



Q R M

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KEATING FLOYD (KC4HSI) EDITOR

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Holiday wishes!

It is that time when we look back at the year in retrospect and give thanks for all the good that has happened, all the trials we have endured, and look forward to the coming New Year. It has been a year to remember, but for those of you with short memories, like me, here are a few highlights:

FQP, probable first place in MM QRP

NAQP – A good showing

Several contest showings with SPARC

The first in a longtime joint picnic with the Brandon Club

FD – 1st place in WCF in 2A

CQ WW phone contesting training

The Geezer gear station back on the air

No hurricanes to worry about Saturday morning donuts with Herb.

All the Net Controllers efforts holding TarcNets on Tuesday evenings

The lawnmower was stolen

A 160m antenna is erected in the backyard

We received an estate distribution from Al and Nancy Burke

The start of installing a new generator for the clubhouse

The radio room and tower grounding project began

In addition, many more too numerous to mention.

I would like to thank all those who participated and made these activities a reality, and enjoyable for all.

Bill Bode, N4WEB

As we move forward in 2008, please think ahead to what we all can do to add to the enjoyment of Amateur Radio for our members.

You can help to make 2008 our best year yet.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Bill, N4WEB



Bart (AF4TK) and broken cable

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Christmas Party December 3, 2007 at Golden Corral.
- Hurricane season is officially OVER!
- Welcome to the Tampa Bay Hamfest
- www.hamclub.org has more details

NEWCOMER ADVICE

The Tampa Bay HAMFEST is here! Now's the time to go shopping!

What should you bring with you? Your list might include:

A backpack or bag to tote your goodies in.

Money. Bring cash, most individual vendors can't take plastic.

A notebook or pad, to copy down

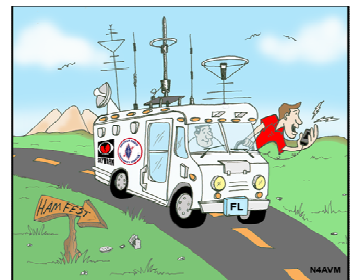
phone numbers, or model numbers.

A pen – there's not always an easy-to-find one at the door prize table.

Comfy clothes, a hat (for shade and identification) and shoes that keep your feet happy.

You DO have an ID badge with your call sign on it, don't you?

Keating Floyd, KC4HSI



© Jerry Gault, N4AVM

Get one here! Stick it on your shirt or hat.

A tool or two, to take a look at

A HAM FOR ALL REASONS



Warren Elly, W1GUD

Why do they call us all amateurs? Some of us are quite thoroughly professional. Warren Elly is a great example of that.

You see Warren on Fox News, doing the major stories of the day. But Warren's personal favorites are smaller stories, the ones about endangered children in particular. He recalls especially a young girl with an eating disorder, who was constantly being Baker-Acted because of her bizarre behavior. He

followed the story until her disease was recognized by the courts and she was given the necessary treatment. He still checks on her and today, she's doing fine. Now that's a real accomplishment, more important by far than any of his political or business stories in which he scooped the competition.

He got interested in SWLing when his older cousin got a Hallicrafters S-120 for his birthday, around 1963.

nas ever meeting, but we hardly ever get a chance to see your antennas.

Please send pictures of your aerials to QRM@hamclub.org, and we'll publish them.

SEND US YOUR PICS!

QRM is pleased to announce our first Antenna Picture Gallery. You've got antennas up in the air, we've got antennas up in the air.

We all see the TARC anten-

"I was 12. For a couple of years we collected QSL cards from shortwave stations, and had quite a competition over that, who'd get what card and so on."

Then came the great awakening.

"I remember listening to my receiver one night, a five-tube Hallicrafters, and hearing some guys talking on AM on 75 meters. I got hooked that very night."

We all know that feeling. Warren was gutsy enough to find a mentor.

"There was a guy down the street where we lived in Springdale, Connecticut, with a short tower and a 2-meter yagi, so I went and knocked on his door.

Fred Clinton was a tech, knew little about the short wave bands, but was more than willing to become my elmer, and help me get my novice ticket."

Remember the excitement of becoming licensed?

"The ticket came, I'll never

Mary Floyd, KG4QGA

forget, after 10 weeks of waiting, in August 1966, I was 15, and my first call was WN1GUD. I can still feel my hands trembling as I called my first CQ, and then two nights later, nearly having a heart attack when someone called ME! My first contact...cold sweat...couldn't breathe...it was wonderful!"

