

# WRC UPDATE

## - FEBRUARY -

### FEBRUARY 28, 2005

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

**REMEMBER TO Z-O-O-M IN  
ON THE PHOTOS... 200%-300% RECOMMENDED**



**CLOTHES-  
LINE  
WARS IN  
FLORIDA  
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**SUNDAYS  
AT  
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**FALSE ALARM  
VIA THE EAS  
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FEARS AND HUMOR  
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**HK3SA's  
UNIQUE  
EXERCISE  
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**HAMS  
REMEMBER  
COLOMBIA'S  
WILD WEST  
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## WRC MEETING MONDAY 7:30PM MARCH 7TH WELLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER

### IT'S MORE THAN A BUMPER STICKER... **HAMS GET IT UP EASIER! or WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT TOWERS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK!**

We are fortunate to have as our speaker a WRC member with 40+ years in the tower business... Norm W4NRS. Having erected a zillion typical ham towers and hundreds of commercial towers, some in excess of 1500 feet, Norm is a walking encyclopedia on the subject.

Photos here and inside are of his most recent project. He erected his own 80' self-standing tower this weekend... topped with a gorgeous 7 element HF yagi. [See page 7](#)



*Tony KA2UFO & Norm W4NRS examine 3000 lb base section... all SOLID steel, no tubing!*



## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RECOGNIZES INDIAN HAMS... NIAR SHINES

At a Ministry of Communication & Information Technology ceremony, VU4 Team Leader Bharathi Prasad, VU3RBI (left) and Shri Suri, VU2MY (right), Chairman of India's National Institute of Amateur Radio are honored by Minister Dayanidhi Maran, VU2DMK (center). They are holding a special "THANK YOU QSL" to be sent to 36,000 hams worldwide for their support of operations from the Adaman & Nicobar Islands. Maran praised India's Radio Amateurs: "In view of their work in the wake of the cyclone that hit the Orissa coast in 1999 and the



earthquake that rocked Gujarat in 2001 and, now, tsunami, it has been decided that 10 new centres be set up in the country to encourage amateur radio." (Editor: Also look for a streamlined licensing process and increased privileges to accelerate growth... VU hams have earned them!)

Center & left: VU3RBI focuses on emergency traffic in Port Blair while Mohan VU2MYH and others were airlifted to devastated islands.

**COMING SOON-MORE EXCLUSIVE REPORTS & ARTICLES IN  
OUR ANTHOLOGY OF TSUNAMI COMMUNICATIONS - PART 2**





## Wars & Radio Amateurs

### WOMAN BATTLES CITY HALL FOR RIGHT TO HANG HER WASH

DEBORAH SHARP  
USA TODAY

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. Dec. 10, 2004 08:39 AM  
- Poppy Madden has emerged as an unlikely hero in a campaign known as the "Laundry Wars." She has triumphed - twice - at City Hall for the right to hang her wash in the hot Florida sun.

"I'm still hanging my purple panties," Madden says. Her clothesline is protected from neighbors' complaints by a state law that encourages solar power - in this case, using the sun rather than a clothes dryer.

"Seeing clean laundry hanging in a yard is a lot less of a problem than having someone's loose dog leave a deposit on your lawn, she says."

The clothesline battle in this waterfront city is the latest chapter in a familiar story about the balance between personal freedom and community standards. Such disputes can stem from city codes, which was the case with Madden's clothesline, or from restrictions set by homeowners associations.

A record number of homeowners now reside in neighborhoods or condominiums under the often-strict rules of community associations. Some of the fiercest struggles occur over what associations deem acceptable, whether it's holiday flags, fences or the color of a front door.

Homeowners associations are essentially private governments. They assess dues to pay for maintenance and services, such as streetlights, swimming pools, trash pickup and snow removal. In 1970, about 1 percent of U.S. households were members of such associations. Today about 17 percent of households, almost 52 million people, are in such communities, according to the national Community Associations Institute, which lobbies for members and managers of homeowners groups. About 10,000 homeowners associations are formed each year, and four out of five new houses are built in such communities.

