

WRC UPDATE

- SEPTEMBER -

2005

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

**REMEMBER TO 2-0-0-M IN
ON THE PHOTOS... 200%-300% RECOMMENDED**



A MINI-ANTHOLOGY OF KATRINA ARTICLES & INFO... PAGE 2

WRC SEPTEMBER 12TH MEETING... PROGRAM: KATRINA

MONDAY - 7:30PM - WELLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER

KATRINA PROGRAM - DISCUSS ITS IMPACT ON US... HEAR EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS FROM OUR GUEST SPEAKERS!

**Steve KI4GTI and His XYL Joan Looked Forward to a Pleasant Stay
at The Latin Quarter's Sheraton Hotel...**
*Little Did They Know They Would Be Trapped
in the Hell That New Orleans Would Soon Become!*



Jeff KG4PGA

Veteran Storm Interceptors Jeff KG4PGA & Chris KG4PJN Knew Exactly What Lay Ahead in Coastal Mississippi!

In Biloxi's Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Chris relates: "I saw the water coming up the stairway where my car was, but I could not move it higher because someone else's was there (blocking me in). I did not want to lose my car, especially after what my insurance did with the stuff that got stolen back in February. I was rampaging all over asking whose car was ahead of mine, and found it to be Bill Holmes, a county commissioner.

I begged him for his keys, saying I will save his car too. He capriciously handed them over and I put them in a bag with mine, and went outside the first floor in neck deep water. People were screaming "don't go, you're crazy, you will die!" I carefully swam over to the stairs where my car was, cars and junk were floating all around me. This was the SAME place that was high and dry just an hour ago, I thought. I thought about some disaster movies I saw, I couldn't take in what I saw out there.

There were objects floating in the water, and they were dead people. The sound out there was deafening, a high screeching wind noise and roar of water. The cars were all jumbled up against the glass wall which was already destroyed, with lights flashing and alarms going off. I just kept my cool, made it to the stairs, and moved the commissioner's and my vehicles higher up the stairs/walkway ramp. I returned back and was safely back inside as the water covered the wall and flooded the area where my car was just seconds before."

Read Chris' full account at: <http://www.sky-chaser.com/kat05.htm>



Chris KG4PJN wades to his car to save it from quickly rising waters.

KATRINA COMMUNICATIONS ANTHOLOGY

Whenever disaster strikes, hams are there. Katrina was so widespread, and the loss of life so great, that the news coverage has been thorough. The media has described hams' responsiveness, sacrifices, dedication, and creativity. Presented here is a collection of **PG- TITLE - SOURCE**

- 2- SATERN NEWS - Katrina Operations - **EMAIL & WEBSITE**
- 3- LACKING PHONE LINES, RESCUERS TURN TO HAM RADIO OPERATORS - **NEW YORK TIMES**
- 4- HILLSBORO EOC/TARC TEAM IN THE GULF COAST- **EMAILS**
- 5- I'M ALIVE MESSAGES REACH FAMILIES - **ST. PETERSBURG TIMES**
- 6- AS TELECOMS REEL FROM STORM DAMAGE, HAM RADIOS HUM - **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**
- 7- WSJ - MOTOROLA APOLOGY - **EMAILS**
- 9- HAM RADIO OPERATORS TO THE RESCUE AFTER KATRINA - **MSNBC**
- 10- NIXA MAN RELAYED MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TO NEW ORLEANS MAYOR - **SPRINGFIELD (MO) NEWS LEADER**

articles that range from the conservative to bizarre. They not only report on our activities but also provide an overview of the current crisis and how many see us. We hope you pass this anthology to neighbors, government officials and homeowners associations.

- 10- HAMS HELP HELICOPTER RESCUES - **TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT**
- 11- QUOTE OF THE MONTH - **EMAIL**
- 13- STORM DIARY: GRIT, WILLPOWER, SURVIVAL- **SUN HERALD.COM**
- 15- HAM RADIO VOLUNTEERS HELP RE-ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS AFTER KATRINA - **COMPUTERWORLD**
- 16- VOIP TO THE RESCUE - **eWeek**
- 17- REPORTS CONTINUE THAT COMMUNICATIONS...ARE JAMMED - **WAYNE MADSEN REPORT**
- 17- A RICH & POWERFUL NATION BEING LEAD TO DESTRUCTION... **VHEADLINE.COM**
- 18- HURRICANE MESS IS SURELY A MESS - **AMERICAN DAILY**
- 19- TECHNOLOGY SUCCEEDS, SYSTEM FAILS - **USA TODAY**

SATERN Issues Call For Disaster-Zone Ham Radio Teams

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (**SATERN**) is seeking 10 two-operator Amateur Radio teams for deployment in the US Gulf Coast.

Operators must hold at least a General class license. Teams should be fully self sufficient in terms of food, water and lodging and plan to remain in the disaster area for from one to two weeks.

Teams should be equipped with HF and, preferably, VHF/UHF, gear and will check in through SATERN's Jackson, Mississippi, marshaling area.

The primary mission of the SATERN volunteer teams will be to get health-and-welfare traffic out of the storm and flood-stricken areas and, if possible, handle incoming H&W traffic as well. The Salvation Army continues to ramp up its disaster relief effort and is sending more than 100 meal and relief stations into the affected areas where the need is the greatest.

Do not self deploy! Prospective volunteers should contact SATERN Liaison **Jeff Schneller**, N2HPO, **Katrina@satern.us**; 917-226-1339 or 347-680-9059.

SHARES Frequencies Available to SATERN

SHARES frequencies were used exclusively, until now, by government agencies, such as FEMA, and the military. "They can be used by SATERN during the response to Hurricane Katrina" reported SATERN National Director Pat McPherson, WW9E.

SATERN, known for its effective handling of Health & Welfare traffic, also has passed considerable emergency traffic. Those monitoring 14.265MHz are aware of the many lives saved after Katrina struck.

"SATERN continues to help with emergency communications to and from the impact area devastated by Katrina and has received to date over 48,000 requests for assistance," he said. "The addition of the SHARES network will provide an opportunity for The Salvation Army to talk on federal frequencies to agencies about the task of helping in the disaster and bring additional support to the task before us."



"Major Pat" WW9E

Global Corporation Helps SATERN Operation in Disaster Response

September 6 - "It brings about a blend of High-Tech computer communication, databasing, and High Frequency radio communication that will enhance our ability to help people and find lost loved ones."

stated Major Patrick McPherson National Director for SATERN.

Computer Services Corp., CSC, naturally fits as a component of the Health and Welfare module headed by Quent Nelson, SATERN's Health and Welfare Operations Director. CSC brings an executive team of skilled individuals across the nation who plan to dynamically assist Salvation Army disaster response.

They will help in a number of ways including:

- Connection to a scope of databases collecting survivor lists.
- The creation of an in-box for SATERN requests.
- Provision of volunteer staff to process requests to address the thousands of requests
- Customization of a programming interface to convert submitted forms to records into a request database
- The building of a database to match the searched database to match against the registered survivor database
- The provision of a live call center/voice support for operation.
- The provision of a solution architect, program manager, and technical architect on the team

CSC is a leading global IT services company. CSC's mission is to provide customers in industry and government with solutions crafted to meet their specific challenges and enable them to profit from the advanced use of technology.

With approximately 78,000 employees, CSC provides innovative solutions for customers around the world by applying leading technologies and CSC's own advanced capabilities. These include systems design and integration; IT and business process outsourcing; applications software development; Web and application hosting; and management consulting.

This article is particularly well written. The reporter captured the flow of communications resources almost in a poetic way... "a volunteer army of nearly 1,000 amateur radio operators". Many publications just reproduce news releases. The truly credible and great media organizations manage to be original and its reporters accurate in their descriptions and quotes.

The New York Times

ON THE WEB

Lacking Phone Lines, Rescuers Turn to Ham Radio Operators

By IAN URBINA

GULFPORT, Miss., Sept. 8 - The 500-pound man on the deck of a shrimp boat along the coast of Gulfport had been lying there for three days and needed medical attention fast.

But the two ambulance workers who had found him could not lift him or reach the Coast Guard with their cellphones or hand-held radios.

Their options dwindling, one of them used his radio to call an emergency center in town, where, he remembered, there was an amateur radio operator.

"The situation was getting pretty dire, because this guy had serious medical complications," said Mark Bort, the amateur operator who took the call and, his radio more reliable than the ambulance crew's, who notified a Coast Guard helicopter, which rescued the man.

All over Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, a volunteer army of nearly 1,000 amateur radio operators have stepped in to help fill the communications void that was left when Hurricane Katrina snapped telephone poles and toppled many cellphone towers. These ham operators suddenly find themselves in great demand: the Coast Guard, the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have all made requests in the last week for more volunteer operators to handle communications at hospitals, evacuation centers and emergency operations facilities.

"When all else fails, they turn to us," said Gary Stratton, who is coordinating Louisiana's volunteer operators from a base at the emergency operations center in Baton Rouge. "Until phone lines are replaced and cells are no longer overwhelmed with traffic, we are the ones keeping this area connected."

In Gulfport, volunteer operators dispatched by FEMA to hospitals and evacuation shelters have been using their radios round the clock to send emergency calls.

At airports in Texas and Alabama, ham operators have been tracking evacuees and notifying the Baton Rouge operations center of their whereabouts so their families will be able to find them.

Ham operators have also helped locate the

stranded in New Orleans. Although many in need of rescue there had cellphones, once the storm hit they were able to reach the authorities only by calling people outside the area, because the landlines on which 911 calls within the city depended had been destroyed.

"People elsewhere in the state who were getting panicked calls from folks in New Orleans were contacting their local 911," said David Gore, a spokesman for the Louisiana ham operators. "When those 911 operators got these calls, they passed them to volunteer ham operators that we stationed at these call centers, and that's how the information was then relayed back into New Orleans for rescue missions."

Ham operators use transmitters that can send messages to other operators both locally and around the world. Depending on the frequency and the time of day, these signals are sometimes easier to detect far away than nearby. Partly as a result, people in states as distant as California and Maine have also been helping coordinate relief efforts.

Mark Conklin was called into action last Wednesday

after hearing a plea from another amateur operator, who had discovered an amputee stuck on a New Orleans bridge where her car had run out of gasoline. That operator was having trouble getting in touch with the

Coast Guard locally, but his signal bounced clearly to Mr. Conklin in Tulsa, Okla., who did contact the Coast Guard. The woman was rescued.

"Tulsa just happened to be the right spot at the right time for this signal, so the message landed in my lap," said Mr. Conklin, a sales manager for an appliance store.

