

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Region #2

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services Team

WC1MAB



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This Month in Emergency Communications: Skywarn and Severe Weather Awareness

As the summer months approach, so too does the threat of severe weather in Southeastern Massachusetts. Amateur Radio has a very long standing relationship with the National Weather Service Office located in Taunton, MA through the NWS Skywarn program. As programs go, our area's Skywarn program, helmed by Rob Macedo (KD1CY) is one of the strongest in the country.

As many of you know, amateur radio provides a wealth of information and coordination for the Skywarn program when severe weather strikes. What many of us forget is that it is easy to get “rusty” in the severe weather off season. Do you know what size hail or what magnitude wind gust meets the reportability criteria? Do you know what rain rate warrants notifying the NWS field office?

Ok, so SOME of you may have been able to answer those questions with ease, but as RACES operators, the responsibility for knowing criteria goes in both directions. Do you know what rainfall rate would be of interest to your EMD? Do you know what wind speeds in the region may warrant a heads up to your served agency?

As RACES operators, we work in a customer service role. If we know what our customer is looking for and if we can quickly come up with a plan to provide for that need, we can ensure that amateur radio will stay “in business” for many years to come. If you don't know what conditions under which your EMD or served agency may want to be notified, May might provide a great opportunity to have a discussion and create a plan.

Monthly Net Report

The May communications test night Even with the bad weather, and including the two off-site net control stations, a total of **25 check-ins** were noted across the four sector nets many of whom were RACES stations.

Also of note this month is that George McCarron (KA1PS) had his first run as a net control station for the Sector 2B net. George handled the net with great acumen and we look forward to having him serve as a Net Control Station for many nets in the future. As it appears that MEMA has been more frequently running operations out of MEMA State Headquarters in Framingham, local net control operators are becoming an increasingly valuable resource. While it is not the ideal situation, in the event that operations for an incident are run out of Framingham, through the use of local net control operators and some of our regional communications capabilities, our RACES/ACS team can continue to provide disaster communication and intelligence to our served agencies even without the use of the bunker in Bridgewater.

Sector 2A

Net Control (Local):

WA1EMA/KA1RSY - Ed

RACES Stations

- 1.) Acushnet – WA1EMA (KA1RSY) Ed
- 2.) Fairhaven – KA1WBF - Marc
- 3.) Fall River – WA1MZL – Steve
- 4.) New Bedford – N1IXE
- 5.) Norton – WC1NOR –
- 6.) Rehobeth – KB1LAC
- 7.) MEMA R2 HQ – WC1MAB/WA1MZL

Non-RACES / Non-Sector Stations

- 1.) New Bedford – AC7RB
- 2.) N1LHI – Rehobeth CERT
- 3.) N1LTV

Sector 2B

Net Control (Local): KA1PS - George

RACES Stations

- 1.) Marshfield - KA1PS – George
 - 2.) Whitman – KB1MTW
 - 3.) Taunton* – N1EZH – Barry
 - 4.) MEMA Region 2 HQ - WC1MAB
- * Taunton is assigned as Sector 2A, but due to propagation limitations, N1EZH typically checks in with Sector 2B.

Sector 2C

Net Control (WC1MAB): N1UMJ - John

RACES Stations

- 1.) MEMA Region 2 HQ – WC1MAB
- 2.) Brewster – K1CKK
- 2.) Dukes County – KB1QL

Non-RACES / Non-Sector Stations

- 5.) Nantucket – K2LEK
- 6.) Bass River – KB1GTG
- 3.) East Falmouth - K1WCC

Sector 2D

Net Control (Local): KB1TJI - Jeff

RACES Stations

- 1.) Millis – K1DAT – Ken
- 2.) Milton – N1OIL – Paul
- 3.) Norwood – KA1PGI – Brian
- 4.) Walpole – WA1PH
- 5.) Wrentham – WA1AR – Alan
- 6.) MEMA Region 2 HQ - WC1MA

Non-RACES / Non-Sector Stations

- 1.) KC1AGQ – Jim – N. Attleboro
- 2.) KC1AJJ – Tim – N. Chelmsford
(N. Middlesex ARES)
- 3.) KC1EUG – Mike - Bridgewater1

HF Net Report

Net Control (Local): WA1PLE/AB1PH - Don

Frequency: 3930 khz

Checked-In Stations

- 1.) WA1PLE Don - Walpole Net Control Station
- 2.) WA1AR Alan - Wrentham
- 3.) WA1PGI Brian - Norwood
- 4.) KB1NEK Chris - Shelbourne
- 5.) WC1SW Dan - Southwick
- 6.) KC1AJJ Tim - North Chelmsford
- 7.) N1DAM Greg - Stow

Notes:

Conditions were very noisy and a Kentucky station called a net on frequency while the net was running causing a shortening of the net to avoid interference with their net.

Station Showcase: Region #2 Headquarters - WC1MAB



The Region #2 Headquarters station consists of two distinct sections. One section of the station (shown in images above) consists of 4 VHF operating positions, packet radio and computer, a 6m operating position and when an operator brings in an HF radio, there is a desk area to place that equipment into service. Mounted on the wall is an LED TV that can be used as an external monitor to display computer based information such as NBEMS, weather radar information or WebEOC data.

The second section of the station consists of public safety operations communication gear including positions for State low band radios for MassDOT, 800mhz radios for MEMA and Mass State Police and VHF and UHF positions for MEMA, CMED and other county communications. There is also a position for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station BEACONS radio, phone and data systems.

The "Radio Room" is set apart from the operations room, but can be easily reached by internal phone system, intercom, or simply by using a runner. The Radio Room is an integral part of the operations plan at MEMA Region #2 HQ and is frequently staffed for area wide weather impacts as well as for drills involving the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station.