



## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE**

### **AUGUST MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**Weekly MC ARES Net:** Tuesday Night - 20:00 – on 147.020 repeater  
Digital Check-In (Packet & PSK-31) Tuesday Night 19:00 – 20:00

**Monthly Meeting:** Second Thursday of the month at the Lone Star Convention Center

**South Texas ARES Net:** Monday Night – 19:30 on 3.873 Mhz – (we are in Area 1)

#### **Emergency Frequencies:**

Montgomery County ARES Simplex: 146.560 Mhz

Montgomery County ARES SSB Local: 28.380 Mhz

Montgomery County ARES Digital: 145.030 Mhz Packet - 28.120 Mhz PSK-31

Texas State & Area Emergency:

7.235 Mhz

7.290 Mhz

3.873 Mhz

## **NOAA Radio Frequency**

162.400, 162.425, 162.450, 162.475, 162.500, 162.525, 162.550 Mhz.

With the beginning of Hurricane season you should have the NOAA weather frequencies programmed into one or all your radios.

You will notice that they are spaced at 25 Khz starting at 162.400 Mhz. The Houston station is on 162.400 Mhz.

There are stations in Galveston, and Beaumont, check the web site for other stations.

## **Text Message on Cell Phones**

During an Emergency, Cell phones systems gets overloaded with voice etc. During the last few years it has been found that you can still get Text message through even though the system is overloaded. *(Most of the time it will be ONE-WAY transmissions – from the Internet to the cell phone. This is because when you try and use your cell phone it will get a busy signal – no channels available).* Text messages uses a different process and it a short transmission so they can get through where you wouldn't have other cell communications possible.

See the procedures below to access the different networks via the Internet.

### **From the ARRL Emergency Newsletter**

Sending E-mail Via SMS (SMS Gateways)

During Katrina, and recently the Nevada earthquake, traditional cellular voice service was overwhelmed due to a combination of damaged infrastructure and system overloads. In many cases, however, it was noted that Short Messaging System (SMS or "text") would often function when voice circuits would not.

It's also possible to send these SMS messages via e-mail in most cases, using SMS Gateways. If you are deploying ARES team members into an affected area, you should test their cell phones for this capability before they leave. It's also important to limit the message length, since most carriers restrict SMS messages to 160 characters. Below is a list of the major carriers in North America that offer SMS gateway services. Others can usually be found using search engines.

An SMS gateway provides an easy way for you to communicate with deployed ARES team members, family members, or anyone whose cell phone number and carrier you're sure of. In many cases, we were able to help people outside the affected area reach their loved ones more quickly using these gateways.

Also, before deploying in approach of Katrina and Rita, we purchased inexpensive pre-paid cell phones at Wal-Mart for two or three of the other major carriers (we carry T-Mobile phones). These included Verizon, Cingular (AT&T), and Sprint. Even in some of the worst areas impacted by the storms, we were usually able to communicate on at least one of the phones we had with us. This adds an important degree of team safety. --  
Les Rayburn, N1LF, Shelby County, Alabama Emergency Coordinator NCS-SHARES  
NCS-047

#### Alltel

[10-digit phone number]@[message.alltel.com](mailto:message.alltel.com)

Example: [2125552555@message.alltel.com](mailto:2125552555@message.alltel.com)

#### AT&T Wireless (now part of Cingular)

[10-digit phone number]@[mmode.com](mailto:mmode.com)

Example: [2125552555@mmode.com](mailto:2125552555@mmode.com)

#### Boost Mobile

[10-digit phone number]@[myboostmobile.com](mailto:myboostmobile.com)

Example: [2125552555@myboostmobile.com](mailto:2125552555@myboostmobile.com)

#### Cingular

[10-digit phone number]@[mobile.mycingular.com](mailto:mobile.mycingular.com) OR

[10-digit number]@[cingularme.com](mailto:cingularme.com)

Example: [4152555555@cingularme.com](mailto:4152555555@cingularme.com)

#### Nextel (now Sprint Nextel)

[10-digit telephone number]@[messaging.nextel.com](mailto:messaging.nextel.com)

Example: [7035552555@messaging.nextel.com](mailto:7035552555@messaging.nextel.com)

