



ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



June, 2006

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 6, Number 6

HURRICANE STATION TEST

Saturday June 3, 2006

The National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC (<http://www.wx4nhc.org/>) will conduct its "Hurricane Season 2006 On-the-Air Station Test" this Saturday, June 3, from 1300 until 2200 UTC (8AM - 5PM CDT).



The annual station test provides an opportunity for WX4NHC to check out all of its radio equipment, computers and antennas using as many modes and frequencies as possible. It's also a chance for RFI (interference) monitoring of NHC equipment and to conduct some operator training. It is not a contest or simulated hurricane exercise.

WX4NHC will operate on HF, VHF and UHF. Phone frequencies will be 7.268, 14.325, 21.325 and 28.525 MHz. CW frequencies will be 14.035, 21.035 and 28.035 MHz. PSK31 will be on 14.070 MHz.

When working WX4NHC, report your call sign, signal report, location, name and a brief description of current weather conditions (eg, "sunny," "rainy," "windy"). Non-hams may participate by submitting their actual weather conditions using the On-Line Hurricane Report Form <<http://www.wx4nhc.org/WX-form1.html>>.

QSL cards are available for an SASE to WX4NHC Assistant Amateur Radio Volunteer Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, 14855 SW 67 Ln, Miami, FL 33193-2027. Do not QSL directly to the National Hurricane Center. Due to security measures, no visitors will be allowed at NHC during this test.

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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Reader submissions encouraged!

Quick Training Tips

Handling Traffic Using Prowords: I Spell

Olny smrat poelpe can raed tihs.

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid!

Aoccdmrig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit plcae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm.

Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lterer by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot spleling was ipmoranttl!

Well, I wouldn't say that only smart people can read that paragraph but it does show how we do a great job of unconsciously filling-in-the-blanks. This is an interesting exercise when it arrives via e-mail, however this ability can be a disaster when passing information in an emergency situation. Effective emergency communications rely on accuracy and speed.

I Spell cont'd pg. 2

ARES Activities

Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)
Breakfast Saturday June 10th

SELECTED TRAFFIC NETS

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

I Spell *cont'd from pg. 1*

If you were to send the first line of the paragraph by voice you would be tempted to say, "Only smart people can read this." You would be wrong!

The only way the first line could be accurately send is by using the prowords "I Spell" as follows; "I SPELL Oscar Lima November Yankee, I SPELL Sierra Romeo Mike Alpha Tango, I SPELL Papa Oscar Echo Lima Papa Echo, can I SPELL Charlie Alpha November, can, I SPELL Romeo Alpha Echo Delta, I SPELL Tango India Hotel Sierra".

Notice how the prowords I SPELL indicate the start of a new group of characters except in the case of the word "can". When phonetically spelling a specific word that may have sound-alike variations, the procedure is, you say the word, say I SPELL, spell the word phonetically, and then say the word a second time. This technique would be critical in defining the words; to, too, two, or the numeral two.

Complicated or high precision information requires the use of high precision techniques in accurately passing the information to the proper recipient.

BREAK - OVER



Take Your HT to Work

Tuesday June 20th



The very best Amateur Radio recruiter is a ham.

On June 20 we are encouraging all hams in the US that have an HT to take it with them to work. Wear it on your belt, put it on your desk or some other place **where your co-workers can see it**. We hope that it will raise curiosity and questions. This is a chance for you to talk to them about ham radio! At lunchtime, show them how it works. Make some contacts while they are watching. Even better, **let them talk** on the radio! Then invite your co-workers to come see you at Field Day weekend. There they can meet even more hams, see a full station in simulated emergency operations, learn more and get information so that they too can get their Technician license.

BREAK - OVER

Ham Ingenuity in Katrina Response

A Mississippi radio amateur and broadcaster who braved the fury of Hurricane Katrina to keep his ham radio club's low-power FM (LPFM) broadcast station WQRZ-LP on the air was one of three recipients to receive the Small Business Administration (SBA) Phoenix Award. The SBA honored ARRL Member Brice Phillips, KB5MPW, of Bay Saint Louis, for "Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery by a Volunteer."