At her home in Shelton, Conn., Betsey Doane, who is blind, has been spending several hours a day monitoring her radio, awaiting a chance to help. One opportunity came over the weekend, after she received a message about a woman who had been stranded in her New Orleans home for close to a week. The woman's mother had been trying for days to get a call through to the New Orleans police, and it was Ms. Doane who, using her radio, was finally able to reach police officers.

"I think most of us are glad to help," she said. "It's one of the reasons we're operators."

Allen Pitts, a spokesman for the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio, said there were about 670,000 amateur operators in the nation licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

"We remain in obscurity until disasters hit," Mr. Pitts said. "And then everyone tends to come running to us for help."

All over Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, a volunteer army of nearly 1,000 amateur radio operators have stepped in to help fill the communications void...

The Tampa Amateur Radio Club has always been one of Florida's first Amateur Radio groups responding to a disaster... the Gulf Coast was no exception. The field mission was supported by many from its Tampa clubhouse. Thanks to Warren W1GUD & Mike N14M for keeping us informed, and to Jim WA3DIT for the photos..

SUBJECT: [TARC] FYI-RE MISSISSIPPI HAM OPS- TARC

Date: 9/8/2005 2:51:10 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: w1gud@tampabay.rr.com

To: tarc@hamclub.org, board@hamclub.org

HILLSBOROUGH HAM OPS DEPLOYED TO MISSISSIPPI MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR KATRINA SURVIVORS

Contact is Mike Fletcher at (cell) 813-628-4171

Six Trained Communications Volunteers from Tampa Bay Area (Sponsored by the Hillsborough County EOC) have been in Mississippi for four days now. Using ham radio while awaiting their depolyment with State of Florida Communications Assets, they've become one of the few outlets for "I'm Alive" messages out of the area.

With all local ham radio operators in the affected area providing communications to local police, fire, and search teams, there has been no means of transmitting so-called Health and Welfare messages from the victims to their families outside the disaster zone.

Members of the Hillsborough team have been visiting shelters and feeding stations collecting messages from

victims. In the last 48 hours, over 100 messages have been transmitted from Gulfport to Tampa via the Tampa Amateur Radio Club, and local hams in Tampa have been making heart breaking phone calls to loved ones across the country who had no word for a week on the fate of their family members in Mississippi.

This volunteer message handling operation continues this afternoon at the Tampa Amateur Radio Club 7801 north 22nd Street Tampa beginning at twelve noon local time. That's the dead end of 22nd north of Sligh, east of I-275 exits.

BACKGROUND:

The official mission of the Hillsborough Team is to set up and operate EDACs, a fly-away computer controlled communications system that inter-connects radios and cell phones of all different frequencies and types so that public service coms can be restored in a disaster area. It allows the radios that survived to be put to use, so that police officers and firefighters can better coordinate recovery operations.

The EDACs unit may be tasked to Stennis Space Center in Hancock County Mississippi within the next 24 hours. The team is waiting for deployment with Florida Law Enforcement Teams staged in Gulfport.



The Hillsboro EOC/TARC Team in Biloxi: Jim WB4WBL, Fred KD8AQ, Gary KC5QCN, Danny KD5UJ, Ian W4RIR and Jim WA3DIT. To their credit, rather than be idle while waiting four days for the go-ahead to setup an "Interoperability" EDACS unit, they took the initiative to go to shelters to get outgoing Health & Welfare messages. One of their typical sites is shown top right. HF, vhf/uhf antennas erected alongside their tents and vehicles. Below left, some towers remained standing and even some of their antenna survived. Bottom right: Two "Fs" Please!

ZOOM IN!



ZOOM IN!



'I'm alive' messages reach families

Bay area amateur radio operators
transmit and pick up messages from
Biloxi and send them worldwide.

LETITIA STEIN

Published September 5, 2005

TAMPA - Hope and tragedy alike crackle back and forth at the Tampa Amateur Radio Club.

"PLEASE COME GET YOUR MAMA."

"I'M OKAY. CHECK ON SIMON (DOG)."

"I AM IN SHELTER. MY SON JAMES DID NOT MAKE IT. HE DROWNED."

Using ham radio, Tampa Bay area volunteers are sending "I'm alive" messages around the world from people holed up in shelters in Biloxi, Miss. Hurricane Katrina may have knocked cell towers down and scrambled telephone land lines, but where modern technology has failed, amateur radio operators in Biloxi still can transmit messages to Tampa, where they are relayed by telephone to loved ones or others.

This weekend, Tampa's amateur radios have carried about 100 messages. "I'm okay," stated many simply, with directions on how get the news to family and friends.

One evacuee asked to contact the Kazakhstan Consulate. Another's message - to a telephone number in Germany - required translation for a Spanish-speaker who picked up.

Volunteer Bart Houser delivered this message to the sister of a Biloxi evacuee in northern California: "WE NEED CLOTHES, TOILETRIES, GAS, MONEY. EVEN A MOTOR HOME IF YOU CAN SWING IT. LOST ALL HOMES. LOVE YOU."

As soon as she got the message on Saturday night, 49-year-old Kimberly Steele called back in tears. "We'd been so worried," said Steele, who had been sleeping with a phone next to the bed, a cell phone on her at all times.

She knew that her sister, Candyce Fink, 50, who lives in a Biloxi mobile home, had waited out the storm in Pensacola. But as days passed without contact, Steele trembled at reports of violence, and people getting hurt returning to unstable homes.

She never expected relief to arrive via Tampa

radio. "Ham radio is really invaluable when it comes to disasters like this," Steele said. "They are the only ones that can get through to people when all other communication methods are down."

Other messages aren't easy, Houser said, recalling one man's message that he couldn't reach his mother and brother. The person he contacted had learned that both were confirmed dead.

"It's a roller coaster, up and down," said Houser, 62, of South Tampa.

The 83-year-old Tampa club - W4DUG - has broadcast daily since Thursday, when several members deployed to take radio equipment to hurricane-devastated regions.

Late Saturday night, they helped to provide communications for the arrival at Tampa International Airport of a military aircraft with 48 evacuees from New Orleans, many requiring hospitalization.

The club works out of a concrete building in North Tampa. The headquarters has no windows, but a potent outlet: radio transmitters with glowing dials and a 110-foot antenna.

Houser's cell phone buzzed. The woman that he helped in California was calling. Thanks to his initial message, she had managed to contact her sister in Biloxi directly.

"My heart's growing bigger," Houser said.

"We'll be here for as long as the mission continues," said Mike Fletcher, 53, of Valrico, assistant emergency coordinator with Hillsborough County Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

On Sunday, Fletcher worked the dials wearing a polo shirt embroidered with his radio call letters, N14M. He brought "survival doughnuts" for a half-dozen of the station's 125 volunteers.

About half are male retirees. On typical Monday nights, they chatter on radio frequencies that the federal government has assigned to nonprofessionals.

But their knowledge of emergency communications is amateur in name only. As hurricanes crisscrossed Florida last year, the Tampa Bay club helped to coordinate communications in Punta Gorda and Wauchula.

This weekend, six volunteers transmitted "I'm Alive" messages from Biloxi while waiting to start a bigger mission. They are setting up a state-owned mobile communications system to allow emergency responders with different equipment to talk to one another.

On Sunday afternoon, the team was deployed near Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. Back at the Tampa headquarters, other volunteers stood by to help.

Houser's cell phone buzzed. The woman that he helped in California was calling. Thanks to his initial message, she had managed to contact her sister in Biloxi directly.

"My heart's growing bigger," Houser said.

Letitia Stein can be reached at 813 661-2443 or lstein@sptimes.com

Since Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, the WSJ has done a great job of describing ham emergency communications, even though the reporter is under the mistaken impression that ham radio technology hasn't changed much since WW II!



As Telecom Reels From Storm Damage, Ham Radios Hum

By CHRISTOPHER RHOADS
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
September 6, 2005; Page A19

MONROE, La. -- In a shelter here, 300 miles north of New Orleans, Theo McDaniel took his plight to a young man fiddling with a clunky, outdated-looking radio.

Mr. McDaniel, a 25-year-old barber, had evacuated New Orleans with his wife and two small children more than a week ago and since then had had no contact with his brother or his aunt. The last he heard, his 42-year-old aunt was clinging to her roof.

"We've got to get a message down there to help them," he said. The man at the radio sent the information to the emergency-operations center across town, which relayed it to rescue units in New Orleans. Later in the weekend, Mr. McDaniel learned that food and water were on the way to his trapped brother and his brother's young family. He had heard nothing about his aunt.

With Hurricane Katrina having knocked out nearly all the high-end emergency communications gear, 911 centers, cellphone towers and normal fixed phone lines in its path, ham-radio operators have begun to fill the information vacuum. "Right now, 99.9% of normal communications in the affected region is nonexistent," says David Gore, the man operating the ham radio in the Monroe shelter. "That's where we come in."

In an age of high-tech, real-time gadgetry, it's the decidedly unsexy ham radio -- whose technology has changed little since World War II -- that is in high demand in ravaged New Orleans and environs. The Red Cross issued a request for about 500 amateur radio operators -- known as "hams" -- for the 260 shelters it is erecting in the area. The American Radio Relay League, a national association of ham-radio operators, has been deluged with requests to find people in the region. The U.S. Coast Guard is looking for hams to help with its relief efforts.

Ham radios, battery operated, work well when others don't in part because they are simple. Each operator acts as his own base station, requiring only his radio and about 50 feet of fence wire to transmit messages thousands of miles. Ham radios can send messages on multiple channels and in myriad ways, including Morse code, microwave frequencies and even email.

Then there are the ham-radio operators themselves, a band of radio enthusiasts who spend hours jabbering with each other even during normal times. They are often the first to get messages in and out of disaster areas, in part because they are everywhere. (The ARRL estimates there are 250,000 licensed hams in the U.S.) Sometimes they are the only source of information in the first hours following a disaster. "No matter how good the homeland-security system is, it will be overwhelmed," says Thomas Leggett, a retired mill worker manning a ham radio in the operations center here. "You don't hear about us, but we are there."

Slidell, a town 30 miles northeast of New Orleans,

was directly hit by the hurricane and remains virtually cut off from the outside world. One of the few, if not the only, communications links is Michael King, a retired Navy captain, operating a ham radio out of a Slidell hospital.

"How are you holding up, Mike?" asked Sharon Riviere into a ham-radio microphone at Monroe's operations center. She and her husband, Ron, who is the president of the Slidell ham-radio club, had evacuated before the storm to the home of some fellow ham-radio enthusiasts in Monroe. She said Mr. King had been working 20-hour days since the storm hit.

