



JULY 2007 NEWSLETTER

R.A.C.E.S and M.E.M.A HURRICANE JOSHUA PREPAREDNESS DRILL

STORIES FROM REGION II SECTOR 2A

FROM THE TOWN OF NORTON

Reported by George Perriera KB1KVZ

Local and State Officials, CERT Volunteers and HAM Radio Operators Stay Prepared During Hurricane Season

On Monday evening, June 4, 2007, numerous Southeastern Massachusetts Local Emergency Management Directors, their staffs, local CERT volunteers and Amateur Radio Operators, participated in a Hurricane Exercise entitled "Hurricane Joshua" which involved all the phases of Emergency Management, Mitigation, Preparedness and Response & Recovery.

The Community of Norton participated and activated their Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Those involved in our community included: Nancy Entwistle, Finnian Depont, Rebecca Myers, Kenneth Myers, Nathan Meyers Joseph Agius, Ken Sejkora, Ray Cord George Pereira



From the Taunton E.O.C.



Standing L to R: Don Burke, Greg Glynn, Rudy Burer, Steve Foster, Bruce Hayden, Angelo Pinheiro, Bob Barbour, Tony Pinheiro, Neal Harrington, Jim McDermott, Seated L to R: Carlos Wharton, Nancy Snell, TEMA Dir. Rick Ferreira, and Barbara Foster. Not in picture was Dave Souza.

TEMA members participated in the Mass. Emergency Management Agency's Hurricane Joshua Preparedness Drill on June 4, 2007 held at the Taunton EOC. The radio room was staffed by TACG members with Don KB1LXH as control operator. Other TEMA members opened the scenario envelopes under the guidance of TEMA Director Rick Ferreira KB1KWF. Scenario questions were answered and replies developed relating to circumstances that would occur in the City of Taunton. The messages were then handed to radio control operator Don KB1LXH for disbursement to Net Controller for MEMA Region 2A at the Bridgewater Bunker, John Miller N1UMJ. He transferred the information to forms developed by MEMA for these drills. Procedures were discussed and implemented during the exercise to ensure proper handling of information during a real event should it occur. A short debriefing at the end of the exercise was held to discuss ways to make the drill and a real time event a success.

MEMA – Region II Manager, Robert G. Nadeau stated that Hurricane training exercises such as these are extremely valuable in preparing both state and local officials for the task of enhancing the public safety of the residents of the Commonwealth.

This is a reprint from the ARRL website. WWW.ARRL.org These are some great thoughts that we all should think about, whether it's on the radio or in other amateur ventures.



Riley Reiterates Recommendation to "Lighten Up" on Ham Bands

NEWINGTON, CT, May 31, 2007 -- FCC Special Counsel in the Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth's main message at the [Dayton Hamvention](#)® 2007 FCC Forum may not have been a new one. But it's certainly one he believes bears repeating -- at least until it starts cutting through the QRM and QRN that pervade more communication channels than our Amateur Radio bands.

"Well, you could have gone to the flea market, but you came to *church* instead," Hollingsworth quipped to his Dayton forum audience. "I've got you now."

Hollingsworth repeated what for many Riley Watchers has become a familiar refrain: That the Amateur Radio community needs to "lighten up" on the air. Acknowledging that he was repeating himself, Hollingsworth urged his audience to take his message more to heart. **"All of you can learn from each other," he said, "and you need to work together more and show a little more respect for your diverse interests and for the Amateur Service as a whole. It isn't about you. It isn't about enforcement. It's about Amateur Radio."**

As radio amateurs take to the airwaves, he continued, they need to decide what's most important -- the best interests of ham radio or their ego, pride or perceived "rights."

"I realize I may be preaching to the choir here, but on the air you need to be more cooperative and less argumentative -- and I need you to take this message with you when you go home," he continued.

As a "homework assignment," Hollingsworth encouraged his listeners to read the "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial, "[Most Effective Use](#)," by ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, in May 2007 *QST*. In his commentary, Sumner stressed that interference occurring as a side effect of legitimate Amateur Radio activities in crowded bands "is simply a fact of life" and that it's "unfair to your fellow amateurs to assume that every instance of interference you may encounter is a hostile act."

Good News/Bad News

Hollingsworth offered good news and bad news. "The good news: Nothing is wrong with Amateur Radio," he allowed. "It is a good service that is showing its value to the public on a daily basis."

The bad news, he asserted, making a comparison to "road rage," is "that there is an element of Amateur Radio that too often reflects present society generally."

Hollingsworth urged all radio amateurs to cooperate more and depend less on the FCC to solve their operating issues.

"We live in a rude, discourteous, profane, hotheaded society that loves its rights, prefers not to hear about its responsibilities, and that spills over into the ham bands," he said.

Hollingsworth's bottom line: Be flexible in your frequency selection and make regular use of the "big knob" on the front of your transceiver to shift to any of the "thousands of frequencies and hundreds usable at any given time of day or year" as necessary to avoid problems. "The world is ugly enough -- don't add to it," Hollingsworth advised.

