

East Coast News

There is a new D-STAR repeater operating from the St. Johns EOC location at I-95 and SR-16. The system went online on 26-May and was operating on low power into a 2-bay Folded Dipole at 120ft. On Thursday, the power was increased to about 35 watts and coverage appears to be very good throughout St. Johns County, into Duval County and into many portions of Flagler County. This is a standalone system at the moment, but we plan on making it part of the North East I-95 D-Star project as soon as the internet port forwarding is resolved. The system is on 145.360 and has a call-sign of KJ4RYF (port-C). See Page-3 for details.

The Daytona Beach D-STAR system installation is planned for the weekend of 05-June and will be on 145.380 with a call-sign of KJ4RYH. The antenna will be a DB-224E at about 130ft. Coverage is expected to be awesome since feedline losses are negligible and the antenna is in the clear. See Page-3

Florida Hurricane Net on Mondays at 21:00 local on D-STAR REF004C or the KA4RES repeater (port C). More on Page 2.

New HF Radio installed at the Flagler EOC, but the HF antenna was found to be bad - more on Page-1.

Flagler Repeater on 147.300 is still being diagnosed. Flagler Emergency Services officially requested ARES help in problem determination. More details on Page-2.

AA5QJ (Charlie) is planning on installing a WL2K and APRS node in Palm Coast. If you're interested in helping or using, please contact him at AA5QJ@arrl.net



HF Radio Installed at the Flagler EOC Progress on 147.300 Repeater

Welcome to Issue-07 of the ARESNews. My apology for being almost 4 weeks since the last issue - the Dayton Hamfest and other initiatives took a larger-than-planned amount of time, but I am happy to report progress on a number of important projects herein.

The Dayton Hamvention was excellent this year, as usual. This year was a special treat for me, as I was able to go with two Dayton "newbies", Doug (N4FPS along with his bride Theresa) and Eddie (KJ4LRB). For those of you who have never been (yet), plan in trip in the near future. Anything and everything that is ham radio is there, as are about 35,000 of your closest friends. Yes - it's a zoo, but it's worth the crowds and the sore feet at the end of the day.

Of note were some very unique Go-Kits that we found in the flea-market from a local Dayton vendor. Hard-shelled with easy-off front and back covers, these units were "da-bomb".. Between Doug and I, we purchased three units (actually, 5 if you include the 2 additional units that I purchased after getting home). Eddie and I hauled 2 units on the airplane with us (they're carry-on sized) and one fella who was on another flight said "wow.. nice Go-Kits..!!". Ironically, he was a TSA employee, in charge of building HF go-kits for the TSA's nation-wide HF emergency communications network between airports and Washington DC..!!

My thanks to Eddie for being my "pack-mule" and carrying all the "stuff" that I bought for various ARES and D-STAR projects. I think I wore the poor guy out with all the heavy things that we purchased for projects like the D-STAR Hotspot, go-kits, batteries, etc, etc, etc.

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ARES Administration:

The monthly Flagler ARES group meeting was held on 20-May at 19:00 at the Flagler EOC (Highway 100 in Bunnell, just south of the Justice Center). PowerPoles were the subject of discussion and training, with a hands-on portion enabling all who attended to convert their radio equipment to the ARES National Standard 12vdc connection. Since we recognize that not everybody can attend every meeting (your's truly wasn't able to attend due to a business dinner), so we will bring the PowerPole "Kit" with us to every meeting in case any of you want to do a quick installation. These resources are ALWAYS available to all of you who need them.

Next Month's program was scheduled to be about Net Operations, but we are going to switch the program to be about Go-Kits, since we appear to be heading into an active Hurricane season and the situation with the oil spill. Being prepared with equipment might well be a higher priority. I know that all of us already know about how to participate in a Directed Net, given Robbie's excellent SkyWarn nets which give us fore warning of severe weather, so we'll defer that for our July meeting.

A reminder - all licensed amateurs are welcome to attend all of our meetings, regardless of your club affiliations (or if you're not a member of any radio club). Your passion for community emergency radio service and your time are all that are required.

EOC Activities:

Aside from the weekly (normally on Friday afternoons) test of all Comms equipment at the EOC, the ARES group recently installed an

NEW SUCCESS:

St. Johns D-STAR repeater is on 145.360--RPT1="KJ4RYF C" and RPT2="KJ4RYF G" (when installed). Initial reports from users indicate very good coverage. Gateway to be installed as soon as Port Forwarding is completed.

Daytona Beach D-STAR will go online on the weekend of 05-Jun and have the gateway installed at the same time. 145.380-. RPT1="KJ4RYH C" and RPT2="KJ4RYH G".

