

NOVEMBER 2008

the

SCOPE

A newsletter by and for the Palomar Amateur Radio Club

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Nominees for the 2009 Board of Directors to be Announced at the November 5th Meeting

Elections will be held at the December general meeting, which is also our Holiday Social. I would like to recognize the nominating committee for their volunteerism. Your service to the club is needed and appreciated. Thank you!

The 2009 nominating committee includes Ron K2RP, Jo KB6NMK, Jim W6SST, and Mark KI6FVH.

Save the Date!

Club Meeting
7:30pm 5 November 2008

“Lessons Learned from Hurricane Charley”

presented by Wayne Barringer,
KB6UJW

Board Meeting
7:00pm 12 November 2008

W6GNI QTH

Members welcome to attend.

November Sweeps!

The November Sweepstakes marks the beginning of the contest season. CW is the first full weekend in November (Nov 1-3) and phone is the third full weekend in November (Nov 15-17).

The contest begins 2100 UTC Saturday and ends 0300 UTC Monday. An operator may operate for no more than 24 of the 30 hours of the contest.

As 2008 is the 75th running of the November Sweepstakes, the ARRL is offering special prizes to help celebrate this Diamond Anniversary of the premier domestic contest.

For example, any station that submits a SS log with 75 sections worked will receive a special commemorative magnet free of charge!



Annual club auction.
Photo by KB5MU

Noble Canyon 50k

Amateur Radio provides quality public service to many events. This article describes how amateur radio supported the Noble Canyon 50k Race.

The 2nd Annual Noble Canyon 50K was a tremendous success. An “ultra run”, the course included 20 miles of single-track trail down and up Noble Canyon, and also included 10 miles of trail over sections of the Pacific Coast and Big Laguna Lake Trails. Held on September 27th, 2008, the race began at 7:00am. The time limit for finishing was 9 hours. This year’s winner, Eric Clifton, aged 50 years, completed the race in 4 hours, 44 minutes. 92% of those that began the race finished it. A key component of this event’s success was communications support provided by amateur radio

volunteers. Jerry Kostro AK6QJ, Larry Plummer AE6AV and Georgia Smith KI6LAV served as Net Control. Three operators, Justin Pitcairn K6PPG, Miles Pitcairn KI6MHX, and Dave Ochs KI6LKP, had never done race

communications before. Dave’s wife Debbie, who does not have an amateur radio license, helped with logging and aid station work.

Another ham new to race communications was Conrad Lara KG6JEI, who staffed a water-only station called 1A (pictured at right).

Two aid stations had double duty. Penny Pines aid station had runners going out and coming back in at the same time. Two teams of three communications volunteers, Gary Kent W6GDK, Len Fulbright K5WFW, Tom Myrick N6JOJ, Paul Cookson KI6FIF, Dave Ochs KI6LKP and Debbie Ochs, ran it flawlessly.

Big Bend Aid Station, due to its position on the course, was the first and last aid station. Mike Oberbauer KG6TDP helped our new recruits Justin Pitcairn K6PPG and Miles Pitcairn KI6MHX do an outstanding job in the hot sun at Big Bend. All the equipment had to be carried in and out by hand on a narrow trail for ¼ mile. This station was the first to be set up and almost the last to be taken down.

Although in the past most of the volunteers for the event have come out of the Palomar Amateur Radio Club, Paul Schmidt K6PKS, Larry Plummer AE6AV, Mike Oberbauer KG6TDP, Tom Myrick N6JOJ, Len Fulbright K5WFW and Paul Cookson KI6FIF of the El Cajon Radio Club volunteered this year, providing an almost even split between the two clubs. The increase in diversity provided opportunities



