



# ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



October, 2016

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications for our Community

Volume 16, Number 10

## A Saturday for the Dogs!

(and at least one kitty)

It was definitely a day for the dogs at Lions Park in Shakopee on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The morning was a nice break in the weather from the soggy week and a great morning for the Walk-Run Fur Love. Area pets took over 150 of their humans for a walk that Saturday. This year's walk / run is the twenty fourth edition of the annual fund raiser for the Carver-Scott Humane Society (CSHS).

CSHS is a nonprofit organization that relies exclusively on donation and volunteers. The Society supports displaced cats, dogs, puppies and kittens. All animals are cared or until matched with permanent homes. The Walk / Run is the major annual fundraiser for the CSHS. This year the event is expected to bring in over \$22,000 once all donations have been received!

There were a variety of exhibitors who featured a variety of pet centered products and services. Some pets indulged their humans with a visit to the photo booth for a glamour shot to memorialize the morning. The CSHS also provided information about their services and offered a puppy kissing booth.

Shakopee/Chaska Ambassadors provided a touch of elegance, providing tiara crowned encouragement to the walkers and runners. Communications support for the event was provided by amateur radio volunteer operators from the Scott County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (Scott ARES) group.

Scott ARES volunteers allowed coordination between the event managers at the start / finish area and SCHS volunteers dispersed through the course at designated rest areas. Fortunately none of the pet's humans strayed or wandered off and there were no serious health or safety concerns during the event.

The communications plan called for the net control station to be located at the start / finish area at the hub of the activity.

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

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The NECOS utilized a J-pole elevated to 20 ft and a 50 watt transceiver. The course operators were able to use handi talkies for communications or used HT-mobile crossband operation.

Some of the on-course operators had to relocate to stay ahead of the walkers (We can ALWAYS use more volunteers!). One ham, Nick W0KLV, operated bicycle-mobile between on-course locations which proved to be a great success!

Check out the photo gallery for a view of the activities. You are invited to stop by the CSHS website for more information about the society, sign up to volunteer with their program or make a donation at: [www.carverscotths.org](http://www.carverscotths.org).

See Photo gallery on page 4.

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## ARES Activities

Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)

Breakfast Saturday, October 8th

Digital Monday, October 10th

### 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

## Fire Prevention Month



“Don’t Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years,” represents the final year of our three-year effort to educate the public about basic but essential elements of smoke alarm safety.

Why focus on smoke alarms three years in a row? Because National Fire Protection Assn. (NFPA) survey data shows that the public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms, which may put them at increased risk in the event of a home fire. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced.

Ninety percent of respondents didn’t know that smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years, which is typically the life span of the devices. In addition, nearly 20 percent of those surveyed reported having smoke alarms that were more than 10 years old.

Make sure your home is fire safe. Take time to check:

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home.
- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

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### Scott County ARES Contacts

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## Spy vs. Spy?

### ARRL Letter

What have been called “highly suspicious” VHF transmissions along the Bengal-Bangladesh border now are being considered signals of interest to India’s Intelligence Bureau.



After several days of monitoring, Ambarish Nag “Raju” Biswas, VU2JFA, told *The Indian Express* that he and his team have determined that the transmissions, taking place on Amateur Radio frequencies, are coming from the area of Basirhat in West Bengal. The voice communications have been heard at night.

Federal Ministry of Communication officials in India had asked Biswas, the secretary of the West Bengal Amateur Radio Club, and his fellow hams to keep an ear on the strange VHF signals.

Biswas told *The Indian Express* that he’d found the recent signals suspicious because he’d heard similar communications in 2002 and 2003. Subsequently, police arrested six “extremists,” from Gangasagar, an island in the Ganges River delta, he told the paper.

An earlier article in the *Hindustan Times* reported that the signals were being heard in the dead of night, with participants said to be in motion and speaking in some sort of code in Bengali and Urdu with a Bangladeshi accent. They also used numerical codes, according to the report.

Indian Intelligence Bureau officials did not rule out the possibility that terror organizations were behind the signals. “The border of India-Bangladesh near West Bengal is porous,” a senior Intelligence Bureau official told *The Indian Express*. “Smugglers and extremists try to exploit it fully.”

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## Daylight Savings Time



“Fall Behind”  
one hour  
**Sunday**  
**November 6th**

## 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.arrrl.org/exam\\_sessions/search](http://www.arrrl.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!

### November 5, 2016 Saturday 10:00 AM

St Paul Radio Club  
Leon H. Dill (651) 688-9964

Email: [w0coec@arrrl.net](mailto:w0coec@arrrl.net)

Location: Ramsey Co Library Maplewood  
3025 Southlawn Dr  
Saint Paul MN 55109-1577

Walk-ins allowed, Pre-reg requested

### November 9, 2016 Wednesday 7:00 PM

Sponsor: VARC  
James C. Rice (612) 384-7709

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

Location: Perkins Restaurant & Bakery  
17387 Kenyon Avenue  
Lakeville MN 55044-4459

Walk-ins allowed, Pre-reg requested

### November 19, 2016 Saturday 9:00AM

Sponsor: SEMARC  
Daniel M. Franz (651) 769-0358

Email: [wd0gup@hotmail.com](mailto:wd0gup@hotmail.com)

