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Central Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Service Bulletin



EC NOTES **Kevin O'Harra, KD8IIB** **ARRL EC—Franklin County**

Looking over the last couple bulletins, I realized that even though it has been mentioned at our in person meetings, I have not yet published the final money amounts received from the annual survey we sent out at the end of last year. We received \$2,140.00 in donations ranging anywhere from \$5.00 to \$500.00. Grateful thanks to all of you that were able to send in a donation. We do have expenses throughout the year and every little bit helps.

Speaking of expenses, one we just had was our annual renewal to the alert system we subscribe to from One Call Now. We have now been with them for 4 years. While filling out my annual report to the ARRL, I was impressed with how many new members we have had join us since 2010.

Therefore, I thought it might be good to rewrite an article I published way back in the April 2011 bulletin about this system. It has a lot of good information in it and can be found on page 4 of this month's bulletin.

Upcoming events in April include the All Ohio ARES Conference on the 11th. (Registration is now closed due to all available seats being filled). Also the Ohio Duathlon on the 26th. There will also be an EC-001 Emergency Communications course in April, along with a tech license class and open exam. Contact John Chapman for the EC-001 course and test, and Gretchen Herr regarding the tech class. Their contact info can be found either on the leadership page of our website, or elsewhere in this bulletin.

Once again, I would like to plead for volunteers for one of our major events, TOSRV, coming up in May. As

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COARES Mission

To provide emergency communications to central Ohio, public safety, emergency, health, government and relief agencies in times of disaster.

To keep our skills sharp, we provide communication support for many public service events.

Next Meeting

Wednesday April 15th at 7:30pm

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

**5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd
Columbus, OH 43230**

Don't forget! Renew your membership in Kroger Community Rewards!

Just visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com and click on "Columbus" and "Enroll".

The code for COARES is "84947".
You must re-enroll each year during the month of April.

Newsletter Contents:

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COARES Emergency Coordinator

Kevin O'Harra, KD8IIB
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Ohio Section Website:
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Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator

Stan Broadway, N8BHL
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Radnor, OH 43066
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Weekly Nets & Meetings

The COARES net meets Wednesday evenings at 8:00pm local time on the 147.06+ repeater, except for the third Wednesday of each month which is reserved for our General Meeting, held at the office of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

COARES Assistant Emergency Coordinators

Net Manager: Kevin O'Harra, KD8IIB
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Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator
TBD

District Emergency Coordinator

Kal Dworkin, KA8RLC
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COARES Repeaters

Primary: K8DDG/R
147.060 +.600
444.800 +5.00
94.8 Hz CTCSS

Secondary: AA8EY/R
147.090 +.600
94.8 Hz CTCSS

UHF: WB8INY/R
444.275 +5.00
94.8 Hz CTCSS

The COARES Bulletin

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Publishing Schedule

The Bulletin is published the second week of each month. All items for the bulletin must be submitted by the end of the first week of each month.

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Central Ohio Amateur Radio
Emergency Services, Inc.
is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.
Contributions are tax deductible.

A Reminder

Always check the COARES primary repeater (147.060 MHz) whenever a situation arises that might result in an emergency activation of COARES. This includes, but is not limited to, tornado, flood, blizzard, hazardous materials spill, terrorist attack, fire, search and rescue (missing person), aircraft/mass casualty, setting up emergency shelters, or a declared state of emergency.

COARES
NETS

Net	Day	Time (local)	Frequency
Central Ohio ARES	Wednesday	8:00 pm	147.060 (+) (94.8 PL)
Central Ohio Severe Weather Net	Tuesday (Mar ~ Oct)	7:30 pm	146.760 (-) (123.0 PL)
Central Ohio Traffic Net	Daily	7:15 pm	146.970(-) (94.8 PL)
Southwest Columbus Ham Radio Club Net	Friday	8:30 pm	145.23 (-)
Amateur Radio Club at Ohio State University	Sunday	8:00 pm	442.6(+)(114.8PL)
CRES ARC Sunday Night Net	Sunday	9—10 pm	146.67(-) (131.8 PL)
Delaware County Net	Monday	8:00 pm	145.170 (-)
Hocking Valley ARC Net	Wednesday	9:00 pm	147.345 (+)
Lancaster / Fairfield County ARC Net	Monday	9:00 pm	147.030 (+)
Madison County "Get Together" Net	Tuesday	8:00 pm	147.285 (+)
Newark ARA Net	Tuesday	9:00 pm	146.880 (-)

COARES
NETS

mentioned before, to effectively cover this 2 day event, we need over 80 hams along the course. Once again this year, they are planning on having a one day ride, with riders leaving Columbus, riding to Chillicothe, then back to Columbus Saturday morning. This second year of the One Day Ride means even more hams are needed than in past years. I believe you can find an article elsewhere in this month's bulletin about TOSRV.

Here are some more impressive numbers for you. The monthly report I submitted for March included a total of 1,176.6 man hours expended. This includes Arnold, St. Patricks run, nets, and in person meetings. I suspect that my May report after TOSRV will be even larger. Thank you again for your many hours of volunteer time.

