



ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



February, 2010

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 10, Number 2

Super Shot Follow-up

The action was hot and heavy during the Saturday morning exercise according to a couple of the stations. Time sure seemed to fly along with the message traffic. There were seven stations active during the exercise and over twenty pieces of traffic handled during approximately two hours of operation.

The purpose of the exercise was to: Test the efficiency of the activation plan, Evaluate our use of directed net procedures, and Evaluate formal traffic handling skills in both voice and digital modes.

Activation Plan: The calling tree was activated at 7:30AM with the first station checking in to the Resource Net at 7:40AM when the NECOS first called the net. A couple of incorrect phone numbers were smoked out during the calling tree activity. Resource net check in and assignment was completed by 8:02AM. We could possibly speed this process up by handling station check in and tactical call assignment on a first-come-first-served basis. We will test this on the next exercise.

Directed Net Procedures: The exercise net was initiated at 7:55AM with the last tactical station checking in by 8:10AM. The message initiating the exercise was sent by NECOS at 8:12AM and the action started. Operating procedure was generally good with some omission of basic prowords once in a while. NECOS noted the challenge of maintaining a log of station activity during a hectic net. One procedure we need to improve is checking in/out with NECOS when leaving/returning to a directed net.

Message Handling: Traffic handling was improved over our last exercise. Additional work is needed to develop consistent use of the prowords; OVER, OUT, ROGER, FIGURES, and I SPELL. Some of the traffic handling procedures we need to review include; reading speed –

Super Shot *cont'd on page 2*

The ARES COMMUNICATOR is published for the benefit of Amateur Radio Operators in Scott County and other interested individuals.

EDITOR: Bob Reid, Scott County Emergency Coordinator
 Snail Mail: 13600 Princeton Circle
 Savage, MN. 55378
 E-Mail: N0BHC@aol.com
 Phone: Home 952-894-5178 Portable 612-280-9328

MN QSO Party

Saturday Feb. 6, 2010

The 11th Annual MN QSO Party, sponsored by the Minnesota Wireless Assn., will be held this Saturday, Feb 6th 2009.

During this contest, Minnesota becomes the center of the World as everyone is working Minnesota stations while Minnesota stations work the World (including other Minnesota stations).



What does this mean for you as a Emergency Communications expert? What the Minnesota QSO Party provides to you is an opportunity for you to hone your HF communication skills, and to demonstrate the capability for both state and nation-wide HF communications capability. In addition, as a part of the “fun” element, the contest exchange includes your Minnesota county and there are a lot of stations outside of Minnesota

NM QSO Party *cont'd on page 3*

ARES Activities

Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)

Breakfast Saturday, February 13th

Digital Monday February 15th

SELECTED TRAFFIC NETS

Designator	Freq.	Local Times	
MN Phone	3.860Mhz	Noon, 5:30pm	Daily
MN CW	3.605Mhz	6:30pm, 9:50pm	Daily
ARES			
Scott ARES	146.535 S	7:00pm	Monday
Carver ARES	147.165+	8:30pm	Sunday
Bloomington	147.090+	9:00pm	Sunday
Neighboring Nets			
North Dakota	3.937Mhz	6:30pm	Daily
South Dakota	3.870Mhz	6:00pm	Daily
Wisconsin	3.985Mhz	5:30pm	Daily

Test Your NIMS Knowledge

ARES members are familiar with the Incident Command System from their study of the FEMA Institute courses. Now it is time to see how much you remember from those courses! Each month you will have the opportunity to test your ICS knowledge on a questions dealing with one ICS area.

This month we will take a look at some of the concepts from the IS-100 course, Introduction to Incident Command System. This is the first of the FEMA courses all ARES members must complete before participating in any response activities. You can find the course materials at this site: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100.asp>. Now, test your knowledge of the ICS.

Here is the question for this month:

Which General Staff position conducts tactical operations, develops the tactical objectives and organization, and directs all tactical resources?

