



On Air
Events

ARES
Training

EMCOMM
IS FUN!

WCARES DISPATCH

ARRL — the national association for Amateur Radio™

RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
125	R		N1EP	14	milbridge ME		NOV 23

TO Washington County - WN1EOC
ARES

THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT

AMATEUR STATION _____	PHONE _____
NAME _____	E-MAIL _____
STREET _____	
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____	

PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL _____

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Sending</u>	<u>and</u>	<u>receiving</u>	<u>Radiograms</u>
<u>on</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>nets</u>	<u>of</u>	<u>Maine</u>
<u>Seagull</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>73</u>	

Phil Duggan N1EP

REC'D	DATE	TIME	SENT

This message was handled at no charge by a licensed Amateur Radio operator, whose address is shown in the box at right above. No compensation can be accepted by a "ham" operator. A return message may be filed with the "ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or www.arrl.org.

The ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio and the publisher of QST magazine. One of its functions is promotion of public service communication among Amateur Radio operators. To that end, the ARRL has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.

1320 2/11

Radiograms

Hams who participate with the National Traffic System (NTS) and ARES send, receive, and relay radiograms frequently. This practice has been going on for decades and serves to keep communicators' messaging skills up to speed as well as to promote amateur radio among the public.

Similar to the old-fashioned telegrams, radiograms have certain checks and

[Download radiogram forms from WCARES web site \[wn1eoc.org\]\(http://wn1eoc.org\) under the files menu.](#)

balances built in to help reduce the possibility of human error. In this article I will give a very brief introduction to radiogram format. Once you learn the basics you can gain practice by checking in to or monitoring traffic nets, such as the Maine Seagull Net, which meets on or near 3.940 MHz Monday through Saturday at 1630 (4:30pm) in the wintertime, and at 1700 (5pm) the remainder of the year. Refer to the pink FSD-218 form at the end of this newsletter. I refer to this card all the time.

The radiogram can be broken down in to four sections: preamble, addressing, message text, and signature.

The preamble contains tracking and special information needed to track and verify the message. The NUMBER is a serial number assigned by the originating amateur radio operator (who is putting the message into the NTS). If a question later comes up regarding the message, the operator can easily look it up by its number. The PRECEDENCE is what kind of priority is given to the radiogram. Most messages in non-emergency periods are given a ROUTINE precedence. During disasters, a PRIORITY precedence gets processed before any routine traffic and EMERGENCY precedence is always processed immediately. Health & Welfare (W) messages are common after disasters, but priority and emergency traffic goes before welfare radiograms. The date block is always completed, but the time block is optional. During exercises and actual emergencies, it is a good practice to fill in the time block anyway.

Unless you are sending the radiogram to someone or some group known on the traffic net, the complete name, (call sign if a ham) and address, and telephone should be included in the address section. Nowadays, email addresses are often included as well.

The text of the message should be limited to 25 words or less, although this is not a hard rule. An “X” in the text stands for a period. These are also counted as a word. The number of words in the text must match the “count” in the preamble. Any sentiments such as “73” or “love” are also counted and belong in the text and not the signature block.

The signature block includes the name (and call sign if a ham) of the originating station. This is not always the originating call sign in the preamble. The person originating the message may be a third party such as an EMA director or Incident Commander. Any phone number or other contact info can be included in the signature block.

On The Air!

W1KMG Simplex Test

The Poverty Hill ARC is conducting a simplex net on Friday, DEC 10 at 1900 on 146.565 MHz and will be based in Hancock. See if your station and antenna can make the trip!

MHRS 75M Net

All are invited to join the special 75 meter net on Thursday, DEC 16 at 1600 on or near 3.840 MHz. Check in and tell us about your holiday plans! N1EP will be net control.

10M Ground Wave

WCARES & MHRS is inviting all Washington County hams, and others who are interested, in testing the 10-meter ground wave range around the county. N1EP/WN1EOC will be net control from Milbridge, but will enlist others in Machias, Calais and elsewhere to do call ups and relay contacts. Please spread the word so we can get maximum participation in this exercise!

