Ocean County ARES® News

December 2020

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be on December 16, 2020 and it will be a Zoom type meeting due to the increase in COVID-19 Rate of Transmission for New Jersey. Obviously, there will be no holiday party this year either. The Zoom meeting directions will be sent out via Groups.io a day or two before the meeting.

I would like to thank George – KC2MTF for referring Ocean County ARES to his employer as a suggested non-profit for a donation. George was due an award during the COVID and was given the option of a donation to his favorite charity versus a dinner reception. The result was a donation was made to Ocean County ARES for $200 from The Blackbaud Giving Fund and Computer Discount Warehouse (CDW). Thank You George for thinking of our organization!

Tim, NJ2N, has accepted a position As Technical Specialist with SNJ ARES. He will also be working with WB2ALJ on forming a Section ARESMAT Team and future annual Simulated Emergency Tests. Please join me in congratulating Tim as he moves from an Ocean County ARES AEC to his new assignment.

On November 14, 2020, the Red Cross held an exercise using Winlink to send ARC-213 forms to country wide clearing houses. The following is a critique of the exercise by K1CE, Rick Palm of ARRL Headquarters from the 11/18/20 ARRL Letter:

"I participated in the November 14 nationwide Red Cross drill described in this issue. In anticipation of sending my ARC-213 templated message via Winlink to the American Red Cross southeast divisional clearinghouse, I rehearsed my effort on the previous day by successfully and quickly sending a test message to my regular email address using the WINMOR protocol on the Winlink Express software. There were a number of 40-meter Radio Mail Server (RMS) stations available with predicted good paths. I connected via an RMS station in Texas, and my message was almost instantly routed to my home email account.

I used the ARC-213 template - the American Red Cross message form - according to the easy-to-follow instructions provided by the drill organizers and I uploaded it to my Winlink message outbox. On the day of the exercise, I spent the morning trying to connect to an RMS to send my ARC-213 message with no luck. All of the 40-meter band RMS stations were clearly busy with other traffic, so I tried again later in the day in hopes of finding a free station, again with no luck.

WINMOR was retired as a Winlink mode earlier this year, although reportedly there were some RMS stations that still accepted it, so I decided to try the ARDOP mode, a more efficient, faster, and robust virtual TNC mode. I was unable to configure the mode to accept my PTT com port, COM3. (Where I should have been able to select or enter "COM3" in the com port, there was only a pulled-down empty white box with no choices listed nor ability to type it in.) I went back

to WINMOR with no luck in sending my message. At the end of the day, I did send my message via the Winlink regular internet mode Telnet Winlink, but it felt like a bit of a hollow success.

I deemed my effort a success, however, in that I had brushed up on my Winlink operation, which I had sidelined after discovering FT-8 last year, and I had illuminated issues to be corrected for the future, which is the purpose of drills in the first place. I was limited to the 40-meter band as that is currently the only HF antenna I have up. And it is surrounded by woods. I might also have been limited by my decision to use lower RF output of 50 watts, given that the mode's duty cycle was somewhere around 50% it seemed.

I need to put up a multiband antenna and get up to speed on how to set up and use the more robust Winlink modes. And, simply use Winlink more for experience. It has emerged as the most popular digital mode for emergency communications, with agencies such as emergency management and the Red Cross, offering a connection to the internet for hybrid radio and internet message handling.

The Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc., has done an amazing job of developing Winlink as a service to the amateur community, and to federal government stakeholders.

At the beginning of every Winlink Express session, a small window pops up asking the user to register their name and call sign, and make a donation to the ARSF of $24. They graciously give the program and development free of charge to the amateur community, and you can simply click the "Remind me later" box, and the software continues to the operating platform. As I type this editorial, however, I started my Winlink Express, registered my name and call sign, and made the $24 donation instead of clicking the "Remind me later" box. I am grateful for the ARSF's monumental efforts on behalf of all radio amateurs, and also for the lessons I learned from my personal efforts on this past weekend's excellent Red Cross Winlink drill: it was well worth my time.

Special thanks to Wayne Robertson, K4WK, of the American Red Cross, Mike Walters, W8ZY, of Connecticut ARES, and the other organizers of this past Saturday's American Red Cross Nationwide Emergency Communications Drill. From what I heard, it was enormously popular and successful. - Rick Palm, K1CE"

As a final note, my shack has been located in the second story of my detached garage, which I

built in 1999. Now, almost 22 years later, it is time to have the roof resurfaced. I have a small rooftop Glen Martin five foot tower on my roof, which the roofers will remove and remount for

me as part of the new roof job. I was concerned about standing on a new roof to access my tower to maintain my antennas and did not want to void the warranty by wearing out the surface and I'm not getting any younger to climb and balance myself on roofs. I designed a rooftop platform, which the roofer will install for me. It is 6 feet long by 2 feet wide and is secured to the roof with four Unistrut legs. The entire platform was powdercoated the same color of the new roof shingles. The platform will allow a ladder to lean on it at a gable end so the shingles are not damaged and allows an operator access to the tower without having to step on any roof shingles. This was a first for the roofing company as they have never installed such a device on a residential roof before. See the picture below of the platform before it was mounted.

