



# ARES Meeting Agenda - 04/16/25

- Welcome to Our Guests
- Weather Spotting Discussion
- Winlink News
- Interested in GMRS Radios?
- IEMA-ARES Net – Please Check In
- Net Control Operators Wanted
- Upcoming RAT-PAC Presentations
- Training Resources
- 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



# 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 ~ 1/4 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
  - Storm Damage (including tree damage)
- *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
  - Largest Hail Observed – including Size

<b>Hail Size</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Hail Size</b>	<b>Description</b>
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”
- “Hail the size of a marble” (don’t use marbles)
- “Just started raining”



# Where to Report Observations

- Via Radio To Net Control on the Repeaters
- Peoria County EMA
  - Telephone to EMA Bunker – 309-691-3111
  - Telephone/text to EMA – 309-712-5980
  - Email to [emaweatherreports@peoriacounty.org](mailto:emaweatherreports@peoriacounty.org)
- National Weather Service Lincoln
  - Telephone to NWS Lincoln – 800-611-4570
  - Text to NWS Lincoln – 217-871-4280 (include photos!)
  - Email to NWS Lincoln – [NWS.Lincoln@noaa.gov](mailto:NWS.Lincoln@noaa.gov)
  - NWS Lincoln on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/NWSLincoln](http://www.facebook.com/NWSLincoln)
  - NWS Lincoln X Feed - [@NWSLincolnIL](https://twitter.com/NWSLincolnIL) #ILwx



# Damage Report Form

- Peoria County has a form to report Damage
- The damage form also works on mobile devices
- <https://www.peoriacounty.gov/1196/Damage-Report-Form>

A screenshot of the Peoria County website. The top navigation bar is dark blue with white text for 'GOVERNMENT', 'DEPARTMENTS', 'SERVICES', 'COMMUNITY', and 'HOW DO I...'. Below this is a red banner with a 'Back To Home' button, a search icon, and the text '&gt; How Can We Help You?'. The main content area features a large image of a lake with a swan. On the left, a dark blue sidebar contains links for 'Emergency Operation Plans', 'Hazard Vulnerability Analysis', and 'FEMA - Mission Areas and...'. The main content area displays the breadcrumb trail 'Home &gt; Departments &gt; Public Safety &amp; Justice &gt; Emergency Management &gt; Damage Report Form', followed by the title 'Damage Report Form' and the sub-header 'Submit a Damage Report to the Peoria County Emergency Management Agency'.



# 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  
Reflective Vest  
2 pg Weather Service Handout



# Who needs this Handout?

- 2025 version was handed out at Cat Edwards on 03/24, but not at Bartonville
- I can email this 2 pg document or send in US Mail
- Please let me know



NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, Lincoln IL

### SKYWARN Spotter Sign-Up

To register with NWS Lincoln as a SKYWARN Spotter go to:  
[www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter](http://www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter)  
 select "Spotter Resources" Tab, scroll down & click on the "SKYWARN" logo

- You must be at least 18 years of age
- We will cross-check you on the sign-in sheet for the spotter class you attended

### How to Make a Severe Weather Report

If you observe severe weather please submit a report as SAFELY and as SOON as possible to one of the following:

- Local EMA (Emergency Management Agency) or ESDA
- Lincoln National Weather Service
  - Phone: 1-800-611-4570
  - Texting: 1-217-871-4280
  - E-mail: [nws.lincoln@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.lincoln@noaa.gov)
- NWS Lincoln Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/NWSLincoln](http://www.facebook.com/NWSLincoln)
- NWS Lincoln X Feed  
[#NWSLincolnIL](https://twitter.com/NWSLincolnIL) #ILwx
- Local law enforcement officials

### What to Report

- Tornadoes, Funnel Clouds, Rotating Wall Clouds or **ANY type of Rotation** (See ID References on next page)
- Any injuries or fatalities due to weather
- **Flooding / Heavy Rain**
  - Rapidly rising creeks or rivers
  - Street flooding 6" or more in depth
  - Road Closures
  - Heavy rain accumulating at rates of 1.00" per hour or more
- **High Wind or ANY Wind Damage** (See Wind chart on next page)
  - Wind gusts 50 mph or more
  - Damage to structures
  - Damage to trees, power lines or power poles
- **Large Hail (1.00" or greater)**
  - See Hail Chart on next page
- Lightning Damage

### On the web:

NWS Lincoln SKYWARN Spotter Page..... [www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter](http://www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter)  
 NWS Lincoln Spotter Briefing Page..... [www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter-brief](http://www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter-brief)  
 Spotter's Field Guide ..... [www.weather.gov/media/ilx/Spotter\\_Training/SpottersGuideNew.pdf](http://www.weather.gov/media/ilx/Spotter_Training/SpottersGuideNew.pdf)  
 Storm Prediction Center ..... [www.spc.noaa.gov](http://www.spc.noaa.gov)  
 Skywarn..... [www.skywarn.org](http://www.skywarn.org)

