



**Michigan Section  
ARES/RACES**

# **2007 ARES Review**

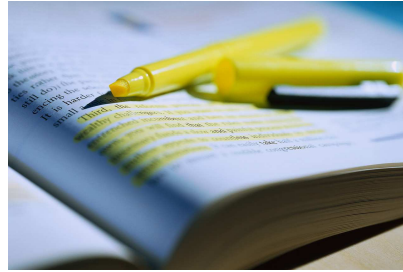
**2008-01-19**



## Michigan Section ARES/RACES

# High Points

- **Good participation in SET**
- **Good attendance and participation at EC meeting**
- **Got around the state:**
  - District 2
  - District 3
  - District 5
  - Muskegon EOC
  - Lapeer club
- **ARPSC Guidelines document approved by MSP**
- **New feedline (finally) at SEOC**



WB8RCR 2008-01-19

2007 ARES Review

2

2007 was a pretty good year for ARES in Michigan. We had good participation in SET, and I've seen a lot of reports. I expect when the scores come out we will be on top, but more importantly, a lot of folks got experienced in a lot of new challenges.

The EC meeting was also very good. We had good attendance, and all involved participated actively and constructively.

Your SEC managed to make it to a number of meetings around the state (in addition to a few hamfests)

The DECs put together an updated ARPSC Guidelines document, and that has been approved by the Director of the Michigan State Police's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

And finally, after a long delay we have new feedlines at the SEOC,



## Michigan Section ARES/RACES

# More High Points

- **Good response to weather incidents**
  - Multiple tornadoes in Ingham
  - Tornado in Genesee
  - Smaller incidents around state
- **Cross jurisdictional help readily available and often offered proactively**
- **Good response to Flint Halloween “test”**
- **Large exercises went well (Safeguard, Cook)**
- **Packet proved itself with Safeguard, SET**
- **Many, many EC’s trained on E-Team**
- **Good penetration of FEMA courses**

WB8RCR 2008-01-19

2007 ARES Review

3

We had a number of incidents where fairly large activations were required. All the programs responded effectively and professionally. Just as interesting, other jurisdictions jumped in to help. With many ECs now trained on e-Team, ECs have an opportunity to see what other jurisdictions need, and to proactively offer assistance.

Genesee ARES/RACES works closely with fire, and Genesee decided to see if amateurs could totally replace dispatch on the busiest night of the year. (This following the loss of a major tower in a tornado a few months before). ARES members from several counties manned central dispatch and all the fire houses. On a night when Flint typically experiences around 100 fires, they had none!

A couple of very large exercises went well, and during those exercises the packet network proved its salt. In particular, the converse bridge proved to be invaluable in these large exercises, and also in some widespread weather incidents.

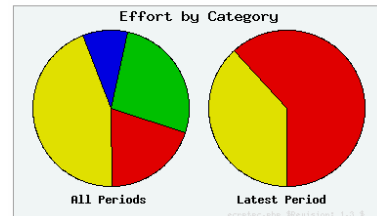
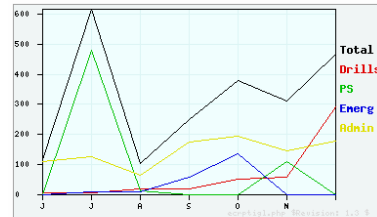
The requirement to take a number of FEMA courses was met with some resistance at first, but penetration has been good, and many folks are going well beyond the section’s guidelines.



## Michigan Section ARES/RACES

# ARPSC Web Site

- **Mostly moved to new server**
- **Database driven allows simpler updates**
- **More data on site, including graphs**
- **Still need to move domain name**



WB8RCR 2008-01-19

2007 ARES Review

4

The ARPSC website has been moved to a new server, which offers more features. In particular, by keeping all the performance data in a database on the web server, more extensive data is available to the ECs to analyze their performance. In addition, the database model makes site maintenance easier. The new site offers some live graphs to help ECs understand their programs. There are still a couple of outstanding details about the move to be dealt with.



## Reporting

- **Now database driven**
- **New spreadsheet to be available soon (to resolve some inconsistencies)**
- **Soon to be taken over by N7LMJ**
- **Like NTS, report comes from web site, so data is consistent**



Rather than manually consolidating a large number of spreadsheets into one, reporting now consists of importing those spreadsheets into a database automatically. This eliminates the possibility of transcription errors, and the database approach allows comparison across reporting periods, something not really possible with the spreadsheet only model.

A new reporting spreadsheet will be available for January reporting. It is hoped that the new spreadsheet will resolve some inconsistencies.

Michael Dell, N7LMJ, will be taking over reporting duties.

The ARES reporting model is now almost identical to the NTS model. By generating the report to headquarters from the web site, any inconsistencies are eliminated.



