ARES Meeting Agenda - 4/19/23

- Welcome to Our Guests

- Weather Spotting Training Recap

- Weather Spotting Discussion

- Code Red Notifications

- Training Documentation

- Airport Exercise

- Another Volunteer Opportunity

- Winlink News

- Infrastructure Activities

- Changes to Our Website

- ARES Show and Tell

- 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

Weather Spotter Training - Recap

- Three more local training sessions were held
- Any important takeaways worth discussing?

Weather Spotting Discussion

- Safety First

- Spotting Location

- What to Report

- What to NOT Report

- Where to Report Observations

- Weather Spotting Gear

- Activation/Notification

Spotting Safety & More

- Put Safety First!
  - Have options to move out of path of a storm. Be aware
  - Turn around, don't drown! Don't drive on flooded roads!
- Be ready to report directly to NWS if necessary
  - Have numbers and social media links ready in your phone
  - Share your hail pictures on Twitter with the Weather Service via @NWSLincolnIL
- Load other Repeaters into your radios
  - W9BFD – 146.970, -0.6 MHz, 103.5 tone (backup)
  - W9TAZ – 146.670, -0.6 MHz, 103.5 tone (Tazewell reports)
- Charge your Batteries!!

Weather Spotting – Location

- Pick your starting spotting location in advance

- Know your Spotting Location within ~ ¼ mile

- Be able to report that location to Net Control

- Must be meaningful enough to spot on a map

- "At home" or "my QTH" is <u>not</u> detailed enough

- Examples of acceptable:
  - Intersection of Knoxville and War Memorial
  - 1 mile west of Brimfield on Route 150
  - At home at 1401 N Washington St. in Bartonville

What to Report 1/3

- Report the following including approximate direction and distance from your location

  - Tornadoes/Funnel Clouds/Rotating Wall Clouds/other rotations

  - Flooding/Heavy Rain

  - Rapidly rising creeks/streams/High water on roadways (6" or more in depth)

  - Rainfall of greater than 1" per hour

- *Continued on next slide*

What to Report 2/3

- Report the following including approximate direction and distance from your location
  - High Wind
    - Small tree branches broken off
    - Large tree branches broken off, shallow rooted trees blown over, damage to chimneys/roofing/sheds
    - Heavy damage to structures, trailers overturned, large trees blown over
  - Lightning
- *Continued on next slide*

What to Report 3/3

- Report the following including approximate direction and distance from your location

  - Hail – including Size

Hail Size	Description	Hail Size	Description
0.25"	Pea	1.75"	Golf Ball
0.50"	One Half Inch	2.00"	Lime
0.70 - 0.75"	Dime to Penny	2.50"	Tennis Ball
0.88"	Nickel	2.75"	Baseball
1.00"	Quarter	3.00"	Large Apple
1.25"	Half-Dollar	4.00"	Softball
1.50"	Ping-Pong Ball	4.50"	Grapefruit

What to NOT Report

- Sirens sounding in any particular location
  - These are tested daily via an inaudible tone
  - Siren soundings are irrelevant to be reported
  - EMA operates sirens based on NWS/Spotter inputs
- "Green Sky"
- "Lots of Lightning"
- "Hail less than size of a quarter"
- "Just started raining"

Where to Report Observations

- Via Radio To Net Control on the Repeater

- Peoria County EMA
  - Telephone to EMA Bunker - 309-691-3111
  - Telephone/text to EMA – 309-712-5980
  - Email to emaweatherreports@peoriacounty.org

- National Weather Service Lincoln
  - Telephone to NWS Lincoln - 217-732-3089
  - Text to NWS Lincoln - 217-871-7306
  - Email to NWS Lincoln - ilxspotter@noaa.gov

Weather Spotting Gear

Weather or Radio Related Gear

Weather Radio or HT with Weather Freq's

Spare HT Battery or 12 volt adapter

Magnetic Mount Antenna for HT

Ruler/Tape Measure for Hail Size

Coins to compare hail size with

Anemometer to measure wind speed

Wind Speed Estimation Chart

Have APRS turned on to report position

Personal Gear

Flashlight & Extra Batteries

Rain Coat or Poncho

Boots

Hard Hat

Drinking Water & Snacks

First Aid Kit

Tarp

Paracord

Knife or Multi-tool

Over-the-top Gear

Chainsaw

Fix-A-Flat

Tire Plugs

Air Compressor

Spotter Activations/Notifications

- NWS Daily Wx Brief

- Stand-by Notification

  – Possibly as NWS issues watches/warnings for adjacent counties (Fulton/Knox/Tazewell)

  – Or as determined/requested by Peoria Co. Staff

- Activation

  – Typically as NWS issues watches/warnings for Peoria Co.

