



Broward County ARES®/RACES

January 2010

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

Inside this issue:

EC Message	1
RACES Update	
Volunteer Spotlight	2
Emcomm Level 1 Class	3
Technician Class	3
Winterfest Boat Parade	4
Public Service Hours Report	5
Section Training Officer	6
Leadership Contacts and Information	7
January Meeting Information	7

I hope each and every one of you had a wonderful holiday season. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with Broward County ARES®/RACES. We have a good team in place ready to bring you the best in educational programming and emergency communications practice.

Take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves this year and strive to be the best you can be. Let us know what we can do to help you attain your goals in emergency communications. We are dedicated to your success.

Have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

*We will open the book.
Its pages are blank.
We are going to put words on them ourselves.
The book is called
Opportunity
and its first chapter is
New Year's Day.
~Edith Lovejoy Pierce*

From Your RACES Officer—Robin Terrill, N4HHP

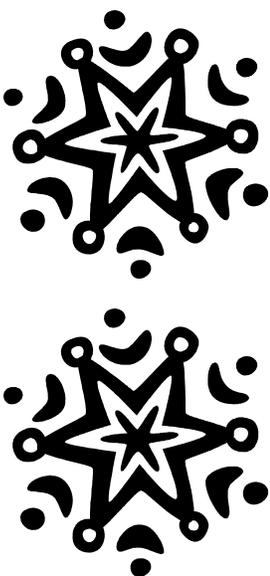
Well the year 2009 is now behind us. Not really an eventful year with activations from the Broward County Emergency Operations Center. There was one very expensive drill that activated us for one half of a day just to keep us all on our toes. For those of you that volunteered in talking on an assignment just in case we blew that whistle, I thank you for your commitment. Since this is a brand new year, we will also need you to renew your commitment by emailing Carol Sjursen,

Broward County Emergency Coordinator KJ4AWB@arrl.net.

If you are new to amateur radio and would like to join Broward County ARES/RACES and take on an assignment and be an active volunteer to be a communicator at one of our shelters, then you should email Carol and advise her that you want to be part of our program.

This year our District Emergency Coordinators are mandating that we have four (4) drills to keep

our amateur radio skills sharp. Please let Carol know if you are interested in helping out in this area. Our last drill between Broward County and Palm Beach County was a huge success due to the active participants throughout both counties.



Volunteer Spotlight—Steve Adams—N4JRW

In the 1980's there was a popular bumper sticker which read, "He who dies with the most toys wins." I bring this up, not because of the toys that Steve Adams, N4JRW has, but because of the toys he's had the opportunity to play with throughout his life.

Born and raised in New York, Steve landed a primo job at an early age – at least a primo job for a high school student. Steve was movie theatre usher and was very popular with his high school classmates wanting free admission to the movies. Pick a movie – any movie – and Steve can probably quote you the lines, especially if the show passed through his theatre during his tenure. He could probably even tell you the different "boy toys" that appeared on the screens of his theatre.

Steve's toys can't be found on the shelves of your local Toys R Us. He went right for the big stuff – starting with a 196 meter vessel (that's 644 feet in case you don't have a calculator handy) called the USS Canopus.

Yes, it not only sounds official, it is official. You see, Steve is a veteran of the US Navy. He was stationed on the USS Canopus AS-34. The US Navy calls this a Submarine Tender. Steve calls it a nuclear submarine repair ship. As a crane operator, Steve moved everything from beans to torpedoes. That's an awful lot of

beans - I'd hate to be behind the person that ate them!

When Steve moved to Florida, his toys became smaller. He went from a 12,890 ton vessel to a 2,600 pound cannon called a 3 inch Ordnance Rifle, a cannon which saw service throughout the Civil War. Steve was a part of a Reenactment and Living History Organization called the Florida Light Artillery. Participating in Civil War Reenactments,



Steve was a rebel private, and a part of a 6 person Ordnance Rifle cannon crew. Can you imagine shells weighing 8 to 9 pounds each being fired from this cannon? Ouch!

Steve went from vessels to cannons to fire engines. Every boy I knew as a kid wanted to be a fireman when they grew up. I'm not saying that Steve ever grew up – he's still a kid at heart, but he did become the fireman that all kids dream about. Now retired, Steve enjoyed 32 years of serving the public as a firefighter/emergency medical technician.

So, what other kinds of toys does Steve play with? Amateur radios, of course! Ham radio has been a great source of pleasure for Steve. He



has set up amateur radio stations in numerous facilities and has devoted numerous hours to emergency communications. Following Hurricane Andrew, Steve spent four weeks in Homestead assisting with communications efforts. He is a dedicated member of Broward County ARES®/RACES committed to serving during each activation in Broward County. Steve is also one of the Net Control Operators for the Winterfest Boat Parade, the largest public service event in Broward County.

