Multnomah County ARES

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The Newsletter of the Multnomah County Amateur Radio Emergency Services

Meetings

Multnomah County ARES
Every 4th Thursday
7:00 P.M.
Portland Fire & Rescue CTR
4800 NE 122nd Avenue, Portland
http://www.multnomahares.org/
_____

PARC Meeting
Every 4th Friday
7:30 P.M.
One Liberty Center
650 NE Holladay Street, Portland
http://www.w7lt.org/
_____

HARC Meeting
Every 3rd Thursday
Mount Hood Comm. College
Room 1001
http://www.wb7qiw.org/

Nets

Multnomah Co. ARES Net
Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M.
146.84 (no Tone)
_____

District 1 ARES Net
Daily at 7:30 P.M.
147.320 (PL Tone 100.0)
_____

Northwest Oregon Traffic
and Training Net
Daily 6:05 P.M.
145.27, 145.43, 145.47,146.84,
443.150 & 442.275
(All have a PL tone of 107.2)

Future Hams ?

Upcoming Events

April 21 MS WALK/SET Pre-brief: Fire Station 2 TAC Room 7:00 PM All participating hams should attend

April 22-23 State ARES SET: Drill guide is out. Participants and team leaders please read it carefully and attend the pre-brief

April 23 MS Walk: Assignments are out. Participants please attend pre-brief

April 28 General Meeting: Winlink and Digital Soundcard Modes presented by Adam KF7LJH and John K7TY

From the EC's Desk
The New Digital Modes and ARES
By: Nathan Hersey N9VCU

In ARES we use many digital forms of communication. Primarily we use Winlink with packet TNCs, of course, to exchange email over radio. Soon (with this month's training at our regular meeting) we will start to introduce sound card modes to our operations, using a digital radio interface and programs like MMSSTV and FLDIGI to send text and images that way.

But we get a lot of questions about "digital voice" these days. Which technology is MCARES going to pick from D-STAR, DMR, Fusion, etc. and recommend to the membership?

The short answer: None at this time.

The McARES leadership team has made the decision not to incorporate any of the digital voice modes into ARES operations at this time, nor "formally" recommend any to our membership.

The current Multnomah ARES standard for voice is analog and will remain so for the foreseeable future. We came to this decision after reviewing the results of the membership survey, speaking with local repeater operators and discussions internally with some of our technically minded members. Some of the key factors in the decision included:

The most important characteristic of ARES radio operations is compatibility; any certified ham radio should work in an incident.

Many of the advanced features of digital modes are repeater-dependent
.
No huge benefit to digital voice over analog voice on simplex (although digital data modes do hold future promise).

No critical mass: The few MCARES members with digital radios are using pretty much all of the available technologies.

A number of strong opinions: Some members feel strongly about "their" choice, and we've got at least one of those for each digital technology. Making a decision is going to be a little bloody.

In summary, the leadership team doesn't feel the new digital voice modes provide enough value to start integrating them into our regular operations yet or "encouraging" their adoption by the membership. But we encourage all members to explore and experiment with these digital voice modes because the day we'll want to start leveraging them is not too far ahead of us.

We do note that Yaesu Fusion has by far the largest installed base of repeaters in the area. D-Star has the largest base of radios, however. And while DMR contingent is growing, it's got the smallest level of adoption of all the ham radio digital modes at the moment.

Thanks to all those who provided feedback during this decision process, and for your understanding as we work through technical and operational issues such as these.

Both Adam KF7LJH and John K7TY have been preparing for our next general meeting. The topic for April is Winlink: Packet, Pactor, P2P, attaching files, templates, etc.

The WinLink Webinar for those of you who need assistance in installing and configuring the WinLink software on your computer, (no radio or TNC required) will be on Thursday May 5th..

MCARES has been busy creating and delivering opportunities for our membership to improve skills and knowledge. Some items under consideration include adding value to our weekly net meetings, new member orientations at the beginning of our monthly general meetings, and broadening our reach in the community.

Our weekly net meetings now include a brief topic of interest to ARO's. These are 8-10 minute 'knowledge drops' after all checkins and before we close out the net. We had Jeff Sperley discuss the MARS system recently. Other future topics include how the Forrest Service operates in emergencies, how a hospital participates in relaying communications in an event, and basic radio operation. If you have ideas that you would like to see addressed please send me an email with a topic. If you have something you are passionate about and are interested in bringing that topic to the net – please contact me.

We have a standing meeting at 6:30 pm (before our general meeting starting at 7 pm) for all new or renewing members. We are here to answer questions and solve problems for all associate members as well.

