



ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



September, 2007

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 7, Number 9

Local Ham Radio Operators Respond to Weekend Flooding

(News release provided by Scott ARES to local papers)

Savage, MN., Aug 21,2007 – Record rainfall and resultant flooding and mudslides in southeastern Minnesota over the weekend disrupted communications and prompted emergency response officials to call upon Amateur Radio Emergency Services, ARES, groups for communications assistance.

Olmsted ARES, in Rochester, was among the first to respond. Their members were rapidly deployed through out the disaster area. As conditions deteriorated, the call for additional ARES assistance was made.

Scott County ARES was notified shortly after noon on Sunday and was able to send three members to the disaster area to assist local emergency responders with communications.

Bob Minor, W0NFE, was dispatched to a Red Cross shelter set up in a church in Rochester. He provided a link to the emergency operations center, EOC, that was operating from an area near the Rochester airport. The shelter was able to suspend operations later Sunday evening.

Jeff Forseth, AC0DH, was sent to Rushford, MN where he set up his radio equipment at the Rushford EOC. Jeff provided communications with the local shelter in Rushford as well as a link to another Red Cross shelter at St. Mary’s University in Winona. The river flowing though Rushford had jumped its banks and effectively split the town in two. The EOC was on one side and the shelter on the opposite bank of the flooded river. The staff at the EOC received anxious inquiries about family and friends and used the amateur radio link with the shelters to provide information to calm worried relatives.

Flood Response *cont'd page 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!

Tee It Up For The Troops National Day of Golf

September 7th, 2007 will find thousands of golfers across the nation taking to the links in an effort to honor and support the fallen and disabled members of our Armed Forces and their families.

TEE IT UP FOR THE TROOPS is the non-profit organization responsible for all those golfers and their cause.

The goal is to annually make the Friday closest to September 11th a NATIONAL DAY OF GOLF saluting all those who have answered the call to duty. A day to acknowledge and honor the sacrifice of the military veterans and their families.

The first event in 2005 raised over \$80,000 used for Freedom Scholarships awarded to the fallen and disabled military members and/or immediate family. In 2006 over \$100,000 went to The Wounded Warrior Project.

The 2007 event will support the Wounded Warrior Project in addition to the Fisher House and America Supports You organizations.



Tee It Up *cont'd page 2*

ARES Activities

**Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)
Breakfast Saturday, September 8th**

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

Flood Response *cont'd from pg. 1*

Steve Kickert, W0GXO, was asked to go to Winona to help with communications in the Red Cross shelter. He was diverted to the city of St. Charles in response to a request from the mayor for additional amateur radio help. The city needed to communicate between the EOC set up at the Fire Station, where Steve was assigned, the City Hall where disaster planning occurred, and the shelters in St. Charles and Winona.

All three of the Scott County ARES members arrived home by early Monday morning, safe, tired and glad that they were able to put their emergency communications skills to effective use helping fellow Minnesotans.

Scott County ARES members hone their communications skills in a weekly on-air training net and other public service events and exercises. Participation in the group is open to all licensed radio amateurs who desire to improve their communications skills and help their community in a time of disaster. You can find out more about Scott County ARES on the group's website at www.scottares.org, or by contacting the



When heavy rain moved through southern Minnesota and knocked out communication Aug. 18, ham radio operators Steve Kickert (left) of Shakopee, Bob Minor of Savage and Jeff Forseth (not pictured) of Eden Prairie packed their mobile equipment and responded to assist with emergency communications. The three amateur radio operators are members of the Scott County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). *Scott Theisen - Sun Newspapers*

ARES group's Emergency Coordinator, Bob Reid, N0BHC, by email at n0bhc@aol.com.

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"Criticism is often useful, and praise is often deceitful."

Sir Winston Churchill

Tee It Up *cont'd from pg. 1*

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty has proclaimed September 7th, 2007, Tee It Up For The Troops Day. The Governor will also participate during the opening ceremony at the home tournament.

Tee It Up For the Troops makes no declarations in support for or against our involvement in current conflicts. The support is for those who serve. This year, over 100 golf courses in 32 states will host or participate in a Tee It Up For The Troops event.

