



ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs

Thanksgiving



November, 2007

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 7, Number 11

Search and Rescue Training

“The young lady disappeared two days ago”

“The young lady was reported missing by co-workers when she didn’t show up for work for the second day in a row. She also missed attending a concert with friends and co-workers, which had been anticipated with excitement. Authorities are organizing a search of the wooded area near the young woman’s home.”

That is a news story we seem to hear more frequently today. Participants in search efforts like these do a lot more than simply tramp through the woods.

Searchers are trained to look for specific clues and not disturb a possible crime scene if they discover anything suspicious.

Scott County ARES members participated in a training session to introduce these search skills conducted by Scott County Sheriff deputies during the last weekend in September.

The class targeted the first responders of a search emergency, including amateur radio communicators. The course included direction on evidence collection and handling, using case information to organize a search and characteristics of lost person field work.

The training was a combination of classroom sessions and field application of the concepts.

The course culminated in a lost person search in the Minnesota State Park along the Minnesota River north of Belle Plaine. The weather during the search was wet and blustery and required additional concentration to capture all the clues.

Search and Rescue *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

Marathon for Non-public Education

A soggy start with a bright finish!

Saturday, October 6th was the date of the 37th Marathon for Non-public Education. The Shakopee Area Catholic School (SACS) marathon started out under threatening skies but finished on a bright sunny scene.

Scott County ARES members provided communications support for the event. Public service events like this are an opportunity for ARES members to practice emergency communications procedures while providing a service to the community. Having some fun in the process is just an added benefit.

Janell McBeain, SACS Development Director and coordinator of the event, said that this was the first time she could recall the marathon ever being halted due to weather conditions. When a thunderstorms with cloud to ground lightning developed in the area shortly after the start of the event, the course had to be cleared of walkers and workers until the danger had passed. Janell cited the ARES communicators rapid response to the situation as key to the safety of the marathoners.

Marathon *cont'd on page 3*

ARES Activities

**Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)
Breakfast Saturday, November 10th**

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

Search and Rescue *cont'd from pg. 1*

The “victim” was located and the scene secured for the professionals to investigate. Scott County Deputies Mary Hensel and Scott Doering did an excellent job of presenting the basics and preparing the searchers for discoveries in the field.

BREAK - OVER

Pictured right, Scott County AERS members participating in the Search and rescue training are (l to r) Bob Minor, W0NFE, Dan Vande Vusse, N0PI, and Jeff Forseth, AC0DH.



Pictured left, Deputy Mary Hensel discusses some of the fine points of search and rescue during a lunch break with Bob, W0NFE, and Dan, N0PI. Photo by AC0DH.



Scott County ARES Contacts

Emergency Coordinator
Bob Reid N0BHC
13600 Princeton Circle
Savage, MN 55378
952-894-5178
N0BHC@arri.net



Asst. Emergency Coordinator
Bob Minor W0NFE
5210 West 141st Street
Savage, MN 55378
952-894-2657
W0NFE@arri.net

Asst. Emergency Coordinator
Daniel Vande Vusse N0PI
5722 West 141st Street
Savage, MN 55378
952-440-1878
N0PI@arri.net



Deputy Scott Doering delivers final instructions before releasing a search team for a detailed search of a large field during the Saturday afternoon session. Photo by AC0DH

Marathon - cont'd from page 1



Ready for action, ARES members gather for a briefing prior to the start of the marathon. Pictured (l to r) Larry, K0LEJ, Keith, KC0IVN, Stan, KB0CQ, Jeff, AC0DH, Tony, KC0YHH, J.R., KC0JRC, Bob, KB0FH, and Steve, W0GXO. Also participating but not pictured were Dan, N0PI, and Chris, KC0TZN. Pictures by Bob, W0NFE.

The marathon resumed after a break of about 45 minutes as the thunderstorm cleared the area. The morning's events then proceeded as usual with only a couple of lost parents to locate.

There were a couple of changes in this year's event including a variation in the route and a new location for events at the school grounds. ARES members staffed eight locations on the course with another available for relief at any location. The net control station was located on the East side of the SACS building.



Janell McBein, SACS Director of Development, is shadowed during the marathon by Jeff, AC0DH.



Net control duty for the Marathon was handled by Dan, N0PI (left) assisted by Tony, KC0YHH.

