

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be December 19th, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Ocean County EOC, Robert J. Miller Airpark. This will also be the annual holiday party so bring your appetite and significant other. We will discuss and debrief the two days of search teams during the meeting.



L to R: NJ2N, WX2NJ, N2XW, WB2ALJ, K3MR, KG2RUV, KD2DHS. 11/17/18 Search Team

On November 10th and 17th, Ocean County ARES provided communications support to local search teams trying to locate a 65-year-old man, who ran away from a Stafford Township facility on Route 72 on November 2nd. The individual suffers from dementia along with several other medical conditions.

Local police have searched for him using search teams with dogs and drones with no success. He has been spotted in Barnegat near the Burger King and is suspected of travelling close to the Parkway through dense wooded areas. Dressed with a minimal amount of clothing and no shoes, this individual has had authorities puzzled with his whereabouts.

Ocean County ARES spent 6 hours searching for him on November 10th and 9 hours on November 17th. The November 10th search team consisted of over 140 individuals and approximately 30 on November 17th.

During both occasions, Net Control was positioned at Wells Mills Park in Ocean Township, off County Road 532. We were originally going to use the Manahawkin 146.835 repeater for the search, but as soon as teams entered the woods, it was obvious to everyone that another repeater or frequency was going to be needed for coverage. It was impossible to obtain good copy through Manahawkin. WX2NJ directed the teams to switch to the Toms River UHF repeater, WA2RES/R, 449.825 MHz and this machine proved to be full quieting no matter what woods we entered. Communicators with search teams used HT's and net control used a mobile setup or Go-Kit with tripod antenna. Wooded areas were searched North and South of Road 532 all the way to Barnegat and just South of Oyster Creek property.

The family of the missing man were also part of the search teams. Beverages and food was supplied by local donations or purchased from a family Go Fund Me account.

Tim, NJ2N, was instrumental in getting search teams established and worked closely with the family and local police.

Unfortunately, the individual was not found and we are now entering the third week of him missing. Many clues were located and turned over to authorities after their positions were noted, photographed, and isolated in evidence bags.

This was the first time Ocean County ARES was used for search assist and the lessons learned were numerous. ARES operators were notified of the searches by email via groups.io and Team

App on their phones. The event will be discussed and debriefed at the December 19th Holiday Party.

Thanks to the following operators who assisted in the search effort:

K3MR, N2LD, WX2NJ, KD2FFR, NJ2N, K2HVE, WB2ALJ, KC2SBR, N2RPQ, N2XW, K2EDS, KB2RUV and KD2DHS.



WB2BLJ Listens to Search Party Briefing

Photo by K2HVE



Second Search finds red shirt on tree branch. Waretown Police were dispatched to investigate

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC