



# ARES COMMUNICATOR

## Information for Scott County Amateurs



September, 2006

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 6, Number 9

### National Preparedness Month

September has been designated as National Preparedness Month in the United States by the Department of Homeland Security. The goal of National Preparedness Month is to educate Americans about the importance of emergency preparedness and encourage individuals to take action. This fall, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Preparedness Month Coalition are urging all Americans to take some simple steps to make their families better prepared for emergencies including:

**Get a Kit** - Get a kit of emergency supplies that will allow you and your family to survive for at least three days in the event an emergency happens. The kit should include basic items like water, food, battery-powered radio, flashlight and a first aid kit.

**Make a Plan** - Plan in advance what you and your family will do in an emergency. Your plan should include a communications plan and address sheltering-in-place and evacuation.

**Be Informed** - Learn more about different threats that could affect your community and appropriate responses to them. Go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more information about natural disasters and potential terrorist threats and information about the emergency plans that have been established in your area.

**Get Involved** - After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step: get training in first aid and emergency response and get involved in preparing your community. Citizen Corps provides residents with opportunities to prepare, train and support local emergency responders.

You can find more information about these topics and more by visiting [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

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### WWW.SCOTTARES.ORG

#### Scott County ARES Website

Scott County ARES now has an internet home! Point your browser to [www.scottares.org](http://www.scottares.org) and check it out. The newly established ARES Homepage will hopefully serve as a source of information and reference for ARES members and served agencies within Scott County.

A quick tour of the site shows general information about ARES and the Scott County area, plus more specific information about Scott County ARES. The Member Resources and Training pages will be particularly useful to members. These pages contain links to training courses from FEMA and the American Radio Relay League. Members will also find documents, in PDF format, relating to net operation, ARES alerting, and local information. The monthly newsletter is also archived on the site.

Our web home is constantly changing with new features being added and content revised so check back often.

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## ARES Activities

- Marathon for Nonpublic Education**
- Saturday October 7th, Shakopee**
- Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)**
- Breakfast Saturday September 9th**

### SELECTED TRAFFIC NETS

Designator	Freq.	Local Times	
MN Phone	3.860Mhz	Noon, 5:30pm	Daily
MN CW	3.605Mhz	6:30pm, 9:50pm	Daily
<b>ARES</b>			
Scott ARES	146.535 S	7:00pm	Monday
Carver ARES	147.165+	8:30pm	Sunday
<b>Neighboring Nets</b>			
North Dakota	3.937Mhz	6:30pm	Daily
South Dakota	3.870Mhz	6:00pm	Daily
Wisconsin	3.985Mhz	5:30pm	Daily

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!

## Amateurs to Support U.S. TSA in Emergencies

ARRL Letter Vol 25 No 32

Amateur Radio operators who are members of the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) will provide back-up communication for the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) under a formal agreement announced in July by Army MARS Chief Kathy Harrison, AAA9A. Protecting airports during the hurricane season will be the immediate focus, she said, adding that the new MARS-TSA collaboration "is likely to expand to other Department of Homeland Security (DHS) areas" in the future.

"This is an extensive area and will require member support across the continental United States," Harrison said. "We will need many volunteers to man teams assigned to specific geographical areas, starting with airports throughout the hurricane corridor." She called for "physically capable" Amateur Radio operators to volunteer for the assignment.

The first airport emergency support teams will be located at four airports in the Florida hurricane belt: Miami, Ft Myers, Jacksonville and Pensacola, Harrison said. She added that recruiting will immediately follow for nine additional potential hurricane targets from Washington, DC to Houston. In a later phase - but as soon as possible - additional teams will be recruited for other hurricane locations including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and after that, the remainder of the continental US.

The emergency support teams - each consisting of four members of MARS - are being assembled under joint sponsorship of MARS and the TSA, with deployment assignments determined by the TSA when and if the government's communication systems fail. "Volunteers should be within a reasonable traveling distance to the airport. It will be their responsibility to get to the site when activated," said Harrison.

The Memorandum of Understanding, MOU, which is already in place, calls for using MARS networks, personnel and equipment to maintain communication during the first 72 hours of incidents involving aircraft, mass transit and pipelines. Seventy-two hours is considered the maximum time needed for federal response organizations to deploy internal emergency communication systems.

A particular MARS responsibility will be to provide communication interoperability with local, state and national networks, such as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Shared Resources

## Asst. Emergency Coordinators Named

Bob Minor, W0NFE  
Daniel VandeVusse, N0PI

Scott County ARES has two new individuals on the ARES management team. Bob Minor, W0NFE, and Daniel Vande Vusse, N0PI, have accepted appointments as Assistant Emergency Coordinator, AEC.

The Assistant Emergency Coordinators play active roles in promoting and enhancing the ARES organization through; recruiting new members, participating with the Emergency Coordinator in planning, leading training activity, and working as liaison to various served agencies.

These amateurs are both experienced communicators who have demonstrated a commitment to ARES and our area. Their skills and commitment will serve to strengthen Scott County ARES in our goal to provide accurate, rapid communications to local agencies during an emergency.

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## TAS Support *cont'd from col. 1*

(SHARES). A separate web of national and regional HF radio networks, SHARES links federal agencies under the DHS's National Communications System (NCS), of which MARS already is a primary participant.

The pact calls for a reliable back-up solution "to ensure the continuity of TSA's command and control function during the first 72 hours following any incident interfering with normal communications channels and to provide local, regional and nationwide TSA communications during that time." The existing MARS emergency communication network offers such a solution immediately and at no additional cost to the TSA, the MOU points out.

The chiefs of Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps MARS also are onboard with the new agreement and have messaged their respective memberships to signify their participation and cooperation with Army MARS. Air Force MARS Chief Don Poquette, AGA3C/KE9XB, has pledged his members' support. "AF MARS will assist to accomplish this mission," he said, pending working out logistical details.

Harrison says she and her headquarters staff met recently with TSA and DHS representatives to formalize the details of the cooperative arrangement. She said MARS area coordinators will provide specific requirements to state MARS directors to recruit members and equipment capabilities to support TSA.

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## Emergency Power for Radio Communications: A Review

By: Larry Jensen K0LEJ

Ever wonder about solar power, electric generators, batteries or inverters? If so check out the new ARRL book, *Emergency Power for Radio Communications*, by Michael Bryce, WB8VGE.

Unlike a lot of ARRL books that are compilations of past articles in *QST* and *QEX*, this book is mostly written by Michael Bryce, WB8VGE. It's obvious very early into reading the book that Mr. Bryce has spent considerable time (and money) on alternative energy sources.

I originally purchased the book to learn a bit more about solar power, something that has fascinated me for some time. I was please to see that Mr. Bryce used a lot of ink and paper explaining the different types of solar power and how to effectively use it. Frankly, I was surprised to see all of the technology that has been incorporated into solar power generation.

My second area of interest is electric generators. This section of the book is not as lengthy as the solar section, but does offer a lot of good foundational information. The author discusses portable gas powered generators, wind generators, and even hydro generators. Also covered in this section is the importance of transfer switches, and why you need to use one of these devices rather than simply plugging the generator to the clothes dryer receptacle.

For those who wish to try and live "off the grid" you will find a lot of good information on battery systems. Included is information on battery types, proper load sizing, and power inverters that allow you to run standard household necessities from a bank of storage batteries. Great information for those who have a cabin in the wilderness.

When working with electrical power it's very important to be aware of safety. While safety is heavily emphasized

throughout the book, there is a short chapter the pulls all of the safety topics together. Perhaps this should have been the first chapter.

For those of us interesting in emergency communications there is some good information on simply keeping the lights on and radio functioning. Mr. Bryce had an interesting idea on how to keep a radio running using a battery: He suggests powering a radio from a 13.8VDC supply connected to an inverter powered by a battery. So what's the rational behind converting a 12V (give or take) battery supply to 120 VAC then converting back to 12-13.8 VDC? He argues that some modern radios will degrade or shut down once the supply voltage drops to 12.5V. The inverter, on the other hand, will continue to operate well below that voltage and thus allow the radio to run longer.

