

# YAVAPAI SIGNAL

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club • Prescott, Arizona • DM-34 • Volume 19– No. 11 • December 2004

## Welcome To The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) is an ARRL affiliated club. The club participates in many activities in the tri-city area by providing communications for local events, emergency communications, and promotion of the hobby throughout the community. Membership in the YARC is open to any interested amateur or non-amateur alike. Dues are \$20.00/yr. The YARC meets at 7:00 PM local time on the first Thursday of every month at the Granite Mountain Middle School, 1800 Williamson Valley Rd. in Prescott. It is about 1/2 mile north of Iron Springs Rd and all amateurs and non-amateurs as well are invited. Programs of interest are included as part of the meeting. The weekly NET is held every Wednesday at 7:00 PM local time on the 146.880- repeater. All amateurs are invited to participate and visitors are always welcome. The Yavapai County ARES/RACES NET is held on Monday nights approximately at 6:45PM local time on the 147.220+ repeater on Mingus Mtn.

## Club Repeater

The local 146.880- mHz repeater is the official adopted repeater for the YARC. It is located on the hill above Willow Creek Rd and requires a PL of 100.0 Hz. If you hear a 1400 Hz pulsing tone, the repeater is on backup battery power and usage should be limited to necessary communications. The 147.040+ (100.0 PL) repeater is back up and running in Prescott Heights. Many thanks to Bill Kafka, W2YAV for the upkeep and use of the repeaters.

### YARC Officers for 2004

#### President

John Broughton, WB9VGJ  
wb9vgj@arrl.net

#### Vice President

Bob Rosevear, WB7RRQ  
rosevear520@cableone.net

#### Secretary

Joe Oliver, AC6AA  
joliver@commspeed.net

#### Treasurer

David Passell, K6UWV  
davidrex@northlink.com

#### YARC Board of Directors (includes Club Officers)

Rex Mauldin-N7NGM  
Terry Pemberton-KB7TRE  
Jack Ragen-W3IVQ  
Walter Schumann -KF6SPS  
Weekly Net Control-Tom Ivan  
, KF7GC, et al

Newsletter Editor-Hal Tritel, N6OVE

## Outgoing Message from Rex

As your past President, I want to thank you for participating in our past events, showing up to meetings and providing me with your thoughts and ideas in order to keep our club alive. It was my desire to get the word out to the public that we exist, that we can be helpful in not only emergency situations, but to provide answers to technical questions such as interference or means to obtain the best radio reception for their AM or FM radio. I also wanted to provide a means to educate the public as to why we need or want tower installations at our homes, why PRB-1 is so important to us and so forth. Most of all, I wanted to help our community by providing an opportunity to spark some young person's imagination as to the potential uses of radio and the camaraderie that ham radio can provide which is why I have mentioned the Arizona Near Space Research group many times of the past couple of years, hoping to attract the attention of others, mainly younger people to this interesting part of ham radio.

I hope that with your continued support, the club continues to promote international good will, further the art of radio communication, advance technical abilities and otherwise enjoy what amateur radio has to offer.

Rex Mauldin, N7NGM



## TIMELY ELECTION OF NEW SLATE OF CLUB OFFICERS

It was a close call, we almost lost the club for lack of volunteers. The bylaws call for election of officers and board at the November annual meeting and we just made it in time thanks to Joe Oliver, AC6AA, who, after much hand wringing and soul searching by the membership, volunteered to fill the position and was immediately elected.

Thank you Joe, you may just have saved the YARC from extinction. Officers elected for 1965 were:

President: John, WB9VGJ

Vice President: Bob, WB7RRQ

Secretary: Joe, AC6AA

Treasurer: David, K6UWV

Board members at large: Jack, W3IVQ;  
Terry, KB7TRE; Walter, KF6SPS

As past president, Rex, N7NGM, will serve on the board for 2005 as per the club bylaws.

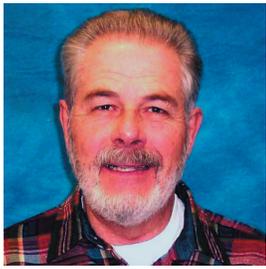
It always surprises me that in a group as large as YARC that there are so few members willing to volunteer for anything

requiring a commitment of time or energy for the club. While many members are willing to work at the stations for the various races the club monitors, the situation changes when election time rolls around. *Not enough glamour?*

Don't forget the YARC Annual Dinner party at the China Buffet on January 15th at 6 p.m. The food is good and there will be door prizes. We had lots of fun at last year's party.



