



The GroundWire

Rick's Rants

ISSUE 2010-10

JUST ANOTHER HOBBY

I just got home from the September SWDCARC meeting and have to say that I really enjoyed the program put on for us by Chuck Poindexter KE5HGQ. Chuck builds and flies model rockets and gave us an overview of what the model rocket hobby is like, including a "show and tell" with several of his rockets on display. Some of these were not that small and he has more that are even larger. It was quite impressive and was obviously the product of a lot of work and experience. We all had numerous questions that Chuck fielded, and I would again like to thank Chuck for taking the time to bring all that rocketry gear up to the meeting and show it to us.

I had built and launched a couple of model rockets with my boys when they were young...more toys than anything, but I do enjoy them. Chuck's presentation had me almost convinced to go out and buy a rocket kit and try it out again, until I reminded myself that I was already involved in more hobbies than I had time to enjoy.

What popped into my mind on the way home is how so many of us who are involved in amateur radio are involved in other hobbies in addition to our radio activities. My brother John, WS5F, is also an avid photographer and has some very exotic camera equipment with amazing capabilities. I have dabbled in building ship and airplane models, competitive shooting and for the last 10 years, flying. I know others of us are into camping, backpacking, cabinetry, quilting, stamp collecting....all sorts of things other than radio.

What seems to set the amateur radio apart from other avocations is that it is almost a job for us. We use our radio hobby for useful purposes rather than merely as a creative outlet. Many of us have hobbies that are fun but serve no practical purpose other than to entertain ourselves. Whether we are stamp collectors or amateur astronomers, we do those things mostly for the enjoyment they bring to our lives. Amateur radio, on the other hand, is anything but amateurish. We strive to use good operating practice and set up well engineered stations designed to keep us in operation, despite power loss, lightning strikes, etc. Ham radio becomes serious business when the severe weather threatens or when disasters such as the Challenger breakup occur.

So, amateur radio is more than just a hobby. I appreciate all that each of you bring to the hobby and what many of you have done to serve your community.

73 de Rick / KJ5UY



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An Introduction to FEMA



By Walt Vinson, WV5TEX

First comes the bad news. The FEMA courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700.a and IS-800.b have nothing to do with FM, CW or Sideband. The good news is when you complete these courses you know how to play by FEMA's rules.

FEMA has its own vocabulary, abbreviations, words and word combinations the uninitiated finds meaningless until they have read the rule book. Lets not forget the forms, the government has a form for every occasion. At First police and fire departments were not happy about strangers stepping into their jurisdiction and giving orders. But, FEMA brings in practically unlimited manpower and resources. Disasters have a habit scattering your available resources.

All professionals and volunteers and their sponsors are required to learn the FEMA way. Most organizations have already accepted these requirements in their SOPs, Police, Fire, RACES, ARES, CERT, Red Cross and many more. This is only for disasters, probably run from an (EOC) Emergency Operations Center. We will still handle the mundane days and nights on our own.

The FEMA.gov/training will get you hundreds of courses to get you through the hard times. Here we will cover the overviews of the four we have mentioned. You can study the course online or download it to study at your leisure. When you are ready go back online and take the test. On passing you get a diploma, print a paper copy, and save a data file of them. Once you have passed the courses these overviews make more sense.

ICS-100.a Introduction to Incident Command System:

ICS-100 Please begin using the revised IS 100.a materials immediately.

EMI has revised the ICS 100 course to reflect lessons learned since its release in 2006. This course is NIMS compliant and uses the objectives developed collaboratively by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, the United States Fire Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Emergency Management Institute. Persons who completed the earlier version of this course do not need to take this course.

Course Overview

ICS-100, Introduction to the Incident Command System, introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The Emergency Management Institute developed its ICS courses collaboratively with: National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) U.S. Department of Agriculture United States Fire Administration's National Fire Programs Branch Primary Audience persons involved with emergency planning, response or recovery efforts.

NIMS Compliance

This course is NIMS compliant and meets the NIMS Baseline

Training requirements for I-100.

Prerequisites N/A.

CEUs 0.3 hours.

Course Length Approximately 3

IS-200.a ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents:

Please begin using the revised IS 200.a materials immediately. EMI has revised the ICS 200 course to reflect lessons learned since its release in 1996 and incorporated concepts from the National Response Framework. This course is NIMS compliant and uses the objectives developed collaboratively by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, the



United States Fire Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Emergency Management Institute. Persons who completed the earlier version of this course do not need to take this course.

Course Overview

ICS 200 is designed

to enable personnel to operate efficiently during an incident or event within the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS-200 provides training on and resources for personnel who are likely to assume a supervisory position within the ICS.

