

WRC UPDATE -AUGUST-

JULY 31, 2003

RADIO AMATEURS SERVING THE WESTERN COMMUNITIES

REMEMBER TO **ZOOM** IN ON THE PHOTOS...
200% RECOMMENDED



August 4th Meeting: PHIL G4IIO... Amateur Radio in the United Kingdom

With over 24 years as a radio amateur and interests spanning the gamut of ham radio, Phil is in a good position to brief us on life as a ham in the UK.

Although married with two teenagers and a Network Engineer on LAN's, WAN's, etc., he somehow manages to be very active in our great hobby. His main

interests are Amateur Satellites, homebrew construction, IRLP and repeaters. Phil is a member of the Northampton Radio Club and the "keeper" for its 70cm repeater and IRLP node 5364. Oh... he also keeps up with Microsoft's operating systems, Novell, Unix and Linux. Whew!

Summary- July 7th Meeting: CHRIS KF4DQY... The Auxilliary Communications Service Concept

Chris explained not only the concept but also why ACS exists in Indian River County.

The ACS integrates both amateur and non-amateur volunteers during an emergency. With only 384 licensees in the county, not enough hams were available as volunteers for emergency management needs. Now amateurs and non-amateur volunteers, with proper training, are beginning to fulfill the needs of the County and its public safety agencies. *Chris... thanks for an excellent presentation!*



L-R: Link WV4I, Juan KG4QYY, Al KG4RWO, Bob W14J and Chris

RALLY & FAYRE With BRING & BUY!

So you ask... What's a RALLY and FAYRE? **BRING & BUY?**

Come to the meeting on Monday evening, 7:30pm and learn all about ham traditions in the UK!!! Map is page 3.

Weather + Fireworks = Two Lost Kids!

With clear blue skies all afternoon, it was easy to predict what lie ahead... a July 4th packed with people, good entertainment, spectacular fireworks and even a lost child or two.

Because the WRC's Lost Child and Communications Booth was located between the food & ride concessions and the entertainment fields, lots of people passed by. Fellow hams and Village of-



officials saw our large banner and dropped in to say hello.

Members of the public also noticed the banner. They guided a lost six yearold, Tammy, to us. After giving WRC team basic information, she was helped to settle down by Diane KQ4VA. Tammy is shown drawing while the Sheriff's Office detail and the Park staff were alerted by radio and public address announcements made. It only took about 15 minutes for her family to claim her! *Continued page 2*



INNOVATIVE THINKING SPURS SKYWARN ACTIVITY & PREPAREDNESS

This past week several milestones were reached in SKYWARN operations in a number of areas.

On July 26th, Robert WE4B, on left, led a SKYWARN NET that for the first time seamlessly integrated both IRLP and

...Continued on page 3

Photo Summary: P.B. SKYWARN TRAINING

Jim Lushine of Miami's National Weather Service office conducted a terrific training session that informed and entertained 56 attendees this past Saturday at the

...Continued on page 3



WRC HELPS PUT WELLINGTON ON 1.25 MILLION MAPS

Although incorporated in 1996, for some strange reason Wellington has been missing from Florida's "Official Transportation Map"... until now! That oversight was discovered by WRC members when sending maps overseas to radio clubs contacted by IRLP.

On March 5th, the WRC President emailed the Secretary of Florida's Dept. of Transportation and, believe it or not, within eight minutes DOT Secretary Olivia Youse responded. She had the DOT Mapping Office correct the next edition and the rest is history. These maps were just published and are distributed to many of Florida's 5.5 million tourists.

Thank you Ms. Youse and FLDOT staff for your speedy action!



1996-2002 OFFICIAL MAPS

2003 OFFICIAL MAP

Fourth of July in Wellington... (Remember you can **ZOOM** in)

LOST CHILD & COMMUNICATIONS BOOTH VOLUNTEERS

Myra - K3PGH

Juan - KG4QYY

Rob - KS4EC

Al - KG4RWO

Diane - KQ4VA

Larry - KS4NB

Jeff - WA4AW



A-Days in advance, signs on the main thoroughfares promoted the July 4th festivities. B-Just before the fireworks began, there were an estimated 8,000 people onhand. C-Tammy's family shortly after being reunited at the WRC booth...looking after five children isn't all that easy.



