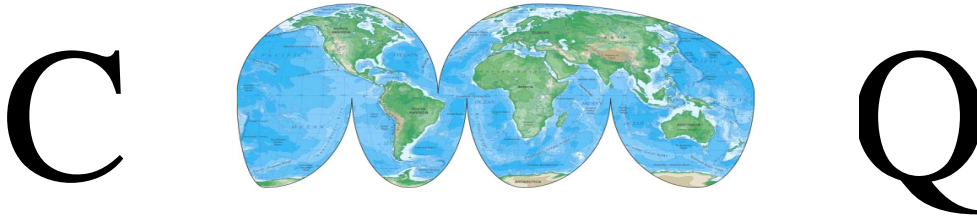


MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



November 2005 Newsletter

MEETINGS SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE RED CROSS ANNEX BUILDING,
300 N MULBERRY ST, MT. VERNON, OHIO
REPEATER FREQUENCIES: 146.790 (-) K8EEN /R 444.750 (+) KC8YED /R 53.790 (-) WA8YRS/R
SUNDAY NIGHT ARES NET AT 8:00 P.M ON THE K8EEN REPEATER OPEN TO ALL

FROM THE PRESIDENT, Ruben Clark, KB2SAI

Hello to my fellow hams! It has been a long time since I have had the time to actually sit down and type something up for the newsletter. I wanted to make sure I did one this month, however, since so many things are happening! As you all should know by now, our club meetings are now being held at the Red Cross building in Mount Vernon. I would like to thank Mike (KC8YLD) for his efforts in finding and securing this location for us. Another change affecting us is that our weekly ARES net has moved from 9pm to 8pm on Sunday evenings. This was done to help alleviate any interference between us and another local net.

I want to encourage all of you to do your best to make this month's meeting. It will be held on November 14th at 7pm. This month we will be having a presentation/training session by the Knox County EMA. They are requiring that a high percentage of our club take this class to have our club considered for emergency participation. We will also be making plans for next month's Christmas gathering, as well as finalizing nominations for next year's club officers.

As a side note, it would be great if we could start receiving everyone's dues for the coming year as soon as possible. If you can, bring yours to this month's meeting! This will help us get a jumpstart on the process and give us some funds early enough in the year to take care of business. It makes things difficult for us if, come March, only a handful of people have paid. So, if you are able to

pay early, all I can say is - Thanks!

Now if I could just get some more free time to be on the air! Between work itself and classes for my job and also a huge technical upgrade project at my church, there has been little time for much else. Hopefully these things will wrap up soon and I can have some spare time once again. Until then, take care and 73's. See ya soon!

FROM THE EDITOR

It is with mixed feelings that I report Phil, N1GTZ, has decided to retire as our Newsletter Editor. I say mixed feelings because while I never really wanted to be Editor, I must admit



that the challenge has me excited. Originally, I had a couple of members in mind to ask if they would take over being Editor and I would continue on as the "Print Master". Well, they will have to wait. It may be that there will be three Editors that share the responsibility from month to month. This would be good in that one would only have to Edit the Newsletter four times a year. Less "burn out" time. Another advantage would be that there no doubt would be competition between the Editors to see who puts out the best Newsletter. That would definitely benefit the readers.

For now, however, I will give it a shot. Phil should be commended for his dedication to putting out a monthly Newsletter. He also deserves a pat on the

back for putting up with me. I did everything short of harassment to make sure I got the snail mail version in time for it to be printed and mailed by my schedule. Then I would sometimes turn up the heat to make sure the on-line version was indeed, "on line". Looking back on Phil's work, we had some darn good Newsletters. Most were at least a bit above average in quality and content.

