



# ARES COMMUNICATOR

## Information for Scott County Amateurs



September, 2010

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 10, Number 9

### National Preparedness Month

This September marks the seventh annual National Preparedness Month (NPM). Led by FEMA's *Ready Campaign* in partnership with Citizen Corps and The Advertising Council, NPM is a nationwide effort encouraging individuals, families, businesses and communities to work together and take action to prepare for emergencies.



NPM Coalition members will sponsor events and activities throughout the month highlighting the steps that individuals, families and communities can take to

prepare. Additionally, the *Ready Campaign* provides many information items to help promote the month.

"National Preparedness Month is a great way to get Americans and our communities and businesses to come together in planning and preparing for a disaster," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "Disasters can hit any place, any time, so it's essential that we take concrete steps together, now, to ensure a better response later."

This year, NPM focuses on encouraging all Americans to take active steps toward getting involved and becoming prepared. Preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Americans have to work together as a team to ensure that individuals, families and communities are ready. Individuals are encouraged to: make a family emergency plan; put together an emergency supply kit; be prepared to help your neighbor; and work as a team to keep everyone safe.

You can visit the Ready America website at: <http://www.ready.gov/america/index.html> to take advantage of the preparedness information tools.

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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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 Reader submissions encouraged!

### Get Your Feet Wet Weekend

Sept 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

Despite all the controversy about licensing and requirements, there are a lot of new hams who are intrigued with the code. But, like we all were (or are!), they are intimidated and nervous about getting on the air. They've had bad experiences on Field Day or other contests and QSO's where people won't QRS (slow down), and they are getting frustrated. We don't want that to happen! We want to encourage and nurture these new CW operators. The Novice RoundUp used to be a good forum for this, but the Novice concept is obsolete. Something needs to be implemented that would include all classes of newcomers and give them a friendly place to learn the ropes.

The 2010 Get Your Feet Wet Weekend will be 00:00Z Fri Sep 10, 2010 (Thursday local) to 00:00Z Sep 13 (Sunday local).

The focus is on sending slowly and clearly and sending the exchange in order. No memory or programable keyers or code readers are allowed - human-powered transmissions only. Certificates will be sent out to the top three scorers in each category free of charge.

The rules: Operate under one of two categories for the

**Get Wet Weekend** *cont'd on page 2*

### ARES Activities

**Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)**

**Breakfast Saturday, September 11th**

**Digital Monday August 13th**

### SELECTED TRAFFIC NETS

Designator	Freq.	Local Times	
MN Phone	3.860Mhz	Noon, 5:30pm	Daily
MNCW	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
Bloomington	147.090+	9:00pm	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

## Get Your Feet Wet Weekend - cont'd from page 1

entire event, Newcomer or Experienced. You can be licensed a long time but still be a Newcomer to CW or contesting. You're on the honor system: Choose whichever describes your ability.

Suggested calling frequencies are 3.558, 7.110, 14.110, 21.110, and 28.110. If you don't hear anyone, go ahead and call. Get your feet wet and jump in with a CQ FC on a clear frequency. YOU are there listening; chances are someone else is listening and waiting to hear a CQ, too.

Call CQ FC. The Exchange: Callsign/N (newcomer) or Callsign/E (experienced), RST, Name, QTH, FISTS number or power, last two digits of the year licensed. Example: WZ8C/E, 599, Nancy, MI, 0379, 88.

Count 2 points for working someone out of your category, 1 point for working someone in your category. Multipliers are number of stations that were licensed during the last six years. For example in 2007, it would be stations licensed in 2002-2007, in year 2008 it would be stations licensed in 2003-2008, and so on. Stations may be worked once per band for points, but their multiplier only counts once. No WARC bands. Contacts must be 2-way human-keyed CW (Iambics are fine - just no computerized or memory keyers).

Complete event information is available at the FISTS website: <http://www.fists.org/getfeetwet.html>

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## Test Your NIMS Knowledge

ARES members are familiar with the Incident Command System from their study of the FEMA Institute courses. Now it is time to see how much you remember from those courses! Each month you will have the opportunity to test your ICS knowledge on a questions dealing with one ICS area.

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.

