

The Dipole

Radiating the News of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club

May 2008

Next Club Meeting: Thurs. May 1st, 7 p.m. at The Gauntlett Center

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THE HD TV EVOLUTION

Just like the phrase common to almost every episode of popular radio and television “who dunnit,” Dragnet, the May program for the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club will share the “just the facts” concept about the upcoming HD TV evolution and as presenter, WHY Y’s Bill Weber added, “the end of analog TV broadcasting on February 17, 2009”

From a practical focus, the MNARClub’s Thursday, May 1, 7 p.m. presentation will highlight the television industry’s preparation, the issues behind consumer readiness, a converter box demonstration, and other relative topics associated with this giant step in United States television.

Mr. Weber, a Delaware County native, is currently WHY Y’s chief technology officer and vice president for content distribution. The path to that set of responsibilities began in Yeadon when as a school student, the young Mr. Weber created, was key on-air personality, and engineer of his own neighborhood radio station.

The following is a truly unofficial biography shared by a neighbor and friend, Jim Biddle, W3DCL.

It was through Bill’s newspaper delivery responsibilities that he and Jim Biddle met. Their common love of broadcasting and electrical experimenting created a bond that continues today.

This friendship also brought Bill Weber and his father, a former active Yeadon firefighter, into a new activity when he became a volunteer firefighter. Marriage and move to New Jersey saw a continuation of the first-responder activities. In a marriage of work and community service, Weber’s experiences embraced the areas of firefighting, fire prevention, and allied public safety activities. In

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MARPLE NEWTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
c/o The Gauntlett Center
20 South Media Line Road at West Chester Pike
Newtown Square, Delaware County, PA 19073

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The Dipole

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DistributionThe Peel'em and Seal'em Group

Meetings, Nets, and Packet BBS
Monthly Club Meetings: First non-holiday Thursday,
7:00 p.m. at the Gauntlett Center in Newtown Square,
Delaware County. Talk-in: 147.195 repeater
Daily Weather and Information Net: Every morning at 8:30
a.m. on 147.195 repeater
Club Web Page (including online version of *The Dipole*):
<http://mnarc.org>
Delaware County ARES Net: Every Wednesday at 19:30 local

from Cover...

The HD Television Evolution

1995, Mr. Weber was co-founder of the region's first online, non-commercial Internet community service organization called "LibertyNet". A partnership venture with WHY Y, the University City Science Center, the Ben Franklin Foundation,

the Free Library of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania.

Weber's formal broadcast experience began in 1965 when he and his bicycle provided his daily trips from Yeadon to WFLN's AM transmitter location in southwest Philadelphia. He also attended Temple University's Technical Institute, a forerunner to the university's current Electrical Engineering program.

In 1966, Bill Weber joined the WHY Y technical staff as a transmitter technician. Three years later, he was appointed to the position of assistant chief engineer, an engineering management position. In 1979, he was promoted to chief engineer, then director of engineering in 1982. In 1983 Weber was appointed a vice president and in 1999 was designated the Chief Technology Officer.

It should be noted that Bill Weber is the only WHY Y vice president to have worked under four CEOs. His duties at WHY Y have broadened significantly as technology applications evolved and corporate needs required to include major building construction projects, telecommunications management, computer networking, management information systems, multimedia audiovisual support, distance learning, digital asset management, content storage and emerging digital service ventures.

What began as a volunteer public service involvement has grown to an expanded environment of community service. In 2002, Bill was appointed by the Mayor of Philadelphia to the Mayor's Commission on Technology. Advising the Mayor and City Council on policies and actions related to the use and impact of information technology and other technologies in the City of Philadelphia and the region, and identifying, recommending and facilitating initiatives that use technology to transform neighborhoods, improve education and training, workforce development and economic development. Technology application and construction consulting services have been provided to the National Constitution Center, the Philadelphia Visitors Center, the Kimmel Center for the Performing arts, the Camden School District and other universities, colleges and community colleges.

Bill Weber's work-related technical growth continues in many areas. One of his long-range goals is to become truly active as an Amateur Radio operator. His dream is to continue the activities he

only had a little time to enjoy as Ham Radio operator N2IQQ

Armed Forces Day Cross Band Test Scheduled

American Armed Forces -- The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard --are cooperatively sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio communications tests. This year's activity celebrates the 58th anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

The announcement explained that although the actual Armed Forces Day is traditionally celebrated on May 17, this year's Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur Cross band Communications Test will be conducted on May 10.

The majority of the United States Amateur Radio community knows the reasoning behind this new date. The traditional, May 17 date would not enable U.S. Ham Radio operators attending the Dayton Hamvention to participate. The 2008 Dayton Hamvention, scheduled is scheduled for May 16-18.

The annual celebration features communications between the military stations to communicate with Amateur Radio operators through the use of cross band transmissions. This year these special exchanges will feature both Single Sideband (SSB) and digital communications.

An additional element of the communications world is also invited to participate in this year's cross band exchanges. Short wave listeners (SWL) are also invited to participate through monitoring.

One of the goals behind this annual activity is that this is an opportunity for Amateur Radio operators, as well as SWLers, to demonstrate their individual technical skills. The participating civilian participants -- Amateur Radio and SWLers -- will receive recognition for their activities through the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military station engaged in the cross band contacts.

QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations. Additionally, special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

Readers of the eDipole are encouraged to visit the Army-MARS Web site in May for information about the schedules and frequencies that will be used by the participating military stations. At the time of the preparation of this feature, this information was not yet available.

The Army MARS Web site is <http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS>.

Writings of Author Complete

ARRL COMPILES COMPLETE WORKS OF LARSON E. RAPP, WIOU

In a story that may have gone unnoticed, longtime readers of *QST* can reflect upon a bit of radio writing history. The ARRL feature lauded the time and efforts expended by ARRL volunteer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, in working to assemble the complete known works of noted *QST* author Larson E. Rapp, WIOU <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/larson/>>.

The informative writings of Amateur Radio writer Rapp spanned a period of more than three decades. It was noted in the ARRL announcement that Rapp's remarkable contributions primarily occurred during the month of April in the periods of 1941-1962 and 1972.

What appeared to be a possible tongue-in-cheek reference the League story stated," Rapp was said to be from Kippering-on-the-Charles, Massachusetts, just off Route 128.

The ARRL compilation added the following:

"Like most visionaries unafraid of pushing technology beyond conventional limitations, Larson at times was controversial among his peers and contemporaries," ARRL Lab Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, said. "You can now be the judge of just how well Rapp's theorems and trademark 'radical approach' have withstood the test of time."

