# DISASTERCOM

DERA MWW. disasters.

**DERA Newsletter** 

46 Years of Service

October 2008

# DERA Clothing and Supplies Now Available Online



Members can now obtain a wide assortment of quality hats, clothing, coffee mugs, decals, ID badges and mementos at the new DERA Online Store:

#### http://www.cafepress.com/disasters

Some of the more popular items include Incident Response Team coffee cups and travel mugs, DERA baseball caps in a variety of styles and colors, a wide range of shirts, sweatshirts and jackets. Fun items also include a DERA cook's apron, pet bowls and an Incident Response Team teddy bear. DERA decals, identification badges, messenger bags, journals and many other items are also available.

For the next 30 days, prices shown at the DERA store reflect a 10% introductory discount.

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# Sell on <u>ebay</u> and Help DERA

DERA is an approved charity at eBay, meaning that it only takes a couple of mouse clicks for anyone selling on eBay to designate a percentage of their sale to go to DERA as a U.S. tax-deductible contribution.

Continued on p. 3



Photo by Jeff Roberson

# Hurricane Ike Flooding

Buildings, vehicles and debris bank up against a bridge at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In 2008, the Midwest endured its worst flooding in 15 years.

More photos inside and on our website.



# DERA Member Receives DHS Recognition

DERA Southeast Regional Program Director Robert Rathbone recently received this DHS medal and Certificate of Achievement for his continuing efforts to provide weekly emergency communications training to federal, state and local staff members.

Robert has worked for many years in disaster communications and logistics planning, and has coordinated DERA's preparedness and response activities in the Southeast since 2007.

Please see Robert's article about his 2008 hurricane disaster response observations on Page 4 inside.

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

#### DERA International

P.O. Box 797 Longmont, CO 80502

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#### **Officers**

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#### Partnerships & Affiliations Include

**ARRL** 

American Radio Relay League www.arrl.org

**CNA** 

**Colorado Nonprofit Association** www.ColoradoNonprofits.org

**EM Forum (formerly EIIP)** www.emforum.org

**EMLRC** 

**Emergency Medicine Learning Resource** Center

www.emlrc.org

**FAIRS** 

**Foundation for Amateur International Radio Service** 

www.fairs.org

Florida VOAD Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster www.flvoad.org

NIAR

National Institute of Amateur Radio (India) www.niar.org

### From the Board Chairman

I would just like to take a few words to introduce myself as the new Board Chairman for DERA, the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association, www.disasters.org.

I'm Howard Pierpont and my family and I live in Greelev. Colorado after my 'retirement' from the Hi-Tech industry. I have close to 20 years of Business Continuity experience and a total of 40 years with business and industry.

I grew up on the east coast of the US and weathered a number of hurricanes and very heavy snows. We learned to prepare for cold winters, frequent high winds and heavy rain during the summer. I grew up in a prepared family and we always looked out for each other and the community.

I am very excited about my term as Board Chair. As you look through this newsletter you will see some subtle changes. Over time we will be revising our Vision and Mission Statements while staying true to the DERA roots some 46 years ago. Soon, you will see opportunities for training, education and a speakers' bureau. We will continue to prepare for those events that have some amount of pre- warning by prepositioning capability near the impacted areas. We will also respond, to the best of our abilities, in times of need and provide resource connections for those that have ongoing issues.

This spring I was at a conference in Nevada and my wife called to say a tornado had gone about 4 miles from our home. Although we were not directly impacted, I returned to assist with multiple food distributions over the next few days.

Recently, I was in Texas and was able to observe Hurricane Ike preparedness in communities. Many people many evacuated and were saved although many homes and businesses have been destroyed and there is extensive environmental impact. Unfortunately, many others stayed behind to 'ride out the storm' and were less fortunate. DERA needs to continue to prepare and respond to those in need.

I am always interested in and encourage your comments and feedback. Please let me hear from you anytime.

> -Howard Pierpont Board Chair - DERA

Email: Howard.Pierpont@disasters.org



Chairman Pierpont and Editor Catherine Lawhun

### From your Editor's Desk

DERA will once again be hosting its annual membership meeting at the International Disaster Management Conference in Orlando February 19-22, 2009. In conjunction with that, Many Waters Volunteer Engineers wants to invite DERA members to participate in a virtual round table disaster response exercise entitled: "FAULT FOUND!" The scenario is centered around potential catastrophes resulting to a multi-state region that occur following a earthquake event along the New Madrid Fault. Cost of participation in the exercise is only \$20 and travel is not required. All participation will be accomplished via conference call. Anyone interested in participating this year please email ops@disasters.org

Hope to have you on the call.

