



# Broward County ARES®/RACES

October 2009

## A Message From Your ARES® Emergency Coordinator—Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB

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September 10<sup>th</sup> marked the peak of hurricane season. We've made it through to this point with no major incidents, thank goodness. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the downhill slide is also quiet – right through to the end of the 2009 season.

We've had another busy month and the momentum within Broward County ARES®/RACES is continuing to build. Our membership numbers are up considerably and we thank those who have come on board in the last several months. Many of you have volunteered for a shelter or hospital assignment and

we are very appreciative of that. We are busy planning for the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) which will involve the tri-county area this year.

The attendance at our meetings has been phenomenal and our educational programs have been enjoyed by all who have been at the meetings. We will continue to provide quality programming based on what is important to each of you – our valued members. Let me know at any time if you have an idea for training. This is your organization and we want each of you to have

input. The best way to reach me is through email – [KJ4AWB@arrl.net](mailto:KJ4AWB@arrl.net).

I look forward to continuing my service as your ARES® Emergency Coordinator and look forward to working with each of you during my two year term.

*A successful team  
is a group of  
many hands  
but of  
one mind.  
-Bill Bethel*

*The  
achievements  
of an  
organization  
are the results  
of the  
combined effort  
of each  
individual.  
-Vincent Lombardi*

## From Your RACES Officer—Robin Terrill, N4HHP

Since all is quiet in the tropics, there is nothing to report as far as any activations go. I have however gone through the EOC RACES room equipment and made sure that all was operating correctly. The Broward County Schools that are used for shelters and special care facilities all have coax and antennas mounted and are ready to be used by our volunteer hams that are assigned to those facilities. I had also taken the CAP transceiver and gave it to the Broward

County Wing Commander and he had it reprogrammed with their new frequencies. The County is in the process of installing another transceiver in our room for us to monitor. This will be a frequency concerning the Hotel industry along the Atlantic Coast line in Broward County should there be any emergency communications into our EOC from them for us to pass onto the War Floor.

Looking forward to the Oc-

tober 3<sup>rd</sup> ARRL SET and hope one and all will participate to make it a success.



*Teamwork  
is the ability to  
work together  
toward a  
common vision.  
The ability to  
direct individual  
accomplishments  
toward  
organizational  
objectives.  
It is the fuel that  
allows common people  
to attain  
uncommon results.  
-Andrew Carnegie*

## October 3rd—Simulated Emergency Test

On Saturday, October 3, 2009 we will have our annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) from 9:00 am until 11:30 am. This years' test will test our simplex capabilities throughout the tri-county area.

The scenario is as follows:

A major hurricane has severely impacted all three counties and repeaters are out of commission. Traffic needs to be passed between the Staging Areas, EOCs, PODS and shelters

in all three counties using simplex only. Multiple net controls, relays, liaisons and operators will be needed to accomplish this.

This will be a fun drill and you can choose your level of participation. You can participate from your home or from a remote location – your choice!

Go to [www.TriCountySET.info](http://www.TriCountySET.info) for additional information and to register.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Four Things That You Cannot Recover In Life:*

The Stone – after it's thrown

The Word – after it's said

The Occasion – after it's missed, and

The Time – after it's gone

- Author unknown

\* \* \* \* \*

## Emcomm Is More Than Just Hurricanes, by Jeff Beals—WA4AW ARRL Southern Florida Section—Gold Coast District Emergency Coordinator

As I write this morning, it is another beautiful South Florida day. We are almost into October with only 6 named storms so far this hurricane season. I mention this fact for two reasons. One, is that we still have 2 months to go & since we have had a quiet season so far doesn't mean we can let our guard down. We must be prepared for possible deployment at all times with radio gear & go kits ready. Those of you who have not completed all the required training of ARRL & NIMS courses, contact your ARES training coordinator & sign up to complete them. This training will serve you well during ARES activations. Secondly, as we live in South Florida, we tend to feel that the hurri-

cane threat is the primary reason we need to be active with ARES. However, there is much more to ARES than being ready for hurricane season. ARES responds to any natural or man-made incident that affects our community to provide needed communications support. As ARES members, we need to be prepared for any incident that requires our assistance. In order to better prepare & sharpen our skills, we need to participate in the nets, drills & public service events conducted thru out the year. Contact your EC or training coordinator for more information. I close with my thanks for your service & support of the ARES program. We cannot do it without you.



