

Oxford County ARES/CERT Comm Newsletter

for
February 2023

Meeting reminder: March 6, 2023 19:00 (7:00 PM) local time.
Combination Zoom and in person meeting from 9 Western Prom EOC.

Setup progress at the Oxford County EMA.

First, I have to give a big shout out this month to John WQ1W and Brad N1GZB for all the work they have done in our “new home.” Both have worked on radio setup, coax management, and working through the logistics of setting up a work area for our county communications room.

John Hersey WQ1W spent several hours setting up the new 220 radio and reprogramming the memories of Kenwood D710. The new 220 mHz radio is an Anytone single band replacing an aging 10+ year old Alinco. The Kenwood 2m/440 D710 had needed frequencies updates before the Covid shutdown. The changes for amateur radio repeaters from 2018 to now has also been significant. John had discovered and corrected the missing simplex frequencies. He also changed the other primary frequencies to match our change in communication policy. Also ‘88 has been removed from the active list of the radio since Fusion activity on



the repeater supersedes any FM analog communications.



Brad Saunders N1GZB has been instrumental in cleaning up the layout of the room. For those of you who have been in or operated from

the radio room, you know the the tangle of coax in the corner by the book case was unsafe and unmanageable. Brad has cleaned up the coax mess at the end of the table and moved the coax access to the middle room. As soon as we can get more coax connectors ordered and onsite, he can complete the task hooking up coax from the antennas to the radios.



Below the floor, we will still need to clean up the coax runs and replace the insulation. But the project is moving forward.



At this time as I write this article, the 220 mHz radio has been disconnected until we can get a piece of coax from the coax distribution box outside the building back up to the radio on the desk. Hopefully we can get the necessary parts this week to complete this.

I have been writing a 5 year plan for the group and tried to highlight needs I saw as important. Up to this point there hasn't been an opportunity for input by members of the group. That will be changing in our March meeting. I will present my draft to all members attached to the March meeting agenda. I believe we need a guide for the next several years after inactivity due to Covid restrictions to move the group forward. This proposal is a draft, yes definitely a draft needing input, revision, and acceptance by the group. We have a diverse group in abilities, skills and experience. It is important that diverse abilities, skills and experiences are used to the best of our collective ability.

ARES State News

The next quarterly drill at this moment is tentatively scheduled during Field Day June 23 on Saturday morning 9-noon. More information will follow at the Maine ARRL Convention & Andy Hamfest March 24-25th.

A new EC form has been developed to more accurately reflect what activities county ARES groups are doing during the month. The new form adds four lines that identifies more accurately our activities.

Maury Prentiss KB1EZZ has been leading a group to develop a Maine training minimum standard. The group has started to put together a task book that will allow other counties to be able to identify what training an individual has completed when there is a mutual aid need. What little I have seen of this task book, it does appear to be very similar to Bryce Rumery's late 1990's/early 2000 requirements. The current minimum training standard by counties statewide is extremely diverse.

At the convention in March, Keith KE4UCW Maine ARES Section EC will be presenting three sessions:

09:00 – 10:00 Drill Packet training

10:00 – 11:00 State of the Maine Section ARES/RACES

12:00 – 13:00 EC Meeting

ARES National News

From The ARRL ARES Newsletter - February 15, 2023

“Get the CISA Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG)

Interoperability: "The ability of emergency responders to communicate among jurisdictions, disciplines, frequency bands, and levels of government as needed and as authorized. System operability is required for system interoperability."

Volunteer organizations such as community emergency response teams and auxiliary communications volunteers (e.g., amateur radio operators) play key roles in emergency communications and preparedness.