ARES Level 1 Certification

From The ARRL ARES® STANDARDIZED TRAINING PLAN

ARES® TRAINING LEVEL			
Level 1			
<p>This is the primary level for those who choose a non-leadership role as well as those new to Amateur Radio or emergency communications. This introductory training is conducted by the local ARES group to meet its needs and those of its served agency or partners. This training could be formal or informal and would introduce the ARES participant to the fundamentals of emergency communications and provide instructions on how participants are to conduct themselves while serving in the field or otherwise activated. Participants are encouraged to complete Level 1 and advance to level 2 as soon as practical.</p> <p>R = Required, O = Optional, E = Encouraged</p>			
TASK	R-O-E	COMPLETION DATE	EC Sign Off
Education			
IS-100.c- Intro to Incident Command System*	O		
IS-700.b Introduction to National Incident Mgt. System*	O		
SKYWARN - Spotter Basic Training (Biennially)	O		
ARRL EC-001 Introduction to Emergency Communications	O		
Comment: *Sets initial baseline requirements. Will likely be insufficient for deployment at an incident.			
Participation			
Obtain Task Book	R		
Join an ARES® group	R		
Comment:			
Proficiency/Skill			
Obtain Technician class or higher Amateur Radio License	R		
Comment:			

You can download the complete task book from the ARRL website as an editable PDF file. As you can see from the level 1 requirements, there are not many formal training required in this basic level qualification. I do highly recommend you take the free IS-100c and IS-700.b on-line courses. They only take a couple hours to complete. If we are working with county and state agencies, it is helpful to understand their chain of command, policies, etc. The last SKYWARN Spotter Basic Training for the season was conducted last week, but they will offer it again in the summer and fall.

If you have not registered with the Washington County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, send an email to n1ep@yahoo.com and a form will be emailed, or mailed to you.

WCARES Net Mondays 1900 on W1LH Cooper Repeater 147.330+ PL 118.8

Synergy Challenge & SET Review

October was a busy month for disaster exercises. Synergy Challenge was OCT 6-7 and several WCARES members participated both from the Emergency Operations Center at the EMA building in Machias, and from their homes and vehicles. The scenario included a reported “incident” at the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Plant in New Brunswick. WCARES passed and/or relayed exercise traffic via voice and digital modes. Winlink was utilized, and radiograms and ICS-213 general message forms were processed. Operators at the EOC were able to establish reliable communications on the WILH Cooper Mountain Repeater and with two repeaters in New Brunswick.

The Maine Simulated Emergency Test was conducted on Oct 9 and WCARES checked in with the Maine Emergency Communications Net on 75 meters and sent traffic via Winlink.

Thank you to all who participated, especially Peter Stackpole N1MLE and Roger Holst WILH who joined me at the EOC for a considerable amount of time.

EMCOMM IS FUN!

If you have not joined WCARES or other groups in drills and exercises, you are missing out. These on air activities not only enhanced our communications skills, but they can be loads of fun as well. After all, you earned your ham radio license to get in the air and make contacts. Well, that is what we do!!!

As WCARES Emergency Coordinator and as Assistant Maine Section Manager for District 3 (Washington, Hancock, Waldo, Knox counties) I have reached out to District 4 (Aroostook, Penobscot, Pisquatis, Somerset) ASM Derrick Ouellette, KW1A and he has agreed to join us in a special 75 meter activity in January where all hams from these counties can meet each other on the air. Let’s get to know each other, and see how good the 75 meter pathways are between all the various locations! More details will come soon, but I hope you plan on joining us!

2-Meter Simplex
Frequencies
To Know & Program
146.595 MHz
147.525 MHz
147.570 MHz
146.520 MHz

Program These Repeaters Into Your Rigs

147.330+ (PL 118.8) WILH Cooper MTN
146.775- (PL 192.8) K1HF Marshfield Repeater
147.180+ (PL 151.4) N1YPM Cherryfield
146.910- (PL 151.4) Hancock County EMMCOMM

AMATEUR MESSAGE FORM

Every formal radiogram message originated and handled should contain the following component parts in the order given.