There is a lot of other information, including a section on emergency preparedness that talks about jump kits, water, food, personal items. No ARRL publication would be complete without a few reprints from *QST*; therefore, you will find a few reprints of the better construction projects

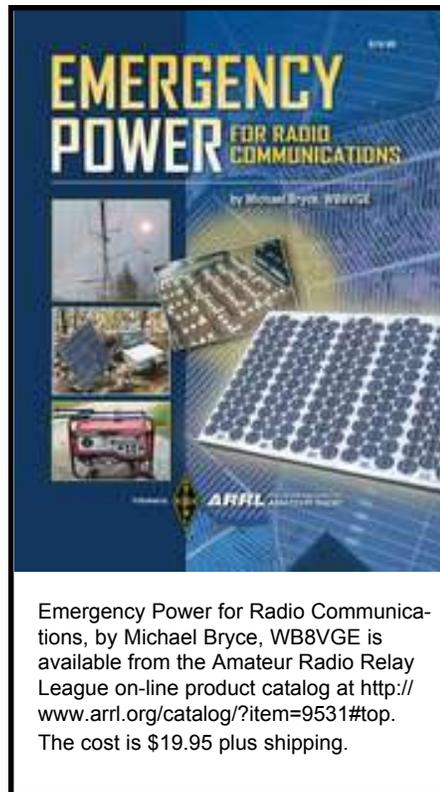
that have been published in recent years.

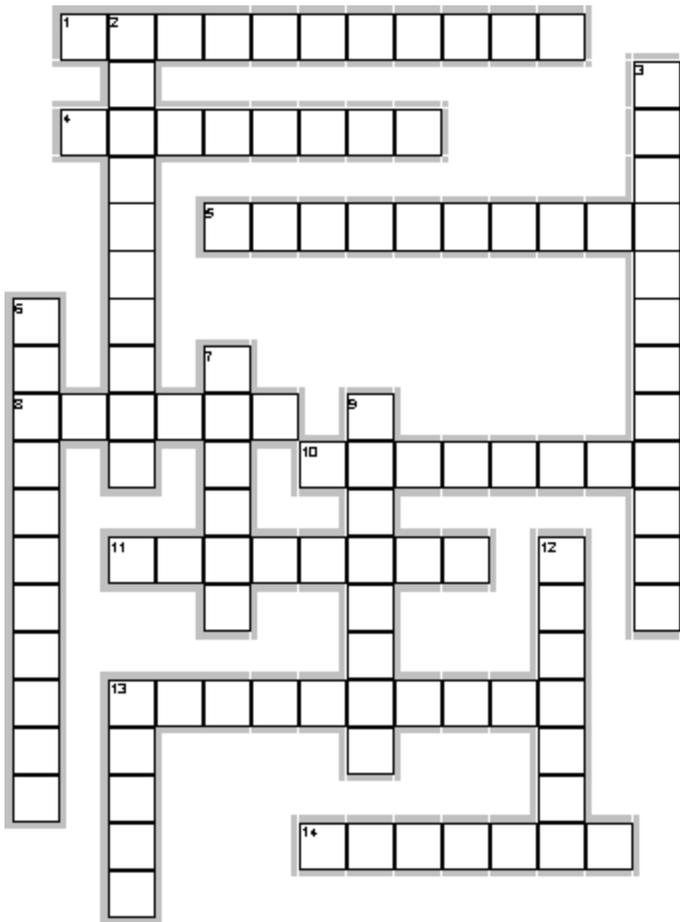
There are a few things I would like to see added to the book. For example, it would be nice to have more detailed information on generators, and in particular gas powered inverter generators. I would also like to see a list of manufacturers/vendors (at least the big names in the industry).

Outside of several typos, I found *Emergency Power for Radio Communications* a very enjoyable and informative book that would be useful for emergency communicators.

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*There is nothing wrong with making mistakes,  
but there is no need to respond to encores.*





# STATE FAIR TRIVIA



### Across

1. Building where you check out the prize-winning produce.
4. Here we go 'round and 'round.
5. A great place to watch Dan Patch race.
8. where the rides are!
10. Let's see if that big Exos lucius is back this year.
11. Showy equine venue.
13. A high altitude view of the area.
14. house that promises a spooky show.

### Down

2. Whee! A bumpy ride top to bottom.
3. The spot to cure hunger.
6. Nomad's temporary home.
7. barn called the hamburger hotel.
9. Not your everyday art - the "good" stuff.
12. Overhead voyage from Underwood St. to the midway.
13. Barn for the bacon.



# Patriot's Day

remembering September 11, 2001

## NIMS Basics Puzzle Solution

### Across

4. OPERATIONS - An Area Command organization does not include a / an \_\_\_\_\_ Section.
6. UNIFIED COMMAND - \_\_\_\_\_ is used more than one agency has responsibility for the response, such as in a hazardous material spill.
7. BESTPRACTICES - The ICS is a proven incident management system that is based on organizational \_\_\_\_\_
9. PERFORMANCE - Resource typing involves categorizing resources based on \_\_\_\_\_.
10. CORRECTIVEACTION - A plan based on lessons learned from actual incidents is a / an \_\_\_\_\_ plan.

