



The VHF Transmitter



Keystone VHF Club, Inc. W3HZU Founded 1955 – York, PA

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CIRCULATION 160

September/October, 2003



October
2003
CALENDAR

*Edited by Bob Gundlach, N3NBT
n3nbt@aol.com*

REMEMBER OUR TROOPS

- Oct. 1 SPCG ARC meeting
- Oct. 2 Keystone VHF ARC meeting- Pleasant Acres
- Oct. 4 Hamfest-Lancaster County, PA-717-872-6578
- Oct. 4 PIGROAST CANCELLED**
- Oct. 4 VHF/Microwave Activity Day-717-697-3633
- Oct. 6 General Class License class- Adams Elec.
- Oct. 7 Hilltoppers ARC meeting-club site
- Oct. 9 Penn-Mar ARC meeting
- Oct. 11 VE Exam-Shrewsbury, PA- 717-235-0273
- Oct. 11 Hamfest-Carlisle, PA-717-761-1844
- Oct. 11-12 10-10 Day Sprint
- Oct. 11-12 PA QSO Party
- Oct. 13 General Class License class- Adams Elec.
- Oct. 14 York ARC meeting-Red Cross
- Oct. 15-16 YLRL Anniversary Party
- Oct. 20 General Class License class- Adams Elec.
- Oct. 25-26 CQ Worldwide DX Contest
- Oct. 26 Hamfest-Westminster, MD- 410-876-1482
- Oct. 28 General Class License class- Adams Elec.

NEXT MEETING
October 2nd, 7 PM
Pleasant Acres!

*The club offers a hearty
welcome to our new members*

Louis Tateosian KB3JSG
John Enders WB3IVW

ISABEL STRIKES!

By R.E. Goodman



Hurricane Isabel as a Category 5 storm out in the Atlantic prior to it hitting the U.S.

Well I suppose that it could have been a lot worse. Hurricane Isabel struck the York area at about 2100 hours on Thursday, 18 September. I started monitoring the storm from my shack right after I got home from work. By 6 PM, the wind had started picking up (15 to 20 mph gusts) and a light rain began to fall. I have a Radio Shack WX200 Weather Station connected to a computer so I could monitor conditions in real time. As the evening progressed, the storm gradually picked up steam. By 9 PM, I started seeing gusts hit 30+ mph. This is quite high for my QTH as my house is the lowest in our development and is protected by many mature Maple trees which surround us. At about 11 PM, the rain really started to fall! I was listening to activity on the York 97 repeater. You could hear the wind roaring through the trees outside. At about midnight, we lost our TV cable service and our Internet connection (which is provided by the cable). I stayed up until about 2 AM watching the wind speed & the rainfall rates on the computer. Then suddenly, I was plunged into darkness ... we lost power. My shack emergency power system immediately switched on and I had light and power for my radios. The computer

was operating on a UPS but this would only keep it going for 20 minutes or so. After about 10 minutes, I shut it down. Sitting in the dimly lit shack, listening to the wind was a spooky experience. Everyone else in the house was asleep. I grabbed a flashlight and took a walk around outside. Lots of small branched and leaves were down. The trees were swaying, but I've seen worse in local thunderstorms. While the rain was heavy, I only received a total of 1.55 inches over the course of the entire storm. At 2:45 AM, I went to bed, half expecting the power to be back on when I awoke. I woke up at 6 AM. Still no power but it had stopped raining. The wind was still gusting a bit but it was apparent that the worst was over. I wheeled out my 5 KW generator, plugged it into the transfer switch and on the first pull I once again had power! The generator runs the circuits in my home that feed the well pump, refridge, Microwave oven, Living room, Family Room, and my daughters bedroom. It does not have the capacity to operate the water heater and my 14 year old kid couldn't believe that I was limiting her to a 10 minute shower! "There's no way you can take a shower in 10 minutes" she quipped! (Pg 2)



**Bob Gundlach, N3NBT
to undergo surgery ...
and promises to swear
off eating donuts!**

By Bob himself!

