



# Broward County ARES®/RACES

March 2010

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

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We're in to the third month of the year already—I can't believe how time flies! The hurricane season is quickly approaching and we still have so much work to do to get ready. We're in the process of staffing the shelters and are still in need of amateur operators for back up communications. The Red Cross and Broward County Emergency Management depend upon us to provide this critical service in times of disaster. If you are able to assist or know of another amateur who may be interested, have them contact us so that we can give them an assignment. A big thank you to those who have already stepped up to the plate!

*For each petal on the shamrock  
This brings a wish your way  
Good health, good luck and happiness  
For today and every day*

## From Your RACES Officer—Robin Terrill, N4HHP

I would like to congratulate all of the newcomers to Broward County ARES®/RACES and those of you that successfully took and passed the Emcomm 1 Class. The information that you received in that course will help you understand how important amateur communications is during times of communication overloads and outages due to manmade or natural disasters that happen every day throughout the world. A majority of the time, you, the amateur radio operator is the only means of communicating with the outside community or world.

For those of you that took on the commitment in staffing Broward County Shelters, Special Care Facilities, Hospitals and other areas, I thank you. I look forward in working with you if the need to activate arises. In the mean time, please keep your communication skills sharp by attending every ARES®/RACES meeting which is on the third Tuesday of each month at Sunview Park, 1500 SW 42 Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. Talk-in will be on the 146.910 MHz. -600 PL 110.9 Hz. the Broward Amateur Radio Club (BARC) Repeater. Also, check into the Broward County Emergency Preparedness Net (BCEPN) which is on the BARC repeater every Wednesday night starting at 7:00 PM. There is a short educational program that is presented with each net.

*Spring forward!*

**March 14**

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**Daylight Savings**

## Volunteer Spotlight—Al and Helen Santana

In the beginning, many years ago, a man named Al, KJ4FSL, met a woman named Helen, KJ4FSK, while working at a large engineering company in New Jersey. After many company transfers, one of which was to south Florida, they decided that of all the places where they had lived, this was the place to settle down.

Helen works full time at Broward Health in the medical records department, while Al is a retired electronic engineer who presently keeps busy helping friends and relatives with their computer problems and occasionally creating websites. No golf or tennis for him. Helen generally creates an occasional “honey do” list to try to keep him out of trouble while she’s at work, but somehow it mysteriously gets misplaced... somewhere...

Amateur radio is probably a natural development in retirement for Al. From his high school days on he was always taking things apart or building gadgets including his first crystal radio. For a while, he got sidetracked by getting involved in auto racing, hot rods and sports cars, but then sanity took hold and he went back to electronics, but never really had the time to get involved with amateur radio until now.

Helen’s interests were initially far less technical, since her creative talents tended towards the crafts, but being a fast learner, she picked up on the engineering jargon around the

house, at work and with friends. She developed an interest in all things technical and so here we are, two new south Florida HAMS.



Al & Helen Santana both obtained their Amateur Radio Operator Licenses August 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 after going through a

technician’s licensing class at the Deerfield Beach Mitigation Operations Center/Fire Station 102. They wasted no time getting involved in the hobby and are presently working to upgrade to their general class license. They are both active in the Deerfield



related activities as their schedules allow. They joined the ARRL and became members of the Broward Amateur Radio Club (BARC). They are presently working with the Broward Sheriff’s Office to create and staff a backup communications group consisting of deputies and C.O.P.’s who have amateur licenses. They be-

came active in Broward County ARES®/RACES and, as new licensees, volunteered to work Broward’s largest public service event, the Winterfest Boat Parade. After working the first parade side by side with an experienced ham, they volunteered for their own assignment during the parade for the following year. Despite the torrential rains, they stayed at their assigned post, accepted the fact they looked like drowned rats, and passed critical information to the Net Control station.

Al and Helen really love to travel and look forward to taking advantage of the cruise ships that are so accessible locally. They had their first taste of local “cruising” at the Winterfest volunteer party aboard the Tikki Beach. Between the open bar and



Beach Citizen Observer Patrol (C.O.P.) and Deerfield Beach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Since becoming HAMS they both have tried to involve themselves in as many radio

the all you can eat buffet, they didn’t even realize that the boat never left the dock.

