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**LFMA FLOODWATCH**

A quarterly newsletter available to LFMA Members and other interested parties interested in floodplain management throughout Louisiana, and can be viewed at [www.lfma.org](http://www.lfma.org). Persons interested in submitting articles for publication are encouraged to contact the editor.

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Happy Holidays!



from LFMA Board & Region Reps!

*Inside this issue:*

Message from the Chairman	2	Save the Date	7
CFM Corner	3	ICC Coverage	9
Mitigation Corner	4	Technical Bulletins	10
Facts Challenge Myths About Flood Insurance	5	Calendar	11
		Membership Renewal	12



## **FROM THE CHAIR**

I hope each of you had a very Merry Christmas and enjoyed your time with family and friends during the holidays and I wish everyone a Happy New Year!

On Friday, October 24, 2008 LFMA along with Tangipahoa Parish Government co-sponsored the Fall Floodplain Management Workshop at the LA Works Department of Labor Building in Hammond, LA. The welcome address was given by Mr. Jeff McKneeley, Chief Financial Officer for the Tangipahoa Parish Government. Several topics were discussed during the workshop ranging from how to read a FIRM, permit records, master planning with floodplains, accessory buildings, higher regulatory standards, and enforcement actions. A questions and answer time was also given at the end of the workshop. Thanks to all of our speakers and a special thank you to Alyson Lapuma and her staff for the outstanding work done in preparation for the workshop.

Our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Conference will be held April 22 - 24, 2009 in Covington, LA at the Holiday Inn, located at 501 N. Hwy 109. If you would like a special topic to be discussed, please feel free to forward that information to Alyson Lapuma or myself. Registration forms and agendas will be mailed out to each of you soon. We will also have

that information posted on the LFMA web site, [www.lfma.org](http://www.lfma.org), as well.

Mark your calendars for future workshops and board meetings. They are January 9, 2009 @ 11am Board Meeting Covington, LA to discuss final preparations for annual conference; April 21, 2009 @ 6pm Board Meeting Covington, LA; June 7-12, 2009 ASFPM National Conference, Orlando, Florida; July 16, 2009 @ 6pm Board Meeting Shreveport, LA; July 17, 2009 Workshop in Shreveport, LA @ Skybox at Independence Stadium; October 15, 2009 @ 6pm Board Meeting Carencro, LA; October 16, 2009 Workshop @ Carencro Community Center. If you would like to speak on a special topic or have a topic discussed, please contact Darla Duet or myself.

As of December 2008 there are currently 100 CFM's in Louisiana. Congratulations to all for a job well done and let's continue to encourage others to take the test and become Certified Floodplain Manager's as well.

At the October workshop in Hammond, James Demouchet handed out boxes of the 2009 LFMA Poster Contest calendars. If you did not get any calendars and would like to receive some to distribute, please contact James at [jdemouchet@caddo.org](mailto:jdemouchet@caddo.org).

Membership renewals were mailed out in December. Please make sure you return your membership form and dues as soon as possible. Keep checking our website for updates and schedules as well as copies of past and current newsletters.

**Let's Keep Louisiana Safe through  
Floodplain Management,  
Bonnie Anderson, CFM**



## CFM CORNER

*For a current list of ASFPM Certified  
Floodplain Managers visit:*

[www.floods.org/Certification/certlist.asp](http://www.floods.org/Certification/certlist.asp)

Louisiana – 100+

### EXAM OPPORTUNITY

**CFM Exam** will be offered following the LFMA Annual Spring Conference in Covington, LA, at the Holiday Inn, April 24, 2008 at 1:00 pm. Please register at [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org) click on Certification

**Deadline to register for exam is April 10, 2008. Walk-ins NOT accepted.**

### The requirements to maintain your ASFPM CFM Certification are:

- You must earn at least 4 of your required CECs in your first year of the two year period.
- Over the two year period, acquire 16 Continuing Education Credits (CEC's), of which a maximum of 12 can be earned in any one year.
- On or before completion of the two years, submit the renewal form( ASFPM will send you) and the appropriate fee for recertification, furnishing a listing of the training and/or education courses you have completed.

