

August 2007 Meigs – Gallia – Mason ARES Newsletter

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> – Southeast 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 – Building Credibility-----

Leadership and having others believe you, is all about doing what you say you will do. This holds true in ARES as we build important relationships with our served agencies like Gallia County EMA, The Red Cross and the others. In addition, planned results attract new members to ARES and retains the current ones. It also enables ARES to obtain funding when it is needed.

In May of 2007, we held an ARES planning meeting where we placed all of the ideas and thoughts we had heard from ARES members, MOVARC Hams and Served Agencies into a Prioritization Matrix. It was a long list with lots of interesting, fun to do and important items on it. We knew we could not do them all at the same time, right now – so we wanted to focus on the critical few for this year.

The prioritization was based on; cost, ease of doing, timing and importance to Gallia County.

Two items tied for Number 1. They were – Locate and map radio relay points in our counties and ID Badges for ARES Members.

1. Locate and Map Radio Relay Points. After driving over 200 miles to locate high spots with the help of the Gallia County Engineers, Topo Maps and local advisors, we identified 8 sites that sit at over 1,000 feet. Many sites were tested but 8 are the best. From these sites, we can reach repeaters in Ohio and West Virginia plus our deep hallows. We have their co-ordinates and have them plotted on a map. We will be including this information in our EOC SOP Book which is under construction.

1. ARES ID Badges. ARES ID Badges have been presented to several Hams by the District EC Jeff, with more on the way. MOVARC is completing their ID BADGES now. Gallia County ARES has begun constructing their badges and will soon be distributing them.

2. Education. Education was Number 2 on the priority list. The Extra class is beginning in September. For more information about this, see Training in this Newsletter or call Bud..

3. Red Cross MOU. In conjunction with the plan, in June we began updating our MOU that exists between Gallia County ARES, MOVARC and The Red Cross. This is another important activity that needed to be accomplished. We have now completed the first draft between MOVARC and Gallia County ARES. It is an excellent document and speaks well of Hams co-operating to meet a community need. The next step is to submit the MOU to ARRL and the Red Cross for approval.

4. “Jump Kit”. Additionally, local Hams wanted to have a better understanding of what a “Jump Kit” would look like and be for our area. A sample kit has been created and documented. We are now prepared to teach Hams about a jump kit for our area.

5. ARES EOC Operations Binder. Another key item that was developed through the planning process was to have on hand in the EOC a notebook binder of frequently used templates, SOP, maps and other useful information. The purpose of the notebook is to enable the ARES people in the EOC to be fully prepared to conduct operations in harmony with the Gallia County EMA. The notebook is in compliance with ARRL ARES, The National Incident Command System, Department of Homeland Security, State of Ohio and Gallia County EMA. The templates and checklists cover such topics as Officer in Charge Duties, Standby Alert, Incident Scope, Equipment, Relay Sites, Continuity of Operations, Stand Down Plan, Finance, Frequency Plan and more.

Gallia County ARES has accomplished a lot this year. ARES is a team effort, thanks for being part of the TEAM.

Thanks to everybody who is participating in ARES, your support is very much appreciated.

73, Bud, KA8AUZ – ARES EC
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Local News -----

NOAA Radios in Our Schools

Daniel Bartholf, NOAA in Charleston WV recently thanked us for our assistance in checking on NOAA Weather Radios in our schools. He also informed us that additional radios will soon be made available for private schools.

The Gallia County School District is nearing completion. The Gallipolis City School District has authorized Bud to contact each school principal about their NOAA Weather radios and how well it is working for them or if they need any programming help. They notified the principals that he would be contacting them, why this is an important thing to do and amateur radio will help them with their NOAA radios.

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. Mike Null, Gallia County EMA Director issued through LEPC, Certificates of Appreciation to the HAMs who participated in the Gallia County HAZMAT Drill in Harrison Township recently. They were Bud, Moe, Jeff, Bill and Johnny Robbins - a visitor from CT.

Tid-Bits – Marine Communications

Lets not forget Marine Communications, ARES can and does operate using it. The Ohio River is considered a major waterway and patrolled by the U.S. Coast Guard..

Understand the following definitions

Vessel: craft capable of floating on water and larger than a rowboat.

Ship: a general term for larger seagoing vessels of every kind

Boat: a term applied to smaller craft propelled by oars, sails or engines.

Marine: an adjective meaning to or connected with the sea.

The most common marine radio mode is VHF-FM, (156 to 162 MHz), with an effective range from ship to ship of 10 to 15 miles, and ship to shore of 20-30miles. Vessels that routinely travel outside this distance generally have MW/HF-SSB, satellite communications or both. CW communication on MW/HF is no longer used.

No license is currently required for pleasure boats operating on the FM channels in US territorial waters, with the maximum of 25 watts.

The use of VHF and MW/HF marine radios is restricted to vessels on the water. The use of portables or mobiles to communicate with crew on shore is not allowed. Certain commercial users, such as marinas, marine towing services and fish canneries may be licensed for limited base operations on certain channels. In an emergency, however, the FCC rules are suspended, and you may use whatever means of communication are necessary to protect life and property.

To simplify identification of marine radio traffic, certain pro-words are used. When you hear one of these, you should listen carefully.

"MAYDAY MAYDAY" The highest priority urgency call. The vessel calling is threatened by

grave or immediate danger and requires immediate assistance.

"PAN PAN" (pronounced "(paw-n-paw-n)" known as an "urgency" call. The vessel calling has an urgent message concerning to safety of a vessel or person.

