TARA NEWS

The official newsletter of the Troy Amateur Radio Association

Fall 2016

Mac Smith Working Local During MS Bike Event Sept. 2016

Amateur Radio Volunteers Mustered in Response to Hurricane Matthew

After the longest activation in its more than 50-year history, the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) secured operations for Hurricane Matthew on October 9. HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, reported that the net was in continuous operation for 6 days, 7 hours, gathering real-time on-ground weather data as the storm passed through the Caribbean and up along the US Eastern Seaboard. The net passed the data along to WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center (NHC). Various Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) nets also activated along the East Coast. The first major hurricane of the 2016 Atlantic hurricane season and, at one point, a Category 5 storm, Matthew was later downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone as it headed out into the Atlantic.

"Many have perished in Haiti and Cuba as a result of Matthew, and the death-toll rises still," Graves noted. "Many residents in the Bahamas and the US East Coast states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina felt the impact of Matthew as well." More than 30 died in the US. FEMA reported that power remained out for thousands of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina residents through mid-October Cell service also was affected.

The VoIP SKYWARN/Hurricane Net (VoIPWX) attracted a number of visitors, according to net managers. "On board Saturday afternoon, in addition to WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center, stations representing a number of FEMA regional offices and the National Response Coordination Center monitored the net for actionable intelligence to be used to plan recovery operations," said net Public Affairs Officer Lloyd Colston, KC5FM. The net also activated on October 3.

Amateur radio operators play a special role during hurricane season at the National Hurricane Center in west Miami-Dade.

The net said its Georgia Reflector was linked to the WX-Talk conference, so net managers could help to relay reports to local National Weather Service offices on NWSchat and the NHC. According to Chief of Operations Dennis Dura, K2DCD, the net established a link up the East Coast into North Carolina and continued to monitor for damage assessment in areas the hurricane had already passed. The net supported the NHC on the WX-Talk Conference, Node #7203 on EchoLink.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Network (SATERN) on 14.265 MHz also

was active for Matthew, handling outbound emergency, priority, or health-and-welfare traffic from hurricane-affected areas.

Among activities in Georgia, ARES District Emergency Coordinator and MARS member Tom Holcomb, K5AES, reported that WX4GMA, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency ARES team station, was activated on October 7, running 12- hour shifts. Operation was on HF as well as on D-STAR and EchoLink.

HF message traffic included shelter updates from coastal counties and periodic NHC weather updates via WX4NHC, which were passed along to the Gnk was used to pass periodic status updates from the Georgia State Defense Force, a volunteer component of the Georgia Department of Defense. The EchoLink Georgia Conference node provided updates on stoEMA director. Coastal county-related traffic and weather updates also were handled via D-STAR. WinLirm-related conditions. On October 6, ARES and Army MARS personnel were called on to provide technical assistance to, and an operator for, a FEMA SHARES station in Atlanta.

Among activities in South Carolina, ARES volunteers staffed evacuation shelters, with radio amateurs coming from outside the affected areas to help. "Overall, I believe the radio operators that were available for the event did an outstanding job and I am proud to know them," said South Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator Joe Markey, AJ4QM.

The Hurricane Watch Net activated again for several hours on October 13 for Hurricane Nicole, after a hurricane warning went into effect for Bermuda. "While we do hope this is the last hurricane for this season, let us not forget we are still in Hurricane Season," the HWN's Graves said. The Atlantic Hurricane Season ends on November 1.

This article first appeared in the East Greenbush ARA newsletter.

WHAT IS A DMR?

Digital mobile radio (DMR) is an open **digital mobile radio** standard defined in the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) Standard TS 102 361 parts 1–4 and used in two way radio products around the world. ***Everybody got that?***

For more detailed information go to: http://www.trbo.org/docs/Amateur_Radio_Guide_to_DMR.pdf

NEXT TARA MEETING

The next meeting of the Troy Amateur Radio Association will be held on Tuesday, November 15 at the Green Island Municipal Center at 6:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be David Hochfelder, N2HTA. David, an associate professor at UAlbany SUNY, will present "Who Invented Morse Code?". David is the author of the book **The Telegraph in America, 1832-1920**.

As always refreshments will be served.

Lets have a great turnout.

David Hochfelder, N2HTA

NEXT ATVET EXAM

If you are interested in amateur radio, and would like to take the exam , the Albany/Troy VE Team (ATVET) stands ready to assist. ATVET is a joint effort of the Albany Amateur Radio Association (AARA), and the Troy Amateur Radio Association (TARA). We are affiliated with the ARRL/VEC, and have been proud to provide testing opportunities since 1984.

The next exam session will be held at the RPI Low Center for Industrial Renovations, room 3045. Doors open 9:30 am with the exam at 10:00 am at which time the doors will close.

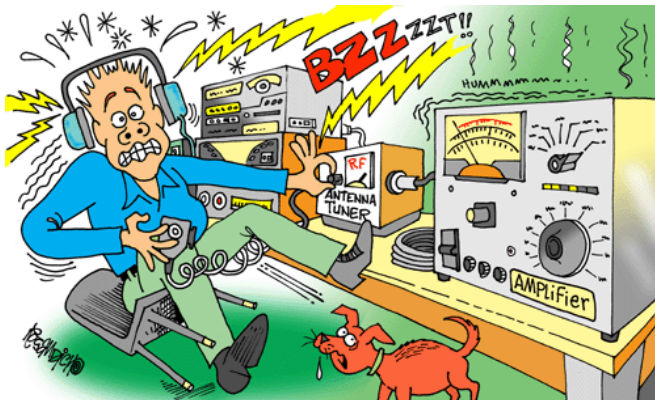For more information contact Jerry Murray, WA2IWW, atvet@n2ty.org or 518-482-8700.

From Feb. 1995 TARA News

FCC Packet Action

The FCC relaxed the packet radio message forwarding rules effective June 1st while retaining safeguards to prevent misuse.

The new rules hold the message originator primarily accountable for the content of message flowing through his/her packet radio station. The FCC requires that the originators of messages posted for transmission (such as to a "bulletin board") by amateur stations to (but not yet entered in) the packet network must be known to the licensee of the first forwarding station, otherwise the licensee entering the traffic into the network must accept responsibility for its content.

The objective of the new rules is to eliminate the necessity of having every packet station along a message route review message content before approving its transfer through his or her station. Control operators of forwarding stations that unknowingly retransmit communications that violate the rules are not responsible for message content violations. Tnx W5YI