



ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



May, 2007

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 7, Number 5

Red Cross Background Investigations An Update on the Issue

In March, the ARRL posted its position statement regarding the American Red Cross background check policy for volunteers.

In an April 2007 meeting ARRL asked the Red Cross staff if ARRL ARES volunteers would be subject to the American Red Cross background check if they are providing communications for more than seven days. The position of the Red Cross is that ARES volunteers would not be permitted to provide communications at a disaster site for more than seven days without submitting to the Red Cross background check procedure.

Discussion was then held regarding the Red Cross announcement that credit checks and mode-of-living checks would not be conducted. ARRL's stated concern was that the ARC background investigation consent form states that a consumer report and/or an investigative consumer report — which includes certain credit checks and includes mode of living checks — will be obtained on the volunteer signing the form.

The ARRL team asked if the Red Cross would be willing to modify the consent form so that it limits the authority granted by the person signing the form to criminal background checks only. The Red Cross representatives did not indicate a willingness to modify the consent form.

The ARRL team also suggested alternatives to the Red Cross investigation firm, MyBackgroundCheck.com. ARRL was given an indication that the Red Cross is also unwilling to accept background checks conducted by other entities, because the Red Cross would be required to compare the methodologies of its selected entity with those of the alternative background-check provider.

Red Cross cont'd pg.2

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

Field Day '07 Plans in the Works

Scott ARES members are finalizing the plans for a Field Day station for the 2007 event. Field Day this year will take place on June 23-24.

Scott ARES will be operating from the picnic shelter are in Canterbury Park in Savage. The park is located east of the intersection of 133rd Avenue and Glendale Road, follow the signs to the site.

The operation will be limited to the park hours of 7AM to 10PM. ARES members who want to be part of the fun can join the planning on the Monday evening net, 146.535MHz simplex at 7PM, or send an email to n0bhc@arrl.net.

All licensed amateurs are invited to stop by for some good fellowship and the opportunity to get on the air and make a few contacts during the USA's largest emergency communications event.

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ARES Activities

Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)

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

Red Cross *cont'd from pg. 1*

ARRL reiterates its recommendation that members carefully review any consent document permitting a private organization to conduct a background investigation on that person. The current Red Cross background check consent form does include permission, without further consent from the volunteer, to conduct a consumer report and/or an investigative consumer report. The Federal Trade Commission and Federal statutes define investigative consumer reports as including a mode-of-living check as well as certain credit checks.

ARRL will not suggest what organizations or agencies should or should not be supported by volunteer Amateur Radio communications. ARRL does wish to facilitate the provision of volunteer services, however.

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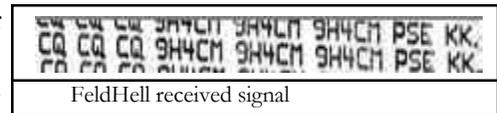
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Hellscriber On The Air

Hellscriber is another of the soundcard modes that you will find on the air. This is an interesting mode in that the received signal more or less paints a picture of the message text.

Hellscriber was patented in 1929, and is still in use



FeldHell received signal

today using the original format. Hellscriber was the first successful direct printing text transmission system, and was very popular at a time when teleprinters were complex and expensive (the Hell receiving mechanism had only two moving parts). At first the Hellscriber was mostly used for land-line press services, which continued well into the 1980s. A military version was used by the German Condor Legion during the Spanish Civil War (1933).

During WWII, Hellscriber was widely used for field portable military communications, for which it proved to be very suitable because the equipment was simple and robust. Today we use the term "Feld-Hell", or "Field Hell" for this system, to help differentiate it from the slightly different land-line press systems.

You can watch an interesting video of Feld-Hell on YouTube that was prepared by Randy, K7AGE. The video uses the Feld-Hell Club Sprint Contest as an example of Feld-Hell operation. You can find the video here: (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yR-EmyEBVqA>). This is a good introduction to one of the more interesting and oldest digital modes. You can find Hellscriber software with a Google Search on FeldHell.

