Oxford County ARES/CERT Communications Group December 2025- January 2026 Newsletter

Happy New Year!

The year 2025 in review:
Some accomplishments:

1. Trailer has been re-lettered replacing the old peeling lettering.
2. The trailer has a new mast system that replaces the old air mast.
3. EMA has vhf/uhf D-Star, DMR, Fusion and GMRS capablities
4. Trailer has DMR, Fusion VHF/UHF radios installed
5. Participated in:
   1. Trek Across Maine
   2. Field Day
   3. Horses Across Maine
   4. Mass Casualty Drill with Oxford County EMA, Sheriff Department RSU 44, and several town EMS and Fire Departments

In 2023 I proposed a 5 year plan for the group. We have made significant progress over the last two years. The plan was a guide to keep a focus on our mission to support the Oxford County EMA to the best of our abilities. It is a guide that revisions, additions, deletions, and changes can be made by members of the group as the need arises.

Obviously we have more to do. But.. we need to take a moment to reflect on what we have accomplished as a team.

This group would not exist if there was a single "I" doing all the work. I truly impressed that we have such an active group that donates so much time to improve our capability to assist the county EMA, maintain the equipment, work with other various agencies. We have members who are actively maintaining the repeater system we use. We have members who have taken on the upkeep of our

communications trailer. We have members actively tracking down deployed equipment from years before 'COVID' and developing relationships with county LEPC, various town EMA's, Fire & EMS service. We have others who have installed new and updated equipment. We (and I) want to thank all of you for all the work you have done this past year! You have strengthen the group and its capability to respond in an emergency situation.
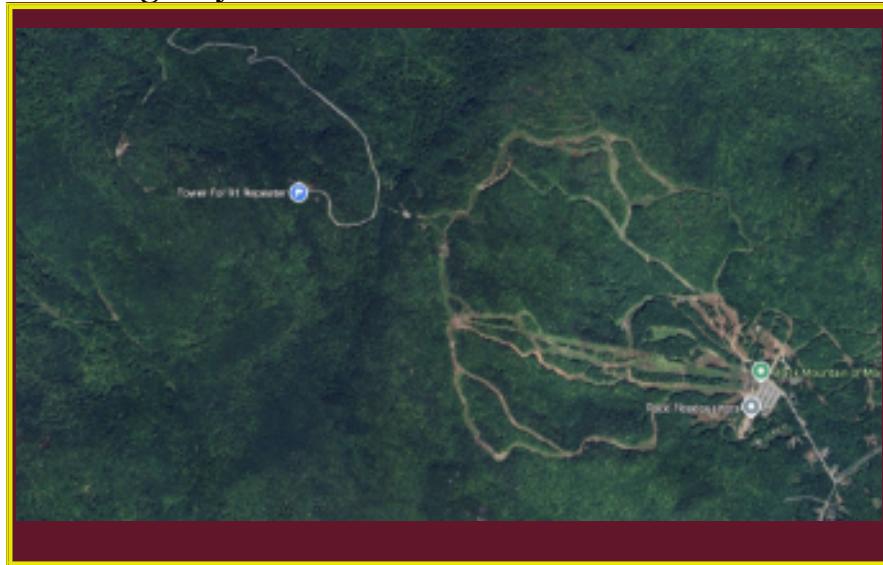
The Year 2026:

In our January meeting, I believe we need to look at planning to acquire knowledge and accomplish skills that will promote CERT and ARES. For some of us, it will be to review either ARES or CERT procedures and protocols. For others of us; it will be to review Win-link, Sky-warn, and operation of the radios at the EMA and the Communications Trailer.

The Maine county EMAs and Em-comm groups are rapidly working to get a SHARES program active in each county. This generally falls outside the 'amateur radio world' but is still within the CERT communication plan. The extra capabilities in this license class would allow us more flexibility to serve hospitals, the Red Cross, and the EMA with more detailed lists and information. We should have a small group within our group that would be comfortable operating a SHARES station. I currently believe not everyone of us needs the complete training.

The SHAred RESources (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) Radio program provides an additional means for users with a national security and emergency preparedness mission to communicate when landline and cellular communications are unavailable. SHARES members use existing HF radio resources to coordinate and transmit messages needed to perform critical functions, including those areas related to leadership, safety, maintenance of law and order, finance, and public health.
From:
https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/programs/shared-resources-shares-high-frequency-hf-radio-program

More on SHARES see Appendix 1

CERT NEWS ARES NEWS

There are numerous trainings and clinics in the next few months.

Here are some samples:

MGT315 Conducting Risk Assessments for Critical Community Assets Wiscasset, ME

6-7 January 2026, 0800-1600

MGT414 CriticalInfrastructure Resilience and Community Lifelines Wiscasset, ME

8 January 2026 0800-1600

G290 BasicPublic Information Officer Course Bangor, ME

13-14 January 2026 0800-1600

K0428 CommunityEmergency ResponseTeam (CERT)Train theTrainer – virtual Multiple Dates

https://training.fema.gov/netc_online_admissions

If you have not had a chance to read through the email I sent January 2, 2026 yet, you will find more offerings as well.

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Appendix 1

SHARES

From:https://www.hfunderground.com/wiki/index.php/SHARES

SHARES Frequency List SHARES Frequencies List SHARES HF-SSB Frequencies Emergency Management HF Frequency List

SHARES is a multi-agency system that used frequencies assigned to several different agencies and organizations. It conducts weekly radio check nets every Wednesday at 1600 UTC on 6765 USB, 6845 USB and 6910 USB (and likely other frequencies at other times).