- A. Finance/Administration Section Chief
- B. Operations Section Chief
- C. Planning Section Chief
- D. Logistics Section Chief



Scott County ARES Contacts

Emergency Coordinator
Bob Reid NOBHC
13600 Princeton Circle
Savage, MN 55378
952-894-5178
NOBHC@arrl.net

Asst. Emergency Coordinator
Bob Minor WONFE
5210 West 141st Street
Savage, MN 55378
952-894-2657
WONFE@arrl.net

Asst Emergency Coordinator
Daniel Vande Vusse NOPI
5722 West 141st Street
Savage, MN 55378
952-440-1878
NOPI@arrl.net



Super Shot - cont'd from page 1

sloooooow down, punctuation in messages – limited to X-RAY, and requesting and providing fills. The process of listing traffic on the net was usually smooth however we can improve the ‘rogering’ of traffic received. We only had one piece of digital traffic.

What’s the game plan? Improvement! Someone pointed out that overall things went ‘pretty good’ and that is probably a fair observation. Our goal however is not to be ‘pretty good’ but to strive to be excellent. The place to concentrate on improvement is on our weekly Monday evening training nets. We will be working on activities during the net to re-enforce to procedures identified during the exercise.

We have drifted away from regular practice of digital operations and exercise participants overwhelmingly want more digital practice. We will be emphasizing digital activity especially on the Digital Monday net following the monthly breakfast. Digital ops will be included in other weekly nets as well. All ARES members can begin their digital improvement by making sure they have the current version of Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software, fldigi-3.12.5 was updated 8Nov09 and is available at <http://www.w1hkj.com/NBEMS/>. In addition to NBEMS you should have a copy of Outlook Express, or another e-mail program, for use in transmitting error-free message traffic.

There are a lot of exciting activity in the works that will build on the basic voice and digital traffic handling skills. Be sure to get involved to prepare for our next exercise in late March or early April.

BREAK - OVER

Can I go back
to sleep?



I'm a Groundhog,
not a Weatherman!

January Test Your NIMS Solution

Which General Staff position prepares and documents the Incident Action Plan, collects and evaluates information, maintains resource status, and maintains documentation for incident records?

- A. Planning Section Chief

NM QSO Party - cont'd from page 1

who will be looking for you and your county.

The action begins at 8am and runs through 6pm Saturday. The contest exchange is your name and three letter county designator. Phone and CW modes will be used on all bands, WARC excluded. See the chart below for suggested frequencies. There are various station categories based on power, ops, mobile, etc. See the website for complete information, <http://www.w0aa.org/mnqp.htm>. You will find logging software for the contest at: http://www.w0aa.org/mnqp_logging.htm.

Let's light up the ether with goodwill from Minnesota this weekend.

Band/Mode	Freq.	CST	GMT
10 CW	28050	Noon	1800
10 SSB	28450	2:00 PM	2000
15 CW	21050	11:00 AM	1700
15 SSB	21350	1:00 PM	1900
20 CW	14050	All Day!	All Day!
20 SSB	14270	All Day!	All Day!
40 CW	7050	All Day!	All Day!
40 SSB	7250	All Day!	All Day!
80 CW	3550	All Day!	All Day!
80 SSB	3850	All Day!	All Day!
160 CW	1850	5:30 PM	2330
160 SSB	1870	5:30 PM	2330

BREAK - OVER



Digital Contest Calendar PODXS 070 Club

<http://www.podxs070.com>



2010 Valentine Sprint

Sponsored by the Penn-Ohio DX Society (PODXS)

MODES: PSK31 only

DATE: Friday, 12 February 2010, 2000 - 0200 (YOUR LOCAL TIME).

This event features a "rolling start" based on your local time to help equalize band conditions for all contest participants. (Note: this Sprint is not actually on Valentine's Day - we figured that wouldn't go over too well.)

Dakota Division Vice Director Appointment

Kent Olson, KA0LDG, has been appointed the new Dakota Division Vice Director. Kent previously served as Dakota Division Assistant Director and former North Dakota Section Manager.

