



ARES Meeting Agenda - 02/21/24

- Welcome to Our Guests
- Roster Update
- Request for you to send an email the Illinois SEC
- Weather Spotting Training
- Tune-up Event on March 16th
- Emergency/Disaster Protocol Discussion – Looking for YOUR inputs
- Upcoming RATPAC Programs
- Winlink – Things to Try
- Net Control Operators Wanted
- 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



Roster Update

- Our current roster is at 25 members
- A new Roster in pdf form has been sent to your email



Request to email our SEC

- This request from our Section Emergency Coordinator was emailed to everyone on Jan 17th:
- Robert Littler, Illinois SEC (IL Section Emergency Coordinator) has asked everyone to send an email to "aressecil@gmail.com" with the following:
- Name, call sign, operator class, county of residence, best reach contact number and email address
- Please include that you are associated with Peoria County ARES and copy me using the following email rich.holtman@gmail.com
- If you have not yet sent this, please do so ASAP



Storm Spotter Training

- Woodford County, March 5, 6:30,
- Tazewell County, March 18, 6:30, Par-a-Dice in EP
- Peoria County, March 12, 6:30, Am Legion Bartonville
- See <https://www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter> for more sessions including an on-line option



Training Documentation

- Now at 13 of 25 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>



Tune-Up Event on March 16th

- Illinois Section "Tune-Up on March 16" (rain date 3/23)
- 1200 through 1600 CT. Located in parks, EMA offices, Hospitals, etc
- Attempt VHF/UHF simplex relays throughout Illinois
- Also CW, Digital, and Voice HF relays throughout the Central Division
- Primary communication and coordination will be on HF at 3905 kHz
- Use IL State ARES Zoom for technical help
<https://zoom.us/j/666446520?pwd=QVJLMUVhakpGUVpnNStNbzc4UUR1dz09#success>
- More info coming in early March (will be emailed)



Tune-Up Event on March 16th

- Sounds like 4 hours of on-the-air fun
- Think of as a Super-POTA (but it's not a POTA)
- And it is NOT a SET (Simulated Emergency Testing)
- I may be out of the state, if that changes I will email all
- Suggest doing VHF/HF voice, from home or in the field
- If you are capable, do some CW
- Do relays as necessary/possible
- IL State ARES want to demonstrate a VHF voice relay from south to north, generally along I-57 on 146.520 – We are likely too far west to help, but we can try



Emergency/Disaster Protocol

- This subject surely deserves longer discussions
- Everything that follows is a DRAFT and nothing more
- What to do if a localized disaster hits your area
- What to do if a localized disaster hits nearby your area
- What about when SHTF – what is the protocol for that?
- Eventually, we may want to produce a reference document to have available offline, and to provide to other folks
 - Submit to Rich your ideas about the things that could or should include in this reference book



Intro to Field Situation Report

- At first, you may not know extent of any outage(s)
- Consider a Field Situation Report – know the tools you have available, and those items out-of-service (for some)
- Found in Winlink Templates in multiple places
 - GENERAL Forms
 - MAPPING-GIS FORMS
- Proably put a one-page copies in the final document



Field Situation Report

1. EMERGENT/LIFE SAFETY Need

2. City: County: State: Territory:

3. Latitude: Longitude:- MGRS:

4a. POTS landlines functioning:

4b. VOIP landlines functioning:

5a. Cell phone voice calls functioning:

5b. Cell phone phone texts functioning:

6. AM/FM Broadcast Stations functioning:

7a. OTA TV functioning:

7b. Satellite TV functioning:

7c. Cable TV functioning:

8. Public Water Works functioning:

9a. Commercial Power functioning:

9b. Commercial Power Stable:

9c. Natural Gas Supply functioning:

10. Internet functioning:

11a. NOAA Weather Radio functioning:

11b. NOAA Weather Radio Audio degraded:

12. Additional Comments: **PUT STATUS OF REPEATERS AND RADIOS HERE**

POC

YES	NO	UNKNOWN
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Localized Disaster Hits Your Area

- Check operation of your local repeater(s)
 - If it works, listen there
 - If not working, listen on simplex 146.520 (Nat Calling)
- Get the local status out to any and all others
 - Periodically, transmit on whatever is working
- If No Repeaters can be heard, send a Winlink message
 - Through any Gateway (know which you can work)
 - Include a FEMA Field Situation Report for your location
 - Send to at least our group (create a group address in Winlink in advance – use the Roster)



Localized Disaster Hits Nearby

- Check Status of your Repeater(s) – might be calling you
- Check Status of Nearby Groups (other's repeaters)
 - Listen for Traffic on Other's Repeaters
 - If nothing heard, put your call sign out on that repeater
 - Listen for the repeater to reply with its ID
 - Knowing repeater is up vs down is worthwhile
- Put your call sign out on Simplex 146.520 & listen
 - Record who responds & location (address/intersect.)
- Check your Winlink Messages – Use an RMS Gateway or Telnet if the Internet is available



