve community preparedness.

As a prominent international professional association, our membership is composed of key leaders in the field of emergency management from around the world, including government officials, volunteers, consultants, business managers, researchers, educators, students and charitable groups.

Our quarterly newsletter, DisasterCom, brings current information about developments in emergency management and reports on the activities of our global membership.

We sponsor research projects and the publication of emergency management guides, case studies, technical assessments, and preparedness materials.

If you share our vision of commitment and service, we would welcome you as a member.

Please complete the application that follows or contact us for further information.

DERA
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502

Also, please visit us at http://www.disasters.org
Professional Affiliation

Membership Application

Name: ____________________________________________ Title: ___________________________
Organization: ________________________________________________________________________
Street Address: _______________________________________________________________________
City: _____________________________________ State: ___________ ZIP/Postal Code:__________
Country, if not USA or Canada: ________________ Phone: ______________________
Email: ________________________________________ Radio Callsign: ______________

Please Select Membership Classification

Enclose Check, Purchase Order, or Charge Card Authorization for Dues

☑ Professional / Technical / Academic
  $50.00 per year
  $25.00 for Volunteer, Student, Retired

☐ Executive / Management
  $75.00 per year

☐ Nonprofit Organizations
  $75.00 per year

☐ Gov't Agency or Small Business
  $95.00 per year

☐ Lifetime Individual
  $450.00

☐ Corporate Membership
  $250.00 per year

Amounts are in U.S. Dollars. Foreign currency and drafts are credited at commercial exchange rates. All checks must be payable through a U.S. bank. Add $5 per year if you wish newsletter sent by Airmail, or $20 for Global Priority Mail. Rates good for 2005.

Charge Authorization

I authorize DERA to charge the following account for membership dues as marked above:

Please Check: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Gov't Charge Card ☐ Purchase Order Attached

Card Number: ___________________________ Expires: ____________

Authorized Signature: ___________________________ Today’s Date: ____________ 06-05

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

DERA - Membership
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502-0797

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