"SECURITE" (pronounced "securatay") The safety signal SECURITE is used for official messages about the safety of navigation or important weather warnings.

"SILENCE" The Coast Guard may declare SILENCE on a specific channel. Only those units actively involved in the incident may transmit on that frequency until the Coast Guard lifts the "SILENCE" order.

There are two types of incidents that hams may need to report directly to the Coast Guard; Vessels in distress, and oil or chemical spills into public waters. The first should be reported directly to the nearest Coast Guard station, (EMERGENCY CONTACT) 1-800-253-7465. Oil and chemical spills should be reported to the Coast Guards National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802. The secondary reporting method is via the NRC Internet Web site www.nrc.uscg.mil

Routine Communication- Calling a vessel on a marine channel is very similar to 2 meter. If using channel 9, transmit the name of the vessel you want to talk with twice, followed by your stations name twice, and the channel designation.

MW/HF communications - Vessels that operate further offshore, may operate a MW/HF-SSB unit on designated international frequencies. Vessels using a MW/HF radio must also have a VHF-FM radio aboard. The U.S. Coast Guard maintains "guard" on (they monitor) 2182 kHz, the calling and distress frequency, as well as other designated frequencies in this band. A complete list of MW and HF maritime frequencies and assignment can be seen a www.navcen.uscg.gov/marcomms/highfrequency/default.htm.

Many boaters traveling on the high seas carry HF amateur radio aboard. A listing of Amateur Radio Maritime Nets is contained on the ARRL web site www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nets/ and in the ARRL Net Directory. These nets may also be used to pass emergency traffic.

Frequencies for key marine VHF Channels

FM 9- 156.45 Calling

FM 16-156.8 Calling/Distress

FM 21-157.05 Coast Guard

You can check reference for more frequencies.

Check out this website and frequency. I think you will enjoy this Maritime Net, I do. www.14300.net on, 20m 14.300 ENJOY!

Reference:

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course- Level 1

ARRL Emergency Communication Handbook

Jeff Holstein

KD8DMR

Mason County 911 Center
Holherd@earthlink.net .

HF, Packet, ECHOLink and WinLink Radio

Beginning in September, MGM ARES will be conducting trials on these different types of communications vehicles immediately following the ARES Severe Weather Net. Moe is leading this effort. His first undertaking will be on HF. He will be using a “home brewed” 20m antenna to begin. The idea behind these trials is to enable Hams to gain experience in using the technology for ARES. More about this will be announced as his launch time approaches. If you have questions or would like to help with the trials, contact Moe.

MGM ARES Metrics - July

Metrics are used to aid us in understanding activities and trends of our group.

Gallia County - July

Total ARES Members:	25
Change from Last Month:	0
Number of Functions:	6
Hours for Functions:	5
Public Service Events:	0
Hours for Public Service Events:	0
Emergency Operations:	0
Emergency Operations Hours:	0
Total Number of Events:	6
Total Person Hours:	5

Calendar of Events -----

SET Exercise for ARES – December 8th

Planning has begun for this exercise. We will conduct a missing person incident based on the recent situations in Vinton (2 people) and Milton (1 person). The purpose of this exercise is to familiarize ARES people with the roles and duties that occur during an incident.

For this exercise, we will conduct it “inside” buildings in a fashion similar to a table top but geographically apart so we can practice using the radios, sending messages and working side by side.

The tentative date for the SET is December 8th with the 15th as an alternate date.

If you would like to be a part of the SET, please contact Bud. Roles are being created to meet the needs of the SET and local Hams. Your comments, input and thoughts are welcome. We will keep you informed as developments occur.

Training-----

Extra Class Scheduled

Adults and youth who are seeking their Extra class license are encouraged to contact Jean Daniels at kd8ddf@yahoo.com or Bud at carter9536@sbcglobal.net. There will be eight classes

with the first class to be held at the Bob Evans Farm Hall, Rio Grande University between 8 am and Noon on September 22, Saturday. An examination for Extra will be held at the conclusion of the training mid to late November. For the other dates and details of the class, contact Jean or Bud. Individuals who want to take the exam only and not the classes are also welcome.

On Line Training Encouraged For Active ARES Volunteers

The ARRL and FEMA are offering several courses via the Internet dealing with emergency communications and terrorist attacks. There is a charge for the ARRL courses. The ARRL course page is <http://www.arrl.org/cce/>

The Emergency Response to Terrorism

This is a self-study course is available via

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/fire-service/nfa-off3ss2.cfm>. It is free and offers a lot of insight to emergency response and the Incident Command System which is used by civilian and military agencies during disasters of all types.

Other FEMA Courses

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. See the fema.gov web site in "Handy ARES Web Sites" above.

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.

Let Jean Daniels or Ron Parcell know if you are interested.

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.

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

<http://training.fema.gov/NIMS/> - IS 100, 200 and 700 Training

<http://www.batteryfaq.org/>

<http://www.batteryuniversity.com/>

<http://www.buchmann.ca/> - For battery information.

<http://www.nrc.uscg.mil> – US Coast Guard National Response Center

www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nets/ - Amateur Radio Maritime Nets

www.14300.net – Maritime 20m Amateur Radio Net

Local Radio Net(s)

One way of preparing for the future is through participating in radio nets. We have two in our area.

1. Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia UHF Severe Weather Net

Every Thursday evening at 8 pm on 442.000 + Open, No PL. For net 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

2. MOVARC 2m Net

Every Monday evening at 8:00 pm on 147.06 + Open PL Tone is 74.4.

3. Maritime Net.

Every day, Noon and 10 PM EDT on 20m 14.300

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

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