

WRC UPDATE

- MARCH -

MARCH 31, 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**



**TERRORISM/WMD EXERCISE...
INVOLVES 10,000+
INCLUDING HAMS
PAGE 2**

**OVERCOMING
INTEROPERABILITY
FOR PREPAREDNESS
PAGE 3**

**DIABETES WALK...
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED
PAGE 5**

**HAM POPULATION
CONTINUES
TO SHRINK
PAGE 5**

**ENTRY LEVEL
DIGITAL MODE
WORKSHOP...
PAGE 6**

**CERT TEAMS GEAR UP
FOR THE
HURRICANE SEASON
PAGE 6**

**HAM WINS TOWER WAR...
LOSES \$\$\$ BATTLE IN
SUPREME COURT
PAGE 6**

**WRC MEMBER
RESOURCE
PROFILES
PAGE 4**

MEETING: Monday - April 4th - 7:30pm - Wellington Community Center

After Five Major Hurricanes in 2004, We Revisit the Theme:

“BUT WHAT IF THE INTERNET FAILS?”

An Update & Demo on Sending Email Via Radio by Doug WB4KGY & John WB4MOZ

Last year Doug described an amazing combination of ham technologies that act like a self-healing network... one that permits a ham operator to bypass *failed* Internet access points during emergencies. Bypasses can be local or distant and be done on HF and/or VHF/UHF. At this meeting, we can learn how to access to this system now that it is operational in South Florida. During emergency operations it can be utilized for the transmission of reports, official messages or Health & Welfare traffic.

The 2004 Hurricane Season confirmed how vulnerable radio, telephone and cellphones systems are. Increasingly, corporations, telecommunications giants as well as the government have shifted communications to the In-

ternet. Even critical Public Safety communications will soon use voice over the Internet. Florida is now installing the *Motobridge*, see page 3, an Internet system to overcome radio “interoperability” between 270 counties, municipalities and State and Federal Agencies.

After this meeting, you should be able to tell your neighbors and community leaders much more about your role in this High-Tech Age. This is a chance to become familiar with the basics of the digital modes and how they can fill communications gaps during national or regional emergencies.

MAP TO MEETING SITE ON PAGE 5.



Doug WB4KGY - FD 2000



Bharathi VU2RBI, left, & WRC Member Sara VU3RSB

VU4 TEAM LEADER RECEIVES SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT DAYTON HAMFEST

The *Angel of the Seas*, Bharathi Prasad VU2RBI, will visit the States to receive the prestigious ARRL Special Achievement Award on behalf of NIAR's DXpedition and Tsunami communications Team. Bharathi will also be speaking before DX groups for whom her achievements

have truly been monumental.

Bharathi sent us a personal note thanking the WRC for its support:

Hello Dear Larry,

Hope everything is fine at your place. I wish to inform you that I may visit the USA, especially the Visalia (DX) conference. You have covered our programme in the WRC magazine very well. I am really thankful to you and your organisation for the wide publicity about our Team's work.

*Hope to see you in the USA.
Bharathi Prasad*

THE RACES NEWSGROUP DESCRIBES THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL, FULL SCALE ANTI-TERRORIST AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION EXERCISE MANDATED BY CONGRESS...

10,000+ PEOPLE PARTICIPATE WORLDWIDE

HOMELAND SECURITY'S "TOPOFF 3" INCLUDES HAMS

Message: 1

Date: Fri, 25 Mar 2005 12:18:26 -0500

From: Radioguy <radioguy@tampabay.rr.com>

Subject: Scavenger Hunt Drill/Topoff

The following appeared today on the "Amateur Radio Newslines:"

DISCUSSION POINT... WAR ON TERROR: SCAVENGER HUNT DRILL

Amateur radio operators recently took part in a scavenger hunt, but this one was a hunt for information rather than hub caps or old rigs. This, in an exercise designed to get them acquainted with Southeastern Connecticut before a major emergency drill next month.

Using a scavenger hunt as a mechanism, the hams were sent around the New London County area. This, to find key areas where they might end up providing support or places they might have to stay away from because something is happening there that could put them at risk.

