WRC Update -OctoBERseptember 30, 2003

Radio Amateurs Serving the Western Communities

remember to **ZOOM IN** on the photos... 200% recommended

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For The Coggalais

ency Communications

October 6th Meeting Preview: CHIEF METEOROLOGIST STEVE WEAGLE ... "Great Hurricanes of the 1920s" ... The Category 4 or 5 Storms that left thousands dead in their wake

Isabel reminded us just how lucky we've been to miss the bullet. Yet we don't have to go too far back in Palm Beach County history to learn the bullet did strike home... not once but twice! At Wellington's last Severe Weather Forum, Steve dumbfounded



the audience by showing recently discovered film of the aftermath of the hurricanes of the 1920s.

New research has been conducted because of the 75th anniversary of the 1928 Hurricane and Steve will share with us his fresh insights into that period. JOIN US!

Left: Steve Weagle, Chief Meteorologist at Channel 5. It's always a pleasure to have Steve with us because of his down-to-earth approach with the public. Right: True to form, even Steve's website reflects his personality... presenting us with family and pet photos. At left is his sister Leesa, an actress some may recognize from "Crossing Jordan" and wife Karen, often appearing in his weather commercials.

Photo Summary of the September Meeting: FIRE/RESCUE CHIEF NEIL ENOS: "An Introduction to the Incident Command System"

Just what takes place at the scene of an emergency was expertly described by District Chief Neil Enos. Chief Enos commands most F/R resources in the Western Communities and views radio amateur communicators as an important resource working in conjunction with the ICS system. Chief ... thank you for an informative presentation!



Left: *Distrief Enos walks* us through a small scale incident and explains how the ICS could expand to cover larger disasters. **Right**: The Chief listens intently as Sandy WB2MBV, to the right, explains how he may have been the very first to report the Riviera Beach funnel cloud/tornado to the NWS on August 7th. To quote the Chief... "I'm learning as much as you are".



The Hurricane Net on 14.325KHz Still the Backbone of Regional Emergency Communications... TERRY W6LMJ - NET CONTROLLER EXTRAORDINAIRE!

During most of Hurricane Isabel, the 20 meter Hurricane Net seemed to be a beehive of activity. With large numbers of stations checking in and a high volume of traffic, the management of the Net was crucial.

Listeners to the Net had to be impressed by Terry W6LMJ of Lake Worth. He spent many hours as Net Con-

trol keeping the net organized, accurately relaying traffic, and pulling weak stations out of the noise. At times the pace was hectic and the traffic urgent, but Terry always kept his cool. He served as a great role model.

Terry and his fellow Net Controllers, and all checkins, deserve our admiration and thanks for a job well done.



Left: Terry W6LMJ at his well equipped and laidout operating position. *Center:* A close look at the top of Terry's tower reveals a quad. *Right:* Isabel toppled many massive, 100 yearold trees. The size of a tree really becomes apparent when a persons stands next to it.

Advanced SKYWARN Training - November 8th - PBC EOC RSVP to Mellissa KE4WBQ, PBC SKYWARN Coordinator at: ke4wbq@bellsouth.net

IRLP SKYWARN and Hurricane Nets *Excerpts From the ISABEL DEBRIEFING*

I would like to thank all who participated with our emergency response of Hurricane Isabel on Reflector 9210. A record 58 nodes were

connected, 8 in the affected areas, with the Shoutcast stream topping out at 233 connections, many staying for 10-12 hours. North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland took the brunt of the beating... I am sure you have seen the damage reports.

For the most part I was impressed that we did not have more glitches from the 50+ nodes that stayed connected. It is certainly a testament to the effort of IRLP node owners who had apparently took the time to set their links and repeaters to minimize local traffic and interference.

