



# SPECTRUM



The Voice of the Humble Electron

Founded 1962

## 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 N1X** – 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 were **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 ?



**Bruce Hayden NI1X**

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 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.



**Paula Farrales & Rudy Burer KB1LXI**

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.

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 N1IX**, **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 N1IX** 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**.





## 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



Post Office Box 48  
Pine Street  
Whitman, MA 02382

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

## 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	N1IX
V. President	Bill	N1FRE
Secretary	Roy	KB1CYV
Treasurer	Jeff	N1SOM
Director	Steve	W1WSN
Director	George	KC1FZ
Director	Paul	N1VTI

---

Editor	Bruce	N1IX
E-mail articles to:	<a href="mailto:ni1x@arrl.net">ni1x@arrl.net</a>	

---

Web Master	Jeff	N1ZZN
------------	------	-------

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*

