



Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub
1733 Gihon Rd. Parkersburg, WV 26101

ARRL PRESIDENT URGES ORDERLY AMATEUR RADIO RESPONSE TO KATRINA

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, this week called on the Amateur Radio community to exercise patience as the Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans flooding relief and recovery efforts move into high gear. "I know many people would like to move now," Haynie said. "Please don't. I know many of you want to enter the fray, come to the coast and get involved. Please, not yet." Haynie instead advised hams eager to assist to make sure they're prepared, refresh their skills and knowledge of protocols and procedures.

The ARRL now is seeking experienced Amateur Radio emergency volunteers to help supplement communication for American Red Cross feeding and sheltering operations in Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Special consideration will be given to operators who have successfully completed the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course training (Level I minimum) to serve as team leaders. All interested should e-mail "Katrina@arrl.org";, providing name, call sign, contact information and any equipment you can take along on a field deployment for an indefinite period. Volunteers may face hardship conditions without the usual amenities and will need to

provide their own transportation to the marshaling area.

Haynie says safety is of paramount importance to all ARES volunteers. "For now, the area is simply too dangerous, and no one is being allowed in," he pointed out. "Transportation and logistics, including volunteer groups coming in, must be done in an orderly manner or we may only add to the chaos and confusion." He requested that ARES members and teams work through their Section Emergency Coordinators (SECs).

President Haynie's complete remarks are on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/09/01/1/>>.

Amateur Radio operators from Texas were deployed this week to New Orleans to assist in the trouble-plagued evacuation of flooding refugees from the Louisiana Superdome. Because of additional flooding, damage to the facility and other problems at the Superdome, authorities convoyed the 25,000 flood evacuees in the sports stadium to the Houston Astrodome and other locations in Texas.

Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator Gary Stratton, K5GLS, says ham radio communication between Houston and the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, emergency oper-

ations center (EOC) September 1 was able to clarify some logistical issues involved with the refugee relocation effort.

While Amateur Radio is providing support in Louisiana for various relief organizations, Stratton said most ham radio efforts to date have gone toward assisting with emergency management and search-and-rescue operations. Stratton says he has ARES members ready to roll once authorities reopen the hardest-hit parishes that have been closed off to outsiders.

"We have people on standby from all over northern Louisiana and from the South Texas Section basically champing at the bit trying to find out when they can go," Stratton told ARRL. "It's a very tough wait." Volunteers have been or will be deployed into areas that are not cordoned off, he said.

Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX, says ARES members are active in the three hardest-hit counties--Harrison, Hancock and Jackson. Amateurs there have been using HF, VHF and UHF resources to support emergency management as well as the Red Cross, The Salvation Army and the Baptist Men's Kitchen. They've also been handling considerable health-and-welfare traffic, Keown said.

In combination with his role as an ARES member, Alabama SM Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, this week volunteered at a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Organization encampment in Mobile on his state's hurricane-stricken Gulf Coast--and he's using his vacation time to do it. He supported communication for the Red Cross, The Salvation Army and Southern Baptist relief organizations helping to feed flood victims and supply them with necessities.

"There's still a lot of power outages, still a lot of damage--trees down, roads blocked, a lot of streets under water in the downtown Mobile area, and a lot of people who don't have food, electricity or phones here," Sarratt told ARRL. "Until I got down here, I didn't know the magnitude of the Mobile situation." He said Amateur Radio volunteers at the encampment are coordinating on HF with Alabama SEC Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, and providing logistical communication support for Red Cross emergency response vehicles on VHF FM simplex.

Sarratt will head to Mississippi and Louisiana's ravaged coastal areas over the holiday weekend to help out ARES volunteers already there. "Those guys down there have found massive devastation--no power, no cell phones." The West Gulf ARES Emergency Net remains active on 7.285 MHz days and 3.873 MHz nights, handling emergency and priority traffic only. Health-and-welfare traffic is being handled on 7.290 MHz days and 3.935 MHz nights. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) on 14.265 MHz has begun concentrating on emergency and priority traffic and shuttling health-and-welfare requests to its Web site <<http://www.saturn.org/>>.