## 5<sup>TH</sup> Annual Write On! Wetlands Challenge

Environmental Concern has kicked off Part 1 of our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Write On! Wetlands Challenge. This competition, designed to celebrate American Wetlands Month in May, challenges students to create a book written and illustrated by kids for kids!

Part 1, for grades 6-8, is the Writers Challenge. Students write and submit a children's story based on a wetlands theme. And there's something suspicious in the swamp for this year's theme....all the entries must be in the form of a mystery story. The winning entry will be illustrated in Part 2, and published by Environmental Concern as a children's book.

For more information, tips for writers, and full contest guidelines please visit our website [www.wetland.org/education\\_contest.htm](http://www.wetland.org/education_contest.htm) or email [educate@wetland.org](mailto:educate@wetland.org). The deadline for entries is March 1, 2009. Sharpen your pencils and join Environmental Concern for "The Case of the Missing Wetlands!"



## THE MITIGATION CORNER

By: Michael D. Hunnicutt, CFM

The mitigation corner focuses on mitigation activity and programs available from FEMA. These articles highlight what Mitigation services FEMA provides to the public and communities. The Mitigation Section is a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security. The FEMA Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office, FEMA Region VI, Corps of Engineers, DOTD and several FEMA Mapping Contractors have established the Louisiana Mapping Project, known as **LaMP**. This article will focus on the **LaMP Team** and what services they are provided to the State of Louisiana.

The LaMP effort is being undertaken as part of the ongoing nationwide effort to update and modernize flood hazard maps. The LaMP effort will result in homeowners, business owners, State and local government officials, and other citizens of 17 parishes in Louisiana receiving more accurate flood hazard and risk information. As the maps are released, the LaMP team will engage in an intensive effort to help citizens determine the impact of the new flood data on their individual situations. “Open House” type public meetings are being conducted in every parish to inform business and home owners about their options regarding the new preliminary maps. FEMA is now releasing “Preliminary” Flood Insurance Rate Maps to the southern Louisiana Parishes. These maps represent the most up-to-date, accurate flood hazard information ever developed for the state’s coastal region. Once finalized, they will serve as the basis for the communities’ flood plain management and the primary tool in preventing loss of life and property due to flooding. As the maps are released, it is critical that residents and business owners in the affected parishes understand the flood maps and be able to identify their individual level of risk. This information will help them make more informed decisions and better protect their families and property from future floods. The LaMP team is engaged in an intensive outreach and public affairs effort to help citizens in the affected parishes understand the new flood data and its affect on their individual situations.

Delivery of the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps is the first step in an open process designed to elicit interaction between the communities and the FEMA map makers. Ample time is given for the communities to understand the proposed maps and to submit Appeals or Protest. This process is prescribed by regulation. FEMA follows Federal Code Regulation 65.14 in preparing the Final Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)s.

LaMP has established a very user friendly and interactive website, [lamappingproject.com](http://lamappingproject.com), which the public can type in an address and pull up site specific past, present, and future flood zone information. Also available on the website is Flood Recovery Data, Parish Information, Media Information, Technical Resources, and Frequently Asked Questions. LaMP has also produced a 13 minute video which features several local officials and subject matter experts explaining the mapping efforts across the State of Louisiana. A toll free phone number, 1-866-751-3989, has also been established for answering any questions the public or any community official may have on the mapping or insurance programs. Staff members are available Monday thru Friday, 9 am to 4 pm.

Please visit the LaMP website or use the toll free phone number if you have any mapping questions. If you have any questions about the Mitigation Section of FEMA or any of its programs, you can contact Michael Hunnicutt, CFM, Deputy Section Chief, Hazard Mitigation Division, NFIP/Compliance, FEMA, DHS, at 504-762-2298 or visit FEMA website at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## Facts Challenge Myths About Flood Insurance

As thousands affected by Hurricane Gustav & Ike file claims for policies underwritten by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), interest in the program is growing. Following are myths and facts about the program.