*Minutes of November 4, 2004 Meeting*



Rex, N7NGM, called the meeting to order at 1900. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Visitors attending the meeting: Joe Rogers,

W6CEF. New members joining the club were: Joe Rogers, W6CEF.

Meeting minutes: The minutes for the October meeting were approved on a motion by Jim, N5RO, seconded by David, K6UWV.

Treasurer's report: Al, KD7MTJ, gave the treasurer's report.

Nominating committee: The nominating committee, Jim, N5RO, and Doug, KIV8TD, presented the list of candidates for office for 2005: John, WBVGJ, for president; Bob, WB7RRQ, for vice president; David, K6UWV, for treasurer. They reported there was no candidate for secretary. There was an intense discussion regarding finding a candidate for secretary and it was pointed out that the bylaws call for election of officers and board at the November annual meeting and that it was necessary to elect the officers and board at this meeting. After the discussion, there still was no nomination for secretary. However, Jack, W3IVQ, Terry, KB7TRE, and KF6SPS, were nominated for board members at large. Bob, WB6ODR, moved to table the nominations and election. David, K6UWV, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

During the nomination discussion, John, WB9VGJ, advised that one of the proposed changes to the club bylaws that members will be voting on in the near future is a change in officer terms. He said the board decided on two-year, staggered terms for officers. This means that two officers will be elected every year. This will help solve two problems: 1) the difficulty of finding four officers every year and 2) keep continuity across administrations as there will always be two officers remaining in office when the other two are elected. The term limits will remain the same as in the current bylaws

– no officer may serve more than two consecutive terms. As for the members at large, the terms will remain one year in length and there will remain no limit on the number of consecutive terms for these board members. John also informed the attendees that the board had decided to allow the new slate of officers for 2005 determine which two would serve a two-year term and which two would serve a one-year term beginning in 2005 to transition to the new system.

Old business: Bob, WB6ODR, showed the attendees the sample patches he had gotten. He said the vendor had confirmed the price and advised the board had authorized ordering 100 patches. Terry, KB7TRE, advised he had participated in the Boy Scouts of America JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) in October. He said the turnout was not large, but that the operation at the school station went well. He showed a thank you card the scouts sent him. Jack, W3IVQ, said a friend of his was looking for a low cost receiver or transceiver in order to monitor the ham bands. The friend is a potential ham. If anyone knows of such a rig, he/she should contact Jack. Doug, KV8TD, announced he had an MFJ all band vertical antenna for sale and would entertain reasonable offers for it.

New business: None.

Committee reports: ARES/RACES; Lloyd, WA6ZZJ, advised there will be a training session Saturday, 11/6 at the Cottonwood public service building. He reported the Diabetes Walk at the Yavapai-Prescott Indian reservation on 10/16 went well and had a very good turnout. Lee, KB7CBK, reported on the upcoming terrorist disaster exercise to be held 11/12 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. He said he still needed volunteers to help with the exercise. He advised that safety rules for the exercise prohibits any weapons, including large pocketknives, to be in the possession of any participants. Police officers will have unloaded firearms, and will have no magazines on their persons. There have been accidents in the past with police officers having accidental discharges of their weapons.

There was more discussion of a nominee for secretary, which bore no fruit. A motion to recess the business meeting

by Terry, KB7TRE, seconded by Hal, N6OVE, to allow for some arm-twisting to find a candidate for secretary carried.

The business meeting resumed at 2012. The drawing was held. Lois Diddams won \$17.00.

The nominating committee nominated Joe, AC6AA, for the office of secretary. Doug, KV8TD, moved to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by David, K6UWV, and carried. Doug then moved to elect the nominees by unanimous consent. Lloyd, WA6ZZJ, seconded the motion. The motion carried and the following officers and board members at large were elected:

President: John, WB9VGJ  
Vice President: Bob, WB7RRQ  
Secretary: Joe, AC6AA  
Treasurer: David, K6UWV  
Board members at large: Jack, W3IVQ; Terry, KB7TRE; Walter, KF6SPS  
As past president, Rex, N7NGM, will serve on the board for 2005 as per the club bylaws.

The meeting adjourned at 2016 on a motion by Terry, KB7TRE, seconded by Tony, W7PCU.

The program was about the Yavapai County Jeep Posse and was given by Jim Cobey, KB7YVW. Jim provided Web site and frequency information. Useful Yavapai County Sheriff's web sites are:

Jeep Posse: <http://www.ycjp.org>  
Search and Rescue: <http://www.ycsrt.org>  
Air Group: <http://www.ycsrt.org>

He advised the Arizona state primary frequency for search and rescue is 155.160. The YC Jeep Posse's primary frequency is 155.4 (the repeater is on Mt. Union).

