

**Meeting Minutes
for the
Galveston County Emergency Communications Group
www.gcecg.org**

The most recent meetings are listed first.

October 28, 2021 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 8:30 p.m.

Members attending: 7 physically present at GCEMF, 3 participated remotely via Teams, 1 Visitor was physically present, 0 Others participated.

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided.

- * GCECG's third hybrid monthly meeting. Those who met in person gathered in the Galveston County Emergency Operations Training Room which is located in the Galveston County Emergency Management Facility at 1353 FM 646, League City, Tx. Those who checked-in remotely used the Microsoft Teams application.
- * Discussions
 - * Review of Past Events
 - * Oct 2, St. Thomas Family 1K & 5K family fun runs
 - * Oct 3, Space City 10 Miler Fun run
 - * Oct 8, 9, 10, Wings Over Houston Air Show
 - * Oct 9, VEC Test Session
 - * Oct 16, Galveston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
 - * Oct 23, Bike Around The Island 20 and 43 mile bike rides
 - * Oct 24, Bike Around The Bay really long 2 day bike ride
 - * Upcoming Events
 - * Saturday, October 30, Boo Dash 5K Fun Run
 - * Starts and ends at Challenger Columbia Stadium, 1955 W Nasa Blvd, Webster
 - * Run course in the Stadium and Challenger Park area.
 - * Sunday, November 21, La Porte By The Bay Half Marathon
 - * Starts at Sylvan Beach Park in La Porte.
 - * Runners cross the Fred Hartman Bridge to the Baytown side, then return to the 5 Corners Park in La Porte.
 - * Lots of food and drink at the finish line for all runners, support staff and ham radio operators.
 - * If you would like to volunteer to provide amateur radio support for any or all of the fun runs listed above, except Wings Over Houston an Bike Around the Bay, please send an email to: wb5uzz@gmail.com for information and/or to volunteer.
 - * Discussions and Training Presentations
 - * A joint exercise with Texas RACES and Ft. Bend County ARES is scheduled for Oct 30 from 8 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
 - * An ICS-201 Incident Briefing and ICS-205, Incident Communications Plan, both for Galveston County, were discussed. Both were developed from similar documents developed by Ft. Bend County.
 - * The exercise will begin with activating the GCECG net at 10:00 a.m. on Oct 30.
 - * The ICS-201 form provided detailed instructions for GCECG/ARES/RACES members to participate in the exercise by filling out an ICS-213 or -213RR form with made-up messages or resource requests. Then submitting the form to the Galveston County Radio Room via VHF Winlink.
 - * At the end of the exercise, the ICS-213 forms submitted during the exercise will be summarized and that summary to be submitted via email to the TDEM SOC in Austin.
 - * The ICS-205 form contains a list of VHF and UHF repeaters in Brazoria and Ft. Bend counties. The request is to attempt to contact each of the repeaters during the exercise period, documenting which ones could be contacted and which ones couldn't. This will provide a list of viable repeaters in Brazoria and Ft. Bend counties that could be contacted from the WR5GC radio room if the need arose during an event.
 - * Louis Petit, WB5BMB, District Radio Operator (DRO) 16, Texas City, discussed the process to join or renew membership in Texas RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service).
 - * There is a new requirement to fill out, sign and submit a Texas RACES Applicant Criminal History Disqualifier form which lists 9 different disqualifiers including a felony conviction or the applicant has an open/active arrest warrant in any state. If any of the disqualifiers apply to the applicant, he or she will NOT be considered qualified to be a member of Texas RACES.
 - * Anyone wishing additional information about Texas RACES or to join Texas RACES should contact Louis Petit at WB5BMB@att.com

September 23, 2021 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 8:30 p.m.

Members: 6 at EMF, 4 remote via Teams Visitors: 2 at EMF Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided.

- * GCECG's second hybrid monthly meeting. Those who met in person gathered in the Galveston County Emergency Operations Training Room which is located in the Galveston County Emergency Management Facility at 1353 FM 646, League City, Tx. Those who checked-in remotely used the Microsoft TEAMS application.
- * Discussions

- * Review of Past Events
 - * Saturday, September 11, VEC Test Session at Home Town Hero's Park in League City. There were 7 test takers and all passed at least one amateur radio test.
 - * Sunday, September 19, Kemah's Toughest 10K was supported by 8 ARES/GCECG members.
- * Upcoming Events
 - * Saturday, October 2, St. Thomas Family 1K and 5K Fun Run.
 - * Starts and ends at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Nassau Bay.
 - * Sunday, October 3, Space City 10 Miler Fun Run
 - * Starts and ends at the University of Houston Clear Lake campus.
 - * Start time is 7:00 a.m.
 - * A single loop 10 mile course running on Bay Area Blvd., Red Bluff, Kirby, NASA Rd 1, Space Center, and Middlebrook back to campus.
 - * Will be done by 10:30 a.m.
 - * Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 8, 9, and 10, Wings Over Houston Air Show
 - * To be held at Ellington Field, but further details currently unknown
 - * Contact George Levondoski via email at: george@hohi.com for additional information or to volunteer
 - * Saturday, October 16, Galveston's Toughest 10K.
 - * Starts and ends at the Galveston Daily News Building on Teichman Rd in Galveston.
 - * Runners go across the Galveston Causeway to Tiki Island and back.
 - * Saturday, October 23, Bike Around the Island
 - * Bike riders on 2 courses start and end at Moody Hotel in Galveston.
 - * 20 mile riders go to Galveston Island State Park, then return.
 - * 43 mile riders go to San Luis Pass and return.
 - * Need ham support at rest stops and SAG wagons.
 - * Sunday, October 24, Bike Around the Bay
 - * Riders will start in Galveston at 8:00 a.m. and ride to Baytown
 - * To volunteer, contact Rick Broussard at N5KJN@brsrd.com.
 - * Saturday, October 30, Boo Dash 5K Fun Run
 - * Starts and ends at Challenger Columbia Stadium, 1955 W Nasa Blvd, Webster
 - * Run course in the Stadium and Challenger Park area.
 - * Sunday, November 21, La Porte By The Bay Half Marathon
 - * Starts at Sylvan Beach Park in La Porte.
 - * Runners cross the Fred Hartman Bridge to the Baytown side, then return to the 5 Corners Park in La Porte.
 - * Lots of food and drink at the finish line for all runners, support staff and ham radio operators.
- * If you would like to volunteer to provide amateur radio support for any or all of the fun runs listed above, except Wings Over Houston an Bike Around the Bay, please send an email to: wb5uzz@gmail.com for information and/or to volunteer.
- * Discussions and Training Presentations
 - * ARRL just announced a new US wide exercise scheduled for Oct 2 and 3.
 - * ARES and RACES to participate
 - * Conflicts with PSEs listed above
 - * No details yet but appears to be focusing on digital communications
 - * The Saturday PSE should end by 9:30 a.m., so should be able to participated starting around 10:00 a.m.
 - * Standby for Updates.
- * Radio Room Updates
 - * Initial Installation of Yaesu FT-920 all mode transceiver.
 - * Donation from wife of NR5K, SK, Plano TX.
 - * Backup for Kenwood TS-570.
 - * 100W dual VFOs, DSP.
 - * Digital capability with dedicated Signalink USB.
 - * Icom HF transceiver donated by Tom Davies, KA5UNH, has been moved into the locked cabinet in the Radio Room to serve as an additional HF spare.
 - * Both the original HF Amp and the Kenwood TS-140 transceiver were found to have Galveston County Property tags. Since they are now both considered obsolete and excess to our needs, they were moved to the Storage room on the 3rd floor for disposition by the County.
 - * Kenwood TS-440 transceiver that has been positioned as a backup to the TS-570, was tested and confirmed to not power-up correctly after being unused for a period of time. It did eventually power-up and indicated by meter that it is capable of transmitting up to 100W.
 - * Further testing indicated it could be started normally after being turned off over night.
 - * The members present agreed it could be donated to the new ham club at University of Houston Clear Lake.
- * GCECG Mission
 - * What support does the GCOEM Emertency Coordinator expect from GCECG after activation?
 - * At this point it is not clear and depends on the type of emergency we are expecting or has occurred.
 - * Embedding process has not been developed.
 - * After Hurricane Ike, the Galveston Causeway was closed due to boat storage, but all normal means of communications survived where power was available.
 - * Those members who have personal digital capabilities should be prepared to use their own equipment to support as needed.
 - * Go-Kits will be deployed to those who plan to stay in the area and do not have suitable equipment of their own.
 - * Accessory equipment in the Go-Kit tubs, antennas, and tool kits will be available for checkout by those who request those items.

August 26, 2021 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 8:30 p.m.

Members attending: 7 physically present at GCEMF, 6 participated remotely via TEAMS, Visitors: 2, Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * GCECG's first hybrid monthly meeting. Those who met in person gathered in the Galveston County Emergency Operations Training Room which is located in the Galveston County Emergency Management Facility at 1353 FM 646, League City, Tx. Those who checked-in remotely used the Microsoft TEAMS application.
- * Discussions
 - * Review of Past Events
 - * Saturday, August 14, VEC Test Session at Home Town Hero's Park in League City. There were 6 test takers and all passed at least one amateur radio test.
 - * Upcoming Events
 - * Sunday, September 19, Kemah's Toughest 10K.
 - * Starts and ends at the Kemah Boardwalk with runners crossing the Kemah-Seabrook Hwy 146 bridge 4 times.
 - * Saturday, October 2, St. Thomas Family 1K and 5K Fun Run.
 - * Starts and ends at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Nassau Bay.
 - * Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 8, 9, and 10, Wings Over Houston Air Show
 - * To be held at Ellington Field, but further details currently unknown
 - * Saturday, October 16, Galveston's Toughest 10K.
 - * Starts and ends at the Galveston Daily News Building on Teichman Rd in Galveston.
 - * Runners go across the Galveston Causeway to Tiki Island and back.
 - * Saturday, October 23, Bike Around the Island
 - * Bike riders on 2 courses start and end at Moody Hotel in Galveston.
 - * 20 mile riders go to Galveston Island State Park, then return.
 - * 43 mile riders go to San Luis Pass and return.
 - * Need ham support at rest stops and SAG wagons.
 - * Sunday, October 24, Bike Around the Bay
 - * Riders will start in Galveston at 8:00 a.m. and ride to Baytown
 - * To volunteer, contact Rick Broussard at N5KJN@brsrd.com.
 - * Saturday, October 30, Boo Dash 5K Fun Run
 - * Starts and ends at Challenger Columbia Stadium, 1955 W Nasa Blvd, Webster
 - * Run course in the Stadium and Challenger Park area.
 - * Sunday, November 21, La Porte By The Bay Half Marathon
 - * Starts at Sylvan Beach Park in La Porte.
 - * Runners cross the Fred Hartman Bridge to the Baytown side, then return to the 5 Corners Park in La Porte.
 - * Lots of food and drink at the finish line for all runners, support staff and ham radio operators.
- * If you would like to volunteer to provide amateur radio support for any or all of the fun runs listed above, except Wings Over Houston an Bike Around the Bay, please send an email to: wb5uzz@gmail.com for information and/or to volunteer.
- * Discussions and Training Presentations
 - * Discussion of approaching storm Ida.
 - * Since Ida appears to be aiming at Louisiana rather than Texas, I requested that all members be prepared to activate by monitoring the GCECG 145.410 repeater if the storm changes course towards Houston.
 - * If the Galveston County Emergency Manager activates GCECG, we will follow his directions with regards to support required and our means to supply that support.
 - * Discussion and demonstration of using Winlink in the Peer 2 Peer (P2P) mode.
 - * Within Galveston County, Winlink P2P would allow direct digital communications between a ham in the field and the GCECG Radio Room. This could provide rapid transmission of information and resource requests from the requester to the radio room and back.
 - * A demonstration using Winlink P2P mode was accomplished between a GCECG Go-Kit in the training room and the Packet radio in the radio room.

July 22, 2021	Start: 7:00 p.m.	End: 8:30 p.m.
Members: 14	Visitors: 1	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * GCECG's third in-person Monthly Meeting of the year. We met in the Galveston County Emergency Operations Training Room which is located in the Galveston County Emergency Management Facility at 1353 FM 646, League City, Tx.
- * Discussions
 - * Review of Past Events
 - * Sunday, July 4, Texas Bud Heatwave 5K and 5 Mile Run.
 - * Saturday, July 10, Texas City Hamfest.
 - * Saturday, July 17, Lunar Landing 5K Family Fun Run.
 - * Monday, July 19, GCOEM Radio Tower Climb.
 - * Saturday, July 24, Home Brew Special Interest Group.
 - * Upcoming Events
 - * Sunday, September 19, Kemah's Toughest 10K.
 - * Starts and ends at the Kemah Boardwalk with runners crossing the Kemah-Seabrook Hwy 146 bridge 4 times.
 - * Saturday, October 2, St. Thomas Family 1K and 5K Fun Run.
 - * Starts and ends at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Nassau Bay.
 - * Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 8, 9, and 10, Wings Over Houston Air Show
 - * To be held at Ellington Field, but further details currently unknown

- * Saturday, October 16, Galveston's Toughest 10K.
 - * Starts and ends at the Galveston Daily News Building on Teichman Rd in Galveston.
 - * Runners go across the Galveston Causeway to Tiki Island and back.
- * Saturday, October 30, Boo Dash 5K Fun Run
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 - * Runners cross the Fred Hartman Bridge to the Baytown side, then return to the 5 Corners Park in La Porte.
 - * Lots of food and drink at the finish line for all runners, support staff and ham radio operators.

* If you would like to volunteer to provide amateur radio support for any or all of the fun runs listed above, please send an email to: wb5uzz@gmail.com for information.

* Discussions and Training Presentations

- * Tower and antenna issue status.
 - * The proposed tower climb has now been accomplished.
 - * Two Diamond X-300NA antennas have now been installed on the tower.
 - * One X300NA was installed at the 120' level, replacing a non-ham band antenna.
 - * It was tested and found to have a low SWR, so is now connected to the Packet Radio.
 - * The other X300NA replaced the failed DB224E antenna at 80', was found to also have a low SDR, so the left side Kenwood D710 in the radio room is now connected to it.
 - * This leaves us with one spare Diamond X-50A antenna at 60' on the tower that is broad band enough to cover business, GMRS, MURS and marine frequencies as well as VHF and UHF ham bands.
 - * Initial testing by Bo Thmas, KT1AA, Daniel Nagala, KG5PVP, and myself indicate much better Packet Radio performance since the antenna change was made. More detailed testing will be performed and documented for our next GCECG monthly meeting.
- * Rob Bailey, WM8S, made a PowerPoint presentation titled "The Competition:
 - * Things that a modern COMU relies on other than amateur radio, including Land Mobile Radio Service, LMR, SMR, maritime, aviation and satellite radio.
 - * Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and various derivatives and hybrid solutions.
 - * The bottom line is we need to have some level of familiarity with the other solutions available to the GCOEM staff to be able to provide support during an event.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ
Director, GCECG

June 24, 2021	Start: 7:00 p.m.	End: 8:30 p.m.
Members: 11	Visitors: 0	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

* GCECG's second in-person Monthly Meeting of the year. We met in the Galveston County Emergency Operations Center which is located in the Galveston County Emergency Management Facility at 1353 FM 646, League City, Tx.

* Discussions

- * Review of Past Events
 - * Saturday, May 29 & June 19, Home Brew Special Interest Group

* Upcoming Events

- * The Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run has been approved to go forward on the 4th of July. It will start and end at the Wismer Budweiser Distributor facility on I-10, east of the Hwy 146 interchange in Mont Belvieu. The course has been revised to minimize race participants running on busy roads - more in parks and neighborhoods.
 - * Saturday, July 10, Texas City Hamfest starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City. Entry fee is \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. You can rent a table for \$15. Instructions for registering in advance or renting a table can be found at www.tidelands.org. Door prizes on the hour, a grand prize awarded at 2 p.m. VEC test session, left foot CW and Fox Hunt contests. The HVRA will conduct an auction starting around noon. The Hamfest will end around 2:00 p.m.
 - * Saturday, July 17, Lunar Landing 2021, 1K and 5K Fun Runs. The 1K starts at 7:15 a.m. and the 5K starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Clear Lake Recreation and Community Center. The run course is in the residential area of Clear lake.
- * If you would like to volunteer to provide amateur radio support for either the Texas Bud Heatwave or Lunar Landing fun runs, please send an email to: wb5uzz@gmail.com for information.

* Discussions and Training Presentations

- * Tower and antenna issue status.
 - * The proposed tower climb has now been approved and vendor cost estimates are being obtained.
 - * Two Diamond X300NA antennas have been obtained and are now ready for installation on the tower.
 - * One X300NA will be installed at the 160" level, replacing a non-ham band antenna and will become the antenna for the Packet Radio.
 - * The other X300NA will replace the current DB224E at 80" used by the Packet radio.
 - * Curt, WB5UZZ, presented information about the current process for embedding hams with EOCs for Galveston County's cities and agencies that request amateur radio support. The procedure calls out that the hams will be responsible for bringing personal gear and all the radio equipment needed, including Galveston

County Emergency Radio Go-Kits, to support the event. The supported city or agency will be responsible for providing food, drink, electrical power and sleeping accommodations for the ham.

- * It has been determined that Winlink digital communications requires each FM transmitter to maintain an FM deviation between 3.2 and 3.5 KHz. In practice, the deviation can be set within the acceptable range by adjustments available in either external TNC's or Kenwood TM-D700's or TM-D710 with internal TNC's. Louis Petit, WB5BMB, brought a radio service monitor to the meeting that is capable of measuring FM deviation when a transmitter is keyed with a sign wave. Galveston County Emergency Communications Go-Kits numbered 1 through 4 were tested. Only number 4 required adjustment. In addition, several members present brought their own radio kits which were tested and adjusted as needed.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

May 25, 2021 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 8:30 p.m.
Members: 15 Visitors: 3 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * GCECG's first in-person Monthly Meeting in more than a year. We met in the Galveston County Emergency Operations Center which is located in the Galveston County Emergency Management Facility at 1353 FM 646, League City, Tx.

- * Discussions

- * Review of Past Events

- * Saturday, May 1, MS-150 Bike ride to Kyle Field. This event was cancelled at the last minute due to a major rain storm.
 - * Saturday, May 8, American Red Cross/ARES Joint Winlink Exercise. At least 3 Hams from Galveston County were able to participate in the exercise by sending email messages with specific attachments as specified by the Red Cross, to recipients specified by the Red Cross using radios without the use of the internet.

- * Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, May 29, the first Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Homebrew Special Interest Group (CLARC HBSIG) Monthly Breakfast will be held starting at 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa restaurant in League City. The members of this group are interested in amateur radio, computers, computer programming, 3D printing, etc. The breakfast meeting is open to anyone wishing to participate.
 - * The Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run has been approved to go forward on the 4th of July. It will start and end at the Wismer Budweiser Distributor facility on I-10, east of the Hwy 146 interchange in Mont Belvieu. The course has been revised to minimize race participants running on busy roads - more in parks and neighborhoods.
 - * Saturday, July 10, Texas City Hamfest starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City. Entry fee is \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. You can rent a table for \$15. Instructions for registering in advance or renting a table can be found at www.tidelands.org. Door prizes on the hour, a grand prize awarded at 2 p.m. VEC test session, left foot CW and Fox Hunt contests. The HVRA will conduct an auction starting around noon. The Hamfest will end around 2:00 p.m.
 - * Saturday, July 17, Lunar Landing 2021, 1K and 5K Fun Runs. The 1K starts at 7:15 a.m. and the 5K starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Clear Lake Recreation and Community Center. The run course is in the residential area of Clear lake.

- * If you would like to volunteer to provide amateur radio support for either the Texas Bud Heatwave or Lunar Landing fun runs, send an email to: wb5uzz@gmail.com for information.

- * Discussions and Training Presentations

- * It was planned and advertised that we were going to test the FM deviation from 4 Galveston County Emergency Communications GO-Kits with Kenwood TM-D710 VHF/UHF mobile transceivers with built-in Terminal Node Controllers (TNCs). We also planned to test and adjust the FM deviation of personal mobile radios with internal or external TNCs belonging to anyone who brings them to the meeting. These tests and adjustments are meant to assure the FM deviation performance is compatible with Packet system requirements. Unfortunately, an issue developed prior to the start of the meeting with the Service Monitor test equipment that was to be used to measure the deviations, so the deviation measurements will be performed during the next GCECG Monthly Meeting.
 - * I led a discussion on the current status of the issues with the antenna connected to the Packet radio in the GC Radio Room. It has been discovered that original Packet radio antenna is a DB-224E antenna, with a rated gain of 8 dBi, and is mounted at only 80' high on the tower. That antenna currently indicates an SWR of 4.5:1, which is totally unacceptable.
 - * Scott Tafuri, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, has been working with County officials to fund a tower climb this summer to test and repair issues identified by any agency using the tower, including GCECG. Right now, there is no estimate for when such a tower climb service might be arranged. When a tower climb is approved, our plan is to have a new Diamond X-300NA antenna installed in place of an unused 900 MHz antenna at the 160' height of the tower and a second Diamond X-300NA antenna installed in place of the failed antenna at the 80' location. The Packet radio would then be connected to the new antenna at the 160' height and the new antenna at the 80' location would become an additional antenna available for use by other radios in the Radio Room.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

April 22, 2021 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 8:30 p.m.
Members: 12 Visitors: 0 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * Initiated the ninth GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting using Microsoft TEAMS at 7:00 p.m.
 - * 9 members logged into the Microsoft TEAMS video conference application on the internet.
- * Discussions on the net
 - * Review of Past Events
 - * None in April prior to this meeting.
- * Upcoming Events
 - * Saturday, April 10, a VEC Test Session will be held at Hometown Heroes Park in League City starting with check-ins at 9:00 a.m. and test start at 9:30 a.m. Test takers will have the option to take the test in their vehicles or sitting at TV trays in the parking lot.
 - * Saturday, May 1, the annual MS-150 Bike Ride will take place for just one day starting from 4 different locations in the Houston area and La Grange, all going to finish at Kyle Field in College Station. If you would like to volunteer to ride a bike or provide amateur radio support, go to <http://texasms150hams.org/>.
 - * Saturday, May 8, Red Cross/ARES joint exercise. Not much information on it yet, but as a minimum, we will be asked to transmit a designated Red Cross form via Winlink.
 - * The Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run has been approved to go forward on the 4th of July. It will start and end at the Wismer Budweiser Distributor facility on I-10, east of the Hwy 146 interchange in Mont Belvieu. The course has been revised to minimize race participants running on busy roads - more in parks and neighborhoods. If you would like to volunteer to provide amateur radio support for this event, send an email to: WB5UZZ@gmail.com for information.
 - * Saturday, July 10, Texas City Hamfest starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City. Entry fee is \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. You can rent a table for \$15. Instructions for registering in advance or renting a table can be found at www.tidelands.org. Door prizes on the hour, a grand prize awarded at 2 p.m. VEC test session, left foot CW and Fox Hunt contests. The HVRA will conduct an auction starting around noon. The Hamfest will end around 2:00 p.m.
- * Discussions and Training Presentations
 - * I talked with Scott Trafuri, GC Emergency Management Coordinator, about being allowed to use the Training room in the County building again and he said we can use it when we feel comfortable doing so. I said last month we would consider our May monthly meeting live instead of virtual depending on how we are doing with the COVID. It appears that most of us who want to get the vaccine should have had an opportunity to get at least the first shot by now the second shot by the May meeting. Subsequent discussion with the members present indicated a preference to conduct the May GCECG monthly meeting in person in the training room in the Galveston County Emergency Management Building. To make it official, a vote was taken of the members in attendance with 10 to 2 in favor of the in-person meeting. We did briefly discuss making it a hybrid meeting by conducting a TEAMS virtual meeting from the training room along with the live meeting if possible.
 - * Based on issues with the antenna connected to the Packet radio in the GC Radio Room, I studied the documentation produced by Champion Technology Services, the company hired by GC to climb the tower in 2017 to test each of the antennas from the ground termination, remove some antennas no longer being used, and make repairs as needed.
 - * Discovered that original Packet radio antenna was a DB-224E antenna, with a rated gain of 8 dBi, and is mounted at only at 80' on the tower.
 - * The antennas for the 2 Kenwood D710s and the NWS Skywarn Yaesu FT-880 are all Diamond X-50a, which are rated for around 3 dBi of gain and are mounted at 60' on the tower.
 - * I asked Scott Tafuri if he could get us approval and financing for a tower climb within the next 2 months. I have not had a response from him on this yet.
 - * If we can get a tower climb, I propose:
 - * Purchasing 2 new Diamond X-300 dual band antennas which are 10' tall and rated for 6.5 dBi gain.
 - * Have one mounted at the available location at 160' with termination under the radio room floor and use it with the Packet radio.
 - * Have the 2nd one used to replace the DB-224E antenna at 80' that was the Packet radio antenna, which would give us another antenna to use with the marine radio or the Power Werx DX-750 in the radio room.No comments or suggestions were received after this presentation.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

March 25, 2021	Start: 7:00 p.m.	End: 8:20 p.m.
Members: 9	Visitors: 0	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * Initiated the ninth GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting using Microsoft TEAMS at 7:00 p.m.
 - * 9 members logged into the Microsoft TEAMS video conference application on the internet.
 - * Discussions on the net
 - * Review of Past Events
 - * Review of the Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathons held at the Meador Park in Seabrook on March 19,20 and 21.
 - * Upcoming Events
-

- * Saturday, April 10, a VEC Test Session will be held at Hometown Heroes Park in League City starting with check-ins at 9:00 a.m. and test start at 9:30 a.m. Test takers will have the option to take the test in their vehicles or sitting at TV trays in the parking lot.
- * Saturday, May 1, the annual MS-150 Bike Ride will take place for just one day starting from 4 different locations in the Houston area and La Grange, all going to finish at Kyle Field in College Station. If you would like to volunteer to ride a bike or provide amateur radio support, go to <http://texasms150hams.org/>.
- * The Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run has been approved to go forward on the 4th of July. It will start and end at the Wismer Budweiser Distributor facility on I-10, east of the Hwy 146 interchange in Mont Belvieu. Course has been revised to minimize runners on busy roads - more in parks and neighborhoods. If you would like to volunteer to provide amateur radio support for this event, send an email to: wb5uzz@gmail.com for information.

* Discussions and Training Presentations

- * Hurricane Preparedness Committee Interim Report
 - * Hurricane Preparedness Committee has been meeting virtually on Monday evenings to discuss plans for tests to be performed, the results of tests performed and subsequent recommendations for digital communications within Galveston County in the event we get activated with requests to embed with EOCs and agencies within the County.
- * Several weeks ago, Louis Petit, WB5BMB, tested the SWR of the WR5GC 2m digipeater in the GC Radio Room and found it to be in the range of 4 - 5:1. It was discussed as the probable cause of the issues that Bo Thomas, KT1AA, had trying to connect to the WR5GC digi from his home in Hitchcock, and Daniel Nagala, KG5PVP, same issue from Friendswood.
- * It was discussed as the probable cause of the issues that Bo Thomas, KT1AA, had trying to connect to the WR5GC digi from his home in Hitchcock, and Daniel Nagala, KG5PVP, same issue from Friendswood.
- * Bo, KT1AA, and Daniel, KG5PVP, ran tests on the Packet system after the antenna swap, but did not find significant improvement in useful range. More testing of the Packet Kenwood TM-261 transceiver and Kantronics KPC-3 Plus TNC will be performed over the next month to determine the problems and develop solutions.
- * The Committee members are focusing on using the built-in TNCs in the D710s since that is the simplest system for use with embedded Go-Kits and believe the speed of transmit via Winlink on VHF in P2P mode will be adequate for communications within Galveston County while planning to use VARA-FM and -HF for communications outside of Galveston County. Transtar is reported to have a VARA-FM capability that we want to learn how to use with them. We have also discussed adding a sound card to one of the D710s in the Radio Room that could be used for that purpose without impacting the ability to use the D710 for verbal communications.
- * The Committee members are investigating installation of an additional vertical dual band antenna for use in the GC Radio Room. The antenna would be anchored to the railing around the HVAC units in the back of the Emergency Management Building. There is already an unused RG-8 coaxial cable laying out there that does enter the building through a weatherproof port. A work party is planning to go out there on Sunday afternoon and try to trace that cable to its origin in the building with the idea of getting it run to the Radio Room. If we can get an additional antenna, we could add another Kenwood TM-261 with Kantronics KPC-3 TNC to operate on a frequency other than 145.050 so we can improve our bandwidth during an event.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

February 2021 minutes missing

January 29, 2021 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 8:10 p.m.
Members: 11 Visitors: 0 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * Initiated the seventh GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting using Microsoft TEAMS at 7:00 p.m.
 - * 9 members logged into the Microsoft TEAMS video conference application on the internet.
- * Discussions on the net
- * Review of Past Events
 - * The last Public Service Event was the La Porte By The Bay Half Marathon on November 15, 2020.
 - * It was the only PSE actually held in 2020 and was put on with many restrictions to minimize exposure to COVID-19.
- * Upcoming Events
 - * Saturday, February 6, a VEC Test Session will be held at Hometown Heroes Park in League City starting with check-ins at 9:00 a.m. and test start at 9:30 a.m. Test takers will have the option to take the test in their vehicles or sitting at TV trays in the parking lot.
 - * A reminder that the CERT Rodeo originally scheduled for Saturday, February 13, has been postponed to a later date depending on the status of the pandemic.
 - * Our first opportunity to provide public service support to a running event this year will be with the Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathons to be held on the 3rd weekend in March. This is a 2 1/4 day event with a 1K and 5K race starting around 5 p.m. on Friday, March 19. On Saturday, March 20, there will be a 1/2 and full marathon starting around 7:00 a.m., and on Sunday, March 21, there will be a 1/4 and 1/2 marathon also starting around 7:00 a.m. All of these races will start and finish at Meador Park in Seabrook. Changes are

being made in the operation of these races to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission before, during or after the event. These changes include mandatory mask wearing around the start and finish lines and the park area, staggered start to provide social distancing, no freshly prepared food, and all participants will be requested to leave the park area immediately after completing their event. For amateur radio operators, there will be no reason to approach runners unless there is an emergency that requires breaking social distancing, but then the operator should be wearing a mask.

* Anyone who would like to support this event can send me an email at: wb5uzz@gmail.com. Let me know your T-shirt size if you have not previously participated in one of our public service running events.

* Discussions and Training Presentations

* Sound Cards vs. TNCs

* We have had several discussions in the last year about using sound cards with Winlink and VARA-FM in place of TNCs for EMCOMM communications within Galveston County.

* A number of our GCECG hams have been using or experimenting with VARA-FM and HF. Some of the conclusions from those usages or experiments are that VARA-FM can provide digital communications at much greater speeds and distances for a given station than Winlink. The problem I have experienced, and to a lesser extent by John Paterson, KC5LAA, is the need for adjustments to the send and receive setups for both the sound card and the associated PC. This means that they have to be adjusted with an associated PC and radio. If either the PC or radio is changed, the sound card and/or PC may have to be re-adjusted. A change in distance between the radio and intended receiver, can also be require minor re-tuning. All this makes using the DRA-36 sound cards somewhat problematic with the GC Go-Kits.

* Signalink sound cards have been shown to work well VARA-HF in the GC Radio Room, but could have similar issues as the DRA-36 cards if used with the Go-Kits and they are much more expensive than the DRA-36 cards from Masters Communications.

* The Kenwood D710 transceivers installed in the GC Go-Kits have internal TNCs, but they were designed specifically to support APRS operation rather than EMCOMM. In doing research on the internet, some amateur radio groups have claimed success using the TNCs built into their D710s, while other groups indicated they had issues. During an exercise in 2020, I experienced a problem trying to communicate digitally from Santa Fe to the GC Radio Room using the internal TNC in a GC Go-Kit D710. Don Deyo, K5MSF, experienced a similar problem from the Galveston area. These are the type of problems I feel we have to resolve prior to the 2021 hurricane season.

* External TNCs, such as the Kantronics KPC-3+, do not have any adjustment issues, but are the most expensive and limited to operation at 1200 Baud unless you get the 9612 version which is even more expensive.

* Sound Card Committee

* To learn more about the best route for GCECG to take to achieve reliable FM digital communications within Galveston County, I suggest a committee be formed of GCECG members to investigate and experiment with the TNCs internal to the D710s and DRA-36 sound cards to determine if either, or both, can be used reliably within the County. If we cannot get comfortable with either option, then we'll try Kantronics KPC-3+ TNCs to see they can do better.

* The team members at the meeting agreed to support a committee with the purpose as described above. The following members volunteered to be committee members: Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ; John Paterson, KC5LAA; Don Deyo, K5MSF; Kelvin Hickman, K5KGH; Bo Thomas, KT1AA; Daniel Nagala, KG5PVP; John Taylor, AJ5TT; and Carl Martin, KF5MED. My thanks to all who volunteered.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

October 22, 2020	Start: 7:00 p.m.	End: 8:20 p.m.
Members: 6	Visitors: 0	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

* Initiated the sixth GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting using Microsoft TEAMS at 7:00 p.m.

* 6 members logged into the Microsoft TEAMS video conference application on the internet.

* Discussions on the net

* Review of Past Events

* October 9, 10 & 11 - Wings Over Houston Air Show, 2020 Drive-in Edition - Ellington Field

* Some Hams worked as shadows for some Show staff members, but most were assigned to monitor the spectators for COVID rules compliance. All went well and the air show was deemed a success.

* Upcoming Events

* Sunday, November 15 - La Porte By The Bay Half Marathon

* Starts at Sylvan Beach Park in La Porte at 7:30 a.m.

* Runners cross the Fred Hartman Bridge to Baytown and back.

* Runner participation limited due to COVID rules.

* Good food and drink at finish line in 5 Corners Park in La Porte with special precautions for COVID protection.

Anyone who would like to support this event can send me an email at: wb5uzz@gmail.com. Let me know your T-shirt size if you have not previously participated in one of our public service running events.

* Discussions and Training Presentations

* Earphone extension cable conversion to adapter cable.

* Bose noise cancelling earphones have a built-in microphone for use with older iPhones.

* To make an electrical connection for the microphone, a 4th segment is added to the standard 3 segment 1/8" stereo plug.

* The 4th segment causes the plug to not mate properly with some equipment that has standard 3 segment jacks.

- * Purchased two 1' earphone extension cables from Amazon with 4 section 1/8" plug on one end and 4 section 1/8" jack on the other
- * Cut both cables in half
- * Used the plug end to verify the wire colors to the segments.
- * Attached a 1/8" 3 segment (stereo) plug on one cable with 4 segment jack, and a 1/8" 2 segment (mono) plug on the other cable with 4 segment jack. I use this adapter cable with hand held mics in noisy environments.
- * I have found these adapter cables were very well with the Bose earphones.
- * Presented a YouTube video on using amateur radio equipment somewhat legally for FRS, GMRS and MURS radio communications.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

September 24, 2020 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 8:20 p.m.
Members: 9 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * Initiated the fifth GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting using Microsoft TEAMS at 7:00 p.m.
 - * 11 members and 1 guest logged into the Microsoft TEAMS video conference application on the internet.
- * Discussions on the net
- * Review of Past Events
 - * Tropical Storm BETA
 - * Activated from home - same as for Hurrican Laura.
 - * Had a Motorola HT 1000 HT in the OEM office tuned to the GCECG UHF repeater to contact the OEM office if necessary
 - * Activated with a GCECG net at 11 a.m. on Sunday, 9/20, with 6 members and two non-member hams responding
 - * Verified repeater monitoring assignments based on home location and repeater operation
 - * Learned that both Clear Lake Shores repeaters were non-operational.
 - * No reports made to OEM during first 24 hours.
 - * Net at 11 a.m. on Monday, 9/21, had 10 responders
 - * Verified Clear Lake Shores repeaters were still non-operational
 - * Contacted Wayne Wright, who maintains those repeaters, after the net.
 - * He drove to Clear Lake Shores and found the circuit breaker had tripped.
 - * He restored the power and the repeaters operated during the remainder of the activation.
 - * Learned from Wayne that the La Marque repeater was also down due to power to room being turned off during renovations
 - * No reports made to OEM during the second 24 hours
 - * Net at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 9/22, had 16 responders.
 - * No reports made to OEM during the third 24 hours.
 - * Final net at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 9/23, had 8 responders - Activation terminated with no reports transmitted to the EOC.
- * Upcoming Events
 - * No fun run or other public service events scheduled at that time.
- * Discussions and Training Presentations
 - * Installation of a Signalink Sound Card with the Kenwood TS-570 in the GCECG Radio Room
 - * John Paterson, KC5LAA; Carl Martin, KF5MED; and myself worked to connect a Signalink sound card to the TS570 through the 13 contact Accessory Jack in the back of the transceiver in place of the PACTOR III Modem
 - * The purpose of the change was to be able to use VARA-HF software to transmit and receive digital communications over HF
 - * VARA-HF has been shown to provide higher baud rate (faster) file transfers than are normal with the PACTOR system.
 - * After overcoming the problem of the TS-570 not transmitting, caused by having the PTT Hold button depressed on the TS-570 before it was powered-on
 - * Another task was to adjust transmit and receive level potentiometers, which took some experimentation to get right.
 - * Finally, we were able to transmit two message through to N5TW in Georgetown using 40M.
 - * The first message was successfully transmitted using only 40W barefoot.
 - * The second message required 80W barefoot. Both VARA-HF messages required less transmit power than normally required to transmit PACTOR III messages to the same location.
 - * Both messages were addressed to KC5LAA and WR5GC. Both received by the addressees after a significant delay which has not been explained.
 - * Presented a Winlink Understanding and Training Video from YouTube.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

August 27, 2020 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 8:20 p.m.
Members: 9 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * Initiated the fourth GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting using Microsoft TEAMS at 7:00 p.m.