Wayne Gronlund, N1CLV, of ARES is coordinating the event. He says that he is trying to put together at least 50 amateur radio enthusiasts for TOPOFF which stands for Top Officials. This is a week-long exercise that will include simulated terrorist attacks on ports in New London, New Jersey, Canada and the United Kingdom.

20 to 25 teams of two or three people were shuttled around the region in cars equipped with VHF-FM radio looking for 12 sites based on photographic clues and maps that they were issued. TOPOFF, will take place April 4th to the 10th. It will involve up to 10,000 people and cost an estimated \$16 million!! (published news reports/packet radio bulletins)

Message: 2

Date: Fri, 25 Mar 2005 14:31:08 -0500

From: Radioguy <radioguy@tampabay.rr.com>

Subject: Topoff 3, Overview Press Kit Info

For those who have asked for more information here it is.

Press Kit

The TOPOFF 3 Full-Scale Exercise Most Realistic Test Yet

The TOPOFF Full Scale Exercise (T3 FSE) will take place from April 4-8, 2005, and involve more than 10,000 participants representing more than 200 Federal, State, local, tribal, private sector, and international agencies and organizations and volunteer groups. The FSE

offers agencies and jurisdictions a way to exercise a coordinated national and international response to a large-scale, multipoint terrorist attack. It allows participants to test plans and skills in a real-time, realistic environment and gain the in-depth knowledge that only experience can provide.

TOPOFF 3 In Brief

* Full-scale exercise: April 2005.

* Five venues: Interagency, Connecticut, New Jersey, United Kingdom, Canada.

* New Jersey scenario: Simulated biological attack in Union and Middlesex Counties.

* Connecticut scenario: Simulated chemical attack in New London.

Exercise Scenario

The TOPOFF 3 scenario will depict a complex terrorist campaign and drive the exercise play through the homeland security system, beginning in Connecticut and New Jersey, and leading to national and international response.

Over the course of several days fire personnel will conduct search and rescue, hospitals will treat the injured (played by role players), subject-matter experts will analyze the effects of the attack on public health, and top officials will deploy resources and make the difficult decisions needed to save lives.

An internal Virtual News Network (VNN) and news website will provide real-time reporting of the story like an actual TV network would. The mock media will keep players up-to-date on unfolding events and enable decision makers to face the challenge of dealing with the real world media. Only participating agencies can view the VNN broadcast.

Message: 3

Date: Fri, 25 Mar 2005 14:38:21 -0500

From: Radioguy <radioguy@tampabay.rr.com>

Subject: UK & Canada to Join Topoff 3

Department of Homeland Security Announces Partnership with the United Kingdom and Canada for TOPOFF 3

For Immediate Release

Office of the Press Secretary

Contact: 202-282-8010

March 17, 2005

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security today announced that the United States, United Kingdom and Canada will cooperate in conduct of TOPOFF 3, a Congressionally-mandated counterterrorism exercise for top officials. DHS will conduct the TOPOFF 3 full scale exercise in April 2005, with terrorist attack scenarios staged in Connecticut and New Jersey. Additional activities will occur in related exercises within the United Kingdom (Atlantic Blue) and Canada (Triple Play).

"The TOPOFF exercises are a key piece of the United States homeland security national preparedness efforts. By responding realistically to simulated attacks, we are able to identify our strengths and weaknesses and make our national response system stronger," said

Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff. "Our partnerships with the United Kingdom and Canada will further enhance our ability to deal with terrorism on an international level."

"Our participation is another example of our ongoing commitment to working closely with the United States and international allies such as the United Kingdom to strengthen our ability to deal with international terrorism and its consequences key objectives of Canada's National Security Policy and the Smart Border Declaration," said Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Anne McLellan.

"The threat from international terrorism remains real and serious, and is a worldwide concern. It is vital we make every effort to enhance and develop our resilience to this threat by working closely with our international colleagues. Exercise Atlantic Blue provides an excellent opportunity to do just this, through sharing best practice on emergency planning and response procedures," said Hazel Blears, U.K. Minister with responsibility for Counter Terrorism and Resilience.