Hello all;

After more years than I can remember of suffering with a swallowing problem, I have finally decided to try for a lasting fix. I have been having Bo Tox injections since the early 90's, which have provided some relief, but the real fix involves a surgical procedure. The problem is with the muscle just ahead of the stomach. Typically the surgery required the chest to be "cracked" as is done on open heart surgery. There is now laparoscopic, or minimally invasive surgery which involves about 5 small holes to access the required areas. The procedure is known as a "Heller Myotomy." This should provide relief for half of my problem. The second half which involves the Esophagus, has no known fix, so I will have to live with it. I have had several consultations with a surgeon at Hershey Medical Center over the past several months. After much deliberation I have finally decided to go through with the surgery. I met with the surgeon at Hershey Med this morning and the following is what came out of that meeting. Here is the latest on my surgery schedule.

Wednesday September 17---Consult with Anesthesiologist and have X-Rays and blood work done.

Monday September 29-----Surgery, Time unknown.

Hospital stay-----2 to 3 days, without complications.

Recovery-----3 weeks, with possible return to part time work. Indications are that I will not be permitted to drive for three weeks, so would have to be shuttled to and from work.

I will be on a "soft diet" for some period of time. Maybe this is my opportunity to shed a few pounds.

Continued from "Isabel Strikes" on page 1 ...

I took a long walk around the neighborhood. There was one tree down about a block from my home but most of the damage seemed limited to small branches. We were without power for about 9 hours and believe me, having a generator really proved its worth. I know that there were a lot of club members who were without power for days after the storm! I also know that there is at least one who is purchasing a generator himself!

Lessons Learned:

If you use deep cycle batteries for emergency backup power, check the water level in them more than once every 6 months. I have a 110 AH battery that automatically switches in if the power fails. I thought it would run my 12 volt bus for at least 24 hours ... it lasted 4! Check & top off the water level often & every once in awhile, charge the battery hard in order to equalize the charge in all the cells.

Tie your patio furniture & trash cans down (or at least put them away).

You cannot power your neighbors refrigerator with enough extension cords plugged together to equal a 300 foot extension cord ... there's too much of a voltage drop!

**HURRICANE ISABEL REPORT
By Kerry D. Smeltzer, KA3KAR**

The County EOC was opened at 1900 hours Thursday 18 2003 .and closed at 1200 hours Friday. Seven YARS members reported for active duty. They were N3BQB Jack, N3WP Bill , N3VQH Mike, N3UOO Chad , W3PN Bill, KB3IGH Jon and KA3KAR Kerry. 11 hams called in for reserve duty.

The Shrewsbury EOC opened and had several hams on active status. We provided very valuable communication and services to the County and Red Cross. Red Cross requested a shelter during the storm and we provided needed communication. We staffed the York City EOC and we had a direct link to Shrewsbury EOC.

The County needed power outage reports . We also reported a tree on I83 (with help from REACT). Memorial Hospital with out power but running on generator and reported road closures due to trees falling. We proved that we are able to gather info not received by any other methods and we can get it passed very fast and efficiently.

Kay , the Director of EMA would like to Thank all who helped .

I too would like to express my appreciation for a job extremely well done. It is nice when a hobby can do good for others.

73's KA3KAR EC York County

The VHF Transmitter

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Hurricane Isabel Report from the Outer Banks

By Jim & Diane LaNasa

Thanks for the many emails and prayers and concerns:

The obvious: Dianne and I are just fine.....tired, worn out and hurt all over (muscle strains), but just fine. Mentally exhausted. The days before the storm were almost as tiring as the days after. With the reports of 155 mph winds cranking down on us, we were in a race to get things done. Trying to board up windows, trying to figure out how much we would lose and then try to move everything to higher ground. Our house would not survive winds greater than 120. We were preparing to lose the roof and everything on the first floor. Everything was picked up and moved to the second floor.....tools, books, bicycles, lawnmower, electronics and the freezer. Water jugs were filled, generator tested and food purchased.

