

Feed Line



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Amateur Radio Making a Difference in Gulf Region

EWINGTON, CT, Sep 13, 2005- Amateur Radio equipment and supplies now arriving at the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina relief staging area in Montgomery, Alabama, are being turned around as quickly as possible and heading out into the field with volunteers. A team headed by Alabama ARRL Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, has been on duty for some two weeks now, overseeing Amateur Radio volunteer intake and registration and trying to satisfy the ever-changing requirements of the Red Cross and other served agencies. Sarratt says equipment that started showing up over the weekend is being inventoried and sent right into the field as needed.

"The American Red Cross and other served agencies are very thankful and appreciative that we are helping them out," Sarratt said this week. "I have talked with several ARC folks who said they

could not operate without us!"

ARES and MARS member Matt Hackman, KB1FUP, was among a Rhode Island contingent processed over the weekend through the Montgomery marshaling center for duty in Mississippi. The New England volunteers were able to take advantage of the newly donated handheld transceivers, HF transceivers and antennas for use in and around Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Hackman said Red Cross personnel were using VHF simplex to keep in contact with each shelter. He and two other Rhode Islanders replaced operators rotating out of duty.

"I was assigned to the First Baptist Church in Pascagoula, which is being operated as a feeding station by the Southern Baptist Convention," he explained. "SBC is separate from Red Cross with their own relief organization and own Amateur Radio support, but very

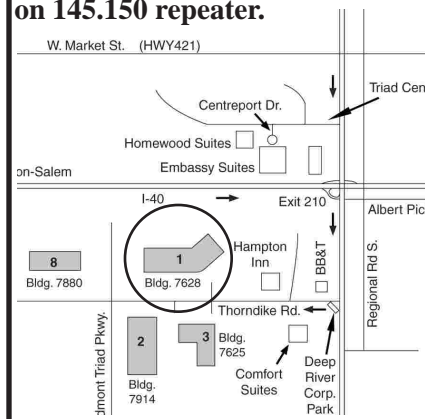
well staffed and equipped, and we are all working together."

The best estimate is that some 1000 Amateur Radio volunteers are helping out in hurricane-ravaged areas along the Gulf Coast and at evacuee centers there and in other states. For the time being, additional volunteers are being told to stand by, but that situation could change as currently restricted areas are reopened and as replacement operators are needed.

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Next Meeting Location Change

We will have a special field trip for the September 26 meeting of GARA. We will not meet at the Golden Corral, but instead, meet at RF Micro Devices main headquarters building for a tour of the facility. Please see the map insert for directions and details. The address is 7628 Thorndike Rd., GSO, 27409. Talk-in will be on 145.150 repeater.



SATERN volunteers Mark Griggs, KB8YMN (right), and Richard Carey, KB8OTZ, on duty in Mississippi. Griggs, with Carey's assistance, has taken over as the SATERN Liaison Officer at the Jackson, Mississippi, marshaling area. Both Griggs and Carey were SATERN volunteers during the New York City 9/11 operation. [Jeff Schneller, N2HPO, Photo]

Engineering Report

By Arch, KT4AT, Engineering Chairman

Phelps Dodge duplexer: The Phelps-Dodge duplexer repairs have been completed. The duplexer has been retuned, characterized, and has been put back on active duty. So far so good, seems to be performing well. Insertion loss on receive is 0.9 dB, and 1.0 dB on transmit. Receive frequency rejection on transmit is 112 dB, and transmit rejection on receive is 114 dB. Intermodulation performance, as characterized by IP3, is +108 dBm after repairs (was +78 dBm before repairs). My replacement Wacom is 8 dB worse. Anything above +100 dBm will do. This repair project is complete.

Shack cleanup: This has been completed also. All feedlines have been reattached to the walls, along with various other cables. Looks good. This completes the site cleanup started in January.

UHF Machines: This is next in line to be done. The two UHF Mastr2's will be reassembled in the big cabinet, along with the rest of the UHF machine. This will also complete the UHF project.

