



June

2010

**The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club
meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the
Bell County Communications Center, 798 West Avenue O, in Belton**

President's Corner

Kenneth Watkins, KE5ISN

Wow! What else can you say about the first edition of the *Wavelength*. Congratulations to Rick, K6WXA, on a job well done. If you have an article for the *Wavelength*, submit it to Rick and he will work it into the next issue.

The 2010 Tour d' Temple Bike Ride is now history. I would like to thank all who worked this event and invite you to read the article, further on in this newsletter, for detailed coverage of the event.

It is hard to believe that the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club will be celebrating its second anniversary on June 3rd. On June 3, 2008, thirty one individuals met at the Bell County Emergency Communications Center to form the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club. Members have come and gone but we are still a viable club that will be here for many more years.

For those of you that like Hamfests, mark your calendar for June 11-12. This is the date for the 2010 Ham-Com in Plano, Texas. They have indoor and outdoor flea markets as well as commercial vendors at the Plano Centre. Visit www.hamcom.org for more details and directions to what is billed as the largest Hamfest in Texas. While at Ham-Com, you can also attend the ARRL Western Gulf Division Convention. We may want to get a group together and carpool to Plano. We will talk about it at the monthly meeting on June 1st.

Other upcoming events: Field Day is June 26-27 at the Texas Early Days Tractor and Engine Grounds located at 1717 Eberhardt Rd. in Temple. A meal is planned for Saturday evening. Contact myself or James, N5ONI if you plan to eat with us. The Belton 4th of July Parade is on Saturday, July 3rd in Downtown Belton. More info on this later on.

And, it's that time of year to renew your membership in CTARC. In previous years the Club has used June 1st to May 31st as the membership year. At the April 2010 meeting the members voted to change the membership year to January 1st thru December 31st. What this means is that if you have paid your \$20.00 dues in June in past years, you will only pay \$10.00 and you will be paid up until December 31st 2010.

In closing, I would like to announce that **William Cody Schleppegrell, KCØHEQ**, is the newest member of CTARC. Be sure to say 'welcome' if you hear him on the radio.

See you at the meeting on June 1st and on the net.



Ham-Com

The Biggest Hamfest in Texas

Friday & Saturday, June 11-12, at the Plano Center, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, in Plano, TX 75074. General admission is \$9.00, students K-12 and Scouts in uniform (under age 18) is free.

Amateur Radio at its best-commercial exhibitors, flea markets, over 80 hours of speakers, workshops, special interest groups, door prizes and much more.

Talk-in frequency is 147.180(+) PL 107.2

For a whole lot more information, visit: <http://www.hamcom.org/catalog/>



ARRL June VHF QSO Party

Second full weekend in June. Begins 1800Z Saturday, June 12th, through 0300Z Monday, June 14th on all authorized bands 6 Meters (50 MHz) and up.

For a complete list of rules, contest specifics and log submissions, visit: <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf-qso-party>



Texas Emancipation Day



Field Day 2010

Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate. While not actually a contest, it is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, most groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local elected community leaders, as well as the general public.

This year's Field Day event falls on the weekend of June 26-27 and CTARC has been invited to participate with TARC in its Field Day operation of W5LM. Set-up will be at 9:00 AM Saturday the 26th, at the Texas Early Day Tractor & Engine Asso. Show Grounds, located at 1717 Eberhardt Road in Temple. For further info and/or to help out, contact James Cleveland, N5ONI at: n5oni@yahoo.com

Strays



4¼” Hail stones which fell on Moore, Oklahoma, on May 10th.
Photo courtesy Texas Severe Storms Intercept.



The Central Texas Amateur Radio Net meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM on the W5BEC repeater, on 147.140(+) PL 123.0
 Join Us!

June NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

June 3 rd Net Control: AD5SK Back-Up: KE5ISN	June 10 th KE5ISN K6WXA
June 17 th Net Control: K6WXA Back-Up: KF5LNX	June 24 th KF5LNX K5KFH



- President: Kenneth Watkins, KE5ISN
- Vice Pres: Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ
- Secretary: Priscilla Beauregard, KE5UES
- Treasurer: Linda Blackmon, KE5QGN
- Director: Richard Diller, KE5ULJ
- Director: Kevin Epperson, K5KEV
- Director/Webmaster: Russell Mezynski, KF5LNX
- Newsletter Editor: Rick Murray, K6WXA

Educational Opportunities



This past month, FEMA added several new courses to its' Independent Study Program, including: IS-100.fda *Introduction to the Incident Command System for the Food & Drug Administration*; IS-101 *Deployment Basics: Federal Disaster Workforce Readiness*; IS-106.10 *Workplace Violence Awareness Training*; IS-208.A *State Disaster Management*; IS-324.A *Community Hurricane Preparedness* and IS-403 *Introduction to Individual Assistance*.

Additionally, several courses are in the process of being renamed. For example, "IS-18" has been renamed "IS-18.10" the ".10" reflects the year 2010 and denotes that this an annual required course for FEMA employees.

For a complete list of all the courses available through FEMA, please visit: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslst.asp>



Help Needed

Our newest club member, Cody - KCØHEQ, is attempting the daunting task of getting Fort Hood's MARS station back on the air.

In the interim, he is looking for anyone in the club who might have MARS-capable equipment with which he could come by and periodically operate to maintain his status in the Military Affiliate Radio System.

If you can help him out, drop him a line at: kc0heq@yahoo.com or give him a call at (218) 929-2451.

"Texas is the finest portion of the globe that has blessed my vision."
 - Sam Houston



2010 Hurricane Season Forecast Above-Average Season Expected:

The 2010 Hurricane Season in the Atlantic Ocean will begin on June 1st, and end on November 30th. On April 7, 2010, Colorado State University issued its annual report on the year's hurricane forecast predictions.

University forecasters William Gray and Phil Klotzbach each stated that El Nino conditions will likely dissipate by summer. In addition they believe that the warm tropical Atlantic sea surface temperatures will not drop and will remain at the current temperatures. These temperatures have reportedly been much warmer than usual. Because of this phenomenon, Gray and Klotzbach indicate that the 2010 hurricane season will be above-average. Specifically, they said that the warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures will [lead] to favorable conditions for hurricanes to develop and intensify.

Colorado State University's forecasters, Gray and Klotzbach, have also reported that eight hurricanes are expected for the 2010 season. Four of the season's hurricanes are expected to strengthen and become major hurricanes. This means that these four, if they do in fact become major hurricanes, would ultimately receive a rating of at least a category 3 storm. Category 3 storms are defined by the Saffir-Simpson scale which reflects that such a storm must have winds of at least 111mph; and that these winds be sustained for a period of time.

Including these predicted eight major storms for 2010, Gray and Klotzbach have reason to believe there will be a total of 15 named storms. Because the eight are included in this number, this would mean that seven of the storms during 2010 will be large enough to be officially named and yet not large enough to be considered a major hurricane. These seven additional storms, then, would each be rated at a level of category 2 or below if Gray and Klotzbach's predictions turn out to be correct.

2010 Hurricane Names

Alex	Lisa
Bonnie	Matthew
Colin	Nicole
Danielle	Otto
Earl	Paula
Fiona	Richard
Gaston	Shary
Hermine	Thomas
Igor	Virginie
Julia	Walter
Karl	

Klotzbach's and Gray's forecast include a 64 percent chance of at least one major hurricane making landfall on the U.S. coastline during 2010 - the long-term average probability is 52 percent; a 40 percent probability of a major hurricane making landfall along the U.S. East Coast, including the Florida Peninsula, and along the Gulf Coast from the Florida Panhandle west to Brownsville, Texas - the long-term average for both areas is about 30 percent; and a 53 percent chance of a major hurricane making landfall in the Caribbean. The average probability in that area during the last century is 42 percent.

The 2009 season was the mildest on record since 1997, with only one hurricane - Hurricane Ida, and one tropical storm - Tropical Storm Claudette, coming ashore.

The position of El Nino near the South American coast and cool Atlantic waters inhibited storm growth. The mild season can be attributed to El Nino conditions over the Pacific Ocean. El Nino produces warm Pacific waters and upper level winds that discourage conditions favorable to hurricane formation. Cooler waters in the Atlantic Ocean also inhibited hurricane formation. We cannot, however, count on the 2010 hurricane season being so uneventful. If El Nino draws away from the South American coast causing warmer waters in the Atlantic Ocean, conditions will be much more favorable to hurricane development.