**MYTH: You can't buy flood insurance if you are located in a high-flood-risk area.**

**FACT:** You can buy federal flood insurance no matter where you live if your community participates in the NFIP, unless your property is in an area covered by the Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982 (CBRA). The NFIP was created in 1968 to provide flood insurance to people who live in areas with the greatest risk of flooding, called Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) or the regulatory floodplain. In fact, under the National Flood Insurance Act, lenders must require borrowers whose property is located within a regulatory floodplain to purchase flood insurance as a condition of receiving a federally regulated mortgage loan. Lenders should notify borrowers that their property is located in a regulatory floodplain and that affordable federal flood insurance is available. Flood insurance on homes located above or outside the mapped floodplain is very affordable; insurance for homes deep in the floodplain may cost substantially more.

**MYTH: You can't buy flood insurance immediately before or during a flood.**

**FACT:** You can purchase flood coverage at any time. There is a 30-day waiting period after you've applied and paid the premium before the policy is effective, with the following exceptions:

- If the initial purchase of flood insurance is in connection with the making, increasing, extending or renewing of a loan, there is no waiting period. The coverage becomes effective at the time of the loan, provided application and presentment of premium is made at or prior to loan closing.
- If the initial purchase of flood insurance is made during the one-year period following the adoption of a revised Flood Insurance Rate Map for a community, the waiting period is only one day.

The policy does not cover a "loss in progress" defined by the NFIP as a loss occurring as of 12:01 a.m. on the first day of the policy term. In addition, the amount of insurance coverage cannot be increased during a loss in progress.

**MYTH: Homeowners' insurance policies cover flooding.**

**FACT:** Unfortunately, many homeowners do not find out until it is too late that their homeowners' policies do not cover flooding.

**MYTH: Flood insurance is available only for homeowners.**

**FACT:** Flood insurance is available to protect homes, condominiums, apartments and nonresidential buildings, including commercial structures. A maximum of \$250,000 of building coverage is available for single-family residential buildings; \$250,000 per unit for multi-family residences. The limit for contents coverage on all residential buildings is \$100,000, which is also available to renters. Commercial structures can be insured to a limit of \$500,000 for the building and \$500,000 for the contents.

**MYTH: You can't buy flood insurance if your property has been flooded.**

**FACT:** It doesn't matter how many times your home, apartment or business has been flooded. You are still eligible to purchase flood insurance provided that your community participates in the NFIP.

**MYTH: Only residents of high-risk flood zones need to insure their property.**

**FACT:** Even if you live in an area that is not flood-prone, it's advisable to have flood insurance. One-third of the NFIP's claims come from such areas. The NFIP's preferred risk policies, available for as little as \$89 per year, are designed for residential properties located in low- to moderate-risk flood zones.

**MYTH: The NFIP does not offer any type of basement coverage.**

**FACT:** Yes it does. The NFIP defines a basement as any area of a building with a floor that is subgrade, or below the ground level, on all sides. Basement coverage under an NFIP policy includes cleanup expenses and items used to service the building such as elevators, furnaces, hot water heaters, washers and dryers, air conditioners, freezers, utility connections, circuit breaker boxes, pumps, and tanks

used in solar energy systems. The policy does not cover the contents of a finished basement or improvements such as finished walls, floors and ceilings.

**MYTH: Federal disaster assistance will pay for flood damage.**

**FACT:** Before a community is eligible for federal disaster assistance, it must be declared a federal disaster area. This happens in less than 50 percent of flooding incidents. The main form of federal assistance after a federally declared disaster is a loan. The average annual premium for an NFIP policy is about \$300, which is less than the annual interest on most low-interest disaster loans. If you are uninsured and receive federal disaster assistance after a flood you must purchase flood insurance to receive disaster relief in the future.