The Salvation Army also is using Amateur Radio for its tactical communications.

Radio amateurs not involved in emergency communication are being asked to keep the West Gulf Emergency Net and SATERN frequencies clear, plus or minus 5 kHz. ARRL advises that stations not initiate any additional traffic into the storm-affected areas at this time.

The ARRL ARES E-Letter <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/>> has posted a special edition that contains additional details on Amateur Radio's Katrina response efforts. For more information, including links to report or locate missing individuals, visit the FirstGov.gov Hurricane Katrina Recovery Web page <http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/PublicSafety/Hurricane_Katrina_Recovery.shtml>.

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SATERN VOLUNTEERS HAVE PIVOTAL ROLES IN ROOFTOP, ATTIC RESCUES

Amateur Radio was instrumental in saving several stranded flood victims this week in Louisiana and Mississippi. At least one of the incidents received national media attention. On August 29, a call for help involving a combination of cell telephone calls and Amateur Radio led to the rescue of 15 people stranded by floodwaters on the roof of a house in New Orleans. Unable to get through an overloaded 911 system, one of those stranded called a relative in Baton Rouge. That person called another relative, Sybil Hayes in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma,

whose 81-year-old aunt Helen Elzy was among those clinging to the roof along with other family members.

Hayes called the American Red Cross chapter, which contacted the Tulsa Repeater Organization. Using the Red Cross chapter's well-equipped amateur station, TRO member Ben Joplin, WB5VST, was able to relay a request for help on Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) net on 14.265 MHz via Russ Fillinger, W7LXR, in Oregon, and Rick Cain, W7KB, in Utah back to Louisiana, where the ARES net contacted emergency personnel who rescued the 15 people and got them to a Red Cross shelter.

"When all else fails, Amateur Radio works is more than a catchy tag line," says TRO's Mark Conklin, N7XYO. "It's a lifeline." National Public Radio interviewed Joplin about the experience for its "All Things Considered" program on August 30. Fillinger and Cain got attention from regional media for their role in the rooftop rescue.

Cain passed along a similar piece of traffic a day earlier after he got a message that a police officer was stuck in the attic of his house. Cain relayed the information to others on the SATERN net, but he still doesn't know how the police officer's message reached him or if the man was rescued.

SATERN National Net Director Jim Adams, WA0SLB, reports he got a call on the net August 29 from Bill Simpson, KE4WRH, seeking help in locating two elderly men trapped in their attic in Gulfport, Mississippi, with the water rising. The stranded men called Simpson because they remembered that he was a radio amateur.

"After receiving the traffic, I tried to get a station on frequency who could deliver the message to authorities, but no stations were on," Adams recounted. He called Quentin Nelson, WA4BZY, in Georgia, who's SATERN's national health-and-welfare director, and Nelson was able to contact Salvation Army Capt John Robbins, who, in turn, got in touch with Mississippi State Patrol. Authorities were able to rescue the two men.

Adams says the net handled at least two other messages relating to individuals trapped in attics with the water rising. Fillinger, a SATERN net controller, also was part of the mix August 29 when the net got word of a family of five trapped in an attic in Diamond Head, Louisiana. The family used a cell phone to call out, but it's not known whom they contacted initially. Bob Rathbone, AG4ZG, in Tampa, says he checked the address on a map and determined it was in an area struck by a storm surge.

Acting on a sudden inspiration, he called the US Coast Guard search-and-rescue station in Clearwater, explained the situation and relayed the information. Rathbone said he was rewarded an hour later by a call from the South Haven Sheriff's Department in Louisiana, which informed him a rescue operation was under way.

"Another search-and-rescue operation I ran with involved three people stuck on a roof, and one was a child," he said. The person was able to send a text message from a cell phone to a family member in Michigan. Once again, the US Coast Guard handled the call.

"Ham radio works when all else doesn't," he concluded.

PARKERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

July 11, 2005

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub held their monthly meeting at Shoney's, Route 50 with President Blaine Auville (WA8IOE) presiding.