"We are proud to be the first Amateur Radio organization-owned broadcast facility in the US—and proud Mississippians—to serve our state and as a model to the country as the first broadcast station to be attached to an emergency operations center," Phillips says. He notes that the station lost everything to the storm except "our lives and our commitment to the community."

**WQRZ-LP
103.5 FM
Kiln, MS.**

Owned and operated by the Hancock County Amateur Radio Association, WQRZ-LP (103.5 FM) was built and is operated by volunteers with disabilities. Before Hurricane Katrina hit, Phillips and WQRZ-LP Program Director Christine Stach, KC5RIC, relocated the station from a small shed next to their house in Waveland to the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which was forced to move twice.

As the storm surge waters reached the building's second level, Phillips braved the elements and rigged car batteries to power the station's broadcasts of search-and-rescue and other emergency information. WQRZ was one of only four of the more than three dozen Gulf Coast radio stations—and the only one in Hancock County—to stay on the air during the early days after Katrina struck. Phillips also was among the many radio amateurs providing emergency communication in the storm-stricken region.

FEMA distributed 3000 FM radios to Hancock County storm survivors so they could tune to WQRZ-LP and learn where to get food, water, ice, tarpaulins, help from the Red Cross and The Salvation Army and other survival assistance.

Normally solar-powered, WQRZ-LP serves the Bay Saint Louis, Waveland, Diamondhead and Kiln areas of Mississippi. WQRZ-LP's licensee, the Hancock County Amateur Radio Association, is a non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) organization.

BREAK - OVER

THE NATURE OF DISASTERS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR AMATEUR RADIO Part Two

By Tom Cox VE6TOX

(Editor's Note: This is Part Two of a three part series covering a presentation to the Communications Academy 2006, April 1, 2006, Burien WA)

CHARACTERISTICS OF DISASTER RESPONSE

Emergencies are taken care of on a local level - it is what emergency services are staffed and trained to do. By definition, anything that is beyond the capabilities of the local services or severely impacts the local emergency services requires outside help. As well, disasters often cross local jurisdictional boundaries. This means that you will have multiple organizations responding. You have no idea what that means until you see it! [In a Detroit plane crash, there were 69 fire departments and a total of 288 different organizations which eventually responded.]

Convergence of Responders. Everyone and their (Search and Rescue) dog comes. This includes off-duty, retired, probationary, volunteer, fired and wanna-be personnel.

Convergence of Organizations - Red Cross, Salvation Army, church groups, Disaster Child Services, SPCA, ARES, RACES, CERT.... Dozens or hundreds of organizations will arrive.

Convergence of Media - local outlets are augmented by regional, national and international media looking for unique stories.

Convergence of Relatives - especially if children are affected, every relative will come looking for missing family members.

Convergence of Volunteers - emergency services will be overwhelmed with something they rarely allow otherwise with the addition of volunteers.

Convergence of Equipment and Supplies - because the exact needs are unknown, supplies will be ordered approximately three times more or three times less than what is actually required. The lack of information on the scope of the disaster, the numbers of people affected and the most severely affected areas means that supplies will be poorly allocated.

Convergence of Spectators. They will interfere with the responders trying to reach the scene.

"Who is in charge" becomes a major issue. Legal requirements, multi-jurisdictional devastation, multiple agencies, conflicting priorities mean much time is spent initially picking the top person or much more time will be spent

debating and working against one-another. Situation reports are given infrequently and are not updated. Emergency organizations may know that their situation has changed, but they rarely advise outside organizations, agencies or the public because they never do it on a regular basis.

Rumors start in the absence of reliable government or response agency information. Spontaneous sources of information will spring up in the absence of a widespread, easily accessible official source of information. Emergency services will turn to these ad-hoc sources because they too are not getting all the information they need.

Logistics issues become huge. Not only does the over- or under-supply of scarce resources cause problems, but the transportation issues become huge. Which roads are blocked? What bridges are out? What streets are gridlocked by fleeing evacuees and responding agencies and relatives?

