

Smoke Signals

ITARS, KD5SDJ

May, 2003



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Presidential QRM

I would like to announce that the KA5WHM echo-link server is up and running on 147.405 from my house. From it you can link directly to the National Weather Service in Tulsa during bad weather. The club repeater is running at a temporary location in the Beggs area. The antenna is only about 35 foot

up at 25 watts but when we move to a permanent location it will be stronger and more usable. We had to get it on the air to secure our frequencies, this is the reason for the temporary setup.

Slowly but surely we are getting up to speed. We are involved with the Okmulgee County Civil Emergency Management now and have had sev-



eral opportunities to do a little weather spotting for them. We have great things coming in the future and remember field day coming in June! Check out the club web page and come out to the meetings.

James, KA5WHM

From the Editor

The 147.225 repeater is now on the air 24/7. The antenna is low to the ground and it is very limited to the coverage it has but things are in the works to move it to its permanent loca-

tion in the near future. We had our club meeting the 2nd Monday of the month and club business was discussed. Great things are in the works and soon we will all be a part of something

we can be proud of. As with any venture of this type there is a small but dedicated group of folks doing most of the work. Without them we would be lost. I thank them deeply for their dedication and loyalty.

DE W5TAZ

O.C.C.E.M.

Hello to all the Volunteers out there from Okmulgee County Emergency Management. I would first of all like to thank you all associated with I.T.A.R.S. for the overwhelming response to our cause and the participation you shown to help your community get an Emergency Management Agency back up and running.

We are always striving to prepare ourselves for a any type of disaster, but as I have always said first we need to get up on our feet and get our program going again. We are slowly but surely receiving donations of either money and/or equipment and it really helps us offset the spending of our \$500.00 dollar annual budget. Any and all donations are always welcome.

Storm season is upon us and

we are already getting some major activity. I appreciate any and all assistance we could receive from any of you with the storm spotting information you could provide. As you may or may not know we are primarily chained to the Public Safety Frequency of 155.235 Mhz but if your are not a member of the O.C.C.E.M. then I can be reached on the Preston 2 meter repeater 145.320 or the I.T.A.R.S. repeater, my call is KD5FMU.

Anyone who would like to apply to the O.C.C.E.M. may get an application from the website www.geocities.com/occem/ and just print it out, fill it out and send it to me, the address is on the website. **Our next meeting is May 7th, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at East Central Electric in Okmulgee.**



As you may or may not know May 21st, 2003 has been slated for Okmulgee County's annual disaster drill from 7:00 a.m. until about noon. If you want you can attend the L.E.P.C. meeting on May 2nd, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the Okmulgee County Health Department in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Be ready for anything.

Well that's all My fingers can take, so be careful out there and keep your head up and your radios turned on. God Bless

Fred McGuire, KD5FMU
Director, Okmulgee County
Civil Emergency Management
kd5fmu@sbcglobal.net

Field Day 2003

I would like to remind everyone that Field Day is coming June 28 and 29.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to set up and run a station for any band will need to contact Joel Meeks, KC5UGY or Dave Lugo, W5TAZ.

Bill Griffin, NI5X is going to 15, 17, and 12 meters QRP on HF. James, KD5UTU is going to set up and run 10 meters.

As of this time all other



bands are open. If you are interested in setting up and

running a station please let one of the organizers know as soon as possible. The place



of ITARS Field Day 2003 will be announced soon.

A Day in the Life of the O.C.C.E.M.