Here is the question for this month:  
Which position is the only one that is always staffed in ICS applications?

- A. Safety Officer
- B. Incident Commander
- C. Public Information Officer
- D. Operations Section Chief

Check next month's ARES Communicator for the solution

## August NIMS Knowledge Solution

After check-in, you should:

- D. Locate your incident supervisor and obtain your initial briefing

## Bridge Out!

Reverend Ole is the pastor of the local Norwegian Lutheran Church, and Pastor Sven is the minister of the Swedish Covenant Church across the road.

One day they were seen pounding a sign into the ground, that said: **DA END ISS NEAR! TURN YERSELF AROUND NOW BAFOR IT'S TOO LATE!**

As a car sped past them, the driver leaned out his window and yelled, "Leave me alone, you Skandihoovian religious nuts!" From the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash..

Rev. Ole turns to Pastor Sven and asks, "Do ya tink maybe DA sign should jüst say, Bridge Out?"



## ARES Under Your Thumb

When thinking about a Go-Kit thoughts usually turn to radios, coax, antennas, batteries, tools, etc. Those are all important parts of being prepared when our emergency communications services are requested. One topic that needs to be included is the equipment and information needed for digital operation.

The digital modes require some software programs along with a laptop to be effective. Have you thought about what you would do if you needed to replace fldigi on the fly? How are you going to reload the driver for that USB to serial adapter? Chances are you won't have the internet available just a click away if you are setting up a station in the local school cafeteria!

You can keep all the digital information under your thumb. Thumb drive that is. Consider adding a pre-loaded thumb drive to your Go-kit.

These little USB storehouses can be found for under \$10 in sizes that will hold the digital files you would need. A starting point for your ARES Thumb might be:

Scott ARES Operating Aids

Scott ARES Activation Plan

Fldigi – current version

FLARQ – current version

Email client – Thunderbird, Outlook Express, etc.

DigiPan

Drivers for digital equipment.

Digital Manuals for Xcvrs and other equipment

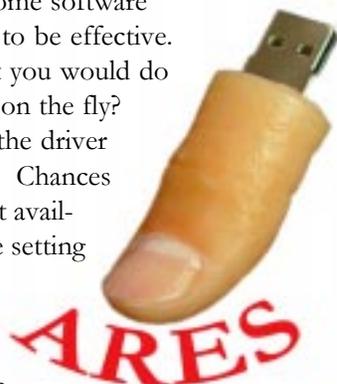
Adobe Acrobat Reader

Specialized forms

Other??

I'm sure we can expand and detail this list. One thing you can be sure is that the contents will change as digital modes and requirements change over time. Bring your suggestions for this list of digital support items to the Monday evening net and we'll all increase our preparedness.

BREAK - OVER



## Government Drills Without a Waiver

Beginning September 3<sup>rd</sup>

In July, the FCC released a *Report and Order (R&O)* that amended Part 97 — more specifically Section 97.113 — stating that government entities sponsoring disaster and emergency drills will no longer need to apply for a waiver to hold these drills.

Additionally, employees who wish to participate in non-government-sponsored drills and exercises may do so under certain conditions. Part 97 is the portion of the Commission's rules that govern the Amateur Radio Service.

In the August 4 edition of the *Federal Register*, the FCC issued a summary of the R&O entitled *Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Amateur Radio Service Communications During Government Disaster Drills* —noting that the effective date of these new rules will be September 3, 2010.

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*"There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group; there is less competition there."*

Indira Gandhi

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PACIFIC OCEAN (Aug. 30, 2010) Capt. Scott Conn, commander of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11, accompanied by Rear Adm. Robert Girrier, commander of Carrier Strike Group (CCSG) 11, breaks the sound barrier during a fly-by over the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

