



November 2003

# The Spectrum

*Fun, Public Service, and Learning using our Amateur Radio Licenses*

## CARS on the AIR

**At the Shack W4CAR HF & VHF**

**146.610 MHz W4CAR Repeater**

**146.820 MHz W4CAR Repeater**

**444.000 MHz W4CAR Repeater**

## CARS Officers & Chair Persons

President: **Ruth Bigio KB4LIF**

Vice Pres: **Bill Runyon WF4R**

Secretary: **Herb Poindexter KG4TAW**

Treasurer: **Sonny Hood K4WYS**

BOD: **Richard Siff WA4BUE**

Public Service Coordinator:  
**Leo Kusuda KG4PWC**

COM Coordinator: **Rick Smith KC4USH**

Home Page: **Leo Kusuda KG4PWC**

SpringFest: **Ruth Bigio KB4LIF**

Trustee of W4CAR: **Frank Duval K4PRR**

Technical Committee:  
**Bill Runyon WF4R**

## Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service

POB 6867  
Chesapeake, VA 23323-6867

Hurricane Isabel came visiting the Tidewaters in September, and the CARS was there to lend a helping hand. On September 18th, Isabel made land fall with the center of the storm just south of Chesapeake. Her fury included winds in excess of 90 m.p.h. which forcibly removed trees, power lines and antennas. Much of Chesapeake was without power for as much as 10 days. Many rural residents with wells were dependent of the water

and ice provided by city services. 33 hams participated in the CARS response with 4 of the 8 city shelters maned during the worst of the storms passage. CARS maintained VHF communications with the Virginia state EOC passing 2 formal messages. The majority of the formal and informal traffic was in response to the shelter occupation. Daily reports concerning the number of victims, meals served and number of volunteers was requested. In addition, CARS provided support to ice and water distribution points. Local tactical communications was on the 146.820 repeater which weathered the storm

without difficulty, however the emergency generator which powered it almost ran out of fuel over the weekend. Some eleventh hour heroics from members of the city counsel ensured the operation of our repeater and the radio

station KFOS. CARS donated 594 man-hours in response to the storm providing the city an estimated \$16,000 in communications support.



**Root Ball from a tree which was uprooted during Isabel**

Ruth KB4LIF provided over 224 hours of support to the city as a net control operator, and as a liaison to the city after the state EOC nets were secured. CARS manned the city's EOC for nearly 4 days on a 24/7 basis. At the end of the event, the city managers expressed appreciation for the volunteer time and effort during this difficult time.

For all the amateurs that responded to Hurricane Isabel, you can rest assured the city managers and the residents appreciated the efforts you made in their behalf.

Rick Aldom W7STS

## **Event Calendar**

Library Display Old Radios in November - Details to follow

December the annual Holiday Gala

December 6th, SkyWarn Recognition day. Details to follow.

SpringFest 2004 is being planned by Leo, KG4PWC, and Ricky, KC4USH, who may have a new call my then. The proposed date is April 17, 2004 at the Hickory Ruritan Club. Volunteer to Ricky or Leo and help make the 2004 SpringFest Best Ever.

## **CARS Net Activities**

### **CARS Sponsored Nets - Join us for CARS on the Air FUN**

SKYWARN Fridays at 7 PM on 146.820 MHz FM

CARS Monday Night Meeting on the Air (when CARS does not formally meet) 28.4 MHz USB at 8 PM

## **VBARC Calendar**

November 15th, PS Event - Virginia Beach Christmas Parade in VA Beach, Check with [AI WA4TCJ](#) sign up.

## **News from the ARRL**

### **Manassas, Virginia, BPL Startup Sparks ARRL Response**

(Oct 23, 2003) — The ARRL this week put officials in Manassas, Virginia, on notice that the League will act on behalf of its members to ensure full compliance with FCC regulations when the city's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) system starts up in a few months. The League was responding to media reports that Manassas—a Washington, DC, suburb—has approved plans for a citywide BPL rollout. Manassas City Council reportedly voted unanimously October 16 to grant a 10-year franchise to Prospect Street Broadband to expand a BPL field trial and offer high-speed Internet service to the entire community over municipal power lines. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, on October 22 faxed Manassas Mayor Marvin L. Gillum to point out BPL's dark side—the potential for RF interference from and to any BPL system.

### **ARRL Emergency Communications course registration**

(Oct 31, 2003) — Registration opens Monday, November 3, 12:01 AM EDT (0501 UTC), for the on-line Level I Emergency Communications course (EC-001). Registration remains open through the November 8-9 weekend or until all available seats have been filled—whichever comes first. Class begins Tuesday, November 18. Thanks to our grant sponsors—the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation—the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after

### **ARRL Emergency Communications course registration (Cont.)**

successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 175 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. Senior amateurs are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Those interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) course in the future can sign up to be advised via e-mail in advance of registration opportunities. To take advantage, send an e-mail to [prereg@arrl.org](mailto:prereg@arrl.org). On the subject line, indicate the course name or number (eg, EC-00#) and the month you want to start the course. In the message body, provide your name, call sign, and e-mail address. Please do not send inquiries to this mailbox. To learn more, visit the [ARRL Certification and Continuing Education](#) Web page and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager [Dan Miller, K3UFG](#); 860-594-0340.

### **Firefighters Making Progress in California Disaster**

(Oct 31, 2003) — Although many fires are still continuing to burn in Southern California, firefighters are making progress in the battle of the blazes. Over the last couple of days, the role of Amateur Radio emergency support has continued, but it is changing to meet the needs of the fire officials and shelters.