



YAVAPAI COUNTY ARES / RACES

As you sign up for Yavapai County ARES/RACES please consider the following:

What is "Emergency Communications Commitment"?

The idea behind the statement "Amateur Radio is the hobby. Emergency Communication is a commitment." is that so many people will not spend the time to learn communication and when urged to do so will reply with "It's just a hobby." The hobby is Amateur Radio and we expect people to treat the hobby portion as a hobby.

The difference is that when you volunteer for ARES/RACES you need to understand that it is a commitment. That means that if it is humanly possible (this is where family and job fold in) you will support training, Public Service Events and Emergencies. Does that mean or imply that any one person will support all of these activities? Not at all. *It does mean that each person will support as many activities as their other commitments will allow.*

This will include checking in to the Monday evening information and training net held weekly on the 145.290 MHz 127.3 pl ARES/RACES repeater located on Mingus Mountain at 1900 hours. It is on this net that information about upcoming training meetings, public service events or exercises will be disseminated along with training topics. A good goal to set is to check into at least 75% of all nets and attend 75% of all training meetings, exercises and call outs.

We may have the communications equipment and years of operating on the Amateur bands, but is it easily applied to emergency communications? The equipment maybe - but you and me, no. One does not simply walk into an emergency situation unless you have some training and/or experience.

We don't just sit down at a transceiver and control a host of other stations passing emergency messages, or go mobile and know what to do or set up an emergency communications system that supports a specific area. And that is why the training program is so essential to the ARES/RACES program.

Give this some thought: ARES/RACES is spread thin, mighty thin, across the nation. You have the equipment and communications skills. They just have to be sharpened so that you can rapidly respond to an emergency situation.

If a person can only commit to one hour per month, that's fine. That is one hour of help we didn't have before. Even those "out of town" for extended periods of time can remain active, simply by using the EmCom material and studying or participating in the local nets, wherever they are at (you may learn something new to bring back and share with the rest of us). That is participation, even if it does not contribute directly to your district. That person is enhancing their training and or polishing their skills and that is part of the commitment!

As a group we are making a commitment to the people of Yavapai County to be a well organized, well trained and well equipped Emergency Communications response organization. Lets all work together to make this happen.

Lloyd Halgunseth WA6ZZJ
Yavapai County ARES/RACES
District Emergency Coordinator/Radio Officer

I have read the above and will do my best to honor the commitment.

Signed _____ Call _____ Date _____