In the almost-40 years since, there've been some changes in the hobby, for those of you who remember back then.

"We were crystal controlled, limited to 75 watts, and all CW except for some phone privileges on 2 meters. I was proud of the fact that I worked and confirmed all states, and worked and confirmed dxcc 100 countries on CW as a novice. That novice license only lasted a year, you couldn't renew it, so it was either on to tech, which was the same 5 wpm code test as the novice but offered no low bands, or the general, which was 13 wpm. The general was scary because it would require a trip to the Custom House in New York City to face a real live, fire-

We want to see what you are using to talk to other hams with—we may get some ideas ourselves!

We're looking forward to seeing what you've got!



The TARC Antenna Farm

THE WAYBACK MACHINE

Mark Cookman, KI4WEW

It was Robert Burns who is responsible for that old saying, the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry. This seems to often be the case with my plans. You see, I wanted to write an article for the QRM. My good friend Keating, who finally got me to take the exams and get into Amateur Radio, was asking for articles. I like to flatter myself that I can sometimes string some words together that people might learn something from, or at least find amusing.

I really wanted to write something, but I was really stumped for what to write about. Since I am completely new to this hobby, a technical article was right out of the question. I decided instead to follow the discipline of my college degree and look into the history of Amateur Radio.

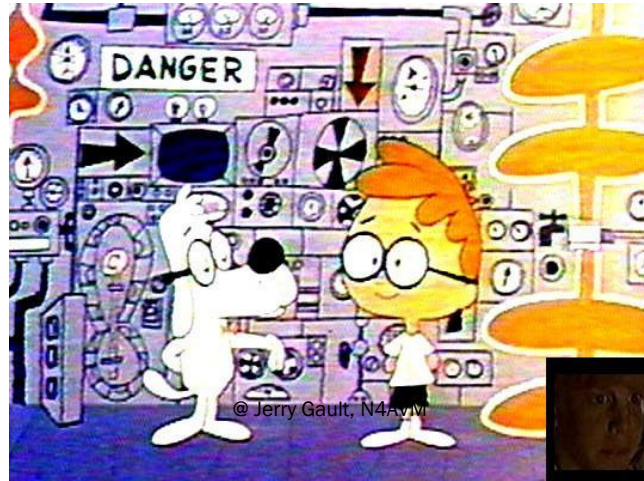
I wanted to find the answers to questions like: Who was the first Amateur Radio Operator; What was the first Amateur Radio Club; Why are Amateur Radio operators called HAMS; What was the

first HAM project or magazine? You get the idea.

So I began searching for an-

transmitting and receiving signals at a distance of 50 miles 1 year earlier than Marconi was sending and receiv-

bear, Reginald Fessenden, James Clerk Maxwell, Sir Oliver Lodge, Mahlon Loomis, Nathan Stubblefield, and Alexander Popov.



swers. I tried all the familiar places: ask.com; wikipedia.com; google.com; and arrl.org. I discovered, as I had expected, that there were as many answers to all these questions as there are callsigns. For example, everyone seems to accept that Guglielmo Marconi invented the radio in 1896, even though Nikolai Tesla was

ing at a distance of 2 miles. It quickly occurred to me that who was the first "ham" was just an argument waiting to happen. I really don't want to argue with anyone on so esoteric a topic so here is a list of some of the first amateur radio operators in no particular order: Heinrich Rudolf Hertz, Nikola Tesla, Guglielmo Marconi, Amos Dol-

While searching the vast internet for the deep dark history of Amateur Radio, I happened upon something that stopped me cold. Bill Continelli, W2XOY, had already written my article. In fact, he had written a whole series of articles on the topic and he was a much better writer than I was. So, I gave up on my plans to write an article for the QRM, because why should I write something that has already been handled so well? However, this still left Keating without an article so I quickly hammered these couple of lines together. If you are interested in the history of Amateur Radio, then I urge you to point your browser at <http://ham-shack.com/history01.html> where you can enjoy "The Wayback Machine" by Bill Continelli. He answers all of the questions listed above and more. Check it out.

A HAM FOR ALL REASONS

(continued from page 2)

breathing FCC examiner."

