

Meigs - Gallia – Mason (MGM) ARES Newsletter

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

October-November 2007



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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

The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

Bryson R. "Bud" Carter
73, Bud, KA8AUZ – ARES EC
740.446.4193, carter9536@sbcglobal.net

Local News

NOAA Radios in Our Schools

Gallia Academy needed an antenna for their weather radio in order for it to work properly. The antenna has been acquired. The antenna is installed and the radio is working fine.

Green School's radio was successfully installed. It is now up and running.

Rio Grande Elementary School will be visited this month to review how their weather radio is working.

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Clay School is up and running.

Washington school is pending installation.

911 Operator Training

Congratulations to Ron Parcel who recently completed cross training as a 911 operator. This training will enable Ron to assist the Gallia County 911 Center as a 911 Operator or Amateur Radio Operator which ever has the highest need during an emergency. Completing this training speaks volumes of Ron's dedication to emergency communications and our community. Thanks Ron for undertaking and successfully completing the training.

Mason County Map

Jeff Holstein constructed a map board that has been placed in the ARES work area at the Gallia County 911 Center. The board is solid wood which will enable it to stand up and be written on. The map is an enlarged map of Mason County and it is covered with plastic so ARES can make notes on the map but not permanently mark the map. The map board is a duplicate concept of the large Gallia County map in the Emergency Center which the Gallia County EMA uses during an emergency. The map board that Jeff made is portable so ARES can share it with GCEMA by taking it to them and not disrupting their work flow by having them come to the ARES work area. This map board will assist ARES in understanding where ARES people and radios are located plus other important emergency information. Thanks Jeff, this brings additional professionalism to our capabilities in support of MGM.

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. Nothing to report this month for ARES.

Tid-Bits – INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY NETS

What is an Emergency Net?

The purpose of any net is to provide a means for orderly communication with in a group of stations. An "emergency" net is a group of stations who provide communication to one or more served agencies, or to the general public, in a communications emergency. An emergency net may be formal or informal, depending on the number of participants and volume of messages.

Net Formats

Directed (formal) Nets: In a directed net, a "net control station" (NCS) organizes and controls all activity. One station wishing to call or send a message to another in the net must first receive permission from the NCS. This is done so that messages with higher priority will be handled first, and that all messages will be handled in an orderly fashion.

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Directed nets are the best format when there are a large number of member stations. (Be careful not to confuse "formal nets" with (formal messages). There is not definite link between two. A formal net may handle informal messages, and vice versa.

Open (informal) Nets: In an open net, the NCS is optional. Stations may call each other directly, minimal control over the net. The NCS may step in when the message volume increases for short periods, or to solve problems and keep the net operating smoothly. Open nets are most often used when there are only a few stations and little traffic.

Types of Emergency Nets

A traffic net: handles formal written messages in a specified (i.e. ARRL) format. The nets operated by the National Traffic System (NTS) are an excellent example of traffic nets.

Tactical nets: are used for real-time coordination of activities related to the emergency. This is a faster moving, often less formal operation. Messages are usually brief, and frequently unwritten. A tactical net usually has a NCS, but may be directed or open.

A *Resource or Logistics* net: may be needed to acquire resources and volunteers, and handle assignments. It is usually a directed net. Resource nets accept check-ins from arriving volunteers, who are then directed to contact an appropriate station or to proceed to a specific location.

An *Information* net: is usually an open net used to collect or share information on a developing situation, without overly restricting the use of the frequency by others. Net members send updated local information as needed, and official bulletins from the served agency may be sent by the NCS (if the net has one), an agency liaison station or an Official Bulletin Station (OBS). The NCS and many of the participants monitor the frequency, but a "roll call" is seldom taken and stations may not be expected to check in and out of the net. The operation of an information net also serves as notice to all stations that a more formal net may be activated at any moment if conditions warrant. A good example is a SKYWARN weather net activated during a severe storm watch.

Checking into an Emergency Net

There are two situations where you will need to "check in" to a net.

When you first join the net and when you have messages, questions or information to send.

If you are part of the organization operating the net, simply follow the instructions for checking into directed and open nets as discussed below.

To become part of a directed net, listen for the specific instructions, such as "checks ins" with emergency traffic only." At the appropriate time, give only your call sign. If you have a message to pass, you can add, "with traffic" only. If it is an emergency message, say "with emergency traffic." The same is true for stations with priority information.

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Checking into a directed net when the NCS has not asked for check-ins is usually considered a bad practice. However, if a long period passes with no request, you might wait for NCS like this "Net control, W1FN, with traffic".

To check in to an open net for the first time, there appears to be no NCS, call anyone on the net to find out if anyone is "in charge" and make contact with them. If you are already part of the net and have a message to send, simply wait for the frequency to be clear before calling another station.

Reference:

ARECC-LEVEL 1

ARRL-EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION HANDBOOK

Jeff Holstein

KD8DMR

Holherd@earthlink.net .

HF, Packet, ECHOLink and WinLink Radio

MGM ARES began preparations for 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 - August

Total ARES Members:	25
Change from Last Month:	0
Number of Functions:	7
Hours for Functions:	8
Public Service Events:	3
Hours for Public Service Events:	6
Emergency Operations:	0
Emergency Operations Hours:	0
Total Number of Events:	10
Total Person Hours:	14

Calendar of Events

SET Exercise for ARES – December 8th

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Planning continues 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. Lt. Joe Browning from the Gallia County Sheriff's Department has been assisting with the planning.

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 License

For information contact Jean Daniels at kd8ddf@yahoo.com or Bud at carter9536@sbcglobal.net.

November

3rd 10am -Noon Practical Circuits – 911 Center

10th 9am -10:30 am Signals and Emissions – 911 Center

10:30am – Noon Antennas, Practice Test – 911 Center

Test Date to be announced.

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/>

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.

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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

At www.emcomm.org/index.html you can subscribe to the free monthly email newsletter "Emcomm Monthly" - its chocked full of Emergency Communications info such as net frequencies, operating procedures, and equipment etc.

Just thought you all would like to check it out !

73,

Rick McKee, KC8AON, Ohio - www.angelfire.com/electronic2/qrp

Monthly QRP Field Day Group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MQFD/>

With God all things are possible

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

<http://www.arrlohidistrict8.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

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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
740.256.1930