



ARES Meeting Agenda - 11/15/23

- Welcome to Our Guests
- Training
- Did you Feel It? – Earthquake Drill
- Area Repeater & Simplex Testing Net
- Infrastructure Activities
- Winlink News
- Skywarn Recognition Day
- Upcoming RATPAC Programs
- NVIS Testing on HF
- 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



Training Documentation

- Now at 13 of 31 ARES members who have submitted a training record
- This record can be in either one of two methods:
 - Training Documentation Fillable Form (our website)
 - Via an ARRL Taskbook



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>



Did You Feel It/Shakeout Exercise

- Exercise was held October 19
- Over 1400 reports submitted via Winlink, RadioMail, Pat
- Eight operators from our team participated (that I know of)
- The organizers found “significant differences between the entered address and corresponding geocoordinates” in 1/3 of reports
- Plan to start checking our Weekly Winlink Exercise check ins for proper geocoordinates



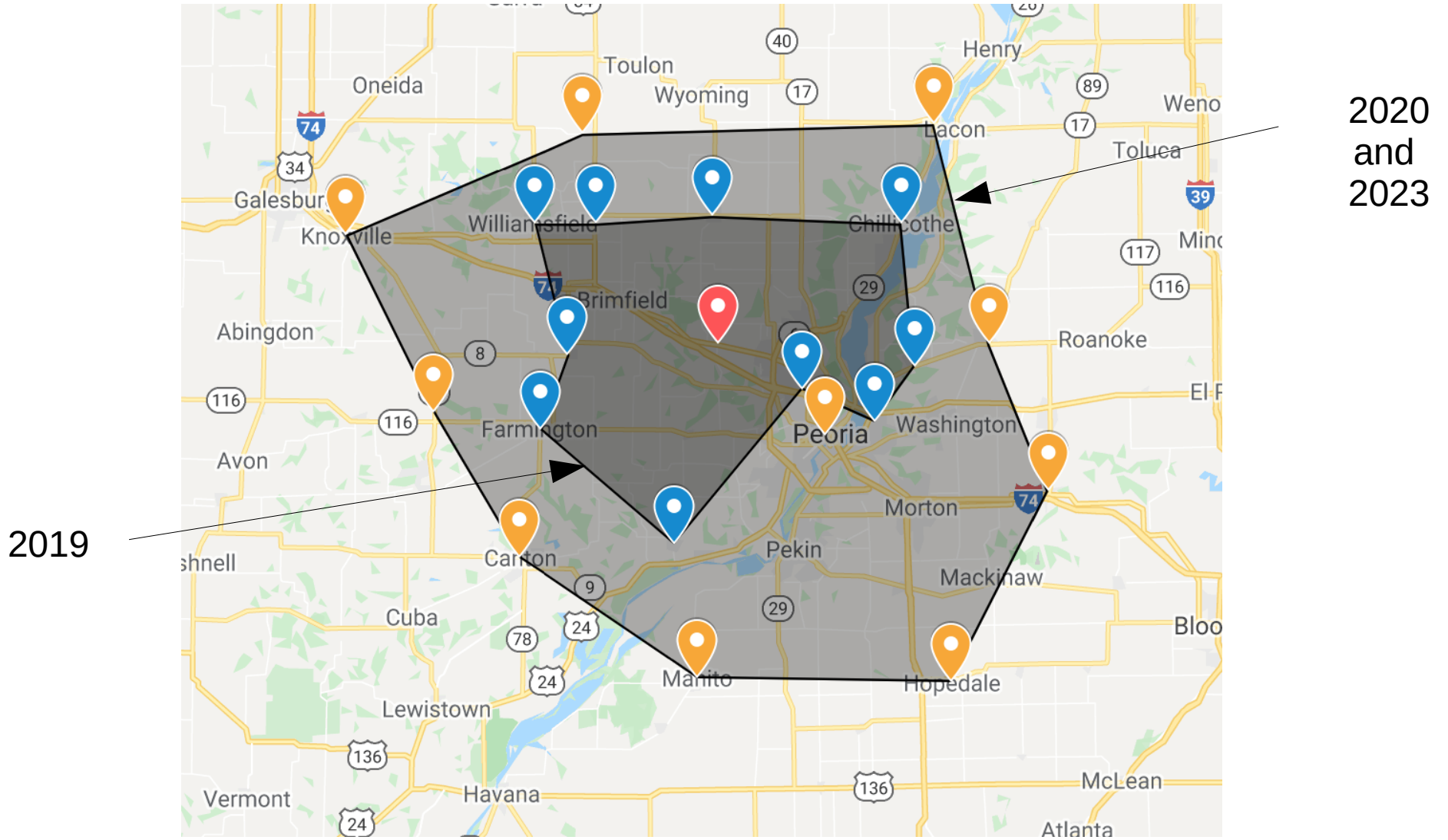
Repeaters & Simplex Testing

| Field Sites | Name & Call |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Kickapoo, IL - Net Control | Rich KD9ANU |
| West Jersey, IL | Rob KD9DBQ |
| Knoxville, IL | Kyle KD9VIN |
| Rapatee, IL | Scott K9XJT |
| Canton, IL | Ryan KB9OGS |
| Manito, IL | Brett KD9PQZ |
| Hopedale, IL | Jim W9JDP |
| Goodfield, IL | Rich K9RCS |
| Metamora, IL | Steve KD9AER |
| Sparland, IL | Jake K9WFT |

Thanks for Participating!



