



ARES Meeting Agenda - 12/20/23

- Welcome to Our Guests
- Who is in for 2024? - Email Coming
- Training
- Infrastructure Activities
- Winlink News
- Upcoming RATPAC Programs
- NVIS Testing on HF
- Winterheat 2024
- 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 – more to ARES than holding a microphone and talking



ARES - Who is in for 2024?

- Email coming soon – Title will be as follows:
- *Peoria County ARES – I Want to Participate – Please Reply “Yes” or “No”*
- I create a new ARES Roster each January, while recognizing that peoples lives change
- Update your email address & your best phone number (capable of getting text messages)
- Everyone simply reply to the email please



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>



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
- The computer for use at the Bunker has been configured and is now being used
- With a Signalink interface plus cable by KD9AER
- Sent Winlink msgs 53, 437, 854, and 979 miles
- Next steps are Documentation and Instructions, plus return the FT-950 to the Bunker



Winlink News

- Central Illinois VARA-FM RMS Gateway
 - Located at Woodford County EOC in Roanoke
 - K9WRA-10 on 144.970 MHz
 - Antenna is at 135 ft
 - Most of us should be able to reach this station
 - If you are running a soundcard for Packet, then you should be able to at least do VARA-FM Narrow
 - You don't have to pay any license fee to use VARA-FM Narrow. The fee to use Vara-Wide is about \$70.
 - VARA-FM Narrow sure seems faster than Packet



Upcoming RATPAC Presentations

Jan 3, 2024	CQ DX Marathon
Jan 4, 2024	New Year's Resolutions - Panel Discussion on Being Ready
Jan 10, 2024	SOTAMĀT- Automation for a variety of SOTA & POTA Activities
Jan 17, 2024	QRPer.com (title is TBA)
Jan 24, 2024	End Feed Random & Half Wave Antennas

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>

There are NO RATPAC presentations this week or the week of Christmas.



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
- Maybe with winter being here I can find time to play on the radio



Winterheat 2024 is Coming

- WINTERHEAT is a month long amateur radio **SIMPLEX** event – Not an ARES thing, but good for testing stations
- Make as many contacts as possible over a month long time period using – repeat daily
- Runs January 2024 – 1st thru 31st
- **Uses UTC time – starts at 6 PM on Dec 31st**
- Primarily 2M & 70cm, also DMR, C4FM, D-Star
- Added 6M. Only one 6M contact/person/day is allowed.
- Sign-up is now open; do it now! <https://hamactive.com>
- **Shall we schedule a daily time/net for local check-ins?**



Winterheat 2024 is Coming Soon!



ANALOG		
2M	70cm	OTHER
147.570	446.700	52.540 <small>*see note below</small>
147.525	446.400	223.400
		927.100
DIGITAL		
147.555 C4FM-V	446.600 C4FM-U	
145.790 DMR-V	446.0750 DMR-U	
TG:99 TS:1 CC:1	TG:99 TS:1 CC:1	
145.670 D-STAR-V	446.225 D-STAR-U	



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



Merry Christmas!



END

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