



ARES Meeting Agenda - 04/25/24

- Welcome to Our Guests
- Where We Live
- Illinois ARES Leadership Change
- ARRL Training Changes Coming
- Windows 10 End of Life
- Exercise Opportunity with Woodford County
- Watch your Supply Voltage
- Upcoming RATPAC Programs
- Weather Spotting Discussion
- Net Control Operators Wanted
- Emergency Expo – Save the Date
- ARES Net Reminders



Late Breaking News Today!

- MFJ is ceasing its on-site production in Starkville, Mississippi on May 17, 2024
- Includes sister companies' Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage and Vectronics
- Will continue to sell MFJ products past May 17, 2024. They have a lot of stock on hand.
- Will continue to offer repair service work for out-of-warranty and in-warranty units for the foreseeable future.

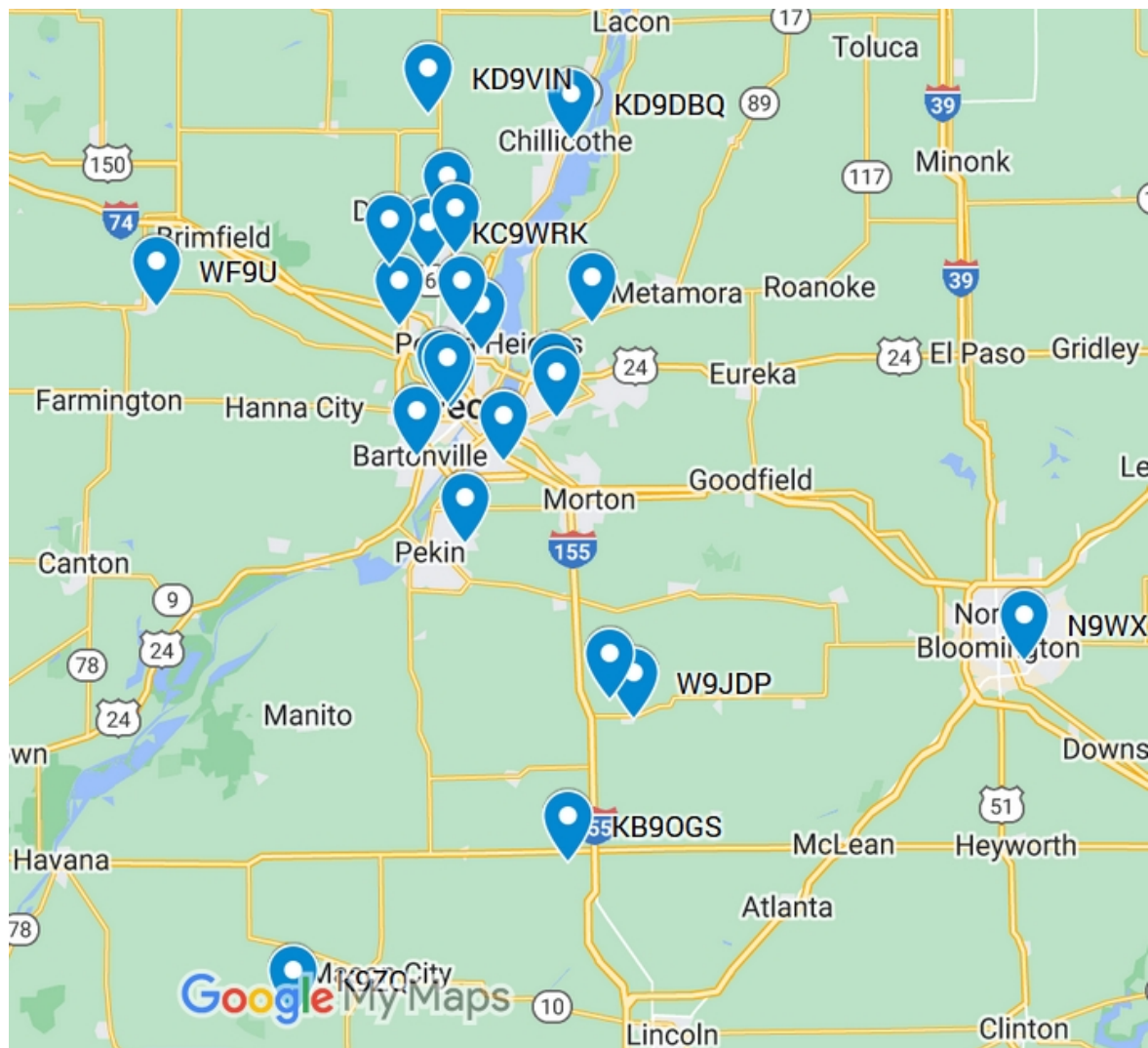


Welcome to our Guests

- 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



Visualizing our home locations





IL ARES Leadership Change

- Robert Littler, W9DSR, has stepped down from the post of Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC), for to personal and health reasons
- Steve Warner, WA9SSW, has been appointed to the post of Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC). He is from Mount Vernon, IL, and holds an Extra Class License. Steve does CW, DX and is a VE. He is currently President of the Amateur Radio Club of Mt. Vernon (ARCOM).





ARRL Training Changes Coming

- ARRL is discontinuing the ARRL Emergency Communications training courses EC-001 and EC-016, effective April 1
- New Basic EmComm course has been launched, as well as a new Intermediate EmComm course
- An Advanced EmComm course will be released by the end of June
- An ARES leadership course coming in the near future
- Expect changes to ARES Position Task Books
- Use this link: <http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog>
- Or: <https://learn.arrl.org/courses>
- This link is bad: <http://www.arrl.org/online-course-registration>



Windows 10 End of Life

- Various digital modes are popular with many ham radio operators
- Much of the software used runs on MS Windows
