

IN-SERVICE



Fall

Volume 82

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Lili Hurricane Watch

Terry Redding W6LMJ

Wednesday evening I left the Hurricane watch net where I serve as a net control station to go to our local prayer service.



Photo of waterspouts taken 2 Oct 2002 by a member of the crew of an Exxon oil rig with hurricane Lili approaching from the South. Photo via W6LMJ

The focus of our prayer service was Hurricane Lili. Lili was increasing that Wednesday night. Earlier in the day in just a short period of time Hurricane Lili was upgraded from a Category 2 to a Category 4 Hurricane. The storm surge was projected to be 20 feet above normal sea level and Lili was projected to make landfall during an abnormally high tide. In some places the storm surge was projected to be as high as 25 feet and expected to spread Gulf waters as much as 35 miles inland flooding well past I-10 and placing property and people at risk.

That night as the band stretched out I and my family believed the most good would be done by attending our local prayer service and holding the people in the path of Hurricane Lili up for prayer.

Later, after the service I stayed on the Hurricane Watch Net until after 10:30 PM talking with other net stations exchanging information and fully expecting Lili to make landfall as a Category 5 hurricane.

I was back on the net frequency at 6:30 AM with the latest bulletin from the Hurricane Center. I felt our prayers had been answered when I discovered the hurricane had been

downgraded to Category 2, and was decreasing rapidly as it approached land.

The photograph reminds me of the concern for tornadoes we have in the mid-west, and the fact that it is the presence of multiple tornadoes in a hurricane that are actually responsible for most of the destruction associated with the path of a hurricane.

Terry - W6LMJ
Hurricane Watch Net member

20 Meter Net

Frequency 14.287 MHz 1530 Central Time Sunday
Net Control WB2UJL Ernie Miles

These are the names and call signs that checked into the 20M net since 7/14/02. I've got most of them but others were net control at times and I may not have them all.

Ernie

NØBGG, Larry Oiler	N5ECP, Jeff Salmons
KØBKZ, Gene Chadwick	AC5GX, Joseph Harvey
WØDZX, Dave Atkins	N5LCL, David Gates
NØELM, Fred Troeh	KM5IX, Phil Pekins Sr.
WAØFGW, Randy	KD5OHW, Alex East
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrara	K15PO, William Nivens
WØLNV, Alvar Jarvi	W5SJC, Lyll Amos
WAØPTG, Melvin Francis	
WØSHQ, Robin Cross	KB6CKM, Harold Campbell
(Guest operator WØFEN)	W6LMJ, Terry Redding
KØTCB, Chester Hallberg	W6RO, Bob @ Associated
WBØVHG, Joseph Sinclair	Radio Amateurs Long Beach
NØWZH, Steve Hampton	(Club Station)
WØYO, Graceland Univ.	W6RWH, Hale Collins
NØXMS, Gary Lance	
KGØXU, Michael Hahn	WB70FC, Geni Packer
	WA7TBP, George Needham
KD1R, Ralph Stetson	
VE1LPB, Patrick	K8BIL, Bill Franks
	K8QA, Mike Oiler
W2TFT, Tom Thatcher	W8QK, Muirl Robinson
	N8YBA, Don Zalesny
W3ATN, Jules Helzner	
W3HEN, John Seither II	KB90JS, John Bunyan
	K9YV, Steve Fagan
N4WTW, Mike Glowaski	

Lamoni IA 2 Meter Net

Frequency 146.13/73 1930 Central Time Sunday
Net Control NØBGG Larry Oiler

News from Colorado

By Dave Cook - KCØMHT

As many of you have seen in the news, Colorado has had its share of wild fires. The Missionary Ridge Fire (near Durango), the Coal Seam Fire, and the Hayman Fire may sound familiar. The Hayman Fire which burned 130,000 plus acres roughly between Colorado Springs and Denver had at least two ASCRA Hams involved: KCØMHT (Dave Cook) and WAØIBS Andrew "Nick" Ferrara. This wild fire was so huge that it had two command centers, the South HQ, at Lake George, CO. a few miles from the Springs and the North HQ in Castle Rock, CO. (KCØMHT's home town).

