



# Martin County ARES/RACES, Inc.

P.O. Box 2769, Stuart, FL 34995

WWW.WX4MC.ORG



Minutes of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 meeting

## Members Present: (16)

N1XC      KG4OCV      KD4PQQ      N4BG      WA3NIW      N4IGS      KG4AJC  
WA4NGR      KF4CDD      KI4DNM      K4OCD      AK4KB      KI4GTH      AI7Q  
KD4BTD      KD4SMV

## Guests Present: (8)

Gary Scozozzo      Ann Roy      Ike Roy      KD4QHI      Ed Skopeen      AI4AH  
George Moore      Nancy Antonebak

## Call to Order:      1931

Minutes: N1XC read the minutes and those present approved them.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer N4BG reports a balance of \$946.45.

## Special presentation:

### **United Way Champions of the Community:**

Text of award introduction:

This was a special year, and we have another special award to present. The groups recognized by this award helped our community in so many ways, on so many levels – locally, nationally, in disaster response, and with an outpouring of gifts.

Locally, VCRC and the Martin County ARES/RACES *{pronounced Air-ees/Ray-ees}* -- have forged a strong partnership through an effort to recruit and train more amateur radio operators. Through this partnership, VCRC has been constantly impressed by the level of commitment and caring demonstrated by this group of volunteers who provide an emergency communications system when all else fails.

Through their network of amateur radio operators, the American Radio Relay League learned about the hardships that families in Florida were suffering following the

hurricanes. ARRL sought a holiday project to support, and the families of the Treasure Coast were fortunate that they decided upon the White Doves Holiday Project. Boxes full of toys and envelopes filled with checks arrived throughout November and December – from coast to coast -- to bring a ray of sunshine to boys and girls who had lost so much.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Public Relations/Recruitment:** Ron KD4PQQ that Hurricane Fair and Field Day press releases and County Commissioner invitations have been sent. MCTV20 has been contacted too.

N1XC suggested that Ben N4BG and Joe KD4BTD get promos for Field Day / New Training Class on the air at WPSL, WSTU, and WQCS. There is grant money in budget for advertising, printing, and signage.

Jeremy K4OCD has developed a brochure and distributed draft copies to the members for comments. Ron KD4PQQ is going to purchase paper and make copies.

**Training:** Russ AI7Q made the following report:

We began the ARES sponsored training course for new technician class candidates on Tuesday, 2/15/05. AI7Q, N1XC, WA3NIW, and WA4NGR attended the first class along with 15 students. KI4EVU and K4OCO brought students with them and also attended the classes. Dave, WA4NGR, gave a great demonstration of HF equipment, HF portable equipment, and HF antenna systems during the first class. Don, WA3NIW, did a fine job teaching the 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> classes at the beginning of March, helping out AI7Q who was enjoying a much-needed vacation. Russ, AI7Q, taught the remaining classes. Nine total classes were held including the final class ending on 4/12/05. The students were all very interested and actively participated in the lessons. We ended up with about 18 students attending at least some of the classes. The last two classes included 4 practice exams to get the students ready for the VE exams. All of the students indicated they would be taking one of the VE exams later in April (see below) or in mid May. All in all, the class was very successful and very rewarding for the instructor.

VE exams are as follows:

PSL - 0900 Saturday the 23rd of April at the Police Station on Airoso Blvd. Ft. Pierce -  
1930 Wednesday the 27th of April at WQCS Radio Station, 3209 Virginia Ave. (IRCC).  
Jupiter - 1830 on Tuesday the 17th of May at Burt Reynolds Ranch Sheriff's Station,  
16133 Jupiter Farm Rd.

After Russ's report a discussion about starting a new class. We all agreed that we need to schedule the start of a new class beginning a couple of weeks after the Hurricane fair and that we would promote using PR, local community calendars, radio/tv/cable media, newspaper ad, etc.

**Emergency Plan:** Bill N4FJP was not present

## **Old Business:**

**RED Cross Generator:** WA3NIW reports that he will transport the generator to a business that will estimate what repairs need to be done.

**501(C)3:** N1XC reports that once the process is completed for MIND then work will begin on the Martin County ARES/RACES, Inc. application. The process for MIND is a good bit more complicated than it will be for ARES/RACES.

**March of Dimes Walkathon:** MCARA is providing communications for the walkathon on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>. Gus, KK4GBG, has request that we assist. Meet at 7am at the band shell in Memorial Park with a charged HT.

## **MEGA Scout Show:**

Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8am to 3pm. Join us at Tradition Field in West St. Lucie as Martin County ARES/RACES introduces amateur radio to scouts and their families from Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee counties. WX4MC will be operating from our CAT trailer making both VHF and HF contacts. After the Scout show stick around for Florida State League baseball as the St. Lucie Mets take on the Lakeland Tigers. Buy one get one free tickets are available.

Current volunteers are WA3NIW, K4OCD, and N1XC

**Red Cross Hurricane Fair:** Jeff, KG4OCV reports that a there are 17 hours that need to be covered so he will have signup sheets at next meeting.

The group also discussed some ideas for the booth this year. Several members had ideas and agreed to meet shortly after tonight's meeting to organize.

**Field Day:** Bruce N4IGS announced that the reservations are made and the plans are in motion for a weekend of fun at Halpatiokee Park. More details at next month's meeting.

N1XC asked for volunteers to contact the crane company in between I-95 and the Turnpike just south of the Kanner Hwy exit. We would like borrow a crane to hang our field day antenna.

## New Business:

**Moving the COW:** Bruce N4IGS and Ron KD4PQQ have agreed to coordinate with NEXTEL's tower contractor to schedule the moving of the COW. This must be accomplished before the May 7<sup>th</sup> Mega Scout Show.

**Fiber Optic Link:** Ben N4BG reports that Bob Harding and himself repaired the fiber optic link issues with the FT-847 . The issue turned out to be a bad serial port.

**HF Vertical:** Before tonight's meeting Ben N4BG, Ron KD4PQQ, and Dave WA4NGR inspected the vertical on the southwest corner of the EOC. Their conclusion is that with some minor repairs the vertical can be used as the HF antenna for the FT-847,

**VE Committee formed:** Congratulations to Karen AK4KB for both earning her Volunteer Examiner certification and volunteering to head up a VE committee. The goal of this committee will be to provide on call VE services for our training class and other events such as MCARA hamfests.

**T-shirts:** Bruce N4IGS reports that he is compiling a new order for shirt, sweatshirts, jackets, or caps and to please meet him at the back of the room if you are interested.

**SKYWARN classes:** Dennis Decker of the Melbourne NWS will offer spotter classes 8 am, April 30<sup>th</sup> on the main campus of Indian River community college in Ft. Pierce. It was also noted that the Melbourne office uses a different spotter numbering system than the Miami office. If you are in Palm Beach and Martin counties often then you might want to get certified in both areas so that you will have a spotter number for both offices of the NWS.

**Jupiter Farms Safety Day:** 11am to 3pm Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Old Burt Reynolds Ranch, 16133 Jupiter Farms Rd. Sponsored by Jupiter Farms CERT.

Next meeting we will have a special guest presentation by Phil KE4PWE on Radio direction finding.

**Meeting Adjourned: 2056**