



Broward County ARES®/RACES

February 2010

A Message From Your ARES® Emergency Coordinator—Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB

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January 12th was a day the people of Haiti will never forget, and a day that reminded us of the importance of what we do as Amateur Radio communicators. We, as Amateur Radio operators, banded together across the globe to assist the Haitian people in whatever way we could in getting communications in and out of a country whose infrastructure had become incapacitated in one of the worst disasters of all times. "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication

service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications" is the first principle in the Part 97 Rules. When all else fails, amateur radio communications get through – time and time again.

I am so proud of the hams here in Broward County who rose to the occasion to do what they were trained to do following the Haiti earthquake. You monitored frequencies for emergency traffic, yet more importantly, you kept those frequencies clear so that emergency traffic could come in. You disseminated

important information over the nets, yet reminded listeners to be careful not to propagate rumors. You spent countless hours as net control stations on emergency nets and pulled all-nighters to keep the nets going until a relief operator could take over. You answered the call for deployment and stayed in a standby status until it was decided whether or not we would be needed. Thank you all.

Please keep the people of Haiti in your thoughts and prayers as they recover and rebuild from this horrific tragedy.

From Your RACES Officer—Robin Terrill, N4HHP

While attending the last three ARES®/RACES meetings, I have noticed that we are growing not only in numbers but in strength in our organizations.

Broward County ARES®/RACES is a combined group with basically the same goals in mind which is providing emergency communications when called upon.

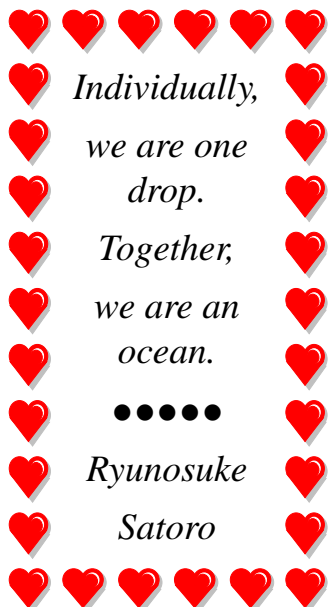
We as ham radio operators have a very unique hobby because when the communications in our community or County is overloaded or non-existent, Broward

County, the 32 Cities located in our County, look to us because within a short period of time, we can provide much needed communications even in adverse conditions until normal communications is restored.

For those of you that make up our ARES®/RACES team, the Assistant RACES Officers, the Emergency Coordinator, the Assistant Emergency Coordinators, the Broward County Emergency Preparedness Net Manager and the Assistant Net managers, the dedicated hams that volunteer

when the whistle blows to leave their families and homes to provide communications to and from a shelter or facility, and the guest speakers who come to each and every one of our ARES®/RACES monthly meetings who are the educators who give us much needed information and training for us to keep on track and sharpen our communication skills are what make us a valuable asset.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and support in making Broward County ARES®/RACES where it is today.



Volunteer Spotlight—Rob Frailing, AJ4SB

Rob Frailing, AJ4SB lives life with a passion. His hobbies are many and he loves what he does. The phrase “no regrets” best describes the adventures of Rob’s travels through life.

Born in Pontiac, Michigan as the son of an Army officer, Rob spent the first three years of his life internationally, in Rota, Spain. He then grew up in Virginia, Germany and ultimately Colorado Springs, CO.

After his high school graduation, Rob spent five years in the Marines, serving in the infantry as a machine gunner, in California, Okinawa and Korea; and as a Marine Security Guard at the American Embassies in Lagos, Nigeria and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Rob never stayed in one place too long. After exiting the Marines, he became a police officer in Davie, FL. His experiences there have been many – road patrol officer, motorcycle officer and, for the past six years, the department training officer. In his current assignment, Rob is responsible for all in-service training conducted at the department. His is the primary instructor for all firearms, driving, Taser, shoot house, scenario-based, low-light and tactical training. At various times in his career he has been on the honor guard, traffic homicide investigator, and the SWAT team as an operator, team leader and sniper – definitely not a person I would want to surprise in the dark of the night!

