



Established: 1964

North Shore Radio Association News



member

SPRING 2008

Editors: Kathy (KB1LPW) & Rick (KB1LYJ) Savage

www.nsradio.org

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Meetings: Third Monday of the Month (September to June) at 7:30 P.M, at the South Congregational Church, 60 Prospect Street, Peabody, MA (talk-in 145.470/R)
Weekly club NET: Sundays at 20:30 (8:30 P.M.) on the 145.470MHz PL of 136.5 Danvers Repeater

CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(all emails:
Callsign@nsradio.org)

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CHANGES TO THE SUNDAY NIGHT NET – EFFECTIVE May 4, 2008...

Hello to all....

The Net Management Team for the NSRA Sunday Night Net introduced a few changes to the net, these were effective May 4. It is hoped these changes will streamline check-ins, allow for comments, and encourage further participation in the net. The highlight of the changes is as follows:

- The first round of check-ins will be for only those stations with traffic.
- The second round of check-ins will be for stations connecting through Echolink and/or IRLP for the net.
- The third round of check-ins will be for stations on the 145.470 Danvers repeater.

Once stations are checked in and traffic is passed, we will poll the net for comments BEFORE introducing ARRL Audio News. Once all stations have passed their comments, audio news will be played at the conclusion of the net. Thereafter, we will ask for any final check-ins or comments for the net, where participants can comment on audio news. To do this please give your call sign when we ask for comments and we will recognize you in rotation.

Echolink and IRLP stations are reminded that they will not hear ARRL audio news. EchoIRLP stations are kindly asked to disconnect from the net before we bring up audio news, otherwise you will time out the link after 4 minutes of inactivity.

Thanks again for everyone's help and support of the NSRA Sunday Night Net as we work to streamline the process while we continue to advance forward with new technology currently available to the world of amateur radio. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please direct them to either myself or Eric-KA1NCF through e-mail.

Thanks again and 73 to all

Jim Palmer – KB1KQW

Eric Horwitz – KA1NCF

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NORTH SHORE ARES SUPPORTS CITY OF PEABODY REGIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY EXERCISE - Thursday, March 13, 2008...

(PEABODY, MA) – Leadership officials from the North Shore Amateur Radio Emergency Service team responded today to a mock exercise being held by the Northeast Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council.

The exercise simulated a mock crash of a tractor trailer truck which carried and released a cloud of chlorine gas into the atmosphere prompting emergency response officials to coordinate efforts on a regional scale, in addition to simulated evacuations and shelter-in-place operations of community residents. Members of the Police and Fire Departments, Electric Light, Department of Public Works were primary responders along with numerous regional Chiefs and Officials from various other communities.

Eric Horwitz – KA1NCF, North Shore ARES District Emergency Coordinator, along with Jim Palmer – KB1KQW, North Shore ARES Emergency Coordinator staffed the Emergency Management desk at the operations center, while Mike Griffin-KB1OHZ conducted a surprise resource call-up drill on the 145.47 NS1RA Danvers Repeater simulating an ARES activation across the area. At the ready to assist with shelter communications within an hour's time were Nat Henriksen-NG1Z, Pete Aery – K11P, and David Titelbaum – KB1MSR. The operations phase of the simulation kicked off at 10:00 and concluded at 13:00.

Testing our skills further, the exercise ended with a working fire in the Peabody area and we were able to transition to a more realistic operational phase while the scope and extent of the fire were ascertained by the various officials on site. The fire remained small and additional resources were not required from the Emergency Management resources on location for the exercise.

The exercise was considered a great success and all parties involved were able to walk away with various information to improve the efforts at the center. Jim-KB1KQW and Eric-KA1NCF promoted Amateur Radio's role to the various attendees by teaching that we are available when all else fails. This information was well received and we hope that these officials will spread the word about our valuable role in emergency communications and response

North Shore ARES has been continuously working on our relationship with Peabody Emergency Management, most recently activating the operations center for a recent Nor'easter on March 8th. No reports of flooding were received from that event but minor wind damage was realized later into the evening prompting an ARES/SKYWARN activation to monitor the storm. Our first activation with Peabody Emergency Management took place on Patriots Day 2007 with a significant Nor'easter which brought several episodes of urban/coastal flooding along with numerous reports of wind damage across the region. Since then we have participated in approximately 15 other activations, mostly for weather related incidents across the area.



AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS...

Exams are being held on the fourth Saturday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at the Danvers Central Fire Station on High Street. E-mail our Exam Session Coordinator W1DFL at nsradio dot org or W1ZT at nsradio dot org for information (no links to prevent spam).

Upcoming NSRA Exam Dates:

May 24, 2008

June 28, 2008 @ ARRL Field Day

July 26, 2008

August 23, 2008

September 27, 2008

October 25, 2008

November 22, 2008

December 27, 2008

OUT & ABOUT WITH AL...

What does KOMO Seattle Washington's CBS outlet and early pioneer station, and Dizzy Gillespie's Jazz masterpiece, "Salted Peanuts" in Be-Bop late 1940 period have in common? In a way there is a connection. Let Me Explain...