Photo by W6SST



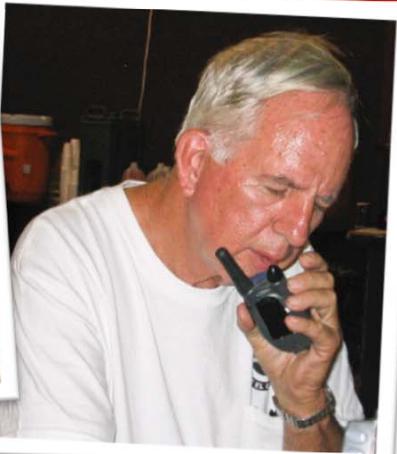
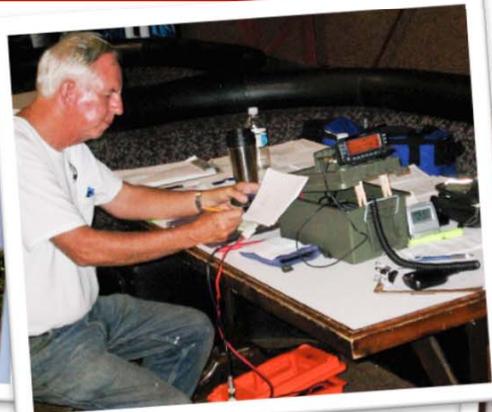
Photo by AK6QJ



Photo by Mike O.



Photo by W6SST



Above left, a runner approaches an aid station. Photo by Mike O.

Above middle and right is Larry AE6AV as net control and on the FRS radio to the Finish Line. Photos by AK6QJ.

for the volunteers to meet new people and form new friendships, and plans are in motion to expand recruiting to the many other local amateur radio clubs for next year's event. Another amateur radio operator, Rich Beisigl N6NKJ, who was monitoring the traffic as a radio spectator, stepped in and provided volunteer assistance by relaying messages when communications were temporarily troubled between several aid stations and Net Control. Rich Beisigl N6NKJ is also an El Cajon Amateur Radio Club member. Paul K6PKS, who like many volunteers does not like to be singled out, has a combination of experience in the sport of ultra running, physical education training and amateur radio that makes him a key volunteer for races like the Noble Canyon 50K. Paul freely shares his knowledge and passion for these events. While he would describe it as a team effort, anyone

that gets a chance to work with Paul "is in for a treat," according to Jim Egerton W6SST. Jim, the amateur radio communications director for the event, recruited, organized, prepared, and coordinated all of these volunteers. From an interest list and previous volunteers, he developed a team, made sure that people new to public service communications were teamed with experienced operators, and provided guidelines, contact information, and instructions in advance of the event. Jim stated that the combined efforts of the communications volunteers helped each and every runner meet their goals. Each runner had a great experience and a terrific day, and the excellent communications provided by the
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News Note

North County Fire Chief Bill Metcalf acknowledged the following as providing valuable help during the Rice Fire.

- Fallbrook Amateur (Ham) Radio Club: "They put people in our emergency operations center and helped us communicate. We are currently looking at ways to strengthen their involvement. This is a great group of community volunteers who function behind the scenes."

Club Reports

Membership Report

New Members Joining PARC:

KI6BTP, and KI6TEH. Also, three members reinstated their expired memberships. Let's welcome all members!

Check your mailing label!! Watch for the colored "Please renew now" and avoid the dreaded Red "Last Issue" on your SCOPE label. "Last Issue" means your membership expires within a few days, or has expired very recently.

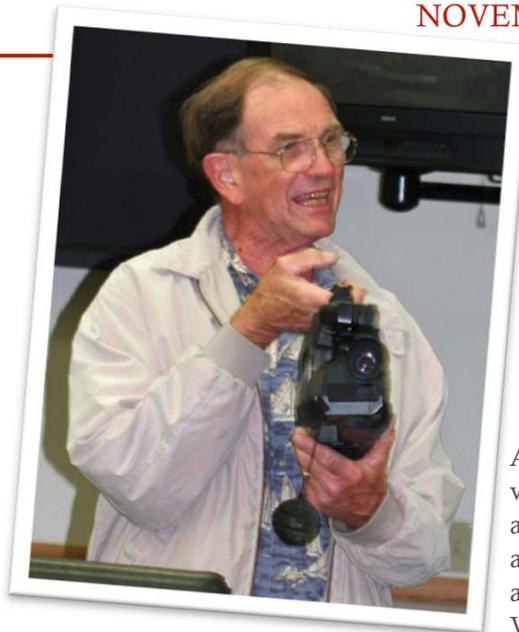
As most know by now, your investment in repeaters, batteries, etc. has paid off again with the 2008 Fire Emergency. You and the ham radio community can rightfully be proud; hopefully proud enough to maintain your membership in PARC!

Al Donlevy W6GNI

Club Auction Success!

The annual club auction was held in Room 1 and 2 at the Carlsbad Safety Center on October 1st. Funds were raised and a good time was had by all. Pictured at right are Bob Birch KG6RGI and Dennis Baca KD6TUJ. Among others, they worked the registration table where items were accepted and tagged.