Logistics issues become huge with the allocation of scarce resources. Who gets the ten generators when there are thousands of needs? The hospitals? The reception centers? The fire halls? The water supply? The gas stations to supply fuel for the fire trucks? The utility companies? The Red Cross? The Amateur Radio operators?

Financial issues are ignored until later. There is an attitude in the disaster response of "someone will pay for this." At the end of the day, the government says "Let's see the purchase order. Let's see the receipts. Let's see the authorization." Issues like "If everyone else is donating meals for the responders, why should McDonalds be the only one to get paid?" or "Why are urban firefighters being paid seven times the amount of forest fire fighters for doing the same job side-by-side?"

With fire trucks destroyed, roads blocked, water mains broken, emergency response becomes very, very creative. This creates unusual responses and unusual locations. Whatever works!

Unusual responses include things like:

- Firefighters using bulldozers or helicopters rather than ladders and hoses.
- Inmates being used to cook for the first responders.
- Garbage dumpsters used to transport essential supplies.
- Naval vessels being used to power reception centers.

Nature of Disaster *cont'd from pg. 3*

- Trains being run down streets with no rails in order to supply power to reception centers and government buildings.

- Firefighters using heavy dump trucks to reach flood victims.

Unusual responses result in unusual locations being used, for example:

- Airport terminals used as hospitals.
- Burger joints being used as police headquarters
- Breweries used to supply water for hundreds of thousands of people.
- Highways and roads used as landing pads and jails.

Incident Command will be used to organize the response. It is the best system in the world at this time for disaster response and deals directly with many of the most critical management, safety and logistical issues that arise in every disaster.

There will be confusion because different agencies use different versions of incident command, agencies take only the parts of incident command that they like and disregard the rest, and new positions and titles are added to keep people happy or reflect their normal organizational structure.

If there is one phone left in the entire country, responders will attempt to make communications by phone because that is what they know and that is what they are comfortable with. In a disaster, there is no time to learn how to use a satellite phone, a radio or any other type of communications system.

At the end of the day, there will be a huge effort to list the "lessons learned". This will be given to the people who have just learned the lessons of this once-in-a-lifetime experience and will be ignored by those who are about to go through a disaster.

Next month the third and final installment will deal with the Nature of Amateur Radio in disasters.

BREAK - OVER



History of the Courage Handiham System

By: Patrick Tice, WA0TDA,
Manager, Courage Handiham System

(A note from WA0TDA: Is it time for "revisionist history"? Next year will mark our 40th anniversary. We are updating the official Handiham history, and want to know if our readers and listeners have any recollections that should be included. It seems odd to "update" a history, but you never know what people might be able to recall, so here it is)

The Courage Handiham System was "born" in Rochester, Minnesota in 1967; the idea of Ned Carman, W0ZSW. Ned worked for a clinic, and, in the course of his work, would visit people with severe physical disabilities. As he spoke with his clients, who often had few opportunities to leave their homes, he realized that Amateur Radio would be the perfect hobby for them. Here was a hobby that could open a window to the world! A person with the most severe disabilities could stand as an equal with fellow hams in the world of Amateur Radio!

Ned enlisted the help of a group of local nuns, the Sisters of St. Francis, on April 30, 1967. Although their first action was as weather watchers during a thunderstorm that passed through Rochester that day, the Sisters were committed to helping Ned with his new project, and several received their licenses. Among them was Sister Alverna O'Laughlin, WA0SGJ, the former Educational Coordinator for the Handiham System, now retired. The first Handiham was Edna (Eddy) Thorson, N0YL, who took her General Class license exam in December, 1967.



Very soon the Rochester, Minnesota Amateur Radio Club, and a little later the PICONET of South Eastern Minnesota took up the torch of service that Ned had lighted. Word of the Handiham System spread rapidly throughout southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

By 1969 it was very evident that the expansion of Handiham services could not continue without some rather substantial financial support. This support came from the non-profit Minnesota Society for Crippled Children and

Handihams *cont'd on pg. 5*

Handihams *cont'd from pg. 4*

Adults (whose name would later change to “Courage Center”). The Society granted full affiliate status to the fledgling System and helped with money and equipment.

