Nassau County ARES
AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE OF NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK

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Welcome to Nassau County ARES!

We want to commend you for your desire to assist your fellow Nassau County residents by utilizing your amateur radio license and your skills in such a positive and productive way, and we want you to know that we're happy you have decided to join our team. And as a *team*, we are here to help you get started.

Our mission of course is to provide communications during situations when regular communications are disrupted or overwhelmed. But we also assist during major public events such as marathons, parades and bike tours where swift, reliable communications help ensure the public's safety. These events provide us with excellent training opportunities by allowing us to deploy as a team, to hone our skills in net operations and procedures and to field test our equipment and resources.

Our bi-weekly meetings provide training and information on the entire scope of EMCOMM, and we hope you will take full advantage of these opportunities to further your knowledge in this subject. In this age of NIMS conformity and ICS continuity with our served clients, including OEM, the American Red Cross and Fire Battalions, it is vital that we be *certified and competent* in this serious business of emergency communications.

ARES Active members strive to achieve various certifications. Certification *qualifies and validates* our understanding of the National Incident Management System as well as the ICS command structure and ARES methods. Attending meetings and participating in drills and special events is how we *develop and maintain competency.*

Our ARES Reserve members are also key components in our Team approach. Reserve members provide logistical and NCS backup operations to ARES. They provide digital communications and voice relays and act as operators and liaisons to other nets, including RACES and Skywarn.

We strongly urge you to earn your EC-001 Certification from the ARRL in emergency communications. The FEMA training institute provides the required prerequisite courses for EC-001 at no charge online, and these two courses (#100 and #700), take about 3-4 hours each to complete. You should also take #200 and #800. At the end of each online course, there is a multiple choice test, and FEMA will notify you online about your grade.

These certifications are not mandatory for Nassau County ARES membership, but you won't be able to participate as a full ARES member during certain types of activations unless you have these qualifications completed.

ARES is a key partner for the American Red Cross for shelter operations. There are certifications needed to deploy at a Red Cross shelter, including a back ground check. There are a few ways to obtain this certification.

The first method is to join the Red Cross as an ARES member, which will give you the basic classes and background check you need to receive an ID Badge for shelter operations. You do not need to be fully involved in the ARC volunteer program to do this because it limits you to radio communications support.

Of course, you may find this to be a stimulating resource to further your Red Cross training into Disaster Services Technology, Disaster Assessment or becoming a member of a Red Cross Disaster Action Team.

The second method for achieving Shelter Certification is to become a Nassau County RACES member. This route requires that you first become a CERT member by completing a seven week training course, and then applying to be admitted to RACES. In doing so, you will receive outstanding training through Nassau County OEM and receive a police background check. You'll then be issued the proper ID Badge and be qualified for ARES or RACES duty at a shelter as a radio operator. Many of our members have all these certifications.

Please join us twice each month, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross chapter building at 195 Willis Ave. in Mineola, on the second floor. The 2nd Thursday of the month meeting is normally reserved for training, and the 4th Thursday's meeting is our general membership and business meeting. Both have plenty to offer you! Be sure to always check the schedule on our ARES website for any updates, weather cancellations, etc.

When you come in, please see me or John Wilson, KD2AKX, our Assistant District Emergency Coordinator. We will review some items on your application and make some introductions all around. In the meantime, please also join our Yahoo group. See our website for the link to join. Joining this Yahoo group is a requirement of Nassau County ARES membership because it serves to deliver important ARES notifications.

We also utilize Twitter for SMS notifications and we have a Facebook presence as well. If you don't want to join these social media sites, there are simple ways we can show you how to avoid subscribing but still get important notices on your cell phone or computer about ARES activations and alerts.

Here's a short list of some items you'll be needing: (We can discuss this further at the next meeting.)

    Basic Go-Kit, aka "jump kit" for field use. You'll make this up yourself to your own liking.
    ARES 2m/70cm Frequency List programmed into your radios
    ARRL certified safety vest and cap
    Nassau County ARES shirt
    Basic Member ID Card signed by the DEC
    Photo for ID purposes. (the photo must be taken by ARES only and is issued on as needed basis only)

Make SURE you get onto the NC ARES Share File site!

Request an invitation to create a password on our Share File ftp site that we use for handling documents and manuals.

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have *any* questions at all. My cell is 516-312-8745 and my email address is ak1ns@ak1ns.net

Once again, welcome to Nassau County ARES.
We look forward to seeing you and your Active or Reserve participation in this valued organization!

Dave Akins, AK1NS
District Emergency Coordinator
Nassau County ARES