

WALTON RADIO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Vol. 10 Issue 2 October 2005

WRA PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Delhi 10K Run

Walton Radio Association members and other local amateur operators participated in the organization of this years annual Delhi 10 K Run. The WRA has been involved in this event for many years now. We are currently considered to be part of the group that organizes the annual run. The directors of the event have been very impressed by the coverage of the event that has been provided by the club over the years. This year Bill Holland coordinated the amateur operators. Bill also provided the photos shown below of some the people who aided him in covering the annual run.



Bike Time Trials

The Delhi Bike Time Trials were held on the same day as the 10K Run. Dennis Klimowski organized the amateur radio coverage of this event. He was aided by his wife Pauline and Frank Falknor. Both events occurred without any mishaps on the part of the runners and the bike riders.

Walton Harvest Festival

The WRA had a station setup at this event. This year's station was more elaborate than the stations the club has had in the past. It was nicely decorated with signs indicating places around the world that members and guests could contact. Sadly the weather was

not too good as a major rainstorm blanked the entire area. Below is a photo of the crew that erected the antenna for the event.



to whether he is properly licensed by the FCC or the SPCA!



WRA CLUB EVENTS

WRA FIELD DAY

Adin Miller's farm was again the site of the WRA's field day station. He has been most generous in lending his property and trailer for the clubs use on Field Day for the last few years. Some of the participants who helped erect the antennas and manned the radios are included below. The first photo indicates that the club is open to all sorts of operators on Field Day.

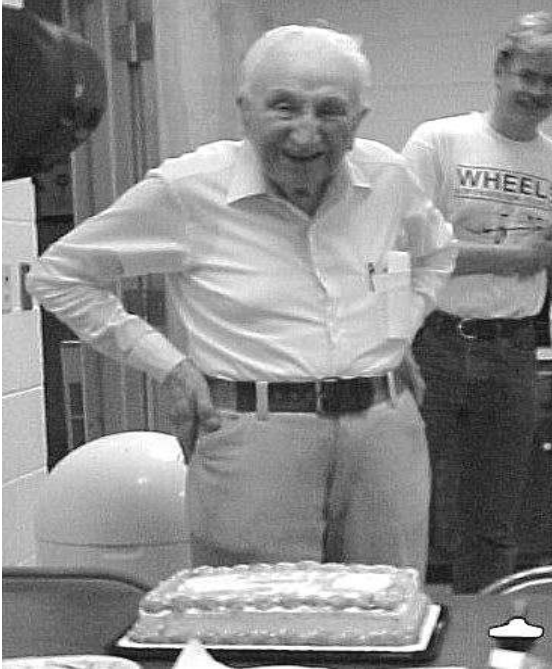


99 And Still Going

At the club's June meeting at Hawley's Station, the members helped Horace Staley celebrate his 99th birthday. Horace is a real character, best known for his greeting of "I'm still here," on the club's Wednesday nights two meter net. We think that Horace is trying for the title of the oldest and fastest CW operator in North America! He is a great example of the idea that age is no barrier. Indeed, as will be explained later in this newsletter, Horace is always willing to try new ideas and concepts in the world of Amateur Radio.



The operator belongs to Adin, and he is very well trained. There is some question as



SET Exercise

Club members are reminded that on Saturday, October 29th, the six County Simulated Emergency Tests will be conducted. The exercise will start at nine am, and we hope there will be wide scale participation on the part of many local amateur operators.

EchoLink

At our October meeting, Horace Staley told club members about his experience with the EchoLink System. Our oldest member is always into the newest ideas in amateur radio! A visiting guest, Albert Heusmann, KJ2F, added to Horaces report on using EchoLink. It was suggested that EchoLink might be a way to get younger people interested in Ham Radio, since it combines computers and ham radio repeaters with the ability to communicate around the globe. To date some members of the club have downloaded the free EchoLink software and are experimenting with it.

WRA Meeting Time Change

Members are reminded that starting on November 6th, our monthly meeting time will change go Sunday afternoon at 2pm. This change makes it easier for members to attend meetings in the winter months.

Katerina and Ham Operators

The following is an article that appeared in the Christian Science Monitor. It is nice to see a major newspaper credit Hams help in that emergency.

from the September 15, 2005 edition -
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0915/p12s02-stss.html>

Ham radio operators tune in hurricane help

By Barbara W. Carlson | Contributor to The Christian Science Monitor

NEWINGTON, CONN. - Richard Webb, an amateur radio operator, was asleep on his air mattress at University Hospital in New Orleans during the aftermath of hurricane Katrina when a hospital administrator awakened him at 5 a.m.

As Mr. Webb tells it, "He told me we had a lady who was in labor, who had swum five blocks in that dirty, nasty water to the hospital because she saw lights there - people with flashlights moving around." Medical personnel said the baby needed to be delivered by caesarean section. But the hospital had limited power, no running water, and no way to sterilize instruments, no way to perform such surgery. "We figured we had two hours to get her medevacked out of there" before the lives of mother and child would be in danger. "So I got on the radio and was talking to a fellow who was with the Coast Guard auxiliary in Cleveland, Ohio. I was working with him to arrange a medevac."

