

Gallia – Mason (GM) ARES Newsletter

**ARES Information for Amateur Radio Operators
Gallia OH and Mason WV Counties**

December 2007 – January 2008



December 2007 – January 2008 Gallia – Mason ARES Newsletter

To ARES Members and Friends

We are interested in knowing if our email list is accurate. If not, have them contact us. Your feedback is important. You and your friends can see this monthly newsletter online at <http://www.arrlohiodistrict8.org> – Southeast Ohio ARES District

Ideas for articles and newsletter content are always welcome!

If you want to be removed from our list – let us know and it will be done.

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From Bud Carter

2007 in Retrospect – Thanks to All!!

Wow – what a year 2007 was and how fast the time flew by.

In 2007 MGM ARES participated in Three (3) emergency exercises involving a total of thirty-eight (38) Hams, who donated a total of 165 man-hours and \$42,050 worth of radio equipment and manpower.

MGM ARES participated in exercises with the Gallia County Department of Health, Gallia County Sheriffs Department, Gallia County Emergency Management Agency, Gallia County 911/EOC, Gallipolis Fire Department, Harrison Township Fire Department, Crown City Fire Department, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Holzer Hospital, Gallipolis Police Department, Gallia County Commissioners and the American Red Cross.

We began the year with input from many of you on what we should focus on as an organization. Thanks to your support we were able to do lots of the things you suggested including the three emergency exercises. Some of the activities that we worked on span a lengthy amount of time so they will be carried over into 2008 as we have planned for them to be.

One of the key 2007 projects was to locate and map potential radio relay points in Gallia County. Hundreds of miles were driven over state, county and township woods roads to locate over 25 spots higher than 900 feet that could successfully communicate with the repeaters and reach deep into our hollows. This was done in co-operation with the Gallia County Engineers Department who helped spot the high points in the county.

We were able to create an amateur radio SOP and Incident Operations manual to aide the amateur radio participants during an emergency or during an incident. The manual contains forms, processes and maps. The manual is based on FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security standards of NIMS (National Incident Management System) and the NRP (National Response Plan).

We witnessed ARES Hams continue their education with ARRL Emergency Communications, FEMA, DHS and 911 Operator training involving hundreds of hours of training.

Additionally, we attracted new members to MGM ARES and the amateur radio community.

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Thanks to all of you for your contributions and help without which none of the above could have taken place.

Have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a Safe Holiday Season!!!!

Bryson R. "Bud" Carter
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Local News

NOAA Radios in Our Schools

Gallipolis City Schools Pending:

Rio Grande Elementary School NOAA radio was checked and it works but we are going to need to supply them an antenna, coax, connectors, etc. We have all of that and will work it into the schedule for implementation. We are waiting on the antenna.

Gallia County Schools Pending:

South Gallia High School
Hannan Trace Elementary School
Southwestern Elementary School

Gallipolis City Schools Done in 2007:

Gallia Academy High School
Green Elementary School
Washington Elementary School
Gallipolis City Alternative School

Gallia County Schools Done:

Bidwell-Porter Elementary School
River Valley High School
Vinton Elementary School

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for Gallia County

LEPC is a monthly meeting that is managed by Mike Null. Bud attends these meetings and represents ARES. Nothing to report this month for ARES.

Tid-Bits – Keeping it Legal

In the FCC rules under the "Prohibited transmissions" heading (97.113), it states that "no amateur station shall transmit any communication the purpose of which is to facilitate the business or commercial affairs of any party except as necessary to provide emergency communications." Under the same heading, it further states that "no station shall transmit messages for hire or for material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised."

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The FCC rules also has a section directly addressing traffic handling (97.115), "Third party communications," which reads as follows:

(a) an amateur station may transmit messages for a third party to: Any station within the jurisdiction of the United States and Any station within the jurisdiction of any foreign government whose administration has made arrangements with the United States to allow amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties. No station shall transmit messages for a foreign government whose administration has not made such an arrangement. This prohibition does not apply to a message for any third party who is eligible to be a control operator of the station.