Al and Helen continue to further their education. They have taken many of the FEMA Independent Study classes and have just received their Level 1 certification for the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course.

Way to go Al and Helen! We’re so proud of you!



## Upcoming Amateur Radio Technician Licensing Class

If you know of anyone who may want to obtain their Amateur Radio license, they will have the opportunity to do so beginning Saturday, April 10, 2010. The classes will be taught by Rob Frailing, AJ4SB at the Davie Police Department, 1230 S. Nob Hill Road, Davie, FL 33324.

The class will run for three consecutive Saturdays beginning on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. The FCC licensing exam will be given the last day of class, April 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be no charge for the class or the exam.

It is highly recommended that students purchase the book called *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual* for the Technician Level exam. The book can be purchased locally at Mike's Electronics, 1069 NW 53 St., Fort Lauderdale. Mike's phone number is 954-491-7110 or it can be purchased online at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

If you know of anyone who would like to register for this free class, contact Rob Frailing, AJ4SB at 954-701-3966 or send him an email at [Frailing@bellsouth.net](mailto:Frailing@bellsouth.net).



*John and Diane Sattler  
New Hams From Rob's Last Class*

## February Meeting Recap—Message Handling For The End User

The February meeting of Broward County ARES®/RACES proved to be another exciting and informative one. Rob Frailing, AJ4SB, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Training presented a program titled *Message Handling for the End User*. Rob covered the basics of message handling. He gave an overview of the ARRL radiogram and tasked each of our members to send a formal radiogram through the SEFTN net.

If you were at the February meeting and have not sent a radiogram through the SEFTN net yet, you're running out of time! We'll be looking for your reports at the March meeting!



Wherever you go and whatever you do,  
May the luck of the Irish be there with you.

## Emcomm Level 1 Class Graduates 11 Students

The ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course – Level 1 class was held from January 13, 2010 to February 20, 2010. This class, taught by David Fowler, K4DLF and Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB with the assistance of Mike Sanner, KJ4LOX gave students an introductory insight into emergency communications.

Students learned the basics about emergency communications, served agency relationships and communication systems, emergency nets and net operating guidelines, handling emergency messages, preparing for deployment, emergency activations, what to expect in large scale disasters and much more.

Congratulations to the following amateur radio operators who earned their Emcomm Level 1 Certification!

### *Congratulations To:*

Randy Basso, KJ4POR  
 Gene Beadle, ki4YJG  
 Fred Davison, KE4RKY  
 Stephanie Fazio, KJ4FSM  
 Jeffrey Keating, WB4KDH  
 Roy Neiman, KJ4EGN  
 Al Santana, KJ4FSL  
 Helen Santana, KJ4FSK  
 Vishnu Singh, AJ4VS  
 Sherry Tullo, KB5VWW  
 Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ



*Congratulations To*  
*Steven Feltus, KJ4EUN*  
*On Passing His Amateur Extra Exam*

## Emcomm Level 1 Graduation Celebration Dinner



I don't know what it is about hams and food, but anytime there's a reason to celebrate, a meal always seems to be involved!

On Saturday, February 27th, 2010, hams from the graduating Emcomm Level 1 class and other friends from the amateur community got together for a nice celebration dinner at the Peking Tokyo Buffet, in Deerfield Beach. Enjoy the photos!



## When The Lights Go Out

### David Fowler, K4DLF—Section Training Officer

Almost any disaster can result in power being out for an extended period of time. This in and of itself can result in a communications disaster since telephone and cell phone infrastructure depend on power. Without power, batteries at critical telephone and cellular infrastructure locations will only last a few hours. Unless portable generators can be moved in quickly (which is very iffy in a large scale disaster such as a major hurricane), these communications systems will start to fail as battery power is drained.

