

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

**T**  
**CARES**



**WELCOME**

**JUNE 4, 2009**

**ALL-MEMBER MEETING**

**Thanks to our host, Subaru of Indiana Automotive (SIA) for the generous use of their facilities, and to Dan, WA9DDI, for helping make it all happen.**

- Housekeeping Issues
- Security / Parking
- Smoking Location
- Restroom Locations
- Comments and Questions Etiquette

# Weekly ARES Training Net

- Every Monday evening, 8:00 pm
- 147.135 MHz (+) Repeater, 88.5 Hz
  - (Backup repeater: 146.760 (-), 88.5 Hz)
- ARES news, updates and events



# Weekly ARES Training Net

**Stricter Net Protocols to be implemented  
beginning July 1, 2009**

- Stations will only be acknowledged if they check into the net using the format that is specified by the NCS, and...
- Check in during the time period in which the NCS asks for a specific range of letters that correspond to the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of a call sign SUFFIX (the part of your call AFTER the number)

# ACTIVE Status Requirements

All TCARES members are automatically classified as RESERVE until they meet these qualifications for ACTIVE status:

- ◆ **Training**

- ◆ EC-001 – or – TCARES Basic Emergency Communications course

- ◆ **Meeting Participation**

- ◆ Attend at least 2 regular TCARES meetings every 12 months

- ◆ **On-Air Activity**

- ◆ Participate in at least 2 weekly TCARES training nets every 3 months

**NOTE: These are only MINIMUM requirements! Please do more!**

# TCARES Basic Emergency Communications Course

- ◆ Developed as an alternative to ARRL's EC-001
- ◆ Taken directly from ARRL's EC-001 course
- ◆ For TCARES ACTIVE status, satisfies the EC-001 or equivalent requirement *(8 members could go from RESERVE to ACTIVE status by passing the BEC exam)*
- ◆ Exam is administered online and requires a 72% passing grade, just like EC-001
- ◆ Provided at no cost to TCARES members

# TCARES Basic Emergency Communications Course

- ◆ If you haven't taken EC-001 yet, please take the TCARES BEC course
- ◆ Members are still encouraged to attend the official EC-001 training sessions when given by TCARES
- ◆ Several TCARES members will be able to qualify for ACTIVE status by merely taking and passing the BEC certification course
- ◆ Please LEARN the material – don't just take the exam

# Maintaining ACTIVE Status

- ◆ Attend NWS SKYWARN Spotter training – or – TCARES Severe Weather Training at least once every 2 years
- ◆ Participate annually in at least one TCARES exercise (i.e., SET, Statewide Tornado Test, Field Day\*, etc.)
- ◆ Within 6 months of achieving ACTIVE status, complete EMI Independent Study courses:

IS-100

IS-200

IS-700

IS-800



# It's Not Your Grandfather's ARES Anymore

- IS-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS)
- IS-200 ICS for Single Resources & Initial Action Incidents
- IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- IS-800 National Response Framework, An Introduction

If you have taken some (or all) of these, we need copies of the certificates of completion.

Get the PDF files, or printed copies, to Cheryl, K9HER, for placement into your TCARES membership records.

# Training Records

Any ARRL Emergency Communications courses (EC-001, EC-002, EC-003, others)

Any FEMA/EMI Independent Study Program courses (IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800, others)

- Please get us a copy of your certificates of completion for courses you have already taken by July 1.
- As you complete new courses, get us a copy of your new certificates.
- PDF files can be easily emailed to [k9her@verizon.net](mailto:k9her@verizon.net) or you can supply us with a printed copy to have on file.

# TCARES ID Cards

 <p><b>TIPPECANOE COUNTY, INDIANA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE®</b></p> <p>This identification card certifies that</p> <p><b>Sample ID Card</b></p> <p>is a member in good standing of the Tippecanoe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (TCARES). The bearer of this card, a licensed Amateur Radio operator, is a trained emergency communicator, volunteering personal time, skill, and equipment to serve in the public interest.</p> <p><b>Member Classification: RESERVE</b> <b>ID Card Expiration Date: 31-Dec-09</b></p>  <p><b>NOONE</b></p>	<p><b>TIPPECANOE COUNTY TCARES</b> TCARES Identification Card Number: 79-000 Not valid unless signed by issuing authority.</p> <hr/> <p><b>R. Bruce Stewart, N9GKE</b> Emergency Coordinator, Tippecanoe County Indiana ARES</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div data-bbox="1006 786 1306 879"> <p>TCARES on the web: <a href="http://www.W9TCA.com">www.W9TCA.com</a></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1464 772 1846 922"> <p>If found, please return to: Tippecanoe County ARES P.O. Box 4574 Lafayette, IN 47903</p> </div> </div>  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">TCARES Form ID-224A (05/2009)</p>
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Official membership in Tippecanoe County ARES is indicated by the possession of a valid TCARES ID card. By July 1, all TCARES members should have their ID card.