Soccer Tournament Antenna Special: For those Tournament sites which are a little further away, like Kernersville, or Gibson Park, I will take a shot at a light antenna, which will clamp on a tent vertical frame metal post, in the direction of the repeater. This antenna will provide around 9 dBi of gain, and will cover VHF

and UHF. This will allow use of an HT on low power at those sites. Expect prototype available for test at the next Tournament in November.

VHF Repeater Preamp: This is in line right after the antenna above. I will finish this repeater preamp design, started (and never completed) in 2001. This has the potential of reducing Noise Figure by up to 2 dB in the machine front-end, with associated sensitivity improvement. The preamp will also have high Dynamic Range for low intermodulation distortion. This will be the last improvement achievable on 145.15, and will put this machine at around thermal noise floor.

Last, Command Code for DVR audio test: We will change the current command code for the DVR audio test (right now 4***) to 444. This is because when a station is noisy in the machine, it may happen that one, or more, of the 3 stars does not get decoded right, or not at all. What happens next is that either the "Record Mail" command (4*), or the "Delete Mail" command (4**x) get executed, which is very confusing for the user, and the DVR generally ends up in time-out. The new command 444 has no other similar command looking like it, and if not decoded properly, will simply be ignored.

----- For Sale -----

Bearcat BC 200 XLT scanner 200 channels \$75.00 -- Yaesu Dual band VX1 HT. about the size of pack of Cig. \$100.00. wide band receive. Contact Roy smith, N4BYU at 674-6131 or e-mail n4byu@arrl.net
Yaesu FT-8900R "Quad-Band", 10m/6m/144/430, Like new condition; original owner. All manuals & hardware + original box. Asking: \$275 Contact: KE4MOW, Bob Mays, 272-2494

COFFEE TIME-----

Join the Hams in the area for coffee at Starbuck every Friday evening. For now it's held at the Starbucks on Battleground. When the time changes, coffee time is at the Starbucks at Guilford College.

"The Feed Line" is ©2005 by the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association and published monthly. Our address is P.O. Box 7054, Greensboro, NC 27417. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide the club and prospective members information about the club and amateur radio in general. Material and information should reach the editor by the first Friday of the month for the next edition of the newsletter. Opinions expressed in "The Feed Line" do not necessarily represent the views of the officers, directors, editor or members of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association. Material may be reproduced, provided proper credit is given to GARA.

Ham Happenings NEWS briefs

James Waldrop, KD4IRI, SK

James Waldrop, KD4IRI, formerly of Greensboro, died at his home in Concord September 9. A private graveside service was held on Sept. 14. James



operated IRI Amateur Electronics in Jamestown for a number of years. He had heart surgery in 2002 which did not go well and caused many hospital visits. He closed the store in 2003 but continued to sell

from his home. James was a great supporter of Ham radio and was seen at many Hamfests. He will be missed by the amateur community. Our thought and prayers go out to his brother and family.

For questions regarding Ham gear left with James on consignment or repair, please contact John Scott, KF4SSG, at kd4iri@yahoo.com or phone him at 643-2550. A list of the remaining inventory to be sold will be made available soon.

Other Area Silent Keys

Larry Lee, KC4OUC

Larry Lee, KC4OUC, of Alamance Church Road, Greensboro became a silent key September 5th. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Lee family.

Lawrence Rogers, KE4YBF

Lawrence suffered a heart attack while fishing (one of his favorite activities) with his son on Friday. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the surviving members of Lawrence's family. Triad Skywarn, Davidson County, and the entire amateur radio community will all miss his faithful presence.



GARA Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING August 22, 2005

The regular monthly meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association was held at the Golden Corral Restaurant Monday evening August 22 at 7:15 PM with 20 members present and one visitor. The visitor was Tony shepherd, KD4EQT, son of Paul Shepherd, WA4LGX, (SK).

