



# ARES COMMUNICATOR

## Information for Scott County Amateurs



October, 2015

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications for our Community Volume 15, Number 10



who contributed their time, equipment and skills were:

### ARES Volunteers

Tony	KC0YHH
Chad	KD0UWZ
Matt	KC0VRV
George	K0GCP
John	WA0DGW
Vron	W0VJ

Judging by the smiles of the riders, many are already planning for the September 2016 weekend ride.

BREAK - OVER

## Cycle for Life Follow-up

The bikes have been loaded, the supplies packed up and everyone enjoying a great lunch with smiles all around. The 2015 Cycle for life event on Sep 19<sup>th</sup> was deemed a success by everyone involved.

Nearly a hundred cyclists had their choice of two courses through the west suburban countryside, riding to show their support for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The funds raised by the energetic riders exceeded the fundraising goal of \$60,000 for the event, according to preliminary reports.

Conditions for the ride were great with moderate temps, clear sunny skies and lite winds. Several smiling cyclists complemented the weather selected for this year's ride. They recalled the painful 20 mph gusting headwinds encountered on long west-bound leg on last year's route.

The communications volunteers were also included in the after-action evaluation. "You guys were perfect!" said the head of the MN cystic Fibrosis Foundation about the Scott ARES volunteers providing communications support for the event. The volunteers provided communications between two support vehicles, the event headquarters at Minnetonka Orchards, and four rest stops along the routes. The Scott ARES volunteers

*cont'd col. 2*



## Daylight Savings Time

"Fall Behind" one hour  
Sunday November 1st

### ARES Activities

**Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)**  
**Breakfast Saturday, November 14th**  
**Digital Monday, October 12th**

#### ARES Nets

MN ARES Phone Net	6:00PM Sunday	Freq: 3.860 mhz
ARRL MN Phone Net	12:00p, 5:30p CST Daily	Freq: 3.860 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 3.860 mhz	6:00pm
Wisconsin:	Daily 3.985 mhz	5:30pm
Iowa:	Daily 3.970 mhz	12:30/5:30pm

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!

## Fire Safety Month

October is Fire Prevention Month, a commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 and an opportunity to emphasize fire safety and preparedness.

Remember these dos and don'ts to help you and your family protect against the dangers of a house fire:

- DO keep a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. Stay safe with smoke alarms outside of every bedroom and each separate sleeping area.

- DON'T forget to test your smoke alarm every month. The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms. If your alarm doesn't sound when tested, it's time to replace it.

- DO address your needs. If you require eyeglasses, hearing aid, cane or a wheelchair, ensure they are next to your bed to quickly grab if necessary. If there is a fire, you may have less than three minutes to get out of your home. Be ready to act immediately.

- DON'T assume you'll hear the fire alarm if it sounds. If you test the alarm and can't hear it, consider getting a strobe light that will flash or a bed shaker that will shake when the smoke alarm sounds.



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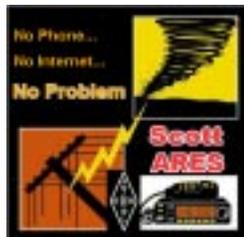
### Scott County ARES Contacts

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Assistant Emergency Coordinator  
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Chaska, MN  
KD0UWZ at scottares.org



## Ham Help in Saturday Snow

There was an ice storm disaster that hit Okmulgee County, Okalahoma, Saturday morning.

If no one saw the ice or slid on the roadways, that is not surprising since the disaster was a mockup. County amateur radio operators were working with the Okmulgee County Emergency Management office to make sure everything was operational in the event of such a disaster.

Tim Craighton, Emergency Management director, said the radio operators spent the morning providing radio contact through the county emergency operations center.

“Using emergency powered radios and working with local agencies, the hams will establish radio communications networks which can be used should there be a failure or overload of normal services such as was seen in the days following many types of incidents,” Craighton said.

He pointed out the volunteers provide services and equipment



Henryetta, OK. ARES mobile communications trailer.

at no charge in the event of such emergencies. “Even though they don't get paid, their service in a crisis can be priceless.”

