

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES is Wednesday, August 16th at the Ocean County EOC, Robert J. Miller Airpark. If you ordered an ARES shirt, they will be available at the meeting. The short sleeve shirts are \$10 and the long sleeve shirts are \$15. Refreshments will be provided and there will be no training net the evening of the meeting.

September 9th is the annual Habitat for Humanity walk at Lavallette. The date is also Founders Day for Lavallette and after the walk everyone is invited to take part in the celebration on the bay side of the town. If you are interested in being an operator for the walk, please contact me (callsign at Comcast.net).

I recently found out from SNJ Leadership that the proposed dual mode (D-Star and Fusion) operation of the Southern Counties Emergency Repeater Network (SCERN) is too unstable and is being dropped. The entire network will transition over to Yaesu Fusion and all repeaters in the SNJ SCERN will be equipped with Fusion gear by mid-August of this year. I also understand that each repeater will be equipped with SharkRF openSPOT. At least that's what I was told a week ago. Who knows if it will really occur? The Shark would allow connection to the SCERN reflector by an operator running D-Star, Fusion or DMR, IF they have a SharkRF unit at their station and they are running the appropriate mode for their gear.

This change will really throw a wrench into the works as far as Ocean County D-Star is concerned. The rest of SNJ is having this change funded by Cooper Medical, which Ocean County is not part of. My opinion at this point is to have Ocean County continue with the installation of the D-Star gateway at Harvey Cedars and once operable, submit a request for a reflector for Ocean County ARES. This would allow an operator with D-Star equipment and is within range of the Ocean County D-Star repeater, to communicate with anyone in the world using D-Star on the Ocean County reflector (Internet dependent). It would also allow us to continue to use D-Rats as a message system in Ocean County, even with a loss of the Internet.

The Manchester 145.170 MHz repeater, WA2RES, has temporarily been repositioned to allow painting of the water tank. The repeater has limited range and will not be used for regular ARES training nets. It is still available for emergency use.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC



Ocean County Skywarn is becoming more active during potential severe weather events. We will be holding nets, some formal, but mostly informal when severe weather warnings are issued. Nets will be held on the N2OO 146.835 Repeater and the WA2RES 449.825 Repeater. Sometimes nets will only be on one repeater if the impending weather is only affecting the northern or southern part of the county. In most cases we will give out information on

impending severe weather. We will also be looking for check-ins with damage reports such as flooding, trees or wires down. You do not need to be a trained spotter to make a report.

I am happy to announce we have set a date for the NWS SKYWARN Basic Certification Class. This class will be held on Saturday August 12, 2017 at the Tony Canale Training Center 5033 English Creek Ave. Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234. The class will begin promptly at 10 am and last for about 2.5 hours and dismiss around 12:30. This class is free and open to the general public. Please follow the link below to be taken directly to the Training Schedule Page and click on the Register Here link beside the class location. Once you complete the registration you should receive an email confirming your registration and a copy of your entered info.

NWS Registration Link: <https://www.weather.gov/phi/classes>

73,

Tom Preiser N2XW

Ocean County Skywarn Coordinator