

Kings Point

Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

25 Years Of Voluntary Emergency Communications Service To Our Community

www.kparc.org

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

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The Kings Point Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of every month at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Club-house Craft Room.



Dick Bishop, W4NWD

From The President

Greetings KPARC members,

As we approach September our first tropical storm has formed in the Atlantic. T.S. Ana is on her way, but hopefully will fade away before affecting any land areas. With luck, Ana will only serve as a warning to be watchful as the most active portion of the hurricane season approaches. We need to review our

emergency frequencies and operating practices yet again. I do not think it is possible to be totally prepared for a big storm to hit us, but we should keep trying.

Well, the latest buzz around the shack has been radio scanners. Several months ago our KPARC board decided to replace our old Bearcat scanner with a new trunking scanner. This led us to some research mainly by Sam Brandes and

Mike Burks. We recently found a great deal on a close-out of Radio Shack triple trunking scanners so about seven members in addition to the club decided to jump on board. We have purchased programming cables and software to upload the local emergency frequencies into the new Pro 160s (made by Uniden). Matt Steers and Mike Burks have offered to teach a few mini classes on operation and use of scanners, and how the trunking system works. This is the system used by the Hillsborough county Sheriff and Tampa police. So if you have and old scanner, are considering a new one, or just curious about what is going on on radio around us, watch for these classes. They should be in held in early September.



Interference on our 147.090 repeater frequency caused disruption of the CERT net, Echolink, and general repeater use in mid August. Quick actions by Sam Brandes and Jim Lewis found the source and took immediate action to resolve the problem. Hats off to Jim and Sam, our trustee, for their vigilance and firm actions. Many thanks!

73's,
Dick- W4NWD

National Hurricane Center Predicts "Near-Normal" Hurricane Season

Forecasters with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are calling for a "near-normal" Atlantic hurricane season this year. In its initial outlook for the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season -- which runs from June 1-November 30 -- the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center ([CPC](#)) is calling for a 50 percent probability of a near-normal season, a 25 percent probability of an above-normal season and a 25 percent probability of a below-normal season. According to the CPC, global weather patterns are imposing a greater uncertainty in the 2009 hurricane season outlook than in recent years.

Forecasters say there is a 70 percent chance of having nine to 14 named storms, of which four to seven could become hurricanes, including one to three major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5). Tropical systems acquire a name -- the first for 2009 will be Ana -- upon reaching tropical storm strength with sustained winds of at least 39 MPH. Tropical storms become hurricanes when winds reach 74 MPH and become major hurricanes when winds increase to 111 MPH. An average season has 11 named storms, including six hurricanes with two becoming major hurricanes.

"This outlook is a guide to the overall expected seasonal activity. However, the outlook is not just about the numbers, it's also about taking action," said Dr Gerry Bell, lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at the CPC. "Prepare for each and every season regardless of the seasonal outlook. Even a near- or below-normal season can produce landfalling hurricanes, and it only takes one landfalling storm to make it a bad season."

Amateur Radio and Hurricanes

Rick Palm, K1CE, editor of the ARRL's *ARES E-Letter*, warns that now is the time for ARES® members to assess their portfolio of communications equipment and disaster response knowledge. Palm gives several tips for amateurs involved with hurricane operations:

Monitor major HF hurricane networks during events this season. The Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) 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 the HWN's [Web site](#) for more information. The net works closely with the hams at the NHC's Amateur Radio station [WX4NHC](#)

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](#) for more information.

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](#), the primary purpose of the net is for handling traffic from maritime mobile stations. 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 and medical emergencies in remote locations, as well as 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 is a critical partner with WX4NHC. Whenever tropical weather is imposing a threat to the US mainland and certain other areas of interest, the VoIP WX net will be fully operational. See the VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net [Web site](#) for more information.

Palm said that during hurricane events, there are usually two or three regional nets (usually 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 described 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," Palm advised.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, added that when ARES activates in response to any tropical event, it is crucial that information flows up through the Section and is reported to Headquarters. "These reports allow us to develop the situational awareness and disaster intelligence that is required for us as an organization to support the Sections that are impacted" he explained. "In this way, we are able to respond to relevant requests from the media and finally to coordinate with the governmental and non-governmental organizations. This information also allows us to make the decision at Headquarters on whether to stand up our Incident Management Team to support and coordinate

Here are the hurricane names to be used through the year 2012 in the Atlantic basin:

2009 Ana, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Erika, Grace, Joaquin, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Victor, Wanda

2010 Alex, Bonnie, Colin, Danielle, Earl, Fiona, Gaston, Hermine, Igor, Julia, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole, Otto, Paula, Richard, Shary, Tomas, Virginie, Walter

2011 Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Don, Emily, Franklin, Gert, Harvey, Irene, Jose, Katia, Lee, Maria, Nate, Ophelia, Philippe, Rina, Sean, Tammy, Vince, Whitney

2012 Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sandy, Tony, Valerie, William

A Little Ham History

Before broadcasting became popular in the early 1920s, the term "amateurs" referred to all non-professionals interested in radio, including those who merely listened to radio transmissions, which were still mostly in Morse Code. It was only after broadcasting to the general public became common that "amateur" would generally come to have a narrower meaning, of persons who held amateur radio transmitting licences. In 1920 the DeForest Radio Telephone and Telegraph Company issued a promotional pamphlet titled "How To Set Up An Amateur Radio Receiving Station". Company president Lee DeForest authored a section, The Fascination of Radio Telegraphy, which noted that because "the Government has removed all war restrictions on the use of wireless by Amateurs, there are thousands more who are already 'listening in' on Radio news, or preparing their apparatus and getting ready for the biggest wave of popularity that Radio Telegraphy has ever experienced". Persons learning about "the coming science" could set up a radio receiver to overhear "Messages that can be picked up by anyone long before they reach the general public through the newspapers." DeForest also extolled "If you haven't a hobby--get one. Ride it. Wireless is of all hobbies the most interesting. It offers the widest limits, the keenest fascination, either for intense competition with others, near and far, or for quiet study and pure enjoyment in the still night hours as you welcome friendly visitors from the whole wide world." (However, some might have warned that DeForest's advice to "ride" the amateur radio hobby could lead to obsessiveness. In his 1911 *The Library of Work and Play: Electricity*, John F. Woodhull cautioned "How to have compelling interests without riding hobbies is the great problem for both boys and men. As both prevention and cure of the wireless telegraph mania, my method was to encourage my boy to have several hobbies which he might ride with enthusiasm, but to make it a rigorous rule to exchange his 'mount' occasionally.