The meeting was called to order by President Lee Wimbs. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the "Feed Line." Tony Shepherd spoke briefly and thanked the club for all the support during the loss of Paul(WA4LGX). It was also noted that a local ham, Lannie Pridemore, K4DHW became a silent key in August. It was also noted that there was new member, Rudy Langley, KG4HCT.

There was no old business reported. Committee reports were presented. President Wimbs reminded everyone once again about the picnic September 17 and make plans for the Mt. Mitchell trip in October 8th.

Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW, reported all was fine. Al Allred, K4ZKQ, reported the financial status was in line with including expenses for the repeater upgrades, Secretary Tom Forrest, N4GVK, reported all was fine. Web site does need some input from members as well as articles for the club newsletter.

Engineering Committee report was given by Arch, KT4AT. Arch said work was completed on the duplexer and it was working quite well with most of the intermod being eliminated. All the connectors had been replaced with new "N" connectors. Arch stated that even though this duplexer is 27-28 years old, it's still better that what we could find today. It was much better to refurbish it than try and find a new one. He said he was finishing up the VHF pre-amp design. The UHF repeater was doing very good. Work to be done in the building was to finish the infrastructure, feedlines, attached to walls, etc. Also, it was reported that the reverse auto patch had been discontinued from public use. He also concluded by asking the club to think about the future plans for the UHF repeater, Echo Link, PCRN, or IRLP.

Operations Chairman and Repeater Trustee Roy Smith, N4BYU, had no report. Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, said he needed operators for soccer tournaments on September 3-4 and November 19-20. If interested, you can e-mail Allen at kd4iun@arrl.net. Net control operators were still needed for the Sunday night News Net on the 15 repeater. See Roy Smith, N4BYU, if you're interested.

The program for the evening was given by Joe Legio, WB2HOL on "Frugal Fox Hunting" Joe demonstrated various items he had constructed for fox hunting and some of the techniques used. He also showed numerous items that can be used from the "kitchen" or the junk box. Prior to the program, Joe hid a transmitter in the room and a search was made to locate it. After some searching using Joe's techniques, Allen Bradley discovered the transmitter in an empty pepper shaker on one of the tables. The members thanked Joe for a great program. A fox hunt of larger scale is planned for the picnic September 17.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:20 pm

BOARD MEETING September 12, 2005

The regular monthly board meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association was Monday evening, September 12, 2005, at 7:30 PM.

Those present were Lee Wimbs, W1MBS, president; John Doggett, KI4BMS, vice president; Tom Forrest, N4GVK, secretary; Ernie Wall, NC4EW, treasurer; Al Allred, K4ZKQ, financial; Arch, KT4AT, engineering chairman; Roy Smith, N4BYU, operations chairman/repeater trustee. Not present was Mark Robertson, KG4STP, member-at-large and Clark Doggett, member-at-large.

Officer reports:

President Lee Wimbs, W1MBS, welcomed the members to the meeting, noting the loss of James Waldrop, KD4IRI and Lawrence Rogers, KE4YBF. He also said a nominating committee needed to be formed. Also the club was still looking into working with the scouts for becoming new Hams.

Vice President John Doggett, KI4BMS, said he had over 30 responses from club members for the picnic for September 17.

Operations Chairman Roy Smith, N4BYU, had no report

Secretary Tom Forrest, N4GVK reported to the club the GARA web site had 28,851 hit for the month of August, with a total of 622 visits to the site (the number of lookers that view other pages). Tom passed around a printout of the stats.

Additionally visits came from 11 countries. Tom also reported that a special club field trip was planned for the September meeting. It will be held as a tour of RF Micro Devices along with a tour of their large Ham station.

Financial Chairman, Al Alred, K4ZKQ reported all was fine with finances and the Feed Line was coming at a much lower cost that previously.

Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW reported we were not doing too badly for the year so far.

Engineering Chairman Arch, KT4AT, said he finished work on the duplexer. The scheduled shack "clean-up" had been done with feed lines attached to the walls and a general cleaning up of cables. The UHF will receive attention next. Both UHF machines will be

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Katrina Amateur Radio efforts ... from page 1

Sarratt says he has registered approximately 100 Amateur Radio volunteers through the Montgomery marshaling center. Those still in the pipeline will replace operators already on the ground in affected areas when they rotate out, he said. Sarratt rescinded an urgent call for operators put out over the weekend.

