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Proper Emergency Operating

By Steve Welsh, AD4E

While providing radio support during an emergency, the need for efficient & accurate communications is vitally important. With the hurricane season upon us, the following operating techniques (especially with respect to repeater operation) can help us achieve this goal:

1. Listen, listen, & listen some more. Certainly, we all get pumped-up during an event. The adrenaline *is* there. How

else could we pull those long shifts?! However, it's so important to listen for stations that may need to provide information, or break-in with an emergency. So, a brief pause between transmissions is important. If you wait for the courtesy tone, that is sufficient time for another station to break in if they need to. It's also important to keep the "pace" of communications at a consistent (non-hyper) rate.

2. Confirm that your radio is working properly.

The goal here is to have our radio equipment in perfect working order—especially transmit audio. Clear audio will significantly improve communications efficiency. Periodically, ask for a report on how your radio sounds. Often times, speaking more quietly will enhance intelligibility; or, possibly a simple adjustment to increase microphone sensitivity (transmit deviation) will provide a real improvement too.

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Special points of interest:

- Your articles wanted for the newsletter.
- Field Day Weekend 2002 is on June 22 and 23. Mark your calendars, come out and operate/fellowship with your colleagues!
- Review changes to bylaws and be prepared to discuss and/or vote at July meeting.

President's QSO

It was great to see everyone at Tom Brown Park for our "Spring Cookout" last month. I must admit I was very impressed with the turnout considering the inclement weather. I thought

the event was going to be a bust as it was pouring down rain while I was standing in the checkout line with \$70 worth of vittles for our Bar-B-Que (sigh). Thankfully though, the storm

passed & we had cool temperatures the rest of the evening. Approximately 35 to 40 folks attended, with five hams joining TARS!

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VP's Corner

No column for June.

Meeting Minutes—May 2003

Meeting convened at 7:08. There were 15 members and 1 guest in attendance.

David Heupel KG4ACF announced that the April/May newsletter will go out the following weekend. The next meeting date will be moved from July 4 to July 11.

Program:

The program was deferred to next month.

Treasurer's Report:

No significant change to the treasury.

Repeater Report:

Randy Pierce KC4YWP reported that a digi repeater will be going up on 145.01. The 442.85 machine is up. There are no shuttle launches coming up. Will need a working

party the weekend of May 11 to replace the Diamond antenna. Not sure if the Blairstone site is on a generator or not but he's planning to put a UPS at that site, too.

Special Event Committee:

No activity to report from the committee. Rhett White KB4CTV, and Carl Hayes, NN5I, announced an Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 445 Fly-in of experimental aircraft at the Quincy Airport on May 18.

TOSRV Post-mortem:

Brett Wellman KG4KLR, provided certificates to the TOSRV volunteers. He also announced that TARS needs to send an expression of appreciation to Mr.

Stewart for the use of his field for the base station. We'll also need to check next year to make sure the property is available.

Nomination's Committee:

Not much action yet. Volunteers should contact Randy Pierce, KC4YWP.

Field Day Update:

Steve Welsh AD4E noted that Kimo has volunteered to help with bonus points. Still need to coordinate with Brett and Kent KC4TOC on PR work. Kent said that he's working on getting a proclamation and he's trying to get Jeb Bush to come and make contacts to his family.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Proper Emergency Operating

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3. Wait briefly for repeater system electronics, hand-held battery save circuits, and scanning units to engage before speaking. Upon initial repeater transmission, approximately

100 to 200 milliseconds (one-quarter second) is required. This is especially applicable to systems that are "linked" or using remote receivers. No one will steal your microphone!

4. Don't acknowledge open microphones or malicious interference. More often than not, acknowledging these poor operators (LIDS) only exacerbates the problem—attention is

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Proper Emergency Operating

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what they want!

5. No need for "over" & "go-ahead". In most cases, its clearly evident when a station stops transmitting. On VHF, the courtesy tone serves this purpose.

6. No need for "WA4XYZ back on frequency". Unless there is some special reason to alert someone of your return (such as to pickup more traffic), there is no need for this. If someone needs you, they will call you and your presence (or not) would then be obvious.