Most 16-year-olds are thinking of getting a driver's license, right? Warren was heading into New York City to take a tough FCC test.

"It had to be done. I remember throwing up in the men's room at the subway station...and then passing the damn thing. 13 wpm code and all. I was 16, I had my general. The driver's license didn't matter."

Elly gets a bit more dolled up for TV appearances, every hair in place, a touch of makeup. But we know him when he's frustrated with balky equipment, as we often are ourselves, the real Warren. Our friend.

The best interviews that can ever be done are with people who are used to interviewing others. That's Warren. Here are some Q&A, verbatim, so you can see how good he is:

Warren, Tell us about the fun

of being an 'amateur' radio ham.

"I think one of the proudest moments was helping to handle hundreds of "i'm Alive" messages from Mississippi from the Hillsborough/TARC ham team that responded to Katrina..."

"Only other thought... Its hard for me to believe that after more than 40 years a ham, there are still things I haven't tried, modes I haven't oper-

ated, bands I haven't heard...its pretty amazing if you think about that..."

"oldest son walter KC4UCQ, a web designer, in eastern New Hampshire.. we have regular sked on 20 meters and Dad has designs on some towers for his 8 heavily wooded acres..."

Warren Elly is a star on Fox tv. at the same time he's a real person, a friend of ours. Can we call him a 'professional' ham?

RIDING THE WAVES OF THE STORM

Kevin Graham, St. Pete Times

TAMPA — When a hurricane knocks out major communications, it can take days to fix.

That's when ham radio operators become an electronic lifeline. They can be on the air within a matter of minutes, said Bill Bode, chairman of the Tampa Amateur Radio Club.

As part of a national amateur radio preparedness exercise, ham operators spent the weekend simulating deployment for a national disaster. The Tampa Amateur Radio Club held camp at the Upper Tampa Bay Park where members set up antennas and began communications during a 24-hour drill.

Bode said the location of the exercise remained a secret to participants until Friday afternoon, to make the deployment as realistic as possible.

"Our biggest challenge is to get people to understand

what we do," said Bode, who began immersing himself in the ham radio hobby five years ago.

Bode's group works closely with the American Red Cross and Hillsborough County emergency officials, including Tampa police and fire agencies.

When Hurricane Katrina hit last year, Hillsborough officials sent local ham radio operators to help with communications on the Gulf Coast until things began to stabilize.

"The thing about ham radio is it's a hobby, and they're very good at their hobby," said Gary Sessums, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services officer for Hillsborough emergency management. "They're very good at MacGyver situations."

Bode said his Tampa group has about 120 members. The weekend's emergency drill,



called a "Field Day" nationally, drew about 30 active participants to the site.

At the Upper Tampa Bay Park, radio operators set up antennas near RV's. Some communicated over the airwaves by voice, some by Morse code and others used digital packets that could relay information like location and weather, with less static in the transmission.

Ham radio operators like to say their radio system works when others don't. Bode said many of the operators are

able to transmit communications from their car.

"As long as we can use our cars, we can operate," he said.

When they aren't being called up for a disaster, ham radio operators offer their skills in other ways. They supply communications for charity walks and other nonprofit events.

Kevin Graham can be reached at (813) 226-3433 or kgraham@sptimes.com.

(Reprinted by permission. 1st published June 25, 2006. Ed.)

NEWCOMER ADVICE

what you're buying (if needed). Screwdriver, pliers, maybe even a voltmeter.

Bring (or buy here) some water — it's thirsty work, hunting for bargains.

Now that you're here with your pack of goodies, what to do? Shop and socialize, of course!

What are you looking for?

Handi-talkie? You can probably find one for \$75 or so used, or \$125 or so new (on the low end — they can go up from there!) Mobile radio? Those sometimes can be had for \$100 for a single band radio, and up from there for dual banders. (This is for used equipment, of course. Caveat emptor!)

Look for people you know.

Ask them what they've seen that you want. Tell them what you've seen that they might want. Find out who else they've seen and talked to. What about lunch? Where are we going?! What did you buy? Hey! I need one of those!

Hamfests are one of the very most fun parts of the hobby. You can meet people you've

only ever talked to on the air. You can find great deals on good gear (and good deals on great gear, and even some bad deals, too, sad to say.) Overall, the experience is worth the trip.

Be sure to put your ticket stub in the spinny-bucket — you might win the grand prize, or one of any number of other great prizes!