The potential danger of a mild hurricane season is that people in storm-prone areas may become complacent because they expect the next season to be just as uneventful. Hurricanes depend on weather conditions both near and far from where the storms hit. Because weather conditions will continue to change constantly, the immediate past hurricane record cannot be relied upon as a prediction for the next season.

It only takes one storm hitting your area to make it a bad year, regardless of the number of storms that are forecast in the seasonal outlook.

Dennis Feltgen, National Hurricane Center Spokesman

At the University of Miami, Professor of Meteorology Ben Kirtman is looking into the relationship between the positioning of El Nino and the severity of hurricanes in the Atlantic basin. According to Kirtman, in 2009 El Nino was located just offshore of the South -

American coast, which led to a mild hurricane season. In contrast, under Kirtman's theory, if El Nino moves further off the South American coast then it will not protect the U.S. coastlines and may support the formation of more and stronger storms.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center will announce storm watches and warnings 12 hours earlier than in past hurricane seasons. The earlier lead time will give those living in coastal areas more time to prepare and evacuate. Officials can give more advance warnings and watches because of advances in tracking storms and forecasting their projected paths.

Although hurricane forecasting is becoming more accurate, there is no computer model or formula to tell how many hurricanes will strike land during a particular season and how many of those which make landfall will be severe.

The uncertainty in these forecasts is rooted in the fact that they depend on long-range forecasts of factors that, while statistically associated with hurricane development, can

Seasonal hurricane forecasts have something in common with successful rain dances: timing is everything.
- *John D. Cox*, Discovery News

change with time. They are based on the expected state of the atmosphere several months down the road which don't always evolve in ways forecasters anticipate. With that said, this year's crop of early forecasts has identified clues to how the upcoming season may evolve and make them more believable than usual.

One of them is the rate of the demise of El Nino. El Nino is beginning to weaken rapidly from its winter 2010 maximum. It is forecast by a significant majority of the models to entirely dissipate by late summer. While there is no guarantee in this outcome, the consensus that El Nino will be gone and perhaps even replaced by La Nina (which would be even more favorable for hurricane development) lends credence to the elevated threat.

Another glaring sign that this may be an active season is the degree to which the sea-surface temperatures (SSTs) in the Main Development Region (MDR) of the Atlantic Basin (spanning the coast of Africa to Central America) are anomalously warm. Warm SSTs tend to fuel storm development. The values observed across a broad region of the tropical Atlantic are at record levels for this time of year.

While warmer water can provide more heat energy for a storm to ingest, the scale of these SST anomalies is so great that they are closely associated with additional large-scale atmospheric characteristics over the MDR that also favor growth, weaker than normal wind shear and more humidity in the atmosphere.

When viewed in the context of these extremely unusual conditions in the MDR, and in light of the confidence in the decline of El Nino, the early 2010 hurricane forecasts carry more weight than in years past. The key, of course, is if these symptoms persist through summer and fall. Only then can they give the annual parade of African easterly waves - precursors to the vast majority of Atlantic hurricanes - a better than average chance to actually produce hurricane development.



The Hurricane Watch Net, first formed in 1965, is a group of 40 trained and organized amateur radio operators, strategically dispersed from Toronto, out to Bermuda, throughout the Caribbean Sea, Central America, Mexico and across the continental USA. They are not housed in a single location, as some of their followers believe; rather, they are located such that they can provide a continuous path of communications from storm-affected areas to the forecasters in the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Their primary mission is to disseminate tropical cyclone advisory information to island communities in the Caribbean, Central America, along the Atlantic seaboard of the U.S., and throughout the Gulf of Mexico coastal areas. They also collect observed or measured weather data from amateur radio operators in the storm-affected area as well as any post-storm damage, and convey that information to the Hurricane Forecasters in the National

Hurricane Center via amateur radio station WX4NHC, located in the center.