# Questions About the New Policies ?

- Membership requirements
- Member classifications
- ACTIVE status requirements
- ID cards

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# **TCARES Packet BBS & Node**

**Now at its new home!**

**Green Hill (WAZY-FM transmitter tower)**

**12 miles west of Lafayette**

**2 miles over the border into Fountain County**

**Over 200' elevation**

*(Courtesy of donations and efforts by W9DF, N9GKE, WR9A, N9IP and W9TN.)*

# Tippecanoe County ARES Packet

1200 baud AX.25 packet on **145.050 MHz**

**W9TCA-1      BBS (Mailbox)**

**TCARES      KA-Node**  
(Use to connect to other nodes/stations)

# TCARES Packet

1200 baud AX.25 packet on **145.050 MHz**

**Activity: About 10 local users on a regular basis!**

**ARES news & announcements are posted as bulletins**

**Packet to Email gateway coming soon – greatly enhancing our messaging capabilities**

**Node linking (via RF) to Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Bloomington, Chicago, and beyond**

# TCARES Packet

**Have an old packet TNC somewhere? Fire it up!**

**Don't have a TNC?**

- **Hamfests, eBay (\$40-\$80 used, \$175-\$225 new)**
- **Sound card interface? Try AGWPE**
  - **April CQ Magazine article**

**Need help setting it all up? We're here to help! (WR9A, WP4YJ, etc.)**

**Upcoming training sessions on TNC setup and Outpost**



# Upcoming Communications Opportunity

- ◆ Wabash River Cycle Club - Wabash River Ride
  - ◆ Sunday, August 30
  - ◆ Start/Finish at Fort Ouiatenon
  - ◆ Covers up to a 101-mile route
  - ◆ Three other fixed locations (SAG stops)
  - ◆ Mobile (roving) “SAG wagons” travel the routes

Operating in support of this event will be challenging!

# Upcoming TCARES Exercise

- ◆ **ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)**
  - ◆ Held in October
  - ◆ Last year's SET was a simple scenario, short in length
  - ◆ This year we will conduct a much more involved exercise for the SET
  - ◆ Details yet to come – but be prepared!

# Lafayette Hamfest

- ◆ Sunday, AUG 16, at Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds
- ◆ TCARES will have a booth set up
- ◆ ARRL Section Manager, John Poindexter, W3ML, will be attending

# Tippecanoe County ARES on the Internet

[www.W9TCA.com](http://www.W9TCA.com)

**ARES-Tippecanoe Yahoo group:**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ARES-Tippecanoe/>

# TCARES Email List

Yahoo group being phased out

**July 1**

**New TCARES Email List**

*(Courtesy of Wintek)*

Will be maintained by TCARES

# Tippecanoe County ARES on the Internet

[www.W9TCA.com](http://www.W9TCA.com)

May 15, 2009

# What the *heck* happened?!?!

*(Let's take a look at radar that night)*

*(Let's take a look at the damage that occurred.)*

- ◆ Most Net Controls & AECs were gone  
*(Dayton Hamvention)*
- ◆ NWS *(through CISW)* requesting info

# May 15, 2009 Storms

**Great job to all who helped!**

- ◆ **Despite all the problems encountered, the mission was accomplished**
- ◆ **What lessons can we learn from the problems that were encountered?**



# May 15, 2009 SKYWARN Net Problems Identified

- ◆ Absence of a number of Net Controls and ARES leadership
- ◆ Lack of a notification system for AEC/NCS
- ◆ No one had the control codes to activate the 2-way link to the CISW net on 443.775
- ◆ Once the link was established, it was basically unusable

# May 15, 2009 SKYWARN Net More Problems Identified

- ◆ Invalid storm damage location was reported **(but handled appropriately)**
- ◆ TEMA member asked us to relay reports as their 800 MHz radio system was down
- ◆ State backup radio system overloaded – county backup comms are low priority

# Mitigation Steps

- ◆ No more going to Dayton (*not practical*)
- ◆ EC/AECs/NCS now have each others' contact information
- ◆ All AECs and designated Net Control Operators now have the control codes
- ◆ Improve CISW link reliability
- ◆ More training and exercises  
(*AECs/NCS/Liaisons/all ARES members*)

# Mitigation Steps

- ◆ Verify validity of reported locations – ask for clarification/correction as needed
- ◆ Continue efforts to build a working ARES relationship with county government
- ◆ Identify potential problem areas in county emergency communications systems and diplomatically present it to officials, along with ways ARES can help

# Mitigation Steps

- ◆ Plans to simultaneously record radio traffic on multiple frequencies during storms
  - ◆ Primary ARES/SKYWARN Net frequency (WIRES)
  - ◆ CISW link (KA9VXS repeater)
  - ◆ TEMA VHF
  - ◆ TEMA 800 MHz
  - ◆ Other city/county systems as deemed vital

# CISW/NWS Reporting

Be very specific, yet concise!

- ◆ **WHO** (callsign of person reporting/observing)
- ◆ **WHAT** (exactly what is being reported)
- ◆ **WHEN** (exactly when did the observation take place – **time**, not elapsed time)
- ◆ **WHERE** (exactly where was the person observing, and in what direction was it observed)

# Tippecanoe County ARES Net Operations

- Net Controls
- Alternate Net Controls
- Liaison Stations

Specific training on Net Control & Liaison procedures is forthcoming shortly!