

Gallia – Mason (GM) ARES Newsletter

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

February – March 2008



February 2008 – March 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 - Spring is Here – Time for SkyWarn

Of course this last snow storm could lead you to believe that Spring is far away but fortunately for us in the Ohio River Valley, it is coming. Spring brings with it warm weather and with it the beginning of severe weather in our area although our current visitation of cold weather certainly does not feel like spring so it must be right around the corner – we hope. We have already had several serious storms pass through here, some with small hail, strong lightening, heavy winds and rain.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everybody – disconnect your antennas, radios and computers when lightening is in the area.

Amateur Radio in southeast Ohio enjoys a strong relationship with The National Weather Service – thanks to you and the people at NWS like Fred McMullen, KD8GRJ. Fred will be conducting the Basic and Advanced class on April 1 at the Gallia County Service Building across from the Highway Patrol office, near Holzer Hospital. You can read more about it later in this newsletter.

Spring and summer weather can be dangerous. Weather alert radios that are tuned to NOAA are useful in the early warning of the approach of severe weather. Test weather radios now. Several people at the NOAA class said that they could not receive the signals from NOAA even though NOAA had upgraded their transmitter to 1,000 watts. Mike Null encourages people who have poor NOAA reception to utilize an outside – external antenna. He said, the use of an external antenna will solve the problem.

Thanks to everybody who is participating in ARES, your support is very much appreciated.

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

Bryson R. "Bud" Carter
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Local News

NOAA/NWS Radios in Our Schools

Child Care schools will be reviewed in Gallia County during 2008.

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

Gallia County Schools Pending:
South Gallia High School

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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
Clay Elementary School
River Valley High School
Vinton Elementary School

National Weather Service – Training Set For April 1 – It is FREE

The training will cover both Basic and Advanced. It will be held on Tuesday, April 1 beginning at 6pm and ending at 9pm. It will be taught by Fred McMullen. Fred is married with a son, and a dog named Sunny. He is a ham radio operator, KD8GRJ.

He is from Pittsburgh, PA where he started out as a summer trainee in the Pittsburgh Weather Forecast Office. He spent two years with the National Weather Service in Nebraska. He has been at the Charleston Weather Forecast Office for the last nine years.

Thunderstorms are Fred's favorite weather.

He earned a BS in Meteorology from Penn State University and an MS in Information Systems from Marshall University.

You can email Fred at fred.mcmullen@noaa.gov.

The class will be held at 499 Jackson Pike. Directions are available at www.galliahealth.org

Refreshments will be served.

The public is invited.

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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 – Health and Welfare Traffic Management

One of the greatest challenges during a disaster is efficiently moving large volumes of formal "health and welfare" message, or as the American Red Cross calls them, "Welfare Information" (formerly "Disaster Welfare Inquiries" or DWI).

The ARRL-recommended precedence for this type of message, "Welfare" (W), refers to either an advisory message from the disaster area that indicates a person's status, or an inquiry as to the health and welfare of an individual in the disaster area.

Outgoing Advisories Have Precedence

Place a priority on handling "welfare status report messages" (advisories) coming out of the disaster area. One outbound message can prevent many inbound inquiries from clogging the system.

Never try to force inquiries into a disaster area. Welfare inquiries should only be passed when higher precedence traffic and outgoing advisories have been cleared. In-bound messages have a poor chance of being delivered for several reasons. In many cases, there is no mechanism for the delivery of welfare inquiries. The addressee may be in any number of shelters or have left the area completely. Local phone lines may be out and travel difficult or impossible. Local mail delivery will have been suspended. Be sure that stations in the affected area are truly able to receive and process inquiries before sending them. The Red Cross will usually provide guidance on this issue, and it should be distributed via ARRL bulletins.

