



Quarterly Newsletter for Ohio ARES® Tenth District

VOLUME II, ISSUE II

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The DEC's Minute



This picture was taken by my good friend, Bob N8KBX at the Daytona 500 in February. Bob and I took a short road trip to the Orlando Hamfest. It was cold in Florida!

Anyone go to the Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest? I saw plenty of people I knew and had lunch at On Tap with Dennis AI8P. I think I'll go again next year.

But Spring has sprung! With the warmer weather approaching fast you can expect public service season to get here just as fast. Some counties have already begun their public service season. You know what else that means? Severe weather season! Now would be a great time to go over your go kit and/or go box. You don't want to get caught without essential items when you need them the most. Speaking of go boxes. Check out the article below.

Thank you to all who participated in the District-Wide Exercise back on March 20th. Whether you checked into a net, deployed to an assignment, or was on the exercise control team, your participation made this exercise a great success.

Tenth District adopted a new slogan this year. "Committed to Excellence Through Professionalism." While we use amateur radio equipment, everything we do should be professional. I look forward to volunteering with you. Be safe out there. 73 de Matt W8DEC.

Important Dates

GWRC, BSA Scout EXPO X Special Event Station W8G	May 1st
Perry Nuclear Power Plant Drill (Dry Run)	Aug 25th
Go Box Contest / Demo Cleveland Hamfest	Sept 26th
Perry Nuclear Power Plant Drill (Evaluated)	Sept 28th
Ohio Section / ARES® Conference	Oct 16th

Go Box Contest & Demonstration

This is a new contest and demonstration for Tenth District. It is open to all currently licensed amateur radio operators. You do not have to be registered with ARES® or any particular club to participate. However, you must be a Hamfest ticket holder to enter into the contest.

The concept is to have radio operators develop and build a portable base station. This gives radio operators ideas to develop or add to their own portable base station.

There will be two classifications for judging. Commercial and homebrew.

If you bought your portable base station from a vendor or dealer then it is commercial. If you built your station from scratch then it is considered homebrew.

The stations would be displayed for all to see from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Cleveland Hamfest on Sunday, September 26th.

At 12:30pm, judges will determine two winners of a \$25.00 gift certificate to AES.

2nd and 3rd place winners will also be selected.

These gift certificates have been donated by the DEC. Winners will be featured in *Sound Off* Winter Edition

I would really like to see this to be an annual event. Be sure to tell your friends and send a memo out to your ARES® rosters.

Good luck to everyone.

For complete contest rules and information check out www.ohioares10.org.

Blanket Waiver Request for Amateur Radio Drills

From ARRL.org. In February 2010, the American Hospital Association (AHA) filed a request with the FCC for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules "to permit hospitals seeking accreditation to use Amateur Radio operators who are hospital employees to transmit communications on behalf of the hospital as part of emergency preparedness drills." On March 3, the FCC issued a Public Notice -- WP Docket 10-54 -- seeking comments if the Commission "should grant AHA's request for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) to permit amateur operators who are hospital employees to participate in emergency drills that are conducted by hospitals for accreditation purposes and that are not government-sponsored." Section 97.113(a)(3) specifically prohibits amateur stations from transmitting

communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer."

On April 2, the ARRL filed comments regarding the blanket waiver request.

While not opposing the grant of a waiver, the ARRL urged the Commission "to carefully delineate limits on the types of communications that can be provided by employees of hospitals for accreditation purposes or otherwise pursuant thereto." The ARRL pointed out that AHA's waiver request was not "sufficiently specific to preclude any possible misunderstanding by Amateur Radio licensees (and hospital administrators) about what is permitted and what is not. The Commission's

notice alleviates some, but not all of these concerns."

To address this, ARRL proposed some very specific language for this waiver in its comments that will:

Accommodate the specific needs of AHA and its member hospitals.

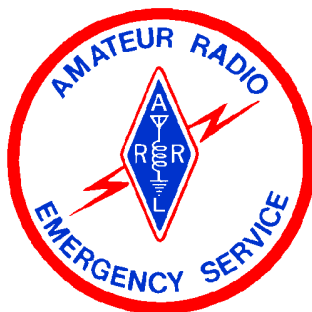
Permit effective and seamless emergency and disaster relief communications preparedness drills and exercises incorporating Amateur Radio.