Rob became interested in amateur radio in January of 2008. He was listening to the Art Bell show on his sat-

ellite radio. Art was having a discussion with the publisher of Popular Communications Magazine. Their conversation became interesting to Rob when they started talking about amateur HF topics. Rob wasted no

his log, he should have his 1000th HF QSO in a month or two. Rob wasted no time getting involved in the hobby. He is now a member of the following: ARES®/RACES, BARC, ARRL, FISTS, SKCC, NAQCC, FP QRP, and the ARRL A-1 Operator’s Club. He earned his WAS in August 2009 and he is working on his DXCC. He is also the AEC for Training for Broward County ARES®/RACES and enjoys teaching the FCC licensing classes. We’ll have to have a separate class on acronyms just to figure out what Rob has been up to!

Rob is the master of time management. While not working on the radio, he enjoys sailing, mountain biking, kayaking, reading, studying electronics and woodworking.

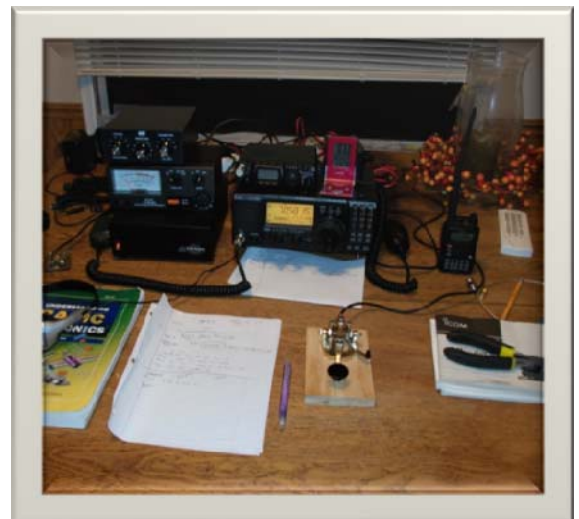
He and his wife (KJ4POI) have a home in S.E. Tennessee and they enjoy their retreats there every couple of months. Of course Rob has 20 and 40 meter dipoles there, as well, and says that the operation conditions there are much superior to here.



time and the very next day started to investigate amateur radio and ultimately became licensed a month later. I don’t think procrastination is in this man’s vocabulary. He became a General Class in June 2008, and an Extra Class in January 2009.

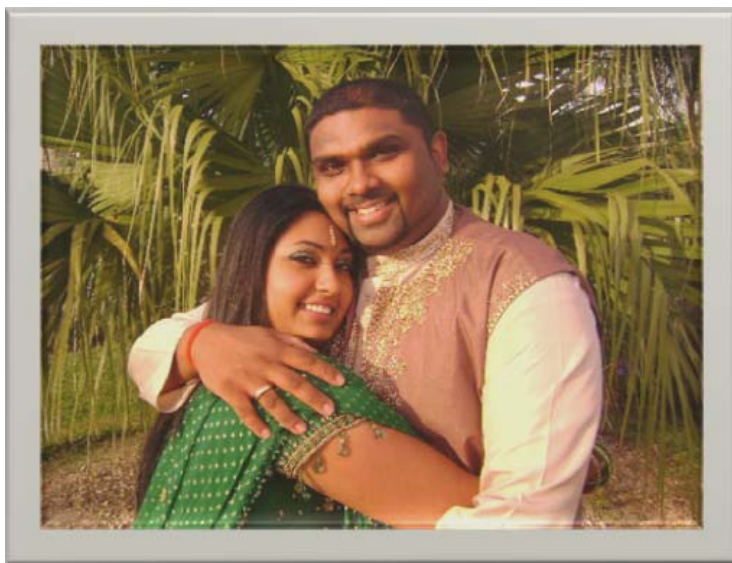
A couple of month’s after becoming an Extra, Rob decided to take on CW. Rob said, “learning Morse Code was fun and interesting. It is now my primary mode of communicating.” He especially likes the challenge of QRP CW on HF bands. Rob is a casual contest and tries to work a couple of CW sprints each month. He occasionally tries PSK-31 and most of his phone operation is on VHF.