- * 9 members and 1 guest logged into the Google Meet video conference application on the internet.
- * Discussions on the net
- * Review of Past Events
 - * ARES Exercise with VARA-HF on Saturday, August 22, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 - * John Paterson, KC5LAA, and I attempted to participate in the exercise to connect to various stations using VARA-HF in Peer to Peer mode on 40M.
 - * We set up a Masters Communications Sound Card between the Kenwood TS-570 and its associated desk top computer in the GCECG Radio Room.
 - * We had issues getting the Push To Talk function to work and were never able to make the desired contacts
- * Hurricane Laura GCECG Activation
 - * Scott Tafuri, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, originally requested GCECG provide 2 operators in the Radio Room to monitor any traffic during or after the hurricane hit Galveston County.
 - * At no time did he request use to provide any operators to embed anywhere in the County using the Go-Kits
 - * When it became obvious that the hurricane was going to hit much further east and affects in Galveston County would be minimal, I suggested that our operators monitor local area repeaters with any reportable traffic directed back to me for retransmission to the EOC
 - * To facilitate communication between Scott and myself and since Scott has an amateur radio license, I took a Motorola HT1000 HT transceiver to the EOC that was set to the GCEG UHF repeater frequency.
 - * Scott accepted the plan and transceiver.
 - * At 8:30 p.m. on August 26, I activated a GCECG net on the 145.410 MHz repeater for members who would be willing to monitor various repeaters in the Galveston County Area.
 - * 10 members responded positively, and with slight adjustment in repeater selections, got all areas of Galveston County adequately covered.
 - * Since Galveston County did not receive any real effects from the hurricane, no reports by the monitoring team ever materialize.
- * Upcoming Events
 - * None before:
 - * Sunday, Sept 20 - Houston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
 - * Saturday, October 3 - St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run
 - * Sunday, October 4 - Space City 10 Miler Fun Run
 - * Saturday, October 17 - Galveston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
 - * These events are all currently scheduled but subject to being cancelled, rescheduled or run virtually.
- * If you would like to support this Fun Run, have questions or wish additional information about it, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.
- * Discussions and Training Presentations
 - * GCECG Emergency Communications Go-Kit manual and Inventory
 - * Rob Bailey, WM8S, has completed a draft operations manual for the Galveston County Emergency Communications Go-Kits.
 - * Curt presented a synopsis of the manual with focus on what makes up a kit that can be issued to operators who have accepted an assignment to embed with a Galveston County city or agency prior to arrival of a major hurricane.
 - * The manual include detailed pictures of the components of the kits, both mounted in the ruggedized case or maintained in the covered tub that is packaged in the back of the case.
 - * Anyone wishing a copy of the draft manual can contact me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net and I will forward a copy by email.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

July 23, 2020 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 8:10 p.m.
Members: 13 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * Initiated the fourth GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting using Microsoft TEAMS at 7:00 p.m.
 - * 13 members and 1 guest logged into the Google Meet video conference application on the internet.
- * Discussions on the net
- * Review of Past Events
 - * Nothing since the last GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting
- * Upcoming Events
 - * None before:
 - * Sunday, Sept 20 - Houston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
 - * Saturday, October 3 - St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run
 - * Sunday, October 4 - Space City 10 Miler Fun Run
 - * Saturday, October 17 - Galveston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
 - * These events are all currently scheduled but subject to being cancelled, rescheduled or run virtually.
- * If you would like to support this Fun Run, have questions or wish additional information about it, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.
- * Discussions and Training Presentations
 - * Curt gave a presentation on Terminal Node Controllers and Soundcards

- * Definition of Terminal Mode Controller (TNC) and discussed the Kantronics KPC-3 Plus as a very good example
- * Introduced Specialized Sound Cards, such as Signalink and DRA-30 that can be used in place of a TNC at much lower cost
- * TNCs and Sound Cards can be used to transmit digital data using Outpost and Winlink Packet or VARA-FM
- * Curt gave a second presentation on the current HF setup in the GCECG Radio Room
- * Showed an image of the HF area of the Radio Room including the Kenwood TS-750, Ameritron ALS-600S 600W HF Amplifier and MFJ-994B 600W Auto Antenna Tuner
- * The discussion focused on the integration of the tuner with the TS-750 so pressing the AT Tune button on the TS-750 will tune both the radio and the tuner, producing a very low effective SWR and good operation with the amplifier.
- * One important note is the amplifier must either be powered off or in the Standby Mode before engaging the tuning process

* The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

June 25, 2020 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 8:05 p.m.
Members: 11 Visitors: 2 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * Initiated the fourth GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting using WebEx 7:00 p.m.
 - * 11 members and 2 guests logged into the Google Meet video conference application on the internet.
- * Discussions on the net
 - * Review of Past Events
 - * Galveston County CCTA Table Top Exercise
 - * Upcoming Events
 - * Saturday, July 4, Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run, starts at 7:00 a.m. at the Wiesmer Budweiser Distributor Facility in Mont Belvieu. It will be finished by around 11:00 a.m. with lots of food and drink at the finish line.

If you would like to support this Fun Run, have questions or wish additional information about it, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

- * Discussions and Training Presentations
 - * Results of Galveston County CCTA Exercise on June 16, 2020
 - * County wide EOCs participated in simulations of terrorist attacks and similar disasters impacting Galveston County.
 - * One of the situations was to state that all normal means of communication within the County had been disrupted, so amateur radio would be required to transmit messages to the County Emergency Management Facility.
 - * Three of the GCECG Emergency Go-Kits were checked out and issued to:
 - * Kelvin Hickman, K5KGS who participated from the Kemah EOC
 - * Don Deyo, K5MSF, who participated from the Galveston EOC
 - * Tom Davies, KA5UNH, who participated from the League City EOC, but used LC's EMCOMM equipment
 - * Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, who participated from the Santa Fe EOC
 - * Kelvin, Tom and I established solid FM audio links from our location direct to the GCECG 145.410 MHz repeater
 - * Don established FM audio communications with the TARS repeater, 147.140 MHz
 - * Kelvin and Tom established solid Winlink Peer-to-Peer (P2P) digital links with the WR5GC digi at 145.050 MHz
 - * Don and I were not able to establish digital communications with the WR5GC digi and ended up verbally transmitting the messages from the EOCs we were supporting the radio room.
 - * At this point, there are more investigations required to determine why Don and I were unable to establish digital communications despite solid signal strengths. Current theory is we had setup issues between the laptops and D710s
 - * John Paterson, KC5LAA, presented an introduction to VARA-FM that included two short videos
 - * VARA-FM is a new modulation scheme that can be used to transmit Winlink information at a much higher rate than FM alone provides. Because of its improved signal efficiency of regular FM, it is starting to be used for emergency communications in many counties in south Texas.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

May 28, 2020 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 8:05 p.m.
Members: 14 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * Initiated the third GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting using WebEx 7:00 p.m.

* 14 members and 1 guest logged into the WebEx discussions and presentations on the internet.

* Discussions on the net

* Review of Past Events

- * GCECG Virtual Monthly meeting on April 23 via Zoom with Exercise Yankee One
- * Quarantine and isolation caused by the COVID-19 virus

* Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, May 30, ARES national exercise with the American Red Cross to conduct a communication exercise with amateur radio. GCECG will participate if the Galveston County Red Cross plans to participate in the exercise.
- * Saturday, July 4, Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run, starts at 7:00 a.m. at the Wiesmer Budweiser Distributor Facility in Mont Belvieu. It will be finished by around 11:00 a.m. with lots of food and drink at the finish line.

If you would like to support any of the Fun Run, have questions or wish additional information about it, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

* Discussions and Training Presentations

- * Curt led a discussion about the American Red Cross-ARES exercise scheduled for Saturday, May 30. The exercise will start with a GCECG net being activated on the GCECG VHF repeater starting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. For GCECG members responding to the net with the ability and willingness to participate, the exercise will consist of members who have Winlink digital VHF capabilities at their home stations acting as shelter communicators during an event that disrupted all normal means of communication. Participating hams will be requested to merge a text file provided the Red Cross into a specific Red Cross template in the Winlink template library, then transmit that filled out form to the Galveston County EMF radio room via Winlink VHF Peer to Peer. Members in the radio room will then forward the forms to the N5WAJ repeater, again via Winlink VHF Peer to Peer, in NW Houston where the forms will be forwarded from there to the State Operations Center in Austin.
- * Don Deyo, N5MSF, presented a detailed introduction to a relatively new communications HF digital software called VARA-HF. Contact me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net if you would like for me to forward you a copy of that presentation.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

April 23, 2020 Start: 7:00 p.m. End: 7:56 p.m.
Members: 11 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

* Initiated the second GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting Net on the 145.410 MHz Repeater at 7:00 p.m.

- * 11 members and 1 guest checked into the net and/or the WebEx presentation on the internet.

* Discussions on the net

* Review of Past Events

- * GCECG Virtual Monthly meeting on March 26
- * Quarantine and isolation caused by the COVID-19 virus

* Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, May 9, St. Mary's 1K & 5K Fun Runs starting at 0800 at the CCISD Education Village, 4050 Village Way, League City
- * Houston's Extreme Weather Expo had been scheduled for May 30, but the scheduled date has now been moved to August 29. If you volunteered to support the Expo on May 30 and can now support on Aug 29, please contact Andrew Downing, WB5TAD to re-sign up
- * Saturday, May 30, ARES national exercise with the American Red Cross to conduct a communication exercise with amateur radio. GCECG will participate if the Galveston County Red Cross plans to participate in the exercise.
- * Sunday, June 7, Sylvan Beach Triathlon/Duathlon, which starts at 7:00 a.m. at Sylvan Beach Park in La Porte. Hams only support the run portions of the two events.
- * Saturday, July 4, Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run, starts at 7:00 a.m. at the Wiesmer Budweiser Distributor Facility in Mont Belvieu. It will be finished by around 11:00 a.m. with lots of food and drink at the finish line.
- * Saturday, July 11, Texas City Hamfest will take place at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City starting at 8:00 a.m. In addition to the tables of amateur radio equipment for sale, there will be door prizes, left foot CW and fox hunt contests, technical discussions, amateur radio test session and an auction run by the Houston Vintage Radio Association. The fun is over around 2 p.m.
- * Saturday, July 18, Lunar Landing 5K Fun Run will start at 7:00 a.m. at the Clear Lake City Community Association Building. It will be finished by 9:30 a.m. with food and drinks at the finish area.

If you would like to support any of the Fun Runs, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

- * The official part of the meeting ended at 7:26 p.m. The training for this meeting was execution of Exercise Yankee developed by Carl Martin, KF5MED. Exercise Yankee began immediately after the end of the official part of the meeting.

The following information is the set up and final results of Exercise Yankee:

Four Information Operators had previously volunteered to collect data from Field Operators. Field Operators were GCECG members who chose to participate in Exercise Yankee.

Information Operators

Curt Tallman	WB5UZZ	GCECG UHF	442.225
Carl Martin	KF5MED	GCECG VHF	145.410
Joe Wileman	AA5OP	Tidelands VHF	147.140
John Paterson	KC5LAA	Winlink or Outpost	145.050 digital

At 7:26 p.m., the starting time of the exercise, the Information Operators were on their assigned frequencies waiting for calls from the Field Operators who were asked to provide the following information:

1. Field Operator Call sign
2. Field Operator First Name
3. Field Operator City Location
4. Field Operator data item Zebra which defined verbally at the beginning of the exercise as the first two letters of the Field Operator's vehicle license plate.

Information Operators read back these four data items to Field Operators.

Field Operators were also encouraged to send a digital message, with the same four pieces of information, to KC5LAA (John Paterson) either using Winlink, or using Outpost at his mailbox, LAABOX via GC or other suitable path.

Results of Exercise Yankee:

10 GCECG members agree to participate WB5UZZ KC5LAA AA5OP KF5MED KB5PGY KT1AA KG5PVP K5KGH KA5UNH K5MSF

Four of these were the Information Operators so their "check-in" was optional.

On 145.41 two voice check-ins	KG5PVP, WB5UZZ
On 442.225 four voice check-ins	KF5MED, KB5PGY, KA5UNH, KC5LAA,
On 447.140 one voice check-in	K5MSF
On 145.050 five digital check-ins	AA5OP, KB5PGY, KG5PVP, K5KGH, KT1AA

Exercise Yankee ended at 7:56 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

March 26, 2020	Start: 1900	End: 2040
Members: 14	Visitors: 1	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- * Initiated the first GCECG Virtual Monthly Meeting Net on the 145.410 MHz Repeater at 7:00 p.m.
 - * 14 members and 1 guest checked into the net and/or the WebEx presentation on the internet.
- * Discussions on the net
- * Review of Past Events
 - * Houston Hamfest
 - * Cancellations caused by the COVID-19 virus
- * Upcoming Events
 - * Saturday, May 9, St. Mary's 1K & 5K Fun Runs starting at 0800 at the CCISD Education Village, 4050 Village Way, League City
 - * Saturday, May 30, Houston's Extreme Weather Expo, starting 7:00 a.m. at the George R. Brown Convention Center

If you would like to support the St. Mary's Fun Runs, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics conducted via WebEx on the internet:

- * Rob Bailey, WM8S, provided a presentation entitled An Introduction to Packet Radio
- * The presentation included a description of Packet Radio, how the data flows from computer through TNC to the radio and the reverse trip.

For a copy of the presentation, contact me at cgtallman@earthlink.net

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2020 hours.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

February 27, 2020	Start: 1900	End: 2040
Members: 15	Visitors: 1	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

* Discussions

* Review of Past Events

- CERT Rodeo
- * Orange Hamfest

* Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, February 29, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club's Home Brew Special Interest Group, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa restaurant in League City
- * Saturday, March 7, Houston Hamfest starting at 0800 at the Ft. Bend County Fair Grounds
- * Friday, March 13, Seabrook Lucky Trails 1K & 5K Fun Run start at 1700 at Meador Park in Seabrook
- * Saturday, March 14, Seabrook Lucky Trails 1/2, 3/4 and Full marathon at Meador Park in Seabrook
- * Sunday, March 15, Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K, 1/4 and 1/2 marathon at Meador Park in Seabrook
- * Saturday, March 28, Aliens vx. Astronauts 1K & 5K Fun Runs starting at 0800 at Gilruth Center adjacent to JSC
- * Saturday, April 11, Yuri's Night 5K starting at 0715 at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church, in Nassau Bay
- * Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3, MS-150 Bike Ride from Houston to College Station via La Grange
Contact andrew.davis2@nmss.org to volunteer
- * Saturday, May 9, St. Mary's 1K & 5K Fun Runs starting at 0800 at the CCISD Education Village, 4050 Village Way, League City

If you would like to support any of the upcoming running events, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: <mailto:cgtallman@earthlink.net>.

Discussion and Training Topics:

- * Rob Bailey, WM8S, and Deputy Director of GCECG, demonstrated connecting a Panasonic Toughbook laptop PC to the digital input connector on a Go-Kit Kenwood TM-710GA UHF/VHF mobile transceiver. He then showed how to transmit and receive information digitally using Winlink and Packet (Outpost) software. This minimizes the need to send information in, for example, a STAR Resource Request form verbally over a radio link, which requires much more time than the same information transmitted digitally.
- * The meeting also included a discussion of the differences in capabilities between the Terminal Node Controller (TNC) in the TM-710GA and Kantronics KPC-3 Plus TNC connected to a Kenwood TM-261A in the GCECG Radio Room. The main difference of concern appears to be the packet length that each can transmit without buffer overflow, with the buffer in the D710 TNC being about one half the size of the buffer in the Kantronics TNC. This can lead to extended transmit times and possible data corruption if operating rules are not developed and provided to all Go-Kit operators.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2040 hours.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director

January 23, 2020	Start: 1900	End: 2040
Members: 21	Visitors: 1	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

* Discussions

* Review of Past Events

- Thanksgiving
- * Christmas
- * New Years

* Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, January 25, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club's Home Brew Special Interest Group, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa restaurant in League City
- * Saturday, February 8, CERT Rodeo at the Harris County Fire and Sheriff's Training Academy in Humble. Provide area communications for area CERT teams competing in 10 skill categories.
- * Saturday, February 22, Orange hamfest starting at 0800 at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center in Orange Tx.
- * Saturday, March 7, Houston Hamfest starting at 0800 at the Ft. Bend County Fair Grounds
- * Friday, March 13, Seabrook Lucky Trails 1K & 5K Fun Run start at 1700 at Meador Park in Seabrook
- * Saturday, March 14, Seabrook Lucky Trails 1/2, 3/4 and Full marathon at Meador Park in Seabrook
- * Sunday, March 15, Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K, 1/4 and 1/2 marathon at Meador Park in Seabrook

If you would like to support the upcoming running event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

- * Dan Reilly, National Weather Service (NWS), provided training on the use and application of NWSChat software used to provide the NWS a conduit to receive and disseminate weather information to government agencies and media through the internet and amateur radio operators.
- * Curt discussed information received via email from Jeff Walter, ARES STX Section Emergency Coordinator, requesting ARES members to log into the ARES STX Info Depot application, register if never logged in previously, then enter their ARES and FEMA training and course records into a database available in the Depot.
- * Curt distributed updated identification badges to GCECG and ARES members in attendance. Previous badges expired on December 31, 2019. The new badges will expire on December 31, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2040 hours.

These minutes were prepared by
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ,
Director,

Galveston County Emergency Communications Group Meeting Minutes-October 24, 2019

Start: 1900 End: 2030
Members: 13 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

* Discussions

* Review of Past Events

- St Thomas 5K Family Fun Run
- Space City 10 Miler
- Bike Around the Bay
- Galveston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
- Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air
- Wings Over Houston Air Show

* Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, October 26, Boo Dash 5K Family Fun Run
- Saturday, October 26, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group Monthly Breakfast
- * Sunday, November 17, La Porte By The Bay Half Marathon

If you would like to support the upcoming running event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

* Discussion and Training Topics:

- Discussion of the reconnection of the HF coaxial cable to the HF Dipole antenna located behind the Emergency Management Building.
 - The HF coaxial antenna cable was found to be disconnected from the HF antenna after the Galveston County Parks department removed all the trees that were growing up into the dipole antenna located about 30 feet above the ground. While there is no direct evidence, I believe the Parks Department workers disconnected the cable from the antenna because it was in their way while removing the trees. Before he left, Christopher Boyce requested the cable be reconnected to the antenna and that happened on Tuesday, October 22. John Paterson, KC5LAA, supported the reconnection activity by riding in a man lift bucket the 30 feet up to the antenna, cleaning and mating the PL-259 and SO-239 connectors and securing them properly to the pole.
- * Discussion of the new Ameritron ALS 600S 600W HF amplifier
 - * The new Ameritron ALS 600S amplifier procured by Galveston County arrived a couple of weeks ago, but has not been usable until the HF antenna was reconnected (see the paragraph above). The amplifier has now been installed and connected to the Kenwood TS-570. Testing has shown that the SWR of the reconnected antenna is satisfactory across the 80, 40 and 20 meter bands and the amplifier will output 350+ Watts SSB with 40W input from the Kenwood.
- Curt mentioned that the procurement of the Bridgecom Systems BCR-40U UHF repeater, requested to be procured by Galveston County to replace the aging GE Master UHF repeater currently in the radio room, is pending budgetary funding.
- Proposal to move hosting of the GCECG Yahoo Group to Groups.io.
 - Joe Wileman, AA5OP brought up that Yahoo has served notice that they will no longer provide all the functions available to the groups they host, a discussion of the ramifications of the Yahoo announcement led to a proposal to transfer the GCECG Group to Groups.io from Yahoo Groups. Bo Thomas, KT1AA, agreed to research the procedure for making the transition.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2030 hours.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

September 26, 2019 Start: 1900 End: 2040
Start: 1900 End: 2040
Members: 13 Visitors: 2 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

- * Discussions
 - * Review of Past Events
 - None this last month
- * Upcoming Events
 - * Saturday, October 5, St. Thomas 5K Fun Run in Nassau Bay
 - * Sunday, October 6, Space City 10 Miler which starts and ends at UHCL campus.
 - * Sunday 13, Bike Around the Bay
 - * Saturday, October 19, Galveston's Toughest 10K
 - * Saturday, October 19 & Sunday, October 20, Wings Over Houston Air Show and Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air
 - * Sunday, November 17, La Porte By The Bay Half Marathon

If you would like to support the upcoming running event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cg tallman@earthlink.net.

- * Discussion and Training Topics:
 - * Discussion of GCECG members responses to being activated.
 - * Prior to a severe storm
 - * Use of Blackboard Connect (software application) to send phone and Ethernet notification to GCECG members after approval or request from GC EMC or his deputy.
 - * Request members respond via GCEOM VHF or UHF repeaters to specify if able to support the activation.
 - * Those who can support will be given instructions on the type, location and time of support needed.
 - * May involve use of GC Go-Kits.
 - * Current plan is to have 4 hams in radio room and 4 at Sante Fe high school to pair up with staff from cities and agencies that evacuated to the high school to ride out the storm.
 - * After a severe storm or other emergency that requires amateur radio support
 - * Will use Blackboard Connect, cell systems or landline telephone if available
 - * GCECG members should monitor the GCEOM repeaters for instructions if other communications not available.
 - * Activation after an emergency may involve use of personal radio equipment, personal bug-out kit

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2100 hours.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director
Galveston County Emergency Communications Group Meeting Minutes-August 22, 2019

August 22, 2019	Start: 1900	End: 2100
Members: 13	Visitors: 0	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

- * Discussions
 - * Review of Past Events
 - None this last month
- * Upcoming Events
 - * Saturday, August 24, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club's Home Brew Special Interest Group, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa restaurant in League City
 - * Saturday, October 5, St. Thomas 5K Fun Run in Nassau Bay
 - * Sunday, October 6, Space City 10 Miler which starts and ends at UHCL campus.
 - * Sunday 13, Bike Around the Bay
 - * Saturday, October 19, Galveston's Toughest 10K
 - * Saturday, October 19 & Sunday, October 20, Wings Over Houston Air Show and Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air
 - * Sunday, November 17, La Porte By The Bay ½ Marathon

If you would like to support the upcoming running event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cg tallman@earthlink.net.

- * Discussion and Training Topics:
 - * Discussion of radio equipment that Galveston County Office of Emergency Management may be able to procure for use in the GCECG radio room.
 - * The equipment includes, in priority order:
 - * An Ameritron ALS 600 600W solid state HF amplifier to replace the very old hybrid amplifier currently in the radio room that is very difficult to operate properly when the operators may be operating under significant pressure and stress during a real event.
 - * A Kenwood TS-590GS HF transceiver. This is the current version of the Kenwood TS-570 currently in the radio room and is used for SSB and PACTOR III communications. The new TS-590 would be used either as a backup to the TS-570, or, if another coaxial antenna cable or hard line can be run from the radio room to the outside of the back of the building.
 - * A Bridgecom Systems 40W UHF amateur radio repeater to replace the one currently in the radio room. The current UHF repeater is estimated to be between 30 and 40 years old and may not be reliable if used at

- a high duty cycle rate during an event.
- * There was also a discussion about the ability to run one or more coaxial cables or hard lines from the radio room to the back of the building and then exit the building along with other antenna cables that connect to the antenna tower. Another HF antenna is highly desired to allow simultaneous operation on SSB and PACTOR III during an exercise or event, but Rob Bailey, Mike Scott, John Paterson and Curt will work together to determine the best solution for a second HF antenna.
- * Rob Bailey provided a familiarization presentation on the Motorola APX-6000 digital trunking HT transceiver. Most of the Galveston County cities and agencies, along with emergency first responders, use this type of radio on the TXWARN and related systems used in Texas. It is, therefore, highly likely that we may be asked to operate this type of radio with, or for, them during a real event.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2100 hours.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

Galveston County Emergency Communications Group Meeting Minutes-August 22, 2019

July 25, 2019 Start: 1900 End: 2040
 Members: 11 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
 Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

* Discussions

* Review of Past Events

- Texas Bud Heat Wave 5K and 5 Mile Run
- Texas City Hamfest
- JSC Engineering Division 50 Year Reunion
- Lunar Landing 5K

* Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, July 27, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club's Home Brew Special Interest Group, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa restaurant in League City
- * Sunday, September 15, Houston's Toughest 10K Run in Kemah and Seabrook
- * Saturday, October 5, St. Thomas 5K Fun Run in Nassau Bay
- * Sunday, October 6, Space City 10 Miler which starts and ends at UHCL campus.
- * Saturday October 11 & Sunday 12, Bike Around the Bay
- * Saturday, October 19, Galveston's Toughest 10K
- * Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20, Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air
- * Friday, October 18; Saturday, October 19; and Sunday, October 20, Wings Over Houston Air Show

If you would like to support the upcoming running event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

- * Discussion of the problems we can encounter when trying to use the Kenwood D710 built-in TNC for transmitting Packet and Winlink communications along with possible solutions - Steve Hester
- * Steve discussed the limitations of the D710 TNC which is really optimized for APRS and short packet communications. This means that some Packet and Winlink communications with long packets can cause issues with the TNC data buffer that can occur if one or more of the stations in a net is not using a D710 transceiver.
- * A Kantronics KPC 3+ TNC is a technically sound, but expensive, solution if one is purchased for each of the 12 Go-Kits.
- * There are a number of sound card solutions that are less expensive than the KPC 3+, but generally require potentiometer adjustments to transmit and receive levels that can be a hassle during the pressure of working during an event.
- * Some software only solutions were discussed that used the soundcard in the laptop, but this also requires level setups that need to be sorted out in advance.
- * Steve agreed to do some additional research and come back with additional options and recommendations.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director, Galveston County Emergency Communications Group

June 27, 2019 Start: 1900 End: 2040
 Members: 16 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

- Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

* Discussions

* Review of Past Events

- Houston's Extreme Weather Expo
- Sylvan Beach Duathlon and Triathlon
- ARRL Field Day

* Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, May 25, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club's Home Brew Special Interest Group, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa restaurant in League City
- * Thursday, July 4, Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run at Wismer Distributing located in Mont Belvieu.
- * Saturday, July 13, Texas City Hamfest at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City
- * Saturday, July 20, JSC Engineering Division 50th Anniversary celebration of first moon landing.

- * Sunday, July 21, Lunar Landing 5K Fun Run in Clear Lake City
- * Sunday, September 15, Houston's Toughest 10K Run in Kemah and Seabrook
- * Saturday, October 5, St. Thomas 5K Fun Run in Nassau Bay
- * Sunday, October 6, Space City 10 Miler which starts and ends at UHCL campus.

If you would like to support the upcoming running event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

- * Discussion of the UTMB Exercise held on Thursday, June 20. For Hams, exercise was to transmit data related to evacuating patients, from UTMB in Galveston to Austin via the GCECG radio room.
- * Those supporting were Kelvin Hickman, K5KGH, John Paterson, KC5LAA, Tom Davies, KA6UNH and Wayne Johnson, K5OB, UTMB Staff Member.
- * Kelvin and Wayne set up 2M communications via Kelvin's Kenwood D710 mounted in his car located on the top of a multistory parking garage on the UTMB campus.
- * Voice radio communications was established between the parking garage and John and Tom in the GCOEM radio room. Digital communications was never able to be established.
- * Kelvin transmitted the practice evacuation information verbally over the 2M link between UTMB and the GC OEM radio room.
- * John typed the information that had been received verbally. He and Tom were unable to establish HF communications link to Austin, so sent the information to Austin as a Winlink attachment transmitted via 2M to a digital repeater in Houston that is coupled to the internet and sent the desired information to Austin. Ultimately, a response from Austin was received via the internet to complete the exercise
- * Lessons learned included the need to verify a working digi in Galveston to allow digital transmission of information from UTMB to the GC OEM radio room. There is a need to UTMB to set up a radio system that will allow them to communicate before and after a storm without having a personal car on the roof of the parking garage. And finally, GCECG members need to investigate the inability to communicate with Austin via HF radio. Trees touching the dipole antenna and lack of a useful linear amplifier are two situations that need to be resolved.
- * Introduction to the Panasonic CF-30 Toughbook laptop computer.
- * Houston/Harris County donated 7 Panasonic CF-30 Toughbooks to Galveston County OEM in 2017. The plan since then has been to use them with the Emergency Communications Go-Kits to enable digital transmissions between Go-Kits in the field and the GC OEM radio room.
- * The plan is to use the Kenwood D710GA programming cable to connect between the D710GA and the Toughbook to transmit digital data using either Outpost Packet or Winlink Express.
- * Curt demonstrated that the Toughbooks have now been upgraded from their original Xp operating system to Windows 7. Additional software loaded onto the machines includes Outpost, Winlink Express, Microsoft Office 2007, Libre Office 6.2, 7-Zip, Firefox, Google Chrome, and VLC.
- * An additional session will be required to actually connect a Toughbook to a Go-Kit and demonstrate the transmission of digital information between the Go-Kit and the radio room.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director, Galveston County Emergency Communications Group

May 23, 2019	Start: 1900	End: 2040
Members: 13	Visitors: 3	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

- * Review of Past Events
 - MS-150 Bike ride to Austin
 - Aliens vs. Astronauts
- * Upcoming Events
 - * Saturday, May 25, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club's Home Brew Special Interest Group, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa restaurant in League City
 - * Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28, MS-150 Bike Ride to Austin
 - * Saturday, May 11, St. Mary's 5K Fun Run at Mossman Elementary /Education Village in League City
 - * Saturday, May 11, Aliens vs. Astronauts 5K fun run at Gilruth Center at JSC
 - * Saturday, June 8, Houston Hurricane Workshop at George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston.
 - * Sunday, June 9, Sylvan Beach Triathlon and Duathlon, at Sylvan Beach Park in La Porte
 - * Saturday & Sunday, June 22 & 23, ARRL Field Day. Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club will be at the Gilruth Center off Space Center Blvd and adjacent to JSC. Texas City Amateur Radio Society will be at Highland Bayou Park in La Marque.
 - * Thursday, July 4, Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run at Wismer Distributing located in Mont Belvieu.
 - * Saturday, July 13, Texas City Hamfest at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City

If you would like to support the upcoming running event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

- * Discussion and Training Topics:
 - * Curt displayed and discussed another small amateur radio go kit (see minutes from the April GCECG meeting for information about the previous kit) featuring a Kenwood D710GA 50W dual band mobile transmitter programmed with the identical code plug as the same type Kenwood transceivers in the GCECG radio room and the GCECG Go-Kits. An MFJ 12V, 25W digital power supply is mounted in the case with the transceiver and Anderson Power Pole 12V

distribution block. The case for the kit is a renegade from a dumpster that previously held a VHS camcorder. It is large enough to hold the electronics and 120V and 12V power cables. The same 16" tool bag with a lawn tractor lead acid battery and additional tools and cables can be used with either kit.

- * Rob Bailey, W8MS, and John Paterson, KC5LAA, and Curt demonstrated connecting a Panasonic Toughbook laptop that was programmed with Outpost and Winlink Express software to one of the GCECG Go-Kits. This included showing the cable which will be in each Go-Kit that has a USB connector on one end and a DIN plug on the other that connects to a mating jack in the back of the D710 control head. It was explained that due to the difficulty of the accessing the back of the control heads in the Go-Kits, the cables will be preinstalled and wire-tied in the Kits prior to issuing the kits for exercises or events. The operation of the Kits with the laptops was demonstrated by sending test Outpost messages to the GCBOX digital mail box in the radio room. Detailed instructions for performing the setup and using the software will be included in each Kit prior to being issued.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

April 25, 2019	Start: 1900	End: 2040
Members: 11	Visitors: 1	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

o Review of Past Events

- On The Road For A Reason 5K Fun Run

o Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, April 27, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club's Home Brew Special Interest Group, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa restaurant in League City
- * Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28, MS-150 Bike Ride to Austin
- * Saturday, May 11, St. Mary's 5K Fun Run at Mossman Elementary /Education Village in League City
- * Saturday, May 11, Aliens vs. Astronauts 5K fun run at Gilruth Center at JSC
- * Saturday, June 8, Houston Hurricane Workshop at George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston.
- * Sunday, June 9, Sylvan Beach Triathlon and Duathlon, at Sylvan Beach Park in La Porte
- * Saturday & Sunday, June 22 & 23, ARRL Field Day. Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club will be at the Gilruth Center off Space Center Blvd and adjacent to JSC. Texas City Amateur Radio Society will be at Highland Bayou Park in La Marque.
- * Thursday, July 4, Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run at Wismer Distributing located in Mont Belvieu.
- * Saturday, July 13, Texas City Hamfest at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City

If you would like to support the upcoming running event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

o Discussion and Training Topics:

* Curt displayed and discussed a small amateur radio go kit featuring a Powerwerx DB-750X VHF/UHF 50W dual band mobile transmitter programmed with regional VHF/UHF repeater, National Weather Service, Multiuse Radio Service, Marine and GMRS frequencies. An MFJ 12V, 25W digital power supply is mounted in the case with the transceiver and Anderson Power Pole 12V distribution block. The case for the kit is about the size of a standard brief case that is large enough to also include an 18" dual band antenna and 120V and 12V power cables. A 16" tool bag with a lawn tractor lead acid battery and additional tools and cables complete the kit.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

March 28, 2019	Start: 1900	End: 2040
Members: 11	Visitors: 1	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

* Discussions

o Review of Past Events

- On The Road For A Reason 5K Fun Run

o Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, April 27, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club's Home Brew Special Interest Group, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa restaurant in League City
- * Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28, MS-150 Bike Ride to Austin
- * Saturday, May 11, St. Mary's 5K Fun Run at Mossman Elementary /Education Village in League City
- * Saturday, May 11, Aliens vs. Astronauts 5K fun run at Gilruth Center at JSC
- * Saturday, June 8, Houston Hurricane Workshop at George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston.
- * Sunday, June 9, Sylvan Beach Triathlon and Duathlon, at Sylvan Beach Park in La Porte
- * Saturday & Sunday, June 22 & 23, ARRL Field Day. Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club will be at the Gilruth Center off Space Center Blvd and adjacent to JSC. Texas City Amateur Radio Society will be at Highland Bayou Park in La Marque.
- * Thursday, July 4, Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run at Wismer Distributing located in Mont Belvieu.
- * Saturday, July 13, Texas City Hamfest at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City

If you would like to support the upcoming running event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

* Curt displayed and discussed a small amateur radio go kit featuring a Powerwerx DB-750X VHF/UHF 50W dual band mobile transmitter programmed with regional VHF/UHF repeater, National Weather Service, Multiuse Radio Service, Marine and GMRS frequencies. An MFJ 12V, 25W digital power supply is mounted in the case with the transceiver and Anderson Power Pole 12V distribution block. The case for the kit is about the size of a standard brief case that is large enough to also include an 18" dual band antenna and 120V and 12V power cables. A 16" tool bag with a lawn tractor lead acid battery and additional tools and cables complete the kit.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

February 28, 2019	Start: 1900	End: 2040
Members: 15	Visitors: 2	Others: 2

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Christopher Boyce, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator and Scott Tafuri, Deputy Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended the meeting.

o Review of Past Events

- * CERT Rodeo
 - Very cold, but not muddy like last year. Team competitions and communications went well.

o Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, March 2, On the Road for a Reason 5K, starts at 8:00 a.m. at Clear View HS in Webster
- * The weekend of Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathons on March 15, 16 and 17 at Meador Park in Seabrook. The Friday 1K and 5K start at 5:30 p.m. while the marathon on Saturday and half marathon on Sunday both start at 7:15 a.m.
- * Saturday, April 13, Aliens vs. Astronauts 5K Fun Run, Starts 8 - 9 a.m. at the Gilruth Center. Participants run on JSC property, so need as many JSC badged operators as possible.
- * Saturday, April 20, Yuri's Night 5K & 10K Fun Run, starts around 7:15 a.m. at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Nassau Bay. Participants run on Nassau Bay residential streets.

If you would like to support the upcoming running event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

- * Embedding amateur radio operators in GC Cities and Agencies prior to a major storm or other event
- * Amateur radio volunteers must consider significant others and pets.
- * Most cities and agencies accepting a ham will be willing to consider supporting a significant-other, especially if that person can help with tasks at the EOC during the event.
- * Cities and agencies in Galveston County who are the most likely candidates for amateur radio support:
 - * Bayou Vista, Clear Lake Shores, Dickinson, Friendswood, Galveston, Hitchcock, Jamaica Beach, Kemah, La Marque, League City, San Leon, Santa Fe, Texas City, Tiki Island, GC Health District, College of the Mainland, UTMB - Galveston, Galveston Water Department, Bolivar Peninsular.
- * The EM staff will act as a liaison between the cities/agencies desiring amateur radio support and the hams willing to volunteer.
- * Hams and cities/agencies that pair up should meet periodically (at least once every two months) so both the ham and the personnel at the assigned location will become familiar with each other.
- o The served city/agency learns what skills the ham brings to the situation
- o The ham knows what facilities and support to expect from the city/agency and knows what optional Go Kit equipment will be needed at the served city/agency site.
- * Training opportunities
 - * WebEOC - Annual training at GCECG March meeting.
 - * Any member who does not have a valid log-in to WebEOC needs to get a request to Alyssa at least 2 weeks prior to the March meeting - If you have a log-in, make sure it still works.
 - * Google Docs Situation Documents - April GCECG meeting

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

January 24, 2019	Start: 1900	End: 2035
Members: 15	Visitors: 2	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Christopher Boyce, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended the meeting.

o Review of Past Events

- * Did not discuss past events since last events occurred last September and October with nothing of special interest to discuss

o Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, January 26, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group monthly breakfast at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.
 - * Saturday, February 9, CERT Rodeo in Humble, Tx. Provide amateur radio communications support during the CERT teams competition.
 - * Saturday, March 2, On the Road for a Reason 5K which starts and ends at the Clear View HS in Webster
 - * The weekend of Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathons on March 15, 16 and 17 at Meador Park in Seabrook. The Friday 1K and 5K start at 5:30 p.m. while the marathon on Saturday and half marathon on Sunday both start at 7:15 a.m.
-

If you would like to support the upcoming running event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

- * Meet Chris Boyce, our new GC Emergency Management Coordinator
An Extra Class amateur radio operator

Training opportunities

- o WebEOC
- o Google Docs Situation Documents
- o Go Kits
 - * Current status and plans for completion/upgrades
 - * Training
 - * Embedding with GC cities and agencies prior to a severe storm
 - * A presentation by Rob Bailey, W8MS, on amateur radio over the internet, a good way to be able to have a conversation with other amateurs around the world without getting your home owner's association upset.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2035 hours.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

September 27, 2018 Start: 1900 End: 2035

Members: 11 Visitors: 1 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended the meeting.