Volunteer emergency communications operators and groups using amateur radio have been providing backup communications to event planners, public safety officials, and emergency managers at all levels of government for nearly 100 years. Often, amateur radio services have been used when other forms of communications have failed or have been disrupted. Today, nearly all the states and territories have incorporated some level of participation by amateur radio auxiliary communication operators into their [Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans](#) and [Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans](#); this allows them to quickly integrate the operators into response efforts, which can strengthen communications and operations during incidents of any scale. You can download the Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG) and other valuable FOGs on the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\) website publications/resources page](#). “

“On the evening of Monday, February 6, 2023, there was a 7.8 magnitude **earthquake** that mainly affected Turkey and Syria as well as other neighboring countries with almost 35,000 dead (at press time) and more than 16,000 injured, with likely many more. According to information received from the emergency coordinators of the IARU Region 1 countries and, especially from Greg Mossop, G0DUB, the emergency communications coordinator for this region, communications

in Turkey have been mainly on VHF, but transmissions in Turkish have also been heard on **28.540 MHz**, although they can also use **3.777 MHz** and **7.092 MHz**. For this reason, we ask our colleagues in IARU Region 2 (the Americas) to protect those frequencies and assess the evolving situation for opportunities to serve the relief effort. From: <http://www.arrl.org/ares-el?issue=2023-02-15> “

Also in this newsletter is a good article about the CERT Program. If you do not receive the ARES Newsletter from the ARRL and would like a copy of this article, I can make it available to you for the next meeting.

Topics for Discussion for our group in March 2023:

Here are a few items for upcoming decisions:

1. Adding a Fusion Radio to the EMA and trailer
 - A. Advantages
 - i. Ability to use the 146.88 repeater in the event of an emergency.
 - ii. Stations using the KQ1L repeater will know there is a station using the repeater for Emcomm. Currently any FM analog traffic takes a secondary priority and other stations using the Fusion system are unaware there is any analog traffic on the repeater. (They can hear you or see your signal on their radio's display.)
 - iii. Ability to send and receive digital pictures of areas of concern during an emergency.
 - B. Disadvantages
 - i. One more radio to purchase and maintain.

2. Adding a DMR Radio to the EMA and trailer
 - A. Advantages
 - i. Ability to use the Maine DMR system in the event of an emergency.
 - ii. Adds a more powerful mobile DMR radio and lessens the need to have a 5 watt handheld wandering around the communications desk(s).
 - B. Disadvantages

- i. One more radio to purchase and maintain.

3. Adding a Dstar Radio to the EMA and trailer
 - A. Advantages
 - i. Ability to use the newly installed D-star repeater on Streaked MT in the event of an emergency.
 - ii. Ability to send and receive pictures (demo at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sBqZ1uVEGA>)
 - B. Disadvantages
 - i. One more radio to purchase and maintain.

Upcoming Events

March 24 & 25 Maine ARRL Convention and Andy Hamfest

March 25 – 26 QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo (registration is now open.)

Testing

TESTING SESSIONS

Bring a legal photo ID or two alternate forms of ID as listed at (<http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>) and your FRN (FCC **Registration Number**) gotten prior to the testing session. web page: **fcc.gov for free**. Bring the FRN and any certificates of successful completion of examinations, and copy of amateur radio license if applicable. The photocopies will not be returned. Persons needing special accommodations should check with the contact person. Face Masks may be required. Check with contact person for details and to confirm session dates, pre-registration, etc.

REMINDER -- When preparing for an exam, be sure you are studying the current question pool: Last month left.

Technician Class (Element 2) question pool has been in effect since July 1, 2022, and will be valid until June 30, 2026

****General Class (Element 3)** question pool has been in effect since July 1, 2019, and will be valid until June 30, 2023.

*****Amateur Extra Class (Element 4)** question pool has been in effect since July 1, 2016, and will be valid until JUNE 30, 2020

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Sponsor : Portland Amateur Wireless Assoc. (PAWA)

Date : **March 1, 2023 – Portland**

Location: Red Cross 2401 Congress St. Portland, ME.. 04102

Time:7:00pm (no walkins / Candidates must pre-register by email or call ahead)

Contact: John Bogner W1JLB

207-776-2288

Email:jbogner1@maine.rr.com

VEC :ARRL/VEC

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March 18, 2023 Saturday - Ellsworth

Exam session starts at 10AM. Candidates must pre-register by emailing Phil Duggan N1EP, n1ep@yahoo.com. 207-598-5397

Location: Meadow View Apartments Phase IV Dining Hall, 25 Tweedie Lane, Ellsworth.

VEC/ARRL

Sponsor: Poverty Hill Amateur Radio Group & Ellsworth Amateur Wireless Association

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