

The NewsFuse

The NY Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

November 2005

Next meeting Tuesday November 8th 8pm

Club News:

It's time to renew you HoSARC membership. Click on this link to download the membership form www.hosarc.org/images/2005membership.pdf
Please fill out the form and send your \$30 dues to:

HOSARC
PO Box 150131
Kew Gardens,
NY 11415

Elections are just around the corner so please let the nomination committee know your intentions as soon as possible. The following members are on the nomination committee: Vinny Clowney KC2NPK, Mitch Grotch KC2MBN and Paul Dofornia. You may also introduce yourself and state your intentions of running for a club officer or board position at the November or December general meetings.

We now have club merchandise for sale courtesy of Lenny W2LJM. Club hats, jackets, patches and shirts are available club nights for sale. We hope to have order forms on the website shortly for your convenience.

Club badges are available thru The Sign Man of Baton Rouge by going to his website - www.thesignman.com and clicking on clubs and organizations. Badges are just \$9.00, with of host of attachment devices available for a nominal charge.

The club is in dire need of VE Examiners .To obtain an ARRL VE study guide please call 1-800-927-583. Remember anyone licensed can become a VE. The club gives exams once a month and only when individuals register in advance so your commitment will not very be time consuming. See Lenny W2LJM our VE director for more information.

Please bring your badges, ID cards, and whatever else you have if you plan on entering the Museum during business hours. The museum has a staff of new security personnel and they might know your face, especially if you haven't been down in a while

There was some confusion regarding the RX and TX frequencies of the new Micor UHF repeater, and the crystal frequencies shipped last month were reversed.

New crystals with the correct frequencies have arrived and should be installed by the end of next week.

Until the WB2ZZO repeater is back "on-the-air", we are holding the HoSARC weekly net on the WB2HWW repeater system: 440.700 + PL 114.8 Please join us this Wednesday night at 9pm on the WB2HWW repeater. For more information on the WB2HWW repeater visit www.wb2hww.com

The guest speaker at the general meeting will be Frank Fallon N2RR ARRL Hudson Division Director and Joyce Birmingham ARRL Hudson Division Assistant Director. The topic will be "ARRL Advocacy". There will also be a preview of the new DVD titled "ARRL Goes to Washington" Narrated by Walter Cronkite.

Mark your calendars! The HoSARC holiday party will be on Tuesday, December 13th at 7pm. Also a very special general meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10th at 8pm. The guest speakers will be Gordon West WB6NOA and Ken Neubeck WB2AMU.

Tom Tumino N2YTF organized a work party on Saturday October 29th to re-install the 2m/70cm satellite antenna system. Tom Tumino N2YTF, Bernie Stein K2ZIR, Anthony Mampilly KC2OLF, Joel Mampilly KC2OOK, and Ted Bicking KC2HEV all worked together to get the antenna system back "in-the-sky". The rotators are working well, but we are having a receive problem with both antennas. Work will continue to get the satellite station fully operational again.

HoSARC should soon have a 2m repeater frequency pair. There is a great deal of interest among the members to setup and operate a HoSARC 2m repeater. If you are interested in participating in this project, come to the general meeting this Tuesday or post a message to the HoSARC forum at hosarc.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=5

Chairman of the Board: Tom Golero KC2CBA
President: Allan Koenigsberg AE2J
Vice President: Peter Dougherty W2IRT

Secretary: Ted Bicking KC2HEV
Treasurer: Steve Greenbaum WB2KDG
Newsletter Editor: Ted Bicking KC2HEV

KATRINA ON 20 METERS

By: Felix Lam, K2KHV

On the morning of August 28th 2005, I was on 20 meters with slightly better than average band conditions when I answered a CQ from station K3FM. The station's control operator introduced himself to me as Barney, QTH, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi. We exchanged signal reports of 59 and discussed each other's operating equipment.

I knew that Katrina, a deadly category 5 hurricane, was predicted by meteorologists to hit the Louisiana and Mississippi coastlines by the afternoon of the same day. I asked Barney if he was safe from the hurricane's predicted path, not knowing exactly where Bay Saint Louis was in Mississippi. Barney reported, "No". The hurricane was scheduled to hit Bay Saint Louis sometime that afternoon or evening.

Barney had already decided not to evacuate and not to abandon his home. He was going to stay in his shack for as long as possible and make as many contacts as he could.

I wished Barney, K3FM, all the best, and hoped for his safety. At the end of the QSO, Barney said he didn't know how long it would be before they received mail again, so a return QSL card could take some time or even be impossible. I signed-off, and K3FM moved on to his next contact.

I logged the contact and spent the next several weeks wondering how K3FM weathered the storm. Did Katrina change direction at the last moment and spare Bay Saint Louis? Did Katrina weaken in intensity, allowing Barney to operate through the day and night? Did Katrina hit with the continued intensity of a category 5 hurricane, ensuring widespread death and destruction? Whatever happened, K3FM ensured that some hams knew of his location, if he needed assistance.

After the storm I attempted to contact K3FM but unfortunately was unable to find an email address. Three weeks after the contact I sent K3FM a self-addressed stamped envelope, hoping that a return QSL card would bring some good news from Mississippi.

Almost two months after our 20 meter contact, I received the following QSL card in the mail.



(Front)

K3FM		Bernard L. Fogle "Barney" PO Box 2928 Bay Saint Louis, MS 39521 USA Hancock County			
<i>Hi Felix. Not much left down here in MS after Katrina, I still have 1/2 of my house. All antennas destroyed. Now have ant in attic.</i>					
Rig: Icom 756 Pro III, SB230 Amp, 10 Element 20m Sterba Curtain					
Confirming QSO with	Date (Z)	UTC	Freq / 2XMode	Pwr Out	Report
K2KHV	8/28/05	1433	14MHz 55B	500	59
73, Barney					Tnx QSL Pse

(Back)

If you're interested in seeing photos of the destruction caused by hurricane Katrina to the town of Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi, check out the following website
http://www.pbase.com/dbphotos/hurricane_katrina.