(b) The third party may participate in stating the message where: The control operator is present at the control point and is continuously monitoring and supervising the third party participation; and The third party is not a prior amateur service licensee whose licensee was revoked; suspended for less than the balance of the license term and the suspension is still in effect; suspended for the balance of the license term and re-licensing has not taken place; or surrendered for cancellation following notice of revocation suspension or monetary forfeiture proceedings.

The third party may not be the subject of a cease and desist order which relates to amateur service operation and which is still in effect. At the end of an exchange of international third party communications, the station must also transmit in the station identification procedure the call sign of the station with which a third party message was exchanged.

Note that emergency communications is defined in 97.403 as providing "essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communications systems are not available."

It is self-explanatory. Every amateur should be familiar with these rules. Also, while third-party traffic is permitted in the US and Canada, this is not so for most other nations. A special legal agreement is required in each country to make such traffic permissible, both internally and externally (except if the message is addressed to another amateur). A list of third-party traffic agreements may be found at this ARRL Web page address:

<http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/io/3rdparty.html>.

Check this list before agreeing to handle any kind of international traffic.

Such third-party agreements specify that only unimportant, personal, non-business communications be handled, something that ordinarily would not utilize commercial facilities. (In an emergency situation, amateurs generally handle traffic first and face the possible consequences later. It is not unusual for a special limited-duration third-party agreement to be instituted by the affected country during on overseas disaster.)

The key point is, particularly under routine day-to-day none emergency conditions, if we value our privileges, we must take care not to abuse any regulations, whether it be on the national or international level.

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At this time I should be saying 73, but I would like to refer you to the FCC Rules and Regulations for the Amateur Radio Service, part 97 rules from title 47 under Definitions 97.3. This is a National Radio Quiet Zone. This area is in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia bounded by 39E15'N on the north, 78E30'w on the east, 37E30'n on the south and 80E30'w on the west.

I hope you have enjoyed this Tid-bits and I welcome your comments.

FCC Rules and Regulations for the Amateur Radio Service, Part 97 from Title 47.

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2007 SET “In the bag.”

SET Exercise for ARES – December 8th

On Saturday, December 8 at 0800, the Gallia County 2007 Simulated Exercise Training (SET) was held at the Gallia County 991/EOC center. It concluded at Noon with lunch.

Over 110 messages were handled during the SET which is something on the order of one message every 30 seconds.

Rob Northrup of the Gallipolis Fire Department said he was impressed with the radio discipline that the ARES radio operators used, messages were short and efficient.

Lt. Joe Browning of the Gallia County Sheriffs Office was equally impressed with the ARES radio traffic handling. He reminded everybody that while one emergency is being worked it is not uncommon for other emergencies to occur along with incidents that citizens feel are important but are not an emergency. He encouraged us to remain flexible and enjoyed the experience of working with ARES.

Tonya Warren of the Gallia County Health Department was impressed with ARES radio traffic management and has a good understanding of the skills and capabilities that ARES offers to its served agencies. Special Note: Tonya was the logger for the radio operator at the EOC/911. She did an outstanding job!! She typed the log as it happened and kept pace with the heavy volume of radio traffic.

Mike Null, Gallia County Emergency Management Agency was the Evaluator for the SET. He was also impressed with the ARES handling of radio traffic, he said, it was brief – excellent. He reminded us all that it was important to slow down while transmitting a message – speak slowly

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and clearly to insure the receiving station gets the message right the first time and to pause between transmissions.

ARES members participating in the 2007 SET were: Jeff KD8DMR, Moe, KD8DCW, Jean KD8DDF, Bill KC5IND, Ron AB8WE, Bud KA8AUZ, Mike N8HPR, Steve WD8NUY, Howard KC8JFM and Dale WB8RFV.