The program ended at 2050.

*Respectfully,*

*John Broughton, WB9VGJ*

*Secretary*

**Minutes of October/November, 2004 board meeting**

A combination October/November YARC board meeting was held at Prescott Resort 10/29/04. Present were: Rex, N7NGM; John, WB9VGJ; Jack, W3IVQ; Al, KD7MTJ; Bob, WB6ODR, Dick, W6CCD.

Rex called the meeting to order at 1737. The board decided a meeting in November was not necessary as this meeting served to cover any open issues. The board agreed to have the December board meeting at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting.

Rex advised that Jim Cobey, KB7YVW, will be the guest speaker at the November meeting and that he will give a talk on search and rescue. The board discussed the annual holiday party. It was decided to have it at the China Buffet as in the past two years. Rex volunteered to make the reservation for Jan 15th or 22nd. Dick made a motion, seconded by Jack, that the club allocate \$100 for prizes for the party. The motion carried. Bob mentioned that last year the manager at the Radio Shack in Prescott sold the club a couple of gift certificates for half-price, with Radio Shack donating half the cost.

A discussion was held on the positive aspects of moving the club's monthly meeting to the first Thursday of the month (we had four new members sign up at the October meeting). Al made a motion, seconded by John, that the move be permanent. The motion carried.

Rex brought up the possible advantages of the club getting involved in an EchoLink and/or IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) capability. There was discussion on the issue. Bob advised he has experimented with EchoLink and has equipment for it. He is going to do some experimenting with it, working with Rex. Rex will bring up the idea to the club membership at a meeting to see if there is any interest in this and any members willing to get involved in it.

Bob had the sample club patches. They are yellow with black stitching and the consensus of the board was that they are very nice patches. John made a motion, seconded by Al, that \$170 be allocated

to purchase 100 patches (100 @ \$2.00 - \$30 for sample artwork). The motion carried and Bob will order the patches. Bob advised the vendor, SkywarnSupply.com, has a wide variety of items available: <http://www.skywarnsupply.com/index.htm>

In regard to the BPL (Broadband over Power Line) trial in Cottonwood, Jack asked if the club had ever considered donating money to the ARRL to help in the PBL effort. The board was advised that the club did donate \$250 to the ARRL for this purpose several months ago, although the specific date wasn't recalled.

Rex advised of a 2M to 10M simplex crossband operation provided by Mike, WB8VLC. The 2M simplex frequency for transmit is 146.42 MHz (127.3 PL) and the 10M receive frequency is 29.6 MHz. He also advised that there have been unidentified signals observed on 147.48 MHz. They have been heard in Prescott and Chino Valley. He and other hams are trying to determine the source. He asks that members of the club listen for the signals and provide information to him on them, such as location when heard, strength, and direction from which they are coming if possible.

The board worked on modifying the remaining articles of the club bylaws in order to complete the draft of the bylaws update. The update for the remaining articles was completed. The board also discussed changing the terms for the officers. The change would have each officer serve a term of two years, with two of the four officers being elected each year. This would allow for an overlap in terms that would help maintain continuity of the board and of club officials from one term to the next. It will also help alleviate the problem of finding members willing to serve as club officers every year at election time. The board was unanimous in agreeing to this change in the bylaws. The proposed bylaws changes will be presented to the club membership to be voted upon in the next month or two.

The meeting was adjourned at 1840.

*Respectfully,  
John, WB9VGJ  
Secretary*

**Yavapai County ARES/RACES**

*November 12, 2004 Yavapai County WMD and Arizona*

**State Operation REACT Exercise****'THIS IS A DRILL' .....**

In the week leading up to the Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> exercise the scenario leads to the Homeland Security Department issuing an "Orange Alert" on November 8<sup>th</sup> for Northern Arizona. U.S Surveillance resources had been receiving intelligence of possible terrorist threats. Further intelligence leads to a "Red Alert" being issued for Yavapai County the morning of November 12<sup>th</sup> prompting the activation of local and county EOC's. Yavapai County ARES/RACES is activated any time the County EOC is operational. Later in the morning of November 12<sup>th</sup> the Arizona State Homeland Security issues a bulletin stating that a positive case of smallpox had occurred in Pinal County. This prompts Yavapai County Public Health to activate their smallpox inoculation plan.