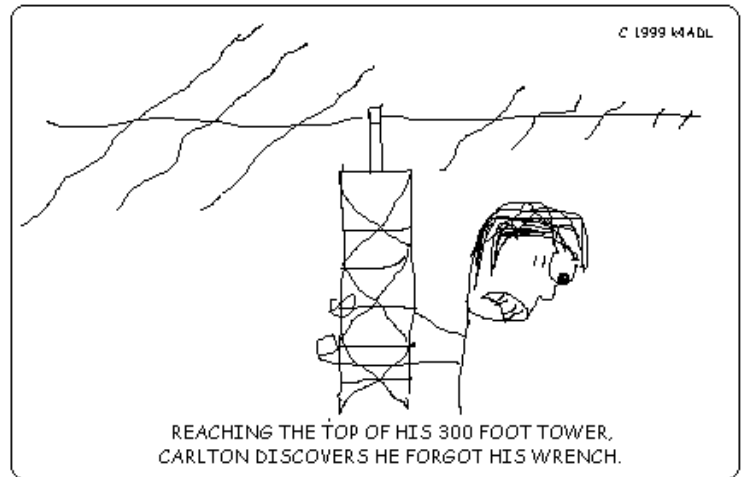
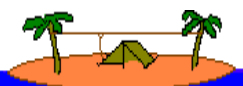
I do have my own ideas on how to make our Newsletter better. I have been working hard on last months Newsletter, experimenting with different things I would like to do. My last version of the October Newsletter looked really nice, but I plan to do better.

Our Newsletter will be nothing without support from the local ham community. I want to keep the local flavor in our Newsletter and only use outside sources as a "fill". The less fill the better (no pun intended, Phil!). So please send your contributions to me. I hope that the President, Emergency Coordinator, and Public Information Officer will submit something monthly. I would also like any local ham to feel free to send me an article or two. One of the things I would like to start is a "Member Profile". Anyone that wants to open up, now would be a good time. A membership profile each month would take several years to go through the entire membership. Don't be surprised if I give readers a land line and ask for an interview. Send any contributions to me at wa8yrs@arrl.net. If you do not have a computer, then hand write it out and mail it to me at 815 Brookwood Rd., Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050. Either send the article in the e-mail itself, or attach a doc file. If I can't read it I will let you know.

Lacking local contributions, I will be searching the internet for interesting articles that I can use. This is where you, the reader, can help also. See an interesting article on the Internet? Send me the web page and I will check it out. Remember that it must state that it may be reprinted without permission. If something is really good though, I do not mind emailing the author to obtain permission.

Enjoy the Newsletter.

Don, WA8YRS



MINUTES FOR THE SEPT. MEETING

Don, WA8YRS, opened the meeting in the absence of KB2SAI by reading a treasures report from Bob, N8PCE:

Repeater Fund: \$622.11
Checking: \$397.80
Savings: \$361.44



Paid for P.O. box: \$26.00

Don indicated that expenses will be down because we do not pay a phone bill for autopatch. We have also eliminated the \$25/month meeting room rent. Also bought extended life printer cartridge that was recycled at a reduced cost compared to new. There should be no Newsletter expense other than stamps for the next 6 months to a year. On going expenses are Repeater equipment insurance, P. O. Box, and the Newsletter.

We mail out 23-24 Newsletters a month. It is recommended that Larry Hatton start receiving our Newsletter. Monthly Newsletter expense is about \$10.

WA8YRS read minutes from last month and the minutes were approved.

A discussion was held about the Sunday Night net time change and the continued interference from the Mt. Gilead Repeater boys. Don will place an order for that I.F. filter, which may or may not relieve the situation.

Bob, N8QPM, reported that the antenna at the hospital is now being checked. We actually missed

checking the antenna only one month. Bob also reported that this is a low tornado season, but be prepared anyway. Bob also scheduled the Net control ops for the Sunday Night net. The fourth Sunday does not have a control operator and anyone wishing to help out can take that night.

Mike, KC8YLD, mentioned donating books to the Library. Mike said he talked to the Library and they will definitely put any books donated by us on the shelf and not in a book sale. Anyone wishing to donate books should contact Mike. If you wish to donate a study guide, make sure it is up to date.