Discussions

Review of Past Events

Houston's Toughest 10K Fun Run

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 29, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group monthly breakfast at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.

Saturday, October 6, St. Thomas Family 5K fun run starts at 8:00 a.m. at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Nassau Bay.

Saturday & Sunday, October 6, 7, ARES Fall Simulated Emergency Training for 2018. Practice embedding process by issuing Emergency Go-Kits and having participants set them up in their homes and practice passing voice and possible digital traffic.

Sunday, October 7, Space City 10 Miler starts at 7:00 a.m. at the UHCL campus. Runners make 1 loop from the campus to Bay Area Blvd, Redbluff, Kirby, NASA Rd 1, Space Center Blvd, Middlebrook, then back to the campus. Need 1 ham per mile to adequately cover the course.

Saturday, October 20, Galveston's Toughest 10K. Starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Galveston Daily News Building. Runners cross the Galveston Causeway to the Tiki Island exit and back.

Fri, Sat, Sun October 19, 20, 21, Wings over Houston Air Show at Ellington Field. To get additional information and sign up to provide communications support, contact George E. Levandoski at George@hohi.net.

Saturday, Sunday, October 20, 21, Bike Around the Bay. Riders go down east side of Galveston Bay to Bolivar Peninsular on Saturday, spending the night in Galveston. They ride up the west side of the bay on Sunday toward Baytown. To volunteer for communications support, contact Rick Broussard at N5KJN@brsrd.com.

Saturday, Sunday, October 20, 21, Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air. Contact any Scout or Scout Leader to volunteer amateur radio support.

Sunday, November 18, LaPorte By The Bay Half Marathon. Starts at 7:00 a.m. at Sylvan Beach Park. Ends at the 5 Corners Park in LaPorte after the runners cross the Fred Hartman Bridge and return.

If you would like to support the upcoming event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

GCECG Web site. Mike Scott and Rob Bailey discussed that GCECG.org website domain expired a few days ago and it will cost \$20 per year to renew it. The members present agreed that the GCECG website is essential to GCECG members, so \$100 was contributed by several members so the domain could be renewed by Mike Scott for 5 years.

Curt discussed a document that was quoting Riley Hollingsworth that had been posted on the web. The document stated that using phonetics for your amateur radio callsign is not legal. On the other hand, a review of FCC rule 97.119, Station Identification, Use of a phonetic alphabet as an aid for correct station identification is encouraged. Some of the members present researched the topic on the web and found the document posted was meant to be a joke.

Curt discussed an FCC Public Notice that is an Enforcement Advisory that stated that two-way VHF/UHF radios may not be imported, advertised, or sold in the US unless they comply with the Commission's rules. The FCC has observed that a growing number of conventional retailers and websites advertise and sell low-cost two-way VHF/UHF radios that do not comply with the FCC's rules. Such radios must be authorized by the FCC prior to being imported, advertised, sold, or operated in the US. Specifically, some of these radios can be modified to transmit on channels outside of those approved for the licensee or operate in wide-band mode on channels only authorized for narrow-band operation. The members present discussed the advisory but did not come up with full agreement as to whether the Wouxin or Baofeng radios meet any or all of the FCC requirements.

Curt discussed the planned actions for the ARES Fall Simulated Emergency Training exercise scheduled for Saturday, October 6. The actions will include activating GCECG via Black Board Connect, having members check in on the GCOEM repeater (145.410 MHz) and indicate if they can, or cannot participate in the net either using GCOEM Go-Kits or personal radio equipment. Sample STAR Resource forms for subsequent transmission back to the GCOEM Radio Room either verbally or by Packet/Winlink. Other communications between the GCOEM Radio Room and

Austin (Georgetown) and Transtar will also be attempted during the exercise. The two Go-Kits checked out to David Fretz and Carl Martin will be returned to the GCOEM Building after the exercise.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

August 23, 2018 Start: 1900 End: 2035

Members: 12 Visitors: 0 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended the meeting.

Discussions

Review of Past Events

The last Outrigger's 5K Fun Run

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 25, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group monthly breakfast at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.

Sunday, September 16, Houston's Toughest 10K Fun Run starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Kemah Boardwalk. Runners make 2 round trips across the FM 146 bridge.

Saturday, October 6, St. Thomas Family 5K fun run starts at 8:00 a.m. at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Nassau Bay.

Saturday & Sunday, October 6, 7, ARES Fall Simulated Emergency Training for 2018. Practice embedding process by issuing Emergency Go-Kits and having participants set them up in their homes and practice passing voice and possible digital traffic.

Sunday, October 7, Space City 10 Miler starts at 7:00 a.m. at the UHCL campus. Runners make 1 loop from the campus to Bay Area Blvd, Redbluff, Kirby, NASA Rd 1, Space Center Blvd, Middlebrook, then back to the campus. Need 1 ham per mile to adequately cover the course.

Saturday, October 20, Galveston's Toughest 10K. Starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Galveston Daily News Building. Runners cross the Galveston Causeway to the Tiki Island exit and back.

Fri, Sat, Sun October 19, 20, 21, Wings over Houston Air Show at Ellington Field. To get additional information and sign up to provide communications support, contact George E. Levandoski at George@hohi.net.

Saturday, Sunday, October 20, 21, Bike Around the Bay. Riders go down east side of Galveston Bay to Bolivar Peninsular on Saturday, spending the night in Galveston. They ride up the west side of the bay on Sunday toward Baytown. To volunteer for communications support, contact Rick Broussard at N5KJN@brsrd.com.

Saturday, Sunday, October 20, 21, Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air. Contact any Scout or Scout Leader to volunteer amateur radio support.

If you would like to support the upcoming event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics

Familiarization with the contents of the Galveston County Emergency Go-Kits

Six kits were brought from storage to the training room.

The 12 members present at the meeting were paired up with the kits and inventoried the contents of the small tubs and the tool kits that are issued as part of the kits.

The inventory sheets will be updated to reflect the contents found in each kit.

The kits were then repackaged and returned to storage.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

July 26, 2018 Start: 1900 End: 2035

Members: 13 Visitors: 1 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended the meeting.

Discussions

Review of Past Events

Texas Bud Heatwave

Texas City Hamfest

Lunar Rendezvous Festival 5K Fun Run

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 28, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group monthly breakfast at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.

Saturday, August 4, Outrigger's 5K Fun Run which starts at 7:00 a.m. at the Outrigger's Restaurant in Seabrook. Outriggers will serve food and drink to runners and volunteers.

Sunday, September 16, Houston's Toughest 10K Fun Run starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Kemah Boardwalk. Runners make 2 round trips across the FM 146 bridge.

Saturday, October 6, St. Thomas Family 5K fun run starts at 8:00 a.m. at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Nassau Bay.

Sunday, October 7, Space City 10 Miler starts at 7:00 a.m. at the UHCL campus. Runners make 1 loop from the campus to Bay Area Blvd, Redbluff, Kirby, NASA Rd 1, Space Center Blvd, Middlebrook, then back to the campus. Need 1 ham per mile to adequately cover the course.

If you would like to support the upcoming event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics

Familiarization with Motorola APX-6000 hand held 2-way radios- Rob Bailey

Rob discussed:

TxWARN communication system in the Harris and Galveston County areas

Introduction to the Motorola APX-6000 functions and controls

Available Zones within the Houston/Galveston area and the functions they serve.

For a copy of the presentation, contact Curt Tallman at cgtallman@earthlink.net

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

June 28, 2018 Start: 1900 End: 2035

Members: 12 Visitors: 3 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended the meeting.

Discussions

Review of Past Events

Houston's Hurricane Workshop

Sylvan Beach Duathlon and Triathlon

ARRL Field Day

Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 30, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group monthly breakfast at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.

Wednesday, July 4, Texas Bud Heatwave 5K and 5 Mile Run starting at 7:00 a.m. at the Wismer Budweiser Distributing Facility in Mont Belvieu.

Saturday, July 7, Texas City Hamfest starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City. Contests, Door prizes, Amateur License test session and Houston Vintage Radio. Association auction starting around noon.

Saturday, July 14, Lunar Rendezvous 5K starting at 7:00 a.m. at Space Center Houston with most of the running course within Johnson Space Center.

Saturday, August 4, Outrigger's 5K Fun Run which starts at 7:00 a.m. at the Outrigger Restaurant in Seabrook. Outriggers will serve food and drink to runners and volunteers.

If you would like to support the upcoming event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics

Training in the log-in and operation of WebEOC conducted in the Galveston County Emergency operations center by Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator.

WebEOC is software designed to disperse status and situational awareness during an event.

GCECG hams may be asked to input information or disperse information to Emergency Operations Center personnel as needed, so familiarity with the operation of WebEOC is an important requirement for our mission.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

May 24, 2018 Start: 1900 End: 2045

Members: 12 Visitors: 2 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended the meeting.

Discussions

Review of Past Events

St. Mary's 5K Fun Run - An easy run with no issues

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 26, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group monthly breakfast at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.

Saturday, June 2, Houston Hurricane Workshop at George R. Brown Convention Center. Contact George Fletcher, AD5CQ, at gletcher5@att.net to volunteer from 7a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, June 10, Sylvan Beach Duathlon and Triathlon starting at 7:00 a.m. at Sylvan Beach Park in La Porte. Hams will cover only the running portions of the event.

Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24, ARRL Field Day. TARS club at Highland Bayou Park, La Marque while CLARC and JSCARC will be at the Gilruth Center on Space Center Blvd adjacent to JSC.

Wednesday, July 4, Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run will start at 7:00 a.m. at the Wismer Distributing Company now located in Mont Belvieu

Saturday, July 7, Texas City Ham Fest opens at 8:00 a.m. at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City.

If you would like to support the upcoming event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

Training to use laptop computers with GCECG Go-Kits for digital communications - Rob Bailey, WM8S

Four GCECG Go-Kits were set up in the GCOEM Training Room along with 5 Panasonic Toughbooks that had been donated to Galveston County by Houston and Harris County. Rob had previously programmed the laptops with Winlink software and drivers for the TNC in the Kenwood D710 transceivers. Using the draft operations manual Rob has developed, members present set up the Go-Kits to operate on commercial power with a mag-mount antenna. Rob showed how to connect and sync the laptops to the D710 and send a digital message between Go-Kits. The Go-Kits and laptops were then disconnected and all equipment repacked and returned to the storage room.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

April 26, 2018 Start: 1900 End: 2045

Members: 17 Visitors: 1 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended the meeting.

Discussions

Carl Martin, KF5MED, talked about his amateur radio experiences over a two week period in the Los Angeles area. He found that he was welcomed to use local "open" repeaters, but ignored when attending a club meeting at a restaurant. He pointed out the need for all hams to accept each other regardless of differences on how we enjoy the hobby

Review of Past Events

Yuri's Night 5K - The course had a large number of street intersections, causing confusion for at least one runner who ran the course backwards and a number of runners who went the wrong way where the 5K and 10K courses split.

Aliens versus Astronauts 5K - Went off as planned.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 28, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group monthly breakfast at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.

Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, MS-150 Bike Ride to Austin.

Saturday, May 13, St. Mary's 5K Fun Run starts at 8:30 a.m. at the Mossman Elementary/Education Village in League City.

Saturday, June 2, Houston Hurricane Workshop at George R. Brown Convention Center. Contact George Fletcher, AD5CQ, at gletcher5@att.net to volunteer from 7a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, June 10, Sylvan Beach Duathlon and Triathlon starting at 7:00 a.m. at Sylvan Beach Park in La Porte.

Hams will cover only the running portions of the event.

Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24, ARRL Field Day. TARS club at Highland Bayou Park, La Marque while CLARC and JSCARC will be at the Gilruth Center on Space Center Blvd adjacent to JSC.

Wednesday, July 4, Texas Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run will start at 7:00 a.m. at the Wismer Distributing Company now located in Mont Belvieu

Saturday, July 7, Texas City Ham Fest opens at 8:00 a.m. at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City.

If you would like to support the upcoming event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

WebEOC- Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator

WebEOC has not changed significantly since last year, but he will conduct a WebEOC training session during our May GCECG meeting. Each GCECG member will need to have log-in information to effectively participate in the training exercise. Any members who do not have, or cannot remember or find their log-in information for WebEOC will need to contact the GCOEM office to request a new log-in.

FEMA/TX forms - Garret and Curt discussed the ICS-214, -213, 213RR and STAR forms. Curt presented the STAR form template generated for use with Outpost packet software. The template can be used to type a STAR form request in MS Word that is then pasted into an Outpost email form. During an event, this form could be transmitted from a Galveston County city or agency with an embedded ham to the GCOEM for processing by the Logistics team in the EOC.

Embedding opportunities - Garret and Curt. As of the date of this meeting, the Galveston County health District, San Leon fire Department, UTMB, Galveston County Water Authority, La Marque, Santa Fe, Dickinson and Kemah have expressed interest in further discussions about embedding hams prior to the predicted landfall of a future major hurricane. Garret stated he will interface with the interested cities and agencies so we can proceed with negotiations with them on their expectations and support capabilities for embedded hams.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

March 22, 2018 Start: 1900 End: 2045

Members: 14 Visitors: 2 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended the meeting.

Discussions

Louis Petit, WB5BMB, discussed the upcoming NDOW statewide exercise that will include RACES, ARES and GCECG hams. Exercise to be held on April 10 - 13. Details to follow.

Review of Past Events

On the Road for a Reason 5K Fun Run - Went as planned. Had a good roster of radio operators. Interesting that officials are willing to shut down a major portion of the NASA bypass for over an hour.
Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathons - Friday night 5K, Saturday 1/2, ¾ and full marathons. Had good roster of volunteers for all events. Only one significant medical issue. All other portions of the events were nominal.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 24, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group monthly breakfast at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.
Saturday March 31, Yuri's Night 5K Fun Run starting and ending at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Nassau Bay.
Saturday, April 15, Aliens vs. Astronauts 5K Fun Run at Gilruth Center (JSC).
Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, MS-150 Bike Ride to Austin.
Saturday, May 13, St. Mary's 5K Fun Run at Mossman Elementary/Education Village in League City.

If you would like to support the upcoming event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

Presentation on the planned GCECG Embedding Process - Curt Tallman
Work with Garret Foskit to establish "Embedding" relationship with Galveston County cities and agencies. GCECG radio operators will then be paired with the cities/agencies that request amateur radio support. The radio operators paired with cities/agencies will meet with the applicable Emergency Managers and conduct a survey of facilities and resources expected to be available during an emergency event. The selected amateur radio operators will be requested to maintain periodic contact with their assigned city/agency.
Familiarization with the contents of the Go-Kit totes and tool kits
Four Go-Kit totes with written lists of contents were placed in the meeting room. The members present were divided up so there were 2 to 4 members per team per tote. The teams were then requested to remove all items from the totes and check them against the inventory sheets. The object of this exercise was to familiarize the team members with the contents of the totes and the inventory sheets. Only one tool kit was brought into the meeting room, but each member present was able to review the contents of the tool kit.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

February 22, 2018 Start: 1900 End: 2045

Members: 14 Visitors: 0 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended the meeting.

Discussions

Louis Petit, WB5BMB, discussed the upcoming NDOW statewide exercise that will include RACES, ARES and GCECG hams. Exercise to be held on April 10 - 13. Details to follow.

Review of Past Events

CERT Rodeo - Significant rain the night before and early in the morning of the event caused the entire area of the Harris County Sheriff's and Fire Marshal's Training Ground in Humble to become a muddy mess. Only 12 of 20 registered CERT teams checked-in and 3 of the 10 skills tests were cancelled due to unsafe conditions caused by excessive water.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 24, Orange Hamfest starting around 7:30 a.m. at the Orange County Convention & Expo Center. Runs until 2 p.m.
Saturday, March 3, On the Road for a Reason 5K Fun run starting at 8 a.m. at the Clear View High School in Webster. Runners cross a portion of the NASA Road Bypass Bridge.
Friday, March 16, Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K starting at 5 p.m. at Meador Park in Seabrook. Finish by 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 17, Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K, ½, ¾ and Full Marathon starting at 7:15 a.m. at Meador Park in Seabrook. Lunch served to volunteers, finish by 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 18, Lucky Trails ¾ and ½ Marathon starting at 7:15 a.m. at Meador Park in Seabrook. Finish by 11 a.m.

If you would like to support the upcoming event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

Presentation on the planned GCECG Embedding Process - Curt Tallman
Work with Garret Foskit to establish "Embedding" relationship with Galveston County cities and agencies. GCECG radio operators will then be paired with the cities/agencies that request amateur radio support. The radio operators paired with cities/agencies will meet with the applicable Emergency Managers and conduct a survey of facilities and resources expected to be available during an emergency event. The selected amateur radio operators will be requested to maintain periodic contact with their assigned city/agency.
Familiarization with the contents of the Go-Kit totes and tool kits
Four Go-Kit totes with written lists of contents were placed in the meeting room. The members present were divided up so there were 2 to 4 members per team per tote. The teams were then requested to remove all items from the totes and check them against the inventory sheets. The object of this exercise was to familiarize the team members with the contents of the totes and the inventory sheets. Only one tool kit was brought into the meeting room, but each member present was able to review the contents of the tool kit.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

January 25, 2018 Start: 1900 End: 2045
Members: 14 Visitors: 0 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.
Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended the meeting.

Discussions

Joe Wileman mentioned that the ARRL Winter Field Day will be held on Saturday, January 27, and the Texas City Amateur Radio Society will be participating at the end of the Texas City Dike starting around 9 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 10, CERT Rodeo starts at 7 a.m. at the Harris County Fire and Sheriff's Training Academy at 2318 Atascocita Road in Humble.
Saturday, February 24, Orange Hamfest starting around 7:30 a.m. at the Orange County Convention & Expo Center. Runs until 2 p.m.
Saturday, March 3, On the Road for a Reason 5K Fun run starting at 8 a.m. at the Clear View High School in Webster. Runners cross a portion of the NASA Road Bypass Bridge.
Friday, March 16, Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K & ¼ Marathon starting at 5 p.m. at meador Park in Seabrook. Finish by 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 17, Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K, ½, ¾ and Full Marathon starting at 7:15 a.m. at Meador Park in Seabrook. Lunch served to volunteers, finish by 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 18, Lucky Trails Half Marathon starting at 7 a.m. at Meador Park in Seabrook. Finish by 11 a.m.

If you would like to support the upcoming event, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics

Training on use of GCECG Radio Go-Kits - Curt and Rob
11 Go-Kits had been sufficiently completed to permit initial training with all GCECG members attending the January monthly meeting.
Many members in attendance chose to work on a kit with a partner so only 9 of the available 11 kits were unpacked and checked out.
A very thorough draft set of procedures developed by Rob Bailey was used to control the process of unpacking and setting up the kits.
The radio in one of the kits was found to be stuck in low power output
A radio in another kit was found to be mounted upside down. That was corrected before the end of the meeting.
Thank you Mike Scott.
All other kits were verified to be operational by transmitting at low power between all the units.
Several suggested revisions to the draft procedures were noted during the training which Rob agreed to incorporate in an updated version of the procedures.
The 9 kits were repacked and returned to the storage area.
At the beginning of the meeting, only one of the kit radios was fully programmed but Rob and Mike were able to complete the programming of all the radios in the 11 kits prior to leaving the facility after the meeting ended.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

October 26, 2017 Start: 1900 End: 2045
Members: 12 Visitors: 2 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events Saturday, October 7, St. Thomas Family 5K Fun Run
Sunday, October 8, Space City 10 Miler
Saturday, October 21, Galveston's Toughest 10K
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 20, 21 & 22, Wings Over Houston
Saturday & Sunday, October 21 and 22, Bike Around the Bay
Saturday & Sunday, October 21 and 22, Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 19, La Porte by the Bay Half Marathon

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

Status of GCECG Radio Go-Kits - Curt and Rob
11 Go-Kit cases have been assembled, the 12th kit is about 80% assembled
One speaker and microphone found defective - replacements in work
Radios have been programmed and verified operational
Tools being place on order - Coax/extension cords/rope with kits
2 antenna types available: Dual band ground plane on tripod and dual

Discussion of Results of the ARES Fall Simulated Emergency Training (SET) Exercise held on Saturday, October 7

Curt Tallman

John Paterson, KC5LAA, Kelvin Hickman, K5KGH and Wes Coleman, KF5UKF operated in the GCECG radio room in shifts of up to 12 hours each starting Saturday, August 26 through Wednesday, August 30, monitoring multiple Galveston County and Clear Lake area repeaters for any calls about the status of the storm or calls for help. Several messages received during the activation period were passed on to the OEM staff in the EOC for information or action.
Other GCECG members, including Joe Wileman, AA5OP and Bob and Beth Scully, monitored additional area repeaters from their homes during the storm.

All persons present at the meeting participated in a lively discussion of actions and results from Hurricane Harvey and the impact on their lives.

Discussion of ARES Fall Simulated Emergency Training (SET) to be held on Saturday, October 7. - Curt
Curt, WB5UZZ and John, KC5LAA to Radio Room before 9:45 a.m.
Blackboard Express activated at 10:00 a.m.
Called 30 members, reached or left messages with 24 members
10 members responded verbally via GCECG net on 145.410 repeater
AA5OP logged into the net by Packet to WR5GC
10/11 responded "Available to be deployed if needed".
Previously developed STAR forms transmitted by email to 7 members
K5KGH and KG5VAW returned the data on the forms to the radio room verbally via the GCECG repeater
K5DLF returned the data via Packet using the STAR Form Template developed by WB5UZZ

Lessons Learned

Need to check Blackboard Connect to verify phone numbers to be called at the beginning of each hurricane season and before exercises.
Check email function in the radio room at the beginning of each hurricane season and before exercises.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

September 28, 2017	Start: 1900	End: 2045
Members: 13	Visitors: 1	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events
Sunday, September 17, Houston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
Upcoming Events
Saturday, October 7, St. Thomas Family 5K Fun Run
Sunday, October 8, Space City 10 Miler
Saturday, October 21, Galveston's Toughest 10K
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 20, 21 & 22, Wings Over Houston
If you would like to support, contact George Levandoski at KD5DYF@Reagan.com
Saturday & Sunday, October 21 and 22, Bike Around the Bay
Saturday & Sunday, October 21 and 22, Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)
Saturday, November 4, Ferguson Elementary 5K Fun run
Sunday, November 19, La Porte by the Bay Half Marathon

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

Status of GCECG Radio Go-Kits - Curt and Rob
11 Go-Kit cases have been assembled, the 12th kit is about 80% assembled
One speaker and microphone found defective - replacements in work
Radios have been programmed and verified operational
Tools being place on order - Coax/extension cords/rope with kits
2 antenna types available: Dual band ground plane on tripod and dual

Discussion of tasks and Hurricane Harvey - All GCECG members present

John Paterson, KC5LAA, Kelvin Hickman, K5KGH and Wes Coleman, KF5UKF operated in the GCECG radio room in shifts of up to 12 hours each starting Saturday, August 26 through Wednesday, August 30, monitoring multiple Galveston County and Clear Lake area repeaters for any calls about the status of the storm or calls for help.
Several messages received during the activation period were passed on to the OEM staff in the EOC for information or action.
Other GCECG members, including Joe Wileman, AA5OP and Bob and Beth Scully, monitored additional area repeaters from their homes during the storm.
All persons present at the meeting participated in a lively discussion of actions and results from Hurricane Harvey and the impact on their lives.

Discussion of ARES Fall Simulated Emergency Training (SET) to be held on Saturday, October 7. - Curt
Simulated Tropical Storm Sisyphus exercise from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Will activate the GCECG net via BlackBoard Connect at approximately 10:00 a.m.
Will request responders to participate in message traffic from home.
Use of digital packet communications to transmit messages is encouraged.

Will provide forms for Outpost and RMS Express software or links to download suitable forms.
Everyone who wishes hand-on training in the GCECG radio room and with the new Go-kits is welcome.
Plan to send message to the SOC through Transtar and directly via Pactor III.
May not get responses since no clear statement of participation from either the SOC or Transtar.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

August 24, 2017 Start: 1900 End: 2040
Members: 17 Visitors: 0 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

- Reports from Past Events
- Outriggers 5K Fun Run

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, September 17, Houston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
- Saturday, October 7, St. Thomas Family 5K Fun Run
- Sunday, October 8, Space City 10 Miler
- Saturday, October 21, Galveston's Toughest 10K
- Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 20, 21 & 22, Wings Over Houston
- Saturday & Sunday, October 21 and 22, Bike Around the Bay
- Saturday & Sunday, October 21 and 22, Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

Status of GCECG Radio Go-Kits - Curt and Rob

- All 12 shelves have been assembled
- Complete dressing of wiring then program and check out radios
- Install the Power Conditioners and shelves into the cases
- Tools being placed on order - Coax/extension cords/rope with kits
- 2 antenna types available: Dual band ground plane on tripod and Dual band mag mount

GCECG.ORG Website

- Back on the web after a several month hiatus.
- Many thanks to Mike Scott, our web master, for bringing it back to life.
- Applications to join GCECG, ARES and RACES
- GCECG Bylaws and minutes of meeting

Preparations for Hurricane Harvey

- John Paterson was requested to be in charge of operations in the GCOEM Radio Room starting Friday evening or Saturday morning and continuing as long as needed.
- Requested 2 or more volunteers to support John in the radio room for a 24 hour per day operation monitoring area repeaters for issues to be reported to the OEM staff.
- Requested other members to coordinate with John to monitor repeaters in the Galveston County area from home locations. This will allow monitoring of repeaters in the local that could not be directly monitored in the radio room. Any relevant traffic heard at remote locations should be reported to the radio room via the 145.410 repeater.
- All GCECG participants were requested to maintain, and turn in to Garret Foskit, an ICS 214 form documenting all their volunteer service for. These will be used for County records and potential reimbursement by FEMA to the County for all hours spent in support of emergency operations.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

July 27, 2017 Start: 1900 End: 2045
Members: 13 Visitors: 1 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

- Reports from Past Events
- Baytown Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Fun Run
- Texas City Hamfest
- Lunar Rendezvous Festival 5K Fun Run

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, August 5, Outrigger's 5K Fun Run
- Sunday, September 17, Houston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
- Saturday, October 7, St. Thomas Family 5K Fun Run
- Sunday, October 8, Space City 10 Miler
- Saturday, October 21, Galveston's Toughest 10K

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

Status of GCECG Radio Go-Kits - Curt and Rob

The assembled shelves, antennas and antenna mounts were displayed in the training room for all meeting attendees to view.

All 12 shelves have been assembled

Working wiring/connector challenges

Tools being placed on order - Coax/extension cords/rope with kits

2 antenna types available

Dual band Comet GP-3 ground plane on a tripod

Dual band Larsen magnetic mount

Results from the State of Texas Exercise Operation Tempest (Hurricane Charlie) from June 7, 2017

Joe Wileman, AA5OP, operated from the Nessler Center in Texas City acting as a pre-hurricane evacuation center

Philip Gerding, KG5JPG, operated from the Galveston County Community Action Building located in the 4700 block of Broadway in Galveston. It was serving as the pre-hurricane evacuation location for Galveston Island

John Paterson, KC5LAA, Tom Davies, KA5UNH, and Beth Scully, KG5PJP, operated out of the Radio Room in the GCOEM Building.

Kelvin Hickman, K5KGH, operated from the UTMB radio room on Galveston Island

The goal of the exercise for the hams at the evacuation sites was to contact as many local VHF and UHF repeaters as possible with both HT and mobile radios from the area around the evacuation sites.

The results from the Galveston Evacuation Site were:

Repeater	Freq/Tone	HT (NOMINAL 8 WATTS)	MOBILE (25 AND 50 WATTS)
Alvin	145.110/123	YES	YES
Cl Lake Shore	146.390/123	YES	YES
Moody Gardens	147.300/123	YES	YES
Devers	442.575/103.5	NO	NO
Jamaica Beach	444.800/103.5	YES	YES
Texas City	147.140/167.9	YES	YES
GCOEM	145.410/131.8	NO	YES

The results for the Texas City site were similar. It was noted that with the new repeaters located in Jamaica Beach and Moody Gardens, amateur radio VHF and UHF communications in the Galveston area are much improved.

The results for UTMB were different. The assigned mission there was to be able to send and receive traffic between UTMB Galveston and their HQ in the Austin area. While UTMB does have a conference room on the first floor of a new building in the Galveston campus, no antenna coax has been run between the radio room and the roof of the building, rendering the new radio equipment in the radio room unusable for the stated task. Kelvin was able to go to his vehicle in the UTMB parking lot and transmit a message to Austin via the GCOEM radio room. Kelvin noted this would not be feasible during a real emergency. Garret Foskit agreed to work with Mike Mastangelo, UTMB, to encourage UTMB to find and implement a go-forward plan to correct this deficiency.

Operations in the GCOEM radio room went according to plan.

Results from US Coast Guard Exercise held on Saturday, June 24, 2017

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ and Bob Scully, N9RCS, agreed to participate in the subject USCG exercise at the end of the Texas City Dike during the morning on Saturday, 6/24/17. We met with Steve Hester, who is both a member of GCECG and the USCG Auxiliary. Steve showed Bob and myself around the CG communications trailer and introduced us to the CG staff working a simulated plane crash with mass casualties using air, sea and ground resources. Integration of resources between GCECG and the GC are in the early stages of development, but Steve sent an email to me listing suggested areas and necessary resources, including GPS, maps, flashlight, etc., as well as marine frequencies for monitoring CG operations, that could be useful for GCOEM members to support the CG in the event of a real emergency.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

June 22, 2017	Start: 1900	End: 2045
Members: 15	Visitors: 1	Others: 2

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Houston Hurricane Workshop

Sylvan Beach Duathlon/Triathlon

Upcoming Events

Sat, June 24 & Sun, June 25, ARRL Field Day

Tuesday, July 4, Baytown Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run

Saturday, July 8, Texas City Hamfest

Saturday, July 15, Lunar Rendezvous Festival 5K Fun Run

Saturday, August 12, Outrigger's 5K Fun Run

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion and Training Topics:

Training on uses and operation of Winlink software - Richard Driscoll, KD5URB

Mr. Driscoll discussed the types, paths and modes of Winlink, a global messaging system

For anyone interested in learning about Winlink who was not able to attend this meeting or those who would like a more in depth discussion, go to www.youtube.com/K4REF.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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May 25, 2017 Start: 1900 End: 2045
Members: 15 Visitors: 2 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events
St. Mary's 5K Fun Run
La Porte 125 5K Fun Run

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 25, CLARC's HBSIG Monthly Breakfast
Saturday, June 3, Houston Hurricane Workshop
Sunday, June 11, Sylvan Beach Triathlon and Duathlon
Sat, June 24 & Sun, June 25, ARRL Field Day
Tuesday, July 4, Baytown Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run
Saturday, July 8, Texas City Hamfest
Saturday, July 15, Lunar Rendezvous Festival 5K Fun Run
Saturday, August 12, Outrigger's 5K Fun Run

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion of the State of Texas Exercise Operation tempest (Hurricane Charlie)
Total exercise planned from 1 June to 9 June to practice evacuations to Austin.
Ham radio operators will participate from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Wednesday, June 7.
GCECG support will include Joe Wileman, AA5OP, deployed to 3300 Magnolia in Texas City (aka Carlos Garza Park at the Pavilion); Philip and Helen Gerding, KG5JPG and KG5KKR, deployed to the Galveston County Community Action Building located at 4700 Broadway in Galveston; and Kelvin Hickman, K5KGH, deployed to UTMB-Galveston.
There will also be 3 GCECG members deployed to the GCECG radio room including: John Paterson, KC5LAA, Tom Davies, KA5UNH and Beth Scully, KG5PJP.
Curt provided a list of repeaters in the Galveston County area that the deployed hams (other than UTMB which has its own plan to exercise communications), will exercise to determine how well each repeater can be reached with VHF/UHF HT and mobile radios from the evacuation site locations.

Each participant from GCECG has been given copies of ICS 214 forms and requested to file them out to log the tasks performed and time spent participating in the event. The white copy of each form is to be given to Garret Foskit, GC EMC, after the event. The participating ham is to keep the yellow copy.

John Paterson will lead this exercise for GCECG.

Discussion of Go-Kit Status - Rob Bailey and Curt Tallman

Last Sunday, Curt Tallman, Rob Bailey and John Paterson inventoried all the material that had been received for the go-kits and found it was all present.

Rack shelves, mounting hardware and documentation needed for the kits have not yet been ordered, but will be very soon.

The design of the template to mount all the hardware on the shelves was worked out
12 earphone boxes have been assembled but still need labels to identify the function of each of the six 1/8th inch audio jacks. The label equipment is on order and should arrive shortly.

Discussion of the 6 Panasonic Toughbook Laptop Computer donation to GCECG - Rob Bailey

The laptops were donated to Galveston County by Harris County

These laptops are old enough to still run Windows Xp but have few, if any, signs of wear and come complete with RFID scanners and a weather proof case to protect each set of equipment.

Rob Bailey demonstrated one of the Toughbooks he had checked one out and found it has a touch screen, performs well, and accepts standard ham radio software such as Outpost and RMS Express (Winlink). It is planned to program them to work with the Kenwood D710 transceivers in the go-kits to send messages in digital format that will save time during or after an event.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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April 27, 2017 Start: 1900 End: 2035
Members: 13 Visitors: 0 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events
Yuri's Night 5K
Aliens vs. Astronauts 5K
JSC Engineering Reunion (parking support)

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 29, CLARC's HBSIG Monthly Breakfast
Saturday, May 13, St Mary's 5K Fun Run
Saturday, May 13, La Porte 125 5K Fun Run
Saturday, June 3, Houston Hurricane Workshop
Sunday, June 11, Sylvan Beach Triathlon and Duathlon
Tuesday, July 4, Baytown Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events, have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion of Go-Kit Status - Rob Bailey

Rob reported that all the ordered components of the kits have arrived except the cases. He had not been informed about the current estimated arrival date for the black cases. Rob has completed the design of the speaker/earphone switch box and most of the pieces have arrived. He is investigating available methods to drill the holes needed for each unit.

Discussion of MARS /ARES Exercise this Saturday, April 29 - Curt Tallman

This combined exercise was just announced this week. It is basically an HF exercise being led by MARS with requested participation by ARES members. The exercise will run from 8:00 a.m. to noon using 7.2775 and 5.3715 MHz for hams to check in to the net and provide situational awareness information based on a simulated hurricane scenario.

Training on verbally transmitting a STAR Action Resource Request - Curt Tallman

Presented the STAR form that has each block identified by nomenclature, but no numbers.

Two volunteers were selected. Wes Coleman, KF5UKF, agreed to transmit the filled out STAR form from the Radio Room to Bob Scully, N9RCS, in the Training Room. Once a minor glitch in the radio communications was resolved, the data transfer went well. Thanks to both Wes and Bob for a really good job.

Training on transmitting a STAR Action Resource Request via Packet - Curt Tallman

Curt set up a packet station in the Training Room.

Curt made a template of the STAR form in a Microsoft Word file, then did a copy and paste into a blank Packet message form. This would allow transmitting the information for a STAR form to be transmitted via Packet without using an attachment.

Members discussed other possible methods of digitally transmitting the STAR form which we will work on before the May meeting.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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March 23, 2017	Start: 1900	End: 2105
Members: 13	Visitors: 0	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

On the Road for a Reason 5K Fun Run
Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathons

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 8 - Yuri's Night 5K Fun Run in Nassau Bay
Saturday, April 15 - Aliens versus Astronauts 5K Fun Run at Gilruth Center
Saturday, April 22 - Parking support for the JSC Engineering Reunion at the Gilruth Center
Saturday & Sunday, April 29 & 30 - MS-150 Bike Ride to Austin
Saturday, May 13 - Mary's 5K Fun Run at CCISD Education Village in League City
Saturday, May 13 - La Porte 125 5K Fun Run

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion of the status of the Radio Go-kits - Rob Bailey

The majority of the parts have now been received, but the black cases are still a week or so away. After the cases arrive, Rob will need to verify the shelf he has selected will fit, so there will be some additional time required to order and receive the shelves that are needed before assembly can really get underway.

Training on use of FEMA and State of Texas Forms relevant to radio operators - Garret Foskit

Garret conducted training on the FEMA and State of Texas forms GCECG members can expect to encounter and use during any event.

The lesson started with ICS Form 214, Activity Log, which radio operators should use to document all activities during the duration of a training exercise or real event.

The Galveston County version of the ICS 213, General Message form, which can be used situations to transmit urgent or routine information

The State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR) form is the Texas version of the ICS 213RR form. Interestingly, it does not have letter or number designations for each field to be filled out, but has titled each field, providing an easy way to track which field is being transmitted when done verbally by radio.