The first Rapp article, "Putting Dynamic Prognostication to Work," appeared in the April 1941 issue of *QST*. In the article, Rapp expounded on his efficient one-tube transmitter. When Rapp discussed the tuning of the transmitter, he said, "The high coupling efficiency of the unit results in a

minimum plate current of resonance of about 0.9 ma. at 7 Mc. This is too low a value to show on the 0-250 milliammeter that should be used for the circuit, so you'll have to take our word for it." The transmitter was described as having a "simple construction of the chassis which is made from cardboard fastened by wire staples and glue. The underside is covered with tin foil."

In "The Circular Band Theorem: Operational Advantages of Concentric Frequency Allocations" [April 1946], Rapp theorized if the FCC assigned "amateur frequencies in concentric circles instead of bands [the end result would be] the consequent elimination of out-of-band operation and band edge crowding...[making] it possible to work someone 40 or 50 kc. removed from one's frequency." This was brought on by Rapp's claim that amateurs, "realizing that after calling 'CQ' they had to start listening somewhere and that somewhere was usually the edge of the band." Rapp called for bands to be designed in "concentric circles, and the beginners should be encouraged to start in the smallest circle. Thus, even if one managed to get out of band -- we don't see how he could, but someone would find a way! -- he would still be inside the next circle and amateur radio would have no black mark against it for out-of-band operation. Further, the fact that a beginner was encouraged to start in the inner circle would make him feel like he was one of the boys right off, being allowed into the inner circle!"

In the April 1960 issue of QST, a phony full-page ad announced the formation of "Larsen E. Enterprises, Inc," supposedly off Route 128 in Kippering-on-the-Charles, Massachusetts, with Larsen E. Rapp as president. Bearing a "Not a Advertisement" disclaimer, the ad offered customers free access to the company's air-conditioned "Wonder Workshop" with each kit purchase. "If you don't have the time to assemble the entire kit yourself, one of our engineers will be glad to do it for you, just for the pleasure it gives him," the ad promised. "No tipping

please." In the "Print Shoppe," customers could purchase "authentic reproductions of the rarest QSL cards in the world." The price included having the company's "patient penman" fill in the card with your call sign and a signal report, duplicating the original ink and handwriting.

Rapp himself said that "In assembling this list of my articles and letters over the years, I noticed that QST always chose to publish them in the springtime. This practice was especially meaningful to me as spring has historically been a time of new beginnings and in our radio hobby, a time for new insights into old technical problems. I hope you, too, will be helped and inspired by these writings of an old ham."

What follows is a comment by author Larson E. Rapp, WIOU as well as a list of his features that have been published by the ARRL's *QST*

The Complete Unabridged Works of Larson E. Rapp, WIOU

In assembling this list of my articles and letters over the years, I noticed that QST always chose to publish them in the Springtime. This practice was especially meaningful to me as Spring has historically been a time of new beginnings and in our radio hobby, a time for new insights into old technical problems. I hope you, too, will be helped and inspired by these writings of an old ham. --Larsen E. Rapp, WIOU
Kippering-on-the-Charles, MA

The following is an access list for the works of prolific writer Rapp:

[Putting Dynamic Prognastication to Work](#)
QST April 1941

[From One Anonymity to Another](#)
QST July 1943

[The Circular Band Theorem](#)
QST April 1946

[Letter to *QST* Editor](#)
QST November 1946

[The Staggering Band Theorem](#)

QST April 1947

[A New Approach to Antenna Design](#)

QST April 1949

[50 Years of Progress - A Report on Amateur Radio](#)

QST April 1950

[Numerology and Amateur Radio](#)

QST April 1951 *By Madame Evelyn Leigh-Falcon, a well known protégé of Larson E. Rapp, WIOU*

[The Double-Spectrum Theorem](#)

QST April 1952

[A Radical Approach to Improved 'Phone Reception](#)

QST April 1954

[A Radical Approach to Single Sideband](#)

QST April 1955

[A Radical Approach to VFO Design](#)

QST April 1956

[A Compact All-Band Antenna](#)

QST April 1957

[The QS-59 Communications Receiver](#)

QST April 1959

[Larsen E. Enterprises, Inc.](#)

QST April 1960

[Improving the Performance of a 75S-3 Receiver](#)

QST April 1962

[QST Rapped](#)

QST October 1972

Deserved Recognition

Many of the thankless activities done by Amateur Radio operators on behalf of others traditionally goes unrecognized. Thanks to the

efforts of Salt Lake City, Utah television station KSL, that area learned of a rescue done by a an area Ham Radio operator.

The story from KSL carried a story headline of "Hams Come to Rescue in Utah." The televised story told of a series of events that recently saw Eldon Kearn, K7OGM, of Fish Haven, Idaho, functioning in the role of a true hero.

Kearn was driving in the Logan Canyon, Utah area when he came upon a driver who lost control of her truck in the snow. [Yes, some parts of the United States had meaningful snowfalls this year] Her truck fell more than 100 feet over a cliff. Two of the three passengers in her truck were thrown from the vehicle.

Witnesses tried with no success to call for help on their cell phones. What was later discovered was that the closest cell coverage was more than a 30-minute drive away.

The KSL report went on to continue, "Kearn, however, had a radio in his car and was able to get a hold of another ham, Roger Ellis, KE7HTE, of Logan, Utah. Kearn relayed to Ellis information about the accident scene and Ellis called 911.

First responders were on the scene in about 30 minutes. While the driver and passengers in the truck fortunately suffered only minor injuries, a spokesman for the Utah Highway Patrol stress that if Kearn and Ellis had not responded in getting help in such a prompt manner, the injuries could have been much worse.

As the KSL report stated, Kearn said, "It all worked out pretty good."

While the two Amateur Radio operators live relatively near one another, they have never met. Kearn and Ellis have stated they plan on meeting each other in person soon.

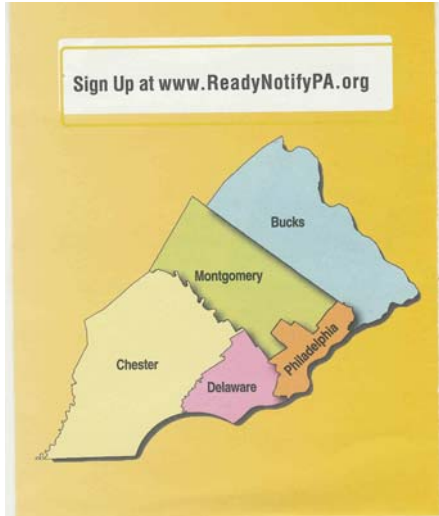
What If

The average person has no way of knowing of local, area, or regional emergencies other than electronic news sources. This problem is about to disappear for many. In a recent series of media releases area residents are being told of a new tool to provide local officials with a tool capable of quick, informative notices of urgent needs.