Talked about whether to schedule a December meeting at the Red Cross Building because we usually have a Christmas dinner at Ryan's and have a short meeting then. It was decided to go ahead and schedule a December meeting at the Red Cross building. By the way, our Red Cross meeting room is in the building behind the main Red Cross building. Easy to find. The Red Cross wants to have a command center in that building so we should fit right in.

Election of Officers Should be voted on at the December meeting. Nominated were:

President:	Ruben Clark, KB2SAI
Vice President:	Don Russell, WA8YRS
Treasurer:	Bob Bruff, N8PCE
Secretary:	To be determined (Phil, N1GTZ gets it if he wants it).

Barry indicated during the meeting and again to me after the meeting that we did not go by the Clubs by-laws in nominating the officers. We should have appointed a committee to nominate officers at the November meeting. Therefore the current nominations may not be valid. This will need discussed at the November meeting.

Those at the meeting were: Jim, KB8YAA, Steve, KC8YED, Jeff, N8SMT, Barry, N8PPF, Jack, N8JQZ, Don, WA8YRS, Mike, KC8YLD, and Bob, N8QPM.

Red Cross Project: We need to know more. Coverage area, Repeater, Frequencies, Training of their operators, Demonstration of what we can do.

Barry, N8PPF and I think N8SMT, volunteered to help organize the Red Cross Project. Phil, N1GTZ, resigned as Newsletter Editor due to his work schedule.

Don, WA8YRS, is the new Newsletter Editor.

N8PPF moved to adjourn
N8QPM second the motion.

PIO Tidbits
By Mike McCardel,
KC8YLD



NIMS Certification

National Incident Management System (**NIMS training is Monday November 14, 7pm at the American Red Cross Annex**). This is our regular meeting time and place. Mr. Larry Hatton of the Knox County EMA will be presenting the training and administering the certification test. I took the course at the FEMA site over the Internet. If you have previously taken and completed certification please bring a copy of your certificate or transcript to the meeting. If you have already certified via being an EMT, Firefighter, or Law Enforcement Officer, your certificate and/or transcript may be on file in your personnel folder. Please check.

Why NIMS Training? I have heard the comment that we aren't first responders. Well technically that is correct. Under our current Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) and RACES/ARES structures we respond **ONLY** at the request of an agency with which we have an MOU. There is however a strong movement, especially after the hurricane aftermaths, for the ARRL, or other ham radio organization, to become an official Non-Government Organization (NGO) on the same par as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and others.

NIMS is part of the National Response Plan (NRP) and is based on the Incident Control System (ICS) that has been used successfully for years by firefighters and law-enforcement. ARES/RACES works well for local emergencies, but for large disasters, like Katrina, hams respond as volunteers. Unfortunately we are organized as volunteers. EMCOMM specialist Jerry Boyd, K7WR suggests that if we wish to be utilized in emergencies on the scale of Katrina "...we need to organize as professionals, meaning we need to create organized mutual aid system(s)." He claims, as a law enforcement officer, that he has seen the time, long coming, when "individual, or comparatively small group of localized volunteer

responses to emergencies would no longer be acceptable or effective 'when the big one hits.'" Government agencies, [read Department of Homeland Security (DHS)], will call the shots in major disasters. They go to NIMS Resource typing System and ask for resources by type. Their request will be based on a real need for set response teams with specific skills. It will not come, as "I need some communication people." When they need help they go to sources they know will provide exactly what they need. And they probably won't be local, unless, of course, we organize professionally at a local level to have the typed resources in place. Then we can likely be called up. So far the Ham Radio EMCOMM community hasn't agreed on the resource typing system that will be required by the federal government. To get a seat at the table we had better get in tune with the only word that will get us there, ARCT (Amateur Radio Communication Team). The five resource types of the ARCT are already drawn up and we need to get in tune with their content. Organizing ourselves in ARCT types will allow us to respond upon the request of DHS or served agencies, such as the American Red Cross, with exactly the communication resources they need.