Photo by KB5MU.



Art KC6UQH volunteering as auctioneer at the annual club auction. Photo by W5NYV.

Fold and Staple

Last month's fold and staple team was KB6NMK Jo, W6GNI A & Kathy.

We need a few more. Drop by the membership table at the general meeting to find out more about this fun way to participate in the club.



The Auction Process

The auction begins with sellers arriving early to register and drop off items for sale on tables in the front of the room. Potential buyers get a number and raise their number when bidding. Highest bidder wins! Pictured at left is Loren, successfully bidding for one of the many interesting items for sale.

Photo by W5NYV.

Club Reports

Contest Report CA QSO Party

Call: N6KI
Operator(s): N6KI, N6OX, NN6X
Station: N6KI

Class: M/SFixed HP
QTH: SDIE
Operating Time (hrs):
21.7

Summary:

Band	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs
160:	5	4		
80:	147	134		
40:	173	280		
20:	303	469		
15:	26	7		
10:	3	3		
6:	1	1		
2:	0	0		

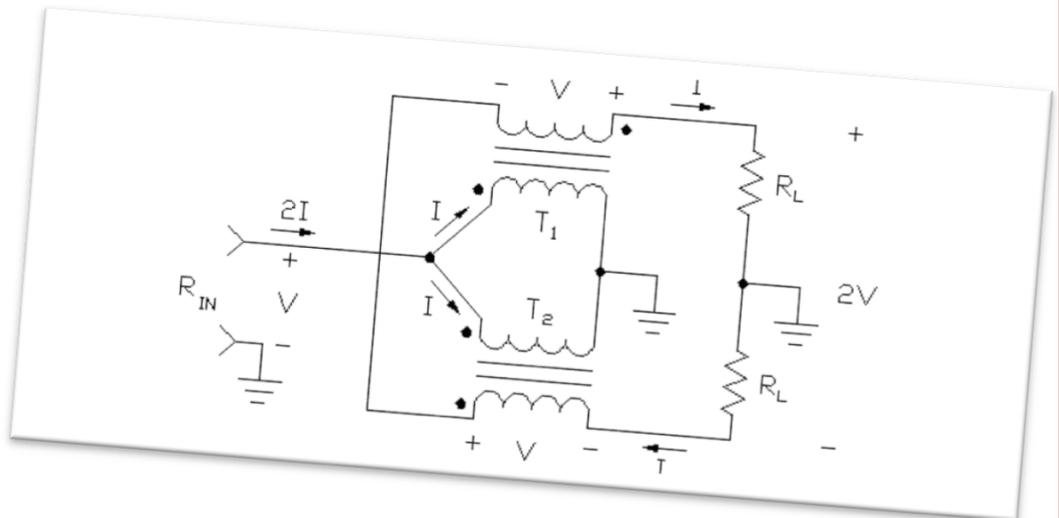
Total: 658 898 Mults = 58
Total Score = 218,660

Club: Southern California Contest Club

Comments:

Managed to get a team together just late Friday and unfortunately missed the first 4 hours of the contest due to no starter Op Saturday morning. CT for DOS was really screwed up for CQP so may have to bite the bullet and get WinTest on Board for next year! Worked several Dozen DX stations on 20 and finally found a small opening on 15m Sunday afternoon. 80 was "drop a pin" quiet and almost though we were on 40 with all the stations we worked (277! . Needed only 2 mults by Saturday eve and the NT and AK finally came by Sunday for a sweep.
SteppIR MonstIR at 72 ft, Coaxial Stub Inverted V at 72 ft apex, 160 wire.
IC-7800, ACOM 2000A
73, Dennis N6KI 🍏

Proposed New Transmitting Loop Antenna for 40m



Above is the "improved 4:1 current balun" circuit for the antenna Chris N7ZWY has described as a new transmitting loop antenna for 40 meters. In particular, Chris explains a new tuning method that does not involve a series capacitor or gamma matching.

This would be handy for portable (and possibly mobile) contest operation where a full-sized antenna would be impractical.