At 0730 the Chino Valley EOC comes on the air with K7CJW and AC7HP followed by the Prescott Valley EOC with AB7NK and W6CCD. The Yavapai County EOC is operational with WB9VGJ, KC6ZHG, N6LSA, KF6SPS and WA6ZZJ. Mel, N6BDC, located in Cottonwood begins a 'resource net' on the 147.220 Mhz Mingus Mountain repeater to establish a list of available ARES/RACES personnel. After a briefing at the County EOC by Lee, KC7CBK, who was the amateur radio controller for the event, ARES/RACES operators are dispatched as follows:

Prescott EOC -KV8TD - KD7NGB - Simone Colton  
Yavapai County Community Health Services - KD7VBG - WA6AQK  
American Red Cross - W7JLC - KD5DKN  
Yavapai Regional Medical Center - KB6AH - AA7MH  
Shadow operator for Arizona Emergency Management Director Navarette - KB7TRE

*(See page 4, DRILL)*

*(DRILL from page 3)*

Drill manned by their operators who regularly volunteer at that location - W7LGB - N7XFD- W6KCF

Communications were also maintained with the Sheriff's Mobile Command Post at the VA Hospital and units communicating for the Salvation Army.

HF communications were maintained with the Arizona State EOC and other Counties along with VHF communications through the 146.680 Smith Peak repeater using the remote base of KB6TWC in Prescott.

The exercise scenario continued with a twin engine Beechcraft King Air B200 general aviation aircraft fully loaded with aviation fuel crashing into a building at the VA Hospital with mass casualties resulting. Shortly before crashing the airplane jettisoned bags of an unknown powder, which looked like anthrax, from the cockpit. The next event was a tour bus loaded with people going to get their smallpox inoculations overturning in Chino Valley and several dead and injured.

YRMC was set up with their decontamination unit and triage teams to accept patients from the VA Hospital incident.

For a time during the exercise a loss of telephone services was simulated which moved the majority of traffic to our amateur radio resources.

The exercise continued until approximately 1140 hrs when it was terminated.

A real time incident occurred at the Prescott Valley EOC when the fire alarm sounded and the building was evacuated. The amateur operators at that location moved communications to their car in the parking lot and maintained contact from there until allowed to return to the building. Once in the building their location was moved to another room and they moved equipment and adapted to the new area. The EOC personnel were impressed by the manner in which the amateur operators were able to adapt and not lose continuity of communications.

Overall approximately 25 messages were passed between the different locations

along with some tactical traffic.

There were several 'Firsts' on this operation. It was the first time we had operated with the EOC's in Prescott, Prescott Valley and Chino Valley. It was the first time some of the Cities had set up their EOC's during an exercise so it was also their first exposure to what ARES/RACES can do. It was the first time since Y2K that we operated the station at YRMC and this time we were using a cross band repeater at that location. It was the inaugural exercise use of our installation at the Red Cross. It was also the first time for us using the new radio room at the Yavapai County EOC and it really worked well being separated from the actual EOC itself. There were three operating positions going at one time with no interference between them. We also interfaced with the ham operators at the VA Medical Center for the first time in an exercise.

Overall ARES/RACES participation went very well. We did learn there were areas where we could improve and areas where we possibly need to upgrade equipment, but this is why we have exercises. Like I always say 'no exercise is ever a failure'...

I attended the critique of the overall operation in the afternoon and the comments from the EOC's we operated from was very favorable of our ARES/RACES participation. The two words used to describe our help were 'excellent' and 'outstanding'. This from people who we were operating with for the first time.

Plans for the future will include more permanent installations at the Prescott Valley and Chino Valley EOC's along with an upgrade at YRMC and addition of a new 'local' repeater to our system.

Once again, thank you to all who participated. Performance such as yours greatly helps to show the served agencies that Amateur Radio is indeed up to the task.

*Lloyd Halgunseth WA6ZZJ  
Yavapai County ARES/RACES  
DEC/Radio Officer  
(928) 717-2706  
[w6zzj@cableone.net](mailto:w6zzj@cableone.net)*

## Are You Using 2 Meter Frequencies Properly?

Ed Harris, KE4SKY

A growing problem is encroachment by FM users in portions of the 2-meter band where that emission type is not permitted. The Baltimore Washington area has been plagued lately with FM use within the SSB and weak signal CW portions of 2 meters. Some is due to simple ignorance, because new operators may not know where to go for simplex operation, but others who have been licensed long enough to "know better," still choose to use FM where it doesn't belong, in search of "their own" private simplex frequency.

