

Hello to all..

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Newsletter Issued: 4/27/08.

SKYWARN Self-Activation Report for Tuesday April 1st into Wednesday April 2nd..

SKYWARN was self-activated on Tuesday Evening April 1st as a line of strong to marginally severe thunderstorms swept through portions of Southern New England. The line of storms produced small hail and isolated pockets of wind damage as it swept through the region.

Western Massachusetts SKYWARN Coordinators, Ray Weber-KA1JJM and Eric Tuller-N1QKO were actively monitoring the event for their area with SKYWARN Coordinator for Hartford-Tolland County Connecticut SKYWARN Roger Jeanfaivre-K1PAI also monitoring for Northern Connecticut . Repeaters that were active included the 146.790-Vernon, Connecticut and 146.94-Mount Tom Repeaters. A report of a tree down blocking the road was received in Chesterfield , Massachusetts at 930 PM with 5 inch limbs down on Burnside Avenue in East Hartford , Connecticut at

1025 PM. In Tolland County Connecticut, 6 inch diameter trees were downed in Bolton , Connecticut with Trees down on Box Mountain Road in Vernon , Connecticut between 1033 and 1043 PM.

SKYWARN was active on the 146.970-Paxton Repeater through the efforts of N1PJ-PJ Howe from Worcester County SKYWARN. At 1050 PM, trees were blown down in Shrewsbury , Massachusetts with a tree and wires down on Cona Avenue in Dudley , Massachusetts . A measured wind gust of 59 MPH was reported in North Grosvenordale section of Putnam, Connecticut per an APRS weather station at 1104 PM. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings were issued for much of Northern Connecticut and Southern Worcester County Massachusetts through this period. Warnings were extended into Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts but the storms weakened rapidly as they approached this area. The New England Reflector System \*NEW-ENG\* EchoLink conference node: 9123/IRLP 9123 was also utilized for coordination of this activation.

After the line of storms moved through the region, strong general straight-line winds occurred across portions of Southern New England early Wednesday Morning. APRS weather stations reported the following measured wind gusts:

Hudson, NH: 60 MPH at 452 AM

New Boston , NH : 60 MPH at 341 AM

Peterborough, NH: 51 MPH at 334 AM

Norwood, MA: 47 MPH at 218 AM

Stow, MA: 49 MPH at 545 AM

Some wind damage likely occurred particularly in Southern New Hampshire and Northeast Massachusetts as a result of these strong winds that occurred during the overnight hours.

Special thanks to all those who assisted in this self-activation of SKYWARN!

SKYWARN Self-Activation Report for Saturday April 12th..

SKYWARN was self-activated on Saturday April 12th as a line of thunderstorms moved through portions of Eastern Connecticut , Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts producing small to marginally severe hail. Additional thunderstorms affected portions of East-Central Massachusetts producing small hail.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings were issued in a swath from North-Central and Northeast Connecticut into Central and Southern Rhode Island into Southeast Massachusetts between 6 and 830 AM Saturday Morning. SKYWARN was active on the 146.76-Scituate, RI Repeater through the efforts of Rhode Island State SKYWARN Coordinator, Martin Mendelson-N1JMA. Reports of Pea Sized Hail were received in West Warwick, Warwick and North Kingstown RI as the storms moved through the area between 645 and 715 AM.

The thunderstorms moved through the South Coastal Massachusetts area also producing Pea Sized Hail. Pea Sized Hail was recorded in the Pope Beach Area of Fairhaven as well as near the Seaport Inn area of Fairhaven via the 145.49-Fairhaven Repeater SKYWARN Net. As the storms moved on to Cape Cod , Pea to 1/2" hail covering the ground was reported by two different Amateur Radio Operators in the Forestdale section of Sandwich . Penny Sized Hail was reported in Orleans near the Rock Harbor area. SKYWARN was active on the 146.955-Barnstable Repeater and the New England Reflector system \*NEW-ENG\* EchoLink Conference Node: 9123/IRLP 9123 was active through the morning thunderstorms.

Additional thunderstorms would form during the afternoon and early evening hours as abundant sunshine and warm temperatures were in place over Southern New England and a cold front approached the region. One line of storms between 3-5 PM produced Pea Sized Hail in Shrewsbury , Massachusetts but gradually weakened as the storms moved eastward and became more "garden variety" in nature.

