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Central Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Service Bulletin



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

It's now been several months since I was appointed as EC for Franklin County. I would like to thank everybody for their patience and understanding throughout this transition. Now that we are coming out of our slow period event wise, I would like to mention several upcoming important dates. The annual Arnold Sports festival is March 5 – 8. This year there will be 2 different areas to cover. Some events have been moved to the Ohio State fairgrounds, events have also been added, and there are still many events that need coverage at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. If you are able to lend assistance for this important activity, please signup. There is a link on our main webpage that will take you to the form to enter your information. Please do this ASAP.

The statewide ARES conference will be held this year on April 11th at the Ohio Fire Academy. All ARES members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our in person meeting for February will be on February 18th at the EMA. Topics covered at this meeting will of course be the Arnold, along with a demonstration of FLDIGI software.

Currently, I am acting as both EC and Net Manager. If any of you are interested in taking over the Net Manager position, please contact me. Qualifications for this position include regular attendance for weekly nets, monthly in person meetings, and monthly Leadership Team meetings, scheduling people to run the weekly nets, running the nets yourself when no one can, or someone cancels, familiarity with callsigns and voices, keeping track of number of logins and times, maintaining both electronic and hard copies of the logs, and others.

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Kevin O'Harra

KD8IIB

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 March 18th 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 August.

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COARES Emergency Coordinator

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Ohio Section Website:
<http://www.arrlohoio.org>

Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator

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broadways@standi.com

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
 614-871-2000 kd8iib@columbus.rr.com

Events Manager: Chris Huyette, KD8OAE
 614-440-3047 kd8oae@gmail.com

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Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator

TBD

District Emergency Coordinator

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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.

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 (Echolink connected)	Friday	8:00 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 (-)

Nets



2014 Award Winners

Congratulations and thanks to all who volunteered their time and energy last year. Below is a list of award recipients and their accomplishments.

Weekly Nets		
Name	Call	Number
John Buck	KD8RTP	7
Kevin O'Harra	KD8IIB	5
Gayle Adams	W8KWG	4
Kal Dworkin	KA8RLC	4
Art Richardson	W8ARR	4
Richard Wynkoop	KD8PHG	3
Kris Smith	N8SCU	3
John Fick	KD8EEK	2
Matthew Curtin	KD8TTE	2
Patrick Gibson	KD8ION	2
Ed Wiest	N8UTI	1
Jack McHugh	KD8TQI	1
Mark Griggs	KB8YMN	1
Jack McGee	KD8WQT	1
Bruce Lent	K6HRU	1

2014 Hospital Antenna & Radio Tests		
Name	Call	Number
Jim Birk	KD8HVX	22
William Biggs	KC8PDR	36
John Buck	KD8RTP	15
Marty Litzinger	N8PAI	4
Paul Flautt	KB8CMW	6
Bob Rector	W8RWR	16
Hugh Czerwonky	K8UB	4
Patrick Gibson	KD8ION	10
Wayne Walls	KA8CEJ	11
Lynn Moore	KD8SYT	12
Andy Elliott	K8LE	6
Phillip Moore	KB8YVI	12
Mark Fergus	N8VJF	2
Jim O'Donnell	WA8BME	1
Brent Sheffer	K8BAS	1
Richard Wynkoop	KD8PHG	9
Kal Dworkin	KA8RLC	1
Matthew Curtin	KD8TTE	2
Kevin Morgan	KD8QJZ	7
Bob Cupples	KD8SYP	8
Bruce Goll	KB8TRI	1
Kris Smith	N8SCU	1
Bruce Lent	K6HRU	1
Jaime Simpson	KD8QJV	1

2014 Leadership Team Certificates		
Name	Call	Position
Chris Huyette	KD8OAE	Events Manager
Gretchen Herr	KD8GUL	Training Manager
Brent Sheffer	K8BAS	Financial Manager
John Chapman	WB8INY	Trustee
Kris Smith	N8SCU	Engineering Management & Liaison to Red Cross
Andy Elliott	K8LE	Hospital Antenna and Radio Testing Coordinator
Ed Wiest	N8UTI	Web & Membership
Kal Dworkin	KA8RLC	District Emergency Coordinator
Richard Wynkoop	KD8PHG	Liaison to State EMA and Bulletin Editor
Jim Birk	KD8HVX	Major Events Coordinator

**2015 Arnold Sports Festival
March 5th - 8th
Coordinator: Chris Huyette KD8OAE**

<http://arnoldexpo.com/medical/>

Overall, we will have roughly 19,000 athletes from 80 countries in 60 events. We will provide medical coverage for about 17,000 of those.