You can find out more about the event at their website <http://www.teeitupforthetroops.com/index.cfm> including a listing of participating golf courses near you. If you can't make it to a participating course, please consider making a donation and playing golf on that day. Donations are tax-deductible.

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We Now Live in an Emergency Communications World

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF
WorldRadio, Sept. 2007

Since 11 September 2001, Ham Radio has geared itself to becoming an emergency communications service. As such, I think that most of you will agree that it is very, very important that we not tear apart what we now have just for the sake of adopting a “buzz word” called “digital” and there by make the same mistake that our leaders seem to be heading toward.

Ham Radio in the area of emergency communication is successful because it is fully decentralized and depends on relatively simple equipment. All analog gear can “talk” to any other brand of similarly designed equipment. The same holds true for HF gear. No matter the brand name, any SSB radio will talk to any other SSB radio. Morse can be created, transmitted and received using the most rudimentary of a home-built station simple, effective and within the reach of all who need to communicate.

More important, our infrastructure is spread out across the nation. It resides in the homes and vehicles of the service’s licensees and there is no central point of failure possible. Even in a worst-case scenario where a terrorist attack takes down a telecommunications network, Ham Radio operators with their personal stations would continue to provide any and all needed communications until more formal lines could be restored

Yes, it is true that the paradigm is shifting. In short order a number of the agencies we see as emergency communications clients will be shifting to pure data transfer of text. Leaders envision being able to do away with oral communications and the mistakes inherent to passing a message by the spoken word -. Instead, they see large high-speed wireless data networks that reach out from an agency’s headquarters and directly to the disaster relief worker in the field. What they do not understand is the danger of failure inherent to any communications system that requires a static, centralized infrastructure that form of communications pyramid creates.

I don’t know about you, but I for one cannot foresee any post-disaster relief agency turning away a message requesting help because it did not come in via a high-speed data network. The reality is that responders will continue to respond no matter how the call for help arrives and it is the job of Hams involved in emergency communications to get the information delivered as quickly and as accurately as they can using whatever means and mode that is available to them.

We in Ham Radio have come to adopt CW and SSB as

universal modes for HF and FM for VHF that all gear of all brands can intercommunicate. They are simple, universal and they work. If we rush headlong into digital without proper pre-planning, we may wind up in a situation where - be it HF or VHF - we will have to make 100% certain that our radio is equipped with the protocol allowing it to talk to all other radios.

Lastly, to insure that this “digital interoperability” comes to exist in Amateur Radio, we the consuming Ham Radio public need to let the Ham Radio politicians, the technocrats and the equipment suppliers know that we will not buy a digital radio that cannot - out of the box - talk to all other digital Amateur Radio gear.

The bottom line. While I am an ardent proponent of what digital communications has to offer, I also know its pitfalls and its limitations. With that in mind I says that we not totally give up the magnificent analog operational structure we have today for an uncertain future of a digital tomorrow - unless we can assure ourselves that the digitalization will improve rather than impair our ability to function.

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Labor Day



Happy Holiday!

Monday, Sep 3rd

K0MSW Skywarn Callsign

Notice to All Metro Skywarn Spotters - Especially the Amateur Radio Community. Metro Skywarn has recently obtained a callsign dedicated to Metro Skywarn Net Control Stations (NCS) operations.

When you are listening to a Metro Skywarn weather net repeater and hear the call K0MSW when there is a high likelihood of weather net activity. All Metro Skywarn NCS operations - Golden Valley, Ramsey County, and Bloomington – will begin using the new call K0MSW for all weather net operations.



BREAK - OVER

August Crossword Solution

Across

1. WEATHER—ARL TWENTY FIVE Furnish as soon as possible the _____ conditions at your location.
4. STRANDED—ARL TWENTY Temporarily _____. Will need some assistance.
7. CRITICAL—ARL FOURTEEN Situation here becoming _____. Losses and damage from flood increasing.
8. THIRTEEN—ARL _____ Medical emergency situation exits here.
9. TWO—ARL _____ Coming home as soon as possible.
10. EVERYONE—ARL ONE _____ safe here. Please don't worry.
11. SIX—ARL _____ Will contact you as soon as possible.