Rob also enjoys chasing special event QSL cards. According to





She Said "YES"



*Congratulations
To
Singh and Amika
On Their
Engagement*



January Meeting Recap—Rallying the Troops

If you missed the January 19th meeting of Broward County ARES®/RACES, you missed one of the best meetings ever. *Rallying The Troops When Disaster Strikes* couldn't have been a more appropriate topic given the meeting was one week after the terrible earthquake in Haiti. David Fowler, K4DLF and Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB gave members the behind the scenes tour of what happens in a disaster from the local to state to national levels. Screen shots were displayed of two different software applications used by Emergency Management - WebEOC and EM Constellation. Members were shown how resources (hams) are requested and tracked through the system and why it's so important not to self-deploy. Members were also shown what happens at ARRL Headquarters for an event of national significance.

The 2010 Leadership Team was introduced and the goals and objectives for the year were presented to the group.

Congratulation once again to the 2010 Leadership Team!!!!



2010 Leadership Team

Carol Sjursen—Emergency Coordinator, District Emergency Coordinator

David Fowler—District Emergency Coordinator, Section Training Officer

Robin Terrill—Assistant Emergency Coordinator, RACES Officer

Vishnu Singh—AEC for Drills & Exercises, Assistant Net Manager

Mike Sanner—AEC for Public Service Events

Gene Beadle and Randy Basso—AECs for Recruiting

Rob Frailing—AEC for Training, Assistant Net Manager

Mike Wolf—BCEPN Net Manager

Steve Adams—N4JRW—His Experience In The Haiti Disaster

Sometimes it is being in the right place at the right time. On the afternoon of January 12, 2010 one of worst natural disasters of all time occurred in a country least able to mediate it.



An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 on the Richter scale struck Haiti loosely centered in Port au Prince. This devastating event had far reaching effects, one of which was the complete disruption of the communication infrastructure.

The world responded – but especially our world of Amateur Radio operators. Upon hearing of the earthquake, Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB, called me and asked if I had heard any HF traffic out of Haiti. I had not as my HF antennas were not up at the time.

What I did do was search for sources on news of the Haiti earthquake and attempt to obtain information that could be pertinent. I don't know how I found it but I soon found the Echolink organization IRESC, the International Radio Emergency Support Coalition. I was soon listening to the web streaming audio as the efforts to help

Haiti went into high gear. Hams form every corner of the globe were offering their services. The traditional HF support nets, such as the National Traffic System, the SATERN

net, chaired by the Salvation Army, on 14.265 MHz and the International Maritime Net 14.300 MHz were quickly involved. But communica-

tions by HF was very tedious and limited. Not only were the band conditions poor, but the number of Haitian amateurs is very low. I have heard of one figure of less than 150 hams in a country of nearly 9 million which made on-scene communications limited. One of the first stations heard was that of Father John Henault, HH6JH. His reports were as expected - that the country was in ruins.

With my HF radio tuned to 20 meters and my computer monitoring IRESC, I was gathering bits and pieces of information which I was able to pass to Carol.

On January 13, at 2014 UTC, I was monitoring IRESC. At the time, the net controller Doug, VE3XAT, was doing a very busy shift. Many stations were signing in. As one could imagine, there was traffic pending and many more stations wanting to obtain information. Doug's stream on Echolink dropped out. The station he was calling asked for a response, then another station called net control and then another. You get the picture. To me it was getting a little hectic and chaotic so almost without thinking I pressed the space bar to talk and an-



Steve Adams—N4JRW—His Experience In The Haiti Disaster

nounced my call sign and introduced myself. I was keeping a log in a spiral notebook of what was going on the net, so I was well aware of the net's activities.

I assumed temporary duty as the Net Control Station. I have had experience locally as net operator for the Broward County Emergency Operations Center as well as during Fort Lauderdale's Winterfest Boat Parade. I jotted down call signs and noted if they had any traffic for the net. As one could expect, it wasn't long before the net was a lot less chaotic and more structured. For about 10 minutes I held the net until Dennis AE2EE, the IRESC Net manager and VE3XAT Doug reappeared. I brought them up to speed with the stations that called. Dennis was very appreciative of my efforts. A little later when things were in a lull, Dennis, AE2EE, asked me if I was an IRESC member and if

not to please join them. He also asked me to email him a short resume including my experience as a net controller. Since I'm retired and have a very understanding family, I had the time to give my assistance. I was approved by IRESC to assist as net controller on a rotation basis and when I could pitch in. About 10 operators in the USA, Canada, and Europe were part of the controller staff. For myself, I spent 50 plus hours in the net controller's hot seat, from January 13, 2010 to January 27, 2010, including 3 stints that were all nighters from 10:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.