"We can enforce our rules, but we can't enforce kindness and courtesy or common sense," Hollingsworth concluded. "And a very wise person, who happens to be standing to my left [FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer Bill Cross, W3TN -- *Ed*] once told me: 'You can't regulate stupid.' If we could, we'd be working for the United Nations instead of the FCC."

Amateur Radio Licensees Responsible for Rule Compliance

In his comments, Cross singled out the controversy that erupted recently over fears that automatically controlled digital stations would overwhelm the amateur bands, eclipsing most other modes. Cross cited §97.7 of the rules, which requires each amateur station to have a control operator and, in essence, to employ a "listen-before-transmit" protocol."

When a station is under automatic control, regardless of the transmission mode, Cross explained, the control operator need not be at the control point, but must employ station control devices and procedures while transmitting that ensure compliance with the FCC rules and does not cause harmful interference to ongoing communications of other stations.

The operational rule, Cross said, is: "Your call sign, your responsibility."



This is a receiver hitch antenna mount that Greg W1VFB and Don KB1LXH designed and had built for the Hurricane Awareness Tour. The right hand picture is the mount with a 23 foot mast and a Cushcraft R-5 multi-band antenna that Bruce N11X loaned to the Group for the event.

Taunton Area Communications Regular June Meeting



In attendance were the following:

Left to right standing: George KB1KBZ, Neal KB1LXL, Greg W1VFB, Bob K1BAR, Bruce NI1X, Winn KB1OHV.

Left to right seated: John N1UMJ, Carlos WP4US, Don KB1LXH, Paul KB1OHX, Rudy KB1LXI

Minutes of the June 18, 2007 Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Don Burke. Members present were:

George KB1KZB	Bob K1BAR	Rudy KB1LXI (Guest)	Win KB1OHV
Paul KB1OHX	Carlos WP4US	John N1UMJ	Greg W1VFB
Neal KB1LXL	Bruce NI1X	Don KB1LXH	

A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted and approved as read. There was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved. Neal stated that he had \$301.10 in the account at the Bank of America. No activity from last month.

Committee Reports:

Unfinished Business:

TACG Patches are available from Sportswear Inc. in Brockton. The TACG cost is \$12 for 2. The minimum order is 50. Bob made a motion for the purchase of 50. 8 members paid \$12. The difference in the order will be made up by the club treasury and made up by the sale of patches to new members. Win purchased a vest.

Carlos told us that KC1TAC.org has been registered for TACG use.

Neal said an old, very high power amplifier is available for the club use. (Due to concerns about excess radiation, radioactive spider bites, three headed children and the wrath of the FCC the TACG is giving this generous offer a pass.) Being able to bounce signals off Pluto (the planet, not the dog,) does have a certain appeal. (How would we get a QSL card?)

New Business:

Members are being encouraged to participate in their local communities Field Day activities taking place this coming weekend.

Health and Welfare: Everybody remains in good shape.

Announcements:

There was some discussion on a club trip to ARRL HQ in Newington in June. Don will send out an email.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting of TACG will be July 16, 2007 at 7:00 at the Stone Conference Room, Morton Hospital. We may do a BBQ at the Fremont Street Bunker instead.

Respectfully submitted by
George Pereira KB1KZV
Secretary



**HURRICANE JOSHUA
RACES / ARES DRILL
TAUNTON EOC**



Some pictures of the activities
at the Taunton EOC during the
Hurricane Joshua Drill.





KC1TAC

TAUNTON AREA

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

EVENT CALENDAR

July 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 RACES Regular Drill 7p.m. Taunton EOC	3	4 Independence Day Taunton DRC Taunton, UK	5 Attleboro/ Sturdy ARES Practice Net 8:30 p.m. 147.195	6	7
8	9	10	11 Taunton DRC Taunton, UK	12 Attleboro/ Sturdy ARES Practice Net 8:30 p.m. 147.195	13 Whitman ARC Whitman Public Library 6:30 p.m.	14
15	16 TACG Meeting 7p.m. Morton Hosp.	17 Bridgewater ARC B'water EOC 7:30 p.m. Attleboro ARC Sturdy Mem. Hosp. 6:30 p.m. Sturdy-RiceWeb	18 Taunton DRC Taunton, UK	19 Attleboro/ Sturdy ARES Practice Net 8:30 p.m. 147.195	20	21
22	23	24	25 Taunton DRC Taunton, UK	26 Attleboro/ Sturdy ARES Practice Net 8:30 p.m. 147.195	27	28
29	30	31				

Taunton Area Communications Group

2007 Group Officers



President Don Burke KB1LXH
Vice President Greg Glynn W1VFB
Secretary George Perreira KB1KZV
Treasurer Neal Harrington KB1LXL
Trustee Carlos Wharton WP4US

**The Taunton Area Communications Group meets every third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
at Morton Hospital, 55 Washinton Street, Taunton, Mass. in the Margaret Stone Conference Room.**



Taunton Area Communications Group

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