

## CERT Rodeo

Joseph Gadus, KD5DTX

The Harris County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) participated in the first annual Harris County Texas CERT Rodeo on February 3, 2007. CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team. This event allowed CERT members the opportunity to compete as teams in applying the skills they acquired during their eight-week emergency preparedness training. Teams from throughout Harris County competed against one another in a series of simulated emergency situations. They demonstrated skills in triage, first aid, search and rescue, fire suppression and victim transportation. They respond to emergencies at the community level and the training they receive allows them to better protect themselves, their families and their communities. ARES supports CERT and is striving to develop closer working relationships with the over one-hundred and thirty teams in Harris County.

Harris County, Texas has an established history of volunteerism and cooperation. During the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in 2005, Houston received national attention. The Houston Astrodome was ready to receive twenty-five thousand evacuees from New Orleans within hours after Texas Governor Rick Perry made the request. Harris County Judge Robert Eckels took the lead in managing the effort that brought together governmental and volunteer resources, including CERT and ARES. He is committed to ARES and stated:

“Tropical Storm Allison and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrated to us that in an emergency situation, you cannot depend on conventional communication networks to be operational. When the power lines are down and cell phone towers aren’t working, our first responders need to communicate with each other and with the affected community. Amateur radio operators become a very critical channel of communication. Harris County’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has established a strong and very important partnership with Harris County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). ARES helps our community be a safer and better prepared community.”

FRANCISCO SANCHEZ



**ARES SW Harris County EC Del Partridge, W5QQ (left) and AEC Joel Dunlap, W5ANK (right) are briefed by CERT Rodeo Committee member and ARES member Joyce Gigout, KE5KIJ.**

FRANCISCO SANCHEZ



**Hermann Hospital “Lifelight” helicopter participated in the drill in response to a simulated emergency request from CERT through the ARES communications team.**

[Author’s note: Judge Eckels left office to take a position in the private sector. Fortunately, the new County Judge is Ed Emmett. He is committed to emergency preparedness. ARES members and other volunteers look forward to a long and continued relationship with the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.]

The Harris County ARES District Emergency Coordinator, Ken Mitchell, KD2KW, and his Emergency Coordinators set out to accomplish three objectives during the CERT Rodeo. First, ARES provided the necessary communications for the event staff. Amateur Radio operators were assigned to the event management staff and to specific stations. This task was similar to many of the public service events that ARES supports. For their second objective, ARES used the CERT Rodeo as an opportunity to

demonstrate amateur radio capabilities and to encourage participants to become licensed amateurs. Voice and packet communications were established with the Atascocita Volunteer Fire Department and the Harris County Office of Emergency Management. Citizens and officials were shown the value of digital and voice communications by amateur operators “when all else fails.” Simulated messages were sent to emergency operation centers during the drill.

While most ARES districts comprise several counties, Harris County stands alone as District Fourteen. The county has approximately 3.7 million people and encompasses 1,728 square miles. The county is divided into quadrants and an ARES Emergency Coordinator is assigned to each of the four areas. The CERT Rodeo provided an excellent opportunity for the ARES leadership to meet with the CERT teams in their areas to develop closer working relationships. Many in ARES are CERT members themselves and they are encouraging others to become licensed amateurs, join ARES and take those skills back to their teams. The final objective for the Harris County ARES organization was to practice operating under the Incident Command System (ICS) which is part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The ICS system is used by federal, state, local first responders, CERT and by more and more nongovernmental organizations.

The CERT Rodeo brought together many organizations who work together on a regular basis. There were nearly 40 Amateur Radio operators from ARES participating in the CERT Rodeo. Also supporting the event were the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, United Way, local fire and police departments, Halliburton, Houston Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Wal-Mart Stores Inc and many more. Harris County officials, CERT and the amateur community work in cooperation with one another to prepare for the next emergency. The question is not if it will happen, but when will it happen? To learn more about Harris County, CERT and the Harris County ARES, go to the following links: [www.hcoem.org](http://www.hcoem.org), [www.harriscountycitizencorps.com](http://www.harriscountycitizencorps.com) and [harriscountyares.org/](http://harriscountyares.org/).

## ARE YOU READY?

Greg Sarratt, W4OZK  
ARRL Alabama Section Manager

The 2007 Hurricane Season is here and any other natural disaster can happen anytime. Are You Ready? Amateur Radio operators who assist on local, regional or national disasters are required to have increasing levels of training and experience.

Necessary Federal requirements are designed to keep the best workforce in the disaster area. Efficient Amateur Radio operators must consider safety and prepare, train, practice and test themselves before the event. Many hams do most of this already, so make sure you are ready.

**Prepare** your personal Jump Kit, equipment, manuals, provisions, money, plan, join and build your local ARES or emergency communications group and get vaccinations.

**Train** by taking all the ARRL, American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training you can get.

**Build your experience** and practice at Field Day, Simulated Emergency Test, contests, nets, public service events, plan, drills and pass traffic.

