



# ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



September, 2008

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 8, Number 9

## Hurricane Gustav News

Mark Lacy, W5TXR, notes that hams should avoid 7285, 7248, 3874 and 3975 for the duration of Hurricane Gustav's impact on the United States Gulf Coast. These are the frequencies used by the Texas ARES and RACES.



The ARRL says the National Hurricane Center's Hurricane Watch Net activated at 19Z Sunday, Sep. 31,2008, to establish a list of available reporting stations along the northern Gulf of Mexico shore to begin Monday morning for the forecasted landfall of Gustav there. These are the Hurricane Watch Net frequencies: 14325, 7268, and 3815. The Caribbean Net North Florida frequency is 3950 and South Florida is 3940. The West Gulf Emergency Health and Welfare Net is on 7290 daytime, 3995 nighttime. There is a 72-hour moratorium on inbound health and welfare traffic.



K3ZO has found an interesting broadcast station to listen to on the web, <http://www.wvl.com/> a large station in New Orleans itself, which will have live reports, of course, from the scene as the hurricane hits. This is streaming audio from this key New Orleans AM broadcast station, WWL, which is on 870 kHz. This is a station well known to BC DXers that can be heard hundreds, even thousands of miles away at night.

BREAK - OVER



The ARES COMMUNICATOR is published for the benefit of Amateur Radio Operators in Scott County and other interested individuals.  
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## Tee It Up for the Troops

September 5, 2008

TEE IT UP FOR THE TROOPS is a non-profit organization established by the family and friends of a soldier serving in the U.S. Army. When the father asked what the son needed he responded by asking his father to do something for the soldiers and families of the fallen and disabled back home. TEE IT UP FOR THE TROOPS, INC, was created to help honor that request, and to honor and recognize the needs of all veterans who have served this nation.



The mission statement for Tee it up for the Troops, Inc. states We are a non-profit organization created to help support the fallen and disabled members of our Armed Forces, and their families.

The goal since 2005 is to annually make the Friday closest to September 11th a NATIONAL DAY OF GOLF saluting all those who have answered the call to duty. A day to acknowledge and honor the sacrifice of all military veterans and their families.

In 2007 TEE IT UP FOR THE TROOPS, INC again partnered with the Wounded Warrior Project. In addition

Tee It Up cont'd on page 2

## ARES Activities

Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)  
Breakfast Saturday, September 13th

### SELECTED TRAFFIC NETS

Designator	Freq.	Local Times	
MN Phone	3.860Mhz	Noon, 5:30pm	Daily
MN CW	3.605Mhz	6:30pm, 9:50pm	Daily
<b>ARES</b>			
Scott ARES	146.535 S	7:00pm	Monday
Carver ARES	147.165+	8:30pm	Sunday
Bloomington	147.090+	9:00pm	Sunday
<b>Neighboring Nets</b>			
North Dakota	3.937Mhz	6:30pm	Daily
South Dakota	3.870Mhz	6:00pm	Daily
Wisconsin	3.985Mhz	5:30pm	Daily

## Tee It Up - cont'd from page 1

they also partner with Fisher House and America Supports You organizations. These organizations continue to assist the troops and their families. In 2007 over \$500,000.00 was raised on the "National Day of Golf" and various events around the country.

In 2008 TEE IT UP FOR THE TROOPS, INC will partner with the Fisher House Foundation, America Supports You and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.

You can find more information about courses in your area participating in the project at the organization website, [www.teeitupforthetroops.com](http://www.teeitupforthetroops.com).

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## 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

### Dept. Homeland Security's *READY* CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Ready* Campaign ([www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)) is sponsoring the fifth annual National Preparedness Month (NPM) in September. NPM coalition members will combine efforts throughout the month of September to encourage all Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies before they happen.

The *Ready* Campaign and Citizen Corps ([www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)) are encouraging individuals across the nation to take important preparedness steps that will greatly improve their ability to survive and recover from all types of emergencies, whether natural or man-made. These steps include getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, becoming informed about the different emergencies that may affect them, and getting involved in community preparedness and response efforts. This is the time, each year, when every American should ask the question, "Am I ready?"

For more information on the *Ready* Campaign and NPM, please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or [www.listo.gov](http://www.listo.gov). Individuals can also call 1-800-BE-READY or 1-888-SE-LISTO for more emergency preparedness information.