7. No need for "WA4XYZ on 655". Unless there is a

special need for this, its unnecessary.

8. Drop "this is". It will be obvious who you are by your call sign. You may want to consider un-keying the microphone between sentences to confirm that no one is talking simultaneously (doubling) with you.

9. A single call to a station should be adequate. For example, "WA4XYZ, N4ABC" or "WA4XYZ this is N4ABC" is preferred over "WA4XYZ, WA4XYZ, this is N4ABC". If they don't respond to the first call within a short time, a second call may then be warranted.

10. No need for "WA4XYZ clear". This serves absolutely no purpose whatsoever.

The underlying theme to all this is to keep the frequency open and be efficient with your communications. Speak clear & at a reasonable rate. Unless you have important information, (e.g., a weather report) to pass along or are being called, there is no reason for you to be transmitting. Also, less chit-chat means less listener fatigue. Although our hobby is called amateur, we can be professional in our technique.



Please submit
your articles and
announcements
to the newsletter
editor by the 15th
of the month...
info on back.

The Ten Commandments of Electronics

1. Beware of the lightning that lurketh in an undischarged capacitor, lest it cause thee to be bounced upon thy bottom in a most undignified manner.

2. Causeth thou the switch that supplies large quantities of juice to be opened, yea, turned firmly off, and thusly tagged, so thy days may be long in this world.

3. Proveth to thyself that all circuits that radiateth, and upon which thou worketh are grounded, lest they lift thee to high-frequency potential and

cause thee to radiateth also.

4. Take care thou useth the proper method when thou doth take the measure of high voltage circuits, so that thou doth not incinerate both thee and thy meter, for verily I say unto you: though thou are worthless, having no account number, and canst be easily replaced, the meter doth have an account number, which will bringeth much woe upon the inventory.

5. Tarry not among those who engage in intentional

shocks, for they are surely unbelievers, and are not long for this world.

6. Take care thou tampereth not with interlocks and safety devices, for this incurth the wrath of thy seniors, and bringeth the sound and fury of the safety officer down upon thine head and shoulders.

7. Worketh thee not upon energized equipment, for if thou dost, thy buddies wilt surely be buying beer without thee, and thy space at the bar will be filled by another.

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President's QSO

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TOSRV Addenda

- Please bring TOSRV route-direction signs to the meeting so they can be returned to Capital City Cyclists.
- TOSRV T-shirts are still being held for those who weren't able to pick them up at the cook-out—I'll have them with me at the meeting.

Inventory Status

Progress is being made on compiling an inventory of the club's assets. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, TARS has a lot of "stuff" that's spread out over several locations. Carlton Wells, AG4UT & I have compiled a list of known club assets & equipment. This list will be available at the June meeting.

The next step is to consider how we should manage these assets. Generally speaking, this simply

means keeping a check on where things are such as our gin-pole, climbing belt, laptops, radios, antennas, electronic test equipment, metal-fabrication tools & so on; this way, when something is needed it can be easily located.

TARS Elections

The election of officers for the 2003-2004 year will take place at the June meeting. The offices to be voted on are: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, & Secretary. The current President, Vice-President & Secretary will all be stepping down. Our Treasurer has stated he'd also like to step down as he's held the position for many consecutive years. So, if you know of someone (including yourself) who'd like providing leadership & assistance for TARS, please consider them for nomination at the meeting. Contact any club officer with nominations and/or ques-

tions.

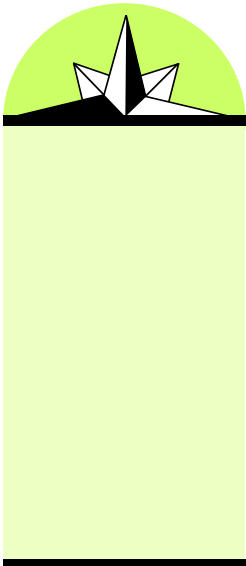
FCC Seeks Assistance in Curbing Unlicensed 10-Meter Incursions

NEWINGTON, CT, May 1, 2003--The FCC has requested the assistance of the ARRL Amateur Auxiliary/ Official Observers in monitoring for illegal operation on the 10-meter amateur band. The request came in an April 28 letter from FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, who says incursions on the band by apparently unlicensed operators continue to be a major enforcement headache.

