## WRC UPDATE - JUNE -JUNE 23, 2005

RADIO AMATEURS SERVING THE WESTERN COMMUNITIES AND PALM BEACH COUNTY. FLORIDA

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





**PUBLIC** SAFETY DAY WELLINGTON WRC's LOST **CHILDREN & COMMUNICATIONS BOOTH** PAGE 4



IN A MAD TWIST OF LOGIC... GENERATOR OWNERS BATTLE SOME MUNICIPALITIES... LEARN WHICH USE COMMON SENSE PAGE 2



DOWN UNDER IN ZL LAND... REPEATER TRUSTEES GET THROUGH! PAGES 6



**JAY LENO HOSTS BATTLE OF MORSE CODE VERSUS CELL TEXT MESSAGING!** PAGE 5



Hams, family, friends and public visitors!

## **Field Day 2005...** The Emphasis on **Emergency Communications** June 25 & 26th at Wellington's EOC YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Considering our experiences last year, there is evermore reason to take Field Day in the spirit of the first one in 1933, an emergency exercise that's

also fun. Knowing that last year the Wellington EOC played a pivotal role during Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, it's no surprise that the Wellington Radio Club will participate again from the EOC site.

Many feel this more realistically reflects today's world. More than ever before, radio amateurs work closely with public safety agencies and disaster relief organizations. It was certainly the case for Hurricane Charley and, of course, that's why a class of field day operation is specifically for Emergency Operations Centers.

We will be testing the EOC's systems and facilities and, in a sense, ourselves. No Field Day is a success without operators experiencing the thrill of exchanging traffic with the thousands of other stations nationwide setup for emergency communications and

power. Naturally, all the EOC's stations will be powered off its very large battery bank for the entire Field Day period.

Join us this weekend... help out and at the same time learn, or refresh, your skills and knowledge.

#### FIELD DAY SCHEDULE **Saturday**

6:30 AM: BREAKFAST AT

**BAGELAND IN WELLINGTON** 

7:30 AM: SETUP AT THE EOC

2:00 PM: STATIONS BEGIN OPERATING

AROUND-THE-CLOCK

Sunday

2:00 PM: OPERATIONS CEASE 2:15 PM: TEAR DOWN BEGINS

**MAP TO THE EOC IS ON PAGE 6** 

## NOISE LIMITS PULL PLUG ON SOME EMERGENCY HOME GENERATORS

By Dwayne Robinson, Palm Beach Post Staff Writer Tuesday, June 21, 2005

When Detective Harold Eisenman has to leave his family during a hurricane, he just wants some peace of mind. So Eisenman bought a generator about a month ago, only to learn that his model breaks the law in Royal Palm Beach because it's too loud.

Harold Eisenman is frustrated that Royal Palm Beach won't let him install his \$6,000 generator because it exceeds the village's noise limits. "The mess that I've been going through is crazy," said Eisenman, who has spent about \$6,000 to buy and partially install a generator at his home.

During Hurricane Frances, his family, including three children, was without power. "The whole night

through the storm, I was freaking out," Eisenman said.

The Palm Beach County sheriff's detective said the roar of his Guardian generator exceeds Royal Palm's accepted noise level for machinery of 60 decibels, which is about as loud as voices in conversation. That's about the average range for models big enough to power a home in an emergency.

During the storms last year, generators disturbed neighbors trying to sleep, said Bill Morris, community development director in Royal Palm Beach.

"A lot of people don't have generators," Morris said. "You have to understand these things don't just come on just after a major storm. They would also start anytime there is a power glitch or a power outage."

In preparation for hurricane season, South Floridians have been flocking to home improvement stores to buy generators without realizing that high-powered models are not like household appliances that simply can be plugged in and turned on.

Many communities, such as Royal Palm Beach and Wellington, require a permit when wiring an external power source into a home, and local ordinances regulate noise. In many subdivisions, homeowner groups also regulate aesthetics and the location of the unit. And residents who try to smother the noise \* for example, by enclosing their generators behind plywood shields or other man-made casings \* could end up overheating their machines, invalidating their warranties.

In Royal Palm Beach, officials have refused to issue about a dozen generator permits because of such regulations. The village will discuss the issue in July.

Other communities, such as Wellington, Palm Beach, West Palm Beach and Delray Beach, also regulate generator noise. Some communities enforce local ordinances more leniently. Wellington and West Palm Beach, for example, consider a hurricane an emergency.

"We're taking a position, for the time being, that the noise ordinance wasn't to apply in the case of an emergency," said Doug Wise, Wellington's building official. "We try our best to come in with common sense when enforcing the regulation." Not making the exception is analogous to fining residents for having boarded-up windows on the eve of a hurricane, he said.

Wellington has the same 60-

decibel requirement as Royal Palm Beach but apparently hasn't had the same number of complaints about noise.

Delray Beach officials say they've seen a jump in the number of permit requests. The city allows 60 decibels by day, 55 decibels by night, said George Diaz, the chief building official. Usually, the city receives about one

permit request a year. Since May, it has received 15 to 20.

"We're getting flooded," Diaz said. "Every city's getting flooded.... In (Hurricane) Andrew, it was the shutters. Now, it's the generators."

Surprisingly, Palm Beach is among the least restrictive of the municipalities. It allows 65 decibels by day, so larger models comply. But Palm Beach also requires that generators installed near property lines must be enclosed by a wall and landscaped to reduce the effect on neighbors, said Harry Ackerman, assistant building official.

In West Palm Beach, the city requires only that noise from the machines not be "unreasonably loud" or plainly audible on the neighboring property line, Todd Hiteshew, code compliance manager, wrote in



storm. They would also start anytime there is a power glitch or a nower outage."