The Emergency Management Institute developed ICS its ICS courses collaboratively with:
National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)
U.S. Department of Agriculture
United State Fire Administration's National Fire Programs Branch

Primary Audience

Persons involved with emergency planning, response or recovery efforts.

NIMS Compliance

This course is NIMS compliant and meets the NIMS Baseline Training requirements for I-200.

Prerequisites IS-100.a

CEUs0.3

Course Length Approximately 3 hours

IS-700.a NIMS An Introduction:

Course Overview

This course introduces and overviews the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to: describe the intent of NIMS. Describe the key concepts and principles underlying NIMS. Describe the purpose of the NIMS Components including: Preparedness, Communications and Information Management, Resource Management, and Command and Management. Describe the purpose of the National Integration Center. Note: This course provides a basic introduction to NIMS. It is not designed to replace Incident Command System and position-specific training.

Primary Audience

Individuals with emergency management responsibilities including prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

Prerequisites None

CEUs0.3

Course Length The overall length of the course will vary for each individual. IS 700.a takes approximately 3 hours.

IS-800.B National Response Framework, An Introduction:

Note: On February 4th, 2008, the Independent Study Program implemented the EMI course IS-800.B, National Response Framework, an Introduction.



Course Overview

The course introduces participants to the concepts and principles of the National Response Framework.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, you will be able to describe:

The purpose of the National Response Framework.

The response doctrine established by the National Response Framework.

The roles and responsibilities of entities as specified in the National Response Framework.

The actions that support national response.

The response organizations used for multiagency coordination. How planning relates to national preparedness.

You can find more information about the National

Response Framework on the following link www.fema.gov/nrf

Primary Audience

This course is intended for government executives, private-sector and nongovernmental organization (NGO) leaders, and emergency management practitioners. This includes senior elected and appointed leaders, such as Federal department or agency heads, State Governors, mayors, tribal leaders, and city or county officials – those who have a responsibility to provide for effective response.

Prerequisite: None

CEUs:0.3

Course Length: 3 hours

The classroom version of IS 800.b takes approximately 8 hours to deliver.

NVIS ANTENNA & TEXAS QSO PARTY



The Texas QSO Party was held on 25 September from 1400Z to 0200Z on 26 September and from 1400Z to 2000Z on 26 September, 2010. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperating Saturday morning and I didn't depart for my first stop at the county line intersection of Rockwall, Collin, and Hunt counties until after 10:00 am because of the lightening. The rain had made it impractical for me to set up the NVIS (Near Vertical Incident Skywave) antenna at my first three stops; (1) Rockwall, Collin, Hunt county lines, (2) Hunt, Rains, (3) Rains, Wood.

The NVIS antenna is the one that provides most of its radiation at an extremely high angle. The major lobe is between 75 and 90 degrees to the earth's surface. This is good particularly for emergency communications within local area out to about 600 miles. The optimum height above ground is 10-15 feet. In my case, the antenna is between 5 and 7 feet above the ground.

At my scheduled fourth stop, Wood-Smith county line, there was mowed grass beside the road and I was able to set up the NVIS. While on the highway approaching the Wood-Smith county line, I heard a very loud station on 40m and he those responding that he was in Travis county. One station asked about his antenna and he said he was using a NVIS antenna. I must have called him 10 or 12 times and he didn't respond. Once stopped at the Wood-Smith county line, I installed the NVIS antenna by attaching a 39 ft line to the top of the 102" whip mounted on passenger side of the car, running it out to full length and then installing the pole that raised the far end to about 8' above the ground, using ropes as guy lines to hold the pole up and antenna taut. When I called him with the NVIS antenna installed, he responded the first time and when I told him that I had called him 10-12 times with the 102" whip and an AH-4 antenna tuner and that he didn't respond. He said, "Happy to hear that. It shows the antenna is working as it should. I'm going to have to see that what you have told me makes it into our club newsletter."

I was not able to use the NVIS antenna at the 5th stop, Smith-VanZandt, but was able to put it up at the 6th stop, VanZandt-Kaufman, but again not able to at the 7th stop, Kaufman-Dallas county lines.

Of the 71 contacts I made on Saturday 55 were on 40m and 16 were on 20 m. Of the 55 total contacts on 40m, 49 were using the NVIS antenna. Breakdown by county lines: 18 were made at the Wood-Smith county line on the NVIS antenna, 19 were at the VanZandt-Kaufman county line, and 12 at Kaufman-Dallas county line. None of the 20m contact were within Texas.

With 89% of the 40m contacts made within about 2 hours on the NVIS antenna, I'm very impress and will be using it as much as possible in future State QSO Parties.