<http://www.home.earthlink.net/~chriskrask/Transmitting%20Loop%20Antenna.pdf>

73, Dennis N6KI

A critique of the Chris' design can be found at

http://www.w8ji.com/balun_single_core_41_analysis.htm. 🍏

October Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by Vice-President Dennis Baca KD6TUJ. The meeting was held at the home of Al Donlevy W6GNI. Present at the meeting were:

President Steve Early AD6VI
 Vice-President Dennis Baca KD6TUJ
 Secretary Loren Hunt AD6ZJ
 Director #1 Tom Martin KG6RCW
 Director #2 Paul Williamson KB5MU
 Membership Al Donlevy W6GNI
 Treasurer Bob Birch KG6RGI
 Scope Editor Michelle Thompson W5NYV
 Repeater Site Mike Pennington K6MRP
 Guest Conrad Lara KG6JEI, 2008 Field Day Chair

---Treasurer's Report

Bob KG6RGI distributed the report. Total Assets are \$14107.82. The prepaid dues are \$7029.00. Property taxes are coming up and they are \$244.30. A motion to accept the report was made by Loren AD6ZJ and seconded by Mike K6MRP. Motion was carried.
 Paul KB5MU made a motion to authorize the property tax payment. Seconded by Al W6GNI. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Loren AD6ZJ presented the Secretary's report and addendum with the October 1st special meeting minutes. The October special meeting minutes will be sent to Michelle for inclusion in the November Scope. A motion to accept the report was made by Tom KG6RCW and seconded by Mike K6MRP. Motion was carried.

Discussion Items

General Meeting: November topic: Wayne Barringer Lessons Learned from Hurricane Charlie. Meeting will be held in room 3 of the Carlsbad safety center.

Future Topics:

December is the social and elections
 January Ron Pollock K2RP on vintage HF rigs radios
 April Old Broadcast Repeaters – Lin Robertson on old time radios.

Special Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 PM by Vice-President Dennis Baca KD6TUJ. The meeting was held at the PARC repeater 147.130. Those present on the air were:
 Vice-President Dennis Baca KD6TUJ
 Secretary Loren Hunt AD6ZJ
 Director #1 Tom Martin KG6RCW
 Membership Al Donlevy W6GNI
 Treasurer Bob Birch KG6RGI
 Scope Editor Michelle Thompson W5NYV
 Repeater Site Mike Pennington K6MRP

Discussion Items

1. Tower Painting quote

- Dennis KD6TUJ opened continuing discussions on the Destiny Painting Tower Quote now that the insurance papers had been corrected
- AD6ZJ – No Questions on the quote
- KG6RGI – Was the spelling error corrected – Yes per the PDF
- KG6RCW – No questions
- W6GNI – No questions
- W5NYV – No questions
- KD6TUJ made a motion to accept the painting quote 2nd AD6ZJ

The motion went for a vote with the following results:

KG6RGI Bob – Affirmative,
 W6GNI Al - Affirmative ,
 AD6ZJ Loren – Affirmative,
 KG6RCW Tom - Affirmative,
 W5NYV Michelle - Affirmative
 K6MRP Mike - Affirmative

The motion carried – unanimous

- KD6TUJ Dennis will contact Destiny painting as to the timing and coordination of the painting

KG6RCW Tom made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mike K6MRP. Motion carried at 8:22

October Board Meeting Minutes

Membership Report: Presented by Al W6GNI
Current club membership is 367.

Repeater Technical Report: Presented by Mike K6MRP

- Starting to prepare site for winter. Some of the winterizing needs to wait until after the tower painting is complete.

Repeater Site Report: Presented by Mike K6MRP

Still working on getting the tower painted – see old business. Bob KG6RGI would like to get started on painting buildings at the repeater site on the weekend of the 8th and 9th. Tom KG6RCW made a motion to let Bob purchase paint not to exceed \$100.00 the motion was seconded by Mike K6MRP. The motion carried. We need a picnic table at the repeater site. Michelle W5NYV will put an add in the scope.

OLD Business:

- Mike K6MRP made a motion to accept the proposal from Destiny painting for painting the tower. The motion was seconded by Al W6GNI. There was further discussion about insurance riders and if we need one or not. Bob KG6RGI will check on insurance Thursday morning to get an answer on insurance from our carrier. Dennis KD6TUJ will contact Destiny painting to have the PARC site added to their insurance. An on air meeting will take place Thursday evening at 8:00PM on the 130 machine. The motion will be tabled until the Thursday night on air BOD meeting.

