

ARES Meeting North Florida Amateur Radio Club

September 13, 2017

Wednesday

Attending:

Stan Liscombe
Harry Meyer
Art Grant
Rosemary Jones
Leland Gallup
Cindy Grant
Chris Carr
J Troupe II
Vann Chesney
Gordon
Jeff Capehart
Tom Cox
Andrew Fletcher

14 people

1. Meeting called to order at 1905; slide show of photos of stations.
2. Noted that several roads are having to be closed due to water ponding --- rivers way way above flood stage. Potential for a live video feed to watch the river!!! EM would be fascinated with THAT!!
- 3 We have now had OFFERS TO PUT STUFF ON THE HAGUE 300 FOOT TOWER!!!!
Additionally, we are offered space on a TOWER TO BE BUILT! Just before the hurricane,, we got a call from North Florida Hospitals who wanted to know where we were at the local hospital!!!
We also have an offer from SHANDS HOSPITAL ---
4. Discussion of the unresolved issues noted in May.--- Issue by Issue of why these areas have not been resolved --- 5 out of the 6 have to do with the EOC.
5. REVIEW OF HURRICANE IRMA ACTION:
 - Discussion of some of the issues at the EOC that require multiple volunteers --- difficulty hearing the briefings.
 - Total of 20 shelters open between the county and the university, for Hurricane Irma 2017
 - GREAT concern at the EOC that their 800 MHz system would fail --- then the only way to reach deputies would be for them to come to our shelters.
 - Calldown done throughout the entire ARES list – a lot of “no's” (by telephone)
 - Also, did a call-up for volunteers on the repeater.
 - Problem: volunteers with Baofeng Radios didn't understand building attenuation. More training needed. However, he was invaluable later on!!
 - Generator did not work at Westwood.
 - Rawlings – generator had been sent to Texas to help them!. They found a portable generator

but available only at night.

- Rosemary: would really like communications with Shands – Harry has a way to reach military people with HF at Shands.
- Jeff Bielling bought TEN very expensive 62 AmpHr AGM batteries. Need to finish putting together the connectors!!! We did three sets. [Addendum: Gordon finished the three batteries and delivered back to EOC.]
- Also used one at Eastside and Newberry
- FEMA will pay for 75% of the stuff they had to bought.
- Batteries are a new asset – but a LATE ARRIVAL.
- There were lots of foot-dragging with the football game --- creating huge concern over massive I-75 problems. Craig Fugate raked the University over the coals (Letter to the Editor?) for not being willing to help everyone else. Steinbrenner band shelter was opened --- but only for the faculty
- Santa Fe: none of their buildings were built to hurricane standards! Have to be listed as “shelters of last resort” due to this. Santa Fe had no training on how to open or run a shelter. Cindy had to go help them figure out how to run a shelter – she took them the materials l that she received at Shelter Training that she took a month ago.
- Governor then offered to send National Guard and Red Cross if the county wouldn't get those shelters opened! That got the county to start working on staffing the shelters.
- PreEvent Information:
 - Problem: Jeff Capehart was not originally on the EOC e-mailing notification list. Dave Donnelly went to Savannah and the list didn't get set up properly. Last year Jeff pointed this out to Bielling.....same problem repeats.... but then Jeff couldn't leave job to go to the briefings because still at work.
- 8 PM Tropical net started out when we were within the 5 day cone. Newer people were not as familiar with these procedures.
- We then had a callup and activation --- when storm projected to come through on Sunday some time.
- Call down of ARES members on Friday. 2 days before the storm. (By telephone)
- 12 hour shifts didn't work because you're really stuck there for 24-hour, Having 2 people makes this much easier. People offering to help for “6 hours” doesn't really work....because travel is impossible then!!
- Updated Information during the Event: 205A
- Problem: Lack of a product to give to the shelters people.
- During Hermine --- jeff would be reading the weather briefing --- Susan had people listening to her.
- Judicial branch provided volunteers for several of the shelters. Suggestion that we have a printed “product” --- if not, then having a radio that they could listen to.
- Chris was having the shelter manager wondering what was his purpose. AT&T went down near oaks mall
- ASSIGNMENTS: possibility of having each person familiar with 3 shelters. Binder for each shelter with the name of shelter and address and the setup for how to put things in place. Layout. Ultimate plan is to have permanent antennas at each shelter. could be stored on our web server?
- We knew 48 hours in advance --- but we didn't at that time know which ones were going to be

opened --- need to get this better straightened out.

- DEPLOYMENT:
 - Getting all this equipment – coming to the EOC to get it? Keeping track of it?
 - Suggestion that our ARES group run an internal ICS and have general staff officers
- Incident mapper – available after it was all over --- Susan couldn't get the information until later. Jeff asked the GIS folks how they were going to get the information out --- they didn't have the software to allow the information to be published!!! So they bought it when FEMA would pay for 75% of it. However configuration will take time
- Art noticed that the EOC radio often wasn't manned --- suggests that we have an alternate net control
- organized backup
- POST IMPACT: Jeff was looking for someone who could look up information at home and provide information on roads open, etc --- no one volunteered out of everyone. Need training? Anyone willing to learn how to do this??? Can't do this while you are driving -
- We needed to be a bit more organized on keeping “in the know” on what is going on.
- Jtroup was listening to SARNET – and is interested in doing the information gathering information.
- Andrew Fletcher had 23 people he is training and when he arrived at the Shelter he just took a commanding position and had a bulletin board and made it look impressive!!! He had internet the entire time and he just kept listening and walked around every hour and was able to pass information. He was talking to the national guard and everyone at his shelter! Great Model!!!
- Remember that most of the people in the shelter don't have great skills for finding information. (So if we put it together, that is very helpful.)
- Andrew – lots of kids – worked with Allen West. Needs things to keep kids interested. Works for Philips: medical building in vivo MRI groups. learned his Shelter background just from TV; is a scout leader Technician License
- Harry : Sunday, national guard commander asked him what they had for HF. MLK: last minute thing, was stuffed in a storage compartment. Army invited him to their organizational meeting ; if the same discussions had happened earlier. Unable to get an HF antenna up. Shelter manager didn't know who they were. (MLK was his THIRD station sent to) --- his hotspot had only 1 bar. Airforce provided him with 5 bars of LTE. The military was extremely helpful to him. Army and Air force
- Rawlings had turned the previous radio room into staff sleeping. Army battalion commander gave him what he wanted.
- Jim Bledsoe was the ESF2 head for the Hurricane and he was a huge help to ARES.
- Microphone in the EOC has an overly-sensitive “hold” button which locked “ON” at times.

6. MICROWAVE PRESENTATION: demo of using the Ubiquiti 2.4 GHz devices to make VOIP and other ham radio contacts.

7. Minutes of the last meeting. Motion to approve, approved.