An additional line of thunderstorms would form over Southern Worcester County into Norfolk County Massachusetts . The storms that tracked over

the region between 7 and 8 PM brought a swath of Pea Sized hail beginning in Charlton and moving through Hopkinton, Milford , Upton and into Westwood Massachusetts . SKYWARN was active on the 146.970-Paxton Repeater where Bill-KB1ILH provided relay into the New England Reflector system with the reports. Dave Doe-K1HRV was active with Norfolk County SKYWARN providing information into the New England Reflector system through the 146.895-Walpole, Mass. Repeater.

Special thanks to all those who assisted in this self-activation of SKYWARN!

NWS Taunton SKYWARN Training Update ( Goshen Session Added for Tuesday May 6th)..

The following is an update to the SKYWARN Training Schedule for 2008. We've added one session for Tuesday May 6th in Goshen , Massachusetts . Here is the complete schedule:

Thursday May 1st, 2008 7-10 PM:

WFSB-TV Channel-3

333 Capital Boulevard

Rocky Hill, CT

Sponsored by WFSB-TV and Hartford-Tolland County Connecticut SKYWARN

Directions: I-91 exit 23 West Street /Rocky Hill. If you're on I-91 southbound, turn left off exit ramp.

If you're on I-91 northbound, turn right off exit ramp. Proceed in right lane and go past the Marriott.

Take immediate right onto Capital Blvd. (Right lane must turn right). Channel 3 is on the left after a curve.

Monday May 5th, 2008 6:30-9:30 PM:

Monadnock Regional High School

580 Old Homestead Highway

Swanzey, NH

Sponsored by: Swanzey , NH Emergency Management and Cheshire County , NH ARES/SKYWARN.

Tuesday May 6th, 2008 7-10 PM:

Goshen Public Library

Route 9 ( 42 Main Street )

Goshen, Mass.

Sponsored by: The Town of Goshen and Western Massachusetts SKYWARN.

Wednesday May 7th, 2008 7-10 PM:

WWLP-TV Channel 22

One Broadcast Center

Chicopee, MA

Sponsored by WWLP-TV and Western Massachusetts SKYWARN

Thursday May 8th, 2008 7-10 PM:

Plymouth Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

44 Obery Street

Plymouth, MA

Sponsored by Plymouth Emergency Management Agency and Eastern Massachusetts ARES/SKYWARN. Preregistration is required for this session as the Plymouth site is limited to 25 people. Please contact Rob Macedo-KD1CY or Aaron Wallace, Plymouth EMA Director for more information.

Tuesday May 13th, 2008 7-10 PM:

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI)

Knight Campus-Room 1134 on First Floor

400 East Avenue

Warwick, RI

Sponsored by: Rhode Island ARES and SKYWARN.

Saturday May 17th, 2008 1-4 PM:

Boston Museum of Science

Cahner's Theater, Blue Wing Level 2

Boston, MA

Sponsored by the Boston Museum of Science, WBZ-TV Channel 4 and Eastern Massachusetts ARES/SKYWARN

Note: Please be sure to bring Parking Tickets into the building for validation for free Parking. Directions: [http://www.mos.org/visitor\\_info/maps\\_and\\_directions](http://www.mos.org/visitor_info/maps_and_directions)

Wednesday May 21st, 2008 7-10 PM:

Worcester Emergency Management Operations Center

50 Skyline Drive

Worcester, MA

Sponsored by Worcester Emergency Management/Worcester Emergency Communications Team and Worcester County SKYWARN

This schedule can also be viewed at the following links:

[http://www.wx1box.org/mod.php?mod=userpage&menu=8&page\\_id=1](http://www.wx1box.org/mod.php?mod=userpage&menu=8&page_id=1)

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/skywarnTraining.shtml>

NWS Gray , Maine SKYWARN Training Update..

The National Weather Service in Gray Maine is also offering SKYWARN Training in their County Warning Area. Details on scheduled sessions can be seen at the following link:

[http://www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx/spotters\\_skywarn/skywarn2.shtml](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx/spotters_skywarn/skywarn2.shtml)

NWS Gray, Maine is interested in having more sessions in the months of May and June in their County Warning Area per their web site.

Blue Hill Observatory Annual Spring Open House Saturday May 3rd, 2008..

The Blue Hill Observatory will be holding its annual Spring Open House on Saturday May 3rd from 10 AM-4 PM at the observatory in Milton , Mass. Admission is free. Details on the Blue Hill Open House can be seen at the following link:

<http://www.bluehill.org/events.html>

Introduction to SKYWARN Presentation Given to Central Mass. ARA on Thursday April 24th..