The Palm Coast D-STAR repeater performance continues to be excellent. We've experienced no problems in the last 4 weeks. Frequency is on 147.320+ with a RPT1= "KA4RES C" and RPT2="KA4RES G".

All licensed amateurs are welcome to use the repeater and all linking functions..

Please bring your personal Go-Kit to the ARES meeting on 16-June. We would like to share ideas and get the process rolling so that ALL have usable go-kits for the anticipated increased Hurricane season. We are already creating new Go-Kits with some awesome units that we acquired at the Dayton Hamvention. Come to the meeting to see the results..!!

We have acquired a new Agilent N9330B Antenna/Cable Analyzer to compliment our existing and aging Anritsu SiteMaster S113C. The new 9330B instrument will sweep to 4ghz, so it will do WiFi and low-microwave antennas and feedlines that we might install in the near future for wireless internet links.

This give us redundant capability to sweep antennas and feedline, as well as our existing redundant capability with Spectrum Analyzers, Tracking Generators and Service monitors. This gives the EOC and our other partners significant RF maintenance capability not previously available.

We are also looking at installing at least one new Analog repeater in Flagler County in the near future (in addition to fixing 147.300), since we believe that there will be needs for additional ARES repeaters given severe weather. Our assumption is that we will need at least 1 Resource Net and 2 Tactical Nets at any point in time, so there might be needs for 3 VHF Analog repeaters, in addition to D-STAR.



Icom IC-7200 HF radio, an SGC MAC-200 Antenna Tuner and a Samlex 1235 power supply into the HF position of the radio room. The team, composed of Phil (K5BBC), Robbie (KG4HUF) and Steve (KB4DNQ) were able to get all of the equipment installed and sweep the antenna, however the antenna was found to be non-resonant on any Amateur frequencies due to the way it was installed. Regardless, in after-action discussions with the installation team, it was determined that an HF Vertical is probably not the right antenna to be used for EMCOMM work when the primary communications link would be to adjacent EOC's and the State EOC in Tallahassee. Therefore, we will be recommending installation of a multi-band dipole at a modest height in order to leverage NVIS capabilities for short-haul communications. Stay tuned for future updates on the HF radio situation and potential antenna installation schedules..

A reminder - All are welcome to join in the weekly radio testing (including HF), especially for the simplex testing since it is important to understand any changes in simplex range capabilities from the EOC.

Flagler Emergency Services also formally requested ARES assistance with troubleshooting of the 147.300 repeater problems which have been plaguing it for the last 12+ months. A small crew including K5BBC, KG4HUF, KC2LSF was able to

join Bob Pickering to the site on 20-May and determined that a number of issues were present (and some were resolved): (1) cables from the repeater to duplexer were RG8 and RG-58 (receiver) and were substantial contributors to de-sense, (2) the duplexer was slightly off frequency and degraded the receiver performance by about 5db, (3) there was a strong out-of-band signal coming from 148.22 that was present inside of the room which was mixing with the transmitter signal and causing severe interference with the repeater receiver.

A formal report was generated and delivered to Troy Harper and Bob Pickering, along with the project team. Follow-up actions will be undertaken during the week of 31-May, after coordination with Bob in order to proceed further with the diagnosis. We also have a Yaesu VXR-7000 ready which can be inserted as a temporary diagnostic replacement of the VXR-9000 to determine if the 9000 is problematic (although it tested just fine). Stay tuned, more to come. Once the situation is resolved, we will publish the complete diagnostic report on the ARES Yahoo site for review by all interested parties.

Training and Procedures:

Sessions highlighted in **RED** are changes from the original sched:

May=PowerPoles (completed), **June=Go-Kit requirements and demonstra-**

tion, July=Net Operations, August=EMCOMM-1, September=National Traffic System, October=EOC radios and procedures, November=EOC specialized equipment, December= Self Assessment.

We are also working on "Workshop Sessions" which will likely be on a Saturday morning when we can devote 2-3 hours for a more hand-on, intensive session with the objective of walking out with newly gained knowledge AND EXPERIENCE BY DOING. The first of these sessions was actually held at the St. John's EOC this past Thursday eve at 19:00 for D-STAR Training. The session was very short notice, so we will schedule more in the very near future.

Florida Hurricane D-STAR Net

The newly initiated Florida Hurricane Net has been meeting on Monday evenings at 21:00 local on D-STAR reflector REF004C. To date, there have been about 8 repeaters joining with a roll-call average of 35+. We expect that to grow in short-order as more repeater operators join the net from the West Coast of Florida, including the Tampa, St.Pete area. N6USP (Bob) from the Brevard ARA has been the primary leader for this effort, with support from N4FPS, K5BBC, KC2LSF, KJ4LBR.

