

Oxford County ARES/CERT Comm

Newsletter

July 22, 2020



Welcome to the July edition of the Oxford County ARES/CERT Comm Newsletter! In the midst of all the events happening in the USA, we have new positive trainings, sessions and presentations. It has become apparent to me that these newsletters may need to go back to monthly just to keep them short enough for a quick read. This edition has a Table of Contents only because it has become so long with relevant material to each of our subgroups of members.

For those of you that wish to upgrade your license there are opportunities about to blossom.

If like me you have had time to be under or unemployed, hopefully you have had a chance to finish the ICS courses. If not this is the opportune time to finish these. If you haven't played with Fldigi or Slow Scan TV in a while, this is the time to at least read through the on line manuals. As I write

this Monday evening Fldigi is at version 4.1.14. More features and templates have been added.

I have found some new items that may attract your interest in this newsletter.

N1YIS, Wayne Strout – Oxford ARES EC.

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Upcoming Events

INTEREST

Don't forget to [submit](#) your [ARRL Field Day](#) scores and supporting materials by Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

On Saturday, July 25, 2020, DX Engineering is sponsoring the [DXE Virtual Hamfest and DX Academy](#). The day's festivities are "free and open to all" and can be [viewed via Zoom video conference](#) or the [DX Engineering YouTube channel](#). There will be drawings for DX Engineering gift cards for those that are registered and present on Zoom during the prize drawings. See the DX Engineering website for more information, or [visit their Facebook page](#).

August 8th & 9th 2020 [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#)
Register by July 24, 2020 to receive early bird prize incentives!

Testing Sessions:

Saturday, August 8th 9 am Wells community Center - Wells recreation department. 412 Branch Rd Registration is required. The tests shall be conducted under an open-air tent. Social distancing will be strictly followed. Face masks will be required except while seated during testing. Please bring masks. Sponsor: Southern Maine Packet Group. Contact: Roger Pience, N1XP roger@n1xp.com

Saturday August 15, 2020 at 1000. VE test session in Bethel on It will be by appointment only, Contact info pending at this time. (22-07-2020 21:20 UTC) Updates at <http://n1yis.org>

Possible test session in Durham. Please see notes below.

August 3, 2020 at 6:00pm. Church Fellowship Hall ([Shiloh Chapel, 38 Beulah Lane, Durham ME 04222](#)). Still need only 2-3 additional volunteers besides myself, to allow for distancing. This is a closed session (non-walk-in). 10-12 people tops. 4. Masks will be required of both test takers and examiners. Bring a mask -No Mask No Entry. Contact: Don Wakeman

National Weather Service-Caribou, Maine

http://www.weather.gov/car/Outreach_Spotters

National Weather Service-Gray, Maine

<https://www.weather.gov/gyx/skywarn>

Weather Spotter Training - Free and open to the public. Sessions Run 1 hr - 2 hr

SKYWARN MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE AREAS

Skywarn- for NWS Gray area Western/Southern/Coastal Maine and New Hampshire.

<http://www.ws1sm.com/SKYWARN.html>

Local & County News

Work on the Oxford County buildings is continuing daily. There have been many changes so far and more on the way.

Correspondence: From Don Wakeman

Hi All,

I am planning on having a test session on 8/3 at 6:00pm. There are several changes being made to this session however.

First is Location: The Red Cross is closed to the public currently. I have permission to use our Church's Fellowship

Hall ([Shiloh Chapel, 38 Beulah Lane, Durham ME 04222](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Shiloh+Chapel,+38+Beulah+Lane,+Durham,+ME+04222/@44.1111111,-70.8888889,15z)).
The room is larger so we can spread out more.

I have ordered a hands wall sanitizer that should be installed before the session, if not I have a couple of bottles.

Second: I am only looking for only 2-3 additional volunteers besides myself, to allow for distancing. If I get numerous volunteers, unfortunately I will have to limit them. It is also important that the 2-3 volunteers show up.

Third: I am changing this to a closed session (non-walk-in). I feel that we can adequately handle around 10-12 people tops. I have had numerous requests dating back to when this all started.