New Business:

-Ed Lincoln wishes to donate his ham equipment to PARC. John WB6IQS and Tom KG6RCW will coordinate and go visit. Al W6GNI will call John to set it up.

- Auction report – There were only 70 lots at this years auction. The clubs profit in total was \$154.30, almost \$100.00 dollars less than last year.

- Need more Scope articles.

Place of next Board Meeting: Home of Al Donlevy W6GNI

Motion to adjourn made by Tom KG6RCW and seconded by Loren AD6ZJ. Motion carried at 8:24PM.

PARC Special BOD Meeting October 9th on the 147.130 repeater

The meeting was called to order at 08:00PM
The following board members on frequency for the meeting:

Vice-President Dennis Baca KD6TUJ

Secretary Loren Hunt AD6ZJ

Director #1 Tom Martin KG6RCW

Treasurer Bob Birch KG6RGI

Repeater Site Mike Pennington K6MRP

Item up for discussion:

Tower painting quote from Destiny Painting
Destiny Painting has insurance to 4 stories. The PARC tower is the equivalent of 8 stories
It will take several days for a rider to be added and show proof.

K6MRP recommends tabling the discussion until proof of insurance can be obtained.

Dennis will continue to contact Destiny by phone and email

Loren AD6ZJ made a motion to table discussion until proof if insurance can be obtained. Mike K6MRP seconded.

Discussion: Dennis will follow up with Destiny painting on proof of liability and workman's comp insurance and on the PARC rider on the policy. Motion carried. 🍏

Serving as an Instructor

by Peter Singer W2PWS

In 2003, I took a General license course given by Jim Cooper, NE6O. As a result of Jim's assistance, I succeeded in achieving my General ticket. Last December, I took a similar Amateur Extra course offered by Steve Early, AD6VI. As a result, I was successful at advancing to ham's highest level. One of the things that struck me was the dedication of these volunteer instructors and their willingness to offer their spare time to others.

In an effort to "give back" and advance our hobby, I decided to offer a similar class to wannabe Techs. So on October 18th, I ran a one-day Tech preparation class at the Scripps Ranch library. I had arranged for a SANDARC VE team, headed by Harry Hodges, W6YOO, to join us at the end of the day to administer the exams. (In addition to our class session, I provided materials and aids in advance and encouraged the students to start studying.) I am happy to report that of the 18 students in the class, all but one became new hams that day. In fact, one immediately moved on and passed the General exam as well.

Putting on this class was actually easier than I had anticipated. For all who have benefited from the assistance of Elmers and/or others who selflessly volunteer their time to this hobby, I encourage you to do the same. Not only is it rewarding, but it is also good for Amateur Radio! 🍏

Dennis N6KI writes, "A new Macintosh CW training program called "Morse Trainer" has been released by AD5RX and may be downloaded free from [Source Forge](#). The program simulates QRM and QSB and it allows the user to control effective speed and actual speed settings.

In addition to those basic features, it offers the ability to set the number of stations QRMing and the ability to read the code back to you (in English) to check your written (or typed) transcription. (Thanks, John W4PAH)"

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/morsetrainer/>

Slow Speed CW Practice Net

By Bob Grunic NC6Q

There is a new Slow Speed CW Practice Net on HF to encourage the use of Morse code and to provide an opportunity to practice CW operating skills for hams in the greater Long Beach area. It meets Friday nights at 7:30 P.M. (except on the 1st Friday of the month). This Net meets on 28.130 MHz (plus or minus QRM)—open to all class licenses. It is a slow speed net of around 12 wpm with lots of extra space between characters and words. All stations are welcomed no matter what (slow) speed.

We are happy to slow down to accommodate you. There is no membership requirement, no dues, no club affiliation, no meetings, no problems. Check in when your schedule permits.

This Net is sponsored by the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach (ARALB). Rules and procedures can be found on the club website at www.aralb.org in pdf format and at www.nc6q.com for easy download and printing. Please become familiar with the Net rules before checking in. They're simple but require some forethought.

So, dust off your key, put up a 10 meter dipole, and check it out. Please direct questions or comments to Bob Grubic, NC6Q, nc6q@arrl.net. 🍏

Noble Canyon 50k

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volunteer team were an integral part of positive evaluations of the event. Scott Mills, the race director, shared the following email from a participant in order to illustrate how well the runners felt they were supported.