We have picked up many new events and, as you know, have an entirely new site, the fairgrounds (aka OEC - Ohio Expo Center).

We will be running at least 24 teams simultaneously during our peak times and will have about 10 of those at OEC. There are and will be logistical challenges that weekend as we undergo the birthing pains of a new site. I hope that all of you will be patient with delays and issues as we must re-invent the wheel at our second site. 12 months of serious planning and preparations have been done in an attempt to sand off the rough edges but you can't anticipate absolutely everything. We are a fluid group and are quickly able to adjust and overcome, that has always been one of our chief strengths.

Man/woman power is our most valuable resource and we could use more volunteers. If you have other Ham contacts please recruit for the team. We also need medical volunteers (only docs, nurses, PAs, EMTs).

PLEASE go to our web site <http://arnoldexpo.com/medical/> and review the information there - especially under "Information".

Repeater frequencies have been designated and volunteers will be emailed the frequency plan before the event.

On the days that you volunteer, report to D140 in the Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC) and sign in there, get a new team polo shirt if you don't have one yet (if you have one please wear it), get badged, put on a team armband and (eventually) an assignment. You must show your Ham license and photo ID (driver's license) to get badged. If you are unable to do so that may mean that you cannot work that day. Homeland security requires these precautions and trust me when I say that they are entirely lacking in a sense of humor...

Medical teams generally consist of a doc, nurse or EMT, Ham operator and frequently additional staff (med student, another nurse or medic). There will sometimes be two or more teams at an event, depending on the frequency of injuries. ALL communications are to go through the Hams.

We (the Medical Base Stations/net control) do not need to know about each and every injury but are immediately available to provide EMS transport, another team or supplies in the event of a need. If someone is OBVIOUSLY a transport advise Net Control (NC) as soon as you can so that we can get our onsite EMS in route to you and not delay the scene time later waiting on them.

We feed everyone lunch and dinner and will do team rotations in an orderly and sequential manner. PLEASE do NOT put questions over the net like "when's lunch"? or "when is it our turn"? as everyone WILL be rotated out for lunch - eventually. We have a certain process running the teams and achieving the rotations that is multifactorial and only marginally in our control after the day is underway. *Continued...*

Receive COARES activation alerts when we need you!

Opt in to the One Call Now database either by calling 1-877-698-3261 or by sending the text message "alert" to 22300.

Visit www.onecallnow.com to learn more.

2015 Arnold Sports Festival continued...

DO NOT LET YOUR STAFF JUST UP AND LEAVE! (shooting them in the leg can be very helpful here....) The team members (especially the new folks) may feel like wandering away (even offering you their cell numbers) but this is entirely inappropriate. We do not want team members moving away from their established stations without being relieved of duty via net control and having a replacement on site before they depart. The exception is in the emergent medical care of someone. If you end up very distant from your event medical table (up in the stands caring for someone with a seizure), advise NC that you are off station. We will consider sending a second team in there temporarily until your team is back online.

I hope that you all remember the shifts you signed up for as I do not generally send out reminders about hours. Your volunteer hours are what you signed up for but, of course, you are welcome to work more. If you absolutely cannot remember, send me an email with the hours request. I will have a spreadsheet with everyone's hours on it at the walk-through on March 1st.

All team members are visually identifiable in their established roles. Medical folks wear blue polo shirts and support staff wear gray. Each individual is further identified by a colored dot added to their badge. The color identifies their expertise and their number on the dot further delineates their specialty area. For example, I am GREEN dot, #100 - therefore, I am a physician (green) and an Emergency Medicine specialist (the 100's). This is the system we use to handle the movement of personnel - it is so much easier to say "#502 is here" than to try and pronounce some of the names of team members. The Hams do need to keep track of team member #'s at their event/medical table. They also need to keep track of where their table is - ie "#502 has arrived at Gymnastics 2, #330 is departing for the base station". It will become clearer further along. Instructions will be taped to each station table top.



Akron 911 Outage After Action Report (AAR) by Stan Broadway, N8BHL

Hello all! I was able to sit in on the after-action meeting held by Medina County EMA this morning, to discuss last week's telephone outages. I believe this is something that every EC should be aware of, and it's something we can take to our local EMA Directors and safety agencies for discussion! Thanks to the Medina ARES gang for the invite! Here are my notes:

Representatives of fire, police, hospital and telephone agencies gathered at the Medina County EMA to discuss the recent telephone and 911 service outage that affected 6 Ohio counties. The initial cause of the outage and reactions of agencies bring a number of items to light that can quickly apply to any county in Ohio.