My advice for those who like rag chew in, relative privacy is to buy a 2-meter all-mode and join us "down there" on SSB, because it isn't crowded and the signals are "narrower." You will be welcomed there using the proper mode. Weak signal rigs, while optimized for satellite, SSB and CW, are superb for FM simplex, because their receiver sensitivity and filtering are so much better.

Intermod? What intermod? What kind of cheezoid radio do you have? And 2-meter SSB offers several times the more useful range. A 13db yagi at 50 feet with only 40 watts into low-loss feedline such as 1/2" Heliax is capable of reliable 200-300 mile contacts, almost any time of day, year round.

Those who enjoy weak signal work are Adamant about the threat of FM encroachment because they depend on silence. Just because you can't hear anyone doesn't mean there is no activity. It may seem quiet, but, someone is listening! During summer tropo, FM where it doesn't belong trashes the potential for weak signal and EME work for everyone on the east coast.

Misuse of calling frequencies is another common problem. The purpose of National Calling frequencies such as 146.52 on FM and 144.200 for SSB is to enable operators to listen for distant stations, make initial contact and then move off frequency to clear the calling frequency for others to make their contacts. During summer band openings it is frustrating to drive up to West Virginia to get "away" from D.C. Metro QRM to enjoy a little weak signal work only

to hear hand held users rag chewing endlessly on 146.52, or worse, to hear mobiles on FM simplex in the weak signal CW portion of the band from 100 miles away!

Many new operators don't know of any proper simplex frequency to use other than 146.52. Please don't just pick any supposed "unused" frequency because you may interfere with distant operators you can't hear! Good alternates to move off during enhanced propagation are 146.43 146.49, 146.55 and 145.58. Please program one of these in your rigs for use as needed. We can't change the bad habits of inconsiderate operators who simply don't care, but, we can at least try to educate the unknowing.

If unfamiliar with the 2-meter band plan and the proper frequencies to use for FM simplex, check the on-line directories at <http://www.t-marc.org>. If you don't remember anything else, imprint on your brain that no FM or digital is permitted below 144.500! Notes and observations on the 2-meter band plan follow for those who are interested:

144.00-144.100: This portion of the 2-meter band is exclusively for CW operation. The section between 144.000 and 144.500 is reserved for EME operation. The section of the band from 144.050 to 144.100 is used for both EME and weak signal CW-only operation.

144.100-144.275: This portion of the band is primarily for SSB operation, although CW contacts are permitted. The section of the band between 144.100 and 144.200 is used for weak signal and EME SSB.

## YARC TREASURER'S REPORT

November 2004

### INCOME

#### New Members

4 Nov	W6CEF	Joe Rogers	(11-05)	\$20.00
13 Nov	AB7YR	Oscar Green	(11-05)	20.00

#### Renewals

4 Nov	AC6AA	Joe Oliver	(9-05)	Ck #1575	20.00
"	KD7HCS	Bartold Szczepan	(8-05)		20.00
"	K6UWV	David Passell	(10-05)		20.00
"	WB7RQQ	Ken Vinson	(9-05)		20.00
17 Nov	W6KNX	Glen Dechert	(11-05)		20.00
20 Nov	WK7ED	Ed Meyer	(10-05)	Ck #4138	20.00

4 Nov		50/50 Drawing			34.50
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**Total Income** \$194.50

#### Expenses

4 Nov	Caps Unlimited	Patches	ck # 780	\$170.00
"	David Passell	Refreshments		6.12
"	50/50 Drawing	Lois Diddams		17.00
5 Nov	Insty-Prints	Oct. Newsletter #25003	ck# 782	32.29
16 Nov	Insty-Prints	Nov. Newsletter #25277	ck# 783	32.29
20 Nov	Insty-Prints	By-laws #25395	ck# 784	28.23

**Total Expenses** \$285.93

**Cash Flow** -\$91.43

#### Fiscal Status

Previous Balance	\$1733.65
Checkbook	\$1642.22



Al Crook, kd7mtj  
Treasurer

The January program will be about Yavapai County ARES/RACES and will be given by Lee, KB7CBK, and Lloyd, WA6ZZJ.



Here is a paint job to ponder and admire!

This was found on qrz.com  
 Draw your own conclusions. Maybe someone could post a reply or send him an email about how we help on fires, what contributions hams have made since spread spectrum, etc.

### The Inevitable Death of Ham Radio,

By Joe Tomason, AB2M  
 Founder, QRZ.COM

November 23, 2004

Yes, yes, I know. You've heard this before. It's been pronounced when FM was introduced, screamed from the mountaintops when no-code came to be, and continues even today with BPL. However, I have seen some disturbing trends lately, and I think that they point towards the slow and painful death of the hobby we hold dear. Please, indulge me for a moment as I explain.