Fourth: Masks will be required of both test takers and examiners. This protects me, everyone in attendance and the church both from the physical virus and also adheres to the Governor's mandate. I am not debating the merits of masks, mandates, etc. This is just what we have to do.

If you are willing and able to serve, please send a reply email to this and I will move forward with the exam session.

Thanks and 73, Don Wakeman

Other News:

The Oxford County ARES/CERT Comm Trailer training videos will be posted at <https://n1yis.org/arescert-video-training> as they are recorded, produced and uploaded.

Have you checked out the n1yis.org website recently? It was changed at the start of July 2020 to allow more content for our group to be on the Web.

Upcoming events, <https://n1yis.org/upcoming-ares-events>

Need the script for the net? <https://n1yis.org/net-control-with-scripts>

Training available from Oxford County EMA, MEMA, and FEMA: <https://n1yis.org/oxford-ares%2Fcert-training>

Missing a manual for a radio in the trailer or the EOC? <https://n1yis.org/arescert-trailer-radios>

<https://n1yis.org/ema-vhf%2Fuhf-radios>

<https://n1yis.org/ema-hf-amateur-radios>

Oxford ARES Results For

Meetings / Nets / On Air Time / Work Sessions

	Participants	Hours
Monthly totals –January 2020	17	3:26
Monthly totals – February 2020	34	21:35
Monthly totals- March 2020	31	20:26
Monthly totals- April 2020	32	11:00
Monthly totals -May 2020	23	6:58
Monthly totals - June 2020	38	18:33

State News

A request has been made for amateur radio operators to assist in the design of the 2020 Simulated Emergency Test. David Lowe WE1U our Maine ARES Emergency Coordinator made the request several months ago. George Jones W2GPJ has agreed to lead the process. Members are still needed to fill out the group. If you are interested please contact David WE1U or George W2GPJ. Various ways are available if you wish to participate either Zoom or one of the other conferencing platforms.

Many thanks to K1NIT Bill Crowley for his work and time as the Maine Section Manager at the ARRL since 2014.

Congratulations to N1WJO Bob Gould for his election as the new Maine Section Manager.

National & ARRL News

This is from the ARRL ARES Newsletter July 15, 2020

Did You Feel It?

1. ARES/Section Emergency Coordinators discussion reflector SEC-ARES hosted an excellent Zoom presentation on the radio amateur's role in the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Did You Feel It* (DYFI) reporting system. The speaker was Oliver Dully, K6OLI, who captured the audience of some 67 coordinators across the country with his galvanizing presentation. Readers are encouraged to view the archived presentation: Click [here](#) to view presentation. Thanks go to [Dan Marler, K7REX](#), ARRL Idaho Section Manager for moderating the presentation, and the discussion reflector group.
 - a. <https://vimeo.com/437004042>

- b. New Winlink Form Submits DYFI Earthquake Data Directly to USGS Database
 - i. On the one-year anniversary (July 6) of the M7.1 Ridgecrest Earthquake in Southern California, the Winlink team presented *Did You Feel It* for Winlink Express. Through cooperative efforts with the United States Geological Survey, amateur radio operators worldwide can now report the effects of an earthquake at their location directly to the USGS with no internet nor phone service required.
 - ii. The *Did You Feel It (DYFI)* system was developed by the USGS to take simple reports from residents who are experiencing an earthquake. By these reports, the USGS gets a more complete picture of what people experience, the damage and extent. Reports are sent over the internet, a system that can be complemented by the hybrid internet-amateur radio email system Winlink, especially when the internet is down.
 - iii. By providing a DYFI report when you can do so safely after an earthquake you contribute to citizen science and further the understanding of earthquakes. You also ensure that your area has been represented in the compilation of the maps of shaking. This is a two-way street: not only will you add valuable information on the extent of ground shaking and damage, but in the process you will learn more about how other communities fared and gain a greater

understanding of the effects of earthquakes.