Crackling static and odd, garbled sounds followed her question to Mr. King. Then he replied: "It's total devastation here. I've got 18 feet of water at my house. Johnny's Café down there has water up to its roof."

Ms. Riviere asked about her own home, which is not far from Mr. King's. "It's full of mud," Mr. King replied. "Looks like someone's been slugging it out in there."

Ham radios are often most effective as one link in a chain of communication devices. Early last week, someone trapped with 15 people on a roof of a New Orleans home tried unsuccessfully to get through to a 911 center on his cellphone. He was able to call a relative in Baton Rouge, who in turn called another relative, Sybil Hayes, in Broken Arrow, Okla. Ms. Hayes, whose 81-year-old aunt was among those stranded on the New Orleans roof, then called the Red Cross in Broken Arrow, which handed the message to its affiliated ham-radio operator, Ben Joplin.

Via stations in Oregon, Idaho and Louisiana, Mr. Joplin got the message to rescue workers who were able to save the 15 people on the roof, according to the ARRL, based in Newington, Conn. "We are like the Pony Express," says the 26-year-old Mr. Gore, wearing black cowboy boots. "One way or the other, even by hand, we will get you the message."

Mr. Gore, who is in charge of the northeastern district of Louisiana for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, has spent a lot of time the past week at the Monroe shelter, helping evacuees try to track missing friends and relatives.

Last Monday, Danita Alexander of Violet, La., came to a ham operator in the Monroe shelter asking about her 96-year-old grandfather, Willie Bright, who had been in a nursing home in New Orleans. The next day, she got word back from a ham operator that he had been safely transferred to a shelter near New Orleans. "We can't do enough of these," says Mark Ketchell, who runs the ARES branch in Monroe.

Nevertheless, the ham-radio community feels under threat. Telecom companies want to deliver broadband Internet connections over power lines, which ham-radio operators say distorts communications in the surrounding area. Since hams are "amateurs," there is little lobbying money to fight such changes, they add.

The hams also get little respect from telecommunications-equipment companies, such as Motorola Inc. "Something is better than nothing, that's right," says Jim Screeden, who runs all of Motorola's repair teams in the field for its emergency-response business. "But ham radios are pretty close to nothing." Mr. Screeden says ham radios can take a long time to relay messages and work essentially as "party lines," with multiple parties talking at once.

Says Mr. Leggett at the Monroe operations center: "We are the unwanted stepchild. But when the 's-' hits the fan, who are you going to call?"

Write to Christopher Rhoads at christopher.rhoads@wsj.com

Slidell, a town 30 miles northeast of New Orleans, was directly hit by the hurricane and remains virtually cut off from the outside world. One of the few, if not the only, communications links is Michael King, a retired Navy captain, operating a ham radio out of a Slidell hospital.

Remarks made by a Motorola executive, to a Wall Street Journal reporter, have apparently stirred up a hornets' net in the Amateur Radio community... for good reason. They reflect ignorance of a proven track record of ham net discipline, the multiple technologies hams employ, the *immediate* needs of communities in crisis, and the long history of public service by radio amateurs.

Most important is that those comments, in any context, seem to compare apples and oranges. Hams are *volunteers who FREELY provide their equipment in addition to their expertise* while, I have a "hunch", Motorola's staff is well paid and their equipment costly. When desparately in need and comparing apples and oranges, is either one "*pretty close to nothing*"? Thanks to KZ1Z for relaying Motorola's apology... as Mr. Creeden would say: "*Something is better than nothing, that's right*".

Subject: WSJ - Motorola Apology

Date: 9/7/2005 3:54:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: kz1z@arrl.net

Sent from the Internet (Details)

Internet Address Card Attached

Here is the offensive paragraph from the WSJ story which most people are referring to:

The hams also get little respect from telecommunications-equipment companies, such as Motorola Inc. "Something is better than nothing, that's right," says Jim Screeden, who runs all of Motorola's repair teams in the field for its emergency-response business. "But ham radios are pretty close to nothing." Mr. Screeden says ham radios can take a long time to relay messages and work essentially as "party lines," with multiple parties talking at once.

Says Mr. Leggett at the Monroe operations center: "We are the unwanted stepchild. But when the "s-" hits the fan, who are you going to call?"

MOTOROLA'S RESPONSE

Motorola apologizes for the way Mr. Screeden's comments appeared in Tuesday's Wall Street Journal. Unfortunately, Mr. Screeden was taken out of context.

Motorola fully recognizes the incredible work that the amateur radio operator community has put forth during the Hurricane Katrina response efforts. In fact, Motorola has at least 100 of its own employees who are amateur radio operators. We also understand the cooperation and partnership that Motorola has de-

veloped with the amateur radio operator community in introducing our Broadband Over Powerline solution.

We will continue to work to highlight the unique capabilities that public safety communications and amateur radio operators both bring to significant natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. Once again, as demonstrated by the recently publicized cooperation with amateur radio for the Powerline LV test at ARRL headquarters, Motorola values it's relationship with amateur radio and respects the critical and unique work they are doing to help with the Katrina recovery efforts.

The recent WSJ article was taken out of context in comparing the simple amateur radio communication capabilities with the very complex Public Safety and Enterprise solutions.

We appreciate the work you and the amateur radio operator community is putting forth. You may not know that Hurricane Katrina has become the largest single disaster recovery effort in our company's history too. We also hope we'll be able to establish a level of understanding and keep our focus on the folks that need it most ... those impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Sincerely, Jeff Madsen

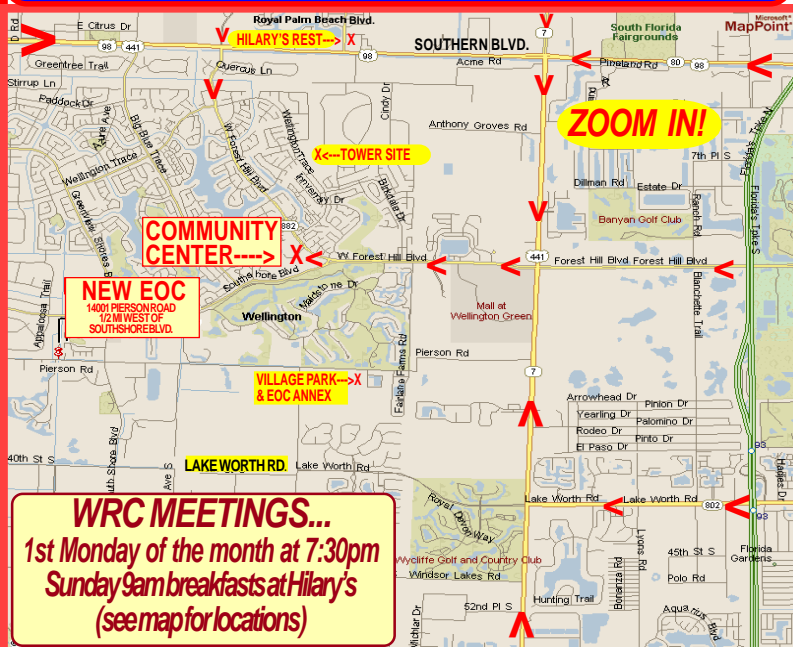
Director, Communications & Public Affairs Motorola, Inc.
Government & Enterprise Mobility Solutions

Email: jeffrey.madsen@motorola.com

Office: (847)-538-7660 Mobile: (847)-341-4462

MONDAY MEETINGS... 2005: 9/12 10/3 11/7 12/5
AT THE WELLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER, 12165 FOREST HILL BLVD.
1/4 MILE WEST OF SOUTHSORE BLVD ON THE SOUTHSIDE OF FOREST HILL

WEB SITE UPDATED - CHECK IT OUT!



THE WRC UPDATE

is the official publication of the
WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB

1213 White Pine Drive,
Wellington, FL 33414

(561) 385-2986 Email: LARRY33414@AOL.COM

President & Editor - Larry Lazar, KS4NB

Vice President - Bruce Fondiller, K2MDF

Secretary - Jerry Simon N3HVC

Treasurer - Georg Samulkewitsch, KR4WD

Program/Activities Chairperson - Allan Hatfield KI4HBS

© 2005 - This publication maybe circulated and reproduced
freely only in its entirety. Partial reproduction in any form
or its editing, without permission, is prohibited.

Permission may be requested from the Editor, via email
at the address above or through the WRC website at:

www.qsl.net/k4wrc

THE WRC RESOURCE GUIDE: A FREE 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.



JUAN A. ABELLON
M.D., FAAP.
DIPLOMATE OF THE
AMERICAN BOARD OF PEDIATRICS

WELLINGTON
PEDIATRICS, PA

KG4QYY-Vice Pres.
at WRC's Free
Child ID Project
Palms West Medical Mall 1
13005 Southern Blvd., Ste 115
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Office Hours
by Appointment:
790 - KIDS
790 - 5437



DAVE REIFF
RETIRED NYPD
THE POOL POLICE

(561) 262-2640

poolpolice@adelphia.net

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

KC2HZJ Member

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO A CLEAN POOL,
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO GOOD SERVICE,
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENJOY YOUR POOL,
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONSULT WITH THE POOL POLICE,
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO A FREE ESTIMATE!

ALBERTO MEDINA
PROPRIETOR
MEDINA'S
LAWN SERVICE

SERVING PALM BEACH COUNTY SINCE 1995
WHEN YOU WANT THE LAWN CUT...
AND NOT YOUR COAX.