I also appreciate you tolerating the various ID's, courtesy tones and long repeater tails heard from the Echolink side. It was beneficial to have the Echolink stations simulcast on the Reflector to help the Hurricane Center liaison staff more efficiently report the traffic by listening to one radio instead of several. Echolink stations also filled in areas where IRLP did not cover... especially along the Outer Banks, North Eastern Counties and into Virginia. I expected to see IRLP nodes disconnect when many of the linked repeaters gave us grief, but instead the connect list seem to grow as I suppose folks were willing to put up with the extraneous bursts to monitor the storm's progress. Echolink has the WX-Talk conference as we have the IRLP-Skywarn net on Reflector 9210 to the Hurricane Center. I felt it useful to place the two in tandem for a combined effort on a storm of this size.

There have been recent posts to the Echolink lists asking those with links to repeaters to use means to clean up the signals for use on their conferences and nets. I believe that the IRLP mandates for audio follow CTCSS on Reflectors has set a good precedent.



Hurricane Isabel's eye approaching North Carolina.

There are a number of us conducting a debriefing of the event and I would appreciate your constructive comments and observations. Please post them to ref921@kd4raa.net ... Danny KD4RAA

Raleigh (Off of the Generator as of 8pm Friday evening!)



Photo Summary of the September 9th: WRC Presentation to the Wellington Village Council

The WRC's presentation about how Wellington appeared on Florida's Official Transportation Map was expected to be brief. The Council's meeting agenda was loaded with important financial and zoning issues not to mention special awards such as PBSO and Fire Rescue personnel of the year.

So WRC Board members were pleasantly surprised when Mayor Wenham and Council members made lengthy, unsolicited, positive statements about the role of amateur radio and the WRC during emergencies and community events. Not only was the session carried by the local community TV channel but also the local press followed up with stories about ham radio and the WRC.



Presenting mounted historical documents for display in future Wellington Museum. L-R: Liz Benequisto, Mark Miles, Juan KG4QYY, John KG4JMO, Robert Margolis, Larry KS4NB, Mayor Tom Wenham, Laurie Cohen and Charles Lynn.



Above & Below: WRC Secretary John KG4JMO reads FL DOT Secretary Abreu's letter directed to the Mayor & Council.



Above: WRC President Larry KS4NB's introduction touched on community preparedness and Homeland Security. In addition he invited members of the Village Council to attend the forthcoming WRC licensing course.



Communicators Serving the Western Communities

An Anecdotal History of When and How the Village of Wellington First Appeared on the Official Transportation Map of the State of Florida 2003 Edition: 1,250,000 Copies Circulated

The radio amateurs of the Wellington Radio Club regularly talk around the world through the Club's radio and Internet linked systems. When radio clubs from other countries are contacted, they are sent a package of materials to better acquaint them with Wellington, the Western Communities and Florida.

When this practice began in March of 2003, it was noticed that Wellington was missing from the widely circulated *"Official Transportation Map"* of the State of Florida. In spite of the fact that it had 44,000 residents, the Village was neither on the map nor in the map's listing of cities and towns.

The President of the Club, Larry Lazar, sent an E-mail to the head of the Department of Transportation seeking an explanation. The Department of Transportation explained that no one had requested Wellington be included on the map. Thus, although Wellington became incorporated by an act of the Legislature in 1997, it did not appear on the many MILLIONS of Official maps printed and distributed from 1997 to 2003. The Map and Survey Section of the D.O.T. promised to include the Village on the very next edition of the map.

True to its word, in August 2003, the Wellington Radio Club was notified that it would shortly receive the corrected 2003 Edition of the OFFICIAL TRANSPORTATION MAP. Below is the first OFFICIAL map upon which Wellington appears. It is commemoratively signed by the Secretary Abreu of the Department of Transportation. To the right is a congratulatory letter from Secretary Abreu to the Village.

Presented to the Village Council by the Wellington Radio Club 9/9/03

This document tells the story for future generations of Wellingtonians.

Excerpts from WX4NHC's report on Bermuda's worst hurricane in 80 years:

"Amateur Radio Operations at The National Hurricane Center During Hurricane FABIAN"

Hurricane Fabian, a Catergory-3 hurricane, with sustained winds of 120 MPH with higher gust was the strongest hurricane to make direct landfall on the island in almost 80 years. Fabian left many homes and business with severely damaged roofs and destroyed a substantial portion of the island vegetation. Four fatalities were reported when a portion of the Causeway that connects Hamilton to the Airport collapsed.