ICS 205, Incident radio communications Plan, provides information on the radio channels to be used during an event. Having access to a copy of this form would be essential during an event to find the correct channels or frequencies to use to contact CERT Teams, officials, other ham operators and County, city or

agency offices.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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February 23, 2017	Start: 1900	End: 2040
Members: 11	Visitors: 2	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events
CERT Rodeo

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 25 - Orange Hamfest from 0730 to 1400 at Orange County Convention & Expo Center.
Saturday, March 4 - On the Road for a Reason 5K from 0800 to 0930 at the Clear View HS, 400 S. Walnut, Webster
Friday, March 17 - Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K & 1/4 Marathon from 1700 to 1930 at Meador Park, Seabrook
Saturday, March 18 - Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K, 1/2 Marathon and Full Marathon from 0715 to 1430 at Meador Park, Seabrook
Sunday, March 19 - Seabrook Lucky Trails 1/2 Marathon from 0715 to 1115 at Meador Park, Seabrook
Saturday & Sunday, April 29 & 30 - MS-150 Bike Ride to Austin
Saturday, May 13 - Mary's 5K Fun Run

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion of the status of the Radio Go-kits - Rob Bailey
The first parts (120 VAC Power Conditioner) for the 12 Radio Go-Kits are arriving. The cases are due by mid-March, so the assembly will start soon after that.
Training on WebEOC - Garret Foskit

Garret conducted training on WebEOC, which is a crisis management software that can be used to enhance Galveston County's emergency management efforts during an event, assuming, of course, that the internet remains functional throughout the County and to the outside world. Each of our members was able to log into WebEOC and follow along as Garret demonstrated many of the functions within the software.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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January 26, 2017	Start: 1900	End: 2035
Members: 13	Visitors: 1	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events
MADD Jingle Bell 5K Run
Houston Marathon

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 11 - CERT Rodeo from 0700 to 1500 hours at the Harris County Fire and Sheriff's Training Academy in Humble
Saturday, February 25 - Orange Hamfest from 0730 to 1400 at Orange County Convention & Expo Center.
Saturday, March 4 - On the Road for a Reason 5K from 0800 to 0930 at the Clear View HS, 400 S. Walnut, Webster
Friday, March 17 - Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K & 1/4 Marathon from 1700 to 1930 at Meador Park, Seabrook
Saturday, March 18 - Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K, 1/2 Marathon and Full Marathon from 0715 to 1430 at Meador Park, Seabrook
Sunday, March 19 - Seabrook Lucky Trails 1/2 Marathon from 0715 to 1115 at Meador Park, Seabrook

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion of the Motorola MT 2000 HT radios donated to GCECG by Bo Thomas, KT1AA
Bo Thomas has been kind enough to donate 8 Motorola MT 2000 HT radios to Galveston County and GCECG. Four of the HTs are VHF capable and 4 are UHF capable. Each radio has been programmed by Bo to operate on all the local repeaters located in the Galveston County area plus standard simplex frequencies, NWS and MURS frequencies (VHF HTs only). Along with the HTs, Bo included 5 drop-in battery chargers. It is planned to have these radios available for GCECG members or CERT members who have amateur radio licenses to use during training or an emergency event. Many thanks to Bo for his generosity. Mr. Foskit mentioned that he is converting one of the offices in the EMF to store County HTs and the new GCECG radio kits. He is also planning to decommission and replace older County HTs that use the same batteries, chargers and external microphones as the radios donated by Bo, so there will be additional accessories available for the donated radios.

Presentation on the new Kenwood D74 D-Star capable HT - Rob Bailey

Rob discussed the multitude of features Kenwood designed into the D74 HT, which is the successor to the D72. The D74 is D-Star capable along with APRS, 2m, 70cm and HF (Upper and Lower sideband) operation. The only major disappointment Rob mentioned (besides the price) is the internal TNC in the D74 has been downgraded to a KISS mode unit which does not have as many capabilities as the TNC in the D72.

Discussion on GCECG training and service options during 2017 - Curt Tallman and Garret Foskit

WebEOC training will be conducted during the February GCECG meeting

Go-kit materials will be on order in a week or two, so fabrication of the kits will (hopefully) begin in February or March.

Kenwood D710, Packet and Winlink training will be offered and scheduled for small groups

Suggestion from the group was to develop operation manuals for Packet and Winlink operation since most Members don't frequently use those digital modes. Rob and I agreed to work on those manuals with a goal of having them finished by the start of hurricane season.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

November 27, 2016 Start: 1900 End: 2120
Members: 10 Visitors: 1 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Saturday, October 1 - St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run

Saturday, October 1 - Texas City 5K Fun Run

Sunday, October 9 - Space City 10 Miler

Saturday, October 15 - Galveston's Toughest 10K

Saturday, Oct 15, Sunday, Oct 16 - Bike Around the Bay and Boy Scouts - JOTA

Fri, Sat, Sun, October 21, 22, 23, Wings Over Houston Air Show

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 29 - Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club's Home Brew Special Interest Group's

monthly breakfast starting at 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa restaurant on Wesley Drive in League City

Saturday, November 12, Ferguson Elementary 5K fun Run starting around 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 20, La Porte By The Bay Half Marathon starts at 7:30 a.m. for a run over the Fred Hartman Bridge from La Ported to Baytown and back

Saturday, December 3, Methodist-St. John's 5K Reindeer Run in Nassau Bay starting at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 3, Skywarn Appreciation Day to be observed at the Galveston County Emergency Management building on FM 646 in League City after the Reindeer Run

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion about embedding hams with requesting cities and agencies in Galveston County

- Curt Tallman and Garret Foskit

At the request of Garret Foskit, Curt developed and made a presentation on the benefits of amateur radio for communications in the event of a severe storm or other wide area communication interruption to Galveston County Emergency Management personnel during a quarterly meeting at Texas A&M, Galveston, on Monday, October 24. The presentation focused on embedding hams at the various city and agency EOCs prior to a storm, what types of communication the ham could provide and what support would be needed from the city or agency to support that ham and possibly a spouse. Post presentation discussions were held with representatives from Jamaica Beach, College of the Mainland and the Coast Guard. The results of that presentation and future goals for GCECG hams were discussed at length during the GCECG meeting.

Discussion of the Motorola MT 2000 HT radios donated to GCECG by Bo Thomas, KT1AA

Bo Thomas has been kind enough to donate 8 Motorola MT 2000 HT radios to GCECG. Four of the HTs are VHF capable and 4 are UHF capable. Each radio has been programmed by Bo to operate on all the local repeaters located in the Galveston County area plus standard simplex frequencies, NWS and MURS frequencies (VHF HTs only). Along with the HTs, Bo included 5 drop-in battery chargers. It is planned to have these radios available for GCECG members or CERT members who have amateur radio licenses to use during training or an emergency event. Many thanks to Bo for his generosity.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

October 27, 2016 Start: 1900 End: 2035
Members: 10 Visitors: 1 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Saturday, October 1 - St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run

Saturday, October 1 - Texas City 5K Fun Run
Sunday, October 9 - Space City 10 Miler
Saturday, October 15 - Galveston's Toughest 10K
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Upcoming Events

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If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion about embedding hams with requesting cities and agencies in Galveston County - Curt Tallman and Garret Foskit

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These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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September 22, 2016	Start: 1900	End: 2120
Members: 13	Visitors: 5	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Saturday, September 10 - Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)
Sunday, September 18 - Houston's Toughest 10K

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 1 - St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run
Saturday, October 1 - Texas City 5K Fun Run
Sunday, October 9 - Space City 10 Miler
Saturday, October 15 - Galveston's Toughest 10K
Saturday, Oct 15, Sunday, Oct 16 - Bike Around the Bay and Boy Scouts - JOTA
Fri, Sat, Sun, October 21, 22, 23, Wings Over Houston Air Show

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Updated design of the grant funded emergency communications go-kits - Rob Bailey
Garret Foskit verified that the grant request from Galveston County to fund 12 emergency communications go-kits has been approved. Funding for the kits should be available before the end of 2016. He requested that we set the design and parts list for the kits so purchase orders can be placed. Purchase orders for more than \$500 to any one vendor has to be put out for a minimum of 3 bids, so we will need to work closely with Alyssa Young, in the OEM office to help her group the components of the kit so that proper requests for quotes and bids can be made.
Rob brought his prototype go-kit he built last year, then discussed recommended changes to the design and parts list for consideration by the members present. Rob requested that anyone having

constructive comments or suggestions relating to the design of the kits should contact him via email at: rob@wm8s.com.

ARES/MARS/RACES Exercise - There was a brief discussion about the subject exercise which is take place primarily on the 60M band. At the current time, the Galveston County OEM radio room does not have the capability to operate on 60M. Rob Bailey stated that with Garrets approval, he will modify the County's Kenwood TS-570 to allow operation on the 60M band.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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August 25, 2016	Start: 1900	End: 2035
Members: 13	Visitors: 2	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussions

Reports from Past Events
Saturday, August 6 - Hurricane IKE+ Exercise
Saturday, August 13 - Outrigger's 5K Fun Run

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 10 - Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)
Sunday, September 18 - Houston's Toughest 10K
Saturday, October 1 - St. Thomas 5K Family Fun run
Sunday, October 9 - Space City 10 Miler
Saturday, October 15 - Galveston's Toughest 10K
Fri, Sat, Sun, October 21, 22, 23, Wings Over Houston Air Show

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, attended this meeting and discussed GCECG radio operator embedding options currently available in the County.
In addition to the cities of LaMarque and Santa Fe, University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) and the Galveston County Water Authority have requested hams to embed at their facilities prior to arrival of a major storm. These agencies will provide food and shelter for the hams as required.
The Results and Lesson's Learned from GCECG/ARES Exercise Names Hurricane IKE+, held Saturday, August 6 - Curt
The objective of the exercise was to have GCECG members practice transmitting ICS-213RR forms verbally from their home but acting as if they were embedded in Galveston County City or agency.
The GCECG net was activated at 9:00 a.m. using Blackboard Connect. This requires the use of land and cell based telephones, so would have been done before the storm in a real situation.
Using Blackboard Connect, land and cell based telephones of 47 GCECG members were called with directions to contact the radio room in the Galveston County Emergency Management Building on the 145.410 MHz repeater or check-in by Packet radio to the GCBOX packet inbox.
5 members came to the Galveston County Radio Room and 8 members responded by voice on the 145.410 repeater, and one of those also responded to the GCBOX Packet inbox.
7 members indicated they were available for the assignment. Each of those members was sent an exercise "inject" that was an ICS-213RR form sent via email that had been filled out in advance with a resource request. This simulated the way they would receive such a request for transmission if they were embedded in a city or agency. The members were given frequency, offset and tone information for 4 repeaters that were being monitored at the radio room so they had redundant repeaters to select from in the event of repeater or antenna failure during a real storm. The 7 participating members were successful in transmitting the information from the exercise ICS-213RR forms they received to the Radio Room. This worked out well this exercise because ICS-213RR forms used in the Radio Room were the same version as the forms used for the injects sent to each participating member. This eliminated the confusion experienced during the last exercise when it turned out that various cities in the County were using different versions of the form. The one thing we learned was that our embedded operators need training on how to transmit the information from any form being used to 3 or 4 word segments that the receiving ham can accurately write down. We also need to assure that the receiving ham repeats back each segment he writes down to assure he has correctly written the information transmitted. Presentation from the RADO course on development of personal and radio go-kits starting on chart 157 of the RADO presentation chart set. - Curt

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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July 28, 2016	Start: 1900	End: 2040
Members: 12	Visitors: 0	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided
Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Sunday/Sunday, June 25 & 26 - ARRL Field Day
Monday, July 4, Baytown Bud Heatwave 5 Mile run
Saturday, July 16 - Lunar Rendezvous 5K fun Run and Texas City Hamfest

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 30, CLARC HBSIG Monthly Breakfast
Saturday, August 6, Hurricane IKE+ Exercise
Saturday, August 13 - Outriggers 5K Fun Run
Saturday, September 10 - Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)
Sunday, September 18 - Houston's Toughest 10K
Saturday, October 1 - St. Thomas 5K Family Fun run
Sunday, October 9 - Space City 10 Miler
Sunday, October 16 - Galveston's Toughest 10K

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

The GCECG/ARES Exercise Names Hurricane IKE+, Scheduled for Saturday, August 6 - Curt
The object of the exercise is for GCECG members to practice understanding the type of support information needed by the County Logistics team to process a resource request and to transmit that information to the GGOEM using amateur radio.
Start at 9:00 a.m. with GCECG net activation by Blackboard Connect
Members called will be asked to log into the net by response on 145.410 repeater or packet to GCECG inbox
Respondents asked to volunteer to participate either from GCECG radio room or homes - would like a minimum of 5 volunteers in the radio room
Volunteers at home to simulate being embedded in County cities
Receive an "inject" and ICS 213RR form by email
The inject will describe a need for supplies or services
Volunteer fills out the ICS 213RR to request the supplies need including information on situation requiring the need
Volunteer then transmits the information from the ICS 213RR form to the radio room via the GCECG 145.410 or 442.225 repeaters, the Texas City 147.140 repeater or the new Jamaica Beach 444.800 repeater.

Discussion of Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) - Rob Bailey

(PDF presentation available on the GCECG website under "Area Clubs and Resources")

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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June 23, 2016	Start: 1900	End: 2035
Members: 13	Visitors: 1	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Sunday, June 12, Sylvan Beach Duathlon/Triathlon at Sylvan Beach Park in LaPorte

Upcoming Events

Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, ARRL Field Day. The Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club will participate with the JSC Amateur Radio Club at the Gilruth Center at JSC. The Texas City Amateur Radio Society will participate at the Highland Bayou Park in La Marque

Monday, July 4, Baytown Bud Heatwave 5 mile Run. Lee College to Wismer Budweiser Distributor facility in Baytown

Saturday, July 16, Lunar Rendezvous 5K Fun Run, starts and ends at Space Center Houston, but participant run on the streets of Johnson Space Center.

Saturday, July, 16, Texas City Hamfest at Doyle Convention Center in Texas City. Google Texas City Hamfest for particulars.

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Review and discussion of the new repeaters installed at Jamaica Beach and the Galveston Ferry Landing

Curt had a telephone conversation with Wayne Wright about the new repeater he has installed in Jamaica Beach on Galveston Island. Wayne stated that the new repeater had been successfully installed but cable between the repeater and the antenna was found to be defective. While Wayne plans to replace the cable on July 9, the repeater is currently running with a mag-mount

antenna mounted close to ground level with a very limited range. For reference, that new repeater is set for 444.800 MHz, with a tone of 103.5 Hz.

While the extra repeater owned by the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club was successfully installed at the Galveston Ferry Terminal, it was learned that another repeater has been installed in the Orange, TX area with the same frequency and tone, so the CLARC repeater at the Ferry Terminal has been temporarily turned-off.

Discussion of liaison with the Coast Guard during and after a severe storm or other event

Steve Hester, K5STV, who was a visitor at this meeting but is a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, discussed various options for working with the Coast Guard and also the restrictions involved with using, or not being able to use, amateur radio with the Coast Guard.

Curt Tallman presented a training class on Communications Units in the ICS command structure. This training is a portion of the RADO course from 2015.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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May 26, 2016	Start: 1900	End: 2020
Members: 14	Visitors: 0	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Saturday, May 14, League City Hurricane Blowout - John Paterson reported

Saturday, May 21, St. Mary's 5K Fun Run - Curt reported

Saturday, May 21, Houston's Hurricane Workshop - John Paterson Reported

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 28, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.

Sunday, June 12, Sylvan Beach Duathlon/Triathlon at Sylvan Beach Park in LaPorte

Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, ARRL Field Day. The Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club will participate with the JSC Amateur Radio Club at the Gilruth Center at JSC. The Texas City Amateur Radio Society will participate at the

Monday, July 4, Baytown Bud Heatwave 5 mile Run. Lee College to Wismer Budweiser Distributor facility in Baytown

Saturday, July 16, Lunar Rendezvous 5K Fun Run, starts and ends at Space Center Houston, but participant run on the streets of Johnson Space Center.

Saturday, July, 16, Texas City Hamfest at Doyle Convention Center in Texas City. Google Texas City Hamfest for particulars.

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Review and discussion of the ARES Spring Simulated Emergency Training (SET)

Curt, Lewis Petit John Paterson and Kelvin Hickman discuss the installation of the spare CLARC repeater into the communications tower at the DOT control tower for the Bolivar Ferry on Galveston Island. The antenna is around 100' elevation and has been confirmed to provide excellent coverage to High Island and Kemah. Thanks to all who worked to make this installation possible.

Curt noted that Wayne Wright is planning to install a UHF repeater at the water tower in Jamaica Beach on Saturday, June 4 (weather permitting). The frequency will be 444.800 MHz with tone of 103.5 Hz.

Rob Bailey discussed the new audio control boxes he has designed and is building to control headphones, speakers and microphones associated with the two Kenwood D700 VHF/UHF mobile radios and the Kenwood TS-570 HF radio all located in the GCECG radio room.

Curt discuss the planned, but unscheduled, exercise where we will try to embed hams in cities located in the County. If we cannot get coordination with the cities, we will schedule a practice day with members working from home as if they were embedded so we can practice passing traffic.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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April 28, 2016	Start: 1900	End: 2030
Members: 12	Visitors: 0	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Saturday and Sunday, April 16 & 17, BP MS150 Bike Ride from Houston to Austin
Friday and Saturday, April 22 & 23, Operation Vertical (NVIS Exercise) Cancelled due to weather
Saturday, April 23, Yuri's Night 5K and ARES Spring Simulated Emergency Training (SET)

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 30, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group
Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.

Saturday and Sunday, April 16 & 17, BP MS150 Bike Ride from Houston to Austin

Friday and Saturday, April 22 & 23, Operation Vertical (NVIS Exercise)

Saturday, April 23, Yuri's Night 5K and ARES Spring Simulated Emergency Training (SET)

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Review and discussion of the ARES Spring Simulated Emergency Training (SET)

GCECG's participation in this SET was abbreviated compared to previous ARES SETs

Did not activate GCECG Net

Did not embed any members in County cities or agencies

We did complete objectives to develop and transmit an ICS-213RR form to the Temp SOC in Georgetown by a direct link using Winlink via RMS Express software through a PACTOR III modem connected to our Kenwood TS-570 operating on 40M. A response from the Temp SOC was received prior to the end of the exercise.

A second ICS-213RR was sent to the Temp SOC using Winlink via RMS Express software through a Kenwood D-710 VHF/UHF mobile transceiver to the Temp SOC through a digital repeater located at TranStar. No response to this transmission was received from the Temp SOC.

Curt Tallman conducted a training session with members present for the SET on the latest versions of the Resource Request forms including State of Texas Assistance Request forms that will be used during future events through WebEOC.

There was a discussion of methods of transmitting a written request for assistance from the cities and agencies to the EOC during an event where normal communications have been disrupted and WebEOC is not available. It was agreed to use the Coast Guard version of the FEMA ICS-213RR form for verbal transmissions. Also, John Paterson agreed to communicate with the man who maintains Outpost packet software to see if he would be willing to develop an ICS-213RR template to use with Outpost software.

GCECG staff are working with Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator to schedule a Galveston County SET with participation by County cities and agencies sometime in June or July.

Discussion of new repeater installations in the Galveston County area

Curt Tallman learned from Wayne Wright, who owns and/or operates many amateur radio repeaters in the greater Houston area, that he is planning to install a UHF repeater at 100 feet elevation in Jamaica Beach. The frequency will be 444.800 MHz, with 103.5 Hz tone. He plans to complete the installation before the end of May. He has also installed a new VHF repeater in western Pearland with a frequency of 147.160 MHz, with 167.9 Hz tone.

Kelvin Hickman and Louis Petit agreed to work together to install the Yaesu Fusion repeater belonging to the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club in the San Luis building in Galveston along with a 3 to 5 element Yagi antenna. The reason for selecting a Yagi type antenna is to focus the repeater RF output into Galveston County and not have a significant part of the energy wasted over Galveston Bay. The repeater will operate on UHF using the current CLARC UHF repeater frequency of 442.750 MHz with tone of 162.2 Hz instead of the 103.5 Hz used by the CLARC UHF repeater located in the Boeing building on Bay Area Boulevard.

Louis Petit also indicated he will look into installing a repeater in the control tower at the Bolivar ferry landing.

The installation of these repeaters should mitigate not being able to install a repeater in the American National Insurance Company building.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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March 24, 2016	Start: 1900	End: 2130
Members: 13	Visitors: 1	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists. Welcomed "Cookie" Cooke, President of TARS and Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, who represented the Office of Emergency Management.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events
Crazy Krewe 7K Fun Run

Experienced significant propagation interference while using the 146.640 MHz repeater

Seabrook Lucky Trails 2 - 5K's, 2 - 1/2 Marathons and a Full Marathon

Windy, dry, cool weather. No major injuries, good events

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 26, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.

Saturday and Sunday, April 16 & 17, BP MS150 Bike Ride from Houston to Austin

Friday and Saturday, April 22 & 23, Operation Vertical (NVIS Exercise)

Saturday, April 23, Yuri's Night 5K and ARES Spring Simulated Emergency Training (SET)

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Review and demonstration of updated model of GCECG Go Kit - Rob Bailey

Rob has revised the model of the Go Kit by replacing the original 12V power supply that had mechanically fragile analog meters with a light weight 30A Powerwerx switching power supply with more rugged dual digital meters. This supply is lighter and smaller than the previous supply, providing additional room in the case for additional features. Thank you Rob! Garret said the grant for 12 go-kits has been submitted and passed first selection. It may be possible to receive funding from the grant late in 2016.

Discussion of the upcoming ARES Spring SET - Curt Tallman

ARES has selected Saturday, April 23 as the date for the Spring 2016 SET. This is the same date as the Yuri's night 5K fun run, but those who support the fun run can still support the SET. GCECG will not be activated for this SET, but will participate in the SET by sending a 213RR form to Austin on 40M via the Pactor III modem with training for as many members who can come to the GCECG radio room. If TranStar is manned during the SET, we will also practice sending a 213RR form to them via VHF Winlink. At a date yet to be named, GCECG will conduct a County sponsored exercise with a full activation of the GCECG and members subsequently imbedded in as many cities in Galveston County as possible with injects sent to the cities from the GCOEM. This will provide training for GCECG members in the type of situations that are probable in the event of a severe storm.

Discussion of Red Cross/ American national Insurance Company (ANICO) status - Curt Tallman

There has still been no update or schedule from Richard Connor, American Red Cross, with regard to the MOA being negotiated between the Red Cross and ANICO in Galveston. Curt discussed the fact that Louis Petit had said there is a digipeater and associated antenna in the San Luis Hotel in Galveston. While there is no room in the repeater location for additional repeaters, Curt has requested a determination if the digipeater is currently being used. If there is not significant traffic, it is proposed to replace the digipeater with an FM repeater until an amateur radio repeater can be installed in the ANICO building. Garret agreed that an FM repeater in Galveston would be more useful during an event that affects the island.

Discussion of the D-Star repeaters potentially available for installation in Galveston County - Curt Tallman, Rob Bailey

Rob stated that no significant progress has been made due to the current lack of an available installation site in Galveston County with at least 100 foot elevation for the antenna.

WebEOC Training - Garret Foskit

Garret assisted all participating members to log into WebEOC then demonstrated many of the features of the latest version of the software. It is planned to use this software during an event to allow all the operating teams to maintain situational awareness, planning and execution. All participating members now have the tools to practice working with WebEOC and

participate in the monthly regional exercise conducted by Harris County.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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February 25, 2016	Start: 1900	End: 2115
Members: 15	Visitors: 2	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists. Welcomed new visitors Ken Williamson, KF5PGU and David Lark, KI4WSP, and Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator who represented the Office of Emergency Management.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Galloway Gallop, CERT Rodeo and Space City 10 Miler

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 27, Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa Restaurant in League City.

Saturday, March 5, Crazy Krewe 7K Fun Run, Clear View Education Center, Webster

Saturday, February 13, CERT Rodeo

Fri, Sat, and Sun, March 18, 19, and 20, will be the Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K, 1/2 Marathons and Full Marathon sponsored by Running Alliance Sport.

Sat and Sun, April 16 and 17, BP MS-150 Bike Ride to Austin

Saturday, April 23, Yuri's Night 5K and ARES Spring Simulated Emergency Training (SET)

If you would like to support any of the upcoming events or have questions or wish additional information about them, send an email to me at: cgtallman@earthlink.net.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion of HURREX Exercise Execution and Results - Curt Tallman, Garret Foskit

The Coast Guard conducted a hurricane exercise on February 24 and 25. Garret Foskit had asked GCECG members to support the exercise. Five members agreed to participate including, Curt Tallman, Philip Gerding, Scott and Barbara Hassett, Kelvin Hickman and John Paterson. The volunteers were divided into teams of 2 for 6 hour shifts over the 2 days, monitoring multiple Motorola P25 capable hand held radios. Each radio was set on a talk group with one or more Coast Guard teams in the field responding to "injects" simulating potential events that could occur after a hurricane hits the Gulf Coast. During tonight's meeting, the 5 members who participated in the exercise discussed the good, the bad and the ugly that occurred during the exercise. Garret took notes during the conversation to include with his after action report for the exercise.

Discussion of the upcoming ARES Spring SET - Curt Tallman

ARES has selected Saturday, April 23 as the date for the Spring 2016 SET. This is the same date as the Yuri's night 5K fun run, but those who support the fun run can still support the SET. The ARES plan for this SET is to support the MARS Field Day planned for that day. The GCECG members present agreed to not go through a general activation of the GCECG net, as we have done in the past, but participate in the SET by sending a 213RR form to Austin on 40M via the Pactor modem with training for as many members who can come to the GCECG radio room. If Transtar is manned during the SET, we will also practice sending a 213RR form to them via VHF Winlink. At a date yet to be named, GCECG will conduct a County sponsored exercise with a full activation of the GCECG and members subsequently imbedded in as many cities in Galveston County as possible with injects sent to the cities from the GCOEM. This will provide training for GCECG members in the type of situations that are probable in the event of a severe storm

Discussion of Red Cross/ American national Insurance Company (ANICO) status - Curt Tallman

Curt Tallman received an email from Richard Connor, American Red Cross, on the status of negotiations between the Red Cross and ANICO. It seems that Richard had become very ill last October and is just now getting back to work. He has been responsible for developing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Red Cross and ANICO. He stated it has now been decided that a written agreement will now be used in place of an MOU, and he is working on the wording. No date has been estimated for completion of the agreement. Joe Wileman then mentioned that there is a VHF packet station in the San Luis Hotel and a suggestion was made to add the UHF repeater with a dual band VHF/UHF antenna to that location in the short term rather than wait for the Red Cross /ANICO agreement with unknown completions date. Joe Wileman and Louis Petite were asked to work on details associated with adding the UHF repeater to the San Luis installation.

Discussion of the D-Star repeaters potentially available for installation in Galveston County - Curt Tallman, Bill Johnston, Rob Bailey

Bill and Rob reported that there are two D-Star repeaters available for installation in Galveston County if a location can be found that has an antenna height of at least 100 feet and an internet connection at the repeater site. These are VHF repeaters that are only capable of D-Star digital communications and do not support FM voice operations. Right now, there are no known locations for installation of either D-Star repeater in Galveston County. If the Red Cross/ANICO agreement is completed, there may be an opportunity to install one of the D-Star repeaters in the ANICO building.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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January 28, 2016	Start: 1900	End: 2040
Members: 15	Visitors: 0	Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists. Welcomed new ARES members Barbara and Scott Hassett from Alvin and Meaghan Kenney, Assistant Galveston County Emergency Coordinator who represented the Office of Emergency Management.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

None since there were no events since the first weekend in December.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 30, Winter Field Day with local activity sponsored by the Tidelands Club and the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club Home Brew Special Interest Group Breakfast

Saturday, February 6, Galloway Gallop 5K and 10K Fun Run

Saturday, February 13, CERT Rodeo

Saturday, March 5, Crazy Krewe 7K Fun Run

Fri, Sat, and Sun, March 18, 19, and 20, will be the Seabrook Lucky Trails 5K, 1/2 Marathons and Full Marathon sponsored by Running Alliance Sport.

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is available on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion of possible acquisition of D-Star Repeater - Curt Tallman

Bill Johnston, KF5FKV, reported to Curt before the meeting that a D-Star repeater may be coming available with the only restriction that it be connected to an antenna mounted at least 100 feet above the ground. Louis Petit, WB5BMB, and Rob Bailey, WM8S, indicated an interest in obtaining that repeater if it does become available. Rob and Louis agreed to get additional information and report back.

Discussion of status of GCECG Website - Curt Tallman

The gcecg.org website has been shut down for about a month. Alyssa Young, GCOEM, has requested GC IT personnel restore the website. Mike Scott, N5LZX, stated he has all the original files for the website. Mike and Rob Bailey, WM8S, offered to set up the GCECG website on an independent web server. The members agreed for Mike and Rob to proceed while Curt asked Meaghan to pursue restoring the county sponsored website in parallel or get a final recommendation from Garret.

Discussion of radio go-kits and grant status - Curt Tallman

Garret Foskit had previously requested GCECG personnel design a radio go-kit to allow GCECG members to take them to agencies or cities within Galveston County to provide communications after an event that disrupts normal means of communications. Rob Bailey designed, built and demonstrated a suitable kit last year. A grant request has now been developed and submitted to fund the purchase of components defined by Rob to allow GCECG members to assemble 12 kits. The grant request should be evaluated by the end of February and, if approved, funded late this year.

Brief discussion of WebEOC use and training - Meaghan Kenney and Curt Tallman

Meaghan stated that GCOEM is planning to use WebEOC during future events. She said she would arrange training for GCECG during our March monthly meeting.

Training - Curt Tallman

Curt handed out CDs with the RADO Student Guide to those members present who had not received a copy at previous meetings. A discussion was then held on the contents of personal go-kits for up to 72 hours of operation and use of FEMA forms ICS-213RR for requisitioning equipment and supplies, and ICS 214, Activity Log.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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October 22, 2015	Start: 1900	End: 2045
Members: 8	Visitors: 1	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists. Welcomed Philip Gerding who visited from Galveston and expressed interest in joining GCECG.

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Saturday, October 3, St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run - No issues

Saturday, October 10, ARES Fall Simulated Emergency Test

Used Blackboard Connect to activate GCECG net.

10 GCECG members checked in via voice and 1 by packet with 4 participating from the GCECG radio room.

Received 3 ICS-213 forms from 3 GCECG members acting as embedded hams.

Sent ICS-213 forms from GCOEM to TempSOC via HF and Winlink. Responses received from both submittals
Sunday, October 11, Space City 10 Miler - No issues
Saturday, October 17, Galveston's Toughest 10K - Issues with crossband repeat setups but
everything else went well.
Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18, Wings Over Houston Air Show
Galveston County's comm trailer transported to Ellington Field for use as operations center
for net control. No major issues. Trailer returned on Monday.
Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18, Boy Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air
No events held this year as locations used by Scout troops during previous years.
Sunday, October 18, Bike Around the Bay - No Issues

Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 14, Ferguson Elementary School 5K Fun Run
Sunday, November 15, La Porte By The Bay Half Marathon
Saturday, December 5, St. John's Reindeer 5K Run.

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email
address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is available on the Clear
Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public
Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service
Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all
the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Update on Garret's Condition and OEM Staff
Garret's condition after tongue surgery is still improving. He returned to work part time,
in late October.

COMT Class

Rob Bailey, WM8S, participated in a Communications Technician (COMT) class in Houston during the
past week. He presented a synopsis of the class and has a CD of the class written material
available for interested hams to review.

Crossband Repeat Operation

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, led a discussion about the benefits of using crossband repeat and how to
set it up. Part of the discussion focused on use of crossband repeat by hams embedded at
cities and agencies after an event to allow use of HTs inside agency operations centers to
communicate to the GCOEM through the GCECG repeater.

Last GCECG Meeting of 2015. The next GCECG monthly meeting will be on the 4th Thursday of January, 2016.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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September 24, 2015	Start: 1900	End: 2030
Members: 12	Visitors: 2	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Saturday, September 19, Houston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
Major medical issues required 3 ambulance runs. Stressful.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 26, Homebrew Special Interest Group Monthly Breakfast
Saturday, October 3, St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run
Saturday, October 3, Joe Wileman discussed a fun run to take place on the Texas City Dike.
Supported in past years by the TARS club, but not enough volunteers yet to support
this year's run and he was seeking support.

Sunday, October 11, Space City 10 Miler
Weekend of October 17 & 18, Galveston's Toughest 10K, Wings Over Houston Airshow, BSA
Jamboree On the Air and Bike Around the Bay

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's
email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is available
on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse
over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the
"CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able
to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Update on Garret's Condition and OEM Staff
Garret's condition after tongue surgery is still improving. He returned to work part time,
in late July and is continuing working mostly from home into October.

Communication Kits

At the GCECG monthly meeting in August, 2015, Rob Bailey, WM8S, demonstrated a go-kit
he designed and constructed that can meet the known requirements for the 12 go-kits to
be requested for the served agencies in Galveston County. He has developed a very

detailed list of components with estimated costs that is ready to be submitted to Alyssa Young for grant development in the next several weeks. It was agreed at the meeting that any kits made should reside at the GCOEM so they could be tested and receive updated programming before being issued to support an event.

GCECG Bylaws

The draft revised bylaws that were presented for review by the membership during the previous two GCECG monthly meetings had been reviewed, approved and signed by Garret Foskit. An approved copy has been provided to Alyssa Young, GCOEM Office, for reproduction, distribution and insertion into the GCOEM record book.

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Fall Simulated Emergency Training (SET)

The SET has been set for 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, October 10. South Texas ARES will send additional planning information in the next week.

Repeaters for use in the Galveston city area

Louis Petit, WB5BMB, discussed repeater equipment potentially available to install in the American National (ANI) building (if the Red Cross and ANI management ever get their memorandum of agreement approved) along with a potential location at the Galveston ferry landing and also development of a portable repeater. Louis took possession of the Motorola UHF repeater received from the City of Galveston to verify operation and tuning range. If suitable, he plans to incorporate it into the ANI building or other suitable location in Galveston. Louis is also looking into making a portable repeater that could be used during the Galveston's Toughest 10K Fun Run.

FMEA All-Hazards Radio Operator (RADO) Training Course

Curt handed out CDs containing the draft FEMA RADO Training Course, to those present at the meeting who had not received a copy previously. This course is to help train radio operators who may be asked to provide communications during an event. A discussion of the Communications Unit Basics portion of the course was conducted by Curt.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

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August 27, 2015	Start: 1900	End: 2030
Members: 14	Visitors: 2	Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Saturday, August 8, outriggers 5K Fun Run CLARC and JSCARC at Gilruth Center at JSC

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 19, Houston's Toughest 10K
Saturday, October 3, St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run
Sunday, October 11, Space City 10 Miler
Saturday, October 17, Galveston's Toughest 10K

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is available on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Update on Garret's Condition and OEM Staff

Garret's condition after tongue surgery is still improving. He returned to work, at least part time, in late July. The new Deputy Emergency Coordinator is Megan Kenney. She joined the GCOEM on July 27. Dawn McGee is still the part-time intern.

Communication Kits

Rob Bailey, WM8S, demonstrated a go-kit he designed and constructed that can meet the known requirements for the 12 go-kits to be requested for the served agencies in Galveston County. The components for the kit Rob built cost less than \$2000, which is within the cost limits for the grant to be requested in FY 2016. Rob has developed and provided a complete list of components required to duplicate his go-kit. That list of parts will be submitted with the grant request to support the dollar amount requested

GCECG Bylaws

The draft revised bylaws that were presented for review by the membership for the first time last month were reviewed again since there were a number of members present this month who were not last month. Some concern was expressed about the new clause that states that members who fail to provide evidence they passed the FEMA ICS-100, -200, -700 and -800 courses within a year of joining GCECG will be dropped from the membership. As with most rules, there will be an appeal process for

anyone who has good rationale for not completing the courses within the allotted time period. It is planned to submit these draft by laws to Garret Foskit for his review and approval within the next two weeks.

Potential for GCECG to take responsibility for GCOEM's HT's (other than the ones that belong to CERT)
There has been no change in the status of the request for GCECG to take over responsibility for user level maintenance and accountability of the non-CERT GCOEM Motorola HT radios

WebEOC Drill

Bill Johnston, KF5FKV, briefly discussed the WebEOC drill

FMEA All-Hazards Radio Operator (RADO) Training Course

Curt handed out CD's containing the draft FEMA RADO Training Course, which was distributed last month to members present, to all who had not received a copy previously. This course is to help train radio operators who may be asked to provide communications during an event. More formal training with this material will be planned for GCECG members in the near future.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

July 23, 2015 Start: 1900 End: 2020
Members: 11 Visitors: 0 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Greetings and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussions:

Reports from Past Events

Saturday & Sunday, June 27 & 28, Amateur Radio Field Day
CLARC and JSCARC at Gilruth Center at JSC
TARS at Presbyterian Church in Texas City
Fewer participating hams than previous years at both locations
Saturday, July 4, Baytown Bud Heat Wave 5 Mile Run
Saturday, July 18, Lunar Rendezvous 5K Fun Run
Saturday, July 18, Texas City Ham Fest
Good turn-out. HVRA auction went well.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 8, outriggers 5K Fun Run
Was Maribelle's 5K prior to Hurricane Ike.
Outriggers is located on Seabrook side of Kemah-Seabrook FM-146 bridge
7:30 a.m. to about 9:00 a.m. Pizza and drinks available after event
Saturday, September 19, Houston's Toughest 10K
Saturday, October 3, St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run
Sunday, October 11, Space City 10 Miler
Saturday, October 17, Galveston's Toughest 10K

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is available on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Update on Garret's Condition and OEM Staff

Garret's condition after tongue surgery is improving. He is planning to return to work, at least part time, on August 4. In addition, the new Deputy Emergency Coordinator is planning to start work on July 27.

Communication Kits

Last month, Garret requested GCECG to develop an equipment list to make 12 communication kits. These kits are to be used at locations within the county as directed by the GCOEM. Rob Bailey developed a draft list of equipment that was presented for review at this meeting. Since the application for the grant needed to fund the kits cannot be submitted until January, 2016, we have some additional time to refine the list of radios, accessories and supporting equipment prior to submission for the grant.

GCECG Bylaws

The GCECG bylaws were significantly amended in 2013, but the only approved version that Alyssa had in her record books was the previous version from 2006. Rob Bailey and Curt reviewed and made some additional changes to a copy of the 2013 version. This version was reviewed with no significant comments from the attendees during the meeting. This draft revision will be submitted to Garret for his approval upon his return to work.