The after-action review of the event revealed a couple areas that the ARES group needs to address to improve their communications skills. These topics will be covered on future Monday evening training nets. All the ARES members agreed it was a fun Saturday morning helping the community with their communications skills.

Janell extends her thanks to all the ARES members who helped make the event a success and asked the ARES group to, "mark your calendar for next year!"

BREAK - OVER

“In Case of Emergency”

We all carry our mobile phones with names and numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know whom to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this “ICE” (In Case of Emergency) is a lifesaver option.

The concept of “ICE” is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name “ICE” (In Case Of Emergency).

A paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call thought up the idea. The paramedic therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there were a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as “ICE”.

Do the “ICE” now, It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest. For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc. Be sure ICE is programmed in the Cell-phones of your Children and elderly parents... A great idea that will make a difference!

Adopt the concept of “ICE” by storing an ICE number in our Mobile phones ASAP is a lifesaving measure. In addition, place a list of ICE numbers with your photo ID.

BREAK - OVER



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.

One ICS principle relates to the supervisory structure of the organization and pertains to the number of individuals or resources one incident supervisor can manage effectively. This operating guideline is referred to as:

- A. Delegation of authority.
- B. Span of control.
- C. Form follows function.
- D. Unity of command.

Which General Staff position is responsible for ensuring that assigned incident personnel are fed and have communications, medical support, and transportation as needed to meet the operational objectives?

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

Which Command Staff position monitors safety conditions and develops measures for assuring the safety of all assigned personnel?

- A. Public Information Officer
- B. Liaison Officer
- C. Resource Officer
- D. Safety Officer

Answers for the October ICS Quiz

At each level of the ICS organization, individuals in positions of primary responsibility have distinct titles. Using specific ICS position titles serves three important purposes:

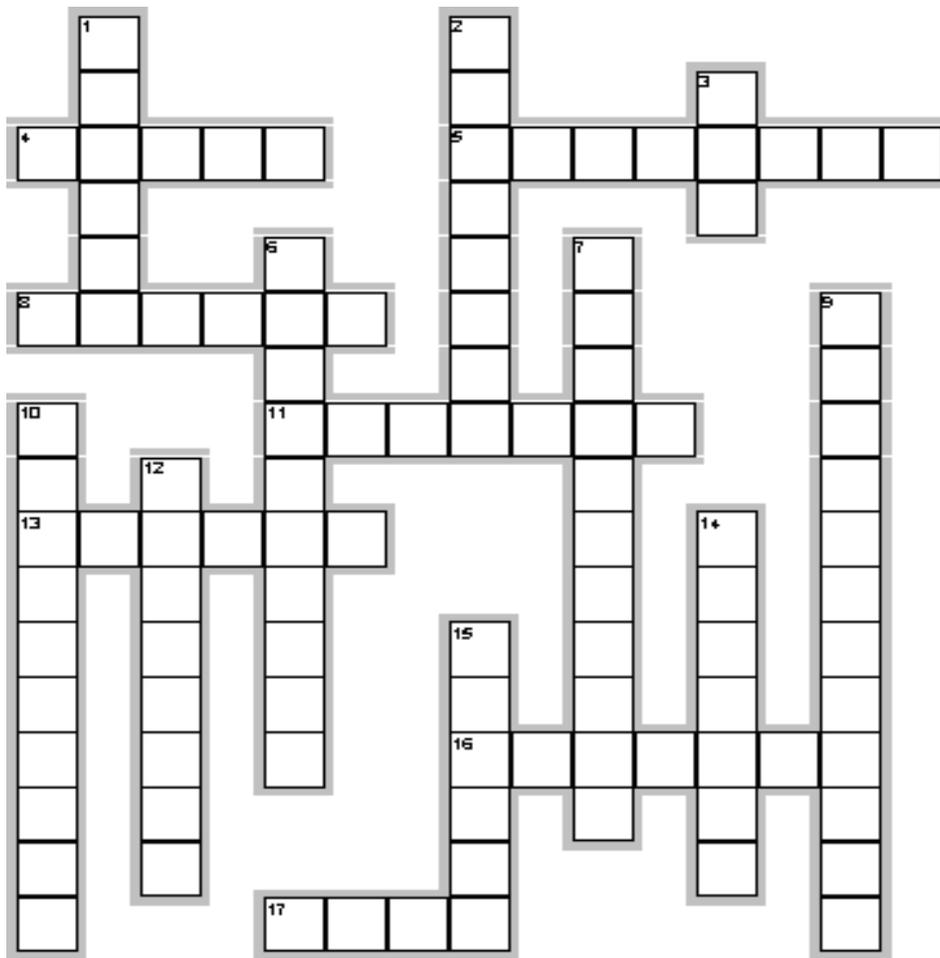
- The use of distinct titles allows for filling ICS positions with the most qualified individuals rather than by rank.
- Standard position titles are useful when requesting qualified personnel.