(continued from page 1)

GOING ON A RADIO HUNT

Jodi Pecoraro, K14FWJ

The perfect HF rig in the perfect shack attached to the perfect antenna! Ah, every ham's dream, and it's my dream, too! I've been on the prowl for some time, but now the hunt is getting serious! I'm narrowing the search, focusing in on what's important to me in a rig, searching out the best prices. Isn't it the time of year for shopping? The Tampa Bay Hamfest is this weekend! Join me, for a minute or two, as I share the tale of my pursuit of the "perfect" rig, and what pitfalls and problems I've found along the way!

What should I buy? Should I buy new or used? Where should I buy it? I've asked a number of my friends and several of my Elmers for suggestions on what to buy.

I learned that if you ask 10 hams their opinion on what rig to buy, you'll get at least

30 answers! You might be wondering how this could happen? Didn't I just tell you I was trying to narrow down my choices, and focus in on a



specific radio? Were these people trying to help me, or drive me to distraction?

I've come to understand that every experienced ham radio operator has had a radio in their past that they loved, and will recommend. They also presently have a radio that they just love, and will

recommend gladly. Then, while they're thinking about it, there's the newer rig that they've had their eyes on, that they covet, and will rec-

ommend, too. Three radios for each ham (minimum), and you do the math, I wind up with triple the number of radios to check for my purchase than people I've asked!

The manufacturers' names and the model numbers of my potential radio prey aren't

important to talk about at this point. You will all have different opinions on what to buy than those I've already gathered. Besides, by the

time you read this, I might have already bagged my choice, and set it up in my shack. I'll be the proud and successful owner of a radio I'll be glad to recommend to anyone who asks. Then, again, there's that new radio I've just heard about, and I just might buy sometime in the future!

FLDIGI AND AMATEUR RADIO ON LINUX

Joe Barr

Dave Freese has just released version 1.2 of Fldigi, a popular new program for Linux and FreeBSD which enables amateur radio operators to join their radios and their computers at the hip and create a new kind of ham shack: a digital ham shack. Here's the story behind both the rising popularity of "sound card" digital modes in amateur radio and how Fldigi lets you enjoy enjoy them on Linux.

Hams use their own jargon, which is just as obscure to non-hams as IRQ, USB, or DDR are to non-computer geeks. I've included a brief glossary of terms used in this

story, but for the inquisitive, here is a link to a more complete reference work explaining ham jargon.

According to Wikipedia, there are about 3 million amateur radio operators -- or hams -- around the world. There have been amateur radio operators for as long as there has been radio. The ARRL, which is the national association for amateur radio in the United States, was founded in 1914 and counts 150,000 active members today.

Hams communicate by radio, but only on government-allocated frequency bands where they are allowed to

operate. They chat, they invent, they have contests to see how many stations they can contact within a given time frame, and when natural or man-made disasters occur, they are usually the first to establish any kind of communications between the stricken area and the rest of the world.

Early hams used Morse code sent by CW almost exclusively. Over time, the popularity of morse code -- also called simply code or CW -- has waned and interest in voice communications -- an analog mode as opposed to the on/off digital of CW or

RTTY (radio teletype) -- has grown. Learning Morse code and passing a test on it has long been a barrier to entry for new hams. You could get a beginner's license without passing the code test, but you couldn't progress to the next higher level without it. The FCC has recently decided to do away with the code test, and beginning in February of 2007, it will no longer be required.

In 1999, a new kind of digital mode appeared. It's called

(Continued at <http://www.linux.com/feature/59958> Ed.)

MY HISTORY WITH TARC

Alton, N2MFT

I was still monitoring the frequency on 40 meters this evening when you called WOKYZ after Marc and I had finished a nice and long QSO. But when you gave your call, W4DUG, all kinds of bells and alarms went off - I knew that call - it was burned into my brain!

The reason? W4DUG is what got me started in amateur radio! During the 1940s, my father was the County Agricultural Agent for Pasco County, Florida (I was born in 1936 in Ft. Meade, Florida). Part of Dad's job involved setting up a (then) large exhibit each year for Pasco county at the Florida State Fair, in its original buildings near the college campus in Tampa. I always went with him and one year even built a model farm (I was in the 4-H Club) that was part of the exhibit.