The institute points out that complaints come from a small fraction of homeowners in the more than a quarter-million associations nationwide. Supporters such as the institute say associations protect property values and reduce financial burdens for cash-strapped municipalities. But detractors, such as homeowners' rights groups, liken such associations to dictatorships. They say fines and foreclosures are penalties for personal expression. "There have to be restrictions, but they've done something more. They've taken away your property rights and your constitutional rights," says Elizabeth McMahon of the American Homeowners Resource Cen-

### MOST FLORIDA HAMS LOVE TO CONSERVE ENERGY... BUT WILL THEY ENTER THE CLOTHESLINE WARS WITH DUAL PURPOSE CLOTHLINES?

*Gutsy non-ham homeowner Poppy Madden learned her "... clothesline is protected by a state law that encourages the use of solar power. Local governments are prohibited from banning devices that use renewable resources... The Florida law also protects clotheslines against homeowners associations."*



*Clotheslines... once a common sight everywhere. Mothers sent children to retrieve clothes that fell off and hams used them as antennas. ter in San Juan Capistrano, Calif. The organization is a clearinghouse for allegations of abuse against homeowners by associations.*

When Madden won her clothesline case earlier this year, hundreds of clothesline-deprived homeowners in associations cheered her victory, says Alexander Lee

## CLOTHESLINE WARS - CONTINUED...

of Concord, N.H., who heads Project Laundry List. The group, whose motto is "Right to Dry," touts outdoor clotheslines for energy conservation and environmental reasons.

Clothes dryers account for up to 6 percent of energy consumption in an average home, according to estimates from the Rocky Mountain Institute.

Lee says Madden's fight would have been more difficult if she lived in a homeowners association. Associations almost universally view clotheslines as threats to property values and symbols of tenement living. "They're banned all over the place," he says.

In Fort Lauderdale, Madden's clothesline is protected by a state law that encourages the use of solar power. Local governments are prohibited from banning devices that use renewable resources. Other states have similar laws, but only Florida and Utah specifically protect clotheslines.

The state law forced city officials in May to dismiss the most recent complaint filed against Madden and her clothesline. A neighbor's objection four years earlier was also dismissed. The Florida law also protects clotheslines against homeowners associations. But few residents know their rights, and most abide by bans when threatened with legal action or fines.

### Emotional ties

Between bans by homeowners associations and the American love affair with convenience, clotheslines seem to be headed the way of the rotary-dial telephone and wind-up wristwatch. Already, eBay and other Internet sites feature vintage clothespins and laundry bags as collectibles.

Andrea VanSteenhouse, a Denver psychologist and co-author of the book "The Clothesline," says hanging laundry outside has emotional appeal. Baby boomers wax poetic about it. Even men pour out tales of running through drying sheets or helping hang laundry at their mothers' knees, she says.

But Robert Strauss, a homebuilder who lodged the complaint about Madden's clothesline, says "Give me a break." He built two \$3 million houses along the waterfront on Madden's formerly modest block. "We're not living in the '50s. We're not driving Edsels. We have air conditioning in our homes now and clothes dryers."

Fort Lauderdale ruled that Madden could keep her clothesline in a side yard instead of the backyard, where it might offend boaters passing by on the canal behind her home.

"I objected to walking out of the new home I was building and seeing her underwear. And now she's flying it like a flag," Strauss says.

There's nothing new about restrictions aimed at clotheslines. Minnesota once prohibited men and women's underwear hanging on the same line.

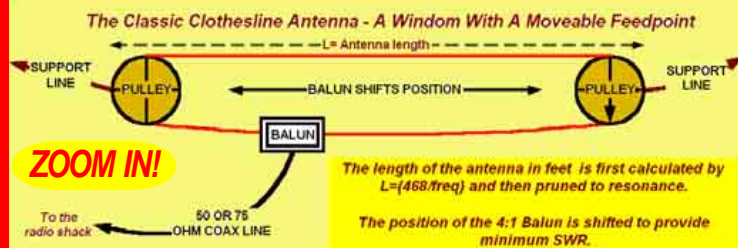
"I understand they're protecting the image of the community. But it just seems so controlling, wanting to edit out any aspects of life and make it look like no one lives there," VanSteenhouse says.

As for Madden: "My friends in Europe say, 'What kind of country do you live in where people complain about laundry lines?'"