Reliable... knowledgeable
Common sense maintenance



KG4RWO Member

References
Available
967-2345



STEPHEN A. WOLF
GENERAL MANAGER
ALARM
GUARD

ELECTRONIC, SECURITY,
CCTV ACCESS CONTROL,
FIRE DETECTION & BUILDING SECURITY ALARM SYSTEMS

Established 1977



WB2MBV-Member

793-1812 3965 Investment Lane
800-637-0344 W.P.B. FL 33404 FL License EF 13

AUSTIN GRANAT
CAPTAIN
RADIO OPERATIONS
CITIZEN OBSERVER PATROL
PBSO

Volunteers Needed in All Communities

Contact:
Major Bobbie Mathias 433-2003
Administration 9am - 4pm M-F



W2AGX - Member

DENNIS GERSHWIN
REAL ESTATE INSTRUCTOR
Gold Coast School of
Real Estate

BROKER/ASSOCIATE
Coldwell-Banker
Residential Real Estate



KA2TGQ-Member

7035 Beracasa Way, Boca Raton, FL 33433
Office: 561-392-2822 Pager: 561-554-3328
Home: 561-967-7871 Pager: 954-574-6901

RHONDA SHOUMATE
REALTOR ASSOCIATE
MIRSKY REALTY GROUP

TEC SHOUMATE
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
SHOUMATE CONSTRUCTION
LIC # CGC 014490

TEC'S OFFICE:
(561) 697-3636

HOME PHONE & FAX: (561) 683-1297



K4VGA KA4HAV
Members

RHONDA'S PALM BEACH OFFICE:
(561) 628-3525
FAX (561) 655-8223



ELIZABETH LINDENBERG
KG4RQC
JOHN LINDENBERG
KG4PQG

NORTH AMERICAN
SHAR-PEI RESCUE

Calloosa Kid
Ham want to be

SAVING ONE PEI AT A TIME!
For adoption information call volunteers
Lizz or Lindy at (561) 439-7044
www.sharpeirescue.com



NORMAN JEWELER
PRESIDENT
UNITED STATES
ANTENNA PRODUCTS, LLC
UNITED STATES
TOWER SERVICES LTD

W4NRS-Member

QUALITY ANTENNA & TOWER SYSTEMS FOR
GOVERNMENT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS & COMMERCIAL SECTORS
SALES - MAINTENANCE - CONSTRUCTION
301-401-0925 WWW.USANTENNAPRODUCTS.COM



ROBERT J. SACCO
BSEE, JD
MANAGING SHAREHOLDER

SACCO &
ASSOCIATES, PA

WB4FL-Member

PATENT AND TRADEMARK LAW

Phone: 3801 PGA Boulevard
561-626-2222 Suite 802
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

THE FINE PRINT...
WRC RESOURCE GUIDE INSERTIONS MUST
COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE
AND LOCAL STATUTES.

THE WRC UPDATE RESERVES THE RIGHT
TO REJECT ANY INSERTION FOR ANY REASON.
ALL INSERTION INFORMATION IS ACCURATE TO
THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AND A PROOF
HAS BEEN SENT TO ALL SUBMITTERS BEFORE
PUBLICATION.

THE WRC ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY
FOR ERRORS.

GEORG SAMULKEWITSCH
MANAGING DIRECTOR

MAYORS™
PREMIER JEWELERS SINCE 1910

The Mall at Wellington Green
Suite 184
10300 Forest Hill Blvd.
Wellington, FL 33414



KR4WD-Treasurer
Founding Member

Phone 753-3455
Fax 753-9369



THE CHOICE OF
RADIO AMATEURS AND
COMMUNICATIONS PROS
FOR QUALITY ANTENNAS AND
ANTENNA ACCESSORIES.

ONLINE CATALOG:
WWW.CUSHCRAFT.COM



Ed Hammond WN11
Guest Speaker

Sales Manager
Edh@cushcraft.com
(603) 627-7877ext 502

FOR ALL YOUR VHF-UHF-MICROWAVE
NEEDS FROM 50 MHz - 10 GIGAHERTZ

DOWN EAST
MICROWAVE

FRENCH-TOWN, NEW JERSEY

ASSEMBLED EQUIPMENT-KITS
POWER AMPLIFIERS-TRANSVERTERS
LOW NOISE PREAMPS-PARTS
WWW.DOWNEASTMICROWAVE.COM



Steve Kostro N2CEI
Guest Speaker
908-996-3584
FAX: 908-996-3702



MARLIN P. JONES
& ASSOCIATES

THIS AREA'S BEST SELECTION
AND PRICES FOR COAX CONNECTORS AND A
MULTITUDE OF ELECTRONIC PARTS, TOOLS,
POWER SUPPLIES, TEST EQUIPMENT,
GADGETS AND MORE!

ORDER BY TELEPHONE OR ONLINE & PICKUP AT STORE!

Online Catalog: WWW.MPJA.COM
Tech Info: 561-848-8236 Old Dixie Hwy.
Orders: 800-652-6733 Lake Park, FL

All too often well meaning writers just can't relate to the technology we employ, how we are organized, etc. It's a pleasure to see a well written article about Amateur Radio and emergency communications. *without errors of any sort.* Gary W2GSK does a fine job of getting our story out to the public... thanks Gary!



Ham radio operators to the rescue after Katrina

Amateur radio networks help victims of the hurricane



By Gary Krakow, W2GSK
Columnist, MSNBC

Updated: 6:12 p.m. ET
Sept. 6, 2005

With telephones down and wireless service disrupted, at least one group of people did manage last week to use technology to come to the rescue of those in need.

Often unsung, amateur radio operators regularly assist in emergency situations. Hurricane Katrina was no exception. For the past week, operators of amateur, or ham, radio have been instrumental in helping residents in the hardest hit areas, including saving stranded flood victims in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Public service has always been a large part of being an amateur radio operator. All operators, who use two-way radios on special frequencies set aside for amateur use, must be tested and licensed by the federal government, which then issues them a unique call sign. (Mine is W2GSK.)

Ham operators communicate using voice, computers, televisions and Morse code (the original digital communication mode.) Some hams bounce their signals off the upper regions of the atmosphere, so they can talk with hams on the other side of the world; others use satellites. Many use short-range, handheld radios that fit in their pockets.

When disaster strikes, ham networks spring into action. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service.

In this disaster a number of ham emergency stations and networks have been involved in providing information about this disaster – from [WX4NHC](#), the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center to the [Hurricane Watch Net](#), the [Waterway Net](#), [Skywarn](#) and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network ([SATERN](#)).

On Monday, Aug. 29, a call for help involving a combination of cell telephone calls and amateur radio led to the rescue of 15 people stranded by floodwaters

on the roof of a house in New Orleans. Unable to get through an overloaded 911 system, one of those stranded called a relative in Baton Rouge. That person called another relative, who called the local American Red Cross.

Using that Red Cross chapter's amateur radio station, Ben Joplin, WB5VST, was able to relay a request for help on the SATERN network via Russ Fillingier, W7LXR, in Oregon, and Rick Cain, W7KB, in Utah back to Louisiana, where emergency personnel were alerted. They rescued the 15 people and got them to a shelter.

Such rescues were repeated over and over again. Another ham was part of the mix that same Monday when he heard over the same Salvation Army emergency network of a family of five trapped in an attic in Diamond Head, La. The family used a cell phone to call out. Bob Rathbone, AG4ZG, in Tampa, says he checked the address on a map and determined it was in an area struck by a storm surge.

He called the Coast Guard search-and-rescue station in Clearwater, explained the situation and relayed the information. At this point, the Coast Guard office in New Orleans was out of commission. An hour later he received a return call from the South Haven Sheriff's Department in Louisiana, which informed him a rescue operation was under way.

Another search-and-rescue operation involved two adults and a child stuck on a roof. The person was able to send a text message from a cell phone to a family member in Michigan. Once again, the Coast Guard handled the call.

Relief work is not just relegated to monitoring radios for distress calls. The organization representing amateur radio operators, The American Radio Relay League or ARRL, now is seeking emergency volunteers to help

supplement communication for American Red Cross feeding and sheltering operations in Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle — as many as 200 locations in all.

Hams who wish to volunteer their time and services should contact the Hurricane Katrina volunteer registration and message traffic [database](#).

And, for the first time, the federal government will help hams help others. The Corporation for National and Community Service ([CNCS](#)) will provide a \$100,000 grant supplement to ARRL to support its emergency communication operators in states affected by Hurricane Katrina. The grant will help to fund what is being termed "Ham Aid," a new program to support amateur radio volunteers deployed in the field in disaster-stricken areas.

One last note for ham operators in the stricken area: The FCC has announced that it's extending amateur license renewal deadlines until October 31, 2005.

© 2005 MSNBC.com URL: <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/9228945/>

...for the first time, the federal government will help hams help others. The Corporation for National and Community Service will provide a \$100,000 grant supplement to ARRL to support its emergency communication operators...

After initial reports of shots being fired, a low-profile Medical Evacuation by helicopter was launched to rescue hospital patients... 1500 of them! Hams from the Tallahassee Radio Club made that possible!

Tallahassee Democrat Tallahassee.com

Posted on Sat, Sep. 03, 2005

Local ham-radio operators help rescue effort

By Rocky Scott

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee ham-radio operators took part in the daring helicopter rescue Friday of about 1,500 patients and staff from two New Orleans hospitals besieged by darkness, dank water and gunfire.

"There were a lot of heroes in this operation," said Chuck Hall, 52, the HCA Inc. division vice president in Tallahassee after the evacuation of patients and staff from Tulane University Hospital and Clinic ended because of nearby gunfire.

The Tulane facility is an HCA hospital, and Hall said he knew the day after Katrina hammered New Orleans and the Gulf Coast that the damage made the evacuation inevitable.

"They had no power, very little food and the water was rising because of the levee breaks," Hall said. He quickly chartered about 25 helicopters, including medivac helicopters from Sacred Heart Hospital and Baptist Hospital in Pensacola.

But Katrina had laid waste to the Big Easy in a manner few ever would have imagined. There was no power, no clean water, no food and, worst of all, no dependable lines of communications.

The first 17 flights out of New Orleans were medivac choppers bringing patients to West Florida Regional Hospital in Pensacola. Each chopper returned with 750 pounds of food and medical supplies for the anxious patients and staff at Tulane.

Bob Peterson, chief operating officer of West Florida Regional, said the first efforts to remove patients and staff Tuesday often were dangerous.

"The (helicopter) pilots reported five near misses," Peterson said. Bad weather and a jury-rigged landing pad - the hospital's helipad was under water - were playing havoc with flights.

Worse still, there was no way Hall and his staff could get information to pilots and no one on the ground to guide them onto the top floor of a four-story parking garage that was serving as a landing zone.

The elation after the first lift-off from the beleaguered hospital Tuesday quickly faded, Hall said. Worse,

city conditions were deteriorating.

Looting and gunfire erupted and 100,000 stranded, scared residents became a force ready to spill into anarchy.

Enter the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Club, Florida Division of Emergency Management and some old-fashioned ingenuity.

State Emergency Management officials suggested Hall contact the local ham radio club to solve the communications dilemma.

Urged by rapidly rising water - 8 feet deep in places - and the growing knowledge that New Orleans had become a drowning pool, the ham operators fashioned a satellite reception device atop an 8-story building in downtown Tallahassee.

Then three of them - Theo Titus, Gene Floyd and Bill Schmidt - all boarded a helicopter in Tallahassee Wednesday and headed for New Orleans.

