



ARES Meeting Agenda - 03/20/24

- Welcome to Our Guests
- April ARES Meeting Reschedule
- ARRL Training Changes Coming
- Storm Spotter Training
- Review of Tune-up Event on March 16th
- FLDIGI - MT63-1KL
- Upcoming RATPAC Programs
- Weather Spotting Discussion
- Net Control Operators Wanted
- Emergency Expo – Save the Date
- 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



April ARES Meeting Reschedule

- Rich will be traveling between April 11 and 18
- Therefore, there will be no meeting as previously scheduled on April 17
- Proposing that the April ARES meeting be held on Thursday, April 25 (via Zoom)
- Thoughts? Objections? Alternatives?

- For the record, Rich is out-of-town 3/24-3/31 as well. No ARES events scheduled at that time.



ARRL Training Changes Coming

- ARRL is discontinuing the ARRL Emergency Communications training courses EC-001 and EC-016, effective April 1
- Plan to launch the new Basic EmComm course on April 1st, as well as a new Intermediate EmComm course
- An Advanced EmComm course will be released by the end of June
- An ARES leadership course coming in the near future
- Expect changes to ARES position Task Books



Storm Spotter Training

- Most local Weather Spotter Training is now complete
- A few sessions out of the Greater Peoria area remain
- Virtual Spotter Training Session on April 13th, 10 AM
 - See the registration link in the description at:
 - <https://www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter>



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
- *Everyone who recently attended Storm Spotter Training has at least that class to submit as ARES Training*



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>



Review of Tune-Up Event – 1 of 2

- Illinois Section held this "Tune-Up Event" on March 16th
- Much planning went into performing a 2 meter VHF Relay from southern border of Illinois to West Chicago
- After initial good progress, the message stopped just south of Champaign, IL
- The message was rescued using the Pony Express Method by Alex, KA3BQE and then resent
- Message got stuck again near Kankakee for a short time
- It finally made it to the destination about 3:30 P.M.
- State ARES Leaders were happy and the IEMA Recipient was favorably impressed
- Talking about repeating this relay around Summer Field Day



Review of Tune-Up Event – 2 of 2

- Also during the Tune-Up Event
 - Returned the Yaesu FT-950 HF rig to the Bunker
 - Tested by sending Winlink messages using the End-Fed Antenna at the Bunker
 - Successful on 40 meters to NS0A & K9WRA
 - Failed on 40 meters to W9FE in southern Illinois
 - No luck getting N0LCR-1 in Minnesota on 40 or 80
 - The Gateway NC9IL in Springfield was down and could not be tested
 - Looking for diff DB9-USB cable to control frequency
 - the existing cable seems to have stopped working



FLDIGI - MT63-1KL

- IL ARES Section is considering FLDIGI as a tool to push announcements out to all ARES radio operators without use of the Internet (without use of phones, email, or web sites)
- All classes of ham licenses would be covered
- Testing using mode MT63-1KL to send 'bulletins' on 147.570 MHz using selected "large footprint" simplex stations
- Does anyone have experience with FLDIGI or MT63-1KL? Even receive-only would be useful



Upcoming RATPAC Presentations

Mar 20, 2024	CATS - Communication And Telemetry System
Mar 21, 2024	First Steps in Emergency Communications Prep - Setting Up a VHF/UHF Station
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=RG94eEY2L3FiMEg0U3ZlWmhXaEdwdz09>

Zoom Passcode- RATPAC

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



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 X (Twitter) with the Weather Service via @NWSLincolnIL
- Load other Repeaters into your radios
 - W9BFD – 146.970, -0.6 MHz, 103.5 tone (Peoria County backup)
 - W9TAZ – 146.670, -0.6 MHz, 103.5 tone (Tazewell County reports)
 - K9WRA – 146.610, -0.6 MHz, 103.5 tone (Woodford County 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 not 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/or any 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 – particularly if a big increase in Cloud-to-Ground 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 – 800-611-4570
 - Text to NWS Lincoln – 217-871-7306
 - Email to NWS Lincoln – NWS.Lincoln@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

Over-the-top Gear

Chainsaw
Fix-A-Flat
Tire Plugs
Air Compressor

Personal Gear

Flashlight & Extra Batteries
Rain Coat or Poncho
Boots
Hard Hat
Drinking Water & Snacks
First Aid Kit
Tarp
Paracord
Knife or Multi-tool



Spotter Activations/Notifications

- NWS Daily Wx Brief – review this in the morning
- 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



Net Control Operators Wanted

- Want to get more folks involved doing Net Control for the ARES Nets (one net per month)
- Rich KD9ANU will do the first Net of the month, a volunteer does the second Net of the month
- Our net is quite easy, the script is on our website
- A form to record check-ins is now available
- Just do one set of check-ins using 075 repeater
- Let's get some folks volunteering
- 8 more volunteers needed for 2024



Net Control Operators Wanted

- Apr 10 – Brett, KD9PXZ
- May 8 -
- Jun 12 -
- Jul 10 -
- Aug 14 -
- Sept 11 -
- Oct 9 -
- Nov 13 -
- Dec 11 -



Save the Date – Emergency Expo

- Emergency Expo continues this year
- As usual, will be at Shoppes at Grand Prairie
- Thursday, July 25th



ARES Net Reminders

- Illinois State ARES HF Net
 - 1st and 3rd Sundays of month at 4:30 PM CST
 - 3.905 MHz LSB (alternate 7.227 MHz LSB) & Echolink 824404
 - Informal 60M & 40M check in - (7227 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