First KOMO Seattle Washington, (A close Navy buddy I served with in the Far East under tough times, is the Chief Engineer for the TV side), this story comes from him (RMCM Gene Abernathy USN-retired) In the very early 1920's exact time not remembered, the Chauffeur for the Fisher Family was a ham radio operator, and in the employee's quarter of the Fisher estate, all sorts of long wire antennas were strung. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher were amused by this, as, they had great respect for their chauffeur and handyman. The Fisher family made their fortune in the peanut business and is still going strong Fisher Peanuts and Nut Co. Back to the story, around this time the Chauffeur asked Mr. Fisher if he would care to invest a modest amount of money for a commercial radio station that he would build and put on the air. The rest is a interesting history of the start of one of the nation's great station's KOMO Seattle, Washington. They went on the air first in April of 1924. Their first transmitter built by a ham radio operator.

In the mid 1940's the Dizzy Gillespie Jazz band was playing in Seattle, this was, as some jazz historian' like to say the "greatest of them all". This group included the great Charlie Parker on saxophone; Max Roach on drums and Thelonious Monk on piano.

One day when the Jazz Band had some time, they met up with Mr. Fisher (who T. Monk knew from past visits to Seattle). The group was offered a tour of the Fisher Peanut Factory in Seattle... Dizzy Gillespie was impressed that so much work went into making one of his favorite snacks that soon after he wrote the Jazz Masterpiece "Salted Peanuts" (check it out , it is great music")

My point in this story is just simply another twist in the long history of broadcasting, and how much early ham radio operator's were greatly involved in getting early radio started. They had the radio knowledge and enjoyment for radio, that started the whole world of radio and later television. The Fisher family still own KOMO and is one of only a few broadcast AM-FM and television stations still privately owned .

Our WBZ tour on Sunday (March 30) was great I felt in every way, and think all who attended feel the same. In a way the desire and trust of the management of WBZ to open up their transmitting facilities to a bunch of ham radio operators builds on this long tradition. Even Dan Brown and John, and Dave Goldstein, our hosts from engineering, are ham operators, so the tradition continues.
Al Prudhomme,Jr. W1DUW



TECH CORNER...

Well, I am sorry to say that I have been remiss in writing a tech corner for the newsletter, but here goes. I would like to thank the membership for all of it's support in recent days during some technical issues with the repeaters.

Here is a current status arranged by site and then by frequency.

Danvers:

53.85 continues to experience intermittent function with constant failures, the machine will be removed for service in the next few weeks and will be down while it is being serviced.

145.470 continues to operate well on the split antennae. A climb will be scheduled soon to re-evaluate the connections at the top of the tower and verify that there is nothing else we can do. Assuming that is correct, we will be planning to add an additional 2m antenna for the transmitter along with all the necessary accessories. Date to be determined.

223.880 continues to be supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

442.800 may be experiencing some current failure and is on the short list for attention.

The controller at the site is experiencing some issues and we need to re-seat all the connections and reload all the firmware as the controller is currently not doing auto patch stuff correctly.

The Echo-IRLP Node is working well and the membership is enjoying this new mode of connectivity.

Salem:

146.880 is now operating well again. During the last public service event, it was not working well and an investigation revealed that the receiver was way off frequency. The transmitter and receiver boards went home with me and were brought back up a few days later. All seems well now.

I would like to thank the membership for support of all the ongoing efforts. Please be sure to send reports of any failures or issues BY EMAIL to tech@nsradio.org

LOU - N1UEC

WBZ TOUR, March 30 2008...

Bottom line weather was fine

Tour went great and we had 25 total folks attend. Some were from Wellesley Ham club, and 23 total stayed for luncheon at the Ground Round restaurant in Needham.

Rowe Austin K1HRA and myself thanked each one for coming and enjoying this Tour with us. The friendly reception we get from the staff and management of WBZ is outstanding and deeply appreciated. As Chief Engineer Dave Goldstein told me "Al we just simply enjoy having you visit us, it is as much fun for me as it is for you".

The day was cold but sunny and at 11 A.M. on Sunday morning March 30th we pulled up to the transmitter gate, (after a number of us first met at the Newton rest area on 128/rte. 95 south).

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When we looked up to the very tall antenna tower right in front of us this, got our attention, hope nothing falls off from all the stuff on the tower, is what I think we all thought. After a group photo taken by Pete K11P we went up the hill to the front of the buildings, where Dan, John and Dave met us. Dan explained the tower and all the different antenna arrays that were on the tower. We then went to the analog transmitter, which is housed in the old original bldg, separate from the Digital transmitter building. Dan explained the analog system and how all would become silent and on air operation ceased in February of 2008. We saw the old standby transmitter which is over 30 years old but still works. Interestingly the Harris Corp, which makes commercial transmitters in the USA made a "deal" with WBZ and offered a solid state analog transmitter to them in the package deal whereas they were selling millions of dollars in transmitter equipment. As Dan told us, it makes our work easier, not to worry about the analog tube transmitter, with this new digital-analog transmitter is in place for the remainder of it's need, I asked Dan then what? He explained that Harris would come and take it back, to be later installed and sold to a European or African station, as they will still have analog TV for a while longer.