Word of the Handiham System spread throughout the Upper Midwest, then across the country, and around the world. It became impossible to continue the work of the System as a volunteer organization. Something had to be done, or Handihams would be a victim of its own success. The answer emerged when Courage Center agreed to accept the System as a program, and in 1975 the Minnesota Handiham System merged with Courage Center to become a full service, providing help wherever there was a need.

The Courage Handiham System, now a fully integrated service of Courage Center, is able to call on the resources of its parent organization, from accounting and counseling to rehabilitation medicine and physical therapy, in order to better serve its students and members.

Everyone knew by the early 1990's that ham radio had become a much more complicated activity, with personal computers appearing in the typical ham shack, and radios incorporating many new functions and modes of operation. An “operating skills” course was added to Handiham training to make sure that Handiham members would be able to operate their equipment safely, legally, and effectively. Assistive technology, including screenreading computing for blind users, is incorporated in Handiham Radio Camps and in Handiham online education.

From the earliest days, there were people who could not attend a Radio Camp session or travel to a Handiham class. There was a need to serve people with disabilities with ham radio training at a distance, so the Handiham System became one of the earliest “distance education” programs. Cassette tapes came into use to help teach blind and other members who could not easily attend a regular ham radio class or use regular printed books. Today, the program still emphasizes amateur radio education. In 2003, “CHU, or “Courage Handiham University” was added as a website service to deliver audio lectures via the Internet.

Regular Monday Handiham Nets on the HF bands are active, but we do not know the date these began. If anyone can help us out with this information, we would be most grateful. The nets date back to at least the 1980's.

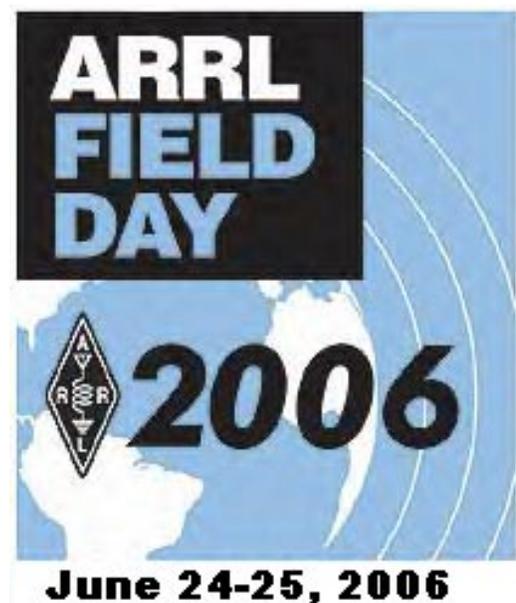
A regular Handiham EchoLink worldwide net was added in 2003, and has been gaining in popularity as the sunspot cycle continues its decline and HF band conditions are less reliable.

Handiham stations are now in operation at Courage St. Croix, Stillwater, MN; Camp Courage, Maple Lake, MN; Courage North, Lake George, MN; Courage Center in Golden Valley, MN, and in California during the winter Radio Camp session. In 2005, testing began in remotely-controlled HF station access, and a worldwide audio podcast was added to the long list of Handiham services.

Radio Camp sessions in Minnesota and California and other Handiham services serve members from everywhere in the United States and around the world. Members learn radio, electronic theory, and computing, but they also learn that they can accomplish what they set out to do! Ned Carman is a silent key, but the Courage Handiham System's headquarters station bears his callsign, W0ZSW, and an organization of volunteers and paid staff carries on his good work of sharing Amateur Radio with people who have physical disabilities.

(Editor's Note: Want more information about Handiham? Start by visiting the website, <http://www.handiham.org>, and look over the menu options. Sign up for the weekly email newsletter and don't overlook the “DONATE” link. You can be assured your donation of dollars and / or equipment will be put to good use.)