An Introduction to SKYWARN presentation was given to the Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association on Thursday April 24th. Approximately 35-40 Amateurs were present at the meeting. The presentation was given by Rob Macedo-KD1CY, ARES SKYWARN Coordinator for NWS Taunton . Worcester County SKYWARN Coordinator, N1PJ-PJ Howe was also at the presentation.

The presentation discussed use of the 146.970-Paxton Repeater for SKYWARN operations and gave an overview of the SKYWARN program. It

described reporting criteria, do's and don'ts when SKYWARN is active and described operations during a SKYWARN Activation at the NWS Taunton office. The presentation also briefly discussed the VoIP Hurricane Net.

A portion of the Amateur Radio's Role in SKYWARN video was shown detailing the activation of July 4th, 2006 which affected portions of Southern Worcester County where the 146.970-Paxton Repeater was utilized. The presentation was well received and resulted in several folks being added to the SKYWARN Newsletter and Storm Coordination email list. To those added, welcome to the list. Special thanks to the Central Mass. ARA for their support of the NWS Taunton SKYWARN program.

ARES SKYWARN Coordinator presents WX4NHC Visit and National Hurricane Conference to BARC..

Rob Macedo-KD1CY gave a presentation to the Boston Amateur Radio Club (BARC) Meeting which was held jointly with the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society on Thursday April 17th on his visit to the National Hurricane Center Amateur Radio Station, WX4NHC, and an overview of the National Hurricane Conference. There were roughly 20-25 Amateurs present. This presentation was created for the VoIP Hurricane Net and was utilized for the meeting. The presentation had many pictures from the National Hurricane Center and the conference.

Rob explained to folks the importance of the information gathered during weather events and how it is utilized not only by the National Weather Service but also Emergency Management, Media and other resources and during hurricanes, how important the information is to the National Hurricane Center. This was emphasized at the National Hurricane Conference Amateur Radio Workshop. Rob also described the operations of the Amateurs at WX4NHC who are entering their 28th year of service and some of their key reports that have caused significant changes in track forecasts or warnings. Rob also mentioned to folks how the new National Hurricane Center Director praised Amateur Radio and its role in hurricanes and other disasters at the conference through an interview given by the Storm Study Education Team.

Dr. Gray Increases Number of Storms and reiterates Potential for Active 2008 Hurricane Season..

Dr. William Gray and Philip Klotzbach continue to foresee an active 2008 Hurricane Season and raised their number of tropical systems predicted for this season. They also believe that there is an above normal risk for a major hurricane to affect the US East Coast. Below is a link to the complete forecast from Dr. Gray and Phil Klotzbach:

<http://typhoon.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts/>

VoIP Hurricane Net Presentation on National Hurricane Conference On Web..

A presentation on the WX4NHC Visit and National Hurricane Conference was given on Saturday April 5th on the Monthly VoIP Hurricane Net. The Power Point Presentation has been posted and a recording for the net will be posted later this week. For more information, please check out the VoIP Hurricane Net web site at <http://www.voipwx.net> and look for updates on when the recording will be posted.

Video of Amateur Radio Workshop at the National Hurricane Conference Available on Web..

Through the significant effort of Jim Palmer-KB1KQW, North Shore ARES Emergency Coordinator and Assistant SKYWARN Coordinator, a video of the entire Amateur Radio Workshop at the National Hurricane Conference is available for viewing via the web. It can be seen at the following link:

<http://www.nsradio.org/NHC08/>

We encourage many folks across the NWS Taunton SKYWARN program to view this excellent presentation at the National Hurricane Conference.

National Hurricane Conference Article: Hurrevac and SLOSH Training..

At the National Hurricane Conference, Rob Macedo-KD1CY and Jim Palmer-KB1KQW, spent the first day of the Workshop at the SLOSH and Hurrevac training session which was given by folks from FEMA Region IV based out of Atlanta

Georgia. Hurrevac is a program devised by John Townsend to help Emergency Managers and planners as well as other folks who can utilize the tracking software to plan support functions for hurricane disaster related incidents. An Emergency Management Director, NWS Forecaster or other similar public safety designee must send a note to John Townsend to allow the person to have access to the program. Information can be found on Hurrevac via the following link:

<http://www.hurrevac.com/>

The FEMA trainers walked the people in attendance through the basics of the Hurrevac program through a Power Point presentation along with hands on training. Everyone who was a part of the training needed to have a laptop computer with the Hurrevac program loaded. The trainers then walked folks through more extensive parts of the program including the evacuation maps among other important features. The training was excellent and helped further folks knowledge of the power of the Hurrevac program. The Hurrevac training was the morning portion of the program. The afternoon portion of the program was on training on the SLOSH program.