A native of North Dakota, Olson, an ARRL Life Member, was first licensed in 1981 while in high school; he earned his Amateur Extra license in 1997. Olson served as the North Dakota Section Manager from 2001-2008 where he told the ARRL that he had the opportunity to get to know hams throughout North Dakota.



Kent Olson, KA0LDG

While still in high school, Olson enlisted in the North Dakota Air National Guard (119th Wing) as a Munitions Systems Specialist. After basic training, he worked on guided missiles for the F-4 (Phantom II). After completing his degree at North Dakota State University, he was selected to become a Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) in the F-4 and became a commissioned officer. "I did that for a couple of years until the unit converted to the F-16 (Fighting Falcon). I then was able to go to pilot training and became an F-16 pilot in 1991. I have held a lot of positions in the Wing and am now the Vice Wing Commander with the rank of Colonel." He has more than 3100 hours in the cockpit.

When Olson flew the F-16, he had the unique opportunity to operate HF aeromobile and make quite a few contacts to hams around the world: "Talk about pileups. The F-16s we had were specifically modified with an HF radio, and occasionally I could make contacts while traveling cross country." Now that his unit has switched from the F-16 to the C-21, he said he doesn't get to do as much aeromobile as he would like, since his duties as Vice Wing Commander keep him fairly busy.

Olson enjoys chasing DX and rag chewing: "I have a modest station and have worked the world with 100 watts on either a vertical or dipole." He likes contesting "to give North Dakota out to those who need multipliers (and not really to set any world records)." ARRL Field Day, kit building and Jamboree on the Air round out his radio interests.

Olson has been married to his wife Lisa for 21 years; they have two boys — Quinn, 13, and Ian, 9. Quinn got his Technician license last year through Boy Scouts and his call is KD0GWA. Olson is active with both Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts and is also involved with 4H Lego Robotics.

BREAK - OVER

Internet Explorer Security Flaws

Microsoft had to release an unscheduled security update in late January to protect IE users and could face having to do so again.

Boston-based Core Security Technologies discovered the vulnerabilities on Friday January 22, only a day after the technology giant had released an unscheduled security patch to protect users of the most popular browser in the world from the flaws used by the hackers who pried into the email accounts of human rights activists in China.

Two weeks ago Microsoft admitted that its Internet Explorer browser was the weak link in a spate of recent cyber attacks on Google and other technology companies in China.

Core Security Technologies claim to have discovered another set of vulnerabilities in Internet Explorer which hackers could exploit and use to remotely access personal data on people's computers.

Microsoft is taking the claim seriously and has launched an enquiry.

A spokesman said: "Microsoft is investigating a responsibly disclosed vulnerability in Internet Explorer. We're currently unaware of any attacks trying to use the vulnerability or of customer impact, and believe customers are at reduced risk due to responsible disclosure. Once we're done investigating, we will take appropriate action to help protect customers."

However, the tech giant would not rule out having to release yet another unscheduled security update on top of the regular monthly release, once its investigation was over.

The spokesman added: "Customers should also upgrade to the latest version of Internet Explorer, Internet Explorer 8, which provides improved security and privacy protections, as well as sign up for Microsoft Update and enable the Automatic Update functionality. This will enable automatic installation of all applicable updates this month and help to make customer systems more secure."

A security consultant from Core Security Technologies, told Reuters that there are three or four ways for hackers to exploit this new set of vulnerabilities, but he did not know whether any such attacks had happened.

Rival browser makers, including Firefox and Opera, are said to be benefiting from the fallout, with downloads of Firefox spiking in Germany immediately after the government issued its advice, and more than twice as many people as usual downloaded Opera last week.



It's SKYWARN Time!

One bright spot in the cold snowy days of winter is the release of the Skywarn training class schedule. Now is the time to check the date on your Skywarn ID card. If you haven't taken a refresher course you need to make plans to attend a session this spring.

