



ARES Meeting Agenda - 10/15/25

- Welcome to Our Guests
- Winlink Express – Avoid Expiration
- Winlink Digipeaters
- Meshtastic Messaging
- Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill
- ARRL HOA Letter Campaign
- 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



Winlink Express – Avoid Expiration

- Winlink accounts do expire due to lack of use
- Time limit is 400 days of inactivity
- Just check for messages using Telnet mode – this resets the clock
- Even if you don't regularly participate in any Winlink Nets or Exercises, it's easy to keep your account alive
- Avoid the hassle of contacting the SYSOPs to fix your account, or recreating & possibly losing your old messages & contacts in the aftermath



Winlink Digipeaters

- Did you know we have multiple Gateways here capable of digipeating to reach other Gateways?
- Packet Digipeaters (a partial list)
 - KD9ANU-10
 - W9TAZ-10
 - K9WRA-11
- You can reach Gateways in Springfield
- I am working up a handout with a series of tests for you to run
- Who is interested in digipeaters and these tests?



Meshtastic Messaging

- What is it? - An open source, off-grid, decentralized, mesh network built to run on affordable, low-power devices. (~900 MHz)
- Meshtastic nodes are often tiny gumstick-size PCBs with a LoRa radio module, a couple buttons, a tiny OLED display, and a USB port.
- Many of the nodes are built around the ESP32, but you can find LoRa modules for almost anything, even the Raspberry Pi Pico!
- Off-the-Grid – No Internet connection needed



Meshtastic Messaging

- I'm being given a Meshtastic Node that is solar powered.
- Looking for a high place to mount it
- Any ideas where we can put it?





Meshtastic Messaging

- These card-sized nodes sell for \$50
- Uses Smartphone app as a terminal
- Forms another communication tool in our tool box





Meshtastic Messaging

- ARES folks in Southern and Northern Illinois plus Springfield are playing with Meshtastic
- Also some other folks in Champaign
- I plan to play with it a bit, see what it can do
- So more to come in the future



Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill

- Amateur radio operators can support the Great ShakeOut earthquake drill by using Winlink to submit DYFI ("Did You Feel It?") reports to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- These reports provide "ground-truth data" that helps the USGS monitor earthquake intensity and response efforts
- By participating, amateur radio operators also test their emergency communication capabilities and contribute to the Amateur Radio Community Intensity Map (ARCIM), which visualizes the reports in near real-time.



Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill

- Here is the process:
- **Tomorrow**, Thursday, October 16th, as close to 10:16 AM as you can: Generate a Winlink message using the template: New Message > Select Template > Standard Templates > USGS > USGS DYFI.txt
- Automatically addresses the Winlink message to dyfi_reports_automated@usgs.gov, add copies to Winlink addresses SHAKEOUT and, if you would like your form graded, to ETO-DRILL.



ARRL HOA Letter Campaign

- The ARRL is promoting a grassroots campaign to send letters to members of Congress in support of pending legislation to intended to prevent restrictive homeowners' association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas
- Known as Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act
- Passage would give amateur radio operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles
- Stick around after this meeting to quickly & easily submit your letters. There is no cost, and letters are sent automatically
- Or go to www.arrl.org/HOA at home to learn more and make your submission



IEMA-ARES Net – Please Check In

- IEMA net is on the 3rd Saturday, 10:30 AM
- 10/18, 11/15, 12/20 remain in 2025
- 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
- Report the check-ins to Rich – a photo of your notes will do
- 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 – KE9CZI
- Jun 11 – KD9ANU
- Jul 9 – KD9ANU
- Aug 13 – N9KRZ
- Sept 3 – N9KRZ
- Oct 8 – KE9BPB
- Nov 12 –
- Dec 10 –



Upcoming RAT-PAC Presentations

Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee

Oct 15, 2025	DX Marathon-Sprint
Nov 19, 2025	Auxiliary Communications Mutual Aid

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>



Training Resources

- New Training Courses are now available from the ARRL
 - Basic EMCOMM
 - Intermediate EMCOMM
- Still Under Construction
 - Advanced EMCOMM – on hold until further notice



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 Stipend
 - Go to <https://www.fema.gov>
- FEMA Training
 - <https://www.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>

Offline during the 2026
Government Shutdown



FEMA Login Changing

- The login procedure for <https://training.fema.gov> appears to be changing
- This URL is where you access 15,000, 700 & 800 training courses
- Apparently, the multi-factor authentication system is not working
- Make a little effort on your part to get it working again

Offline during the 2026
Government Shutdown



ARES Net Reminders - Summer

- Illinois State ARES HF Net
 - 1st and 3rd 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 Multimode 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



ARES Net Reminders - Winter

- Illinois State ARES HF Net
 - On Sunday, November 2nd, we will return to 3.905 MHz for the Winter months
 - That is the day that Daylight Saving Time ends



END

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