ARES Meeting Agenda - 2/15/23

- Welcome to Our Guests

- Infrastructure Activities

- Weather Spotting Training Reminder

- Training Documentation

- Red Cross Updates

- Winlink

- Severe Weather Seminar-Optional

- ARES Net Reminders

Welcome to our 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, including Go-Kits
  - Winlink Express software for over-the-radio email messages
  - Internet Email and text messaging for inter-team communications

- Training – much more to ARES than holding a mic and talking

Infrastructure Activities

- VHF Station at the Bunker
  - Original Kenwood D710 has been repaired, will reinstall
  - Thanks to KD9AER, it will do Winlink via RF once again!

- HF Station at the Bunker
  - Work on the End-Fed NVIS antenna – High SWR
  - Next - obtain computer and soundcard for HF Winlink

- Peoria Red Cross Radio Room
  - Computers have been reinstalled, connected to guest WiFi
  - Trying to get the Kenwood TS-2000 to do VHF Winlink

- Anyone have spare set of computer speakers?

Weather Spotter Training

- Reminder – Two good options
  - 1 - March 9, 7 PM at Bartonville American Legion (PAARC Club Meeting)
  - 2 - March 20, 6 PM at Caterpillar Edwards Demonstration & Training Center – sign up at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KMWCFZC (sponsored by Peoria County EMA)
- Only need to attend one of these sessions
- Recommend attending at least every other year

Training Documentation

- I received one Training Documentation form after our January meeting

- Now up to 10 of 29 ARES members who have submitted their training record

- Still many more folks who have yet to submit their training record

Completing the IS 100, 200, 700, and 800 FEMA classes is a great way to refresh the meaning of the many acronyms that served agencies may use!

Training Resources

- Training Documentation Form
  - Also on our website – on the "Training" Tab
  - https://www.peoriacountyares.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Training-Documentation-Fillable-Form.pdf

- How to get a FEMA Student ID (SID)
  - Go to https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid

- FEMA Training for IS 100, 200, 700, & 800
  - Go to https://training.fema.gov

- More details in our 07-20-2022 Meeting slides
  - https://www.peoriacountyares.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ARES-Meeting-07-20-2022.pdf

Red Cross Update

- I attended the January meeting of the Red Cross Disaster Action Team

- In the meeting were paid staff plus volunteers

- I made a short presentation about ARES

- They reported a previous exercise, stationed in a basement, their cell phones had no connections

- They are open to using ARES for communications support

- I'm looking for a good way to demonstrate Winlink to the Red Cross

Red Cross Particulars

- Every three years, there is an exercise with the Airport and various responders, including the Red Cross

- Red Cross was set up in a nearby church (in the basement), doing a canteen and support services

- Could not get connections with cell phones – we could overcome with radios & an external antenna

- I'm calling this standby communications support

- Reunifications of crash survivors with family was also being held there

- Such reunification is run by the Airline, as they have the passenger list

Airport Exercise

- Saturday, April 22, 2023

- Unsure what the scenario will be – a crash, a hostage situation, other? (We need to be flexible/improvise)

- I'm guessing the time of day will become known, may last much of the daylight hours

- If we are going to help with short range standby communications, we will need a minimum of two field stations and operators, possibly HT's or VHF go-kits (plus one antenna) with option of Winlink, and maybe a laptop plus a projector to help with the reunification process (admittedly this last part is a stretch)

- Who's up for participating that day?

- I'm thinking we need a planning session

Airport Exercise Equipment List

- ON THE SCENE

- HT for voice – to work with RC Personnel

- VHF GoBox with power supplies

- External Antenna/Stand and Feedline

- Winlink equipment-computer, cables, interface

- AT CANTEEN/OFF SCENE

- VHF GoBox with power supplies

- External Antenna/Stand and Feedline

- HT for backup and back channel voice

- Winlink equipment-computer, cables, interface

- PC Projector/VGA Cable and extension cord

Winlink Express Software

- How are we doing with Winlink Express as a group?

- Thirteen of our 29 members have not created a Winlink Express account (8) or have let it expire (5)

- That's 45% of our members who can't do Winlink; therefore limit the modes they could use in an emergency AND limit their chances to be asked to participate with served agencies

- Winlink accounts stay alive only with client program use via radio or telnet connections only; Webmail and other accesses don't count! Accounts off-air for 400 days are automatically purged. Use it or loose it!

- When was the last time YOU checked your Winlink messages?

Severe Weather Seminar-Optional

- Sat, March 4, 2023, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM CST

- Richland Community College, 1 College Park Decatur, IL 62521

- Featured Speakers:
  - Jared Guyer - Storm Prediction Center in Norman OK
  - Anthony Falconio - Frmr Director of Madison Cty EMA
  - Jarrod Cook - Tazewell County EMA
  - Andrew Pritchard - University of Illinois
  - Dr. Jeffrey Frame - University of Illinois
  - Dr. Brian Jewett - University of Illinois

Severe Weather Seminar-Optional

- DOOR PRIZES

- VENDORS FROM ACROSS CENTRAL ILLINOIS

- LUNCH IS PROVIDED

- **Registration is $50.00** (college students registering using a school identifying or similar email can register for a reduced rate of $35)

- Register today at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/severe-weather-seminar-2023-tickets-504718896807

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