

MINUTES  
Iowa ARES Meeting  
Saturday, March 10, 2007  
Racom Headquarters –Marshalltown, Iowa

Jim Snapp, SEC, opened the meeting with welcoming remarks and thanks to Brian-NØMXK, EC of Marshall County for securing the conference room at RACOM Headquarters in Marshalltown, Iowa, for the third annual Iowa ARES leadership meeting.

Eric, NØZJT, DEC of Iowa ARES District 2 East, introduced Jerry, KCØVTT, to present the Rural Iowa ARES Program that is being developed in NE Iowa. Jerry is a Rural Iowa ARES member. Handouts regarding the agreement with Fayette County were distributed. He talked about qualifying for grant money and the CERT program. He and others have refurbished an old ambulance into a communication center that can be used in an emergency situation.

Grant, KCØVTY, was introduced as the new ARRL State Public Information Officer. His e-mail address is grantolsenaudio@yahoo.com.

Polk County ARES generator funded by county EMA, was presented by Dan-KCØFRL, EC of Polk County. He told us about the process of acquiring the generator and what and who to ask. He also said to be specific of equipment requested.

Go Kits were presented by Ron, KCØOX, DEC of Iowa ARES District 6 West. He has an example of a go kit to show us and then he put it out on a table for us to view when we had time. Ron also gave us a handout on what was in the go kit and what we can do to put one together for ourselves. Another gentleman brought his go kit to share with all of us.

There was a discussion regarding the antennas on the State EOC located at Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHq) North of Johnston, Iowa.

Iowa DMAT Team was presented by Brian NØMXK. Iowa has one Disaster Medical Assistance Team and it's under the department of Human Health Services, a Federal agency. The unit is similar to a MASH or mobile hospital and emergency room. Brian told us his role as communication officer with the team and what the job entails. Examples of the emergency they handle are 9-11, Hurricane Katrina and they were put on stand-by for the earthquake in Hawaii. For more information regarding DMAT go to the web site, [www.dmat.org](http://www.dmat.org).

#### Group Discussion

It was discussed that the courses of IS300, intermediate IC, and IS400, EOC related to IC, were not available on line.

The ARRL report from the "National Emergency Response Planning Committee" (NERPC) was discussed; along with the ARRL planned Data Base of qualified Amateur operators and the training requirements was discussed. There were many varied opinions.

ID's and Liability Issues. Volunteers should cover themselves. If sued will EMA be opened up to more legal issues? Should IDs be issued to a person or should a person be assigned to an organization. These are a few of the questions on the ID issue. ID badges are a complicated issue and have to be thought through carefully for qualification requirements.

Recommendations for training for ARES member, EC, and Assistant EC, continue discussion in next discussion period after lunch.

Iowa and Linn County Web sites, was presented by Ron KCØOX. Ron showed us some of the features on Linn County and Iowa sites and asked for any suggestions or articles to put on them. The State web site is <http://ares.rf.org>.

The Ragbrai discussion was about the different problems already encountered and what happened before.

The National Weather Service Web site was shown, with the new features that have been added in the last two years. We were shown how to get to the regional maps and new graphs.

#### General Discussion

Packet operation was discussed. Dan KC0FRL wanted to know which program other counties were using. FNPack was mentioned.

#### ARRL, MEDIA RESOURCES and EMCOMM EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION.

Handling traffic was discussed along with training. Dan KC0FRL mentioned that the WRRL (World Radio Relay League) had a good training DVD available. Their web site is [www.WRRL.org](http://www.WRRL.org) There is a \$10 charge for the DVD or 2 for \$15.

Background checks for Red Cross and other organizations were discussed. It is a very sensitive area, and individuals need to carefully read all information before signing authorization for checks.

Mutual aid agreements. There are none on the State level.

Training recommendations for State ARES officials and members were discussed and it was decided to leave them the same as last year.

The meeting place and dates for next year were discussed and was decided to see if the meeting could be in Cedar Rapids next year. The dates were chosen to the second or fourth weekend in March.

The Meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roxian Miller KCOLLB