But what I remember most was the W4DUG "radiogram" booth, only a couple of ex-

hibit booths down from Pasco County's. I remember very well hanging out at your counter for many hours, listening to the code, and watching the glow of the mercury vapor rectifiers in the big, open rack transmitter. I think it was capable of a full gallon at the time.

Anyway, I was so enthralled, that, while in the fourth grade of school, I learned the Morse Code. I finally got my novice license (WN4VFZ) in 1952 while a sophomore in high school at Pasco High.

My first rig was a 6I6 metal tube, power CW crystal oscillator. The tube was mounted on a piece of Masonite, upside down, and with the base removed to shorten lead length to the crystal, etc. The receiver was a home built super regenerative concoc-tion mounted in a wooden box.

Within a year, I had purchased and built a Johnson

Viking I kit, and was working DX with a Windom antenna. I also helped form the Pasco High School Amateur Radio club, and we used the Viking often at the school station. I also got my General ticket as W4VFZ.

After high school, I went to the University of Florida, and majored in Engineering. With my military obligation hanging over my head, I volunteered for the Army Security Agency. However, instead of "seeing the world", as soon as the Army found out I knew Morse code, they made me a Morse instructor at Ft. Devens, MA, and later, upon learning that I knew about things like "Fleming Valves" they made me an electronics equipment instructor.

By then, my code speed had worked up to 40 wpm (sadly, not the case today!)

After my hitch in the Army, I returned to my studies at the U of F. I remained as a staff

engineer doing R&D for first the Electrical Engineering Dept. (I did some original circuit designs that we used on tests of the Gemini space capsule mock-up), and then later, the Dept. of Aerospace Engineering.

Unfortunately, around 1968, I got fed up with the type of amateur operators I found on the air. No one seemed to have any technical knowledge (they had memorized the book and passed the test!), and only wanted to talk about "Aunt Martha's hemorrhoids"! So I let my license expire.

With the pay in academia being as low as it was, I was (after about 17 years at the U of F) enticed into industry in Michigan. Among the companies I worked for during my 5 year stay (shoveling my way through Michigan snow!), was HeathKit, where I worked for the Instruments Department,

(Continued on page 7)

A WANNA-BE HAM

A person only gets one chance to be "new", so I have been thinking over my impressions of TARC and its members.

Recently, I have participated in:

one club meeting,

Cub scout day at Plant Park,

the drill and Field Day (Fri-Sat)

Morse Code Class

(registered for the July license classes)

I find TARC an energetic, committed, knowledgeable group of people, who are eager to share their knowledge and experience with us outsiders, and who make

Amateur Radio sound compelling.

My personal motivation is to become skilled for CERT activities. Radio offers a major missing piece of CERT, namely communication.

Amateur Radio is the perfect match for CERT tasks.

Every member I have approached has listened to my

interest in radio, and been extremely helpful in offering advice and information.

I am excited, and eager to get more involved and skilled—TARC is obviously the perfect opportunity to do that.

Thanks to all of you!!

(Obviously, not quite "wannabe" - I think he's got the spirit! Ed.)

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

(Continued from page 8)

ment Agency, Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials - International, National Communications System, Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams, Salvation Army, hospitals, and more. Amateur Radio operators also provide communications for non-emergency events such as parades and athletic events.

Why use Amateur Radio? Amateur Radio equipment is independent of communications facilities such as the telephone. Amateur Radio is prepared to run on emergency power. Amateur Radio operators are proficient in quickly using available resources to establish communications and maintenance of that link.

Amateur Radio can use a wide range of radio bands,

each one having its own strengths in overcoming the barriers inherent to radio communications. Regardless of the specific band and model of radio equipment, Amateur Radio operators can use the same frequency band and mode to communicate with each other. Most official radio systems, such as police and fire departments use fixed band systems that may be limited in flexibility and interoperability.

Let us examine how Amateur Radio operators provide communications. When the World Trade Center towers went down, so did many communications antennas. The adjacent telephone company building was damaged and this adversely affected telephone communications, including cell phones. Commu-

nications that did exist quickly overloaded with call volume. The American Red Cross, which provides food and shelter to victims and rescue workers needed communications between Red Cross Headquarters and all shelters and mobile units. The Red Cross called RACES and asked for help. RACES Amateur Radio operators brought in their own equipment, set up and operated communications for the Red Cross.