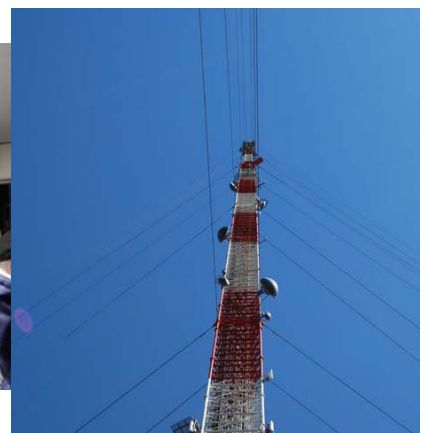
After Dan explained the various links and drops to us, for example Comcast takes the signal from this spot and not over the air. We proceeded to the Digital transmitter building. In here were the transmitters for: Channels Four, Channel Five, Channel Thirty-eight, Channel Two and a few others. Only Channel Seven is not there.

Dan paused for a moment and told us that probably in 20 years or so all over the air television will possibly go away, as less and less people are "tuning into" radiated rf. More and more are fiber-optics. Cable, Comcast Satellite TV etc. Dan led us to each transmitter, told us power outputs, digital television technology, and the complex engineering of the combiner stages all above us, and that all transmitters use the one digital antennae at the very top of the antenna. Dave Goldstein explained that before they could put the large, bus sized, heavy digital antenna up the tower it had to be rebuilt, as it was over 50 years old. This Dave told us was very complex and not easy to do, and very expensive.

Dan then let us walk around at our own pace and go to our own spots of interest and investigate more. We also had the opportunity to ask questions. This was great, I found a fancy rocking chair off to the side of WGBH digital transmitter, and for a spell I sat down and rocked. Dan said the engineer for Channel 2 is a character and that if he comes to the transmitter he wants to sit in comfort, so he has his own rocking chair. , OK.!

With the generous amount of time and the last question asked. Dan made a security sweep and locked the doors, upon which we proceeded to the Ground Round for a delicious luncheon.

Al Prudhomme, Jr W1DUW
Speaker and Entertainment Committee, North Shore Radio Association



NORTH SHORE ARES/SKYWARN UPDATE...

Spring has come and almost gone without incident, but North Shore ARES and SKYWARN remains at the ready to respond to any situation that may arise.

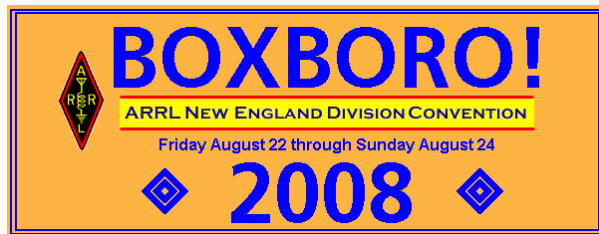
North Shore ARES leadership continues to be hard at work planning our operations should a disaster come our way. We are working on protocols to notify all North Shore ARES members in the event of activation, along with cleaning up our database to ensure all parties listed are active members. Additionally, watch for another simplex exercise to take place before the end of the year.

Although the weather has been relatively benign as of late, we are never letting our guard down. Please recall the last time March and April were quiet was in 2006, and we all know what came next. As I always remind you, please take a moment to check your go-kits and equipment to make sure everything is in working order. We never know what may be needed and when.

I would also like to take a moment to remind both our registered SKYWARN spotters along with those amateurs that assist us during severe weather activations to take a moment and review the criteria that we seek during our activations. Keep your eye out on the North Shore ARES e-mail list for a discussion about reporting criteria, types of nets, and proper netiquette during activations.

To the best of our knowledge, this year we will not be featuring a state-wide hurricane exercise, due to changes made to the exercise on the state level. We will work on an exercise over the coming weeks and months and hope to bring you our very own "North Shore ARES Call-Up Exercise" at some point over the summer months. Should anything change on this front we will send out updates on the e-mail list.

Remember that anyone interested in joining the North Shore ARES/SKYWARN Team should contact either Jim Palmer - KB1KQW, North Shore ARES Emergency Coordinator or Eric Horwitz - KA1NCF, North Shore ARES District Emergency Coordinator, for more information or to join our Yahoo group email list.



The 2008 ARRL New England Convention will take place at the Holiday Inn in Boxboro Woods, Boxborough, Ma on Friday, August 22nd to Sunday August 24th. Tickets are \$15.00 for the 3 days. Please visit their web site at www.boxboro.org/home.html for ticket information. As of this writing the tentative programs are:

Friday, August 22nd

ICS 100 Seminar - Tom Kinahan, N1CPE; Hurricane Review - Rob Macedo, KD1CY; Patriot DX Association Dinner - George Johnson, W1ZT ; W1A Operations begin - Mike Bernock, N1IW

Saturday, August 23rd

YCCC Forum - Mark Pride, K1RX; Spratly Island DXpedition, EdN1UR; SKYWARN Forum - Rob Macedo, KD1CY ; ARES SEC Forum - Rob Macedo, KD1CY; YLRL Lunch - Anne Manna, WB1ARU;

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Saturday, August 23rd - cont.

NESMC Annual Meeting - Bob DeMattia, K1IW ; West Mountain Radio Demo's/Workshops - Ned, KA1CVv; Winlink 2000 Update - Tom Kinahan, N1CPE; ARRL Forum - Tom Frenaye, K1KI, Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF ; The Amazing Half Square, Steve Kercel, AA4AK; Growing your local Club - Bo Budinger, WA1QYM; Crystal Clear: The Struggle for Reliable Communications Technology in World War II - Richard J. Thompson, Jr., PhD; Six Meters - Ken Neubeck, WB2AMU; AM Forum - Tim, WA1HLR and Friends ; Banquet

Sunday, August 24th

VHF/UHF/Microwave Forum - Paul Wade, W1GHZ; Southern New England MARS - Bob Veth, K1RJV Prize Program / Closing Ceremonies; W1A Operations End Information Booths; SKYWARN; Clay Center Amateur Radio Club; Southern New England MARS

FIELD DAY - JUNE 27th to 29th...