During the simulated emergency, the radio operators set up and organize local traffic nets using both very high and ultra high frequency radio communications. Often that is the only way the area can be in contact with state and national agencies.

Part of the simulation included a power outage where the operators were required to get electricity from a trailer that was equipped with solar and battery power.

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### Fire Safety *cont'd from col. 1*

- DO make a fire escape plan that shows at least two ways out of every room. Identify a meeting place in the front of your home, to verify that everyone is safe and help firefighters ensure everyone exited safely.

- DON'T stop to call 911 until you're safely outside and away from danger. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

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## Amateur Radio License Exam

Want to become a ham? Want to upgrade your license? You can find information and resources to success in ham radio at this page: <http://www.scottares.org/License Info.htm>

If you want to ask questions or find a local Elmer (Mentor) just drop an email to: [newhaminfo@scottares.org](mailto:newhaminfo@scottares.org)

The hams in Scott ARES gather for breakfast the first Saturday of the month at the Perkins Restaurant in Savage. Bring you ham radio questions and talk to local amateur radio operators.

Now that you have done the work to study for your upgrade, here is where to find a convenient exam session near you. There is a VE exam search engine at: [http://www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/search](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search)

Walk-ins allowed at most sessions however it is always best to check the details at the specific session you are planning to attend.

Below is a list of scheduled sessions close to Scott County. Good Luck!

### October 24, 2015 Sat. 9:00 AM

Daniel J. Royer (952) 888-9756

Email: [dan-arrl@droyer.org](mailto:dan-arrl@droyer.org)

City Hall-Police Department

1800 W Old Shakopee Rd

Bloomington MN 55431

Walk-ins allowed

### October 26, 2015 Mon. 6:00 PM

Dale A. Blomgren (952) 402-2155

Email: [kd0b@arrl.net](mailto:kd0b@arrl.net)

Carver County Library

7711 Kerber Blvd

Chanhassen MN 55317

Walk-ins allowed, Pre-reg requested.

### November 11, 2015 Wed. 7:00PM

James C. Rice (612) 384-7709

Email: [jrice@danpatch.org](mailto:jrice@danpatch.org)

Location: Perkins Restaurant & Bakery

17387 Kenyon Ave,

Lakeville, MN 55044

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

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October 24<sup>th</sup>

**NATIONAL BOLOGNA DAY**

*Have a sandwich!*



## 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.

Strap on your thinking cap and see what you can recall. Here is this month's sample:

1. What is a use for an antenna analyzer other than measuring the SWR of an antenna system?
  - A. Measuring the front to back ratio of an antenna
  - B. Measuring the turns ratio of a power transformer
  - C. Determining the impedance of an unknown or unmarked coaxial cable
  - D. Determining the gain of a directional antenna
2. Which of the following might be useful in reducing RF interference to audio-frequency devices?
  - A. Bypass inductor
  - B. Bypass capacitor
  - C. Forward-biased diode
  - D. Reverse-biased diode
3. What is a "capacitance hat", when referring to a mobile antenna?
  - A. A device to increase the power handling capacity of a mobile whip antenna
  - B. A device that allows automatic band-changing for a mobile antenna
  - C. A device to electrically lengthen a physically short antenna
  - D. A device that allows remote tuning of a mobile antenna

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

—◆—  
*"Feedback is the breakfast of champions."*

Rick Tate

## September General Pool Answers

1. What is Near Vertical Incidence Sky-wave (NVIS) propagation?
  - A. Short distance HF propagation using high elevation angles
2. What is one reason to use the attenuator function that is present on many HF transceivers?
  - A. To reduce signal overload due to strong incoming signals
3. What item of test equipment contains horizontal and vertical channel amplifiers?
  - A. An oscilloscope

## Test Your NIMS Knowledge

This month we will begin our review of ICS-800: National Response Framework. The purpose of the National Response Framework is to ensure that all response partners across the Nation understand domestic incident response roles, responsibilities, and relationships in order to respond more effectively to any type of incident. The Framework focuses on response and short-term recovery instead of all of the phases of incident management.