The Metro Skywarn organization offers a number of classes around the metro area so there are plenty of opportunities to bone up on your spotting skills. The complete list of 2010 classes can be found at the Metro Skywarn website located at: <http://www.metro.skywarn.org/cgi-bin/classes.pl>.

Listed below are the classes most convenient for Scott County ARES members. The class sessions listed here are free and do not require pre-registration. If you are planning on participating at another location, be sure to check the Metro Skywarn webpage for the most up to date class information. Not all



classes are free and some require pre-registration due to space limitations.

2010 South Metro SKYWARN Classes

Saturday, March 6 2010 from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Twin Cities Repeater Club

Location: Open Circle Church

Address 2400 Highland Drive

City, State: Burnsville, Minnesota

Contact: Jeff Goodnuff w0kf at tcrc.org 952-927-0201

Wednesday, March 24 2010 from 6 P.M. to 10 P.M.

Carver County Government Center

Address: 600 East 4th Street

City, State: Chaska, Minnesota

Contact: Joe Merten kc8son at yahoo.com 614-657-1276

Saturday, April 3 2010 from 8 A.M. to 12 P.M.

Bloomington Emergency Communications

Location: Bloomington Fire Station #1

Address: 10 West 95th Street

City, State: Bloomington, Minnesota

Contact: Gene Clemens scoutgc at earthlink.net 952-831-3089

Saturday, May 22 2010 from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Twin Cities Repeater Club

Location: Open Circle Church

Address: 2400 Highland Drive

City, State: Burnsville, Minnesota

Contact: Jeff Goodnuff w0kf at tcrc.org 952-927-0201

Valentines Day

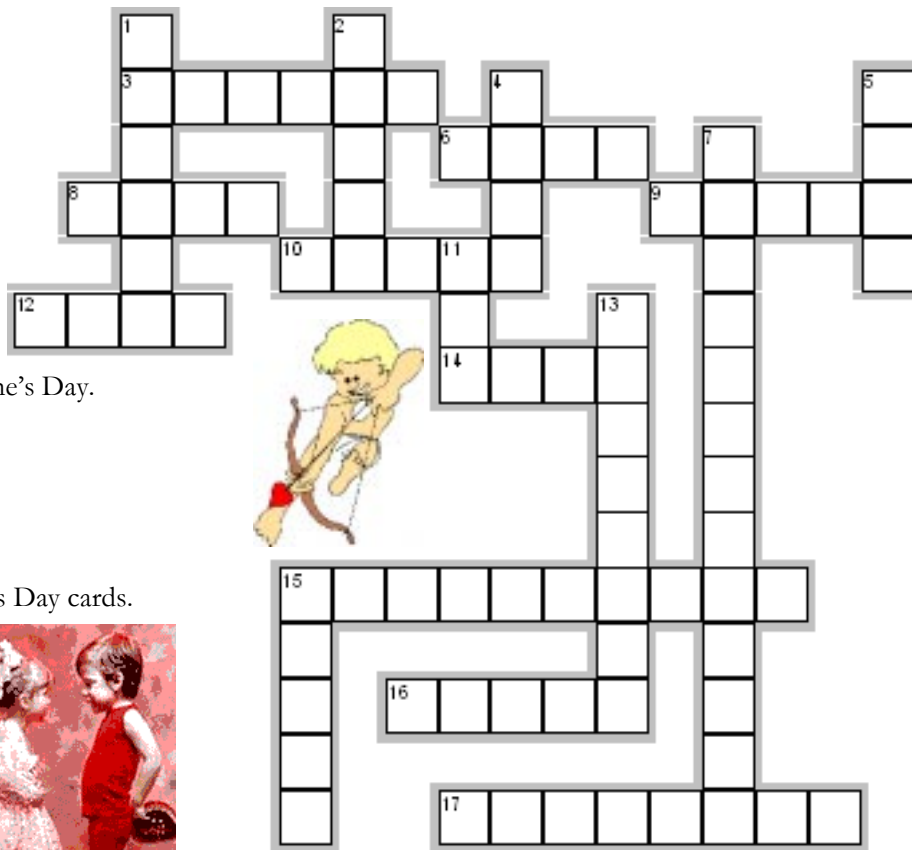


Across

3. Something a poet writes.
6. Something you wear on your finger.
8. A Valentine's Day emotion.
9. People often exchange these on Valentine's Day.
10. The symbol of love.
12. The flower of love.
14. Go on a _____ (with your sweetie)
15. A Valentine's Day treat.
16. A Valentine's Day treat.
17. Something often written on Valentine's Day cards.