There was an introduction of 24 members and guests.

50/50 Drawing of \$17 won by Lloyd Boston (AB8KS).

OLD Business

Report on Field Day was given by Lloyd Boston (AB8KS). Some problems but everyone had a good time; there was good food at the picnic with 199 phone contacts and 221 CW contacts. It was suggested that another site should be considered for Field Day 2006.

Picnic – Sept. 12, 6:00pm at Shelter 9, covered dish. Meat will be provided.

Christmas Party – Dec. at Washington Community Building.

Special Events Call – Connie (N8IO) volunteered to look into what needs to be done.

Repeater site has been mowed and the next mowing will be 1st Thursday in August.

Jerry Wharton (KA8NJW) reported that a copier has been donated but needs toner. Cost of toner \$20, Jerry Wharton (KA8NJW) will see Ray Johnson (KC8RUJ) about the toner.

New Business

It was suggested by Mike Davis (KC8SIP) that the area Ham Clubs have an Amateur Radio Demonstration at the City Park from 9am-5pm possibly in September.

Applications were read and approved for Harold Blevins(KD8ALG) and Abby Blevins(KD8AUD). Jerry Wharton (KA8NJW) made a motion to accept the applications and George Bonnett (K8VAH) 2nd the motion. Applications were also read and approved for Lloyd Wilson (KC8TGO) and Kim Wilson (KC8TKY). A motion made by Lloyd Boston (AB8KS) and 2nd by Charlie Janes(KC8SSZ).

There was a discussion about no being able to get on the 97 repeater unless you run other people off. Perhaps a monitor person should be appointed to direct people to use other frequencies. It was pointed out that an open repeater is just that, an open repeater.

Marietta Club meeting will be July 12 at 7:30pm.

Ham fests & Upcoming Events – Jackson Mill, August 27 & 28 – Voice of Aladdin, August 6 in Columbus – FYI testing – Saturday, August 13 at 911 Center – Half Marathon, Saturday August 20.

Motion to adjourn was made by George Bonnett (K8VAH) and 2nd by Jerry Wharton (KA8NJW).

PARK Minutes August 8, 2005

The meeting was held at the Golden Corral in Parkersburg, WV. President Auville, WA8IOE called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the introduction of those present.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Mary Malson. Mary and Tom, N6RLN have moved to Petroleum, WV and were visiting the meeting for the first time. We welcome them to the area. (unless they keep winning the raffle)

Georgia read the minutes from the July meeting which were approved as read.

Old Business: Kenny Harris, WA8LLM, gave a report on the upcoming 1/2 Marathon. He still needs volunteers.

The PARK Picnic, Sept. 12, will be our next meeting. KC8RUJ has reserved shelter #9 at the main Parkersburg City Park. Bring a Covered dish. No one expressed a desire to operate radio, so the plan to get a special event call sign was dropped.

WA8LLM explained ARES as a registration of equipment that a ham has available so that in the case of emergency there would be a record of who had what.

Charlie, KC8ZZS suggested trying to work 443.05 simplex following the Tuesday evening nets.

The 97 repeater site had been mowed on the first Thursday of the month. A piece of slag, or whatever, cracked John, W8WEJ's back glass on his SUV.

The Marietta Radio Club meeting will be held Tuesday (tomorrow) at 7:30. Ralph, K8RYU to give a talk on feed lines.

Ray, KC8RUJ demonstrated his and Carol's new badges (like the moving message signs you see around town) They are available locally at Badge-O-Rama. Price \$40.00.

Mary's Plane View was mentioned as a meeting site.

It was moved by Gene, N8GP seconded by Randy, KB8WHL to nominate all the current officers for re-election. Motion carried. Nominations will be opened at the picnic meeting and the election held.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Harold Dooley, N8KO with a quick second and the motion carried.

Respectfully, Georgia Milhoan.

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FCC MORSE CODE DECISION WOULD NOT AFFECT CW SUBBANDS, PRIVILEGES

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees.

