

IARC, Inc News



Irving Amateur Radio Club Inc. – P.O. Box 153333, Irving, TX 75015-3333
The Friendly Bunch – Website <http://www.irvingarc.org/> - WA5CKF Repeaters
146.72 (110.9 Hz) – 224.40 – 442.675 MHz - Public Service

January 2005

Upcoming Scheduled Meetings

Next scheduled Board Meeting February 20, 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Park
Next scheduled General Meeting January 27, 7:30 p.m. at Garden and Arts (906 S. Senter). Presentation given by John Beadles on High Speed Multi Media.

Monthly Fox Hunt

*****The Fox Hunt is postponed for the months of November and December due to the Holidays. The Fox Hunt will resume in January******

A monthly Fox Hunt is held on each Sunday following the 4th Thursday general club meeting. Starting point is SH183 & Story Road in the parking lot on the northwest corner at 1:30 pm. Winner of the hunt gets to be the FOX next time. All Amateur Radio operators are welcome.

Upcoming Events

January 31 – 2005 Hamfest Committee meeting at 7:00 at Betcha Bingo #2

February 5 – Skywarn School 9-11 at Irving's Main Library Auditorium

March 12 – 3rd Annual IRAC Hamfest 8:00 am to 2 pm at Betcha Bingo

STORM SPOTTER CLASS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2005

Many of us are still recovering from the severe storms and flooding of 2004. However, the 2005 severe weather season is just around the corner. Are you ready? Do you know how to recognize cloud formations that may bring damaging winds, large hail, or a tornado? Do you want to learn more about how storms produce severe weather? As part of its area-wide weather preparedness campaign, the National Weather Service in Fort Worth will answer these and many other questions in a storm spotter training program on Saturday, February 5, 2005, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. The program will be held in Irving, at the Main Library Auditorium, and will be co-sponsored by the City of Irving Emergency Management.

New for 2005, the spotter-training program will include some introductory concepts of weather radar interpretation. The program will emphasize thunderstorm formation, severe weather production, and features associated with severe storms. The program will also discuss tornado formation and behavior, basic storm spotting techniques, and safety when thunderstorms threaten. The two-hour presentation will be in multimedia format, featuring pictures and video of storms and tornadoes. The program will feature over 20 minutes of storm video. Many of the photos and video clips used in the program were shot during the 2004 storm season.

"Storm spotters are a vital part of the severe weather warning system", said Gary Woodall, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Fort Worth NWS Office. "Radar is a great tool, but it only tells us part of a storm's story. Storm spotter observations complement the electronic data we use to analyze storms. The combination of spotter reports and radar data gives us the best possible picture of the storms and what's going on inside them".

The Seminar is free, and members of the public are invited to attend. "By coming to this program, you will learn a lot about thunderstorms", Woodall said. "Even if you don't become an active storm spotter, you will learn about how storms work and the visual clues to identify when storms are in the area. This will better prepare yourself and your family for the threats that storms pose".

The Irving severe weather program is one of over 40 that the Fort Worth

NWS Office will conduct between January and March 2005. For more information on severe weather and the National Weather Service, visit the Fort Worth Forecast Office' s website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd>

Recipe Chicken Spaghetti

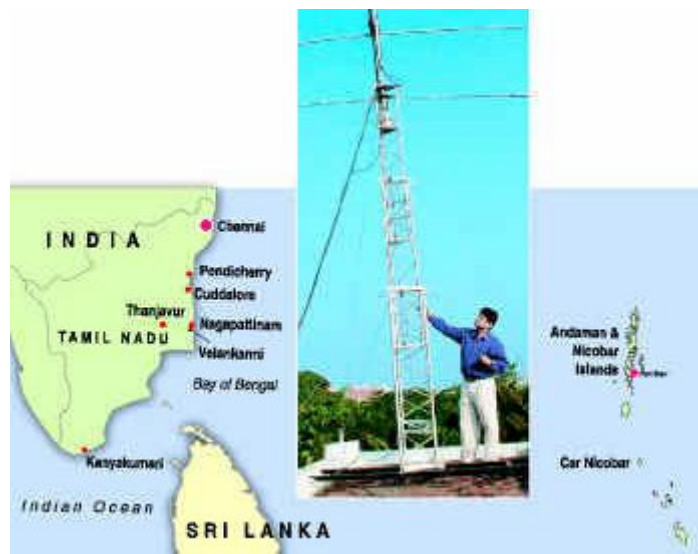
4 lb. chicken
1 bell pepper
1 onion
1 1/2 LB thin spaghetti
1 can cream of chicken soup
2/3 cup flour
1 quart milk
1/2 lb. margarine
1 lb. Velveeta cheese

