

WRC UPDATE

- NOVEMBER- DECEMBER 4, 2004

RADIO AMATEURS SERVING
THE WESTERN COMMUNITIES OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

remember to Z-O-O-M in
on the photos... 200% recommended



**YEARLY ELECTION OF OFFICERS... MONDAY DECEMBER 6TH MEETING... 7:30PM
AT THE WELLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER... QUORUM NECESSARY... PLEASE ATTEND!**



**VU2RBI LEADS
DXPEDITION
TO RARE
ADAMAN ISLANDS**
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**YOUR ARTICLE COULD
BE HIGHLIGHTED HERE...
PUT YOUR THOUGHTS ON
PAPER AND SEE THEM
PUBLISHED IN THE
THE WRC UPDATE**

**ECHO-IRLP UPDATE:
NEW NODE 4394 &
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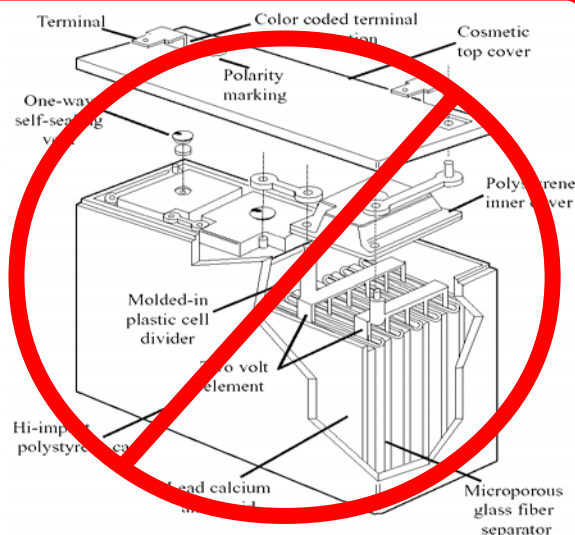
**MRT EXCERPT: HOW
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**NIGHTMARE
COMES TRUE:
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**DECEMBER MEETING PRESENTATION:
THE CARE & TREATMENT OF BATTERIES...
FOR HAM DUMMIES LIKE US!
WHAT YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT :**

**SIZING
SELECTING
CONNECTING
PROTECTING
DISCHARGING
RECHARGING!**



BLANKET PROHIBITION OF OPERATIONS FROM ADAMAN ISLAND LIFTED NIAR TEAM LEAD BY VU2RBI TO OPERATE VU4 DEC.3-31ST

Date: November 19, 2004

Dear Hams,



Seasons Greetings. We are happy to inform you that "A Special permission of Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Department of Telecommunication is accorded on 19th November, 2004 to Mrs.D.Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI (Team Leader) along with Mr.D.N.Prasad, VU2DBP, Mr.D.S.Varun Sastry, VU3DVS, Mr.S.Ram Mohan, VU2MYH & Mr.R.Sarath Babu, VU3RSB respectively to use special callsigns VU4NRO & VU4RBI and shift their location to Andaman & Nicobar Islands from 3 December 2004."

The Chairman, Governing Council & Members of NIAR & Hams wish the members of Andaman Dxpediton team a grand success.

For Dxpediton News/Site will be updated in www.niar.org

All correspondence related to this Expedition to niarvu4@gmail.com 73s,

D.Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI

Chief Co-ordinator, NIAR

Team Leader, Andaman Dxpediton - 2004

#1 MOST WANTED DX ENTITY

Sara VU3RSB, the VU correspondent to the Update, gave us a heads-up on this great DXpedition. This is BIG NEWS in the DX world because VU4 is the #1 Most Wanted DX Entity, according to KA5EYH's most recent DX survey.

CHARLES K4VUD, US COORDINATOR COMMENTS...

The Andaman Islands belong to India but are close to Burma and Thailand in the Indian Ocean. During my visit there three years ago, the beaches were wonderful with no people and no trash. The diving is super. The hotels were mostly empty.