Down

2. RADIOOPERATORS—ARL NINE Additional four _____ needed to assist with emergency at this location.
3. CONTACT—ARL EIGHTEEN Please _____ me as soon as possible
5. TWENTYFOUR—ARL _____ Evacuation of residents from this area urgently needed. Advise plans for help.
6. TWENTYSIX—ARL _____ Help and care for evacuation of sick and injured from this location needed at once.

PSK31 and Emergency Communications

ARES E-letter 15Aug07

There could be a place for "weak signal" use for VHF/UHF emcomm. One of the biggest reasons is the dearth of packet radio in many regions however the high popularity of new modes like PSK31 offer a solution. Here is a computer mode little used above 50 MHz that could provide 100% error free copy for close-in communications. Stations that might not hear each other at 50 watts FM simplex may hear each other just fine on lower power PSK.

You can send not only real time keyboard to keyboard chat with a written record but also short ASCII files like supply lists and numbers of people in shelters. The data can simply be copied from the receive window into a text or word processing file for use by others. Security is enhanced since your basic home scanner-listener isn't set up to listen to 2 meter SSB much less decode PSK. It would be a great local communications supplement to Winlink, which at VHF is another FM-based mode

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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 you knowledge of the ICS.

Which General Staff position conducts tactical operations, develops the tactical objectives and organization, and directs all tactical resources?

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

Which Command Staff position serves as the conduit between internal and external stakeholders, including the media, or other organizations seeking information directly from the incident or event?

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

Check next month's ARES Communicator for the solution



**Begins
Sept. 23rd**

Answers for the August ICS Quiz

The ability to communicate within ICS is absolutely critical. To ensure efficient, clear communication, ICS requires the use of:

- A. Common terminology.

There is no correlation between the ICS organization and the administrative structure of any single agency or jurisdiction. This is deliberate because:

- A. Confusion over different position titles and organizational structures has been a significant stumbling block to effective incident management in the past.

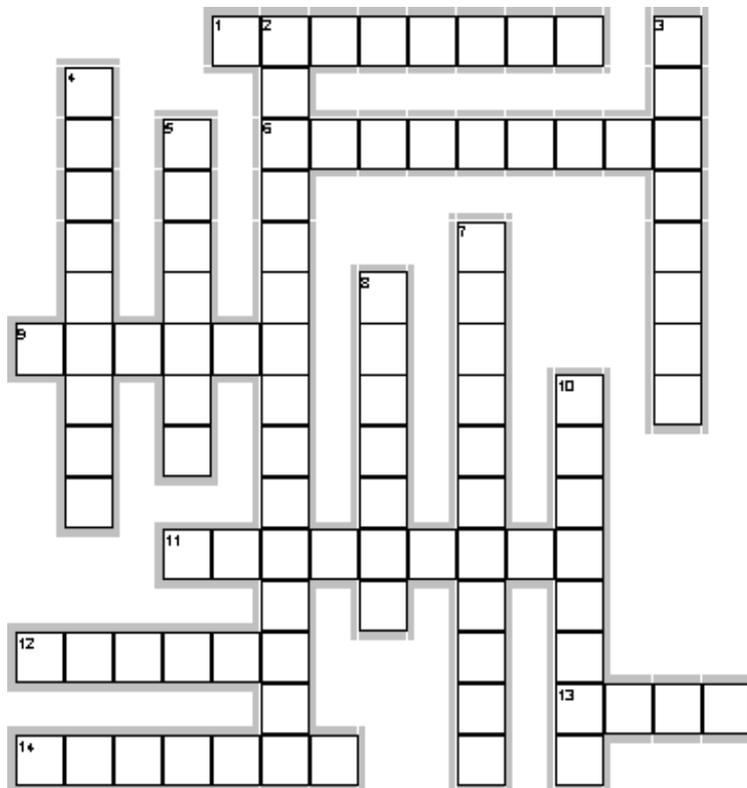
Basic Terms

Across

1. A type of callsign used to identify a location or function during local emergency operations.
6. A modulation method where the voice information can vary the amplitude of the RF carrier.
9. A circuit that allows some signals to pass through it but greatly reduces the strength of others.
11. Signals from a transmitter or oscillator occurring on whole-number multiples of the desired frequency.
12. A common name for an Amateur Radio license.
13. A type of repeater used by all hams who have a license that authorizes operation on the repeater frequency.
14. A device that converts chemical energy into electrical energy.