### Down

1. MBO - Incident Action Plans depend on \_\_\_\_\_ to accomplish response tactics.
2. CONSISTENCY - NIMS standards for communications and information management are based on the principle that a common operating picture is required to ensure \_\_\_\_\_ among responders.
3. AREACOMMAND - \_\_\_\_\_ is often used in public health emergencies that are not site specific.
5. SPANOFCONTROL - Supervision of three to seven individuals illustrates the \_\_\_\_\_ concept.
8. FLEXIBLE - NIMS provides a \_\_\_\_\_ framework that applies to all phases of incident management.

## LONG-SILENT SUITSAT-1 KEEPS GOING AND GOING

When SuitSat-1 — the novel satellite built in a surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit — was launched during a spacewalk from the International Space Station last February 3, those familiar with orbital mechanics predicted it would stay in orbit for 120 days at best. As of August 25, some 203 days (nearly seven months) later — largely forgotten and its ham radio voice long since silent — SuitSat-1 has defied the odds and remains in orbit some 155 miles above Earth.

A project of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, SuitSat-1, identifying as RS0RS, transmitted its voice greetings on 2 meters plus an SSTV picture thousands of times. Although its signal was far weaker than it was supposed to be for reasons never determined with any certainty, SuitSat-1 remained operational for more than two weeks.

ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, had credited ARISS-Russia's Sergei Samburov, RV3DR, and his colleagues with coming up with the SuitSat concept, called Radioskaf or Radio Sputnik in Russian.

The SuitSat-1 mission proved to be an Amateur Radio public relations bonanza. In addition to prompting dozens of news items on Web sites and in journals around the world, Reader's Digest judged SuitSat-1 "Best Empty Suit" in its "America's 100 Best: The 2006 List" Popular Science ran an article about SuitSat-1 in its June issue called "Tossed in Space."

To keep the SuitSat-1 momentum going a bit longer ARISS and AMSAT in May announced a "Chicken Little Contest" <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/suitsatContest.php>>, in which participants pick the date on which they believe SuitSat-1 will drop out of orbit and burn up in Earth's atmosphere. Entrants are only allowed one guess, and the winner will be the individual who picks the date closest to SuitSat-1's actual demise. Those who have not already entered may do so by filling out the online entry form on the AMSAT Web site. The odds could be in their favor.

Certificates will go to winners in each of three age groups. Winners not only earn bragging rights, but the fame and notoriety associated with successful satellite re-entry prognostication.

Even before SuitSat-1 went silent, ARISS and AMSAT already were discussing the possibility of a SuitSat-2 with contacts in Russia, although plans remain tentative at this stage. Among other things, the team will look into the possibility of equipping SuitSat-2 with solar panels instead

of just batteries, to extend its usable life. No formal announcements about SuitSat-2 are expected until around mid-October.

Meanwhile, the time grows nigh when Suit-Sat-1 will pick up enough additional drag from Earth's atmosphere that friction-generated heat will cause it to burn up and vaporize. Just when that will happen is still anyone's guess.

*BREAK - OVER*



### Bring Your HT to Breakfast on Saturday Sep 9th.

A table-top tune-up for the Marathon  
on October 7th in Shakopee.

### Dangerous Situation

*A. Nony Moose, our intrepid internet sleuth files this important message.*

You are on a horse, galloping at a constant speed. On your right side is a sharp drop-off, and on your left side is an elephant traveling at the same speed as you. Directly in front of you is a galloping kangaroo and your horse is unable to overtake it. Behind you is a lion running at the same speed as you and the kangaroo. What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?

If you do not know, see answer below...

*Get your drunk butt off the merry-go-round!*

*BREAK - OVER*



### ARES Breakfast

Saturday September 9th  
7:30AM  
Perkins Restaurant  
Savage, MN

### NECOS Schedule - September 2006

4 Sep	N0PI Dan
11 Sep	W0NFE Bob
18 Sep	KB0FH Bob
25 Sep	AB0YQ Steve
2 Oct	K0KTW Pat
9 Oct	N0PI Dan