



ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



February, 2013

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications for our Community

Volume 13, Number 2

Frigid Gizzard Exercise

Wow! Was that ever a cold spell! Sub-zero temps sweep over Scott County and freeze the area for several days. Night-time low temps hit double-digit below zero numbers. Scattered power outages caused by vehicle accidents and icy power lines snapped by strong winter winds put many in the dark.

Home heating systems are failing due to problems with cold temperatures, power outages and L.P. gas storage problems.

The Red Cross has opened warming shelters around the county to provide a warm spot for those in poor health or youngsters who cannot deal with cold temps.

Now that temps are moderating, the area saw a snowfall of over 18 inches overnight. Strong winds combine with the snow to produce blizzard condition. White-out conditions almost eliminate travel through out the county.

That is the scenario in a nutshell that results in a request by the Red Cross for Scott ARES help with communications between the EOC and the warming shelter locations.

This exercise, the Frigid Gizzard, is being spread over several weeks on the Monday evening ARES training net. The exercise scenario is updated after each weekly net to pose new issues for each of the shelter site.

The ARES members assuming the roles of communicators at the shelter site compose a Situation Report, SITREP, for each 'day' represented by the weekly net. New situations arise at each location that require messages to be sent to the EOC or other

Frigid Gizzard *cont'd on page 2*



Frigid Gizzard Exercise

Cabin Fever Reliever Hamfest

Sneer at the snow and cold and take in the hamfest in St. Cloud on February 16th. The W0SV Cabin Fever Reliever hamfest will



be held at the National Guard Armory, 1710 Veterans Drive in St. Cloud.

General admission will open at 9:00 AM with exhibitors admitted at 7:00 AM. Check the St. Cloud ARC website at <http://www.w0sv.org> for further info.



ARES Activities

Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)

Breakfast Saturday, February 9th

Digital Monday, February 11th

ARES Nets

MN ARES Phone Net	6:00PM Sunday	Freq: 3.568 mhz
ARRL MN Phone Net	12:00p, 4:30p CST Daily	Freq: 3.568 mhz
ARRL MN CW Net	6:30p, 9:50p CST Daily	Freq: 3.568 mhz

NETS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

North Dakota:	Daily 3.937 mhz	6:30pm
South Dakota:	Daily 3.870 mhz	6:00pm
Wisconsin:	Daily 3.985 mhz	5:30pm
Iowa:	Daily 3.970 mhz	12:30/

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

Reader submissions encouraged!

Frigid Gizzard Exercise - cont'd from page 1

shelter sites.

The AES members participating in the exercise are able to use their ingenuity and humor while practicing their digital communications skills.

Who knows, with the unpredictability of Minnesota spring weather, a sudden heat wave may result in record flooding! We'll have to see what next week brings to the Frigid Gizzard!

You will have to tune in to 146.535 MHz simplex at 7 PM on Mondays to find out how this ends.

BREAK - OVER

Jan. NIMS Knowledge Solution

1. The National Response Framework (NRF) presents the guiding principles that:

C. Provide the structure and mechanisms to ensure effective Federal support of State, tribal, and local related activities.



*"While on the ladder of success,
don't step back to admire your work".*

Harvey Mackay

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



Test Your NIMS Knowledge

This month we will continue our review of ICS-700a: National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction. Check your recall of the course material with this question.

Mutual aid agreements and assistance agreements provide:

A. Strategies for restoring critical infrastructure that affects multiple sectors and jurisdictions across specified geographical areas.

B. Mechanisms to quickly obtain emergency assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, and other associated services.

C. Steps for ensuring the continuity of government at the local, tribal, and State levels following a catastrophic incident.

D. Lists of specialized codes for facilitating communication among responders representing different departments, agencies, and jurisdictions.