If ARRL, or some other amateur radio group becomes an NGO, we may, well, become first responders. That is basically why we need to be NIMS certified.

WHAT about ARCT typing?

The following is from <http://www.emcomm.org/ARCT/page1.htm>. Some background here, ICS is about ten years old and is the child of Firescope, which has been around for 25 or more years. At the EMCOMMWEST conference in 2002, a question arose about how EMCOMM teams might be better activated and utilized in a major emergency. After the conference a committee was formed to develop a system to expedite ordering an ARCT. Radio officers and EMCOMM managers nationwide have reviewed the following. It establishes what we need to be focusing on as emergency communications teams.

I encourage everyone to visit the site <http://www.emcomm.org/ARCT/page1.htm> and learn more about ARCTs. Think about how your skills might fit with one or more of the ARCT types.

73, de KC8YLD, Mike

EMERGENCY AND AUXILIARY LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS ORDERING RESOURCE GUIDE

In order to bring amateur radio emergency and auxiliary communication (EMCOMM) resources into compliance with Incident Command System practice and procedures, the follow nomenclatures should be used when amateur radio EMCOMM services are "ordered" during a ICS event. Each "TYPE" team is designed to provide 24/7 coverage, and will be dispatched with its own supervisor who will also serve as the liaison to the incident Communications Coordinator (COMC).

It is proposed that this will be included in the NICC Resource Ordering manual and be used by ICS Logistics personnel for all major (including non-fire) events.

ARCTs

ARCT Type 1 - (Full field station and 4 mobile/portable units)

- Complete amateur radio emergency/auxiliary communications team for single or multiple agency communications.

- Capability: Short range (VHF/UHF) and long range (HF) voice and digital communications for tactical, logistics, health/welfare, administrative, and other radio traffic. Is not dependant upon any outside power source or infrastructure.

- 12 persons including one supervisor and one assistant supervisor. Consists of one ARCT (Type 2 or 3) base station; and four Type 4 units (mobile, portable, or "rovers").

ARCT Type 2 - (Field/base station)

- Capability: Short range (VHF/UHF) and long range (HF) voice and digital communications for tactical, logistics, health/welfare, administrative, and other radio traffic. Is not dependant upon any outside power source or infrastructure.

- 4 (or more) licensed and registered AROs with one or two vehicles.

- 2 must be General class (or higher).

- May be assigned to a specific agency, or for AUX/EMCOMM. at a staging area, CP, EOC, etc. for multiple agency service.

ARCT Type 3 - (Field/base station / no digital)

- Same as ARCT TYPE 2 but without digital capability (VHF packet and/or HF pactor).

ARCT Type 4 (Mobile/portable field units)

- 2 licensed and registered AROs with one or two vehicles.

- Technician class or higher (At least 1 General or higher if available.)

- VHF FM (minimum) equipped, HF mobile/portable desired.

- May be assigned to a specific agency or to supplement/relieve an existing multi-agency ARCT.

ARCT Type 5 - (Mobile/portable field additional support unit)

- 1 individual licensed and registered ARO with vehicle.

- Technician class or higher.

- VHF FM (minimum) equipped.

- Rarely (if ever) ordered singly.

- May be assigned to a specific agency or to supplement/relieve an existing ARCT.

ICS Logistics Officers and/or Communications Unit Leaders should be provided with a current list of persons to notify to

activate an ARCT.

ICS uses 4 character mnemonics (give examples)

ARCTs may be pre-existing units, but more than likely they will be assembled from existing registered EMCOMM operators at the time of the incident. Prudent EMCOMM managers will foresee the need when incidents and potential incidents occur and will begin to assemble the ARCT resource before an actual call is received.

A team may be short a member or two...notify the ICS person who is placing the order...

ICS structure also works within the ARCT.