Steve is very much a family man. Married to his wife Laura for 27 years, they have two children – 24 year old son Josh (N4OSO) who also volunteers for the Winterfest Boat Parade and 21 year old daughter Emilie. His toys may be getting smaller, but Steve's life is better and richer for the experiences he has been fortunate enough to have.



Register Now for Emcomm I Class - January 23rd

The ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course Level 1 class, is an introduction to the voluntary emergency communication service. The ARRL Level 1 Emcomm class is also required if you are going to assist with emergency communications outside of the Broward County area. Even if you're not considering traveling out of the area, you will still benefit by the excellent information provided in the class.

Topics to be covered include:

- Introduction to Emergency Communication
- The Served Agency Relationship
- Network Theory
- Design of Emergency Communications Systems
- Served Agency Communications Systems
- Introduction to Emergency Nets
- Basic Message Handling
- Net Operating Guidelines
- The Incident Command System
- Preparing for Deployment
- Equipment Choices for Emergency Communications
- Emergency Activation
- Setup, Initial Operations, and Shutdown
- Operations and Logistics
- Personal Safety, Survival and Health Considerations
- Alternative Communications Methods
- What to Expect in Large Scale Disasters
- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Marine Communications
- Other Learning Opportunities

- Modes, Methods, and Applications

The Emcomm Level 1 class is scheduled to begin on Saturday, January 23, 2010. The class will run for five consecutive Saturdays from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. The certification exam will be given immediately following the last class on February 20th.

There is no charge for the class. Purchasing a book is not required, but recommended. You can purchase the ARRL Amateur Radio Communications Course Level 1 book at the ARRL website at www.arrl.org.

The class will be held at the Davie Police Department, 1230 S. Nob Hill Road, Davie, FL 33324 which is just south of 595 on Nob Hill Road. If you are interested, contact Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB via email - KJ4AWB@arrl.net.

Upcoming 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, January 30, 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 four consecutive

Saturdays from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. The FCC licensing exam will be given the last day of class, February 20th. There will be no charge for 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.

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.



*All The Best
To You And Yours
In 2010*

Public Service—Winterfest Boat Parade

No matter what the weather might be doing outside, it will never rain on the Winterfest Boat Parade! Despite a few raindrops here and there, (well, maybe more than a few drops), the parade of boats was spectacular as usual.



On Saturday, December 12, 2009, the 38th Annual Winterfest Boat Parade took to the water beginning in the New River in Ft. Lauderdale and ending at Lake Santa Barbara in Pompano.

Close to 50 amateur operators, led by Winterfest Communications Committee Chair, Robin Terrill, N4HHP, lined the 12 mile parade route to provide key information via amateur radio to operators at the parade's Unified Command Center.

Event setup began well in advance of the parade with the building of a communications platform for the numerous radio operators. Runs of coax were installed from the roof to the Command Center along with

phone and computer lines. Several days prior to the event, antennas were installed on the roof for each of the radios that were to be used during the parade. Beginning at 8:00 am on parade day, members of net control arrived to begin the process of installing the radios and hooking them up to the proper antenna on the roof of the building. By the start of the parade, these operators had already put in a full day's work!

Bridge and control boat operators began reaching their assigned posts early in the afternoon. If they read their parade information in advance, they were prepared with their rain gear which was a good thing this year!

Doppler Radar was being displayed at the Command Center for hours prior to the parade and the weather was

being monitored very carefully. Last minute decisions were made to delay the parade for half an hour due to the torrential rains that were eminent. Operators in the Unified Command Center were busy at this time making notifications of the delays to the hundreds of individuals involved with the parade from the various agencies – quite an undertaking! Finally, the rain let up and a decision was made to start. After the final boat passed the marker at Lake Santa Barbara around 11:30 pm, the Command Center began the task of breaking down – a long day for those who worked this area.

A big thanks to the many amateur operators who volunteered their time to assist with this most important event. Be sure and read the article on the Public Service Honor Roll – if you worked the boat parade, you may qualify!



Public Service—Winterfest Boat Parade



Public Service Honor Roll

If You Worked The Winterfest Boat Parade—You May Be Eligible

If you worked the Winterfest Boat Parade during the month of December, you may qualify for the ARRL's Public Service Honor Roll.

Each month in *QST*'s Field Organization Reports column, the Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) recognizes the efforts of Amateur Radio operators who are active in many aspects of public service. This includes net operations, traffic handling, emergency operations and public service communication support.

Take a look at the six categories mentioned in this article and the accompanying descriptions to see where your Amateur Radio activities fit in. At the end of each calendar month, just add up your qualifying points. If it reaches the 70-point level (or more), you've qualified for the Public Service Honor Roll!