B. Distinct titles help clarify the activities undertaken by specific personnel.

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

- D. Planning Section Chief

“RADIO”
FROM THE
CROSSWORD DICTIONARY



Across

4. News brief
5. Transmitting antenna.
8. Interference
11. Radio cabinet.
13. Newscaster Ed.
16. “Father” of radio.
17. Valve

Down

1. Radio performer
2. Old time radio.
3. Amateur operator
6. Spins stacks of wax
7. Station ID.
9. True inventor of radio.
10. Advertisement
12. Newscaster Walter.
14. Radioactive shower.
15. Radio control



October Crossword Solution

Across

1. INCIDENTCOMMANDER—The individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and the release of resources.
3. EMERGENCYMANAGER—The person who has the day-to-day responsibility for emergency management programs and activities. The role is one of coordinating all aspects of a jurisdiction’s mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities.
6. ACTOFGOD—An unintentional hazard event (usually a natural hazard) whereby society feels that no individual or organization is responsible for the hazard occurrence or its impact, i.e., an “accident.”
9. ASSESSMENT—The evaluation and interpretation of measurements and other information to provide a basis for decision-making.
10. CHAINOFCOMMAND—A series of command, control, executive, or management positions in hierarchical order of authority.
11. GENERALSTAFF—A group of incident management personnel organized according to function and reporting to the Incident Commander.
12. DEMOBILIZATION—The ICS phase that begins the transition of Management, Operations, and Support functions and elements from the incident activities back to normal operations.

13. DAMAGEASSESSMENT—An appraisal or determination of the effects of the disaster on human, physical, economic, and natural resources.

Down

2. EMERGENCYOPERATIONSCENTER—The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support domestic incident management activities normally takes place. May be a temporary facility or may be located in a more central or permanently established facility.
4. EVACUATION—Organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.
5. ACTIVATE—To begin the process of mobilizing a response team, or to set in motion an emergency response or recovery plan.
7. LOGISTICS—Providing resources and other services to support incident management. Logistics Section: The [ICS] section responsible for providing facilities, services, and material support for the incident.
8. EXERCISE—A scripted, scenario-based activity designed to evaluate the system’s capabilities and capacity to achieve overall and individual functional objectives, and to demonstrate the competencies for relevant response and recovery positions.

How to “Spread the Word” about Amateur Radio

Kelly Klaas, K7SU
WorldRadio, June 2006

I have been in radio broadcasting since 1969 and an Amateur Radio operator since 1966. During my time in broadcasting I have learned a few things about how the public can use the media to its advantage. It's not as difficult as you may think.

The trick is to think of your local Amateur Radio club as a non-profit public service organization. And in fact, that's exactly what it is. Every commercial broadcast station must justify its license to operate by broadcasting in the public interest and providing a certain amount of public service. That public service includes local programming dealing with issues of local public interest and availability to local non-profit organizations. The best vehicle for Amateur Radio clubs to use that broadcast stations have to offer is the Public Service Announcement or PSA.

A PSA can come in a couple of forms. It can be a brief announcement of an upcoming club event or it can be an announcement of normally fifteen, thirty or sixty seconds in length describing your club and the benefits it has to offer. If you listen to the standard broadcast stations very much you undoubtedly have heard them. These announcements are free of charge to non-profit groups. But the key here is “non-profit.” Commercial broadcast stations are required to air a certain amount of public service ads to remain in the good graces of the FCC.

PSAs can benefit your local Ham club in at least three ways. First, they let the local Hams and the public in general know that there is a local club and about the various activities you may have going. Second, for those who may be interested in becoming a Ham, it lets them know that there is help nearby. Third, even if the listener is not interested in becoming a Ham, it boosts the awareness that there are Ham Radio operators in the vicinity ready to pitch in if emergency communications should be needed.