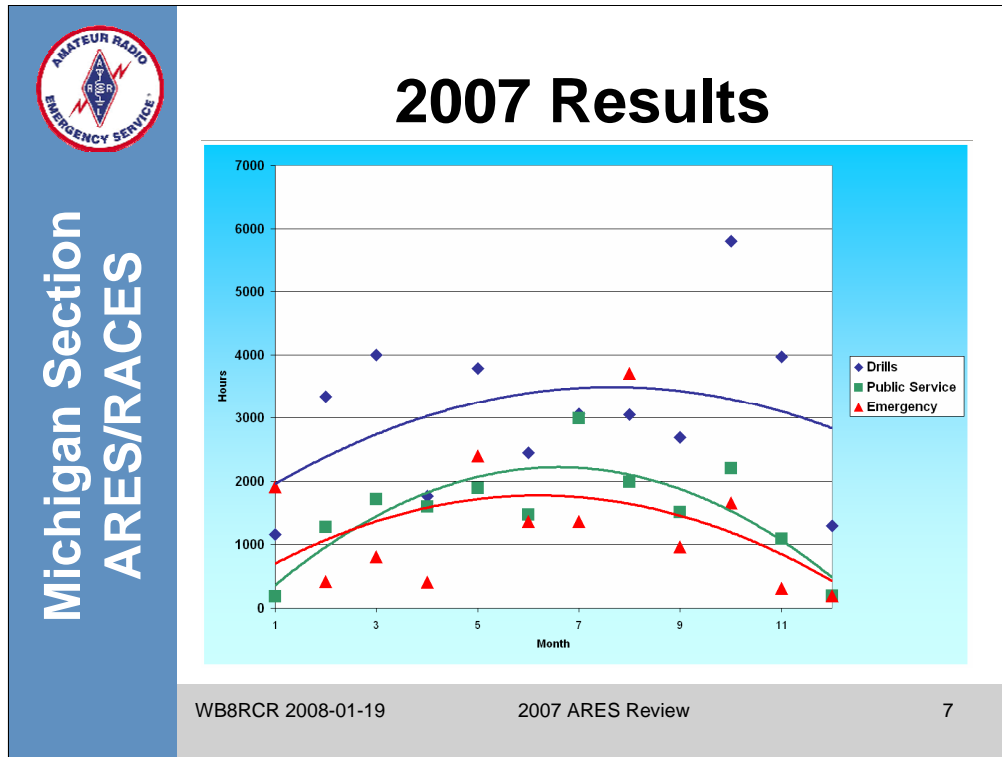
## Database

- **Web database allows more robust contact information**
- **Working on “enterprise” data model to track all important info**
- **Have some help lined up**



In today's wireless world, there are many different forms of contact information. The web database allows better tracking of all these communication paths, but also pointed out the need to a complete enterprise data model.

Enterprise data modeling is an abstract exercise, which requires discussion and discovery, and cannot be a solo exercise. Your SEC has located some skilled help to assist in this exercise.



Unfortunately, we do not yet have 2006 and earlier data in the database, so year over year comparisons aren't available.

But looking at the 2007 data, there are few surprises. The good weather provides an opportunity for more drills and exercises. The middle of the year also brings more emergency activations, generally as a result of thunderstorms and tornadoes.

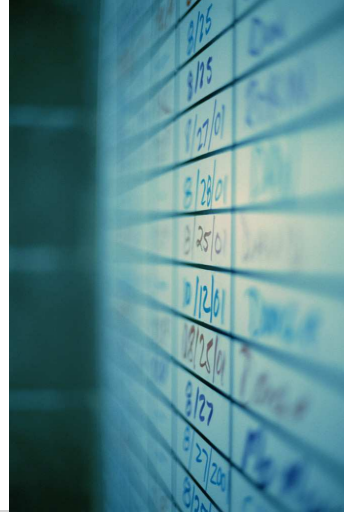
The large spike in drills for October reflects the excellent participation in the Simulated Emergency Test.



## Michigan Section ARES/RACES

# 2008 Plans

- Next EC Meeting in April
- Database build out
- Potential to provide tracking for jurisdictions – members, skills, etc.
- Look at potential reporting improvements
- Continue to work at communications with ECs



WB8RCR 2008-01-19

2007 ARES Review

8

For 2008, we plan an EC meeting in April to lay out plans for SET, and a second meeting shortly before SET.

Following the enterprise data modeling exercise, we hope to build out those discoveries into the online database. Many jurisdictions, with varying degrees of success, are attempting to build systems for tracking membership, training, skills, etc. It is hoped that an enterprise model will lead to the ability to provide that service in a more robust fashion than an individual jurisdiction might provide for itself.