2025



# 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 – sent via Regroup
- Deactivation
  - As the incident winds down
- Utilization of Regroup
  - Mobile Phone / Text / Email



# Spotter Notifications

- Peoria County EMA sends out Spotter Activation and De-activation notifications via a system known as the Regroup Notification System (formerly system was called Code Red)
- If you are new to spotting, and want to get these text and email messages, let me know so I can pass your info along to the EMA
- You may get a form to return to the EMA



# Regroup Notifications

- Storm spotting activations come via Regroup
- 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





# Winlink News

- Latest version of Winlink Express 1.7.22.0 has a Software License Agreement that you have to agree to the first time after you update to this version
- I encourage you to review this agreement (7 pages long)



# Winlink News

Winlink Software License Agreement

**Winlink Software License Agreement**  
**Please read carefully before using this software**

This license governs use of the accompanying software. If you use this software, you accept this license. If you do not accept this license, do not use the software.

This software, titled "Winlink Express", is not "freeware" and is not public domain software. License to use this program is granted only under the terms outlined here.

**Allowed Use**

The Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. (ARSFI) grants this license for use without charge on amateur radio bands by individual users who hold a valid amateur radio operator license from a government authority. This software may also be used without charge outside the amateur radio bands by individuals holding a valid government authorization or station license for such use by an

I have read the license agreement

I agree to the terms and conditions of the license agreement

Print License Agreement

Begin Using Program

Cancel and Close the Program



# More Winlink News

- Thanks to Steve KD9AER for visiting the Bunker today to diagnose the Peer-to-Peer station's failure to transmit. It is working now.
- For about the past month, K9WRA-10, the VARA Gateway in Woodford County looked like it was working fine, but most messages larger than a short test message were not being sent to the server. This was resolved yesterday.



# Interested in GMRS Radios?

- Anyone have a GMRS radio?
- Would you be interested in a volume buy?
  - no details available at this time
- Bureau County ARES group is looking at doing a bulk GMRS radio purchase
- If we have interest Bill, KE9BPB, will coordinate with the folks in Bureau County
- Drop him a note at [KE9BPB@arri.net](mailto:KE9BPB@arri.net)



# IEMA-ARES Net – Please Check In

- IEMA net is on the 3rd Saturday, 10:30 AM
- 4/19, 5/17, 6/21, 7/19, 8/16, 9/20, 10/18, 11/15, 12/20
- State EOC call sign is NC9IL, the frequency is 7.227 MHz, taking check-ins from 10:30 AM to 11:15 AM. Tune around if frequency is busy
- Calling stations by North, Central, & South Zones. We are in the Central Zone, District 6
- Everyone is encouraged to check in to this net
- We want to show IEMA that ARES is here



# Net Control Operators Wanted

- We want to get more folks involved doing Net Control for our Peoria County VHF ARES Nets (one net per month)
- Rich KD9ANU will do one Net each month, a volunteer does the other Net that month - We can work out which 1 of the 2
- 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



# Net Control Operators for 2025

- Jan 8 – KD9ANU
- Feb 12 – KD9ANU
- Mar 12 – KD9DBQ
- Apr 9 – KD9ANU
- May 14 – ?
- Jun 11 –
- Jul 9 –
- Aug 13 –
- Sept 10 –
- Oct 8 –
- Nov 12 –
- Dec 10 –

I have conflicts in May, need volunteers



# Upcoming RATPAC Presentations

## Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee

Apr 17, 2025	Easy Remote Amateur Radio
Apr 23, 2025	Communication Planning for Large Scale Events
Apr 24, 2025	The Radio Relay International Certified Radio Operator Program
Apr 30, 2025	The Anatomy of a QRP Field Radio Kit from QRPer.com
May 01, 2025	The Illustrated CERT
May 07, 2025	Machine Learning and FreeDV
May 08, 2025	Field Day Update

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>





# Training Resources

- New Training Courses are now available from the ARRL
  - Basic EMCOMM
  - Intermediate EMCOMM
- Still Under Construction
  - Advanced EMCOMM – expected by mid-summer



# 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>



# ARES Net Reminders - Summer

- Illinois State ARES HF Net
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of month at 4:30 PM CST
  - 7.227 MHz LSB (alternate 3.905 MHz LSB) & Echolink 824404
  - Informal 60M & 80M check in - (3905 KHz) at 4:10 PM
  - 60M check at 4:20 pm (5403.5 kHz Channel 5, if busy then 1, 2, 3, 4)
- IEMA-ARES Net, 3rd Sat, NC9IL on 7.227 MHz, from 10:30 AM to 11:15 AM
- 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](http://www.peoriacountyares.org)
  - [arrl-il.org](http://arrl-il.org)
  - [www.arrl.org/ares](http://www.arrl.org/ares)