

Oxford County ARES/CERT Comm Newsletter June 2023



As many of you know Trek Across Maine is June 16,17,18. The event starts and ends at Thomas Point Beach with overnight stops at Bates College in Lewiston and St. Joseph's College in Standish. The Comm Trailer will be deployed to Thomas Point Beach for communications for the three days. In our phone call this week, Gary has assured me that assignments will be coming out once he gets home and of the road this week. Thank you to all of you that participate to make this a successful event.

Field Day 2023



June 24-25 is Field Day. The Field Day locator has been placed for W1OCA at 9 Western Prom in South Paris. After talking with Brad N1GZB our plan is to operate 2F with the new antenna. Currently we have some members already committed to operate. Saturday afternoon and evening are looking good for people to operate. Last I checked the Saturday-Sunday overnight is a little thin as is Sunday morning.

Also during the event, we have a Maine Quarterly SET drill Saturday at specified times of 17:00,19:00, and 21:00. The exchange will be brief and to the point.



Progress at the EMA for May 2023:

Brad N1GZB has installed the 80 meter dipole for the second HF radio . He climbed the tower to do the install of the antenna feed-point after engineering a tower bracket for the antenna. He has completed the coax work and discovered the antenna will need to be shortened for working 3.850 to 3.950 mHz. More testing for the antenna for interference between the 160m end-fed and the 80 meter dipole will also be done before Field Day.

Wayne N1YIS with Brad N1GZB and Danny N1XYL have nearly completed the radio console in the radio room. It currently houses the HF and UHF/VHF radios. Final attachment of the top shelf, the trim, the grounding bar and a pull out sound divider are yet to be installed.

Progress at the Trailer Site for May 2023:

The shelter has had the bottom boards installed to keep the back wall from flexing. Mark KE1M, Brian W1BKW and John WQ1W worked on this as well as anchoring the shelter poles on the end.

In the trailer, Bob took down the upper panels where the feed-line is housed and visually checked for damage. We also tested those antennas and found the one that wasn't working properly. It had a swollen weather rubber gasket causing a gap at the center pin. Mark KE1M, Brian W1BKW, Bob N1WJO, John WQ1W, Wayne N1YIS were on site.

Communications:

Two from Allyson to us.

If you are interested please let either one of us know soon!

I have two notes on the letters I have copied and pasted:

1.) I am planning to take the trailer to the State Radio Rodeo at this moment.

2.) The letter from the State mentions ARES/RACES gear. The concern is that the Course would be disrupted by additional noise (pagers/cellphones going off, static bursts, roger beeps, etc..) If you wish to attend, please let Allyson know.

State Radio Rodeo August 12th, 2023

From: Deb Hamlin <dhamlin@piscataquis.us>

Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 10:19 AM

Subject: Radio Rodeo info & survey - please reply

Good morning,

As some of may be aware, Piscataquis County EMA will be hosting a radio rodeo on August 12th, 2023, at Piscataquis Valley fairgrounds.

The fairgrounds have camping/full hook ups available for anyone who would like to drive up on the 11th and stay over the night before. There are bathrooms, showers, food booths, and ample parking. The public will be invited and the fairgrounds group will be taking donations at the gate.

We are planning on having a touch-a-truck event as well as a canned food drive for the local food cupboard. Flyers with more details will be published via social media, newspapers and local newscasts.

We will be inviting several other agencies to attend once we have your feedback. Below is a link to a very brief survey to gauge interest for preparation for this event.

<https://tinyurl.com/yt6fa5uh>

We hope to see you there!

Regards,

Debra Hamlin

Deputy Director & Addressing Officer

Piscataquis County Emergency Management Agency

AUXCOMM Class in August

Good afternoon,

Jesse and I are looking to gauge interest in hosting an AUXCOMM Class this year. As of now we have a COMT tentatively scheduled for August, and a COML tentatively scheduled for October. (Actual dates to come soon).

I thought I would provide the AUXCOMM class information to see what the interest level might be. We need at least 15 students to hold this course.

There are also several specific rules around holding this class, including but not limited to:

- “ARES” or “RACES” are NOT acceptable agency affiliations.
- Students are not to wear items such as hats, jackets, shirts, badges, or patches that display their ham radio organization affiliation.
- Students must leave their radio at home or in their vehicle.
- A complete list will be sent if the class is scheduled.

Please see the full course description and prerequisites below.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)

The Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) course trains amateur radio operators to serve as auxiliary communicators during all-hazards emergency operations or planned events. Since 2011, the Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency Emergency Communications Division (CISA ECD) has conducted AUXCOMM courses across the nation and trained more than 3,300 students in this course.

Description

This class is designed for those auxiliary emergency communicators and groups who volunteer to provide backup emergency radio communications support to public safety agencies. Typically, this includes amateur radio and Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team (REACT) communicators, but may include other volunteer emergency communicators.

Volunteer emergency communications operators/groups, using amateur radio, have been providing backup communications to public safety for nearly 100 years. Event planners, public safety officials, and emergency managers at all levels of government utilize their services. Often, amateur radio services have been used when other forms of communications have failed or have been disrupted. Today, nearly all the states/territories have incorporated some level of participation by

amateur radio auxiliary communication operators into their Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs) and Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (SCIPs).

This course focuses on auxiliary communications interoperability, the relationship between the COML and the volunteer, emergency operations center (EOC) etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, FCC rules and regulations, auxiliary communications training and planning, and emergency communications deployment. It is intended to supplement and standardize an operator’s experience and knowledge of emergency amateur radio communications in a public safety context.

This course is 2-3 days long and is limited to 30 students.

Class Prerequisites

To attend this course, applicants must have the following prerequisites:

- An active FCC amateur radio license
- Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications
- A desire to work with COMLs in a NIMS/ICS environment
- An affiliation with a public safety agency
- Completion of the following **FEMA** training courses:
 - IS-100, Introduction to the ICS
 - IS-200, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Incidents
 - IS-700, National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction
 - IS-800, National Response Framework (NRF), an Introduction

Respectfully,

Garrett Buzzell, CEM-ME

Communications System Manager
 Deputy Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)
 Duty Officer
 Maine Emergency Management Agency