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### September Events 2008

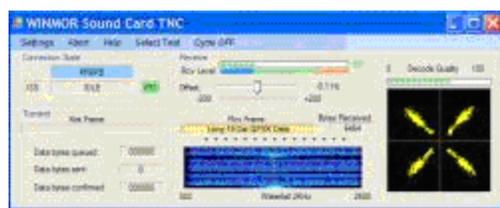
- 1 Labor Day
- 6 North American CW Sprint
- 11 Patriot Day
- 12 070 Club 80M PSK31 Sprint
- 13 Scott ARES Breakfast
- 13-13 ARRL September VHF QSO Party  
NA Phone Sprint
- 19 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 20 Ham Radio Public Awareness Day
- 20-21 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest
- 22 1st Day of Fall
- 27-28 CQ WW RTTY Contest

## New HF Digital Protocol to Debut at DCC

[www.ARRL.org/news](http://www.ARRL.org/news)

WINMOR, an HF digital protocol designed for use with the Winlink 2000 network, will be unveiled at the upcoming ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference in Chicago, September 26-28.

According to developer Rick Muething, KN6KB, WINMOR will effectively eliminate the need for external



PACTOR hardware. "This new protocol is implemented through a Windows application that uses a

computer sound card for all the analog-to-digital conversion. It provides error-free ARQ transfers within 200, 500 or 2000 Hz bandwidths," Muething said.

In terms of throughput, Muething said that the 200-Hz WINMOR mode appears to equal the performance of PACTOR I. In WINMOR's 2000 Hz mode, its performance rivals PACTOR III.

"WINMOR is a work in progress," Muething said. "We won't be pulling the wraps off a finished application at the conference. We're close, though. I'd like to see on-air testing in 3 to 6 months."

Conference information and registration is available online or by telephone at 972-671-8277. Rick Muething's presentation paper, *WINMOR... A Sound Card ARQ Mode for Winlink HF Digital Messaging*, is included in the conference proceedings. Proceedings will also be available for sale on the ARRL Web after the conference.

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*"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."*

Abraham Lincoln

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## POW MIA Day

September 19, 2008

A Pentagon ceremony for National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held on Friday, Sept. 19, 2008. This ceremony will feature troops from each of the military services. The president will issue a proclamation commemorating the observances and reminding the nation of those Americans who have sacrificed so much for their country.



Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. The flag is to be flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, all post offices, VA medical facilities, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the official offices of the secretaries of state, defense and veterans affairs, the director of the selective service system and the White House.

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## What is that tower?

<http://www.antennasearch.com>

Curious about that tower or antenna you pass everyday? There is a site that uses Google Map to locate antennas and towers within a four mile radius of a specific address. The site, Antenna Search [www.antennasearch.com](http://www.antennasearch.com), identifies existing towers and antennas as well as towers in the planning stages.

Go ahead and put in your home address and see if there are towers and antennas you missed. You might find some interesting sites. It is easy to determine the dominant cellular carrier in the area by a quick click on some of the sites. You will also find some antennas apparently used for private data transmission and security on businesses.

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## Veteran's Scholarships Available

### General Edward W. Waldon Scholarships

The Masonic Grand Lodge of Minnesota with funding support from Minnesota Masonic Charities will once again award two hundred (200) \$1,000 scholarship awards to the members of the Minnesota National Guard and various Minnesota Reserve units serving in combat zones in honor of their service to our country.



Major General Edward W. Waldon 1925–2003  
Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota – 1992

The Major General Edward W. Waldon Scholarship is named in honor of the late Major General Edward W. Waldon, who once commanded the Minnesota National Guards' 47th "Viking" Infantry Division. Most Minnesota Masons knew Ed as a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota from 1992.

These awards will not be based on the individual recipient's grades or past results as a student. They may be used to pay tuition or they can be applied towards the cost of the Montgomery GI Bill expense. Service in the combat zones since 9/11/2001 is the only prerequisite to apply for this scholarship, no Masonic affiliation is required. Last year over 450 applications were received, and the lottery for the winning 200 scholars was held in January, 2008.

The National Guard and Reserve units will once again broadcast the availability of these scholarships to the men and women who make up their ranks, but if you know of someone who qualifies to receive this award, encourage them to contact the Grand Lodge office by e-mail to [grandlodge@qwest.net](mailto:grandlodge@qwest.net) to receive the simple application form.

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## Critical Path Analysis

Jerry Wellman, W7SAR  
WorldRadio September, 2008

For those of you with some project management experience you'll recognize the term "critical path analysis." If you're familiar with the concept skip the next few paragraphs.

