

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

September 2008



September

Ike

Courtesy of the ARRL Website

REVISED Sep 14, 2008 09:12 ET

Texas Hams Braced for Ike

The rigs that are in use for Hurricane Ike operations at the Dallas County EOC. EchoLink and Packet were also utilized. [L.D. Carpenter, K5LD, Photo] As Tropical Storm Ike slowly weakens over Southeast Texas, hams in the three ARRL Texas Sections -- South Texas, North Texas and West Texas -- are assisting served agencies that are coping with the after-effects of was once a Category 2 hurricane. At 2:10 Saturday morning, Ike made landfall with the eastern part of Galveston Island with sustained winds reaching 110 MPH; just eight hours later, Ike, slowing down considerably, only had winds measuring at 80 MPH, and only at 45 MPH by 4 PM. In a conference call on Saturday morning with League Headquarters, ARRL Section Leadership from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Arkansas said hams in their respective Sections were ready for whatever Ike brought their way.

South Texas

ARRL South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Mike Schwartz, KG5TL, reported that hams in his Section have been "working all through the night and into the morning. Our ARES® groups have been working hand-in-hand with RACES. We've been working very well together, and we are handling all their message traffic."

Schwartz said that he had received three Ham Aid kits for use in the Section: One went to the Jackson County EOC, one went to New Braunfels to support a Texas Guard Maritime Regiment there "and we're keeping the other one on hold in case it's needed after the storm goes through."

Saying that none of the shelters opened in his Section have asked for Amateur Radio support beyond their local area, hams are "very active" in local Emergency Operations Centers. As far as damage goes, Schwartz said that the Orange County area was hit pretty hard by Ike: "Rocky Wilson, N5MTX, the Emergency Coordinator in Orange, said there has been a lot of infrastructure damage there."

Schwartz said that as for now, "We are hunkered down. We'll know more tomorrow as the storms begin to move on out. We do know that we will need some help after Ike is done and gone."

Important Dates

Friday, September 19, 7:30 PM - General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, September 27th, 2008
- 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, September 30, 7:30 PM - Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Sweet Tomatoes Sept 17th
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery Sept 24th
Marco's Oct 1st
Spring Creek Barbeque Oct 8th
Pepperchino Oct 15th
Luby's Cafeteria Oct 22nd

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Skeeters Sept 17th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Sept 24th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Oct 1st
Fajita Willies W. Little York Oct 8th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Oct 15rd
Jason's Deli - Katy Fwy Oct 22nd

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille Sep 17
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet Sep 24
Pappas Barbecue Oct 1
Morningside Thai Oct 8
New Orleans Cajun Kitchen Oct 15
Prima Pasta Oct 22

"Tail Draggers" Lunch Bunch

11:00 am, Aviator's Grill, Hooks Airport

Notice: NARS membership dues are \$20 per year, renewable on anniversary of last year's full payment.

Deadline for articles to appear in the next issue is the last day of this month.

BREAKFAST

at Denny's

7720 Louetta Road

Saturdays

7:30 AM

President's Corner

September - 2008

Get ready, get set, GO!

I said that last month....and I'll say it again!

The end of September; the 27 and 28th is The Texas QSO Party. Make your plans now to be active any way you can: mobile, your fixed station, another fixed station. There are plenty available. Members need someone to split off running mobile. Share the operation and share the gasoline. There is no excuse to complain about fuel costs when you can split it up with someone else. Put out a email on the reflector that you need an operator to share the run. Or you are available to ride shotgun. Try it!

Also, Mr Bill, W5SB, the 'Ole Contester, has opened up his station to anyone, particularly the newer amateurs that don't have HF stations (yet) or new amateurs with non-HF licenses. Bill thinks like a lot of us that ham radio...is...HF and not ...just...2 meters. Two meters is just "by the way."

It's going to be a sort of "open house" at Bill's, with, hopefully, some newer operators taking advantage of his equipment and expertise in TQP contesting. Give Bill a call and get in line to do some operating. Remember, this is, for the most part, a 'day-time' contest, so there will not be any midnight shifts needed!

And to quote Gregg, W5IDX from the Reflector:

"I would highly recommend all who can; take advantage of this offer.

Make a friend and have fun and get to meet a few people one on one and get

some good radio time on HF.

W5IDX"

No skills needed; just the desire to operate!

VE Session Results

Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG
NARS VE Session Manager

Here are the Saturday, August 23rd VE Test Session Results:

We had a total of 5 candidates. Please welcome the latest addition to the hobby:

- Bethany Stanley - KE5WEH - Technician (Mom)
- Sarah Stanley - KE5WEJ - Technician (Daughter)
- Caroline Stanley - KE5WEK - Technician (Daughter)

And yes, Dad, Steve (KD5GUY) was there cheering 'em on!

Congratulations to the upgrades:

- Clay Haynes - KE5WEL - who passed both element 2 & 3 for General,
- David Bauer - W2CAP - who passed element 4 for Extra

Special thanks to the VEs in attendance for their time and hard work:

- Keith Dutson - NM5G
- Chet Farley - KG6YF
- Jim Kirk - KJ5X
- Martin Rogoff - N5GPS
- Bob Walworth - N5ET

The next session will be held on Saturday, September 27th at 8:30 a.m. at the Tomball Community Center, located at the corner of Market St. & S. Cherry St. Parking is in the rear (south side) of the building. The entrance is on the S. Cherry St. (west) side of the building.

