

Are You Prepared to Save the World Using Ham Radio?

(Using Public Service Events to Develop
Emergency Communications Skills)

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Public Service/Public Safety

- Only FIRST RESPONDERS self-deploy
- CERT is a special case and deserves more detail, see next page.
- We can be called to support Public Safety, but such calls are rare.
- Skywarn is activated fairly frequently, but does not teach logistics and disaster support.
- We can practice for emergencies by volunteering for activities in Public Service.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

- Created by FEMA
- Sponsored by a local government agency (Beavercreek Twp Fire in Greene County)
- Training includes Fire Safety, Light Search and Rescue, Team Organization, Disaster Medical
- Self-Deploy to immediate disaster area
- Ham Radio is useful, but is not integrated.

The Federal Communications Commission, when creating the Amateur Radio Service, was clear in its intent that Amateur Radio Operators must be involved in communication emergencies. In a large sense that is what we do through programs that we've created, emergency exercises that we participate in, public service events where we practice communication skills and education to those interested in amateur radio.

The Amateur Radio Service is encouraged by FCC Part 97 regulations to provide emergency communications. As such, amateur radio operators are often the first communication responders when a disaster renders normal communication devices inoperable. This was the case with tsunamis, hurricanes and tornadoes striking large geographical areas. Large forest fires in the western United States brought amateurs out to support communications needs.

97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

Ham Radio Emergency Response

- Most responses will be coordinated through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Support Agreements exist between GCARES and BARC, UVARC, XWARN.
- GCARES has not been very active lately, but the new EC is eager to reboot the organization. In-person meetings will resume, soon.

ARES

- Part of ARRL, you do not need to be a member to participate, License is Required
- Training is largely based on FEMA courses (On-line and FREE)
- Drills are conducted as practice/instruction
- Weekly training nets
- In-person meetings

Skywarn

- Sponsored by the National Weather Service
- Spotter Training is free and recommended
- Ham radio reports are particularly valued by NWS
- Greene County Nets are held on the 147.165 repeater (+ offset, 123.0 CTCSS tone)

Statewide Tornado Drill

- Wednesday, March 22, 9:50 AM
- Greene County Net on 147.165 repeater
- Please join!

Public Service

- Events (planned) are a practical way to prepare for Incidents (which just happen).
- Participation in radio support of events gives experience in the use of proper radio protocol, teaches how to participate in a directed net, builds confidence, and teaches us how to remain calm and to stay focused on the problem at hand.

Why YOU should consider PSEs

- Practice for Emergencies
- An opportunity to give service to your community
- It demonstrates the value of amateur radio to your fellow citizens
- It's a way to join in an adventure and have fun playing with our special toys

2022 Events

- April:
- Xenia Marathon
- Autism 5k
- May:
- Flying Pig Marathon

2022 Events

- June:
- Summerfest
- Field Day
- July:
- Summerfest
- Queen City Triathlon
- Pan Ohio Hope Ride

2022 Events

- August:
- Summerfest
- Abi Khan Horse Challenge
- September:
- Holiday at Home 5k and Parade
- Young's Charity Bike Ride
- Air Force Marathon

2022 Events

- October:
- Tour de Gem bike ride
- SW District Cross Country
- November:
- Mid East Cross Country Challenge
- Turkey Trot 5 Mile Race

How Does an Event Get Hooked Up With Ham Radio?

- Mostly, they continue from previous years
- Sometimes, the organizer knows someone who is involved with ham events and gets a name
- Sometimes they contact an organization (Points of Contact)
- Examples: Summerfest-GCARES, Tour de Gem-DARA, Pan Ohio Hope Ride-DARA

Are Events Tied to a Particular Club?

~ Sometimes...

- Bellbrook Parade – BARC
- Fairborn Sweet Corn Festival—UVARC
- Turkey Trot – MARA
- I choose to run events as “Ham Radio Events”, but the presence of the DARA Truck or the XWARN Trailer might create the impression of a club affiliation

Typical Process to Create a New Event

- Organizer initiates contact with a POC
- Event info: type, who sponsors, time and location, scope (geographic and number of participants), services requested, special needs (shadows of event staff, etc.), HIPAA protocols?
- I do not turn down many requests, but I will not sign up to support commercial activity or where they are only looking for additional manpower. The number one reason for rejection is that there is a conflict. We have not been able to support simultaneous events in recent years.
- Some negotiation usually takes place with regards to how many volunteers are needed and what extra duties we can support.
- Sometimes, the organizers have less experience than we do, so we can provide some guidance regarding the conduct of the event. The organizers seldom recognize the need to track the tail end of a race, but we recognize how important that can be.

Coordination

- Publicize the event and seek volunteers
- Obtain geographic data (usually route maps) and list spots where coverage is desired
- For a large event, tabulate expected progress (first runner expected, last runner due, etc)
- List assignments (support, shadows, route)
- Develop Communications Plan
- Seek more volunteers
- Adjust assignments as resources demand
- Send info to volunteers
- Execute!
- Thank the volunteers. Request after action reports. Compile. File logs.
- Send summary report to organizers.

Air Force Marathon

- Partly due to security issues, the AFM is solely under the jurisdiction of the Air Force.
- My title is Volunteer Lead for Amateur Radio, but technically, I am an employee of the Air Force while doing my “duty”, and the pay is zero.
- Most of the race is on the base, so all volunteers must register and pass a security check. You must be on the EAL to get on the base on marathon day, even if you work on the base and have a pass.

Air Force Marathon

- For practice of Emergency Communications, this event has it all. Logistics, Security, Medical, Asset Tracking, Progress Reports, Problems that must be solved...
- The nets are fairly busy and teach patience and how to prioritize traffic.

Air Force Marathon

- The bare minimum to support all of the assignments that are required to complete our mission is 49 ham operators. Last year we had 51. I was proud that “ham radio” was the only group to fully staff their operation. However, it would have been comforting to have a few more.
- We are required to have training for the volunteers. Following this slide, we will look at the assignment chart and then take a look at the training presentation.