But how do you go about getting a PSA for your very own Amateur Radio club on your local stations? It's quite easy, actually. Most radio and TV stations have public service directors, or at least someone who coordinates the PSA's and other public service programs. Some stations do a better job at this than others. A representative of your local Amateur Radio club should contact the area stations and find out who that person is. Then they should contact this person and see what the requirements are for sending in the information. Then DO IT!

Most any Ham club activity is certainly a valid reason to get an announcement on the air. Many radio and TV stations have a “daily calendar” type of program. This is the perfect place to start. Send to the appropriate station personnel the “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” and “why” of the club activity for inclusion in these types of programs. Keep it short and to the point and always include an email address, web site or local phone number so the listener can get more information. Do NOT send in a multi-page document and expect the PSA director to go through it and pick out the pertinent information. That's NOT going to happen. Use short and “to the point” descriptions for each of the categories. One or two contacts are enough. You don't need a list of all the people in your club along with emails and phone numbers. Also, leave your contact information for the station personnel in case they need to contact you. You never know, they might want to pass it along to the news or public affairs department if it's a good subject for a story.

Another type of PSA is simply a short message, similar to a commercial, for your club. These vary in length but are usually fifteen, thirty or sixty seconds long. These take a little more thought in order for them to be of interest to the local radio/TV station. For a sample, you can direct your computer browser to www.magicvalleyhams.org to and look for the message posted on 21 March 2006. There is a link you can click on to hear the PSA I recently wrote and produced for some of our local radio stations. It will give you an idea of what you need to include to have a somewhat successful PSA.

Depending on the radio/TV stations in your area it will be more of an effort to get them interested in running this type of announcement. But if you wrote the PSA for them and offered to help in any way you might find they would be agreeable to running your announcement as a stand-alone ad. If they would rather have station personnel voice the PSA then let them. If they would rather have someone from the club voice it with their help, then that should be fine also. The name of the game here is to get the message of your local Amateur Radio club on the air and to the public. Don't be discouraged if you are not as successful with this level of cooperation at first. It will vary from station to station.

You may be wondering just when the PSAs will be broadcast. Many radio stations these days carry satellite programming at various times of the day. These programs

Spread the Word *cont'd from pg. 6*

always have a certain number of two, three or four (maybe more) minute breaks for the local stations to insert their local ads. If there aren't enough sold commercials to fill the breaks then they have to use PSAs. Many times, these are national PSAs that deal with anything from teen pregnancy to housing discrimination. Quite frankly many stations run these national PSAs due to a lack of anything else to run and they may or may not even be applicable to their area. Many radio stations would much rather fill with LOCAL announcements. That's, where your local club could help.

Do not inundate the station with multiple pages of announcements. Start with a single fifteen- or thirty-second PSA. It usually takes a very good PSA to keep a listener tuned in for over thirty-seconds. Besides, you don't want the radio station thinking you are trying to takeover their airwaves. And a clever fifteen-second announcement will be more effective than a boring, rambling sixty second announcement.

Keep in mind that it's usually best to approach the radio/TV station first for this type of PSA. They may not be interested at all so there is no point in wasting your time preparing one. But if they should show an interest, be sure you oblige them in a short period of time before they change their mind.

Due to the nature of the broadcast business you may find that one or two folks on the staff are also Amateur Radio operators. This is especially true in the engineering department. Many a chief engineer around the country is a Ham. If you happen to know any radio engineers to your area you may want to start with them. They may have a fast-track and an inside shortcut to getting your PSA on the air. For that matter; if you know ANYONE who works at a local station, start with them. It's not WHAT you know but rather WHO you know,