Down

1. What cupid shoots.
2. Something a poet writes.
4. Present.
5. Touch lips.
7. A day for love.
11. Valentine's Day color.
13. The month of Valentine's Day
15. He shoots love arrows.



Winter Weather Puzzle Solution

Across

2. DRIFTINGSNOW—An uneven distribution of snowfall or existing snow caused by strong surface wind.
6. FREEZE—A condition occurring over a large area when the surface air temperature remains below 32 degrees Fahrenheit for an extended period of time possibly leading to the damage of certain crops.
7. SNOW—Precipitation composed of white or translucent ice crystals. Forms in cold clouds by the direct transfer of water vapor to ice.
10. ADVISORY—Winter weather _____ is issued for winter weather situations that may cause significant inconvenience and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life threatening situations. Issued when events are occurring, imminent or highly likely to occur. Issued when a combination of 5 inches or less of snow, freezing precipitation and/or sleet is expected.
11. SLEET—Precipitation consisting of transparent pellets of ice, 5 millimeters or less in diameter. Forms when snow enters a warm layer of air above the surface and melts and then enters a deep layer of sub freezing air on the surface and refreezes.

12. FROST—A covering of ice on exposed surfaces when the air temperature falls below the temperature to which air must be cooled to in order to be saturated below freezing.
13. BLIZZARD—Sustained wind or frequent gusts to 35 miles an hour or greater and considerable falling and/or blowing snow, expected to prevail for a period of 3 hours or longer.

Down

1. SNOWFLAKE—White ice crystals that have combined in a complex branched hexagonal form.
3. WARNING—Winter storm _____ is issued when hazardous winter weather is occurring, imminent or highly likely over part or all of the area including but not limited to heavy snow, blizzards, ice storms, freezing rain or drizzle and sleet.
4. SNOWADVISORY—Issued when snowfall is expected to exceed 2 inches but not expected to exceed 5 inches.
5. HEAVYSNOW—Generally means snowfall accumulating to 4" or more in depth in 12 hours or less or snowfall accumulating to 6" or more in depth in 24 hours or less.
8. WINDCHILL—A measure of the effect of increased wind speeds accelerating heat loss from exposed skin.
9. WATCH—Winter Storm _____ is issued when hazardous winter weather may develop in a few days. This is issued to provide information to those who need considerable lead time to prepare for winter weather.

Turning Fabric Into A Battery

The white or the blue battery today?

The new application of nano-technology to fabrics is reported in the journal Nano Letters. The approach is based on dipping fabrics in an “ink” of tiny tubes of carbon, and was first demonstrated last year on plain copier paper. The demonstration is a boost to the nascent field of “wearable electronics” in which devices are integrated into clothing and textiles.

“Wearable electronics represent a developing new class of materials... which allow for many applications and designs previously impossible with traditional electronics technologies,” the authors wrote.

A number of research efforts in recent years have shown the possibility of electronics that can be built on flexible and even transparent surfaces - leading to the often-touted “roll-up display”.

However, the integration of electronics into textiles has presented different challenges, in particular developing approaches that work with ordinary fabrics.

Now, Yi Cui and his team at Stanford University in the US has shown that their “ink” made of carbon nanotubes - cylinders of carbon just billionths of a metre across - can serve as a dye that can simply and cheaply turn a t-shirt into an “e-shirt”.