## RANDOM HINTS & KINKS FOR CLOTHESLINE ANTENNAS

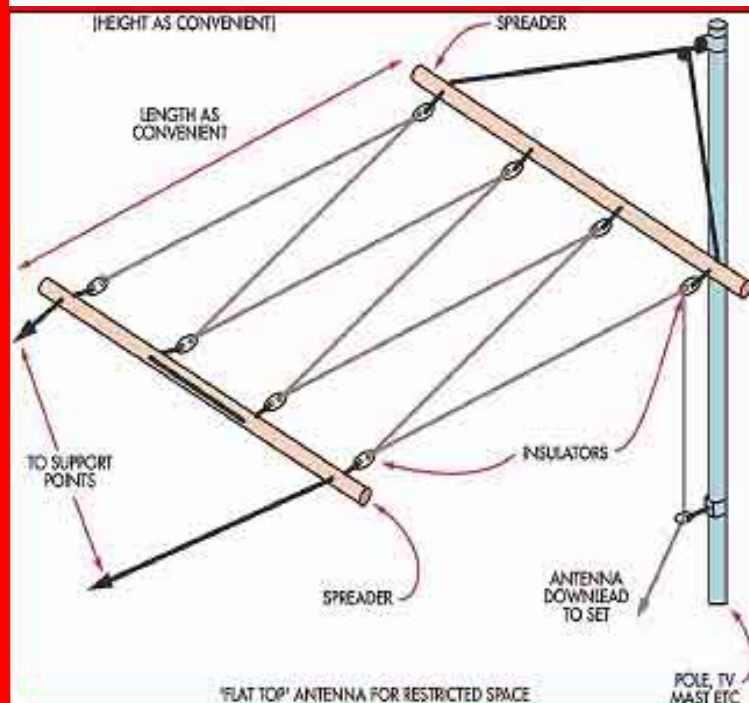
BY TONY KA2UFO

Hey, maybe we have something here! If you need a reason to operate, tell the XYL you will dry the clothes faster by using your power amplifier... saves the XYL time loading clothes in the dryer :=)



### FOR ALL CLOTHESLINE ANTENNAS... REMEMBER:

- Mount the clothesline antenna as high as you can, 30 feet is great. Use a really tall ladder (or bucket truck) to hang your clothes! Neighbors will soon stop bothering you because they'll think you're nuts :=)
- Use plastic covered clothesline with wire leader *inside*! Then you can use it as a clothesline too!
- Remember...strip the line and attach the leader wire to the balun, just tying the line to the balun won't work :=)
- Don't leave clothes on the line when operating. If you have to, hang nylon underwear but don't forget to change it every few days! It may broadband the response. :=)
- Use PLASTIC pulleys!
- Maybe feed it with TV twinlead to a balanced tuner for multiband use?
- Remember to observe safe separation distance to living things...yes, your nosey neighbor qualifies, unfortunately! (RF safety calculator web site: <http://n5xu.ae.utexas.edu/rfsafety/>)



Above is another form of clothesline antenna. There's no limit to the types of antennas that can be made in this layout. As shown it can be used as a longwire or redesigned as a clothesline/wire yagi. With a 35 foot backyard... you can have a 20 meter beam!



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# PHOTO SUMMARY: SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS AT HILARY'S... WRC WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