Let me give you an example. I'm planning on replacing the shingles on my roof and have hired some roofers to do the labor with the understanding that I'll get all of the supplies. If the roofers arrive before the shingles, the project won't happen within my budget as I'll have to pay them extra hours while they wait. If the delivery of shingles isn't made to the roof, the workers are not going to hoist the bundles onto the roof.

There's a "critical path" of events that MUST-occur in proper order and with proper timing for the project to happen effectively. We're not including outside influences such as a thunderstorm or an earthquake. We're just talking about the elements of the project that must happen in a certain timely order for the best conclusion.

What if the workers are on site and the shingles are on the roof but the nails don't arrive? What if all the materials are there but no workers show up? The outcome of the project is "on time, on budget" or "late and on budget" or perhaps "late and over budget." Worst case is simply "not completed." When you diagram the project, certain elements are "critical," without which the project cannot be completed. All of these elements, in their proper order and scheduling, create the "critical path."

Let's apply this to an Amateur Radio response 'to an event. Can you think of critical elements? What if the radio was there but no operator, the EOC had radios but no licensed operators? A few months ago a fellow responded to an emergency incident but neglected to bring the proper microphone for his radio. He was limited in his ability to program the radio and this affected his effectiveness. Today I got a call from a fellow who is supporting a youth activity. One of his radios was missing a fuse and did I have any suggestions or concerns if they just spliced around the fuse.

I have been on events where I've needed an adapter to match coax to a radio or an antenna. My vehicle can be full of gear but without the needed adapter I could not fulfill my communicator role. Sometimes we can splice a wire or make temporary modifications to allow our "project" to

Critical Path cont'd on page 5



## Critical Path *cont'd from pg. 4*

be completed. Sometimes a missing and critical part will delay or prevent our project from happening.

The concept for you is to consider the “critical path” for your communications response and to plan accordingly. For some it’s ensuring you have a checklist of necessary items and making sure each item is included. Sometimes it’s carrying spares or redundant systems.

I have been chided (and you may have also been subject to this kidding as well) by well-meaning associates who chuckle at my bringing a lot of spares or complete extra systems. I’ve been asked why I have a spare radio, several runs of spare coax, a box of adapters, a spare antenna and a spare radio. “After all,” I’ve been told, “you could just borrow a radio if you needed one.” Sharing and borrowing of gear is great, as long as the gear is there and the owner is willing to lend.

My message is to plan on self-sufficiency and have the mind-set of looking at your own gear BEFORE you go and ensuring you have critical items. I’ve been able to splice or repair coax - but this depends on the size of the coax, the temperature of the coax (try fixing coax in sub-zero weather) and having time to complete the repairs. I’ve had all sorts of things fail at the worst possible time, fail when they were not supposed to and have loaned “stuff” to others, never to see it again.

It would be a nice world if every radio had the same antenna and power and microphone connector. It would be great if every antenna had the same connector. It would be great if every fuse was the same size and shape.

At one time I was rewiring connectors on my radios so any microphone would be interchangeable. It worked for a while as I replaced four-, five- and six-pin connectors with eight-pin connectors and made sure the wiring was standard. And then came some RJ-45 connectors and other DIN connectors and I’d have to make adapters in order to make everything match. It became too daunting a task and I’ve abandoned trying.

For a while my “fuse box” only had glass fuses and they were of the same physical size. If I needed a fuse I could find a match or at least find a fuse that would fit in an emergency. And then came blade fuses - tiny ones, medium ones and big ones. And glass fuses in small sizes. Now my fuse box has quite an assortment and I’ve no assurance that I will have the proper one or could quickly find it!

In my response gear I have an adapter kit that allows me to create RF adapters so I can match coax and antenna and radio. It was great as long as all of the various adapter ends were used by manufacturers. And then came SMA and

TNC, connectors. There were mini-UHF connectors. I had to buy some additional parts for my adapter kit to be of value. Who knows what new connector will be included next? It’s frustrating.

But here’s the advice for you: Please look at your OWN gear and ensure you have spare critical components so you can complete your project. BEFORE you leave, ensure you have spare fuses for the radios YOU have with you. BEFORE you leave, ensure you have coax with proper connectors’ and have a spare. You might want to check the set screws on critical antennas (one operator reported the whip was missing from his vehicle antenna and must have fallen out en route). The systems you need to evaluate are the needed systems for your response. I may have a CB radio as well as a VHF radio in my vehicle. If I’m expected to use the VHF radio for the event, that’s the critical system I need to check.