By Dave Lugo, W5TAZ



Living in Oklahoma is a wonderful experience. Those of us who were born and raised here know the beauty of the state. The sun rises as well as the sunsets can be breathtaking at times. The weather can also excite even the most seasoned storm chasers. Being involved with the Okmulgee County Civil Emergency Management agency is a big part of why we enjoy it so much. I was always fascinated by severe weather and, once again, living in Oklahoma provides me with sometimes more than I can stand. The OCCEM was getting itself organized to the point of doing the community some good by the month of April. Under the guidance of Fred McGuire, KD5FMU, the OCCEM was off to a good start. On a shoe-string budget Fred was able to get a fairly good crew of folks together for future emergency situations. When the city of Glenpool had a major fire at a tank farm we stood ready for activation. We were never called on. In a way that was good but it left us wanting to test our metal under pressure. May 14, 2003 was our day to find out how ready we were. With a strong chance of significant weather situations called for in the afternoon hours, we were alerted by Fred that we may be activated. Keeping an eye on the weather is part of the hobby for me. I have always stayed on top of things to the point that I have folks that call on me for their weather information. Software programs and the internet allow me to look smarter than I am but we won't talk about that today. By 2-3 in the afternoon there was a line of super cells developed in Okfuskee County that looked very menacing to us in

Okmulgee County. Trini Barber, EM-15 called me and alerted me to the coming danger and word was quickly relayed on to Fred, EM-1. He quickly put most of us in the field and we were positioning ourselves for a very active afternoon. The main problem starting out was around the Okemah area which is around I-40. This was a strong super cell with showing strong rotation. Once they started moving north east, they made several funnels and several were reported on the ground. Some smaller storms were on both sides of this big cell and most all were tornadic. I must say, this is what we were waiting for, severe weather! I manned my station at the house and prepared myself for what was a hectic but well handled session of radio traffic. My job in all this was to coordinate between all stations, mobile and base and to keep the mobiles out of harms way as best I could. I must say this turned out to be difficult as it was hard to stay up with everyone at the same time. Trini Barber was a huge help as she watched the radar and kept me advised of the latest updates and scanner traffic. I had 3 radios, a scanner, the television, a land line phone and a cell phone all going at the same time. As I listened to the spotters in the field work their way around the county and report on the storms progress a feeling of pride came over me. Pride for being associated with such a fine group of heroic people, pride I was able to contribute my little part to this group, but mostly pride to see what this group was able to do under fire. This was our first chance to function as a group and from my point of view, they performed as well as any other

group I had listened to under this kind of situation. This was a typical Oklahoma bad weather day. We had several tornados touch down through out Okmulgee County, several near touch downs and many wall clouds with rotation. The system was not very organized this day so most the tornados were small and short lived with very little damage. Living in rural Okmulgee County does have it's advantages. The less the population the less folks to get hurt. I was told that this day Okmulgee was the hot spot and you could sure tell it. Most of the countries top storm spotters were lining the highway along 75 between Glenpool and Okmulgee. So, you think you want to do something for your community? It's not always easy, but the Okmulgee County Civil Emergency Management will be ready for the next event to come our way. Ever vigilant in their tasks and always with the community safety in mind they are the kind of group you can be proud to be a part of. I know I am, and as I sit and reflect on the way things went today and to know that whatever the crisis at hand is, knowing this group is out there looking after the safety of my community I can rest easy and concentrate on the remains of the day.

You can visit the Okmulgee County Civil Emergency Management on the internet at:

www.geocities.com/occem/

You can find everything you want to know about this fine group of folks on their webpage. Application to roster, what we do and who we are. 73

DE W5TAZ

Oklahoma Tornado Outbreak May 3, 1999

A look back by Dave Lugo W5TAZ

I wrote this story in 2000 for the Tulsa Amateur Radio Club when I was writing their newsletter, being how it is the anniversary of this tragedy and the time of year it is, I thought it appropriate to run it hear again.

On May 3, 1999, multiple super cell thunderstorms produced many large and damaging tornadoes in central Oklahoma during the late afternoon and evening hours. Some of these storms were killers, including the twisters which moved through or near Dover, Shawnee, Perry, Bridge Creek, Moore and the southern Oklahoma City metropolitan areas. Additional tornadoes also hit areas in south central Kansas, eastern Oklahoma and northern Texas, with over 70 tornadoes being observed across the region.