<p>I PREAMBLE</p> <p>a. Number (begin with 1 each month or year)</p> <p>b. Precedence (R, W, P or EMERGENCY)</p> <p>c. Handling Instructions (optional, see text)</p> <p>d. Station of Origin (first amateur handler)</p> <p>e. Check (number of words/groups in text only)</p> <p>f. Place of Origin (not necessarily location of station of origin)</p> <p>g. Time Filed (optional with originating station)</p> <p>h. Date (must agree with date of time filed)</p> <p>II ADDRESS (as complete as possible, include zip code and telephone number)</p> <p>III TEXT (limit to 25 words or less, if possible)</p> <p>IV SIGNATURE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CW MESSAGE EXAMPLE</p> <p>I NR 1 R HXG W1AW 8 NEWINGTON CONN 1830Z JULY 1 <i>a b c d e f g h</i></p> <p>II DONALD SMITH AA 164 EAST SIXTH AVE AA NORTH RIVER CITY MO 00789 AA 733 4968 BT</p> <p>III HAPPY BIRTHDAY X SEE YOU SOON X LOVE BT</p> <p>IV DIANA AR</p> <p>Note that X, when used in the text as punctuation, counts as a word.</p> <p>CW: The prosign AA separates the parts of the address. BT separates the address from the text and the text from the signature. AR marks end of message; this is followed by B if there is another message to follow, by N if this is the only or last message. It is customary to copy the preamble, parts of the address, text and signature on separate lines.</p> <p>RTTY: Same as cw procedure above, except (1) use extra space between parts of address, instead of AA; (2) omit cw procedure sign BT to separate text from address and signature, using line spaces instead; (3) add a CFM line under the signature, consisting of all names, numerals and unusual words in the message in the order transmitted.</p> <p>PACKET/AMTOR BBS: Same format as shown in the cw message example above, except that the AA and AR prosigns may be omitted. Most amtor and packet BBS software in use today allows formal message traffic to be sent with the "ST" command. Always avoid the use of spectrum-wasting multiple line feeds and indentations.</p> <p>PHONE: Use <i>prowords</i> instead of prosigns, but it is not necessary to name each part of the message as you send it. For example, the above message would be sent on phone as follows: "Number one routine HX Golf W1AW eight Newington Connecticut one eight three zero zulu July one Donald Smith Figures one six four East Sixth Avenue North River City Missouri zero zero seven eight nine Telephone seven three three four nine six eight Break Happy birthday X-ray see you soon X-ray love Break Diana End of Message Over. "End of Message" is followed by "More" if there is another message to follow, "No More" if it is the only or last message. Speak clearly using VOX (or pause frequently on push-to-talk) so that the receiving station can get fills. Spell phonetically all difficult or unusual words—do not spell out common words. Do not use cw abbreviations or Q-signals in phone traffic handling.</p>
--	--

PRECEDENCES

The precedence will follow the message number. For example, on cw 207 R or 207 EMERGENCY. On phone, "Two Zero Seven, Routine (or Emergency)."

EMERGENCY—Any message having life and death urgency to any person or group of persons, which is transmitted by Amateur Radio in the absence of regular commercial facilities. This includes official messages of welfare agencies during emergencies requesting supplies, materials or instructions vital to relief of stricken populace in emergency areas. During normal times, it will be *very rare*. On cw, RTTY and other digital modes this designation will always be spelled out. When in doubt, *do not* use it.

PRIORITY—Important messages having a specific time limit. Official messages not covered in the Emergency category. Press dispatches and other emergency-related traffic not of the utmost urgency. Notification of death or injury in a disaster area, personal or official. Use the abbreviation P on cw.

WELFARE—A message that is either a) an inquiry as to the health and welfare of an individual in the disaster area b) an advisory or reply from the disaster area that indicates all is well should carry this precedence, which is abbreviated W on cw. These messages are handled *after* Emergency and Priority traffic but before Routine.

ROUTINE—Most traffic normal times will bear this designation. In disaster situations, traffic labeled Routine (R on cw) should be handled *last*, or not at all when circuits are busy with Emergency, Priority or Welfare traffic.

Handling Instructions (Optional)

HXA—(Followed by number.) Collect landline delivery authorized by addressee within miles. (If no number, authorization is unlimited.)

HXB—(Followed by number.) Cancel message if not delivered within hours of filing time; service originating station.

HXC—Report date and time of delivery (TOD) to originating station.

HXD—Report to originating station the identity of station from which received, plus date and time. Report identity of station to which relayed, plus date and time, or if delivered report date, time and method of delivery.

HXE—Delivering station get reply from addressee, originate message back.

HXF—(Followed by number.) Hold delivery until (date).

HXG—Delivery by mail or landline toll call not required. If toll or other expense involved, cancel message and service originating station.

For further information on traffic handling, consult the Public Service Communications Manual or the ARRL Operating Manual, both published by ARRL.