Since these frequencies are of interest to utility monitors and are often heard, I wanted to compile a list of frequencies in use:

All frequencies are "dial frequencies" in USB mode, transmissions made in SSB - USB radiotelephone voice mode and MT63 digital mode. There are apparently other 5 MHz band frequencies in use, including ones that match up with 60 meter amateur band channels. Frequencies with associated notes are frequencies noted in use by myself (confirmed usage and remarks).

- 3818 kHz LSB - 75m / 80m "prepper net" 3.818 MHz LSB "Channel 0"
- 4458 kHz USB - SHARES Region 4 SHARES Northeast Region Hurricane Net heard here
- 4490 kHz USB - MARS frequency
- 4618 kHz USB
- 4636 kHz USB - Civil Air Patrol CAP Net 1 Regional Primary (shared frequency)
- 5063.5 kHz USB

- 5167.5 kHz USB - Alaska Emergency Frequency (see: SECURE)
- 5357 kHz USB - 60m 60 meter prepper/emergency net 5.357 MHz USB "Channel 1" or "NVIS Channel"
- 5429 kHz USB
- 5711 kHz USB
- 5760 kHz USB
- 6765 kHz USB - SHARES North Primary
- 6800 kHz USB
- 6845 kHz USB - SHARES Northeast SHARES Region 4
- 6910 kHz USB - SHARES Central SHARES Region 6
- 6912 kHz USB - SHARES Central alternate frequency (primary 6910 USB)
- 6915 kHz USB - SHARES Central alternate frequency (primary 6910 USB)
- 7242 kHz LSB - 40m 40 meter prepper/emergency net 7.242 MHz LSB "Channel 3"
- 7391 kHz USB
- 7403.5 kHz USB
- 7554.5 kHz USB - SHARES Southeast SHARES Region 4 - Regional Net Wednesday 1500 UTC
- 7615 kHz USB - Civil Air Patrol / CAP use as well
- 7637 kHz USB - Civil Air Patrol / CAP use (alternate to 7615 USB)
- 7642 kHz USB
- 7792 kHz USB
- 7791 kHz USB
- 7991 kHz USB
- 9057 kHz USB
- 9064 kHz USB
- 9106 kHz USB
- 11108 kHz USB
- 11217 kHz USB
- 13242 kHz USB
- 13426.5 kHz USB
- 14242 kHz USB - 20m 20 meter prepper/emergency net 14.242 MHz USB "Channel 4"
- 14396.5 kHz USB - Daytime FEMA use, SHARES admin net
- 14402 kHz USB - SHARES West/SHARES daytime frequency
- 14928.5 kHz USB
- 15094 kHz USB
- 17458 kHz USB
- 17487 kHz USB
- 20107 kHz USB
- 25354 kHz USB - Civil Air Patrol / CAP use - 25.354 MHz
- 26617 kHz USB - Civil Air Patrol / CAP use - 26.617 MHz
- 26620 kHz USB - Civil Air Patrol / CAP use - old CAP local "talkaround" frequency 26.62 MHz AM 26.620 MHz
- 26812 kHz USB - often local use only 26.812 MHz
- 27546 kHz USB - often local use only - also used by CAP 27.546 MHz
- 29894 kHz USB - often local use only - also used by CAP 29.894 MHz

Note that SHARES does use ALE technology. Many nets make use of NVIS using specialized antennas. Most frequencies are in the fixed/mobile bands. FCC licenses will sometimes show

these frequencies in "center frequency" notation, which is the actual frequency + 1.4 kHz for USB voice mode. 2K80J3E, 2K80J2B, 2K80J2D, 2K80F1D, 3K00H2B, 100HA1A and 6K00A3E (or 5K75A3E or 5K90A3E) modes or emissions are often used, among others. The 25 MHz band, 26 MHz band and 27 MHz band frequencies could, in theory, be used for local area comms (similar to CB radio), but standard VHF/UHF systems are often used for this purpose. AM voice or FM voice may be used for short-range communications instead of SSB (USB mode). FM mode includes standard 20K0F3E or 16K0F3E wideband FM or 11K2F3E, 11K0F3E or 10K0F3E narrowband FM.

National Communications System (NCS) Shared Resources (SHARES) High Frequency Radio Program - As an additional means of HF communications, Federal agencies may use the Shared Resources (SHARES) HF Radio Program as a means of passing message traffic when their own networks are not available.

Note: While FEMA, the National Communications System (NCS), MARS and other government agencies are heavy users of the SHARES system, FEMA operates several other networks, many using ALE, digital modes and regular USB voice. FEMA is a prolific user of HF for obvious reasons, obviously. See also the SECURE system, which overlaps SECURE in function and scope. Several of the SHARES frequencies are, well, *shared*...with other government agencies.

**From :
https://www.hfunderground.com/wiki/index.php/ALE**

Automatic Link Establishment, commonly known as **ALE**, is the worldwide for digitally initiating and sustaining HF radio communications.ALE is a feature in an HF communications radio transceiver system that enables the radio station to make contact, or initiate a communications circuit, between itself and another HF radio station or network of stations. The purpose is to provide a reliable rapid method of calling and connecting during constantly changing HF ionospheric propagation, reception interference, and shared spectrum use of busy or congested HF channels.