DXPEDITION PLANS & REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

1. HUGE thanks to all who donated money to date. Bharathi and her family will now NOT be in debt for the airplane tickets. We are still working on paying for her hotel stay at \$85.00 per night in a hotel on high cliff overlooking the ocean with the clear, over-water shot to E, N, and W. Donations in US Dollars via check or MO can be mailed to K4VUD, payable to Charles Harpole. I will then bundle the donations and wire the total to NIAR. (3100 N. Hwy. 426, Geneva, FL 32732 USA)

2. Plan is to have two locations active, separated by several miles, on the same island. So far, no linears are available. Band/modes will be decided on-site based on the usual limits (antennas, hotel permits, electricity, propagation, etc.).

3. Due to the rapid formation of this DXpedition, no organization has been able to get support together and no manufactur-

ers of equipment (except XM tuners) have donated equipment.

4. The only pilot possibility is VU2MY at the NIAR headquarters. There will be no foreign pilot station, so please refrain from making requests for QSYs, other modes, etc. Email on-site is unknown today.

5. Please remember this is a "mighty lite" operation that is establishing that ham radio is OK on Andaman, NOT a huge arrival of top operators with tons of gear, so be nice and patient, please.

6. Bharathi VU2RBI, is now overloaded with emails and of course last minute preparations, thus it is unlikely she has time to answer all the well wishers and queries. Another route may be better these days... niarvu4@gmail.com.

7. December was selected because it is vacation time for Bharathi's children, who will go with her and her ham husband. Also Dec. is good propagation and it was better to grab the government permits just as soon as the ink was dry and use the permission NOW.

73, Charles Harpole k4vud@hotmail.com



The VU4 team at send-off meeting with His Excellency, Governor Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde holding the green flag.



Andaman & Nicobar are located at 11.4N and 92.46W... about 1000 miles east of India.

WHAT FREQUENCIES AND TIMES WILL BE BEST TO REACH THE ADAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS? THESE CHARTS TELL US!

LOCAL TIME FROM FLORIDA: 80M: 1700-1900

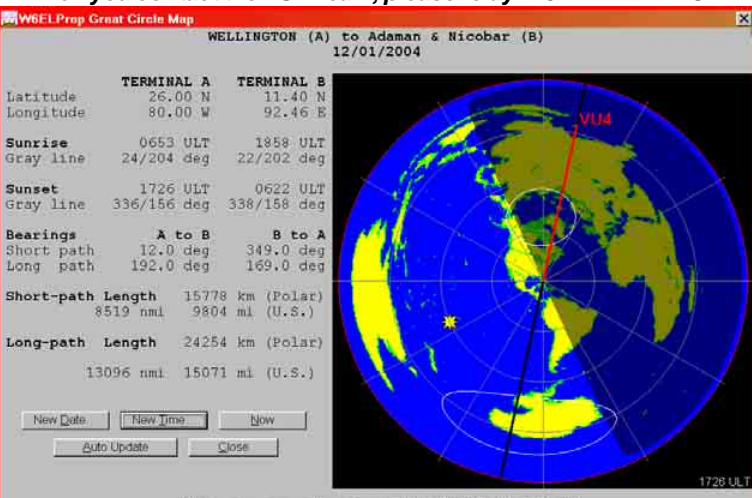
40M: 0600-0800 & 1600-2000 20M: 0800-1500 15M: 0900-1100

These charts and the above data are gleaned from one of the best propagation software packages... W6ELPROP. It's FREE for personal use and can be downloaded from www.qsl.net/w6elprop. During its one-time setup, you enter your location, transmitter power levels, antenna gain, receiver sensitivity and other variables. For a particular path, you simply enter the date, target QTH and solar index info. The propagation predic-

tion provides not only the signal level and grayline charts shown above but also detailed printouts of hour-by-hour propagation data that shows the band, signal level, % availability, the optimum takeoff angle and even the number of E and/or F layer hops.