73
Kevin O'Harra (KD8IIB)
COARES EC, Net Manager



This year we have a new points system that recognizes members for time and activities put towards the COARES club.

2015 Ham Of The Year Leaderboard

Rank	Points	Call	Name
1	31	KD8ION	Patrick Gibson
2	27	KD8OAE	Chris Huyette
3	27	KD8PHG	Richard Wynkoop
4	24	KD8IIB	Kevin O'Harra
5	21	KD8HVX	Jim Birk
6	21	KD8WQY	Denny Waltermire
7	19	K8WXA	Josh Gould
8=	18	K6HRU	Bruce Lent
8=	18	KC8VWQ	Marcie Wasserstrom
8=	18	KD8TQI	Jack McHugh
8=	18	KD8WQT	Jack McGee

One Call Now

Submitted by Kevin O'Harra, KD8IIB

Many of you are aware that COARES uses an alert notification service from One Call Now, located in Troy, Ohio. This service allows the capability of contacting hundreds of people almost instantaneously via phone call, text message, and email. We are able to send this notification via all these methods, or and combination of the three. Additionally, we are able to create specific subgroups, allowing us to send a message to just one or more subgroups, or send a message to every contact in the system database. We can also select to send a phone message to just a primary phone number, or to all phone numbers listed for a contact. (For example, since my cell phone goes into "silent mode" every evening after 10pm, I would not hear it ring, therefore I have my home number selected as primary). The system is also intelligent enough to know that if it calls a non-cell number, and there is also a cell number listed, it will not call the cell number if it is also sending a text message to that cell phone. Messages can be created and sent via a phone call, recorded in the sender's voice, or via a web interface using text-to-speech processor. Another really nice feature is the ability to create a message with a polling option. For example, the recorded message may say "If you are able to respond within 30 minutes press one, if available for later assignment press 2, or not available press 3."

Another nice feature built in is a great report interface. Within moments after initiating a message, we can see who received a phone call live, which calls went to an answering machine or voicemail, if polling was activated who replied to the poll and their answer, if there was no answer, who received text messages, who received emails, etc. There is also the ability to place a banner on our COARES webpage that anyone can just click on to hear the message. We haven't enabled this as of yet, but may do so. This feature may be especially useful for those that only receive notifications via email.

Those members who have phone numbers associated with them will also have the ability to call in and retrieve a message at any time. If you are calling from one of the phones listed in your database entry, you simply call 1-877-698-3261, press the number one after it answers, and it will play the recent message for you. This is a great feature if you get home, someone says "I answered a call for you, but hung up", and you look at caller ID and see that it was an alert message call. If you are calling from a different phone number, you will need to enter one of the numbers listed in the database to hear the message (it will prompt you for this).

If you are one of the folks who will be receiving text messages via cell phone, it is required by law that you "opt in" to receive future text messages. Some people will not want to do so because they will not want to be charged for a text message if they do not have some form of text messaging bundle with their cell phone provider. The "opt in" works as follows: Once your cell phone number is entered into the database, you will need to "opt in" for future text messages. In a nutshell, the procedure is simply to text the word "alert" to 22300. If you do not do this, you will not receive text alerts.

COARES One Call Now

Please remember to notify our One Call Now Administrator (KD8IIB - Kevin O'Harra) for any changes to your phone numbers or email addresses that would affect how you are notified in the event of an emergency callout. Also, any new members that would like to be included in an emergency callout, please contact Kevin with your info.

Another important note. When the One Call Now system calls you, your caller ID will show the number 1-877-698-3261. If you are anything like me, you may have a tendency to not answer a toll free incoming call. (I hate those telemarketing calls) You may want to do as I did and program your contact list in your home phone (if able), and also your cell phone to associate this number with COARES or One Call Now. Now, when the system calls me, the name field in my caller ID shows the name COARES. Also, if you receive an email, the sender will show up as Central Ohio ARES. Don't try to reply to this email address, because it won't ever get to the message originator. Normally, in the email text, we will hopefully remember to put in an email address to reply to if appropriate.

One Call Now serves over 35,000 clients nationwide. Many schools, churches, businesses, etc use this system, and several other ARES groups are clients. Their support personnel are great to work with and are quick to respond to any questions I may have. Their website is www.onecallnow.com if you would like to learn more. I'm sure if you have questions, I can probably answer many of them, but not all of course, so feel free to ask me if you have any.

Kevin O'Harra
KD8IIB
COARES EC, Net Manager



TOSRV 2015 will be on Saturday and Sunday May 9 & 10. As of this time the course remains the same as last year, with 66 assignment locations possible. Net control will operate from 6:00AM to 6:00PM each day. Once again they will be offering the one day ride to Chillicothe and return to Columbus on Saturday, so we will need to staff that part of the route the entire day.

Those wishing to sign-up to help this year should email me and let me know the times you are available for each day.