The current tornado count makes this outbreak the largest ever recorded in Oklahoma. The latest statistics show that 44 people have died in Oklahoma due to the twisters and 675 were injured. Many homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed throughout the affected areas with a total damage estimate of \$1.2 billion. Five deaths, 100 injuries and heavy damage were also incurred in the Wichita, Kansas metro area.

"The Big One" rumbled through Central Oklahoma leaving a trail of devastation nearly 40 miles long. Before finally dying out, this dangerous storm drove its' attack down the western edge of Tinker Air Force Base, finally dying just north of Tinker AFB. From there the storm set it's sites on Tulsa and every point in between was to be affected.

Though the storm has consistently

been referred to as an "F5 tornado", it spent less than 10% of its' life span in the F5 range of the Fujita Scale. A F5 tornado is a tornado that produces wind speeds estimated between 261 and 318 mph. This particular storm actually touched every point from F1 to F5 on the Fujita Scale, but it spent just over 50% of its' life span as a "F4" tornado, which by definition is a tornado that produces estimated wind speeds of between 207 and 260 mph. There was some discussion as to whether the tornado entered into the realm of the so far unrealized territory of a "F6" tornado, but the F6 status has since been written off.

Nearly 80% of all storm related damage in Oklahoma on May 3rd was a direct result of "The Big One", during its track through Cleveland and Oklahoma counties in Central Oklahoma. The damage from the May 3rd outbreak is staggering. In Cleveland and Oklahoma counties alone,

"The Big One" went down in the history books as the most costly tornado in history in terms of the overall dollars and cents of recorded damage.

Mark KD5DLL has shared his prospective on the day's events with us, here is what he recalls.

May 3 1999 started out as just like any other Monday night for me. Every other Monday Boy Scouts meeting was that evening although this night it was Committee meeting night No young men, Just the adult leaders sitting around the table discussing current business for the month and telling a few stories along the way.

Someone's cell phone rang and as everyone was talking to each other

the room went to complete silence when the fella with the cell phone said "there is a Tornado where?". Sure enough the report was there was a monster Tornado ripping through Oklahoma City and it was Marching straight up I-44. They were expecting it to hit the Tulsa area around 10 pm.

As you might have imagined, we adjourned our meeting and headed home. KC5BZS Bryan East was living at my house at the time and we had been out storm spotting quite a few times together in the past and also had completed the storm spotters seminar held for the past 2 years by the TARC. We knew that we needed to get our equipment loaded into the truck so we went right to it. I loaded my laptop and with the APRS running grabbed the flash light with a spare set of batteries, fresh drinking water and a couple of sandwiches. I took my kids to my parents house and kept a ear to the radio listening for updates on the storms progress.

The thing about this storm was we had hours to get ready. When we got the report that Stroud had been hit hard is when Bryan and I headed out. Looking for a good spot to wait for the monster to make it's way to Tulsa.

We decide to head over around HWY 75 and 61st S. There is a church with a big parking lot that looks over the valley to the west. We thought this would give us a good spot that we could watch for the storm as it moved through.. We sat there for what felt like for ever when we heard KC5WJE Mo with the report of a funnel over the Sapulpa's Pretty Water Lake. Then the next report was from the Creek County Civil Defense where it just

Oklahoma Tornado Outbreak May 3, 1999

passed over there building putting them out of business for a while.

With each report we would also call or parents house to keep them informed as to where the thing was. I looked over the APRS location for Creek County, the direction of the funnels travel, and our location and decided that we were in the wrong place to be. Looked like it was going to track right over us. So we hopped back on HWY 75 and we drove a mile south to 71st S., turned around, got back on the HWY and pulled over and waited.

It didn't take long to see the Green flashes when the tornado tore though the power lines. We knew then where it was located and could move closer.

Once we cleared the rise in the road You could see the tornado when the power lines broke and the transformers flashed. As it moved in closer and crossed I-44 it hit our clubs old meeting place at the West Tulsa Library and the Fire station next door then smashing head on

into the Church across the street.