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3 p.m. Monday May 28, 2007

The National Moment of Remembrance is an act of national unity to honor America's citizens, alone or with family, wherever they are at 3 p.m., local time are asked to pause for a reflection of those who died for our country. The goal is to put "Memorial" back into Memorial Day. A Gallup poll indicated that only 28% of Americans realize the meaning of this noble holiday.



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Armed Forces Day Crossband Radio Communications Test

Saturday May 12, 2007

The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will co-sponsor the annual military/Amateur Radio Communications Tests to celebrate the 57th Armed Forces Day. Although Armed Forces Day falls on Saturday, May 19, the 2007 Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will take place a week earlier, on Saturday, May 12, to avoid conflicting with the Dayton Hamvention May 18-20.

The annual celebration features military station-to-amateur station crossband tests on SSB and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes. "These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWLs) an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise," the Armed Forces Day announcement states.

Amateur Radio participants will listen for designated military stations on military frequencies, while military participants will listen for Amateur Radio calls in the adjacent ham band. QSL cards will go to Amateur Radio stations making contact with participating military stations.

Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense. Full details on participating stations, times and frequencies are available on the Scott County ARES Web site at www.scottares.org.

You can find the Great Lakes Naval Training Station on the air during the event at these times and frequencies. Propagation will always determine the bands in use.

NAV-4: 1200Z 12 May to 0400Z 13 May

LSB: 4011.5 (80M), 7376.5 (40M)

USB: 14467.0 (20M), 21758.5 (15M)

Point of Contact: Mr. David Ouellette

Location: Great Lakes IL

Address: NAVMARCORMARS Radio Station NAV4,
615 Preble Ave, Camp Barry, Bldg 153, Great Lakes, IL
60088-2850

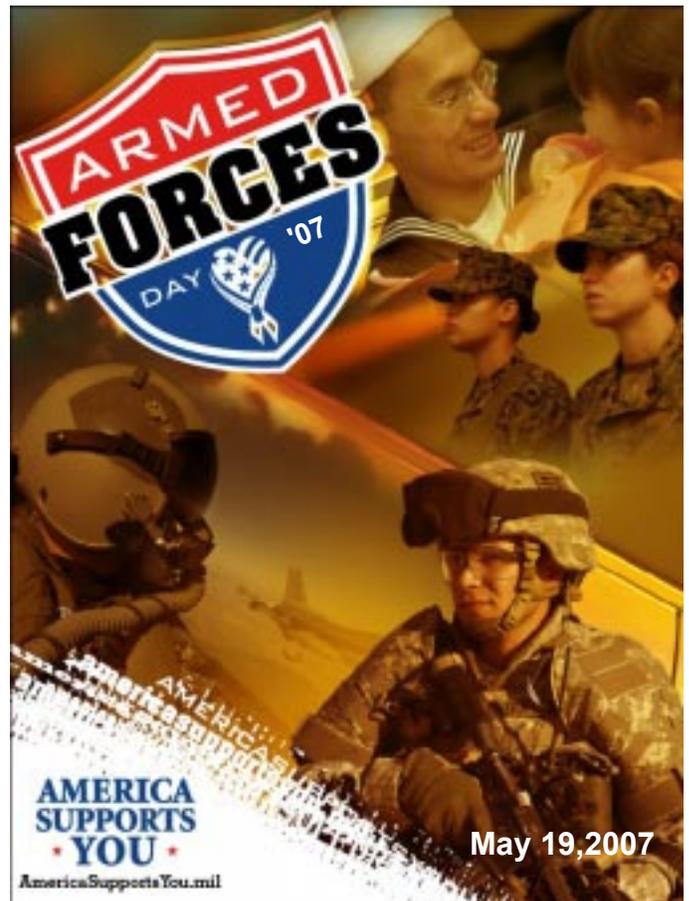
During the Secretary of Defense message test you will find NAV4 on these frequencies and modes:

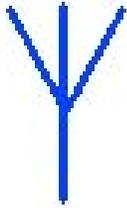
NAV-4

7375.0	RTTY	13 May/0240Z
	AMTOR FEC	13 May/0310Z
	MT63	13 May/0340Z
14468.5	RTTY	13 May/0240Z
	AMTOR FEC	13 May/0310Z
	MT63	13 May/0340Z

Stations copying **NAV-4**, send a copy of the message as received to: Armed Forces Day Celebration, Chief Navy-Marine Corps MARS, Cheatham Annex Bldg 117, 108 Sanda Ave, Williamsburg, VA 23185-5830. Be sure to include your name, callsign, and address on the same page as the message text.