News from the ASCRA HAMS in Colorado

From Dave Cook - KCØMHT: For 30 years I have made several attempts to study for my license. Finally on February of 2002, I made it a priority and tested for my technician license and only missed one question. I still need to obtain my Morse code endorsement as I have a brother KF4TBU (Ed Cook) in Florida who operates only on CW.

Soon after becoming a HAM, I joined the ARES District #24 and within a month I was helping provide communication between the Sheriff Department here in Douglas County and the Elbert County Sheriff Department in the neighboring county. A contractor had severed a fiber cable knocking out the telephone lines in most of Elbert County. Our district jumped in to provide communication between the two departments until the phone company fixed its cable.

However, nothing prepared me for the next few months. In May, the HAMS in our area were very involved in the first fire of the season. The Schoonover fire was contained in a few days. But the Net Control Operators needed a break from time to time and members of ARES District #24 volunteered to help out.

The Hayman fire was first overshadowed by another fire near Vail Colorado (called the Coal Seam Fire). The XYL and I noticed the smoke which we could see from our home one Saturday evening. I checked the web, newscasts, and monitored the nets, and no one seemed concerned about this fire. The next morning, we were covered with smoke and after church were pressed back into service providing communication along the Platte River as homeowners were evacuating to safer areas. Before we were told to evacuate ourselves, we could feel the warmth of the fire. This was the first time that I experienced a weather front generated by a wild fire as we heard thunder over our heads.

The Red Cross set up a shelter in Castle Rock. In one of my visits there, a young boy, perhaps 10 or 11, noticed my Hand Held Radio and my cell phone. He asked why I had

both. I asked him if he uses the Internet much and with the roll of his eyes and a nod of his head, I got my answer. I told him that the Cell Phone is like using Instant Messaging, but during an emergency, phone lines can get real busy. My Radio opens me up to a chat room that the Sheriff Department monitors, so that if we need to seek help, they can respond like a chat room monitor. He thought that was pretty cool and wanted to be a HAM. So we talked a little more about that. He and his family were gone the next day, so did not have a chance to talk more about HAM Radio. But who knows, maybe one day one of you may be talking to a young HAM who got interested in our hobby during one of Colorado's worst wild fires.

News from Andrew "Nick" Ferrara - WAØIBS:

I spent a day, fourteen hours, riding around, or waiting to ride around, in a mobile Salvation Army (SA) canteen up at Lake George in June when the local AREAS group was helping with communications during the Hayman fire. We would deliver meals to officers manning roadblocks or to the local police station. Meals also were delivered to people that were displaced because of the fires. I would report to the headquarters back in Colorado Springs the number of meals that were served and receive messages from areas needing meals. Ham operators would also man the local fire stations or shelters that were set up during the fire. We did not support the fire fighters that were actually putting out the forest fires as they had their own support groups.

The local Pikes Peak Amateur Radio group, which we (WAØIBS & his XYL, Carol Ferrara KCØCYU) are members of, is quite active in community projects. It's like being involved in the Pikes Peak hill climb by acting as spotters along the road during the races and with various bike and marathons that are held locally.

I may be teaching an after school radio class at a nearby middle school. The science teacher ham radio operator and her husband that were working with the class went on to another state so I volunteered to take over that project. The school does have a club license, KCØICW, an antenna on the roof and some equipment. I am retiring the end of September so will have more time to give after that.

News from Carol Ferrara, KCØCYU: She spent a morning over the Labor Day Weekend working the lost and found tent during the balloon classic in Colorado Springs. She would report any lost children over a mobile repeater that was set up just for the classic. She was successful in helping to find a mentally retarded adult that got lost. Some other ham on the outlying area spotted the person so was able to connect the person up to the caregiver.

News from John Madden WB6KWJ: This last August, I went down to Longmont for a VE exam

session. I have had my Tech license for a long time and I now have my upgrade to General. It took almost a year to find an open slot for me to get down there to do that.

Congratulations to John!

* * * *

Operating WØSHQ

WØFEN

Robin Cross

WØSHQ, the ASCRA Headquarters station, is a nice installation even though it is not entirely state-of-the-art. WØSHQ does have equipment in the range of nice to top-notch.