Go-Kit Training (now in JUNE):

Are you ready for Disaster with your Go-Kit..?? In the June

The Florida State-Wide Hurricane Net is now on D-STAR on Monday evenings at 21:00 local, on D-Star Reflector REF004C. We anticipate that participation in the net will grow in the coming weeks as more repeaters are joining the Net and as hurricane and tropical storms start to form. See the info on Page-2

The primary purpose of the Net is to exercise the capability of the D-Star Linked network, build and exercise procedures and prepare for feet-on-ground reporting of Hurricane impact for the benefit of all Floridians. Now that a large number of EOC's have D-STAR capability, we are anticipating that the early-warning that this system will provide will be instrumental to local EOC's in their preparation of response assets in times of severe weather. For those of you with D-STAR radios or DV-DONGles, the net is on REF004C.

I am looking into building a new Reflector for North-East Florida use, as well as moving the Florida Hurricane Net to this new reflector. There have been many generous offers for us to use other reflectors (including REF004C and REF030B), but with the anticipated active season, we are planning on a worst-case scenario of multiple active storms and the need for multiple Resource and Tactical nets in the near future. This new Reflector will also give us the capability to link our North-East assets on a full-time basis without being inconsiderate to other reflector owners/operators.

More info as we generate plans in the next 30-days.

TOOLS

www.FlaglerARES.org
groups.yahoo.com/FlaglerARES
www.dstarusers.org
<http://www.dstarusers.org>



St. Johns D-STAR Operational, Daytona on 06-Jun

meeting, we will be doing a short presentation to level-set folks on various requirements for the Go-Kit, then proceeding to the show-and-tell. Please plan on bringing your current Go-Kit to the meeting so that we can view what folks have done thus far and spark some ideas in the group discussion. Remember, it's not how much you bring in the go-kit, but whether it fulfills the MISSION that you have. Start with the mission, then prepare the kit...!!

We will be demonstrating everything from Basic, to Modest, to Deluxe to Elaborate - then you can pick-and-choose as to what suits your Mission, your Interest AND your Budget. The important thing is to HAVE a Go-Kit, regardless of how decked-out it might be. It needs to suit you and it needs to be readily available (within 15 minutes, max for all practical purposes).

North FL Section Emergency Plan

Rather slow progress over the last 4 weeks, but the group expects to have a final working-draft to Paul by 04-June for his review and revisions. We will publish updates as they become "official" or approved for release.

D-STAR SYSTEM UPDATE

The **KA4RES** repeater on 2M has been operating flawlessly during the last 4-weeks. Gateway maintenance at the national Trust Server level has required a number of re-boots of our gateway (some, rather unexpectedly), but there have been no "failures" in our system over the last 4 weeks

(woo-hoo...!!). Sooo nice when you don't have to touch the repeater.

Given that we are waiting for an install date for the DSF#1 site, we accepted an invitation to install a **new D-STAR repeater at the St. John's EOC** on top of their 120' tower and using their existing DB-222 antenna. The EOC is located at I-95 and SR-16, just west of I-95 by about 600m. This is a temporary installation until the DSF#1 site is completed, but we wanted to give our neighbors in St. Johns and Duval counties a viable D-STAR repeater, since many of them have had D-STAR radios for a couple months or more. The system was installed on 26-May and has a frequency of 145.360- and the following callsigns: RPT1="KJ4RYF C" and RPT2="KJ4RYF G" (single space before the C or G). Performance appears to be very good with a number of stations in the Jacksonville area being able to access the repeater and good coverage extending well into Flagler County. There is no gateway on the system (yet) until we are able to get TCP/UDP ports forwarded to our gateway server.

Scheduled for next weekend (06-June) we will be installing the **Daytona Beach D-STAR repeater on top of the Halifax Hospital**, with the gracious help of Steve Szabo and the DBARA club. Along with the repeater, we will be installing a new 6ft tall computer rack that will house our equipment as well as the existing DBARA repeater(s). Antenna will be at about 130ft and will be a DB-224E

(identical to the Palm Coast repeater antenna). Full lightning protection will be installed, since we are on one of the tallest buildings in Daytona Beach. Feedline is very short, since the repeater equipment is on the other side of the wall from the antenna, so we expect very good coverage from this repeater. Frequency will be 145.380- with call signs of RPT1="KJ4RYH C" and a corresponding RPT2="KJ4RYH G". Gateway will be installed at the same time as the RF equipment, so we expect to be able to link with this this repeater immediately (unless there are unforeseen problems). The Daytona install has been planned and approved for over 45 days, but has just now been scheduled (my fault guys, sorry...!!).