Choppers did arrive in time, Webb says. The woman and another patient in need were evacuated successfully. Because the hospital had no landing pad, the two had to be lifted out in baskets lowered from the helicopters.

Webb, who lived in nearby Slidell, La., had been

summoned to his hurricane post by the hospital's head of emergency management. He's one of about 750 amateur radio operators, or "hams," who have been in and out of the five hurricane states since day one: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and parts of northern Florida and Texas, where evacuees are taking shelter. At least a thousand other hams throughout the nation have been involved in some way, relaying messages or assigning hams to various locations. They're all volunteers, all unpaid, and they do what they do because they want to. They train for disaster work; their FCC radio licenses mandate public service.

In typical disaster conditions, agencies like the Red Cross, Salvation Army, the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), and local government bodies call on a state ham leader for volunteers when usual channels of communication are down or jammed.

Katrina was different: It was far more vast. For the first time, the nonprofit American Radio Relay League (ARRL) set up a website and database to facilitate assigning hams.

Pamela Taylor, who works as an events manager in Hampton Beach, N.H., got a call from FEMA and headed south on Sept. 9. She was deployed to a shelter in Ocean Springs, Miss., near Gulfport, before moving to New Orleans. The shelter was a church, well supplied and maintained, with an abundance of volunteers. Her job was to radio for special needs, anything from a doctor to paper plates. Nights sometimes brought an emergency or two when a resident had to be removed, usually for alcohol or drug problems.

Hams worked with the National Weather Service before and during the hurricane. They still are receiving and transmitting messages in shelters and other locations, alerting emergency agencies that a community needs water, that an elderly woman needs an ambulance, or that sanitary conditions are in crisis.

An estimated 600,000 FCC-licensed amateur radio operators live in the United States; about 162,000 are members of the ARRL, which was founded in 1904 and is located here in Newington, Conn. Nearby Hartford is where Hiram Percy Maxim, the father of amateur radio, experimented at sending messages across the

city and then relaying them across the country. Long before e-mail, there was amateur radio. It evolved over the last century so that today, ham operators communicate with one another around the world. Allen Pitts, for example, the ARRL's media-relations manager, says he has spoken to fellow hams in 213 foreign countries or "political entities."

That's the hobby part of hamdom. The serious and vital part is seen in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Trained ham operators are ready with their "go kits" of equipment, batteries, and energy bars. ARRL coordinates the work of the emergency operators. Hams were at ground zero in New York within hours, they were in Florida for the multiple hurricanes last year, and they handled communications in the Northeast blackout of 2003.

Hams are volunteers. When they set sail for disasters, they pay their own way. Sometimes employers give them a paid leave or reimburse expenses. Hams' sacrifices are real, but the rewards are often intangible.

Mark Conklin of Tulsa got time off as a sales manager for an appliance company to relay messages. At first he handled communications between the state department of emergency management and the highway patrol.

Next he was assigned to the 1,200 evacuees transplanted to an Oklahoma National Guard camp. At the camp, he talked to an elderly woman who was crying because she was happy - "communications" had been able to get a pair of glasses for her. "For the first time in a week," she said, "I can see."

[Full HTML version of this story which](#)

The Scouts Report

Jim LeBaron contributed this article

Troop 99 Camps with Civil War Re-enactment Group



Scouts Nate Curtin and Andy Searles are shown with Gen. U.S. Grant's [Al Stewart of Sidney] telegraph equipment; left most key, from 1900 and the right one, with sounder from 1863; both by the Western Electric Company. The keys are amazingly similar to those J-38's still in use today. The pipe also belongs to the General.

Sept 4 th. through 5 th., Scouts Shelby Barse, Nate Curtin, Dillon Ives, Troy Kiel and Adam Soroka were guests of the Civil War Encampment led by Mr. Al Stewart AKA Gen. Grant and hosted by the Harpursville NY American Legion. Events included a skirmish Saturday afternoon, the firing of their very fine cannon and a Blue and Gray Ball in the evening featuring a singer, a fine fiddler and guitar accompaniment. Throughout the weekend, the true-to-period campsite was open to visitors and the soldiers, their ladies and children were on hand to explain their equipment and history.

The general was kind enough to show them his vintage signaling equipment, a book of Civil War code schemes [only one of which was "Morse Code"] and to allow them to be photographed in his command tent.

LOCAL NETS AND REPEATERS

2 METERS:

WRA NET WEDNESDAYS @ 7 PM ON THE 146.955 (PL 127.3) REPEATER

W2LZ REPEATER 147.315+

H.F. NET

WCN WESTERN CATSKILL CW NET MONDAYS @ 6:30 PM 3540