- Catherine Lawhun



## Sell on ebay and Help DERA

If you've never sold on ebay, it's quite easy and there are step-by-step instructions for beginners at www.ebay.com

If you already sell on ebay, you know how easy, profitable (and fun!) it can be. Whether you're clearing out your attic, getting rid of items you just don't need anymore, or selling your own handicrafts, ebay is one of the easiest ways to showcase and sell online.

Through ebay's charitable GivingWorks program, the seller can designate a percentage of any online sale as a direct donation to DERA. You can give as little as 10% or as much as 100% of the final sale price which you decide at the time you list the item for sale. Once the sale is completed, ebay will automatically credit DERA with your donation and send you a tax receipt.

The whole process is simple and quick. As you are listing your item for sale on ebay, a small GivingWorks block will appear immediately after you've entered your selling price and terms for the online auction. If you've never donated through GivingWorks before, the default selections are for "No Donation," but the menu gives you the option of adding DERA to your list of preferred charities and designating a percentage of the sale as a donation to us.

While ebay selling menus are generally easy to follow, we have set up an online guide with typical screenshots to show you what to expect and the entries you would need to make the first time you select DERA for a donation. Future sales should require only a single click to approve or decline a donation.

Complete and easy to follow pictorial directions on our website at

www.disasters.org/ebay.html

Several members have made regular donations to DERA through their ebay sales, but one member in particular deserves special thanks: Claude Baker donated 100% of sales from an impressive inventory of professional photography equipment sold through ebay. Claude's donations, in fact, have covered the total cost of DERA satellite airtime during the 2008 hurricane season as well as repairs and upgrades to our flyaway communications kit replacement of outdated supplies in all our medical kits. Thank you, Claude! You have truly shown how significant an

impact a single person can make through their dedication and generosity.

All donations DERA receives through the GivingWorks program are used for direct support of our mission, which is carried out by unpaid volunteers. No donations to DERA have ever been used to pay salaries or to provide benefits to staff. We continue to be a 100% volunteer organization, and your donation to DERA through ebay sales can make a huge difference in our ability to accomplish our mission.



#### **New Member Roster**

Tim Pillay, SSANDS Singapore

Merilee MacLaggan

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

Kathy R. Reynolds

Horatio, Arkansas

Michael W. Thomann Lubbock, Texas

**Amber Gray** 

Lynwood, Illinois

Captain David G. Arnold

Lexington, South Carolina

David L. Macmillan

Eastkalimantan, Indonesia

Welcome to DERA!
It is our sincere aim to help you
achieve your professional and personal
goals!

### **Members**

Send us your news!

Your activities will be of interest to everyone.

Email: editor@disasters.org

## New DERA Merchandise is Here



**DERA Online Store** 

www.cafepress.com/disasters

For the next 30 days, prices shown at the DERA store reflect a 10% introductory discount.

Pictured above are only a few of the many products available at the DERA Online Store.

"I am very pleased with the quality and variety of DERA-themed articles now available at the online store,' said Howard Pierpont, DERA Chair. "Prices are very reasonable and DERA is able to use revenues from the store to help keep costs of membership low, while providing funding for our disaster field work. I encourage all our members to show their pride in our organization by wearing DERA apparel and using DERA-themed articles wherever appropriate, but especially at conferences and while on deployment."

There is also a direct link to the online store at the DERA homepage:

http://www.disasters.org

# PAIRS Update

In Dominica, FAIRS (Foundation for Amateur International Radio Service) directors David and Gaynell Larsen, and members Tom King W4VZH, Seth Sjoestrom J79/SM0XBI, and George Morriss J79KUB have worked countless hours as volunteers to update communications systems, repair equipment, do installations and training, and provide motivational and other support.

FAIRS distributed communications equipment, supplies and medicine to many in Dominica. Amateur radio operators/volunteers from all over the nation stepped up to help with this effort.

Castle Bruce: supplied radios to new amateur radio enthusiasts and emergency personnel, plus a central HF station to benefit the community.

The Dominica Disaster Management Committee functions largely on its own, with requests to FAIRS for equipment and communications training from time to time. They are implementing an emergency plan, and have established 10 "safe homes", or shelters in hurricane-prone villages on the Atlantic.

In Dominica, funds continue to go out in order to sustain the KFC (Kids for Christ) feeding program for the school children. There is no public program for such meals in Dominica.

Hyacinth Thomas is involved with the setup of an additional clinic for the region which will be opening soon to service the many needy families in the area, medically.