The predicted times and frequencies are not iron-clad. The possibility of daytime sporadic E openings can occur... even during a decline of the sunspot cycle.

When you contact the VU4 Team, please relay "73 DE THE WRC".



ZOOM IN!



PHOTO SUMMARY... **WE CALLED, THEY LISTENED, WE SERVED** **AMERICA'S WALK FOR DIABETES**

The WRC's "Men In White" proudly served the American Diabetes Association, ADA, at its inaugural fund raising walk. It's not to be confused with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation which also holds annual April walks. The ADA focuses on a different type of the disease affecting a very large part of the population of all ages. We support both worthwhile causes and are pleased to contribute to their continued growth, and peace of mind, by providing our free services.

Shortly after arriving at City Place in West Palm Beach, Tony KA2UFO and Bruce K2MDF quickly setup the Lost Child & Communications systems. The goal was to

maintain contact with the West Palm Police Dept. and give ham radio demos. While the setup team concentrated on their technical challenges, Larry KS4NB coordinated with the Police Dept., the private security force and the event's management providing radios where necessary.

It didn't take but a minute for Tony and Bruce to learn that 40 watts RF would wipe out the event's kilowatt Public Address system. So plan B was used. A handheld at just 1.5 watts and a mag mounted mobile antenna at 8 feet were then substituted. Surprisingly, despite the buildings around us and the 15 mile path to the K4WRC club UHF repeater, we still had a nearly perfect signal.

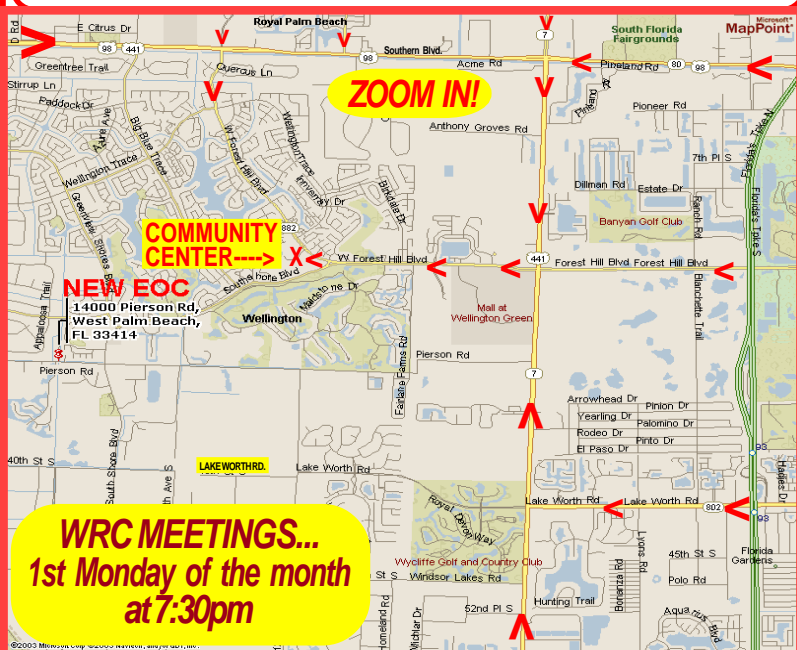
Gentlemen... thanks for a job well done!

Above: Happily overcoming technical obstacles, Tony KA2UFO & Bruce K2MDF are ready to meet the public.



Left: A good crowd attended the ADA's first walk in picturesque City Place. **Center:** County Commissioner Karen Marcus, in black workout suit, and Mayor Lois Frankel, in red blouse, after visiting the centrally located WRC table. Missing children, severe weather and amateur radio materials were distributed. As required to create the Lost Child focal point, our banner is mounted high between the trunk of a palm tree and a tripod-based antenna mast.