Check your recall of the course material with this question.

This structure is the physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support incident management (on-scene operations) activities normally takes place.

- A. Incident Command Post
- B. Emergency Operations Center
- C. Joint Command Post
- D. Strategic Operations Center

*Check next month's ARES Communicator for the solution*

## September NIMS Knowledge Solution

Which Incident Command System element provides a command structure to enable agencies with different legal, jurisdictional, and functional responsibilities to coordinate, plan, and interact effectively on scene while maintaining their own authority, responsibility, and accountability?

- C. Unified Command

## NBEMS Current Versions

The current version of the Fldigi manual is available at NBEMS Info page at [www.scottares.org](http://www.scottares.org). Look under the 'Help Sheets' heading.

Now is a good time to check to your digital software to make sure you are running the newest versions. You can find the most recent versions posted at both: [www.w1hkj.com/download.html](http://www.w1hkj.com/download.html) and <http://www.scottares.org/NBEMS.htm>

Here are the most recent releases as of October 10, 2015.

Software	Version
Fldigi	3.22.13
Flwrap	1.3.4
Flmsg	2.0.12
Flamp	2.2.02



The Monday evening training net is a great place to have your digi questions answered and problems solved! Join the Scott ARES group on 146.535 MHz simplex at 7:00pm on Monday evenings.

## CME Disaster Exercise

ARRL Letter 01Oct2015

A disastrous coronal mass ejection (CME) will be the focus of a national Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) communication exercise in early November, and MARS is hoping to collaborate with Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) groups. The MARS exercise will get under way on November 8 and continue into November 10. It will be a quarterly contingency HF exercise in support of the US Department of Defense.

“The exercise scenario will simulate a CME event and focus on actions that radio operators should take prior to and following a CME event,” explained Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY. “One thing we want to continue to work on is the interface with the greater Amateur Radio community.”

CMEs are huge explosions of gas, plasma, and electromagnetic radiation from the Sun, which are responsible for geomagnetic storms. Solar flares can accompany CMEs, but they are not the same thing. A CME can take anywhere from 1 day to 3 days to reach Earth. CMEs occur all the time, but most bypass Earth with minor effects. A major CME that hits Earth directly could damage or destroy satellites as well as terrestrial communication and electrical power infrastructure.

English said the November exercise would simulate a radio blackout as well as infrastructure damage. “During the exercise, we will simulate the blackout with a 3 hour pause, and then we will bring stations back on air and begin handling requests for information,” he told ARRL.

Training objectives for this exercise will include understanding what a CME is and how much forecast lead time can be expected; the effects associated with a CME, and what precautions radio operators take to protect their equipment prior to a severe CME.

After the simulated CME, operators will assess its effects and begin reporting that information. This will involve “interoperation with Amateur Radio operators and groups to assist in assessment.”

Individual radio amateurs as well as ARES and RACES teams are encouraged to participate in this exercise.



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## Congratulations!

### Happy Retirement



Chris Weldon  
Emergency Management Director

Chris is retiring as the Scott County Emergency Management Director at the end of this month. Rumor has it that there might be a recognition party, to commemorate Chris' service, toward the end of the month, dangerously close to Halloween!

Chris has been a steady hand in guiding the process of planning, organizing and coordinating emergency events within Scott County.

Some of the areas Chris has overseen is maintaining the Emergency Operations plan, along with: 911 addressing, floodplain management and various emergency response actions.

The recent introduction of the CodeRED notification system that allows residents to receive emergency, weather and public information alerts directly to their phone or computer was another responsibility.

Chris included amateur radio in his response plans, including Scott ARES in planning and response exercises.

The Hams in Scott ARES join Scott County in wishing Chris many happy years of retirement! The white-tailed deer population of the state has probably gone on high alert now that Chris will have more time to devote to his hunting hobby. Good Luck Chris, in chasing the next Boone & Crockett record buck!

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IOTA Release via Daily DX

The RSGB Islands on the Air (IOTA) program celebrated its 50th anniversary as a premier DX program in July 2014. The last fifty years have seen the program grow to 2,500 active island chasers and approximately 15,000 more casual participants. It is perhaps second in scale and scope to the DXCC award; indeed, many would argue it is even more challenging than that program.