Due to the time zones, European sta-

tions such as Sven, DO2FOX, where coming on line at the UTC side of time. Thankfully, they were my much needed relief.

While one could argue that the internet is not ham radio, I would beg to differ. Due to the fact that Echolink is interfaced with repeaters world wide the RF form of ham radio is very much in evidence. Another tenant of

important aspect of these situations is the skill of the Amateur Radio operators themselves. It is a discipline and a learned skill that no matter the media involved, that we, as a trained communication resource, we will prevail in troubled times. Another fact is that as volunteers, providing ourselves and our equipment will also prevail before and long after a governmental agency can work due to budgets.

From where I sat I was only a small part of this effort. There is a text box that allows one to see the call signs of the stations that checked into the IRESC Echolink conference. Hams as far as India and China Taiwan, Japan, all through the US and Canada and South America were monitoring. At times 1000 stations were logged on with many standing by actively offering to take traffic. The worst thing was an earthquake striking this already

troubled country, the best thing was all of the world coming together to render help.

I feel glad and proud to be able to represent our South Florida amateur community in lending a hand.



traditional Amateur Radio, was that the IRESC net was run with proper net procedures that were strictly adhered to. Tried and true net control procedures allowed a multinational and multicultural coordinated effort that I feel made a difference in the first critical weeks of this ongoing disaster. Ham radio is a viable and evolving technology that, with the addition of the internet, is an extension of our services. One of the rules of any emergency communications effort, is to use any means available to get the message through. If smoke signals are a last resort, I will learn how to use them. The other and more

Congratulations

Steve

On A Job

Well Done!

Groundhog Day Trivia

This February 2nd, Groundhog Day 2010, marks the 123rd annual trek to Gobbler’s Knob, a wooded knoll just outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania for Punxsutawney Phil’s official



weather prognostication.

Phil, the Seer of Seers, Prognosticator of all Prognosticators cast a joyful eye towards thousands of faithful followers this year and said, “As the sky shines bright above me, my shadow I see beside me. So six more weeks of winter it will be.”

Legend has it that if Phil sees his shadow, he’ll return to his hole and winter will last another six weeks. If he does not see his shadow, it means spring is just around the corner. Phil sees his shadow approximately 90% of the time.

Phil started making predictions in 1887. His fearless forecast has become a national media event.



*The Only
Disability
In Life
Is A
Bad Attitude*
—
*Scott
Hamilton*

Emcomm Level 1 Class Underway



Students in the Saturday morning Emcomm Level 1 class taught by David Fowler, K4DLF and Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB with the assistance of Mike Sanner, KJ4LOX have learned a number of important concepts including working with served

agencies, design of emergency communications systems, basic emergency communications skills, and introduction to emergency nets. The class has even started to learn basic formal traffic handling which will be ex-

panded upon at the next ARES/RACES meeting.

The class has had great attendance and group activities at the end of learning units keep the class interesting and challenging.

In three more short weeks, we will have a number of new Emcomm Level 1 graduates ready to help out in the various types of communications emergencies that we may encounter.



Haiti Earthquake

On Tuesday, January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti followed by numerous aftershocks. The results were devastating and many lives were lost. Power and phone service was virtually non-existent and hams across the world were listening for an “HH” call out of Haiti.

Rich Moseson of CQ Magazine reported that Father John Henault, HH6JH, made contact late Wednesday morning with the Intercontinental Assistance and Traffic Net (IATN) on 14.300 MHz, the IARU Global Centre of Activity frequency for emergency communications. He said that he was safe, but had no power and no phone service. He was operating on battery power and hoping to get a generator running later in the day.

