

# IOWA ARES LEADERSHIP MEETING

MARCH 7, 2009

Joint Forces Headquarters

Iowa EOC

Johnston, Iowa

Jim Snapp, NAOR, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with 38 amateurs and 3 guests in attendance. Introductions and announcements were made.

Kathy Stodola of Iowa HLS/EMD gave a talk on the Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ's) and readiness and response. Iowa EOC Operations is run from there for all emergencies. The Iowa Code 29C which deals with emergency situations was explained with regard to the 2008 floods in the State. The web site [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org) was given for more information.

Brenda Brock, KC0NEX, Meteorologists in Charge (MIC), gave a presentation on the National Weather Service. The spotters training and work in the field we do are important so they know what is happening in real time. She recommends we use the web site [www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx) and become familiar with the use of it. Skywarn is a registered trademark. Report all severe weather to them, if in doubt, report it! There are five weather offices that serves the Iowa area. They are Des Moines, Davenport, Sioux Falls, SD, Omaha, NB, and La Crosse, WI.

BREAK

Kathy Stodola led a discussion on the New Madrid earthquake possibility. We all said it was a probability rather than a possibility. Communications are just one of the systems that will be down, and we need to be thinking of ways we can help. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, has a nine hundred plus page study of the New Madrid Fault Zone (NMFZ) that may help with our planning. The link systems and satellite systems will be down if we have an earthquake so we need to be ready with our communication capabilities to relay information out of or into the affected area.

Comments and Questions from the Group

Know the various agencies you will be working with ahead of time so they know what we can do for them—or not be able to do.

A state list of equipment and personnel should be on file somewhere. The county ARES EC would need to update this list at least once a year. Where the list would be located and a definition for equipment and personnel requirements would have to agree upon by the proper people.

Each ARES EC should contact the County Emergency Manager Coordinator and develop a working relationship with him or her.

Each ARES member should get ARRL E-Letter, at no charge, make sure their equipment is working as

well as how to program it and maybe have a local or State of Iowa ID.

Encourage your members to be active in neighboring counties activities.

We all need to use Wisdom, Integrity, and Tactfulness in what information we put over the air.

Seventy-five meters worked in the Y2K event from the Gulf to Canada.

ARES members need to make a commitment to the ARES organization.

ARES EC's need to be aware of monies that may be available from County Emergency Management Coordinators for training programs.

The Radio Amateur Radio Civil Emergency Service, RACES, program sponsored by FEMA has fallen between the cracks since FEMA was incorporated into Homeland Security.

A state wide ARES information form needs to be developed.

Jim is giving a presentation at a conference May 7, 2009. He will be explaining Amateur Radio and what we can and cannot do for Iowa Emergency Management Coordinators.

## LUNCH

A NIVS antenna presentation was given by Dan Miller, ACØOF, formally KCØFRL, Polk County EC. Dan gave us a brief history and lessons on the construction and use of this style of antenna. When we had the National Disaster Medical System, NDMS, drill of 2007, a link between Cedar Rapids and Des Moines was set up to relay information to the University of Iowa Hospitals. The use of a NIVS antenna would have made the link more reliable. For the use of the NIVS antenna to be effective, both stations have to use this antenna system. Hopefully this antenna system will catch on and used in practices for other emergency situations. For more information on the NIVS antenna, just type in NIVS antenna on the internet and it will bring up hundreds of sites.

Scott Haney, NØGUD, Linn County EC, gave a presentation on the severe weather and flooding in the Summer of 2008. They set up stations at sites on both sides of the flood areas and ran operations until they were no longer needed. Dan Miller, Polk County EC, also spoke about the operations set up in the Des Moines area.

Marc Virkus, KCØTRE, Warren County EC, asked about the past activities of people that worked on the Ragbrai routes. A lot of suggestions were thrown out to him from the group.

## Comments and Question from the Group (con't)

Lots of comments on a central data base for equipment and personnel.

Local County Emergency Management Coordinators should be the one person to activate an ARES group.

There is a 160 meter ARES Sunday night net from 9:30 to 10:00pm on 1.987.3 lower sideband.

If a EOC has high noise levels, it was suggested that net control be at another location and just report to the EOC as it was needed.

Jim is getting RACES forms to everyone so the information can be updated.

Cellular phone bills in the Iowa Legislature banning their normal use in moving vehicles. Cellular phone bills “update”—bills proposed in the Iowa Legislature restricting how they can be used in moving vehicles appear to be dead for this year.

First Responder State ID cards are being issued through the Iowa DOT. Check with your County Emergency Management Coordinator.

Next years Iowa ARES Leadership meeting was voted by the meeting participants to be held at Iowa State University on Saturday March 13, 2010-- details to follow. You may wish to circle that date on your 2010 calendar and plan on attending.

I would appreciate suggestions on topics you would like to address at that meeting.

New Iowa ARES Certificates for EC’s and DEC’s were passed out to all.

Jim Snapp, NAØR detailed some of the many contributions that Ron Breitwisch, KCØOX, former DEC of Iowa East Central ARES District 6 West, to the Amateur Radio Service. Jim then asked that the attendee’s stand with him and recognize the many years that Ron has dedicated his time, expertise and efforts to the benefit of the Amateur Radio Service in Iowa.

Adjourn at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Roxie Miller, KC0LLB