PRGE ARES®
2015 Breakfast Deployment Drill Plan
March 1, 2015

Who?

Prince George's County ARES

What?

The Annual Prince George's County ARES Breakfast Deployment.

When?

The date this year is March 21, 2015 from about 1000 to whenever.

Where?

Anywhere you can set up antennas and work from inside a building.  It can be your club QTH, EOC, VFD or gather at some ones home.  It doesn't matter.

Member groups  will meet for breakfast as a group  at a place of their choosing near their intended operating post.  After breakfast, and on command, teams will deploy and set up comms and play.

Why?

We are looking for an opportunity to play radio after being cooped up in doors all winter with these frigid cold temperatures. . .that's why.

Objective

The objective of the Breakfast Deployment is to provide a scenario for rapid deployment setting up EmComm station and have fun.  Nothing stringent about this. . .just get out of the house and have fun.

Background

Such deployments were conducted in March 2012 and in 2014.  In 2012 a station was set up at the American Legion Post 275 Glenn Arden, MD sending messages and traffic to a volunteer fire department nearby, VFD 806.  Our county Fire Chief Marc Bashoor was on hand and got a buzz from demonstrating our capabilities.  A Winlink WinMOR email out to Thunder Bay, Ontario back down to his cell phone, knocked him off his feet!  It also gave us a chance to practice getting ready for Field Day without all the constraints of  Field Day.   It was a lot of fun.

<u>New This Year</u>

Having shared this concept across the neighboring borders, there has been some interest in having other ARES groups and clubs join in on the fun. As of this writing, following counties have expressed a desire to join us: CHAR, CALV, FRED, HOWA.

<u>Procedure</u>

In PRGE two sites selected are a Rescue Squad near Laurel, MD and a VFD in Silver Hill, MD. The reason for these locations is to practice sending traffic over as long a distance as possible in the county. Relay stations between might be necessary to assist in the deployment. You may have two stations or just one station. If you can't get two sites in your county, look for one on the list below coming out later in the month and try connecting.

<u>Point of Contact</u>

"Beltsville" Jim, N3XKJ at n3xkj1@verizon.net is the POC for the entire event and for the Laurel operations, and I will be the POC for the Silver Hill operations.

<u>Exchange</u>

There isn't any! Just establish a contact and wing it, ad-lib, improvisation, MAKE STUFF UP! Ask someone to relay to an adjacent county. Send a note to the SM, SEC, or whomever you want.

Coordination will be done via text messaging, repeaters and relays. Select a Team Lead to receive the "Go" signal, while you are having breakfast. I will send a text message to cell phones of all participating groups to deploy to their respective operating locations.

<u>Then What?</u>

Participating Groups will send their operating scenario to Jim, N3XKJ for tabulation. We need to know what modes and bands you plan to operate, what repeater you will be using, grid square, the head dude in charge and cell number. See table below:

| 2015 ARES Breakfast Deployment | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Group | POC/Cell | Operating QTH | Grid Square | Repeater | Mode(s)/bands | Winlink Call |
| PRGE ARES North | N3XKJ 301-351-2238 | Laurel Rescue Squad 1491 Bowie Rd Laurel, MD | FM19nc | | | |
| PRGE ARES South | WB3KAS 240-398-1051 | VFD #29 3900 Silver Hill Rd Silver Hill, MD Chris Gregory | FM18mu | K3ERA 145.23 (-) PL 110.9 | HF Dipoles: 80-10m SSB & data | WB3KAS |
| Others? | | | | | | |

The above table will be distributed during the week prior to the event. On the day of the event, look in the table and decide who to call.

If there is more than one organization within a county participating, decide among yourselves who will be the Winlink recipient station and include that call sign in the table. That will give us a central POC within each county for relay purposes.

We plan to use the MEPN frequency, 3820KHz for voice and 3575KHz for Winlink Peer-to-Peer. I will try to get someone to be NCS on 3820 for coordinating purposes. Any volunteers??

We can also use the 440 C.M.R.G. linking system that covers most of Maryland Central.

What to Set Up

The objective is to be able to communicate between two stations via VHF and/or HF. The VHF station will communicate with repeaters and VHF Packet Nodes. The HF station will run WL2K WinMOR as necessary. Carrier pigeons are optional.

Some  Other  Things to do:

1.  Think up stuff.  Boy, do we know how to do this!!
2.  Exchange wx reports.  Getting close to the start of Tornado Weather.
3.  Invite newly licensed hams to see what this is all about.
4. Invite hospital staffs, local organizations, church groups, etc. to show them what you are all about.
5.  Check page 99 of the March issue of  *QST* and try to contact any of the special event stations listed.
6.  Tune around on the high bands for a dx stations and see how your modest station performs at distance.
7.  Send a message to the Atlantic Director, the Vice Director , the Section Manager or any of his assistants.
8.  All of the above. . .or none of the above!

Invitees

Who shall you invite?  Invite the public as you see fit.  Your county government is a good start, the county fire chief, etc.  Red Cross personnel, local hospital(s), family, the list is unbounded. How about the news media?

But Wait, There's More

Pictures. . .take lots of action pictures.  At the end of the fun, send me a soap-box write up of call signs and what all took place at your location and I will put a report out similar to the 2014 SET report for all participants.  My call sign at AOL.

<u>One Last Thing</u>

It sounds like Field Day all over again.  Well, it isn't.  It is all about bringing the Section together, on the air, so we can better find out who you might have to reach out to when you really need help. I am trying different/many ways to get neighboring ham communities to know who their neighbors are.  Today, most don't know that there are ham communities "in their own back yards" that can be called upon. . .***When All else Fails.***

I hope you all can join us on a fun day to play radio.  I look forward to contacting all or as many groups as possible.


Tnx es 73, de

Jim
WB3KAS
MDC SEC