Sarratt said this week that some operators have been deployed from Montgomery to Red Cross shelters alone, while others have gone in teams of two. Amateur Radio has been the primary means of contact with the outside world for many shelters still lacking reliable communication. He noted, however, that some shelters do now have commercial telecommunication systems available.

"We have deployed many great Amateur Radio operators to the field, Sarratt remarked. "Guys have traveled from all over the USA on their own dime to do the right thing and help others. I'm very proud of them." Sarratt said several "shining stars" in the field have made the volunteer effort work well and "kept Amateur Radio looking great."

...Board Meeting from page 3

assembled into the one large cabinet. When this is completed, it will complete the UHF project for now. Arch said he was working on a small soccer tournament antenna and for use at other events. Arch also added he was still working on his preamp design. In closing he said, the DVR voice/signal check feature code would be changed to 444 in order to prevent weak signals from bringing up other commands if they are not able to complete sequence. Arch also presented the treasurer with a statement of expenses for the UHF repeaters and repair parts.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Forrest,
N4GVK, Secretary

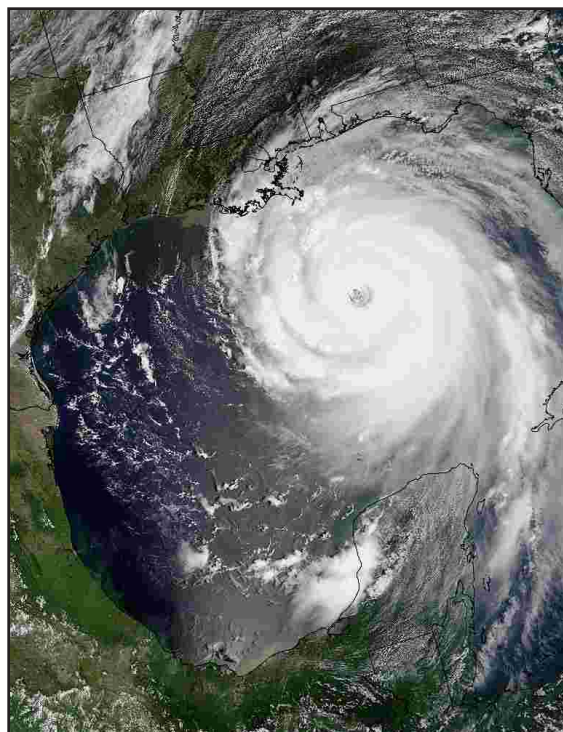
ARRL Louisiana Acting Section Emergency Coordinator Al Oubre, K5DPG, reports, meanwhile, that the emergency activation at the Louisiana State Office of Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge is winding down. Telephone and cell service around the state is slowly being restored, he reports, and Louisiana does not need additional help at this time.

Operators from Wisconsin were expected to arrive September 12, while others were coming in from Western Washington and Colorado. Oubre said when St Bernard and Jefferson parishes dry out sufficiently, the Red Cross will then be able to move into that area and set up support services. At that point, he said, more Amateur Radio volunteers may be needed.

Amateur Radio stations along the Mississippi Gulf Coast have begun handling more health-and-welfare traffic. Louisiana Section Manager Mickey Cox, K5MC, says he and Benson Scott, AE5V, have been passing H&W traffic via the National Traffic System (NTS) using voice and digital modes and WinLink 2000. Cox is seeking outlets for incoming traffic bound for the affected areas.

South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, reports Amateur Radio support for sheltering operations at the Houston Astrodome and other locations around the city is expected to be wrapped up by this weekend. Hams have been shadowing officials and shelter workers and providing a communication link with the Harris County emergency operations center (EOC).

