

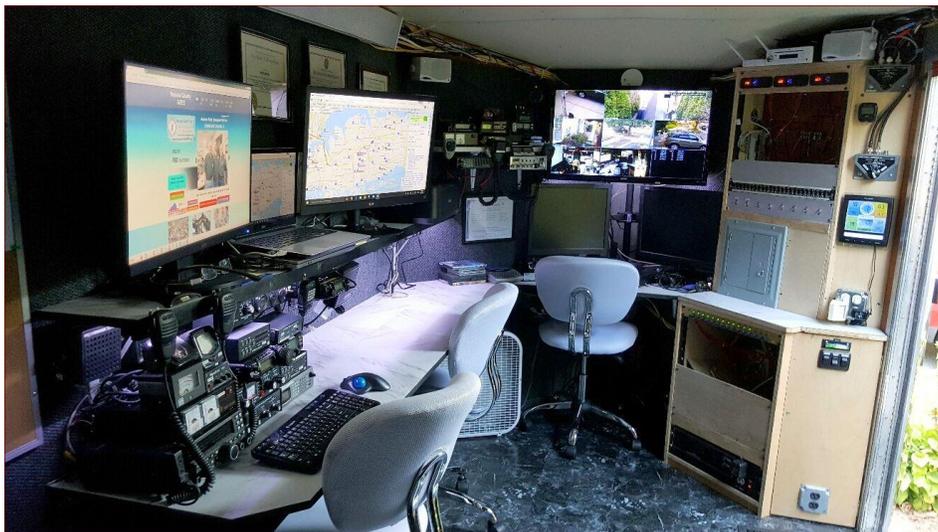
Nassau County ARES Report

Hams are a fortunate bunch in that there are so many different aspects of this hobby to enjoy and to immerse oneself in. Each facet seems to offer its own set of technical challenges, provides its own sense of accomplishment (and frustrations) and ultimately it acknowledges our achievements in the form of certificates and awards or just through the simple satisfaction of realizing the attainment of a personal goal. For many hams, these fulfillments are realized through participation in ARES, the Public Service arm of amateur radio.

Nassau County ARES members are as diverse as is the hobby itself. We come from many different career paths, we each have varying degrees of technical knowledge and expertise, we are comprised of different generations of people with different educational backgrounds, our organizational skill sets are each unique and even our level of participation varies because of family and job responsibilities. But the foundation that supports our ARES team is strongly built on our common desire to help others when all else fails. *That* is the accomplishment we recognize in ARES.

And to that end, we meet twice monthly for training and for general meetings, and we participate in a significant number of field events each year to both practice our skills as a team, and to help other organizations succeed in accomplishing their own goals. Organizations we support include the American Red Cross, the MS Society and the American Cancer Society, while we also support the efforts of large athletic events such as the LI Marathon, Ocean to Sound Relay and the Gold Coast Bike Tour. Concurrently, we offer our active support and services to Nassau County RACES, to our county Fire Battalions, to MARS, CERT and to our radio group partners as the opportunity or need arises. This of course, includes LIMARC, with whom we maintain a close working relationship. As you can imagine, we keep a busy schedule.

In 2016, Nassau County ARES achieved something else that has been on our wish list for quite some time; a mobile command trailer of our own that is equipped with every piece of gear needed to provide a professional and complete presence at public service events and be available for immediate use during radio communications emergencies. Once again, our ARES team pulled together and bought, built and outfitted an empty 17-foot cargo trailer with all the necessities for 5 radio operators to simultaneously function and network together in any environment. This was accomplished without one cent of taxpayer money, but by donations from our dedicated members and through the generosity of private people and our friends in LIMARC and Bridgecomm. We are now very pleased to showcase some photos for you below, showing just of how far along this ambitious project has come over the last few months! This is a rolling, self-contained Field Day that takes minutes to deploy and seconds to energize.



The Nassau County ARES Comms Trailer includes a center for our mesh network, 8 CCTV cameras, several U/VHF and 2 HF stations, dedicated Red Cross radio, APRS, Packet and NBEMS and PSK31 stations, GMRS, Marine, trunking scanner, a Weather Underground station, both digital and cable TV for news or weather reports with an outdoor big screen monitor for the public, along with a cell charging station and Wi-Fi hotspot. Additionally, it houses its own dedicated internet hotspot, a separate Wi-Fi antenna for distant signals and a computer network system that exceeds the capacity of many commercial offices. In fact, there are 6 computers networked in the trailer, a network printer, an electrified situation board and when fully loaded the trailer supports 17 antennas on multiple masts and mounts. The trailer has both AC and heat, 120VAC and 12VDC LED lighting and 8 flood lights. It utilizes line voltage through a 60 amp panel, 2 generators, and solar into 4 battery banks. It's also comfortable!



It is my sincere honor to serve as the District Emergency Coordinator for Nassau County ARES. On behalf of us all, we cordially invite you to attend our meetings and to discover for yourself why Nassau County ARES is as strong and vibrant as it is. You will see quite a few of your fellow LIMARC members there, have fun, learn or even teach us new things, and you'll gain a great deal of personal satisfaction in the process by being a member of a team that is dedicated to helping others when needed most. *We think you'll agree that there is nothing more rewarding in amateur radio than that!*

73,

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ARES Meetings: 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 7:30pm to 9:00 pm, Red Cross HQ, 195 Willis Ave, Mineola. Rear outside stair entrance, 2nd floor boardroom. Elevator access is available.