What about Amateur Radio? Will we have emergency power to operate our stations for an extended power outage? To a large degree, that depends on us. For example, at first it would seem that ham radio operators at shelters would have no problem. The shelters have generators, right? Well they do, but they can fail just like everything else. Let's assume that you have taken a mobile 2-meter or dual band radio and power supply to a shelter so you have 50 watts to get messages to the EOC without relays, even if all the repeaters are down (very likely after a major hurricane). If power is out and your station depends on the shelter generator, and it fails, how would you send a message from the shelter to the EOC that the generator at your shelter has failed or

needs more fuel? Even EOC generators can and have failed in real disasters!

One answer might be to also have a handheld transceiver (HT) with fresh batteries and hope that another station will hear your little 5 watt radio and relay your message to the EOC. A better answer might be to have an HT with plenty of batteries and a portable 2-meter yagi directional antenna that you can put outside and point to the EOC. An even better answer might be to have one or two 12 volt deep cycle lead-acid batteries (preferably the kind that can't spill) and a charger. You can be using your 50 watt mobile radio on one of these batteries while you charge the other with the shelter generator. Even with only one of these batteries, it is possible to keep it charged with the shelter generator while operating your radio off of it. If the shelter generator fails, you should be good for up to 24 hours on a single battery – plenty of time to get the message out to get the generator fixed.

As you can see, there are many choices to make ahead of time so that you are really prepared “when the lights go out”. The slogan “When all else fails, Amateur Radio” is not because of our radios, our frequencies, or our license. The slogan is because as



hams, we are intelligent enough to think through these possible scenarios and have contingency plans ready to go ahead of time.

Obviously, not every ham can afford to rush out and buy multiple deep cycle lead-acid batteries, chargers, 50 watt mobile radios, directional antennas, etc. all at once. Your budget and your ingenuity will dictate what kinds of radios, batteries, antennas, etc. you will have to bring to your assignment. If you are not sure, ask for help in deciding what you might be able to afford to do. Make a list and accumulate items over time that you can't afford to buy all at once. The point is this – don't wait until the lights go out

*May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks*

*May your heart be as light as a song*

*May each day bring you bright, happy hours*

*That stay with you all year long*



# Broward County ARES®/RACES Leadership Information

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

David Fowler, K4DLF  
K4DLF@arrl.net  
561-676-3007

Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB  
KJ4AWB@arrl.net  
954-803-6338

**Broward County ARES®  
Assistant  
Emergency Coordinators**

**Assistant  
Emergency Coordinator**  
Robin Terrill, N4HHP  
N4HHP@arrl.net

**AEC—Drills and Exercises**  
Vishnu Singh, AJ4VS  
AJ4VS@arrl.net  
954-558-6122

**AEC—Public Service Events**  
Mike Sanner, KJ4LOX  
KJ4LOX@att.net  
954-801-4398

**AEC—Recruiting**  
Eugene “Gene” Beadle, KI4YJG  
Beadle96@bellsouth.net  
754-224-9127

**AEC—Recruiting**  
Randy Basso, KJ4POR  
BassoR@hotmail.com  
954-243-1132

**AEC—Training**  
Rob Frailing, AJ4SB  
Frailing@bellsouth.net  
954-701-3966

**Broward County  
Emergency Preparedness Net  
BCEPN**

**Net Manager**  
Mike Wolf, KI4JRT  
BCEPN01@gmail.com  
954-993-1256

**Assistant Net Manager**  
Rob Frailing, AJ4SB  
Frailing@bellsouth.net  
954-701-3966

**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

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

**Join Our Yahoo Group**

**BrowardCountyARES**

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

**Monthly Meeting**

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

**Educational Opportunities**

**FEMA Independent Study (FREE)**  
[www.training.fema.gov/IS](http://www.training.fema.gov/IS)



The March meeting of Broward County ARES®/RACES will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2009 at Sunview Park located at 1500 SW 42 Ave., in Ft. Lauderdale. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. This month’s training topic will be “ARES® Net Protocols and Practices”. Rob Frailing, AJ4SB, AEC for Training, will work with us on net procedures so that when we are activated and have to put out skills to the test, the net will run smoothly and professionally. Feel free to invite a guest to the meeting!



**Next Meeting**

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**Tuesday**

**March 16, 2010**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Sunview Park**