In Tullahoma, Tennessee, Jimmy Floyd, NQ4U, has been among a group of



Satellite image of Katrina in the Gulf of Mexico.
(Photo via NASA)

operators helping to staff a communications/command center for a shelter operation housing 170 evacuees. They've been relaying messages between the shelter site and the Red Cross center. "We have also been active in communicating with other shelters on HF and attempting to locate family and friends of the evacuees," Floyd said.

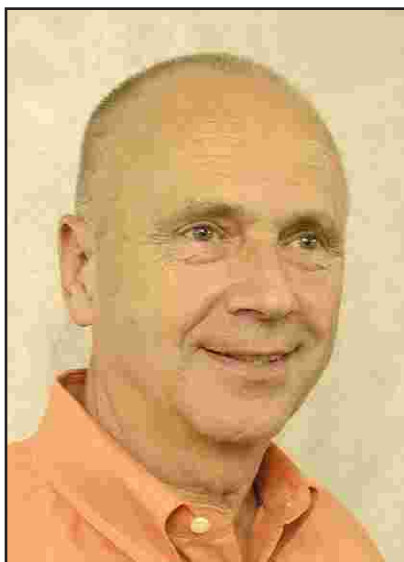
In Rains County, Texas, some 60 miles east of Dallas, ARES/RACES member T.W. Ivey, K5IJT, reported his team has been keeping in contact with the county EOC via VHF repeater. Given its equipment limitations, however, the group has been unsuccessful in establishing communication with the Texas Guard, which provides shelter security.

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) Liaison Officer Jeff Schneller, N2HPO, says TSA canteen are holding with their present complement of Amateur Radio operators and may not rotate them out of service. "As of today, as operators need to leave, we may just scale down," he told ARRL. "We thank all those who are assisting and were

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Member of the Month - Earle Yeamans - N4ERL

When Earle Yeamans says, "I've been around," he means Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey, Kentucky, Oregon, Connecticut (again) and Texas. Earle lived in all of these states until he "saw the light" in 1985 and became a Tarheel -- forever, he hopes.



Earle Yeamans, N4ERL

Almost 10 years ago, Fred Redmon, NC4FR, tried to interest Earle in amateur radio. However, Earle's interest wasn't really grabbed until about 6-7 years ago when Raymond Gibson, K4RHG waged a persistent campaign to persuade him to get licensed. Several local Hams helped Earle get his first equipment operating -- among them, Chris Thompson, K4HC, and Lee Wimbs, W1MBS. Earle received his Technician's license in 2000, and upgraded to General in 2001.

He operates several Yaesu rigs -- a VX5, an FT100D, an FT8100, and an FT90 -- along with a Hy-Gain vertical antenna for HF, an Ameritron AH-800 amplifier and an Icom 756 ProII. Earle says he bought Yaesu equipment when he first got started because he (a) hadn't met Roy Smith at that point, (b) didn't really know any better, and (c) liked the fact that the name "Yaesu" sounds quite a bit like "Yeamans" -- with that sort of connection, they simply have to be good rigs!

Earle is a frequent volunteer for soccer tournament communications. He also gets a real kick out of DX operations, with

contacts in Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Italy listed among his favorites. In addition to Ham radio, he loves to travel. And, he's a baseball card collector.

Earle is a Vietnam Veteran, having put in a two-year stint in the US Army, 1st Division. He became a dentist in 1967. Along the way, he specialized in Pediatric Dentistry, taught at a dental school for several years and operated a private practice, as well. By 1988 or so, he felt he'd "had all the fun he could stand" in dentistry, so he went to work for the Guilford County Health Department, where he is currently Assistant Health Director.

Earle and his wife Peggy have four "young ones," aged 34 -- 38; a graphic artist, a carpenter, an executive chef and a hairdresser. Earle says that, "the biggest pleasure I've received from Amateur Radio is the many friends I've made and people who I never would have known otherwise." He hopes that together, we can find a way to help strengthen the hobby by attracting and encouraging more young people to take up the hobby.