The Hurricane Watch Net has continued to operate during every hurricane threatening land in the Atlantic, Caribbean Basin, and Gulf of Mexico, and has acquired a formal, direct association, with the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL since its conception. To this day, the Hurricane Watch Net activates on 14.325.00 MHz whenever a hurricane is within 300 miles of projected landfall or becomes a serious threat to a populated area.

As a note to those who monitor when the net is active, please sit quietly on the sidelines unless specifically called upon for assistance.

For further information on the Hurricane Watch Net, please visit: <http://www.hwn.org>

For those without HF equipment, when the Hurricane Watch Net is active, live streaming audio provided by N2JEU may be accessed through: <http://fwsys.ralabs.com:8000/SWRadio.m3u>



13th Anniversary of Jarrell F-5 Tornado

Jeff Draper, N5SSI

May 27th 1997, 3:42 PM... Jarrell, Texas was struck by a 3/4 mile wide F-5 tornado. 27 people died and many more were injured. Somewhere between 20 to 40 vehicles were never found and are believed to have been carried and dropped into Lake Travis, some 40-45 miles away. I have personal knowledge and involvement in recovering a wristwatch from the Hamilton Pool area, where a friend found it hanging in a cedar tree. It was damaged and stopped at 3:42 PM. Chills yet? Other debris has been found in this area, and residents declared they witnessed debris raining down.



Tuesday, May 27th 1997, looking north toward Jarrell, about 4 miles away, along I-35 (Photographer unknown)

This storm happened due to a rare occurrence in where a large storm cell died and collapsed on itself up in Oklahoma earlier in the day. This sudden and rapid collapse created a "gravity wave" which caused a negative barometric wave to shoot down into Texas. This caused storms to fire up along a stalled dryline. The process which occurred made storm events happen in reverse order. Usually in a

tornadic storm, you will get light rain, heavy rain, then hail, and then a very brief opening before a tornado is visible. This event caused the tornado to come first, then the hail, rain, etc. The people of Jarrell are outside of the NOAA radio range, and their only warning was the fire siren. But the subdivision could not hear it. Many people were aware, but simply had nowhere to go. NWS later declared that this was an F-5, and only survivable by being underground.

I was involved in some after analysis, and there was actually disagreement between entities on whether or not it was an F-5. To us it was very clear. There was at least one section of pavement about 100 yards long that was "scoured" from the roadway, down to the white roadbase. It dug into the Earth 18" deep in places. It churned up wheat fields and cattle were speared with the wheat stalks. Some cattle were completely skinned of their hides down to skeletal remains. Others were thrown and killed. The water was sucked out of all the stock tanks around. A one foot thick concrete roof to a storm cellar was removed and thrown like a Frisbee and never found. In the final analysis, it was proven by myself and Larry Eblen of the NWS that the tornado itself, at 3/4 mile wide, took 55 seconds to cross a given point at the street where the homes were on. The few people that were in a storm shelter stated later that it was shaking the shelter in the ground and they thought it was going to be sucked out of the ground with them inside. 27 people died in those 1-2 minutes. Whole families, including children were killed. Recovery was gruesome.

We are right smack in the middle of the season, as well as flash flood season. Enjoy our nice weather and the holiday weekend, but don't get too at ease.



Police Arrest San Jacinto (CA) Ham Radio Operator

Jose Arballo Jr.

Southwest Riverside News Network

Authorities arrested a 29-year-old San Jacinto, California woman who investigators said interrupted police and fire radio communications and made threats over the air during a two-day period, said Hemet Police Lt. Mark Richards in a news release.



Irene Marie Levy – KJ6CEY was taken into custody early Monday at her mobile home in the 900 block of South Grand Avenue, Richards said. Levy was booked at the Hemet Police Department Jail on suspicion of making terrorist threats; false report of a bomb threat; and maliciously interrupting, disrupting, impeding, or interfering with the transmission of a public safety radio frequency.

Levy's bail is set at \$50,000.00, Richards said.

According to Richards, Levy, who is a Technician Class amateur radio operator, was randomly broadcasting on CalFire and Hemet Police radio frequencies from Saturday evening until moments before she was arrested at her residence.

