

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Falmouth ARES E-Newsletter. Don't be fooled by the monthly date indication in the header-this will not be a monthly edition but will be issued occasionally when we have news to report. Distribution will only be via e-mail.

Falmouth Hospital ARES activities

The first meeting of the Falmouth Hospital ARES Group in 2012 was on January 12, in the Hospital Conference Room. At this point, we are not sure how many more meetings we will be holding in that room.

The entire administration area is being rebuilt into patient rooms. This means that our operation, cabinet and antenna feeds will need to be moved. The move is in process, but has not yet reached the point where the antenna feeds need relocation.

This will be a big job, but has been planned for by the Hospital staff. Change is a fact of life, and we will need to be prepared for it.

The January meeting involved some realistic message handling. Members with HT's on a 440 simplex frequency dispersed throughout the floor while Frank, WQ1O and Dan, K1DYO, prepared NTS messages and then passed them via HT to the outlying "stations". After the messages were

recorded, participants returned to the conference room for message dissection and discussion. This is great practice and helps keep everyone familiar with NTS message handling.

Upcoming Exercise

Frank noted that he was preparing an outdoor exercise for January 28th, and will have participants at Falmouth Hospital as well as the Sandwich EOC. He will be conducting two pre-exercise briefings at the Red Cross Chapter House in Hyannis in the weeks prior to the exercise. Last year, Falmouth ARES was fortunate to have the K1MGH Airstream trailer as our shelter, much to the envy of the other exercise participants! The exercise begins Saturday morning, Jan. 28th. Falmouth Hospital ARES will be participating.

Winter Weather

As I write this, snow is starting to fall outside. We have been fortunate so far this winter season and have seen very little snow. But that could change. It's the old story, but we need to be prepared, especially during winter season. Be sure to have a basic go-kit in your vehicle, with an HT, charged batteries (check them often!) and maybe some emergency food and clothing.

During heavy weather, monitor your local fire and police frequencies for local information and keep tuned to the 146.655 repeater in the event of power failures or catastrophic events. And did I mention keeping those batteries charged? All this is common sense but many don't think of these things until it's too late.

Cape Cod Weather Net

Speaking of weather, have you thought of participating in the Cape and Islands Weather Net every morning at 6 AM? The net starts on the 146.955 Dennis repeater and then moves to the 147.375 Falmouth repeater, the 146.655 repeater or the 146.685 Plymouth repeater, depending on the day. This is a very useful net as it enables commuters to get an idea as to what weather conditions are around the local area. Your participation is welcomed and basic weather information is all you are required to provide. Give a listen some morning, and better yet, be a participant!

The FARA K1AIR Club Station

FARA has been fortunate to be able to secure space at Otis ANGB for a club station, and also fortunate that Ralph, N1YHS, has taken the time to obtain equipment and install it on site. If you have

not been out to the station, you will have the opportunity since the FARA Board has elected to hold 4 meetings there this year, starting in February. These will be Saturday meetings, and will give those attending the opportunity to operate the station. If you don't have an official FARA ID card to get on the base, you can use your driver's license and carpool with someone who does. This station is adjacent to the Base Fire Headquarters, the location of the MACC, which is activated by Dan, K1DYO during emergencies. This will give the MACC more capabilities on HF and VHF/UHF during emergencies.



Frank has posted a short video on YouTube showing the station which gives an idea of the size and capabilities of the facility. Don't worry-there IS an adjacent meeting room, we won't have to squeeze into the station operating area for the first meeting!

I'm sure this is nothing new to some of you, but I'm writing this using Open Office, a free downloadable program set similar to Microsoft Office, and in my opinion, with some better features. If you are a student or just cannot afford to part with the bucks to

buy a package from Bill Gates, this is for you. Google "Open Office" and you'll find the download site. You can save your work in Word or .pdf format.

New Weather Web Site

Dick, K1MGH has a new web site with local weather information at his QTH. You might want to check it out next time you need to know what the weather in the area is doing. He's done a nice job on the page.

www.capecodwx.com

South Shore Hospital ARES Group

I was notified by John O'Neill, KB1QEM, of a possible visit by members of the South Shore Hospital ARES Group to one of our meetings. I advised him that they would be welcome and that we might exchange some ideas and experiences. They are apparently a larger group than we are and have the full support of the South Shore Hospital.

K1WCC for a final

OK folks, that's about it for the first Falmouth Hospital ARES Newsletter. I'd like to issue one of these every few months and would appreciate any comments, positive or negative, and also any contributions.

Henry Brown, K1WCC
Falmouth ARES EC
k1wcc@arrl.net