Cook chicken, remove from broth, and add enough water to cook all the spaghetti. After spaghetti is done, add cream of chicken soup, melt cheese, add margarine, add milk/flour mixture. Sauté the onions and bell pepper. De-bone, skin chicken, cut into small pieces. Add chicken, onions and bell pepper.

9 x 13 baking dish
Bake @ 350 degrees until bubbly.

Hams lend a helping hand

Amateur ham radio enthusiasts are playing an unusual but important role in tsunami relief work, reports SHONALI MUTHALALY



When four amateur radio operators headed to the Andaman and Nicobar islands a few weeks ago, armed with only basic equipment, backpacks and sun blocks, they had no idea that their fun hobby would soon become the islands' only lifeline.

"They went because it's a 'high value' country for hams (amateur radio operators) since you need special permission from the Government to operate there," says Gopal Madhavan, an avid ham and one of the members of the governing council of the Amateur Radio Society of India. "The last time a ham operated in the Andamans was about 25 years ago."

The team, which came from across India, left Chennai on December 3 on their 'DXpedition' (basically ham slang for an expedition to any foreign country). "They met here for a cup of tea before they left... There was a great amount of enthusiasm," says Gopal, carefully tuning his buzzing radio, alive with their voices crackling all the way from the islands. "They went to Port Blair, set up the equipment — all DXpeditions carry radios and dismantled antennas, which can be set up later with guy ropes — and contacted about 35,000 hams across the world."

Then, the earthquake began, followed by tidal waves, which swept over the small islands.

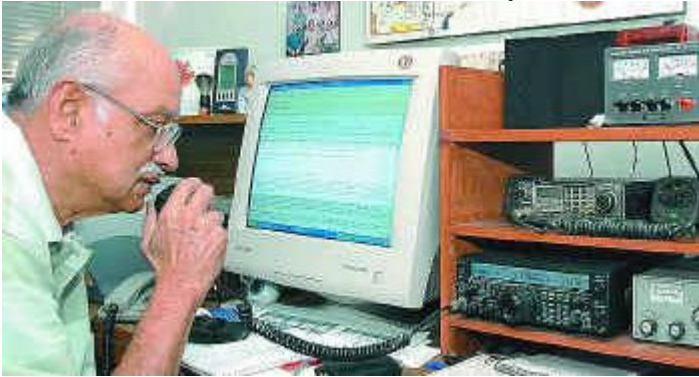
"They were actually in operation when the tremors began. Bharthi, the team leader, was talking to an Australian on the radio. He says her voice suddenly rose by a few octaves and she yelled 'tremor'. Then, her radio went dead."

The islands were devastated by the quake and crashing waves. Phones died, the electricity went out and life in Andaman and Nicobar came to a stunned halt. On the airwaves too, there was a loud silence, as hams across the world held their breath, wondering whether the team had survived. However, about two hours later, unbelievably, they were back on the air.

"Every other form of communication was down. They were the only link from the Andamans to the mainland for several hours after the disaster," says Gopal, adding that the tsunamis had engulfed the island, paralyzing all machinery and communication systems. The ham radio however, which was operating from a tower, was in working order, although the team did have to scavenge for batteries to get it operating again since it had been running on electricity.

In the tradition of hams, the team stayed on to help, the DXpedition was converted into an emergency network and hams from across the world, especially India, swung into action. Two more people headed to the islands to support the emergency network, and with help from the Indian Army, which is providing the hams with food, camping and batteries, the station on Port Blair continues to operate, while another station has been set up at Car Nicobar, which has been practically obliterated by the catastrophe.