In the 30 hours of radio frequency interruptions by Levy, she made at least one

bomb threat and many references to the death of police officers and fire personnel, Richards said. Levy's threats and antics interrupted radio communications during a CalFire search and rescue call, a vegetation fire, and a major traffic accident mutual aid scene in Hemet on Saturday evening, Richards said. The interruptions continued into the early morning hours of Sunday when Levy made the bomb threat. Levy continued making threats on Hemet Police and CalFire radio frequencies all of Sunday afternoon and evening.

CalFire and Riverside County Fire communications technicians started the task of trying to locate the source of the frequency interruptions on CalFire frequencies late Saturday evening. The communications technicians deployed Direction Finding equipment to triangulate Levy's transmissions.

Levy expanded her threatening transmissions to the Hemet Police radio frequency on Sunday morning, Richards said, and later that evening Riverside police investigators were requested to assist because their investigators have had some experience in these types of investigations. Richards said Riverside has similar radio frequency direction finding equipment as the CalFire communications technicians.

On Sunday evening, Richards said, Levy boasted that the police would never find her and she disguised her voice as a male adult during all of her transmissions.

Late Sunday evening, Levy's location was pinpointed to her mobile home. Just after midnight, law enforcement officers from Hemet Police, CalFire, and Riverside Police approached Levy's mobile home just as she made one final transmission on the Hemet Police frequency, Richards said.

Investigators arrived at her front door just as she finished her last transmission. Hemet Police investigators seized 11 radios, seven radio frequency scanners, radio frequency lists, computer equipment, and other miscellaneous radio equipment from Levy's home. Police also seized Levy's Ham radio technician's license issued to her by the FCC in September of 2009, Richards said.



2010 Tour d' Temple Another Success

On May 22, 2010, seventeen volunteers gathered at the Frank Mayborn Center at 7:00 AM to assist the Temple Kiwanis Club with their Tour d' Temple Bike Ride. Six members of the Temple Amateur Radio Club and 11 members of the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club combined forces to make the event a success. Rodney Bell with the Temple Kiwanis reported that 140 riders signed up for the 10 mile, 25 mile, 50 mile and 100 kilometer rides.

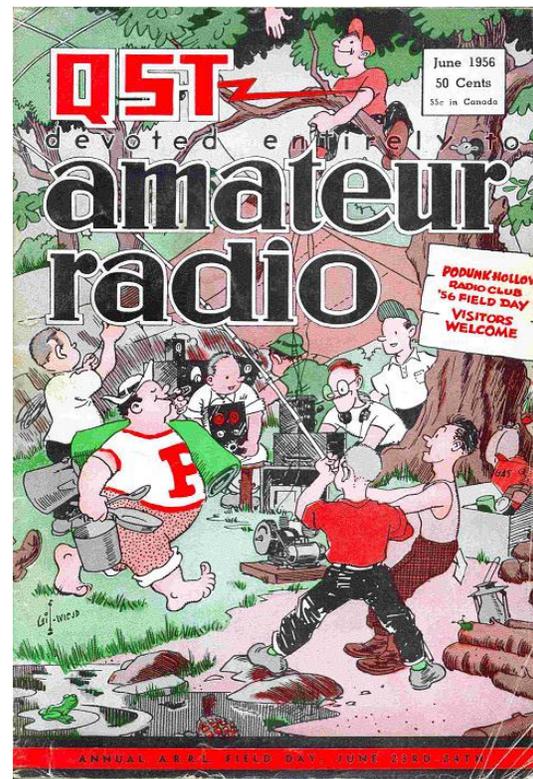
A Net Control Station was established at the Frank Mayborn Center, race headquarters. Net Control maintained communications with the three rest stops that provided information on rider arrival and departures. Each route was followed by a chase vehicle that provided updates to net control and race officials as to when a segment of a route was clear of traffic. This year, radio operators manned six major traffic intersections to assist riders in safely crossing these high-vehicular traffic areas. Each route had radio operators, with APRS tracking systems, assigned to look for bike riders that had encountered difficulties and return them to the Mayborn Center. Net Control relayed several requests to route rovers to provide assistance to disabled bike riders. By 1:30 PM, all amateur radio operations were concluded and the volunteers released. The only incident that was reported was a skinned knee when a rider was dismounting at a rest stop and required only minor first aid.