- iv. More information on the USGS *Did You Feel It* program can be found [here](#). --
Thanks to Steve Waterman, K4CJX, and the Winlink Development Team
2. On June 6, 2020, Phil Sherrod, W4PHS, a Winlink developer, gave an excellent presentation on Winlink and how to use it. A Zoom audience of five hundred saw the Winlink presentation, which was also very well received. To view the video presentation, click [here](#).
 - a. <https://vimeo.com/432903722>
 - b. *Joe Speroni, AH0A, ARRL Pacific Section Manager*, reports that the Winlink team has published an excellent digital modes comparison study, by Thomas Whiteside, N5TW. It shows steady improvements in performance as software algorithms evolve. Speroni said "the addition of digital modes in our tool kit makes Amateur Radio more valuable to our served agencies." For example, "Winlink is a tool for personal communications, health and welfare traffic, and served agencies with varying need of digitally-formatted messages." Speroni said the study is well done and worth reading. View the study [here](#).
 - c. https://winlink.org/sites/default/files/a_winlink_digital_mode_performance_comparison_based_on_the_ionis_sim_hf_vhf_channel_simulator_-_july_5_2020_0.pdf
3. Red Cross Nationwide, Large Scale Red Cross Drill Success
Summary
 - a. American Red Cross volunteer radio amateurs organized and conducted a large-scale nationwide emergency communications drill on May 30, 2020. Planning began last November by a handful of Red Cross volunteers. Interest both within Red Cross and the larger radio amateur community grew and by May a thousand hams were registered to participate
 - b. Training and exercises are held periodically under the provisions of the Red Cross-ARRL formal Statement of Understanding and this drill was no exception. ARRL's ARES program provided hundreds of hams to support Red Cross in this simulated nationwide emergency. In all, over a thousand radio amateurs were active in thirty six states, including Hawaii and Alaska, as well as the territory of Puerto Rico.
 - c. Additionally, the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), with its strong history of providing emergency and disaster communications services, participated in this joint simulation. SATERN was activated in six states.
 - d. The drill scenario was a nationwide power outage with participating hams role-playing as "shelter stations." (No drill participant was physically deployed at a Red Cross shelter due to the risks associated with COVID-19). For future drills, actual operation at Red Cross shelters and facilities will be planned.
- 4.

- a. ARC-6409 forms- see Appendix A for a copy.

[http://www.w1hkj.com/files/flmsg/templates/ARC Requisition 6409 V.2.2.html](http://www.w1hkj.com/files/flmsg/templates/ARC_Requisition_6409_V.2.2.html)

5. ICS213 – see Appendix B for a copy

- a. https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1922-25045-5379/ics_forms_213.pdf

- b. W1npp has a good explanation outlining the procedure for filling out the ICS 213. Here is the link:

<http://www.w1npp.org/ares/NTS/COMPLETE~1.PDF>

- c. The FEMA instructions are at this link:

- i. <https://www.ics213.com/>
- ii. <http://www.ics213.com/downloads/Completing%20The%20ICS%20213%20General%20Message%20Form.pdf>

6. ARRL Message Form See Appendix C for a copy:

Instructions at this Link:

<http://sacvalleyares.org/contents/ARES%20Documents/Training/Sending%20messages%20by%20Voice/NTS%20Message%20Handling/NTS%20Training.pdf>

Notes From ARRL Contesting letter:



Using N3FJP Logging Software?

Scott, N3FJP, has [released a new 1.2 version of Club Score Processor](#). This [application can be used to display a web-based leaderboard of scores](#) for a group of amateurs that are competing in a particular contest. Enhancements in the new version include additional text and HTML placement on the leaderboard page, and the ability to accept scores from non-N3FJP logging programs.

Looking at a new ICOM IC 705?



@EditorNCJ recommends the [Icom IC-705 walkthrough video by Bob, G0FGX](#). Described as a "shack in a box," it covers HF through VHF/UHF including D-STAR. At only 17 minutes long, the video is worth watching. There are a lot of nice

"convenience" features, such as automatically setting display brightness based on ambient light levels, inclusion of a GPS receiver, built-in Wi-Fi, and even a matching piece of luggage!

