Meetings

Multnomah County ARES
Every 4th Thursday
7:00 P.M.
Portland Fire & Rescue CTR
4800 NE 122nd Avenue, Portland
http://www.multnomahares.org/
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PARC Meeting
Every 4th Friday
7:30 P.M.
One Liberty Center
650 NE Holladay Street, Portland
http://www.w7lt.org/
—————————
HARC Meeting
Every 3rd Thursday
Mount Hood Comm. College
Room 1001
http://www.wb7qiw.org/

Nets

Multnomah Co. ARES Net
Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M.
146.84 (no Tone)
—————————
District 1 ARES Net
Daily at 7:30 P.M.
147.320 (PL Tone 100.0)
—————————
Northwest Oregon Traffic
and Training Net
Daily 6:05 P.M.
145.27, 145.43, 145.47,146.80,
442.875 & 442.275
(All have a PL tone of 107.2)

MS Walk Sweeps

Upcoming Events

May 26 General Meeting:
Off Grid Field/Mobile Operations
presented by Nate N9VCU

June 3-5 SeaPAC Ham Convention:
Go to www.seapac.org for details

June 7-10 Cascadia Rising Regional FEMA Exercise:
(See news from around the county)

June 11 Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade:
Contact Tary Carlson at
TCARLSON@lhs.org
or 971- 409- 0234

News from Around The County
By: Deb KK7DEB

The components for 2 Digital go kits for Multnomah County ARES have been purchased and the items are trickling in. Two 120 W portable solar panels are also on their way. Our thanks to Chris Voss and Alice Busch for making this happen! These kits will add an exciting new digital capacity to our West Side Field Relay Team and future East Side Field Relay Team. We are fortunate to have such great support from our Multnomah County Emergency Management Leadership!

The kits will include: Kenwood D710GA radio with built in TNC, Power supply, Signalink, Small Laptop computer, Portable mast kit with antenna and coax, Mag-mount Antenna, Digital camera, and a yellow Pelican case. Robert WX5TEX, our resident master kit builder, will assemble all the parts into an amazing little kit for grab-and-go deployment.

The City of Gresham has received the laptops for RMS/Winlink connections to the EOC and 5 fire stations. RMS Express has been installed and Robert is working on the needed wiring to make this happen. All Gresham team members should brush up on their skills and training. Testing of the equipment will occur sometime this summer.

The MCARES Mobile Communications Unit (trailer) will be going to Seaside for all to see at the Sea-Pac Ham Convention June 3rd, 4th and 5th. If you are going to Sea-Pac please stop by for a closer look, it will be located across the street from the main entrance. It is our hope that we can recruit new members at Sea-Pac. Contact Steve at W7SRH@ARRL.net if you are can staff the trailer for a few hours to talk up MCARES.

The trailer has been granted a club callsign and are waiting for approval of the vanity callsign N7MCU.

The trailer is fully functional, however many small details are still being worked on. The next phase is exterior graphics and then comes training, training and more training.

Cascadia Rising is June 7, 8, 9 and 10. There are a few 4 ½ hour shifts that still need to be staffed. If you are able to lend a hand contact Deb KK7DEB at

dprovo@yahoo.com . We will be operating at the County ECC, PBEM ECC and the Mobile Comms Unit (Trailer). Operations will be from 8:00am until 4:30pm Tuesday thru Friday.

Multnomah County ARES Supports Porland Public Schools
By: Steve Hall W7SRH

Portland Public Schools (PPS) is in the process of forming a ham radio club. Molly Emmons, the emergency preparedness manager for PPS, has requested that MCARES provide consultation to the group as they put their new organization together. Initially, the membership will be made up of faculty and staff. Once things are up and running, students will be encouraged to participate. This may lead to incorporating ham technology into the curriculum at some point in the future.

It is envisioned that one of the major benefits of forming this club will be to have ARO's located in school facilities all across the district. This could have a huge impact on communication connectivity during times of extreme emergency.