BREAK - OVER



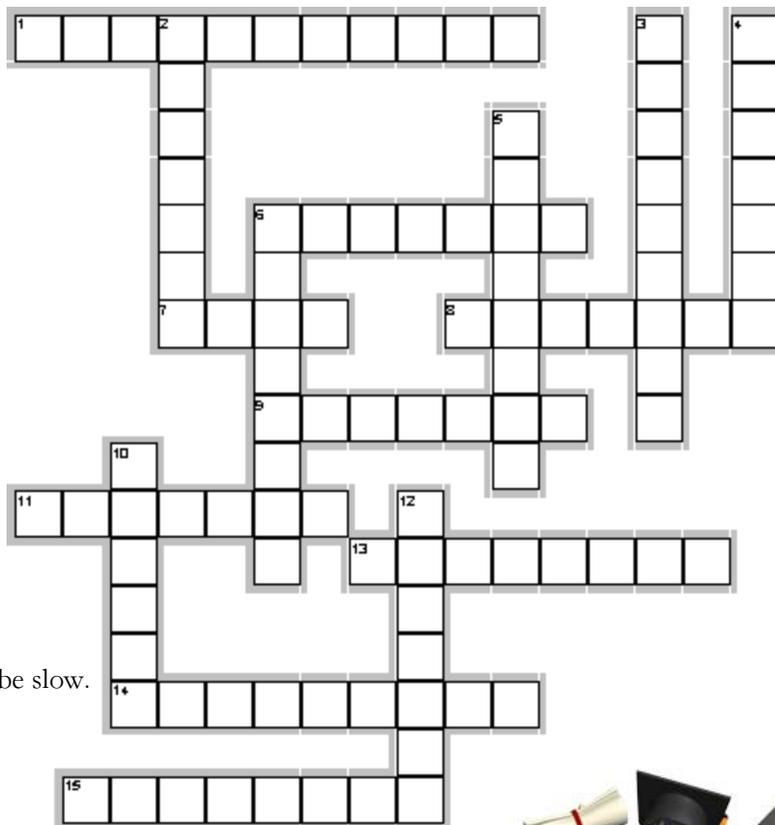
SUMMER ACTIVITY

Across

1. Promoting lush, green, growth.
6. Seeing the sites from two wheels.
7. Trying to hit the ball straight.
8. Deciphering the printed page.
9. Planing over the rippled surface.
11. Hitting the ball through the arches.
13. Played by the 'boys of summer'
14. Irritating mother nature to encourage growth.
15. Frolicking in one of the 10,000.

Down

2. Planned ultraviolet radiation exposure
3. Most desired after activity in the hot sun.
4. This is always good however the catching may be slow.
5. Gliding through the no-wake zone.
6. Desired by adults after activity in the hot sun
10. How to maintain that well manicured lawn.
12. A neighborhood tour, on foot.



RADIOGRAM Crossword Solution May '06

Across

1. ADDRESSEE—The person to whom the message is sent.
5. STATION OF ORIGIN—Station writing the message.
6. NUMBER—Assigned to each message for tracking purposes.
7. I SPELL—Proword used when sending a confusing word.
9. XRAY—Proword used to indicate punctuation in the message text.
10. HXE—Get a reply from the addressee.
11. FIGURES—Proword used when sending a group of numerals.
13. CHECK—The number of words in the message text.
14. DATE—When the message was written.

Down

2. SIGNATURE—Identification of the person sending the message.
3. PLACE OF ORIGIN—Location where the message started.
4. TIME—When the message was written AM/PM
8. PRECEDENCE—Routine, Priority, Welfare, etc.
12. BREAK—Proword used before and after the message text.

CONGRATULATIONS!
2006 GRADUATES



ARES Breakfast

Saturday June 10th
7:30AM
Perkins Restaurant
Savage, MN



NECOS Schedule - June 2006

5 Jun	KB0FH Bob
12 Jun	AB0YQ Steve
19 Jun	K0KTW Pat
26 Jun	N0PI Dan
3 Jul	W0NFE Bob