#### Sprint PCS (now Sprint Nextel)

[10-digit phone number]@[messaging.sprintpcs.com](mailto:messaging.sprintpcs.com)

Example: [2125552555@messaging.sprintpcs.com](mailto:2125552555@messaging.sprintpcs.com)

#### T-Mobile

[10-digit phone number]@[tmomail.net](mailto:tmomail.net)

Example: [4252555555@tmomail.net](mailto:4252555555@tmomail.net)

#### Verizon

[10-digit phone number]@[vtext.com](mailto:vtext.com)

Example: [5552555555@vtext.com](mailto:5552555555@vtext.com)

Virgin Mobile USA  
[10-digit phone number][@vmobl.com](mailto:vmobl.com)  
Example: [552555555@vmobl.com](mailto:552555555@vmobl.com)

## Message Handling

W7GAQ originated message 206 (his message 206). He put it on a net on the National Traffic System (NTS). It went through several Nets and was then placed on the 7290 Traffic Net. Dave W5WP picked up the message (he is liaison for the Conroe/Houston area) and put it on the local net where WB5CXC picked it up and then delivered it.

**Originating Station (W7GAQ) fills out these parts**

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE							
<b>RADIOGRAM</b>							
VIA AMATEUR RADIO							
Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date
204	R	G	W7GAQ	11	Lancaster, Ca	20:17	7/11/08

TO Dale Smith  
2664 S Woodloch  
Conroe, Tx

This Radio Message Was Received At
Amateur Station _____ Phone _____
Name _____
Street Address _____
City and State _____

Telephone Number 936 756-0034

We	are	safe	had	to
leave	the	house	will	call
later				
				Pete

From	To
Date	Date
Time	Time
<b>REC'D</b> WB6ZES	<b>SENT</b> WB5CXC
7/12/08	7/12/08
07:15	09:15
This message was handled free of charge by a licensed Amateur Radio Operator whose address is shown in the box at right above. As such messages are handled solely for the pleasure of operating. No compensation can be accepted by a "Ham" operator. A return message may be filed with the "Ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from A.R.R.L. Headquarters 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111	The American Radio Relay League, Inc., is the national membership society of licensed radio amateurs and the publishers of QST Magazine. One of its functions is promotion of the public service communications among amateur operators to that end. The League has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.

FSD-244 (1/04)

W5WP received this message off the Net from WB6ZES on 7/12/08 @ 07:15

W5WP transferred the message to WB5CXC

*This message originated at W7GAQ on 7/11/08 at 20:17 from Lancaster, Ca and it was his message 204. The Precedence is 'R' for routine with a General delivery option.*

*W7GAQ put it on a NTS (National Traffic System) Net and it went through several Nets until W5WP picked it up for local delivery. W5WP transferred it to WB5CXC for delivery.*

***This is what Dave W5WP retains in his Message file.***

The message was then transferred on the Local 147.02 Net to Larry WB5CXC. When added his data on the message form and delivered it.

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE							
RADIOGRAM							
VIA AMATEUR RADIO							
Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date
206	W	G	W7GAQ	11	Lancaster, Ca	20:17	7/18/08

  

<p>TO Dale Smith 2664 S Woodloch Conroe, Tx</p> <p>Telephone Number 936 756-0034</p> <p>We are safe had to leave the house will call later  Pete</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">This Radio Message Was Received At</p> <p>Amateur Station <u>WB5CXC</u> Phone <u>936 273-1150</u>          Name <u>Larry Brown</u>          Street Address <u>2664 S Woodloch</u>          City and State <u>Conroe, Tx</u></p>
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REC'D	From	Date	Time	SENT	To	Date	Time
	W5WP	7/12/08	09:15				
This message was handled free of charge by a licensed Amateur Radio Operator whose address is shown in the box at right above. As such messages are handled solely for the pleasure of operating. No compensation can be accepted by a "Ham" operator. A return message may be filed with the "Ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from A.R.R.L. Headquarters 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111				The American Radio Relay League, Inc., is the national membership society of licensed radio amateurs and the publishers of QST Magazine. One of its functions is promotion the public service communications among amateur operators to that end. The League has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.			