Down

2. A person holding a written authorization to be the control operator of an amateur station.
3. The wire or cable used to connect a transmitter, receiver, or transceiver to an antenna.
4. Payment of any type, whether money or other goods. Amateurs may not operate their stations for any _____.
5. A stage of an FM receiver that makes the receiver less sensitive to amplitude variations and pulse noise.
7. The ability of a receiver to separate two closely spaced signals.



8. The lowest region of the ionosphere.
10. The transmitted signal from an amateur station.

Canadian Special Event Planned for September 29th - 30th

A demonstration of cooperation in emergency communications preparedness between Canadian radio amateurs and those in the United States is planned for September 29-30 with a special event station VO1ARES. It will be located at the Marconi memorial station on historic Signal Hill, St John's, Newfoundland, where reception of the first transatlantic wireless transmission occurred in 1901. Sponsored by Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), the facilities are provided by Parks Canada and coordinated by the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA).

The objectives of the special event are threefold: To highlight the capabilities of Amateur Radio in providing emergency communications in times of crisis, to illustrate the cooperation between Canada and the United States on emergency preparedness within the context of the Security and Prosperity Partnership signed by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada in 2005, and



to create a database of communications "first responders" that the Government of Canada could contact for emergency communications assistance in times of crisis.

Radio amateurs from across Canada and the US are being invited to participate in this first-time official activity, with opening festivities scheduled September 29 from 1430-1730 UTC. The official beginning of event Saturday, September 29, will use the following frequencies and modes: 21235, 14235, 7235 SSB; 21035, 14035, 7035.

A commemorative QSL card will be issued. QSLs may be sent direct to VO1ARES via VE9GLF, G. L. Friars, 35 Upper Quaco Rd, Baxters Corner, NB E25 2S2, Canada. The RAC Web site <<http://www.rac.ca/>> contain further details of the event.

4th ANNUAL NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Emergency Preparedness for Families, Businesses and Communities

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will sponsor the fourth annual National Preparedness Month this September and encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. This year's effort has a growing coalition of more than 625 national, regional, state, and local organizations pledging support.

"It is vital that Americans take steps to prepare for emergencies at home, work or school," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Personal preparedness is paramount to effectively reacting to the effects of a disaster. By preparing yourself, your family, and your businesses, you allow first responders to prioritize efforts and aid."

For the first time, the month will focus on different areas of emergency preparedness.

- September 1-8; Back-to-School (*Ready Kids*)
- September 9-15; Business preparedness (*Ready Business*)
- September 16-22; Multicultural preparedness (*Listo*)
- September 23-30; Home and family preparedness, including pets, older Americans and individuals with disabilities and special needs (*Ready America*)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security promotes individual emergency preparedness through the Ready campaign and Citizen Corps. Ready is a national public service advertising campaign produced by The Advertising Council in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security. The Ready campaign is designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. Individuals interested in more information about family and business preparedness can visit www.ready.gov to receive free materials.

The *Ready* campaign and the department's Citizen Corps program work closely together to promote activities across the nation that will encourage individuals to have an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and

be informed about the different threats that may affect them, as well as take steps to get trained and engaged in community preparedness and response efforts.

National Preparedness Month coalition members have agreed to distribute emergency preparedness information and sponsor activities across the country that will promote emergency preparedness. Membership is open to all public

and private sector organizations.

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Quick Training Tips

Important Scott ARES Updates

Check the Scott ARES website, www.scottares.org, and make sure you have the latest version of the Scott ARES activation plan and calling tree.

Updated telephone contact information was distributed by email during August. Check your in-box and review your contact information to ensure it is accurate. Send any changes to Bob, N0BHC, at N0BHC@aol.com.

BREAK - OVER



ARES Breakfast

Saturday September 8th
7:30AM
Perkins Restaurant
Savage, MN

NECOS Schedule - September, 2007

3 Sep	WONFE Bob
10 Sep	KB0FH Bob
17 Sep	K0KTW Pat
24 Sep	N0PI Dan
1 Oct	WONFE Bob
8 Oct	KB0FH Bob