

Meigs - Gallia – Mason (MGM) ARES Newsletter

**ARES Information for Amateur Radio Operators In
Gallia OH, Meigs OH and Mason WV Counties**

May 2007

To ARES Members and Friends

We are interested in knowing if our email list is accurate. If not, have them contact us. Your feedback is important. You and your friends can see this monthly newsletter online at <http://www.arrlohidistrict8.org> – SE Ohio ARES District

Ideas for articles and newsletter content are always welcome!

If you want to be removed from our list – let us know and it will be done.

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From Bud Carter - Emergency and Severe Weather Preparedness -----

Emergency and Severe Weather Preparedness is an important part of the “recipe” for ARES helping those in need when devastating incidents occur. One way of preparing for the future is through participating in the weekly UHF Severe Weather net that takes place every Thursday evening at 8 pm. Net control is John Hursey.

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The UHF Severe Weather net uses the Southern Ohio Wide Area Network that was started 4 years ago by Ron Erb, WO8Z who lives in Ray (Jackson County). It has grown from two UHF repeaters to 24 under Ron's leadership. The Severe Weather net began on 09/07/05 at 10 pm with 15 operators working the airways between Gallipolis and Logan. Logan is 70 miles northwest of Gallipolis. The highest number of participants has been 140.

The Southern Ohio Wide Area Network stretches from I-270 at Columbus between Indiana and the Ohio River. It covers in our area three states; Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky.

The Severe Weather net was activated for Severe Weather in 2006 and was used during the Pandemic Flu exercise in January 2007.

I invite everybody to join John for the Severe Weather net each Thursday evening at 8 pm in Gallipolis at 442.000 + Open, No PL. For other repeater sites and frequencies see the web site <http://www.geocities.com/ohiouhf/index.html> The web site was designed and maintained by Justin Drummond, KD8EAD, Londonderry, Ohio

Our work is important and being prepared is key as is evidenced by this report from the ARRL home page: **Amateurs Serve those Displaced by Kansas Twisters** (May 7, 2007 [REVISED May 8, 2007 10:37 ET]) -- NEWINGTON, CT, May 7, 2007 - A tornado with a magnitude of F5 swept through southwestern Kansas this past weekend, almost completely wiping out the town of Greensburg. The town, population 1500, lost its hospital, schools, churches and all of its business and infrastructure, according to Greensburg Town Administrator Steve Hewitt. Hewitt lost his home in the storm.

Once again – thanks to everybody who is participating in ARES, your support is very much appreciated.

73, Bud, KA8AUZ – ARES EC
740.446.4193, carter9536@sbcglobal.net

Spring Weather – We Can Not Forget It-----

We are all instantly reminded of how sudden the weather can turn disastrous with the TV images of the recent tornado in Kansas. Nor was that a singular event. Sunday night, May 6 – Miami, Florida was under a 2 hour Tornado Warning, Monday night, May 7 – North Central Texas was also under a Tornado Warning.

Spring and summer weather can be dangerous. Weather alert radios that are tuned to NOAA are useful in the early warning of the approach of severe weather. Test your weather radios. NOAA has upgraded their transmitter to 1,000 watts. Mike Null

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encourages people who have poor NOAA reception to utilize an outside – external antenna. He said the use of an external antenna will solve the problem.

Calendar of Events -----

May 18th through 20th – Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Dayton Hamvention

May 21st – Monday

Emergency Preparedness in Hospitals

A regional planning meeting is set for Holzer Hospital on Monday, May 21st from 10 AM to 2 PM in Conference Rooms A/B. The planning will consist of networking, reviewing local emergency healthcare plans and assessing different agencies ability to participate and respond to a disaster or large scale medical emergency. Hams should check with Bud before May 18 if they are interested in attending."

June 1st – Friday

Methlab Training

It will be presented by Dennis Lowe, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation from 9 to Noon at the Athens County Public Library, 30 House Street, Athens, free of charge. Bud needs to RSVP with the number attending from ARES by May 27th, so contact him and let him know if you are going. Brian Wood, KD8DCX attended the same seminar in Gallipolis and said it is an "excellent experience". Susan Rogers, Ohio and Gallipolis CERT said it will provide education on the risks of these methlabs and how to safely deal with them in our (ARES) activities.

June 9th – Saturday

Table Top Hazmat Drill

A Table Top Hazmat Drill will be conducted at the Harrison Township Fire Department on Little Bullskin Road beginning at 9 am through Noon. Contact Bud for additional information.

June 14th – Thursday

Radiation

A Radiation class will be held at Gallia County 911 beginning at 6 pm. For additional information and registration, contact Bud.

June 23rd and 24th – Saturday and Sunday

Field Day

This is not an official ARES event. It is directly related to radio clubs yet is a super exercise for ARES members to practice working in the field. ARES members are

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encouraged to attend their radio clubs activities for this event. Contact John for more information about this event.

Fall

SET Exercise for ARES

Planning is beginning for this exercise. One of the other key lessons we learned from the Pandemic Flu exercise was to plan before the exercise – in the case of the Pandemic Flu exercise, organizations that we serve commented that it was a success for ARES. ARES participants said that it was a success because of the pre-event planning that took place. As more information about the SET becomes available, it will be shared with you.

Fall

Technician and General License Classes

Technician and General License classes are being planned for the Gallia-Meigs-Athens multi-county area this coming fall. If you or someone you know wants to earn their first ham license or upgrade to General, contact John Hursey.