My advice? Use a checklist, check the connections, bring spares. .Don’t go crazy and duplicate everything, just plan for the most expected failures, If you’re new at responding and supporting communications, please ask some experienced folk for suggestions. This makes a great round-table discussion for your next meeting, i.e. sharing failure stories and talking through ideas on how to “complete the project” when the critical items fail.

### *Creeping complacency*

I was reading a website and found a concept I like. It’s called creeping complacency. Here’s how it works. In 1999 there was a great concern (and panic some might say) that when all of the computers clicked over to 2000 they would fail and the world would be plunged into crisis. There was an outpouring of preparedness as we planned for major interruptions to life. When life was not interrupted, all of that preparedness was neglected and our generators were neglected and our emergency food was left to go bad.

Shortly after 9/11 we were again in preparedness mode. We readied our gear for terrorist threats. Years later, our preparedness efforts were neglected again.

After the Katrina Hurricane’ events, many of us readied our gear, sharpened our skills and prepared to respond when the next “big one” happened. Today our 10 cards are expired, our gear is scattered and we’re not as ready to respond as we were a few months after Katrina hit.

Some of you continue to have the vision and are on top of your preparedness. I salute you. Others have fallen prey to “creeping complacency” and have neglected to maintain an effective preparedness level. To the latter group I encour-

## Critical Path *cont'd from pg. 5*

age you to take a reflective moment and spend a little time getting back into a response mode. When responders were needed following Katrina, one criterion was to have hepatitis shots. Several of us discovered the complete series of three shots took six months (and \$150) to complete. Of a dozen or so who discussed the need for the shots I'm the only one locally that's completed the shots -<sup>2</sup> and we're in the hurricane season. If the call goes out today for volunteers and one criterion is a hepatitis shot, I'd be the only one from this group that would be allowed to go. An informal poll of several who didn't get the shots revealed reasons like: I forgot. I got busy. I forgot to call the insurance company to see if the cost was covered.

We often have the very best intentions just following the event but things like the economy and high fuel prices 'distract us. Following a "BIG" event we get motivated to be ready "next time." When "next time" doesn't come quickly enough we allow complacency to enter the picture. As months become years and the "big one" doesn't happen, our complacency increases and our attention is focused on other concerns.

Please take a few moments and make the resolve to increase your level of preparedness. Don't attempt to do it all today! Just take a few nibbles over the next few days and weeks and months and maintain an effective preparedness and response level.



## UPDATE ON THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

### New DX Countries?

By: Martti Laine, OH2BH

Many have been wondering what the status with regard to the Republic of Kosovo is as of today, both in general and in amateur radio terms specifically. Substantial progress has been made, and a new approach to get Kosovo totally on its own feet is well on its way. The United Nations (UNMIK) has scaled down its administrative role while the European Union (EULEX) has initiated its supporting role to help integrate the "interim administration" functions into the local institutions.

The United Nations Frequency Management Office (FMO) is one of those local institutions. This Office was responsible for authorizing Amateur Radio operations before and after the Kosovar declaration of independence, but as of today the FMO does not exist nor are licenses issued. You may still hear some stations operating as YU8 since those licenses issued in the past have not been specifically terminated.

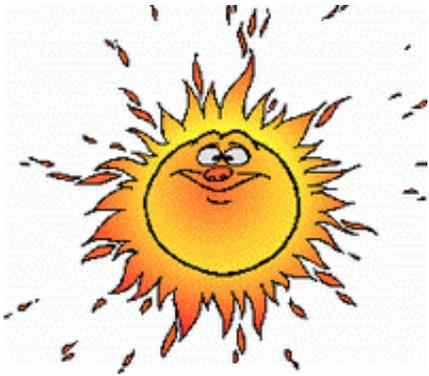
Undoubtedly, Kosovo as a "country" has all required country requirements; (A) a defined territory, (B) a permanent population and (C) a government and (D) is capable of interacting with other countries with whom it has established diplomatic relations. As of today, the Republic of Kosovo is recognized by 46 countries representing many leading states and all geographical continents.

From an Amateur Radio and DXCC perspective, a great deal of confusing discussion has taken place; one side argues that the DXCC criteria needs to be honored at all times. Others see the criteria as not being engraved on a tablet of stone but that the rules facilitate "entities" dynamically in the context of an ever-changing world. Both views have some merit and should be appreciated.