"This is the first phase of a renewed investigation effort and may be thought of as detect, collect data and report," said ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut (K0BOG). ARRL forwarded the request to members of the Amateur Auxiliary May 1.

Hollingsworth said the FCC wants help with a stepped-up effort over

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President's QSO

the next six months--from May through October--to identify any unlicensed operation on 10 meters "whether from business entities--including trucking companies--truckers or other individuals operating domestically." Hollingsworth said the FCC does not need direction-finding but would appreciate where possible "the names and cities of the operators, and license plate numbers and state if from a vehicle."

Skolaut said the FCC would like to concentrate on obtaining reports of this type of operation to help locate specific areas where this problem is

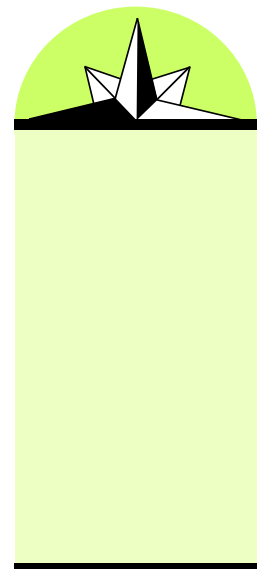
prevalent across the US, although he concedes that not all illegal 10-meter operation originates in the US. "The FCC asks that OOs obtain as much information as possible and send their reports through normal channels to ARRL Headquarters," he said. The decision to record the transmissions of suspected interlopers was left to the discretion of the individual OOs.

The FCC request was made in accordance with the Communications Act and a long-standing agreement between the ARRL and the FCC regarding the use of Amateur Radio volunteers to

assist in enforcement.

K4TLH FIELD DAY at Mission San Luis, June 28 & 29

Now that he's graduated with his degree in Electrical Engineering (congratulations!!) & has a bit more time to play radio, Shaun Hancock, AF400, is coordinating Field Day this year. I'll be heading up the GOTA station, while Ted, W1XO, is heading up an HF station. Volunteers are still needed for food, logging, a VHF station & more. Please contact Shaun directly on one of the local VHF repeaters or 878-2659. Talk-in will be on any of the local VHF repeaters.



The Ten Commandments of Electronics

8. Verily, verily, I say unto thee: never service high voltage equipment alone, for electric cooking is a slothful process, and thou mayest sizzle in thine own fat for hours on end before thy Maker sees fit to end thy misery and drag thee into his fold.

9. Trifle thee not with ra-

dioactive devices and tubes lest thou commence to glow in the dark like unto a lightning bug.

10. Commiteth the works of the prophets to thine memory, which are written in the instructional manuals, for they whilst giveth thou the straight dope, and consoleth thee, and

thou wilt maketh not boos.

And of course the 11th commandment:

11. Be thou not afraid to asketh stupid questions, for verily they are cheaper than stupid mistakes.

From: Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake



Amateur Radio
Around the
World

We're on the Web!
<http://www.k4tlh.org>



<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tars>

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Upcoming Events

Testing Session:

2:00 p. m. EDT on June 22, 2002, at the Field Day site location on Dupree St in Tallahassee.

TARS Meetings:

Every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p. m. EDT.

Friday Lunch: Every Friday, 11:30 a. m. EDT at Golden Corral on North Monroe St.

Saturday Breakfasts:

Every Saturday, 8:00 a. m. EDT at Golden Corral on N Monroe St.

Capital District ARES

Net: Every Sunday, 8:00 p. m. Eastern on the AE4S repeater (146.655).

North Florida ARES

Net: Every morning, except Sunday on 3950 KHz at 9:00 a. m. Eastern.

North Florida Phone

Net: Every evening, on 3950 KHz at 2330 UTC.

Editorial Policy

Submitted material received by the editor from dues-paying members in good standing, on or before the 15th of the month will appear in the following month's newsletter as space permits. Articles published in *The Printed Circuit* are not representative of the views or opinions of the whole organization, and such views and opinions are of the individual author(s). Currently, the editor is David A. Heupel, KG4ACF.