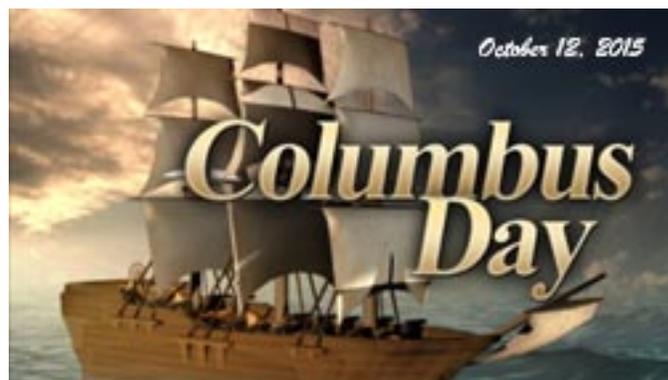
Last year the Board identified a number of challenges that the program faced, not least of which was the need to provide an IT system that would allow online island credit submission akin to Logbook of the World (LoTW). Since that time, a small group of IOTA enthusiasts has been working with the Society to ensure that the IOTA program continues to grow and play the prominent role that it has done in Amateur Radio DXing and contest activity for the last fifty years.

That work has now come to fruition and we are pleased to announce that a new organization will be formed, to be called the IOTA Foundation. It will be run by IOTA enthusiasts and will manage the IOTA program in partnership with the Society. One major task for the new organization will be to develop a new online credit system that is due to be completed in 2017.

Roger Balister, G3KMA, Bob Barden, MD0CCE, Cezar Trifu, VE3LYC and Johan Willemsen, PA3EXX, are the team who will implement the IT changes and form the IOTA Foundation, with representation from radio amateurs at home and abroad.

Sign up for a two week trial of The Daily DX at: <http://www.dailydx.com/trial.html>

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## Pop'tronics Magazine



Electronics enthusiasts, hams, experimenters in the late 50's and through the 60's probably encountered Popular Electronics magazine. You will notice right off the bat the cover price of 25 cents! To put this in perspective, gasoline prices were in the 25 to 35 cents per gallon range.

The adventures of Carl and Jerry were a regular feature of the magazine. Each month the adventurous duo would find themselves in situations that often ended with the town police officers shaking their heads. Each episode usually included a learning topic about some electronics principle.

Another feature of the magazine was the pioneer version of Fritzing (<http://fritzing.org/home/>) This circuit design tool is familiar to most Arduino enthusiasts. The pictorial schematic presentation was a regular feature of almost every schematic diagram. This subtle approach taught hobbyists how to relate a schematic diagram to actual parts.

The ads were chock full of electronics oriented schools and training. Skimming the ads is a time travel adventure all in itself. See if you can spot the ads for "THE" Transistor, the CK722 in the late 50's issues. The sales price of the transistor was slightly over \$3.00 – remember the gas price at the time! There really was a time when everyone knew you were talking about the CK722 when you said "transistor".

Don't blame your editor if you visit the archive website (<http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Popular-Electronics-Guide.htm>) and suddenly realize an hour or two has passed! Just in case you are curious there was a running series covering "How to become a Ham"!

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## AVG Free Monetizes User Data

Economists will tell you: there's no free lunch. Yet if traffic to our site is any indication, a lot of you are searching for and downloading free antivirus programs.

Which brings to mind an interesting question: how are free antivirus programs supposed to pay for themselves? AVG recently explained that they, in part, track anonymous user information and sell that data. They even made a friendly video, to clarify things.

(AVG Privacy Policy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTWMWKBtCwA>)



Twitter responded to the news in a predictable manner.

AVG can sell your browsing and search history to advertisers

AVG's potential ability to collect and sell browser and search history data placed the company "squarely into the category of spyware", according to one privacy expert

Switched from @AVGFree to @Avira due to AVG's privacy policy change today after using AVG for many years.

