

## ARES MEETING

February 8 2017

Visitors:

Ebbin Spellman, Manager of Safety & Emergency Preparedness, UF Health

Ron Viola KS4SW, Emergency Coordinator, Marion County

Dave Welker, HEC Marion County

Carl Berry, author of Marion County ARES Comm plan, KC5CMX

Gus

VAN AC4QS

We reviewed photos of the incredible MARS station, Perry Field, owned by Marion County and provided a station for the hams. The local utility company helped them repair their Rhombic, with 520 foot legs.

Photos of the antenna work that we did on Beatty Towers were discussed. Added a second antenna and second digital repeater.

### **Presentation by the Hospital Emergency Communications -- Dave Welker**

Retired, medical illustrator, moved here in 2004. He remembers the emergency operations centers asking for VOLUNTEERS to staff shelters. The Shelters in Marion county have their own antennas!!

After the 2004 hurricanes Francis, Jean, Ivan and Charlie -- hospitals asked "how do we contact Tallahassee if all normal means of communications have failed" Thus their group was born.

2017 -- 20 people on their team. Every one is a "volunteer" for the hospital; they work for the Auxiliary. They all have badges.

Interviewed, background check, do all the volunteer requirements annually, IS-100 ISHCb, 200, 700 and 800. Volunteers renew their commitments annually. **In his view, people who haven't attended meetings or training are a liability.**

working with volunteers is one of the harder jobs -- volunteers want to be INVOLVED.

He keeps a database of all hams and their training and who has been drilling, where -- so he knows who is competent. Q: what percentage of different licenses? He isn't sure. Only 2 hospitals have HF radios.

He produces a sheet with all the available people, it goes to the volunteer coordinators and the volunteers -- Lists who is available

Monroe Regional; Ocala Regional Medical Center. Timberridge Emergency Center (TREC); West Marion; Kindred hospital (located within Munroe (extended care)

Each hospital has its own antennas. Each hospital has its own incident command center. EOC is about 3 miles from Monroe.

MRMC is 420 bed hospital; Radio room; right near the Incident Command Center.

History: There were already some 2 meter radios there when Dave (HEC) arrived. Kenwood TMV71A Dual Band Winlink Station; Antenna coax connector box. "It came down from the top, after the hurricanes....." Emergency Preparedness Coordinator from MRMC asked for help putting together a communication center.

Dave put together a proposal for how to get to Tallahassee --- they wanted to know how to get FORMS ESF-8 to Tallahassee, form must come out looking the same way; Dave then did research on WINLINK and proposed that as a solution -- they liked the idea and \$12K grant to put in the station. Their system includes two operating positions, two computers. Can do WINLINK or Digipeater or Voice net control on a net -- they feel they are "short on antennas" Their switch always keeps either transceiver on an antenna or on a dummy load. MFJ-1703

They have a Pactor modem PTCII with III upgrade. "Its all about redundancy"

White Board to keep track of positions. They use two 12-hour shifts during emergencies Tactical calls used liberally.

They have lots of possibilities for comms --- HF, VHF, UHF Winlink peer to peer and client.

They needed \$\$ to put in Timberridge --- sold it as "means for patient staff & relatives, sequestered during a hurricane --- to let family and friends know how they are" --- Hospital loved it.

Gave presentation to City Mayor and some Council members -- on WINLINK. Hospital promoted that and got the meeting together. Their safety manager got his ham radio license and joined their group!!!

He discussed the many advantages of WINLINK --- goes to any one on the other end -- does not have to be a ham; can send to any EOC in the world. Has been used in just about every major disaster. Anywhere that they need really accurate communications.

Plan is to try and break the county into quarters; they have gateways in pretty much every quarter of the county.

If all of that goes away , they switch to HF and make connections. At MRMC he has HF Hamstick antennas, on 80/75/40/30/20 meters; and vhf dual band vertical. Back to back horizontal. They had a R8 multiband vertical antenna--- and it got hit by lightning. Using an antenna switch they concluded there was a lot less "noise" on the horizontal antennas. 350 feet of RG8.

All the horizontal ham sticks (individual ones for each band -- all connected together in parallel)

145.270 Wa3YOX Repeater located at Monroe Regional Medical Center

TimberRidge Emergency Center HEC Ham Station-- KPC, all fits in a cabinet. Can be carried around using a hand truck. Suggests a PRINTER. His cabinet of equipment came to \$1700. Each person assigned to the hospital get a key.

Ocala Regional: Antenna on 1<sup>st</sup> floor roof, allows 5 W simplex to other hospitals no problem. All power is "red plug" power. Additionally they can bring in additional portable battery packs.

Questions about HIPAA: Important point is whether you are a "covered entity". Ham radio operators are not a covered entity and thus aren't at as much risk. They try to make it clear that the information is not completely secure. Red Cross is not a covered entity. Most information coming out of a hospital can be handled without identifiers.

Everyone is hipaa trained!

Bitzer Building -- a backup building! They actually test from it as well.

Headphones important! You'll be in a busy noisy area. They have two earphones connected together so two people can listen at once and work together.

Discussions of EMP, RF Safety --- pacemaker safety.

He takes photos of all their drills.

After Action Report: Very well reported, candid report. At the last test, they weren't able to use their regular operation room because of an meeting. They set up portable gear and did their tests from an alternate room using portable go boxed equipment.