## September Meeting Notes—Deerfield “Field Trip”

The September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of Broward County ARES®/RACES was certainly a special treat.

We were invited to the Deerfield Beach Fire & Rescue Station 102 – Mitigation Operation Center for our monthly meeting. Following our business meeting we were give a tour of this state of the art facility by Andi Mucklow, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Deerfield Beach.

Our members were like kids in a candy store as Andi gave us a very special behind the scenes tour of their secure facility built to withstand up to a Category 5 hurricane.

Andi started the tour of this three story concrete bunker with a look at

the Emergency Operations Center – an area up to the standards of a county emergency command post.



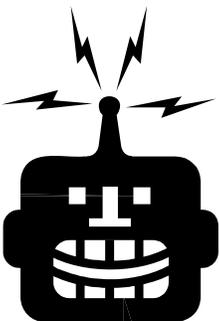
During a full activation up to 200 people would be present.

She showed us their brand new radio communications room and the cooled computer server room. We took a look at the EOC bunk rooms, conference rooms, full service kitchens, inside the fire station and saved the biggest toys for last – inside the bay with the fire engines, rescue trucks and their assortment of “toys” used for special events.

If you missed this meeting, you missed a good one. It was certainly worth the few extra miles you may have had to drive. A big THANK YOU to Andi Mucklow and the City of Deerfield Beach for hosting our meeting and for the wonderful tour!

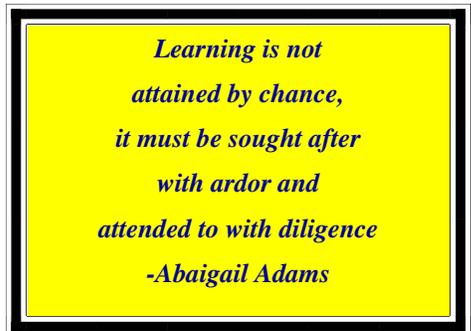


## Upcoming ARES®/RACES Meeting—Antennas in Emergencies



The next meeting of Broward County ARES®/RACES will take place on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm back at our normal Sunview Park location. Our speaker this month will be

Alan Rabin, WA2AR who will give us a presentation on antennas in emergency situations. He will explain the differences between the antennas and give us the pros and cons of each. We will also do a review of the Simulated Emergency Test. This should be a great meeting and we look forward to seeing you all there. As always, feel free to invite a guest!



*Learning is not  
attained by chance,  
it must be sought after  
with ardor and  
attended to with diligence  
-Abaigail Adams*

## Volunteer Spotlight—Mel and Ricki Witte

Forget the attorney jokes - Mel (KJ4FSI) and Ricki (KJ4FSJ) Witte have heard them all. Mel, a retired attorney, and Ricki, a paralegal, are two very active individuals who appear calm, cool and collected at all times – “appear” being the key word here. So, did they meet in the courtroom? No. They met after jogging one day. I guess this is how attorneys and paralegals relieve their stress. Mel participated in 5K and 10K runs and Ricki jogged for fun. Fun led to marriage.

Between them, Mel and Ricki have 8 children. In addition to their children, they are blessed with 27 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. That in itself, it enough to frazzle

one's nerves. To round out the family life, Mel and Ricki became involved with various organizations and hobbies, amateur radio being one.

So, how did they become interested in amateur radio? Funny you should ask. As members of Ft. Lauderdale CERT, they attended the 2008 CERT Symposium. They heard a presenter from FEMA talk about how when communications go down, amateur

radio still gets through. They went from that presentation to the next presentation - an amateur radio presentation given to CERT members by David Fowler, K4DLF and Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB. Now, Mel has built a shortwave radio in the past, so they listened attentively to the presentation. They were hooked – they signed up for the Deerfield licensing class and the rest, as they say, is history.