- Microsoft will cease providing security updates and tech support for Windows 10 on Nov 14, 2025
- Consider updating from Windows 10 to 11, if your computer is compatible
- If purchasing a new Windows PC, consider getting a PC equipped with Windows 11



Training Documentation

- Now at 13 of 25 ARES members who have submitted a training record
- This record can be in either one of two methods:
 - Training Documentation Fillable Form (our website)
 - Via an ARRL Taskbook
- *Everyone who recently attended Storm Spotter Training has at least that class to submit as ARES Training*



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>
- FEMA Training for IS 100, 200, 700, & 800
 - Go to <https://training.fema.gov>
- More details in our 07-20-2022 Meeting slides
 - <https://www.peoriacountyares.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ARES-Meeting-07-20-2022.pdf>



Exercise Opportunity - Woodford ARES

- Woodford County ARES is developing an ARES Live Exercise to help train their people and give them some practice passing traffic
- On Saturday, May 18th, they will be exercising from 8:30 to noon from the EOC in Roanoke, and at nearby simulated Emergency Shelters. They will be passing canned, prepared messages, using both Voice and Winlink.
- They are meeting tonight and hope to learn how many of their folks will be participating.
- There may one or more spots where some of you could act as a remote Red Cross Operations Center radio operator, receiving the above traffic and replying with the appropriate associated canned reply message.
- I believe that you could participate in the above way using your home station, assuming that you can reach their Roanoke repeater, which is on 145.610. Lengthy QSO's will be moved over to Simplex 147.570. No need to setup in the field for this.
- Alternately, you could participate on the scene in Roanoke, playing the part of a station in an Emergency Shelter. Bring a portable VHF station for voice & Winlink.
- You will also document your efforts on an ICS-214 form.
- Let me know if you are interested, I will hook you up with Will Snyder of Woodford ARES.