FAIRS is actively supporting "start up" business and entrepreneurialism based on interest and demand, with the goal of enabling local residents to stay on the island rather than move to other countries/islands.

In Grenada, St. Lucia and Guyana, the Eastern Caribbean, Canada, Bangladesh, Sweden and Ukraine, FAIRS has shipped radio equipment including a supply of handy talkies, twoway radios, antennas, connectors, coax antenna feed line, plus training materials, etc. FAIRS members in these countries are consistently active.

FAIRS has also supported the Grenada Amateur Radio Club (GARC), which is now recognized as the body to conduct exams for amateur radio licenses. These

islanders have exercised their own disaster preparedness plan and equipped their volunteers for the job. FAIRS has given radio equipment, literature and funds for outreach to GARC.

For more information, please visit the FAIRS web site: http://www.fairs.org

# 2008 Hurricane Disaster Response Observations

#### By Robert Rathbone

Like many people involved in disaster preparations and relief I wear multiple hats, whether paid or voluntary. My hats extend from the local to the state and to the federal levels.

This year hurricanes, as they affected the United States, presented an interesting mix of various sized storms and how much human misery they generated. I call hurricanes "misery generators".

Scientists a few years back began to question the weather services' Saffir-Simpson scale (category 1 thru 5) as not accurately reflecting the various destructive components of a hurricane's - wind, rain, storm surge and size. This year seemed to add more evidence to this line of thinking.

The new proposed classifications will either be called the Hurricane Intensity Index or Hurricane Hazard Index.

Tropical Storm Fay which made landfall near the Ft. Myers area in the early hours with 60 mph winds was plotted to travel across Florida and rake the east coast. Normally any storm, once it makes landfall, rapidly loses strength. But with Florida being relatively flat, Tropical Storm Fay actually gained strength and increased winds to 65 mph. Fay maintained this strength as it passed across the state and eventually dropped wind speed to 50mph.

Fay was earmarked as a *rain event*. In Florida our afternoon thunderstorms fairly often can produce winds in the 40 to 50mph range so a normal tropical storm is a non-event mostly except for low laying flooding.

Fay maintained its tropical characteristics and parked itself just off the east coast of Florida near Cape Canaveral. Fay, stalled and maintained tropical storm strength and had an eye 30 miles across. Fay was indeed a rain event as it lingered for 4 days in one spot.

One individual I talked with who was in the area, said he was in the eye for over a day, but received over 30 inches of rain in a 48 hour period. Fay flooded two Florida counties. The Florida VOADs (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) handled recovery efforts admirably.

Hurricane Gustav was expected to be the big one. Gustav was given an 81% chance of remaining a category 3 Hurricane as it made landfall. New Orleans was going to be on the most powerful side of the hurricane. No Category three hurricane has ever hit a major metropolitan area in the US.

The response set in motion by all the agencies and VOADs was very robust. No one wanted a repeat of Katrina. The states of Texas and Louisiana mobilized over 7000 National Guard and Texas Military personnel.

I requested one of DERA's Satellite phones, because it looked like I would be deployed to provide radio communications among the various agencies. Along with my radios the Sat phone would prove useful.

Gustav made landfall with category 2 winds of 110mph but hit in a sparsely populated area of Louisiana and was quickly downgraded. Resources were moved and enormous amounts of money were spent in this preparation, with gas prices near all time highs contributing to the cost of moving equipment and personnel.



Gustav caused serious damage and casualties in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, Cuba and the US. Gustav caused \$15 Billion in damage.

The enormous response to Gustav, which made landfall in a sparsely populated area and quickly diminished in strength meant that there was more than adequate response to the affects of the rain. Once again the storm's main

damage was by rain. Cell Phone coverage was not reported lost, so communications remained intact.

Disaster relief agencies are were hard hit by their expectation for it to be a major hurricane striking a major metropolitan area then having it fizzle out at the last minute. Red Cross had to seek \$15B USD from US Congress.

The hard hit American Economy had dried up the donations and the Salvation Army only reported \$20,000 in response to Gustav. Gustav didn't produce the disaster that was expected.

This will produce a long lasting economic affect on the VOAD's that will be difficult to erase, both on their ability to respond and the robustness of the response. Clearly this system needs fine tuning and staging of the response to meet the size of the disaster. I saw several over responses that I can only attribute to lack of experience in dealing with resources deployed for disasters. It seems everyone brought everything and two kitchen sinks.