MONDAY DECEMBER 6th MEETING AT THE WELLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER, 12165 FOREST HILL BLVD. 1/4 MILE WEST OF SHORESHORE BLVD.



WEB SITE UPDATED - CHECK IT OUT!

THE WRC UPDATE
is the official publication of the
Wellington Radio Club

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www.qsl.net/k4wrc

**TEN YEARS AGO: LARRY KING'S INTERVIEW WITH MARLON BRANDO WAS BROADCAST ON CNN, OCTOBER 7, 1994
THE NATION LEARNED BRANDO IS TURNED ON BY HAM RADIO & COMPUTERS...**

BUT KING INTERRUPTS HIM TO CHAT ABOUT COOKIES!

LK: Atlanta. Hello. **CALLER:** [WA4OYX, Atlanta, Georgia] Hi. Thanks for taking my call. Mr. Brando, I hope it's not a frivolous question, but I understand you're a ham radio operator, or you were. And I wonder if you'd mind talking about that.

MB: I am a ham radio operator, and the thing I enjoyed about it is-is anonymity, because, when you call up and you say, "This is Marlon Brando calling," they give you the routine, or any famous person.... I still am a ham radio operator. As a matter of fact, I'm updating my license. And I think it's wonderful. And with the new international highway of communications that is now very quickly falling upon us, it's going to be tied up with computers. As a matter of fact, I'm on America Online...

LK: What is this here that you wanted to show us? *(Note how LK changes the topic...computers...boring!)*

MB: Oh. I wanted to show you-first of all, I want you to try one of these cookies.



Marlon KE6PZH/FO8GJ, SK, during 1994 interview.

**"HE HAD A SERIOUS SIDE AND PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN AN ENGINEER IF NOT FOR THE ACTING CAREER..."
OBSERVATIONS BY BILL W4NFR UPON MARLIN BRANDO BECOMING A SILENT KEY**

Here is a little condensed write up about Marlon Brando and my time with him in Tahiti. On July 1, 2004, Marlon Brando passed away in Los Angeles California and became a silent key. He is survived by 3 wives and 8 children and 4 adopted children. His daughter Cheyenne died in the mid 90s and was buried in Tahiti. You saw the obituary, tributes, opinions, his ups and downs to his successful acting career, so I won't dwell on that.

My contact with Marlon Brando was through the Hobby of Ham Radio. While watching the TV news reports of his passing, I could not help but notice the large "Ham Beam" antenna on his antenna tower. The helicopter hovered above his estate on Mulholland Dr. and the news reporter never mentioned the antenna, but those of us that have experienced ham radio knew what it was and what it was for!

In 1983 and 1986, I took annual leave and went down to Tahiti to install some Ham antennas for movie actor Marlon Brando. His ham radio call was FO8GJ and later his most recent call sign was KE6PZH in California. A ham friend of mine named Hank Scharfe (SK) was friends with Marlon and introduced us back in 1983. Marlon wanted some special directional antennas designed and installed on his island in Tahiti, so he could communicate better with his ham shack in Los Angeles. I came up with a rather large Rhombic wire antenna system that would definitely do the job and still fit on his island!

He liked the design and had the materials bought and sent down to the island. My wife Lydia and I flew down for a three week stay while I installed the antenna. Lydia enjoyed the beach and warm weather while I worked! I know, it sounds pretty easy, but it really was a lot of hard work to bull-doze the palm trees and clear the path for the large wire spans. The diamond shaped antenna was 600 feet on each side, so a lot of trees had to go in order to make the runs. I had two local helpers that knew little English and I knew even less French or Tahitian! We managed to communicate and got the job done by "drawing pictures" of what I wanted done. They did know some English, like "Knock Off" 4 O'Clock!



After two weeks, the antenna was up, the feed line ran and contacts on the air were made! The antenna was a great success and performed well. We got lots of nice strong reports over the air and the reception was super. The project was on time and under budget! Lydia and I got to tour the island of Tahiti and enjoyed some of the local culture and art.

