

President's Message  
August-September 2021

As I write this statement hurricane Ida is moving across the mid-south of the US after wreaking havoc on the New Orleans area and its surroundings.

This event greatly emphasizes the necessity of all amateur radio operators to be prepared and have your equipment at the ready. It could save a life, maybe your own.

This week our club held two nights of practice emergency nets just in case we were needed. The nets were controlled by Jim, WA4TVN and approximately 10-15 check-ins were logged each night. Each one of us was asked to list items we all had ready just in case the storm was devastating. By listening to others, it gave us all ideas of other items that might be needed which we may not have thought about. It is always good to share knowledge.

The NOAA's NATIONAL Hurricane Center website listed below shows the path of Ida and the development of future storms.

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

In mid-August a few members of the club and I set up a portable 2-meter station in a local park as emergency practice and for a learning experience for two new amateur licensees, Mike, KO4RYA and Laura, KO4RYB. Also present was member Steve, KN4AOB.

We used a homemade antenna mount and ammo can radio/battery pack with built in 2-meter radio as seen below. The mount is made using a piece of plywood with a threaded pipe flange bolted to it so that a weight, (The picnic table), would hold the assembly down. A threaded 2-foot piece of pipe was screwed on to the flange, then the mast was slipped over the pipe.

Special thanks to Laura, KO4OYB for taking the photographs.

Until next time, stay aware, be prepared, and stay safe.

Bill, K4FZE  
President, GCVARC