Users of this new communication tool will be among the first to be informed of a collection of

emergencies and if the emergency continues, follow-up alerts will continue to inform.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force, an organization formed in 1998, was formed as a response to our nation’s growing awareness of natural and national emergencies.



The threat of terrorism was in no small way a contributor to the search for ways to notify the populace in times of emergencies.

This task force has other responsibilities. It is also working to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from catastrophic disasters.

The recently announced answer to the needs for emergency notification is a concept called, “ReadyNotifyPA.” This uniquely named service quickly sends emergency text alerts and other forms of notification to a cell phone, pager, BlackBerry, PDA and/or e-mail accounts.

The choice of the way a user will be notified is done when the account is established. This choice or choices can also be changed at a later date. The text being sent to the device of the user’s choice will provide a simple, short, and effective message. The most common response is to read the message and then follow the instructions that have been sent to your device or devices.

The message can be sent to one or more electronic devices as well as to one or more e-mail addresses. The text messages are short messages. Each message contains between 100 and 160 characters. This normally translates to about 10 words.

Many, but not all service providers, will turn on text messaging automatically upon the receipt of a text message. It is wise to contact the service

providers to make sure the text messaging is turned on. **There is no charge for the services provided by ReadyNotifyPA. Individual wireless carriers may, however, charge a fee to receive text messages on your cell telephone or wireless device.** To determine charges for any device, contact the service provider. The user can elect to stop the transmission of messages at any time.

This service is available to both residents and individuals working in the five county area that comprises the Southeastern Pennsylvania Region. This service has been initiated by the regional Task Force and the emergency management coordinators of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

When selecting the county or counties chosen to provide alert messages, ReadyNotifyPA users may select multiple counties. The most common choices will be the areas where one lives, works, and plays.

For many, the use of text messaging has been viewed as a communication tool of young people. The selection of the types of alerts – general public emergency needs, severe weather, transportation delays, and crime alerts—will be determined by each county.

There are multiple ways to initiate this new, emergency communications service. One way is to use the Internet, using www.ReadyNotifyPA.org Another method is by texting the county code or codes to 411911. The following table provides the necessary information:

County	County Code
Bucks	BUCKS
Chester	CHESCO
Delaware	DELCO
Montgomery	MONTCO
Philadelphia	PHILA

For answers to any questions or for help, contact the county or counties where you have signed up to receive alerts.

Bucks rsansupport@co.bucks.pa.us

Chester rsanhelp@chesco.org

Delaware rsanhelp@icdc.com
610-656-8700

Montgomery eocwatchdesk@montcopa.org

Philadelphia warning@phila.gov

1-877-READY-11 (1 877 732 3911)

Sign up today, so you can find out first!

Tim Hulick, W9QQ Technical Contributor, SK

In a delayed release of information, the Amateur Radio community has learned of the death of an area technical contributor. Tim Hulick, PhD, W9QQ (ex W9MIJ of Montgomery County's Schwenksville died on December 28, 2000 following a long battle with cancer. The 65 year-old Ham Radio operator, an ARRL Life member was well-traveled, having held additional calls of V47QQ, KG4QQ, HL9QQ, and PJ9Q. He also operated from HZ1HZ and BY4AA

A part of the explanation behind the many call signs is answered by his education. He was a 1964 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. His service to our nation spanned 29 years.

Following his retirement from the US Navy, Hulick was the spark behind a firm called Watts Unlimited. The firm's specialty product was a lightweight HV power supply for use in older amplifiers.

Hulick wrote several articles for QST and QEX, including "Switching Power Supplies for High Voltage" (QEX, February 1991), "PSK31 on the Road!" (QST, March 2000), and "A Two-Element Vertical Parasitic Array for 75 Meters" (QST, December 1995).

Hulick amassed an impressive number of contacts while mobile. He also operated /MM from a number of ships during his Naval career.

A thorough Google search will yield two online lectures [The Digital Amplitude Modulator](#) and [The Digital Linear Amplifier](#) presented by Dr. Hulick

Dr. Timothy Peter Hulick, was born April 2, 1942 in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. Following his graduation from Aquinas High School, La Crosse WI, in 1960, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy.

During his active duty he served as an Engineering Duty Officer until 1975 and was active in the Naval reserves an additional 18 years. He retired from the U.S. Navy with the rank of Captain in 1993.

During his military career, he attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This academic stint was done under Navy orders and he received a Naval Engineering Degree and a Master's Degree in Nuclear Engineering in 1969.

His academic pursuits continued and in 1944 he received a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Old Dominion University. In a departure from his military and academic efforts, in 1985 Dr. Hulick served a one year tour at Voice-of-America as Chief of Broadcast Systems Engineering.

Additional civilian employment resulted in designing AM, FM, TV and short-wave broadcast transmitters. Dr. Hulick held ten U.S. patents with six others applied for in the field of TV broadcast transmitters.

In addition to his lifelong devotion to Amateur Radio, Tim was on the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll (356 countries) and needed only BS7. He was simply too sick to mount a serious effort to get them while it was recently on the air. He had 230+ counties from the mobile. Dr. Hulick was also an avid trout and salmon fisherman.

Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. He held the calls V47QQ, KG4QQ, HL9QQ, PJ9Q *and also operated from HZ1HZ and BY4AA*. He also operated /MM from a number of ships during his Naval career. He published many articles in QST and CQ and was the recipient of three QST Cover Plaques. Tim was an IEEE-Fellow and a Life Member of the ARRL and QCWA.

Dr. Hulick is survived by his wife of 43 years, JoAnne Cominsky Hulick of Schwenksville, PA, his mother Helen Barno Hulick of LaCrosse, WI, three sons, Timothy Peter (Cara) Hulick, Jr. of Indianola, IA, James Edward (Jennifer) Hulick of Shorewood, IL, David Andrew Hulick of Marietta, GA, one daughter, Dr. Patricia Ann Hulick of Lansdale, PA, four granddaughters, Kailey, Morgan, Kathryn and Samantha and one brother, Dr. Peter Richard (Mary) Hulick of Boston, MA. His father, Dr. Peter Vaughn Hulick and sister, Patricia Helen Hulick, preceded him in death.

School Is Still in Session

One of the well-deserved images of the American Amateur Radio operator of past generations was their desire and successes in keeping technically current. As more and more Amateur Radio operators were building less and

less of their equipment, there was an unfortunate decline in the technical knowledge of each successive generation of Ham Radio operator.