D-Shortly after booth setup, l-r, Diane KQ4VA, Al KG4RWO and Rob KS4EC. E-Village Community TV and Audio/Visual specialist Steve Gilbert with Rob adjusting a stage audio system. F-Al and Diane greeted and enjoyed chatting with booth visitor Mayor Tom Wenham.



G-Diane and Al learn about one of the kids activities... a scavenger hunt. H-Myra K3PGH and Jeff WA4AW hold down the fort. Missing children, severe weather and, of course, ham radio materials were distributed. I-Al and Juan KG4QYY at the close of the fireworks show.

SKYWARN INNOVATIONS...

Echolink systems. During an emergency, this system flexibility permits the checkin of stations by either radio or computer, from Weather Service Offices, Skywarn Coordinators, Spotters, emergency management offices and incident sites within an affected region.

In this particular SKYWARN Net, this melding of telecom technology permitted over 52 stations from around the world to check in via the Raleigh IRLP Reflector or the Echolink WX TALK Conference before the net adjourned. The audio was so good, it was impossible to tell from which system a signal originated. A future Net will demonstrate the feasibility of linking NOAA's Typhoon Center, the Na-

tional Hurricane Center and its many Weather Service Offices. The IRLP SKYWARN Net can be heard on the WRC's UHF repeater Saturdays at 8pm.

MASS TRAINING ON-THE-AIR

On July 22nd, another first occurred when dozens of IRLP users scattered from the Virgin Islands to the Northeast listened to Jeff Orrock, Meteorologist of the Raleigh Weather Service office, present "Hurricane Season 2003". They followed Jeff's visuals by logging onto the NWS website or downloaded, in advance, his graphs, charts and photos.

More such On-The-Air training is expected in the future and will be carried by the WRC's IRLP repeater.

SKYWARN CLASS...



A



B



C

P.B.C. EOC. The WRC was well represented with five WRC members and three of their guests. This large class should bring the number of Palm Beach County's SKYWARN Spotters to about 350. *Melissa... good job and thanks!*

Above Clockwise:

A- Aleisha and Dad, Jack KG4FKY at sign in. It was good to see a number of young people in the class.

B- Guest speaker at past WRC events and Chief Meteorologist at Channel 5, Steve Weagle with PBC SKYWARN Coordinator Melissa KE4WBQ.

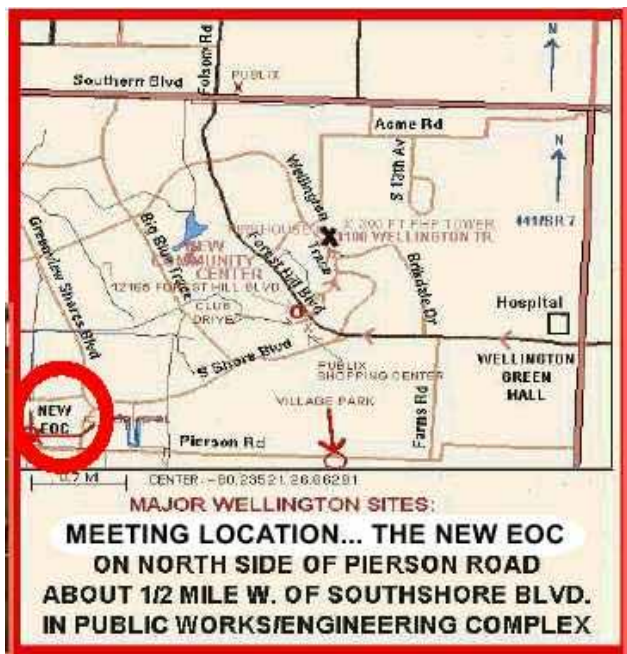
C- Part of the WRC "delegation", l-r, Austin W2AGX, Sandy WB2MBV, Larry KS4NB and Jerry N3HVC.

D- Sr. Meteorologist Jim Lushine, left, answers Jerry's questions, right, after class.



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GETTING TO THE WRC MEETING...



THE WRC UPDATE

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