Repeater Test Field Sites





Repeaters Tested in 2023

- W9UVI (147.075 – Groveland)
- W9TAZ (146.670 – Groveland)
- W9BFD (146.970 – Kickapoo/Bunker)
- K9PEO (146.850 – Glasford)
- WX9PIA (147.330 – Peoria-Former EOC Site)
- W9JWC (UHF 444.475 – BU Radio Club)
- Simplex on 146.535



Repeater Test Results - Positive

- W9UVI – max distance heard was 43.1 (Knoxville - Kyle)
- W9TAZ – max distance heard was 43.1 (Knoxville - Kyle)
- W9BFD – max distance heard was 29.9 (Hopedale - Jim)
- K9PEO – max distance heard was 28.4 (Goodfield – Rich S)
- WX9PIA – max distance heard was 27.3 (Canton - Ryan)
- W9JWC – max distance heard was 23.7 (Canton - Ryan)



Repeater Test Results - Negative

- W9UVI repeater could not be heard at West Jersey (36)
- W9TAZ repeater could not be heard at West Jersey (36)
- W9BFD repeater was heard at all test locations
- K9PEO repeater could not be heard at West Jersey, Knoxville or Sparland (31.8, 32.7, 36.9)
- WX9PIA repeater could not be heard at West Jersey, Knoxville or Rapatee (28.7, 38.5, 31.6)
- W9JWC repeater could not be heard at West Jersey, Knoxville or Rapatee (28.2, 36.4, 28.6)



Repeater Test Results - Combo

- W9UVI – max was 43.1 miles, not heard at 36.0
- W9TAZ – max was 43.1 miles, not heard at 36.0
- W9BFD – max was 29.9 miles, heard at all test locations
- K9PEO – max was 28.4 miles, not heard at 31.7, 32.7, 36.9
- WX9PIA – max was 27.3 miles, not heard at 28.7, 31.6, 38.5
- W9JWC – max was 23.7 miles, not heard at 28.2, 28.6, 36.4



Simplex Test Results

- Long 1-way QSO's (heard on only one end)
 - 35.1 miles – Steve in Metamora heard Ryan in Canton
 - 41.0 miles – Kyle in Knoxville heard Steve in Metamora
 - 44.4 miles – Kyle in Knoxville heard Brett in Manito
- Long 2-Way QSO's (heard on both ends)
 - 27.5 miles – Kyle in Knoxville with Rich at Bunker
 - 29.9 miles – Jim in Hopedale with Rich at Bunker
 - 30.4 miles – Jim in Hopedale with Steve in Metamora
 - 32.4 miles – Jim in Hopedale with Ryan in Canton



Infrastructure Activities

- VHF Station at the Bunker
 - Available for Peer-to-Peer Winlink Packet Practice
- 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~~
 - Want to get the Kenwood TS-2000 to do VHF Winlink
 - Want to get the Yaesu FT-991A to do HF Winlink



Detailed List

- **ACTIVE ITEMS**

- Yaesu FT-950 at Bunker - Working nicely on 40, 80, 15 meters
- 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]
- Investigate Logging software option for use at Bunker
- Perform RF Exposure Calculations for all stations at Bunker

- **ON HOLD FOR NOW**

- Research what is needed to get the Yaesu FT-991A at the Red Cross to do Winlink (on HF and/or VHF). (Until this equipment finds a new home)



Yaesu FT-950 & Winlink

- The Yaesu FT-950 is doing Winlink well on 40, 80, and 30 meters
- Using an antenna similar to that at the Bunker
- With a used Signalink interface
- Sent Winlink msgs 53, 437, 854, and 979 miles
- Yet to connect to K9WRA at 22 miles (Woodford)
- Next steps are Documentation and Instructions
- Then configure the computer at the Bunker



Winlink News

- W9TAZ-10 RMS Gateway in Tazewell County is still off-the-air
- You can now pick target HF RMS Gateway stations using a Map - I am having fun with this
- Helping me to send Winlink messages farther than I have ever done before, all while using NVIS style antenna



Pick RMS Stations From a Map





Skywarn Recognition Day

- December 2, 2023, from 0000Z to 2400Z
- Object: For all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters and National Weather Service Stations
- NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, Winlink, CW, FT8, FT4, and PSK3
- Exchange: Call sign, name, location, signal report, a one- or two-word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc.), temperature reading if available
- <https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>



Upcoming RATPAC Presentations

| | |
|----------|---|
| 11/15/23 | Inside ENIGMA - Cracking the WWII Enigma Codes |
| 11/16/23 | Sending WinLink Messages to SMS via Carrier Gateway |
| 11/22/23 | NO RATPAC - THANKSGIVING |
| 11/23/23 | NO RATPAC - THANKSGIVING |
| 11/29/23 | Custom Utilities for Logging Software |
| 11/30/23 | Radio Relay International (RRI) |
| 12/06/23 | So, You Think You Know What Time It Is? |

Held Wednesday & Thursday via - Zoom 8:00 PM CT / 02:00 UTC

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2128884758?pwd=RG94eEY2L3FiMEg0U3ZiWmhXaEdwdz09>

Zoom Passcode- RATPAC

RATPAC Video Presentations Lists: <http://tiny.cc/ratpac-list>



NVIS Testing on HF

- I have not had time to try this
- A number of folks have expressed interest
- I now have an NVIS antenna to test with



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