To help in reversing this unfortunate trend, the American Radio Relay League, the ARRL, continues to provide Continuing Education Course for interested Amateur Radio operators. There is a current registration process for an interesting collection of well-rounded areas of learning. This registration process remains open through Sunday, May 4, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, May 16, 2008:

These courses include the following:

- Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002)
- Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2)
- Antenna Modeling (EC-004)
- HF Digital Communications (EC-005)
- VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008)
- Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011)

Each online course has been developed in segments that encompass learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. It should be noted that courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor.

When student select a course, they so with the understanding that not all courses are of the same length. Courses included fields of study that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks in length. It should be noted that students may access the course at any time of day during course period for a particular area of study. This type of instructions makes possible taking a course at times that are convenient for the person schedules of the student.

Paralleling a class concept that is used by online universities, mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. This interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail exchanges

To learn more about the course topics and the mechanics supporting these ARRL courses, readers of the *eDipole* are encourage to visit the ARRL CCE Course Listing page at <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or by

contacting the Continuing Education Program Coordinator cce@arrl.org

Hurricane Planning and Ham Radio

To the weather-weary it must seem that as soon as one hurricane season ends, another season begins. A similar if not more urgent feeling is experienced by the many groups, organizations and individuals that are a part of this seasonal storm effort. They work together in many different combinations to provide aid and services during the hurricane season.

This “working together” concept was demonstrated in Orlando Florida between March 31 and April 4. More than 2000 people attended a hurricane-centered activity, the 30th Annual National Hurricane Conference.

Some planners feared that the lack of serious impact on the United States’ coastal areas during the 2007 hurricane season may have resulted in a small attendance at this year gathering. In his opening remarks, Conference Chairman Max Mayfield stated he was pleased to see such a turnout, despite the diminished impact during the previous season.

The United States Amateur Radio community was well represented at this recent gathering. Attending on behalf of the League was ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD. According to Dura, Amateur Radio was well represented in the pre-Conference training with a variety of presentations.

It should be noted that the National Hurricane Center (NHC) maintains a fully equipped and functional Amateur Radio station, WX4NHC, at its headquarters. Station coordinators John McHugh, K4AG, and Julio Ripoll, WD4R, provided a comprehensive overview of the Amateur Radio activities of the NHC. During their presentation, they emphasized the interaction and importance of Amateur Radio in the forecasting of tropical events.

McHugh expanded his presentation to provide details about the Caribbean Amateur Radio Meteorological Emergency Network (CARMEN) program. Highlighted in his discussion was the current status of the program at this time and its ability to aid to function at its best, it can use revitalization and rebuilding. These steps are

required to provide improved information to the National Hurricane Center.

The digital aspects of Amateur Radio communications were explained by the Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net. Rob Macedo, KD1CY, presented a detailed overview of the system that integrates EchoLink and the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP).

In a part of these educational efforts, Dura added, "For the past few years this operation has been building to become another reliable source of information for the National Hurricane Center."

Borrowing from ARRL and other sources, it was learned that Dura and Macedo offered the final Amateur Radio presentation of the Conference, "Disaster Intelligence and Situational Awareness Utilizing Amateur Radio."

This discussion went beyond the traditional uses of Amateur Radio into the areas of damage assessment, infrastructure monitoring, communications systems replacement and rapid situational analyses.

According to Dura, NHC Director Bill Read, KB5FYA, has had an active past using Amateur Radio at NWS facilities. Dura explained this involvement when he volunteered, "He personally utilized Ham Radio during SKYWARN activations dealing with severe weather. He completely understands and acknowledges the vital role we play in providing the National Hurricane Center through WX4NHC. He hopes to have some time in his new role to actually get on the air with the hams of WX4NHC and once again use our tremendous resource of information gathering."

During the Conference, Read was able to provide his own analysis of Amateur Radio. He did this through comments of praise when he stated, "Ham radio has always played a critical role in emergencies. What goes out when you have a high wind event or major flooding is the communications system, so you lose even cell phones, landline phones, commercial radio and TV."

Concluding these laudatory comments, Reed added, "In those cases, ham radio operators that can put up emergency transmitters and antennas in the wake of a storm can give us reports that are

valuable. They also help in the search and rescue efforts in the aftermath."

Guidelines for Dayton

Nothing can ruin a trip more than unexpected traffic problems and road construction. With many Amateur Radio readers making their way to southwestern Ohio and the Dayton Hamvention being forewarned can be a welcomed tool in preventing frustration, anger, and road rage.

Recent reports stress that any readers of the *eDipole* making this annual pilgrimage should expect some unusual traffic patterns in the vicinity of the Dayton Hamvention. ARRL Ohio Section Manager Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE, has provided the following advisory. This DAYTON YELLOW BARRELS REPORT was forwarded to Jim Biddle, W3DCL by Carl Morgan K8CM@arrl.net

Highway Construction during Hamvention® 2008

Thanks to Rob Lunsford KB8UEY who prepared these recommendations in early March. **Last updated on April 14.**

Visitors to the Dayton Hamvention will encounter road construction, and lots of it. Hopefully this advance notice will help to minimize the problems staff, volunteers, attendees, speakers, and everyone will face in traveling to Hara Arena. One of the main surface streets used by attendees of Hamvention every year is Needmore Road since it is almost a straight shot from I-75 (exit 58) to Hara Arena. Unfortunately a rebuild project is underway on this roadway right in the travel path to Hara in which it will be down to one lane each way during Hamvention.

The next problem is construction at the north end of the Downtown Dayton area (about the 53 to 56 mile markers on I-75). In this area the Ohio Department of Transportation has started a multi-year multi-phase reconstruction of I-75 in which there are lane restrictions, bridge replacements, and various other adjacent projects.

Both of these projects are much overdue and will, in the long run, drastically improve travel in the area. Unfortunately these projects are in high volume areas that are already prone to trouble from even the slightest traffic issue. To assist everyone involved we are asking that those attending

Hamvention please try to avoid these areas if possible. Our hope is that if we minimize our traffic in the area, and a problem does occur, we do not make it worse with our increased traffic flow.

Satellite parking is again at the former Salem Mall as it has been for a number of years. If you Google Salem Mall Dayton you will get a map which shows the area at the intersection of Salem Avenue (Ohio 49) and Shiloh Springs Road. Please use the alternatives routes listed below listed to get to the Salem Mall area. They will help you avoid as much congestion as possible.