Western Sahara (SO), another disputed DXCC country, is currently recognized by 48 countries and even today it is not a member of the United Nations nor does it have a dedicated ITU prefix. At the time Amateur Radio entered this desert country, no one had argued that it belonged to DXCC. When Swains Island was up for DXCC discussion it was decided that the DXCC criteria had to be changed and so Swains entered the scene. Swains was added not decades ago - but just recently.

Before Swains Island, DXCC used three "measuring sticks"; UN membership, ITU prefix or IARU society. In facilitating Swains, the ARRL Board of Directors decided to keep the UN and ITU parts but changed the IARU rule to

# SOLAR PROPAGATION



## Across

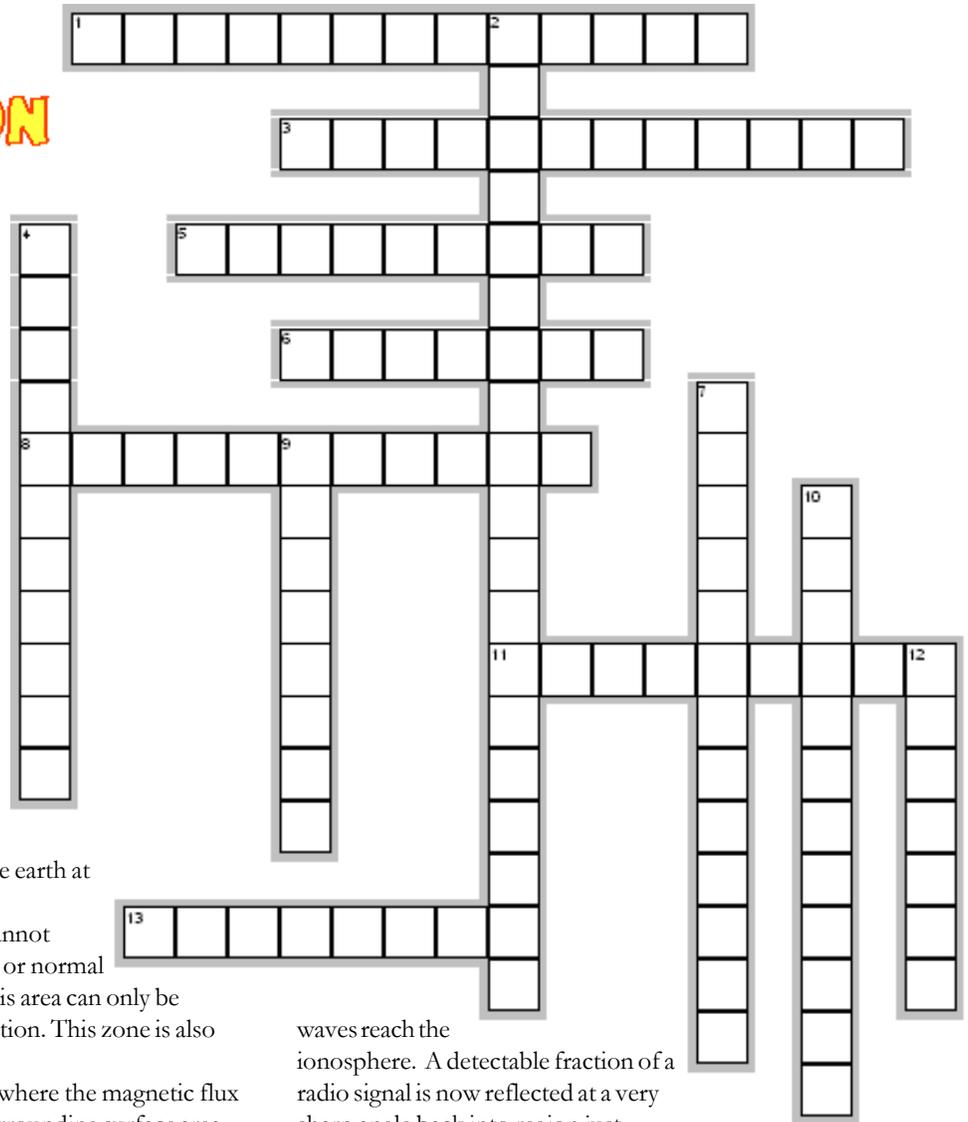
1. A stream of charged particles originating from the sun's surface that increase the A- and K-indices and may cause major storm levels at the higher latitudes on earth resulting in total propagation fade-out at these latitudes.
3. An eruption of positively charged nuclear particles from the sun's surface that usually reach the earth within an hour after the eruption and they usually impact the earth at the polar regions.
5. The area around a radio station which cannot normally be worked by either ground waves or normal ionospheric sky waves. Usually stations in this area can only be worked via intermittent backscatter propagation. This zone is also called the "skip zone" by the US Military.
6. A small area on the sun's visible surface where the magnetic flux lines converge that appear darker than the surrounding surface area because they are relatively cooler in temperature.
8. Large eruptions of energy and charged particles from the sun's surface. They are usually accompanied by coronal mass ejections and/or proton flares. They may last from minutes to hours.
11. The constant stream of charged particles originating from the sun which has speeds ranging from 200km/s to 700km/s.
13. The area occurring along the sunset and sunrise zones (i.e. also called the terminator in astronomy) has special significance to radio communications. Signals which travel along this region often experience significant improvements in received signal strengths as compared to the direct shortest distance communications.