73 de WX2NJ
Bob Murdock
Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

Larry Puccio Worked Australia Again

DATE	TIME	FREQ	MODE	CALL	ENTITY	HANDLE	LOC	MILES	DIR	IOTA
10/23/2020	02:18	07.019	CW	RU6B	Russia, European		KN94mc	5305	NE	
10/23/2020	16:47	21.019	CW	G4DJX	England	Alan	IO91wm	3506	NE	
10/23/2020	20:27	14.032	CW	IZ2FME	Italy		JN62ma	4343	ENE	
10/24/2020	23:09	07.238	SSB	VE2IDX	Canada: Quebec	Igor	FO53aa	925	N	
10/27/2020	01:00	07.011	CW	XE2RT	Mexico	Oscar	EL14aa	1764	WSW	
10/27/2020	22:51	07.016	CW	YU1WN	Serbia	Nik	KN04gv	4557	NE	
10/28/2020	21:34	10.104	CW	VK2GR	**Australia**	Allan	PG50aa	10912	WNW	
10/29/2020	20:30	28.515	SSB	PY5QW	Brazil	Vigland	GG87ja	4789	SSE	
10/30/2020	00:41	07.018	CW	E77A	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Slaven	JN94aa	4485	NE	
10/30/2020	19:35	14.017	CW	5Z4VJ	**Kenya**	Andy	KI88sm	7433	ENE	
10/31/2020	17:14	14.024	CW	YT5M	Serbia	Vasa	KN04gv	4557	NE	
10/31/2020	17:20	14.024	CW	9A4W	Croatia	Toma	JN75sd	4341	NE	
10/31/2020	22:26	10.103	CW	ZB2FK	Gibraltar	Ernest	IM76ga	3663	ENE	
11/02/2020	22:38	07.009	CW	EC6AAE	Balearic Is.	Joe	JM19mm	3968	ENE	EU-004
11/02/2020	23:27	07.014	CW	E77A	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Slaven	JN94aa	4485	NE	
11/03/2020	01:50	07.014	CW	RK3ER	Russia, European	Alex	KO85ss	4707	NE	
11/11/2020	01:39	07.012	CW	E77A	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Slaven	JN94aa	4485	NE	
11/14/2020	22:49	07.018	CW	OK1DTC	Czech Republic	Contest	JO70ec	4127	NE	
11/14/2020	22:53	07.016	CW	OL3Z	Czech Republic	Contest	JO70ec	4127	NE	
11/14/2020	22:56	07.007	CW	OM2VL	Slovak Rep.	Contest	JO80ac	4192	NE	
11/14/2020	22:58	07.002	CW	OL3R	Czech Republic	Contest	JO70ec	4127	NE	
11/15/2020	00:08	07.016	CW	OK5Z	Czech Republic	Contest	JO70ec	4127	NE	
11/15/2020	00:11	07.021	CW	OM3RM	Slovak Rep.	Contest	JO80ac	4192	NE	
11/15/2020	00:26	07.009	CW	OM7M	Slovak Rep.	Contest	JO80ac	4192	NE	
11/15/2020	16:48	14.010	CW	IZ4ZZB	Italy	Mich	JN62ma	4343	ENE	
11/15/2020	16:55	14.221	PH	G0UWK	England	Ian	IO91wm	3506	NE	
11/15/2020	18:41	10.111	CW	F2YT	France	Paul	JN18dt	3669	NE	
11/15/2020	22:14	07.006	CW	9H1TT	**Malta**	Andre	JM75gv	4634	ENE	EU-023
11/15/2020	22:29	07.002	CW	R3GG	**Russia, European**	Andy	KO85ss	8707	NE	
11/17/2020	00:01	07.014	CW	S52NY	Slovenia	Robby	JN76hc	4269	NE	
11/17/2020	19:43	14.005	CW	ZF2MJ	Cayman Is.	Dan	EK99jm	1472	SSW	NA-016
11/17/2020	20:00	14.040	CW	VK2BJ	**Australia**	Barry	PG50aa	10912	WNW	
11/17/2020	22:49	07.017	CW	RW3RN	**Russia, European**	Alex	KO85ss	8707	NE	
11/17/2020	22:54	07.021	CW	IK4ZGO	Italy	Stan	JN62ma	4343	ENE	
11/18/2020	01:14	03.509	CW	EW1W	Belarus	Alex	KO34sa	4471	NE	
11/20/2020	15:29	14.017	CW	SP40RY	Poland	Club	KO00aa	4349	NE	
11/20/2020	15:40	14.015	CW	GM0IFM	Orkney Is.	Colin	IO75ut	3266	NE	EU-005
11/20/2020	15:50	14.015	CW	HA8QZ	Hungary	Lali	JN97nm	4403	NE	
11/20/2020	16:03	14.016	CW	LY111A	Lithuania	Club	KO24sm	4385	NE	