Watch Your Supply Voltage

- You may have heard the problem Steve, KB9SF, was having on the Sunday Night Net last week
- Due to redundant fuses and too many connectors, he was only getting 10.75 volts at his D710 radio, when transmitting 30 watts
- On high power setting, it only took 0.25 ohms to drop 3.3 volts over the DC power cable!
- Removed extra fuses and fuse holders and increased supply wire size to #12 AWG.
- Now is at 12.75 volts when transmitting 45 watts.



Upcoming RATPAC Presentations

Apr 25, 2024	Improving Your Voice Communication Skills
May 2, 2024	Fundamentals of VHF/UHF Voice Net Operations (What to Know B4 you push PTT)
May 8, 2024	Tracking technological innovation in Amateur Radio - Zero Retriesa quirky little newsletter
May 9, 2024	ARRL June VHF Contest as GOTA Opportunity (Voice and/or FT8)
May 15, 2024	No RATPAC - Hamvention
May 16, 2024	No RATPAC - Hamvention
May 22, 2024	Organizing Your Digital Assets
May 23, 2024	Annual ARRL Field Day Update & Planning

Held Wednesday & Thursday via - Zoom 8:00 PM CT / 02:00 UTC

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2128884758?pwd=RG94eEY2L3FiMEg0U3ZiWmhXaEdwdz09>

Zoom Passcode- RATPAC

RATPAC Video Presentations Lists: <http://tiny.cc/ratpac-list>



Weather Spotting Discussion

- Safety First
- Spotting Location
- What to Report
- What to NOT Report
- Where to Report Observations
- Weather Spotting Gear
- Activation/Notification



Spotting Safety & More

- Put Safety First!
 - Have options to move out of path of a storm. Be aware!
 - Turn around, don't drown! Don't drive on flooded roads!
- Be ready to report directly to NWS if necessary
 - Have numbers and social media links ready in your phone
 - Share your hail pictures on X (Twitter) with the Weather Service via @NWSLincolnIL
- Load other Repeaters into your radios
 - W9BFD – 146.970, -0.6 MHz, 103.5 tone (Peoria County backup)
 - W9TAZ – 146.670, -0.6 MHz, 103.5 tone (Tazewell County reports)
 - K9WRA – 146.610, -0.6 MHz, 103.5 tone (Woodford County reports)
- Charge your Batteries!!



Weather Spotting – Location

- Pick your starting spotting location in advance
- Know your Spotting Location within ~ ¼ mile
- Be able to report that location to Net Control
- Must be meaningful enough to spot on a map
- “At home” or “my QTH” is not detailed enough
- Examples of acceptable:
 - Intersection of Knoxville and War Memorial
 - 1 mile west of Brimfield on Route 150
 - At home at 1401 N Washington St. in Bartonville



What to Report 1/3

- Report the following including approximate direction and distance from your location
 - Tornadoes/Funnel Clouds/Rotating Wall Clouds/or any other rotations
 - Flooding/Heavy Rain
 - Rapidly rising creeks/streams/High water on roadways (6" or more in depth)
 - Rainfall of greater than 1" per hour
- *Continued on next slide*



What to Report 2/3

- Report the following including approximate direction and distance from your location
 - High Wind
 - Small tree branches broken off
 - Large tree branches broken off, shallow rooted trees blown over, damage to chimneys/roofing/sheds
 - Heavy damage to structures, trailers overturned, large trees blown over
 - Lightning – particularly if a big increase in Cloud-to-Ground lightning
- *Continued on next slide*



What to Report 3/3

- Report the following including approximate direction and distance from your location
 - Hail – including Size

Hail Size	Description	Hail Size	Description
0.25"	Pea	1.75"	Golf Ball
0.50"	One Half Inch	2.00"	Lime
0.70 - 0.75"	Dime to Penny	2.50"	Tennis Ball
0.88"	Nickel	2.75"	Baseball
1.00"	Quarter	3.00"	Large Apple
1.25"	Half-Dollar	4.00"	Softball
1.50"	Ping-Pong Ball	4.50"	Grapefruit