# STATE FAIR TRIVIA



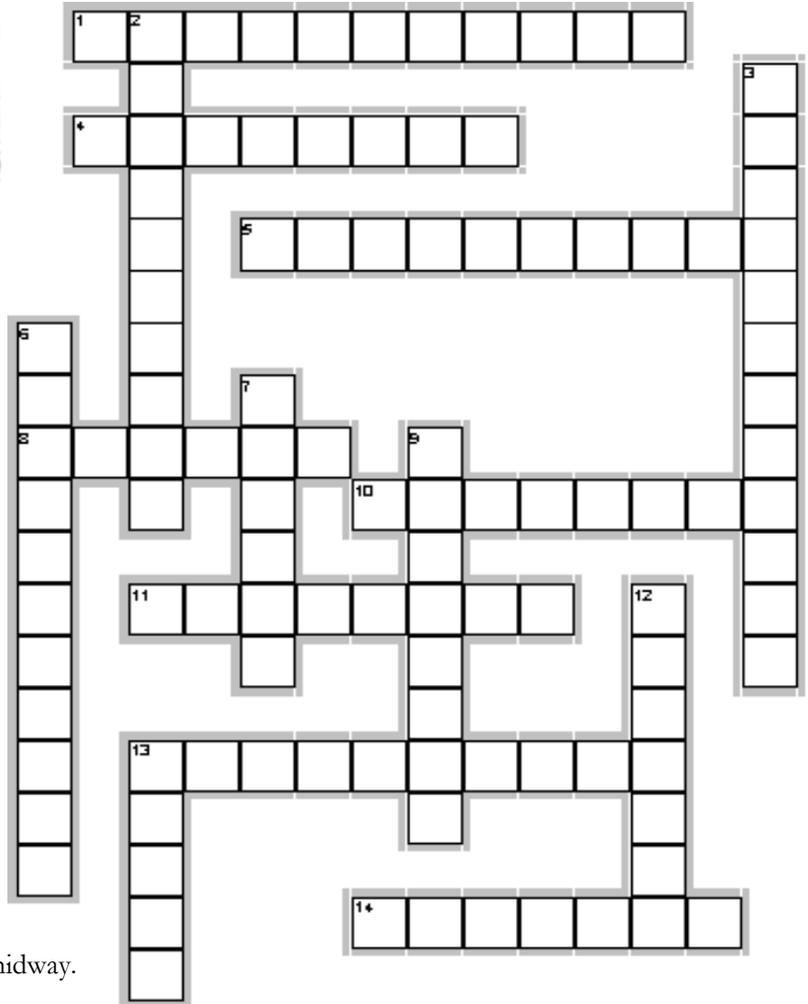
Minnesota  
State Fair  
Trivia

## 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. Wheel! 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.



The holiday unofficially began on September 5, 1882 when 10,000 workers took an unpaid day-off to honor the labor force of America and marched from city hall to Union Square in New York City, it was the first-ever Labor Day parade. Participants, as well as onlookers could vocalize issues they had with employers.

As years passed, more states began to hold these parades, but Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later when President Grover Cleveland was forced to sign the holiday into law as an election-year compromise with labor.

Although Labor Day began as a celebration of the American workers, the labor movement and its achievements, it additionally has come to be celebrated as the end of summer vacations, the last, long summer weekend before autumn, a day to picnic and barbecue and a signal that is time to go back to school for the students and a precursor to the harvest season for agriculture.

## August Crossword Solution

Across

2. GROUNDING—When a ship (while afloat) touches the bed of the sea.

7. ABANDONSHIP—An imperative to leave the vessel immediately, usually in the face of some imminent danger.

9. TOPSIDES—The part of the hull between the waterline and the deck.

11. YARD—The horizontal spar from which a square sail is suspended.

13. AVAST—Stop! Cease or desist from whatever is being done.

15. SICKBAY—The compartment reserved for medical purposes.

16. LEAGUE—A unit of length, normally equal to three nautical miles.

17. CHRONOMETER—A timekeeper accurate enough to be used to determine longitude by means of celestial navigation.

18. STANCHION—A vertical post near a deck's edge that supports life-lines. A timber fitted in between the frame heads on a wooden hull or a bracket on a steel vessel, approx one meter high, to support the bulwark plank or plating and the rail.

Down

1. BULKHEAD—An upright wall within the hull of a ship. Particularly a watertight, load-bearing wall.

3. MIDSHIPMAN—A non-commissioned officer below the rank of Lieutenant. Usually regarded as being "in training" to some degree. Also known as "Snotty".