Sunday, September 14, 2008

It Seems to Me ...

H. O. - K5CX
Newsletter Editor

...that the NARS Club meeting scheduled for September 19th is in jeopardy due to hurricane Ike.

Please check the club reflector and the website for updates throughout the coming week.

Many of our members are participating in emergency communications. Please lend them your support.

Around the Circuit

Mike Bragassa - K5UO President's Column (cont)

In order to break the ice with introductions of new members, or guests, we would like to try something a little different at the next meeting. Here is your advance notice. (Find out who does or does not read the newsletter, too.)

It may sound like that 'in practice' it will be a bit clumsy. It may at first but after we get it going it should not be as such.

"Introductions":

When you as an 'ole-time member, new member or guest make's your individual introduction at the start of the meeting, please propose a question, e.g. "I would like to know more about Echo-Link." Or another example might be: " I need to know more about why radials are so important with a vertical antenna?" Keep it brief; just a simple question.

Everyone participates in this exercise. Someone in the room will raise their hand for recognition: "I'm Bill, K5ABC. I can help you with that; see me after the meeting." Or someone might be recognized and say, " I'm Joe WB5DEF, put me down as asking that same question, too." It's a combination introduction and comment/question from anyone in the room. The Responder does not have to be an expert in the question; only that he has an interest in the subject. No issue discussion happens at this time. This is still just the meeting introduction part of the meeting. Keep it brief and move on.

Keep it like a contest on your radio. "CQ contest de K5UO"; You respond "NO5W" and then I respond, "NO5W, 599 #212", and so on, quick and brief. You will discuss later.

If no one responds with an offer of help, we will note the question and ask for someone to gather some simple and

brief information for a 5 minute discussion in front of the members. If the interest goes beyond five minutes; probably Program Coordinator/ Club Director Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ will source someone to give an extended presentation on the subject.

This little 'ta-doo' has a many-fold purpose, besides general introductions:

1. Club presentation subjects for later use. If no one could respond to the question, there must be a need for education.
2. Put's the Ole-timers on the same level as the new members/guests. There is always something to learn from this hobby regardless of you time-in-grade!
3. The new members and guests are not being singled out during introductions. Everyone is being singled out.

So, EVERYONE, please think about a question to ask when you introduce yourself this next meeting.

FCC Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 25

ZCZC AX08
QST de W1AW
Special Bulletin 8 ARLX008

From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT August 26, 2008

To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX008

ARLX008 FCC Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 25

On August 11, the Federal Communications Commission announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 25, 2008.

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 10 year term.

The notice in the August 26, 2008 Federal Register, entitled

"Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008," includes regulatory fees expected to recover a total of \$312,000,000 during FY2008, encompassing all the services the FCC regulates.

More information is available at,

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/08/11/10257/?nc=1>.

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Welcome to our newest members:
Linda McCree KE5VGA, David White W5DCW, and William Wightman WA5WAW.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com
Allen Majeski WA5REJ
281-353-8652, wa5rej.tx@netzero.net
Bill Denton W5SB
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Madison Jones W5MJ
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Deral Kent K5WNO
281-548-7476, k5wno@juno.com

Digital Modes:

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
281-251-4301, fitz6@swbell.net

VHF/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA
281-894-5942

PC Programming and Operations:

Keith Dutson NM5G 281-351-7683,
keith@dutson.net

Building Electronics & Kits:

Mark Tyler K5GQ
281-587-0256, k5gq@juno.com

Interference (Basic Advice):

Terry Myers KQ5U
281-443-6042,
tmyers1031@sbcglobal.net

Card Checking for Awards:

Bob Walworth N5ET - DXCC
281-292-2221, rwalworth@charter.net

Brian Derx N5BA - WAS, VUCC
281-894-5942

H O Townsend K5CX - WAZ
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

NARS Public Information Officer:

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

NARS Information

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

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281-447-4347, tom_sts@hotmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

Send address, phone, email and other
changes to:

NARS
P. O. Box 90387
Houston, TX 77090-0387

NETS

10-Meter Ragchew: Mon 8:00 PM,
28.444 MHz Coordinator: Open

2-Meter Wedneaday Night: 8:00 PM,
146.06/66 MHz, Coordinator; Jerry
KB5VGD

WEB SITE

URL: <http://www.w5nc.org>
Webmaster: Bill Buoy N5BIA
281-370-3510, n5bia@arrl.net

NARS REFLECTOR

NARS@mailman.qth.net
Coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G
281-351-7683, keith@dutson.net

TEXAS QSO PARTY

Coordinator: Chuck Sanders NO5W
936-273-6930, no5w@consolidated.net

VE SESSION (ARRL) Manager:

Eddy Reynolds K5WQG
reynolds_eddy@yahoo.com

REPEATERS (KA5AKG)

2-m: 146.06/146.66 MHz Tone: 141.3
70 cm: 444.375/449.375 MHz Tone:103.5

MEETINGS

Monthly General Membership

Third Friday each month at 7:30 PM
Cypress Creek Christian Community
Center, 6823 Cypresswood Drive

Saturday Breakfast

Denny's, 7720 Louetta, 7:30 AM

Wednesday Lunch 11:30 AM

Various locations (Info on 146.660 and
listed on front page in Important Dates
column)

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281-376-7416 - k5cx@arrl.net

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American Radio Relay League
ARRL Club No. 2120