

IOWA ARES LEADERSHIP MEETING

MARCH 8, 2008

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Jim Snapp, NA0R, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Introductions and announcements were made.

Amateur Radio Service and Legal Issues presented by Craig Long, KC0YNN

1. Antenna Issues: FCC Memorandum Opinion and Order aka "PRB-1". There is a big difference between state and local regulations and restrictive covenants. The governmental regulations can be interpreted to the radio operator's advantage, but the restrictive covenants of the developers are very difficult to change.
2. Statue Update re: Red Cross Background Checks. The background checks will be criminal background, but credit checks and "Mode of Living" checks are included. ARRL's position is that "members should read very carefully a request for, or consent to the collection or disclosure of, personal, normally private information from a served agency". ARRL members should carefully consider what is being requested, the purpose behind the request, and how the information will be used.
3. "Good Samaritan" Laws in Iowa: Volunteer Liability and the Amateur Radio Operator. The law covers the radio operators in emergency situations. The key phrase in the first sentence of the law is: unless such acts or omissions constitute recklessness. Just do the best you can.

Iowa Homeland Security/ Emergency Management Region One Grant for Amateur Radio presented by Derek White, KD0BDQ, Carroll County HLS/EM Coordinator. There is sixteen counties in Region One and it was determined that there were gaps in the region for VHF/UHF repeater coverage or some repeaters may need equipment improvements. The Region One District of HLS/EM Board of Directors made the decision to only work with ARES groups within their district and offered up to \$25,000.00 toward these improvements. The equipment is here and should be up and running by this spring. Derek also stated that we all need to watch for legislation that will affect amateur radio and how we use our service. Example: the phone restriction bill for younger drivers was also banning talking on the radio.

Break

Review of 2007 ARES Activities for Polk County presented by Dan Miller KC0FRL, Polk County EC. There were thirteen events this last year, with a total of 1487 person hours and \$184,524.50 equipments costs all donated to the community. Dan also pointed out that he had help from most of the counties in the state to help with these events.

Amateur Radio and NIMS presented by Scott Haney, N0GUD Linn County EC. Handouts were given to everyone, the first is FY 2007 NIMS Requirements for Government Agencies Working with Non-Government Organization, including Amateur Radio, and the second one is a fact sheet form FEMA. The NIMS handouts were a product of almost a year's research by Ron Breitwisch, KC0OX, Iowa ARES District 6 West DEC. Ron also had a phone conversation with the Iowa HLS/EM official that oversees NIMS compliance for the state on his interpretations of NIMS and how it would affect Amateur Radio operators in working on emergency situations.

1. Adopt NIMS
2. Point of contact- Emergency County Coordinator
3. Exercises using the NIMS.
4. Support the EOC Public information system
5. Preparedness-Planned Activities. Revise Plans as necessary, Promote Mutual Aid Maintain NIMS training so people are comfortable with the system.

6. Use plain language - no "Q" signals.
7. Resource Management
8. Common Forms - The government is working on problem.

Speak Up (Iowa DEC/EC'S open forum)

1. Any questions for Craig KCOYNN?
2. A list of County Emergency Coordinators was available to everyone on www.ares.rf.org maintained by Ron, KCØOX. EC's should have regular contact with their HLS/EM Coordinator.
3. There was an exchange of ideas and concerns from each person.
4. DON'T OVER SELL AMATEUR RADIO.
5. There was a concern of how to get Amateur Radio volunteers when you need them, if someone figures this out let everyone know!

Lunch

D-Star Digital Repeater Systems presented by Ryan Butler, NF0T, Grundy County EC. Ryan outlined the advantages and disadvantages of this new technology for VHF/UHF repeaters.

160 Meters HF for Statewide Communications. Another tool in the amateur radio communications toolbox if it would work throughout the state. There was a discussion on this.

Break

SET's /Regional or Statewide presented by Jim Snapp NA0R. Simulated Emergency Training (SET) weekend date for 2008 is unknown. We should do a training exercise to show what amateur radio operators do and how affective we can be. Regional training is encouraged to incorporate more county participation. If you would like someone at the state EOC involved let Jim know.

Speak Up (Iowa DEC/EC's open forum)

1. We need to be Prepared!
2. Operate outside of our comfort zone. Can we continue to be effective if repeaters are not operating or commercial power is off for extended amounts of time. Should we use simplex once in a while on local nets to practice relays or listening for weak stations?
3. Does everyone know how to program there HT or mobile radio? This is something to work on in each group.
4. Trial 160 meter net on 1970-1980 kHz. Sunday's at 9 pm with frequency depending on QRM. Note: 1.973 was the frequency used. Net control was Steve, WA6GFD, with KCØWQD, N9KZ AND NFØT.
5. Skywarn is our best outlet to let the public know what we do.
6. New amateurs-talk up amateur radio to friends, relatives and coworkers.
7. How many people have batteries and radios ready to go at all times?

Wrap Up

1. Possible date for next year? Saturday March 7, 2009
2. Where to hold the meeting? Marshalltown, ISU, and teleconferencing were all mentioned. Jim will look into this and let us know.
3. Regional meeting in the fall was brought up, but was rejected.

Respectfully Submitted
Roxie Miller KCOLLB