



Auxcomm Workgroup

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Time: 8-9 p.m.

Location: Conference Call

Conference Number: 1-877-820-7831

Access Code: 336290

Meeting Notes

In Attendance:

- Jaclyn Barcroft - Co-Chair, EMHSD
- John McDonough - Co-Chair, ARES/RACES
- Chuck Brew - Region 7
- John Winn - Region 1
- Pete Costa - Region 8
- Bryce Tracy - Region 8/COMU WG Chair
- Anne-Marie Ruder - SATERN
- Bob Dennis- SATERN
- Dave Robertson - Region 6
- Lt. Rich Martin - EMHSD Region 3

• Bryce Tracy: Communications Unit Work Group (COMU)

- Wants to help standardize a callout database of Auxcomm volunteers by emergency management region.
- We will send out a Google Form - to DEC's that they can share with their ECs and Auxcomm staff.
 - Who would be willing to deploy during an Auxcomm activation through emergency management.
 - Will collect name, numbers, cell phone carriers, email addresses, etc.
 - Statewide Auxcomm database listing - to use as a phone tree.
 - Ability to use send it through new statewide mass notification system in the future.
 - Can share with local emergency management coordinators.
 - Also use this to assist with credentialing Auxcomm when we get a system in place
 - Could also list this info in MI CIMS.
 - Standardize policy of callouts/activations for Auxcomm volunteers.
 - 217A - Blue Sky - would be nice to gather this too (Pete)
 - 205 - Format
 - Bryce will send to John and I to review.

Northern Data Build Out

- Chuck Brew - Met with Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet (CCE) Operations Manager about a couple of towers in Cheboygan Co that the county will be decommissioning.
 - CCE will be abandoning a couple towers when they move to MPSCS.
 - One site is at an old radio site. Want to add DMR and Digital link.
 - Looking at a DMR.
- Pete Costa - Have a linke system with 7 repeaters (voice). Need one more repeater to connect all UP counties by voice.
 - Engadine Dstar - Still working on this one.

o When John Imeson comes up they will look at this tower.

• **Training Assignments:**

- John Winn - fldigi - Only been in Amateur Radio 3 years.
 - o Ran some fldigi training at a recent meeting.
 - o Attends several nets each week.
 - o Want to start a MI NBEMS Net so that we can learn, teach and share.
 - § Need to figure out a good time, day
 - o Email Johnsir59@gmail.com - for anyone interested in assisting effort
 - o PDF file for downloading necessary software and configuring it (attached).
 - o Will need a contact to use for posting to ARES Connect - John McD
 - o Getting a beginner going is difficult, 1-on-1 training would be the most helpful
 - o Find a partner to team up to practice getting started - most beneficial training tool
 - o Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club (CMARC) Facebook Page contains good information.

• **ARES Connect (AC):**

- Get your info in AC
- Get your hours updated before the 10th of the month. (Could we send out reminders?)
- When you create an event, you can check a box to allow people to record their own hours.
 - o If you don't send thank you notes, there is no way for them to record their own hours.
 - o If you didn't register you wouldn't get a thank you note.
 - o We need to get net managers to be more disciplined at getting the event in the system.
- Pete - sent in Excel spreadsheet back in December of all the people that need to be added to AC, still not listed. Hasn't heard back. Only one guy is importing these into system.
 - Dave - You can register people with some basic information, set a simple password and their call sign, address and phone number. Then email them the link and their credentials and ask them to complete the rest of their record.
 - John McD - you can have people register via their cell phone at a meeting.

District Reports

- District 1 - Tim visited the Capital Area Amateur Radio Club last Friday. Made a pitch for civic service work.
- District 3 - Had a meeting a couple weeks ago. Had a request for some antennas and the planner had some questions about the details.
 - Report on the repeater work. Chuck Cribley working out how to make a linked repeater system across District 3.
- District 6 - Working on ARES Connect registrations.
 - DMR Repeater in Muskegon has been restored to service and connected to the internet.
 - o Would be good to have R5Auxcomm Talk group on it.
 - Working on getting a DMR 440 Station established in Fremont.
 - Outreach to the CERT group.
 - Last Saturday attended a meeting with SATERN.
- District 7 - After the Interop Conference, got lots of great feedback on the conference.
 - Last Saturday, 5 counties represented at a MI CIMS class.
 - Antrim County made a motion that ARES / RACES should be a yearly budget item for Region 7.
 - Mike and Chuck meeting with counties
 - SkyWarn training happening across the district and Eastern UP.
 - April - hospital exercise from Benzie County north.
- District 8 -
 - Attended Region 8 meeting last week in Marquette
 - MI CIMS training in Luce County this Saturday, a second session will be offered in Chippewa county in a few weeks.

- Auxcomm class April 6 & 7 in Marquette. 20 registered. A few more seats available.
- Chippewa County working on repeaters setup so they can talk district wide via repeater.
- Schoolcraft County - identified a few new people to become active with ARES/RACES.
- SATERN -
 - All set for Winlink on UHF & VHF. Learning fldigi. Will be teaching packet next.
- John Winn - suggestion SOP first thing Operator does is say go to ARES Connect and Check in. (Add to Agenda for WG meetings too)

Interop Conference Feedback:

- Anne-Marie: Enjoyed being able to see the video of the Auxcomm WG meeting. Appreciated this.
- Bob - Enjoyed conference. First year attended, thought it was nicely organized. Breakout sessions - would be nice to have tables.
- Enjoyed having speakers from out of state.
- Chuck Brew - Future presenter Glenn Johnson out of Traverse City. Been running fldigi every Monday night. Great training.
 - Mike Cleary out of Antrim County assists.