In the year of 1985, five storms (Typhoons) went through the area of Tahiti and ruined the Rhombic antenna system, so I got another trip down to reinstall the

antenna in 1986. I was sorry the antenna did not hold up in the storms, but not much else did on that island. I was glad for another trip to rebuild it.

This time I went down for two weeks and my helper this time was Marlon Brando. We measured and stretched out the wire, secured the insulators and hung them from the large Palm trees. This went on for many days, we had a lot of fun and the project went very well. We got to know one another fairly well and became friends by working together. I soon learned that Marlon had a great sense of humor and was very interested in technical things. He liked gadgets, electronics and technical things. He had a serious side and probably would have been an Engineer if not for the acting career.

It paid well and provided him with the funding and time off to pursue his other interests like Ham Radio. Most people did not know he was a Ham radio operator. When on the air, he liked to disguise his voice and put on the folks, so they would not know who he was! He liked his privacy and did not particularly like the public lime light. His closer friends like Jack Nickelson, James Caan, Larry King and others, all had good things to say about him and knew him well. We sure enjoyed meeting and working with him. The Tahiti trip was a great once-in-a-life-time experience for us and one we will never forget! Furthermore, I got to do it twice! Marlon Brando lived life well and enjoyed traveling the world. His movie career spanned over 55 years and ranked up there with the best. He had 80 great years with us and the world is better off because of his talents. Marlon Brando entertained us all, his movies will live on, and he will be greatly missed!

THE WRC RESOURCE GUIDE: A SERVICE FOR MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS... ZOOM IN!

THIS SECTION IS A SERVICE TO MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS WISHING TO MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN AND AVAILABLE TO ASSIST OTHERS. BY BEING ON THIS PAGE, THEY PLEDGE TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND/OR GOODS WITH INTEGRITY AND THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF THEIR PROFESSIONS.



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WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB... Nets Open to All!

MONDAYS... INCLUDING HOLIDAYS
7:30PM - WELLINGTON EMERGENCY NET
147.285

THURSDAYS... EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS
7:30PM - MEMORY LANE NET
147.285

SATURDAYS... EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS
7:00PM - IRLP SKYWARN NET
442.050/103.5

SUNDAYS... EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS
7:30PM - SLOW SCAN TV NET
147.285



Dee N4GD... Rises From the Soup Kitchen To Become The ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

Wellington volunteers saw Dee in action during Hurricane Charley relief operations. He joined WRC, TARC and

other ham volunteers in serving with the Salvation Army's mass meal distribution operation.

Dee impressed us by *not* asking for special assignments and he worked long hours without complaint... he was a good operator and always fully equipped. In fact, he helped save the day by providing a desperately needed barrel connector to expand the Base Camp's antenna system. Most people using handhelds weren't carrying them!

JOURNEY TO THE FUTURE OF AMATEUR RADIO...

Explore The Digital Worlds Of SSTV-CW-PSK31-AMTORnet

A group of hearty souls get together Sunday evenings at 7:30pm to learn about the latest and greatest in the "Digital Modes" involving both hardware and software.

Net Controller Charlie N4JZK invites the novice and oldtimer alike to learn about getting started on what many feel is the journey to the future of amateur radio.

Charlie advises that FREE software is available for most of these modes. In fact, many free digital mode programs rival and in some cases outperform, commercial versions!

Checkout *Wayne's World* for the latest & greatest digital mode Freeware: www.kb1hj.com

IRLP UPDATE: A "HARDENED" NODE, 4394, IS NOW ACTIVE ON THE WRC'S UHF REPEATER



Paul KG4GOQ & Jerry N3HVC at recent IRPL committee meeting.

During Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, it was observed that Paul KG4GOQ's nodes functioned without interruption! We learned that from his home/office, his DSL connections go underground directly to the Bellsouth central office less than a mile away... WITHOUT ANY SIGNAL AMPLIFYING OR PROCESSING EQUIPMENT IN THE PATH! Those intermediary devices are frequently the cause of circuit failure, particularly when their battery backup supplies become discharged during a power loss. Paul's equipment is backed up by a very large battery bank and inverters that can sustain operations for days.

Paul and Jerry N3HVC are upgrading the LINUX operating system and soon will have ECHO-IRLP software reinstalled on the node.

PAPAKURA RADIO CLUB OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK THE PACIFIC ON 40 & 75 METERS

If you are curious about what the lower bands sound like "down under", you can receive and transmit on those bands via the New Zealand club's ECHOLINK node. If you are a DXer, it's also a great way to test your antenna system... listen on their node while you transmit on HF from your own station. Learn more... checkout: www.qsl.net/zl1vk

CHESS SET DRAWS THE ATTENTION OF RADIO AMATEURS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

When the Update Editor saw this magnificent chess set online, he thought it was a great way to interest kids in communications. An email was sent to it's creator, identified only as TVB, to learn a bit more about him and his activities.

"... I'm Tom Van Baak and my "atomic clock museum" and home time lab is near Seattle, WA. There's more info about my hobby at my web site <http://www.leapsecond.com/pages/chess/RAW/>

Getting sons into radio is a challenge. As much I would love to see mine get interested in transistors or IC's or microcontrollers just like me, it's unlikely, and perhaps even unwise. The language of electronics changes, but perhaps the spirit of engineering remains the same regardless of the tools one works with each generation."



ZOOM IN!





EXCERPTS FROM MOBILE RADIO TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE, DEC. 2004...

FLORIDA'S WEST COAST 800MHz SYSTEMS PRAISED FOR PERFORMANCE UNDER FIRE

It's a miracle

Nov 1, 2004 12:00 PM

By Donny Jackson

Like many in his position, Polk County radio communications manager Ben Holycross has faced sometimes skeptical elected officials when asking for budget money to fund the county's 800 MHz public-safety system that

dwarfed the cost of using a commercial cellular operator.

But after the eight-site Motorola Smartzone trunked network managed to stay operational as the eye of three hurricanes — Charley, Frances and Jeanne — traversed through the county over a six week-week period (see map), no one is questioning the investment today, Holycross said.

"No question, it's expensive, but they're believers now," he said.

That belief is rooted in the fact that Polk County's public-safety-grade system was bolstered with bi-directional microwave loops, supplied by Microwave Networks, and an extensive backup power system that kept the network online as commercial wireline and wireless alternatives died when the area lost power, Holycross said.

"We never lost the microwave connection, so we never lost the radio system," Holycross said. "Thank God, because nothing else was working."

Indeed, the fiber-based wireline networks of Sprint and BellSouth in the affected areas failed after the batteries used to provide backup power to the systems were drained in the aftermath of the power outages. And that proved to be problematic for many wireless carriers such as Nextel, which depends on landline T-1 and T-3 connectivity to backhaul its signals.

With all commercial-based forms of voice communications down, the public-safety land mobile radio (LMR) systems provided the only way for rescue workers and recovery crews to coordinate their efforts.

"Private industry is in no way ready to handle the needs of public safety in situations like this," said Paul Winter, radio communications manager in Charlotte County, where Hurricane Charley first hit. "If we would have relied on them, we would have had a catastrophic loss of life and infrastructure because we would have had nothing [with which to communicate]."

Like the networks supervised by Holycross and Winter, public-safety-grade radio systems throughout Florida held up well throughout the storms during the six-week period, according to Randy Pierce, state communications engineer. Although the winds in excess of 140 mph turned some dish antennas askew and traffic overload created predictable problems in the aftermath of each hurricane, the public-safety-grade networks from vendors such as Motorola, M/A-COM and EFJohnson generally remained online, he said.

But it wasn't always smooth. Winter said Charlotte County lost a 23-foot antenna to Hurricane Charley, but the damage caused by the storm ironically resolved most of the system's coverage issues.