Whenever there is any threat to Amateur Radio, be it potential band reallocation, Part 15 intrusion, or any other issue that threatens to upset the status quo, we hams immediately raise the one sacred, (usually) FCC-scaring, blood boiling rallying cry that we have - WE PROVIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS. We never justify ourselves anymore as advancers of the radio art (*we'd be hard pressed to do so these days*), so the only value we can provide to justify our continued occupancy of billions of dollars of spectrum is merely emergency communications. I believe that very soon, certainly in my lifetime, we will be all but out of that game. Allow me to explain.

I have been a resident of Tampa, FL for the past few years. 2004 will certainly be remembered around here for a long time - and should have been a shining example of emergency communications saving the day time and time again. You didn't hear that this time. Wonder why? I spent time in some of the hardest hit areas here in Florida, and what I saw from an emergency communications perspective scared me silly. Before we tackle that, however, let's go back in time a little:

1991: A newly licensed ham living in Long Island, NY; I am called up to help provide communications in support of Hurricane Bob, which wound up dealing a glancing blow to the eastern end of the Island. We were activated by the local emergency management office, and assigned to various government and first responding agencies to allow for intercommunication if needed. Fortunately, we were not tasked in my immediate area.

1996: TWA Flight 800 crashes off the coast of Long Island. Hams assist the Red Cross in providing communications for mass care operations (primarily). This, I will later realize, is the first operation I have been involved with in which hams were merely augmenting a cellular system that was over-

loaded for an agency that has radio communication equipment of its own but rarely uses due to training and equipment issues.

2001: 9/11. I am forced by my employer to sit this one out in Florida (where I have arrived earlier in the year), but manage to scrape together a web-based database to manage the load of volunteers. I quickly realize that this, again, is a Red Cross/Salvation Army support operation. I never heard of any assistance to FDNY, NYPD, Port Authority Police, the EMO, or anything else.

2004: Four hurricanes in almost as many weeks. Hardly anywhere in Florida has not been affected by these storms. People are without food, shelter, electricity, water, telephones, cell phones (*in many cases*). Essentially, much of Florida has dialed the clock back 100 years or so. Tensions are high. The EMOs consider how to prevent civil disturbances and looting of incoming food and supplies. Fire Departments are going door to door looking for survivors. Driving through the main street of a town at night is hazardous at more than 5mph due to the amount of overhead and downed debris and electrical wiring (*which probably is dead, but who knows?*).

So, you might ask, how did Amateur Radio respond?

I'm not sure we did.

I responded to 3 seriously hit areas: Wauchula (in Central Florida), Punta Gorda (in South Florida) and Pensacola (in the Florida Panhandle).

In Wauchula, we delivered a portable repeater system so that the responding agencies could communicate. That sounds like a fine use of ham radio - except it was a Forestry repeater, on their frequencies.

Sure, we hams brought it and deployed it, but anyone familiar with the setup could have. The Sheriff's Department lost a huge tower (*and thus their repeater*) in the storm, leaving them with no communications save simplex, which didn't even come close to covering their operating area. Therefore, deputies in the furthest reaching areas had no communications. We were able to move their repeater to another location that had a working antenna and saved the day. But once again, we did not operate OUR radios, save for local simplex communications to get this all accomplished.

As the EMO had no tasking for us (*by now the cellular providers had their mobile cell sites around*), we left.

Punta Gorda. Ground Zero for Hurricane Charley. I arrive there a week after Charley hits to help relieve the operators from the local area. I get there to find no tasking other than Red Cross communications, and a Section Manager so starved for something to do - ANYTHING to do - that he

cooks up a plan to have hams drive around the community soliciting health and welfare traffic. Remember, folks, this is a full WEEK after the Hurricane. If you haven't gotten a message out to your loved ones in a week, you probably don't want to. Again, there's little to do - the Red Cross is using Nextels - which are working.

Pensacola. In the wake of Hurricane Ivan, the call goes out - hams are needed - BADLY. I kiss the YL goodbye, load my Jeep, and start out on the 8 hour drive. Upon arrival, I am sent to the local Red Cross (*here we go again*) headquarters to relieve operators. There, I meet two hams who inform me that they have passed 3 messages in the past 24 hours. Three. One ham has extensive damage to his home and, quite frankly, this is a better place for him to sleep at the moment. The other ham wonders what we are doing there. He departs the next morning.