Amateur Radio in the Gulf Region From Page 4

willing to assist, along with the ARRL and the National Fire Sprinkler Association, who pooled their membership for operators for us." He also thanked the American Red Cross for referring radio operators to SATERN operations.

SATERN has continued monitoring 7.288 MHz and 3.965 MHz each half hour throughout the day and evening. In addition, the SATERN Net activates daily at 1400 UTC on 14.265 MHz.

"I advise all radio operators to take the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses and FEMA home study courses so you are better prepared for the next time," said Schneller, who was heavily involved in the September 11, 2001, Amateur Radio response in New York City.

BBQ Picnic....

Great BBQ, fun, music and fellowship were on the menu for the September 17 picnic hosted by John, KI4BMS and Clark Doggett, KG4HOM. About 30 Hams and family members were present. Mark Robertson, KG4STP, and Susan Towe, KD4NRI, found the hidden transmitters during the fox hunt.



Area Activities

FOURTH MONDAY – at 6:30 PM, the **Greensboro Amateur Radio Association** has their regular monthly meeting at the Golden Corral on Landview Dr., off W. Wendover Ave. Please plan to gather at 6:30 PM for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15 PM

CLUB NETS:

SUNDAYS – weekly at 9 PM, the **GARA News and Information Net**. This net features NewsLine and is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Roy Smith, N4BYU is always looking for net controls. Contact him if you would like to help.

THURSDAYS – The **Guilford County ARES Net** meets on the 145.150 repeater (100 Hz. tone) at 9 PM.

TUESDAYS – at 8 PM, the **2 Meter SSB Net** meets on 144.225 Mhz. USB. Chris Thompson, K4HC is the net control station.

WEDNESDAYS – The **Guilford Amateur Society** holds their weekly net on the 145.250, W4GG repeater with an 88.5 Hz. tone. Jim Hightower, W4JLH is the net control.

TUESDAYS – at 8:30 PM **The Triad SkyWarn Net** meets on the 147.225, K4ITL repeater, no tone required.

OTHER ACTIVITIES :

FIRST MONDAY – The **Guilford County A.R.E.S.** monthly meeting is held at 1002 Meadowood St. off W. Wendover Ave, in the EMS building, beginning at 7 PM.

THIRD MONDAY – at 6 PM **The Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at the Golden Corral on Landview Dr., off W. Wendover Ave. Dinner at 6:30 PM and the business meeting is slated to begin and 7 PM.

SATURDAYS – at the K&W Cafeteria on Big Tree Way, hams get together for **Saturday Breakfast** at 7:30 AM. Talk-in is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater, with 100 Hz. tone.

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS – at 11 AM, Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. On Monday they meet at various locations and on Friday lunch is at the K&W Cafeteria off South Holden Road. Talk-in is on the 145. 150, W4GSO repeater with a 100 Hz. tone. On Mondays, give a call to see where everyone is meeting.

EVERY FRIDAY – at 8 PM (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee at Starbucks on Battleground Ave. (summer location till Daylight Savings time changes)

Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 7054

Greensboro, NC 27417



Web:
www.w4gso.org

GARA OFFICERS

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Vice President

John Doggett, KI4BMS

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Mark Robertson, KG4STP

Webmaster & News Letter Editor

Tom Forrest, N4GVK

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA

MEETING LOCATION FOR GARA

September 26, 2005

(We will not meet at Golden Corral)

The regular meeting for GARA for September 26, will be a tour of RF MicroDevices. See the map below for location. Plan on meeting at building #1 (circled) at about 6:30 for the tour. Food will not be served, so you may want to get something to eat before you arrive. Talk-in will be 145.15 Come and bring a friend.

Directions to RF Micro Devices, Inc.

**7628 Thorndike Road
Greensboro, NC 27409-9421**

Leaving Greensboro from the airport, follow signs towards High Point. This will take you to Highway 68 south. Continue on Highway 68 until you reach Thorndike Road (2nd traffic light after passing under Interstate 40). Once you turn right onto Thorndike Road you will see the RFMD® Corporate Headquarters building on your right.