Atop the garage at Tulane, they set up a generator-powered ham radio with a satellite uplink.

By Tuesday afternoon, the choppers were up and running, and Hall and his co-workers in Tallahassee were able to give directions to pilots, but only on paper.

Charlie Lien, a radio club member in the Tallahassee command post, explained the communication system this way: the three operators would radio Tallahassee via the satellite uplink.

When the broadcast was received, workers would use two-way radios to get the instruction to

HCA personnel in the building - the jury-rigged satellite receiver would only work at the top of the building.

HCA officials would decide where the next load of patients was to be taken - most were initially moved to the closed New Orleans Airport - and those instructions were relayed via walkie-talkie back to the top of the building, up to the satellite and down to the top of the Tulane parking garage.

But there was one more step.

The ham operators couldn't talk with the civilian and military helicopters taking part in the airlift so, as each chopper landed, landing instructions in longitude and latitude were written on a piece of paper and handed to the pilot.

Once airborne, the pilots would radio their destination to Federal Aviation Administration officials, who were directing what amounted an aerial version of 5 p.m. rush-hour traffic.

Landings were dangerous. Pilots unfamiliar with tall buildings around the garage had to put down on top of a parking garage never intended to serve its make-shift function. Rotor blades whirled dangerously close to buildings.

Then, Hall said, another hero emerged.

John Holland, a LifeNet employee who was helping with the evacuation, jumped out of a medivac chopper and began working as a flight director, giving pilots

Tallahassee ham-radio operators took part in the daring helicopter rescue Friday of about 1,500 patients and staff from two New Orleans hospitals besieged by darkness, dank water and gunfire.

signals as they threaded their way down to the concrete deck.

"He worked on the deck 36 hours straight," Hall said. "He also was instrumental in relaying information to us about the resources that we needed."

Military helicopters, including Blackhawks and a CH-47 Chinook, also joined the airlift.

Spirits in the Tallahassee command center soared. The military helicopters could carry more patients and staff than the medivac or other chartered helicopters.

But they were dashed when, within hours, two of the helicopters, including the Chinook, were pulled out to help in other parts of a city that was rapidly degenerating into a war zone.

"We were tired and exhausted," Hall said. "We could hear the noise and activity in the background." The "activity" in this case meant sporadic gunfire.

Fog, rain and darkness were constant companions.

But the aerial caravan kept rolling until about 1a.m. Thursday, Hall said. Darkness made it too dangerous to fly. The civilian pilots did not have night goggles and the military pilots, even though they had the night goggles, were disoriented by the dark that had buried the city.

By Thursday, it was clear two public hospitals nearby - Charity Hospital and University Medical Center - also were in dire straits.

Desperate patients from Charity and staff members there were wading through the floodwater to reach the Tulane facility.

Boats from the the Louisiana Department of Fish and Wildlife appeared and helped ferry the critically ill to the garage through water fouled by sewage, debris and bodies.

Hall found more heroes in the garage.

"They were taking care of patients, often in the dark, with no way of knowing when the next chopper was coming," he said.

All through Thursday until about midnight, patients and staff from two hospitals, often in groups of two or three, left the chaos below and were ferried to

the airport, to other hospitals, to safety.

By Friday morning, Hall said about 300 people, including another 30 patients from Charity, remained. All Tulane patients were safely out.

The day brought more heroes.

A Sacred Heart medivac worker left his helicopter so a doctor and nurse could board and leave. He was not included in the final headcount and remained alone at the hospital for several hours.

Hall said the man finally got the attention of police and was airlifted out late Friday afternoon.

As the day wore on, reports of gunfire and advancing chaos strained pilots, patients and personnel.

Time was working against the Herculean effort. Pilots can fly only so many hours until they have to rest. Helicopters need gas and maintenance. Sick, frail people cannot last long in stifling heat and humidity.

Hall said the warning from the National Guard came shortly before the last helicopter lifted off: Gunfire was less than a mile away. The airlift had to end - now. Smoke from a nearby fire drifted across the landing zone.

"We felt ecstatic," Hall said, his voice weary after nearly four days with little sleep. "It was just an overwhelming relief to have, what we believed at the time, the last people out."

But across the street, at Charity and University Medical, there was no cheering. Patients and staff remained. Hall ordered the helicopters to continue the airlift - at HCA's expense.

He said Federal Emergency Management Agency officials were taking over the rescue effort.

Late Friday night, Hall said the rescue effort was a small victory, but bigger obstacles remain. Hospitals have to be rebuilt. Patients have to get well.

And New Orleans, the immortal and slightly immoral Belle of all Southern Belles, still faces a dark future.

"We had to overcome some small hurdles today," Hall said, "but the big hurdles are in front of us."

Contact reporter Rocky Scott at (850) 599-2176 or rscott@tallahassee.com.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

During an exchange of emails about the growing, and perhaps needless, complexity of many Public Safety radio systems... Ray KD4BBM wrote:

"So right now, somewhere in the disaster area, some Motorola trained tech is trying to fix a datacom problem to fix a trunking controller, to fix a repeater network, to fix a radio system, while a ham is talking on simplex to save a life.

Yeah, hams are old school..." Ray Vaughan KD4BBM

Published September 5, 2005

Ham radio helps close communication gap Nixa man relayed message from President to New Orleans' mayor.

By Sarah Overstreet
News-Leader

If you've been unsuccessfully trying to get information about someone living in Hurricane Katrina's region of havoc, here's an avenue you may not have considered: local ham radio operators.

While cell phones rely on towers and traditional telephones rely on intact land lines, ham radios transmit from radio to radio, bouncing waves off the ionosphere in the upper atmosphere far above the Earth's tantrums. They can run off batteries, generators and sometimes even the sun.

Two Ozarks amateur ham radio groups — the Nixa Amateur Radio Club and the Christian County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) — have been relaying messages from people all over the world to those whose communication has been cut off by Katrina.

David Beckler, a ham radio operator from Nixa, even relayed a message Tuesday from the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Texas to New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin.

"He had a message from President Bush to the mayor of the city of New Orleans," says Beckler, a New Orleans native who moved to Nixa six years ago.

Since the message was an emergency communication, the dispatch needed to go through the net control station on an emergency frequency, Beckler said. He knew it was important, because the ham operator had said, "break, break, break," which requires all other



Joe Hargis works on his amateur radio. Hargis helped rescue an elderly woman by notifying someone who could contact rescue workers via radio.

communications to yield and give that one priority. "The net control station or other stations on this frequency could not hear this message," Beckler says. Beckler contacted the net control station, and people there asked him to contact the sending ham operator and relay the message back to that operator. "That's when he told me it was from President Bush."

Joe Hargis, another Nixa ham club member, also helped with an urgent message. "I was monitoring the SATERN network (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network)," said Hargis, a retired elementary school teacher.

"A person called in with a piece of emergency traffic and the (receiving) person could not hear him. He said, 'Is there anyone on the frequency who can copy this?' I broke in and told him I could hear it fine."

Hargis relayed the message back to SATERN, and the operator there could hear Hargis well. "It was a 90-year-old woman and her elderly neighbors. They were afraid to leave their home because of the unrest in the neighborhood, things that were going on, and they needed assistance to be evacuated. They were running low on medicine, and one was running out of her oxygen supply."

Nixa ham club member Rod Kittleman says their members helped save the lives of a couple in New Orleans.

"A weak, disabled elderly couple were trapped in their attic. Their phone worked, but they couldn't get through to local authorities," the KADI radio program manager explains.

Too weak to break through their roof so emergency personnel could find them, the couple called their daughter in this area. She contacted the Nixa club, which relayed the message to a local ham operator who is licensed to operate on emergency frequencies.

"He got through to authorities in New Orleans over the radio, and they were rescued. (The ham operator) relayed the message back to their daughter. That's the reward we live for."

Entry Level License Class

Starts Oct. 25th - Jupiter Farms

Evenings - Tuesdays & Thursdays

Call Bert AG4BV, 746-7421, for details!

Saturday - Oct. 8th

American Diabetes Walk - 8 to Noon

Wellington Harvest Festival - 1:30 to 5:30

Bring The Family!

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.

CERT COUNTYWIDE NET

THURSDAYS - 7PM - 147.225

WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB NETS

Open to All!

WELLINGTON EMERGENCY NET

MONDAYS... INCLUDING HOLIDAYS

7:30PM - 147.285

MEMORY LANE NET

THURSDAYS... EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS

7:30PM - 147.285

SLOW SCAN TV NET

SUNDAYS... EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS

7:30PM - 147.285

Wonderfully crafted, must-read piece... learn how life-threatened EOC workers identified themselves with magic marker on their skin!

Storm diary: Grit, willpower, survival

By GREG LACOUR

SUNHERALD.com
SOUTH MISSISSIPPI'S HOME PAGE

What follows is a partial reconstruction of those 24 hours, when people throughout the Coast counties watched in amazement, then horror, as the winds and water tore apart their homes, their livelihoods, their lives.

It's based on official documentation by the National Weather Service and Harrison, Hancock and Jackson counties, plus interviews with survivors. Some times are, out of necessity, approximations.

Posted on Sun, Sep. 04, 2005

The first rains, the far fringes of Hurricane Katrina, touched Biloxi and Gulfport at 5 p.m. Sunday. The next 24 hours brought the unimaginable to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

SUNDAY

Early afternoon: Poindexter and Prentiss streets in Pass Christian are underwater and impassable. Harrison County officials announce that Basswood and Sweetbay streets are expected to be in the same condition by 3:45 p.m.

On the other side of the Bay of St. Louis, Christine Stach (KC5RIC) can see the water already starting to rise on Indian Street, her cul-de-sac in the Shoreline Park community near Waveland. Stach has muscular

dystrophy on the right side of her body. She has trouble walking, and on occasion has to use a wheelchair. She and her caretaker, Brice Phillips, begin stacking medical supplies, bedding, anything they can find, in the attic.

7 p.m. Harrison County orders people who live near the Wolf River: "Get out now!" With exclamation point, in italics. The river is expected to rise above 8 feet, flood level, in two hours. The river is expected to crest at 11 a.m. Monday at a height of 23 feet. The highest level on record is 16 feet. The shelters at Pineville and DeLisle elementary schools near the river are being evacuated.

Midnight: The water in Christine Stach's house near Waveland is knee-high and rising. After 10 hours of hauling everything they can to the attic, Stach and Brice Phillips realize they're going to lose it all. It's time to leave.