Steve Konrad AF7DD and Steve Hall W7SRH made a presentation to 35 faculty of the Portland Public Schools (PPS) on April 27 at the club's initial organizational meeting. Attendees were introduced to ARES involvement in emergency communications and community service activities. Steve K is helping Molly coordinate a study process for those interested in becoming licensed which will culminate in a test session scheduled for June 11.

PPS is also partnering with Multnomah County government and Portland Bureau of Emergency Management regarding other preparedness efforts.

PPS is a Pre K-12 district with an enrollment of approximately 48,500 students and 3000 teachers. About 85 schools and 50 special needs sites are maintained within the district.

Membership News
By: Deb Provo KK7DEB

Welcome to David KC7YOE and Bert WA7HI who have reactivated their membership. We had 6 of our new members at the basics workshop on May 14 and they will return on May 22 to complete their ARRO certification. Thanks to Eli W7ELI for arranging and teaching this very important training.

Congratulations to Brian KE7QPV, Matthew AF7PV, Marino KG7EMV, Joel N7LF, Steve W7SRH, Eli W7ELI, Doug KG7MJJ, Deb KK7DEB, and Bert WA7HI who have all completed their Packet RMS Radio Operator Certification. A big thanks to Adam KF7LJH for arranging this session on May 15th and for all his hard work in putting together this new aspect of our training program. It is hoped that many more of our members will seek this certification as RMS/Winlink is in great demand and sometimes preferred over voice.

What is GIS?
By: Adam KF7LJH

ARES is an emergency communications organization. Traditionally, emcom has been

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concerned mostly with radio and radio-related procedures, like the mechanics of a directed net or how to professionally move NTS traffic. As we've marched into the 21st century, we've seen the ARES scope of operations expand to include many different types of technology, like radio-based email systems, APRS, logging software and mesh networking.

One exciting technology that has been steadily improving and becoming more accessible is the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). GIS has moved out of computer datacenter in the last decade, riding the coattails of smartphone adoption with "killer" GIS applications like Google Maps, Waze and geocaching.

GIS is a broad term that can refer to a number of different technologies, processes and methods. Of course, we've been making maps for thousands of years but mapmaking is only a tiny sliver of what today's GIS systems can do. GIS applications, like Google Maps and many others, allow users to do far more than just make maps. They are tools that can create interactive queries (user-created searches), analyze spatial information, edit data in maps and present the results of all these operations.

It doesn't take much imagination to see the many ways GIS could be useful in an emergency communications scenario. Maps can be an excellent way to communicate information, status and action and being able to quickly produce a map designed for a specific purpose (assigning teams to search grids, for exaple) is as critical a skill in a disaster as medical training or communications training

GIS, like desktop publishing or website design, is both simple and hard to learn.

It's pretty easy to get a hang of the basics but it takes years of training and experience (and a degree of innate talent) to actually be good at it. Luckily for MCARES and other emergency service-type organizations, the emcom needs for GIS content are modest and don't, generally speaking, require a GIS degree to create.

GIS has been a critical component to emergency services for decades. Which is great because we don't need to reinvent the wheel again. What we want to do is well trodden ground, in GIS terms, so let's leverage the work others have done.

MCARES plans to facilitate basic GIS training to its members over the next 18-24 months with the goal of developing a basic GIS skillset that can be used in a variety of capabilities. MCARES will be using a training program developed for Search and Rescue by a national team of GIS and emergency service professionals. It is a self-paced program that leverages free, industry-standard software and tools.

And you don't have to wait for MCARES to get started! Check out www.mapsar.net to review all the materials and start the training program. We hope to have a few GIS intro webinars over the summer and fall, but those will be overviews and only cover the basics. As with any skill, the value you'll get is proportional to how much time you put into it.

ARES Trailer Night Operations

MS Walk Rovers

More Ways to Stay in Touch

NET Net: Sundays 8:00 P.M. 147.040 Mhz, PL 100.0 (Note: This is a time and frequency change)

Email Focus Groups:
For questions from new or prospective
Members:
NEWHAM@multnomahhares. org

For technical and operational issues
LEADERSHIP@multnomahares. org

To offer your services and donations for the trailer project:
TRAILER@multnomahares.org