For the afternoon training session, a NWS HQ Meteorologist trained folks in the installation and usage of SLOSH or Sea Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes Display program. The SLOSH display program allows users who are experienced with the program to either enter in parameters from a landfalling hurricane based on the current forecast or look at historical hurricane tracks and determine what the storm surge would be given its track. The Meteorologist explained what MEOWs (Maximum Envelopes of Water) and MOM's, (Maximum of MEOWS) are and how to utilize them. He also explained the SLOSH models dependency on the forecast and how inaccuracies that could occur when using SLOSH are typically driven by forecast error and not that a new model for storm surge predicting is needed. He explained how to use the program to see gridded data depicting storm surge and also to get specific point measurements using the program. The training

session was excellent and allows the Emergency Management community to better understand the program.

National Hurricane Conference Article: A Review of the Exhibit Hall..

On Wednesday April 2nd, the Exhibit Hall was open to all conference attendees and was open for 2 days. Jim Palmer-KB1KQW and Rob Macedo-KD1CY went through the Exhibit Hall to check out what was there. Many suppliers of various mitigation and structural engineering groups were in attendance for those interested in learning more about how to protect their homes from structural damage during hurricanes. Other groups for mitigation that were present that were of interest in emergency management included suppliers for temporary housing, sand bagging and other operations.

Other groups in attendance included the American Red Cross and they were very interested in working with the ARRL and Amateur Radio Community on Health and Welfare Inquiry processing. Manager of Preparedness and Response Dennis Dura-K2DCD met with the Red Cross people at their booth to discuss working together there.

The Salvation Army was also in the Exhibit Hall. The personnel there, while not heavily into communications, understood the value of Amateur Radio Operators and their role in SATERN, the Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Network. We discussed with the person there the active Salvation Army groups in Massachusetts and Rhode Island .

The makers of the popular "Web EOC" program, ESI, were also present in the Exhibit Hall. Jim and I met with Laura Wood who is their Business Unit Manager. Laura is a Ham Radio Operator and was very interested in how Massachusetts and other Northeastern States were using Web EOC. She mentioned that they will be at the Citizen Corps Convention the week of April 27th that will be held in Boston with FEMA Region 1.

The makers of Weatherbug were also present and we talked with Jon Bodie who is a Ham Radio Operator, K1HSL, and we discussed with him the usefulness of Weatherbug but made a suggestion for improvement.

That improvement would be to have time stamps for the peak wind gust either since midnight or in a 24 hour period as well as for the highest sustained wind. Jon was going to look into it and this will be followed up on via email.

Folks from the Weather Channel and Max Mayfield's America 's Emergency Network were also present at the booth. The information, handouts and pens and other items given to those conference attendees in the exhibit hall were significant and it was a great way to learn more about preparing your structure/home for hurricanes and to learn more about the many groups involved in hurricane related disasters.

National Hurricane Conference Article: Overview of Meteorological Presentations Given..

At the National Hurricane Conference, a number of different tracks can be taken as far as presentations that are offered. Those tracks include:

- Meteorology
- Emergency Management/Mitigation
- Fire/EMS
- Voluntary Agencies
- Law Enforcement
- Tropical Islands
- Engineering
- Evacuation
- Public Education/Media
- Response
- Recovery

Jim Palmer-KB1KQW and I largely took the Meteorology track with some Emergency Management/Mitigation topics. This article will give an overview of those presentations that were seen from Wednesday Afternoon into Thursday.

On Wednesday Afternoon, a general session was given with several topics

of interest to all conference attendees. After a welcome from National Hurricane Conference Chairman, Max Mayfield, new National Hurricane Center Director, Bill Read-KB5FYA gave an overview of the 2007 National Hurricane Season discussing the tropical storms and hurricanes and their impact and gave an overview of how he expects to proceed with the National Hurricane Center .