FSD-244 (1/04)

I received this message off the Net from W5WP on 7/12/08 @ 09:15

I delivered the message – I left my name / address/ telephone – in case he wants to send a message back

*W5WP is the local representative on the 7290 Traffic Net. He picked up the message because it was in his general area for delivery. W5WP passed the message on to WB5CXC off the local net, and WB5CXC delivered it to the Addressee.*

## HEALTH & WELFARE TRAFFIC

Number	Precedence <b>W</b>	HX	Station of Origin	Check <b>ARL</b>	Place of Origin	Time filed	Date
						Message Receipt Or Delivery Information Operator and Station _____ Sent To _____ Delivered To _____ Date _____ Time _____	

TO Dale Smith  
2664 S Woodloch  
Conroe, Tx

Telephone Number 936 756-0034

(CIRCLE NOT MORE THAN TWO STANDARD TEXTS FROM LIST BELOW)

- ARL ONE Everyone safe here. Please don't worry.
- ARL TWO Coming home as soon as possible.
- ARL THREE Am in \_\_\_\_\_ hospital. Receiving excellent care and recovering fine.
- ARL FOUR Only slight property damage here. Do not be concerned about disaster reports.
- ARL FIVE Am moving to new location. Send no further mail or communications. Will inform you of new address when relocated.
- ARL SIX Will contact you as soon as possible.
- ARL SIXTY FOUR Arrived safety at \_\_\_\_\_.

Time 6:50 PM	Date 7/18/08	Telephone 614 644-9678	Signature Pete Laird
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The above message form was filled out at a shelter.

**Originating Station fills out these parts**

<b>THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE</b> <b>RADIOGRAM</b> <b>VIA AMATEUR RADIO</b>							
Number 206	Precedence W	HX G	Station of Origin W7GAQ	Check ARL 2	Place of Origin Lancaster, Ca	Time Filed 20:17	Date 7/18/08

TO Dale Smith  
2664 S Woodloch  
Conroe, Tx

This Radio Message Was Received At	
Amateur Station _____	Phone _____
Name _____	
Street Address _____	
City and State _____	

Telephone Number 936 756-0034

ARL	1	ARL	4	
				Pete

<table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:30%;"></td> <td style="width:30%; text-align:center;">From</td> <td style="width:30%; text-align:center;">Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>REC'D</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This message was handled free of charge by a licensed Amateur Radio Operator whose address is shown in the box at right above. As such messages are handled solely for the pleasure of operating. No compensation can be accepted by a "Ham" operator. A return message may be filed with the "Ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from A.R.R.L. Headquarters 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111</p>		From	Date	Time			<b>REC'D</b>			<table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:30%;"></td> <td style="width:30%; text-align:center;">To</td> <td style="width:30%; text-align:center;">Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>SENT</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The American Radio Relay League, Inc., is the national membership society of licensed radio amateurs and the publishers of QST Magazine. One of its functions is promotion of the public service communications among amateur operators to that end. The League has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.</p>		To	Date	Time			<b>SENT</b>		
	From	Date																	
Time																			
<b>REC'D</b>																			
	To	Date																	
Time																			
<b>SENT</b>																			

*This message was transferred to a regular form for transmission.*

**THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE  
RADIOGRAM  
VIA AMATEUR RADIO**

Number 206	Precedence W	HX G	Station of Origin W7GAQ	Check ARL 2	Place of Origin Lancaster, Ca	Time Filed 20:17	Date 7/18/08
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TO Dale Smith  
2664 S Woodloch  
Conroe, Tx

This Radio Message Was Received At  
Amateur Station WB5CXC Phone 936 273-1150  
Name Larry Brown  
Street Address 2664 S Woodloch  
City and State Conroe, Tx

Telephone Number 936 756-0034

Everyone safe here. Please don't worry. Only slight damage here. Do not be concerned about disaster reports.