Everything outside had to be moved or tied down. Plywood was scarce and selling for \$30.00 a sheet. Fortunately, I had enough saved to cover 13 out of 19 exposed windows and selected the ones to cover as our best guess. I refused to be scalped by the local lumber yard. The clock was ticking, the race was on and we were losing. Working for 3 days, 16 hours a day we finally got the job done 24 hours from the eye. By all predictions, the storm would move up the sound and raise the water level 15-18 feet. Our first floor sits at 7 feet above sea level. Plus, we were also trying to stock up the rescue squad as a shelter as well.

At one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, we tossed the cat into the house and screwed the last sheet of plywood over the door. We didn't know if we would see the house or cat again. The sailboat was moved to the end of the road and vehicles were shuttled to high ground. 24 hours before the storm we went to the pier and saw the most phenomenal waves hitting the beach that we ever saw down here. Waves 12-15 feet high crashing on the shoreline and Isabel wasn't even close. The waves were already at the dune line and it was low tide. Waves were breaking under the pier on the bottom of the pier which is about 35 feet over the water at the end. One data buoy off shore by 150 miles reported wave heights to over 48 feet! The island was now in panic mode and it was too late to leave. The road 20 miles north of town had just been breached by the waves, and just north of Hatteras Village (2 miles south of the pier), they were trying to shore up the dune wall. Water was seeping under the sand and we were running low on fingers to plug up the holes.

We assembled at the rescue squad, made last minute preparations, strung ham antennas outside and went to sleep with gale force winds descending upon us. We awoke to worse. Thursday dawned ugly and it only got worse. The updated wind speeds at 105-110 mph were more comforting than the previous 155 mph, but the storm surge is what always takes the toll and it was predicted at 15-18 feet. The wait was the worse. We had 6 hours of pregame shows until the real thing, followed by 6 more hours of pounding rain.

Dianne was the only nurse left on the island and all of the physicians evacuated. I established communications with the National Hurricane Center in Florida via Amateur Radio and supplied them information from our instrumentation and instruments on Ocracoke Island monitored by another amateur operator there. By reporting barometric pressures and wind speeds every 15 minutes, they were able to track the eye wall as it passed over Ocracoke Island and change their predictions that affected you all by the data that we gave them. The eye hit Ocracoke at 12:50 PM. The barometer dropped to 960 mb and leveled out and then started to climb back up at a fantastic rate at 13:15 pm. The eye never hit Hatteras and we never got a break in wind speed which stayed at 80-90 sustained and gusts to over 105. These winds lasted for hours. Finally, at 6 pm, the winds dropped to under 50 mph, and we breathed our first sigh of relief.

The Aftermath:

Our house lost about 3 rows of shingles all along the South and east side of the house. all of our preparations were able to keep all of the water out of the house and the roof held despite the loss of roofing shingles.

The hurricane moved west from Ocracoke and did not travel up the sound. The anticipated 15 feet of water never happened. The water level dropped to zero and the sound was dry for over a mile. Fortunately, the wind speed dropped gradually and never abruptly (like when the eye passes), and the water eased back into the sound and never rose. We were darn lucky this time.

Hatteras Village was a different story. The water broke through the dunes early and waves over 15 feet high were breaking on the highway. The Sea Gull motel was picked up by the waves and moved 1/2 mile and deposited on the road. All dunes were leveled and the highway disappeared. The ocean had created its own new inlet to the sound and it still stands today. About 1/4 mile of road is gone and Hatteras Village is now "Little Hatteras Island". Anything that stood in its path is gone.....houses, motels, restaurants, garages.....all gone. Cars floating everywhere. Houses twisted off their pilings and moved miles away by the water. Hundreds of houses have been destroyed. They are still without water and electric.

The water also broke through in Buxton and the ocean went to the sound there as well. Four feet of water replaced the road way. 1/2 of the new highway to Avon was washed away. Many businesses were flooded. In between these two areas is where our station is located. We were high ground and still dry. Hundreds of trees were uprooted or broken in half. Microbursts destroyed localized areas of forestry and homes. The old lighthouse site was under water and the blocks of the old lighthouse were washed away. If the lighthouse wasn't moved, it would have crashed to its death.