Several Hurricane Surface Reports were submitted by Tony Siese VP9HK via email prior to landfall, but once Internet, electricity and phone lines started going down, this mode became useless. Prior arrangements were made by Robert Broderick WE4B for the use of IRLP



(Internet Radio Linking Project), which links the Bermuda VHF Repeater to the internet for worldwide use. However, for the same reason of loss of power and Internet, this mode was also not usable. Which left only means of direct communications to Bermuda by way of Ham Radio HF on 20 meters, described as "old fashion technology" by some media reporters, but when it comes to hurricanes, it is still one of the most reliable forms communications available.

NO PHONES, NO POWER, NO EMAIL

Friday afternoon, as the hurricane force winds started to pound the island, most conventional modes of communications out from the island were cut out. A report from an ABC Reporter after the hurricane confirmed that she had no way of calling out during the hurricane, not even by satellite phone. Other reporters told of total "black out" of power on the island and loss of all local TV and Radio Broadcast Stations. Meanwhile, during the entire hurricane, those brave Bermuda Hams, using car batteries, basic wire antennas, and only 50 watts of transmitter power were able to send those valued "Surface Reports" and receive vital Hurricane Advisories. These advisories were passed on to the local EMO, police stations, hospitals and other agencies via Ham Radio.

The weak signals from the Bermuda Hams were heard around the world. The conditions on 20 meters were generally good and the reception noise level was nice and low. However as the Atmospheric Propagation Conditions

From Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center:

"My sincere thanks to all the HAM radio operators who kept supplying critical information during Fabian. We never would have known what was going on in Bermuda without your help. You are a part of the hurricane team and it is a pleasure to work with you."

changed and did not favor reception at NHC in Miami, the well-trained Net Controls Operators of the HWN would relay the information. The "surface reports" would be heard by the Net Control in Canada or Texas, or even the Virgin Islands and then relayed back to WX4NHC. Like a wellchoreographed relay race on the airways, the reports were handed off from station to station to WX4NHC seamlessly. This was an excellent example of how ordinary people from so many different places and backgrounds can cooperate very well in a crisis situation, like a hurricane.

BERMUDA EMO EMERGENCY!

Friday evening, when the worst winds were affecting the island, we hear the report that the EMO, where our long time friend, Tony Siese VP9HK was stationed lost it's roof. We were concerned for their safety. Then we heard that the school across the street from the EMO had also lost it's roof. We were even more worried for them when we heard the second report of the EMO staff



trying to relocate their command post to another building. CNN and other media soon carried this report heard over the Ham Radio frequencies. For what seemed a very long time, but actually not more than an hour, everyone listening on the air waited to hear if they were safe. Then word came from Tom Trimingham VP9KG that he had contact with Tony on VHF and they were all OK.

HURRICANE HUNTER HAM RADIO

During Hurricane Fabian, WX4NHC had conducted some pre-planned on-the-air HF testing with the Hurricane Hunter Airplane, NOAA-42, as it made it's way to St. Croix and later made several eye penetrations and perimeter passes as the hurricane was in the Atlantic and then as it made landfall over Bermuda.

From the Dept. of Homeland Security: HAMS CRITICAL

Most of us have known for ages that when it comes to disasters, hams are vital. Over the last four years, the WRC has maintained intimate contact with most local public safety agencies to be sure they know we are available as a resource.

Now, Homeland Security and FEMA are making sure public safety and municipal leaders get the message. Recently, the U.S. Fire Administration expressed its great concern with protecting "critical" first responder resources. The USFA

> Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency

states that these resources "...really, really need protection" and include radio amateurs among "...the people, physical assets, and communication systems that are indispensably necessary for survivability, continuity of operations, and mission success."

The USFA Infogram for leaders of the emergency service sector, of July 24, 2003, below, outlines the issues and steps necessary to cultivate and protect amateur radio resources.