4. PUSSER—The person who buys, stores and sells all stores on board ships, including victuals, rum and tobacco.

5. AHOY—A cry to draw attention. Term used to hail a boat or a ship.

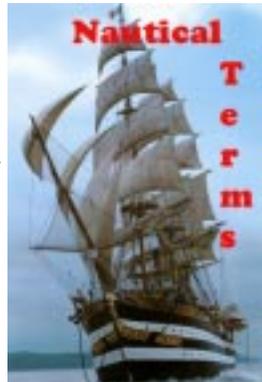
6. QUARTERDECK—The aftermost deck of a warship.

8. ADMIRAL—Senior naval officer of Flag rank. Derivation Arabic, from Amir al-Bahr ("Ruler of the sea").

10. HOLYSTONE—A chunk of sandstone used to scrub the decks.

12. BARRELMAN—A sailor that was stationed in the crew's nest.

14. WATCH—A period of time during which a part of the crew is on duty. Changes are marked by strokes on the ship's bell.



## Mandatory Radio In Cell Phones?

As the recording industry continues to negotiate over whether radio should have to pay performance royalties to artists, the two sides do agree on one thing: Congress should mandate that FM radio receivers be built into cell phones and other portable electronics. Both sides feel that the inclusion of radio would benefit consumers by providing more music choices, and it could be a bargaining chip that would settle the debate over the Performance Rights Act. Tentatively, radio would agree to pay around \$100 million a year in performance royalties, but in return it would get access to a larger market through the mandated FM radio chips in portable devices.

"As regards the chip, this is a key issue for the radio industry," artists rights group musicFIRST told Ars Technica. "musicFIRST, too, likes FM chips in cell phones, PDAs, etc. It gives consumers access to more music choices."

However, the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) disagrees with the mandate. "The backroom scheme of the [National Association of Broadcasters] and RIAA to have Congress mandate broadcast radios in portable devices, including mobile phones, is the height of absurdity," stated CEA president Gary Shapiro, according to Ars. "Rather than adapt to the digital marketplace, NAB and RIAA act like buggy-whip industries that refuse to innovate and seek to impose penalties on those that do."

The NAB stressed that the deal has not been finalized, and it is only an idea as of now. The two sides would still need to convince Congress to go along with the mandate, and they're hoping that something can be wrapped up late this year or early in 2011.

"If there is a decision made by the Board of Directors to go forward and seek legislation, including radio-enabled chips in mobile devices in possible legislation seems to us to be a reasonable idea," NAB EVP Dennis Wharton told Ars. "It's no surprise that CEA opposes this, since trade associations generally always oppose new rules. CEA also opposed DTV tuners in digital television sets; the FCC decided that having DTV tuners in TV sets was a good thing, and passed a rule that gave consumers access to local TV stations on DTV sets. We would argue that having radio capability on cell phones and other mobile devices would be a great thing, particularly from a public safety perspective. There are few if any technologies that match the reliability of broadcast radio in terms of getting lifeline information to the masses."

BREAK - OVER

## Connected Consumers

### Connect Consumers to Connected Homes

Some 70 percent of Americans have not heard of the smart grid, according to EcoAlign, a strategic marketing agency focused on energy and the environment. Ecoaligns findings published in May; underscore the need for education about energy delivery; demand management and pricing changes.

Even people who are aware of smart grid may oppose impending grid changes. Some homeowners who reject smart meter installations cite electromagnetic sensitivities, privacy issues and measurement inaccuracies as reasons.

Americans need to be educated. Every year, power outages cost U.S. consumers \$150 billion, or about \$500 for every man, woman and child in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Energy: Overwhelming demand for electricity during peak hours has caused power utilities to use blackouts and brownouts as load-shedding methods. New power plants are needed, but they are expensive. Utilities need a smarter, more practical way to manage and respond to energy demand.

Smart meters, which are meant to measure home energy usage and provide feedback, offer one solution, but other ways exist to make smart energy a reality. Utilities and regulators must be sensitive to consumers who acknowledge the need for change but want to remain in charge. Here are ways to make that happen.