"Yesterday's 50k was my first distance beyond 26.2. I wanted to thank you, as race director, for putting together such a fabulous event. You thought of everything! From the mid-race snacks to the post race feast. Coca Cola never tasted so heavenly to me! The volunteers? Oh my gosh. They were like angels! Priceless. I love them all. They were so helpful and at the top of their game. They filled my camel pack! What a treat! Someone ran up the course to hand me Advil from his own car. I could have kissed the guy who squeezed cold water on my hands 4 miles from the finish. Amazing people out there to help us all. What a great bunch of people. Fellow runners were equally inspiring and encouraging the entire distance. It's a whole little community of cool people."

Jim described one of the communications support stations that highlights the qualities desired in public service events such as the Noble Canyon 50K.

"There was an aid station called the Rat Hole. It was manned by two of the best hams I know, just not from the formidable radio expertise but from their extensive record of community service. Bob Birch KG6RGI (Really Good Information) is a 35-year plus volunteer with the American Red Cross and board member of the Palomar Amateur Radio Club (PARC). Tom Martin KG6RCW is also a board member of PARC and one of those go-to guys when you really need someone with his unique skills of leadership. Their calm demeanor and kind words provide compelling reasons for putting them on any communications team."

Jerry Kostro, who served as Net Control, strongly agreed with Jim's assessment of the

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Signed: A.L. Donlevy Publisher

09/24/2008

Noble Canyon 50k

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success of the communications support.

Jerry wrote, "Thanks to the Race Director Scott Mills, Jim W6SST and Paul K6PKS, the event went very well. First and foremost, it was a safe race with only a few minor cuts and scrapes. Race staff and communicators worked well together, and information flowed between the various stations quickly and accurately. At no time during the race did we "lose" anybody - we had a pretty good idea where everyone was on the course at all times.

"Larry AE6AV and Georgia KI6LAV did great in keeping up with the paperwork and the many varied requests that came in over the net.

"Both runners and volunteers were well supplied with food and drink. Nice breakfast in [the morning] and an excellent sandwich bar in the afternoon. Desert (extra large cookies) was especially appreciated!"

Jerry continued with a description of the only significant problems encountered by the communications support team.

"As the sun came up and the heat increased, communications became increasingly scratchy between Net Control and the various aid stations. Once we correctly diagnosed the problem, reliable communications was restored. The radio operators at the aid stations did an outstanding job of getting traffic through until we solved the problem."

The solution was to make an adjustment at Net Control by changing to a more effective antenna.

Repeater glitches and batteries running low in the afternoon were dealt with quickly and proficiently. The last counts of the participants are critical as they are made to make sure everyone made it safely to the finish line. Pictured to the right are "two of the best" at The Rat Hole aid station, Bob Birch and Tom Martin.

Communications keeps everyone safe. These long-distance running events require an enormous effort from the participants and require a long recovery time. A commonly

cited rule of thumb is that one day of recovery time for every mile run is required. So, for a 50K race, about 30 days is required to completely recover. For a 100-mile race, at least three months is usually needed in order to back in top form. Participants in these events often do 30 to 50 miles of training runs a week. These are long, difficult events where safety concerns range from dehydration, heat exhaustion, musculoskeletal injuries, getting lost, or the obstacle of unexpected desert weather.

Repeater glitches and batteries getting low in the afternoon were problems to deal with during the critical last count to make sure everyone is back to the start finish line. These challenges were dealt with quickly and proficiently.

"We need more young operators to come and see how much fun this can be," Jim said in closing. "We also need more non-hams that can log runners and help at the aid stations. Come on out next running season and let's do it again!"

The third annual Noble Canyon 50K trail run is tentatively scheduled for September 26, 2009.

The Bad Rats Running Club sponsors the event and has an informative website at <http://www.noblecanyon50k.com>. 🍏



Photo by W6SST

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Featured Program

"Friday, Aug 13, 2004: Hurricane Charley slammed the West Coast of Florida, changing the landscape of ocean-facing shores and completely destroying oceanfront properties as it headed to Punta Gorda in Charlotte County. The fully staffed Emergency Operations Center lost its roof in the storm, the local airport was completely destroyed, along with the electric and communications infrastructure..."
Hear more at the November 5th Meeting!
Presented by: Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW



Hurricane Charley
photo courtesy of
NOAA