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Antenna Terms

Across

1. The strongest wire suitable for antenna service.
3. A type of dipole with an impedance four times a half-wave dipole.
7. _____ resistance is the equivalent resistance that would dissipate the power the antenna radiates.
9. Antenna consisting of two or more square loops measuring one quarter wavelength on a side.
10. The property of an antenna to radiate more strongly in one direction than others.
12. A sophisticated computer program capable of modeling almost any antenna type from the simple dipole to extremely complex designs.
13. Determined by the ratio of voltage to current at a specific point on the antenna.

Down

2. Determined by the position of the radiating element with respect to the earth.
4. The range of frequencies over which the antenna can be used to obtain a specified level of performance.
5. A drooping dipole.



April Crossword Puzzle Solution

Directed Net Operations

Across

1. PRECEDENCE—The item in a message preamble that indicates the importance of the message.
3. PENCIL—A _____ is one item you should always have when participating in a directed net.
4. XRAY—Proword used to indicate punctuation in a message text.
6. OUT—Proword used at the end of a transmission when a reply is not expected.
8. OVER—Proword used at the end of a transmission when a reply is expected.
10. BEING CALLED—In station to station contact in a directed net, the station _____ is the first to respond.

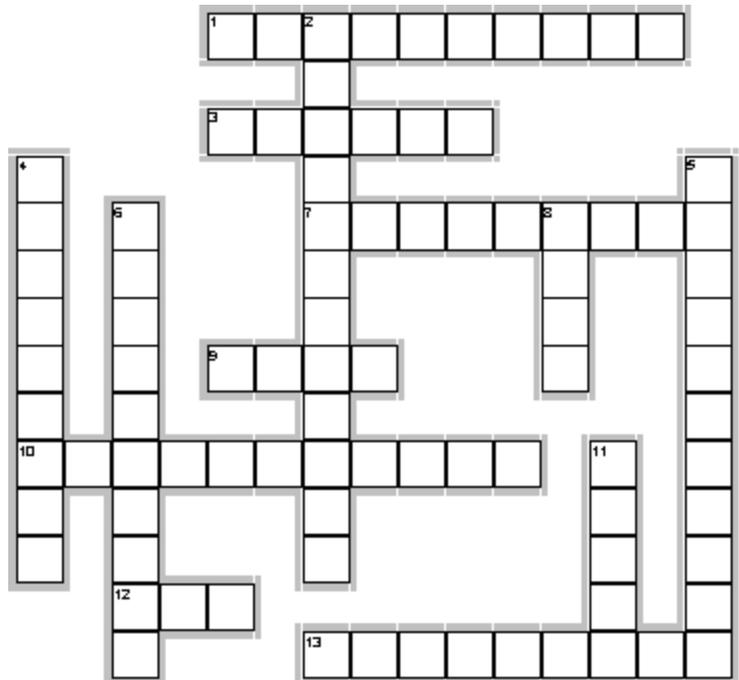
6. A feed line consisting of two parallel conductors.
8. Inductance and capacitance in parallel that effectively disconnects the wire beyond.
11. A device for feeding a balanced load with an unbalanced line or vice versa.



11. CHECK—The item in the message preamble that indicates the number of items in the message text.

Down

1. PAPER—Another item you should always have when checking into a directed net.
2. NECOS—Station in charge of a directed net.
5. YOUR—FCC rules only require you to identify this station: _____ station.
7. ROGER—Proword indicating I understand your transmission.
9. WELFARE—A message dealing with the condition of Aunt Millie and Uncle Fred.