Local Repeater Info

County	Call Sign	Frequency	Offset, Tone
McLean	WD9HRU	146.790	-0.6, 103.5
Peoria-Main Backup	W9UVI W9BFD	147.075 146.970	+0.6, 156.7 -0.6, 103.5
Tazewell-Main Backup	W9TAZ WA9DKO	146.670 146.910	-0.6, 103.5 -0.6, 103.5
Woodford	K9WRA Linked to	146.610 443.175	-0.6, 103.5 +5.0, 103.5

Be sure that you have these area repeaters programmed into all your radios.



Scheduled Nets

What	When	Repeater	Notes
McLean ARES Net	1 st Thursday, 7:30 PM	WD9HRU	146.790
Peoria ARES Net	1 st & 2 nd Wednesday, 7 PM	W9UVI	147.075 & Echolink 706480
Tazewell EMA Net	Every Tuesday, 7:15 PM	W9TAZ	146.670
Woodford ARES Net	Every Tuesday, 9 PM	K9WRA	146.610,443.175 & Echolink 710520
Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club	Sunday Night Net Every Sunday, 8:30 PM	W9UVI	147.075 & Echolink 706480

Check into area nets ahead of time to learn/know what repeaters you can and cannot work. They will also appreciate the extra check-ins.



SHTF Protocol

- When things are really bad
- You may be operating off-grid - on solar and battery power and cannot sustain continual operation
- Power up for ten minutes at the beginning of each odd numbered hour, (1:00-1:10, 3:00-3:10 etc)
 - Check local repeaters
 - Check simplex frequencies
 - Check Winlink Gateways for messages (VHF & HF)
 - Listen on HF for activity



Upcoming RATPAC Presentations

Feb 21, 2024	Accessibility in Amateur Radio?
Feb 22, 2024	AuxComm Results (AAR) for 2023 EHPC exercise
Feb 28, 2024	History of Modern Communications Receiver- Part 2
Mar 6, 2024	6-meter Inverted Delta Skeleton Slot Antenna
Mar 27, 2024	Open-Wire Line for 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>



Winlink Things to Try

- Send a Winlink Message to your own Internet Email Address
- Send a message to all of your ham friends who are on Winlink
- Study the Winlink.org website thoroughly
- Enter names to go with the call signs in your Winlink Address Book
- Setup a Signature File for yourself
- Setup group address files for your frequently messaged folks, and for our ARES team



Winlink Things to Try

- Join a Winlink Practice Group
 - Weekly Winlink Exercise (send an email to kd9anu@arrl.net)
 - Winlink Wednesday (<https://winlinkwednesday.net/>)
 - FEMA Region 5 AUXCOMM Winlink Exercise (2nd Sunday of each month)
- Try to hit other nearby FM Gateways (send to your internet email address for test purposes)
 - W9TAZ-10 (Packet, near Tremont, in Tazewell County)
 - KD9ANU-10 (Packet, near Kickapoo, in Peoria County)
 - W9PFD-10 (Packet, near Teheran, in Mason County)
 - N9PUZ-10 (Packet, in Springfield, use w9pdf-1 as a digipeater)



Winlink Things to Try

- Try to hit other more distant HF Vara Gateways (send to your internet email address for test purposes)
 - N0LCR-10 in Minnesota at the western end of Lake Superior (40 or 80 meters)
 - N0SA near Geneseo IL
 - Or any of the many other stations on the Channel Selection map
- Try to do Peer-to-Peer Winlink (P2P)
 - Coordinate times and frequencies with each other
 - Rich has set-up a station at Kickapoo ready and waiting to practice P2P with (W9PIA)



Winlink Things to Try

- Participate in the IL State ARES Tune Up Event on Sat, March 18th – using Winlink
- Check out the many Standard Templates available in Winlink
- Send a message with an attachment (a picture or a file)
- Send a Winlink Catalog Request
- Send a GPS/Position Report



Net Control Operators Wanted

- Want to get more folks involved doing Net Control for the ARES Nets (one net per month)
- Rich will do the first, a volunteer does the second
- It is quite easy, the script is on our website
- Just one set of check-ins using the 075 repeater
- Let's get some folks volunteering
- March 13th will be Brett KD9PXZ
- 9 more volunteers needed



Net Control Operators Wanted

- Apr 10 -
- May 8 -
- Jun 12 -
- Jul 10 -
- Aug 14 -
- Sept 11 -
- Oct 9 -
- Nov 13 -
- Dec 11 -



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