**Test** by connecting your equipment in different configurations, learn to operate it fully, efficiently and interoperable with other amateurs.

Here are some recommended minimum requirements goals.

**Training:** FEMA IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800; ARRL EC-001 and EC-002; First aid and CPR; Salvation Army, National Disaster Training;

American Red Cross, Introduction to Disaster. **Safety/vaccinations:** Tetanus; Hep-A; Hep-B; TB.

Check with your doctor on these and other vaccinations necessary for you.

**Experience:** Nets, exercises, public service events.

The more we can do to prepare beforehand, the more safe, useful, resourceful and beneficial we will be during the event.

## HELP COMES VIA LONG DISTANCE

Allen Rivers, W7QM  
Olympia, Washington

On Monday, April 2, I had received several radiogram messages from George Thomas, K7BDU, the Pacific Area Digital Coordinator in Chehalis, Washington. I had one for Longmont, Colorado, that I planned on delivering by landline because I like to meet new Amateur Radio friends.

The message was from N1IQI with a friendly reminder message of license expiration date for Paul Ralston, KC0BCS, in Longmont, Colorado. I called the phone number about 6:55 PM PDT, and a very weak woman's voice answered. I identified myself and stated that I had a ham radio message from Paul and then asked to speak to him. The woman, Paul's wife, said that he was not at home at the time, so I asked if she would take the message on his behalf.

Mrs Ralston mentioned that she had fallen and was lying on the floor and could not move. I asked her if she was all right and did she want me to call 9-1-1. She replied that she was okay, and didn't want me to call 9-1-1. Instead, she

asked me to contact her daughter in Platteville, Colorado, about 15 miles from her.

Unfortunately, Mrs Ralston could not remember her daughter's phone number, so I offered to find her daughter's number on the Internet, call her and then get back to Mrs Ralston. She gave me her daughter's name, and I went to the Internet and found the number right away. No problem.

I called the number but was disappointed when there was no answer. So, I called Mrs Ralston back and told her the news. I assured her that I would keep trying, and I kept in touch after each phone call attempt. Finally, at about 8:15 PM, Mrs Ralston's daughter had returned home and answered my phone call. I explained the situation in detail and left my phone number in case she needed to call me back.

The next day, I called the Ralston's place, and Paul, KC0BCS, answered the phone and thanked me for getting the necessary help for his wife. Paul told me that the doctor thought Mrs Ralston had bruised a rib. Because it was very painful, she was unable to move after falling the previous evening. I was very glad that by being persistent, I was able help in spite of the fact that I'm 1300 miles away.

*If you're interested in public service and emergency communications, subscribe to the ARES e-Letter at [www.arrl.org/ares-letter](http://www.arrl.org/ares-letter). It's free to ARRL members!*

## Field Organization Reports

### Public Service Honor Roll May 2007

This listing is to recognize radio amateurs whose public service performance during the month indicated qualifies for 70 or more total points in the following 6 categories (as reported to their Section Managers). Please note the maximum points for each category:

- 1) Participating in a public service net, using any mode.—1 point per net session; maximum 40.
- 2) Handling formal messages (radiograms) via any mode.—1 point for each message handled; maximum 40.
- 3) Serving in an ARRL-sponsored volunteer position: ARRL Field Organization appointee or Section Manager, NTS Net Manager, TCC Director, TCC member, NTS official or appointee above the Section level.—10 points for each position; maximum 30.
- 4) Participation in scheduled short-term public service events such as walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, parades, simulated emergency tests and related practice events. This includes off-the-air meetings and coordination efforts with related emergency groups and served agencies.—5 points per hour (or any portion thereof) of time spent in either coordinating and/or operating in the public service event; no limit.
- 5) Participation in an unplanned emergency response when the Amateur Radio operator is on the scene. This also includes unplanned incident requests by public or served agencies for Amateur Radio participation.—5 points per hour (or any portion thereof) of time spent directly involved in the emergency operation; no limit.
- 6) Providing and maintaining a) an automated digital system that handles ARRL radiogram-formatted messages; b) a Web page or e-mail list server oriented toward Amateur Radio public service—10 points per item.

Amateur Radio stations that qualify for PSHR 12 consecutive months, or 18 out of a 24 month period, will be awarded a certificate from Headquarters upon written notification of qualifying months to the Public Service Branch of Field and Educational Services at ARRL HQ.