FMEA All-Hazards Radio Operator (RADO) Training Course

Curt handed out a CD containing the draft FEMA RADO Training Course which currently consists of 408 presentation charts used to teach a multiday course. This course is to help train radio operators who may be asked to provide communications during an event.

More formal training with this material will be planned for GCECG members in the near future.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

June 25, 2015 Start: 1900 End: 2030
Members: 8 Visitors: 0 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Reports from Past Events

Wednesday, May 27, Galveston County Exercise, Alex Bell
Sunday, June 14, Sylvan Beach Triathlon
Sunday, June 14, Nick Lance Memorial Service in Gilruth Center

Upcoming Events

Saturday & Sunday, June 27 & 28, Amateur Radio Field Day
Saturday, July 4, Baytown Bud Heat Wave 5 Mile Run
Saturday, July 18, Lunar Rendezvous 5K Fun Run
Saturday, July 18, Texas City Ham Fest

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is available on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Update from the Alex Bell simulated hurricane exercise held May 27, 2015

An input received from Garret Foskit is that the emergency personnel at both La Marque and Santa Fe found the presence of an amateur radio operator to be helpful and would like to have an operator assigned for any future relevant emergency events. This was discussed during the meeting. Rob Bailey had indicated before the meeting that he would prefer not to be assigned to La Marque. Chuck Miller indicated he and his wife could be assigned there but he stated a preference for a more local operator to be assigned. Curt Tallman has the action to discuss this with members of the Tidelands club to see if they have operators who can support both Santa Fe and La Marque.

Tropical Storm Bill was discussed by Curt Tallman and Dawn McGee, GCOEM Intern. It was noted by while GCECG was not activated during Bill, Skywarn was activated, requiring more than 20 hours of volunteer amateur radio operator time. Dawn discussed the After Action Report from Tropical Storm Bill. Areas that were determined to need improvement centered around communications between the OEM and cities and agencies impacted by the storm. It was requested that there be more conference calls and increased use of text messaging and e-mail for mass notifications.

Just a note that these communication requests were all dependent on the availability of normal communication types. In the event of a really severe storm, amateur radio would need to step up to respond to those communication needs.

There has been no significant change in the status of the installation of an amateur radio frequency UHF repeater in the American National Building in Galveston in conjunction with the Galveston Red Cross. Due to a concern that the Motorola MTS 5000 UHF repeater donated to GCECG by the City of Galveston may not be able to be tuned into the amateur radio UHF band, Louis Petite, WB5BMB, has offered to provide a suitable UHF repeater that he owns for installation in the American National building, then retune the MTS-5000 to a UHF frequency used by the Red Cross. He also agreed to provide the UHF repeater frequencies he has permission to use to Richard Conner, Galveston Red Cross, to become a part of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Red Cross and the owners of the American National Building.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

May 28, 2015 Start: 1900 End: 2020
Members: 8 Visitors: 1 Others: 2

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Reports from Past Events

Saturday, May 2, ARES Spring Special Event Training (SET)
Wednesday, May 27, Galveston County Exercise, Alex Bell

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 14, Sylvan Beach Triathlon
Sunday, June 14, Nick Lance Memorial Service in Gilruth Center

Saturday & Sunday, June 27 & 28, Amateur Radio Field Day
Saturday, July 4, Baytown Bud Heat Wave 5 Mile Run
Saturday, July 18, Lunar Rendezvous 5K Fun Run
Saturday, July 18, Texas City Ham Fest

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is available on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion of Results and Lessons learned from the two exercises held in May

May 2, 2015 Texas Combined ARES/MARS/RACES Special Event Training (SET)

This exercise was conducted with the same goals and procedures as the previous ARES SETs conducted in the Spring and Fall of the past 2 or more years. The simulated situation was landfall of a hurricane that caused loss of all normal communication systems except amateur radio. Rob Bailey, WM8S; John Paterson, KC5LAA; and Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ; participated in the event from the GCEMF radio room. We activated the GCECG at 9:00 a.m. via phone calls, and text messages sent by Blackboard Connect. Thirteen members responded to the activation message by signing in using the GCECG repeater and two responded by packet message. Fourteen of the respondents indicated the ability to deploy had this been a real event. An ICS-213 form was generated providing the status of the activation. The ICS-213 form was printed, signed by Curt Tallman (in lieu of Garret Foskit), scanned and transmitted to the Temporary State Operations Center (K5TW in Georgetown) via the GCECG PACTOR IV modem transmitting through the Kenwood TS-570 on the 20M. We also transmitted the ICS-213 form to Transtar via Winlink on VHF. We did receive a reply from K5TW that the ICS-213 form they received was in .bmp format and the exercise had requested us to use .rtf format. That is a change we will make for future exercises. With this exception and the low response rate to the activation call-out, the exercise was a success.

May 27, Operation Alex Bell

Curt Tallman and Garret Foskit discussed the operation and results of the Alex Bell exercise held on May 27. This was an exercise conducted by Galveston County to test the readiness of the various cities within the county to respond to a hurricane event. A requirement to transmit data via amateur radio was sent to those cities who had, or had requested, amateur radio support. Texas City, League City and Friendswood have amateur radio operators who routinely work with the cities and do have to have an operator assigned by GCECG. La Marque, Santa Fe and Clear Lake Shores all requested amateur radio operators be assigned to them for this exercise. Rob Bailey, WM8S, deployed to La Marque; Chuck Miller, KF5IIP, deployed to Santa Fe and Tommy Duvall, KF5HSB, deployed to Clear Lake Shores. Each of the deployed operators was able to make contact with the city to which they were assigned and successfully transmit a message to the GCOEM radio room as part of the exercise. Significant lessons learned included:

Not all cities were using the same version of the ICS-213RR message form which led to confusion and delays in sending the messages to the EOC. Garret stated that this would be resolved before any additional exercises or real events.

Operators with hand held radios generally had to go outside the city buildings to transmit their messages. It is important that the cities to which our operators deployed obtain and install suitable amateur radio equipment so the operators will not have to leave the buildings to effect communications. Garret stated that he will work on obtaining a grant to fund amateur radio equipment for the cities.

Most of us need additional training on message handling.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

April 23, 2015 Start: 1900 End: 2020
Members: 13 Visitors: 0 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Reports from Past Events

Saturday, 3/28 - 2015 Greater Houston Hamfest
Saturday, 4/4 - Aliens vs. Astronauts 5.05K Fun run
Saturday, 4/18 and Sun 4/19 - BP MS 150 Bicycle Ride to Austin
Saturday, 4/18 - Yuri's Night 5K Fun Run

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 25, Homebrew Special Interest Group Breakfast
Saturday, June 13, Sylvan Beach Triathlon
Saturday, June 13, Sylvan Beach Triathlon
Saturday, July 4, Baytown Bud Heat Wave 5 Mile Run
Saturday, July 19, Lunar Rendezvous 5K Fun Run

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is available on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion of Upcoming Exercises

May 2, 2015 Texas Combined ARES/MARS/RACES Exercise

Curt Tallman discussed the spring ARES/MARS/RACES combined exercise scheduled to run from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, 2015. This exercise is essentially the same scenario as previous combined exercises with simulation that all normal communications systems are off-line and amateur radio is necessary to transmit written messages to the State Operations Center in Austin without using the internet. The current plan is to activate the GCECG net by Black Board Connect at 9:00 a.m. Each member will be requested to respond by either calling into the net or sending a packet message to the GCBOX and indicate if they would be available for deployment if this had been a real emergency situation. All members are invited to participate and train in the radio room in the Emergency Management Facility during the exercise. We will develop an ICS-213 form documenting results of the GCECG activation, then send it to Austin via VHF to TransStar (if available) and directly to K5TW (Tom Whiteside) in Georgetown (simulating the SOC) via Pactor modem on HF. The exercise will be complete when we receive a reply to the message sent to Georgetown.

May 27, Operation Alex Bell

Curt Tallman and Dawn McGee presented information on the upcoming exercise sponsored by Galveston County. The purpose of this exercise is to test emergency management communications between Galveston County, the cities within Galveston county, and other participating organizations involved in response and recovery from disasters within the county. Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Coordinator, has requested GCECG to deploy hams to cities and other agencies within the County during the exercise to contact their representatives and establish communications with the GCOEM through either the Galveston County or Texas City VHF repeaters. As of this meeting Dawn reported that 7 cities/agencies have responded that they will participate in the exercise and support hams who deploy to their locations. Dawn is working to get at least 7 additional cities/agencies to participate. As of this meeting, 7 GCECG members have volunteered to deploy during the exercise. If additional cities/agencies agree to participate, the GCECG members will be asked to contact one city/agency in the morning, then travel to a second one in the afternoon. Curt Tallman and John Paterson will establish a net in the GCOEM radio room during the duration of the exercise. Chuck Miller and Rob Bailey volunteered to develop a check list for each deployed ham to work with each city/agency they visit that will document details of the exercise and expectations and facilities at each city/agency.

Proposal for a Red Cross First Aid/AED/CPR Class

Tommy Duvall proposed to teach a Red Cross First Aid/AED/CPR class at some future date. There will be a cost for each student to cover the cost of supplies required for the course. Date, time and cost for the course are to be determined.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

March 26, 2015 Start: 1900 End: 2020
Members: 9 Visitors: 2 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

Crazy Krewe 7K Fun Run
Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathons

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 3/28 - 2015 Greater Houston Hamfest
Saturday, 4/4 - Aliens vs. Astronauts 5.05K Fun run
Saturday, 4/18 and Sun 4/19 - BP MS 150 Bicycle Ride to Austin
Saturday, 4/18 - Yuri's Night 5K Fun Run

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is avail on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion of Teaming with American Red Cross

Garret Foskit, Galveston County Emergency Management Coordinator, presented draft plans for exercise Alex Bell to be conducted on May 27. This exercise will simulate a

Cat 3 hurricane with a max wind speed of 125 mph has caused severe damage throughout the county with most cell towers around the Island and Bolivar Peninsula out of service. Garret proposed that GCECG maintain one or two GCECG amateur radio operators at the OEM but then have as many operators as possible deploy to the 13 cities in the county, Santa Fe High School, which is the designated head quarters for first responders, and several Municipal or Special Utility Districts in unincorporated areas of the county. Six members present at the meeting agreed to deploy to locations selected by the OEM in the morning and transfer to a second location in the afternoon so a minimum of 12 locations are to be covered during the exercise. Curt Tallman and John Paterson will remain at the OEM and operate a traffic net with the deployed operators. All deployed locations will be selected and prioritized by the OEM, including the meeting times and contacts at each location.

There was significant discussion about working with the cities and utility districts to get at least minimal radio equipment installed and verified operational this year. Garret stated that once the served entities had been contacted and agreed to participate, he would work to secure a grant to pay for the equipment and installation.

Garret requested Curt Tallman contact Mr. Joe Manchaca, who works for the San Leon MUD, and would like to discuss amateur radio support for his MUD during emergency operations.

In response to Garret Foskit's request during the January GCECG meeting for a list of things that that GCECG can do for the GCOEM, Rob Bailey compiled a detailed list of tasks that GCECG should be capable of performing when requested. That list was presented to Garret during the meeting for his review and comments.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director
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February 26, 2015 Start: 1900 End: 2020
Members: 12 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussions

Reports from Past Events

CERT Rodeo
Galloway Gallop 5K and 10K Fun Run

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 2/28 - Orange HamFest
Saturday, 3/7 - Crazy Krewe 7K Fun Run
Saturday, 3/14 and Sun 3/15 - Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathons
Saturday, 3/28 - Greater Houston Hamfest

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is avail on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Discussion of Teaming with American Red Cross
Richard Conner from the American Red Cross in Galveston (ARCG) presented a draft Cooperative Agreement between the ARCG and the GCECG to document the relationship between the groups for the purpose of disaster planning and response. This draft was developed by Richard Conner in support of a request from the ARCG to partner with GCECG to install the Motorola UHF repeater that GCECG received from the City of Galveston, into the American National Insurance building. The ARCG has already submitted a Memorandum of Agreement to the owners of the American Nation Building to allow them to install and operate non-amateur radio transceiver equipment belonging to the Red Cross in the building. The GCECG members present had a lively, but considered discussion on this topic. It was finally agreed that GCECG is not a formal entity, so cannot enter into a agreement with the Galveston Red Cross on its own, and obtaining concurrence from Galveston County management could take a long time. The final proposal that was agreed to by all present was for GCECG to donate the UHF repeater to the Galveston Red Cross and provide informal programming, installation and maintenance support. This effort will be headed by Louis Petit, WB5BMB. This path should not require a change to the MOA already in review by the American National Building owners and should provide the most rapid path to getting the radio equipment installed prior to the upcoming hurricane season.

During the January GCECG meeting, Garret Foskit requested GCECG provide to him a list of tasks and functions we can provide to him. Rob Bailey took responsibility for that task and provided a rough draft of a report that discusses what GCECG can do for the GCOEM and what resources we need to accomplish those things. He briefly presented that draft at the meeting. No significant suggestions for improvements were received during the meeting. Rob plans to have an updated version to present during the March GCECG meeting.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

January 22, 2015 Start: 1900 End: 2020
Members: 16 Visitors: 2 Others: 1

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussions

Curt introduced Garret Foskit to the members and visitors present. Mr. Foskit is the Interim Galveston County Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Foskit discussed his background and some of his goals for GCECG, specifically to be able to get GCECG members working with various cities and other governmental agencies within Galveston County so members working with those cities or agencies can become imbedded in selected locations with their spouses during a major storm or other event to provide emergency communications as needed. Mr. Foskit assigned himself an action to work with the Galveston County governmental agencies to implement this plan. Mr. Foskit also request that GCECG submit a list of equipment needed to maintain or improve our ability to perform our communications mission, including, as a minimum, a backup Canon scanner like the one demonstrated during this meeting (see below). Curt took the action to develop and provide that list.

Reports from Past Events

None

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 2/7 - CERT Rodeo
Saturday, 2/7 - Galloway Gallop
Saturday, 3/7 - Crazy Krewe 7K Fun Run
Saturday, 3/14 and Sun 3/15 - Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathons

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is avail on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Radio Room Equipment to Transmit Data Files by Radio
Curt demonstrated the laptop, printer and scanner maintained in the locked cabinet in the radio room. The laptop is to be used to backup the County desktop computer located with the Kenwood TS-570 HF transceiver. In the event of an issue with the County computer, the laptop can be used to operate the PACTOR IV modem. It also has Packet, RMS Express, Ham Radio Deluxe and Microsoft Office software installed, as well as the software drivers for the Canon Scanner and HP printer that are also maintained in the cabinet in the radio room as backups to County equipment. Instructions for the operation of the PACTOR IV modem and the scanner are maintained with the equipment. It is planned to have practice sessions for members during the next several months to train on the operation of radios during an event or simulated event. This training will culminate with the spring ARES Simulated Emergency Training exercise to be scheduled in May.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

December, 2015

No meeting was held due to the Christmas holidays.

Next GCECG meeting: January 2015

November, 2015

No meeting was held due to the Thanksgiving holidays.

Next GCECG meeting: January 2015

October 23, 2014 Start: 1900 End: 2020
Members: 12 Visitors: 2 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussions

It was noted by Curt that this is the last GCECG meeting of 2014. The next GCECG will be on

Thursday, January 22, 2015.

Curt reported that he had met with Norm Williamson concerning approval for GCECG to pursue organizing as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Norm indicated neither he, nor Mr. Popoff had any issue with that proceeding if that is what we want to do. Rob Bailey is taking the lead to get the legal aspects in work through the law firm that he works for.

Reports from Past Events

10/4 - St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run - All nominal
10/12 (Sun) - Space City 10 Miler
All radio volunteer slots filled - Thanks to all who participated.
10/18 - Galveston's Toughest 10K
Used 2 cross band repeat dual band mobile radios in lieu of a repeater or simplex.
Worked well.
10/18 - Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
Texas City Amateur Radio Society (TARS) supported a troop in Texas City.
GCECG members WM8S, WB5UZZ and K5KGH supported Troop 2322 at Challenger Park
GCECG member KA5UNH and Ken Ekes, AB5A, supported the Scout Troop at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in League City.
All supported scout troops were able to participate in DX HF contacts and had good experiences getting exposure to amateur radio.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 10/25- HBSIG Monthly Breakfast
Sat, 10/25 - Ferguson Elementary 5K Fun Run
Sun, 11/16 - La Porte By The Bay Half Marathon
Sat, 12/6 - Reindeer 5K Fun Run - Last public service event of 2014
Sat, 12/6 - Skywarn Appreciation Day
Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is avail on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Simulated Emergency Training (SET) - Actions taken and results achieved - Discussion led by Curt Tallman
GCECG was activated via Blackboard Connect. Fifty-five calls made but only 15 check-ins were received on the net set up on the 145.410 repeater and the GCECG Packet inbox. It was noted that many member phones were never received the calls. This is a concern to be investigated and resolved.
WB5UZZ, WM8S and KC5LAA manned the GCOEM radio room. An ICS-213 form was developed, printed, scanned and transmitted to the TempSOC in Georgetown via HF Pactor. A response to the message was subsequently received. The ICS-213 form was also transmitted to the Temp SOC via VHF Winlink through TranStar and a copy sent to DDC 16. Finally, the information was included in a Packet message sent to the Boeing Company in Clear Lake acting on behalf of ARES District 14 South East.
Cross Band Repeat Setup - Discussion led by Curt Tallman
During the Galveston's Toughest 10k Fun Run, cross band repeat using Yaesu FT-8800 VHF/UHF mobile radios were implemented to improve communications throughout the race course.
During previous years, communications have always been spotty while either using a repeater or simplex due to the distances and interfering structures involved. This year, CLARC tried a cross band repeat radio setup on the mainland side of the causeway bridge and a similar setup on the island side. The VHF frequency of both cross band radios was set to 146.535 MHz simplex, while the UHF frequency of the mainland side was set to 446.500 MHz and the island side set to 445.500 MHz. All hams on the course set their HTs to either the mainland or island side UHF frequencies. Tone squelch was used on all radios to minimize interference. There were issues at the beginning of the event getting the tones set properly in all radios, but good communications were maintained after the tone issues were resolved.
The meeting adjourned at approximately 2020 hours.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

September 24, 2014 Start: 1900 End: 2130
Members: 11 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Reports from Past Events

9/20 - Houston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
Event went well with one medical incident
First event use of the new Clear Lake Shores VHF repeater. It worked well during the entire event

Upcoming Events

- 9/27 - Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club's Home Brew Special Interest Group Monthly Breakfast
Starts at 9:30 a.m. at La Brisa restaurant in League City
Discussions of ham radio, electronics projects, computers and computer programming
- 10/4 - St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run
At St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Nassau Bay
Run through neighborhood streets in Nassau Bay
Kids 1K starts at 8:00 a.m., adult 5K starts at 8:15 a.m. Finish by 9:45 a.m.
- 10/12 - Space City 10 miler
At UHCL - 10 mile single loop. Need at least one ham every mile
Starts at 7:00 a.m., finished around 11:00 a.m.
UHCL>Bay Area Blvd>Redbluff>Kirby>NASA Parkway>Space Center> Middlebrook>UHCL
- 10/18 - Galveston's Toughest 10K Fun Run
At Galveston's Daily News Building
Run across the I45 Causeway and back
Starts at 7:00 a.m., finish by 10:00 a.m.
- 10/18-19 - Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
3 separate Scout groups - Galveston State Park, Challenger 7 Memorial Park in
Webster and St. Christopher Episcopal Church in League City
- 10/25 - Ferguson Elementary 5K Fun Run
1910 Compass Rose Blvd, League City
Event starts at 8:30 a.m.

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is avail on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics

- Rob Bailey, WM8S discussed the frequency programming he has developed and installed in the new Kenwood D710 VHF/UHF mobile radios installed in the GCOEM radio room. Frequency listings for the radios will be posted in the radio room. Individual frequencies can be selected by typing the 3 digit number associated with each frequency listing into the microphone keypad. Very cool.
- Rob Bailey, WM8S, discussed the potential for GCECG to become incorporated and registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This would allow GCECG to own equipment, maintain a bank account, conduct fund raisers and apply for grants. Incorporation will also provide legal protection for the GCECG officers. Incorporation would require GCECG to adopt and follow rules for organization and officer structure, among others, that meet state and federal requirements. Norm Williamson, Deputy Emergency Management expressed support for GCECG incorporating and becoming a non-profit organization. Rob Bailey has agreed to lead the legal path for incorporation and non-profit status.
- Louis Petit, WB5BMB, led a discussion on installation of multiple radio repeaters in the American National Building in Galveston in conjunction with and support of the Red Cross. This includes the Motorola MTS 2000 UHF repeater with duplexer that was surplus by the City of Galveston. Norm Williamson has agreed that the repeater, which is currently located in storage at the GCEMF, does not belong to any entity now and could be installed into the American National building if that is how GCECG would like to use it. Louis has agreed to continue working with the Red Cross in negotiations with the American National owners and continue plans for repeater installations. Louis will need additional support from GCECG hams to prepare and install the equipment after approval is received from American National and the Red Cross.
- Tommy Duvall, KF5HSB, and Tom Davies, KA5UNH, led a discussion about requests to support the Boy Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) on Saturday, October 18th. Tommy is supporting a Scout troop that will set up in Challenger Park and is requesting amateur radio support on Saturday and/or Sunday. Rob Bailey agreed to head up getting required support. Tom Davies is working with a troop that meets at the St. Christopher Episcopal Church in League City. Ken Eckel, AB5A, is leading the amateur radio support for this troop but will need some additional support. Tom agreed to head-up that support. There may be an additional troop setting up in Galveston Island State Park. Joe Wileman, AA5OP has agreed to work with the Tidelands Amateur Radio Society to support that troop if requested.
- Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, led a discussion about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) fall Simulated Emergency Training (SET) exercise to take place on Saturday, October 11. GCECG will participate by activating the members through Blackboard Connect, then working in the GCOEM radio room to develop, print and scan an ICS-213 form for transmission to the Texas State Operations Center in Austin by direct transmission using the PACTOR modem and the Kenwood TS-570 on 40M as well as through Transtar using Winlink via the VHF Packet system. Additional efforts will be made to establish contacts with stations inside and outside of Galveston County including Texas City, the Boeing building on Bay Area Blvd, Transtar and the El Lago/Seabrook/Kemah area via the Clear Lake Shores repeater. Any GCECG members wishing to participate and train in the radio room are welcome to attend. The SET will be over by 1:00 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

August 28, 2014 Start: 1900 End: 2110
Members: 13 Visitors: 5 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Reports from Past Events

8/2 - Outrigger's 5K Fun Run

One of our hams slipped on wet grass and fell, cutting his arm which required minor first aid attention. This is a reminder that safety is paramount during these events and you must always be aware of your surroundings.

Upcoming Events

9/20 - Houston's Toughest 10K Fun Run

Start/Finish at Kemah Boardwalk

Starts 7:00 a.m.

Ends by 9:30 - Pizza and drinks served at end of event

10/4 - St. Thomas 5K Family Fun Run

At St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Nassau Bay

Run through neighborhood streets in Nassau Bay

Kids 1K starts at 8:00 a.m., adult 5K starts at 8:15 a.m. Finish by 9:45 a.m.

10/12 - Space City 10 miler

At UHCL - 10 mile single loop. Need at least one ham every mile

Starts at 7:00 a.m., finished around 11:00 a.m.

UHCL>Bay Area Blvd>Redbluff>Kirby>NASA Parkway>Space Center> Middlebrook>UHCL

10/18 - Galveston's Toughest 10K Fun Run

At Galveston's Daily News Building

Run across the I45 Causeway and back

Starts at 7:00 a.m., finish by 10:00 a.m.

10/18-19 - Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

3 separate Scout groups - Galveston State Park, Bay Area Park, League City

Tommy Duvall and Tom Davies volunteered to get additional details of support needed and when.

Additional information for each of the public service events listed above and Curt's email address to volunteer to support any or all of the events listed is avail on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) website (www.CLARC.org). Hover your mouse over "Public Service Events" in the top banner on the home page, then click on the "CLARC Public Service Events" in the drop down box that appears. You will then be able to see the details for all the events listed.

Discussion Topics:

Richard Conner, KE5RMO, is a volunteer with the Red Cross in Galveston and a visitor to GCECG. The Red Cross has established a relationship with the owners of the American National building on Galveston Island with permission to install multiple radio repeaters that operate on Red Cross and amateur radio specific frequencies. Richard and Louis Petit, WB5BMB, requested approval to install the Motorola UHF repeater donated by the City of Galveston into the building, using a frequency pair that Louis already has approval to use. Curt has the action to discuss with Norm Williamson.

Rob Bailey, WM8S, discussed the installation and programming of the two Kenwood D710 dual band VHF/UHF mobile radios in the radio room to replace the two ICOM VHF/UHF radios used previously. The radios are installed with dual speakers each so each of the dual receivers in each radio has its own speaker. Rob is building control boxes that will allow switching from speakers and mobile microphone to headphones with boom mics. The radios are currently programmed with most of the frequencies that can be reached from the EOM building.

Continuation of discussion of various GPS receivers reasonably available to GCECG and CERT members assigned to field operations. Small keychain size units that cost around \$30, a somewhat larger unit from Busnell that cost \$45 (refurbished), Garmin and Tom-Tom type units used for automobile navigation and smart cell phones with GPS apps were all discussed. Basically, all units that were tried, were found to be capable of providing at least basic latitude and longitude information. The team agreed during the meeting that the Degrees-Minutes-Seconds (DMS) format for readout should be the standard, but it is planned to have conversion software in the radio room to convert other lat-lon formats as required.

Training:

Steve Gove, KF5LVG, who is a member of the Texas State Guard, provided training on how to use the newly developed Galveston County Civilian Emergency Response Team Site Assessment Datasheet. The Datasheet has designated spaces to enter latitude and longitude information when working on field assignments, either during training or an actual emergency. An instruction sheet is available to assist in filling out the form and communicating essential information back to the EOM.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

July 24, 2014 Start: 1900 End: 2025
Members: 14 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Reports from Past Events:

Amateur Radio Field Day - June 28 and 29

Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club combined with the Johnson Space Center Radio Club held Field Day at the Gilruth Center. Band conditions weren't great but had a good time and good catered food

The Tidelands Amateur Radio Society held their Field Day at Highland Park in La Marque. They also had a good time and good food.

Baytown Bud Heatwave 5 Mile Run - July 4

Not as hot as usual. No issues. Food and drink were plentiful after the event.

Texas City Ham Fest - July 12

Packed hall as usual. VE test session, contests, HVRA auction. Very much a success.

Lunar Rendezvous 5K Fun Run - July 19

Had issues getting through JSC security gate despite making pre-arrangements plus had inadequate traffic control support from JSC security. Otherwise, uneventful.

Upcoming Events:

8/2 - Outrigger's 5K Fun Run

Seabrook side of Hwy 146 bridge

Starts 7:30 a.m. at Outriggers

Ends by 9:00 - Food and drink served

9/20 - Houston's Toughest 10K

Start/Finish at Kemah Boardwalk

Starts 7:00 a.m.

Ends by 9:30 - Pizza and drinks served at end of event

Discussion Topics:

Introduction into use of GPS by GCECG and CERT in the field to provide team location to the OEM

Training:

How to use the new Kenwood D710A and G VHF/UHF Dual Band mobile radios being provided by the county to replace the ICOMs - Rob Bailey, WM8S

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

June 26, 2014 Start: 1900 End: 2025
Members: 16 Visitors: 0 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Reports from Past Events:

Houston Hurricane Workshop

Held 5/31 at George R. Brown Convention Center

Amateur radio communications using a net control and simplex operation with tone worked very well.

Training on how to set up a Forward Operating Base

Held at GCEMF and hosted by Mr. Popoff

Participants practiced setting up and taking down the new Forward Operating Base enclosure purchased by GC.

Upcoming Events

6/28-29 - Amateur Radio Field Day

The Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club in partnership with the Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club will participate in Field Day on the grounds of the Gilruth Center off of Space Center Blvd. Setup will start at 0800 with the contest starting at 1300 and going until 1300 on the 29th. There will be a catered BBQ lunch arriving around noon on Saturday.

The Tidelands Amateur Radio Society will hold their Field Day Activities at Highland Bayou Park in La Marque starting around 0800. They will have a BBQ dinner Saturday evening.

7/4 - Baytown Bud Heatwave 5 mile run

0730 start at Lee College in Baytown

Finish at Wismer Budweiser Distributorship who will provide food and drinks to participants and volunteers

7/19 - Lunar Rendezvous 5K Fun Run

0730 start at Space Center Houston (SCH)

Participants run on JSC property

Finish at SCH by 0900

Have a chance to check out the Shuttle mockup and 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft

Discussion Topics:

Go-Kit in a desktop computer case - Wes Coleman

A self-contained transceiver case that included Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries and chargers. Wes used it successfully during the 2014 MS 150 Bike Ride.

Introduction to draft procedure on Use of On-Amateur radio Equipment and Channels - Rob Bailey

This procedure specifies when and how GCECG members may use non-amateur radio equipment and channels in support of GCOEM operations.

Rob discussed the highlights of the procedure and invited all participants to review the draft procedure in detail and provide comments and suggestions for improvements.

The meeting concluded at approximately 2025
These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

May 22, 2014 Start: 1900 End: 2035
Members: 14 Visitors: 4 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Reports from Past Events:

Summary of the ARES/GCECG Special Emergency Training (SET) held 3 May:

Nine GCECG/ARES members participated in the GCOEM radio room activities for this SET
Blackboard Connect activation notice sent to GCECG members at 0855 hours. Received
23 voice check-ins and 2 digital check-ins via Packet.

An ICS-213 form was developed and sent as an attachment to a message to TEMPSOC,
N05L, via PACTOR modem via HF radio. An acknowledgement was received at 1100 hours
Transmissions were also made to Transtar and the Boeing Facility on Bay Area Blvd, but
no contact was made with either location.

Louis Petit, WB5BMB checked into the SET voice net as the Galveston County RACES
Coordinator.

Upcoming Events

Alvin Swap Meet - May 24

Galveston County Hurricane Exercise - May 27 - 29

May 27 - Telecon to set up the event

May 28 - A category 1 hurricane stalls over Galveston County and drops over 20 inches of
rain in 24 hours.

May 29 - After storm actions to restore functions within the County

Amateur radio support and participation not defined at this time.

Houston Hurricane Workshop at the George R. Brown Convention Center - May 31

Discussion Topics:

Presentation on Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS)

Presentation developed and presented by David Fanelli, KB5PGY

Covered the basic operation, operating options and applications of APRS

Of particular interest to GCECG, ARES and Civilian Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
is the potential ability to track the location of CERT and GCECG/ARES teams in
the field during emergency operations.

The meeting concluded at approximately 2035

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

April 24, 2014 Start: 1900 End: 2030
Members: 14 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussion Topics:

ARES/GCECG Simulated Emergency Training (SET): Curt Tallman presented information on the
upcoming event scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd, starting at 0900 and running until 1300
hours. GCECG will be activated via Blackboard Connect starting at 0900 hours with instructions
for members to respond via either call-in to the 145.410 MHz repeater or send a Packet
message to the GCECG inbox. Respondents will be asked whether they would be available to be
deployed if this were an activation for a real event. The answers received from the
respondents will be added to an ICS-213 form that will be transmitted to the Austin SOC
(actually Tom Whiteside, N5TW in Georgetown). The goal of the exercise will be to get that
ICS-213 form transmitted successfully to Austin and receive a confirming response.
Communication will also be attempted with the City of League City and the Boeing Company
facility on Bay Area Blvd. All GCECG members were invited to participate at the
Emergency Management Building and practice operation of the radio equipment.

Hurricane Blowout: Curt Tallman led a discussion of the Hurricane Blowout scheduled from 1000
to 1400 on Saturday, May 3rd. This event, which is sponsored by the City of League City and
Home Depot, will take place in the Home Depot parking lot in League City. There will be an
Amateur Radio display set up by League City and the Amateur Radio volunteers who support them.
There will also be vendors on hand to provide information about preparing for a storm and
recovering from damage after a storm. League City and Home Depot are providing free hotdogs
and soft drinks during the event.

Galveston County Hurricane Exercise: Curt Tallman and Alfred Perez provided information on the
Galveston county Hurricane Exercise scheduled for May 27 through 29. the scenario is a category
1 hurricane stalls over Galveston County, spilling 20 inches of rain over the county, causing

massive loss of communications. GCECG has been asked to support communication requirements on both the 28th and 29th. Additional information will be forthcoming prior to the event.

Other upcoming events were discussed by all members present, including:

The Home Brew Special Interest Group breakfast will be held starting at 0930 on April 26 at the La Brisa restaurant in League City

The Northpointe Elementary 5K Fun Run will be held on May 4, starting at 1400.

The Pearland Amateur Radio Club Tailgate will be held on Saturday, May 17, starting at 0700 and continuing until there are no more buyers and sellers. The event will take place in the Frank Bradon Center, 1838 E. Sam Houston Parkway, Pasadena and is free to both buyers and sellers.

The Alvin Swap Meet will take place on May 24th in Alvin. Visit www.hvra.org for details

The Houston Hurricane Conference will take place on Saturday, May 31st, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. George Fletcher, AD5CQ, is organizing the amateur radio support, which is to begin at 0700 and end around 1500. Breakfast and lunch will be provide.

The meeting concluded at approximately 2030

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

March 28, 2014 Start: 1900 End: 2005
Members: 12 Visitors: 2 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussion Topics:

Oil Spill volunteer Support - Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT): Curt Tallman and Gina Gentile discussed volunteer actions and lessons learned from action. CERT teams were activated in cleanup support roles and communicated successfully using the TXWARN trunking network. Discussed the potential of employing a net control on the TXWARN network to handle situations where called recipient who could not immediately respond would have someone to record the question and assure the received the information or question when they became available.

P3 hurricane Awareness: Curt Tallman discussed a request from Dan Reilly, National Weather Service, for CERT and GCECG support on Tuesday, May 20, at Ellington Field. A hurricane hunter aircraft will be on display for school children during that day and Dan is requesting CERT and GCECG support to help maintain an efficient flow of the children during the event.

Other upcoming events were discussed by all members present, including:

The Home Brew Special Interest Group breakfast will be held starting at 0930 on March 29 at the La Brisa restaurant in League City

The Yuri's Night 5K Fun Run is scheduled to be held starting at 0745 on Saturday, April 5 in Nassau Bay.

The Northpointe Elementary 5K Fun Run will be held on April 6, starting at 1400.

The Pearland Amateur Radio Club Tailgate will be held on Saturday, May 17, starting at 0700 and continuing until there are no more buyers and sellers. The event will take place in the Frank Bradon Center, 1838 E. Sam Houston Parkway, Pasadena and is free to both buyers and sellers.

The MS150 Bike Ride will be held on April 12 and 13. Amateur radio volunteers are still needed.

The Houston Hurricane Conference will take place on Saturday, May 31st, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. George Fletcher, AD5CQ, is organizing the amateur radio support, which is to begin at 0700 and end around 1500. Breakfast and lunch will be provide.

Training: Curt presented training on the application of ICS-312 forms during a real or training event.

The meeting concluded at approximately 2005

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

*** FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES ARE BEING COMPILED ***

January 23, 2014 Start: 1900 End: 2000

Members: 13 Visitors: 0 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussion Topics:

Status of Repeaters for New Towers

Curt Tallman met with David Popoff earlier in the day and learned that the County had authorized a 2014 budget of \$10K to purchase radio equipment for the new towers. I has been decided that a portion of that money will be used to fund an engineering study of the current tower and purchase a new repeater to serve the county fire departments. Bottom line, we will be lucky to get a single repeater during this budget year.

ARES/GCECG Training

Curt Tallman presented a set of PowerPoint charts defining voluntary training requirements for ARES members that was developed by the South Texas Section Communications Manager. Included with the charts was an ARES Emergency Communicator individual Task Workbook that each participating ARES member can maintain. The presentation charts and Task Workbook template will be available via links on the GCECG website. GCECG members in attendance agreed that the training requirements and task workbook should also be implemented by the GCECG on a voluntary basis. Curt Tallman and Rob Bailey have the action to initiate the implementation.

Tri-Band Emergency Portable Antenna

Curt Tallman presented a "Short Takes" page from the December 2007 QST that described the Evans Tri-Band Portable Antenna. This is basically a ground plane antenna made out of extendable antenna elements similar to those used in the construction of "Rabbit Ears" TV antennas. The antenna can be made to resonate on 2M, 1.25M and 70cm by adjusting the element lengths. Performance was very good on the two lower frequency bands and usable on 70cm. The entire antenna disassembles into pieces not longer than 6 inches. It was reported to still be available for less than \$30 from Evans Engineering.

ARES Operations during a Widespread Internet Outage

Curt Tallman provided copies of a white paper on the subject topic that had been developed by Tom Whiteside in 2012. The paper discussed scenarios where it might be possible to lose the entire internet in the U.S., including a major solar event, terrorist actions that cause the U.S. Government to shut down the internet, etc. The paper goes on to discuss the type of plans individual groups, such as GCECG, should develop, implement and practice to prepare for such an event. For GCECG, such plans could be useful in the event of a more localized failure of the internet caused by a storm or terrorist event. GCECG and District 1 ARES have been practicing for such an event at least twice a year for the last 2 years with plans to participate in additional exercises this spring and fall with South Texas ARES.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:00 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

October 24, 2013 Start: 1900 End: 2030

Members: 14 Visitors: 1 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussion Topics:

Air Show support: Alfred Perez, N5VEV, discussed communications support requirements for the upcoming Wings Over Houston air show on the 25th, 26th and 27th of October. Additional amateur radio and CERT support was needed. Specific details on tasks to be performed plus how and when to volunteer were discussed.

Medical Training: Bill Johnston, KF5FKV, presented an offer to provide first responder medical training, including CPR and AED, to anyone wishing to take the training. The cost of the training, including all supplies, would be \$67 per student. Melissa Kronenberger, KF5RHS, stated that the CERT team would possibly be offered similar training through the County provided CERT contractor. Melissa took an action to find out if GCECG members could participate in the CERT training.