Harold Eisenman, at right, in 2001 worked with the WRC to reunite this lost child with her mother at Wellington's 5th Anniversary Celebration.

an e-mail.

Regardless of where residents live, there are options to reduce the intrusive nature of generator noise. For instance, residents could put up sound barriers, move generators away from neighboring property lines or place them in special casing.

But electrical suppliers warn against the latter. "If you're boxing it in to lower the noise and you start messing with the ventilation of the unit and if you burn the unit up and there's no ventilation, there's not going to be a warranty," said Steve Tupper of Higgins Electrical Services Inc. in West Palm Beach.

Although maximum decibel levels are not typically labeled on merchandise, consumers could view user's manuals after a purchase or beforehand online at suppliers' Web sites.

The best option is to contact local governments and homeowners associations before buying a unit, and work with a professional to determine the generator size and type that will work best in your home.

For Eisenman, a solution is all he wants \* and fast.
"We're trying to get all this done before hurricane
season hits us," Eisenman said. "Not being able to get
permits, it's pushing it even further, and now we're getting deeper into hurricane season."

### A Service For Members, Friends and Supporters... Zoom

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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# PHOTO SUMARY: WRC LOST CHILD BOOTH & PUBLIC SAFETY DAY IN WELLINGTON







Clockwise from Left: Stanchions on the main streets announced the Fair for a week. Mayor Wenham (I) and Sheriff Ric Bradshaw (r) welcome the public and first responders. Austin W2AGX, Liz KG4RQC, Mayor Wenham and Lindy KG4PQG chatted at the booth. Bev K1BEV helped distribute the Child ID Kits. Lt. Lindskoog talked to Australia as Phyllis K4PAV and Tony W4VHA look on.



#### PHOTO SUMMARY...

#### WRC REPEATER SYSTEMS MOVE FROM THE 27 YEAR-OLD TOWER SHELTER TO STATE OF THE ART BUILDING



Photographer Mike K4PCM captured these scenes during the long anticipated relocation of the WRC repeater systems. **Top Left**: Scott AF4KK and Sandy WB2MBV hold the two meter repeater while Larry KS4NB and Al KG4RWO conduct an ecumenical blessing over it. Made in 1978 or so, the repeater needs all the help it can get! **Center**: Held together with bungee cords and maybe some chewing gum, the UHF repeater cabinet is carefully moved. **Right**: The two meter duplexer enters the new shelter. **Bottom Left & Center**: The equipment is gingerly put in place. **Right**: Our equipment stands beside the FHP Hi-Band base station with plenty of work space. Sandy tries to solve the air conditioner filters mystery. The crew did such a great job that everything worked when fired up... maybe the prayer worked afterall!



Morse Code Versus Text Messaging... JAY LENO LETS VIEWERS WORLDWIDE SEE 104 YEAR-OLD TECHNOLOGY WHIP A STATE-OF-THE-ART CELLPHONE MODE!



On Friday May 13th, the Tonight Show featured a message sending/ receiving contest between an expert cellphone text messaging team and a Morse code team... hams of course!

The Morse code team was clad in old fashioned telegraphers costumes and consisted of Chip Margelli, K7JA and Ken Miller, K6CTW. The Tonight Show people called around to see if hams could come up with two fast Morse operators. Chip and Ken do lots of contests and DXpeditions. By the way, Joe Drago KF6OCP is props manager for the show.

Despite being Friday the 13th, luck had nothing to do with the outcome... another ham success! Actually, the idea wasn't original. About a month earlier, the 90+ yearold head of the Wireless Society of Australia won a similar contest hands-down! (FOLLOWTHE PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM THE TOP)





MONDAY JULY 11TH MEETING AT THE WELLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER, 12165 FOREST HILL BLVD. 1/4 MILE WEST OF SOUTHSHORE BLVD.

WEB SITE UPDATED - CHECK IT OUT!

## 

## THE WRC UPDATE

## is the official publication of the **WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB**

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## From Wintry New Zealand... Role Models Through Rain and Snow the Repeater Trustee Always Gets Through!

Two incidents, during the recent re-tuning of the National System, a linked system, illustrate the dedication of Repeater Trustees.

First - Peter ZL3TC found the clay access road to Belmont to be very slippery due to prolonged rain. So he parked the vehicle, loaded up his back pack with the repeater, transmit/receive duplexer, test equipment and tools and walked several kilometres to the site.

Result: Nelson was re-connected to the National System.

Second - The access road to the Egmont
National System site is hazardous at the best of times.
At this time of year it tends to be snowing on the access
road when it is raining on the flat and black ice is an
ever-present danger. Steve ZL2KG, managed to remove



the Egmont National System equipment for re-tuning on the second attempt. However, a succession of southerly storms frustrated the return of the equipment, following re-tuning. He was finally successful on the seventh attempt. Steve carried the larger transmit/ receive duplexer and the BCL maintenance contractor carried the repeater several kilometres through the snow and ice.

Result: The North, East and South sections of the National System were re-connected.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to the efforts of such dedicated Repeater Trustees.

## Unique Antenna Platform for Field Day...

Preparations Viewed From Down Under As Well As The Northern Hemisphere!

Study this image and you might learn how ZLs & W/Ks can work together work in a topsy-turvy world.

Actually, the photo-artist was a master of the optical illusion... which comes in handy when you need to hide an antenna in a restricted neighborhood!

# ZOOMINI

# Field Day... This Weekend at the Wellington EOC!!!

July 4th in Wellington Village Park - Monday - 6 pm Setup Bring The Family!

See the great entertainment and fireworks!
The WRC will be offering free Child ID Kits at its
Lost Children & Communications Booth.

Let Larry KS4NB, 385-2986 know if you can volunteer.

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