



Are You Ready for the 2011 Hurricane Season?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued their forecast for an above normal active 2011 Atlantic Hurricane season on May 19th with a prediction of 12 to 18 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), 6 to 10 storms could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher) and 3 to 6 major hurricanes (category 3 or higher – winds of 111 mph or higher). "Seasonal climate models indicate, we could see activity comparable to some of the active seasons since 1995," said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead hurricane forecaster at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. What should IRARC members do to be ready for the upcoming hurricane season?

Take care of your family and property – You are in a much better position to assist in a public service role once you have taken care of the home front. The planning phase needs to be completed before the storm: Get ready for the disruptions to your routine caused by a storm - Have flashlight and a weather radio (with spare batteries) on hand tuned to NOAA weather service so you can stay informed of upcoming events. Ensure you have

completed an inventory of your possessions- Photographic evidence, receipts with serial numbers (scanned into PDF formats on a USB thumb drive for ease of storage). Have a portable version of your real estate records, home/auto insurance, flood insurance, bank and tax records ready to take with you in case of evacuation. If you are staying at home or going to a shelter, you need to have provisions on hand. FEMA used to suggest a 72 supply of food and water but after Hurricane Katarina a one-week supply of food and water is the minimum storage requirement. Besides food and water, make a list of your prescriptions including dosage, treatment and allergy information. Be sure to have adequate supplies of any medicines you may require for riding out a storm or allowing time to evacuate to a place of safety. Next have some cash on hand so you can get essential supplies if access to your bank/ATM is lost due to storm damage/power outages. Prepare a go-kit of first aid materials, clothing, shoes, radio equipment, antennas, coax, batteries, connectors you will use if required. Practice using your go-kit

during Field Day, SETs or other events so you know what combination of equipment/hardware and materials you need to assemble and can carry should you need to evacuate. Finally, have a plan to secure your property whether you stay or evacuate. You need to factor in time (be realistic on time required to install shutters, secure loose items, stow antennas, turn off gas/water) and make these preparations before it is too late to head for the highways or shelters. Visit the www.ready.gov website for more preparedness tips.

Have a plan for evacuation ready in case the storm threat requires you to leave the impact area. For those on the coast/barrier islands you have a chance against wind but no chance against water. If the authorities recommend evacuation – go, your life and loved ones are more valuable than any piece of property. First tell family members outside the affected area where/when you are evacuating then check-in with them when you have arrived at your evacuation destination.



IRARC President Greg O'Neill AB4GO (left) presented a special recognition award from the American Red Cross to Steve Luchuk, N4UTQ, IRARC Vice President at the May IRARC meeting. Steve coordinates the monthly Red Cross Satellite terminal tests.

Meet Us On the Following...

On Wednesday evenings at 7:15 local, the Central Brevard County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net meets on IRARC's 145.370 MHz repeater Down 600 KHz (tone 156.7 Hz). After the net, informal ops on 147.42 MHz simplex. Sunday at 1500L on 3.820 MHz for the Half-Time Net. On the web point your browser to: <http://irarc.ham-radio-op.net>

IRARC's Spurious Emissions is published monthly
Comments and articles are welcomed, contact
Dave Lerret, KU0R, payloadone@earthlink.net

Club Meeting News

The May 5th general IRARC meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Guests recognized: Ray Kassis N4LEM, Rod Whatson KODAS (Vice Director for Mid-West Section of the ARRL), Bryan McCoy KA0YSQ, Tim Madden KI4TG (PCARS), Jan W4REN and Sherry Ferguson, KU4ZO (from TARC). Rod KODAS informed the club to check ARRL website for action on HR607 -relocate spectrum for first responders from the 420 MHz amateur radio band. There is also additional pressure to reallocate

other bands for wireless mobile access. The ARRL is looking for membership input. Bob Fuentes (Red Cross volunteer) passed his technician exam just before the club meeting - good job Bob! The club rejected a motion to place a bid to BEARS for the Kenwood linear amplifier. The treasurer report major expenditures for April: Equipment insurance \$197 and two trailer tags \$66.20. There are 78 paid members to date. Dave KU0R noted the old IRARC wireless access point can not

be updated and needs to be replaced. Carl, K4ARL asked about trailer disposition and Greg AB4GO told him how the trailer was sold - basically club could not maintain the trailer in a road worthy or static condition. Greg requested a work party to assemble a fan dipole for Field Day use in the next available Saturdays. Terry Halladey, AF7W gave an excellent presentation on the DX Lab radio software. Rod KODAS won the 50/50 prize of \$16. The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Fan Dipole Work Party

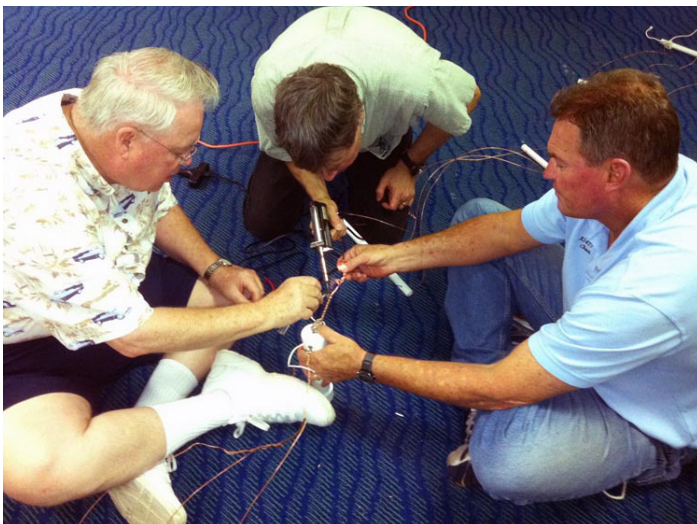
IRARC members gathered at the club house on Saturday May 21st to assemble a fan dipole for 10, 15 and 20 meters. Greg AB4GO used his antenna modelling software to confirm measurements and predicted performance of the antenna. Viron KE6WQO assembled the wire and spacers from the central balun feedpoint. Chuck KI4TNA and Steve N4UTQ raised the fan dipole for the required

measurements. The first antenna measurements indicated a short at the balun so it was replaced. Subsequent testing was successful and the antenna was trimmed for good operation on 20 and 15 meters. The 10 meter measurement indicated the antenna was a little long (still great for CW!). Although the weather was warm we successfully added a new tool to the IRARC tool kit for HF ops.



Next IRARC meeting
June 2nd at 7:30 PM
at Rockledge American Red Cross.
Meeting topic: Field Day preparations.

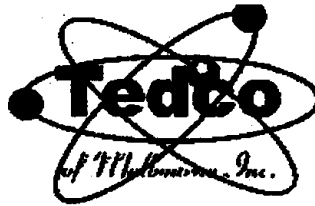
Strays -n- Stuff



How many hams does it take to solder a fan dipole antenna? Greg AB4GO (left) gives directions to Steve N4UTQ (center w/soldering gun) and Chuck KI4TNA applying the solder to the center feed wire.

- IRARC Financial Report for May 2011
Checking: \$3445, Equipment Fund: \$1240.
- Next Satellite Terminal Test will be on June 18th with setup at 9 AM.
- ARRL 2011 Field Day June 25-26. Plan to participate in the fun!
- The Florida Hurricane net meets at 2100L on Mondays. KJ4OXT DSTAR 147.030 MHz repeater or via Internet Reflector 34A.
- Are you RadioActive? Check the IRARC website calendar at <http://irarc.ham-radio-op.net/> for upcoming events, photos and links to other local clubs.

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