Handy ARES Websites -----

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/rlx> – Charleston NOAA - National Weather Service

<http://www.arrlohiodistrict8.org/> – SE Ohio ARES District

<http://www.iarc.ws/ohio/> - Ohio ARRL Section

<http://www.ohioares.org/> - Ohio ARES Section

http://www.ema.ohio.gov/ohio_eop/contents.pdf - Ohio State Emergency Operations Plan

<http://www.geocities.com/ohiouhf/index.html> - Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia UHF

Severe Weather Net

Local News -----

April 25th – Wednesday

EOC Course Update – It Was A Success

This was an excellent event and well attended by agencies from throughout Gallia County including 4 members of ARES; Bud, John Hursey, Jeff Holstein and Dave Maskew. The class began at 9:30 am and lasted until 4 pm. It was led by Dan Winningham from Ohio EMA who covers central Ohio and Lorie Haukedahl who represents our area of the state. There were six units of training; Introduction, Disasters and Emergency, EOC Primary Functions, Incident Command System and the EOC, How it all Works, EOC in Review plus a Practical Exercise and Discussion.

The Practical Exercise involved severe weather and tornados in Gallipolis and the surrounding area over a two day time period in a table top exercise that lasted over one hour. Participants included among others; Steve Wilson, Director of 911, Mike Null EMA Director, David Smith, County Commissioner, Dwight Lloyd who is in charge of the Shelley and Sands Asphalt plant whose plant was impacted during the mock exercise.

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Many other representatives from government, industry and business were also present. Observers and participants alike said the exercise was realistic, educational and fast paced. It involved power outages, SkyWarn reports of funnel clouds, chemical spills, severe thunderstorms, massive damage and human injuries.

NOAA Radios in Our Schools

Gene Jones, ARES Skywarn Coordinator, headed up an effort to see if our schools have their weather radios up and running. Dave Maskew reports that Vinton and Bidwell Elementary schools have the radios up and running.

Please check with the school(s) in your community about their NOAA Weather radio and how well it is working for them or if they need any programming help. Let Bud know the outcome of your visit.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for Gallia County

LEPC is a monthly meeting that is managed by Mike Null. Bud attends these meetings and represents ARES. The group was notified that the FEMA Incident Command System 300 Course will be held at the Gallia County Service Center Building between 8:30 to 4:30 on May 12 and 19 (Saturdays) and again on June 4 and 5, Monday and Tuesday. The ICS 400 course will be held at the same place same times on June 27 and 28 (Wednesday and Thursday then again on July 14 and 21 (Saturdays). In order to attend either of these classes you need to have taken and completed the FEMA ICS 100, 200 and 700 courses. The courses will be taught by Doug Fisher. To attend this training, contact Bud.

Ohio ARES Section Conference

The Conference was held on March 31, Saturday in central Ohio at the State Fire Training Center. Our members could not attend because of illness. Our ARES State leadership explained that drills and training are progressing throughout Ohio. Over 90 people attended the conference. Topics ranged from Ohio CERT to review of the ARRL MOU with DHS. Severe weather and lightening dangers were also discussed.

Training-----

Active ARES Volunteers On Line Training Encouraged

Active ARES volunteers should be taking at least ARRL Emcom Course # 1 in 2007. Also, you should be taking the FEMA Independent Study Courses i.e. IS-100, IS-200, and IS-700. There is no cost for the FEMA courses and they can be taken over the Internet. Go to ARRL Home Page and click on ARRL courses.

Level III EMCOM – Great Course – Defines New ARES Role

Bill Davis recently completed Level III ARRL Emcom training. “The course is one of the best leadership, emergency management and ARRL courses I have taken in years. My mentor was James Mc Donnell, W2LTB, Kentucky EC for ARRL. He is a great

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mentor. I encourage people to take this course – it clearly articulates the future direction of ARES and the important role ARES has taken on since September 11, 2001. ARES has changed since that event and is continuing to change at a fast pace. This course will help you understand what is changing, why and how ARES, ARRL and the Department of Homeland Security are working closely together to effect emergency communications.”

CERT Course - We have funding and an instructor for a 20 hr. CERT course. Space is available for 12-15 people to take advantage of the course.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities.

It is important to remember that the best sources of help in emergencies are professional responders. However, in situations when they are not immediately available, CERT training teaches skills that people can use to safely help while waiting for responders.

When a disaster or overwhelming event occurs and responders are not immediately available, CERTs can assist by:

- Conducting an initial size-up in their homes or workplaces.
- Reducing immediate dangers by turning off utilities, suppressing small fires, evacuating the area, and helping others.
- Treat injured people in the immediate area.
- Assist in establishing a command post, staging area, and medical triage and treatment areas.
- Collecting damage information and developing a plan of operation based on life-saving priorities and available resources.
- Applying their training to situations where CERT members can make a difference.
- Establishing and maintaining communication with responders.

Let Bud or John know if you are interested and would make the commitment to complete this training.

Have You Passed Any EMCOM Courses?

Please let us know if you have taken and passed any of the above courses. Also, keep us posted on what courses you successfully complete in the future. This will help improve our training records so we can better serve you, ARES and the agencies we support.

73, John, N8GNV – ARES Training
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Membership Information -----

Our ARES group has two operator categories: Active Status and Reserve Status.

Active Status: Members who are committed to regular participation in meeting, training, drills and other on-going activities and who constitute the core group of prepared and ready-to-respond personnel.

Reserve Status; Members who are willing to provide communication support in the event of a disaster or other emergency situation, but who prefer not to participate in meetings, training, drills and other activities on a regular basis.

ARES is NOT a club. ARES does not collect DUES!

You do not need to be a member of any Amateur Radio Club to be a member of ARES, although many ARES members are also members of one or more clubs.

For more information about ARES membership or activities contact Bud Carter at carter9536@sbcglobal.net or 740.446.4193.

73, Bill, KC5IND, MGM ARES Newsletter Editor
740.256.1930