Time	From	Date	Time	To	Date
<b>REC'D</b>	W5WP	7/19/08	07:15	<b>SENT</b>	
This message was handled free of charge by a licensed Amateur Radio Operator whose address is shown in the box at right above. As such messages are handled solely for the pleasure of operating. No compensation can be accepted by a "Ham" operator. A return message may be filed with the "Ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from A.R.R.L. Headquarters 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111			The American Radio Relay League, Inc., is the national membership society of licensed radio amateurs and the publishers of QST Magazine. One of its functions is promotion of the public service communications among amateur operators to that end. The League has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.		

*This message originated at W7GAQ on 7/11/08 at 20:17 from Lancaster, Ca and it was his message 206. The Precedence is 'W' for Welfare with a General delivery option.*

*W7GAQ put it on a NTS (National Traffic System) Net and it went through several Nets until W5WP picked it up for local delivery. W5WP transferred it to WB5CXC for delivery.*

Notice how the message has now been put in a different form, no the ARL type but it is printed out what the meaning is. The recipient doesn't know what ARL 2 is, so it is replaced with the regular text but for transmitting in the NTS you just use the ARL #s.

You are working the Red Cross Shelter at the Conroe High School. You was just handed the following message for transmission from Joe Segura the shelter manager.

To: Conroe Area Manager

We need 150 more blankets for the shelter today.

*Your message would be similar to this:*

---

**TO:** Greg Hanson      **POSITION:** Conroe Regional Red Cross Manager  
**Address:** 155 Hwy 105 Conroe, Tx  
**Phone #:** 936 756-4659

---

**FROM:** Joe Segura      **POSITION:** Conroe High School Red Cross Shelter Manager

---

**SUBJECT:**  
Additional Blankets

---

**MESSAGE:**  
We need 150 more blankets for the shelter today.

---

**FROM:** Joe Segura      **POSITION:** Conroe High School Red Cross Shelter Manager

---

**REPLY:**

---

**DATE:** 7/25/08      **TIME:** 14:38      **SIGNATURE/POSITION:** Larry / Radio Operator  
WB5CXC

---

ICS 213

**If you were doing this on Packet you would already have the form in the computer and partially filled out. All you would have to do is fill in the missing information. You would already know most of the information except for the message (you send messages regularly to the Red Cross Manager – so you will know his name, address etc.).**

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**TO:**The person the message is going to.      **POSITION:** Their position if applicable  
**Address:**Full mailing address  
**Phone #:**Self explanatory

---

**FROM:** Joe Segura    **POSITION:** Conroe High School Red Cross Shelter Manager

---

**SUBJECT:**  
Enter the subject text here

---

**MESSAGE:**  
Enter the message text here

---

**FROM:** Joe Segura    **POSITION:** Conroe High School Red Cross Shelter Manager

---

**REPLY:**Any replies if applicable

---

**DATE:**                    **TIME:**                    **SIGNATURE/POSITION:** Larry / Radio Operator  
WB5CXC

---

ICS 213

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**All you would have to do is fill in some of the blank positions and then transmit it over packet.**

---

**TO:**Greg Hanson      **POSITION:** Conroe Regional Red Cross Manager  
**Address:**155 Hwy 105    Conroe, Tx  
**Phone #:**936 756-4659

---

**FROM:** Joe Segura    **POSITION:** Conroe High School Red Cross Shelter Manager

---

**SUBJECT:**  
Additional Blankets

---

**MESSAGE:**  
We need 150 more blankets for the shelter today.

---

**FROM:** Joe Segura    **POSITION:** Conroe High School Red Cross Shelter Manager

---

**REPLY:**

---

**DATE:** 7/25/08      **TIME:** 14:38      **SIGNATURE/POSITION:** Larry / Radio Operator - WB5CXC

---

ICS 213

**Message received over Packet:**

TO:Greg Hanson      POSITION: Conroe Regional Red Cross Manager  
Address:155 Hwy 105   Conroe, Tx  
Phone #:936 756-4659

FROM: Joe Segura    POSITION: Conroe High School Red Cross Shelter  
Manager

SUBJECT: Additional Blankets

MESSAGE:

We need 150 more blankets for the shelter today.

FROM: Joe Segura    POSITION: Conroe High School Red Cross Shelter  
Manager

REPLY:

DATE: 7/25/08      TIME: 14:38      SIGNATURE/POSITION: Larry / Radio  
Operator - WB5CXC

ICS 213