Ka1 – KA8RLC

ka8rlc@columbus.rr.com

FREE Ham Radio Technician Level Class

Class for the Technician level will be held at

Franklin County EMA

5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd, Columbus, OH 43230

April 16th, 17th 6pm to 9pm, and 18th 9am to 5pm

Open Exams will be April, 19th 1pm to 5pm.

Students should come to the class prepared with the ***Technician Class**, By Gordon West Element 2 study guide for the Technician level exam. This will be the book used in class. About \$25 (your cost). **Please read the book in advance** so that we can cover the more difficult concepts thoroughly. Books may be purchased at Universal Radio which is located at 6830 Americana Pkwy., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 off of Tussing Rd. Their web site is: www.universal-radio.com They have the books in stock and on their web-site. Not all bookstores carry it. The website: <http://www.kb0mga.net/exams/> has practice questions. You do not need to log in to practice. Start at the Technician level first. These are the actual questions and answers.

Sunday, April 19th there will be Open Exams for all levels from 1pm to 5pm at the same location. You can take the class Saturday and test Sunday while everything is still fresh in your mind. The testing session is put on by ARRL Volunteer Examiners. **Cost of the test is \$15.00 (cash)**. Same day results are given. If you feel you are not ready you do not have to test Sunday. The test is offered several times a year at many places. If you are going to test on Sunday please bring the following items:

1. All candidates must have a photo ID or (2) forms of non-photo ID. (If there are children, a student photo ID is OK, or their birth certificate and library card, etc.).
2. Test fee is \$15.00. Any retaken test for a failed element is an additional \$15 per retaken element.
3. Students need to bring 2 pencils and an ink pen for signing documents.
4. A **non-programmable** calculator may be used. No cell phone calculators.

*You have the option of taking the next level test which is General for free if you pass the Technician Level exam the same day. To register for class or for more information about becoming a HAM Operator and getting your FCC license **contact Gretchen Herr, KD8GUL at 614-323-9854 or gmh.herr5@gmail.com**

The class is limited to 20 students. Class may fill up fast. Reserve your spot today.

ARRL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CLASSES

EmComm Training: Introduction to Emergency Communications (EC-001)

Before you begin the course you should have completed the following prerequisites:

1. ICS-100 (IS-100.b) (Introduction to the Incident Command System).
2. IS -700 (National Incident Management System).
3. Provide proof of completions of courses.

These courses provide a foundation for the EC-001 course. There are free mini-courses you can take online at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>

Recommended (not required) Training Manual can be found: <http://www.arrl.org/shop/Introduction-to-Emergency-Communication-Course/>

Classes will be held at Franklin County EMA on April 22, 23, 24 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and April 25 from 8:00am to noon.

EC-001 only test date: April 25, 2015 at 1:00pm

For more information contact Gretchen Herr, KD8GUL (gmh.herr5@gmail.com), or John Chapman, WB8INY (wb8iny@gmail.com)

COARES ACTIVITIES FOR 2015

April	Date	Time	Location	Coordinator/Net Control
4-01-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Bruce Lent, K6HRU
4-04-15	2015 Bunny Hop Race	8:00 am	Creek North Park Westerville OH	Bill Carpenter, AA8EY
4-08-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Gayle Adams, W8KWG
4-11-15	Ohio Section ARES Conference (Registration full)		Ohio Fire Marshall Conference Center 8895 East Main Street Reynoldsburg, OH 43068	
4-15-15	In-person Meeting	7:30 pm	Franklin Co. EM & Homeland Security	Kevin O'Harra, KD8IIB
4-22-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Bruce Lent, K6HRU
4-29-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Art Richardson, W8ARR
May	Date	Time	Location	Coordinator/Net Control
5-06-15	In-person Meeting	7:30 pm	Franklin Co. EM & Homeland Security	Kevin O'Harra, KD8IIB
5-09-15	TOSRV	6:00 am	Columbus to Portsmouth	Kal Dworkin, KA8RLC
5-10-15	TOSRV	6:00 am	Portsmouth to Columbus	Kal Dworkin, KA8RLC
5-13-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Open
5-15-15 to 5-17-15	Hamvention	8:00 am	Hara Arena, Trotwood	Dayton Amateur Radio Association
5-16-15	Race for the Cure	8:00 am—11:00 am	Downtown Columbus	Jim Birk, KD8HVX
5-20-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Open
5-27-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Open
June	Date	Time	Location	Coordinator/Net Control
6-03-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Open
6-10-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Open
6-17-15	In-person Meeting	7:30 pm	Franklin Co. EM & Homeland Security	Kevin O'Harra, KD8IIB
6-24-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Open

While this schedule is correct at the time of publishing, please visit the COARES website (www.coares.org) and click on the Events link for the most up to date information.

Newsletter Contributions

This bulletin cannot happen without members contributing photos, stories, tips or articles. If you have something you'd like to contribute, or for corrections, please send them to the bulletin editor: Reuben Yau, W1YAU pittbug@gmail.com