The U.S. TOPOFF 3 exercise is the third of the congressionally directed, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) national exercise series. The first was conducted in May 2000, and TOPOFF 2 was hosted in May 2003 with simulated attacks in Seattle and Chicago.

Previous TOPOFF exercises have allowed the Federal government to test new response plans with State, local, and international partners. TOPOFF 2 was the first exercise of the newly formed DHS, the first exercise of the Principal Federal Official (this concept was subsequently incorporated into the National Response Plan), and the first test of an elevation of the National Threat Condition to RED. The lessons from previous TOPOFF exercises have also helped shape the national preparedness strategy, which calls for development of an integrated Federal-state-local capability of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery

for extreme events, including terrorism.

To meet the shared international objectives, the TOPOFF 3 full-scale exercise focuses on four critical areas:

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

To test the full range of existing procedures for domestic incident management of a terrorist event and improve, through practice, top officials' capabilities in affected countries to respond in partnership

INTELLIGENCE

To test the handling and flow of operational and time-critical intelligence

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

To practice strategic coordination of media relations and public information following a linked incident

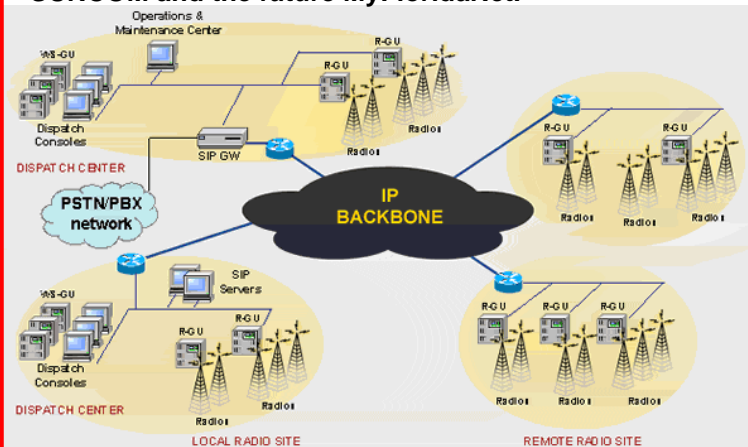
EVALUATION:

To identify lessons learned and promote best practices

Motobridge... A New Preparedness Tool Permits Incompatible Radio Systems to Talk to One Another Motorola's Soft Switch Radio Network™

THIS IS THE SYSTEM CHOSEN BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO OVERCOME THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF RADIO SYSTEMS STATEWIDE. THE "INTEROPERABILITY" PROBLEM HAS BECOME MAGNITUDES GREATER AS FLORIDA REVS UP ITS NEW 800 MHZ M/ACOM SYSTEM WHILE OTHER JURISDICTIONS USE OR UPGRADE TO MOTOROLA 800 MHZ SYSTEMS AND OTHERS CONTINUE ON VHF AND UHF SYSTEMS.

The Motorola Soft Switch Radio Network™ (Motobridge) is an IP based radio interoperability system. The system allows dynamic state-wide radio interconnections (Trunked and Conventional in any frequency band) for public-safety first responder's forces, while allowing remote dispatch positions to gain access to each and every network. The system utilizes a completely distributed architecture for mission critical operation with no single point of failure device. The system can operate over virtually any IP network such as SUNCOM and the future MyFloridaNet.



In Florida, over 270 Federal, State and local jurisdictions will be able to interconnect with this Voice Over Internet system. Dispatch centers, radio gateways and local radio systems can selectively "talk" to one another depending upon the specific emergency. The first of these systems are being deployed at State Regional Communications Centers in Lake Worth and Miami.

An Motobridge terminal is being provided at each of the Public Safety Communications Centers which will provide interoperable communications simultaneously between Local, State and Federal dispatch centers. At these same locations, Motorola has also proposed an R-GU (Radio Gateway Unit) which is equipped for eight interfaces for connecting various communications systems.

Any local radios, consoles, telephone lines or other communications systems can be connected together at the communications centers and with any other resource in the network through the Motobridge terminal. Additionally, the Motobridge terminal is also a communications console that can communicate directly with any other communication center or interoperability resource on the network. Through the Motobridge terminal, the dispatcher can set-up the means for communications between radio resources and also talk/listen directly with the public safety agencies involved.