Friday morning dawned bright, sunny and pretty. The destruction to Hatteras was not yet known. Dianne, a physician that was flown back to the island, and an EMS team were helicoptered by an army Huey to Hatteras Medical Center where she spent the last 2 days. We assisted the relief effort by boating water, MREs, cots, blankets and supplies.

Continued on page 4

Jim & Diane Continued from previous page:

across the new waterway to the other side. No matter what you see on TV, it can't describe the destruction that had just occurred. Mother Nature has reclaimed what man has tried to tame.

We are still under curfew restrictions, but we have electric, phone and water and feel quite lucky. Dianne was just relieved of her duties and was boated back home tonight for 24 hours of needed rest.

The news media will be descending shortly and this aftermath will make headlines for awhile. The lives and livelihoods of hundreds of local residents have just been permanently altered. The topography has been changed and it is doubtful if man can rebuild the road to Hatteras. Many that own million dollar ocean front lots are now completely under water.

That's the news from Frisco.

Thanks for all the prayers and wishes.

So far, no one has died, and that truly is the best news.

Why anyone would want to live on a sandbar is beyond me....we all must be nuts!

Jim and Dianne

To ALL

My recent health situation makes it mandatory that I move to an all one level facility. Where that might be is still undecided. Relocate in York Area or OHIO?

My son is coming in late Thursday night for the weekend to assist me in unpacking and setting things out for either sale or donation depending on what it is.

Friday starting at about 8 am continuing until Saturday at dusk will be the sales. On Sunday morning select items left will be set at the curb for Fall Cleanup which stars Monday morning.

Many of the items have been with me for 50 years. Very little will be retained. Radios, Counters, meters, and large quantity of small parts will be disposed of. My parts trailer and all it's contents are also for sale. Service manuals, books and computer equipment also goes

Spread the word.

John W3SST

Educational & Training Program Announced

The Atlantic Division leadership would like to increase the quantity and quality of training material to be made available to interested individuals, clubs and other organizations to learn about various amateur radio topics within the Atlantic Division. Topics may include, but not limited to: amateur recruitment, served agency recruitment, licensing, field day, contesting, etc.

Programs will be made available on the Division web site, can be emailed or distributed by CD. These programs will be made available to the ARRL Education Department for sharing with amateurs and other parties outside of the Atlantic Division. Programs will be available without cost, royalty, except that a charge may be made for 'materials/postage only' for reimbursement of diskette, CD costs and for postage in the event of mailing to the recipient. Programs may be copyrighted by the author(s), but the right to distribute freely without royalty or payment to the author(s) must be granted.

We are looking for people interested in developing programs and to help coordinate program development. In addition, we are looking for someone to spearhead this program. This person will:

Coordinate educational programs and presentations on amateur radio topics within the Atlantic Division as specified in the Atlantic Division Educational Program Specification. Solicit educational programs of interest to amateur radio operators and potential amateur operators from within the Atlantic Division. These presentations will be made available to amateur radio clubs and organizations, individual amateur radio operators and other interested parties. Chair a division level committee of interested people in working on developing educational programs and presentations. Watch for schools to be encouraged to participate in the Big Project. Network clubs who are sponsoring Big Projects in schools. Watch for and encourage qualifying individuals to be nominated for the national educational awards. Report to the Atlantic Division Director on a regular basis on the status of the program.

If you are interested in helping out with this project, please send an email with your interests and qualifications to n3efn@arrl.org or to n3llr@arrl.org.

- Bernie Fuller N3EFN

Atlantic Division Director

- Bill Edgar N3LLR

Atlantic Division Vice Director

Enjoy Breakfast Out ?