I-75 Southbound from Troy & Toledo, OH (points North)

Exit 61 (I-70 Westbound), Richmond, IN)

Take Exit 61 west to Exit 26 Hoke Rd. Turn left at the end of the ramp. The next intersection is SR 49 (Salem Ave.) Travel south on SR 49 (Salem Ave.) 4 miles to Salem Bend Road. Turn left on Salem Bend Road. Turn right on Wood Creek into the parking lot. If you miss the turn at Salem Bend Road, in 100 yards turn left on Shiloh Springs and turn left into the mall and drive to the rear of the mall for Hamvention® Parking.

I-75 Northbound From Cincinnati, OH (points South)

Exit 52 US Route 35 West

Go west on US 35 approximately 5 ½ miles. US 35 will curve to the right becoming Northbound and once it crossed West Third Street becomes SR 49. Continue North on SR 49. Follow to intersection with Salem Avenue and turn Right. When you make this turn you need to move to the left thru lane, as you will be turning left very shortly. You will come to a traffic light at Salem Bend Road. Turn left on Salem Bend Road. Turn right on Wood Creek into the parking lot. If you miss the turn at Salem Bend Road, in 100 yards turn left on Shiloh Springs and turn left into the mall and drive to the rear of the mall for Hamvention® Parking.

For vendors, handicap parking, and individuals with credentials trying to go to the Arena please follow the below directions.

I-75 Southbound from Troy & Toledo, OH (points North)

Exit 61 (I-70 Westbound), Richmond, IN)

Take Exit 61 west to Exit 29 North Main St. State Route 48). Turn left at the end of the ramp. Follow south about 5 miles to Shiloh Springs Road and turn Right. Flea Market Vendors and Handicap Parking enter through Entrance 4 all others with credentials use Entrance 1.

I-75 Northbound From Cincinnati, OH (points South)

Exit 52 US Route 35 West

Go west on US 35 approximately 5 ½ miles. US 35 will curve to the right becoming Northbound and once it crossed West Third Street becomes SR 49. Continue North on SR 49. Follow to intersection with Turner Road and turn Right.

Flea Market & Handicap Parking

Follow Turner Road to Philadelphia Road and turn left. Then follow to North Main Street (State Route 48) and turn left. Stay in the left lane and turn left on Shiloh Springs Road. Enter at Entrance 4.

Inside Exhibitors & others with credentials (Not Flea Market)

You will come to a traffic light at Wolf Road. Turn left on Wolf Road. Wolf Road will dead end into Shiloh Springs at Entrance 1. Go straight across Shiloh Springs here.

Individuals traveling on I-70 will not need to make any changes from years past due to this construction. For more information or if you have questions feel free to contact the Talk-In Chairman Rob Lunsford KB8UEY via email at talkin@hamvention.org. Also once in the Dayton area if you need assistance you can tune to **146.940-** for further assistance

Successful Exercise

Amateur Radio operators have once more proven they are quick learners. This was demonstrated during a well-chosen pseudo emergency and its ongoing developments. In correspondence more than a week before the completion of the Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA) District 1 exercise

Lor Kutchins, W3QA, cited the background behind the choice of a hurricane as the exercise that would embrace the ARES-RACES organizations in Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

Kutchins explained his choice in one of his early exchanges between his office and a participant; he stated, "There is value in doing this within the constraints of a slowly-developing threat scenario-- exactly the reason I chose the hurricane scenario for our first exercise.

As an encouragement to the participants Lor Kutchins added, "Let's pretend this is really happening, and 'where we are' is where we are with our planning."

The feigned reality was cited in Bulletin 2 on Sunday, April 13. This message stated, in part, the following:

Please forward this report to all ARES/RACES members in EPA District 1.

THIS IS A DRILL

Bulletin 2

April 13, Sunday

Fictitious Hurricane Hazel has been completing a slow turn to the NNE. A deep trough is beginning to form over the eastern USA, which is expected to influence the hurricane's track. Its forward speed has diminished to 10 knots. Hazel is expected to pass over the western coast of Haiti in the next two days. Maximum sustained winds are estimated at 110 MPH.

This bulletin gave dimensions to the threats being posed by this drill-create hurricane. The text continued,

This is a dangerous storm. Prepare accordingly, check your go kits, food, water, equipment and supplies.

Members of ARES/RACES units in the 5-County ARES EPA District 1 are requested to keep close watch on this storm.

-END-

Also included in this preliminary communiqué was a portion of the timetable for this exercise.

The on-air exercise activity is planned for Saturday, April 19. For your planning purposes, Chester County is anticipating a call for mutual aid from adjoining ARES/RACES units. Some activation warning may be expected with an advance

resource net if the situation warrants. Stand by for updates as information arrives.

--Lor Kutchins W3QA

Emergency Coordinator, Chester County
District 1 Exercise Leader

The scenario behind this training exercise continued with communications of Monday, April 14. In addition to adding the realism that this was only a drill, the message carried data that was of true characteristic for a storm of this nature. The text of this first-of-the-week message stated:

Please forward this report to all ARES/RACES members in EPA District 1.

THIS IS A DRILL

Bulletin 3

April 14, Monday Morning

Fictitious Hurricane Hazel's center of circulation is immediately south west of Haiti's southwest coast, at the southern entrance of the Windward Passage. It has come to a halt over the last few hours. Hurricane models are conflicting as to which direction it will precede. Maximum sustained winds are 105 miles per hour. Eastern Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and Puerto Rico is experiencing record rainfall, wind damage and flooding.

This is a dangerous storm. Prepare accordingly, check your go kits, food, water, equipment and supplies.

Members of ARES/RACES units in the 5-County ARES EPA District 1 are requested to keep close watch on this storm.

-BULLETIN END-

THIS IS A DRILL

During the ongoing progress reports and updates, the potential participants were provided with scheduling information and activities in which they could participate. This well-done planning continued:

The on-air exercise activity is planned for Friday evening April 18th through Saturday, April 19. For exercise purposes, Chester County EOC will operate as a "central authority" destination for all locally generated traffic, and origination point for traffic from the Joint Information Center (JIC) and higher authorities. Chester County will operate a marshalling center for incoming mutual aid operators in front of

the Government Services Center at 610 Westtown Road, West Chester (Westtown Road off ramp of 322/202).

This planning was so well defined that there were available directions for anyone not totally familiar with the access to the Chester County Services Center.

Directions to the GSC are at http://dsf.chesco.org/chesco/lib/chesco/directions/GSC_Map.htm.

As a further refinement of the organization's operating parameters, there were procedures for multiple means of communications between cooperating organizations. This included outlines for local FM repeaters as well as HF operations.