As the tornado made it deeper into town you could see it with the light of town so you could track it very easily. Then for some reason it lifted and was gone. It didn't show it's self again until it was east of town.

By the way if we had stayed at the church we would have had front row seats. BUT it is always better to play it safe. Thanks to Mark for his perspective on the storm.

Now we hear from Dave Ratliff, W5ATV, one of the volunteers that went to OKC to provide any help possible.

Charley, K5TTT called me, Dave, W5ATV at home about 48 hrs after the tornado hit OKC & notified me of a call for amateurs in the OKC area from the OKC EOC & the Salvation Army. I put out a call on our repeater system for any interested amateurs that were able to go to meet me at the Town West shopping center the following morning at 1000 hrs.

Frank/W5TTT picked up the ball & stayed on the linked system all night recruiting volunteers for the mission. Our small group included Bryan/KC5BZS-Dave/KE4OPA-Mark/N7XYO & myself.

We checked in on the Edmond repeater as instructed (it was about the only repeater left standing in the area) and was told to report to the Salvation Army center near downtown. We spent the next three days providing communications and shuffling supplies to the various canteens throughout the affected areas.

We had large Salvation Army signs for our vehicles and that was the ticket to us being able to travel anywhere in the affected area. National Guard, OKC Police, etc. would wave us right on through any and all roadblocks where no one else could get through. Yes, I got lost several times, but someone would talk me through on the radio.

I must relate one story which I will never forget. After dropping off a load of ice to one of the canteens, I was winding through one of the



James, KA5WHM

With a face only a mother could love!
Our fearless leader.



Joel, KC5UGY and Tom, KD5BOW

Robbing the coffee pot and
Looking for mischief!

A letter to an Insurance Company

I am writing in response to your request for additional information on my insurance claim.

In block #3 on the accident reporting form I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following details will be sufficient:

I am an amateur radio operator, and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my 80-foot tower.

When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware.

Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 lbs. of tools.

You will note in block #11 of the accident reporting

form, that I weigh only 155 lbs.

Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope.

Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down.

This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of

the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed 20-lbs. I refer you again to my weight in block #11.

As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up.

This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

This encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools; and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80-feet above me -- I again lost presence of mind. I let go of the rope.

Some days your better off staying in bed.

Just a little reminder to be safe as you do your antenna work this spring.



*Indian Territory
Amateur Radio
Society
KD5SDJ
Serving Okmulgee County
and surrounding communities
in Oklahoma*

Oklahoma Tornado Outbreak continued....

worst hit areas and a man flagged me down in front of his severely damaged house. He said "wait here just a minute" went back in and returned with a huge jar of quarters he had been saving for a "rainy day". He insisted that I take it back & give it to the Salvation Army. I told him he looked like he might need them himself. He said (quote) "Hey, My family is ok and I've got good insurance-give this to the folks who need it" I have no idea how much was in that jar, but it was substantial.

It's times like that, that make me so proud to live in America. The Salvation Army provided us with meals and rooms. They were very grateful for our help and I gained a whole bunch of respect and gratitude for their organization.

It is almost impossible to describe the devastation. Entire neighborhoods were literally swept off the foundations and some had disappeared. An automobile jammed halfway into the ground in the mid-

dle of an open field. One wonders how long it was in the air and where it came from. It was quite an experience but I hope to never see anything like it again. 73, Dave W5ATV.

Me, I came through the day with no problems at all other than taking about ten years off my life due to worry. I have family in the Oklahoma City area that lost everything but their lives. Today they are still living in OKC and thanking God every day for the precious gift of life.

Thank God the tornado lifted just as it crossed the river here and did not touch down until it was the other side of Tulsa. Most of us know where we were May 3rd 1999, some of us had our noses in the television, others were listening to the radio, and still others, way to many of us, were fighting for their lives during the worst tornado outbreak to hit the state of Oklahoma in history.