New Radio Tower Status: Louis Petit, WB5BMB, delivered the requirements document he developed for amateur radio equipment, including VHF and UHF repeaters plus APRS radios and computer equipment. Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, took delivery of the document file and hard copy. Subsequent to the meeting, a copy of the file was forwarded to Norm Williamson for review and action.

Radio Tower at OEM Facility: There was no new information related to tower climbing or resolution of the electrical interference caused by the new equipment installed on the tower.

GCECG/ARES/RACES/MARS Simulated Emergency Training (SET): The fall SET was discussed by Curt Tallman. It was planned to initiate an activation of GCECG/ARES via phone by Black Board Connect (BBC) between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 26. Each amateur radio operator who receives that call will be asked to check into the GCECG net to be held on the GCECG repeater starting when the BBC call is initiated. Each respondent will be asked to state whether he or she could be deployed if this had been

an actual emergency. Members who would like to participate in the GCOEM radio room were invited to participate at that location. The object of the exercise will be to develop an ICS-213 form with information received from the respondents, transmit that form to the TEMPSOC in the Austin area and receive a response without using the internet. This objective was planned to be accomplished in two ways. First, use a Pactor modem on HF to communicate directly with the TEMPSOC. The second was to communicate through Transtar on VHF. Six members indicated their intention to participate this event in the radio room.

Last Meeting of the Year: It was mentioned by Curt Tallman that the October GCECG meeting is traditionally the last meeting of the year because the 4th Thursday of November is generally Thanksgiving and the 4th Thursday in December is around Christmas. A happy holiday season was wished for all.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

September 26, 2013 Start: 1900 End: 2030

Members: 10 Visitors: 6 Others: 0

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, GCECG Director presided

Introductions and pass around the Sign-In and Visitors lists

Discussion Topics:

GCECG Badges: GCOEM has obtained a badge maker that makes full color plastic badges.

Rob Bailey, WM8S, Asst. Director, has developed a badge template that had previously been reviewed and approved by Curt Tallman and Mike Scott. Samples of the new badge design were distributed for review by the members in attendance. All agreed the new badge design is acceptable. Several suggestions concerning addition of training information on the back side of the badge were made. It was concluded that only the basic required training information would be included. It was also agreed that members will not receive the new badges until FEMA Courses ICS-100, -200 -700 and -800 had been successfully completed and notification of the completion sent to Rob Bailey. Rob has automated the badge making process so the machine can obtain the required information from the GCECG membership database.

New Equipment Requested For The Radio Room: Rob Bailey discussed the wish list he had developed and presented to David Popoff several months ago. Based on a discussion between Curt Tallman and Mr. Popoff on September 25, the first opportunity to obtain new equipment from that list will occur in the next budget cycle starting in October, 2013, but don't expect any large expenditures due to budget restrictions.

New GCECG - GCOEM Interface: The GCECG - GCOEM interface has been Rony Kraft, Operations Chief for GCOEM. Curt Tallman learned that Ms. Kraft is now on volunteer status due to budget cuts, so GCECG will now report to Norm Williamson, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator.

New Radio Tower Status: The two new towers, stated last night to be 300 feet tall, are fully erected and perimeter fencing is being installed. One of the towers is in north Texas City towards Hwy 146 while the second is in Galveston close to the new court facility around 59th Street. Louis Petite, WB5BMB is working to provide a list of equipment to support new VHF and UHF repeaters on each tower.

Radio Tower at OEM Facility: The source of the emissions that is desensitizing some of the VHF/UHF radios in the radio room is still on the tower, but Mr. Popoff stated that the county has budgeted \$10,000 for an engineer to perform an engineering study of the tower and the utilization of the antennas. This may help solve the interference problem.

Disaster Preparedness Kits for GCECG - Mr. Popoff agreed to provide 5 CERT backpack kits for GCECG use in the event any of our members are sent to the field.

GCECG Task Assignment Sheet: Rob Bailey and Curt Tallman developed a set of proposed tasks that could be assigned to the members so those members could contribute to the success of GCECG even when we don't have an event to support. It was agreed that the list needs additional development and probably will not be brought back for discussion until January 2014 or later.

Upcoming public service events supported by the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club and the Texas City Amateur Radio Club were discussed.

These minutes were prepared by Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director

March 28, 2013 Start: 1900 End: 2045

Members: 7 Visitors: 2 Others: 1 (David Popoff)

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director:

Introductions

Discussion of Access badges to the GCOEM

Badges for Mike Scott and Tom Davies were found to be non-operational this evening. Curt agreed to request Niki Bender to get the badges for Mike and Tom re-set.
(Action completed 3/28/13)

Curt Tallman discussed the request received from St. Johns Hospital in Nassau Bay to provide assistance in selecting ham radio equipment in support of a requirement to have amateur radio equipment and trained operators.

Curt helped them select 6 Yaesu FT-60R HTs, 1 Yaesu FT-8800 mobile radio plus external antennas, power supplies and accessories to be funded by a federal grant. This equipment is compatible with the amateur radio equipment operated by the Nassau Bay volunteer Fire Department.

Nick Lance has been asked to provide amateur radio Technician class training for 20 - 30 hospital employees.

Louis Petit provided information about FCC specified restrictions on the ability of paid employees

to use amateur radio frequencies while on paid duty.
Alfred Perez provided information about the Texas State Health facility located southwest of Houston now has D-Star capability.
There was a discussion of the path to exchange digital data between Galveston County and the State Operations Center (SOC) in Austin. Alfred indicated that the planned path would be through the DCC in Houston to minimize bandwidth problems with the SOC in Austin, but there is concern the DCC may not have the facilities to perform that mission in the event of a major event where amateur radio communications becomes prime due to loss of phone and internet systems. Curt took the action to discuss the preferred amateur radio communications paths with Mr. Popoff.
As part of a discussion on digital emergency communications, Curt asked John Paterson to initiate the development of a "Pactor for Dummies" set of instructions so any GCECG member could use GCECG's PACTOR IV effectively in case of need.
Discussed the ideas for installation of repeaters on the two new 400' antenna towers being built in Galveston County. Asked Louis Petit to take the lead in finding available repeater frequencies and develop a plan for repeater and antenna specifications and locations.
Mr. David Popoff discussed a Galveston County sponsored hurricane exercise to be held on May 29 and 30. Many of counties first responders will participate and Mr. Popoff requested several GCECG members provide support. Participants will deploy to a location such as Bolivar Peninsular and return on May 30. Detail of the exercise will follow.

Alfred Perez discussed a Ham Cram session planned to be held in the OEM building on Saturday, April 27. This will be a one day training session for people wishing to earn their amateur radio Technician license. The cost of the session will be \$25 with \$15 for the examination and \$10 for training materials.
Alfred Perez discussed a satellite phone available for \$189 that can be activated only when needed. Activation/usage cost is \$24/month for 10 minutes with \$2.00/minute after the 10.

Actions for GCOEM: Activate OEM Access badges for Mike Scott and Tom Davies
Actions for Director: Discuss preferred amateur radio communications destinations and links with Mr. Popoff.

Next GCECG meeting: April 25, 2013, 1900 Hours

Minutes prepared by Curt Tallman, Director.

January 24, 2013 Start: 1903 End: 2042
Members: 19 Vistor: 1 Other: None

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Director:
Introductions

Visitors included: Mr. Popoff, Emergency Management Coordinator, Norm Williams, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and Niki Bender, OEM Planning Coordinator.

Ms. Bender and Mr. Popoff provided information related to Nancy McCain no longer being employed by the County. GCECG will now report to Niki Bender in place of Nancy McCain.

Upcoming Events of Interest

There will be hamfests in Orange on February 23rd and Rosenberg on March 9th.

The CERT Rodeo will take place on Saturday, February 9, at the Harris County Fire Marshal's training facility located at 2318 Atascocita Road in Humble. ARES volunteers from Districts 1 and 14 have been asked to provide communications for this event starting at 7:00 a.m. and completing around 3 p.m.

Discussions

Mr. Popoff discussed two new 400' radio towers that have been funded through grants. On tower is to be located between Texas City and Dickinson. The other tower is to be located on Galveston Island. To comply with grant funding restrictions, both towers must be complete and operational by the end of July, 2013. Mr. Popoff stated he would like to have amateur radio repeater antennas on the top of both towers. Louis Petit, WB5BMB, volunteered to research available 2M and 70cm frequencies.

Curt Tallman provided a sample GCECG badge reconfigured to a vertical format. This was done due to scarcity of the current size laminating sleeve. Curt has a large supply of the vertical format laminating sleeves, which are the same ones used for Galveston County ARES badges. The GCECG members present expressed acceptance of the proposed format, so future GCECG badges will be made this way.

Curt Tallman and John Paterson demonstrated the new Pactor IV modem that the County recently received. The modem was connected to the Kenwood TS 570 HF radio and the Dell Latitude D610 laptop computer donated by Curt Tallman. The laptop was loaded with the latest version of RMS Express software. With this hardware and software, it is possible to send a text message, such as email with attachments, to recipients over long distances using HF amateur radios. Curt and John were able to show how to fill out a message and how the computer is able to control the transmit/receive frequencies of the radio. Additional practice will be required by several operators to gain proficiency in the Pactor operations.

Actions for GCOEM: Find available 2M and 70cm repeater frequencies - L. Petit, WB5BMB

Actions for Director: None

Next GCECG meeting: February 28, 1900 Hours

Minutes prepared by Curt Tallman, Director

December, 2012

No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 23, 2013, 1900

November, 2012

No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 24, 2013, 1900

(MISSING OCTOBER MINUTES)

September 27, 2012 Start: 1900 End: 2030

Members: 7 Vistor: 2 Other: 3*

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Assistant Director:

Introductions

*In addition to all members and visitor present introducing themselves around the room, David Popoff, KF5GQA, Manager of the Galveston County Office of Emergency Management, introduced Niki Bender, Planning Coordinator for GCOEM and Norman Williamson, the Deputy Manager of GCOEM. Neither Niki, nor Mike, is currently a licensed Amateur Radio operator.

Upcoming Events Discussed:

October 6: Belton Ham Fest

October 13: St Thomas Family 5K Fun Run at the St. Thomas Church and school in Nassau Bay.

October 20: Galveston's Toughest 10k fun run which goes across the Galveston causeway and back.
5K Fun Run on the Texas City Dike
Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air event in Galveston
JSC Federal Credit Union e-waste event.

October 27: Wings Over Houston
Ferguson Elementary 5K Fun Run

ARES, RACES and MARS Simulated Emergency Test (SET) which will be a reduced version of the SET held on May 5, 2012 which simulated the complete failure of the internet and practiced transmitting email traffic between Galveston GCOEM and the Austin State Operations Center.

Based on a question from Mr. Popoff and Williamson, there was a discussion about ARES, RACES and MARS. Much of the discussion focused on RACES as a Federal, State and local organization and whether Galveston County could have its own RACES organization. No decisions were made since GCECG provides the functions Mr. Popoff wants within the county.

Mr. Popoff proposed organizing the GCECG as a 503.c. non-profit organization which would be eligible to receive grants. The application will be developed and processed by County staff but will require GCECG to develop a charter and formal officer structure.

Mr. Popoff discussed the Emergency Management trailer. He is working on a grant to replace it with a self propelled unit. When he gets his new unit, he plans to turn the current trailer over to GCECG. He also wants GCECG members to take a county driving course so we can be certified to drive County vehicles. When the trailer is deployed, the county will provide a truck to tow it that can be driven by certified participating GCECG members. As part of this, Mr. Popoff has already made arrangements to have the trailer moved to Ellington Field for the Wings Over Houston event. The trailer will be available for Ham Radio operations during the event. GCECG will be expected to provide some ham radio operators during the event to use the trailer.

Mr. Popoff conducted a tour of the Emergency Management trailer for all GCECG members present.

Mr. Popoff stated that a number of radios had been found in the store room and wanted us to find uses for those that could be used for ham radio operations. The Kenwood TS-440 was moved to the radio room and is to be tested for operation.

Actions for GCOEM: Develop the documentation for GCECG to become a 503.c. organization.
Purchase a PACTOR IV modem. John Paterson has agreed to develop the specification requirements for the modem.

Actions for Director: Coordinate with Mr. Popoff relative to development of a charter for GCECG.
Also coordinate with Mr. Popoff on the details for driver certifications.

Actions for Assistant Director: Obtain a copy of the inventory of the radios located in the
store room and develop a draft plan for future applications.

Next GCECG meeting: October 25, 2012, 1900 Hours

August 22, 2012 Start: 1904 End: 2040
Members: 13 Vistors: 0 Other: Emergency Management Coordinator

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
Introductions

David Popoff, Emergency Management Coordinator
Mr. Popoff introduced himself to the group and stated that he would prefer that GCECG hold
meetings inside the EOC room since we are an ops organization.

The secrets to emergency management:

1. It's an open book test. "What does the plan say?"
2. Cheat off your neighbor - If they do cool stuff you can use it
3. If you use the system nobody fails

GCECG will help update the communications annex.

Nancy McCain, K5NLM, OEM Logistics Section Chief:
Nancy wants to make a Galveston County RACES group in the event of restricted communications

Per the OEM, the current GCECG priorities are: PACTOR, IRLP, Radio rack, Kenwood UHF repeater

The Comet GP-3 antenna at 120' has been removed to facilitate a NWS comm test

Actions for GCOEM: None
Actions for Director: None

Next GCECG meeting: September 27, 2012, 1900 Hours

July 28, 2012 Start: 1907 End: 2031
Members: 9 Vistors: 0 Other: OEM Planning Coordinator

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
Introductions

Nancy McCain, K5NLM, OEM Logistics Section Chief:
The County print shop can be used by our group to print free QSL cards. We have a new
design

IRLP may be coming to our radio room. IRLP enables a ham to use a radio to type in a
node number to connect through the computer to another radio which could be in any
other location. Ours would be used mainly for Skywarn activities.

The DB-224E antenna will be used as a spare ham VHF antenna.

The tower climb is off and the money will be used for other projects. An
engineering study is needed on the tower for wind loading since new antennas
have been added since its original construction.

Actions for GCOEM: None
Actions for Director: Send inventory sheet and update with origin field.

Next GCECG meeting: August 23, 2012, 1900 Hours

June 28, 2012 Start: 1914 End: 2018
Members: 12 Vistors: 5 Other: OEM Planning Coordinator

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
Introductions

Roger Schermerhorn, KF5JHN:
Showed pictures from Field Day 2012 at JSC ARC shack. Announced that he will
be moving out of state in three weeks.

Nancy McCain, K5NLM, OEM Logistics Section Chief:
GCECG background checks will now be full TCIC/NCIC background checks
GCECG members should take the ICS courses available online: 100, 200, 700, 800

WebEOC training was conducted after the meeting
OEM trailer is in the shop getting a new roof

Actions for GCOEM: None
Actions for Director: None

Next GCECG meeting: July 26, 2012, 1900 Hours

May 24, 2012 Start: 1903 End: 2010
Members: 19 Vistors: 0 Other: OEM Planning Coordinator

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
Introductions

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Assistant Director:

May 5 exercise simulating complete internet failure was a success.
Digital data was passed to Georgetown, TX using PACTOR III over HF.
An Icom 706 was used with the GCECG HF antenna. A redundant path
Was successfully tested over VHF between the EMF and Boeing in
Clear Lake City, who then relayed the data to Austin using PACTOR III
and HF. Net control was on 40m SSB. Net control was notified that a
message was available to be relayed and then the requesting station was
given a frequency to move to. Usage of Winmor on the net caused
confusion for net control.

Nancy McCain, K5NLM, OEM Logistics Section Chief:

Nancy introduced Niki Bender, the new OEM Planning Coordinator.
Mike Stokes, OEM Operations Coordinator, is no longer employed at
The OEM as of 5/22/12.

David Popoff is the new Emergency Management Coordinator.

Per ICS standards, the GCECG now reports to the OEM Logistics Section Chief,
Nancy McCain, K5NLM. This new command path holds true at all times,
whether GCECG is activated or not. Our Bylaws will be adjusted for the
new command path and personnel changes.

Niki Bender is currently acting simultaneously as both the OEM Planning
Coordinator and the Operations Coordinator.

Actions for GCOEM: None
Actions for Director: None

Next GCECG meeting: June 28, 2012, 1900 Hours

April 26, 2012 Start: 1908 End: 2025
Members: 15 Vistors: 0 Other: None

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
Introductions

County is in the process of drafting a requisition for a new tower climb.
No date is set yet. We are not aware of any current problems with
antennas. Tower climbers will re-mark the feedlines to identify
which end of the feedlines in the radio room go to which antenna on
the tower.

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Assistant Director:

May 5 exercise will simulate internet failure, all Texas and USA, 9am-2pm
Test sending digital information (i.e. ICS 213) to SOC in Austin.
Exercise will practice transmitting digital data from here to SOC.
ARES/RACES/MARS participating
HF stations running RMS PACTOR to N5TW who will relay to SOC via VHF.
GC EMF VHF packet -> Boeing (Bay Area) to PACTOR3 ->
N5TW in Georgetown -> VHF to SOC
GC EMF to Boeing freq: 145.050 Boeing to Georgetown freq: 7285 KHz
Louis Petit, WB5BMB will have service monitors available at the EMF

Discussions

TNC and VHF radio are now common point grounded - no longer noise on signal.

Current versions of Outpost and Airmail have been installed on computer #2
in radio room

Tommy Duvall showed off some ICS quick reference books

Actions for GCOEM: None
Actions for Director: None

Next GCECG meeting: May 24, 2012, 1900 Hours

=====

March 22, 2012 Start: 1900 End: 2020
Members: 19 Vistor: 1 Other: None

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Assistant Director:

Introductions

In addition to all members and visitor present introducing themselves around the room, Nancy McCain, K5NLM, introduced Mike Stokes, the new Operations Coordinator for Galveston County Office of Emergency Management. Mike is not currently an amateur radio operator so his interest was in learning about our organization and the strengths and talents we bring to the county emergency operations.

Upcoming Public Service Events

Muddy Girl 2 Mile Obstacle Course on Sunday, March 25, starting at 9:00 a.m. behind Eastside Honda on I-10 about 3 miles east of Hwy 146.

Yuri's Night 5K Fun Run to be held on Saturday, April 7, starting at 8:00 a.m. in Challenger Park.

Discussions

Nancy McCain is planning to teach a Community Emergency Response Team Course at Santa Fe High School over a 6 week period starting on April 2. She had started a CERT class this last Saturday, but too few people showed up so the class has been postponed.

Joe Wileman, AA5OP, discussed renewal concerns with RACES badges. Badge renewal in the last few months has taken longer than 30 days. Joe recommended that those of us who are members monitor our badge expiration dates and submit the renewal form 45 - 60 days in advance.

Curt led a discussion on the upcoming ARES digital communications exercise to be held starting on Friday, May 4 and finishing on Saturday, May 5. The scenario for the exercise is that the internet has been knocked out by a massive solar storm and our mission is to pass email traffic from the local area to the State Operations Center (SOC) in Austin using only radio communications. The current plan is to use WINMOR digital communications on HF to communicate to a designated PACTOR III station which will pass the traffic to the SOC. The object of the exercise is to pass email traffic to the SOC and receive a response in return without using the internet. Plans to use the radio room in the Galveston County Emergency Management Building were discussed. Mike Stokes did not express any concerns with the plans expressed to use the facilities in the radio room. Various hams volunteered to bring equipment to the radio room to conduct WINMOR operations without impact or cost to the County.

Mike Stokes indicated that the WebEOC software has undergone a major upgrade since the training we received last year. Mike still has to receive "train the trainer" training, then plans to conduct a class for all wishing to participate. None of us will be able to effectively use the new WebEOC until we receive the training, even if we can remember our old password.

After the meeting officially ended, those interested hams went to the radio room to participate in registering and training on the National Weather Service Chat software that will allow better communications between the weather technicians and the Skywarn net control during a severe weather activation.

Actions for GCOEM: None

Actions for Director: None

Next GCECG meeting: April 26, 2012, 1900 Hours

=====

February 23, 2012 Start: 1900 End: 2020
Members: 15 Vistor: 1 Other: None

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Assistant Director:

Introductions

Results of Repeater range test: GCECG repeater worked well with 50W mobile transceiver in a personal vehicle all the way to Galveston. Driving out west on 3005 to San Luis Pass found some areas of weak communications but workable to the Pass. On the east side of Galveston, communications was good with the Texas City Repeater and the Galveston Repeater. On Bolivar Island, the GCECG repeater became unusable a couple of miles west of Gilcrest, but the Devers repeater worked well there.

Upcoming Public Service Events

North Pointe Elementary 5K Fun Run on Sunday, March 4

Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathon on Saturday and Sunday, March 17 & 18

Alfred Perez, N5VEV and Roger Schermerhorn, KF5JHN

Alfred discussed a project to make a very simple and relatively inexpensive packet station using a Wouxun HT, a laptop computer and a custom interface cable. Some success has been achieved during tests, but it is not completely functional yet.

Discussion of bulk buy of Wouxun dual band HT radios from Import Communications, the US distributor. There are several models available starting at \$140.00 each with free shipping. If bulk quantities are purchased, discounts up to 15% can be achieved. Roger distributed copies of literature describing the available models. Many of the members present expressed interest in purchasing one of the radios, but no formal action was taken. Roger and Alfred agreed to perform additional research to determine if better pricing can be achieved with a bulk buy.

Actions for GCOEM: None

Actions for Director: None

Next GCECG meeting: March 22, 2012, 1900 Hours

=====

January 26, 2012 Start: 1910 End: 2017

Members: 19 Visitors: 0 Other: None

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Introductions

TE Systems 2-meter Amp is installed on the 145.410 repeater. We have 2 reports of degraded receiver performance. Louis has an isolator we can use for troubleshooting after other field tests are done.

Alfred Perez, N5VEV:

We should do some comprehensive repeater coverage testing of GCECG, Texas City, and Galveston repeaters. Analyze current situation - plot data for Tx City, Galveston, both GCECG repeaters. Field strength measurements will be taken with specific antenna/radio. 9AM Sat Morning Jose Corvalan will test from ferry landing at Galveston. Then on Feb 18 we can do a more comprehensive second round of testing. We would like to form a committee to do more detailed testing and create a report.

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Asst. Director

Winter Field Day - Saturday Jan 28 at Texas City Dike

Feb 11 cERT Rodeo. Will use hams. Contact Alfred Perez perez.alfred@gmail.com

Actions for GCOEM: None

Actions for Director: Make nametag and member certificate for James Gunnnett, KI5RR.

Next GCECG meeting: February 23, 2012, 1900

=====

December, 2011

No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 26, 2012, 1900

=====

November, 2011

No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 26, 2012, 1900

=====

October 27, 2011 Start: 1910 End: 2008

Members: 16 Visitors: 4 Other: None

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Introductions

TE systems amp project is not going to happen. It's low priority anyway. Alfred Perez says the current repeater is solid down to Main @ 610 loop and I-10 @ Beltway 8 west. Repeater seems to hear better than transmit so it would benefit by adding some transmit power. New 6-cavity duplexers are about \$150. Louis said insertion loss if we go to 6-cavity duplexers. Alfred Perez offered to subcontract work on the amp and handle the financial transaction with the County.

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Asst. Director

Sat Oct 29 will be the Homebrew Special Interest Group for CLARC at La Brisa at I-45 at 9:30 am.

Nov 5: Tailgate at Summit HS in Pasadena off Beltway 8 7:00 am start. Multiple groups support.

E-waste event for old computer gear, electronics, etc. 8:00 am-2:00 pm.

Space Center Houston. No appliances like washing machines, etc. Ham radio help is needed. Look at CLARC.org under public service events.

ARES/RACES special emergency training. E-mails will be sent with details. Nov 5 9:00 am
initial callout. Over by 11:00 am.

Alfred Perez, N5VEV:

FEMA coordinating test of EAS. Nationwide Nov 9 2p Eastern. Last 3.5 mins. all
radio, TV, cable TV, satellite. 3/4 country not aware.
Repeater in area relocated - more usable to Clear Lake area 145.390 tone 123.0.
October 31 first date, then next Thursday for Wouxun working group. Freeman library
in Clear Lake, 7:00 p.m. This group will meet every Monday and Thursday after
that. The purpose of the group is to tie radio and laptop together to do packet.
The radio has VOX, a timeout timer, and certain software which will make it easier
to do packet.

Louis Petit, WB5BMB

FCC has issued report and order for Broadband over Powerlines (BPL). There will be
areas of BPL in place soon. There will probably be impacts to amateur radio,
mostly on HF. Agreement to increase notch filter from 20 to 25dB notch filter

General Discussion:

None

Actions for GCOEM: None

Actions for Director: Follow up with Alfred Perez on TE Systems amp.

Tommy Duvall, KF5HSB - print certificate and nametag

John Stewart, AE5ZO - check on background form.

Next GCECG meeting: January 26, 2012, 1900

September 22, 2011 Start: 1902 End: 2011
Members: 16 Visitors: 1 Other: None

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Introductions

Alfred Perez, N5VEV:

Alfred gave a show-and-tell about the new go kits created for League
City OEM, and another go kit built for Tom Davies. He also demonstrated
the new Chinese \$100 radio, Wouxun model KG-UVD1P.

General Discussion:

None

Actions for GCOEM: Follow up on 2m repeater TE Systems amp tunedown.

Actions for Director: Make nametag for Roger Schermerhorn.

Next GCECG meeting: October 27, 2011, 1900

August 25, 2011 Start: 1905 End: 2045
Members: 15 Visitors: 4 Other: Colin Rizzo (OEM Ops Coordinator)

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Introductions

Minutes are now in a searchable text file on the website.

We are in the thick of hurricane season. "Keep your batteries charged" as Joe Wileman would say.

Members will be asked to bring their HT's to the next meeting to practice placing them on simplex.

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Asst. Director:

2m band plan reviewed.

New continuous CPR - laypeople take 2-3 minutes trying to establish an airway. "No-breath" CPR
video was viewed.

Colin Rizzo (OEM Operations Coordinator):

We cannot sell the DB-224E antenna which was taken off the tower. If we sell it we must go
through Govdeals. However, we can request proceeds from the sale for use on GCECG. We
decided keep the antenna to use as a backup.

The 2m repeater TE Systems amplifier tunedown needs to be done prior to October 1.

We now have print capability from all radio room computers.

Alfred Perez, N5VEV:

Alfred asked for examples of where ham radio was needed. Motorola had expressed their opinion
that ham was not really needed. Jerel TX tornado destroyed all communications.

Texas City after Ike due to radios from one region not working
with the local region. In Alaska, a line was accidentally cut
and 1/3 of the state comm went down. Minnesota bridge collapse:
trunked system down for 4 days. Alfred showed a video
highlighting the need for ham radio capability.

Louis Petit, WB5BMB:

Louis gave an overview of how trunking works. The discussion was prompted from the "need for ham radio" topic Alfred had brought up.

General Discussion:

Net message given too quickly. Nobody copied the message.

Actions for Director: Follow up on 2m repeater TE Systems amp tunedown.

Next GCECG meeting: September 22, 2011, 1900

=====

July 28, 2011 Start: 1900 End: 2013
Members: 16 Visitors: 3 Other: Colin Rizzo (OEM Ops Coordinator)

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Introductions

There is a tropical storm in the Gulf. No impact to area expected.

The antenna removed during the June 18, 2010 tower climb was a DB224-E (138-150 MHz), not a HX9-43050 (430-450 MHz) as was thought to occupy the 5-blue color coded Heliac. The OEM is checking to see if this antenna was bought with DHS money. If so we may not be able to sell it and keep the profits for GCECG.

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Asst. Director:

Curt discussed FEMA Independent Studay Program for ARES applications: ICS100, ICS200, IS700, IS800. Curt recommended the following order: ICS100, IS700, ICS200, IS800.

Colin Rizzo (OEM Operations Coordinator):

There will be a significant impact to the OEM budget this year (Oct 1). We may get enough money to tune down the TE Systems 2m repeater amp.

The OEM feels that the lightning "Tower Guard" system is working well. There will be no reworking of ground system engineering in the radio room. One thing we could do is ground the Polyphasers under the floor.

Joe Mills, K5JMM:

Joe asked for volunteers for the Monday net control station. Current net controls: AA5OP, WB5UZZ, N5VEV, N5LZX, KC5LAA, K5JMM

General Discussion:

For the Monday net, it would be a good idea to issue a message and have people copy it and bring their copied message to the meeting to see if it matches the original. It would also be a good exercise to have people bring their HT's to the meeting to see if they know how to transmit on the repeater output or on simplex.

Actions for OEM: We need print capability in the radio room.

Actions for Director: 1. Check Yahoo group set up to allow attachments.
2. Follow up on 2m repeater amp power tunedown.

Next GCECG meeting: August 25, 2011, 1900

=====

June 23, 2011 Start: 1907 End: 2025
Members: 13 Visitors: 1 Other: Colin Rizzo (OEM Ops Coordinator)

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Introductions

Alfred Perez, N5VEV:

Alfred gave a presentation on go kits which were designed exclusively for League City OEM. N5DCC has stated that their tower will be lowered prior to a hurricane.

Next GCECG meeting: July 28, 2011, 1900

=====

May 26, 2011 Start: 1905 End: 2008
Members: 12 Visitors: 1 Other: None

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Introductions

Mike reminded the group of our Monday night net at 9pm on our repeater.

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Asst. Director:

Boeing has a hardened room on the third floor of their building. They have a Comet CHA250B antenna which will come down before a storm. The antenna is an aluminum pole 23.5 feet tall and covers 80, 40, and 20 meters.

Joe Wileman, AA5OP:

There will be a RACES drill June 4. James Colwell, AA5OQ, will run

145.410 at 9am, 442.225 and HF. Anyone can check in.

Next GCECG meeting: June 23, 2011, 1900

=====

April 28, 2011 Start: 1906 End: 2020
Members: 14 Visitors: 1 Other: Colin Rizzo (OEM Ops Coordinator)

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
Introductions

Alfred Perez, N5VEV:
Antennas have been put up for League City EOC on Fire Station #1.
If anyone has experience building "statement of work" please contact him.
A project idea is to link repeaters for Southeast ARES from the Astrodome area through the
CLARC repeater to the EMF.

Joe Wileman, AA5OP:
Jack Cumbaa, W5JWC has passed.
Texas City Hamfest is July 9. Book your tables now.
For Field Day (last full weekend in June), Tidelands will be at
Highlands Bayou Park

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ:
There will be an ARES exercise June 4 from 9-12
For the next meeting we may set up a HF net in the radio room.
This Saturday at the Summit High School in Pasadena there will be
joint EMF/Texas City operations from 7am on.
On Saturday May 7 there will be an e-waste pickup at Space Center
Houston from 8am-2pm. They will be taking computer gear, VCR,
stereos, etc.

Next GCECG meeting: May 26, 2011, 1900

=====

March 24, 2011 Start: 1903 End: 2020
Members: 12 Visitors: 1 Other: Colin Rizzo (OEM Ops Coordinator)

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Asst. Director:
Introductions
Curt discussed the tailgate sale planned for Saturday April 30 at
Summit High School in Pasadena.

David Unger, KF5FUL:
Discussed advanced Skywarn training to be held at 1:00 p.m. on
Saturday March 26 at the Doyle Convention Center.

Colin Rizzo (OEM Operations Coordinator):
Presented Julie Trumble from UTMB who presented the Wireless
Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER).

Next GCECG meeting: April 28, 2011, 1900

=====

February 24, 2011 Start: 1905 End: 2004
Members: 17 Visitors: 0 Other: Colin Rizzo (OEM Ops Coordinator)

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
Introductions
Rob Bailey, WM8S, has donated two Daiwa SS-330W 30 Amp DC power
supplies to GCECG. Thank you Rob!

Louis Petit, WB5BMB:
Discussed the potential for the loss of the 440 band. There is a
new bill to take 440 and turn it into land mobile radio,
420-440 + 440-470, for Homeland Security broadband use.
HR87 is related. A study has to be done to evaluate the
benefits of ham radio.

General Discussion:
On June 11 there will be a Houston/Galveston area hurricane
workshop.
On March 10 there will be a Basic Skywarn class from 7:00-9:30 p.m.
Register at CERT@gcoem.org
On March 26 the Advanced Skywarn will be taught at the Doyle
Convention Center in Texas City from 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Next GCECG meeting: March 24, 2011, 1900

January 27, 2011 Start: 1905 End: 2005
Members: 21 Visitors: 8 Other: Colin Rizzo (OEM Ops Coordinator)

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
 Introductions

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Asst. Director:
 Discussed Galveston County ARES and how Harris County ARES handled
 the Hurricane Ike response. There needs to be more ARES/GCECG
 integration. During a hurricane event, there needs to be more
 communications to POD sites.

Joe Wileman, AA5OP:
 Discussed RACES. RACES membership requires a security background
 check. RACES is run by state government in the state of Texas.

Next GCECG meeting: February 24, 2011, 1900
=====

December, 2010
No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 27, 2011, 1900
=====

November, 2010
No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 27, 2011, 1900
=====

October 28, 2010 Start: 1901 End: 2017
Members: 13 Visitors: 1 Other: Colin Rizzo (OEM Ops Coordinator)

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
 Introductions

Ken Shubert, K0KS:
 Suggested that a fan dipole antenna, mounted to the tower, would
 provide better HF performance than the B&W antenna currently
 in service. We will borrow a test model from Joe Wileman.

Louis Petit, WB5BMB:
 Provided training on international band allocations.

General Discussion:
 Curt and Joe Wileman will come up with RACES training for the Monday
 night net.
 The packet station still has a hum which affects some people's
 ability to decode its signal. A ferrite loop was suggested
 on the power cable.
 We need to use a spotting scope or telescope to identify Heliac
 markings at the 120' level on the tower to ensure our antenna
 mapping chart is accurate.

*** There will be no meeting in November or December

Next GCECG meeting: January 27, 2011, 1900
=====

September 23, 2010 Start: 1909 End: 1954
Members: 15 Visitors: 1 Other: Colin Rizzo (OEM Ops Coordinator)

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
 Introductions

General Discussion:
 A cold front may push Hurricane Matthew to the south.
 The Wednesday radio check will be moving to Monday or Tuesday.
 Net control stations for the Monday night net need to send their
 check-in lists to Joe Mills, K5MJJ.
 RACES training is on Monday night. Contact Joe Wileman if you are
 interested in RACES.
 Saturday there will be a fun run in Dickinson, the Live Healthy 5K.
 CLARC will support.
 Hams are needed for the air show October 22, 23, and 24. Fri-Sun
 7A-11P. About 60 needed.

CERT starts Tuesday September 28, 6:30-9:30 PM, for 8 weeks.
EMWIN is down. NWS thinks it may be the antenna. Tower climbers
will verify antenna.

Next GCECG meeting: October 28, 2010, 1900

=====

August 26, 2010 Start: 1904 End: 2045
Members: 13 Visitors: 1 Other: Colin Rizzo (OEM Ops Coordinator)

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
Introductions.
A review of the new By-Laws was conducted, including reading of the
Operations Plan. The By-Laws should be signed by John Simsen
sometime in the next few days.

Colin Rizzo, OEM Ops Coordinator:
The OEM has a date set for the tower climber: Thursday August 9.
The climber will be able to test the feedline, make jumper
cables on the fly, waterproof connections, and install our
Comet GP-3 and Discone antennas with no problem.
Colin provided about one hour of training on WebEOC in the EOC room.

Next GCECG meeting: September 23, 2010, 1900

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July 22, 2010 Start: 1905 End: 1943
Members: 17 Visitors: 0

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
Introductions.
Showed off Discone antenna mount created by Scott VanDusen, KC5IBZ.
It's heavy steel and is powder coated to resist corrosion.
The county is requesting bids for the tower climber/antenna repair
work. It should take somewhere between 2 weeks and 2 months
before we actually have a climber. The antennas are in bad
shape right now, with the WR5GC UHF repeater antenna (180'),
spare UHF (120'), VHF packet station (80'), NWS PIES (80'), and
one of the Diamond X-50A dual-band antennas (60') - UHF band
having very high SWR. The UHF repeater is off the air until we
can get one of the UHF antennas working.
The tropical depression is now TS Bonnie with 40mph sustained winds.
The latest forecasted tracks have it going in near New Orleans
Saturday evening.
The radios in the radio cabinet, including the repeaters, are now
powered by the newest Rigrunner 4008. This will be more reliable
than the MFJ power strips we had. At different times, the UHF
and VHF repeaters had gone off the air due to the power
connections working loose with the MFJ's.
The NWS EMWIN receiver got fried by recent lightning, but the
replacement EMWIN receiver is not yet working. The NWS thinks
it's antenna related, but it could be DIP switch configuration
on the receiver.

Nancy McCain, K5NLM, OEM:
There will be SNETS exercise on August 4 at the Doyle Convention
Center in Texas City. GCECG may be involved.
VHF Repeater amp power reduction still on hold. Nancy trying to
contact factory to ensure they can tune it down.

Alfred Perez, N5VEV:
Alfred discussed low cost options for packet, including sound card
based packet such as "Olivia".

Next GCECG meeting: August 26, 2010, 1900

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June 24, 2010 Start: 1900 End: 2010
Members: 14 Visitors: 3

Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, Asst. Director:
Introductions.
Discussion of antenna sweep and lightning strike damage to NWS
equipment. There was a general concern that the lightning
strike may have invalidated the antenna sweep results. Some of
the members expressed concern about the lack of
impedance/reactance information on the chart. [Radio room
equipment was tested after the meeting with no damage noted].
The antennas are in bad shape right now, with the WR5GC UHF

repeater antenna (180'), spare UHF (120'), VHF packet station (80'), NWS PIES (80'), and one of the Diamond X-50A dual-band antennas (60') - UHF band having very high SWR. The UHF repeater is off the air until we can get one of the UHF antennas working. Several key GCECG documents were reviewed for training purposes, and each member present was issued a CD with these files on it. The files included our list of digipeaters, radio room handbook, Telpac locations, Transtar frequencies, Saltgrass nodes, our frequency plan, and manuals for the dual-band radios.