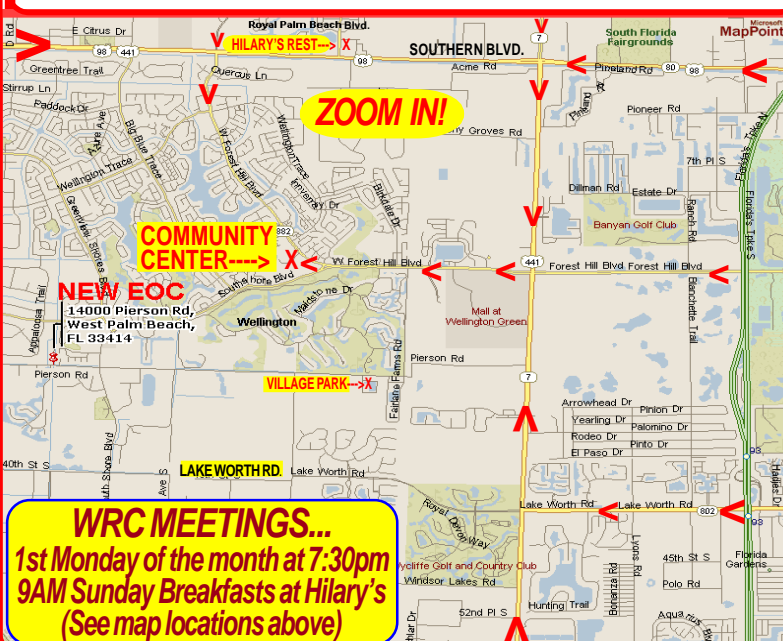


The 9 am breakfast at Hilary's Restaurant, see map below, has developed into an event where as many as 20 hams & spouses gather. We talk about ham experiences, do "show & tells" or resolve all sorts of problems. The photos are from January breakfasts and illustrate the various activities that continue *after* breakfast in what has become the "antenna test range"... Hilary's parking lot!

**A:** Allan KI4HBS holds a 144/440MHz yagi while Norm W4NRS, Bob WD9ATM and Tony KA2UFO check its SWR with an MFJ analyzer. **B:** Larry KS4NB & Dave KI4DDX, co-moderators of the Memory Lane Net, discuss their next program. **C:** Norm demonstrates his newly installed rear-bumper sonar... the display is enlarged in the lower left corner. **D:** Juan KG4QYY asks Steve KI4DYL about a power supply as Allan looks on... the price was right, FREE! It was Steve's "closet clean-out" weekend. **E:** Larry, Bruce K2MDF, Allan, Al KG4RWO, Jerry N3JGN & XYL Rhonda look over & chat about the FREE bags loaded with parts that Steve is giving away. Each is wondering if their closets are big enough to hold more stuff! **F:** Al, Allan, Cletus KG4KYD and Tony tune up a new Cushcraft 6 meter Ringo antenna...it worked great!



**MONDAY MARCH 7th MEETING AT THE WELLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER,  
12165 FOREST HILL BLVD. 1/4 MILE WEST OF SHOREBLVD.**



**WEB SITE UPDATED - CHECK IT OUT!**

## THE WRC UPDATE is the official publication of the WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB

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**FROM THE INTERNET "RACES NEWSGROUP"**  
**WE LEARN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE...**  
**EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM ISSUES**  
**A FALSE EVACUATION ORDER**

Date: Wed, 02 Feb 2005 17:17:20 -0500  
From: Radioguy <radioguy@tampabay.rr.com>  
Subject: EAS False Evacuation Issued in CT Emergency broadcast test mistakenly calls for evacuation

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Despite what residents may have seen on television, the state of Connecticut was not ordered (to be) evacuated on Tuesday.

State emergency management officials said a worker entered the wrong code during the weekly test of the emergency alert system, leading television viewers and radio listeners to believe that the state was being evacuated.

"Civil authorities have issued an immediate evacuation order for all of Connecticut, beginning at 2:10 p.m. and ending at 3:10 p.m.," a message that scrolled across television screens read.

"There is absolutely no evacuation or state emergency," said Kerry Flaherty, of the Office of Emergency Management. "It was an erroneous message."

State officials sent faxes to every police department in the state, notifying them that it was a false alarm. Workers who enter the codes read off a monitor and punch them in on a keypad, triggered the test or alert, Flaherty said. He said the code for the weekly test is one line below the code for evacuation, and the worker entered the wrong code.

Officials would not name the person who made the mistake. No disciplinary action was planned, Flaherty said. Gov. M. Jodi Rell asked Emergency Management and Homeland Security Commissioner James Thomas for a completed investigation by Monday.

"It is imperative that the citizens of Connecticut have faith in the integrity of the emergency message system and are not lulled into complacency by repeated false messages," she said.

Police departments across the state received phone calls from puzzled residents.

"I figured what could be that grand that would make everybody in the state of Connecticut have to evacuate?" said Gordy Iler of West Simsbury, who nonetheless reassured himself with a call to police.

What safeguards does your state have?