Today in Oklahoma City life goes

on. People that were there when "The Big One" ripped through the various towns in Oklahoma will not soon forget that terrible day. When ever we see dark clouds on the horizon or hear the warnings on the television, it's hard not to think of the most terrible tornado day in history.

When an event of this magnitude comes around, it burns a memory in our minds that we will eventually pass along to our grand children by saying, "I remember the tornado of 99".

As we enter another tornado season in Oklahoma's tornado alley, let us remember the past and prepare for the future. Someday, maybe soon or maybe not so soon it will happen again. After all, we do live in Oklahoma, the state known as the Heart of Tornado Alley!

Vigilance is the key to protecting our family and loved ones. As we enter another tornado season in Oklahoma, lets all please stay alert and ever vigilant to the severe weather conditions.

DE W5TAZ

I.T.A.R.S. Ham Calendar

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
American Airlines Net 9PM 147.000	Gater Trader Swap M & F 3.898 MHz @ 6:00 PM 1st Mon BAARC Meet 7PM 2nd Monday Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society meet 7:00 pm Broken Arrow ARC Net 8:00PM 146.910 SWOT 2 M SSB Net 9 PM 144.250 OKDXA Net 6:30 PM 3.860	Tulsa ARES/ RACES Net 9PM 146.880 3rd Tue Tulsa Amateur Radio Club 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 7:00 PM 4th Tue TRO Meet 7:30PM	Bartlesville ARES Net 8PM 146.760 Pawhuska ARES Net 9PM 146.985 ATV Net 8PM 147.045/421.250/9 13 6 Meter FM Sim- plex net 9 PM 50.590 TESTING Third Wednesday in odd numbered months 7:00 PM Tulsa, Contact Merlin Griffin WB5OSM @ 622- 2277	TARC Thursday night net 8:00 pm 145.110, and the UHF link system 10 meter SSB Net 9 PM, 28.305 If busy net will move up 5 KC to clear freq	Gater Trader Swap M & F 3.898 MHz @ 6:00 PM TARC TTT Net 9 PM 145.110 K5LRS Swap/Sell 8 PM 146.940	TARC YL Net 8PM 145.110 2nd Sat Salv Ar HF Net 8AM 3.900 Last Sat American Airlines Meet 9AM TESTING First Saturday 9:30 AM Broken Arrow Contact Jack Eg- bert N5EOO @ 918.664.1574 TESTING Last Saturday 10:30 AM Catoosa, Contact Don Feigel, N5JK @ 455-6208

**INDIAN TERRITORY
AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER**



**Indian Territory
Amateur Radio
Society**
P.O. Box 548
Beggs, Ok. 74421
www.qsl.net/kd5sdj

Visit the ARRL
at www.arrl.org



Membership is \$15 (\$5.00 additional family members) per year. Article deadline is the 25th of the month. Articles printed in Smoke Signals may or may not express the view of the club membership or it's officers. The club is not responsible for any articles or ads that are placed in Smoke Signals. Articles may be edited for utilization of space and content. All articles become the property of Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society unless previously copyrighted. Copyrighted articles must have approval of the author before being printed in Smoke Signals. Corrections should be sent to ITARS, at Post Office Box 548, Beggs, OK 74421.

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Bill Griffin, NI5X
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Dave Lugo, W5TAZ

**The ITARS club
meeting will be
held at the
Steak and Egg
6th and Wood
Drive in
Okmulgee the
second Monday
of the month at
7:00 pm.
May 12th**

**Membership Application for the
Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society**

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Year First Licensed _____ License Class and Expiration Date _____ ARRL Member? _____

I, the undersigned, do hereby agree to abide by the Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society's Constitution and Bylaws, the Federal Communications Commission rules and regulations and support the Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society in, the advancement of amateur radio and public services.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Type of Membership _____

Dues received, Treasurer _____ Date _____ Amount Paid Dues: _____

\$15.00 Regular Yearly - (\$20.00 family membership) **Also use membership application for change of address.**