Protect the Amateur Service to some extent against potential commercial exploitation.

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New ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager

From ARRL.org. The ARRL is pleased to welcome Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC, to the Headquarters



staff in Newington.

Corey's major responsibilities include addressing the development and implementation of an organizational disaster response plan as well as an

operational continuity plan, complete with supporting procedures and training. Corey also will play an integral part in the management of ARES®, and in future negotiations with served agencies with whom ARRL shares or creates memoranda of understanding.

EC SPOTLIGHT ERIC N8AUC

Eric Jessen N8AUC, of Fairview Park, was appointed in 2009 as the Emergency Coordinator for Cuyahoga County. His appointment was made official as a result of the Acting Emergency Coordinator being called to active duty in the military. Since his appointment, Eric developed and implemented the Cuyahoga ARES® Two Meter

Simplex Contest. It was such a hit that plans are being made to do it again.

He plans and conducts training on a variety of related topics at all Cuyahoga ARES® Meetings.

Not only is he an asset to ARES® but also the Lake Erie Amateur



Cuyahoga
COUNTY OF OHIO

Radio Association. He is a net control operator for LEARA club net and also the club license trustee.

He is not afraid to tell you about his college life at Case Western Reserve University.

Many thanks to Eric for all that he does for amateur radio.

Tactical Callsigns Revisited

I am sure at sometime or another you have used or heard tactical call signs. The use of this type of traffic does require some training.

These words indicate a specific position or location such as EOC, Net Control, Shelter 1, etc.

The idea of using a tactical call sign is to prevent confusion of using station call signs like W8DEC or WB8ZGH.

Station operators may change

several times throughout the event but the location may never change.

The FCC says you must identify your own station by using your call sign at the end of they conversation.

For instance, "Net Control to Rest Stop 4." "This is Rest Stop 4, go ahead." "You may shut down your rest stop." "Understood, thanks.

This is W8DEC at Rest Stop 4". "W8ABC, at net control."

The use of tactical call signs can be

very useful during public service events as well as emergencies or disasters.

It is helpful to assign locations of public service events a tactical call ahead of time.

In the event of an emergency where advanced assignment is impossible, net control (or the station himself) should announce the tactical call sign assignment as a station assumes a particular function.

Any questions should be directed to your Emergency Coordinator.



WWW.ARRL.ORG

2011 District 10 Emcomm Conference

Planning is underway for the first annual District 10 Emcomm Conference. The concept is to have a day long training conference for all who are interested in Emergency Communications.

Tenth District has only had a conference like this for ARES® Leaders. Now it is time to have one for everyone.

This conference is a great opportunity for training but also fellowship.

Would you like to be on staff? Contact Ross KB8JTZ or the DEC to be on staff for the conference.

Of course, guest speakers will be

needed to make this a successful training conference.

"Now it's time to have one for everyone."

If you know of someone that you think would be a nice speaker for the conference, have them contact Ross KB8JTZ or the DEC

for more information.

ARRL Website Gets New Look

If you haven't seen it yet, the American Radio Relay League website has totally been redone.

The website, www.arrl.org, is all new with a great look reflecting the 21st century.

Section Managers from across the country have been tasked



with testing the site. This helps the League by receiving accurate reports of a discrepancies, additions, or suggestions.

On the main page you will see the ARRL five pillars. Public Service, Advocacy, Education,

Technology, and Membership. Right underneath the five pillars you will find the latest ARRL news.

Take a look at the site. You are more than welcome to send comments about the site to Frank Piper, Ohio Section Manager at ki8gw@arrl.org.

EMA Regional Liaison Meeting

On April 21, DEC Matt W8DEC and ADEC Ross KB8JTZ traveled to the Ohio State EMA Regional Liaison Meet & Greet. This meeting was held at ODOT District 4 Headquarters in Akron.

The purpose of this meeting was to meet regional liaisons and learn about their agencies.