1. ARCT Coordinator
2. ARCT Assistant Coordinator
3. ARCT Plans and Training Coordinator
4. ARCT Operations (Nets, etc.)
5. ARCT Logistics (supplies, equipment (e.g.- generators, batteries, transportation, etc. but only as applies to the ARCT
6. ARCT Records and Reports

PIO Note: As a reference point I relied on two articles in Novembers Worldradio, the ARES E-Letter, and EMCOMM Monthly as well as the EMCOOM web site (both available at www.emcomm.org)

REPEATERS AND STUFF BY DON RUSSELL, WA8YRS

This month I am going to skip the Repeater report and present what I think is important and interesting stuff. Before getting to that though, I would like to remind everyone that we are scheduled for NIMS (National Incident Management System) training at our November 14th meeting. Larry Hatton, of the Knox County Emergency Management Agency, will be on hand to conduct the training. It is very important that we have a good showing during this meeting if only to demonstrate our sincere interest in helping to provide communications during a National or Weather emergency. Mike, KC8YLD, will have more information in his PIO column.



The Morse Code controversy has been going on for several months. I have been keeping quiet all these months because one, I wanted to see how it played out; and two, there were many other things of interest I wanted to share in this column. Besides, Mike, KC8YLD, had already covered this issue. Mike's feeling mirrors mine. I do not really care if Morse Code is a requirement to obtain a

Ham Radio license. That being said, I do not think that a 5 wpm test is all that unreasonable for one wishing to operate on a ham frequency in which Morse Code is still popular. I believe that giving hams Morse Code privileges in the CW portion of our Short Wave bands without prior training would be a serious error. It will create hard feelings between those trying to learn and those trying to communicate at a reasonable speed. Do we really need that? The Novice Bands were set up for those needing to learn and should be resurrected for that purpose. A General Class and a General Plus Class seems reasonable to me.

I do not believe in many of the reasons the Old Timers give. You know: "I had to learn it, so everyone else should have to". "Morse Code has been a part of Ham Radio since day one, we should not change it now" (okay, I agree with that one!). Eliminating the Morse Code requirement is just more "dumbing down" of Ham Radio.

There are many advantages Morse Code has over many other modes of communications that make it a valuable tool, especially in Ham Radio.

The book **Morse Code: The Essential Language** lists the following advantages Morse code has over other radio emission modes :

- Morse code can be used when other modes are unavailable or are not in working order.
- Morse code is the most widely recognized means of signaling in the world.
- Morse code is the only code understood by both man and machine.
- Morse code is the only emission mode allowed on *all* amateur radio frequencies (except 60 meters).
- Morse code can often "get through" and be understood when other modes cannot.

There are several more reason I would like to add:

- Morse code is universal. Amateur operators who speak different languages frequently hold successful conversations in Morse code using Q-signals and other standard abbreviated jargon.
- Although designed for aural reception, Morse code can also be sent and received visually and even by touch. This makes it a wonderful "secondary" means of communicating.

- The technical advantage of CW over most other modes are tremendous. That is why Morse Code is so Popular with the QRP (5 watts or less) operators.

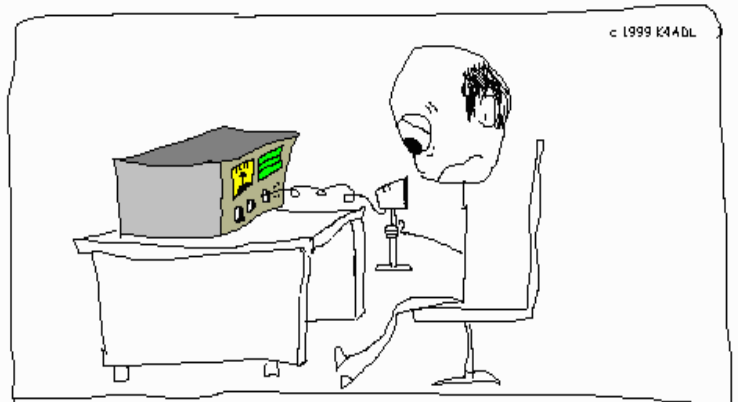
Most of the above speaks for itself. I would, however like to expand on the technical aspect of Morse Code.

