



ARES Meeting Agenda - 10/18/22

- Welcome to Guests
- PAWS Event on 10/22
- Infrastructure Activities
- Training Documentation
- Economy Windows Computer for all Hams
- Position Reports in Winlink
- ARES Net Reminders



Welcome to any Guests

- Thanks for joining us tonight
- ARES - Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- For those new to ARES, we do 3 major things:
 - Severe Weather – Storm Spotting
 - Communications Support for Community Events
 - Emergency Communications for Served Agencies
- Major Tools that we utilize:
 - Ham Radios, typically VHF and/or HF gear
 - Winlink Express software for over-the-air email messages
 - Internet Email and text messaging for inter-team communications
- Training – much more to ARES than holding a mic and talking



PAWS-Toberfest – 5K Run/Walk

- Saturday, October 22
- Timing is approximately 4:30 to 6:30 PM
- We can start to gather/set-up after 4:00 PM
- At Junction City Shopping Center in Peoria
- Comms Support for this event (race 5:00 to ~6:00)
- PGI provides service dogs to those in need
- Email me if you want to help, with T-Shirt size
- Anyone who can lead the team that day?



Infrastructure Activities

- VHF Station at the Bunker
 - Computer hard drive failed and has been replaced
 - Beta Test of VHF Winlink Peer-to-Peer to resume soon
- HF Station at the Bunker
 - Erected a End Fed NVIS to test transmit
 - Yaesu FT-950 Radio works on Receive & Transmit
 - Next install computer and soundcard for HF Winlink
- Peoria Red Cross
 - Need to test all radios and periodically exercise
 - Computers there need to be updated



Training Documentation

- I sent an email on 06/15 & on 09/25 with a form to be completed showing your training completion dates
- I have received and tabulated 9 forms
- FEMA Course dates should be in your email or on your certificates - Guessing at other dates is OK
- Does not matter which letter version of IS Courses you completed
- It is OK to simply report that you have nothing yet completed, as some folks are just starting out
- Some folks only want to do Level 1 items, that is fine for weather spotting and community service events



Economy Computer for Everything

- I get nothing out of this
- I want folks to be aware of a good low-cost option
- At this price, there is little excuse for not having a Windows PC for use in your shack and in the field
- This model has become popular among Hams
- It's not a screaming fast Gaming Computer, but it gets the job done for most Ham's needs.



Economy Computer for Everything

- Economy Windows Computer for all Hams
- Great for Ham Radio Use – in the shack and field
 - Runs Winlink, Ham Radio Deluxe, and much more!
- Also use for your general computing needs
- Evolve III Maestro Laptop with Windows 10
- Has a 12 volt battery – charge directly from 12V
- Only **\$59.99** plus tax at Micro Center
- \$95 on Amazon (have seen on sale for \$71)
- Compare to other new computers - \$300 plus!



Economy Computer - Photo





Economy Computer - Specs

- Screen Size – 11.6” (case 7.49 x 10.9 x .72) 2 lbs
- Processor – Intel Celeron Quad Core N3450, 1.1 GHz
- Memory – 4 GB DDR4
- Internal Storage – 64 GB Flash
- Ports – USB 2.0, USB 3.1, mini-HDMI, micro SD, audio-phones/mic, 12 volt power port
- Communications – Wireless LAN, Bluetooth
- Camera – Full HD 1080p on front
- OS – Windows 10 Pro Education
- Warranty – 1 year parts and labor



Economy Computer – Sources

- Micro Center - **\$64.49 with Tax**
 - St. Louis – Brentwood (SW of the Zoo)
 - Chicago – Westmont (Ogden Ave) and in the city
 - Must pick-up in store (no shipping at this price)
 - May or may not be on display in the store
 - You can check stock and reserve on web – they sell out
 - My Son-in-Law passes near Westmont when in office
 - This approach delays arrival (He lives 2 hours away)
 - <https://www.microcenter.com/product/649971/evolve-iii-maestro-116-laptop-computer-dark-grey?storeID=095>
- Amazon - **\$95.00 before Tax**



Economy Computer – Software

So far I have installed the following software packages:

- Winlink and VARA HF/FM
- Echolink
- AnyDesk (remote access)
- Box (cloud storage)
- Lastpass (password mgr)
- Chirp (radio programmer)
- Opera (web browser)
- Ccleaner (PC Utility)
- PatchMyPC (PC utility)
- LibreOffice (free Office)
- Ham Radio Deluxe
- Simon's World Map
- FoxIt (PDF Reader)
- Google Drive (file sharing)
- Zoom (video-conferencing)
- PuTTY (terminal utility)
- LOTW/TQSL (logging)
- Defender AV/Firewall



