

SEC News Letter for February 2016

ONE OF OUR OWN:

Ken Reid (KG4USN, EC Atlanta, Net Manager for the Hospital Net) wrote an article which was published in "Emergency Management" magazine entitled "Where to go During a Communications Shutdown". In brief it discusses how local radio amateur group volunteers can help maintain communications until the normal operations resume. You can read the entire article on the Georgia ARES web site on the front page or follow this link:

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Where-to-go-During-a-Total-Communications-Shutdown.html>

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MARS COMMEX DRILL:

MARS will be conducting their latest exercise drill on Friday February 12th and operating for a 12 hour period starting at 1200Z (8am) and ending at 2400Z (8pm). This exercise calls for communicating with Amateur radio operators and requesting information about the status of local community infrastructure (electrical power, telephone service, water service, airport operations, weather, etc.). The drill scenario is the kind of event where there is a total outage of essential infrastructure services. MARS operators will be contacting active Amateurs or calling for Amateur communication assistance for specific areas - county, region, etc. and possibly using frequencies familiar to ARES. Under a real catastrophic event, DOD & DHS know that the vast resources of the Ham/MARS community can provide this type of needed information over a wide area very quickly as a supplement to normal Government agency efforts. The Amateur community provides the information and MARS conveys the information to the DOD and DHS. If you are contacted by a MARS member, be prepared to give them information about your local communities' infrastructure status or point them to an appropriate resource. Look for potential MARS activity on 3.975Khz but you can expect activity in any of the Amateur bands.

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STATE ARES MEETING AGENDA:

https://gaares.org/docs/2016_ARES_Meeting_AGENDA_Feb_4_ver.pdf
And, a late addition to the agenda includes a demonstration of DMR digital communications hosted by John Burningham (W2XAB) during the two hour lunch period.

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FYI REQUEST TO KEEP TAIWAN EARTHQUAKE FREQUENCIES CLEAR:

An earthquake measuring 6.4 has hit Taiwan, and caused buildings to collapse. HARTS (Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society) has received a weak voice signal from the CTARL Taiwan (Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League) that asks that the following frequencies be kept clear. HF frequencies used in Taiwan are voice: Main is 7.060 MHz with backup 7.050 MHz and 3.560 MHz.

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UPDATE ON MONTHLY EC REPORTING:

We have identified a programming issue in the monthly EC / DEC reporting program that, under certain circumstances, creates a blank orphan record in the reporting database depending on how one conducts the entry process. Without getting into the "ones and zeros" (geek) of programming we'll be modifying the process to trap and prevent orphan and partial records. In addition, we have discovered from server logging that ECs using E-mail addresses with AOL (aol.com) have their monthly report mail rejected when it comes from the gaares.org web site. The same problem occurs sporadically with GMAIL (gmail.com). This comes from a configuration issue with how DNS servers handle mail from certain sites and is meant to preempt spam or bogus E-mail (SPF and PTR record configuration for technical types). We're working on this problem as well. And finally we will be purchasing a new certificate to replace the current second level certificate and does not cause a warning message when using certain web browsers. Safari (Apple browser), and Firefox are among those that complain and give "untrusted" warning messages.

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Okay, that's it. See you at the State ARES meeting. Take care and drive safe.

David, AG4ZR
SEC