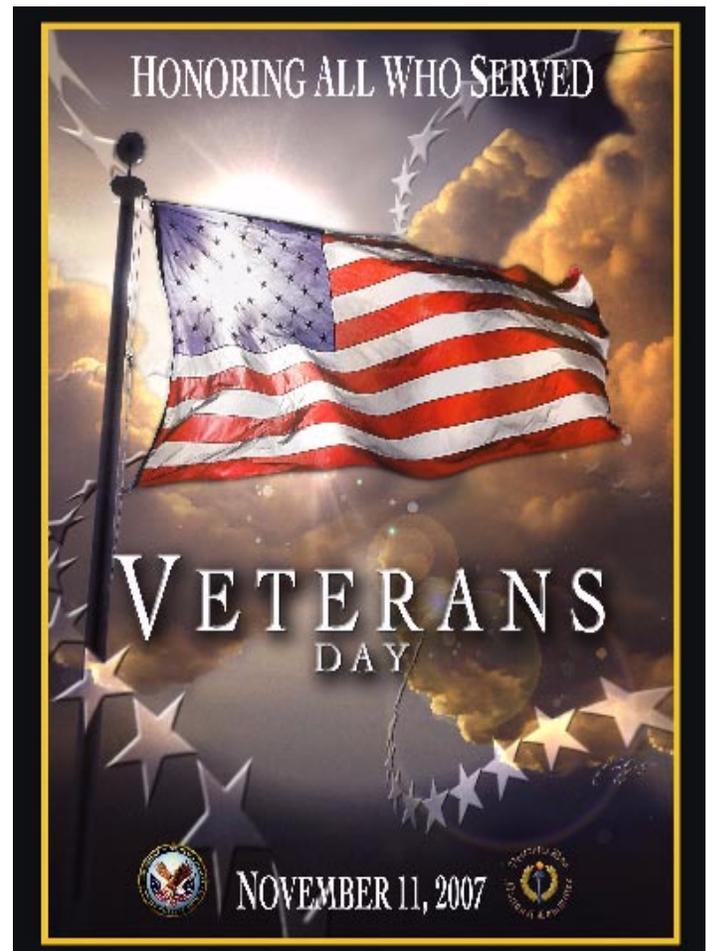
PSAs are free. The broadcast stations get no money for running them. Therefore a sold commercial always takes top priority. Your PSA may be, scheduled to run but at the last minute is booted out by a sold commercial. Don't let this bother you. It's the name of the game. Commercial radio/TV stations make their money by selling ads. If not for that, we wouldn't have local radio/TV stations. But over a period of time your announcement will eventually make it on the air. Use the "daily calendar" program to advertise, scheduled club activities. Use the recorded PSA for a long-term method of promoting your club. It should be somewhat generic in nature without time-sensitive material. Also be willing to change it from time to time to keep it fresh.

Be sure to let your local news organizations know about

any public activities that may warrant a news story or a spot on the evening news. This can include public displays for Field Day or similar events. Stories of local Amateur Radio operators talking to the ISS are always interesting fodder that the local media would like to cover. Let them know about it.

You will find varying degrees of interest and cooperation with your local stations regarding announcements for your club. Again, probably, the easiest and quickest way to get your announcement on is if they have a "daily calendar" program. The "commercial" announcement I talked about will be your most difficult hurdle. But don't give up. You may not have any trouble at all. The idea is to use your, local broadcast stations to your benefit as much as you can for as much as they are willing to let you use them. And even a little bit may be much better than what you are getting now.

BREAK - OVER



Meet the Enemy

Allen G Pitts, W1AGP
ARRL Media & PR Manager



During the month of September 2007, there were many positive articles in the media about Amateur Radio. But, there were also a few which did major damage to the public perception of our Service. Unfortunately they were in large metropolitan newspapers and, by the time an ARRL PIO (Public Information Officer) learned about them, it was too late to change things. These articles were proclaiming the “death of Amateur Radio”, that it was antique and an anachronism to the 21st century, full of ancient grumpy men and that the hams themselves were not friendly nor welcoming. The real tragedy of this is that the reporters were quoting their community’s own local hams!

None of the articles had numbers or empirical data to show the true trends underlying the present state of amateur radio. None looked beyond the personal opinions voiced by their local club or they might see the recent gains following February 2007. None of them saw the larger picture around the country or the work being done in schools, scouting, ARISS, digital work, ARES and other EmComm actions. But they had their quotes, and that was enough to hurt us.

While not all areas of the country are motivated by the same approaches, there really is a lot of new growth in important areas. In some places, emergency operations and EmComm is indeed a BIG deal. We are gaining many new hams entering the field because they want to be part of a response operation. That is part of this year’s PR push on EmComm. In other areas, it may not be EmComm that is the big draw. It could be the hobby side of the Service. For them, the “Hello!” materials are still available and timely. If that fits your area, then use them there. In some other places or situations, it will be the technical side of Amateur Radio that is of interest. The ARRL is working on a coordinated program for that to come out in 2008. It will be the hardest of the three to create, but plans are already well along.