"That antenna was designed to provide in-building, high-density coverage," Winter said. "With the rooftops taken off and the foliage removed from the trees, the propagation from our north site was plenty to provide coverage."

Holycross said one of Polk County's spread-spectrum antennas was twisted by the winds — pointing the antenna directly at the county's recovery operations center, which proved beneficial when a spread-spectrum radio was deployed at the site.

"We were fortunate there," Holycross said.

Certainly both counties deserved such breaks because they did not get any from Mother Nature. Winter said Charlotte

County was preparing to deploy personnel and equipment to other areas of the state when officials learned they would be the first victims of Charley.

"Charlotte wasn't supposed to be Ground Zero, and Charley wasn't supposed to be Category 4," Winter said. "We had less than an hour-and-a-half notice."

Charley moved through Charlotte County quickly but left a devastating toll, Winter said. Many of the large trees in the community fell, snapping utility poles and power lines during their descent. Within hours, commercial wireline and wireless communications were rendered useless, he said.

Holycross described a similar situation in nearby Polk County, and soon the 800 MHz system was trying to process more than double the amount of push-to-talk communications as the network normally processes, as first responders reacted to the first hurricane to hit the county in 44 years.

"People were trying to be brief ... but there was a lot to be said," Holycross said. "The fact that the system didn't lock up was a miracle."

<<< >>>

Of course, public-safety officials typically handle administrative matters in large-scale emergencies via cell phones so LMR networks can be used to communicate with frontline first responders. But that wasn't an option in much of the state because the network of the most popular carrier for most governmental agencies in the state — Nextel — was not accessible in most of the affected areas.

Pierce said Nextel's service typically was down between three to eight days after each of the hurricanes, meaning the carrier was of little use to those trying to deal with the aftermath of the storms.

"I'm sure Nextel will lose a lot of market share in the state of Florida because the service failed so miserably," Pierce said, noting that limited satellite phones provided the only way to connect to the world outside the range of an LMR system. "But, if you're a public-safety entity and you depend on that, it's as much your fault as it is Nextel's."

...

But Winter fears even this message will fade over time. As non-public-safety personnel — city administrators, public works officials and park and recreation departments — continue migrating to Nextel and other cellular carriers to take advantage of commercial systems' smaller devices and increased functionality, the price of LMR systems will increase as market size decreases. And, in an emergency, a government entity's non-public-safety personnel frequently become first responders in need of reliable communications, Winter said.

"The problem I have is these companies selling themselves to our elected officials, telling them that we shouldn't be spending so much on our radio systems when we can use theirs for a lot less money," he said. "But what is that elected official going to tell these families of people whose lives are lost — 'I saved a few bucks on the communications system?'"

Nextel spokeswoman Leigh Horner said the wireless carrier's service generally is useful to public safety for offloading traffic from a primary radio network but should not be considered a replacement to an LMR system.

"We absolutely do not sell [Nextel] as a primary system," Horner said. "It is a supplemental system, and we do not market ourselves as a primary land mobile radio system."

But Winter said that line between primary and supplemental radio systems are becoming increasingly fuzzy to elected officials, who are attracted by the much lower prices of commercial systems.

"My fear is that these industries are going to say they've learned their lessons and rebuilt their systems to handle storms," Winter said. "People tend to forget. If we lose these battles, the next time, the results could be disastrous."

WHILE 800MHZ SYSTEMS ON FLORIDA'S WEST COAST RECEIVED HIGH PRAISE FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE DURING AND AFTER HURRICANE CHARLEY, PALM BEACH COUNTY'S SYSTEM FAILED FOR 11 HOURS DURING THE WEAKER HURRICANE FRANCES

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN A VITAL PUBLIC SAFETY SYSTEM FAILS?

One answer is to use alternative communications resources... whether commercial, public safety or amateur. That was discussed at the WRC's July 2002 meeting on emergency communications. That's right... 2-0-0-2.