Home is where the HAN is. - The smart grid extends beyond power plants, power lines and smart meters. It reaches into people's most intimate venues, their homes, where it measures how much power people use and when they use it. During peak demand, consumption can result in blackouts or brownouts. To avoid these events, utilities must accomplish two goals. They must first inform consumers about which household devices use the most power and secondly develop a targeted way to shed load.

That's where home area networks (HANs) come into play. HANs already are installed inside homes worldwide, connecting devices and appliances throughout the homes. They connect televisions to computers to lighting systems, garage doors, security cameras, and so on.

To energize the public about energy conservation, utilities must recognize HANs' central role. Imagine you're at work in your downtown office. The kids call. They're home from school but locked out of the house. With a HAN, you can use the application on your smart phone to open the door for them. Once the kids are safe inside, you can use your computer to tap into the webcam and make

sure they are doing their homework.

A HAN offers safety and convenience, but how does it relate to smart energy and the smart grid? First, a HAN can be programmed to conserve electricity when residents aren't home. Also, a HAN enables a smart meter to communicate with every networked device within a home. All that's needed is a gateway acting as a bridge between the smart meter and the rest of the network. One technology solving this problem is Z-Wave, which is embedded in a bridge that enables smart meters using Zigbee, another short-range wireless technology; to communicate with devices and appliances on the Z-Wave enabled network.

Once this bridge is established, it enables bidirectional communication: from utilities to consumers; from consumers to utilities. Utilities receive consumers' consumption data and consumers receive information from utilities: real-time pricing, grid event notification, billing details and more. Consumers can view this data on their TV screens, smart phones, computer monitors and in-home energy hubs. Studies show that people who track their daily energy consumption have cut it some 15 percent.

This is good news, but it doesn't guarantee widespread acceptance of smart meters and the smart grid. Utilities need broad-based public support for smart energy initiatives.

Power with empowerment. - Studies reveal that several benefits pique consumer interest in smart grid: 1. Home control via mobile devices and 2. Monetary savings. Customer turn-offs include higher and more complicated bills, complicated home networks, privacy infringements, and lack of choice.

Benefits get people talking about the smart grid. Mobile Conveniences. - According to a white paper, "Is Home Control Heating Up?" published in January by Continental Automated Buildings Association Connected Home Research Council, consumers are most likely to embrace home control when it offers them peace of mind. Its not surprising, therefore, that killer applications include mobile apps that keep consumers connected to their homes from afar. Home control via mobile devices gives consumers answers to day-to-day uncertainties when they're away "Did I turn off the stovetop?" "Did the cleaning crew lock the doors when they left?" With the right technology, a HAN can provide this information and act on a homeowners command.

Money Savings. - Consumers want to reduce their monthly electricity bills. They're not convinced, however,

## Connected Consumers - cont'd from page 6

that smart meters are up to the task. In some regions, electricity bills rose after smart meter installation. Utilities must make energy smart and money-wise for consumers. This can be accomplished with an inexpensive, easy to use, and consumer-centric HAN. In other words: Do it yourself (DIY). Consumers can start from scratch or expand their networks as they see fit. Because utilities don't need to dispatch installation specialists, consumers save time, money and manpower by deploying DIY HANs.

When consumers choose, configure and control their home networks, they are more likely to embrace a connected home and smart grid. That's why utilities should consider leveraging DIY products. Consumers already have a strong bond with these products, many of which come from trusted sources such as Schlage, Trane, General Electric Co., Stanley, Black & Decker, Kwikset and Cooper Industries. If utilities form partnerships with these manufacturers, the 70 percent of Americans who have never heard of the smart grid will drop significantly and the smart grid will become part of everyday life.

Don't Force their HAN. - The DIY approach also will mitigate much of the smart meter pushback, which largely comes from objections to obtaining private consumption data. Consumers worry that smart meters will give utilities and possibly the government too much information about their habits or give utilities the power to turn off home devices.

Consumers want to control their own energy initiatives. This is already happening with networked devices such as lights and thermostats that can be controlled remotely via PCs and smart phones. Utilities should enlist DIY home control equipment manufacturers and citizens as partners.