One of the events of the North Shore Radio Association does every year is the ARRL Field Day at Endicott Park in Danvers, MA. Endicott Park is a 165-acre natural and historic site.

We plan to start setting the park up on Friday, June 27th between 2 - 6 P.M. and then again on Saturday morning, June 28th around 9 A.M., getting on the air by 2 P.M. and operating for the full 24 hrs. of the contest.

If anyone is interested in running a station, loaning us equipment, or if you have any question's. Please email the Field Day Chairperson at fdchair at nsradio dot org. We have plenty of space for more stations within the contest rules.

Tent Camp sites are available for all. Since radio operators are always in demand, we welcome all amateurs (not just members) to join us for this event. Field Day is more than just a contest, its a great outing as well, with camping, and cookouts. We are charging a nominal \$5.00 fee for Saturdays Dinner to offset the rising cost of Field Day.

Please **RSVP** if planning to come so we can plan on the number of mouths to feed. Yes, food supplied! That is Lunch for the setup crews, Dinner, Breakfast for the operators, and what's left over for Sunday's lunch.

The Danvers Repeater on 145.470 MHz. - minus offset - PL 136.5 is for talk-ins and a on site Simplex frequency of 147.420 MHz are monitored during the weekend.

Field Day Committee

USED CARTRIDGES WANTED...

Your used Inkjet and Laser cartridges are worth money and can generate funds for NSRA. I have a vendor that will pay for each cartridge turned in to them for recycling. All proceeds go to NSRA. They are able to accept most brands except for Epson. Cartridges must be in good condition, not refilled or remanufactured. Please bring all your used cartridges to the monthly Monday meetings. If you have any questions please contact Rick Savage KB1LYJ at RPSavage@comcast.net or 781-289-7364

Rick – KB1LYJ



VENTURE CREW 47 NEWS “LICENSE IN A WEEKEND”...

During the weekend of April 19-20, 2008 Crew 47 ran a license in a weekend. The course was held at Camp Lyons in Lynn, Massachusetts. Our goal was to inform people and teach them thru the ARRL Ham Radio Licensing Course to have them earn their Technician Amateur Radio License. On Friday three crew members and two adults set up the hall and started getting everything ready. Then on Saturday they crew arrived at 7:30 a.m. and the participants started arriving at 8:00 A.M.. Throughout the day there were classes being taught by different instructors. Chapter one which is the introduction to Amateur Radio was taught by Jim-KB1KQW. Chapter 2, which is about the radio and electronics fundamentals, was taught by Nat-NG1Z. Chapter 4, which is about communicating with other hams, was taught by Jim- KB1KQW. Chapter 7, which is about radio safety, was taught by Nat- NG1Z. The participants left around 5:30 P.M. to return at 8:30 A.M. the next morning. Some of the crew members stayed the night. On Sunday the participants started to arrive at 8:30 A. M. There were three classes taught. Chapter 3, which is about operating station equipment, was taught by Mark- W1MAW. Chapters five and six, which are about licensing regulations and operating regulations respectively, were taught by Gordon- KX1KTY. The participants took practice tests until the VE session at 3:00 P.M. At 3:00 P.M. there was a VE session held. There were 13 participants. 12 of the participants took the test. 10 of the participants passed. That means 83% of the participants that took the test passed. Throughout the weekend we had an HF station set up and running. We were running a Yaesu FT-897 with a vertical screwdriver antenna that was set up off to the side of the building. Throughout the weekend we made a total of 76 contacts. 15 of those contacts were DX. Some of the countries that we contacted were Mexico, Estonia, Armenia, Bosnia, Canada, Panama, Poland, Italy, Columbia, Sweden, and Spain. The closest contact was K1ILR, Fran in Melrose, MA. Throughout the weekend we had 5 operators. Chris Sample who is a member of the crew and was taking the class was able to make his first contact this weekend. According to the crew members the Weekend was a success. The Crew would like to that everyone who helped out with the weekend.

THE GRADUATES FROM LICENSE IN A WEEKEND...

A big welcome to the newly licensed operators from the License in a Weekend event:

KB1QKF - Titelbaum, Maxwell J
KB1QKG - Blanchette, Douglas Z
KB1QKH - Adolph, Matthew J
KB1QKI - Sample, Christopher M
KB1QKJ - Fowler, Mark E
KB1QKK - Butterfield, Scott E
KB1QKL - Tamilio, Heather E
KB1QKM - Sherrick, Ralph W
KB1QKN - Schmidt, Roger J
KC2THF - Cormier, Jennifer P



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2008 NATIONAL HURRICANE CONFERENCE...

Video of Amateur Radio Workshop At the National Hurricane Conference On Web..