U.S. Fire Administration



As an entity of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the mission of the USFA is to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination, and support.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Center Infogram

July 24, 2003

NOTE: This INFOGRAM will be distributed weekly to provide members of the emergency services sector with news and information concerning the protection of their critical information systems. For further information please contact the U.S. Fire Administration's Critical Infrastructure Protection Information Center at (301) 447-1325 or e-mail at e-mail at usfacipc@fema.gov.

Licensed Amateur Radio Operators: CIP Multipliers

The importance of licensed amateur radio operators (who don't mind being called "hams") is re-emerging as part of the critical infrastructures of the emergency response community. There is sufficient evidence that "hams" are not an outmoded capability. In the last few weeks these amateur radio operators have been busy providing emergency communication support at various locations of the nation. For example, "hams" continue to function as critical infrastructure protection (CIP) multipliers at the ongoing wildfires in Arizona, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Claudette in Texas.

Those who had the good fortune to work with "hams" are enthusiastic about the communication support they provide to emergency first responders. Convinced that amateur radio capabilities are potentially applicable in an all hazards response, these officials offer the following minimum recommendations for initial consideration by American municipalities and their chief officers, particularly if the utilization of licensed amateur radio operators is a viable alternative within their specific jurisdiction:

Organizational Issues

- Arrange familiarization meetings with local "hams."
- Determine legal insurance, liability, and compensation requirements.
- · Perform background checks for each "ham volunteer."
- Organize a local communications auxiliary consisting primarily of "hams."
- Affiliate the "hams" with the local Citizens Corp or its equivalent.

Procedural Issues

- · Create an SOP for the use of licensed amateur radio operators.
- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize relationships.
- Finalize an emergency call list to activate "ham volunteers."

Training Issues

- Conduct training with local licensed amateur radio operators.
- Cross-train "hams" as EOC personnel.
- Involve the "hams" in future exercises.

Equipment Issues

- Agree that licensed amateur radio operators provide their own radios.
- Provide space in the EOC for designated "hams."
- Ensure access to dependable power sources for each radio.
- Ascertain antenna requirements to support an EOC presence.

Contact Us

An official web site of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency U.S. Fire Administration, 16825 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD 21727 Voice: (301) 447-1000 FAX: (301) 447-1052



Congratulations Myra K3PGH! At the recent Melbourne Hamfest, South Florida Section Manager Sherri W4STB presented WRC member Myra with a Certificate of Appointment. Myra became the SFL's new Public Information Officer.

9-11 Rembrance In Wellington

WRC members and family attended the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Wellington Community Center.

Right: The audience stands at attention while the color guard enters. From left to right are XYL Pearl (in white blouse), OM Austin W2AGX and Link WV4I holding daughter Heather.



WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB
Nets Open to All!Monday....7:30PM - Wellington Emergency Net147.285
147.285Saturday...8:00PM - IRLP SKYWARN Net442.050/103.5
147.285Sunday....7:30PM - Slow Scan TV Net147.285

Cletus KG4KYD Accidentally Discovers Method to Get Squeaky Clean Signal

The Memory Lane Net time was approaching and Cletus started to search for his handheld to checkin. Like most of us, he thought he had simply misplaced the small radio.

Later that evening Cletus transferred his load of wash to the dryer and he discovered where his ICOM W32A was... in with the wash! Other than water dripping out of the \$250.+ radio, it didn't *look* any worse for the experience. Out of curiosity, he turned it on... it was deader than a doornail! Cletus received all sorts of advice, and kidding, from friends. He decided to try a slow drying cycle in trunk of his car. After two weeks... whah la, the W32A seemed to work normally! Perhaps, like a TIMEX, an ICOM can *take a lickin' and keep on tickin'...* or maybe it was the TIDE.



GETTING TO THE WRC MEETING....

Heat a 441/SR 7 LINGTON TR Hospital WELLINGTON PUBLIX SHOPPING CENT GREEN BR BADE Sure CENTER - 80,23521,26,66291 MAJOR WELLINGTON SITES: MEETING LOCATION ... THE NEW EOC **ON NORTH SIDE OF PIERSON ROAD** ABOUT 1/2 MILE W. OF SOUTHSHORE BLVD. IN PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING COMPLEX

THE WRC UPDATE

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Talk Around the World from Your Car, Backyard or Shack: **A WRC IRLP PRIMER**

Using the WRC's Internet Radio Linking Project, open repeater is no more difficult than using an autopatch or your cellphone. It may even be easier! After reading this article you should have no problems in contacting over 1000 IRLP sites worldwide.