Cause and effect

The city of Akron uses underground steam piping to heat downtown buildings. Apparently a small hole in such a pipe caused steam to escape in the AT&T switching station. The steam caused heat to increase and moisture to infiltrate cables and other critical equipment. Cooling and condensation brought more puddling and water issues into the situation, causing the loss of telephone switching and some 911 service over a widespread area. Land line, cellular, data and 911 service was affected. However, not everything went down at once. For some 911 centers a line or two dropped, for others the entire system failed. That meant 911 calls were being relayed to backup centers. However, the sporadic situation moved and changed as the evening progressed. It was quite a challenge to figure out from one minute to the next exactly what was happening. After a brief time, it became clear that more counties were involved, but Medina and Summit county personnel didn't realize the large area until afterward.

Because the outage was sometimes very fluid, it was difficult to react. Of course, the reaction itself was hampered by the lack of telephone service! Many agencies rely on telephone calling lists. Many of these were hit-or-miss or useless. Radio communication was not affected to local UHF systems, but 5 MARCS towers did go offline, hampering local communication between centers. It was possible to communicate with Columbus, but in many cases, not with neighboring counties. Eventually, the outages grew and stabilized.

Akron 911 Outage After Action Report (AAR) continued...

This was a major situation! First, there was no 911. Second, non-dependable cell and landline phones. Data was affected as well- so texting was ineffective. Not only were police and fire responses being affected, but Medina hospitals were left without telephone service. Because several had phone systems that went back to the main hospital's switching equipment, they lost even intercom dialing after a while. Paging was down. That meant that their ability to call in technicians and doctors was impinged to the point that at least one hospital had to go on "selective diversion". Inbound medic transport notifications (done by cell) were impeded. The loss of communication developed into an emergency health care crisis.

Initial reaction and management

Several 911 dispatch centers were able to talk via radio to determine they had lost service. Their ability to call in management was impeded except for radio. Since many were on MARCS, their communication was actually impeded as well. When it was obvious that interagency communication was failing, Medina EMA called ARES ham operators immediately. Fortunately, they were able to get through on one ARES member's cell. Further alerting took place over the local ham repeater. Hams were initially tasked with establishing communication to other counties. First duty was to determine the scope of the problem.

Other concerns were reflected by assignments to ARES members:

1. EMA EOC needed to be manned on 144/440 to determine situational awareness.
2. Local Medina hospital (which had lost most telephone service).
3. One ARES member was sent to the local OSP post, and sat in the lot after checking in, just in case further disruptions would affect the OSP.

EMA had notices broadcast on the NOAA weather/all hazards radio informing the citizens that phone service was down. Crawlers were set on local TV outlets. The primary message: "If you have an emergency, go to your nearest fire station." Use of Facebook and Twitter was important- they actually received one EMS medical call over Facebook! Internet service to many people was still working- only the AT&T based services were down.

EMA/County 911 alerted all fire agencies by toning them out and recommending that all stations be manned. At least two fire chiefs complained at that, saying ~they~ would determine whether their volunteers would be activated. Other chiefs, realizing the situation, were grateful. This further tied up spotty telephone service at the EOC. In some cases, re-routed calls went to cell phones, but that wasn't dependable.

As the situation stabilized, EMA management was 'one step away' from dispatching ARES ham operators to ~every~ PSAP (911 answer point) and potentially ~every~ fire and police station, to serve as a second line of communication back to the EOC. The manpower that would require, and the uncertain timeframe for such an operation could have meant a wide-spread ARES activation!

Lessons we can take back to our agencies

The most important function during any large-scale emergency is the "size-up"...finding out exactly what the problem is and who is affected. Partly because the phones were spotty, and partly because this was a 'floating' situation at first, this initial analysis was very hard to do. It took a lot of work, and time, to figure out exactly what was happening! That slowed initial response to the crisis.

Because many of the agencies had turned to MARCS service several years ago- they discovered that they have essentially NO alternative backup systems in place. VHF and UHF radios were removed in some cases, and there was no inter-agency plan to fall back to analog systems. Had the rest of MARCS come down, everything would have simply stopped. Redundancy is important- and those VHF/UHF frequencies can be ~very~ important! Without them, ham radio is about the only alternative. Remember the adage: the more complex a system becomes, the more brittle it is!

I was extremely gratified to hear the praises from several people for ARES! While we may not have ridden in on white horses to alleviate the situation, to hear them talk we certainly must have caused several really big sighs of relief! The lesson here: ARES should be an integral part of your EMA's operation and planning! For a communications emergency, ARES should be 'first call' as it was here- EMA Director Christina Fozio wasted no time in calling in the hams, and it helped to alleviate the situation quickly. She was very pleased with the results.

Akron 911 Outage After Action Report (AAR) continued...