Events like this are an excellent opportunity for amateur radio operators to practice their skills and test their

equipment for use in a disaster or other emergency. This was also great that hams from different clubs could come together to share their knowledge, assets and expertise in providing communications for an event.

Myron, N5TFK and Kenneth, KE5ISN would like to thank each and every one that volunteered for taking time to assist with this event. Without your help, events like this would not be possible.

At the end of the day, Rodney Bell expressed his appreciation to all the amateur radio operators that helped to make the 2010 Tour d' Temple a success.





The Tao of Field Day

Jeff Wolf, K6JW

Let us first define “Tao”. I mean by it to denote Webster’s second definition: “the art or skill of doing something in harmony with the essential nature of the thing.” I have, in the word and spirit of that great science fiction author, Robert Heinlein, truly “grokked” Field Day and, as a result, feel uniquely qualified to speak, albeit briefly, of its essence and how to work as one with that essence, thereby achieving a meditative state of Zen-like satori--intuitive illumination--with not only Field Day but, in fact, the entire universe. Well, except for my XYL who, quite honestly, I just don’t understand at all.

Based, then, upon my vast or, perhaps, half-vast experience, I humbly offer benefit of my great wisdom and experience with Field Day, a sum total of knowledge that may make your future contest endeavors less traumatic or, at least, more bearable when compared with mine. I will do so by presenting a prioritized list of the Ten Commandments of Field Day. Violate them at your own risk.

Number 10: Never give responsibility to club members whose brains are short by one barrel connector.

...At one recent Field Day event, a team of the Club’s best was struggling to get an A3 raised on a trailer-mounted tower. One of the Club’s most challenged members picked up the shack end of the coax feedline, ran to the radio and screwed the PL-259 into the rig. “Let’s fire it up!” he urged. I looked around at the antenna, now on the mast and unstable at a 30 degree angle to the ground. There were seven Club members with various parts of their anatomy in contact with the tower, trailer and a couple of the elements. I stopped him before we initiated a fried ham contact with a 2 alpha in East Pennsylvania.

Number 9: Depending upon the location of your event and availability of emergency support services, be afraid--be very afraid--of eating the new member’s girlfriend’s chili.

Number 8: Be sure you’ve paid off the site’s groundskeeper.

...One year, we didn’t. That was the year the Rainbirds came on at 2:30 AM, turning the entire site into conductive hell.

Number 7: Select graveyard shift operators with care.

...Back in 1990, I volunteered for graveyard SSB with another Club member. He was young, athletic, handsome, and macho--a real iron man. Somewhere in the middle of the night, sitting in front of the radio, he suddenly fell asleep. When his head banged the desk, he awoke with a start and his legs jerked out in front him, kicking the computer power cord out of the plug strip. In those days, the Club used software that didn’t save to disk after each QSO so we had a printer online. I sat and manually entered about a hundred contacts after we rebooted and I, vowing to keep my own eyes open, sent him to a sleeping bag and took over the operating for the rest of the night.

Number 6: Assign specific operating times to Club members. Or, don't.

...No matter what you do, it won't work. Operators assigned to specific time slots won't show up. If they show up, they'll leave early. If you don't assign them to time slots, either no one will show up or too many will show up. If the latter, they'll bitch that you should have scheduled them. This is like the laws of thermodynamics:

First Law: You can't win; you can only break even.

Second Law: You can only break even at a temperature of absolute zero.

Third Law: You can't reach absolute zero.

Number 5: Beware of the referred operator.

...Somewhere around 1996, a Club member asked whether "this guy" that he knew who used to be a high speed CW operator in WWII and whose callsign was the first ever issued in Delaware could have a two hour slot on Saturday afternoon, say, primetime between 2 and 4 PM. Ignoring red flags all over the place, I said, "Sure." Well, Joe CW showed up right on time, bringing with him a rusty, battered Vibroplex bug and two badly working hearing aids. After we got him off his crutches and into the operator's chair, we noticed him staring blankly at the TS-850. "Never seen one o' these before." he mumbled. Then, in quick succession, he proved as able with the Vibroplex as a two year old in a bumper car. Worse than the fact that he couldn't send, he couldn't copy anymore, either. "Jeez, they're fast!" he'd wheeze, followed by a rather mucousy cough that made me want to poke his hands away from the radio with a long stick. In two hours he made not one completed QSO, consigning our CW score to the spark gap graveyard.