## Down

2. The only form of propagation that is directly influenced by the surface weather of the earth. When a radio wave travels through a climate inversion they can be refracted back to the surface of the earth after traveling significant distances. Finally, this propagation effect is seen most often in the VHF and UHF bands, especially the 6m band.
4. A useful form of propagation which mostly occurs when the maximum usable frequency (MUF) rises above 30MHz, when radio

- waves reach the ionosphere. A detectable fraction of a radio signal is now reflected at a very sharp angle back into region just surrounding the transmitting station but usually beyond the range of ground wave communications (i.e., blind zone).
7. A remarkable type of propagation caused by the ionization by shooting stars entering the earth's atmosphere.
9. A slow moving "cord-like" mass of plasma which moves across the sun's surface.
10. An area of enhanced activity on the sun's surface that is associated with a complex magnetic field.
12. On rare occasions, two or more inversions may appear at different altitudes. Radio waves can be transported between these two inversions. The effect is usually confined to 2m, usually along frontal systems, and it almost never occurs below frequencies of 50MHz.

**School Days  
Begin!**



## Kosovo Update - cont'd from page 6

recording of an event by the US Department of State, which again opened up another gate for more DXCC entities.

Now Kosovo meets the highest US Department of State criteria - Kosovo is an independent state recognized by the United States and easily passes the US State Department gate, if that gate is honored in the right spirit. With DXCC rules in place as they existed before Swains, Kosovo would enter through the IARU gate because of its permanent amateur radio population and its national society, SHRAK.

The above is just an illustration of the dynamics of the DXCC at any given time, following the dynamics of the world.

The world outside Kosovo abounds with many other examples that offer a slightly different perspective in the international arena. Another oft-mentioned entity - Northern Cyprus - is recognized only by Turkey, and the situation regarding Cyprus remains deadlocked. Two new cases - South Ossetia and Abkhazia - are recognized by the Russian Federation and probably soon by Belarus (EW) and Venezuela (YV). If they ever achieve wider recognition apart from the countries subject to the current conflict, they will become another set of DXCC candidates.

An immediate UN membership gate is pointed more in the direction of those that get themselves established with no gun fire. The UN's potential for resolving conflicts to its own satisfaction is seriously hampered by the Security Council veto structure that plays a major role in eliminating new countries at that gate.

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*"Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused."*

Ella Quince

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## Lessons from Gustav

The latest deluge to hit New Orleans highlights several important components of emergency communications.

The Plan:

The evacuation of the city shows that any plan is only as effective as the planning and effort invested in developing and testing all the various parts.

Communications:

Smooth implementation of the plan depends on frequent, accurate, and reliable information for everyone involved. All the players have to know what is expected of them to allow them to perform at their best.

Equipment:

Emergency equipment reliability is based on the regular effort invested in testing and maintenance. Hospitals that found non-functional generators and communications systems learned an important lesson.

Ingenuity:

No plan can cover all the possible challenges that arise during a disaster. Responders need to make decisions to handle these items. The quality of the responder's decisions is determined by the amount of training and practice they have accumulated.

How do these lessons apply to ARES members? Ask yourself a couple of questions: What have you done in the last year to increase your training? When did you last check your communications equipment and the items in your jump kit? When did you last participate in a directed net? When did you last review your ARES activation plan?

BREAK - OVER



### ARES Breakfast

Saturday September 13th  
7:30AM  
Perkins Restaurant  
Savage, MN

### NECOS Schedule September 2008

1 Sep	KC0YHH Tony
8 Sep	N0PI Dan
15 Sep	W0NFE Bob
22 Sep	KB0FH Bob
29 Sep	KC0YHH Tony
6 Oct	N0PI Dan