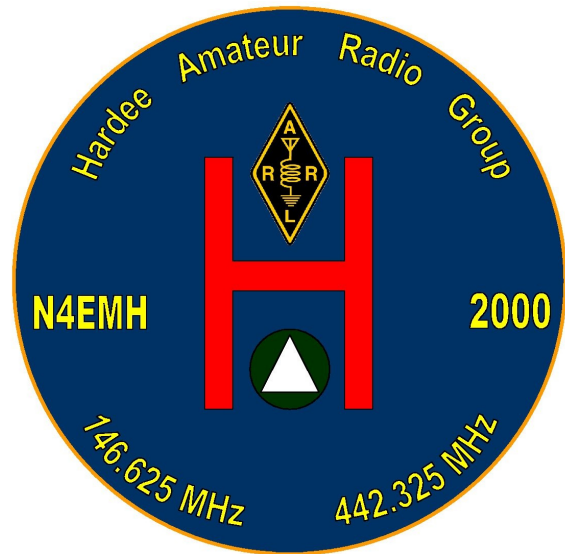


# THE HARG PIONEER

Official Newsletter of the  
Hardee Amateur Radio Group

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## ***NEXT HARG MEETING – MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2008***

The next Hardee Amateur Radio Group (HARG) meeting will be held on September 8, instead of September 1, due to the Labor Day holiday. The meeting time and location will still be the same: 1900 (7:00 PM) at the Hardee County IFAS Agricultural Extension Office. This will be a regular business meeting followed by a brief program time permitting. We hold regular business meetings on odd months of the year and have a program only on the even months of the year.

Tentative Agenda for the Remaining meetings for 2008:

- September = Regular Business Meeting: Planning HARG Christmas Part for December, Recruitment of prospective hams.
- October = Program: Antenna Building Party. Building 3 dual band antennas for use in our hurricane shelters. These will either be included in future grab and go kits, or permanently installed at the shelters for future use.
- November = Regular Business Meeting: Annual Election of officers. Last business meeting of the year.
- December = Annual Christmas Party. Good social time for all.

## ***2008 HARG CHRISTMAS PARTY***

We are already in the planning stages for the 2008 HARG Christmas party. It has been suggested that the Christmas party be held where we have our monthly club meetings and it be a “pot luck” style dinner. If you like this idea or if you have any suggestions as to another idea for our Christmas party, please email them to Roy Alderman KI4YIE at [tbu52@yahoo.com](mailto:tbu52@yahoo.com) or Darrell Davis KT4WX at [kt4wx@arrl.net](mailto:kt4wx@arrl.net). We will finalize the details of the Christmas party at the September 8 business meeting.

*And as usual there will be NO December HARG monthly membership meeting on the first Monday in December. The Christmas Party will serve as our monthly meeting.* Please bring your family with you as this will be social event and we will not have a business meeting, just a social for your enjoyment.

## ***New Email List Server List Server: [harg@googlegroups.com](mailto:harg@googlegroups.com)***

Due to technical difficulties we had to change email list provider. Our list is now being hosted by Google Groups. All of those who were on the previous list that were active have added to the new list. If you wish to be added the HARG list server, send an email to Darrell Davis KT4WX at [kt4wx@arrl.net](mailto:kt4wx@arrl.net) and you will be added to the list. The list is a low traffic list and only members may post to the list.

## ***HARG AND HARDEE COUNTY ARES WEEKLY NET Suspended for the time being***

Due to schedule conflict, the weekly HARG and Hardee County ARES has been put into hiatus for the time being. We will resume the weekly net as soon as we can find a time that is better for everyone. Do not forget though we will still hold any SKYWARN or ARES activation nets on the N4EMH Repeater, 146.625 MHz with PL tone access of 127.3 Hz.

### ***HARDEE COUNTY ARES NEWS***

#### ***STATE HURRICANE EXERCISE – HARDEE EOC PARTICIPATION Tuesday June 4, 2008***

On Tuesday June 4, Hardee County Emergency Management had its annual hurricane exercise in conjunction with the State Hurricane Exercise. This exercise was a tabletop exercise and N4EMH was activated for the duration of the event. N4EMH made contact with the surrounding counties very successfully.

#### ***Hardee County ARES – Tropical Storm Activation Tuesday August 18, 2008***

Hardee County ARES briefly activated for Tropical Storm Fay. N4EMH, the amateur radio station at the Hardee County EOC was activated on Tuesday August 18 from 0600 until 1300, when the EOC suspended its emergency operations. It was decided at that time not to activate N4EMH on Monday August 17 in the early evening when the EOC began emergency operations due to the fact that normal telephone communications were still up and running, and our services would be better utilized the next morning. Then by Tuesday morning landfall had already occurred at Cape Romano, near Marco Island. Fay then moved through the area Tuesday morning and afternoon. N4EMH was asked to find out damage reports from the surrounding counties and of any known severe weather events. This information was very useful to the EOC staff to help determine whether to continue operations through the afternoon or terminate operations at right after noontime. Although we did not have any operators, who were able to go to the two shelters that were opened, we had two operators who were on standby from their home stations who were unable to deploy due to work and family commitments and help monitor the repeater when N4EMH was on another frequency and were keeping their eyes open for any severe weather.

The following thanks go to the following who participated for Tropical Storm Fay:

- Justin Blalock KE4GYX
- Roy Alderman KI4YIE
- Charles Adler KI4SPG
- Darrell Davis KT4WX

## **N4EMH EOC STATION AND REPEATER NEWS**

**N4EMH EOC STATION** – We are in the process of installing WinLink 2000 (WL2K) Radio Message System (RMS) at N4EMH. This will allow us to put WL2K stations in our shelters so they can send and receive email in the shelters. The radio we are using for WL2K is already installed and the cables to connect the computer to the Kantronics KPC3++ and then the cable to the radio need to be completed. We recently received Internet access to the communications room and it is working well. We recently registered N4EMH with the WL2K system as a Radio Message System. Only work left on the N4EMH RMS is to construct the two cables needed to connect the TNC to the computer and the TNC to the radio.