Pics: by K.V. Srinivasan



Rising to the occasion: Gopal Madhavan

Hams have time and again proved useful in situations like this where communication lines are down and emergency services have their hands full. "The police have to concentrate on law and order at this point, while the Army and emergency services have specific roles to play. Roles they cannot really deviate from because they have so much work to do," says Gopal.

He says they are often called upon by the Government to lend a helping hand since they are a mobile, usually well-connected, civilian group. Hams can set up radio stations even from their cars, travel around affected areas, identify people who need help and radio the police or hospitals. They can also mobilize men and materials since they have a vast network of millions of people from all walks of life, which covers the world. Port Blair, for instance, has just asked for 12 doctors so the hams are calling hospitals for help. "And while we co-ordinate from here, the ham control station in Delhi is talking to the Government to see if they can spare doctors," says Gopal.

Right now the main concern of the Andaman team is to find missing people. "We are getting calls from all over the world from people who are worried about friends and relatives," says Gopal. The teams in the islands field these calls, ask where the missing person was last seen and send people out to look for them. "However, with disasters like this, it is extremely difficult to find people since the tendency is to flee. What we can say is... well... if someone' s dead and the body' s been found," says Gopal. "We then radio back the news so that relatives are informed. (pause) That' s been happening a lot."

Meanwhile, in Tamil Nadu, although the State Government has said they have the situation under control, hams from across South India are being mobilized anyway, to help in whatever ways they can. They have established stations in Vellankani, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Kanyakumari, Pondicherry and Thanjavur and have also set up control stations in the bigger cities, like Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata and Delhi. Gopal mans the Chennai station. His role is to co-ordinate rescue efforts and help transfer information, since most of the emergency ham stations work on batteries to save power and use long wire antennas, generally tied to a tree, and are hence relatively feeble. "Mobilising people has taken a while," says Gopal, "We have to find people with diesel cars because petrol

vehicles don' t work in water. We need people who drive Scorpios or Mahindra jeeps so they can travel with all the ham equipment and supplies."

In Sri Lanka too, the hams have moved to the East Coast, which has been devastated. Since there are very few hams there, hams from India are now being mobilized to travel to the island. Meanwhile, the radio waves have been inundated by people calling in to offer help. "Hams worldwide are getting involved. The Canadian hams are in the process of sending blankets, bed sheets and cooking utensils," says Gopal, "Everybody' s offering aid. Everybody wants to help."

Disaster management

In Gujarat, for 10 days after the 2001 earthquake, hams were the only people who could communicate effectively. A number of them drove straight to Gujarat when they heard about the tragedy, using car batteries to power their radios so they could call for help whenever they found victims or unclaimed bodies.

Every time there' s a cyclone, an air crash or disasters in open fields wher communication is difficult, hams are called upon for help since their mobile radio systems always work. Often, one ham is stationed at the district collector' s office, just so he can talk to the authorities.

Over the years, many hams have lost their lives when serving during disasters. Deepa, a young lady who went to Gujarat to help out, picked up a disease there and died. More recently, a Sri Lankan ham, who was in Iraq on a peace keeping mission as part of the UN group for communications, was shot dead.

Hamstrung

Although hams have helped the government a number of times in emergency situations, red tapism is slowly choking amateur radio as a hobby. The laws, which were laid down in the days of the British Raj, are apparently "ridiculously outdated" today. For instance, according to the law, a ham can' t leave home with his radio. Hence, ironically, every time they head out to help with disaster management, they' re actually breaking the law.

However, last month, the Home Department and Ministry of Communication had a meeting in Delhi with the Amateur Radio Society of India, which seemed to finally acknowledge the efficacy of ham radio. The society submitted a paper asking for changes and has been told that it' s been studied and the "departments concern~~ed~~ are looking into the issues."

Sale Items

JR Boomer 2Meter beam

SYS 33 3element 10-15-20 meter beam

2 meter 20 element twist beam

Ringo Ranger 2meter vert. ant.

2meter fiberglass vert. ant 6db gain

Db205 quarter wave vert. ant 2meter

Db222 element 2meter ant.

