

SPECTRUM



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SPECIAL ISSUE - TAUNTON DISASTER RELIEF OPERATION

MONDAY AFTERNOON - OCT. 17, 2005 - TAUNTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY -**VOLUNTEERS ACTIVATED - REPORT TO TAUNTON EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER OR** TAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL RED CROSS SHELTER AS ASSIGNED - THIS IS NOT A DRILL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: This is The Bruce NI1X - I was part of a Taunton Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) team of over 45 volunteers that provided support to the Shelter Manager of the Red Cross Shelter set up in the gym at the Taunton High School and to the Director of the Taunton Emergency Management Agency, Rick Ferreira KB1KWF and his assistant, Peter Ferreira KB1LXG at the Taunton Emergency Operations Center (EOC), during the evacuation of portions of the City of Taunton because of concern that a dam might fail.



Sign by Chris Burns

Along with myself there were five other Whitman Club members involved. They was Carlos Wharton WP4US, Don Burke KB1LXH, Rudy Burer KB1LXI, Neil Harrington KB1LXL and Peter Ferreira KB1LXG. There were seven other TEMA HAM Volunteer involved and four other AREA HAMs who responded as part of a call for additional Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) support. The Shelter was in use for five day and provided hands on experience in shelter support for the Taunton (TEMA) crew. My job was to set up a Ham Radio Base Station at the High School Shelter and establish HAM radio communication back to the Taunton EOC – no problem.

A STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED AND THE RED CROSS WAS CALLED TO MOBILIZE PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES AT THE TAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL SHELTER



Taunton High School Gym empty and ready to open



Now I know what the term "work smart" means. A TEMA volunteer called the High School Football team over to help unload the cots and supplies from the Red Cross vans. One football player went home to tell his parents and they said "pack up – your going to be sleeping on one of those cots tonight".`

TAUNTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY VOLUNTEERS ARE CALLED IN

I talked with **Peter Ferreira KB1LXG**, the Assistant Director of TEMA and was instructed to set up the amateur radio Base Station at the Taunton High School Red Cross Shelter. Along with my radio go-kit as a backup – I picked up one of the TEMA go-kits that consists of an ICOM IC-706 transceiver, a power supply, a Diamond 50 (2-Meter / 440 MHz) vertical antenna with it's portable tripod antenna mount along with a 30 foot coil of coax antenna wire and headed for the High School. Do you have a radio "Go Kit" ready to go?

Communication was established and we were ready to go before the first evacuee arrived. This setup location was pre-planned as part of the TEMA Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant



Bruce Hayden NI1X

evacuation plan and includes a TEMA telephone and emergency phone jack that is normally locked up and hidden away in an electrical closet in the gym.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TEAM RESPONDS

The City of Taunton Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) had conducted three Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes and then offered amateur radio technician classes and just last March offered a Red Cross Shelter training course that included shelter operations. Talk about good timing. Most of the graduates are registered TEMA volunteers.

The TEMA volunteer team I was associated with were a highly motivated and capable crew that conducted themselves in a professional manner and received on the job, hands on, experience in shelter operation. They all became part of the solution and not part of the problem.



Paula Farrales & Rudy Burer KB1LXI

TEMA CERT team member **Paula Farrales** was one of our natural leaders with her knowledge and experience in shelter operations. Of course **The Bruce NI1X** pointed out to **Paula** that she really needs to get her HAM license – She would have expected nothing less from **The Bruce NI1X**. By the end of the activation **Carlos Wharton WP4US** had signed up eight more students for the next amateur radio Technician Class that he is planning to conduct in Taunton.

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Shelter Operation is all about people and TEMA volunteer **Wendy Burns**, wearing the green CERT vest, brought her two children with her and they could be found playing with the other children at the shelter.

I am pleased to report that her son **Chris** did an outstanding job of responding to the needs of **The Bruce NI1X** and made the best TEMA sign that was used to replace the one we inadvertently left back at the Emergency Operations Center.