Number 4: Don't EVER try to be "cool" when you're operating a contest. It will only make you look even more ridiculous than you already do.

...Our local cable TV station sent two beautiful young chickees out to interview us for the local public access channel. These young women, interns on break from college, were of such appearance as to make middle aged men whimper as they came to grips with their own mortality. Hell, we guys couldn't have gotten these babes even when we WERE their age. Suffice it to say that there is no way to look cool when you're facing these specimens of nubile pulchritude, you're 55 years old or older, wearing baggy shorts to the bottom of your kneecaps, a t-shirt that says "DX is", and sporting an amateur radio logo baseball cap with foam front, mesh back and thirty Visalia pins stuck everywhere--yes--I know you all own them. Nothing you can say will make you either credible or attractive, so just face it. You're a nerdy ham--accept and rejoice and be glad your wife, husband or significant other has stuck with you all these years assuming, of course, that she or he has. And while we're on the subject:

Number 3: If you're visited by a woman in the CW tent in the middle of the night, she's not there for sex.

...I was doing the graveyard CW shift by myself when, around 3 AM, we'll call her Debbie to protect her true identity, a distaff member of our club, suddenly appeared in the tent. I am married. From a fantasy point of view, this did not matter to me. She was married. From a fantasy point of view, this also did not mean poop. I should add that she wasn't a real looker either, but at that hour of the morning, the fact somehow didn't seem all that important. "I couldn't sleep," she purred, "so I thought I'd...I'd..."

“Yes?” I was anticipating...what?

Picture waves crashing wildly on rocks, think of the beach scene in *From Here to Eternity*.

“So I thought maybe we could, er, I might...ahhh...log for you.”

Picture me, bloated, floating corpse, washing up on a desolate, windswept beach, my carcass to be eaten by ravenous, marauding seagulls.

Well, you get the idea.

Number 2: Nothing is funny at 3 AM.

...There I am, doing my annual Field Day graveyard CW shift last year and in the middle of a pretty good run. All of a sudden, I notice a little flickering of the desk lamp. Hmm. Odd. Then, with all the shrieking fury of a rabid banshee, I hear the grating of metal devouring itself. Omigosh--THE GENERATOR IS SELF-DESTRUCTING!!! I quickly shut down the computer and rig and run out of the tent just in time to see what looks like either the 4th of July or the bombing of Dunkirk as my generator, my pride and joy, commits hari-kiri in one grand and sweeping feat of self-demolition unlike anything I have ever seen before in my life. “NOOOOOO!” I scream, but there is no one to hear my distress. Now, the alternator shaft having fractured and broken loose, has unloaded the motor, which is racing toward further destruction. I hurry to it and shut it down, afraid that I will be blown to bits by proximity. Then: silence. The night is quiet. Field Day for our CW station is destroyed. But, no, I'll call the 80 year old guy in the Club with the backup generator, get him out of bed, and have him singlehandedly load his generator into the trunk of his Thunderbird and haul it to the site to get CW back on the air. Oh, yes, nothing can stop a true contest!

And, finally, **Number 1:**

The best way to enjoy Field Day is in your backyard with an FT-817 hooked to a deep cycle battery and your QTH's Yagi, the barbecue fired up and plenty of beer. But you won't. No, you'll be out there again next year with a new generator, trying to impress any sweet young thing who happens by, and hoping against hope that the chili won't consign you to the Andy Gump or local hospital emergency room before the event is over.

Adhere to these 10 admonitions and you, too, can become one with Field Day. Apply the general concepts and you can become one with any contest. Put out of your mind how unlikely you are to meet the woman--or man--of your fantasies while running contacts during the contests.

And the chili. Don't eat the chili. Have fun!



*Have an article you'd like to see in the Wavelength?
Send it along to k6wxa@yahoo.com. Articles should
be submitted prior to the last Friday of the month.*