The biggest advantage, in my opinion, Morse Code has to offer is the "Power of Bandwidth". For example, a 5 watt Single Side Band (SSB) signal requires 3 KHz of space in a Ham Band. This means that the 5 watts of power is spread out into a space of 3 KHz. Modes AM and FM are worse. Those modes spread out the 5 watts in a space of 6 KHz and 5 KHz. Morse Code at a speed of 10 wpm on the other hand. Concentrates this 5 watts of power into about 100 Hz. A Morse Code signals power has a bandwidth of 30 times that of SSB!

Let's look at a common everyday device to compare the difference between Morse Code and SSB. Take your ordinary garden hose. A garden hose is what? One inch in diameter? Hook that to your water outlet and turn on the water. Look at what we are getting. A very steady, wide stream of water. Now, try washing your car with this steady stream. Is it powerful enough to remove dirt? Of course not. Let's say the hose diameter is really bandwidth. What would you do to get the dirt off of your car? Well, most people would use a nozzle to increase the water pressure. Now you have a powerful stream of water that will efficiently remove the dirt from your car. In this Example, the nozzle acts like a bandwidth reducer, increasing the effective power of the water spray. The same holds true for decreasing the bandwidth of a radio signal. Less bandwidth, more punch, less signal to noise ratio. Louder signals on the air.

It works in real life too. I have been playing with my FT-817 QRP radio for about two years now. I have tried many portable antennas and even my base antennas. I used it one year at the clubs Field Day and made over 200 contacts. In all cases, CW always outperformed SSB. I would call and call stations on SSB and just maybe finally get an answer. When on CW, I was generally answered on the first call. CW outperforms all voice modes!

The only real rival that CW has right now is PSK31. For the same reasons and a few more. A PSK31 signal has a bandwidth of (you guessed it!) 31 Hz.



DESTINED TO LIVE OUT HIS LIFE AS A POORLY-DRAWN STICK FIGURE, CHARLES FOUND SOLICE IN CHATTING WITH PEOPLE WHO WOULD NEVER SEE HIM.

Less bandwidth, more power. Plus, PSK31, using

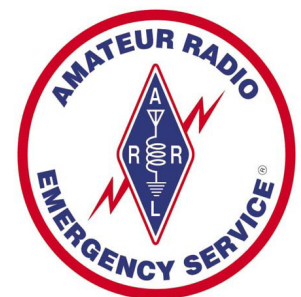
a soundcard interface and the proper software can actually provide perfect copy when the human ear cannot even hear the signal! The draw back? To run PSK31, you need an SSB transceiver and a computer with a soundcard. To run CW, all you need is a transceiver that puts out a carrier, ears, and a minimum of two wires to short together.

If the FCC's intent is to keep Amateur Radio as a Public Service that provides communications in emergencies, then they should keep at least the minimum 5 wpm Morse Code requirement for the General and Extra Class license.

SELECTED ITEMS FROM THE ARRL LETTER

HAM RADIO SAVES THE DAY IN MISSISSIPPI; RITA RECOVERY CONTINUES IN TEXAS

Amateur Radio volunteers in Jasper County, Texas, continue to support mass-feeding operations by The Salvation Army, which has been coordinating with other relief groups to provide meals to Hurricane Rita-



displaced residents. Amateur volunteers plan to meet with Salvation Army personnel to discuss the need for Amateur Radio support beyond this weekend. Meanwhile, ARRL Alabama SM Greg Sarratt, W4OZK--who's been handling the intake of American Red Cross volunteers in Montgomery, Alabama--has been visiting ARC shelters along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Shelters there are in the

process of closing down. In Gulfport, Amateur Radio volunteers continue to support communication for the emergency operations center (EOC) in Harrison County, where they've been a mainstay since Hurricane Katrina struck in late August.