They eventually make it to the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center, about five miles east down U.S. 90 in Bay St. Louis. Folks there are expecting her. She's a ham radio operator and well known to just about everyone. They ask her: "What took you so long?"

MONDAY

4 a.m.: The water reaches the home of Matthew and Jean Meissner, on U.S. 90 in Biloxi. They and two neighbors retreat to their apartment on the third floor. They think — or hope — they'll be safe there.

5:20 a.m.: The National Weather Service office at Gulfport/Biloxi Regional Airport reports the first hurricane-force gusts, at 78 mph.

6 a.m.: The Gulfport/Biloxi NWS office is knocked out of commission.

7 a.m.: Harrison County Supervisor Connie Rockco, Emergency Management Director Col. Joe Spraggins and other officials take a brief walk from the Emergency Operations Center in the county courthouse in Gulfport

to the intersection of U.S. 49 and 90. It's high tide. Boats are already washing onto U.S. 90. The Copa Casino has pulled away from its moorings. The surge, Rockco realizes, is coming. The storm will rage for the next 12 hours, at least.

Rockco and everyone else on the Coast has feared this. They've tried, at times, to plan for it. A few days ago, they worried about it. A day ago, they knew they probably were in for it. But now, seeing what she sees, Rockco knows. This is confirmation. This is going to be horrific.

7:10 a.m.: Observers in Pascagoula report a gust of 118 mph.

7:30 a.m.: Dee Lumpkin, the deputy director of the Hancock County Emergency Management Agency, looks out the window of the county

operations center on U.S. 90 in Bay St. Louis. The wind is blowing two medium-sized trees down Ulman Avenue.

7:50 a.m.: Emergency services offices report that the storm surge is rising, fast, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

9:45 a.m.: The storm surge in Gulfport and Biloxi has reached an estimated 28 feet. **9:53 a.m.:** The water is coming up at the EOC in Bay St. Louis, and the power goes out.

10 a.m.: Water has risen to the windows of the Meissners' third-story apartment on the beachfront in Biloxi. The four people inside have come to an understanding: They're going to die. Someone produces a camera. They take turns snapping photographs of each other so that, if they or the photos are ever found, their loved ones will have a few more things to remember them by.

Not far away, water has swamped the ground floor of Benny and Paulette Gray's home in East Biloxi. They run upstairs with their parrot, eight dogs and six 8-day old puppies.

10:15 a.m.: The water begins rising on the second floor. The Grays toss their four Chihuahuas, three pit bulls and one German shepherd, along with their parrot and puppies, into the attic. A few minutes later, the water on the second floor is waist-deep. They jump onto the porch roof, a few of their dogs following them. Then the makeshift platform snaps, and the Grays bounce like pinballs off trees as they're washed into the Back Bay.

10:30 a.m.: The water makes its initial entrance into Bob Pease's home on Bismarck Street in Bay St. Louis. He's not that worried. He's heard that even the surge from Hurricane Camille didn't make it this far. His den might flood, he thinks. Big deal.

10:50 a.m.: The water is up to Pease's chest. Earlier, he'd placed a chainsaw, an axe, two cell phones and his fire radio — he's a volunteer firefighter for the East Hancock

"...Christine Stach KC5RIC can see the water already starting to rise on Indian Street... Stach has muscular dystrophy on the right side of her body. She has trouble walking, and on occasion has to use a wheelchair."

department — atop a dresser, where he was sure they'd be safe from the water. Now the dresser has toppled. Pease dives desperately into the water. His wife, Doreen Evans, finds something solid under the water to stand on, to keep her head above the water. She thinks it's the microwave.

It's getting desperate. Pease has managed to fish out the axe, but he can't find the ladder to the attic. He's diving again and again when he notices: The water, now 6 feet high, has stopped rising.

Late morning: The staff at the Harrison County EOC in Gulfport hears a call over the scanner. A woman is crying. Her husband is a police officer in Bay St. Louis. She's heard patrol cars are underwater, and that the department is evacuating to the Bayview Apartments. She asks: Can anyone get out there? Everyone in the room in Gulfport knows the answer, another question: Who?

11 a.m.: Hurricane Katrina makes landfall at the Louisiana-Mississippi line. Maximum sustained winds: 130 mph.

11 a.m.: The water is coming up in the Patio Suites Apartments on U.S. 90 in Long Beach. David Russell is there with a friend, his dog and a sense of dread. Russell's lived on the Coast for 18 years, always staying around for hurricanes because of the work that's needed afterward; he owns a treeclearing company.

He has seen nothing like this. He and his friend feel the building give way under them. They dive out the window. Russell grabs a board, and the two swim to the tops of some oak trees and hang on. They'll be there for the next several hours, watching buildings float by and screaming at each other over the roar of the wind to make sure they're both still alive.

Farther north, a tornado rips through downtown Poplarville.

11:30 a.m.: The water is as high as 3 feet inside the EOC in Bay St. Louis, a building that's 27 feet above bay level. About 35 people, mostly emergency workers and law enforcement officers, huddle inside the building and watch the water rise. It's dark.

Someone has a suggestion. It's a good idea, everyone agrees. So markers are passed around the center. By flashlight, the people scrawl numbers on their arms and hands, then write their names next to their numbers on a sheet of paper. Emergency Services Director Brian Adam takes No. 4. Deputy Director Dee Lumpkin places a 5 on her upper hand. Administrative assistant Tamara Patterson is No. 26. Everyone is fairly calm, given the circumstances. The idea, of course, is to make it easier for the recovery teams to match bodies with names.

Patterson hangs the list high on the wall near the front door. Then she perches atop a counter in the main corridor and, as she has since the storm began, prays the Rosary.

12:15 p.m.: An NWS spotter reports a gust of 120 mph in Wiggins, about a 30 miles inland.

Early afternoon: In Bay St. Louis, the storm shifts into reverse.

The eye is passing. The people in the EOC feel their ears pop from the rapid change in barometric

pressure.

The wind whips around. It had been blowing from the southeast. Within a few minutes, it starts blowing from the northwest.

This is important for the people in Bay St. Louis. The town lies west of the Bay of St. Louis, so the wind in the first half of the storm was, essentially, blowing the bay into the town. Now it's blowing the other way. The water begins to recede.

Tamara Patterson, for the first time in hours, says something to herself she feared she'd never get to say: We're going to make it. We're going to be OK.

Early afternoon: Rockco, in the EOC in Gulfport, is on the phone with Beverly Martin, the executive director of the Gulf Coast Gaming Association, who's at home on Courthouse Road in Gulfport. The women are good friends. "Rock, you're not going to believe it," Martin says. "The water is coming up so fast. I'm on the second floor. I'm scared." Rockco hears a click. The line is dead.

2 p.m.: For the first time in nearly nine hours, the winds drop below hurricane force on the Coast. The storm surge begins to drop.

4 p.m.: The water in Long Beach has receded enough for David Russell and his friend to climb down from the oak trees they'd clung to. Russell's business and home are gone. His dog is gone. He has severe scratches from the debris that raked him in the water. But he is alive.

7 p.m.: Nearly 14 hours after the first hurricane-force winds begin lashing the Coast, the NWS downgrades Katrina to a tropical storm.

AFTERMATH

Christine Stach and Brice Phillips rode out the storm at the EOC in Bay St. Louis, where everyone survived. They were still there Thursday, helping store supplies and serve food. Stach has lost nearly

Stach has lost nearly everything that helped her cope with her muscular dystrophy. She doesn't know what she's going to do about it, or where she'll end up living.

everything that helped her cope with her muscular dystrophy. She doesn't know what she's going to do about it, or where she'll end up living.

The Meissners in Biloxi made it out, and their house on the beachfront remained largely intact. But Matthew Meissner, a Michigan native who moved to Biloxi a year ago to be near the ocean, said he's seen enough. As soon as he can find a way out, he said, he's gone.

Connie Rockco caught up later with her friend Andrea Martin. She's OK.

Bob Pease and his wife, Doreen Evans, made it to the EOC in Bay St. Louis, where they were Thursday. They're not sure what they're going to do, either, but at least Pease has the promise of work that surely will need to be done in the months ahead. He operates lift boats for a company based in Harvey, La. Where they'll live, though? Who knows?

Shortly before dark, the Grays made it back to their home. Paulette said she looked in the remnants of their attic and three of her Chihuahuas were shivering staring back at her. Only the puppies and one Chihuahua had not survived their house's collapse.

"It's a miracle we survived," Paulette said. "I don't know how God protected us. I guess it's all the prayin' I did."

-Ham radio volunteers help re-establish communications after Katrina -Some 700 operators are already at work, with more on the way

News Story

by Todd R. Weiss

SEPTEMBER 06, 2005 (COMPUTERWORLD) - Volunteer ham radio operators are coming to the aid of relief agencies and emergency officials to help with badly needed communications in areas of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi ravaged early last week by Hurricane Katrina. With power still out in much of the region and telephone service restored in limited areas (see "Cell operators restore some network service in New Orleans") of New Orleans the Mississippi cities of Biloxi and Gulfport, and other hard-hit areas, ham radio operators have been asked by the American Red Cross and other agencies to supplement communications at more than 200 storm shelters in Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida panhandle.

Some 700 ham radio volunteers from around the nation are already at work helping in the efforts, with more on the way, said Allen Pitts, a spokesman for the 157,000-member American Radio Relay League Inc. (ARRL), a nationwide amateur radio organization based in Newington, Conn. "This is going to be a marathon, not a sprint," Pitts said. "We have people there; we have more people coming."

On Sunday, the American Red Cross asked for about 500 more radio operators to assist at shelters and food kitchens set up to aid evacuees, he said. The volunteers are driving to needed areas and meeting with officials at staging areas in Montgomery, Ala., and in Oklahoma and Texas, where they are being dispatched to disaster shelters, Pitts said. The ham radio operators travel to the disaster areas using their own vehicles and pay their own way, he said.

Many of the volunteers sprung into action even before the storm struck the Gulf Coast, broadcasting as part of a "Hurricane Watch-Net" three days before deadly Hurricane Katrina slammed into the coast on Aug. 29, Pitts said.

Ham radio equipment can be used in disaster areas even when power is out and phone lines, relays and other communications systems are down because

the radios run on their own battery or generator power, Pitts said. "Each one is a complete transmission and reception center unto itself," he said. "It works when other stuff is broken. You give an amateur radio operator a battery, a radio and a piece of a coat hanger and they'll find a way to make it work."

The volunteers carry their own fuel for their generators and bring all the equipment they need. Used ham radio systems can be bought for as little as \$100, while newer, state-of-the-art hardware can run as high as \$5,000, he said.