**MYTH: The NFIP encourages coastal development.**

**FACT:** One of the NFIP's primary objectives is to guide development away from high-flood-risk areas. The NFIP requires participating communities to enforce regulations that minimize the impact of structures that are built in the regulatory floodplain by prohibiting them from obstructing the natural flow of floodwaters. Also as a condition of community participation in the NFIP, structures built within the regulatory floodplain must adhere to strict floodplain management regulations. In addition, CBRA relies on the NFIP to discourage building in fragile coastal areas by prohibiting the sale of flood insurance in these areas. Laws do not prohibit property owners from building along coastal areas, but they do transfer the financial risk of such building from federal taxpayers to those who choose to live or invest in these areas.

**MYTH: Federal flood insurance can be purchased only directly through the NFIP.**

**FACT:** Most federal flood insurance is sold and serviced directly by Write Your Own (WYO) companies. These companies write and service policies on a non-risk-bearing basis through a special arrangement with the Federal Insurance Administration.

**MYTH: The NFIP does not cover flooding that results from hurricanes or the overflow of rivers or tidal waters.**

**FACT:** The NFIP defines covered flooding as a general and temporary condition during which the surface of normally dry land is partially or completely inundated. Two adjacent properties or two or more acres must be affected. Flooding can be caused by any one of the following:

- Overflow of inland or tidal waters.
- Unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source, such as heavy rainfall.
- Mudslides or mudflows caused by flooding that are comparable to a river of liquid and flowing mud.
- Collapse or destabilization of land along the lakeshore or other body of water resulting from erosion or the effect of waves.
- Water currents exceeding normal, cyclical levels.

**MYTH: Wind-driven rain is considered flooding.**

**FACT:** Rain entering through wind-damaged windows or doors or holes in walls or the roof resulting in standing water or puddles is considered windstorm rather than flood damage. Federal flood insurance covers only damage caused by the general condition of flooding as defined above. Buildings that sustain this type of damage usually have a watermark showing how high the water rose before it subsides. While flood insurance policies specifically exclude wind and hail coverage, most homeowners' policies include this coverage.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

## Save the Date

Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Conference

January 22-23, 2009

Dalton J. Woods Auditorium  
Energy, Coast and Environment Bldg., LSU

The Flood Protection & Ecosystem Restoration Development Program is part of an ongoing professional development program to assist public agencies, including levee boards and districts, in achieving their statutory responsibilities in flood protection and ecosystem restoration.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.laseagrant.org/floodprotection/> or e-mail Katie Lea at [klea@lsu.edu](mailto:klea@lsu.edu).



Topics to be covered include:

- Comprehensive Master Planning for Restoring Ecosystems and Protecting Communities
- Planning Resources
- Coastal Hazards and Inland Flood Risks
- Non-structural Flood Controls
- Coastal Hazards Modeling
- Hydrology and Inland Flooding Issues
- Structural Flood Controls: Why Is It So Difficult to Design and Build Levees on the Gulf Coast?
- Planning, Maintaining and Enhancing of Flood Protection Systems
- Communicating Risk Associated with Coastal and Inland Flooding

YOU ARE  
CORDIALLY  
INVITED



## GAFM 4th Annual Technical Conference

**WHEN**

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:00 AM -  
Friday, February 13, 2009 1:00 PM  
Eastern Time Zone

**WHERE**

Columbus Convention & Trade Center  
801 Front Avenue  
Columbus, GA 31902  
USA

**FEE**

**Day Pass**

Day Pass \$50.00

**Full Conference Registration**

Full \$120.00 for a limited time  
( \$160.00 original price)

[View Event Summary](#)

[View Event Agenda](#)

**RSVP**

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Please respond by clicking one of the buttons below

**YES NO**





## Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage

### THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM: BUILDING SMARTER AND SAFER

*Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage is one of several resources for flood insurance policyholders who need additional help rebuilding after a flood. It provides up to \$30,000 to help cover the cost of mitigation measures that will reduce flood risk. ICC coverage is a part of most standard flood insurance policies available under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).*

#### REDUCING FUTURE DAMAGE

ICC coverage provides payment to help cover the cost of mitigation activities that will reduce the risk of future flood damage to a building. When a building covered by a Standard Flood Insurance Policy suffers a flood loss and is declared to be substantially or repetitively damaged, ICC will pay up to \$30,000 to bring the building into compliance with State or community floodplain management laws or ordinances. Usually this means elevating or relocating the building so that it is above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Non-residential structures may also be floodproofed. ICC coverage applies solely to buildings and only covers the cost of the compliance measures undertaken. It is filed separately from the normal flood insurance claim.