(This is from SKYWARN Newsletter #253 by Bob Macedo)

A presentation on the WX4NHC Visit and National Hurricane Conference was given on Saturday April 5th on the Monthly VoIP Hurricane Net. The Power Point Presentation has been posted and a recording for the net will be posted later this week. For more information, please check out the VoIP Hurricane Net web site at <http://www.voipwx.net> and look for updates on when the recording will be posted. Video of Amateur Radio Workshop at the National Hurricane Conference Available on Web..

Through the significant effort of Jim Palmer-KB1KQW, North Shore ARES Emergency Coordinator and Assistant SKYWARN Coordinator, a video of the entire Amateur Radio Workshop at the National Hurricane Conference is available for viewing via the web. It can be seen at the following link:

<http://www.nsradio.org/NHC08/>

Hurrevac and SLOSH Training..

At the National Hurricane Conference, Rob Macedo-KD1CY and Jim Palmer-KB1KQW, spent the first day of the Workshop at the SLOSH and Hurrevac training session which was given by folks from FEMA Region IV based out of Atlanta, Georgia. Hurrevac is a program devised by John Townsend to help Emergency Managers and planners as well as other folks who can utilize the tracking software to plan support functions for hurricane disaster related incidents. An Emergency Management Director, NWS Forecaster or other similar public safety designee must send a note to John Townsend to allow the person to have access to the program. Information can be found on Hurrevac via the following link: <http://www.hurrevac.com/>

The FEMA trainers walked the people in attendance through the basics of the Hurrevac program through a Power Point presentation along with hands on training. Everyone who was a part of the training needed to have a laptop computer with the Hurrevac program loaded. The trainers then walked folks through more extensive parts of the program including the evacuation maps among other important features. The training was excellent and helped further folks knowledge of the power of the Hurrevac program. The Hurrevac training was the morning portion of the program. The afternoon portion of the program was on training on the SLOSH program.

For the afternoon training session, a NWS HQ Meteorologist trained folks in the installation and usage of SLOSH or Sea Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes Display program. The SLOSH display program allows users who are experienced with the program to either enter in parameters from a landfalling hurricane based on the current forecast or look at historical hurricane tracks and determine what the storm surge would be given its track. The Meteorologist explained what MEOWs (Maximum Envelopes of Water) and MOM's, (Maximum of MEOWS) are and how to utilize them. He also explained the SLOSH models dependency on the forecast and how inaccuracies that could occur when using SLOSH are typically driven by forecast error and not that a new model for storm surge predicting is needed. He explained how to use the program to see gridded data depicting storm surge and also to get specific point measurements using the program. The training session was excellent and allows the Emergency Management community to better understand the program.

A Review of the Exhibit Hall..

On Wednesday April 2nd, the Exhibit Hall was open to all conference attendees and was open for 2 days. Many suppliers of various mitigation and structural engineering groups were in attendance for those interested in learning more about how to protect their homes from structural damage during hurricanes. Other groups for mitigation that were present that were of interest in emergency management included suppliers for temporary housing, sand bagging and other operations.

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Other groups in attendance included the American Red Cross and they were very interested in working with the ARRL and Amateur Radio Community on Health and Welfare Inquiry processing. Manager of Preparedness and Response Dennis Dura-K2DCD met with the Red Cross people at their booth to discuss working together there.

The Salvation Army was also in the Exhibit Hall. The personnel there, while not heavily into communications, understood the value of Amateur Radio Operators and their role in SATERN, the Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Network. We discussed with the person there the active Salvation Army groups in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The makers of the popular "Web EOC" program, ESI, were also present in the Exhibit Hall. Jim and I met with Laura Wood who is their Business Unit Manager. Laura is a Ham Radio Operator and was very interested in how Massachusetts and other Northeastern States were using Web EOC. She mentioned that they will be at the Citizen Corps Convention the week of April 27th that will be held in Boston with FEMA Region 1.

The makers of Weatherbug were also present and we talked with Jon Bodie who is a Ham Radio Operator, K1HSL, and we discussed with him the usefulness of Weatherbug but made a suggestion for improvement. That improvement would be to have time stamps for the peak wind gust either since midnight or in a 24 hour period as well as for the highest sustained wind. Jon was going to look into it and this will be followed up on via email.

Folks from the Weather Channel and Max Mayfield's America's Emergency Network were also present at the booth. The information, handouts and pens and other items given to those conference attendees in the exhibit hall were significant and it was a great way to learn more about preparing your structure/home for hurricanes and to learn more about the many groups involved in hurricane related disasters.

Overview of Meteorological Presentations Given..

At the National Hurricane Conference, a number of different tracks can be taken as far as presentations that are offered. Those tracks include: Meteorology; Emergency Management/Mitigation; Fire/EMS; Voluntary Agencies; Law Enforcement; Tropical Islands; Engineering; Evacuation; Public Education/Media; Response; Recovery

Jim Palmer-KB1KQW and I largely took the Meteorology track with some Emergency Management/Mitigation topics. This article will give an overview of those presentations that were seen from Wednesday Afternoon into Thursday.

On Wednesday Afternoon, a general session was given with several topics of interest to all conference attendees.

1 - National Hurricane Center Director, Bill Read-KB5FYA gave an overview of the 2007 National Hurricane Season discussing the tropical storms and hurricanes and their impact and gave an overview of how he expects to proceed with the National Hurricane Center.