All operators should prepare to monitor their local FM repeater as called for in their County Emergency Plan. In addition, the EPA RACES 80M net will be activated on 3.9875 MHz for initial inter-county communications. All ECs should forward their preferred frequencies on UHF/VHF FM for both local operations and County-County direct communications ASAP to w3eoc-5@winlink.org for confirmation of existing plans. Some activation warning may be expected with an advance resource net as the hurricane affects our area. This is expected early Friday evening, if the situation warrants. Stand by for updates as information arrives.

--Lor Kutchins W3QA

Emergency Coordinator, Chester County District 1 Exercise Leader

Throughout the remainder of the week, routine bulletins were forwarded to the participating counties and members of each organization. One of the key ingredients in these communications was the current weather statistics and potential dangers from the fictitious hurricane. Additionally, these updating messages also shared the status of local operations and the possible activities that many be required during ongoing stages of they storm and local activities.

As a part of the Friday morning, April 18 drill message, there was a further indication of additional duties by the participants. That message cited the following:

THIS IS A DRILL

Chester County Department of Emergency Services HAS PLACED CHESTER COUNTY ARES/RACES on STANDBY STATUS. MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE THEIR AVAILABILITY FOR POSSIBLE SERVICE ON SATURDAY MORNING.

The following Friday afternoon message began the District 1 exercise on April 18. This message was forwarded following the pre established procedures. The message for Delaware County provided as a relay. The grim information included in this drill message added to the potential realism that would accompany a storm of this magnitude

Please forward this report to all ARES/RACES members in EPA District 1.

THIS IS A DRILL

April 18, Friday Afternoon

Hazel has turned WNW and has made landfall near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Reports are that it destroyed every pier along a 170-mile (270-kilometer) stretch of coastline. Reports from Garden City, South Carolina are severe, especially from its district, where only three of the 275 buildings escaped damage and only two houses out of 275 remained habitable.

At landfall, Hazel brought a storm surge of 14.5 feet (4.4 m) to a large area of coastline. Coastal damage was severe along the southeastern coast of North Carolina. The highest storm surge was recorded at Calabash, coincidentally arriving at the highest lunar tide of the year and reaching 18 feet (5.5m) above mean low water. Southport and Wrightsville Beach were wrecked. Nineteen people were killed in North Carolina, with several hundred more injured; 15,000 homes were destroyed and another 40,000 damaged.

Hazel is rapidly evolving into an unusual extra-tropical low, riding a deep trough northward at exceptional forward speed. The storm is still a hurricane, with 115+ MPH sustained winds up to 50 miles from the center of circulation in the storm's dry right quadrant. -BULLETIN END-

THIS IS A DRILL

THIS IS A DRILL

In addition to the storm damage reports, participating members in this EPA District 1 exercise also received the following data:

Chester County Department of Emergency Services AND Chester County ARES/RACES requests formal mutual aid via ARESMAT from all other District 1 EmComm units. Deployment will take place after volunteers are registered and checked in at the Marshalling Point in front of the Government Services Center (Southern Entrance) at 610 Westtown Road, West Chester Westtown Road off ramp of 322/202).

The high level of preparedness and the ongoing professional deployment operation proved to be a strong contributor to the success of this week-plus activity. The success of this event was recognized by EPA District 1 Emergency Coordinator Bob Famiglio, K3RF. Following this exercise he shared his feelings with all involved in all of the many aspects of this operation. Famiglio stated:

To all participants:

Please accept my congratulations on a well-run drill scenario, particularly on such short notice. While Chester County ran a full blown (no pun intended) drill in first class fashion, I was pleased to see each county, including Philadelphia, become involved and field teams to their EOC's in most cases and to the field in others. We were able to determine VHF and UHF simplex capabilities with Philadelphia, Chester, Montgomery and Delaware counties from most EOCs today. HF voice and data operations worked well also

Thank you to all who took the time to deploy themselves and/or assist Chester County in their request for Mutual Aid deployment. The second and third district provided a call up for mutual aid operators to district 1 also in this drill, a first ever I think. Please pass the word and ask everyone to mark **July 26, 2008** on their calendar for the next 1st District drill. It is my hope that this demonstration today will provide the incentive to more vigorously pursue interoperability plans on a district basis as we come to see that operating as a large unit when needed can add significant

benefits to our capabilities, let alone increasing our enjoyment of working with our colleagues in the other counties. Much can be learned from any strengths or weakness observed in our operations today. Our thanks to Lor Kutchins, W3QA Chester County EC for planning the realistic hurricane scenario and leading this exercise for this first ever 1st district-wide drill.

MARC Hamfest

May is a fitting time to be beginning to plan to either display or visit this year's, Sunday July 13 Valley Forge Hamfest and Computer Fair. This annual gather provides an opportunity to find parts, various forms of apparatus, and to renew and make new Amateur Radio friendships.

MARC-Supplied Photo

The MARC Hamfest is located at the Kimberton Fire Company grounds, Route 113 (Kimberton Road) south of the intersection with Route 23 in Kimberton, PA

Kimberton is northwest of King of Prussia and just west of Phoenixville, PA. The 2008 MARC Hamfest is Sunday, July 13th. Talk-in is available on the MARC repeater systems with coverage near Kimberton provided by 145.13 MHz PL 131.8-linked repeater in nearby Paoli.



Doors open for sellers at 0700 and for buyers at 0800.

Admission is \$6, which entitles you to a door prize ticket. In addition to the admission fee, sellers will be provided with an outdoor tailgate space for \$6. This space is one-car wide and, in keeping with the tailgating philosophy, vehicles will use head-in parking. An indoor table with electricity service is

available for can be arranged through: reservations@marc-radio.org

Food and beverage sales are provided by authorized vendors only. Continuing a Mid Atlantic Amateur Radio club tradition, unlicensed children and the spouse of a licensed Amateur Radio operator enjoy free admission.

DXCC News

Information from the ARRL DXCC Desk and the League's DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, has stated the following operations have been approved for DXCC credit:

- the 2007 operation to Uganda, 5X1NH
- the 2007 operation to Western Sahara, S05A
- the 2008 operation to Burundi, 9UXEV
- the 2008 operation to Syria, YK9G
- the ongoing operation of HZ1PS in Saudi Arabia.

If any readers of the *eDipole* who have had cards rejected or have any questions concerning these operations, they are instructed to send an e-mail to the DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org>.

Dayton Forum Schedule

While April showers are said to bring May flowers, references to April to many Amateur Radio operators becomes a bridge to topics associated with the annual Dayton Hamvention.

One of the many attractions for the thousands of visitors to this Mecca of Amateur Radio is the collection of forums that are presented each year. Not only do these special gatherings provide invaluable information, many also become a form of fun.