#### DETERMINING WHO IS ELIGIBLE

In addition to being insured under the NFIP, a building must meet one of two conditions to be eligible to receive ICC coverage; it must have been either 1) determined to be substantially damaged or 2) meet the criteria of a repetitive loss structure.

- Substantial damage is the determination by the community that damage due to flood has equaled or exceeded 50 percent of the value of the building. When repaired, the building must meet local floodplain management ordinances. If the total damage from flooding is less than 50 percent of the market value of the building, ICC coverage is not available.
- Repetitive loss means that a building covered by flood insurance incurred flood-related damage two times over a period of 10 years, and that the cost of the repairs was, on the average, at least 25 percent of the market value of the building before the damage occurred each time. This applies

only if the community has adopted a repetitive loss provision in the local floodplain management ordinance, and a flood insurance claim must have been paid in both cases. The combined damage total must be 50 percent of the value of the building before the damage occurred, but it need not be evenly distributed. So, if the damage was 35 percent of the value of the building in the first event and 15 percent of the value of the building in the second event, the policyholder would qualify for ICC coverage.

#### FINDING ADDITIONAL POLICYHOLDER INFORMATION

FEMA encourages flood insurance policyholders whose homes are damaged extensively by flood to ask their claims adjusters or insurance agents about ICC coverage

People can get more information online at:

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3010>

or by calling their insurance agents.



#### MEETING COMPLIANCE STANDARDS

ICC coverage can help pay for four different types of mitigation activities to bring a building into compliance with the community's floodplain management regulations:

- Elevation is the most common means of reducing a building's flood risk. The process consists of raising the building to or above the BFE. While NFIP policy only requires the lowest floor of the building to be raised to the BFE, some States and communities enforce a "freeboard" requirement, which mandates that the building be raised above the BFE to meet the community's flood protection level.

- Floodproofing applies only to non-residential buildings. For a building to be certified as floodproof, it must be watertight below the BFE – the walls must be substantially impermeable to water and designed to resist the stresses imposed by floods. Floodproofing techniques include installation of watertight shields for doors and windows; drainage collection systems, sump pumps, and check valves; reinforcement of walls to withstand floodwater pressures; use of sealants to re-duce seepage through and around walls; and anchoring the building to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement.
- Relocation involves moving the entire building to another location on the same lot, or to another lot, usually outside the floodplain. Relocation can offer the greatest protection from future flooding; however, if the new location is still within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHAs), the building must still be NFIP-compliant, meaning it must be elevated or flood-proofed (if non-residential).
- Demolition may be necessary in cases where damage is too severe to warrant elevation, floodproofing, or relocation; or where the building is in such poor condition that it is not worth the investment to undertake any combination of the above activities. All applicable permits must be obtained

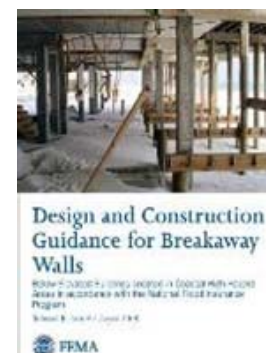
**prior to demolishing the building. The property may be** redeveloped after demolition is complete, subject to all applicable Federal, State, and community laws and requirements.