Ham radio operators can also use their equipment with laptop-based computer software to help re-establish e-mail access over the Internet to further assist with communications, Pitts said.

Other disaster assistance agencies, including the Salvation Army, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security, have also sought help from ham radio operators, Pitts said.

Late last week, the Washington-based Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency for volunteer service, announced a supplemental \$100,000 grant to help ARRL volunteers with their expenses as they travel to and stay in the areas where hurricane victims are receiving assistance.

"With the breakdown of regular communication channels caused by the storm, the services provided by volunteer ham radio operators [are] vitally important, both to organizations and to individuals seeking to connect with

loved ones," agency CEO David Eisner said in a statement. "We're pleased to be able to provide this extra assistance at this critical time."

The money will be used as part of the ARRL's "Ham Aid" program, established with a grant from the Corporation in 2002 to increase emergency certification training for ham radio operators.

Mary Hobart, chief development officer at the ARRL, said in a statement that this marks the first time in the ARRL's 90-year history that it will be able to reimburse some of the expenses incurred by members responding to disasters.

Volunteer radio operators will be at various sites for the duration of this disaster response, which could run into several weeks or months, according to the group.

Several ARRL members have already played key roles in the rescue efforts by connecting storm victims with emergency responders. In one such incident, a radio operator helped organize the rescue of 15 people stranded by floodwaters on the roof of a house in New Orleans, according to an ARRL statement.

On Sunday, the American Red Cross asked for about 500 more radio operators to assist at shelters and food kitchens set up to aid evacuees, he said.

The Red Cross sets up satellite based phone & Internet systems with ham help VOIP to the Rescue

By Wayne Rash

September 9, 2005

Imagine what it must be like to attempt a phone call in the littered wasteland that was once the central Gulf Coast of the United States.

Not only are there no phones, there are no phone lines, no central offices, nothing.

While there is cell service—T-Mobile was apparently running at full capacity within a day or two—sites are swamped with high priority calls. Making a phone call can be nearly impossible.

Worse, the American Red Cross is taking the lion's share of the responsibility for handling the relief effort.

This private charity runs the shelters, helps support survivors, hands out everything from food to blankets, and tries to reunite families.

But without phone service, the job is tough indeed.

While the Red Cross makes good use of the hundreds of ham radio operators that are willing to provide weeks of unpaid labor, there are never enough of them.

Because of its critical communications needs, the Red Cross has turned to VOIP (voice over IP). But this isn't the VOIP you're thinking of. This is telephony on the edge.

This is a phone service that exists in partially ruined Kmart stores, sports stadiums and firehouses.

A phone service that must serve the needs of volunteers, managers and thousands of survivors. A phone service that must provide access to the Internet and to the world.

So what do you do when you must communicate but there's no infrastructure? You use a global network of satellites to carry your connections.

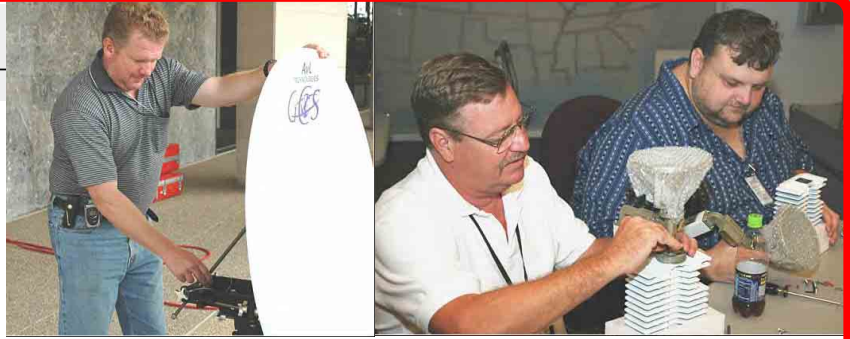
In this case, the Red Cross uses VSATs (very small aperture terminals) to provide the critical links.

Those VSATs are being assembled, tested and prepared for shipment at the national headquarters of the American Red Cross in Falls Church, Va., a suburb of Washington, D.C.

There a team of volunteers made up of ham radio operators and engineers from defense and aerospace companies is building the VSAT equipment by hand from parts donated to the Red Cross. These VSATs then provide a TCP/IP link to the outside world.

Of course, you can route nearly any kind of phone call over a VSAT.

The Red Cross chose VOIP because it allowed phones to be set up in advance with a PBX located at



Volunteers: Booz Allen Hamilton engineer Timothy DuBose adjusts satellite dishes during final testing of a VSAT prior to shipment to the Gulf Coast. (Right) Boeing engineers Kevin Van Houten (left) and Greg Capolia assemble VSAT feed systems. **SOURCE:** Wayne Rash/Ziff Davis Internet News the headquarters.

In addition, because VOIP phones could share the bandwidth with Internet access and other traffic, it made more efficient use of the VSAT link that other methods might have.

According to David Craig, Senior Engineer for the Response Technology unit of the Red Cross, the organization is currently using Cisco Call Manager to handle its IP voice network.

Craig cited the ease of set up and the ease of use as important reasons to use

VOIP as well.

"There's no switching in the field," Craig said.

He noted that the satellite equipment and the VOIP and networking equipment would frequently be put into operation by people with little formal training, so it had to be something ordinary people could do.

This way, everything can be configured before it's shipped, and then simply plugged in when it arrives on-site.

Craig said he also likes the fact that the disaster phone system can be managed from anywhere.

He said that the Red Cross only has two employees in the network operations center. All of the rest of the staff are volunteers.

He said that this way, volunteers can keep an eye on the network and on the voice traffic at all times.

This is a plan that the organization has been using since Sept. 11, 2001, when it was first put into operation, Craig said.

"We want this to be cost-effective for our donors," Craig noted. He said that the ease of deployment, as well as the effective use of bandwidth, accomplished that.

The deployment of the VSAT systems and the IP phones to Red Cross communications centers in the region impacted by Hurricane Katrina began on Sept. 7.

Now volunteers are preparing a hundred more VSATs and hundreds of IP phones for shipment in the next few days.

Everywhere they go, VOIP will go with them, providing some of the first reliable phone service since the storm hit.

...a team of volunteers made up of ham radio operators and engineers from defense and aerospace companies is building the VSAT equipment by hand from parts donated to the Red Cross.

...volunteers are preparing a hundred more VSATs and hundreds of IP phones for shipment in the next few days.

Reports continue that communications in and around New Orleans are being purposely jammed (and severed) by the US government

(see Sep. 2 article below).

September 4, 2005 --The jamming is having an adverse impact on emergency, disaster recovery, and news media communications. The jamming is even affecting police radio frequencies in Jefferson Parish, according to an Australian news report. The President of Jefferson Parish Aaron Broussard told Meet the Press today that FEMA cut his parish's emergency communications lines and he had to have his sheriff restore the severed lines and post armed deputies to ensure that FEMA did not try to cut the communications lines again. Broussard's statement: "Yesterday--yesterday--FEMA comes in and cuts all of our emergency communication lines. They cut them without notice. Our sheriff, Harry Lee, goes back in, he reconnects the line. He posts armed guards on our line and says, 'No one is getting near these lines.'"

Jamming radio and other communications such as television signals is part of a Pentagon tactic called "information blockade" or "technology blockade." The tactic is one of a number of such operations that are part of the doctrine of "information warfare" and is one of the psychological operations (PSYOPS) methods used by the US Special Operations Command. Jamming is currently being used by US forces in Iraq and was used by the US Navy in the botched coup attempt against President Hugo Chavez in April 2002. US Navy ships off the Venezuelan coast jammed diplomatic, military, emergency services, police, and even taxi cab frequencies in Caracas and other large cities.

Who is jamming communications in New Orleans?

September 2, 2005 -- Ham radio operators are reporting that communications in and around New Orleans are being jammed. In addition, perplexed ham radio operators who were enlisted by the Federal government in 911 are not being used for hurricane Katrina Federal relief efforts. There is some misinformation circulating on the web that the jamming is the result of solar flares. Ham radio operators report that the flares are not the source of the communications jamming. If anyone at the National Security Agency is aware of the source of the jamming, from direction finding or satellite intelligence, please discretely con-



tact me at waynemadsenc@hotmail.com (from a private or temporary email account). In this case, the Bush administration cannot hide behind national security and it is the duty of every patriotic American to report such criminal activity to the press. Even though the information on the jamming may be considered classified -- it is in the public interest to disclose it. Also, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is reporting that no aircraft over New Orleans have been fired on over New Orleans or anywhere else in the area. Are the reports of shots being fired at aircraft an attempt by the Bush administration to purposely delay the arrival of relief to the city's homeless and dying poor?

New Orleans: Who is jamming communications and why?

UPDATE: We can now report that the jamming of New Orleans' communications is emanating from a pirate radio station in the Caribbean. The noise is continuous and it is jamming frequencies, including emergency high frequency (HF) radios, in the New Orleans area. The radio frequency jammers were heard last night, stopped for a while, and are active again today. The Pentagon must locate the positions of these transmitters and order the Air Force to bomb them immediately.

However, we now have a new unconfirmed report that the culprit may be the Pentagon itself. The emitter is an IF (Intermediate Frequency) jammer that is operating south southwest of New Orleans on board a U.S. Navy ship, according to an anonymous source. The jamming is cross-spectrum and interfering with superheterodyne receiver components, including the emergency radios being used in New Orleans relief efforts. The jammed frequencies are:

- 72.0MHZ (high end of Channel 4 WWL TV New Orleans)
- 45.0MHZ (fixed mobile)
- 10.245MHZ (fixed mobile)
- 10.240 Mhz (fixed mobile)
- 11.340 Mhz (aeronautical mobile)
- 233 MHZ (fixed mobile)
- 455 IF (jammer)

A former DoD source says the U.S. Army uses a portable jammer, known as WORLOCK, in Iraq and this jammer may be similar to the one that is jamming the emergency frequencies.

Surfing the Internet even brought up some jibberish... This author claims to be independent, fair & balanced... yet may be ignorant of communications technology or perhaps had an axe to grind.



VHeadline.com remains 100% independent of all political factions in Venezuela

Published: Sunday, September 04, 2005

A rich and powerful nation being led to destruction by a band of morons

EDITOR BOB CHAPMAN WRITES:

We sell \$12.4 billion worth of arms a year and spend \$5.6 billion a month occupying Iraq and we do not have the resources to help hurricane victims. In the meantime,

George W. Bush is OTC. As we said in the Army 50 years ago, he is "out to chow."

