

# Kings Point

## Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Bringing together all levels of ham operators, both newcomers and veterans, to share in the enjoyment of shortwave radio and emergency communications

Volume 2 Issue 10

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The Kings Point Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of the month from October through May at **2:00 p.m.** in the Main Club **Communications Room** next to the new radio room

## MEETING CHANGES FOR KPARC



A few changes will greet our returning snowbirds and members who did not attend the September 10th KPARC meeting. At that meeting a motion was made and second to change the meeting time to 2:00 p.m. beginning Monday October 1st. The motion was enthusiastically approved by the members.

Additionally, the meeting location will be moved from the Craft Room to the Communications Room (*formally the computer training room*) located next to the new Radio Room. Members are encouraged to stop by the radio room and enjoy the facility and operating the equipment. See you at the Shack.

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY NEWS



Seems like two-thousand-seven is the year of change for SCCARC and KPARC and that goes for our annual combined

club Holiday Party. Dave Schierenbeck announce that the Yuletide event will take place on December 19th in the SCC Florida Room.

This years event will feature a catered turkey dinner with all the trimmings plus coffee, tea, and desserts (including diabetic) all for the cost of \$15.00 per person. Along with the epicurean menu, toe tapping entertainment will be provided by the Front Porch Pickers.

## From The President

September is flying by for most of us. Our first regular meeting following the summer recess took place on September 10th. We had a medium size group as some of our snow birds have yet to return. The big news is the progress of our new club room. All UHF, VHF and HF radios have been reinstalled, Antennas have been erected on the roof and normal operating abilities are restored. Our actual down time was less than a day.

Echolink is back up using Road Runner as a service provider. Echolink shares a computer with our KP weather station. The gateway PC is running at about 40 % of it's processor capacity but holding up OK. It runs Weather Outlook, APRS 32 and Echolink simultaneously. There are still a few glitches in the Weather Station but the team is working on it.

Now that most of the move is complete it is time to think about a formal grand opening and ribbon cutting. So, at our October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting I will be asking for a few volunteers to develop a plan and date for sometime in January. I firmly believe we have a show place and its time to let our residents, community, county and state leaders know what Amateur Radio is all about. I further suggest we will submit an application for a Special Events station to the ARRL in hopes of getting it into QST.



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## NWS Changes Severe Weather Alerts

By JAY REEVES

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) - The National Weather Service is revamping the way it has issued severe weather warnings for decades with a new system designed to mark a geographic bull's eye where a storm will hit.

The system, which goes into effect Oct. 1, switches from alerts based on county lines to notices aimed at specific communities, weather service officials said Tuesday. Using radar and computer modeling programs, the system is meant to predict the moment a storm will hit a community or even a certain crossroads.

Known as storm-based warnings, the new alerts could reduce a warning area from thousands of square miles to a few hundred square miles, experts said.

"A storm-based warning focuses on a storm itself and the geographic area that might be affected by it," said Eli Jacks, a meteorologist at weather service headquarters in suburban Washington. "We can really reduce the number of people being warned by reducing that geographic area."

The new system will initially be limited to warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, floods and marine hazards. Later, it will be expanded to include other threats like extreme heat, Jacks said.

Tornado forecasting began in the late 1940s, and the government started issuing weather warnings in the 1950s based on a network of storm spotters with radios and telephones. Warnings generally have been issued on a county-by-county basis ever since.

Under the new system, the weather service plans to issue warnings for specific storms and alert people who might be in the path. On a radar map, the warned areas appear as highlighted polygons rather than entire counties; forecasters will refer to commonly known landmarks like rivers and roads in written announcements.

Officials say the system also will make it easier to send weather warnings through cell phones and other hand-held devices.

Some weather experts are concerned that radar has its limits and a fast-moving storm can change direction, suddenly taking aim at an area not mentioned in the storm warning. But Jacks said the system will be able to keep up with abrupt changes.

A report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted the new system would save \$100 million annually, mainly by cutting back on unneeded business closings and the amount of time people spend huddled in closets or basements during warnings.

"I think that is a very conservative estimate. It could be substantially more," said Daniel Sutter, who calculated the savings and is an associate economics professor at the University of Texas-Pan American.

The new warnings have worked well during trials in Indiana, said Dave Tucek, who coordinates severe weather warning in the agency's Indianapolis office.

"I think it has been a good system," said Tucek. "The idea behind it ... is that there is no reason to warn the northern end of a county about something that is in the southern end of a county."

The president of the Alabama Skywarn Foundation, Brian Peters, said the new system already is being used in some weather service warnings, which name a county being placed under alert and then specify a certain area that's particularly at risk.

But, he said, highlighting too narrow an area for a warning could be hazardous since storms can change direction, and radar has its limits. An undetected tilt in a twister could send it toward an area that was not under a warning if alert boxes are too small.

"That's what worries me, giving people a false sense of security," said Peters, a meteorologist with WBMA-TV in Birmingham who previously worked as the weather service's warning coordinator for Alabama.

Jacks said new warnings will be issued as storms move.

"You can issue as many storm-based warnings as you need," he said.

***From The President Continued From Page 1***

Elections of club officers occur in December. and the nominating committee ( Joe Sturniolo - 633-4902) is already actively soliciting candidates. So, call Joe with your recommendations and interest in serving our club. Remember all offices are open for nominations.

Club room work days. There are many little jobs needing a volunteer. Lew Merrill. , Sam Brandes. , Jim Key. or myself are usually in the club room every day. Our phone is connected and the number is 642-0651. The room monitors 146.225+, 146.520, 443. 250+, so call or just drop by. There is a task list on the console table. We have installed a lock box on the door. You can obtain the code from Sam, Joe, Dick. M, or myself to have access to the club room any time. Your help is needed for administrative, organization, operating and installation task, so step up and give us a hand.

See you at the club room and the Oct .meeting.

Dick Bishop. W4NWD

**Candidates For Tech Class  
License Forming**

At a recent meeting of the CERT Calling Team residing in Kings Point, several team members expressed their eagerness to get started with their training to become licensed amateur radio operators.

CERT has become an important and integral part of Sun City Center emergency preparedness. As such the need for trained communicators has dramatically increased. Many of KPARC and SCCARC members who also are CERT Team members have perfected their communication skill by taking the ARRL Emergency Communication Courses. These skills are perfected during the SCC Repeater Nets. With the increasing number people asking to become hams, there is a greater need for more classes.

At present, SCCARC the only club set up to train candidates. This has put a burden on the instructors. Hopefully, with the KPARC move nearly complete we can begin plans to set up training in the Communications Room thereby spreading the training load.



**Would You Call This  
A Rats Nest?**

Moving from the former KPARC Radio Room to our new location required removing several hundred feet of coax antenna cable. The long pull, from the roof over the indoor pool, through the ceiling of the ladies room and finally into the shack. All this work was coordinated and completed by Dick Bishop, Lew Merrill and the Clubhouse maintenance people.

This removal work saved the club hundreds of dollars since the coax was reused at the new location. Yes, each coax was separated from the rats nest coiled and marked.

**What Are You Doing  
Saturday?  
How About Breakfast At  
Rachel's @ 7:30  
Then Join The Gang At  
The KPARC Shack**

**REMINDER  
THE KPARC MEETING IS OCTOBER 1st  
MEETING TIME IS  
2:00 p.m.**