2 - Bill Read, R. David Paulson, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Headquarters in Washington DC discussed improvements made to their organization since Katrina and their response/recovery protocols. Unlike some newspaper reports, Paulson did not say that ice would no longer be provided by FEMA but he did say it would be lower in priority as far as resources provided as FEMA's take is to provide higher priority items that may be more difficult to obtain.

3 - Craig Fugate, Director of Florida Emergency Management gave a very interesting discussion on Florida Catastrophic Planning. The major theme of his presentation was on the "victims" being able to be more prepared to face a catastrophic hurricane situation and being able to assist themselves and others around them as part of the response and recovery effort working with Emergency Management and public safety first

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responders. Without that, the chances of Emergency Management response even with a well coordinated mutual aid of all branches of government will only go so far to meet the needs of the people. Fugate stated it is very important to teach a level of self-sufficiency to those affected by disaster so that they can assist in the response and recovery effort for themselves and promoted a "help your neighbor" approach for those that are less impacted by the disaster to help those that are so severely impacted they cannot help themselves. After hearing this information, we need to see how this can be applied to our own voluntary Emergency Communications response as Amateur Radio Operators.

4 - We met Max Mayfield, former Director of the National Hurricane Center who spoke very highly of Amateur Radio Operators and remembered his visit for the Hurricane Awareness Tour in 2003 in New Bedford, Massachusetts. We also met Bill Read-KB5FYA and Dennis Dura-K2DCD, Manager of Preparedness and Response from ARRL HQ took pictures with Bill. We learned that Bill has done some Amateur Radio operation as the Meteorologist-In-Charge of NWS Houston and wants to get his General Class Amateur Radio license to talk on HF with Julio Ripoll-WD4R and John McHugh-K4AG, the Amateur Radio Coordinator for the Ham Station, WX4NHC. Julio and John were encouraged to hear about Bill's intentions and his praise for Amateur Radio.

5 - Joe Becker from Red Cross briefly spoke on Red Cross and Emergency Management. He spoke briefly on the challenges the Red Cross currently faces with layoffs and their deficit from disasters such as Katrina and how the organization will be reverting back to more of the state lead approach with less "regional service area" support which was the original support model they were moving toward as an organization.

6 - Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of US Army Corps of Engineers in Washington DC gave a discussion on managing flood risk across riverine and coastal environments. He utilized several examples including New Orleans as well as other impact to the Florida Panhandle. Lieutenant General Antwerp gave a very enthusiastic discussion and how they're making improvements despite the recent failure of the levees in New Orleans.

7 - Impacts of Category 5 Hurricanes Dean and Felix. Dr. Lixion Avila, Hurricane Specialist for the National Hurricane Center walked folks through the track of Dean and Felix as well as the recon missions associated with these hurricanes. He illustrated the reasonably good track guidance especially for Dean and showed the southward bend of the track of Felix that caused the primary impact of Felix to be felt over Nicaragua versus Honduras. He also showed the damage pictures from the areas affected across Mexico, Central America, Jamaica and the Caribbean islands.

8 - Hurricane Forecasting by Richard Knabb on how observations and analysis of tropical cyclones is completed and how the observations and computer model and satellite guidance information put together allow for better forecasts. We talked with Richard Knabb who was one of the Hurricane Specialists at the Rhode Island Hurricane Awareness Tour.

9 - Track forecasting was then discussed by Hurricane Specialist Lixion Avila. He explained the difficulties that can occur with track forecasting, which can include model spread but also models clustering on a solution that despite good consensus could still be incorrect. He also explained one case where a 120 hour track forecast that they produced only had an 8 nautical mile track error but not before larger mileage errors in earlier forecast points and how they need to improve their track forecasts in those situations.

10 - The next Meteorology Module was on Tropical Cyclone Hazards. The first topic was on Rainfall and its impacts. John Feidt, the Hydrologist-In-Charge of the Southeast River Forecast Center and David Roth, Forecaster of the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center gave a presentation on their rainfall forecasts and how that rainfall impacts inland river and streams. They also discussed the impact of rivers that flow out into the ocean and how rainfall and storm surge impacts can affect rivers and streams and flooding in those areas.

(Continued on page 12)



11 - Steven Baig, Storm Surge Specialist, then gave a very interesting presentation on Coastal Storm Surge and the greatest potential for loss of life in storm surge situations. He discussed Storm Surge forecasting and the impacts of storm track, speed and intensity on storm surge. This was one of the more interesting segments of the presentation.

12 - Chris Landsea, Science and Operations Officer for the National Hurricane Center, gave a very interesting talk on Hurricane Force Winds. He discussed the terrain impacts as well as the affect of skyscrapers and how winds at the higher terrain and on skyscrapers will be considerably higher than lower elevation locations. Landsea even mentioned how the Appalachians and Northeast US with their higher terrain locations can be vulnerable particularly with faster moving hurricanes that can affect these areas.

13 - Roger Edwards from the Storm Prediction Center in Norman Oklahoma then gave a brief presentation on Hurricane induced tornadoes and their impact. He stated that research is ongoing on their impact across various tropical systems, hurricanes and remnant tropical systems.

14 - We then deviated from the meteorology track and went into the mitigation track for a presentation on the new Hurrevac program due out in 2010. This program will be rewritten in Visual Basic.Net to prevent memory leaks and other issues that have occurred in the current revision of the program. It will also allow for new features to be added. The presentation showed some of the new screens and features that are currently being worked. This presentation was well received and was given by Michael Shuster from the US Army Corps of Engineers as well as Karen Townsend from Sea Island Software. She is the wife of John Townsend, a former NWS forecaster and the author of the Hurrevac software.