Report the good news with your call sign and monthly PSHR point totals to Phyllisan West, KA4FZI@AOL.com. Phyllisan is the Assistant Section Manager for Traffic Handling for the ARRL Southern Florida Section. She handles the

PSHR reports for our section and will forward the numbers to ARRL headquarters. Use the form at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/fsd-210.pdf> as a guide but Phyllian requests sending the numbers only (as shown on the bottom of this form) to her in the body of the email.

There are six areas where you can accumulate points. Detailed explanations of each category can be found on the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pshr/>.

- 1.) Participating in a public service net, using any mode. --1 point per net session; maximum 40.
- 2.) Handling formal messages (radiograms) via any mode. --1 point for each message handled; maximum 40.
- 3.) Serving in an ARRL-sponsored volunteer position: ARRL Field Organization appointee or Section Manager, NTS Net Manager, TCC Director, TCC member, NTS official or appointee above the Section level. -- 10 points for each position; maximum 30.

4.) Participation in scheduled, short-term public service events such as walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, parades, simulated emergency tests and related practice events. This includes off-the-air meetings and coordination efforts with related emergency groups and served agencies. - 5 points per hour (or any portion thereof) of time spent in either coordinating and/or operating in the public service event; no limit.

5.) Participation in an unplanned emergency response when the Amateur Radio operator is on the scene. This also includes unplanned incident requests by public or served agencies for Amateur Radio participation. - 5 points per hour (or any portion thereof) of time spent directly involved in the emergency operation; no limit.

6.) Providing and maintaining a) an automated digital system that handles ARRL radiogram-formatted messages; b) a Web page or e-mail list server oriented toward Amateur Radio public service -- 10 points per item.



I Am The Very Model Of A Modern Major General David Fowler, K4DLF—Section Training Officer

When we think about training for emergency communications, we tend to think about the ARRL Emergency Communications Course (ECC) Level 1 and the FEMA courses. For those of you that hold a Technician Class amateur radio license, why not think about upgrading to General Class as part of your continued training? With a new year starting, now is the time to think about what training you want to accomplish, especially before next hurricane season. The need for ECC Level 1 and FEMA courses is relatively obvious but upgrading to General Class (or higher) can also be an effective way to improve your emergency communications skills and abilities.

First, if you have held a technician class license for more than a few months, some important concepts that you knew for the test may be starting to fade from your memory. Studying for your general class license is a great way to review the principals of radio, propagation, regulations, and safety. There is

about a 50% overlap between the technician and general class question pool so studying the general class will help “lock in” some important principals you learned once but may have started to forget.

Second, studying for your general class license will result in a deeper understanding of some important principals of radio, propagation, interference, regulations, and safety. This deeper understanding can be very helpful in resolving problems during a disaster. During a disaster, you may have to do your own problem solving if your station has problems. The added skills and understanding that you gain by studying for your general class ticket could make the difference in getting back on the air or not.

Third, obviously the general class license has more privileges than the technician class license, especially with HF communications. While most amateur radio emergency communication in south Florida is local VHF/UHF, there is

a definite need for at least some volunteers to have HF privileges to communicate longer distances. A general class license (or above) makes you an even more valuable member of the team. This is especially true if you are thinking about helping out in other areas as part of ARES® mutual aid (ARESMAT).

Finally, once you upgrade to general class, you can volunteer to help out at VE sessions (if you want) to get more folks involved with amateur radio and emergency communications. So, as you think about what training you want to accomplish to improve your emergency skills, don't forget to consider upgrading your technician class license as an option. Of course, if you are already a general class licensee, maybe it's time to think about upgrading to Extra with even more knowledge and skills!

*The optimist sees the rose and not its thorns;
The pessimist stares at the thorns, oblivious of the rose.*

Kahil Gibran



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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Assistant
Emergency Coordinators**

**Assistant
Emergency Coordinator**
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AEC—Recruiting
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AEC—Training
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954-701-3966

**Broward County
Emergency Preparedness Net
BCEPN**

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

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

146-910 MHz -600 PL 110.9

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.

Educational Opportunities

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



January Meeting—Rallying The Troops When Disaster Strikes

The next meeting of Broward County ARES®/RACES will be on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be held at Sunview Park, our normal meeting location. This month's topic will be *Rallying the Troops When Disaster Strikes*.

Members will learn how they will be notified in the event of a disaster, which could be any type of disaster,

not necessarily a hurricane. They will learn how a local activation turns into a state activation and when the ARRL would become involved. Members will learn how resources, such as Amateur Radio operators are requested and tracked through the system and view snapshots of EM Constellation, a software program used by Emergency Management.