Following Bill Read, R. David Paulson, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Headquarters in Washington DC discussed improvements made to their organization since Katrina and their response/recovery protocols. Unlike some newspaper reports, Paulson did not say that ice would no longer be provided by FEMA but he did say it would be lower in priority as far as resources provided as FEMA's take is to provide higher priority items that may be more difficult to obtain.

After Paulson spoke, Craig Fugate, Director of Florida Emergency Management gave a very interesting discussion on Florida Catastrophic Planning. The major theme of his presentation was on the "victims" being able to be more prepared to face a catastrophic hurricane situation and being able to assist themselves and others around them as part of the response and recovery effort working with Emergency Management and public safety first responders. Without that, the chances of Emergency Management response even with a well coordinated mutual aid of all branches of government will only go so far to meet the needs of the people. Fugate stated it is very important to teach a level of self-sufficiency to those affected by disaster so that they can assist in the response and recovery effort for themselves and promoted a "help your neighbor" approach for those that are less impacted by the disaster to help those that are so severely impacted they cannot help themselves. After hearing this information, we need to see how this can be applied to our own voluntary Emergency Communications response as Amateur Radio Operators.

During the coffee break, we met Max Mayfield, former director of the National Hurricane Center who spoke very highly of Amateur Radio Operators and remembered his visit for the Hurricane Awareness Tour

in 2003 in New Bedford , Massachusetts . We also met Bill Read-KB5FYA and Dennis Dura-K2DCD, Manager of Preparedness and Response from ARRL HQ took pictures with Bill. We learned that Bill has done some Amateur Radio operation as the Meteorologist-In-Charge of NWS Houston and wants to get his General Class Amateur Radio license to talk on HF with Julio Ripoll-WD4R and John McHugh-K4AG, the Amateur Radio Coordinator for the Ham Station, WX4NHC. Julio and John were encouraged to hear about Bill's intentions and his praise for Amateur Radio.

After a coffee break, Joe Becker from Red Cross briefly spoke on Red Cross and Emergency Management. He spoke briefly on the challenges the Red Cross currently faces with layoffs and their deficit from disasters such as Katrina and how the organization will be reverting back to more of the state lead approach with less "regional service area" support which was the original support model they were moving toward as an organization.

Following this presentation, Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of US Army Corps of Engineers in Washington DC gave a discussion on managing flood risk across riverine and coastal environments. He utilized several examples including New Orleans as well as other impact to the Florida Panhandle. Lieutenant General Antwerp gave a very enthusiastic discussion and how they're making improvements despite the recent failure of the levees in New Orleans .

The final presentation for Wednesday Afternoon was on the impacts of Category 5 Hurricanes Dean and Felix. Dr. Lixion Avila, Hurricane Specialist for the National Hurricane Center walked folks through the track of Dean and Felix as well as the recon missions associated with these hurricanes. He illustrated the reasonably good track guidance especially for Dean and showed the southward bend of the track of Felix that caused the primary impact of Felix to be felt over Nicaragua versus Honduras . He also showed the damage pictures from the areas affected across Mexico , Central America , Jamaica and

the Caribbean islands. The Conference then adjourned for Wednesday.

On Thursday, the presentations started in the morning and Jim and I remained largely reviewing presentations on the Meteorology track of the conference. The first topic was on Hurricane Forecasting and this was kicked off by Richard Knabb on how observations and analysis of tropical cyclones is completed and how the observations and computer model and satellite guidance information put together allow for better forecasts. We talked with Richard Knabb at the break as Richard Knabb was one of the Hurricane Specialists who was at the Rhode Island Hurricane Awareness Tour.

Track forecasting was then discussed by Hurricane Specialist Lixion Avila. He explained the difficulties that can occur with track forecasting, which can include model spread but also models clustering on a solution that despite good consensus could still be incorrect. He also explained one case where a 120 hour track forecast that they produced only had an 8 nautical mile track error but not before larger mileage errors in earlier forecast points and how they need to improve their track forecasts in those situations.

After a break, the next Meteorology Module was on Tropical Cyclone Hazards. The first topic in this module was on Rainfall and its impacts. John Feidt, the Hydrologist-In-Charge of the Southeast River Forecast Center and David Roth, Forecaster of the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center gave a presentation on their rainfall forecasts and how that rainfall impacts inland river and streams. They also discussed the impact of rivers that flow out into the ocean and how rainfall and storm surge impacts can affect rivers and streams and flooding in those areas.

