



Emergency Measures Radio Group

Ottawa ARES

Two Names - One Group - One Purpose



2005-09-17

Agenda Topics

1. INTRO & UPDATES

- OARC Hamfest
- Meeting with John Ash

2. Hurricane Katrina

- Truly a large scale, high impact disaster
- Failures to prepare/plan at personal, City, State and Federal levels
- Failures in some aspects of response
- Communications systems failures
- Failure to communicate
- Amateurs involved in supporting Red Cross, linking shelters with local EOCs and other key distribution sites.
- **Preparedness starts with YOU! – WHAT HAVE PEOPLE DONE?**
- **Keeps 3 days water, gas at ½ tank**
- **Need for extended operation on battery. How to operate as a DC miser. Equally important to build low power links & repeaters.**

3. Shelter Kits – Group Session

- What should be in a kit
- You can't take everything – What if you have to carry it 3 km?
- This is meant for normal operation, using systems that are planned

4. Red Cross

- RAC grant, radios

5. EMRG Projects

- Cross band repeater – Dave Harris
- Repeater Controllers – Mike Kelly
- Repeaters: Randall changes, UHF, Carlington Heights
- New counter in Randall

6. Algonquin

- Design Project

7. What Next – Group Session

- What would people like to do?
- Are tech sessions what people wanted or expected?

- The End -

Notes from September 17, 2005 EMRG / Ottawa ARES meeting.

These notes were done well after the fact, so I expect there will be errors and omissions.

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Updates:

- Barrhaven repeater is going in any day now.
- VE3TEL UHF will be moving from Bell site to Randall, with new controller.
- Meeting with John Ash: Peter described his meeting with John Ash, the manager of the City of Ottawa Emergency Measures Unit. The City's number one threat these days, even over terrorism, transportation accidents or earthquakes is that of a pandemic. Peter will be meeting with the City's Emergency Planning Committee to outline to them what it is that we do, and to determine what the various City departments will expect from us in an emergency. (It would be a good idea if we both had the same expectations.)
- Cross Band Repeater: Dave, VE3KMOV described progress on the cross band repeater project, why it, rather than an amateur dual band mobile is needed. He also outlined the work still to be done on the project.
- Repeater Controllers: Mike, VE3FFK described the two repeater controllers he had built up from kits. He also outlined the possible uses for them. (One is going to be used on the re-located VE3TEL-UHF repeater mentioned above.)
- Provincial ARES meeting: Mike VE3IPC reported on Ontario ARES meeting. He seemed optimistic that the problems in the Ontario section would sort themselves out, especially in view of the strong statement of support of ARES by the RAC president at the meeting.
- Kingston trip: Mike VE3IPC also noted that the bus trip to Kingston, scheduled for early October, has been cancelled, but may be reinstated in the spring some time.

Hurricane Katrina:

Wide ranging discussion about hurricane Katrina, centred around what each of us has heard on broadcast media, HF nets and various internet newsgroups. The facts, (millions of meals served, millions of person-days in shelters, dozens of states receiving displaced persons) while interesting are only the details in a bigger picture. Several things relevant to the group came out of the discussion: The ways the New Orleans emergency plan failed (logistics for evacuating those without independent transportation, back up plans for the levees, communications failures on both the technical (systems broke) and personal (who do we call for...) side, lack of coordination between municipal, state and federal agencies. The discussion also pointed out the need to filter information received, rather than taking everything heard at face value. Once some of the facts and reports are compiled, EMRG may need to re-visit the topic with a view toward modifying our own plans. Meanwhile we should all take this as an opportunity to review and revise our own personal preparedness plans.

Supplementary Kit Exercise:

The meeting divided into three groups to consider what should go into a kit to be sent to a shelter operator along with the "radio kit". The radio kit consists of a VHF mobile rig, a power supply, mast, antenna and coax. The question was:

What else should be in a kit that the operator takes to the site? Kit list suggestions were recorded and will be discussed at executive with a view toward acquiring the items.

Mike Kelly, VE3FFK September 24, 2005