The recently released schedule for the May 16-18 gathering at Dayton's Hara Arena incorporates 46 unique programs. These focused gatherings embrace approximately 80 hours of topics that have been created for these programs.

Pleased be advised that is list may be changed as the time for this largest event of its kind.

Friday, May 16

9:15-10:45 AM

TAPR Digital Forum (Room 1)

9:15-10:15 AM

ARRL Public Relations -- Making It Work for You Locally (Room 2)

9:15-10:15 AM

Lightning Protection for the Shack (Room 3)

9:15-10:15 AM

National Frequency Coordinators Council (Room 5)

10:30-11:30 AM

ARRL Member Forum (Room 2)

10:30-11:30 AM

Teachers Workshop (Room 3)

10:30-11:30 AM

SATERN
Salvation Army Team Emergency Network (Room5)

11 AM-1 PM

D-STAR Forum (Room 1)

11:45 AM

1 PM - Kit Building (Room 2)

11:45 AM-12:45 PM

The Evolution of the National Traffic System (Room 3)

11:45 AM-12:45 PM

SHARES Forum (Room 5)

1:15-2:15 PM

Balloon Forum (Room 1)

1:15-2:15 PM

APRS
Automatic Position Reporting System (Room 2)

1-2:30 PM

Ham Radio and the Law (Room 3)

1-2 PM

QRP Forum (Room 5)

2:15-3:15

Young Ladies Radio League (Room 5)

2:30-3:45 PM

Drake Forum (Room 2)

2:45-3:45 PM

Gordon West

Digital Signal Processing Speakers (Room 3)

3:30-5 PM

Test Equipment for Hams (Room 5)

4-5 PM

Amplitude Modulation Forum (Room 2)

4-10 PM

International Forum (Room 3)

Saturday, May 17

9-10 AM

How Ham Radio Meets Boy Scouts, or Adventures with Elmer Baden-Powell (Room 2)

9-10 AM

MARS Tri-Service Forum (Room 3)

9-11:30 AM

Software Defined Radio Forum (Room 1)

9-11:30 AM

AMSAT Forum (Room 5)

10:15-11:15 AM

Don't Tell Me It Can't Be Done! (Room 2)

10:15-11:15 AM

ARES Forum (Room 3)

11:30 AM-12:15 PM

ARRL Radiosport Forum (Room 2)

11:30 AM-1:45 PM

2008 Ham Radio Town Meeting (Room 3)

11:45 AM-1:45 PM

ATV (Fast Scan Amateur Television) Forum (Room 5)

11:45 AM-2:15 PM

Contesting Forum (Room 1)

12:30-1:30 PM

RTTY Forum (Room 2)

1:45-2:45 PM

MIDCARS (Room 2)

2-3 PM

ARRL Technology Task Force (Room 5)

2-3:15

FCC Forum with Riley Hollingsworth (Room 3)

2:30-5 PM

DX Forum (Room 1)

3-5 PM

UHF/VHF/Microwave Forum (Room 2)

3:15-5 PM

Youth in Amateur Radio Forum (Room 5)

3:30-5 PM

SSTV Forum (Room 3)

Sunday, May 18

9:15-10:15 AM

ARRL and the Mars Desert Research Station (Room 1)

9:15-10:15 AM

Collins Radio Forum (Room 2)

9:15-10:15 AM

The Role of Ham Radio in Red Cross Chapter Communications (Room 3)

9:30-11:15 AM

Bicycle Mobile Forum (Room 5)

10:30-11:30 AM

ARRL Digital Forum (Room 1)

10:30-11:30 AM

Techniques of the Best Operators (Room 2)

10:30-11:30 AM

Ohio MARS Forum (Room 3)

Readers of the **eDipole** desiring more information on forums at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention are asked to visit the Dayton Hamvention Web site <http://www.hamvention.org/hv2008/forums/index.html>.

Shopping Season

The ARRL has announced a new line of “branding” items that both help identify each of us as Amateur Radio operators. The unique new clothing items also incorporates a design that will generate a curious inquiry from people who are not truly aware of our identity.

The first of the three items is the HAM cap. It carries a sales identity of HAM Cap #0014. It is reasonably priced at \$121.95. The cap is a black sandwich cap that carries the embroidered HAM logo. Because of it incorporates an adjustable Velcro strap, one size will fit most size heads.

This cap is a part of a trio of new items that help each of demonstrate our pride in our hobby and our support of the ARRL.



The newly designed, pre-shrunk, black Hanes beefy HAM **T-shirts** are designed and priced to sell. These attention-grabbing shirts are pre-shrunk with white contrast stitching. The HAM logo is screen printed on left chest.

The six unisex sizes are \$12.95 each.

Unisex sizes:

- Small #0227-S
- Medium #0227-M
- Large #0227-L
- X-Large #0227-XL
- 2X-Large #0227-2XL

- 3X-Large #0227-3XL



The third item in the new ARRL clothing items is a 1/4 zip heavyweight black **sweatshirt** with HAM logo embroidered on left chest. It's design also incorporates a Twill-trimmed neck seam and brass metal zipper with leather pull.

The six, unisex sizes are \$34.95 each.

Unisex sizes:

- Small #0301-S
- Medium #0301-M
- Large #0301-L
- X-Large #0301-XL
- 2X-Large #0301-2XL
- 3X-Large #0301-3XL



As an introductory, limited time **BONUS** item, persons ordering any of these three new HAM items by May 31, 2008 will also receive a **FREE HAM Oval sticker**. As has been previously stated, these items are a great way to showoff your Ham Radio pride with these new items of HAM apparel.

Ordering can be easily accomplished through
a Web visit to
<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-HAM#top>

Body Facts

The human body is a machine that is full of wonder. This collection of human body facts will leave you wondering why in the heck we were designed the way we were.

1. Scientists say the higher your I.Q, the more you dream.
2. The largest cell in the human body is the female egg.
3. The smallest is the male sperm.
4. You use 200 muscles to take one step.
5. The average woman is 5 inches shorter than the average man.
6. Your big toes have two bones each while the rest have three.
7. A pair of human feet contains 250,000 sweat glands.
8. A full bladder is roughly the size of a soft ball
9. The acid in your stomach is strong enough to dissolve razor blades.
10. The human brain cell can hold 5 times as much information as the Encyclopedia Britannica.
11. It takes the food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach.
12. The average human dream lasts 2-3 seconds.
13. Men without hair on their chests are more likely to get cirrhosis of the liver than men with hair.
14. At the moment of conception, you spent about half an hour as a single cell.
15. There are about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet.
16. Your body gives off enough heat in 30 minutes to bring half a gallon of water to a boil.
17. The enamel in your teeth is the hardest substance in your body.
18. Your teeth start developing (in your gums) 6 months before you are born.
19. When you are looking at someone you love, your pupils dilate; they do the same when you are looking at someone you hate.
20. Blondes have more hair than dark-haired people.
21. Your thumb is the same length as your nose.