The partnership might work like this: Consumers set up their HANs to respond in certain ways to certain levels of grid events, such as yellow for mild, orange for moderate and red for serious. Upon an e-mail or text notification of a yellow event, a consumer might click "agree," automatically setting his thermostat to energy-save mode. Upon receipt of an orange alert, he might "agree," thus choosing a previously programmed standby mode for the power strip that controls TVs and computers. For a red alert, the consumer can send the signal to shut off his pool pump and water heater. This method provides an easy user interface that engages users without compromising their privacy

The future is in their HANS. - For the smart grid to succeed, utilities must find ways to engage consumers. They must recognize that energy conservation begins at home-specifically in HAN-enabled homes. The future is in customers' HANS.

BREAK - OVER

## Perishable Skills

The Minnesota Twins, bathroom remodeling, antique tractors, tomatoes, Rig Blasters, and radio repair. What do these topics have in common? These are all subjects covered on recent sessions of the Scott ARES Monday night training net.

Well, you say, that doesn't sound like emergency communications! You are right. The topics aren't emergency in nature but they are all interests of the people participating in the net. The whole emphasis of the training net is HOW we communicate not WHAT we communicate.

Directed net communication procedures are developed to provide for accurate, rapid communication of information. Hands-on practice is one of the best methods to learn and improve your emergency communications skills.

The U.S. Navy describes the ability to take off and land on the deck of an aircraft carrier as a 'perishable skill'. The irony of that description is a 'use it or lose it' view. Use and practice the skill regularly and you are less likely to perish.

If your emergency communications skills are rusty you aren't likely to lose your life. You will however decrease the effectiveness of a potentially lifesaving communications activity, the directed net. Your emergency communications skills are a perishable skill.

Make it a point to stop by the Scott ARES training net on Monday at 6:30 PM on 146.535 MHz simplex. It only takes a little practice to improve your perishable skills. Who knows you might even learn how to grow better tomatoes, tune up the lawnmower, or miter that base molding. There are a lot of things you can learn on a training net!

BREAK - OVER

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*"Nearly all men can stand adversity,  
but if you want to test a man's character,  
give him power."* Abraham Lincoln

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## JAY HUDAK MEMORIAL 80M SPRINT

Sponsored by the PODXS 070 Club and  
Dedicated to the memory of Jay Hudak  
KA3X, 070 #001



Boot up that computer and fire up the soundcard interface, there is another operating opportunity to practice your digital skills. This 070 Club contest runs on LOCAL time. This means you will be contacting stations within the Midwest for the most part. This propagation simulates a regional emergency event.

**PURPOSE:** To work as many stations on 80 meters as possible in a maximum six (6) hours using PSK31 mode. This event is open to all amateur radio operators licensed to operate on the HF bands.

**ENTRY CATEGORIES:** QRP 5 watts, Low Power 50 watts, Medium Power 100 watts (all powers maximum output).

**MODES:** PSK31 only.

**DATE:** Friday 10 September 2010, 2000 - 0200 (YOUR LOCAL TIME). Note that this event features a "rolling start" based on your local time to help equalize 80m band conditions for all contest participants.

**EXCHANGE:** Callsign, signal report and state/province/country (SPC). Call "CQ 80m test".

**BANDS:** 80 meters only. Work each station only once. All contacts must be 2-way, PSK31. Cross-mode or cross-band contacts not allowed.

**SUGGESTED FREQS:** 3580 kHz.

**SCORING:** QSO points - Each contact counts one (1) QSO point, dupes count (0) points.

### Multipliers:

Each different state/province/country (SPC) worked, counted only once. Use current ARRL DXCC list for country reference. If you work your own SPC, do not forget to take credit for the multiplier. Note also:

First U.S. station worked counts as two (2) multipliers (country and state).

First VE station worked counts as two (2) multipliers (country and province).

First Alaska station worked counts as two (2) multipliers (country and state).

First Hawaii station worked counts as two (2) multipliers (country and state). (Note: Washington, DC counts as MD.)  
Final score = (Total QSO Points) x (Total Different SPC's).  
Complete information available from the 070 Club website:

<http://www.podxs070.com/80-meter-jay-hudak-memorial-sprint>

BREAK - OVER

## Converters, Calculators and Useful (?) Info

Have you ever noticed that the internet contains what seems like an unlimited source of information, or an endless opportunity to waste time? Here is a link to a site that contains some interesting and useful info:  
[www.csgnetwork.com/converters.html](http://www.csgnetwork.com/converters.html) The amateur radio information seems to be included under the Communications, Electronics, and Construction links.