Jerry Keltner

KB6OJE

Financial Report ... September 2010



September-10	Income	Expense	Balance	Petty Cash
General Fund				
Beginning Balance 9/1/10			\$1,213.72	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Dues Income-2010				
Transfer From Matl. Property				
Transfer Petty Cash income				
TOTAL INCOME	\$0.00			
EXPENSES				
Liability Insurance Ck 611		\$320.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$320.00		
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$320.00		
Ending Balance 9/30/2010			\$893.72	
Special Events Fund				
Beginning Balance 9/1/10			\$95.14	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Trans from General Fund				
TOTAL INCOME	\$0.00			
EXPENSES				
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$0.00		
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Ending Balance 9/30/2010			\$95.14	
Material Property Fund				
Beginning Balance 9/1/10			\$2,502.90	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Dues Income - 2010	\$0.00			
Transfer from General Fund				
TOTAL INCOME	\$0.00			
EXPENSES				
Telephone Pymt. 01Sep2010		\$37.81		
Web Hosting Ck 612		\$9.56		
Transfer to General Fund				
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$47.37		
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$47.37		
Ending Balance 9/30/2010			\$2,455.53	
September Balance	\$0.00	\$367.37	\$3,444.39	

2010 Board Members

President

Rick Ellis (KJ5UY)

Vice-President

Paul Dryer (KD5IVP)

Treasurer

Mike Harang (K5MMH)

Secretary

Bill Ellis (N5TXN)

Directors

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

Scott Crappa (KE5NLK)

Tom Poindexter (KE5GKK)

Committee Positions

Repeater Trustee

Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB)

Newsletter Editor

Bill Ellis (N5TXN)

Web Master

Russ Thompson (KX5G)

MN²

Monday Night Net

Net Time 8:00PM

147.060(+) Primary

444.500(+) Alternate

Minutes of Board Meeting ... September 7, 2010



The meeting was called to order by President Rick Ellis (KJ5UY) at 18:35 CDT. Invocation given by Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB).

Executive Board members present:

Officers

Rick Ellis KJ5UY: Present
Paul Dryer KD5IVP: Present
Mike Harang K5MMH: Present
Bill Ellis N5TXN: Present

Directors

Jerry Keltner KB6OJE: Present
Scott Crappa KE5NLK: Present
Tom Poindexter KE5GKK: Absent

Guests: Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC), Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB), Derrick Williams

Minutes: Approved? Y/N: Y Motion: Scott Crappa (KE5NLK) 2nd : Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

Treasure Report: Approved? Y/N: Y Motion : Scott Crappa (KE5NLK) 2nd : Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Repeater: Working.

VE Session: One possible for September's meeting.

EOC: Paul (KD5IVP) & Floyd (KB5QBC) attended Dallas County Races meeting. New county frequency 442.400.

Membership: No new applications.

Net: No report.

Web: No report.

Groundwire: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Paul Dryer (KD5IVP) to form a Media Committee for the management of the web-site and newsletter. Motion was re-tabled.

Ben Barber (K5NEB) has finished the audit and all was found to be in order.

NEW BUSINESS

Texas QSO party has had a rule change to prohibits "wolf packs". This effects SWDCARC participation strategy.

Program: Paul KD5IVP on HF Kite Antennas

Meeting adjourned .

Respectfully submitted;
Bill Ellis N5TXN, Secretary

General Membership Meeting ... September 21, 2010



The meeting was called to order by President Rick Ellis (KJ5UY) at 18:30 CDT. Invocation given by Scott Crappa (KE5NLK).

Executive Board members present:

Officers

Rick Ellis KJ5UY: Present
Paul Dryer KD5IVP: Absent
Mike Harang K5MMH: Absent
Bill Ellis N5TXN: Present

Directors

Jerry Keltner KB6OJE: Present
Scott Crappa KE5NLK: Present
Tom Poindexter KE5GKK: Present

Guests present: Derrick Williams

Member present: 10

Minutes: Approved? Y/N: Y Motion: Scott Crappa (KE5NLK) 2nd : Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC)

Treasure Report: Approved? Y/N: Y Motion : Scott Crappa (KE5NLK) 2nd : Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Repeater: Working.

VE Session: Paul did not show with the VE materials so no test were given.

EOC: Duncanville still looking for an Radio Officer. Dallas County RACES nets will be 1st/3rd Mondays at 21:00 on 440.400

Membership: No new applications.

Net: Eleven check-ins on 09/20 net.

Web: No report.

Groundwire: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Ben Barber (K5NEB) has finished the audit and all was found to be in order.

Texas QSO Party, Jerry will be working several county lines as a fixed/mobile station using NVIS antenna.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Program: Chuck Poindexter (KE5HGQ)—Model Rocketry

Meeting adjourned .

Respectfully submitted;
Bill Ellis N5TXN, Secretary