These three, Hobby, EmComm and Technical activities are the motivational keystones of the Service. No one thing is going to attract “the general population.” We encourage you to look at your own local situation. Which type of motivator works best in your area? Use that one. In the meantime, our importance in EmComm is a motivator in antenna issues, spectrum defense and other political situations.

Are we “dying” out? Not really. Amateur Radio never was, nor will be, a “mainstream” activity. But recent numbers are up and, just as important, the percentage of hams who actually get on the air or go on to higher class licenses is up. With the 10 year license-lag, most who are dropping out seem never to have been active to begin with. We also see trends which follow the solar cycles — currently at a low.

To quote Pogo, “We have met the enemy and he is us.” Over the past two months the national PR Committee has seen far too many articles quoting their local hams saying we are all dying out! With attitudes like that, is it any wonder the reporters print it? It’s a self-fulfilling prophecy.

This is why we need informed, active PIOs and hams need to defer media responses to them. Anytime you or a ham in your area is contacted by the media, steer them to your local PIO. If you don’t have one nearby, steer them to your section’s PIC. These professionals are trained in showing the best that amateur radio has to offer to the public and to prospective licensees. Fifteen minutes of individual fame is not worth the damage your personal opinions could cause to us all.

BREAK - OVER

Daylight Savings Time



"Fall Behind" one hour
Sunday November 4th

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

Pericles



Quick Training Tips

Directed Net Check-in

Our objective in ARES emergency communications is first and foremost, Accuracy. This is followed closely by our second objective, Speed. The procedures we have developed and practice in our weekly net and exercises all work to support these two objectives. We operate in a directed net format because it supports our objectives.

The procedure for checking into a directed net begins with using your ears. LISTEN to the direction of the Net Control Station (NECOS) when he asks for check-ins or additional stations. Follow these directions when checking in. The NECOS has the discretion to ignore stations that do not follow his direction during check-in and disrupt the net. Put yourself in the sole of NECOS. Would you want to admit a station to a directed net that cannot follow the simple directions for check-in? I don't think so.

Our ARES NECOS use a script for our weekly training net that can be easily modified for use during an actual event. This helps everyone become comfortable with the directed net process. When asking for check-ins the NECOS says, *“Additional stations for the Scott County ARES net please call [NECOS Callsign] , state your callsign, first name, location, and precedence and destination of your messages. This is a directed net. All stations use the proword OVER or proword OUT at the end of your transmission. (OVER)”*

The NECOS is specifying the minimum information he needs to make effective use of your station in an emergency. Think about it; Callsign, Name, Location, Traffic. Pretty basic stuff.

Those of you who regularly serve as NECOS realize that after the call for check-ins you are busy writing down the information from each station checking in. When two stations call at the same time or when the calling station provides additional comments or omits information valuable time is lost. Stations checking into the net can solve this problem.

When you are going to check in to a directed net, before you transmit, stop just a moment and think! Do you understand the NECOS's directions? Do you know what you are going to say? Let's see how the exchange should go. Assume that W0NFE is NECOS for this example (thanks for volunteering Bob).

“W0NFE” (unkey the mic briefly to see if you are doubling with another station) *“this is N0BHC, Bob, in Savage, No traffic, OVER”*

Did we follow the NECOS' instructions? Let's review. First, the NECOS says, “Call me.” We comply by saying “W0NFE” (drop carrier) “this is N0BHC”. Next the NECOS asks for name and location. We comply by saying, “Bob in Savage.” Next is the request for precedence and destination of any traffic. We respond with, “No traffic” and end with the proword OVER.

We have just checked in to the directed net efficiently and rapidly. Let's not take the check-in process for granted because it is an important part of accurate, efficient operation.

BREAK - OVER



“Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.”

P.J. O'Rourke



ARES Breakfast

Saturday November 10th
7:30AM
Perkins Restaurant
Savage, MN

NECOS Schedule - November, 2007

5 Nov	KB0FH Bob
12 Nov	K0KTW Pat
19 Nov	N0PI Dan
26 Nov	W0NFE Bob
3 Dec	KB0FH Bob