Crystal River -- a group there got a contract to put up a station there. Stu Robinson Stew Robinson  
mobile 352 208 9723 352 685 2261 [srobinson017@cfl.rr.com](mailto:srobinson017@cfl.rr.com)

Personal Go Kit: VHF /UHF Kenwood TMV71A; Voice and WINLNK. Crossband repeater voice, cross band repeater winlink; portable digipeater Music box case.

Question from Ebbin --- do we have ham capabilities for the Shands ED's?? Jeff says --- problematic. Hasn't been organized.

Marion County FL ARES -- Ron Viola KS4SW Marion County EC

Carl Berry KC5CMX AEC

Ebbin -- **says they would like to have involvement** --- thinks there is equipment on the top floor and would like to have --- emergency preparedness committee --- diana brandt, Anna Michelle.

RON VIOLA:

Bill Case -- leader for MERT -- has some lung problems couldn't come. MERT, ARES and the Hospital Team went through growing pains, there were some interpersonal problems ; at some times they didn't want ARES involved; lots of interpersonality problems --- finally a group started working together , agreed they would work together. Lots of the AEC's are involved in MERT --- and some of the MERT people are involved with the HEC (intermingling of leadership)

His advice is that we should “stick together” -- and he notes that Dave puts in a lot of hours, and Carl does also.

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month meeting at the EOC. They use DSTAR.  
DRATS would work over the internet to them.

Dave suggests: when you approach the people above you, “don't push too hard --- use facts --- they are always suspicious of what you are trying to sell them”

CARL:

ARES: “licensed ham who have registered.....”  
ARES training requirements; have to be a ham!

Recommends that we learn TEAMVIEWER. Used for winlink training. Don't use within the hospital; it is for non commercial operations. NIMS training --- suggests 100 200 700 800 and a couple having ICS 300

Suggests some classroom training and some actual practice out in the field! If you don't know your equipment, you can't use it effectively. Practice setting up the equipment under field conditions.

Marion county ARES Wed 7:30 at 146.610 pl 123. Mert net is 7:30 on 146.610 Thursday night --- they all work together.

Design weather nets around the prevailing weather in various parts of your county; weather varies significantly by your location.

Consider training on hazardous materials, , radiological hazards, land navigation. DO NOT SELF DEPLOY. “Constellation number” will come down to the EC who will then assign people to go do the various deployments.

“We serve at the pleasure of the supported agency” not the other way around. We're not there to run the show.

For Efficiency -- need practice on nets. Don't test on the repeater frequency!!

Primary forms they are are ICS 205a, 213, 214, 309. Dave trained them extensively on those forms.

Leadership for Marion County

- Ron VIOLA EC for the county
- The Villages Leon Jurczynszyn K8ZAG
- Tech support Eddie Lucas KKK4JIV
- Tech Support Chuck Richards KM4FKN
- SkyWarn Mike Casey
- Transportation Rogert Staly K4ZFW
- MERT Liaison Bill Case W4SRQ
- Hospital group Dave Welker W2SRP

Annual statewide hurricane drill held each May during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week --- ARES MERT CERT and the hospital team participate together. **“Don't just limit yourself to being asked”**

They also are involved in lot of local activities, such as the March of Dimes April.

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

Contesting is an important part --- because it trains you on how to operate and being accurate!

POLISH YOUR SKILLS --- even a technician can use the HF bands several ways!--- learn your skills

Discussion of MERT:

Purpose to provide reliable backup communications to the Marion County Sheriff's department -- also man shelters during activations; relation messages for agencies designated by the sheriff's office; and they can ask for more help from the EC when needed.

Similar to RACES but tailored to the needs of the MCSO. Integrated with the Sheriff's offices.

They got a huge grant and have huge number of DSTAR and even a FUSION repeater.

MERT was founded in the 1990's were pressed into service during the 2004 hurricane --

trains members on the proper use of forms used during the event

NIMS courses figure highly in their operation

Trained on MCC equipment --- “mobile command center”

SHREK --- Shelter Readiness Kit --- fits in a padded Pelican Box. **They have 15 of them .**

Each set has headset, poser supply extension course ICOMID880 D-Star radio, leatherman tool, mic cord, microphone, and multimeter. Also includes a 12 volt battery --- They have 15 of these disbursed among their volunteers--pre dispensed. 32 Ahr batteries. **They put about \$1200 into every kit.**

Donation or Grant through the Sheriff's foundation.

Kit layout on the top:

6 foot and 25 foot of coax. users manual, power supply cable to the radio, 2” barrel connections, glass

fuses.

How do they Work Together?

Key is the communicate and listen to each other --- allow everyone to maintain their identity and learn what each entity dose and how, be ready to assist others, develop a workable plan and Have Fun!

The Mario County ARES Plan --

You have to be flexible --- due to each of different organizations --- ther are parts that are different for each group --- so the plan is modified to help work with each group

“All ARES members will be NIMS compliant” --- an absolute among them.

You have to train together so that you know what everyone else does..

The ICS205a is the “golden child” of your entire planning -- specifies all the frequencies and how things will communicate.

BEST TO BE DONE BEFOREHAND!!! Then adjust for the exercise or emergency at hand --- adjust for repeaters etc tehat have gone out or have come up.

Plan, but don't micromanage.

Don't forget the SKYWARN people!

KNOW THE FORMS!!!

'Hurricane Mimi' --- a drill that they held; set up in a Walmart Parking lot.

Discussion of a backpack go-bag.