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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Walk to Cure Diabetes



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**
APRIL 9TH IN WEST PALM

THE WRC TO SERVE WALK TO CURE DIABETES LOST CHILD & COMMUNICATIONS BOOTH

This is the fifth year that we have supported these type community events with the Lost Children and Communications Booth. In that time, we've reunited dozens of separated kids and parents...and even one lost pet with its frantically searching owner!

With that kind of track record we weren't surprised when this Diabetes group again invited us to serve. It is a low overhead and truly worthy cause that merits our support.

Many thousands of participants and spectators are again expected. There are sure to be lost kids and other opportunities to apply our communications skills.

In addition to introducing event attendees to local communications, the thrill of worldwide ham radio is made a lot easier with the help of IRLP.



AnnMarie and son Joe reunited... lost among 1000s of walkers.

Contact Bruce K2MDF at 281-6396 or Larry KS4NB at 385-2986 to join the Lost Child Team.

DIRECTIONS TO W.P.B. EVENT...
FREE PARKING AT WPB EVERNIA STREET GARAGE:
OKEECHOBEE BLVD. EAST TO OLIVE
NORTH ON OLIVE
EAST ON EVERNIA TO GARAGE ENTRANCE
WALK ONE BLOCK EAST TO
MEYER AMPHITHEATER SITE.
Look for our banner on the Eastside of the field.

FROM QRZ.COM... THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE CONTINUES TO SHRINK

Total number of USA Licensed Amateurs by Class

As of May 14, 2000:

Novice	49,329
Tech/+	334,254
General	112,677
Advanced	99,782
Extra	78,750

Total all classes 674,792

As of March 15, 2005:

Novice	29,098	(-41.02%)	(-20,231)
Total/+	318,387	(-4.74%)	(-15,867)
General	137,334	(+21.88%)	(+24,657)
Advanced	77,035	(-22.80%)	(-22,747)
Extra	106,238	(+34.91%)	(+27,488)

Total All Classes 668,163

Total all classes (5/14/00) - 674,792

Total all Classes (4/21/03) - 687,860

Total all classes (9/6/04) - 674,788

Total all classes (2/15/05) - 668,163

Total loss of 6,629 since 5/14/2000 (Was 674,792)

Total loss of 6,625 since 9/6/2004 (Was 674,788)

Total loss of 19,697 since 4/2003 (all time high of 687,860)

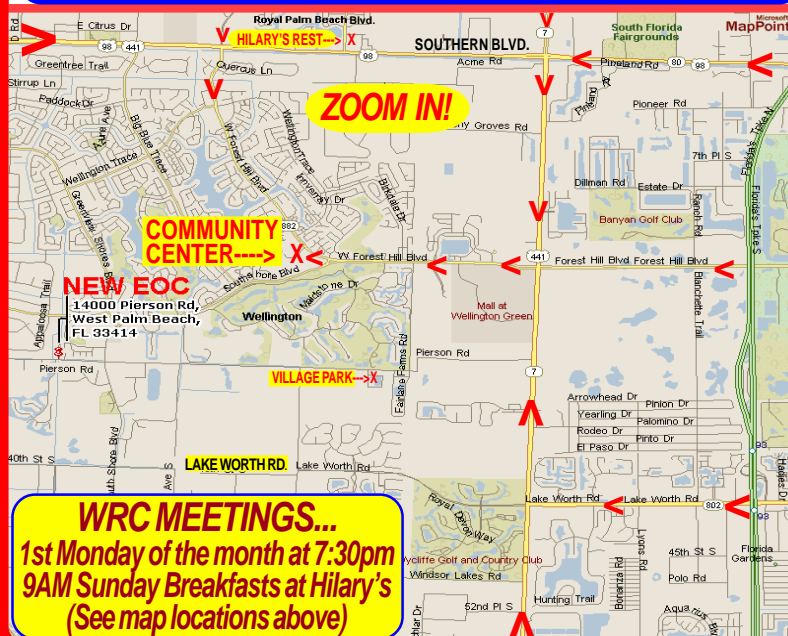
NOTES:

For the 8th straight reporting period, all classes except for Extra declined. There was a net loss of 618 licenses in this reporting period from the last reporting period.