Steven Baig, Storm Surge Specialist, then gave a very interesting presentation on Coastal Storm Surge and the greatest potential for loss of life in storm surge situations. He discussed Storm Surge forecasting and the impacts of storm track, speed and intensity on storm surge. This was one of the more interesting segments of the presentation.

Chris Landsea, Science and Operations Officer for the National Hurricane Center, gave a very interesting talk on Hurricane Force Winds. He discussed the terrain impacts as well as the affect of skyscrapers and how winds at the higher terrain and on skyscrapers will be considerably higher than lower elevation locations. Landsea even mentioned how the Appalachians and Northeast US with their higher terrain locations can be vulnerable particularly with faster moving hurricanes that can affect these areas.

Roger Edwards from the Storm Prediction Center in Norman Oklahoma then gave a brief presentation on Hurricane induced tornadoes and their impact. He stated that research is ongoing on their impact across various tropical systems, hurricanes and remnant tropical systems.

After Lunch, Jim and I deviated from the meteorology track and went into the mitigation track for a presentation on the new Hurrevac program due out in 2010. This program will be rewritten in Visual Basic.Net to prevent memory leaks and other issues that have occurred in the current revision of the program. It will also allow for new features to be added. The presentation showed some of the new screens and features that are currently being worked. This presentation was well received and was given by Michael Shuster from the US Army Corps of Engineers as well as Karen Townsend from Sea Island Software. She is the wife of John Townsend, a former NWS forecaster and the author of the Hurrevac software.

After a coffee break, we went back into the meteorology track and went to the future of Hurricane Forecasting module. In this presentation, Lixion Avila mentioned enhancements to the GFDL model that should improve its performance over the course of this year based on hindsight review of past hurricanes. He also stated that this model information is available through various web sites. He also discussed 2 new consensus type modeling schemes that will be utilized for the 2008 season. He explained how the consensus modeling schemes combine the outputs of

various models into one track. These include popular models such as the UKMET, NOGAPS, GFS and GFDL/GFDN models.

Following that presentation, Hurricane Specialist Richard Pasch, went into a review of improvements to the hurricane models. Pasch discussed work being done between TAFB, the National Hurricane Center and other entities to improve the models and how these improvements should be translated into better forecasts. The focus of these improvements centered around intensity forecasting though some track improvements were also being considered. Intensity forecasting remains a serious weakness in the overall forecasting scheme for hurricanes. Pasch said that while track improvement forecasting is always being worked, particularly in the 3-5 day range, the most focus is being given to intensity forecasting especially given several rapidly intensifying hurricanes experienced over the past several years.

The final presentation for Thursday Evening was on an overview of the Joint Hurricane Testbed (JHT) and the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project by Shirley Murillo and Ahsha Tribble. Shirley and Ahsha reviewed the improvements they are working on currently and the need for feedback on those improvements. Surveys were handed out to those in attendance on what areas they would like to see focus and why folks feel the focus should be in those areas. They mentioned short term projects that have small funding and longer term projects where they are hoping for much large money to fund the projects that those in the Emergency Management and private industry communities feel are the most important. This concluded the sessions attended at the National Hurricane Conference as Jim and I did not attend the concluding general session on Friday Morning.

National Hurricane Conference Article: StormStudy Education Team Present at Conference..

The Storm Study Education Team was present at the National Hurricane Conference and did a great job promoting hurricane awareness and landed a very important interview with new Director of the National Hurricane Center, Bill Read-KB5FYA that has been promoted widely by the ARRL and other media outlets. The Storm Study team is run by John Van Pelt-K4JVP,

Assistant SKYWARN Coordinator for Central Carolina SKYWARN and Danny Musten-KD4RAA, IRLP Net Manager. Also present and assisting the operation was Brandon McLamb-KG4EDW.

The Storm Study Team is an educational/hurricane awareness program. They promote hurricane preparedness through the Energizer, Plan, Prepare, Protect program. John Van Pelt spoke to over 40 TV stations across the US East and Gulf Coasts to promote Hurricane, Weather and Disaster Related preparedness through a Satellite feed to these TV stations across 6 hours on Wednesday April 2nd. The Storm Study program with Energizer worked with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America in Orlando and taught kids how to prepare for disasters with a 5,000 dollar donation to that organization through Energizer. The same donation was given on a visit to the Orlando Fire Department.