This drill focused on a “make believe situation” where two elderly persons with Alzheimer’s had wandered away from a nursing home. We learned some things about locating a missing person, but the emphasis was on what we as hams do from callout to debriefing in an emergency and how to handle radio traffic.

MGM ARES Metrics - November

Metrics are used to aid us in understanding activities and trends of our group.

Gallia County - August

Total ARES Members:	25
Change from Last Month:	0
Number of Functions:	8
Hours for Functions:	12
Public Service Events:	0
Hours for Public Service Events:	0
Emergency Operations:	0
Emergency Operations Hours:	0
Total Number of Events:	8
Total Person Hours:	12

Calendar of Events

ARRL Field Day – June 28 and 29, 2008

Training

Training Encouraged For Active ARES Volunteers

The ARRL and FEMA are offering several courses via the Internet dealing with emergency communications and terrorist attacks. There is a charge for the ARRL courses. The ARRL course page is <http://www.arrl.org/cce/>. It is recommended that active ARES volunteers take the ARRL Emergency Course #1 in 2007 and #2 in 2008.

FEMA Courses

It is recommended that you take FEMA Independent Study Courses IS-100, IS-200, and IS-700. There is no cost for the FEMA courses and they can be taken over the Internet. See the fema.gov web site in “Handy ARES Web Sites” above.

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Have You Passed Any EMCOM Courses?

Please let us know if you have taken and passed any FEMA or ARRL courses. Also, keep us posted on what courses you successfully complete in the future. This will help improve our training records so we can better serve you, ARES and the agencies we support.

Handy ARES Websites

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/rlx> – Charleston NOAA - National Weather Service

<http://www.arrlohiodistrict8.org/> – SE Ohio ARES District

<http://www.iarc.ws/ohio/> - Ohio ARRL Section

<http://www.ohioares.org/> - Ohio ARES Section

http://www.ema.ohio.gov/ohio_eop/contents.pdf - Ohio State Emergency Operations Plan

<http://www.geocities.com/ohiouhf/index.html> - Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia UHF Severe Weather Net

<http://training.fema.gov/NIMS/> - IS 100, 200 and 700 Training

<http://www.batteryfaq.org/>

<http://www.batteryuniversity.com/>

<http://www.buchmann.ca/> - For battery information.

<http://www.nrc.uscg.mil> – US Coast Guard National Response Center

www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nets/ - Amateur Radio Maritime Nets

www.14300.net – Maritime 20m Amateur Radio Net

www.emcomm.org – Emergency Communications Information

Local Radio Net(s)

One way of preparing for the future is through participating in radio nets. We have two in our area.

1. Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia UHF Severe Weather Net

Every Thursday evening at 8 pm on 442.000 + Open, No PL. For net repeater sites and frequencies see the web site <http://www.geocities.com/ohiouhf/index.html> The web site was designed and maintained by Justin Drummond, KD8EAD, Londonderry, Ohio

2. MOVARC 2m Net

Every Monday evening at 8:00 pm on 147.06 + Open PL Tone is 74.4.

3. Maritime Net.

Every day, Noon and 10 PM EDT on 20m 14.300

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Membership Information

Our ARES group has two operator categories: Active Status and Reserve Status.

Active Status: Members who are committed to regular participation in meeting, training, drills and other on-going activities and who constitute the core group of prepared and ready-to-respond personnel.

Reserve Status; Members who are willing to provide communication support in the event of a disaster or other emergency situation, but who prefer not to participate in meetings, training, drills and other activities on a regular basis.

ARES is NOT a club. ARES does not collect DUES!

You do not need to be a member of any Amateur Radio Club to be a member of ARES, although many ARES members are also members of one or more clubs.

For more information about ARES membership or activities contact Bud Carter at carter9536@sbcglobal.net or 740.446.4193.

73, Bill, KC5IND, MGM ARES Newsletter Editor
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