Date: Thu, 3 Feb 2005 12:36:17 -0800  
From: Edmund F Leavitt <ed.leavitt@JUNO.COM>  
Subject: Re: EAS False Evacuation Issued in CT

Reminds me of the cartoon where a new employee is getting briefed about two identical buttons, side by side on a panel. One if for the White House Xmas tree lights and the other launches a fleet of ICBM missiles at the USSR. Who dreams this stuff up?

Date: Thu, 03 Feb 2005 20:57:44 +0000  
From: "Daniel Sullivan" <djs13@hotmail.com>  
Subject: Re: EAS False Evacuation Issued in CT

Actually the best part is no one evacuated and the Gov was miffed because she had to issue an order revoking the evac order. Question is, where is the guy employed right now who sent the wrong message?

HI HI  
Dan Sullivan KO1D

**WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN PROPAGATION STINKS?**  
**GET SOME EXERCISE!**

Whether or not the bands are open, Phil, HK3SA/AA8JV, reports that life along the Amazon River is never dull. Without a nearby weightroom, Phil does the next best thing... he takes advantage of the waterworld around him! Phil is shown wrestling a 16 foot anaconda which, he commented, looked even bigger under water! By the way, he didn't mention whether snake steak was on the evening menu.



All joking aside, Phil runs serious ecotours of the Amazon region from aboard the Amazon Queen... a vessel fully amateur radio equipped complete with beam and even WinLink. He and his crew have travelled practically the length of the great river and are intimately familiar with its flora & fauna as well as many of the tribal cultures found along the Peruvian-Colombian-Brazilian frontiers.

Date: Thu, 3 Feb 2005 13:35:00 -0800  
From: Edmund F Leavitt <ed.leavitt@JUNO.COM>  
Subject: Re: EAS False Evacuation Issued in CT

Our RACES Station in the Washington State EOC is just one door down the hallway from the Duty Officers' station. Occasionally the staff will demonstrate the Emergency Alerting System for visitors by playing one of the pre recorded emergency messages. The one I have heard several times warns of a major Lahar on Mt Rainier, and gives a rapid fire series of instructions for immediate evacuation, frequently punctuated with the statement that "THIS IS NOT AN EXERCISE". Every time I hear it, it sends a quick shiver up the spine. I look casual as I stroll across the hall to see if people are standing around admiring the system, or running around frantically.

Phew. Another demo! (And yes, they do take special precautions to insure that the alert isn't accidentally getting transmitted.)

Date: Thu, 03 Feb 2005 18:01:03 -0500  
From: Radioguy <radioguy@tampabay.rr.com>  
Subject: Re: EAS False Evacuation Issued in CT

No one evacuated anything. That was part of the issue. Not only was the message in error, but the public totally ignored it, using their own common sense. BTW very few were even aware that an order was issued at all, which goes to prove the ineffectiveness of EAS in this area. Further, evacuation is known in this area as a joke. For example, the entire western part of the state is expected to travel up tiny Route 7 all the way to Vermont. Vermont has no plans to accept them. Heck a small HAZMAT issue two years ago shut down two exits on Interstate 84. The entire area went into grid lock for eight hours.

One doesn't need a crystal ball to know that this methodology is totally bogus. Interstate 95 is a parking lots during a normal commute, add in a little panic and you'll be looking at your navel. It would be better to shelter in place and dare I say pray. Emergency Managers in the state scoff at the idea of massive evacuation in public, making it a farse.



## PHOTO SUMMARY:

**ZOOM IN!**

## TWO AND A HALF MAN CREW PLUS CRANE ERECTS AN 80 FOOT TOWER + ANTENNA SYSTEM IN SIX HOURS

The collage below captures nearly the whole process of erecting the tower system from its delivery at about 8:30am to the fastening of the yagi at about 2:30pm. The most time consuming part of the whole process was joining of the tower sections. It was made difficult by the precision tower leg couplings shown to the right. Although Pat the crane operator was able to move tower sections a 1/4" at a time, a hammer, "come-along" and muscle ultimately made them fit like a glove. Needless to say, Toney KA2UFO and Norm W4NRS were exhausted at day's end.