Agencies represented were Ohio Emergency



Management Agency (EMA), Ohio Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Ohio Farm Bureau, OSU Extension Office, Ohio Regional Medical Response System (RMRS), Ohio Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

ARES® received high praise from the Ohio EMA quoting a few instances where amateur radio saved the day. The first instance was during the 2009 Burke Lakefront

Airport Drill where a patient went missing but the radio operators on the ground knew where the patient was. The second instance was during the 2009 Lake East Hospital patient move in where the patient tracking system failed. Radio operators provided exact number of patients transported.

This meet & greet provided an excellent opportunity to network and educate some of the agencies about amateur radio.

Agencies invited not in attendance were the FBI, Ohio Citizens Corps and the Ohio National Guard.

District 10 Net Coming Soon

It was discovered during the March 20th Exercise that a District 10 Net would be beneficial to all counties for coordination of efforts. With fuel prices on the rise this net will help cut down the number of face to face meetings and promote proper net protocol.

Tenth District is blessed with having access to F-2 which is the

52.680/52.920 repeater in Newbury.

As this repeater is normally closed to all except SKYWARN™ Coordinators, the primary purpose of this repeater is for National Weather Service Cleveland to collect severe weather reports via amateur radio.

Tenth District has been granted permission to have a monthly net to

promote ARES® and Emergency Communications. The net will be for all ARES® Leaders such as AEC's, EC's, OES's, ADEC's, and other ARRL Leaders.

Liaisons to served agencies will also be invited.

Any questions should be directed to Ross KB8JTZ or the DEC.



District Website Gets New Look

The www.ohioares10.org website has totally been revamped. It's all new with great content and updated information.

There is a new public service calendar. All public service events in the district are listed as well as some of the more popular events

outside the district. This list also provides potential volunteers with a point of contact email address.

Check out the extensive resource page with tons of amateur radio links.

Take a look at the Upcoming Events page for the latest district news.

Have a glance at your county page for nets and repeater listings.

Website editors are more than welcome to place a district website link on their site.

Have suggestions for the website? Send them to Eddie KD8FTS or the DEC.



ARRL and Red Cross MOU

From ARRL.org. On Thursday, March 25, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed a new *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* with the American Red Cross ([ARC](#)) at ARC National Headquarters in Washington, DC. The *MoU*, which replaces an earlier *Statement of Understanding* that expired in 2007, provides a "broad framework for cooperation" between the ARRL and the ARC "in preparing for and responding to disaster relief situations at all levels in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial."

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the signing of the *MoU* at its January 2010 meeting following the completion of negotiations. The Red Cross requires the completion of a criminal background check to participate in Red Cross activities and provides a process by which a volunteer may have a criminal background check performed at no cost to the volunteer. In the case of ARRL volunteers, the Red Cross has agreed to accept an alternative process: ARRL volunteers may arrange, at their own initiative and expense, to have the criminal background check performed by a state or local law enforcement agency.

The Red Cross also has agreed that ARRL volunteers shall not be asked or required to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports in order to provide a communications function.

The ARRL and the Red Cross encourage interested volunteers in their respective organizations to become members and to participate in the activities of the other organization. ARRL volunteers should be aware that if they wish to become Red Cross volunteers, they may be required to consent to additional background checks in accordance with Red Cross policy that may include credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports.

Per the *MoU*, "both ARRL volunteers and ARC workers will work cooperatively at the scene of a disaster and in the disaster recovery, within the scope of their respective roles and duties as recommended." During a Red Cross Disaster Relief Operation (DRO) and depending on their training and qualifications, ARRL volunteers may perform in one or more of several roles, including Amateur Radio Liaison, Communication Equipment Operator, Communication Equipment Installation/Repair and Disaster Assessment. ARRL volunteers who are assigned roles by the Red Cross during a DRO will be provided with Red Cross credentials as required by the role, consistent with Red Cross policy.

"Because of the importance of emergency communications, we are happy to be able to continue the League's long-standing relationship with the American Red Cross," said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. "The ARC and other served agencies give Amateur Radio operators the worthwhile missions in our communities that allow us to thank America for the privilege of being hams."

Blanket Waiver Request for Amateur Radio Drills

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Protect Amateur Radio licensees who are employees of hospitals against pressure from employers to conduct inappropriate communications by means of Amateur Radio stations.