Origin of Little Red Riding Hood

As in many staple stories, the total origin of this and other fabled fairy tales often have no foundation. The favorite children's story, Little Red Riding Hood has a history that is one of an unknown that just "just appeared. It is one of the few fairy tales that has no known literary version prior to the publication of the tale in 1697.

It was in that year that this favorite of many of the current generations first appeared in Charles Perrault's *Histoires ou Contes du temps passé*. It is felt this story, prior to this publication, was one of a collection of oral stories. What is not known was the true origin of this story that for year was only shared by word-of-mouth.

After Perrault's version of this fairy tale was published, the story rapidly grew in popularity. Its growth continued when it was anthologized in several English fairy tale collections during the 18th century. This is documented in a collection called, *A Pretty Book for Children, an Easy Guide to the English Tongue* (1744), and later in *The Top Book of All, for Little Misters and Misses* (1760).

It should be noted that the first English version was a translation of Perrault's collection *Histories, or Tales of Past Times* (1729).

It should be noted that in Perrault's version, Little Red Riding Hood is not rescued but actually dies at the end of the story. Some people feel this terrifying ending makes the story more realistic and solidifies his advice to not talk to strangers. Bruno Bettelheim is especially critical of Perrault's version since it "deliberately threatens the child with its anxiety-producing ending" (Bettelheim 1976).

Famous story-tellers and story documenters, the Grimms, offer a different ending in which a huntsman happens by and rescues the grandmother and Little Red Riding Hood by disemboweling the wolf. The two females escape from the wolf unharmed, similar to the fate of Jonah from the belly of the whale. The huntsman then sews rocks back into the wolf's stomach for punishment. The huntsman in this version represents patriarchal protection and physical superiority.

As the mystery of this story continues, there is yet another version of the tale--the French "The Story of Grandmother." In this parallel story, Little

Red Riding Hood rescues herself. After she is fed a piece of her grandmother by the wolf, she announces that she needs to go to the bathroom. Since this activity is done outside of the structure. This is because this version was written before the common appearance of indoor bathrooms. Once outside, she runs away.



This illustration appeared in *Les Contes de Perrault*, dessins par Gustave Dore, Paris: J Hetzel, 1867

The Famous Ceiling



The most frequently depicted part of Michelangelo's lofty ceiling work is seen here. It is only a small part of the total work done by Michelangelo on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. It is interesting how this famous piece of art was created.

It is fitting that while this story about the Vatican is being written for the May issue of the *eDipole*, the current pope is visiting the United States.

While the famous "Creation of Adam" has the honor of being one of the most famous works of art,

this five hundred year old piece of ceiling art almost did not happen. In 1508, when Pope Julius II offered the challenge of painting this Biblical work on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo, properly known by his full name Michelangelo Buonarroti, attempted not to accept this honor.

The reason behind Michelangelo's repeated reluctance was simple. He considered himself a sculptor, not a painter. His works in this artistic field had produced two masterpieces. They were the deeply moving sculpture of Mary cradling Jesus' body--his Pietá—which is now housed in St. Peter's Basilica, and the impressive statue of David, which resides in Michelangelo's hometown of Florence.

Pope Julius II was well aware of Michelangelo painting expertise. When this papal offer was refused, the pope would not take "no" for an answer. It was no longer a request; it became an order.

As if in a game of poker, there was first a request by Pope Julius II, but Michelangelo "raised him one." Actually the new challenge was far more than "one." In his original request, Julius had asked for portraits of the 12 apostles. Through his stubborn commitment, expanded his creativity to a new "height." He covered the entire ceiling with more than 300 figures.



This demonstrates that the work of famed sculpture and painter was more than a simple, single panel.

The original plan for decorating the chapel called for the masterpieces to appear on the walls of the chapel. It was Pope Sixtus IV who ordered the construction of the chapel. It is from this origin that the name Sistine Chapel was drawn. He hired the leading artists of the 1480s to fill them with scenes from the lives of Moses and Jesus. What was untouched was the ceiling, an unobtrusive, deep blue backdrop with some gold stars.

Returning to the early 16th century, once his creative juices began to flow, Michelangelo decided that his “ordered-piece-of-art” would show the earliest scenes from the Bible, as well as other famous figures. Down the center of the ceiling, he created an impressive collection of images from the Book of Genesis--the creation of Adam, the snake tempting Eve in the Garden of Eden, and Noah’s Ark



Michelangelo's depiction of the snake tempting Eve in the Garden of Eden



Noah's Ark as painted by Michelangelo

As if a series of sermon topics, Michelangelo's vision exploded. He filled the rest of the ceiling with portraits of prophets like Isaiah and Ezekiel. He imparted his own theology when he added symbols of ancient times, like the Oracle at Delphi,

This was chosen to illustrate his belief that even the pagans of the past were waiting for the Messiah.

Borrowing from the historical passages of Matthew, Michelangelo rounded out the composition with smaller figures depicting 40 generations of Jesus' ancestors. When this expanded effort was finished, it was realized that with all the many personages, one group, the 12 apostles were missing. It appears that when Michelangelo ‘bargained’ with Julius II, one of the terms was to let the world’s most famous ceiling painter paint whatever he wanted.

Despite the free hand it was not easy work.

Michelangelo spent nearly four years working on a special six-story scaffold. This otherwise grueling work was further complicated by the work surface. The painting was done with a fresco medium. Fresco is the art of painting on freshly spread, moist lime plaster, using water-based pigments.

The work environment would demand Michelangelo craning his neck and stretching out his arms to actually paint the scenes in wet plaster. The fresco medium is much less forgiving than the more traditional method of painting with oils. Whenever there were a mistake, he had to scrape it all off and start over.

Despite the historical rumors, Michelangelo didn't really paint lying on his back, but it was nevertheless exhausting work.

This labor-intensive work by Michelangelo had composed an artwork covered 5,400 square feet. Even more astounding is the fact that each human figure and all the supporting art was done solely by the brush of Michelangelo. Unlike the traditions of the period, he chose not to employ assistants.

In 1512, Pope Julius II held a special All Saints' Day mass under the completed ceiling. The finished work was an instant success. It is still an enviable masterpiece today.



This collection of Michelangelo images was stressful to create. The magnitude of these images is almost stressful to view.