Minnesota Tax Freedom Day - May 4th

Tax Freedom Day is the day when Americans finally have earned enough money to pay off their total tax bill for the year. In 2007, Minnesota taxpayers had to work until May 4th (ranked 10th highest nationally) to pay their total tax bill, four days after



National Tax Freedom Day (April 30th). The Tax Freedom Days of neighboring states were: Wisconsin, May 2nd (ranked 13th nationally); Iowa, April 21st (35th nationally); North Dakota, April 21st (37th nationally); and South Dakota, April 16th (43rd nationally).

During the past three decades Minnesota's state and local tax burden has consistently been among the nation's highest. Estimated at 11.5% of income, Minnesota's state/local tax burden percentage stands at 11th highest nationally, above the national average of 11.0%. Minnesotans pay \$4,971 per capita in state and local taxes, and per capita state income is \$43,121.

Minnesota taxpayers receive less federal funding per dollar of federal taxes paid compared to the average state. Per dollar of Federal tax collected in 2004, Minnesota citizens received approximately \$0.69 in the way of federal spending. This ranks the state 47th highest nationally and represents a decrease from 1992 when Minnesota received \$0.77 per dollar of taxes in federal spending (42nd highest nationally). Neighboring states and the amount of federal money they received per dollar of federal taxes collected were: North Dakota (\$1.73), South Dakota (\$1.49), Iowa (\$1.11) and Wisconsin (\$0.82).

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"Nothing can take the place of perseverance. Talent will not—nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Education will not—the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' will always solve the problems of the human race."

President Coolidge

Electrical Safety

May is Electrical Safety Month

Spring is here and summer on the way. Now that we are moving back outdoors after a winter inside, you need to be aware of some potential electrical hazards.

We all know that water and electricity don't mix yet we all cut corners on safety when we are in a hurry to get that last task finished before we run out of weekend! The ground fault circuit interrupter, or GFCI, is there to protect us from ourselves when we forget about outdoor electrical safety.

All outdoor receptacles must be protected by a GFCI according to the current National Electrical Code. Here are some startling facts about the GFCI:

- Before the installation of the Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs), which de-energize a circuit when they detect a ground fault, nearly 800 people died annually from household electrocutions. Currently, less than 200 people die annually from household electrocutions.
- 25 percent of U.S. consumers don't understand the purpose of their GFCIs.
- More than 25 percent of consumers do not know that GFCIs can help prevent electrocutions.
- Nearly one-half of U.S. families never test their GFCIs.
- Among those who routinely test their GFCIs, none do so according to safety recommendations — at least once a month and after storms.

Get in the habit or routinely testing your outdoor GFCIs before powering up those outdoor tools and toys. Follow these steps to test it:

1. Push the "Reset" button of the GFCI to prepare the unit for testing.
2. Plug a light into the GFCI and turn it on. The light should now be on.
3. Push GFCI's "Test" button. The light should go off.
4. Push the "Reset" button again. The light should again turn on.

The light should go out when the test button is pushed. If the light does not go out, then the GFCI is not working or was installed incorrectly. If the "Reset" button pops out during the test, but the light does not go out, the GFCI may have been damaged and does not offer shock protection. Contact a qualified electrician to check the GFCI and correct the problem.

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Test Your ICS Knowledge

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.

A basic ICS principle is that the first Incident Commander is responsible until the:

- A. Five management functions are activated.
- B. Next operational period has begun.
- C. Event or incident has demobilized.
- D. Authority is delegated to another person.

Expansion of incidents may require the delegation of authority for the performance of Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration functions. The people who perform these four management functions are designated as the:

- A. Deputy Staff.
- B. Director Staff.
- C. Command Staff.
- D. General Staff.



At which incident facility are primary logistics and administrative functions coordinated and administered?

- A. Base
- B. Camp
- C. Incident Command Post
- D. Staging Area

Check next month's ARES Communicator for the solution

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ARES Breakfast

Saturday May 12th
7:30AM
Perkins Restaurant
Savage, MN

NECOS Schedule - May, 2007

7 May	N0PI Dan
14 May	WONFE Bob
21 May	KB0FH Bob
28 May	Substitute
4 Jun	N0PI Dan
11 Jun	WONFE Bob