For many it may be easier to visualize the IRLP system as a phonepatch that uses the Internet, rather than the telephone system, to contact a distant location. Instead of dialing a telephone's country code, area

code and 7 digit number, there's just a simple four digit location code.

That code is called a *NODE ID*. A node can be a distant repeater, simplex radio or a kind of digitized repeater. The digitized repeater node is called a *reflector* that permits many radio nodes to talk to one another... like a "partyline". The node and reflector IDs and locations are listed on the Internet at:

www.irlp.net. That listing is sortable and printable.

ALWAYS OPERATE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE AMATEURS CODE

INITIATING A DIRECT NODE TO NODE CALL

Once you know the node ID you want to reach, first listen for at least 10 to 15 seconds before transmitting and then ask if the repeater is currently in use. Assuming all is clear, identify yourself and give the node name or number you wish to call. Example: "VE3xyz for the Sydney node" - then enter the four digit node code and release your PTT. Our repeater should come up with a carrier as it waits for the connection to be authenticated. This can take a few seconds of dead-air, so don't be concerned. When the connection is confirmed, the voice ID of the destination node will be transmitted back to you as well as your node's voice ID to the other repeater.

If our node is already connected to another node or reflector, a greeting will play saying: *"your node is currently connected to...."*. In this case confirm if anyone desires the connection to remain up before disconnecting by using the OFF code, 73.

Once connected, and after hearing the confirming voice ID, wait at least 10 seconds before transmitting. There are a few reasons for this:

The destination repeater may be in use, and your entry may have occurred between transmissions.

Also, it may be that the voice ID of our node is longer than the voice ID of their node, and the connection is not made until the ID is fully played. Or their computer may be slower, and hence take longer to process the connection than ours.

Press and hold the microphone PTT for a second and then announce your presence and your intenMany Thanks to the IRLP Committee & ControllersRobKS4ECJerryN3HVCLarryKS4NBDickWB2NBUJohnWB4MOZ

tion such as you are calling someone specifically or just looking for a QSO with another ham in that city.

If no response is heard, announce your call and your intent to drop the link and then enter the OFF code, 73. It's not a good idea to transmit touch-tone commands without first giving your callsign. Not only is this courteous, it is also a regulatory issue in some countries who may be connected to the reflector.

> Some nodes are configured so you cannot connect to them if that repeater is active. In this case you will receive the message *"The node you are calling is being used locally."* If you receive this message wait 5 or 10 minutes and then try again.

> If you stay connected to a node and there is no activity on your repeater for 4 minutes, the connection will time out and

automatically disconnect with a voice ID disconnect message on both nodes.

ANSWERING A CALL INTO WELLINGTON

Simply wait until our repeater carrier drops, press your PTT and count to 3 before answering. This makes sure your first syllables are not lost.

If you are already connected to a node and a call comes in from another node, there will be a "callwaiting" message played and the caller's node ID will be stored in our computer. After you disconnect from the current call, use the utility code 269 to return the call automatically. (See the code list below).

INITIATING À REFLECTOR OR ECHOLINK CALL

This can only be done by WRC non-members when there is a Control Operator monitoring. WRC members can use these modes 24/7 with special codes which have been made available. *Members may open the reflector or ECHOLINK mode for a non-member but THE MEMBER IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR CLOSING IT!*

USER UTILITY CODES

Jerry N3HVC has done a great job of implementing routines on our node computer that makes operating a pleasure. You'll find the following list of utility codes useful... print them out.

169...callback the last node connected 269...callback the callwaiting node 211...playback the ID of the last node contacted 311...playback the ID of the last callwaiting node 400...play time without seconds 401...play time with seconds 402...play Universal Time

00xxxx...play time and date at node XXXX

511...call a random node

611...check if our node is clear or connected