Initially we will use the Highlands county frequency 144.970 MHz to test out our system. We will run it on that frequency until channel loading becomes an issue and then we will change frequencies at that point.

**N4EMH REPEATER** – The 146.625 N4EMH Repeater went off the air unexpectedly. Darrell KT4WX went out to the site to check out the problem. The repeater would transmit and identify upon being powered down and back up, but would not retransmit when receiving a signal. Upon opening the cabinet, a good amount of dust was found in the receiver deck. Upon inspection it was determined that dust (with captured moisture) got into the receiver and prevented it from functioning properly. After some cleaning, the receiver came back to life and the repeater started functioning normally again. The repeater was returned to service.

Work is proceeding on the new Arcom RC-210 repeater controller. Construction on the new controller is about 75 percent complete. Once the new controller construction is complete, the 442.325 refit will be completed. The refit will involve: Installation of the new crystals, installation of a CTCSS tone board, installation of a new local microphone jack, installation of a DB9 connector for the radio port interface, and rewiring necessary to accomplish all the above.

The new controller will be initially checked out on the 442.325 MHz repeater. Once working properly we will proceed with the plan to interface the existing 146.625 MHz repeater. Some minor refit on this machine will be necessary as well at that point. But we will wait until the danger or any hurricanes has subsided before accomplishing this step.

Future plans are still in the works to put Internet access from the EOC Communications Room to the repeater site via RF to enable Echolink being available on the VHF or UHF repeaters.

## **TIPS AND TRICKS**

### **By Darrell Davis KT4WX**

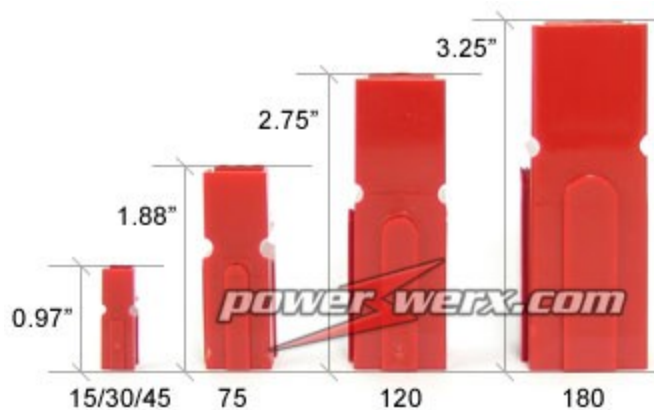
Welcome to another installment of the Tips and Tricks column. I would like this column to be reminiscent of the “Hints and Kinks” column in QST in days gone by. Not necessary a tutorial, or series but just some useful hints and tips every issue that will be useful to you.

**COMPUTER CORNER:** Saving Web Pages for future reference. If you ever wish to save a webpage to your computer as a reference copy you can do the following and it will save it as one file. Be careful however this file will be at least 50 to 200 K bytes in size. When you wish to save the webpage, select the Save As option. When the dialog box pops up you will go to the drop down list and select the following in Internet Explorer : *Web Page, single file (.mht)*, or in Mozilla Firefox the menu option is: *Web Page, Complete (.mht)*. This will force the browser to save the webpage as an .mht file which packages all the page text content and graphics into one file. Also .mht files may be uploaded to a web server as a single file. Otherwise if you try to save a webpage it may or may not work. If it does save it the graphics will be in a separate folder or even scattered in with another directories content.

**HARDWARE HELP:** I want to recommend to all of you to use Anderson Power Poles, manufactured by Anderson Power Products. These are now considered the de facto ARES standard for connections to amateur radio transceivers for power from a 12V Power Supply or Battery. You can visit the manufacturer website at <http://www.andersonpower.com>. There are two main distributors you can check out: (1) Powerwerx - <http://www.powerwerx.com> (2) West Mountain Radio – <http://www.westmountainradio.com>. West Mountain Radio has some great tutorials on their website on how to install Anderson Power Poles. Here below is what an Anderson Power Pole looks like:



As you can see, Anderson Power Poles do come in several current carrying capacities as shown in the picture on the bottom left. On the bottom right is a Rigrunner, which is an Anderson Power Pole based power distribution panel that you hook up to your power supply.



**THE PIONEER PERSPECTIVE**  
**By Darrell Davis KT4WX**

Welcome to another issue of the HARG PIONEER after a hiatus of some time. I am back in college part time since late 2007 and my class load last spring term was unreal. During the summer I have been busy at home as well.

The 2008 Atlantic Hurricane Season is turning out to be everything that NOAA forecast it to be in May. As of this writing we have four active tropical storms in the Atlantic basin. And we have already had one activation in mid August. So it has been a very busy season so far. Do not let your down your guard for a moment. Stay tuned to the latest advisories issued by the National Hurricane Center via the Internet at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov> or NOAA Weather Radio.

I am in the process of teaching another amateur radio class to three teenagers, who are brothers and sister, who go to the church where I am a music director: Maranatha Baptist Church. Make them feel welcome when you see them at the next HARG meeting: They are Enrico, Xavier and Valerie.

This newsletter depends upon you for content. If you have any submissions for the HARG PIONEER please send those to me via email at [kt4wx@arrl.net](mailto:kt4wx@arrl.net) and I will be glad to have them in the next issue.

73 until next time.