In the morning, I am informed that Red Cross operations are moving from the Chapter Headquarters to a larger facility in the donated basement of a commercial company. I am asked to establish communications from there to the EOC. Getting there, I am staggered to find that I am expected to provide communications to a building that has working telephones, internet access, email, a slew of Nextels that are being handed out, and, to add insult to injury, 2 Red Cross comm vans with every type of radio known to man (*including ham*), satellite links into the National Red Cross Network, and WiFi.

I tell the hams running the show at the EOC what the story is - I'm providing communications for a building that has more communications than I think I have ever seen in one location before. They respond by sending a total of 4 more hams to assist. I speak to the local EC and tell him that if he doesn't want a boatload of really perturbed hams, he'd better find some taskings for us to justify putting out the ARES equivalent of an All Points Bulletin screaming for ham help. He promises that we will have something to do in the morning.

I spend a part of the night helping the Red Cross folks set up WiFi so that they don't have to run cabling to each workstation for network access. I begin to wonder if I could have left my license at home.

The next morning, we do indeed have a tasking. The Red Cross is making a push into the hardest hit local area on the beach near the Gulf of Mexico - as close to the landfall point as we're gonna get. (*It literally is described almost like an offensive against rebels in Iraq*). Given the amount of sand that was blown over roadways, I am chosen along with another of my overnight compatriots for the task since we both have 4-wheel drive. We depart, with instructions to meet and team up with

two other hams at the parking lot of a local supermarket just outside the devastated area. There, we are to await the Red Cross team that will push Mass Care into this area.

Upon our arrival, we meet the two hams immediately, and they are NOT happy. They've been waiting there for this Red Cross team for HOURS, and each time they ask where the Red Cross is, they are told "any time now". Seeing us, they quickly decide that we are their relief. They've had it, and head home. Net Control doesn't sound too surprised to hear that they have abandoned ship.

My new partner and I wait for three hours. Yes, that's right, THREE HOURS. No sign of the Red Cross. During our wait, we take some time to take a look at the shopping center in this hard-hit, hurricane ravaged area. The supermarket is open. OPEN? We look inside. They have milk.

MILK? I can't buy milk in TAMPA, and we never came close to being hit by Ivan! Further inspection here reveals that they have ice, bread, bottled water, and everything that people in a hurricane-ravaged area should be waiting in long lines and mugging their fellow citizens for.

All the while, my cell phone has a great signal, and I am able to make and get calls at will. Now, really starting to question our mission here, we begin asking Net Control the tough questions: WHERE IS THIS TEAM, AND WHAT IS OUR MISSION? A great deal of scurrying is heard over in the EOC, and eventually we are told that they don't know where the Red Cross team is, but we should await them.

Sorry. We've been here for three and a half hours, and the team before us was waiting almost as long. I snap. I drive back, collect my belonging, and without so much as a word, I begin the drive home, arriving at 4am, the stomach acid churning in my stomach having proved quite adequate to keep me awake for the drive. The other ham (*and a few others*) leave the area as well, ranging from disillusioned to plain old mad.

Sitting back afterwards, I began to realize a few trends that had been slowly emerging:

1. Ham Radio (*well, ARES anyway*) has largely become the free communications auxiliary to the Red Cross.

Worse, they already have enough communications capability to more than cover themselves. Their problem? A lack of trained communicators.

Suddenly, I grasp why we always seem to be assigned to the Red Cross.

I try to remember the last time I was assigned to anyone other than the Red Cross during an emergency. I have to go back almost ten years.

2. The Red Cross doesn't need us.

Even while assigned to the Red Cross, the only task consistently put to hams is to relay shelter census counts. I almost couldn't believe my ears as I heard hams relaying shelter census counts to an EOC when both had fully working landline phones. Why are we used in this scenario? Because they don't have to use Red Cross personnel to do it.

For their critical comms, they use Nextel. I can't remember the last time I saw the Red Cross even use their OWN radios, which they have in abundance.

3. Cell phones, mutual aid repeaters, Blackberries are replacing Ham Radio as the inter-agency communications glue.

None of the Emergency Management Offices I worked with had any need for communications outside of these. Cell phone providers rush in mobile cell sites (*called "COWs" - Cellular On Wheels - a cell site on a trailer*) when an emergency hits - and registered Emergency Management personnel get higher priority on the cell network - so overloaded cell sites are becoming a thing of the past for our served agencies. Blackberries run on the cellular networks and are low bandwidth devices. Even in areas with no electricity, the Blackberry owners were tapping away like mad.