Compiled & submitted to QRZ.COM
by George K3UD

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

PASS THE WORD TO NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS...
WELLINGTON CERT GEARS UP FOR 2005
SEEKS RECRUITS FOR MAY CLASS



At the March meeting Team Leader Kathy Healey introduced Lt. Jeff Lindscoog, PBSO Executive Officer, the Team's new advisor.

His extensive CERT and volunteer program experience became apparent as plans and objectives for the development of Wellington CERT were discussed. The dual focus for the next few months are on training and Team growth. To that end, a number of recruitment and PR activities were planned and agreed upon by Team members.

All future meetings would be held at the Substation and be on the *third* Tuesday of the month at 7pm. For more info, contact Kathy at khealey@yahoo.com

Lt. Jeff Lindscoog & TL Kathy Healey at the PBSO's Wellington Substation



COMMUNICATIONS CLASS
FOR NON-HAMS
APRIL 11TH-MONDAY-4PM
OPEN TO ALL CERT MEMBERS...
TELL YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS



*Bev KIBEV Team Leader
 RSVP to 641-6743*

Runners may have a place in some emergency response operations, but the vast majority of CERT communications needs can be met by radio systems.

The one hour workshop in *Basic Communications Skills* and the use of FRS/GMRS radios is hosted by Covered Bridge CERT. The workshop leader is Larry Lazar of Wellington CERT and the Wellington Radio Club. Larry has in-depth emergency communications experience and has been with the FHP in Communications for 10 years. Covered Bridge is just north of Lake Worth Road and west of Jog.

Space is limited and an RSVP is required.

Call Team Leader Bev at 641-6743 to secure your spot.

Abrams Won the Tower War,
But Lost a Costly Battle...

High Court:

No Fees for Denied Radio Tower

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court on Tuesday blocked a ham radio operator from collecting attorney fees and damages in a dispute with local government over building a wireless tower.

In a 9-0 decision, the court said Mark Abrams is not entitled to money from an earlier court battle against the city of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., in which Abrams obtained a permit for a 52.5-foot radio antenna on his property.

Abrams' lawyer had argued that although the Telecommunications Act doesn't specifically grant attorney fees and damages, Abrams is entitled to them under a different portion of federal law.

The court disagreed and pointed to the potential financial implications for municipalities around the country.

"Liability for attorneys' fees would have a particularly severe impact," Justice Antonin Scalia wrote, "making local governments liable for ... often substantial legal expenses."

The court said that Abrams' legal argument about using a different federal law to enforce the telecommunications law "would distort the scheme of expedited judicial review and limited remedies."

The attorney for Rancho Palos Verdes said that attorneys' fees had hit \$15 million, roughly the annual budget of the seaside town 30 miles south of Los Angeles. The town argued that if municipalities faced the prospect of huge damage and fee payments if they wrongly denied a wireless antenna or cell phone tower application, few would ever say no.

SlowScanTV Teletype PSK31 Packet
Radio Email Amtor APRS Future Modes

Here Is a Painless,
 Step-By-Step, Inexpensive Opportunity
 to Get Started In The Digital World...

An Entry Level
Digital Mode Workshop
For New Hams and The Digiphobic

Whether Used on HF or VHF/UHF,
 The Digital Modes of Operation Are No Longer
 On The Fringes Of Ham Radio.

The Future of Our Great Hobby May Well
 Depend Upon How Well We Develop Them
 to Serve The Needs of Our Country
 and to Attract New People.

CONTENT:

The step-by-step downloading of Free software, its configuration and use. Also... building, adjusting and using an effective \$10 interface with a handheld, mobile or base station radio.

Workshop Is Open to All

Saturdays April 23 & 30 - 9am to Noon
 But Limited to 10 People...WRC Members Given Priority
 RSVP by Email, at the WRC April meeting and on the air.
larry33414@aol.com