The speed with which this situation happened brings home the point that we simply must have our plans, activation procedures, and goals as a firm foundation, ready to go quickly! And alerting-- remember, there was mostly NO phone service! How are WE going to alert to respond if that's the case?

This was a big deal. ARES members in each of the counties were very much appreciated, and I commend all who responded, stood by, or listened in!

Stan Broadway, N8BHL
Section Emergency Coordinator – Ohio
ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio™

New COARES Working Points System

To encourage greater member participation, 2015 will see the introduction of a working points system. This is available to every COARES member, with points given for every public service event, net control that is worked or disaster call out. Note that leadership meetings or other events where participation is not open to the entire membership will not be eligible for points. Throughout the year points will be tallied from event coordinator reports and net check-ins, the members with the top points will be recognized at the end of the year.

When working an event, please make sure to check in and out with the event coordinator, so they can record your hours. Even coordinators will then be responsible for sending the report back to Kevin KD8IIB. Points can be earned in the following ways:

- 1 point for every 3 hours worked during an event (Arnold, TOSRV, 5k runs, etc).
- 1 point for checking in to a weekly net.
- 1 point for the net controller during a weekly net.
- 1 point for attending a monthly in-person meeting.
- 1 point for each hospital antenna test performed.

Each month, the leaderboard will be published in the newsletter so members can see who is volunteering and how many more points they need to catch up!

An Easy Way to Program Your Radio by Andy Elliott – K8LE

Many hams find that programming a VHF/UHF radio is not the most fun thing to do! If you have only a few frequencies to program, it's not too bad – even considering the tedious entry of frequencies, repeater names, offsets, tone frequencies, locations, etc. But if you need to program a large list of frequencies, such as the COARES Recommended & COTS Radio Programming List (on the home page of www.coares.org), you definitely don't want to program your radio manually! There is a better way, without having to buy the radio programming software for your radio!

CHIRP (chirp.danplanet.com) is a free, open-source tool for programming your radio. It supports a large number of manufacturers and models from Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, Alinco, and various Chinese models and allows transferring of memory contents between them. It also provides a way to interface with multiple data sources and formats. It works on Windows and Linux (and MacOSX with a little work).

There are even static lists of frequencies one might want to include on their radio including the FRS & GMRS channels, 60m channels, NOAA weather radio channels, and others. The software even interfaces with online frequency repositories making it easy to program repeaters into your radio when you are traveling to a new area.

Best of all, it's free! All you need is the appropriate programming cable for your radio.

If you want to program your radio with the COARES Recommended & COTS Radio Programming List, contact me at aelliott7@sbcglobal.net for a comma separated value (.csv) file (suitable for CHIRP) based on the latest update of the COTS Radio Programming List.

COARES ACTIVITIES FOR 2015

February	Date	Time	Location	Coordinator/Net Control
2-11-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Kevin O'Harra, KD8IIB
2-18-15	In-person Meeting	7:30 pm	Franklin Co. EM & Homeland Security	Kevin O'Harra, KD8IIB
2-25-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Jack McHugh, KD8TQI
March	Date	Time	Location	Coordinator/Net Control
3-04-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Open
3-06-15	Arnold Expo Medical Team	8:00 am -10:00 pm	Columbus Convention Center and Ohio Expo Center and State Fair	Chris Huyette, KD8OAE
3-07-15	Arnold Expo Medical Team	8:00 am -10:00 pm	Columbus Convention Center and Ohio Expo Center and State Fair	Chris Huyette, KD8OAE
3-08-15	Arnold Expo Medical Team	8:00 am -10:00 pm	Columbus Convention Center and Ohio Expo Center and State Fair	Chris Huyette, KD8OAE
3-08-15	Arnold 5k, 5k Pump and Run	9:30 am	Columbus Convention Center and Ohio Expo Center and State Fair	Paul Flautt, KB8CMW
3-11-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Bruce Lent, K6HRU
3-18-15	In-person Meeting	7:30 pm	Franklin Co. EM & Homeland Security	Kevin O'Harra, KD8IIB
3-18-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Open
April	Date	Time	Location	Coordinator/Net Control
4-01-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Open
4-08-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Open
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)	Open
May	Date	Time	Location	Coordinator/Net Control
5-06-15	Wednesday Night Net	8:00 pm	147.060(+) (94.8 Hz PL)	Open
5-06-15	TOSRV	6:00 am	Columbus to Portsmouth	Kal Dworkin, KA8RLC
5-06-15	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 Burk, KD8HVX
5-20-15	In-person Meeting	7:30 pm	Franklin Co. EM & Homeland Security	Kevin O'Harra, KD8IIB
5-27-15	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.