If you are curious, and most hams are, you may find yourself wondering where the time went if you visit this site.

Automotive	Everyday Use
Aviation	Lottery
Communications	Construction
Computer	Marine
Electronics	Pure Educational Math
Business and Financial	Science
Gemological	Games
General Interest	Sports
Geography Related	Snippets Source Code
Health	Time
Math	Weather

BREAK - OVER



## 6th Annual National Day of Golf

September 10th, 2010



In its inaugural year of 2005, Tee it up for the Troops raised over \$80,000. Today, they have raised over \$2 million dollars and hold events at courses in over 30 states. The proceeds of TIUFTT benefit numerous programs that support veterans and their families. Check the site for local participating courses: <http://www.teeitupforthetroops.com/index.cfm>

## Cyber-attacks on the Grid

Computer networks controlling the electric grid are plagued with security holes that could allow intruders to redirect power delivery and steal data, the Energy Department warned in a recent report. Many of the security vulnerabilities are strikingly basic and fixable problems, including a failure to install software security patches or poor password management. Many of the fixes would be inexpensive, according to the Idaho National Lab, an Energy Department facility that conducted the study.

The report reinforces concerns that intelligence officials have raised in recent years about growing surveillance of the electric grid by Chinese and Russian cyber-spies, which *The Wall Street Journal* reported last year. One worry is that a foreign country could shut down power in parts of the U.S.

The report's release comes hot on the heels of a report from Siemens AG, the German engineering firm, which said it had detected an attack targeting critical infrastructure, the collective term for systems such as electric grids, subways and air-traffic control. Siemens issued a tool to detect and fix the security gap July 22, an unusual acknowledgment of the threat. The company said none of its customers has sustained damage.

"The Siemens attacks from a couple weeks ago, in addition to evidence from several private firms that utilities are being attacked...change the imperative," said Alan Paller, director of research at SANS Institute, a cybersecurity training group. He suggests the U.S. needs to adopt a more urgent response.

The Energy report is based on the findings of 24 assessments of computer-control systems performed between 2003 and 2009. It was completed in May, released July 22 on the Energy Department's website and first noted by Steven Aftergood, a government secrecy specialist at the Federation of American Scientists.

BREAK - OVER



## Latest Software Bug

Some of the world's most popular Windows programs are vulnerable to a major bug in how they load critical code libraries, according to sites tracking attack code.

Among the Windows applications that can be exploited using a systemic bug that many have dubbed "DLL load hijacking," are the Firefox, Chrome, Safari and Opera browsers; Microsoft's Word 2007; Adobe's Photoshop; Skype; and the uTorrent BitTorrent client.

"Fast and furious, incredibly fast," said Andrew Storms, director of security operations for nCircle Security, referring to the pace of exploit postings for the vulnerability in Windows software called "DLL load hijacking" by some, "binary planting" by others.

In late August, Microsoft confirmed reports of unpatched vulnerabilities in a large number of Windows programs, then published a tool it said would block known attacks. The flaws stem from the way many Windows applications call code libraries — dubbed "dynamic-link library," or "DLL" — that give hackers wiggle room they can exploit by tricking an application into loading a malicious file with the same name as a required DLL.

If attackers can dupe users into visiting malicious websites or remote shares, or get them to plug in a USB drive — and in some cases con them into opening a file — they can hijack a PC and plant malware on it.

Even before Microsoft described the problem, published its protective tool, and said it could not address the wide-ranging issue by patching Windows without crippling countless programs, researcher HD Moore posted tools to find vulnerable applications and generate proof-of-concept code.

BREAK - OVER



### ARES Breakfast

Saturday September 11th  
7:30AM  
Perkins Restaurant  
Savage, MN

## NECOS Schedule September 2010

6 Sep KB0FH Bob  
13 Sep KC0YHH Tony  
20 Sep N0PI Dan  
27 Sep W0NFE Bob  
4 Oct KB0FH Bob  
11 Oct KC0YHH Tony