Operating with a "well known" call like WØSHQ can bring immediate attention particularly from fellow ASCRA members. This is enhanced with the rotatable triband beam and the ALPHA 374 amplifier. With the exciter (an ICOM IC-720A) and the amp properly adjusted, the audio and signals are reported as excellent. The station is such that "if you can hear them, then you can work them." Checking the station in to the regular Sunday 20M net is a pleasure. All regular ASCRA check-ins immediately recognize the call sign. With this in mind, operators using the station must keep the highest level of operating ethics (no lids here).

To access WØSHQ, the established procedure is fairly simple. Once the operator is "set-up" a "keycard" allows entrance to the Auditorium and keys open the doors to the station. As a precaution the HF antenna coax is left disconnected. The coax must be screwed onto the connector on the rear of the amp, and then there is the usual turning on of the Icom transceiver and the Alpha. After an appropriate delay the plate of the amp may be switched on. Due to the bandpass nature of the Alpha 374 amplifier, no tuning is necessary. The rotator control may also be switched on to allow reading and control of the antenna position. On a typical 20 M net the rotation of the beam is not absolutely necessary, as coverage of continental USA is good. The beam is normally left in the East to Northeast direction. There is one major peculiarity, due to the proximity of the copper dome. The beam is not mounted high enough for a clear shot over the dome. This is not all that bad. Not going too deep into the physics, the dome acts like an electrostatic shield. The electromagnetic waves that we communicate with seem to be unaffected. The result of all this is that when the beam is rotated between North and West the band gets quiet. This is not like disconnecting the coax. It is very similar to the difference between a horizontal (quiet) and a vertical (noisy) antenna.

Operating WØSHQ is unlike checking into the net from home. On most Sunday afternoons the Auditorium is a very quiet place. Except for the scheduled organ recitals there may not be anyone in the building (or so it seems). This has a positive and a negative. There are simply no

distractions. It is not possible to run to the kitchen and get a cold pop or cup of coffee. Before making the trip to the Auditorium one must prepare by taking any needed items with oneself. As far as accommodations are concerned, the nearest Men's room is a flight of stairs and two floors down or four ramps.

- All things considered, operating WØSHQ is a unique and fun experience.

Robin WØFEN

Repeater Linking via the Internet

Chuck Palmer NØNN

Here is something that is being talked about on the repeaters in the Kansas City area this week related to ham radio and the Internet.

This web page <http://www.irlp.net> explains how to link repeater locations in remote locations using the Internet to bridge the gap. This was developed in Canada where the population is located in pockets with vast expanses in between. From your 2M or 70 cm handheld, the radio in your car, or from a base unit even a Technician can bring up a link and talk world wide.

The engineer who let me know about this was walking his dog in Raytown, MO talking on his 2 M walkie-talkie with two mobile units in Australia. He said it was as clear as talking to someone on a local repeater. A pilot friend of mine is leaving for Detroit at noon and is planning on performing a test this evening during our drive home time.

Three repeaters in the Kansas City area on the list are: 146.700 in Lee's Summit, 443.325 in Excelsior Springs, and 446.500 in Olathe. For a full list of remote locations see the following URL <http://www.irlp.net/15-status/frame.html>.

Wouldn't it be cool to see Graceland University on the list!

73 de NØNN

* * * *

Yes, it would be nice to have Graceland on that list along with WØSHQ's Independence repeater. Editor

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Thanks to all who submitted articles and news items for this issue. We really appreciate hearing from you and having good material to print in the IN-SERVICE.. Please keep the news and feature articles coming. I have exactly nothing on tap for the next issue. Deadline is January 15, 2003. Send it sooner if you can so I won't worry so much!

Editor

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ASCRA SETI SCOREBOARD

as of 10/25/02

Call/name	Data units
1) wb6otg	2631
2) Hale Collins	2599
3) Rod Schall	846
4) Ralph T Stets on III	414
5) joe AD6VD	336
6) n0oxk	303
7) W6LMJ	296
8) ka0vth	247
9) Ernie	145
10) K0BKZ	21