A guest panel of prominent Public Safety officials expressed some of their concerns about public safety communications systems. They reiterated their belief that the amateur radio service was still sorely needed.

Back then, some of the issues raised by officials from the Sheriff's Office, Fire/Rescue and Wellington, and WRC members touched on potential communications system failures. Palm Beach County's new 800 MHz was online but had not been baptized under fire as would occur during a wide area, longterm power failure. That type hurricane was referred to as the "big one". A few of their concerns were summarized in the WRC email newsletter of July 4, 2002. (See the insert below).

A Palm Beach County communications official, a ham and a "leader" of emergency communicators strongly objected to the Update's summary. He didn't attend the meeting but after reading the newsletter he called Wellington's Emergency Management Director to complain and sent us the email below. You can see it exudes, what some might view as, over-confidence. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that a communications system's reliability depends upon not only its site's power sources but also dozens of other variables.

But he appears so certain of his "ability to answer any questions or calm any concerns about the capabilities of the 800 system" that he requested the WRC NOT PUBLISH articles referring to the County's 800 MHz system until after submitting a request to the County for an explanation (to him we suppose). That smacked of censorship and, needless to say, his email was ignored.

Ask Floridians about their history-making hurricanes and 99 out of 100 will identify a Big One as a Hurricane Andrew type. But Hurricane Frances struck 50 miles away, was very much weaker and could hardly be called a Big One. Yet the County system failed for about 11 hours.

During the outage, the Sheriff's Office used the National Mutual Aid channels and Fire/Rescue reverted to their old vhf/uhf channels. F/R communications were severely hampered because much of the vhf/uhf equipment was removed from service.

Another response to the initial question is that we should learn from those failures. Could it be that a narrow focus and hubris contributed to the eventual longterm, 800 MHz failure? Before a *Big One* really comes, we hope that the County takes a hard look at the hardware, software, and the human element.

We are sure the County has a great, well-trained staff, but we should all learn to be weary of those who claim to have *all* the answers... they might be better off at Radio Shack!



Guests: F/R Bat.Chief Art Miller, PBSO Capt. Rick Radford, Mayor Tom Wenham & Emergency Mgmt. Director Ken Roundtree.

Subj: **Re: WRC Event Reminder & Update 3**
Date: 7/23/02 9:38:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: XXXXXXXX
To: LARRY33414 CC: XXXXXXXXXXXX
Larry,

I re-read your e-mail of July 4 where you made comments about the County's 800 MHz system and its reliability during the "big one". As there is no clear definition of the "big one" except for the mention of a (wide area,) long term power failure I must request that before any further written comments about the 800 system are made, a request to the County to explain the system should be done.

Just to clarify the above (and below), all of the sites are equipped with 72 hrs of back-up fuel. almost all of the sites are diesel and the County has

Concerns Summarized in the JULY 4, 2002 WRC NEWSLETTER:
"...Although Wellington is getting equipped with County compatible 800 MHz gear and the County's 800MHz system appears to be running smoothly, the agencies serving the Village will be depending on our volunteers and nets as backup during crisis times.

The County system has not been utilized during a wide area, longterm power failure scenario as is the possibility with the "big one". Also discussed were potential shortcomings in fiberoptic lines upon which most telecom systems depend..."

it's own supply and delivery system to all of the County locations that utilize diesel fuel for its back-up generators. The sites that utilize LP also have better than 3 days of running time on generator back-up and we have first priority with the County's LP provider.

With that being said, I have a number of canned presentations on hand that I would be willing to bring to one of your club meetings. As you know I was the XXXXXX on the project and now the XXXXXX and I have the ability to answer any questions or calm any concerns about the capabilities of the 800 system.

Please call me during the day on 233-xxxx or e-mail me here or on my work e-mail so we can discuss a presentation with your club members. 73's, xxxxxxxxx