We will, of course, be looking to ECs to help guide more useful reporting.

Opening up the lines of communications with the ECs continues to be a high priority.





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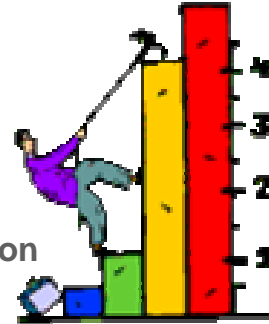
# 2008 Challenges

- **Need more and better VHF communications around state**

- Continue to build out ampr.net
- Voice repeater linking

- **Still need to work on training**

- Need much better penetration of ARECC courses
- Still work to do on FEMA courses



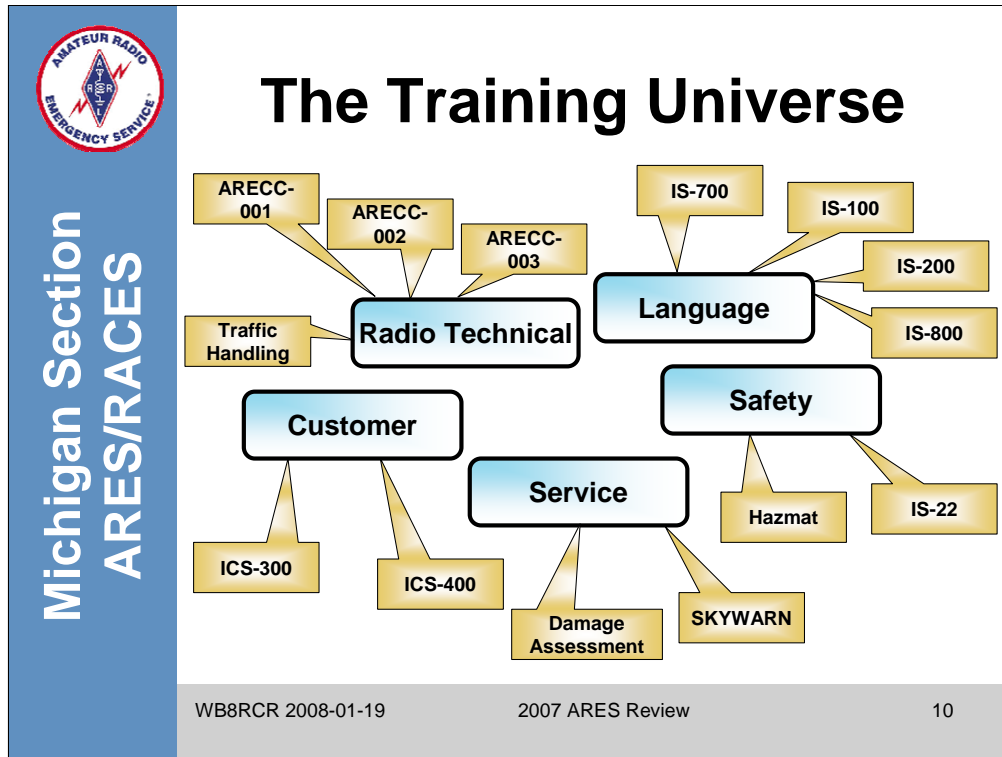
WB8RCR 2008-01-19

2007 ARES Review

9

We still face a number of challenges. Although we have made great headway on the digital network, there is still work to be done, especially in the Upper Peninsula. In addition, voice repeater linking is still spotty, and work could be done there. We are watching District 1's D-Star project, which offers a potential solution to both.

Although we have made great headway on the FEMA courses, there is still work to be done there. Penetration of the ARECC courses has been much more limited. Finding a way to make that information more accessible to the membership will be a high priority.



Speaking of training, your SEC has begun carrying the above message out to the jurisdictions.

Many members have asked why the emphasis on the FEMA courses which do not relate directly to amateur radio. But to do our job effectively, we need a number of skills. The ARECC courses, along with local traffic handling classes and exercises, speak to the amateur radio specific skills. The IS-700, 100, 200 and 800 courses primarily familiarize us with our customers' language, something that is quite a high priority for communicators.

IS-22 and hazmat awareness help us to stay safe in the field. SKYWARN and Damage Assessment training allow us to deliver services to our customers that are synergistic with our communications mission.

Finally, ICS-300 and 400, which are taken by ARES leadership, help us "get inside our customer's head", giving us good insight into what incident command is dealing with.



Michigan Section  
ARES/RACES

## Questions?



WB8RCR 2008-01-19

2007 ARES Review

11

Questions may be posed on the MI-ARPSC net, Sundays at 1700 on 3932, or emailed to the SEC at [wb8rcr@arrl.net](mailto:wb8rcr@arrl.net).