What to NOT Report

- Sirens sounding in any particular location
 - These are tested daily via an inaudible tone
 - Siren soundings are irrelevant to be reported
 - EMA operates sirens based on NWS/Spotter inputs
- “Green Sky”
- “Lots of Lightning”
- “Hail less than size of a quarter”
- “Just started raining”



Where to Report Observations

- Via Radio To Net Control on the Repeater
- Peoria County EMA
 - Telephone to EMA Bunker – 309-691-3111
 - Telephone/text to EMA – 309-712-5980
 - Email to emaweatherreports@peoriacounty.org
- National Weather Service Lincoln
 - Telephone to NWS Lincoln – 800-611-4570
 - Text to NWS Lincoln – 217-871-7306
 - Email to NWS Lincoln – NWS.Lincoln@noaa.gov



Weather Spotting Gear

Weather or Radio Related Gear

Weather Radio or HT with Weather Freq's
Spare HT Battery or 12 volt adapter
Magnetic Mount Antenna for HT
Ruler/Tape Measure for Hail Size
Coins to compare hail size with
Anemometer to measure wind speed
Wind Speed Estimation Chart
Have APRS turned on to report position

Over-the-top Gear

Chainsaw
Fix-A-Flat
Tire Plugs
Air Compressor

Personal Gear

Flashlight & Extra Batteries
Rain Coat or Poncho
Boots
Hard Hat
Drinking Water & Snacks
First Aid Kit
Tarp
Paracord
Knife or Multi-tool
Reflective Vest
2 pg Weather Service Handout



Spotter Activations/Notifications

- NWS Daily Wx Brief – review this in the morning
- Stand-by Notification
 - Possibly as NWS issues watches/warnings for adjacent counties (Fulton/Knox/Tazewell)
 - Or as determined/requested by Peoria Co. Staff
- Activation
 - Typically as NWS issues watches/warnings for Peoria Co.
 - As determined/requested by Peoria Co. Staff – via Code Red
- Deactivation
 - As the incident winds down
- Utilization of Code Red (**NOT the Code RED smartphone app**)
 - Mobile Phone / Text / Email



Code Red Notifications

- Storm spotting activations come via Code Red
- Sent to your phone, and possibly your email
- If you want to be added, email me the following:
 - Name
 - Mobile phone number (capable of getting messages)
 - Mobile phone provider name (AT&T, Verizon, etc)
 - Your best email address
- If you change phone provider, let me know



Net Control Operators Wanted

- Want to get more folks involved doing Net Control for the ARES Nets (one net per month)
- Rich KD9ANU will do the first Net of the month, a volunteer does the second Net of the month
- **In May, I need someone to take the first Net, due to travel**
- Our net is quite easy, the script is on our website
- A form to record check-ins is now available
- Just do one set of check-ins using 075 repeater
- Let's get some folks volunteering
- 8 more volunteers needed for 2024



Net Control Operators Wanted

- Mar 13 – Brett, KD9PXZ
- Apr 10 – Brett, KD9PXZ
- May 1 - _____ (first Wednesday)
- Jun 12 -
- Jul 10 -
- Aug 14 -
- Sept 11 -
- Oct 9 -
- Nov 13 -
- Dec 11 -



Save the Date – Emergency Expo

- Emergency Expo continues this year
- As usual, will be at Shoppes at Grand Prairie
- Thursday, July 25th



ARES Net Reminders

- Illinois State ARES HF Net
 - 1st and 3rd Sundays of month at 4:30 PM CST
 - 3.905 MHz LSB (alternate 7.227 MHz LSB) & Echolink 824404
 - Informal 60M & 40M check in - (7227 KHz) at 4:10 PM
 - 60M check at 4:20 pm (5403.5 kHz Channel 5, if busy then 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Illinois Digital 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
 - ilares.org
 - www.arrl.org/ares