15 - The Future of Hurricane Forecasting module. In this presentation, Lixion Avila mentioned enhancements to the GFDN model that should improve its performance over the course of this year based on hindsight review of past hurricanes. He also stated that this model information is available through various web sites. He also discussed 2 new consensus type modeling schemes that will be utilized for the 2008 season. He explained how the consensus modeling schemes combine the outputs of various models into one track. These include popular models such as the UKMET, NOGAPS, GFS and GFDL/GFDN models.

16 - Hurricane Specialist Richard Pasch, went into a review of improvements to the hurricane models. Pasch discussed work being done between TAFB, the National Hurricane Center and other entities to improve the models and how these improvements should be translated into better forecasts. The focus of these improvements centered around intensity forecasting though some track improvements were also being considered. Intensity forecasting remains a serious weakness in the overall forecasting scheme for hurricanes. Pasch said that while track improvement forecasting is always being worked, particularly in the 3-5 day range, the most focus is being given to intensity forecasting especially given several rapidly intensifying hurricanes experienced over the past several years.

17 - An Overview of the Joint Hurricane Testbed (JHT) and the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project by Shirley Murillo and Ahsha Tribble. Shirley and Ahsha reviewed the improvements they are working on currently and the need for feedback on those improvements. Surveys were handed out to those in attendance on what areas they would like to see focus and why folks feel the focus should be in those areas. They mentioned short term projects that have small funding and longer term projects where they are hoping for much large money to fund the projects that those in the Emergency Management and private industry communities feel are the most important.

Storm Study Education Team Present at Conference...

The Storm Study Education Team was present at the National Hurricane Conference and did a great job promoting hurricane awareness and landed a very important interview with new Director of the National Hurricane Center, Bill Read-KB5FYA that has been promoted widely by the ARRL and other media outlets.

(Continued on page 13)



The Storm Study team is run by John Van Pelt-K4JVP, Assistant SKYWARN Coordinator for Central Carolina SKYWARN and Danny Musten-KD4RAA, IRLP Net Manager. Also present and assisting the operation was Brandon McLamb-KG4EDW. The Storm Study Team is an educational/hurricane awareness program. They promote hurricane preparedness through the Energizer, Plan, Prepare, Protect program. John Van Pelt spoke to over 40 TV stations across the US East and Gulf Coasts to promote Hurricane, Weather and Disaster Related preparedness through a Satellite feed to these TV stations across 6 hours on Wednesday April 2nd. The Storm Study program with Energizer worked with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America in Orlando and taught kids how to prepare for disasters with a 5,000 dollar donation to that organization through Energizer. The same donation was given on a visit to the Orlando Fire Department.

The Storm Study team also attended the Amateur Radio Workshop through the efforts of Danny and Brandon. They enjoyed the presentation very much and were able to meet with Julio Ripoll-WD4R and John McHugh-K4AG, the National Hurricane Center Amateur Radio Station WX4NHC Coordinators. John Van Pelt-K4JVP also met with the coordinators as well. The VoIP Hurricane Net Management Team members, Rob Macedo-KD1CY and Jim Palmer-KB1KQW also met with the StormStudy team and watched some of the video interviews that John-K4JVP did and we met with Danny-KD4RAA shortly before the Amateur Radio Workshop on the Tuesday Morning April 1st.

The StormStudy Team also had a great interview with National Hurricane Center, Bill Read-KB5FYA and talked to him on a variety of subjects including Amateur Radio and its importance. A wrap-up video of their interview with Bill Read and all of their work at the National Hurricane Conference can be seen via their web site at <http://www.stormstudy.com> where you will see the videos and information about one-half to two thirds down the main web page.

Editors note: Be sure to check out the videos of the National Hurricane Conference in, go onto the NSRA web site & click "Amateur Radio Presentation at the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Florida" the videos are broken down into sections that you can watch.



FCC LOOKS TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES...

(This is from ARRL Bulletin 9 ARLB009)

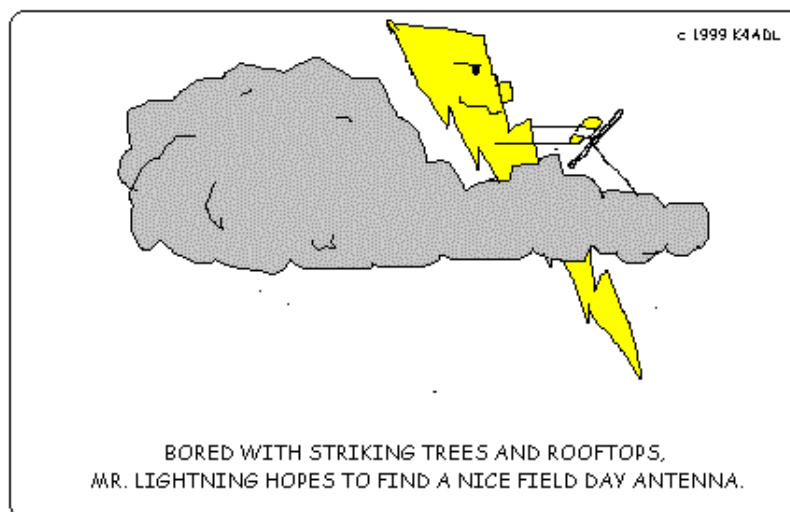
The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 8 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$11.70 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$12.30 for 10 years, an increase of \$.60.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site at, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html>.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50; the current fee of \$11.70 is the lowest the fee has been since the inception of the vanity call sign program. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$184,500 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal two years ago. Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS site at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>, and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.



