

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be on Wednesday, June 20th at 7:00 PM, Ocean County EOC, Robert J. Miller Airpark. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Keith, KC2OON, will be giving a presentation on Artificial Intelligence.

On May 19th and 20th the MS-170 passed through Ocean and Monmouth counties. Heavy rain cut some of the bike tours short and as usual, ham radio played an important part in the event safety. Thanks to Holger, K2HES, who coordinated communications for the event and the following operators who provided communications support: KC2OON, KD2NAV, KD2OUG, NJ2N, K3MR, N2LD, K2NPT, and KD2OGN. The WA2RES repeater in Toms River performed very well from Neptune to Island Beach State Park for the event.

All operators are reminded to keep all repeater communications professional and precise. Our repeaters are largely funded by the Office of Emergency Management and anyone monitoring expects to hear professionalism a notch above regular amateur radio repeaters. This includes complete compliance with FCC Part 97 Rules and Regulations. Keying of repeaters (kerchunking) without identification will NOT be tolerated. If you must test on the air, please ID and state you are testing. Another option before you get on the air is the use of a dummy load to check your signal out BEFORE transmitting on the air. Repeater electronics have a finite life. Although most electronics are solid state, there are still a lot of relays that get cycled every time you key a repeater and these components WILL fail and cost time and money to fix. Cooling components are especially a high failure item. Also keep in mind to curb your language and keep it professional. If a conversation can be offensive to some, keep it off the air. Use your cell phone instead. There are children listening to our radios and nobody needs to hear tasteless, misleading remarks.

From the ARRL Letter:

Two informal informational nets remain open on the island of Hawaii ("The Big Island") in the wake of recent and ongoing volcanic eruptions and seismic activity, Pacific Section Emergency Coordinator Clement Jung, KH7HO, reports. No formal traffic has been passed, but frequencies are being monitored.

"All normal communications, such as cell, landline phones, internet, and public safety, are operational," Jung told ARRL. Fissures associated with the Kilauea volcano on The Big Island began erupting on May 3, spewing lava and venting high levels of sulfur dioxide.

An Amateur Radio net is in operation on 7.088 MHz (SSB), and the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) 146.720 MHz repeater (100 Hz tone) on Mauna Kea was activated after Hawaii's governor issued an emergency declaration. A federal disaster declaration has been approved.

The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reports active venting of lava and hazardous fumes continues, with no end in sight. The Hawaii Volcanoes National Park closed after roads and trails were damaged. The Observatory this week increased the Aviation Color Code to RED, due to increased ash emission.

FEMA reports some 360 evacuees are staying in emergency shelters. Some 2,000 residents have been evacuated in all. "Twenty fissure vents have formed in and around the Leilani estates subdivision," the agency said in its May 17 report. "Air quality in the southeast area of Lanipuna Gardens has been rated 'condition red' (immediate danger to health) for high levels of sulfur dioxide. Volcanic-tectonic seismicity continues."

The US Geodetic Survey has warned that new lava outbreaks could happen "at any time," as well as "more energetic ash emissions."

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC