



Broward County ARES®/RACES

September 2009

A Message From Your ARES® Emergency Coordinator—Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB

Inside this issue:

EC Message	1
RACES Update	1
Our Hurricane Season Volunteers	2
Making the Connection—August Notes	2
Volunteer Spotlight	3
Simulated Emergency Test—October 3, 2009	3
ARES® and RACES A Dynamic Duo	4
Broward County ARES®/RACES Info	5
Upcoming Meeting	5

It's been a little over a month since I've been appointed as your new ARES® Emergency Coordinator and I'm finally starting to settle in. The learning curve has been large and I feel like I've had roller skates on the entire time. With this position brings a lot of responsibility, especially during the peak of hurricane season where activations are most

likely. Along with new leadership comes new ideas and change—change which will spurt new growth for our organization. I hope you all enjoy the first edition of our new newsletter. I look forward to serving you, our members, for the next two years. Together, we will make Broward County ARES®/RACES the best it can be.

*The best way
to find yourself
is to lose yourself
in the service
of others.*

•••

-Ghandi

*You make
a living
by what you get,*

•••

*you make a life
by what you give.*

•••

*-Winston
Churchill*

From Your RACES Officer—Robin Terrill, N4HHP

Ham Radio Operators Should Look The Part

I ran across this e-mail from Northern Florida and it reminded me of what takes place down here in Broward County.

"HTs, BUT NO HELMETS"

"During a recent county disaster drill, responders were expected to arrive on the scene ready for deployment. Fire responders showed up in full fire gear, Police in full police gear, CERT members with appropriate gear including helmet, orange safety vest, long pants, shirt, heavy shoes, gloves, face mask, flashlight, as well as HT, and necessary tools. Our ARES®/RACES members showed up only with their HT, with some in shorts,

sandals, no head gear nor uniform or identification of any kind".

Our ARES®/RACES responders need to meet the same dress code and equipment standards as Fire, Police and CERT personnel.

"When you're prepared for deployment this should mean our members have more than the clothing on their backs and an HT (with only one set of batteries) in their hand".

When you show up as a communications person to help, and you look the part representing the Amateur community, ARES®/RACES, Broward County Emergency Management Agency, or other agency or division, you will get a bet-

ter welcome from everyone and tasked to do more instead of being asked to stand in the corner and wait. Remember, if you do not look the part, then most feel that you're not qualified to do the task at hand and will treat you as such.

Broward County ARES®/RACES needs to develop dress and gear standards. Our personnel need to arrive on site ready to be deployed.

I wanted to bring it to everyone's attention so that we may correct this immediately.

Your comments and suggestions on this are welcomed as to what our ARES®/RACES dress attire and equipment should look like among all of us.

Thank
You



Our Hurricane Season Volunteers

A big thank you to all who have volunteered for 2009 hurricane season assignments. We appreciate you stepping up to the plate. If you are not on this list and would like to help us out, let us know. We still have some openings that need to be filled.

- Steve Adams, N4JRW
- Tony Annese KG4EXA
- Chuck Baer, W4ROA
- Julia Bailey, KJ4GWY
- Jeff Beals, WA4AW
- Mike Brand, N4RQY
- Judi Fabian, KI4WDQ
- Bob Fivey, N4ORN
- Al Flapan, KN4FA
- David Fowler, K4DLF
- Efrain Karell, KE4DKI
- Joel Katz, KB4KXV
- Lee Korotzer, KJ4GZD
- Joel Mayberry, KD4GHU
- John Orr, KD4IVG
- Julie Orr, KD4YAX
- Bill Rafus, KD4FRB
- Al Santana, KJ4FSL
- Helen Santana, KJ4FSK
- Craig Sherman, KC4QZD
- Vishnu Singh, K4VKS
- Ann Siwiak, KE4IEV
- Joe Siwiak, KF4JAS
- Kai Siwiak, KE4PT
- Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB
- Robin Terrill, N4HHP
- Ralph Tullo, N0LO
- Sherry Tullo, KB5VWW
- Mel Witte, KJ4FSI
- Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ
- Mike Wolf, KI4JRT
- Bob Young, KC4KME

August Meeting Notes-Making The Connection

Broward County ARES®/RACES members who attended the monthly meeting on August 18th learned an important skill that could save the day and get them back on the air in the event of an equipment failure.

David Fowler, K4DLF gave an educational presentation on how to install a PL-259 connector onto coax cable. First, David explained the basics of PL-259 connectors and what to look for when purchasing them.

Then, through a series of pictures, David explained in detail the steps you should go through to prep the coax and attach a PL-259 connector.

With a small investment in tools and

supplies for your Go-Kit, getting up and running again after discovering a broken or missing connector is no big deal!

A copy of this presentation has been uploaded to the *Meeting Presentations* folder under the Files section of the BrowardCountyARES® Yahoo! Group. Be sure to attend our monthly meetings so that you receive the valuable information that we provide for our members and guests.



Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

7:30 pm

Deerfield Beach Fire & Rescue

Station 102

Mitigation Operation Center

Volunteer Spotlight—Ralph and Sherry Tullo

If there was ever a story about how opposites attract, this is it. Meet the “City Slicker” and the “Country Bumpkin” - Ralph, N0LO and Sherry, KB5VWW Tullo.

Well known in the amateur community not only for their club involvement, Ralph and Sherry are known for their devotion to emergency communications and public service events as well. Ralph, a former ARES® Emergency Coordinator, understands the importance of the role of amateur radio communications in a disaster situation. Since 2002, he and Sherry have volunteered at various shelters as amateur radio operators, an important yet easy and rewarding job.

Ralph was born in New York City and enjoyed the fast-paced

lifestyle of the City until he was 20 years old when he joined the United States Air Force. He retired from the Air Force 20 years and 12 days later. For those who have been in the military, you'll understand the 12 days.



Sherry, on the other hand, was born in Utah and spent her younger days mostly in the western part of the country living in such places as Utah, Oregon, Nevada, Alabama and finally New Mexico at 19.

Sherry was definitely a 4-H girl. Her most memorable experience was raising rabbits on an 8-acre piece of property in Oregon. She enjoyed sporting a cowboy hat, and getting in the saddle on a beautiful mare (that's a female horse for you city slickers), enjoying the fresh air of the country and riding off into the sunset.

Now, Ralph enjoyed the horses too. His 4-H experience was quite a bit different though. Ralph enjoyed riding the wooden horses while listening to music on the carousel in Central Park. Instead of fresh air, there was the exhaust of the vehicles. Either way, it was still a horse.

OK, we now know they at least have something in common. So, how exactly was it that “east” met “west”?

When Sherry was living in New Mexico, Ralph was in the military attending school there. It was love at first sight. When Ralph retired from the military, he and Sherry married and both settled in Arkansas to be together.

Here comes the twist to the story. You know the old adage, be careful what you ask for because you just might get it? Ralph's parents, who were Florida snowbirds, talked Ralph into moving to Florida to be near them. Mistake #1 – Ralph and Sherry divorced

and Ralph moved to Florida to be with Mom and Dad.

Two and one half years later, Ralph knew he couldn't be without the love of his life, so he convinced Sherry to move to Florida. Ten years after their first wedding, they wed again and are now living happily ever after in Deerfield Beach.



Save The Date !!!

On the morning of October 3rd, 2009, Broward County ARES®/RACES will be taking part in the annual ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) along with Palm Beach and Miami-Dade Counties. This year, the emphasis will be on VHF simplex operation (without repeaters) between staging areas and EOCs in the tri-county area. Plan to take part in this fun and educational activity. We invite any licensed amateur to participate. There will be various levels of participation available. More information to follow.



2008 SET

Simulated Emergency Test—October 3rd

A Message From Our Section Training Officer ARES® and RACES—A Dynamic Duo, by David Fowler, K4DLF



In Broward County, the special organization of volunteer amateur radio operators who are able and willing to share their skills during times of need is called ARES®/RACES. These are acronyms for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. Why do we have two names? We will review the basics and answer some questions.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) is part of a nationwide field organization run by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Any licensed amateur radio operator with a sincere desire to serve can join ARES®. ARES® exists 365 days a year and serves both governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) during disasters and emergencies. ARES® also provides communications services for public service events such as parades, walk-a-thons, and bike rides.

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service was created by the FCC as a special set of rules to allow volunteer amateur radio operators to assist the government during times of disaster, even if the regular amateur radio service was suspended. Amateurs must be registered with the civil authority to be part of RACES. While it is now unlikely that the regular ama-

teur radio service will ever be suspended, RACES continues to serve an important role when activated during emergencies.

In Broward County with both ARES® and RACES, many volunteer amateur radio operators belong to both and “switch hats” during an actual activation from ARES® to RACES. Since RACES technically only exists when activated during emergencies, it is the role of ARES® to recruit, train, and drill volunteers so that once RACES is activated, there is a highly effective team ready to roll!

What happens to ARES® when RACES is activated, does it go away until after the disaster? No, ARES® does not go away during a disaster. Since RACES serves only civil organizations, ARES® can continue to serve NGOs such as private and/or faith based relief organizations, and many other served agencies. Also, in Florida, ARES® and the ARRL field organization handle the important movement of volunteers from one county to another to get additional amateur radio operators into an affected area.

Since it is unlikely that the amateur radio service will ever be suspended, why does Broward still have RACES? A number of counties in Florida, especially larger urban counties, still use the RACES concept because it is more NIMS and ICS compliant than ARES®. The ARES® Emergency Coordinator reports to the ARRL field organization hierarchy whereas the RACES Officer reports to the County Emergency Management Agency. Volunteers in ARES® can help the government as a served agency (often with a Memorandum of Understanding). On the other hand, volunteers in RACES actually become part of the government when

activated.

When RACES is activated, it must use the Part 97 restricted RACES rules like only talking with other RACES stations right? No, the civil agency and the RACES Officer can choose to use regular amateur radio service rules or RACES rules. Most RACES Officers prefer the greater flexibility of regular amateur radio rules.

All this ARES® and RACES duality must be a headache for volunteers, right? Not at all, the ARES® Emergency Coordinator and the RACES Officer work together and share information so all of this becomes very transparent to the ARES®/RACES volunteers. The membership application is combined. When a new member signs up for ARES®, the RACES Officer registers them with the County in case they can take on a RACES assignment. The “switching hats” during activation is automatic and transparent.

In summary, some places are just ARES®, some are just RACES, and some use other concepts for their volunteer emergency amateur radio operators. Broward County is ARES®/RACES which enables this special organization of volunteers to draw upon the benefits of both to best serve the needs of the community – A dynamic duo!





Broward County ARES®/RACES Information

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Mike Wolf, KI4JRT
BCEPN – Net Manager
BCEPN01@gmail.com
954-993-1256 (cell)

Join the **BrowardCountyARES Yahoo Group** at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardCountyARES/>

Broward County Emergency Preparedness Net
Every Wednesday 7:00 pm
146.910 MHz -600 PL 110.9

Monthly Meeting **
3rd Tuesday of Each Month at 7:30 pm
Sunview Park 1500 SW 42 Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33317

**** September meeting in Deerfield ****

Upcoming ARES®/RACES Meeting— Different Location in September

We have a special treat planned for our members for our September 15, 2009 meeting.

Instead of meeting at our regular Sunview Park location, we will be going on a “field trip”. We will be heading up to Deerfield Beach Fire & Rescue Station 102 – Mitigation Operation Center and having our monthly meeting at that location.

Following the business meeting, our hosts will give us a tour of their state of the art facility including their emergency operations center as well as their new state of the art radio communications room.

This is an opportunity to see how things run behind the scenes in a disaster situation and what this city does to prepare and recover from any situation that might arise.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting! And, remember, if you know someone that you feel would enjoy assisting ARES®/RACES in the aftermath of a disaster, be sure and invite them to attend!

Directions:

I-95 to SW 10 St. in Deerfield Beach. Exit east to FAU Research Park Blvd. (SW 11 Way) and turn right at the light. Follow the road past Cracker Barrel and the Disaster Survival House. You will see a yellow building on the right with large bay doors. That is the Fire Station where we will be meeting. Go past the station and turn right into the next drive and follow around to the back of the station and park. The entry to the building is at the rear, closest to I-95. Enter through the lobby and take the elevator to the third floor training room.

Next Meeting—

Different Location

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

7:30 pm

Deerfield Beach Fire & Rescue
Station 102

Mitigation Operation Center
1441 FAU Research Park Blvd.
(SW 11 Way)

Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