### USING ICC IN CONCERT WITH FEMA MITIGATION GRANTS

In some cases, individual policyholders can take advantage of Federal grant money to supplement the cost of mitigation activities. Policyholders can assign their ICC benefits to their community and enable the community to file a single claim on behalf of a community mitigation project. FEMA will count the ICC claim monies as non-Federal matching funds when applying for mitigation grants, because ICC coverage is a direct contract between the policyholder and the insurer. The community can then use FEMA mitigation grant funds to help pay for any additional portion of the cost of elevation, floodproofing, relocation, or demolition that is more than the ICC claim payment. It is extremely important for policyholders and community officials to work closely together at every stage of this process. Individual participation in a FEMA-funded community mitigation project is voluntary and the community is required to provide mitigation funds to any property owner whose ICC payment was counted towards the matching funds.

## Four Technical Bulletins for the National Flood Insurance Program Revised

*(TB-1, Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures, TB-2, Flood Damage Resistant Materials Requirements, TB-5, Free of Obstruction Requirements, and TB-9, Design and Construction Requirements for Breakaway Walls).*



They can be downloaded at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodplain/tchbul.shtm> or ordered from the FEMA warehouse at 1-800-480-2520.

# 2009 Calendar

<i>January 9, 2009</i>	<i>LFMA Board Meeting Covington, LA - 11 am</i>
<i>January 22 – 23, 2009</i>	<i>Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Conference, Dalton J Woods Auditorium Energy, Coast and Environment Bldg, LSU Baton Rouge, LA</i>
<i>January 26 – 28, 2009</i>	<i>International Lidar Mapping Forum (JLMF) New Orleans, LA</i>
<i>March 2 – 5, 2009</i>	<i>Coastal GeoTools 09 Myrtle Beach, SC</i>
<i>April 21, 2009</i>	<i>LFMA Board Meeting Covington, LA – 6 pm</i>
<i>April 22-24, 2009</i>	<i>LFMA Annual Spring Conference Holiday Inn, Covington, LA</i>
<i>June 1, 2009</i>	<i>Start of Hurricane Season</i>
<i>June 7-12, 2009</i>	<i>ASFPM 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Conference Orlando, Florida</i>
<i>July 16, 2009</i>	<i>LFMA Board Meeting, Shreveport, LA – 6 pm</i>
<i>July 17, 2009</i>	<i>LFMA Summer Workshop Shreveport, LA</i>
<i>July 19 – 23, 2009</i>	<i>Coastal Zone -'09 Boston, MA</i>
<i>October 15, 2009</i>	<i>LFMA Board Meeting Cavencro, LA - 6 pm (Prejean's Restaurant)</i>
<i>October 16, 2009</i>	<i>LFMA Fall Workshop Cavencro Community Center</i>
<i>November 30, 2009</i>	<i>End of Hurricane Season</i>



*It's Membership Time!*  
**LFMA 2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES - \$30.00**  
 Payment is due January 21, 2009

PLEASE REMIT TO:

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**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION!**

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Title  Fax

Region  E-mail

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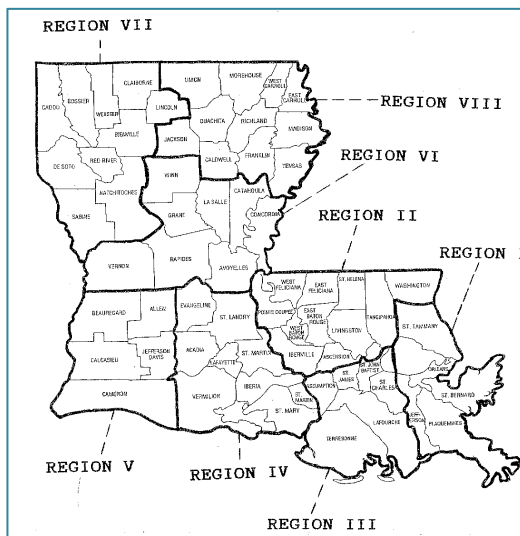
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*Floodwatch is published by the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of all members. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to the Editor: [mbecker@rapc.info](mailto:mbecker@rapc.info)*