Next GCECG meeting: July 22, 2010, 1900

=====

May 27, 2010 Start: 1905 End: 2008
Members: 15 Visitors: 1

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Introductions.
Award to Louis Petit, WB5BMB and John Paterson, KC5LAA for outstanding radio room support during the recent HUREX exercise. Packet radio antenna still has high SWR but there are currently no sweep plans.

Tracy Hughes, KE5KAQ, OEM:

State GLO responding to the spill. Expect tar balls not related to spill.
Gulf has 60% chance of hurricane.
For PODS, there will be no state staffing. GCECG will be written into the POD staffing plans this year.

Nancy McCain, K5NLM, OEM:

Rig Runner which was ordered was 4008 but we received 4005H.
Nancy will return it and ask for what we ordered.
VHF Repeater amp power reduction still on hold. Nancy trying to contact factory to ensure they can tune it down.

General Discussion:

TARS Hamfest July 10.
People might want to program the repeater output frequencies into their radio in case the repeater goes down.
The 147.060 repeater (tone 123.0) is on the air in the Astrodome area at 450'. This repeater was formerly in Pasadena.
Hurricane conference June 19 at George R Brown. George Fletcher is looking for volunteers.
Field Day is June 26-27. TARS will be at Highlands Bayou Park and CLARC will be at Sylvan Rodriguez Park. Both clubs will be operating for the whole 24-hour period.

Next GCECG meeting: June 24, 2010, 1900

=====

April 22, 2010 Start: 1904 End: 2011
Members: 13 Visitors: 3

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Introductions.
Lee Lockwood has resigned as the OEM Operations Coordinator. We are currently reporting directly to John Simsen. Nancy McCain, K5NLM, has stepped in to ensure GCECG has what it needs to support the OEM. She is in the process of ordering another Rig Runner 4008 which has 8 outlets. She is also going to order us another Daiwa SS-330W 30-Amp power supply.
The audio on the 145.410 repeater was having problems for a while, fading out to nothing while someone was talking and was strong into the machine. Problem has not been noticed for several weeks now. We thought it was antenna related but checked the antenna 6 weeks ago and it was fine. Will continue to monitor for any audio anomalies.
Our amp which came with the Kenwood VHF repeater has been located in Lee's office. We will try again to ship it back to the factory and have them tune the TX power down. When we first received the amp, it was transmitting with too much power which desensed the receive in the cavities. The cavities are only rated to 100W.
The packet antenna has a very high SWR and the packet is on low TX power now. The OEM will have a tower climber check the connector. Some members suggested that we should sweep the coax to see if we are perhaps connected to the wrong antenna on the tower. [After the meeting we did sweep it and could

not find a smooth transition to any low SWR anywhere in the expected spectrum, indicating that there is probably a problem with water in the connector at the antenna.]
There is still a discone antenna ready to be mounted. The coax has already been run and the antenna can be mounted when the packet antenna is checked by a tower climber.

Curt Tallman, Asst. Director:

Don't forget about the standing ARES net on 146.640 at 8:00 p.m. each Tuesday night.

Nancy McCain, K5NLM:

There will be a hurricane exercise May 3-7. GCECG will be involved, mostly to test our activation tree and response of personnel to the OEM, not so much for amateur communications.

Next GCECG meeting: May 27, 2010, 1900

=====

March 25, 2010 Start: 1907 End: 2030
Members: 15 Visitors: 2

Curt Tallman, Asst. Director:

Introductions.

Curt welcomed all members and visitors Alfred Perez and O'Riley McSpadden.

Curt described his experiences providing Amateur Radio communications for Bike Medics supporting the Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathon March 20 and 21, 2010. With medical needs by participants both days of the event, having Amateur Radio communications with the Bike Medics clearly showed the improved response time compared to previous events where the Bike Medics had to be located before they were able to respond to the need. Curt made the point that, in his opinion, any run/walk event longer than 10K should have Bike Medics accompanied by an Amateur Radio operator.

Curt Tallman led a discussion of ARES activities as related to GCECG. Curt handed out ARES information and application forms. Ten completed forms were returned. Curt took pictures of each person who signed up but didn't already have a picture posted on the GCECG Yahoo site for the purpose of making ARES picture badges. Curt asked Ken Shubert to lead a discussion on RACES during the next GCECG meeting in April.

Ken Shubert and Nancy McCain also discussed RACES.

John Paterson, KC5LAA:

John led a discussion of Packet Radio as it relates to GCECG and Galveston County. Members with significant Packet experience participated in, and greatly added to, the discussion.

General:

After the packet discussion, the meeting adjourned around 8:30 p.m. to the radio room to allow the attendees to share and learn.

Next GCECG meeting: April 22, 2010, 1900

=====

February 25, 2010 Start: 1902 End: 2007
Members: 12 Visitors: 1

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Introduction of meeting attendees was conducted.

Members have noticed diminished audio quality on the 145.410 repeater, with audio fading out to zero. Could be water in the feedline connector. Some members recommended switching the repeater to the packet antenna temporarily.

We have requested a Rig Runner 4008 (8-outlet) for the radio cabinet. We are currently having problems printing from the radio room. IT issue.

General Discussion:

Net Control for our Monday night net should attempt simplex operation during the net.

Nancy McCain, K5NLM, will hold a CERT class on Saturday April 24, 10:30 am-4:30 pm. 4 Saturdays + 1 exercise.

IS-317, Intro to CERT will be held May 22.

Next GCECG meeting: March 25, 2010, 1900

=====

January 28, 2010 Start: 1902 End: 2002
Members: 11 Visitors: 10

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Introduction of meeting attendees was conducted.
Curt Tallman, WB5UZZ, is our new Assistant Director. Ken stepped
down in October and is still active in the group.
Since Nancy McCain's CERT class had a large presence at the meeting,
Mike Scott presented an overview of GCECG using a presentation
which was given to emergency managers in 2008.

General Discussion:

ARES: District 1 ARES is all around Harris County and encompasses
Galveston County. Harris County itself is District 14. ARES
would be good for all hams to have. There is no need to have
ARRL affiliation.
Nancy McCain would like to put on another CERT class. We should
e-mail her with what works best for us, weeknight or Saturday.
Saturday only would take 5 Saturdays since it's a 24-hour course.
The Texas City Hamfest is July 10.
Louis Petit is the ARRL Technical Coordinator for South Texas.
E-mail him to let him know your specialty.
We need to get more kids involved in Skywarn.

Next GCECG meeting: February 25, 2010, 1900

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December, 2009
No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 28, 2010, 1900

=====

November, 2009
No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 28, 2010, 1900

=====

October 22, 2009 Start: 1900 End: 2000
Members: 15 Visitors: 0

Bill Steele (WA5WVP) and Joe Wileman (AA5OP):
Bill and Joe gave packet training.

General Discussion:

We will not meet in November or December due to conflict with the
holidays.

Next GCECG meeting: January 28, 2010, 1900

=====

September 24, 2009 Start: 1910 End: 1942
Members: 16 Visitors: 4

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

The revised charter team is progressing.
There may be WebEOC training coming soon.
Our net at 9:00 pm Monday evenings on 145.410 needs more
participation.

General Discussion:

RACES is reorganizing. The current state organization and level of
participation is not acceptable.
October 3 is the Belton Hamfest; October 17 is the TARS Jamboree on
the Air in the city park in Texas City.
IRLP seems to be working on 442.025.
Amateur license testing is conducted the 3rd Saturday of each month
for TARS, and the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Gilruth
Center for CLARC.

Next GCECG meeting: October 22, 2009, 1900

=====

August 27, 2009 Start: 1905 End: 2013
Members: 16 Visitors: 1

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

We have received new tools from the OEM. We now have a multimeter, pliers, a ratchet set, screwdrivers, butane soldering iron, and similar tools. Powerpoles and power supplies should be on the way soon. Louis mentioned he may have a service monitor that we can buy from him.

The computer at the Skywarn position is not booting. Use a different computer for Skywarn support. [Update: Computer replaced 8/27 and is working]

The 146.680 repeater in Galveston is on the air. We have established contact with the head facilities manager at UTMB where the repeater is located. [One of the UTMB hams was our visitor at the meeting.] Some of the people (doctors) who used to meet for the UTMB ECG are still at UTMB and want to work with us to rework their radio room. We have offered our services to that end, and have offered to supply personnel if the need arises. The radio room is equipped with HF, 2-meters, 440. The room is currently undergoing renovation.

Technical notes on the repeater from Louis: TX 70 Watts high power, 7 Watts low. RX has a preamp. Local control switch does not work. Tone switch should be in "PL OFF" position. TX power protection against high SWR. The antenna loops are between the mast and building structure to customize the radiation pattern. The antenna is a DB224 - 9dB gain which is working like a 6dB Omni. With the antenna position it radiates like a notched cardioid (6dB gain on each side).

Val Kahanek, KE5OND:

Recommendation for "Go" kits: Yaesu FT-817ND, Alkaline battery case, cigarette lighter power, twin lead, barrel connectors, ground rod, mobile antenna magmount, HF centerfed dipole antenna (or fishpole), 70cm and 6m antenna, rope for raising antenna in tree.

Ken Shubert, Asst. Director:

Mike Kitchen suggested that we write a letter to Pete Olson with respect to ham radio frequency spectrum which is at risk of being taken away.

General Discussion:

It was suggested that packet be put on the air at the UTMB radio room if it's not already there. We will assess this when we visit the radio room.

Next GCECG meeting: September 24, 2009, 1900

=====

July 23, 2009 Start: 1908 End: 1959
Members: 12 Visitors: 0

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

The GCECG Charter team met after the last meeting. Progress was made. Some of the things discussed were: An activation tree, MOU agreements with other agencies, and specific Bylaws updates.

Hurricane season is upon us now, so it is time to be ready to support GCECG. That means having your equipment ready and knowing what you will do to support if you decide not to evacuate. Also, this means letting me or Ken know your latest contact information. We don't poll people but once a month so it's easy for information to become stale fast.

Ken Shubert, KOKS, Asst. Director:

Lightning protection on the Heliac coming into the building is still a concern with regards to protecting operators in the radio room. Is there something that can be done to retrofit the Heliac bulkhead for grounding? Computer and radio equipment is also at risk, for both OEM and NWS. Perhaps NWS could help with funding for that project? Polyphasers are installed but will mostly protect equipment.

General Discussion:

Field Day was a hit. The sunspots seem to be increasing. Perhaps we are coming out of the longer-than-normal 11 year cycle valley.

Is the possibility that "go kits" could still be bought for use in the field?

Can some of this money come from companies like those who offered to provide products and material after Hurricane Ike last year? The Director will e-mail Lee to ask. [8/11/09 Lee asked us to make a list of what should be in the kits. He may come across unallocated budget money but he is well into his 2010 budget process.]

We still need to pursue getting a repeater in Galvstn. The frequencies 146.900 (old LaMarque) and 146.680 (old UTMB) seem to be available if we can get equipment. [8/11/09 The Frequency Coordinator sent a form which we can fill out to request one

of the pairs if it's inactive, however he said the 146.900 may conflict with a current Cleveland repeater. The form requires that we attempt to bring up the requested repeater on three separate occasions spread out over a one-month period. Both pairs have been off the air for many months.]

Are the county-issued ID badges ever going to be issued? [8/11/09 Lee said probably not. The OEM has not been able to obtain them from the people who make them.]

Next GCECG meeting: August 27, 2009, 1900

=====

June 25, 2009 Start: 1900 End: 1958
Members: 13 Visitors: 0

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

With the hurricane season upon us it's time to trim our roster a bit. People who have not been to a meeting in 2 1/2 years will be removed from the roster, with several exceptions. A few people have a physical disability that prevents them from coming to meetings, and a few others may be utilized from their home during an event. I will send a notice to all the ones we want to remove.

The GCECG Charter team will meet after the meeting to begin working on new wording for our charter, which will be included in our Bylaws. A full accounting of this and subsequent meetings will be issued to charter team members, and then to all GCECG members after significant progress has been made. Since we are well into hurricane season we need to get wording for any expanded roles in place soon.

Traci Hughes, Galveston County OEM Planning Coordinator:

Re-entry to the county after an event: GCECG members may be allowed back into the county by a Sheriff but will probably be denied re-entry by Texas DPS. One option is for members to contact the radio room via ham radio, then we can work through the players in the EOC and perhaps contact Austin to gain re-entry for personnel.

Call takers who have been ICS trained have been hired by the County through Media Consultants. This should free up the hams to do radio communications support.

General Discussion:

Field Day is 1PM Saturday through 1PM Sunday. TARS will be at Highlands Bayou Park in LaMarque, talk-in 147.140. CLARC will have a weather incident from 6:30AM-7:30AM. and will use APRS.

Fletcher Harris, KC5VGV, has passed on. He was the originator of the Purple Heart postage stamp and had two Purple Hearts of his own. He participated in the Normandy invasion on D-Day. He was last on the air about one year ago.

The Devers repeater on 146.980 is on the air and is up at 2000 feet. It is believed to be linked to three other repeaters.

A couple of members requested that a training session in the radio room be made available sometime after Field Day.

Next GCECG meeting: July 23, 2009, 1900

=====

May 28, 2009 Start: 1904 End: 2000
Members: 16 Visitors: 1

*** Meeting held at League City EOC ***

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

The RC-1000V controller is finally working on the 145.410 machine. It has a digital voice recorder so it will now identify by voice, and we can use it to broadcast notices.

The team to discuss our expanded charter is almost healthy enough to begin. A couple of team members were injured but are ready to participate now.

Ken Shubert, KOKS, Assistant Director:

ARES is dead in Galveston County. There are very few people showing interest. Ken will no longer be our ARES rep.

General Discussion:

The net control operator list needs to be sent to the Yahoo group so everyone will know when it's their turn to call the net.

Several hams who contacted our station on NWS Skywarn Appreciation Day have sent us SASE and we should respond.

Several members would like to have some packet training in the radio room. Using packet is a little cryptic and we need to know how to use our equipment for times of emergency.

Next GCECG meeting: June 25, 2009, 1900

=====

April 23, 2009 Start: 1905 End: 2000
Members: 17 Visitors: 4

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

A new 1000 Watt dummy load has been donated to the group. It's on the third floor.

The RC-1000V controller will soon be installed on the 145.410 repeater.

Mike will work with Eric Schmidt on this.

There was a severe weather event last Saturday. GCECG members were used in a Skywarn capacity.

The May meeting will be at the League City EOC at 300 Walker in League City.

The charter team is still on hold pending some team members healing from injuries.

Please ensure your contact information is up-to-date on the sign-in sheet.

This information is all we have to contact you during an activation.

Lee Lockwood, OEM Operations Coordinator:

A crew did a line sweep of each feedline on the tower two days ago. Everything checked out OK.

We will have WebEOC training May 16 at 10am at the OEM.

We may give our VHF amplifier to another agency.

General Discussion:

Member introductions were done.

The Texas City Hamfest is Saturday, July 11.

Member photos were taken.

Next GCECG meeting: May 28, 2009, 1900

March 26, 2009 Start: 1900 End: 2000

Members: 14 Visitors: 1

*** Meeting held at Friendswood EOC ***

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

We have decided that IRLP will not be used on the UHF machine due to our inability to have IRLP and link to the VHF machine due to limited ports on the RC-1000 controller in the UHF machine.

Louis and Mike Kitchen are starting to draw up plans for a county-wide linked repeater system.

Some of the radios needed for this system have already been purchased.

The group charter team is still on hold pending member recovery from injuries.

There will be a simulated emergency test this coming Saturday. Stay tuned for details.

Next GCECG meeting: April 23, 2009, 1900

February 26, 2009 Start: 1900 End: 2016

Members: 17 Visitors: 1

NO REGULAR MEETING - SKYWARN TRAINING FROM NWS

Next GCECG meeting: March 26, 2009, 1900

January 22, 2009 Start: 1900 End: 1958

Members: 18 Visitors: 1

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

The Monday night net is moving to 9:00 PM per the Yahoo group vote.

The team to discuss our expanded charter is forming. If you have interest, please contact me or Ken Shubert. So far we have myself, Ken, Lane, Don, and Lee in the group. Our plan is to decompose requirements and expectations into operational language. i.e. What are the potential missions with which we can assist? How do we meet operational goals?

I still need to make ID cards (not county identification) for Preston Nichols, Mike Armatta, Bill Glenn, and Lane MacFarlane.

Ken Shubert, KOKS, Assistant Director:

The EC-1 training will begin in early February in the media room. Details to be e-mailed to the members via the Yahoo group.

Gene Hafele, Chief Meteorologist, Houston/Galveston NWS:

The February meeting will be Skywarn training (by Gene) and Skywarn net control training (by David Fanelli). That meeting is February 26.

General Discussion:

The Seabrook Marathon is March 14 and 15. Half marathon on the 14th and completion of the marathon on the 15th. CLARC runs this event, so if you want to participate, go to www.clarc.org and sign up. They need three full teams of hams, one for Saturday and two for Sunday.

The status of the Galveston 146.680 repeater was discussed. There is still difficulty gaining access to the site at UTMB. Placing different equipment at an alternate site was discussed, possibly using the old unused LaMarque frequency of 147.90(?). Mike Scott will contact the frequency coordinator to determine which frequencies are available.

Next GCECG meeting: February 26, 2009, 1900

December, 2008

No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 22, 1900

November 12, 2008 Start: 1904 End: 2026
Members: 16 Visitors: 4

Meeting held earlier in the month than normal to accommodate member schedules with the holidays and the Mission Statement special topic.

Tracy Hughes, Galveston County OEM Planning Coordinator:

There is an existing pool of around 100 people that the county uses to obtain call takers for events. During Ike, most of these personnel evacuated. The OEM is willing to add new people to that list, including wives and friends of members, but it is preferable that these people have a background check in advance. If you know someone who is available to take calls during an event please contact Lee.

Lee Lockwood, OEM Operations Coordinator:

GCECG radio operators are allowed to use the county VHF and UHF frequencies to communicate with the county OEM staff.

It speaks well of GCECG that the group wants to do more to support emergency operations in the future.

The GCECG mission statement was discussed to see if we can play an expanded role in future activations. Several key points were made:

During the Ike event, if we had lost communications on Galveston Island we would have been called upon for our services. If communications were lost to a city EOC, they could request our services at their location and we could go there in an OEM capacity.

We need to embed more people into city EOC's. This requires us to develop an operations plan in advance of an event. Also, we should consider "go kits" for members to take to city EOC's which contain necessary communications equipment. As part of the development of our ops plan we need to establish relationships with all the EOC's and with agencies such as Civil Air Patrol, MARS, and others.

With OEM concurrence, we are allowed to serve Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc., still using our group name GCECG. Our ops plan should take our limited number of available operators into account when we consider field operations. The GCECG director will prioritize where personnel will be utilized.

There is no need to modify our mission statement, as it is already broad enough to encompass our role in potential field operations

Gene Hafele, Chief Meteorologist, Houston/Galveston NWS:

Gene would like us to send out a message on our alert systems (Yahoo and Blackboard Connect) when Skywarn is activated. He also wants more of the GCECG operators to perform as net control during Skywarn activation. Gene is going to work with David Fanelli to set up a training session for new Skywarn operators so people can learn how to run the net and use the Skywarn equipment in the radio room. Skywarn appreciation day is December 6.

General Discussion:

The new Kenwood TKR-750 repeater has been on the air since 10/27 on 145.410 with a 131.8 tone. We seem to have great coverage on Galveston Island and out to Angleton. We may use the RC-1000V controller, which was bought for the Motorola repeater we never got working, for the Kenwood so that we can use the digital voice recorder feature and have finer control of the repeater. We also may link the repeater with the 442.225 machine, but that is future work. The repeater is transmitting 40 Watts into the cavities. We bought an amp, but it puts too much power (160W driven with low power) into the cavities (they are rated for 100W). The manufacturer of the amp said if we send it back to them they can tune it down to put out less than 100W, which we may try. 75W was recommended by Eric Schmidt as the probable optimum power level.

We will start holding a regular traffic net on 145.410 on Monday nights at 7:00 pm. Several members were enthusiastic about performing the net control role.

The Rig Runner (Power Pole DC power distribution strips) have been installed in the radio room and are working well. The setup is much cleaner than the prior one. Each strip has its own DC power supply.

We will not meet in December.

Next GCECG meeting: January 22, 2009, 1900

October 23, 2008 Start: 1905 End: 2020
Members: 16 Visitors: 1

Lee Lockwood, OEM Operations Coordinator:

The new Kenwood TKR-750 repeater has been delivered and will be installed in a few short days.

General Discussion:

Thanks to Armadillo Network for communications to Austin EOC
Louis needs a contact with Medical Research for access to building 59
Louis proposed a county-wide linked ham repeater network using voting receivers and UHF links.
The network would have nodes at the EMF, Texas City, LaMarque PD, LaMarque water tower,
and UTMB.
Several members expressed a desire to expand the GCECG mission statement and felt that we were
underutilized during the Hurricane Ike activation. We will request that OEM personnel
attend our next meeting to discuss any expanded role we may serve.

Next GCECG meeting: TBA

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September, 2008

No meeting was held due to EOC activities related to Hurricane Ike.

Next GCECG meeting: October 23, 1900

=====

August 28, 2008 Start: 1902 End: 2009
Members: 22 Visitors: 0

Lee Lockwood, OEM Operations Coordinator:

The order for the new Kenwood TKR-750 repeater is almost ready. The county has yet to iron out
a few paperwork details prior to ordering the repeater.
Lee gave a demo of WebEOC amateur radio chatroom function.

General Discussion:

There may be an EC-1 class in September. Ken and Wayne would instruct.
We may want to look into an improved HF antenna, perhaps a sloper attached to the tower. Our
current antenna is pretty close to the ground, though it works fairly well.
TS Edouard Activation Summary: Members are encouraged to report accurate weather information
when operating a net. Do not speculate on prediction of tropical storm wind speed, storm
movement, or tidal surge. Be careful when talking with the media in the media room.
Media inquiries should be directed to the official county OEM Public Information Officer
(PIO). Keep noise to a minimum in the EOC. GCECG has no need to be in the EOC having casual
conversation. Keep lids on your drinks in the radio room. Food is not allowed in the radio
room. Sign in at the table in the front of the EOC when you arrive for duty, and when you
depart. Lee had requested 12 hour shifts for staffing the radio room but we scheduled 8
hour shifts. GCECG members are not required to work any particular shift duration. This
is a volunteer group so any help we get is welcomed. If someone is available for 2 hours,
or can work a while, then go home and come back again, that's fine.
GCECG requested that more proximity badges be made available to personnel supporting activation.
Currently there is no way for people to go out to the restroom and get back inside the EOC
without knocking on the door.

Next GCECG meeting: September 25, 1900

=====

July 24, 2008 Start: 1906 End: 2000
Members: 17 Visitors: 1

Lee Lockwood, OEM Operations Coordinator:

The new Kenwood TKR-750 repeater now has funds cleared for ordering, and should be ordered
shortly. The repeater can transmit with 35W max without the amp, and 35-160W with the
TE Systems amp which we are also purchasing.

General Discussion:

The HF antenna needs some repair as some strands in the wires are breaking.
Field Day - Over 40 contacts were worked. The HF audio sounded distorted since the large
batteries under the floor were connected in parallel to a power supply which was trying to
charge them and power the HF rig. The batteries have been removed and the HF radio sounds
fine.
We need to populate our "white list" for Airmail by going to winlink.org, creating a password,
and adding e-mail addresses of people we expect to receive airmail traffic from.

Next GCECG meeting: August 28, 1900

=====

June 26, 2008 Start: 1905 End: 1952
Members: 18 Visitors: 0

Director:

Introductions and member certificates handed out

Lee Lockwood, OEM Operations Coordinator:

The radio room has some improvements, including new workstation partitions, carpeting, and added
PC's. He would like us to make up individual workstation guide books which discuss the
equipment at each workstation. The Director took the action item for this.

We will have a training session on Tuesday July 8 from 6:00PM-8:00PM for equipment familiarization in the radio room. All members are welcome to attend.
For the July meeting we will take training from Lee on the new WebEOC version 7. The new version requires a user to have a unique name and position code for access.
There will soon be a new door entry dialpad next to the main lobby door. One of the buttons will ring the phone in the Media Room and then a person there can press one of the phone buttons to unlock the door.
Lee has agreed to try to acquire funds so that we can purchase a new ham repeater since the Motorola seems to keep having issues with getting it on the air. The group suggested two types of repeaters to consider: A Kenwood TKR-750 and a Motorola. The county needs to get bids from 3 vendors who will take a county-issued PO.

General Discussion:

The VHF Motorola repeater's exciter is fixed, but the final transistor is blown. Louis will order this part immediately.
Louis has a Kenwood TS-430S which belongs to TARS which he is willing to loan out to an EOC or individual such as a newly-licensed ham.
Field Day is June 28, Saturday 8:00 AM - Sunday 8:00 AM.

Next GCECG meeting: July 24, 1900

May 22, 2008 Start: 1904 End: 2015
Members: 14 Visitors: 3

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Both 145.410 repeaters are off the air until we get the Motorola fixed.

General Discussion:

The Galveston Hurricane Conference is coming up soon.
Field Day is June 28, Saturday 8:00 AM - Sunday 8:00 AM.

Next GCECG meeting: June 25, 1900

April 24, 2008 Start: 1905 End: 2007
Members: 14 Visitors: 0

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Both 145.410 repeaters are off the air until we get the Motorola fixed.

OEM Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):

WebEOC training. When logging onto WebEOC, use the address: webeoc.gcoem.org/eoc6 and log in as "Galveston County EOC - Radio Operator". Contact the Director or Assistant Director for the password. Create a log when you are on-duty and when you go off-duty so we can track hours. You can view "Significant Event - County" but cannot post directly to it. Posts you make in the Position Log are reviewed and may be moved to the Significant Event log.

General Discussion:

There is a new 442.025 repeater in La Marque with a tone 103.5. It's also IRLP node 3222. It defaults to node 9455 in Dallas, but 73 will disconnect, then type the 4-digit code of the node you want.
It was recommended that we change the WR5GC IRLP configuration to use a linked radio, not wire the repeater directly to the IRLP computer. This would require us to block CW ID from the node.

Next GCECG meeting: May 22, 1900

March 27, 2008 Start: 1902 End: 1935
Members: 15 Visitors: 0

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

The Vertex 145.41 repeater has been put back on the air to fill in until the Motorola's problems are fixed. Test equipment verified that the Motorola is putting out exciter power only (less than 1 Watt), so it's off the air.

OEM Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):

Hurricane exercise April 29, 30. Main traffic will be bus number and quantity that are on each bus.

General Discussion:

There will be a special event station commemorating the 1947 Texas City ship explosion. The event will be on the Texas City dike April 12 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, on Skyline Drive.
The Galveston Hurricane Conference is June 7, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.
Scribbles in Texas City will put the GCECG logo on your shirt if you just bring them a shirt.
Cost seems to be \$15~\$18.

Next GCECG meeting: April 24, 1900

February 28, 2008 Start: 1904 End: 1958
Members: 18 Visitors: 0

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

The new 145.41 machine is operating with some issues, mostly related to the controller. Many thanks to Louis. We may put the old machine back on the air temporarily due to low power output.

IRLP needs a new sound card in the Linux computer. A member volunteered to try a spare sound card which he has.

We will have regular training sessions for use of the radio room equipment, probably once per month. It's important for all of us to know how to use our equipment and what tools, such as WebEOC, are available to us and will be needed during an activation.

Members should contact the Director or OEM Operations Coordinator (Lee) if their contact information changes. We need to be able to contact all members.

Ken Shubert, K0KS, Asst. Director:

The last EC-1 class will be held this weekend. Another EC-1 class will start up soon and will probably be held on a Monday or Tuesday night to help people who can't attend on the weekends.

A SKYWARN training session taught by NWS will be held March 10 at the EMF.

OEM Director (John Simsen):

Handed out a presentation for the upcoming hurricane exercise. The event is scheduled for April 29-30 with After Action Review on May 1.

OEM Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):

Action to Mike Scott: Develop a communications plan which will be used for the hurricane exercise and real events.

Action to Mike Scott: Contact Austin EOC and develop a contact list for them, including Winlink addresses.

General Discussion:

We should decide on an HF frequency for local communication within Galveston County. Ken Shubert suggested the normal RACES frequency of 7255 KHz.

Louis Petit urged the members to take the CERT training course, which is offered by the OEM.

Louis Petit needs to borrow a folding ladder to work on a digipeater antenna in San Luis. The ladder should fold to 6-8 feet and extend to 20 feet.

Louis Petit needs to borrow a LORAN-C receiver to facilitate some work he is doing for the US Coast Guard.

After the meeting, some of the members toured the Mobile Operations Center behind the building.

Next GCECG meeting: March 27, 1900

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January 24, 2008 Start: 1902 End: 1935
Members: 14 Visitors: 1

Ken Shubert, K0KS, Asst. Director:

New 145.41 machine is operating and many thanks to Louis for countless hours involved.

Mike will program the controller. " #6 " will bring up status message or ID, whichever is programmed in. Louis will try to get the 131.8 tone output working.

Need to Schedule SKYWARN training at one meeting like last years.

Hurricane Conferences coming up: Texas State at Galveston (3 days), Galveston City (1 day), Houston and Pasadena.

EC-1 course is underway with first 4 Learning Units covered.

Red Cross trimming down in TX City and equipment going to CLARC and TARS club.

Next GCECG meeting: February 28, 1900

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December, 2007

No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 24, 1900

=====

November, 2007

No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 24, 1900

=====

October 25, 2007 Start: 1920 End: 1956
Members: 12 Visitors: 1

Prior to the meeting, the group went outside to watch the International Space Station and the Space Shuttle pass overhead as it was getting dark. It was quite a bright sight from horizon to horizon.

General Discussion:

The group decided that meeting is November and December is not necessary. We usually don't meet on these months because of the conflicts with the holidays. However, if we are activated we will use the roster to call everyone and post a message to the Yahoo group which will e-mail everyone. Also, Lee said he can set us all up on an automated callout service.

There appears to be a tone delay in the reeds in the new 145.410 repeater, and it will not "decode" CTCSS tones. Louis is going to bring up a PC board tone module to replace the mechanical reeds. This board will allow decode and encode tones.

Skywarn Recognition Day will be Saturday December 1 from 0000 through 2359 UTC. The TARS trailer will be set up in front and all radio operators are encouraged to use the equipment in the radio room. The TARS group may work stations beginning Friday night and work through the night, for the college kid in you.

IRLP configuration is still stalled. Matt thinks the sound card may be the issue. We need to find a PCI Sound Blaster to swap out with the existing one. Also, we need to install a diode on the audio line so that the radio will not retransmit its own audio. We are currently getting no internet audio.

More photos of members were taken for the county ID's.

Congratulations to the following members for making every meeting this year:
James Colwell (AA5OQ), Tom Davies (KA5UNH), Terry McKee (KD5AWZ), and Ken Shubert (K0KS).
We really appreciate your dedication to the GCECG!

Next GCECG meeting: January 24, 1900

September 27, 2007 Start: 1903 End: 2014
Members: 17 Visitors: 1

Bill Steele, WA5WVP

Gave a presentation on a new type of packet software named Outpost, which is easier to use than Airmail in some ways. Experiment with it yourself on 145.050 MHz, which is where packet is most often used in this area. Click here for a link to the software.

General Discussion:

The Houston D-STAR (digital) repeater is up. Perhaps we could get Alan Isaachsen to come give a talk about it.

IRLP availability is nearing completion on the 442.225 machine.
There are a couple of IT issues yet to be worked. John Perry (KG5RG) and Matt Jones (K5MJJ) will be the curators of the IRLP node as they have the best technical expertise on this subject matter.

Next GCECG meeting: October 25, 1900

August 23, 2007 Start: 1904 End: 1950
Members: 13 Visitors: 1

An award was presented to Don Marquith for his detection of a problem with the HF coaxial cable during the Hurricane Dean activation. His resolution of the problem may have saved us from damaging the HF radio or the amplifier.

Assistant Director (Ken Shubert, K0KS):

The GCECG was recognized with a proclamation in Galveston County Commissioner's Court. Regarding Hurricane Dean activation: If called by the Director or Assistant Director for scheduling in the EOC, please do not reply with general statements such as, "I'm available next week". Specific times must be established for each operator to be in the radio room.

Frequencies which will be utilized during an activation are on the official frequency list which is available on the website and on the Yahoo group.

Some RACES nets are being called "traffic" nets.

If we need to communicate with the DDC, the Armadillo network is probably our best bet right now. The DDC is not quite prepared with regard to equipment and antennas.

The UHF repeater (442.225) is fully functional, but does not have IRLP configured yet. John Perry and Matt Jones can help with IRLP.

We need to ground the radio room cabinet and equipment for the safety of the operators. Scott can help us. We need the building structural diagrams.

The first person to show up in the radio room should be net control, should a net be needed. Then a handoff to EOC can be done later.

Next GCECG meeting: September 27, 1900

July 27, 2007 Start: 1903 End: 2005
Members: 13 Visitors: 4

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

The 442.225 repeater was damaged by lightning on July 2. A repair was made to the controller board but we are not sure if the repeater is back to 100% operability.

The new 145.410 repeater is being finished out by a contractor which the County has hired. It should be in service in the near future.

There will be a Proclamation of Appreciation for the GCECG in Galveston County Commissioner's Court on Wednesday August 1 at 9:30 AM. All members are welcome to attend.

Assistant Director (Ken Shubert, K0KS):

A good goal for all members is to get IS-100 certified by the next meeting. This is a self-study, free course available online.

General Discussion:

Bill Steele gave a message formatting presentation on the ICS-213 form.
Skywarn recognition day will be the first week in December, as usual.

Next GCECG meeting: August 24, 1900

June 28, 2007 Start: 1902 End: 1930
Members: 14 Visitors: 2

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

The new County ID's (with the member's photo printed on them) were distributed. Members who do not have one may contact the Director to have their photo taken for their ID.

Our group participated in the hurricane exercise on June 6. We established communications with many area EOC's and the City of Austin EOC. All equipment in the radio room was utilized!

The new 145.410 repeater is still on the test bench and does not seem to be decoding CTCSS tones. Louis is still working on the repeater.

The new 442.225 GE Master Exec II repeater is IN SERVICE! Mike Scott and Lee Lockwood are still working on getting IRLP configured to work with the repeater.

Ken Shubert got the HF amplifier working. It needed a new cable and some settings changed in the HF radio. The amp puts out a nominal 400 Watts. We don't want to push it too hard. With the amp in service, this marks the first time that every piece of equipment in the radio room is operational.

The general plan of notification that we are activated will be 1) An e-mail and/or phone call from the OEM to the GCECG Director. 2) Director will post to the Yahoo group and split the roster in half (Director will call half and Assistant Director will call half). Assignments will be established with the members and a schedule for radio room support will be created.

A plan for re-entry into the county following an event will be created by the Director. This brief plan will include frequencies and protocols.

Assistant Director (Ken Shubert, K0KS):

Field Day went well. We were one of a very few 1F stations on the air. Our category as an EOC helped us out. Ken Shubert worked close to 100 stations on HF.

It might be a good idea for us to have a special event station to allow our members to gain familiarity with the equipment in the radio room.

General Discussion:

The Texas City Hamfest is scheduled for July 14. It's a big one locally, so if you need ham stuff, go! Alan Isaachsen, KB2WF, will be giving a Winlink presentation.

Next GCECG meeting: July 26, 1900

May 24, 2007 Start: 1905 End: 1941
Members: 16 Visitors: 8

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

The new County IDs (with the member's photo printed on them) are complete and Lee will pick them up from Galveston in the near future.

There is going to be a hurricane exercise June 5, 6, 7. Ham activities will be needed

on the 6th. Ken and Mike will support in the radio room, and all members are welcome to show up and help. Again, it's good training. Let Lee know if you are coming to the hurricane drill.

The new 145.410 repeater is still on the test bench and does not seem to be decoding CTCSS tones. Louis is still working on the repeater.

The new 442.225 GE Master Exec II repeater from Eric Schmidt is due to be installed within the next two weeks. Eric had to purchase an additional preamplifier for the front end, and that equipment is in now.

Assistant Director (Ken Shubert, KOKS):

All members are welcome to support Amateur Field Day from the EOC radio room on June 23 and 24. This is a good opportunity to learn about the equipment and how well we can hit repeaters around the county. In order for us to participate as an EOC, some EOC personnel must be activated.

General Discussion:

New Skywarn net control personnel are needed. David Fanelli has been doing it pretty much solo. The Galveston Hurricane Conference is May 30 at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to support. GCECG will have a table set up there.

The Texas City Hamfest is scheduled for July 14. It's a big one locally, so if you need ham stuff, go!

A new integrated IRLP computer was shown off. It will be installed on the Texas City/La Marque 442.025 repeater. The node number will be 3222

Next GCECG meeting: June 28, 1900

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April 26, 2007 Start: 1905 End: 2035
Members: 15 Visitors: 3

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

The Texas Hurricane Conference will be May 8-10 in Galveston, and thanks to Terry McKee and Friendswood, GCECG will have a table there. The table will be manned by Terry, Ken, and Joe. We have GCECG and ARES fliers which will be on the table.

Members were asked to turn in their proximity badges. The new County IDs will be issued to all members when the printer has been repaired. Access to the building will be possible either by contacting the Director or Assistant Director, or by using the keypad next to the lobby door on meeting days or when we are activated. The code was disclosed (again). If members need the code they may contact the Director. The new County ID's do not have capability to open any doors.

All members are welcome to support Amateur Field Day from the EOC radio room. This is a good opportunity to learn about the equipment and how well we can hit repeaters around the county.

There is going to be a hurricane exercise June 5, 6, 7. Ham activities will be needed on the 6th. Ken and Mike will support in the radio room, and all members are welcome to show.