Well folks, I've needed to update this breakfast schedule for a long time. The club currently holds one (1) regularly scheduled breakfast. It's held at the Shiloh Family Restaurant at 9 AM on Saturday morning. Check in on the 97 machine before you show up to see how the turn out is going to be. There is also growing popularity in chowing down at the Route 74 Diner. This is a breakfast for hearty souls as it meets (WHEN IT MEETS) at 7 AM on Saturday mornings. This is not a regularly scheduled breakfast so check on 97 before you show! **If anyone has any more ideas for breakfast, let us know!**

YORK HAMFEST

Unfortunately the weather DID NOT cooperate for the York Hamfest this year! Saturday was rainy and Sunday wasn't too much better. We had total attendance figures for both days set at somewhat less than 300 people. The kitchen crew from the Keystone Club sold burgers, hot dogs, and corn dogs but the profit was less than \$100. It was ashamed that mother nature didn't smile upon us, the fest was held at the 4H facility near York and the costs to rent these resources was quite reasonable. Even with the low attendance, the Hamfest Foundation made a small profit. Special kudos go to Tom Graybill, KB3ETG for volunteering to ramrod the food sales.

CORNROAST 2003



Well we all knew that it would eventually come to this! Young boys drinking beer and then going out and operating ham radios! No wonder the airwaves are in the condition they are these days! Hey ... only kidding folks! The Corn Roast was a success even though (like everything else this Summer) it was almost rained out. Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH managed to snap this GREAT pix. I'm sure that this young gentleman wasn't chugging brewski's!



Cooking under these conditions is an arduous task! Here Ken Brody and an unidentified assailant valiantly struggle to cook burgers and hot dogs in pouring rain! Congrats are in order to all those Keystoners who attended this years wing ding! It'll be better next year ... don't give up folks!!

DRILL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

As most of you may already know this Saturday York County DES will be conducting a Haz-Mat drill in Shrewsbury. This drill will involve patients that will be transported to three of the local hospitals, York, Memorial and Hanover.

HEARS will be participating in this drill and I will need operators for York, Memorial and Hanover. For York Hospital I will need 3-4 operators, Memorial will need two operators (one will need to have a radio set up) and if installation is completed at the WOC I am looking for two operators for that site. Earl and Rudy I will let you decide how many operators you will need, depending on what modes you would like to get involved with. As of present time there will be packet and slow scan from the scene in addition to voice.

The drill will start around 8:00 and is to wrap up before noon. Please let me know if you are able to participate and what is your preferred site. Also if you are able, interested, in providing packet or slow scan.

More details will be provided to all who are participating in the next couple of days. Thank you.

Sue KB3EVC

2003 Ride for Babies

Confirmed that the 'Ride for Babies' is on for OCT. 19, 2003. Time has changed now Ride starts at 1 PM.

Course is the same as last year, mostly northern Adams county. Route 15 to 234 thru Biglerville to Pine Grove Rd. follow to Rt 34, South to Idaville east to Rt 94, south to Rt 30 and back thru New Oxford to Battlefield Harley... We cover about 13 locations.

We should be at Battlefield Harley Davidson by 12 PM.

We need a **few more Hams** to cover the route.

This is a fun event and only takes 1 1/2 hours for the ride. We should be done by 3 PM...

Food and probably T-shirts for volunteers.

This is good Emergency Communications (EmComm) training.

Please respond if you can help this year.

Jack N3BQB jkdelli@aol.com

Keystone Member Injured in Automobile Accident

About three weeks ago, one of our members, John, W3HMS suffered an automobile accident on his way home from a microwave contest. John was in his van that he had fully equipped as a "Rover Mobile". Unfortunately the van was totaled and John suffered considerable injuries. Something like this could happen to anyone of us. The following is a description of the aftermath of this event as told by Joe, WA3PTV. Joe & Bob, W3HAH removed all salvagable equipment from the van for John. This should give all of us pause for reflection.

Bob, W3HAH and myself went up Wednesday morning at 9AM and stripped John's W3HMS's totaled van of all equipment. It looks like most all his radios survived the crash OK. His IC706 was laying out on the broken down operating table that was leaning precariously (the legs had bent on the back end and the rivets had pulled out of the braces underneath and was also bowed down in the center). The front part of the radio (IC706) was missing. It was finally found in another box that I have no idea how it got there. It was not put back on the radio to see if the latch or any physical damage had occurred as the main part of the radio was located in another box. Neither looked bad though. His 220 rig was also hanging out of the console but it too looked like it was not damaged.