The idea is the same as that outlined in their work with plain paper; the interwoven fibres of fabrics, like those of paper, are particularly suited to absorbing the nanotube ink, maintaining an electrical connection across the whole area of a garment.

Cloth is simply dipped into a batch of nanotube dye, and is then pressed, to thin and even out the coating. The fabric maintains its properties even as it is stretched or folded. Even rinsing the samples in water and wringing them out does not change their electronic properties.

“Our approach is easy and low-cost while producing great performance,” Professor Cui told BBC News. “Fabrics and paper represent two technologies with a thousand-year-old history. We combined ‘high-tech’ - nanotechnology - with traditional ‘low-tech’ to produce new applications.”

The next step is to integrate the approach with materials that store more energy, in order to create more useful batteries. By combining the approach with other electronic materials in the ink, the team believes even wearable solar cells are possible.

BREAK - OVER



LID LIST

lid: noun, an individual who impedes activity in a directed net by using nonstandard procedures.

The Lid List is a collection of words and phrases often used by operators not trained in efficient directed net operation. Don't make these words a part of your operating vocabulary. This list will be updated as needed to include the latest *cool* procedures.

1. One for the count. Stations checking in to a directed training or traffic net are there to participate not to contribute to a total.

2. Recheck. Simply announce your callsign and the prowords OVER to get NECOS's attention. You only check in to a net once. You cannot recheck in to a net.

3. Ten-four, Roger that. Codes, jargon and slang are unprofessional and are not used in emergency communications.

4. Copy that This may sound ‘cool’ on television or on the CB but not in a directed net. The trained operator simply replies, “Roger” when they have received an error-free message.

BREAK - OVER



NEPLY, Haiti (Jan. 27, 2010) Sailors assigned to the amphibious dock landing ship USS Carter Hall (LSD 50) remove rubble from a home during a community relations (COMREL) project. The amphibious dock landing ship USS Carter Hall (LSD 50) is on station in Haiti as part of the Bataan Amphibious Relief Mission in support of Operation Unified Response, a joint operation providing military support capabilities to civil authorities to help stabilize and improve the situation in Haiti following a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on Jan. 12, 2010.

Aging Digitally

Filed by: A. Nony Moose, Roving Correspondant

I thought about the 30 year business I ran with 1,800 employees, all without a Blackberry that played music, took videos, pictures and communicated with Facebook and Twitter.

I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, 13 grandkids and 2 great grand kids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

That was before one of my grandkids hooked me up for Tweeter, Tweetree, Twhirl, Twitterfon, Tweetie and Twittererific Tweetdeck, Twitpix and something that sends every message to my cell phone and every other program within the texting world.

My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. I keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag.

The kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now and then going over to the grocery store or library. I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Blue tooth [Blue tooth but it's red] phone I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once and was standing in line at Barnes and Noble talking to my wife as everyone in the nearest 50 yards was glaring at me. Seems I have to take my hearing aid out to use it and I got a little loud.

I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes, she would sarcastically say, "Re-cal-cu-lating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then when I would make a right turn instead, it was not good.

When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets and while she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, at least she loves me (after 50+ years I certainly hope so).

To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I can lose three phones all at once and have to run around digging under chair cushions and checking bathrooms and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings. It was a lot easier

cont'd col. 2

Remember our Presidents



February 15th

Aging *cont'd from col. 1*

when it was connected to a cord (for the kids out there reading this, yes, there used to be a cord attached to the phone - and we only had *one* phone in the house! I won't even go into "party lines" but older folks know what I'm talking about).

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused but I never remember to take them in with me. Now, I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or Plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-sacksual."

Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look.

BREAK - OVER



ARES Breakfast

Saturday February 13th

7:30AM

Perkins Restaurant

Savage, MN

NECOS Schedule February 2010

1 Feb KD0IUA Paul

8 Feb N0PI Dan

15 Feb W0NFE Bob

22 Feb KB0FH Bob

1 Mar KC0YHH Tony

8 Mar KD0IUA Paul