Most people who submitted RACES applications have received their packet in the mail, and it seems that everyone is an alternate CLO. Nobody knows who the CLO is.

Assistant Director (Ken Shubert, KOKS):

We are not authorized to "teach" the ARECC-1 course as we had tried to do. Therefore, we encourage members to study and take the test on their own.

Next GCECG meeting: May 24, 1900

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March 26, 2007 Start: 1910 End: 2045
Members: 16 Visitors: 4

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Lee Lockwood has been paid \$170 out of our fund for the new IRLP equipment. We have \$78 left in the fund.

We will use the existing Maxtrac radio with our new IRLP equipment as a temporary measure until we get the UHF repeater on the air. (Note: Since the meeting it has been determined that the Maxtrac and the old IRLP computer are no longer available for our use).

The Icom IC-2720 radios have been programmed identically per the official frequency list.

RACES District Radio Officer, Hal Merritt, KD5HWW:

Hal Merritt, KD5HWW gave a presentation on the current status of Texas RACES, and the possible future statewide architecture of RACES, ARES, MARS, CERT and others.

Next GCECG meeting: April 22, 1900

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February 22, 2007 Start: 1903 End: 2000
Members: 17 Visitors: 2 Other: CERT Coordinator

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

We are making an inventory of member availability to support an event and what equipment each member has which may be used in an event. If you have not already filled out the equipment inventory and availability for please do so.

We have ordered the programming cable for the Icom IC-2720 radios. Lee will be ordering the software to program them soon. We will use the official GCECG frequency list which is on the web page and on the Yahoo group files area.

Lee will be buying equipment for the new UHF repeater that will allow IRLP. It was decided by the group to use money from our internal fund to buy this equipment. The cost is \$170. This will leave us with \$78 in the fund after the IRLP equipment purchase.

OEM Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):

There will be a statewide hurricane drill June 4-8. There will not be much ham activity statewide, but more on a local level. We are not sure which day will require ham support.

Lee reviewed some of the valuable GCOEM web page resources with the group, such as real-time weather, hydrological data and video feeds. The link is www.gcoem.org.

The new badges are coming along. To restate from a previous meeting, the current proximity badges will be phased out as the result of a recommendation from the US Department of Commerce. New badges will have our photos on them. However, access to the building will be obtained only by using the cypher keypad at the front door. The code will unlock the door only on meeting days. If a member wishes to enter the building at any other time they must contact someone ahead of time (preferably Lee) who can let them in. National Weather Service personnel have been directed to stop allowing entry to walk-ups who dial them on the voice box by the door.

The RACES applications have been sent to the new District Radio Officer, Hal Merritt, for approval. Hal is expected to attend our March meeting.

General Discussion:

The new CERT Coordinator for Galveston County OEM, Colin Rizzo, was introduced.

Assistant Director (Ken Shubert):

Ken gave us EC-1 training binders, with our new frequency list included. We discussed the first several sections briefly. We may want to train the group in EC-1 on non-meeting days such as Saturday. It may take four 3-hour sessions to complete the training, or more shorter sessions.

Next GCECG meeting: March 22, 1900

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January 25, 2007 Start: 1900 End: 2004
Members: 20 Visitors: 0

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Eric Schmidt is still adjusting the new 440 repeater. It should be in service in the next few weeks. The new frequency will be 442.225 with a tone of 131.8.

We are going to buy a programming cable and software for the IC-2720s in the radio room. The radios will be programmed to be identical.

Houston Transtar has sent us their official frequency list and we are going to create a new GCECG comprehensive frequency list based on theirs. Our new list will also be used to program the IC-2720 radios.

We are going to pursue a plan to coordinate with city EOC's within the county where we would supply operators and equipment to support them in the event of an activation. Lee is looking into getting dual-band antennas which would be permanently mounted at each EOC, ready to be used during an event.

OEM Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):

All proximity badges which allow us to access the building will be replaced in the near future. This is the result of a recent building security audit by the federal government. The new badges will have a photo of the member on the front. The building may be reconfigured to allow OEM and weather service badges to only access their respective areas. It is uncertain whether we will continue to make the GCECG name tags. There may be a period before the badge transition when only the GCECG director and assistant director have badge access, but there is a keypad in the lobby which can be used for building access if we are activated.

There are many tasks in the OEM that need to get done but there is not enough time for the staff to get them all done. If anyone would like to volunteer to come in during regular business hours and help out, it would be greatly appreciated.

There is a new paid OEM staff position opening up for CERT Team Coordinator. If any member knows of a person that would make a good candidate for this position, they should contact Lee.

There was a WMD regional exercise this past week. Several messages were sent via amateur radio methods, including Airmail.

General Discussion:

Lee Lockwood received an award for all the help he has given our group, including mapping of all the antennas on the tower, helping us run Heliac, granting us extensive building access, allowing us to fund our group by selling surplus county equipment, and coordinating with city EOC's to help us support them as well as the county EOC. Thanks Lee!

The members present at the meeting completed an Availability Questionnaire and Personal Equipment Inventory. These are to be used to help the OEM determine who will be supporting the county EOC, who will be supporting city EOC's, and what personally-owned equipment will be available during an event. If you did not make the meeting, please log onto the Yahoo group and fill in an entry in the database area.

Next GCECG meeting: February 22, 1900

December, 2006

No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: January 25, 1900

November 16, 2006 Start: 1902 End: 1936
Members: 13 Visitors: 0

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
The EC-1 binders are in work by Lee and Ken.

OEM Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):
The new building access photo ID badges with are still in work.
A custom mounting bracket has been built for the Discone. The antenna will be mounted soon.
The RACES RLO contacted Lee. The applications are still not in the pipeline. We are waiting for the RACES organization story to clear up before sending the applications to Austin.
Dec 2 is Skywarn recognition day. Our group is welcome to participate.

General Discussion:

The crystals for the MSR-2000 repeater are with Louis, and he is in the process of baking them in and compensating. We have no controller for the repeater. Louis offered to buy a controller. The group agreed to pay Louis to buy a Micro Computer Concepts RC-1000V controller which has a 20 second Digital Voice Recorder and autopatch. It will cost about \$240. Press the info button for some details on the controller. The group will also pay Louis for the crystals (\$50.00). The existing Vertex repeater will be used on 147.040 on Louis' tower after the replacement.

The Texas City 147.140 and 442.025 machines are now on battery backup with 5 x 92AH batteries. A portable generator is planned for use as a backup to the batteries if we have an event.

The packet antenna may be getting water into the coax, as the signal is degraded after rainstorms.

We will not meet in December.

Next GCECG meeting: January 25, 1900

October 26, 2006

Skywarn training was provided by National Weather Service meteorologist Gene Hafele in lieu of our regular meeting.

Our next meeting will be held one week earlier than normal (November 16) so as not to conflict with Thanksgiving.

September 28, 2006 Start: 1900 End: 1944
Members: 14 Visitors: 5 Other: OEM Operations Coordinator

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:
There will be a Simulated Emergency Test on Oct 7-8. Volunteers are needed at the EOC and in the field to send/receive traffic. We will be getting a new UHF repeater which will

replace the Maxtrac radio which is now acting as a remote base. Our two powerstrips have been repaired by Louis and are available to be mounted under the desk area.

Assistant Director:

Training from Assistant Director on NTS traffic message formatting. Standard message formatting will be utilized for the October SET.

Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):

Steve White, WB5UGT, of Saltgrass is claiming that two of the antennas on the tower belong to Saltgrass. Lee is in the process of finding the paperwork on this.

Lee is working on getting a new VHF repeater to replace the existing 145.410 repeater. The new one is a MSR 2000, which puts out 150W and was from the Galveston County Sheriff's Office. Louis offered to tune it.

The state RACES membership database has been corrupted. If you desire to be a RACES member you need to fill out a new form (on the GCECG main web page) and supply a copy of your ham license to Lee or Joe, who is the acting county liaison.

General Discussion:

Alan Isaachsen has offered to donate equipment to put a Telpac on the air in LaMarque.

Gene from the NWS requested that some of us assist NWS personnel as Skywarn spotters in the radio room. Skywarn training will be offered at our meeting in October.

Next GCECG meeting: October 26, 1900

August 24, 2006 Start: 1903 End: 1946
Members: 15 Visitors: 0 Other: OEM Operations Coordinator

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

Lee has been replacing the old jumpers under the radio room floor with new ones. They are the smaller RG-142 coax (expensive). We will have Airmail training from Alan Isaachsen on Saturday in the radio room at 10:00 AM. The 145.410 repeater is back in service due to the jumper replacement. Thanks Lee! The Icom IC-2720 is repaired and is in service. We are in discussions with Eric Schmidt to possibly borrow a UHF repeater from him so we can use our UHF frequency pair. The radio room PBX phone has a number which can be reached from the outside. The number was given verbally at the meeting. We made another \$60 in revenue from the Pearland tailgate, bringing our group fund up to \$590. There is a nation-wide emergency training exercise on Oct 7-8. We should be involved as much as we can. We have the training goal of certifying everyone possible to EC-1. Ken Shubert, K0KS is our new assistant director. He gave phonetic alphabet training to close the meeting.

Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):

The radio room PC now has a generic login so anyone can use it. The login name and password will be announced to the group at a later time. Building access cards will be taken up and new photo ID cards issued sometime in the near future. GCECG members should e-mail photos to Lee for inclusion on their badge. Lee is now the RACES liaison for the group. Lee is now a member of GCECG and the bylaws have been adjusted.

General Discussion:

Don't forget to check into the Tuesday night Tideland's net at 8:00 PM. We may want to add a RACES application to our web site.

Next GCECG meeting: September 28, 1900

July 27, 2006 Start: 1900 End: 1952
Members: 14 Visitors: 3 Other: OEM Operations Coordinator

Mike Scott, N5LZX, Director:

We made \$530 in revenue from the items sold at the Texas City hamfest. The County would prefer that these funds be kept in a private, individual account. The Director will be the custodian of these funds and the group will decide what items to buy as we need things. The 145.410 machine is still down due to high SWR on its antenna. We are still waiting for the antenna analysis which the OEM Operations Coordinator has arranged. The three Diamond X-50A antennas have arrived. The group set a date of August 5 at 11:00 AM to make the RG-8 runs for these new antennas into the radio room. The Assistant Director position is vacant. Members were asked to contact the Director if they are interested in the position. We will vote for the position on the Yahoo group page. Fran Nussbaum, Ken Shubert, and Charles Rosen asked to be considered. We still have the four power supplies and the Icom IC-2720 in repair.

Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):

The straps for attaching the 7/8 Heliac to the tower are available. We just need to get a volunteer to use them. The Director stated that it was still on his action item list. We should be able to borrow a cherry picker from LaMarque to string up the new rope on the HF antenna.

General Discussion:

Joe Wileman (AA5OP) requested that we place a copy of the RACES application on the GCECG website.

Next GCECG meeting: August 24, 1900

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June 22, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 1900

9 members + 2 prospective members + 1 visitor + OEM Operations Coordinator were present

Director:

We need to look into ARRL EMCOM courses. Terry McKee (KD5AWZ) said they are taught at the American Red Cross on the SW Freeway each month for \$10. Message format (Radiogram) is training that we really need from this. The EC-1, 2, and 3 courses are self-study, but an EC-3 can teach the others. We also need to look into FEMA IS-100 and IS-700 courses. The OEM Operations Coordinator said that the OEM will be teaching these each Monday in July.

The Director will take the broken IC-2720 to Houston Amateur Radio Supply on his way to Dallas Monday. The radio has no output TX power but all other functions work normally. It was the Director's understanding that this is a common problem with this model and that Icom may fix it without charge.

The Director and Terry McKee (KD5AWZ) have moved the NWS PIES radio to the far corner of the NWS operations room, so there will be no more coax through the window. The SWR of the PIES radio measured 1.9:1 after the move.

Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):

Our group needs to decide what kind of dual-band antenna would work best for use with our dual-band radios. Terry McKee suggested the Diamond X-50A. The Director will send Lee an e-mail with the antenna specs and vendor. Also, we might want to order three of these antennas as GCECG uses two dual-band radios and the Skywarn group has a new dual-bander.

The Polyphasers are being installed on the Heliac feedlines.

General Discussion:

Joe Wileman (AA5OP) welcomed everyone to participate with TARS for Amateur Field Day.

Joe Wileman (AA5OP) held a net during the severe weather on Monday. The Texas City 147.140 machine was utilized. It would be good to have a regular GCECG net to practice for a real emergency.

Meeting adjourned at 1935 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: July 27, 1900

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May 25, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 1905 hours

6 members + 2 prospective members + EMC + OEM Operations Coordinator were present

Director:

A brief "lessons-learned" discussion ensued regarding the recent hurricane drill. In general, our group did well, passing all traffic we were given. However, we had problems monitoring all the frequencies which were on the event list. We had difficulty with the packet station (TNC firmware problem and high SWR kept it off the air for over 2 hours). We were successful in passing traffic on VHF, UHF, and HF. We passed traffic using Airmail. We were in constant contact with the SOC on HF. The Saltgrass Link System was a key element of our operation for this event, and we plan to use it (until it is unavailable) in a real event. Some operators arrived on the second day and were unable to find the proper frequency list or a roster so they could call to get help.

There is a new radio room binder which contains basic information needed to operate in the room during an event. It is to remain in the room at all times. The binder contains our main frequency listing, a frequency list for an activation, a roster, an antenna connection diagram, and other important information.

The color coding on the Heliac under the floor (which indicates what cable is connected to what antenna) is known only to the Assistant Director. The OEM personnel would like other members in GCECG to possess that information.

We need some N-type connectors to make jumper cables for the radio room. Louis Petit (WB5BMB) said he could obtain some for us.

We have a new policy to unplug the coaxial cable from the HF amplifier when leaving, to protect the rig from lightning strikes.

The group still needs to bury the RG-8 where it goes up the center HF pole, and attach the 7/8 Helix to the tower.

Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):

During a recent weather event the Skywarn volunteers arrived to find their radio disconnected from its antenna (the radio also had no working power due to a recent power surge that damaged the power supply). There was a note on the radio that stated that the radio was not to be used, citing the antenna disconnection, but the note did not have a contact name or explanation as to why it was disconnected. OEM personnel had not been notified of any antenna reconfiguration. Explanation from Director: During the hurricane drill, the GCECG members operating the station were attempting to use our old packet radio to pass traffic using Airmail. The Assistant Director selected an antenna to use, but it had a very high SWR. As no other antennas were available, the Skywarn's antenna was used since that radio had previously been disconnected from the faulty power source. After the drill, the packet station was disconnected from its antenna, but the Skywarn radio was not re-connected to this antenna. Several days later, the Director attempted reconnection, but lacked the information needed to connect it back to the proper antenna. The Skywarn radio was left disconnected and the OEM was not notified of the reconfiguration. In hindsight, we probably would have been OK if we had marked which antenna we pulled the Skywarn radio off of, and then reconnected immediately after the drill. The Director stated that Skywarn personnel are welcome to use our equipment for Skywarn purposes whenever necessary.

We need to go through our equipment on the 3rd floor and decide what we need to keep, and sell the rest as soon as possible, as the Operations Coordinator wants to organize the room into proper storage areas. Joe Wileman said we could sell items at the Texas City Hamfest on July 8. [Several people volunteered to help the Director go through the items, decide what can go, and then transport and store it until the Hamfest.]

General Discussion:

Joe Wileman (AA5OP) suggested that we adopt the Texas City 147.140 repeater as the primary repeater we should monitor in an activation. The repeater can be hit more easily from anywhere in the county than other repeaters. We had difficulty monitoring our own 145.410 machine during the drill due to interference. The 147.140 machine has a 167.9 tone, has its antenna 150 ft in the air, and will have backup power available soon. We will contact the individual EOC's and inform them of our decision to use the Texas City repeater. Our backup repeater will be the 145.410 machine.

Ken Shubert (K0KS) brought some Anderson Power Poles to show the group. The Power Pole had been recommended some years back as the standard for GCECG but was rejected due to cost. Many RACES groups around the country have adopted it as their standard. The particular model Ken brought will take 30 Amps. The Power Pole may be ordered for \$0.80/pair from West Mountain Radio.

Meeting adjourned at 2015 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: June 22, 1900

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April 27, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 1900

8 members + 2 prospective members (and Operations Coordinator) were present

Director:

Several nametags were issued to members. More will be printed for members who still do not have one, and potentially for the new prospective members.

The move of GCECG equipment from the old building to the third floor of the new building is 98% complete. The Director asked for a couple of volunteers to go with him after the meeting to help get the remainder. (all remaining equipment was moved after the meeting)

Operations Coordinator (Lee Lockwood):

The statewide emergency drill is scheduled May 2-4, with expected activation of GCECG on Wednesday May 3. All EOC's in the state will be testing alternate methods of communications on that day. Our primary goal of the event is to maintain communication with all Galveston and Harris County EOC's, and with the state EOC in Austin.

The Operations Coordinator issued 6 building access cards to members, who signed for them.

Other members are approved to receive cards but were not present at the meeting.

A request was made by the EMC to clean up the radio room a bit, such as by moving the water bottles, getting the dual band radios mounted under the desk, throwing out old boxes and trash, and generally straightening up wires. (some of this was done after the meeting)

The EOC repeater (461/466?) is off the air for unknown reasons. The Director said he would ask the Assistant Director if he knows anything about this issue.

General Discussion:

Joe Wileman (AA5OP) announced that the Texas City 442.025 repeater is back on the air, and has a very strong signal.

Meeting adjourned at 1946 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: May 25, 1900

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March 23, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 1909 hours

8 members (and Emergency Management Coordinator) were present

Director:

Red cards: Director asked about the need for red cards which help get us back into the county after an event. The EMC replied that the cards will not guarantee our access, but that Galveston County law enforcement should honor a photo ID if the radio operator indicates that he is attempting to reach the EOC to support emergency communications.

Activation plan: It was the Director's general understanding that if our group is activated we are to leave the area and then return to assist with communications, using our red cards to gain access to the county. The EMC said that he needs someone in the radio room in order to carry out his functions, so the group agreed that some members should try to remain for a storm. However, no concrete plan was agreed upon.

Building Access: The EMC said he is willing to issue proximity access badges to the core group members, which will allow entry to the parking area, the lobby door, and the EOC door. As our group is small, this would mean most members would have one. The Director will offer a list, to the EMC, of individuals who should have access.

Activation Method: How will we know if we are activated? EMC stated that key personnel will receive telephone calls. At this time this would be the Director and Assistant Director. The Director would then post a message on the Yahoo group board and make telephone calls to all members.

PC Accounts: Director will provide a list, to the EMC, of which members need a PC account.

HF Antenna Tie-Down Rope: An excellent recommendation by WX5ET to use double-braided Dacron which has an outer shell which resists UV deterioration. Director will buy the rope at a boat store after Assistant Director determines how much we need.

Yahoo Messaging Board: Our group has a new Yahoo messaging board which allows e-mail distribution to all members simply by posting on the page. The page also has a detailed calendar and the ability to store files, photos, and take group votes. The Director strongly encourages all members to join the messaging board so that we can easily stay in touch electronically.

New Repeater Trustee: The Director has assumed trusteeship of our 145.410 and 442.225 frequency pairs. This provides a readily-accessible point of contact in the event of reported radio interference as we had in December. The issue turned out to be intermod created from our UHF radio on the old frequency pair mixing with another local repeater, causing a third harmonic to be heard on yet another repeater output. As a result, our group agreed to change to the new 442.225/447.225 pair as suggested by the Zone 2 Frequency Coordinator.

Radio Room Telephone: We now have a telephone connected to an analog line in the radio room, which will allow us to receive incoming calls. The PBX phone in the radio room cannot be reached from the outside world. The new phone number was given but will not be recorded here as the meeting minutes are viewable by the public.

Equipment Safekeeping: Some of the valuable radio gear which was in use in the old radio room is being stored by the Assistant Director until we get more moved into the new radio room. Our HF rigs and TNC are with him.

Selling Unused/Extra Equipment: Last week the Director observed that there is quite a bit of equipment which the GCECG owns, and recommended that we generate some money for our group by selling some of our unused or surplus equipment in local swap meets. The EMC stated that some of the equipment was bought with County money and will check into whether we will be allowed to liquidate County property. It was noted by a member that if we do sell some of the equipment we will still be using that money to buy newer equipment which will be used to support the County. It was also noted that it may be difficult to identify which equipment was bought with County funds versus being donated to the group by private individuals.

The Director will attempt to make an inventory of all radio equipment in the old facility so we can determine what we can use, and in general what we have at our disposal. The EMC wants all items in the old facility to be moved soon or it will be boxed and moved for us, which would make an inventory more difficult.

Assistant Director:

Use of Old Telephone Poles: The Assistant Director asked the EMC if he could ask the judge to have the telephone poles behind the old building pulled up and placed behind the new building. These poles are healthier and have climbing posts on them already.

Group Reorganization: The Assistant Director recommended that we revamp our group structure; specifically that we reduce the number of officers in the group, as the size of the group is relatively small anyway. It was unanimously agreed that we will eliminate all officer positions with the exception of Director and Assistant Director. The bylaws will be adjusted to reflect the expected responsibilities of each position in a time of activation.

Emergency Management Coordinator (John Simsen):

The EMC passed along some information and requests by Gene in the Weather office:

Gene requested that we work more closely with the Skywarn personnel, as this may bolster interest in both groups by prospective members. It was suggested by the Assistant Director that dates set aside where we can jointly practice in the radio room would help in this area.

2 PIES radios would be nice so that the Weather Service could have one in their side to use operationally and the Skywarn personnel would have one in the radio room for system test purposes. An 800 MHz base station was suggested. The Assistant Director said that extra 800 MHz radios tuned down to 1 Watt, with a stubby antenna would easily meet this need.

Gene would like to get an HF radio operating ASAP. The Assistant Director offered to buy connectors for the HF Heliac and install them within two weeks. It would be nice to get an HF rig working before the statewide exercise in early May. Bring the marine radio online. One is on the floor in the radio room already. The EMC stated that some training is needed for himself and the Mitigation Coordinator on how to use the UHF and VHF radios for the Monday morning radio tests. The Director and Assistant Director both volunteered to assist.

General Discussion:

Airmail Station: The group decided that when we get the TNC connected to a computer and radio in the radio room we will set it up as an Airmail station, which will allow communication between Houston and Galveston. It was generally agreed that Airmail serves all the needs that packet does, and it was heavily utilized during the Hurricane Katrina shelter operations. The Director and Assistant Director agreed to set up the station as soon as we can acquire a spare computer from the OEM.

Meeting adjourned at 2052 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: April 27, 1900

February, 2006

No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: March 23, 1900

January, 2006

No meeting was held.

Next GCECG meeting: March 23, 1900

December 22, 2005

No meeting was held due to the Christmas holidays.

No meeting planned until at least March 2006

November 24, 2005

No meeting was held due to the Thanksgiving holidays.

No meeting planned until at least March 2006

October 27, 2005

Meeting was called to order at 1900
6 members were present

Director:

To the best of the director's knowledge, the group was not requested to activate for Hurricane Rita and no support was provided. It was thought that the Assistant Director and Chief of Central Staffing were going to informally support but that action has not been confirmed since the storm.

General Discussion:

General discussion about effects on Galveston County by Hurricane Rita and Red Cross support.
After the meeting we walked around back to view the HF antenna and poles. The director may attempt to string wires over the outer poles and a hoist wire on the center pole so we can at least get our HF up in the new facility.

Meeting adjourned at 2000 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: November 24, 1900

September 22, 2005

No meeting was held due to evacuation for Hurricane Rita.

Next GCECG meeting: October 27, 1900

August 25, 2005

Meeting was called to order at 1910 hours
9 members (and EOC Operations Coordinator) were present

Director:

Efforts are continuing to establish a face-to-face meeting with Elliott Jennings to discuss GCECG support and business which that entails.

The Central Staffing Chief, Mike Kitchen, now has little time to support the group but he assured us that he will participate if needed in an emergency. Mike will retain his officer status until he notifies us that he wishes to relinquish the position.

Hurricane Katrina seems to be no threat to us as all the computer models have it going into the Florida panhandle or Alabama after it leaves Florida.

Assistant Director:

The HF antenna still needs to be installed. We need a cherry picker to access the top of the poles and hardware such as pulleys and rope to attach to the top of the poles. Louis Petit suggested that we contact the City of Galveston as they have vehicles of this type which they may loan us. Tim will need to buy the hardware for the poles (at a boating store) but the County OEM and ECG members will probably help with the purchase. Tim will contact Elliott Jennings tomorrow to ask if he knows who to call about a cherry picker.

General Discussion:

Jack Tschupp asked if we knew about a mock-disaster occurring in September and Jim Billman confirmed that a WMD drill will be conducted state-wide on September 24. The ECG director will contact Elliott Jennings tomorrow to see if we can assist with this event, and to get the group on any distribution list for notification of such events.

Assistant Director said there is a Scouting Jamboree On-the-Air October 15-16.

Meeting adjourned at 1945 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: September 22, 1900

July 28, 2005

Meeting was called to order at 1917 hours
6 members (and EOC Operations Coordinator) were present

EOC Operations Coordinator (Jim Billman):

Elliott Jennings was planning to attend but had to cancel.
Building access was a planned topic of discussion.
Sherry McGavern of Seabrook would like assistance with setting up or checking the current operation of the Seabrook OEM's radio room. Jack Tschupp will help her out.

Director:

Our web site domain has expired. The Director has been unable to contact John Perry to ask about renewing the URL. The Assistant Director thinks the group bought the URL through domain.com or register.com but he will try to contact John to confirm. (Director has since contacted John Perry. godaddy.com is the domain owner we used. Director will renew the URL.)

Assistant Director:

We need to update the roster with current information for several members. Tim will follow up on this for us.

The HF antenna still needs to be installed. There are three telephone poles. The plan is to mount the feedline on the center pole and have pulleys on the outer poles so the

antenna can be let down in the event of bad weather.

The Central Staffing Chief, Mike Kitchen, will begin calling out to members to remind them of meetings as he did last year.

General Discussion:

One member asked the general question, "Is the group still viable?"
Jim Billman replied that Elliott Jennings wishes the group to continue.

Another member asked if moving the meetings earlier in the month might help with attendance, as last year we went for 3 months during the Thanksgiving/Christmas timeframe without a meeting. That hurt our momentum. However, the group decided to keep the current meeting schedule and to have a special meeting earlier in December.

The GCECG Director agreed to investigate setting up a Yahoo group for the members which could be used to automatically send out notifications to members. Also, members could post to each other, giving us another method of communication within the group.

Meeting adjourned ~ 2020 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: August 25, 1900

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June 23, 2005

Meeting was called to order at 1900

6 members (and EOC Operations Coordinator) were present

OEM Operations Coordinator (Jim Billman):

Ken Eckel has indicated through e-mail that he wishes to relinquish his position as Director of GCECG. Badging in the new building is still a bit of a sticky issue. For now, members can call from the front foyer and the weather service personnel can buzz them in.

Assistant Director:

Made a motion to install Mike Scott as Director of GCECG. Declined the position in order to focus on technical aspects of running the new radio room.
We still need volunteers to assist with running 7/8" coaxial cable for the HF. We have no HF capability at this time.

Field Operations:

Mike Scott agreed to act as director for the immediate future but said he wants to confirm the decision with Ken Eckel, the current director.

Central Staffing:

Mike Kitchen will call all personnel on the roster to see if they are still willing to support the GCECG.

General Discussion:

Our current plan of action is to add a term limit for officers to the bylaws, to call all personnel on the roster to poll interest, and to call the roster for volunteers to assist with the 7/8" coaxial cable run.

Meeting adjourned ~ 1950 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: July 28, 1900

=====

January 20, 2005

Meeting was called to order at 1910 hours

5 members (and EOC Operations Coordinator) were present

Director:

Thanks for being flexible and coming to the meeting on this non-standard date. Since we are an emergency communications team it's good that we are flexible.
In the next few weeks the director will poll the group officers to see if they would like to keep their current positions or whether they would like to pass along their responsibilities. The director will interview each officer to determine willingness to continue.
Our primary goals for the year are to update our volunteer roster and to organize a calling tree which will be used if we are activated.

Assistant Director:

We may have our battery backups in the floor of the new radio room.
The assistant director will be the primary contact when the director is out of town
An option on the calling tree is for there to be a rotating point of contact who would initiate the tree. This point of contact would rotate based on the calendar week.
To maintain accuracy of our roster he may begin calling the roster once a week.
We need volunteers to help pull HF coax through the new building.

EOC Operations Coordinator (Jim Billman):

Tesa Duffey has resigned as EMC. John Simsen is the acting coordinator (EMC).
Badging in the new building may be partially controlled by event type, such as severe storms,
hurricane, or terrorism. The details of security methods and security checkpoints is still
to be worked out.

Field Operations:

The Field Ops chief has GCECG logo stickers which are free to all members. Ask for some.
Dee Miller said George will be going into the hospital for an operation.

General Discussion:

Bill Cooper, W5ZAF, was visited by FCC officials who monitored his RFI situation and
intervened with his next door neighbors. The FCC agents demonstrated that the neighbors
were causing RFI and cited them accordingly. Details are available online.

Meeting adjourned at 2018 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: February 24, 1900

December, 2004

No meeting was held due to the Christmas holidays.

Next GCECG meeting: January 20, 1900

November, 2004

No meeting was held due to the Thanksgiving holidays.

Next GCECG meeting: December 23, 1900

October 28, 2004

Meeting was called to order at 1928 hours
5 members (and Emergency Management Coordinator) were present

Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC):

Ordering for the furniture for the radio room in the new building will begin tomorrow.
The new radio room will have a computer-room type floor, where the floor will be 16 inches
above the cement building plan floor to allow coaxial cable and wires to be run inside the
radio room. A similar floor will be used in the OEM Operations and NWS Operations rooms.
Security card access to either the OEM side of the building or the NWS side will be required to
gain access to the radio room's location in the center of the building.

Director:

Ken received a tour of the new facility by the EMC prior to the meeting.
Ken will take digital photographs of the radio room and then e-mail them to the officers so
discussions as to where holes need to be punched in the floor (for cable runs) can take place.

Field Operations:

Nothing to report.

Research and Development:

Nothing to report.

General Discussion:

Bill Cooper, W5ZAF, read a letter from the FCC which was directed to his neighbors who have
been using the charging devices which have been causing RFI. The FCC stated that removing
power to the chargers when not in use was not an acceptable solution.
The new radio room dimensions are approximately 8'5" x 20'9" and are adjacent to the OEM
Operations room (33' x 33') and the NWS Operations room (43' x 30'). The radio room has
windows which face each room.

Meeting adjourned at 2014 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: November 25, 1900

September 23, 2004

No meeting was held due to activation for Tropical Storm Ivan.

Next GCECG meeting: October 28, 1900

August 26, 2004

Meeting was called to order at 1905 hours
9 members (0 visitors) were present

Assistant Director:

Heliac for the tower at the new building has arrived.

A simulated emergency will be held by the tri-section SET on Saturday September 25 beginning at 9:00 AM. Facilities to be staffed are Houston Red Cross chapter, Texas state EOC, and Houston-Galveston NWS offices. Volunteers are needed for communications.

A conference entitled, "Diseases and Disasters: Are We Ready?" is scheduled for September 1 at the Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center in League City. Phone 409-938-2208 for more info.

Several events are coming up which would be useful in exercising communications skills:

Bike the Bend for Literacy

7:00 AM August 28

Bike to the Lake Tour

7:00 AM September 18 & 19

Cy-Fair Lion's Club 5th Annual Biking for Sight Century Bike Ride

8:00 AM September 19

Wings Over Houston Air Show

October 15, 16, 17

The Monday night net is losing people. Several ideas were proposed. It was decided that the net would be moved to 7:30 PM on the 147.140 repeater in Texas City and would be named "Galveston County Net".

Central Staffing:

Dee Miller, KD5UDU, is doing better after a biopsy of some questionable tissue was taken.

Confirmation that the project to attempt to contact all registered hams in Galveston County is no longer being pursued.

Central Operations (report given by Assistant Director):

Chuck, W5ELO, would like help getting his antennas up at his new shack. Assistant Director will send an e-mail soliciting volunteers.

Field Operations:

Nothing to report.

Research and Development:

R&D is planning on making a training presentation to help hams understand how to safely climb towers when performing antenna maintenance.

Old Business:

The GCECG website is authorized for deployment (per Assistant Director). The URL's www.gcecg.org and www.wr5gc.org will be pointed to the location of the web files.

New Business:

The Assistant Director (KD5FPU) now has a new callsign, WX5GC.

General Discussion:

ARRL Level 1 Emergency Communications course.

Meeting adjourned at 2012 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: Sept 23, 1900

May 27, 2004

Meeting was called to order at 1907 hours
13 members (0 visitors) were present

Assistant Director:

Field Day shirts may be ordered on the ARRL website.

Assistant Director needs to set a date for the antenna repair detail for the North County building antennas

A hardcopy of a potential electronic QSL card was passed around for review.

John Perry will look into finding a host for our new website. The group decided to use two domain names, GCECG.ORG and WR5GC.ORG. One advantage to hosting our site with a unique URL would be that each member could have his own e-mail (i.e. KD5FPU@GCECG.ORG).

Action to Chief of Field Ops: Create preliminary web site for approval by the officers. Will be

hosted on personal web space until approved, then brought to the GCECG radio room on CD-R within 10 days of the meeting.

Chris Kampmeier, KB0QQI, has donated a refrigerator to replace the one which has stopped working.

Assistant director performed radiogram exercise with the group to stress the importance of passing amateur traffic, such as would exist during a hurricane net.

Past Director:

Several FEMA emergency management courses are available online for free. Past Director has completed the first course. FEMA will mail a certificate as each course is completed.

Director:

Review of Field Operations status report

Field Operations:

Award plaque discussion.

Jeff may be able to supply us with a relatively inexpensive plaque since he works at a trophy shop.

The group will take personal donations to fund the award plaque.

The Field Operations contact list is progressing

Meeting adjourned at 2018 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: June 24, 1900

January 22, 2004

Meeting was called to order at 1910 hours

20 members and 3 visitors were present

Visitors were announced. 2 regular visitors from League City OEM.

Assistant Director:

Radio and antenna work will be performed Saturday, Jan 31. This is a good opportunity for new members to come and become familiar with our equipment.

A RACES net will be held Saturday at 1400 hours on 7.243 LSB. This is a regular net.

Central Staffing:

Boy Scouts of America may become involved with GCECG activities. Mike Kitchen may help Scouts earn up to 4 merit badges with material related to ham radio.

The group temporarily lost the primary PC in the radio room last week. However, no data on the hard disk was lost and the PC is repaired and working better than before.

News from ARRL: ARRL has proposed a no-code portion of the HF bands. This would open up frequencies for Technician class operators which currently have very limited voice privileges on HF.

Director:

It is requested that members donate any ham-related books or magazines to the GCECG station. We sometimes need things to read during activations.

Members should still be considering how to raise funds for the group's use as we discussed at the last meeting. Things like barbecue or burger grilling in the mall parking lot, making something to sell, or garage sales. Keep the ideas coming.

Central Operations:

Many thanks to those who called or stopped by when Chuck was in the hospital.

Field Operations:

Mike Scott has assumed the role of Chief of Field Operations.

The GCECG membership certificate design is almost finalized. A certificate will be presented to all GCECG members and back-dated to the original appointment date.

GCECG business cards were presented to the officers. All agreed they came out looking good.

The GCECG recognition award and plaque project is proceeding. Mike Scott brought a good brochure and will make a final recommendation to the director on a plaque design by January 31.

The group will recognize outstanding performance by a member by engraving their name on the plaque and presenting them with a certificate of appreciation. The plaque is to remain in the radio room. Initial estimate of cost will be around \$120.

A Field Operations contact list is being developed which will include EOC's and key law enforcement facilities and their capabilities. Mike Scott will then coordinate with these agencies to ensure that when activation is required, the GCECG can work as a team with them.

Research and Development:

The Vertex repeater should be online by Sunday Jan 25.

Progress is being made on the 145.050 digipeater system.

The Red Cross has been investing large capital into communications since 9-11. A decked out Hummer and Excursion were recently on display in Houston. They are nicely equipped with thousands of dollars of gear, with much ham stuff. Good for the ham community.

Louis received 30 TNC's which will be inspected and repaired if needed. They will be sent to EOC's around the county and also used by individuals who indicate a need.

Old Business:

The group still needs an answering machine that can answer the phone in the radio room. It must have remote-retrieval capability. Chris Kampmeyer said he may have one available.

Asst. Director said he has a goal of a working web site by the next meeting.

New Business:

Asst. Director said we will invite the MARS TX Zone emergency coordinator to the next meeting.

We have an invitation from Dr. Charles E. Maricle of the US Coast Guard to give a presentation on the GCECG at one of their meetings. Assistant Director and Chief of Field Ops will follow up.

A reminder from the Director that if an officer cannot make a meeting, it would be very helpful for that officer to send an e-mail which details their current status. Also, formal written status reports should be presented at the meetings from this point forward.

Director: meeting minutes are to be formally documented and typed from this point forward.

Director: Superbowl weekend is a good opportunity for new members to get involved in GCECG activities.

Asst. Director: Bomb threat checklists are by all phones in the OEM during activations. Training will be performed Sat Jan 31. Also during that day, Radiograms (used for HF traffic) will be utilized for training purposes, utilizing the HF radio.

Asst. Director: If you come to training or to an activation at the OEM, use the sign-in log sheets. It's important for tracking volunteer man-hours.

Central Staffing: Reminder that the log sheet is important because matching funds given to the county by the federal government are higher with volunteer hours. The money goes directly toward equipment and improvements.

The new GCECG Director is Ken Eckel, AB5A. He was not present due to his professional responsibilities. The Director noted that Ken was sorry he could not attend.

Meeting adjourned at 2038 hours.

Next GCECG meeting: Feb 26, 1900. May change due to possible conflict with Galveston Mardi Gras