

EOC Meeting January 21, 2009

The first meeting of the year was held at the St Lucie County EOC. There were 22 present.

Agenda

What we call our group:

Discussion was about being Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES®) Questions were raised about what training and certification was required. The following is from the ARRL [Southern Florida Section web page](#).

“Regarding training for ARES members and ARES leadership, the following are the requirements for amateur radio operators to belong to the Florida State Emergency Response Team (FLSERT) from John Fleming at the state EOC. These requirements are in compliance with the requirements of the Department of Homeland Security and of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and apply to all potential disaster responders, volunteer and professional. The listing below identifies the various categories of potential responders as they apply to amateur radio. ARES membership is preferred and recommended but is not an absolute requirement. Added are also the EMCOMM training of the American Radio Relay League; this is not in the DHS/FEMA guidelines but is a League recommendation and one that is being applied in nearly all states in the Country. Any person not meeting these requirements will not be eligible for deployment, participation, reimbursement, liability protection, etc.

Operators that will be deployed locally only or operating at home stations: [ARRL EC-001 Level 1](#), [NIMS IS 100](#) and [NIMS IS 700](#).

Operators likely to be deployed away from their County, ARRL or ARES Officials at the local level (AEC, EC, RACES Officer), Gateway Station Operators, Local EOC Station Operators or Liaisons: The above plus: [ARRL EC-002 Level 2](#) and [NIMS IS 200](#).

ARRL or ARES Leadership at the District Level, Deployed Operators with Management or Supervisory Assignments, State or Federal EOC Liaisons: The above plus: [ARRL EC-003 Level 3](#) Revision 2, Plus, in FY 07, ICS 300 (classroom course).

ARRL or ARES Leadership at the Section, Division or National Level, State or National ESF-2 Representatives: The above plus: [FEMA IS 800.A](#) National Response Plan, plus, in FY 07, ICS 400 (classroom course).”

As you can see, this is a requirement of State of Florida (FLSERT). Clearly to me, we should follow these guidelines. IRSC conducts the NIMS training and testing that I think is free. There will be a IS-100 training at IRSC on January 29th. Contact Paul Forage directly at pforage@irsc.edu by e-mail if you would like to get in this one. The FEMA training is available online and we looking into local training.

Additionally there was a question about taking our orders from the ARRL. I assured the group that we take assignment and direction from our served agency; St Lucie Emergency Management.

State of the Voice Networks:

Greg KB4VVE reported on the voice repeaters, All is working fine and nothing is needed.

State of the Packet Network:

Wayne KA1VRF reported on the packet network. Discussion was about the need for a static IP address for the mail system at the EOC. John KI4RXQ and Wayne will work on a solution.

Winlink 2000

We will implement Winlink 2000 (RMS HF) as soon as practical. This will allow e-mail messages to be relayed to and from the county even with complete loss of the internet and the VHF/UHF packet intercity system.

Training:

At the next meeting, February 18th we will have training on NTS messages. More on this will be sent out to the members.

New EOC:

The new EOC at the Fair Grounds on Midway Road will be open sometime in late spring or early summer. We have our own room and it has bunking and food facilities. We will have a new Ten-Tec Omni VII HF rig for the EOC that will be in the tower building and controlled remotely with a fiber optic link from the communications room. The main repeaters will remain at the old EOC.

Work Parties:

There will be a work party at the EOC on February 7th. The details will be announced in a reminder. Generally, the work to be done is on the 220/440 link antenna, HF antenna and clean up the radio operating position in the tower building. We plan on members being able to operate HF from there for those who have antenna or rig limitation. General class or higher is required.

Emergency Plan:

I will be working on the 2009 Emergency Plan with the assistance of the Leadership Board consisting of Pete KD4SPW, Erin KG4YQK, Greg KB4VVE and Wayne KA1VRF.

Shelters and Operating Locations for 2009:

St Lucie County EOC – Midway Road
Havert L. Finn Center – Special Needs Shelter
Lawnwood Hospital – Ft Pierce
St Lucie Medical Center Hospital – Port St Lucie

Port St Lucie EOC
ESF-8 Forward Operation Center – Milner Rd. Ft Pierce
Savannahs Club House – Port St Lucie

The schools will not be manned at this time by our group because the school board has their own radio system as does Red Cross.

There is a problem with the St Lucie Medical center ham radio location and past cooperation. Steve N4SLG agreed to look into it.

Web Page:

I have set up a web page for our group at www.w4slc.com . It is still underdevelopment but have a look. There will be soon an ARES® application for membership form that can be filled in online for you convenience. I will announce via e-mail when it is ready.

Ted Huf W4ZE
ARES® Emergency Coordinator
St Lucie County

www.w4slc.com