Accepting "Local" inquiries

Sometime a friend or neighbor will ask you to send an inquiry to someone in an affected area. Unless means for handling Welfare Information messages are established, it is usually wise not to accept them from the public, or do so only with an explicit understanding that chances of delivery are not very good. If the system is up and running, the message may be passed into the NTS at any appropriate point.

Prohibited Message Content

If you are accepting a message from its author, certain information should be refused or strongly discouraged. Outgoing advisories or responses to Welfare Information messages from the disaster area should never include the person's home address. Enterprising thieves have been known to listen to scanners and then loot evacuees' homes.

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Never handle or deliver a fatality report in any Amateur Radio message. That function is strictly reserved for disaster officials through their own channels.

Other items that should never be sent include financial information, bank or credit card numbers, driver license or Social Security numbers, or any personal details that could lead to identity theft.

In some instances, the served agency may allow you to send certain "sensitive" information over more "discrete" modes, such as packet, but be sure they fully understand that no Amateur mode can be considered truly "secure." The served agency is the ultimate authority on which information can or cannot be sent, and be which modes.

Part 97 rule from Title 47 of the Code

§97.219 Message forwarding system.

(a) Any amateur station may participate in a message forwarding system, subject to the privileges of the class of operator license held.

(b) For stations participating in a message forwarding system, the control operator of the station originating a message is primarily accountable for any violation of the rules in this Part contained in the message.

(c) Except as noted in paragraph (d) of this section, for stations participating in a message forwarding system, the control operators of forwarding stations that retransmit inadvertently communications that violate the rules in this Part are not accountable for the violative communications. They are, however, responsible for discontinuing such communications once they become aware of their presence.

(d) For stations participating in a message forwarding system, the control operator of the first forwarding station must:

(1) Authenticate the identity of the station from which it accepts communication on behalf of the system; or

(2) Accept accountability for any violation of the rules in this Part contained in messages it retransmits to the system.

I welcome your comments, e-mail *KD8DMR@arrl.net.* <KD8DMR@arrl.net.>

Reference: ARECC Level 11 FCC Rules and Regulations for the Amateur Radio Service

73

Jeff Holstein

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GM ARES Metrics - January

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

Gallia County

Total ARES Members: 25
Change from Last Month: 0
Number of Functions: 4
Hours for Functions: 65
Public Service Events: 0
Hours for Public Service Events: 0
Emergency Operations: 0
Emergency Operations Hours: 0
Total Number of Events: 4
Total Person Hours: 65

10 meter Net Experimenting

Moe Siders began experimenting with a 10m Net in the 2nd week of February using a home made antenna. The net is held on Tuesday nights at 8pm on 28.305 or 28.307 as the auxiliary frequency. So far 6 people have participated on each time he has activated the net. Practicing using HF and home built gear is an excellent way to prepare ourselves for activation. Moe is to be congratulated for his proactive innovation and leadership. Thank you Moe.

Calendar of Events

1. March 29th, Saturday, Ohio Annual ARES Conference, OH Fire Academy, Reynoldsburg (east of Columbus) 9 am to 3 pm
 2. April 1st, Tuesday - NWS Basic & Advanced Weather Class, Gallia County Health Department, 6pm to 9pm
 3. April 8th, Tuesday – Medical Reserve Corps Orientation, Gallia County Health Department, 6 pm to 8pm
 4. May 16, 17 and 18th – Friday through Sunday - Dayton Hamvention
 5. June 28 and 29th, Saturday and Sunday, ARRL Field Day
 6. May, June, Gallia County HAZMAT Drill – Date Pending
 7. July 28 - 31, Monday through Thursday, SE Region Ohio, Pandemic Exercise
 8. September, ARES SET – Date Pending
 9. September, Woodland Centers Annual Emergency Preparedness Drill – Date Pending
 10. October, Flu Kick Off, Gallia County Health Department – Date Pending
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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?

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

This information can now be found on our web site at www.galliacyouares.org.

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.

73, Bill, KC5IND, MGM ARES Newsletter Editor
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