Check next month's ARES Communicator for the solution



USNS Spearhead



MAYPORT, Fla. The Military Sealift Command joint high-speed vessel USNS Spearhead (JHSV-1) pulls into Naval Station Mayport to be inspected by Rear Adm. Sinclair M. Harris, commander of U.S. 4th Fleet. Spearhead is the first of nine Navy joint high-speed vessels and is designed for rapid intra-theater transport of troops and military equipment.

PING!

The National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) needs YOUR help with a research project!

If you live in the area shown on the map, the Precipitation Identification Near the Ground project (PING) wants YOU to watch and report on precipitation.

PING is looking for young, old, and in-between volunteers to make observations—teachers, classes and families too! We have collected over 45,000 observations since 2006, already making PING successful because of your help.

PING volunteers can spend a little or a lot of time making observations. The basic idea is simple: NSSL will collect radar data from NEXRAD radars in your area during storm events, and compare that data with YOUR observations.

Why? Because the radars cannot see close to the ground, we need YOU to tell us what is happening. Are snowflakes fallin' on your head? Are you getting pinged by hail? Tell us where you are and what is hitting the ground. NSSL scientists will compare your report with what the radar has detected, and develop new radar technologies and techniques to determine what kind of precipitation—such as snow, soft hail, hard hail, or rain—is falling where.

The report is easy! You can use our mobile apps, or make your report from this website by clicking on either the “Report Hail” button (to report hail), or the “Report Winter Weather” button (for snow, sleet, or freezing rain and mixtures of these). There is no commitment, and no minimum amount of reports.

We need as many observations as we can get! You can find more info at the PING website: www.nssl.noaa.gov/projects/ping/



BREAK - OVER



Take a Dip in the General Pool

Time to test your knowledge of the information covered by the General Class license exam. Each month we'll take a look at a selection from the question pool. Here is this month's sample:

1. When sending CW, what does a “C” mean when added to the RST report?
 - A. Chirpy or unstable signal
 - B. Report was read from S meter reading rather than estimated
 - C. 100 percent copy
 - D. Key clicks
2. What prosign is sent to indicate the end of a formal message when using CW?
 - A. SK
 - B. BK
 - C. AR
 - D. KN
3. What does the Q signal “QSL” mean?
 - A. Send slower
 - B. We have already confirmed by card
 - C. I acknowledge receipt
 - D. We have worked before

(Check next month's issue of the ARES Communicator for the answer.)



January General Pool Answer

1. What should you do if a CW station sends “QRS”?
 - A. Send slower
2. What is the best speed to use answering a CQ in Morse Code?
 - B. The speed at which the CQ was sent
3. What does the term “zero beat” mean in CW operation?
 - D. Matching your transmit frequency to the frequency of a received signal.

SKYWARN Classes

It is SKYWARN training time! Metro SKYWARN requests that all severe weather spotters complete the training class every two years.

Using a training program jointly developed by the National Weather Service and Metro Skywarn, volunteers train about 600 Radio Amateurs every two years. The training program runs from March to May every year.

The NWS brings its weather knowledge and access to exciting and instructive video footage and slides. The local ARES/RACES organizations bring their expertise in emergency communications. The result is a four hour video and slide presentation.

Net operations rely upon a high degree of independence from spotters. Spotters are trained about basic storm structure and the sequence of events of an approaching severe storm, to place themselves safely near severe weather and how to report into the net. Special emphasis is placed on training the spotter how to differentiate severe weather from weather easily confused with severe weather with a specially prepared video and slide presentation. Many useful weather terms are learned to facilitate communication on the net.

Spotters are expected to monitor severe weather potential and activate themselves as needed and available and place themselves at useful locations. Reports are requested from anyone seeing severe weather. Updates from the NWS about current conditions are repeated or updated every ten minutes. Occasionally, the NWS will request information from a specific location or regarding specific conditions.