Economy Computer – Pros/Cons

- Pros

- Only \$59.99 plus Tax
- Runs Windows 10
- Keyboard is big enough
- Great Battery Life
- Runs on 12 volts
- No Touch Screen

- Cons

- Must pickup at store
- Screen hinge is tight
- Touchpad is sensitive
- Storage is only 60 gb
- No Print Screen Key
- Can't run Windows 11

Various Workarounds exist for these Cons



Economy Computer – Internet

- Internet Access Options
 - WiFi (where available)
 - Use SmartPhone as a HotSpot – likely cost to do this
 - Wireless SIM Card in Micro SD Slot
 - Recent machines may not include a Cellular Modem
 - SKU 372284 includes, SKU 408682 do not include modem
 - Currently 2 Amazon models claim to include 4G LTE \$118
 - SIM cards available from Cell Phone Providers
 - Example - Mint Mobile
 - New Customer offer \$15/month for 3 months
 - Variety of plans exist (\$15, \$20, \$25 monthly)



Economy Computer – Accessories

- Power Cord equipped with Power Poles (solar extension)
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B096M61Z2S> - \$12.99
- USB Port Multiplier
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00BWF5U0M> - \$8.99
- Bluetooth Mouse
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07KNQRQ3P> - \$11.98
- GPS Receiver Dongle
 - <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01MTU9KTF> - \$12.99
- Auxiliary VGA Monitor - from your local 2nd hand store - \$5 to \$10
- Mini-HDMI to VGA Adapter
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01LF7K1UK> - \$9.99



Economy Computer – Configuring

- At first startup there will settings to configure and updates to be run
- Unless you are a Microsoft One-Drive user (cloud drive service), I would decline that software
- Same thing with Microsoft Office/365 – eventually they will want money, and a free option exists (LibreOffice)
- Windows 10 Updates will need to run – this takes time



Position Reports in Winlink

- The Winlink Development Team has been busy
- Recently rolled out “Mapping Enabled Forms”
- Most features available with Version 1.7.2.0
- New Settings and New Inputs to configure
- Winlink message headers contain Lat/Long
 - Can see inside Winlink, not seen on Internet msgs