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NSRA Repeaters

- All the following repeaters has the club callsign of **NS1RA**
- **145.470- Danvers (PL of 136.5)**, full functions including phone patch.
- **146.880- Salem, (PL of 118.8)**
- **223.880- Danvers (PL 136.5)**
- **442.800+ Danvers (PL of 136.5)**, full functions including phone patch
- **53.850- Danvers (PL 71.9)**

All CTCSS tones on repeaters have the option to be turn off if needed. Dial "11" to turn off so that a non PL user can use the repeater, Please remember to turn PL back on with the code of "10"

Digipeaters

- **144.390 in Danvers, APRS Digipeater** under the Call of NS1RA-1
- **144.390 in Beverly, APRS IP-Gate**, Callsign of NS1RA-2
Go to to the APRS page for more information on this mode.

Repeater Status -- As of 4-30-08

53.850 (-)	PL 71.9	Danvers	OPERATIONAL — PL REQUIRED
145.470 (-)	PL 136.5	Danvers	OPERATIONAL - PL REQUIRED *ON SPLIT ANTENNAS - REDUCED COVERAGE IS POSSIBLE***
146.880 (-)	PL 118.8	Salem	DOWN FOR REPAIR - 4-30-08
223.880 (-)	PL 136.5	Danvers	OPERATIONAL
442.800 (+)	PL 136.5	Danvers	OPERATIONAL - NO FUNCTIONS
144.390		Danvers APRS	DOWN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
144.390		Beverly I—Gate	DOWN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

From the Editors...

If you like what you see and would like to contribute as informational article, cartoon or other ham related information, we would like to put together a Summer Issue of the NORTH SHORE RADIO ASSOCIATION NEWS. The deadline for this issue will be July 1st, if we have little interest the Fall issue material will be due on September 1st. Please send your information to KB1LPW and BKILYJ at nsradio.org .



PUBLIC SERVICE CALENDAR

Below are the Public Service Events we have scheduled for 2008. Please check the web site for updated listings. If you are interested in helping out please contact: Eventnsra at nsradio dot org.

DATE	EVENT	EVENT INFORMATION
Sunday, June 8th	ADA - Tour De Cure bike ride Cape Ann Area	Bike ride in the north shore area starting in Gloucester, for diabetes
June 27th to 29th	NSRA FIELD DAY Endicott Park. Danvers, MA	National Contest Weekend, Annual Field Day event
Thursday, July 3rd	Horribles Parade Gloucester, MA	Parade in Gloucester
Friday, July 4th	Manchester-by-the-Sea July 4th Parade	Parade in Manchester, MA
Saturday, July 12th	Blackburn Challenge	Rowing Race around Cape Ann, Gloucester, MA A great day on the water
Sunday, July TBD	Reid's Ride—Bike Ride from Lynn, Ma to Gloucester, MA	Bike ride for a Cancer charity
Monday, September 1st	YMCA Cape Ann Run Gloucester, MA	Running races around Gloucester area
Saturday, September 6th	Cycle 4 Life Marblehead Ma to Ipswich, MA	Ride for Cancer hospital, ride is from Marblehead, MA to Ipswich, Ma & back
Sunday, September TBD	Beverly Triathlon Beverly, MA	Swim, Bike Ride, Run, triathlon
Saturday, September 13th	Special Olympics Bike Ride Topsfield, MA	Bike Ride in the Topsfield area
Weekend of October 18th & 19th	Head of the Charles Regatta Cambridge MA	Contact Jeff at K1EMS at nsradio.org
Sunday, November TBD	Santa Claus Parade Gloucester, MA	Parade in Town



North Shore Radio Association Membership Application

Date: ___/___/___ ___ New ___ Renewal ___ Update Info ___ Donation
Call sign: _____ Class: _____ Year first licensed: _____
Name: _____ Name on air: _____ B-Day: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____
Phone (Home): _____ (Work): _____ ARRL #: _____
E-Mail address: _____ Web Page: _____
If on the Internet: ___ Newsletter via Internet ___ YourCall@nsraio.org mail Address
Your capabilities (bands, modes etc.): _____
Other hobbies & interests: _____
Referred by (if any): _____

Type of membership requested (check one):

___ Full ___ Student (full-time) ___ Associate (family member)

If Associate, Call sign of the Full member in your household: _____

Dues:

Full = \$20 Student = \$5 Associate = \$5 **New members add \$5 initiation.**

Partial Year: Sept. - Nov. = \$20, Dec. - Feb. = \$15, Mar. - May = \$10,

June - Aug = \$20 (Credited to next year's membership. (3 months free)

[New members will receive a personalized NSRA Club badge with their call and on-air name displayed.]

Amount enclosed: _____

Mail to: NSRA RENEWALS PO BOX 3724 PEABODY MA 01961-3724