46' Rhon 25 tower-guy cables-hardware

RG8 coaxial cable various lengths

Spider mobile antennas 15m-20m-40m

Swan transceiver 500 (480 watts SSB 360watts CW) 10-80 meters

Stainless steel 9ft. mobile whips with adjustable 3/8-24 threaded bases

You can reach me by phone (972-438-1169) or E-MAIL at GSEI904677@AOL.COM

Thank You Garry F. Seither WD8CQZ

Upcoming VE Test Sessions

VE Testing Sessions are held every 3rd Saturday at 8:30 am Betcha Bingo #2 2420 Irving Blvd (Story and Irving Blvd), Irving, TX you will need:

2 forms of identification – one must include photo

Pencils or pens (black or blue)

Your current Amateur Radio License (if you have one) and a copy of same to file with your application; your CSCE; and a copy of same, if you have completed relative elements at a prior session

\$14.00 exam fee

Contact for further information

Chuck Beaupre 972/745-8456

Ham Shack

Dennis Brady – Chairman

We have recently restored the IARC station to full operation on bands 80 – 10. There are two functional stations available for use. Contact Dennis Brady 972/790-9026 or any of the Club officers to gain access to the station/equipment.

There is a sign in/out log at the station that is to be completed by the person using the Club station. (The person “using the station” is defined as whoever unlocks the door that day.) Additionally, there is a checklist of steps that must be completed when leaving the station. (Some simple stuff like turn off radios, disconnect antennas and clean any trash out of the room.)

73 de W5FRS
Dennis

Member Birthdays

January

Ron Tabb KC5HPO – Jan 1
Keith Rice KC5FCK – Jan 6
Charles Phillips KC5TQJ – Jan 9
Ray Story K5ANG – Jan 12
Charles Caffey N5CRC – Jan 18
Wesley Dyer KA5EYJ – Jan 21

Karl Meyer N5UOI – Jan 23
Joshua Elison KD5ZBD – Jan 27
Coleta Taylor KD5QFH – Jan 27

February

Chuck Beaupre WA5MJB – Feb 4
Doyle Taylor AD5KE – Feb 6
Robert Davis AD5NR – Feb 15
William Gaddis KD5LZO – Feb 20
Charles Roach W5GJQ – Feb 23
James Shugard N5BKL- Feb 23

Minutes

IARC Inc. Holiday Dinner Dec. 16, 2004--Notes

IARC Inc. Holiday Dinner Dec. 16, 2004 at Golden Corral was attended by 40 members and guests. The youngest being Jim W5OMG and Amelia KD5TXQ 's new Grandson Tyler. The oldest Mr. AL W5VSH --good to see that he was able to be out for the evening.

Jim W5OMG did the honors of welcoming members and guests. THANKS

Prayer by Jim W8EP

Pledge of allegiance by all present.

Members and guest gave their names and call sign.

Tickets were given to all present, for a keyer donated by Joe Martin; winner was Nettie Beaupre and for 3 drawings of bagged pecans donated by Doyle and Coleta. Winners were Amelia Shultz, Tom Schuessler, and Lenda Barnes.

Bill Caldwell expressed Thanks for all the help thru the year and wanted the memembership to be thinking on new goals for the coming year.

Dennis Riise passed out cards from Jack Kilgore KS5BYW -- Batteries Plus.

A good meal and fellowship was had by all.

Happy Holiday

Coleta Taylor KD5QFH

Past Special Events

Turkey Trot – November 25, 2004
Spook Patrol – October 31, 2004
Aids Arms Life Walk – October 2, 2004
Convoy of Hope – September 27, 2004
Red Hot Chili Pepper Ride – August 12, 2004
Irving 4th July Parade 2004
Tri America Triathlon Series – July 3 & July 4, 2004
Great Skate – June 12, 2004
MS150 Red River Run – May 1, 2004
NTTR Grasslands – March 20, 2004
Dino Dash – Jan 24, 2004

Deadline for articles for November Newsletter is December 30

IARC Officers and Board Members

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
Mark Corona	Charlie Brown	Coleta Taylor	Doyle Taylor
KD5TTT	KD5OPG	KD5QFH	AD5KE
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Directors

Dennis Riise	Lee Vincent	Gordon Gremillion	Bill Caldwell
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