Hurricane Ike as in YIKE. Hurricane Ike was going to be the big one, and it certainly kept everyone on edge. Florida had Hurricane Gustav on the left as a category 3 and Hurricane Ike as a category 3 with an initial projected path to hit the Fortunately Miami area, the path changed. It would have been the very first category three strike a hurricane to maior metropolitan area.

Ike grew into the third most destructive and the third costliest hurricane to ever hit the US. It was the most massive Atlantic Hurricane recorded with a diameter of 550 miles with tropical force winds and a hurricane force wind field over 240 miles.





Ike had a 5.2 on a scale of 1 to 6 in destructive potential where as Katrina and Wilma had a destructive potential off a 5.1

Fortunately, the same relief organizations and resources were still in the area from Gustav and could be put to rapid use to help in the recovery effort, What made IKE so destructive even though it made landfall at Galveston Texas as a category 2 with 110mph winds was the size and that it also struck the 4th largest city in the US; Houston, TX.

Ike was a storm surge event, but luckily the surge maxed out at 11 feet rather than the 21 feet it was predicted to produce from it's huge size.

A category 2 hurricane can produce some damage but is quite survivable if you do not live in flood zone areas nor a manufactured home.

On the Island of Galveston with a population of 57,000, 20,000 people did not heed the mandatory evacuation orders. If the storm surge was as large as predicted the loss of life would have be catastrophic. The death toll was 96 people in the US (74 in Haiti), There are to this date 202 people missing that could have been washed out to sea.



The largest problem with a low level hurricane hitting a major metropolitan area, is the loss of power. The mayor of Houston told everyone to stay put and hunker down, which the citizens did, but I wonder if that word by TV also was received incorrectly on Galveston Island.

It took over 550,000 pounds of food to be delivered daily to feed the population affected by the power outages. It was an unprecedented recovery effort aided by the fact the relief organizations were already nearby.

Communications remained up, except on Galveston Island - which did have cell service restored within 36 hours after the storm. An amazing recovery brought about nature's deal of the cards.

All relief organizations were financially injured by how this season's storms timing, strength and donor burn out made worse by a poor economy. Some serious adjustments are going to have to made to match the response and staging of the relief efforts in order to maintain a humane response to the human misery brought about by mother nature.

-Robert Rathbone, AG4ZG

# DERA Partner EIIP Rolls Out New Name, Look, and Slogan



October 1, 2008: The Emergency Information Infrastructure Project (EIIP) proudly announces a new name, look, and slogan for its Website that provides educational opportunities professionals and volunteers engaged in all hazards emergency management and allied disciplines. As result of action recently taken by the EIIP Board of Directors, EMFORUM.org now replaces the EIIP Virtual Forum as branding for the Website, to coincide with the existing URL, http://www.emforum.org, as being easier to recall, providing a concise representation of purpose that retains the virtual nature of the enterprise . A new logo and banner on the site reflect the change, as well as a new slogan, "Sharing Information — Promoting Dialogue."

EIIP Board Chair, Joanne McGlown, noted, "We felt it was time to update the site, but our partners and participants can

expect the same high level of service that we have provided in the past. We continue to strive to provide a quality product for the benefit of the broader emergency management community, and we are looking forward to an exciting year ahead."

EIIP Partners and others who may wish to link to EMFORUM.org from their own sites may use the new logo that is available for download from http://www.emforum.org/images/EMForu mLink.gif.

In addition, a new format for delivery of educational programs will be explored over the next few weeks, to include audio and visuals using MS Live Meeting with Voice-Over-IP. An "open house" style event is being planned for the near future to test the feasibility of using this new medium, while preserving the capacity to provide text transcripts to add to our extensive archive. A further announcement will be issued providing details.

The EIIP is a public benefit corporation for educational purposes under the State of Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act, and Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The EIIP promotes the safety, health, and welfare of the general public by supporting and enhancing the effectiveness of those individuals, whether paid or unpaid, full-time or part-time, engaged in emergency / disaster management.



You Search- We Give

# GoodSearch & GoodShop for DERA

Remember, Board Member Regional Director Anne Hutton has up account www.goodsearch.com SO that DERA receives payment for nearly every web search done by a visitor. It's a good search engine, and DERA gets paid for nearly every search done. (You can check on how much we're earning at anytime by clicking on the "Amount Raised" button at the search page.) Just be sure that DERA is listed as the charity you wish to support. Here's a direct link:

www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=872399

Also...and this is BIG.... one of the tabs on GoodSearch is for online shopping, where DERA receives a significant percentage of online sales from Amazon, Target, Best Buy, Petsmart, Barnes & Noble, Travelocity, Circuit City, Lands' End and about fifty other stores when you link through the GoodSearch site. Here's the direct link:

www.goodshop.com/?charityid=872399



# Shop at the stores below and earn money for DERA.



1-800-Flowers 7% donation



Apple Store 1% donation

### **BEST BUY**

Best Buy .5%-1.5% donation

### **Buy.com**

Buy.com 1.5-5% donation



Container Store 3.5% donation

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Bloomingdales 2% donation



Circuit City .5% -1.5% donation

Hame Dell

2% donation



<u>eBay</u> 25% - 37.5% donation

GAP gap.com

Gap 2.8% donation



Half.com 2.5%-5.5% donation



Home Depot 2% donation



2% donation

# iTunes

<u>iTunes</u> 2.5% donation



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Gallery
5%-9% donation



Lands' End 3% donation



Nike 4% donation



Office Depot
Up to 4% donation



Oriental Trading
Company
2.5% donation



PetSmart 4%-7.5% donation

saks.com

Saks Fifth Avenue
2.5% donation

# SEPHORA

Sephora 2.5%-3.5% donation



<u>Target</u> 1.5%-5.5% donation



Toys R Us 1.5% donation



Wal-Mart .5%-2.5% donation



Hotels.com 2.5% donation



<u>11314</u> 2%-4% donation



J.Crew 2.5% donation



Kohls 2% donation



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NORDSTROM 2.5% donation



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Overstock.com .5%-3.5% donation



Priceline Donation varies



Sears 1% donation



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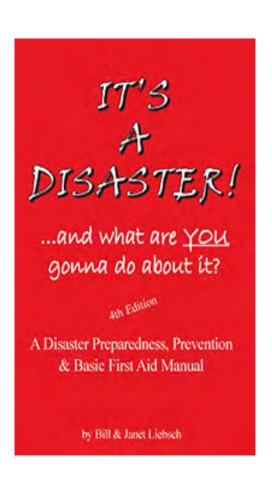
Teleflora 7% donation



Travelocity
1% donation



Zappos 6% donation



### **FEDHEALTH - DERA Association**

DERA has partnered with FedHealth of Tucson Arizona, to publish and distribute preparedness literature. Bill & Janet Liebsch publish a book and CD called *It's a Disaster!...and what are you going to do about it?* This is a disaster preparedness, prevention and basic first aid manual. While not a medical manual, information has been complied from around the world and is a great read. DERA would like to see every household have a copy.

DERA is preparing a series of short videos and podcasts based on the book as well as a series of related lecture topics.

**DERA** is now making the book available at a significantly reduced price through our home page at <a href="www.disasters.org">www.disasters.org</a>. A portion of the proceeds goes directly to fund DERA activities. Larger quantities of the hardcopy book or CDs are also available. Specially imprinted copies are also available in larger quantities. See the web site for more information or contact Howard Pierpont at <a href="https://howard.pierpont@disasters.org">Howard.pierpont@disasters.org</a> for any questions.

The book is endorsed by the the International Association for Counterterrorism & Security Professionals (IACSP), Arlington VA





### Membership Invitation



Established in 1962

## <u>MISSION</u>

### **Preparedness - Response - Education**

### **DERA** is a Nonprofit Disaster Service and Professional Organization.

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

We help disaster victims by improving planning, communications and logistics, reducing risks and mitigating hazards, conducting community preparedness programs, and by sponsoring emergency response missions.

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

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

Our quarterly newsletter, <u>DisasterCom</u>, 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 www.disasters.org

### **Professional Affiliation**

# Membership Application



Name:				Title:			
Organization:						<del>-</del>	
Street Address	3:						
City: Sta				ZIP/Postal Code:			
Country, if not USA or Canada:				Phone:			
Email:				Radio Callsign:			
En	close Che		e Select Membership Cla e Order, or Charge			ion for Dues	
Individual Membership - Professional \$50.00 per year \$25.00 for Student or Retired				Nonprofit Organization \$75.00 per year			
Individual Membership - Management Level \$75.00 per year				Governmental Office \$95.00 per year			
Lifetime Individual \$450.00				Small or Independent Business \$125.00 per year Please contact us for corporate membership			
Amounts are			drafts are credited at commerci			ks must be payable through a U.S. bank. and for 2008-2009.	
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Please Check	k: UVISA	☐ MasterCar	rd 🔲 American Expr	ess 🔲 I	Discover [	☐ Purchase Order Attached	
Card Number:		-	-	-		Expires: / Year / Year	
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Did a member refer you for membership?				DERA - Membership P.O. Box 797 Longmont, CO 80502-0797			
Name of Member:					. J J, \		