Both Steve W7SRH and I have been working with PPS (Portland Public Schools) to begin a new ham club. There will be an initial meeting on 17 April to introduce MCARES, to introduce

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membership, and also to help them get started with their first licensing event.

See me with your training needs or ideas at our next monthly general meeting on Thursday April 28 or email me at:

Konrad@comcast.net

Membership News
By Deb KK7DEB

Please join me in welcoming our newest members: Joel N7LF, Katherine KQ7TBR, Christopher K7VEG, Martha KG7LZC, Nye KI7CHE.

Thanks to all our members who are actively promoting ARES membership. We are well on our way to our goal of adding 30 new members this year.

Net News
By: Marino KG7EMB

Net control Stations for the next month for our weekly ARES net are:
4/13 KF7RBV Ann, 4/20 K5TVO Bruce, 4/27 W7SRH Steve, 5/4 AE7XP Michael.

PIO News
By: Steve W7SRH

On Thursday April 7, Deb KK7DEB, Robert W5TEX and Steve W7SRH set up shop at Warner Pacific College as part of an outreach effort. We partnered with PBEM NET. We were invited by a student group as part of a class project which focused on preparedness. Some interest was also expressed on the part of the College to set up

a basic VHF communication station. We operated VHF, D-Star via DVAP, and Winlink. While this was not a heavily attended event, there were several very interested students and it was an opportunity to discuss future comms plans with campus security. Thanks to Julie W7OW at Lewis and Clark College for making contact with our station during the event.

We are in talks with Jeremy at PBEM NET about partnering on a recruiting effort to all HAMs in Portland / Multnomah County. PBEM has agreed in principle to provide funds for a "post-card mailing" inviting those interested to learn more about the NET program and Multnomah County ARES. There are about 2500 licensed HAMS in the County.

Outreach opportunities: You received an email from me recently about forming an Outreach Team. Thanks to those that have responded. If you are interested in joining this team, send me an email at hallstr@hotmail.com

Lewis & Clark Team News
By: Julie W7OW

Lewis & Clark College stood by for Steve, W7SRH, at Warner Pacific College last week, checking in and monitoring MC 2. Helen, KE7SCS, will be firing up the station for the Oregon State ARES Spring SET, which is scheduled for Friday, April 22nd and Saturday April 23rd. The college will participate on Friday starting at 1300 hrs.

The West County Mobile Relay Team News
By: Steve W7SRH

We will participate in the April 22/23 SET. The team will set up and operate from Council Crest. It will be a good opportunity for the team to practice a variety of skills including setting up a digi-peater, a cross-band repeater, long distance VHF with directional beam antenna as well as HF operations. We will have our plate full.

Gresham/East County News
By: Robert WX5TEX

Great news! We have received a small grant and the City of Gresham is in the process of purchasing 6 laptops to increase our digital capabilities. We should receive these and get them set up in the next couple of weeks.

For the Spring SET: We will activate the Gresham EOC for 2 hours on Friday, April 22nd. Time TBD, but expect activation around 3pm. This is a 24 hours SET, and with the MS Walk the following day, we have decided to activate the served agencies on Friday.

Trailer Update
By: Deb KK7DEB

The ARES Trailer interior is finally complete! Yet to be completed is the exterior graphics. Adam KF7LJH and I have had it out the last two weekends to test the equipment and set up. We are working out a few bugs, but for the most part all systems are good to go.

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Last weekend Robert WX5TEX, Steve W7SRH, John KF7ZWX, Tom KE7JTM, Adam and I operated at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. We registered with ARRL as an NPOTA (National Parks On The Air) station with event call W7A. We made over 75 contacts including the Czech Republic, Manitoba and Florida on 20 meters. We had several people stop by to see what we were about including a Cub Scout troop. Each scout got on the air and they were excited to learn about amateur radio technology. It was a great opportunity for outreach, education and recruitment. This was our last testing event and we are ready for full activation in the SET this weekend.

Stay tuned for our trailer completion celebration event. Date and details to be arranged.

More Ways to Stay in Touch

NET Sundays 8:00 P.M. 147.040 Mhz, PL 100.0 (Note: This is a time and frequency change)

Email Focus Groups:

NEWHAM@multnomahhares. Org
For questions from new or prospective Members:
 LEADERSHIP@multnomahares.org
For technical and operational Issues:*TRAILER@multnomahares.org*

ARES Trailer Progress Interior

ARES Trailer Progress Interior