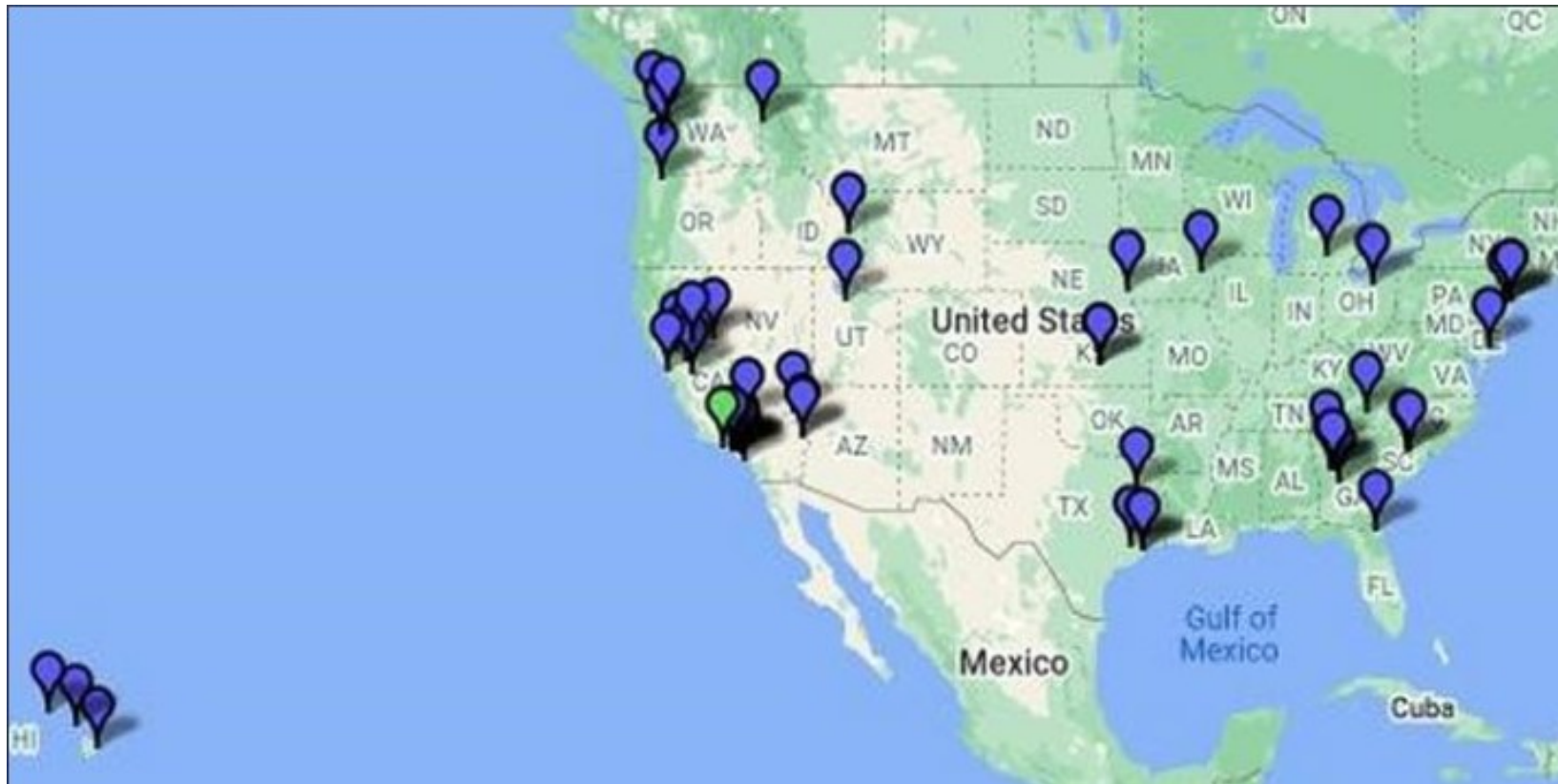
Position Reports in Winlink

- Timely situation reports, weather reports, and other status reports are essential for incident management
- Winlink Express offers several forms that provide position reports for mapping
- When received at the incident management center, Winlink Express can display a map showing status markers for reports



Position Reports in Winlink

- Sample Position Report
 - Thanks to Phil W4PHS and Chris W6AH





Position Reports in Winlink

- Winlink-Settings-Preferences
 - Message Sending Options
 - Include your location in message headers
 - This option is checked and is the default
- You can see this in your outgoing messages as:
 - “Location: Latitude, Longitude”



Position Reports in Winlink

Preferences

Message Reading Options

Viewing seconds before marking message read:

Automatically move read items to Read Items folder

Message review before downloading

Display list of pending incoming messages prior to download

Message acknowledgement options

Default to requesting message receipts

Automatically send message receipts when requested

Automatically send message receipts for all messages

Ignore message receipt requests on incoming messages

Message sending options

Automatically add contact entry for each destination address

Disallow editing or altering messages you send

Include your location in message headers

Line wrapping

Wrap print lines after this many characters:

Distance Units

km Miles

Update Cancel



Position Reports in Winlink

- Settings-GPS Position Reports
- Two ways to input your location coordinates
 - Use a GPS Receiver Device
 - Enter coordinates manually – i.e. from SmartPhone



Position Reports in Winlink

GPS / Position Report

GPS Serial Port

GPS Serial Port: GPS Baud Rate:

IP Address: IP Port:

GPS Status

Error opening GPS connection: The port 'COM3' does not exist.

[Error opening GPS connection: The port 'COM3' does not exist.](#)

GPS Latitude: GPS Longitude:

GPS Speed: Knots GPS Course: True

Automatically update grid square from GPS position:

Position Report

Your last position report was posted at 2022/10/15 13:28:46 UTC

Report Date/Time: UTC

(Latitude/longitude may be entered as decimal degrees, DD-MM.MMx, or DD-MM-SSx)

Latitude: Longitude:

Speed: Knots Course: True

MGRS coordinates:

Comment - 148 Characters Maximum:

If no GPS position, use position report location as my current location



Position Reports in Winlink

- I expect to have more on Mapping as I learn more
- I hope to eventually generate maps of those participating in the Weekly Winlink Exercise



ARES Net Reminders

- Illinois State ARES HF Net
 - 1st and 3rd Sundays of month at 4:30 PM CST
 - 3.905 MHz LSB (alternate 7.230 MHz LSB) & Echolink 824404
 - Informal 60M & 40M check in - (7230 KHz) at 4:10 PM
 - 60M check at 4:20 pm (5403.5 kHz Channel 5, if busy then 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Illinois Digital Net every Wednesday 8:00 PM on Illinois Link
 - WIRES X 21565
 - Brandmeister DMR 31171
 - TGIF DMR 31171, DMR+ Reflector 4636
 - NXDN 3117
 - P25 31171
 - YSF Reflector Illinois Link 83132
 - D-Star XLX 334G, DCS 334G, XRF 334G, and XLX 312G
 - Allstar Link 42810



END

- www.peoriacountyares.org
 - ilares.org
 - www.arrl.org/ares