

Gallia – Mason (GM) ARES Newsletter

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

January 2008 – February 2008



January 2008 – February 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

2008 Looking Forward

“Not preparing, is preparing for failure.” Basketball Coach Wooden, UCLA.

Early last year we constructed a strategic plan for GM ARES that will carry us through 2010. It is a “rolling” plan that will help keep us looking out into the future at a distance of three years. The plan includes operational activities that we need to do in order to maintain a proper level of readiness, training and participation in local Emergency Management events.

Some activities that began in 2007 will be carried over into 2008. For example, the work to locate potential repeater sites for use by mobile units and the NWS radios for schools began in 2007 will continue in 2008 for Gallia County. The same activities will begin in 2008 for Mason County. Some of activities will occur every year. For instance, the annual SET and Gallia County HAZMAT drills are planned annual events.

The radio nets have been successful and have helped us hone our skills and be together, at least virtually. We think it would be good to gather the ARES members together for a group gathering. So in 2008 we will be tying events into the calendar which enable us to do that proactively and have some ham fun too.

This year we are launching a marketing and public relations campaign to increase the number of ARES members. We will be using materials from ARRL and incorporating them into local awareness events.

We will also be tuning and expanding our technology capabilities for emergency response in 2008 and beyond.

We have incorporated the lessons we learned in 2006 and 2007 into the plan. In addition we have included comments and ideas from ARES members and the agencies we serve in the planning process.

We are excited about the future of ARES and invite you to share in that excitement with us. We welcome your participation, comments and ideas. You had a great deal to do with the success of GM ARES in 2007 and we thank you for that.

We wish you a Happy, Safe and Healthy New Year.

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Local News

NOAA/NWS Radios in Our Schools

Mason County – The review of the radios in the schools is planned for 2008.

Gallia County Schools Pending:

- South Gallia High School
- Hannan Trace Elementary School
- Southwestern Elementary School

Gallipolis City Schools Done:

- Rio Grande Elementary School
- 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

National Weather Service – Dan Bartholf Retires, Hello Fred McMullen

Dan has retired and we will miss him. His classes on weather, flooding and Skywarn were always well received. He was a comic and enjoyable relief as a speaker. He not only knew his stuff, he knew about it from a local perspective. His pictures were effective and the stories that went along with them were too – and his pictures were about the local area. We are sure to miss him but we are looking forward to his replacement, Fred McMullen – Welcome Fred!!! You can email Fred at fred.mcmullen@noaa.gov.

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 – A Winter Storm Plan

I hope that everyone has had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Since it is winter I thought that this would be a good Tid-Bits.

Prepare a Winter Storm Plan.

Have extra blankets on hand.

Ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat, and water-resistant boots.

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Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit Containing--

First aid kit and essential medications.

Battery-powered NOAA Weather radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.

Canned food and can opener.

Bottled water (at least one gallon of water per person per day to last at least 3 days).

Extra warm clothing, including boots, mittens, and a hat.

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit for your car, too.

Have your car winterized before winter storm season.

Stay Tuned for Storm Warnings

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio and your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.

Know What Winter Storm WATCHES and WARNINGS Mean.

A winter storm WATCH means a winter storm is possible in your area.

A winter storm WARNING means a winter storm is headed for your area.

A blizzard WARNING means strong winds, blinding wind-driven snow, and dangerous wind chill are expected. Seek shelter immediately!

When a Winter Storm WATCH is Issued.

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, and TV stations, or cable TV such as The Weather Channel for further updates.

Be alert to changing weather conditions.

Avoid unnecessary travel.

When a Winter Storm WARNING is Issued...

Stay indoors during the storm.

If you must go outside, several layers of lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. Gloves (or mittens) and a hat will prevent loss of body heat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs.

Understand the hazards of wind chill, which combines the cooling effect of wind and cold temperatures on exposed skin.

As the wind increases, heat is carried away from a person's body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature.

Walk carefully on snowy, icy, sidewalks.

After the storm, if you shovel snow, be extremely careful. It is physically strenuous work, so take frequent breaks. Avoid overexertion.

Avoid traveling by car in a storm, but if you must, carry a Disaster Supplies Kit in the trunk.

Keep your car's gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.

Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets

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stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.

If You Do Get Stuck.

Stay with your car. Do not try to walk to safety.

Tie a brightly colored cloth (preferably red) to the antenna for rescuers to see.

Start the car and use the heater for about 10 minutes every hour. Keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes won't back up in the car.

Leave the overhead light on when the engine is running so that you can be seen.

As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to keep blood circulating and to stay warm.

Keep one window away from the blowing wind slightly open to let in air.

What to Do After a Winter Storm

Continue listening to local radio or television stations or a NOAA Weather Radio for updated information and instructions. Access may be limited to some parts of the community, or roads may be blocked.

Help a neighbor who may require special assistance--infants, elderly people, and people with disabilities. Elderly people and people with disabilities may require additional assistance. People who care for them or who have large families may need additional assistance in emergency situations.

Avoid driving and other travel until conditions have improved. Roads may be blocked by snow or emergency vehicles.

Avoid overexertion. Heart attacks from shoveling heavy snow are a leading cause of deaths during winter.

Follow forecasts and be prepared when venturing outside. Major winter storms are often followed by even colder conditions.

Your Local Red Cross Chapter Can Provide Additional Materials in English and Spanish:

"Safe Steps for Winter Weather" (ARC 5056)

"Surviving the Cold" 16-minute video (Available for a nominal fee) (321709)

"Your Family Disaster Plan"

"Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit" (ARC 4463)

Materials for Children:

"Be Ready 1-2-3" involves puppets who give important safety information to children ages 3-8 about residential fire safety, winter storms, and earthquakes.

"Disaster Preparedness Coloring Book" (PDF File) (ARC 2200, English, or Spanish) for use by children 3-10.

"Adventures of the Disaster Dudes" (ARC 5024) video and Presenter's Guide for use by an adult with children in grades 4-6.

Reference: American Red Cross

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MGM ARES Metrics - December

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

Gallia County - December

Total ARES Members:	25
Change from Last Month:	0
Number of Functions:	7
Hours for Functions:	122
Public Service Events:	1
Hours for Public Service Events:	4
Emergency Operations:	0
Emergency Operations Hours:	0
Total Number of Events:	8
Total Person Hours:	126

Calendar of Events

- April 29th, Saturday, Ohio Annual ARES Conference, OH Fire Academy, Reynoldsburg (east of Columbus) 9 am to 3 pm
- Spring, Early Summer, Gallia County HAZMAT Drill – Date/Details Pending
- Spring, National Weather Service SkyWarn Training – Date/Details Pending
- June 28 and 29, Saturday, Sunday - ARRL Field Day
- Fall, ARES SET – Date/Details Pending

Training

Training Encouraged For 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 ARES volunteers take the ARRL Emergency Communications Courses 1, 2 and 3.

FEMA Courses

It is recommended that you take FEMA Independent Study Courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS 800. There is no cost for the FEMA courses and they can be taken over the Internet. See the [fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) web site in “Handy ARES Web Sites” above.

Have You Passed Any EMCOM Courses?

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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.arrlohidistrict8.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

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.

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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.

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