"There seems to be a lot of confusion on these points, judging by the questions I've been getting," said John Hennessee, N1KB, of the ARRL Regulatory Information Branch. He emphasizes that the proceeding does not put forward or recommend any changes in CW allocations or privileges.

The FCC is currently accepting comments on its Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, released July 19, which proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes.

Hennessee further notes that the FCC also has not proposed to extend HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. The Commission's NPRM&O suggests that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, such Technician licensees would be able to gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination.

To file on-line comments on the FCC NPRM&O in WT Docket 05-235 or to view others' comments in the proceeding, visit the ECFS site <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>> and click on "Submit a Filing" or "Search for Filed Comments."

In either case, type "05-235" in the "Proceeding" field, being careful to include the hyphen but not the quotation marks. Directions for filing comments, which can be in the form of an attached document, are on the ECFS site. Click on "Getting Started" to learn more.

As of week's end, more than 1700 comments had already been filed. The FCC has not yet established a closing date for comments in this proceeding, and it's not likely to release a Report and Order in WT Docket 05-235 until early next year.

In a separate--and unrelated--Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140, the FCC agreed with an ARRL proposal to reallocate the current Novice/Tech Plus CW subbands to create addi-

tional room on certain 'phone sub-bands. If the FCC goes ahead with that proposal, Novice and Tech Plus licensees would have CW privileges in the current General class CW bands.

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MATEUR RADIO AWARENESS DAY TO FEATURE EMERGENCY POWER OPERATING EVENT

What makes Amateur Radio unique is its ability to communicate with one another anywhere in the world--and even in orbit--without having to rely on any outside infrastructure whatsoever. Hams can even do this without being plugged into the wall socket. Experienced radio amateurs take this capability for granted, but the general public is far less aware of it. So, an Emergency Power Operating Event (EPOE) on Amateur Radio Awareness Day, Saturday, September 17, will highlight Amateur Radio's ability to communicate worldwide without commercial mains, the Internet or a cellular telephone system.

"What better way to mark Amateur Radio Awareness Day than by calling attention to this unique capability?" says ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "It is particularly appropriate since September is the Department of Homeland Security's National Preparedness Month."

Amateur Radio Awareness Day activities typically focus on increasing public awareness. Past events have included public demonstrations, talks to community groups and getting local media coverage. According to DHS, National Preparedness Month is aimed at encouraging Americans to prepare for emergencies and to raise public awareness

about the importance of being prepared.

This Amateur Radio Awareness Day, September 17, the ARRL will sponsor a 15-hour Emergency Power Operating Event for stations operating off the grid. "It is not a contest," Sumner stresses. "It is simply a demonstration of what we amateurs can do without having to rely on the commercial mains, and what we will do whenever the need arises."

An announcement in September QST (page 49) spells out the details. The event kicks off at 1300 UTC on Saturday, September 17, and wraps up at 0400 UTC on September 18. The ARRL is inviting home stations to operate from generator or battery power. Mobiles and portable stations also are welcome to participate, although unlike Field Day, the emphasis is not on setting up a temporary station, but rather on operating your regular station on emergency power.

There is no set exchange; contacts may be casual, but operators are encouraged to share information on their emergency power sources in addition to the traditional signal report, name and location.

ARRL Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be on the air for the event, running on emergency power from its 60-kW emergency backup diesel generator. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says the whole point is to showcase that Amateur Radio is prepared during National Preparedness Month--"and any time, for that matter," he adds. A special QSL will be available to stations contacting W1AW while running from an emergency power source. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with all QSL card requests, and indicate on your

card the emergency power source used. (Address cards to W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.)

"I hope we can work stations operating on emergency power in all 50 states," says Sumner. "It should be a lot of fun, and we may even learn something!" The League is encouraging participating radio amateurs or groups to invite local Citizen Corps leaders to see Amateur Radio installations in emergency power mode.