The **DSF#1 site** (500ft) crew that is currently scheduled will not be stringing cable on this first engagement - just maintenance, so we will need to wait a bit longer (ergo our decision to install in St. Johns temporarily).

I have kicked-off a new project to implement **D-STAR HotSpots** using the Satoshi Yusada D-STAR node controller, a TM-271 VHF radio and a computer running the HotSpot software. These units could be valueable in Disaster situations. We will be making 2 deployable systems and 1 for EMCOMM-1. Steve Finger (KB4DNQ) is leading the effort on our behalf. Stay Tuned for updates.

73 - WB6RTH

ARES Frequencies

Flagler County

FS1 – 146.550A Simplex
FS2 – 146.580A Simplex
FS3 – 145.670D Simplex
FR1 – 146.320+D (KA4RES C)
FR2 – 147.075+A PL123
FR3 – 146.715-A PL123

Volusia County

VS1 – 146.550A Simplex
VS2 – 146.580A Simplex
VS3 – 145.670D Simplex Digital
VR1 – 145.380-D (KJ4RYH C)
VR2 – 147.240+A PL123
VR3 – 146.865-A noPL

St. John's County

SS1 – 146.550A Simplex
SS2 – 146.580A Simplex
SR1 - 145.360-D (KJ4RYF C)
SR2 – 145.210-A noPL
SR3 – 146.625-A noPL

Duval County

DS1 – 146.550A Simplex
DS2 – 146.580A Simplex
DR1 – 146.700- PL127.3
DR2 – 146.760- PL127.3

Wide Area

DSF1 – D-STAR In Process
DSF2 – D-STAR in Process

Frequency plans under develop-
ment and subject to change

Meetings and Events (ARES affiliated groups or events shown in RED)

- **June 12, 2010 at 09:00 - Flagler FPCARC**
The Flagler Palm Coast Amateur Radio Club will hold it's monthly meeting at the Flagler County Public Library, located at Palm Coast Parkway just west of Belle Terre Parkway. All are welcome.
- **June 15, 2010 at 19:00 - Flagler FECA**
Meets at the Flagler Beach Fire Station, or the Flagler Emergency Operations Center in Bunnell . All are welcome.
- **June 15, 2010 at 19:00 - St. Johns ARES**
St. John's ARES monthly meeting. at the St. Johns County EOC, behind the Agricultural Center near SR-16 and I-95. All are welcome.
- **June 16, 2010 at 19:00 – Flagler ARES**
The Flagler ARES group monthly meeting at the Flagler County EOC on the 3rd Wednesdays of each month. We are planning on a 2 hour meeting, which will include training in EACH session. Talk-in on 147.075+ PL/123 or 147.320+ Digital (KA4RES)
- **June 19, 2010 at 15:00 - Volusia ARES**
The Volusia ARES monthly meeting will be held at the Volusia Fire Training Center, located at 3389 Tiger Bay Road, Daytona Beach, Florida. All are welcome
- **June 21, 2010 at 19:30 – Daytona Beach ARA**
The Daytona Beach ARA will hold it's monthly meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 620 S. Grandview Av. Daytona Beach. All are welcome.
- **June 22, 2010 at 19:00 - Duval ARES**
The Duval ARES group meets at the Red Cross Building on Riverside Ave. All are welcome.

OIL SPILL SITUATION REPORT (May 28, 2010 synopsis from Florida DEM site)

Current Situation:

- Florida beaches are open.
- Unified Command estimates release rate of oil from Deepwater Horizon at 5,000 barrels per day.
- This event has been designated a Spill of National Significance.
- Unified Command continues with a comprehensive oil well intervention and spill response plan
- Approximately 20,000 personnel are working the on and offshore response.
- Oil-water mix recovered: approximately 11.8 million gallons
- Response vessels in use: 1400
- Dispersant (in gallons): approximately 870,000 deployed / 400,000 available
- 17 staging areas are in place to protect sensitive shorelines in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and MS

Governor Charlie Crist today (May-28) announced Florida has received \$25 million from BP for VISIT FLORIDA and local tourist development councils to air a tourism marketing campaign with ads reflecting the accurate condition of Florida's beaches. In addition, Governor Crist announced the finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Florida and BP. Through a combination of live video-camera feeds, social marketing and television and online advertising, potential travelers will learn that Florida's beaches and world-renowned fishing grounds are open for business and free from any affects from the Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of Mexico. The campaign will focus first on the Panhandle region, and then on all coastal counties experiencing economic impact from the Deepwater Horizon event.