Prior to 1993 -- in order to protect the essential, non-commercial character of the Amateur Service -- the Commission's Rules prohibited the use of Amateur Radio communications in which anyone had a pecuniary interest. Since this led to confusion among licensees about what was permitted and what was not -- and unreasonably restricted Amateur Radio licensees and their good-faith efforts to provide public service communications -- the ARRL petitioned the Commission in 1992 to relax the rules governing "business communications."

In 1993, Docket 92-136 -- in response to ARRL's request -- saw the Commission relax the restrictions substantially, adopting the current language of Section 97.113. The reason for the change was "to give amateur operators greater flexibility to provide communications for public service projects as well as to enhance the value of the amateur service in satisfying personal communication needs." The change greatly facilitated volunteer Amateur Radio communications. "However, there was no change at that time (or since) to the portion of the rule that prohibited communications in which the operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer," the ARRL maintains. "That clause enunciated a specific instance in which a licensee is always deemed to have a pecuniary interest. In general, therefore, communications on behalf of an employer should be prohibited per se. With very limited and very specific exceptions, such communications are now, and always have been expressly prohibited."

ARES® DISTRICT 10—ARRL OH SECTION

Please send all articles, errors, comments, or concerns to the District Sound Off Editor.

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DISTRICT 10 ON THE WEB

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The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)® consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in the ARES®. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES® is an amateur service, only amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.



ARRL Standardizes Communications Vests

From ARRL.org. A long-standing public relations concern has been the lack of a unified, "branded" appearance of ARES® volunteers in public service or emergency activities. While the American Red Cross and many other organizations have adopted recognizable, national standards of appearance, Amateur Radio chronically suffered from a wide variety of apparel; some of which was very poor indeed. Without an easily recognizable, standard "look," the services of amateurs are easily overlooked by the public, media and civic leaders. There was a need for a standardized and consistent appearance by ARES® volunteers which is easily identified, quickly spotted in a crowd, recognizable on TV and in photos, and adopted on a national scale.

A continuing plethora of Amateur Radio garb seen by the public wordlessly made us appear to be amateurs in the worst sense of the word, undisciplined, fractioned and uncoordinated. A proposal for the ARRL to adopt a set of standards for ARES wear, which are to be worn when deployed in public service events or emergencies, was unanimously passed by the Programs and Services Commit-

tee of the ARRL in January 2010. It includes standards for a mesh vest (hot climate use), standard vests and jackets. The standards can be met by many emergency clothing manufacturers and suppliers.



Adoption of these standards as **THE ARES®** uniform clothing is a major positive step in ARRL / ARES public relations.

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ARRL Standardizes Communications Vests

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Here are the specifics:

ARES members, while activated, deployed, in community service activities or otherwise on duty shall wear over their normal apparel, at minimum, a florescent green ANSI Class 2 reflective, 100% polyester vest.

The vest shall be decorated in the following manner:

On the Back:

In minimum 2" lettering, Arial Black font, black in color, imprinted above the horizontal reflective tape:

AMATEUR RADIO
EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS

Those in a leadership position may add their title (SEC, DIRECTOR, EC, PIO, etc) below the words "Emergency Communications" in not less than 3" tall font, black. (Under the lower reflective stripe).

Local jurisdictions may elect to add their organization name above the words "Amateur Radio" with no larger than 1" Arial Black lettering, color black.

On the Front:

On the Left Chest, the ARES logo, minimum 3.5 inch diameter, black in color, negative background.

The Right Chest shall remain blank so as to allow wearer to affix their ARES or ARRL name badge.

Vests may have zip or Velcro type front closures. Members may choose vests with or without pockets, at their own discretion.

Other apparel, such as short and long sleeve tee shirts, jackets and coats are approved for member use as long as the garments meet the same color, ANSI Class 2, lettering and decoration standard. A waiver of this standard may be given by an SEC for specific purposes with good cause.

We know that many people already have some form of special clothing they purchased. As these are worn out they should be replaced with clothing meeting the new standards.





DISTRICT 10 NET

52.680/52.920

COMING SOON!