"If it hadn't been for Amateur Radio operators, we would not have had communications with other agencies," said Col Joe Spraggins of the Harrison County Emergency Management Agency. "Even with the advancements in our radio technology, ham radio saved the day! Thank you."

Christy Hardin, KB7BSA, a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer from Alabama, and husband Rick, KB4BSA, have been in the Gulf Coast twice following Hurricane Katrina. She had nothing but praise for those who have been volunteering to maintain communication at the EOC 24/7 in some cases despite having lost their own homes to the storm. "The four or five operators who worked around the clock for nearly a month are the true heroes," she said.

In particular, she cited ARES District Emergency Coordinator Tom Hammack, W4WLF, Ray Taber, WX5AAA, Glover Hayden, W5BLV, and John Moore, W5EG, for serving unselfishly on behalf of Mississippi Gulf Coast residents. Hammack has been living in the EOC since the storm flooded and badly damaged his house. An instructor for all three levels of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course, Hardin says she was "thrilled to see it in action" as the EOC volunteers performed as true professionals.

South Texas ARRL Section Manager Ray Taylor, N5NAV, this week estimated upward of 60 Amateur Radio volunteers were on the ground in Texas, many supporting shelters scattered throughout the area. North Texas SEC Bill Swan, K5MWC, has been helping to recruit and schedule ARES members from his section to assist in mass-care operations in Jasper County.

Taylor says radio amateurs in North Texas and Arkansas have been helping to cover net control shifts and to serve as relay stations for the West Gulf ARES Emergency Net on 7.285 MHz days/ 3.873 MHz evenings. Scott Pederson, KI5DR, reports he just returned home from three days in Jasper County, Texas, working with John Wagner, WA5VBP, Charles Fletcher, N5BOY, and John

Barber, N5JB. "Our job was to deliver hot meals to various locations around a three-county area with five Salvation Army trucks and also several Red Cross trucks working together," he said. Ham radio, he explained, helped to coordinate the delivery routes by the various agencies involved. While VHF FM simplex was okay for local work, the West Gulf ARES Emergency Net on HF was very reliable.

"Even though regular phones are working most of the time, it's really the hams that are the communicators of the group," he said. Pederson also lauded the efforts of The Salvation Army, American Red Cross and Arkansas Methodist Men's volunteers. "Everyone is focused and cares deeply about their tasks," he said, "and things are happening at lightning speed throughout the day."

In Louisiana, SEC Gary Stratton, K5GLS, said earlier this week that some 45 Amateur Radio volunteers remained on hurricane recovery duty there. "Things are settling down," Stratton told ARRL.--Christy Hardin, KB7BSA, supplied information for this article.



If you know a student who is enrolled or will be enrolled in institutions of higher education full-time. There are 54 scholarships available through the Foundation for Amateur Radio.

Foundation for Amateur Radio announces scholarships (Oct 21, 2005) -- The Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) plans to administer 54 scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year to assist Amateur Radio licensees attending institutions of higher education full-time. A non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC, FAR is composed of more than 75 area Amateur Radio clubs. FAR fully funds three of these scholarships, 10 are funded with income from grants and FAR administers the remaining 41 without cost to the donors. Radio amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or to

those who are pursuing certain courses of study. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities. For additional information and an application form, send a letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2006, to: FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. FAR is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

ARRL PARTNERS WITH THE SALVATION ARMY FOR HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

The ARRL and The Salvation Army (TSA) have partnered up for the 2005 ARRL Holiday Toy Drive. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager



Allen Pitts, W1AGP, is the League's point man behind the effort to brighten the holidays for youngsters displaced or left homeless by the Gulf Coast hurricanes. He points out that TSA's distribution network throughout the region remains intact. In addition, Pitts says, TSA can screen recipients and ensure that the gifts go where they are truly needed the most.