  – As determined/requested by Peoria Co. Staff – via Code Red

- Deactivation

  – As the incident winds down

- Utilization of Code Red (NOT the Code RED smartphone app)

  – Mobile Phone / Text / Email

Code Red Notifications

- Storm spotting activations come via Code Red

- Sent to your phone, and possibly your email

- If you want to be added, email me the following:
    - Name
    - Mobile phone number (capable of getting messages)
    - Mobile phone provider name (AT&T, Verizon, etc)
    - Your best email address

- If you change phone provider, let me know

Training Documentation

- Stuck at 11 of 29 ARES members who have submitted a training record

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

- Everyone who attended recent Weather Spotter Training has something new to report – include the rest of your training records at the same time

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

Airport Exercise

- Sadly, this event is not happening for us this time around

- Organizers did not have a solid role for the Red Cross

- So ARES is out as well

- Will continue to look for opportunities to show off our capabilities with the Red Cross

Another Volunteer Opportunity

- Plane Fun Day – Mt. Hawley Airport, Sept 23rd

- Supports LifeLine Pilots, who coordinate free air transportation, for people with medical or humanitarian needs far from home

- Volunteers will help with setup, activities (monitoring bounce houses, assisting face painter & balloon artist, helping kids with games, etc), parking, passing out information, and monitoring airplanes on display.

- Interested? Should we investigate further?

Winlink News

- You may have seen a presentation on RATPAC

- New Winlink Feature – Auto-Connect

- A NEW way of connecting to RMS Gateways

- It appears to only apply to HF (Ardop and Vara)

- I plan to talk more about this in the future

- I do have the presentation file for those who are interested and just can't wait

Infrastructure Activities

- VHF Station at the Bunker

  – Return the original PC to this station – it has been fixed

- HF Station at the Bunker

  – Debug 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

  – Want to get the Kenwood TS-2000 to do VHF Winlink

  – Want to get the Yaesu FT-991A to do HF Winlink

Detailed List

- ~~Reinstall the recently repaired D710 in place of the one at the Bunker~~

- ~~Install the D710 from the Bunker in Go-Box to be a Winlink station in a briefcase. This will become a loaner VHF Voice Winlink Station.~~

- Yaesu FT-950 at Bunker - ~~Configure computer and~~ fix antenna

- ~~Bunker VHF station - Configure Windows computer replacement~~

- Research how to get the Kenwood TS-2000 to do Winlink on VHF (and HF if the built-in TNC will work) [Some progress has been made]

- ~~Configure a future laptop (from K9XJT) to do Winlink on VHF for the loaner go-box~~

- Research what is needed to get the Yaesu FT-991A at the Red Cross to do Winlink (on HF and/or VHF)

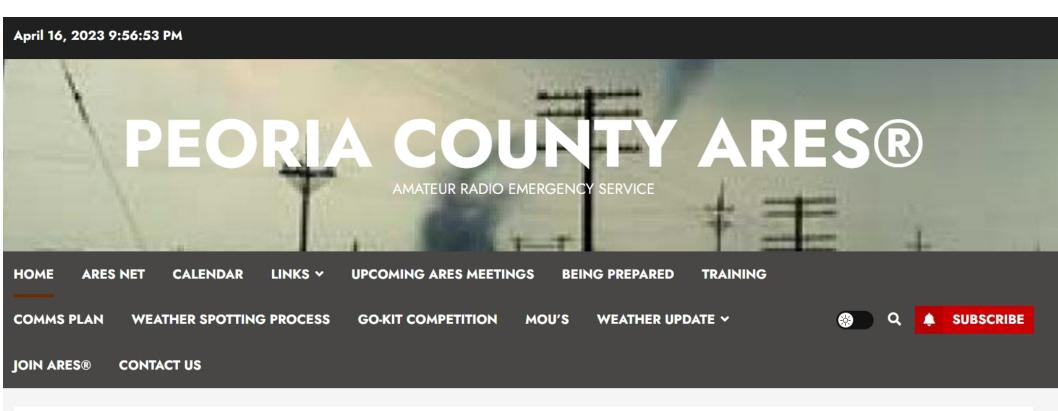- Investigate Logging software option for use at Bunker and Red Cross

Changes to our Website

- I had to make a number of changes to our site

- Wordpress uses Themes to control the look, and sometimes Theme must be updated to keep up with Wordpress software changes

- In our case, I had to select a new template

- And update parts of the site to keep it working

- I've not crazy about the latest template, it's OK

- Let me know if you see anything to be fixed

Latest Website Look

April 16, 2023 9:56:53 PM

PEORIA COUNTY ARES®
AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

HOME   ARES NET   CALENDAR   LINKS ⌄   UPCOMING ARES MEETINGS   BEING PREPARED   TRAINING

COMMS PLAN   WEATHER SPOTTING PROCESS   GO-KIT COMPETITION   MOU'S   WEATHER UPDATE ⌄   🔍   🔔 SUBSCRIBE

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The April 2023 Meeting will be in person at the Peoria Red Cross on Wednesday April 19th — Select the Upcoming ARES Meetings Tab above

ARES Show & Tell

- Portable Kenwood D710A Station
  - VHF/UHF Voice/Winlink Station in a briefcase (17#)
  - Includes radio, power supply, laptop, cable, mag mount antenna, and written Winlink instructions
  - Thinkpad, i5, 8 gb mem, Win 10, a tricky touchpad
  - Laptop is configured with Winlink RMS Express, has been successfully tested with the radio/cable
  - Also has D710 Manual; GR Level 2 Analyst; Zoom; Simon's World Map; Foxit PDF; AnyDesk; Ccleaner; Chrome, Edge, and Opera browsers; LibreOffice Suite; Patch-My-PC; Shortcut-to-Device Manager

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