Chris, Brittany & Wendy Burns

HAM SUPPORT AT THE RED CROSS SHELTER

Maintaining the two shift operation at the Taunton Red Cross Shelter were five TEMA registered HAM volunteers: **Bruce Hayden NI1X, Carlos Wharton WP4US, Don Burke KB1LXH, Rudy Burer KB1LXI** and **Dick Sproul KB1MBW**.

Also participating was **Arnie Staple N1SZS** who is a MEMA RACES Operator from Taunton who normally operates out of the MEMA Region II Bunker in Bridgewater and was one of the local HAMs that responded to the call for Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) support.



Don Burke KB1LXH

HAM SUPPORT AT THE TAUNTON EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER:



The Taunton Emergency Management registered HAM Volunteers

Participating in the TEMA activation and shown at the Taunton Emergency Operations Center at a recent RADIOGRAM training session are L. to R. Don Burke KB1LXH, Bob Barbour K1BAR, Rudy Burer KB1LXI, Dick Sproul KB1MBW, Neal Harrington KB1LXL, Peter Ferreira KB1LXG – the Assistant Director of the Taunton Emergency Management Agency, Carlos Wharton WP4US and Steve Foster KB1KZW. Shown seated L. to R. are Barbara Foster KB1KZX, John Miller N1UMJ and Jason Legrow KB1KVD. Can you find The Bruce's N11X picture on the wall. I am there, at the Taunton EOC, in spirit if not in person.

Along with Carlos Wharton WP4US and Dick Sproul KB1MBW who were assigned at various times to both Base Station locations, the crew that maintained the 24 hour operation at the Taunton Emergency Management Agency - Emergency Operations Center consisted of four other TEMA registered HAMs: John Miller N1UMJ, Jason Legrow KB1KVD, Neil Harrington KB1LXL and Bob Barbour K1BAR.

Along with **Rick Ferreira KB1KWF** – Director of the Taunton Emergency Management Agency and **Peter Ferreira KB1LXG** the assistant director there were two other TEMA registered HAM volunteers who were assigned to administrative duties at the EOC. They were **Barbara Foster KB1KVX** and **Steve Foster KB1KVW**.

Also responding to the call for Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) support at the Taunton EOC were **Steve Schwarm W3EVE** of Wrentham the ARES Norfolk County District Emergency Coordinator, **Dan Howard K1DYO** of Bourne and **Brad Anselmo N1VUF** of North Dartmouth.

Steve Schwarm W3EVE



Carlos WP4US

Most messages were tactical verbal requests, however some were detailed messages requiring written radiogram format. The Taunton 2-Meter REPEATER was used because it is the MEMA designated REPEATER for emergency communication in Bristol County.

Simplex operation has been practiced and works well in the City of Taunton because of the good antenna system at the Taunton EOC and would normally be used between the High School Reception Center and the Taunton EOC during Plymouth Nuclear Power Plant evacuation drills. By using the Taunton 2-Meter REPEATER we kept the communication open to all interested ARES support staff that were monitoring in the area.

Declaring a RACES operation, and closing the repeater operation to emergency traffic by designated RACES operators only, was an option because a State of Emergency had been declared by the Governor and the Mayor of Taunton. We were having no interference problems and we did not chose to exercise this option.

AMATEUR RADIO TO THE RESCUE: Whitman Club member Joe Serrilla W1JOE of Brockton heard the request for a mattress on Monday night for an evacuee that could not sleep on a cot. Joe W1JOE was monitoring the amateur radio communication between the Shelter and the Taunton EOC and when the TEMA EOC seemed to be having a problem with that request, Joe W1JOE offered his personnel air mattress. The offer was accepted and Joe W1JOE drove down from Brockton, delivered the mattress and the gentleman was later heard telling an Enterprise reporters how the volunteers made him feel right at home and how pleased he was that they were able to provided him with a mattress the first night - two nights before the Red Cross supplied air mattress arrived.