Know Your Grid Square and Subsquare

For many contests using grid squares as the exchange, the four-character version is required. For the upcoming [ARRL 220 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#), [six-character grid squares](#) are the exchange. Using six characters, [stations in the same subsquare are no farther apart than 6.5 miles](#).

This from ARRL ARES Letter July 16, 2020

K1CE for a Final: 2019 SET Results Review

The 2019 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) results are published on pages 63-65 of this month's issue of *QST*. I found it be fascinating reading: it gave summaries of a handful of very interesting exercise reports, and a picture of ARES and Section/Local Net activity across the country.


As far as the numbers are concerned, the top ten section points-earners were the ARES programs of Alabama, Ohio, Eastern Pennsylvania, Eastern New York, Wisconsin, Santa Clara Valley, Southern New Jersey, Western Washington, Western Pennsylvania, and Georgia, all sections that historically have been program leaders in the country.

As for section and local net activity, the top ten finishers were Mississippi, Wisconsin, Alabama, Ohio, South Texas, Western New York, Georgia, Connecticut, Michigan, and Western Pennsylvania - all traditional traffic handling powerhouses.

There are 71 ARRL Sections in the Field Organization. For the 2019 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test - a major,

nationwide exercise for all ARES groups, section and local nets - 33 section ARES programs reported, or 46% of all sections. This fall, in the likely setting of the continuing pandemic, the Simulated Emergency Tests can be run as tabletop exercises on the on-line video conferencing platforms that most of us are familiar with by now. Let's see if we can get activity and reporting up this fall. -- *K1CE*

Appendix A

	American Red Cross	ARC Disaster Requisition - FORM 6409			
DR# (if applicable): <input type="text"/> DR Name: <input type="text"/> Date: <input type="text"/> Requisition #: <input type="text"/>					
Requestor Name: <input type="text"/>				Signature: <input type="text"/>	
Title: <input type="text"/>				Phone: <input type="text"/>	
Delivery Information					
Site POC Name: <input type="text"/>		Phone: <input type="text"/>		Email: <input type="text"/>	
Address: <input type="text"/>					
City: <input type="text"/>		State: <input type="text"/>		Zip: <input type="text"/>	
Description of product(s) and/or service(s)					
Stock No.	Quantity	Unit of measure (EA/PK/CS/BX)	Total QTY (each)	Description	Date needed
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Special Instructions: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>					
The following information must be filled in by the APPROVER ONLY:					
Approval includes verification of need; need consistent with Service Delivery Plan and budget.					
Approver Name: <input type="text"/>				Signature: <input type="text"/>	
Title: <input type="text"/>				Phone: <input type="text"/>	
Procurement Method (This section is optional):					
Account string to charge: <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>					
Procurement tool to use: <input type="checkbox"/> Donation <input type="checkbox"/> ReQuest <input type="checkbox"/> Concur Invoice <input type="checkbox"/> P-card <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Loan					
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (Explain): <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>					

Appendix B

GENERAL MESSAGE (ICS 213)

1. Incident Name (Optional):		
2. To (Name and Position):		
3. From (Name and Position):		
4. Subject:	5. Date:	6. Time
7. Message:		
8. Approved by: Name: _____ Signature: _____ Position/Title: _____		
9. Reply:		
10. Replied by: Name: _____ Position/Title: _____ Signature: _____		
ICS 213	Date/Time: _____	

Appendix C



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE RADIOGRAM VIA AMATEUR RADIO



NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
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TO

THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT

AMATEUR STATION _____ PHONE _____

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

FROM	DATE	TIME	TO	DATE	TIME
REC'D			SENT		

THIS MESSAGE WAS HANDLED FREE OF CHARGE BY A LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR, WHOSE ADDRESS IS SHOWN IN THE BOX AT RIGHT ABOVE. AS SUCH MESSAGES ARE HANDLED SOLELY FOR THE PLEASURE OF OPERATING, NO COMPENSATION CAN BE ACCEPTED BY A "HAM" OPERATOR. A RETURN MESSAGE MAY BE FILED WITH THE "HAM" DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE TO YOU. FURTHER INFORMATION ON AMATEUR RADIO MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS, 225 MAIN STREET, NEWINGTON, CT 06111

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