One of the section administrators of the Red Cross, referring to the WTC incident said, "in this day and age of modern technology, we still need to rely on Amateur Radio Operators. We would have been lost without them."

Most Amateur Radio Emer-

gency Communications begin at the local level. In Suffolk County, there are 10 districts. The Town of Huntington is one of them. Within the Town of Huntington the Larkfield Amateur Radio Club supports ARES and RACES. The Larkfield club has the proven ability to set up and operate communications equipment, antennas, and emergency power. The Larkfield club also offers classes to help individuals study for their FCC exams.

To find out more about emergency communications, go to www.larkfield.org and www.arrl.org.

Support Your Local Amateur Radio Club!

(That would be, of course, the Tampa Amateur Radio Club! Ed.)

MY HISTORY WITH TARC

(Continued from page 6)

designing electronics test equipment. I also did the design for their Satellite TV kit.

Fed up with the cold, I moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where I worked for several small companies, but primarily for Rockwell, later bought out by Boeing.

I did design work on guided missiles (Hellfire anti-tank missile, AGM-130 "smart bomb", etc.) I also secured

several patents for a UPS for traffic light systems while working for another company in the area (which has sadly since gone belly up).

I re-married, this time to my high school sweetheart, and this summer we celebrated 10 great years, that we should have started 40 some odd years earlier when we originally dated in school!

I'm now retired and live in Hiawassee, Georgia. But the

local Red Cross ran an ad seeking a ham to organize a ham radio communications network in Towns County. So, I re-took all the exams, including the Extra, and now am the EC for GA ARES.

As such, I've taught classes and graduated a number of new hams, two of which have gone on to get their Extra class, and two more their General. With the great financial and labor support of the local Red Cross, we have

a regular 2 meter ARES net, and our Extra and General ticket holders also attend the 75 meter GA ARES net later in the evening. We're also in the process of trying to get our own 2 meter Repeater coordinated.

So, my apologies for rambling, but I thought you might like to know how W4DUG influenced my life and at age 71, I'm still on the air! Alton Higgins, W4VFZ

Easy to get to! Take 22nd street north till you run out of road, look to the right and then up! We are at the bottom of the towers!



7801 North 22nd Street
P.O. Box 11933
Tampa, FL 33680
813-301-7209
info@hamclub.org
www.hamclub.org
Since 1922

**T H E S O U T H E A S T ' S
P R E M I E R A M A T E U R
R A D I O C L U B !**

The Tampa Amateur Radio Club holds meetings at the TARC Operations Center every Monday night at 7:30pm.

On the first Monday of the month, regular business meetings are held. The second Monday features training & mentoring for new hams. The third Monday of the month features presentations on topics of interest to the club membership. The fourth and fifth Mondays are usually informal and are a great time to chat and play with the radios. TARC also holds licensing classes and hosts VE Testing.

Please check www.hamclub.org for current dates and times.

Have an idea for a story or article for QRM? Please send email to QRM@hamclub.org

Attach mailing label here

QRM is lucky to have acquired the talented services of a ham who also happens to be a skilled artist. Jerry Gault, N4AVM, made the colorful illustration on page 1. Once again, a big QRM "thank you!" goes out to Jerry!

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. John Allocca, WB2LUA

As you go about your every day business, amateur radio operators are preparing, practicing and training to provide communications during emergencies. Do not let the word "amateur" mislead you. These people are highly trained and motivated. The dictionary defines "amateur" as a person who engages in a pursuit for pleasure and not as a profession.

Olympic athletes are "amateurs." You don't consider them to be less proficient. Amateur Radio Operators are trained, provide their own equipment and are well organized. Amateur Radio Operators must pass the FCC exam, which demonstrates their technical abilities, in order to receive a license to operate an Amateur Radio Station. Amateur Radio Emergency Services, (ARES) is an

organization under the auspices of the American Radio Relay League, (ARRL) serving local government and civilian agencies. ARES and the ARRL provide emergency communications training courses. Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) is an organization controlled by state government that uses Amateur Radio Operators and provides them with practice and training sessions. Ama-

teur Radio Operators are a decentralized resource. That means that they are self contained and self sufficient. Often Amateurs from a remote area are called in to help those in a disaster area.

Amateur Radio Operators serve many agencies including, The American Red Cross, National Weather Service, Federal Emergency Manage-
(Continued on page 7)