"The two events offer great opportunities for Amateur Radio to showcase its valued service to the nation," said outgoing ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO. She urged ARRL-affiliated clubs and Field Organization volunteers to take advantage of the occasion to set up public demonstrations of Amateur Radio and to present or even demonstrate--under the banner of National Preparedness Month--the free services Amateur Radio provides to the community.

ARRL Club/Mentoring Program Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, believes a public Emergency Power Operating Event offers a great opportunity to recruit prospective hams for licensing classes clubs that may be forming this fall.

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Long-distance 911

Long-distance 911 call gets help for ailing radio amateur: Dave Wiesen, K2VX, says a call from a fellow National Traffic System (NTS) participant in upstate New York to 911 in Reston, Virginia, may have saved his life. On July 10, Wiesen--just home in Reston following extensive back surgery--

was on a CW traffic net he often frequents. But after listening to Wiesen's sending, Anne Fanelli, WI2G, in Elma, New York, got concerned. "Anne heard me on the air and felt that I didn't sound right, in terms of my Morse and also the confused content," Wiesen recounts. "She asked me what was wrong, and when I didn't reply she called 911." Wiesen says the rescue squad arrived, and he wound up spending three days in the hospital, where doctors determined that he'd had an adverse reaction to one of his pain medications. Fanelli is the manager of the New York State Net, and Wiesen says the two have communicated extensively over the years, mostly on CW. Both Wiesen and Fanelli are ARRL members, and Wiesen holds an appointment as an ARRL Official Relay Station.

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RADIO AMATEUR LOSES LIFE INSTALLING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ANTENNA

An Ohio radio amateur died July 30 while attempting to perform a public service for his county's RACES/ARES program. Preble County RACES Radio Officer Robert W. "Bob" French II, N8EHA, of Eaton was on a tower at the New Paris fire station installing an antenna for the RACES/ARES pro-

gram when an element came into contact with a power line. The shock knocked French from the tower, and he reportedly fell some 40 feet to the ground. French's son Aaron, KA8VUS, Al Stone, KB8RPO, and other members of the work party administered CPR to no avail.

"Bob started back up the tower, pulling the antenna up by the feed line as he climbed," Stone recounted in a message shared with ARRL by Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE. "At one point Bob thrust his hand upward to grab another rung of the tower, with the feed line in his hand. The antenna began swinging, and when he went for that last rung, the antenna came in contact with [the] power line." Stone said the ham volunteers were installing two antennas on the New Paris fire station's tower as part of a project to equip every firehouse in the county with an antenna and ham radio for emergency backup communication.

French, 51, belonged to the ARRL. He was a founding member of the Preble Amateur Radio Association and very active in the club. "He was one of the biggest advocates for Amateur Radio I have known," said Gary Hollenbaugh, NJ8BB, who eulogized his friend at an August 3 service. "His leadership, organiza-

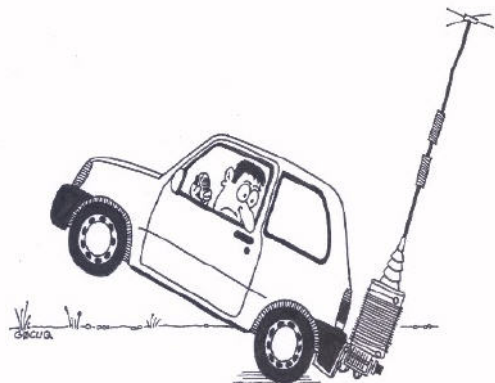
tional skills, knowledge and enthusiasm cannot be easily replaced."

Hollenbaugh says French was wearing a safety belt but not a fall restraint harness. "He was still climbing the tower and not able to secure off," he said, conceding that his friend did not follow several safety rules. He also questioned why the tower was sited so close to power lines.

ARES District 3 Emergency Coordinator Ron Moorefield, W8ILC, represented the ARRL at French's service. Survivors include his wife Cathy, KA8RWX, and their daughter and son. The family invites memorial contributions to the Preble Amateur Radio Association, 7810 US Hwy 35 E, W Alexandria, OH 45381

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ALL STORIES VIA ARRL LETTER -- KA8NJW



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