\*Quietly recommends family & friends to uninstall AVG Free - or ensure browser history and app settings appropriate\*

The key point: anonymized information about your Internet activity will be sold to third parties. The reaction hasn't been uniformly positive, as you can imagine.

Fair enough, but on the other hand tracking user activity and monetizing that data isn't exactly new: it's how Facebook, Gmail, and basically any free app you can think of pays the bills at this point. The main difference here is that AVG is clearly stating what they're doing.

Sure, it's jarring when a security company is collecting and monetizing our online behavior, but on some level isn't this the Internet we all signed up for by refusing to pay for things? People who value their privacy, after all, have the option to pay for it by buying AVG. As with the ongoing discussion about ad blocking, I'm sure we'll be talking about this for years to come.

BREAK - OVER



# Modification of Non-ham Gear

ARRL Bulletin

The ARRL has asked the FCC to make clear that Amateur Radio licensees may modify non-amateur equipment for use on Amateur Radio frequencies. Some hams have expressed concerns that recently proposed rules would inhibit post-sale modification of Wi-Fi equipment, now sometimes altered for use on Amateur Radio frequencies. The ARRL made its point in comments filed on October 8 on a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in ET Docket 15-170 and RM-11673. The proceeding mostly addresses proposed amendments to FCC rules regarding authorization of RF equipment. The NPRM can be found on the web in PDF format at [https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-15-92A1.pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-15-92A1.pdf).

“The Commission should clarify...that the ability of licensed radio amateurs to modify and adapt non-amateur equipment for use in the Amateur Service is beneficial, is permitted, and is not restricted by any rule of general applicability adopted in this proceeding,” the League said in its comments. The ARRL said proposed rules requiring manufacturers to include security features to prevent network devices from being modified were “problematic,” to the extent that they would preclude hams from adapting network equipment for ham radio applications.

“The Amateur Radio Service has a very long tradition of modification and adaptation of commercial communications equipment,” the ARRL’s comments pointed out. Amateur licensees should be permitted to modify any previously authorized equipment for use under Amateur Service rules, the League asserted. The proceeding attracted many comments regarding this aspect of the proceeding, although the proposed rules differ only slightly from the current rules.

The ARRL also urged the FCC not to apply any limitations proposed for Software Defined Radios to SDRs intended for use exclusively in the Amateur Radio Service, “as has been the policy for the past 10 years.”

BREAK - OVER



*“Life mirrors my every thought. As I keep my thoughts positive, life brings me only good experiences.”*

Louise Hay



# Lock it or Lose it!

From: Savage Police Department

Stealing valuable items from vehicles is a common crime because it is so easy. Thieves can collect hundreds of dollars of valuables in seconds, with very little effort. The good news is that preventing the crime is easy too.

Statistics from the Savage Police Department show that, for every 10 vehicles targeted, 9 of them were unlocked. Items stolen typically include portable computers and electronic devices, GPS units, smartphones, loose change, and purses or wallets.

## PREVENTION TIPS

- Lock your doors and close your windows.
- Remove all valuables from the vehicle.
- If you must leave personal property inside, make sure it is out of view.
- Before arriving at your destination, place all valuables in your trunk.
- Park in a well-lit, visible area.
- If you have an alarm, make sure it is activated.
- Keep a record of the serial numbers for all of your valuables.
- Call 911 if you see any suspicious activity. Note descriptions of people and vehicles involved, license plates, and direction of travel.

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**ARES Breakfast**  
Saturday November 14th  
7:30AM  
Perkins Restaurant  
Savage, MN

# NECOS Schedule October 2015

The first Monday or the month the net is held on the WB0RMK repeater, Carver. You will find WB0RMK here: [147.165/765 PL 107.2](http://147.165/765 PL 107.2)

## October

- Oct 5 **KB0FH Bob**
- Oct 12 **WA0DGW John**
- Oct 19 **KC0YHH Tony**
- Oct 26 **KD0UWZ Chad**

## November

- Nov 2 **KB0FH Bob**
- Nov 9 **WA0DGW John**
- Nov 16 **KC0YHH Tony**
- Nov 23 **KD0UWZ Chad**