Licensed just over a year, Mel and Ricki wasted no time in becoming active in the hobby.

They joined Broward County ARES®/RACES and immediately participated in the 2008 Simulated Emergency Test. They may not have even

owned a radio at this point, but that didn't matter. They were paired up with a seasoned ham who was able to take them under their wings and work with them.

Then Mel and Ricki were introduced to the crowd at Lester's Diner and began to make new friends in amateur radio circles. They joined the Broward Amateur Radio Club and the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Club.

They began to participate in the Southeast Florida Traffic Network (SEFTN). Then came their first public service event – the Winterfest Boat Parade. Again, they were paired up with a seasoned volunteer who could show them the ropes. The hook has been set and they have been reeled in. They have already signed up for the 2009 Simulated Emergency Test and will once again volunteer for the Winterfest Boat Parade.

There's much more to Mel and Ricki besides amateur radio and CERT. They belong to an organization called BUSH. No, it has nothing to do with any former US Presidents. It stands for Better Understanding through the Study of Horticulture – yes, plants, flowers – you get the picture. “Mi Lady” (that would be Ricki) can also be seen wandering around Renaissance Festivals in Renaissance garb – exhibiting an early French persona – an actress in disguise! Next time the festival comes to Quiet Waters Park, be sure and look for Ricki – any maybe even her daughter who fights in full armor.

So, if you think this is all interesting, Mel and Ricki have one more South Florida secret. Just like the Renaissance era, there was no air conditioning. Mel and Ricki, by choice, have no air conditioning in their home! They love the fresh air!



### Photos From The SEFTN Picnic—Saturday, September 26th





## Broward County ARES®/RACES Information

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954-993-1256 (cell)

Join the **BrowardCountyARES**  
**Yahoo Group** at:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardCountyARES/>

**Broward County Emergency  
Preparedness Net**  
Every Wednesday 7:00 pm  
146.910 MHz -600 PL 110.9

**Monthly Meeting**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Each Month at 7:30 pm  
Sunview Park 1500 SW 42 Ave.  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33317

## A Message From Our Section Training Officer ARES® Alphabet Soup, by David Fowler, K4DLF

SM, SEC, DEC, EC, AEC, OES, ADEC, ASEC – what do they mean and why do we have them? ARES® is part of the national field organization of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Since there thousands of ARES® members throughout the nation, a hierarchy has been developed to support local, regional, and national needs.

Under the ARRL headquarters, the field organization is made up of 71 sections. Florida has 3 sections and we live in the Southern Florida Section. Each section is lead by a Section Manager (SM) who has overall responsibility for ARRL activities in the section including ARES®. Section Managers are elected to 2 year terms by the ARRL membership in the section.

Since the SM has many responsibilities besides ARES®, they usually appoint a Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) who oversees ARES®. For manageability, another level between the section and the counties exists called the district. ARES® in each district is overseen by a District

Emergency Coordinator (DEC).

Each county has an Emergency Coordinator (EC) who oversees all ARES® activities at the county level. Working with the DEC and SEC, the EC prepares for and engages in the management of communications needs for disasters and public service events.

Since the job of EC is often too big for



one person, the EC can appoint Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AECs). The AEC is a local appointment and is unique in that it is the only appointment within ARES® that does not need approval of the SM. ECs can have as many or as few AECs as they need.

An Official Emergency Station (OES) is an amateur radio operator appointed by the SEC or SM on the recommendation of an EC or DEC. OES appointees make a deeper commitment to ARES® than do typical ARES® members. The OES carries out specific functions and assignments designated by the appropriate EC or DEC. In the Southern Florida Section, prospects must have emergency power and an assignment to be considered for the OES appointment.

Some sections also have Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator (ASEC) and/or Assistant District Emergency Coordinator (ADEC) appointments. As the names suggest, these assignments are assistants for the SEC or DEC.

The organizational structure described here has proven itself time and time again during disasters. Although ARRL membership is not required to be an ARES® member, all ARES® appointments do require ARRL membership.