# FROM THE: Spiderwebnet GUAJIRA MEMORIES DECEMBER, 2004

BY JOHN AH4AH [WWW.SPIDERWEBNET.NET](http://WWW.SPIDERWEBNET.NET)

When Clive and Margo were sailing around the northern tip of Colombia on their journey to Cartagena, Jim (HK3AVR) and I (AH2AH) were reminiscing about the years we spent in that area and the telecommunication challenges we overcame. Jim suggested we share some of our memories with the Spider Web Net.

The northern tip of Colombia is known as La Guajira. Geographically it is a hot, dry, sandy desert with small mesquite trees and cactus. Socially it is a pretty wild no-mans-land and, until recently, ignored by Colombian law enforcement. The inhabitants are nomadic Indians who speak a unique language called Wayuu, derived from the Arawak Indians who live further inland and up in the mountains of the Sierra Nevada. It is a matriarchal society made up of several clans. The men herd goats, build mud and grass huts and always have a pistol and machete in their belt.

Duty free contraband (booze, cigarettes and electronics) is delivered to the beaches, and the Guajiros transport the merchandise to distribution centers further inland. During the late 70's and early 80's the area was also an export point for illegal drugs. Most vehicles have Venezuelan license plates because they are stolen in Venezuela, and driven to the Guajira. The thieves do not even bother to remove the plates. With no law enforcement in place, having a Venezuelan plate on your new free pickup was a bit of a status symbol.

team, KL7O, knew AVR from his work in Alaska, and suggested I look him up.

Within about ten days, Jim and some of his technicians were driving me around the Guajira, teaching me some

Spanish and, with the use of scanners, figuring out which VHF and UHF were available. For obvious reasons we did not want to QRM the guys in the "import" or "export" businesses. Mother nature had been kind enough to place a 400-meter high rock outcrop right in the middle of the vast flat Guajira, which proved to be an outstanding location for a solar powered UHF repeater and later, a Microwave repeater powered by a wind generator.

While we were beating around the Guajira, Jim's XYL was making the rounds of the government offices in Bogota with a copy of my US ham license—and through Liliana's tactful perseverance, I was issued a Colombian call sign, HK2NAO.

In the first couple of years, AVR, his company and technical staff provided the initial equipment and expertise that allowed reliable communications in a very desolate area that had virtually no infrastructure. The final system my staff



In spite of all this, we found the people to be very clever and friendly. We treated them with respect and, other than losing a few vehicles and some 2 way radios, never had a problem. The problem area always seemed to be when we were driving from the Guajira and entering the next Departamento, or State. There were always police officials at those frontiers attempting to collect a little "tax". They would check our ID and search our vehicles. Rather than try to explain why a couple of "gringos" loaded down with radio and test equipment were coming out of the Guajira, it was just easier to slip them a tip.

I recall one evening when AVR and the officials could not come to an agreement on the amount of tip, and after a six hour standoff the officials told him to "get out of here". I suspect he was hurting their business.

Got a little ahead of myself... it all started in 1981 when Exxon joint ventured with the Colombian government to develop an open pit coal mine in the southern Guajira, and a 140 km long railroad connected to a coal loading seaport at the northern tip of the Guajira. I was dispatched to Bogota to find a local communications company that could help us set up interim communications to support the huge construction and development effort. Another ham on our

built included about twenty UHF nets, several Microwave links, a couple of Satellite earth stations terminals, airport comm and nav aids, railroad control, and a telephone system to the outside world. Exxon's contractors built living facilities, power plants, a water desalinization plant, railroad, seaport and developed the coal mine. Eventually they were exporting over 15 million tons of high quality coal per year. Exxon sold their interest in 2000.

During the early years, even Harry, HK3ZOR, made a couple of trips to the Guajira to see what was going on.

What started out as a couple of hams working on a challenging communications project out in the middle of nowhere, has turned out to be a 23 year enduring friendship. And, I should add that most of the systems we designed and installed have also endured, and are still in operation. Visit [www.cerrejoncoal.com](http://www.cerrejoncoal.com) to find out more. On that web site there is even a photo of the mine satellite station and microwave site. Navigate to "Operation", then click Support Facilities.

Attached are some photos—including one of a 23 year younger AVR, when he had his beard!

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season & Healthy '05.  
73's, John AH2AH