



ARES Meeting Agenda - 08/19/26

- Welcome to Our Guests
- Emergency Expo
- Prairie Voice Exercise
- Infrastructure Update
- IEMA-ARES Net – Please Check In
- Net Control Operators Wanted
- Upcoming RAT-PAC Presentations
- ARES Training
- In-Person Training Activities
- Superfest Reminder – Sign Up to Help
- 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



Prairie Voice Exercise

- Prairie Voice was held Friday July 31st and Sat Aug 1st
- I was unable to participate on either day
- Anyone from Peoria County ARES who participated?



Infrastructure Update

- Peoria County is now planing to decommission the Bunker
- At this time, only the underground facility and the antennas above it are part of this decommissioning
- I believe the Storage Garage (Morton Building) and small radio room within are not effected
- The Garage radio room houses our Winlink Gateway, our D-Star repeater (off-the-air?), and the W9BFD repeater
- The total impact on ham radio in the area is not yet clear
- There is no schedule in place for this work
- More info to come in the future
- Prefer not discussing this publicly including via radio/discord



IEMA-ARES Net – Please Check In

- IEMA net is on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30 AM
- Remaining 2026 dates: 09/19, 10/17, 11/21, 12/19
- 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
- Our net is quite easy, the script is on our website
- A form to record check-ins is 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 - 2026

- Jan – ANU & ANU
- Feb – ANU & ANU
- Mar – BPB & ANU
- Apr – ANU & ANU
- May – NWG & ANU
- Jun – BRD & ANU
- Jul – BPB & AER
- Aug – ANU & ANU
- Sep
- Oct
- Nov
- Dec



Upcoming RAT-PAC Presentations

Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee

Jun 24, 2026	Summer Break Begins
Aug 26, 2026	Summer Break Ends

Held Wednesdays 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>



ARES Training

- EmComm Training Courses are now available from the ARRL
 - Basic EMCOMM
 - Intermediate EMCOMM
- Still Under Construction
 - Advanced EMCOMM – still “on hold” until further notice
- FEMA Training
 - IS 100, 200, 700, & 800 – these courses are available
- Report Course completions so I can enter into our database



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> (working once again)
- FEMA Training for IS 100, 200, 700, & 800
 - <https://training.fema.gov/is/> (working once again)
 - Only need to log in when ready to take the test
- More details in our 07-20-2022 Meeting slides
 - <https://www.peoriacountyares.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ARES-Meeting-07-20-2022.pdf>



FEMA Login Changes

- Login procedure for <https://training.fema.gov/is/> indeed has changed (site is working once again)
- This URL is where you access IS 100, 200, 700 & 800 training courses and print certificates – click on the “NDEMUS Student Portal” which takes you to <https://training.fema.gov/signin/> (working once again)
- Scroll down the page and select in the blue box “Sign in, or create a Login.gov account now”
- I created a Login.gov account and set-up a passkey on my laptop, which seems to work well



In-Person Training Opportunities

- COML Course – Cary, IL (McHenry County) October 26th to October 29th. Registration is currently available.
- AUXCOMM Course – Springfield, IL, September 16th to 18th. Registration will be open soon.
- Let me know if you are interested
- Don't wait until the last minute to sign up



In-Person Training Opportunities

- There is also an effort being made to bring some of these training classes closer to Central Illinois
- If you are interested in either of the following courses, please let me know, so I can pass your name along.



In-Person Training Opportunities

COMT

- A public safety background with experience in field operations
- A technical communications background
- Awareness of fundamental public safety communications technology
- Basic knowledge of applicable communications plans
- Completion of the following FEMA training courses:
 - IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100
 - IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response
 - IS-700: And Introduction to the National Incident Management System
 - IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction



In-Person Training Opportunities

AUXCOMM

- An active FCC amateur radio license is recommended but not required
- Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications
- A desire to work with COMs in a NIMS/ICS environment
- An affiliation with a public safety agency
- Completion of the following FEMA training courses:
 - IS-100, Introduction to the ICS
 - IS-200, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Incidents
 - IS-700, National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction
 - IS-800, National Response Framework (NRF), an Introduction



2026 ARES Calendar

- All of our major ARES events on the calendar of our ARES website
 - Please notify me if you think something is missing or incorrect
 - Eventwise:
 - Prairie Voice Exercise – July 31 – Aug 1
- Final version of the Exercise Plan expected soon



Superfest Reminder

- Please Sign-up to Help
- Go to w9uvi.net Home Page
- The link to the Unison app is right there
- Create a login, use your email address and a password. Confirm your email, type it correctly.

Be part of the Midwest Superfest Crew!

Click here to be a
Volunteer





ARES Net Reminders - Summer

- Illinois State ARES HF Net
 - 1st and 3rd Sundays of month at 4:30 PM CST
 - **To avoid another Net, the Summer Freq. of 7.227 is changing to 7.217 MHz**
 - **7.217 MHz LSB** (winter 3.905 MHz LSB) & Echolink 824404-listen & text
- 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



END

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