Now, you may say that this isn't the case in your area. You might even be right. However, I think we have seen the end of the era in which Amateur Radio saves the day as a matter of course in this country. In fact, the only example I've seen lately of Ham Radio coming through where all else fails is in the Hurricane Nets to the islands like Cuba, Grenada, and Haiti. In other words, those outside the US.

I see this as in inevitable slide down a slope towards more and more communications capability in the hands of the masses. Look at the revolution in smart cellphones - I carry a Treo 600 - a device from which I can surf the web, get and send email, and make and get phone calls - all in one little device. It wasn't all that long ago (*fifteen years, perhaps?*) that a cell phone was considered small if it fit in a briefcase. Where will we be in fifteen more years? Will we be able to still claim that we provide a critical, unique, robust communications capability? I think that once so many forms of communications saturate the general public that they can't all possibly go down during a disaster that we will have lost that argument. Remember when CW was the mode that got you through when all else failed? Now, make that argument to anyone but a CW buff and you'll be laughed at. I remember being able to show my HT to a teenager and see the look

of amazement when I made a contact over a repeater to the next County. Now, that same teenager will ask if that big cell phone I'm carrying can play cool ringtones. I rapidly see the day approaching in which we will be relegated to the museums like the dinosaurs that we will have become - a quaint memory of what once was. A nostalgic trip down communications lane. We will, as a hobby, become the macrocosm of CW - outdated, outmoded, and universally laughed at as we try to claim that we are needed somehow.

*And then the spectrum vultures will come.*

**I send this email with a heavy heart, W7ST ,Jerry Ellison is a silent key  
W7ST - SK**

## Deductive Reasoning

Little Johnny watched the science teacher start the experiment with the worms.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a jar of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a jar of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a jar of sperm.

The fourth worm was put into a jar of soil.

After one day, these were the results:

The first worm in alcohol - dead.

Second worm in cigarette smoke - dead.

Third worm in sperm - dead.

Fourth worm in soil - alive.

So the Science teacher asked the class - "What can you learn from this experiment?"

Little Johnny quickly raised his hand and said, "As long as you drink, smoke and have sex, you won't have worms."

### Weekly Information Net

Wednesday Nights @ 7:00 pm 146.880 (100 PL)  
*If you don't have PL, transmit on 146.880 simplex when the repeater drops out.*

*All amateurs welcome*

### Monthly Meeting

First Thursday at Granite Middle School @ 7:00pm  
 (N 34°34'22.6" W 112°29'45.1")

### Next Meeting Thurs. Jan. 6, 2005 @ 7pm

Wednesday morning breakfast–*Iron Horse Cafe*

*S. Hwy 89 in Chino Valley*

(N 34°43'56.5" W 112°27'15.4")

*Informal –All are invited*

Thursday morning breakfast–*Michael's Restaurant*

*in the Safeway Shopping Center,*

*Hwy 69 Prescott Valley*

(N 34°35'13.33" W 112°19'44.6")

*Informal–All are invited*

Location data provided by Fred Zimmermann N7PJN, per WSG84



### AREA REPEATERS

Frequency	PL	Location	Notes
52.560-	100.0	Mt. Union (-500 Khz)	CARS N7NGM
53.040-	C/S	Prescott Airport (-1Mhz)	KC7WBE
145.350-	C/S	Wildflower Mtn.	DAWN
145.370-	C/S	Towers Mountan	MMRG
146.780-	91.5tt	Bill Williams Mtn.	BWARC
146.880-	100.0	Prescott	YARC
146.980-	162.2	Flagstaff-Elden	CARC
147.000+	162.2	Mingus Mountain	MMRG
147.040+	100.0	Prescott Heights	W2YAV
147.140+	162.2	Flagstaff-Elden	ARA Link to Ord
147.220+	162.2	Mingus Mountain	VVARA
147.260+	103.5	Mt. Union	YC Emerg.Svcs.
223.960-	127.3	Chino Valley	NW7AZ*
442.150+	100.0	Mingus Mountain	Northlink
442.350+	100.0	Glassford Hill	N7KPU
448.475-	100.0	Flagstaff-Eldon	ARA
448.500-	100.0	Prescott	KB7TWC
448.875-	100.0	Flagstaff-Eldon	Northlink
449.175-	100.0	Towers Mountain	Northlink
448.5250-	127.3	Payson	K2YAW
927.3875	?	'P' Mountain	WB7BYV
			*off the air until further notice.

### YAVAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Many thanks to Bob Smith, WB6ODR, our Webmaster