On Wednesday afternoon, a very dramatic phone-patch between Jean-Robert Gaillard, HH2JR, from Port-au-Prince, Haiti and Frederick J. Moore, W3ZU in Inverness, Florida. Jean-Robert Gaillard reported 30 aftershocks since the main earthquake. He stated that “everything is chaos” and that there were “dead bodies all

over the place”. He was able to speak over ham frequencies to two individuals to let them know he was OK. Jean-Robert Gaillard became very emotional when he was informed of a Coast Guard Cutter on scene in Port au Prince and two more enroute as well as a hospital ship on the way.

To listen to this very emotional 26 minute audio clip as recorded by K3VR, Brian Crow of Boynton Beach, Florida, go to:

<http://dx-world.net/2010/hh2jr-news>.

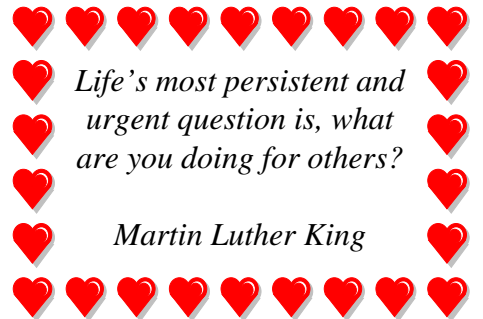
Locally, numerous hams from Florida were on standby for deployment to Haiti. The initial situation in Haiti was not a good one. Eight amateurs from Radio Club Dominicano (RCD) who were operating under the callsign HI8RCD/HH had to abort their operations after the convoy they were travelling in was fired on. Our operators stayed safely here in the States awaiting further instructions.

Steve Adams, N4JRW, picked up over 50 hours as a net control station on the Echolink Conference node. Fred Davison, KE4RKY, kept us updated

on SATERN operations. Many other hams passed along audio and video clips, as well as links to news articles regarding the situation in Haiti. ARRL’s Ham Aid program provided much needed equipment for local amateurs to use. This equipment was shipped to Radio Club Dominicano for distribution.

In a country that lost all of its infrastructure in the affected area, the power, the internet and the phones, we were reminded of one thing – AMATEUR RADIO WORKS WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS!

Please keep the people of Haiti in your thoughts and prayers as they recover from this horrific disaster.



Life’s most persistent and

urgent question is, what

are you doing for others?

Martin Luther King

*Happy
Valentine’s
Day*



Broward County ARES®/RACES Leadership Information

**District Emergency Coordinators
Gold Coast District**
*Covering Palm Beach, Broward,
Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties*

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Broward County RACES Officer

**Broward County
Skywarn Coordinator**

Robin Terrill, N4HHP
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954-249-5343

Educational Opportunities

FEMA Independent Study (FREE)
www.training.fema.gov/IS

**Broward County ARES®
Assistant
Emergency Coordinators**

**Assistant
Emergency Coordinator**
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Join Our Yahoo Group

BrowardCountyARES

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
BrowardCountyARES/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardCountyARES/)

**Broward County
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BCEPN**

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Assistant Net Manager
Vishnu Singh, AJ4VS
AJ4VS@arrl.net
954-558-6122

Net meets every Wednesday
at 7:00 pm for training in
emergency communications

146-910 MHz -600 PL 110.9

**View Past Issues
Of Our Newsletters**

[www.BrowardCountyARES-
RACES.com](http://www.BrowardCountyARES-RACES.com)

Monthly Meeting

3rd Tuesday of each month
7:30 pm at
Sunview Park
1500 SW 42 Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33317



**February 16th
Meeting—Message
Handling For The
End User**

Rob Frailing, AJ4SB, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Training has a great meeting planned for our members and guests this month—*Message Handling For The End User*.

Much message handling training deals with the larger picture of the system, to include the NTS hierarchy and modes, regions and areas, and so much more. This training is designed for the end-user: you and me.

This month’s training will cover the basics of message handling; an over-

view of radiograms – both the standard ARRL radiogram and the disaster welfare message, how to complete or decipher the radiogram, the ARL numbering system, and how to deliver the message.

After the training presentation, participants will be tasked with sending a message before the next meeting. They will then make a brief report at the March meeting to share their experiences.

Feel free to bring a guest! See you at the meeting!