The Storm Study team also attended the Amateur Radio Workshop through the efforts of Danny and Brandon. They enjoyed the presentation very much and were able to meet with Julio Ripoll-WD4R and John McHugh-K4AG, the National Hurricane Center Amateur Radio Station WX4NHC Coordinators. John Van Pelt-K4JVP also met with the coordinators as well.

The VoIP Hurricane Net Management Team members, Rob Macedo-KD1CY and Jim Palmer-KB1KQW also met with the StormStudy team and watched some of the video interviews that John-K4JVP did and we met with Danny-KD4RAA shortly before the Amateur Radio Workshop on the Tuesday Morning April 1st.

The StormStudy Team also had a great interview with National Hurricane Center, Bill Read-KB5FYA and talked to him on a variety of subjects including Amateur Radio and its importance. A wrap-up video of their interview with Bill Read and all of their work at the National Hurricane Conference can be seen via their web site at <http://www.stormstudy.com> where you will see the videos and information about one-half to two thirds down the main web page.

Basic Emergency Communications Workshop in Concord , Mass. Saturday 5/17/08..

There will be an Emergency Communications Workshop on Saturday May 17th, 2008 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM at the Emerson Hospital in Concord , Massachusetts.

This session is being put on by the ARES Section Staff through the efforts of Middlesex County ARES DEC, Steve Telsey, N1BDA, and the cooperation of the Concord Hospital staff. This Emergency Communications Workshop will provide the background and information to serve Amateur Radio Operators when they need to respond to a communications emergency. It will feature an Introduction and Conclusion to Emergency Communications, and five 1-hour training sessions on topics including:

- Overview of Eastern Massachusetts ARES-RACES-SKYWARN Programs
- Net Operations
- NTS Traffic Message Handling
- Basic Overview of ICS
- Go Kits

This training will also feature a 1-hour lunch that will be provided at no coerced cost to any Amateur who attends the session.

The presentations will be given by other Amateur Operators well versed in the topics listed above. The training will be a worthwhile endeavor not just for emergency communicators but for anyone who is an Amateur Radio Operator, and wants to learn more about the hobby.

Preregistration is requested but is not required in case anyone would like to attend at the last minute. Please try to preregister by Monday May 12th, 2008 to assure the meeting place is setup properly and we have enough refreshments for breaks between lectures and for the lunch break. We will, however, accept any last minute preregistrations after that day or any walk-ins as long as space permits.

Directions to the Emerson Hospital :

<http://maps.yahoo.com/#mvt=m&lat=42.459915&lon=-71.347799&zoom=13&q1=Concord%2CMA>

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/Emerson+Hospital:Concord+MA/#a/search/l:::Concord:MA::US:42.4603:-71.349403:city:Middlesex+County/m::7:42.43637:-71.255405:0:0:/so:Emerson+Hospital:::d::25:::/e>

From the North:

Rt 495 South to Rt 2 East or Rt 128 S to Rt 2 West

Emerson Hospital is on the south side of Rt 2 about 1 mile east of the Concord Rotary

From Boston :

Rt 2 East over Rt 128

Emerson Hospital is on the south side of Rt 2 about 7 miles from Rt 128

From the South:

Rt 495 North to Rt 2 East or Rt 128 North to Rt 2 West

Emerson Hospital is on the south side of Rt 2 about 1 mile east of the Concord Rotary

Parking, both outdoor and indoor, is available at the hospital for a fee. There is free parking in lots on the north side of Rt 2, but crossing the highway can be difficult.

There will be talk-in on the Concord 145.11 (pl 110.9) repeater.

For any additional information and to preregister for the workshop, please contact:

N1BDA-Steve Telsey [steve.n1bda@verizon.net](mailto:steve.n1bda@verizon.net)

KD1CY-Rob Macedo [rmacedo@rcn.com](mailto:rmacedo@rcn.com)

This training should be a worthwhile endeavor for anyone interested in learning more about emergency communications and amateur radio in general.

## ARES E-Letter Article: Hurricane Nets and National Hurricane Conference Article..

The following article appeared in both the ARES E-Letter and the ARRL Letter concerning active nets that monitor hurricanes as well as on the National Hurricane Conference. See article below:

It's that time of year when hurricane season preparation ratchets up: the National Hurricane Conference was held in Orlando earlier this month, and state and county EMAs are currently checking plans and assets. Now is also the time for ARES members to assess their portfolio of communications equipment and disaster response knowledge.