Location: Zion Lutheran church  
8500 Hillside Trl S

Cottage Grove MN 55016-3273

### November 28, 2016 Monday 6:00 PM

SMARTS  
Dale A. Blomgren (952) 402-2155

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

Location: Carver County Library  
7711 Kerber Blvd  
Chanhassen MN 55317

Walk-ins allowed, Pre-reg requested

## 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. Which of the following can be the result of an incorrectly adjusted speech processor?
  - A. Distorted speech
  - B. Splatter
  - C. Excessive background pickup
  - D. All of these choices are correct
2. What does an S meter measure?
  - A. Conductance
  - B. Impedance
  - C. Received signal strength
  - D. Transmitter power output
3. How does an S meter reading of 20 dB over S-9 compare to an S-9 signal, assuming a properly calibrated S meter?
  - A. It is 10 times weaker
  - B. It is 20 times weaker
  - C. It is 20 times stronger
  - D. It is 100 times stronger

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

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**VOTE!**

**Tuesday  
Nov. 8th**

## September General Pool Answers

1. Which of the following is an advantage of a receiver Digital Signal Processor IF filter as compared to an analog filter?
  - A. A wide range of filter bandwidths and shapes can be created
2. Which of the following can perform automatic notching of interfering carriers?
  - B. A Digital Signal Processor (DSP) filter
3. Which of the following describes how a speech processor affects a transmitted single sideband phone signal?
  - B. It increases average power

## Walk/Run Fur Love Photos



Runners take your mark! Tony, KC0YHH, at the starting line ready to alert the course to the start of the event. *photo by KDOUWZ*



Everyone had a good time on the Walk Fur Love course winding their way through Shakopee. *photo by W0KLV*



Great way to meet new friends out for a walk at the Walk Run Fur Love 2016 in Shakopee on a Saturday morning. *photo by W0KLV*



There were plenty of exhibits to view prior to the start as here Nick, W0KLV checks out the raffle table. *photo by KDOUWZ*

## Walk/Run Fur Love Photos cont'd



The exhibitor area was located near the communications center at the Run Walk Fur Love. This area was the center of the pre- and post-race activity. *photo by KCOYHH*

**Run Fur Love Pictures** *cont'd on page 6*



## 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 20, 2016.

Software	Version
Fldigi	3.23.15
Flwrap	1.3.4
Flmsg	3.00.02
Flamp	2.2.03

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.



## Test Your NIMS Knowledge

This month we begin our review of ICS-200. This course is designed to enable personnel to operate efficiently during an incident or event within the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS-200 provides training on and resources for personnel who are likely to assume a supervisory position within the ICS.

Check your recall of the course material with this question.

1. Which Section is responsible for handling claims related to property damage, injuries, or fatalities at the incident?
  - A. Logistics Section
  - B. Operations Section
  - C. Finance/Administration Section
  - D. Planning Section

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

*BREAK - OVER*

*"Ignorance is the principal enemy of human freedom."*

Elu of the Nine

## September NIMS Knowledge Solution

1. \_\_\_\_\_ means that each individual involved in incident operations will be assigned to only one supervisor.
  - B. Unity of Command

*BREAK - OVER*

## Walk/Run Fur Love Photos cont'd



Scott ARES volunteers at the Run Walk Fur Love 2016 included (l to r) Nick, W0KLV, Chad KD0UWZ, Tony, KC0YHH, George K0GCP, and John WA0DGW. Thanks for volunteering your time, skills and equipment for the benefit of the community. *photo by Eastman X. Kodak*



The net control operating position for the event was located close to the food! Scott ARES provided literature promoting amateur radio and emergency communications. *photo by KD0UWZ*



The swift eight legs who clocked the fastest run time were (in the center) Bob and Christy Klatt and pet Aja. On the left is Lara Schwing, CSHS Event Coordinator, and right, Tony KC0YHH Net Control operator for the event. *photo by KD0UWZ*

## Minibounce Success

Hannes Fasching, OE5JFL, of Braunau am Inn, Austria, has demonstrated that you don't need a huge antenna system to operate EME (moonbounce) successfully. Fasching fired up for the October 22-23 weekend of the ARRL EME Contest, using a small horn antenna on 1.2 GHz.

"Because of other commitments I had only a few hours to be QRV in the first part of the ARRL EME Contest," he said in a Moon-Net post on October 26. "As tests with my recently built 23-centimeter horn antenna were promising, I decided to give it a try to work some stations." Fasching placed the horn on his balcony with an 80 W solid-state amplifier.

Operating *WSJT*, he logged contacts with Switzerland, Russia, Germany, and the Czech Republic. He also heard stations in the Netherlands, Finland, Denmark, and Italy on digital modes and in the UK, Czech Republic, Denmark, and Italy on CW.

Fasching, who also has a 7.3-meter homemade dish, has uploaded recordings of some EME signals to his website, along with the results of tests with his small system. You can find more details at Hannes' site: [http://www.qsl.net/oe5jfl/small\\_stn\\_eme.htm](http://www.qsl.net/oe5jfl/small_stn_eme.htm)



The Moonbounce antenna used was a W2IMU feed made of 6mm mesh by adding a large cone, achieving a horn antenna with 80cm mouth diameter. Estimated gain is 19dBi, maybe slightly less. Shown here on the balcony pointed at the moon.

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### ARES Breakfast

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

## Deep Thoughts

Be careful when you  
follow the masses  
...sometimes the "M" is silent!

## NECOS Schedule November 2016

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

Oct 31	KB0FH Bob
November	
Nov 7	WA0DGW John
Nov 14	KD0UWZ Chad
Nov 21	KB0FH Bob
Nov 28	WA0DGW John
December	
Dec 5	KD0UWZ Chad
Dec 12	KB0FH Bob