THE BEST NEWS OF ALL - STAND DOWN

Peter Ferreira KB1LXG sent an E-mail on Saturday October 22, 2005 at 2:22pm with the best news of all "It has been announced there is no further need for the Taunton High School shelter"

THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU

Both **Rick Ferreira KB1KWF** – The director of the TEMA and **Dawn Snow** – Red Cross Program Manager External Relations – Disaster Services - wish to express their thanks to all the participants for all the support and hours of hard work during the Taunton Disaster Relief Operation. **Dawn** says, "You all did a wonderful job – so nice to see all that planning pay off".

MORE ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A communication emergency exists when a critical communication system failure puts the public at risk. You are not in charge – you are there to temporarily fulfill the needs of an agency whose communication system is unable to do the job. They tell you what they need and you do your best to comply. This is a situation where a professional and helpful attitude is a must if you are to become part of the solution and avoid becoming part of the problem.

Communication assignments might include staffing a shelter to handle calls for information, supplies and personnel, "shadowing " an official to be their communication link, gathering weather information, or collecting and transmitting damage reports.

You will be expected to be familiar with the use of standard Radiogram message forms. The one exception is the use of special message forms required during Plymouth Nuclear Evacuation Drills. Security / Privacy is a major concern - avoid giving confidential information out over the air – you do not know who is listening. Do not speculate – use plain language and standard Phonetics. A practice Radiogram training exercise is held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM on the Taunton REPEATER 147.135 MHz + (Tone 67MHz).

Go Kits are a fascinating topic in itself and will depend on whether you are needed locally or at a remote location and whether the emergency is for a short or long duration. You must have a rig ready to go and you must know your equipment – better yet keep an operating manual with your rig.

A 2-meter handheld transceiver is a minimum. A 10 watt mobile transceiver with a magnetic mount vertical antenna and a small power supply is better. AC power will probable be available. Mobile operation from a nearby vehicle is another option. A high gain beam antenna is better than higher power.

Above all, the safety and well being of the volunteers is more important than the mission. Emergency Coordinators would be expected to know the capabilities and limitations of his / her volunteers and call on them accordingly.

Along with the Taunton High School (Reception Center) and a designated Transportation Staging Area, The City of Taunton has 16 area schools designated as Reception / Mass Care Shelters. ADDITIONAL HELP NEEDED: The City of Taunton Emergency Management Agency is looking for additional amateur radio operators who would report to the Taunton Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when called for a "Unusual Event" " at the Plymouth Nuclear Plant that could lead to a "General Emergency" and evacuation of Plymouth residents. The volunteer amateur radio operator would be dispatched to one of the Reception / Mass Care Shelters where they would set up their own portable 2-meter, 220 MHZ or 440 MHz Base Station and provide backup communication between the Reception / Mass Care Shelter and the Taunton EOC.

If you think you might be interested in joining the Whitman Club members who have volunteered their services to help the Taunton Emergency Management Agency – contact **Bruce Hayden NI1X** for further information and you will be invited to attend the next RADIOGRAM training session held on the first Monday of the month at the Taunton EOC.

Name / Call sign:	Tel:
Equipment available:	



WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

A Non-Profit Corporation Serving the Public in Time of Emergency

Telephone: (781) 447-1655 ARRL Club #0082 Club Call Sign: WAINPO



Post Office Box 48 Pine Street Whitman, MA 02382

CLUB OFFICERS

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month

The next meeting will be held at the Whitman Public Library, which is located at 100 Webster Street in Whitman, Mass.

Next Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 2nd at 6:30 PM
Whitman Public Library

President	Bruce	NI1X	
V. President	Bill	N1FRE	
Secretary	Roy	KB1CYV	
Treasurer	Jeff	N1SOM	
Director	Steve	W1WSN	
Director	George	KC1FZ	
Director	Paul	N1VTI	

Editor Bruce NI1X E-mail articles to: ni1x@arrl.net

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Web Site: http://www.wa1npo.org

Club Repeater Station:

147.225 MHz (CTSS 67 Hz)

449.875 MHz (CTSS 88.5 Hz)

Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc. P.O. Box 48 Whitman, Ma 02382