1285	495	285	200	185
N4VAD	KG4TND	K0IBS	WA2WMJ	AB8SY
640	453	265	195	K8MFK
W7TVA	W9JDH	WB7WOW	WA0VKC	180
574	340	249	190	WB9JSR
W2LTB	KB9KEG	KD8BGG	KD1LE	K4RLD
557	330	209	187	170
KI4GEM	N0YR	K5SFM	WA2BSS	W5HUD
				KE5HYW

169	W7EKB	K5MC	95	87
K7BC	125	KK5GY	NA7G	W8CPG
164	NN7H	W7QM	WG8Z	86
WB2KNS	N2GJ	N7EIE	K4GK	KK7TN
162	N10I	NA9L	KF7GC	WA5OUV
N5MEL	124	109	WB6OTS	85
160	W5XX	WA9APQ	W3CB	K8RDN
W4DNA	120	108	WB6UZX	K8ZJU
KG0GG	WB8RCR	WD9FLJ	94	W5CU
KD5TXD	K4IWW	W4CAC	N7YSS	84
K4DND	W7IG	105	93	WD0GUF
151	KW1U	K2TV	K8AMR	AA4BN
W5PY	W1GMF	WW6CC	91	81
150	KA8ZGY	104	WB8OIF	K4BEH
KK1X	KA5KLU	N0MEA	W2CC	80
WB5ZED	K9FHI	101	WB2LEZ	K8KV
AD4BL	WE2G	KD5ITA	KD1SM	N3SW
145	N2VC	KC2LIX	AL7N	K3IN
K9LGU	KEJT	100	90	78
KC5OZT	W0LAW	N4MEH	N3KB	W9SRX
143	K4FZI	N3YTD	N4EJF	77
KB5PGY	N7BEC	KC8WSE	KD7ZLF	W0CLS
140	118	WA8SSI	N8DD	76
N7CM	W5ESE	N1LKJ	WB8SIQ	WDBQ
N8IO	K3SZ	N3RB	W8BQ	N0ZIZ
K7BFL	117	N5OUJ	WB4BIK	74
137	K4FQU	K4SCL	K8GA	W9XAN
KF4ZLU	115	WA4UJC	73	73
W4LN	W4ZJY	KM1N	WD8DHC	W4NTI
135	W4TTO	NX1Q	WB1VF	72
K7EAJ	W42YBM	W3TWV	KA8WNO	N1JX
W8UL	K1YCC	KB2KLH	N1JX	K7MQF
AG9G	W3ZQN	W2DSX	NU0F	71
N5KWB	110	AA3SB	KB0DTI	N7IE
130	K8AE	WA4EIC	K1RMV	70
W4EAT	KE4JHJ	WA2YL	KA1GWE	70
W4FAL	W2EAG	K2VX	N3ZOC	W4QAT
N1UMJ	N7XG	W7GHT	NY4E	KA0FUI
W3YVQ	N1IQI	99	89	N0MHJ
K3CSX	WV8RG	KV4AN	W4TY	N0UKO
N2QZ	W0WSP	96	N0DUW	N0DUW
KE7DVV	W7GB	WD8JAW	88	W0WSP
		K7VRE	W7VSE	N0DUX
			KC2ODN	

The following stations qualified for PSHR in previous months but were not recognized in this column: (Apr) KF4ZLU 117, WB2LEZ 106, KC2LLX 100, W4DGH 72, WA4ERU 70. (Mar) K2DYB 400.

### Section Traffic Manager Reports May 2007

The following ARRL Section Traffic Managers reported: AR, AL, AZ, CT, CO, EB, EMA, ENY, EPA, EVA, GA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MDC, MI, MN, MS, NC, NFL, NH, NJ, NLI, NNJ, NNY, NTX, OH, OK, OR, SC, SD, SFL, STX, TN, UT, WCF, WI, WMA, WNY, WPA, WV, WWA, WY.

### Section Emergency Coordinator Reports May 2007

The following ARRL Section Emergency Coordinators reported: AK, AR, AZ, CT, EWA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MDC, ME, MI, MO, NC, NNJ, NTX, NV, SD, SFL, STX, SV, OH, VA, WTX, WV, WWA.

### Brass Pounders League May 2007

The BPL is open to all amateurs in the US, Canada and US possessions who report to their SMs a total of 500 points or a sum of 100 or more origination and delivery points for any calendar month. All messages must be handled on amateur frequencies within 48 hours of receipt in standard ARRL radiogram format.

Call	Orig	Rcvd	Sent	Divd	Total
WB5ZED	25	1825	1827	30	3707
N1IQI	0	395	1558	0	1953
KK3F	29	982	940	42	1993
W4ZJY	0	1000	887	0	1887
KB9EKG	48	692	647	28	1415
W1GMF	0	300	1043	0	1343
W7SMC	36	471	507	0	1014
K7BDU	7	506	494	3	1003
KA5KLU	0	547	449	0	996
WB5NKC	58	171	709	7	945
KW1U	0	398	496	1	895
N8IXF	0	450	407	20	877
W7QM	110	234	500	9	853
W8UL	0	353	353	24	730
WX4H	4	311	371	4	690
N1UMJ	39	274	285	9	607
WB9JSR	0	306	304	12	622
N2LTC	0	278	260	49	587
K4ZZA	10	269	17	269	565
KD5TXD	12	88	449	9	558
KB9KEG	1	233	32	264	530
KC8WSE	0	230	270	28	528
W7TVA	39	213	173	79	504
W4EAT	0	257	243	1	501

The following station qualified for BPL with 100 or more originations plus deliveries: KK5GY 214.