He lost both his 3 foot dish and the 2 foot offset dish ants, all were bent beyond repair. His 6 mtr delta loop (I think that's what it is), may be restorable. His 3456 MHz looper had several loops crushed that should be restorable. The boom for that ant was in good shape. His 903 looper had several loops bent that I was able to straighten ok. His 4 element 2 mtr beam had the reflector bent slightly, also which I was able to straighten. His 220 beam, 1296 and 440 beam were in good shape. He lost one of his rotors made by radio shack. It had split in half. His G-800 rotor and control box was in good shape physically. His Third rotor which had the 5.760GHz and 10 GHz horns (they were ok) on it was OK. The Conifer (barbecue shaped ant for 2300 has 3 ribs that one end of each are loose from the frame. It can be tack welded back on OK I believe. The rest of the ant was ok.

Most of his expensive "Gore" cables were salvaged ok. Only one cable had its SMA connector ripped off. He has one LMR 240 cable that was OK too. I spent extra time making sure to uncouple all cables instead of just cutting them off. There was only one connector I could not get off with 2 pliers. It was on the 220 beam. He'll have to cut that connector off or put some WD40 on it to loosen it up. Had to cut the RG8X type cable to that ant.

He had 3 lead acid batteries that all were laying on their sides. One of the small lawn and garden tractor batteries was ruptured on the lower side that allowed all the acid to leak out of at least one cell. There was acid all over the floor. That's one good reason to use gellcells inside a vehicle. All his small Gellcell batteries were ok.

His cell phone and 24 GHz rig was retrieved by his wife on Monday. Both seemed to be in good shape. His 24 GHz rig was on the front passenger seat and seemed to survive without the dish or the feed horn being bent as far as could be seen. After we got back to his house, He retrieved his new digital camera out of the chest of drawers made out of plastic along with his 2 mtr ht. Both still worked ok. There was a slight scratch on the side of the Hand Held. His new digital camera has a slight dent on the front but has not impaired its operating ability. The frame of the chest of drawers with the 4-5 drawers had disintegrated. The drawers themselves stayed reasonably intact. (That was surprising). There was pieces of plastic all over the floor. Johns lucky that non of these pieces hit and cut him. He was also very lucky that non of the lead acid batteries came forward and hit and sprayed him with acid. Since there were no fuses that I could see on the batteries, He's also lucky there was no fire.

Only time will tell when he is able to get back down to his work bench to see what else works or doesn't. He had an appointment with his doctor to fit him with a back brace Wednesday at 4PM. His second lumbar joint in his spine has a compression fracture. It'll be awhile before he is in good shape again. Also, I don't know when he will be able to get to his basement workshop where his computer is located to retrieve any e-mail. Perhaps the back brace will allow him to negotiate the stairs ok. John has canceled all the events that he had intended to attend the next couple of weeks. He said that he should be able to attend the Microwave lunch on the 25th Sept. I have a physical then and also a lunch invite with the guys I used to work with at Letterkenny Army Depot that day too.

I believe I have learned a few things about how to store batteries and to perhaps mount radios and items so they can survive better when that accident that we all hope never happens, occurs. I believe Batteries should be both in a plastic battery box (only one battery of Johns was in a battery box which survived) and then placed into a wooden box with a securable lid that is somehow anchored down to the vehicle. I believe Gell Cell Batteries should only be used inside a vehicle compartment. (I have 2 lead acid 100 Amper hr batteries in the back of my truck both in a battery box) Gellcells would be better too in a vehicle rollover. Storing anything in plastic containers, unless they are high impact containers, would be something I won't do now. All those pieces of plastic flying around inside a vehicle.

Have you paid your Dues ?

Your club membership dues for the year 2003 are still due and payable.

(Just in case that you forgot !)

Full Membership only \$20.00

Family Members still \$ 5.00

Full members under 18 \$10.00

Make checks payable to: Keystone VHF Club

See your treasurer at the next club meeting
or for same day service send check directly to:

**Linda Warner
125 Southview Dr.
York, PA. 17402**