

What Do Amateur Radio Operators Do In There Spare Time ?



From July 4 to July 8, Buffalo, NY, hosted the Tall Ships 2019 visit (12 multi-mast sailing ships from around the world) to our area. Due to the number of ships and available docking facilities, this event was split into three areas. Each area required its own security perimeter and inspection station thereby allowing normal operation to slip owners in the marina. While the ships were in Buffalo, VHF Marine Channels 16 (monitoring, distress and calling), 12 (Black Rock Lock), 13 (Bridges), 21A (Coast Guard), 22A (Coast Guard), 68 (Intership), 69 (Intership), 71 (Intership), and 72 (Intership) were buzzing with activity along with media and several local Public Safety channels. It seemed like many of the food vendors also used two-way radios (FRS & MURS) in their operations.

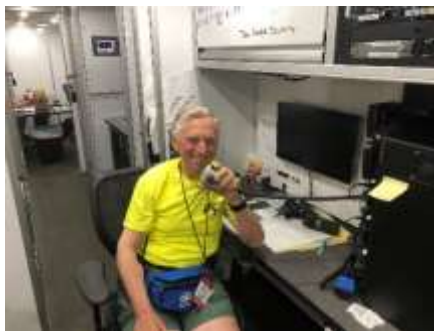


Erie County Emergency Communication Van



Buffalo Fire Van

The county mobile emergency communication van was the dispatch center for all EMS, Security, Operations, Ticketing, Ship Liaison, and Logistics dispatching. This van was equipped with air conditioning (Best place to be in 90+ degree temperatures) internet, a fifty five inch TV, an outdoor surveillance camera, multiple telephone land lines, two mobile repeaters, seven UHF simplex tactical channels, weather monitor (NOAA at Buffalo), VHF Marine Radio, Satellite Dish, New York State Police Radio Network in addition to the National Police Channel. VHF, UHF and 800 MHz were in use operating in narrow band FM (2.5 KHz deviation, 12.5 KHz spaced channels) and P-25 modes. No HF or Low Band radios (30MHz to 50 MHz) were used for this event. The Satellite equipment was also not used since we required only local communication. Ship's crew members wishing to contact their home ports and families, used cell phones. The base stations and repeaters were Motorola while the portables were Vertex Standard with external hand held speaker microphones. Some of these portables had surveillance type ear bud accessories. There were various gain antennas mounted on top of the van along with a mast when additional range was required. Duplexers, Satellite, Internet, Cellular and the Repeaters were rack mounted with no room in the van being wasted.



Ron WA2WWK at Dispatch Center Number 1

There were four dispatch centers, each capable of monitoring and controlling up to four base stations or repeaters, and a conference room for briefings. Each morning at 08:00 hours there was a briefing regarding the previous days' events and the current day plan. Law Enforcement, EMS, Coast Guard, Environmental, Security, and Operations were present and gave their reports. Equipment was battery, generator or utility powered depending upon van location and use of the equipment. Multi-line desk telephones were either hard wired (land lines) or connected to a mobile cell telephone system. Naturally

there were operator comforts including a refrigerator (well stocked with bottled water, soda and frozen meals, not MRE's), microwave, sink and food storage lockers. The usual meals centered around breakfast sandwiches while lunch and dinner favored hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza and wings. There were plenty of food trucks, local restaurants and walk up kiosks supplying fast food to the crowds. Scanner enthusiasts were at the three venues eagerly attempting to capture the radio activity. It took the following week for the workers and volunteers to catch up on lost sleep, as some slept and ate at their duty stations for the five day event. With very tight security in place, there were only minor incidents, mostly misunderstanding due to language translations. We had over 125,000 people who visited the three venues during this Tall Ships 2019 event. The workers and volunteers are eagerly looking forward to 2022 when the Tall Ships are expected to return to Western New York.

Active Frequencies Used by Staff & Volunteers

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|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Marine Ch. 16 | 156.8000 Mhz | Marine Ch. 68 | 156.4250 Mhz |
| Marine Ch. 12 | 156.6000 Mhz | Marine Ch. 69 | 156.6750 Mhz |
| Marine Ch. 13 | 156.6500 Mhz | Marine Ch. 71 | 156.4750 Mhz |
| Marine Ch. 21A | 157.0500 Mhz | Marine Ch. 72 | 156.6250 Mhz |
| Marine Ch. 22A | 157.1000 Mhz | Buffalo Weather | 162.5500 Mhz |

Tactical Channels: UHF Vertex Standard VX261 Portable With Speaker/Mic.

Repeaters: UHF Motorola R1225 UTAC 0, 1, 2 & 3

Base & Control Stations: VHF & UHF Motorola CDM1250 Series