"We are asking hams from all over the country to begin gathering new toys and shipping them to Memphis, Tennessee," Pitts said this week. "ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, has secured a receiving warehouse and is coordinating ham-elves volunteering there." Toys go to: ARRL Toy Drive/The Salvation Army, 1775 Moriah Woods Blvd--Suite 12, Memphis, TN 38117-7125. There volunteers will sort and stock them. Early in December, the toys will be transported to Salvation Army facilities in hurricane areas that need help the most at that time.

National Toy Drive Chairperson and award-winning country music artist Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, has joined with family and friends--including producer Richard Lubash, N1VXW--to make three videos promoting the drive.

Loveless says caring and helping are a big part of what ham radio is all about. "Those things are the major traits of our tradition," she said, "and we, as

Amateur Radio operators and ARRL members, can continue the true spirit of that tradition by supporting this wonderful and much needed effort." The ARRL is asking Amateur Radio operators to put a QSL card into the box with their donated toys.

Pitts says many ham radio clubs already are gathering toys for this year's drive. "Please check with your local club and see if they are planning a mass shipment," he suggested. "If not, perhaps you can help organize one for your area."

Unwrapped new toys for boys and girls of ages 1 to 14 should be collected and shipped to the Memphis facility between now and Thanksgiving for distribution over the holidays. Non-hams are also encouraged to join in this effort to provide for the thousands of children left homeless or displaced due to the Gulf Coast hurricanes.

Cash donations from ARRL members also are welcome to help cover such Toy Drive expenses as truck rentals and purchasing toys for special age groups. Send donations to: ARRL Toy Drive, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

DAVID RANKIN, K4AWO IN FLORIDA HOSPITAL

Dave, K4AWO, called me (Don, WA8YRS) Friday November 4. Unfortunately I was outside and didn't hear the phone so Dave left me a voice mail.

Dave is in a Florida hospital near his home town with what he described as a "Bad, Bad disease". He wanted me to let everyone know. David Patton, KC8UTL, has more information but I have not been able to reach him.

Dave does have his computer with him and I am sure Dave would love hearing from some of the local hams. His e-mail address is: k4awo@juno.com.

Dave also indicated that he would be on Echo Link occasionally. If you hear him on, give him a call and wish him well.

Please keep Dave in your thoughts and prayers.



Membership Form

Club dues run from Jan. 1 until Dec. 31 and are collected during the last quarter of the year. You can mail in the dues to the address below or bring them to a meeting.

Dues Schedule:

\$20 regular

\$10 for second member in the same family

\$10 for over 65 yrs. of age

\$15 for those living outside Knox County

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 372

Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

Name _____ Call-Sign _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ License Class _____

ARRL Member (Y/N) _____ E-Mail _____

Extra Donation (Optional) _____

Members are entitled to a free MVARC E-Mail address. Would you like one? No _____ Yes _____

If yes please enter password _____

Other Comments:

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Newsletter, CQ, is published monthly by the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club.

Editor: Don Russell, WA8YRS

President: Ruben Clarke, KB2SAI

Vice President: Don Russell, WA8YRS

Secretary: Phil Buble, N1GTZ

Treasurer: Bob Bruff, N8PCE

Credits: Clip Art and Cartoons thanks to http://wm8c1.50megs.com/radio_clip_art.htm, <http://www.gsl.net/k4ad/>, http://pages.prodigy.net/kg0zz/clipart/ham_art3.htm, <http://www.arrl.org/>,

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ATTENTION ALL CLUB MEMBERS

This is a very important time for our Club. Being a Non-Profit organization, we rely strictly on our membership to support our projects. Some of our expenses include, but are not limited to paying insurance on our Repeater System, Upkeep and maintenance of our 2-meter Repeater, Field Day expenses, and publication of our Newsletter. Please support our Club. A membership form is included in each issue of the Newsletter. Please use this form to renew your dues for 2006, or better yet, attend a meeting and pay in person.