Now he is moving into his post-vacation syndrome ... that is probably why he has 6,000 members of the Louisiana and Mississippi National Guard in combat in Iraq.

Here we are a rich and powerful nation being led to destruction by a band of morons.

These people are loathsome criminals.

Ham radio operators around New Orleans are being jammed ... and that can only be the US government.

These same ham operators were enlisted to help during 9/11, but strangely are not being used for Katrina's federal relief efforts.

Jamming is a criminal activity and we know of no reason why any foreign government would do such a thing. George and the neocons have turned New Orleans into a Baghdad on the Mississippi.

The American Daily

Political and Social Commentary

Phoenix, Arizona Friday September 9, 2005

The Hurricane Mess is Surely a Mess

By Rob Hood, A Radio Amateur

As a native Mississippian I understand what the effects of Hurricane Katrina has done not only in New Orleans and Mississippi, but across the country. It has completely destroyed the Gulf Coast infrastructure and will have to be totally rebuilt from scratch. The Hurricane damages are reported to have been 90 miles inland but I have to say that I live in the northern part of the state only about two hours from Memphis, Tennessee and we had winds at approximately 70 miles per hour that brought down fairly large trees and a loss of power from 2 days to one week this far up, not to mention the long lines at the gas pumps as far north as the Tennessee line. Alabama was also struck a good sized blow, we hear little about what happened there.

After the storm was over and everyone saw how bad the damage was, another storm took place that was well speculated to happen. I, as well as, other conservatives thought about this. I knew that somehow President Bush would be blamed for this. He was blamed for the tsunami in Indonesia. He was blamed for the attacks on 9/11. I am not surprised that he is not blamed for many other silly things. These days, if a liberal democrat drops a pencil on the floor and it breaks, Bush is to blame. If it rains too much, Bush is to blame. If a computer stops functioning or if your telephone stops working, Bush is to blame. If your light bulb blows, it's because of Bush. If your car breaks down, Bush is the cause. If your pen runs out of ink, Bush made it happen. If your socks don't match, Bush is responsible. If your wall paper peels, blame Bush. If your flashlight batteries run down, Bush zapped them. If your shirt button falls off, Bush is the cause. If you have a flat tire, blame Bush. It never ends !!!!!

I cannot believe my eyes and ears when I hear the Louisiana governor and especially the New Orleans Mayor blaming Bush for all of this. Let's face it. Bush does not have the power to control the weather. He is not Jesus. He cannot stand up and rebuke the wind and tell it to be calm and it will obey him. He cannot control tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, famine, floods, volcanoes, mudslides, disease, pestilence, or anything else I left out. He cannot control the weather!

These liberal democrats point the finger at Bush and at FEMA, while enormously neglecting to take personal responsibility to prepare for such an event years ago. There should have been a better plan from the mayor's office when he was first elected. He should have used those now flooded school buses to evacuate those people who claimed that they had no way out of the city. I can understand that the critically ill could not have evacuated, but that's a different story. I am referring to the ones who chose to stay despite a major warning two days before the storm. Then after that they cried for help when they could have been 1000 miles from there when the hurricane struck in the first place.

The looting was absolutely ridiculous and uncivilized at best. It made our nation look uncivilized and heathen. I can understand someone taking food and water to live on, but these numbskulls were STEALING televisions, jewelry, and other such items. Were they planning on eating those TVs? Where were they planning on plugging them in and watching them? Then the brilliant mayor made the statement that these were the gangs and drug addicts stealing to get money for their habits. If they had that problem, why did the mayor not properly capture, convict, and punish those well before now? Why did he not address his widespread crime problem long ago? It has been said that New Orleans has a crime and murder rate at least 10 times above the national average. Apparently the mayor has more to worry about than his arch enemy Bush.

I just wonder where the wonderful Bill Clinton was in all of this. Why has he not opened his arms wide to receive his followers into his own state of ARKANSAS? I am sure some are there, but if he cares so much, where is his invitation? What about that loudmouth cursing the vice president today on TV? The secret service should have done something to shut him up. Sure he has a right to free speech, but should use that free speech in ways other than making us look like an uncivilized nation of uneducated morons.

I am beginning to believe in the theory of evolution. It appears that this particular one may have derived from an ape after all. If he has the right to curse the vice president in the manner

in which he did, then I see no problem in the Vice President turning and perhaps saying something like "Hey smarty-pants. Shut your pie hole. I'm trying to do an interview here, unless you think you can do better!". It would have been hilarious to see the expression on the face of this man if the vice president would have said something like this.

The lesson learned here is whatever happens in this world that is bad, is because of Bush. If anything good happens, it was done by faultless democrats that can do no wrong. They are perfect and blameless and are always open to every idea so long as it does not include individual thought. We can't have that now. The democrat party of the government has to do all of the thinking. We cannot be allowed to do thinking on our own. No way. That might lead to ... AH! A republican official or ... AH! AH! a republican president or even a ... oh no ... AH! AAAAAAAAAAH! A Christian Conservative Republican President! We certainly can't have that now can we?

I would hate to see what would happen if we were to lose an entire state. The Dems would certainly go mad for sure. It would probably finish off what's left of our culture and drive normal people like you and I completely insane. I guess going insane would not be that bad after all considering half of the country is already there. At last the democrats would get their unity. We would no longer be divided. We would all be insane together!

American Daily Editor: Views are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of American Daily.

Rob Hood grew up in rural Mississippi, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention. Graduated with an AAS in Electronics Technology, is working for a HAM radio manufacturer as a Technician. In 2004 received his Technician Class Amateur Radio Operator's license. Lives in north Mississippi and enjoys talking about religion, politics, and science. His site: <http://robhood.us/> WRC Update Ed: Checking the QRZ site... Rob may be KE5BMP.

Technology succeeds, system fails in New Orleans



CyberSpeak
Andrew Kantor

Before and after Hurricane Katrina, technology played a vital role. Unfortunately, it was the government's inability or refusal to use it that cost so many lives.

Let's start with the information technology provided us with beforehand.

Thanks to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration and NASA, Katrina was closely tracked by satellites, radar, and even airplanes across the Atlantic since she was born.

On land, the National Weather Service's super-computers were able to hazard a good guess about Katrina's path several days before she made landfall. (If you go to the National Hurricane Center you can pick a storm and click on "Warnings and 5-Day Cone" to see a picture of where a storm is likely to strike.)

Databases told us a lot about the people living in New Orleans and on the Gulf Coast.

The U.S. Census, unemployment rolls, government assistance lists, and tax records report that a sizeable portion of the population is poor. Motor vehicle registrations show that many of them did not own cars and thus could not evacuate themselves.

Then there was historical data. A series of articles in the Times-Picayune, called "Washing Away," discussed the risks to New Orleans residents in 2002: "A large population of low-income residents do not own cars and would have to depend on an untested emergency public transportation system to evacuate them."

Medical databases detailed how many sick people there were in the hospitals, and how many could not be moved easily.

Engineering studies of the city's levee system had shown for years that it could not withstand a direct hit from a major hurricane. Despite what some politicians have said, many people anticipated the levees breaking.

In fact, the probable destruction of New Orleans by hurricane winds and levee breaks was the topic of articles in Scientific American (Oct. 2001) and National Geographic (Oct. 2004).

The bottom line is that our technology gave us at least three days' warning that Katrina was going to strike and turn these fictionalized accounts into fact-based ones.

FUMBLES

Despite this, the state, local and federal governments failed the people of New Orleans during those three days.

Despite knowing there was a significant chance of levees breaking, there was no evacuation plan other than "take your cars and go somewhere."

Whatever those tax dollars had purchased never showed.

INFORMATION ECONOMY

Technology is only as good as the people willing to use it. In the aftermath of Katrina, the people willing to use it were primarily private citizens.

Despite the almost-complete destruction of the power and communications infrastructure, New Orleans wasn't silent. Generators were up and running. Scattered communications lines were up. Even some Internet con-

nections were working.

INFORMATION GOT OUT.

Dr. Greg Henderson, a pathologist, was able to get out a long, descriptive e-mail describing such horrendous conditions that some people thought it was a fake.

The Times-Picayune couldn't print the paper, but published an electronic edition and blog-like reports on conditions. Journalists — some of whom were on site before the hurricane struck, others arriving after — had satellite phones to contact their home bureaus.

Television reporters were able to air live reports from the flooded streets and crowded "safe" zones.

Ham radio operators were in contact with one another immediately after the storm, getting messages out of the city.

A blogger, holed up with companions on the upper stories of a downtown building, got a connection for his dispatches and a Web cam. He posted first-hand information, interviews with rescuers, and vivid descriptions of the aftermath of the storm.

All this meant that the story was getting out. And it wasn't a good story. Lack of food, water, medicine, security, and help was being documented.

DESPITE THIS, WASHINGTON REMAINED CLUELESS.

I listened to an NPR interview with Federal Emergency Management Agency director Michael Brown. Brown denied — flat out — that there were thousands of people at the Ernest N. Morial Convention

Center. This despite the fact that an NPR reporter was right there describing the scene live.

NPR had the technology to get in and get information. FEMA didn't.

KNOWING BETTER

City officials were resorting to making pleas for help through the media because there was no federal infrastructure for days — days! — after Katrina hit. Those officials are partly to blame for what happened. But that in no way excuses the lack of federal response.

There were some good things about all that private, often makeshift technology out there.

With those private organizations and individuals getting the word out, the federal government's Soviet-style "everything is fine" story was being debunked literally in seconds. We all saw the truth on TV or on the Web.

When FEMA director Brown claimed that "We've provided food to the people at the Convention Center so that they've gotten at least one, if not two meals, every single day," the Times-Picayune was able to call that the "bald-faced lie" that it was.

When President Bush claimed that no one could have anticipated the levees breaching, bloggers were able to pull up articles like those in National Geographic and prove him wrong.

When other officials claimed that the military was there in force, bloggers disputed it quickly — at the time, there were no troops.

Government propaganda didn't hold up well to a citizenry armed with Web connections and cameras.

We live in the most advanced nation on Earth, faced a disaster with at least three days' warning, and still took more than four days to get aid to people in need. As CNN reporter Soledad O'Brien pointed out to Mike Brown, the tsunami victims in Thailand were helped in only two days.

In the end you can't escape that this is just the thing we have government for — to help us handle those things that are too big for us to tackle as individuals. We pay billions for that protection. And it wasn't there.

...this is just the thing we have government for — to help us handle those things that are too big for us to tackle as individuals. We pay billions for that protection. And it wasn't there.