If this is your year for training, check the classes listed below. These training locations are located in the southern and western metro however there are more classes being held at various locations through the Twin City area. You can find the complete training schedule at the Metro SKYWARN website: <http://www.metroskywarn.org/index.php/class-schedule>



March 20th

6 PM-10 PM Carver County Gov Center
600 East 4th Street
Chaska, MN
Joe Merten kc8son@yahoo.com
614-657-1276

April 6th

8 AM-12 PM Bloomington Emergency Communications
Bloomington Fire Station #1
10 West 95th St.
Bloomington, MN
Gene Clemens scoutgc@earthlink.net
952-831-3089

May 18th

9 AM-1 PM Twin Cities Repeater Club
Open Circle Church
2400 Highland Dr
Burnsville, MN
Jeff Goodnuff w0kf@tcrc.org 952-927-0201

BREAK - OVER

*"He that is good will infallibly become better,
and he that is bad will as certainly become
worse; for vice, virtue, and time, are three
things that never stand still."*

C. C. Colton

Convenient Spotter Classes for South Metro

March 2nd

9 AM-1 PM Twin Cities Repeater Club
Open Circle Church
2400 Highland Dr
Burnsville, MN
Jeff Goodnuff w0kf@tcrc.org 952-927-0201

March 9th

8 AM-12 PM Twin Cities FM Club
Ridgedale Public Library - RHR Room
12601 Ridgedale Dr Minnetonka, MN
Earl Jarosh earl@jarosh.org 763-545-3275

Frozen
Gizzard
Exercise



Weekly Net
Monday 7:00 PM 146.535 MHz

Electromagnetic Harvester?

Eds Note: It isn't even April 1st!

We're surrounded by electromagnetic fields almost everywhere these days. Just because they're almost imperceptible doesn't mean they can't be used as a source of energy though. One student in Germany recently built the Electromagnetic Harvester, a small box that allegedly charges an AA battery using just the electromagnetic fields given off by the likes of power lines, vehicles and electronic gadgets.

Dennis Siegel, a digital media student at the University of the Arts in Bremen, designed the handheld charger as a way to recover some of the energy from these electromagnetic fields. It may sound a little sketchy, but it's an idea that many researchers, including a team at Georgia Tech, have been exploring for years. The main issue with this form of energy collection is the amount of power it generates tends to be incredibly small, which might

cont'd from col. 1

devices like wireless sensors or RFID tags is there, we remain very skeptical about any practical consumer electronics applications. Aside from not being able to generate enough power for a typical smartphone user, Siegel has yet to reveal any specifics on how his take on the ambient energy charging device works – only that it involves “coils and high frequency diodes.” So while it's great in theory, we'll take these claims with a grain of salt.

BREAK - OVER



The handheld Electromagnetic Harvester allegedly charges a AA battery using just the electromagnetic fields given off by gadgets, power lines, vehicles, and even living things.

explain why it takes a full day for the Electromagnetic Harvester to charge a single AA battery.

According to Siegel, using the harvester involves simply holding it up to anything with an electromagnetic field – a cell phone, a coffee maker, a commuter train, etc. Once it enters a strong enough field, a red LED will light up to indicate it is charging. It also has a magnet on the back to leave it attached near an EMF source and can charge from the combined fields of living things, like when a person pets a dog. Seigel designed two different versions of the harvester: one for frequencies below 100Hz (like those found in electricity mains) and one for frequencies above 100Hz (like those found in Bluetooth, WLAN, and radio broadcasts).

But don't start thinking this signals the end of charging devices through ordinary wall sockets just yet. While the potential for this type of technology being used to charge very low-powered

cont'd col. 2



ARES Breakfast
Saturday February 9th
7:30AM
Perkins Restaurant
Savage, MN

NECOS Schedule February 2013

4 Feb	KB0FH Bob
11 Feb	KC0YHH Tony
18 Feb	N0PI Dan
25 Feb	W0NFE Bob
4 Mar	KB0FH Bob
11 Mar	KC0YHH Tony
18 Mar	N0PI Dan