Monitor major HF hurricane networks during events this season. The Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz, is one of several key players. It serves either the Atlantic or Pacific during a watch or warning period and coordinates with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami. Frequent, detailed information is issued on nets when storms pose a threat to the US mainland. In addition to hurricane spotting, local communicators may announce that residents have evacuated from low-lying flood areas. Other amateurs across the country can help by relaying information, keeping the net frequency clear and by listening. See <<http://www.hwn.org/>>. The net works closely with the hams at the NHC station WX4NHC <<http://www.wx4nhc.com/>>

The SATERN Net (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network), provides emergency communication support to the Salvation Army and populations at large. They also handle health-and-welfare traffic. SATERN holds high profile nets on 20-meters (14.265 MHz) during major hurricanes, and has a long history of excellence, discipline and service. Refer to the SATERN Web site <<http://www.satern.org/>>.

The Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) meets on 14.300 MHz and is composed of hams who serve and assist those in need of communications on the high seas. According to its Web site <<http://www.mmsn.org/>>, the primary purpose of the net is for handling traffic from maritime mobiles. The network is recognized by the United States Coast Guard

and has an excellent working relationship with that agency. The MMSN has handled hundreds of incidents involving vessels in distress, medical emergencies in remote locations and passing health and welfare traffic in and out of affected areas. They also work closely with the NWS and NHC by relaying weather reports from maritime stations.

The VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net operates by combining both the Echolink and IRLP linked repeater networks, while handling critical wide area communications during major severe weather and tropical events. These operations have gained national stature in recent years, and provide excellent service. Whenever tropical weather is imposing a threat to the U.S. mainland and certain other areas of interest, the VoIP WX-NET will be fully operational. See <<http://www.voipwx.net/>>.

During hurricane events, there are usually two or three regional nets (on 40 or 20 meters) that spring to prominence as major, key assets to the disaster response on an ad hoc basis. Watch for these nets, as well as the nationally-recognized networks above, this season. Don't transmit on their frequencies unless you are absolutely sure you have something substantive to add, and then only under the direction of the net control station.

+ ARES Confers at National Hurricane Conference, Orlando

National Hurricane Center (NHC) Amateur Radio station coordinators John McHugh, K4AG, and Julio Ripoll, WD4R, discussed the interaction and importance of Amateur Radio in the forecasting of tropical events at the Amateur Radio Session of the National Hurricane Conference earlier this month. McHugh also discussed the Caribbean Amateur Radio Meteorological Emergency Network (CARMEN) program, outlining how the program in its current stage can use revitalization and rebuilding to provide improved information to the NHC.

Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net Rob Macedo, KD1CY,

presented a detailed overview of the system that integrates EchoLink and the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). For the past few years, this operation has been building to become another reliable source of information for the National Hurricane Center .

ARRL HQ's EmComm Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, and Macedo offered the final Amateur Radio presentation of the Conference, "Disaster Intelligence and Situational Awareness Utilizing Amateur Radio." This discussion went beyond the traditional uses of Amateur Radio into the areas of damage assessment, infrastructure monitoring, communications systems replacement and rapid situational analyses.

[The National Hurricane Conference has a long history of support of Amateur Radio operators, waiving registration fees for those attending its special session on Amateur Radio. For years, the session has welcomed luminaries from the emergency management arena. We thank the National Hurricane Conference for this support. -- ed.]

+ National Hurricane Center Director Lauds Hams

National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read, KB5FYA, praised Amateur Radio at the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando , Florida , earlier this month

<[http://www.voipwx.net/local/Bill\\_Read\\_on\\_Ham\\_Radio\\_Hurricane\\_Conference2008.wmv](http://www.voipwx.net/local/Bill_Read_on_Ham_Radio_Hurricane_Conference2008.wmv)>. "Ham radio has always played a critical role in emergencies," Read said. "What goes out when you have a high wind event or major flooding is the communications system, so you lose even cell phones, landline phones, commercial radio and TV. In those cases, ham radio operators that can put up emergency transmitters and antennas in the wake of a storm can give us reports that are valuable. They also help in the search and rescue efforts in the aftermath." The NHC has a dedicated amateur station on-site -- WX4NHC -- and has worked closely with hams for decades. -- Dan Musten, KD4RAA, and John Van Pelt, K4JVP, AEC for Central Carolina Skywarn

That's all for this edition of the SKYWARN Newsletter!

Respectfully Submitted,

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