

GETTING INVOLVED

If providing Amateur Radio communications during emergencies and disasters sounds exciting to you and something you would like to be involved in, then here's how:

1. If you are already a licensed amateur, then all you need to do is get in touch with your local ARES® or RACES group leadership. Perhaps you already know an amateur who is involved or you know of a local Amateur Radio Club. If for some reason you cannot find anyone in your locality to contact, then you can get information from ARRL Headquarters:

American Radio Relay League, Inc.
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111-1494
1-800-326-3942

The back panel of this pamphlet gives information about the ARES® and/or RACES group within the locality where you obtained this pamphlet.

2. If you are not yet a licensed amateur, then you will want to get your license and call letters. There are three classes of licenses with different levels of knowledge and skill required, including a "no-code" technician class for which you do **not** need to learn the usual Morse code requirements.

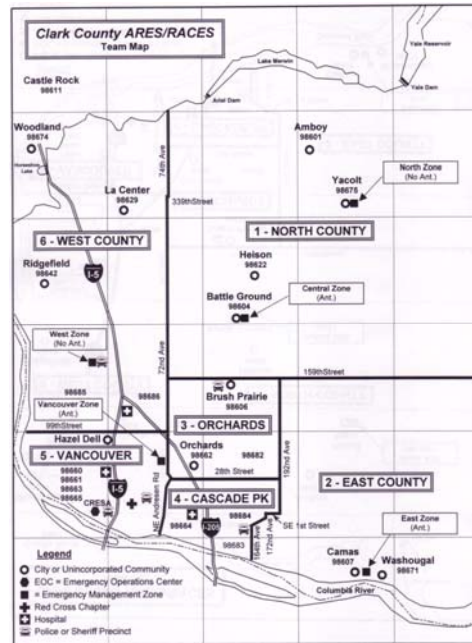
All the details of the entry level, "no-code" technician class license can be found in a study guide called **"Now You're Talking!"**, published by the ARRL and available from the above address or from most stores handling Amateur Radio equipment, including Radio Shack stores. You can also visit the ARRL's website for more information:

www.arrrl.org

**In a nutshell... that's
what it's all about!**

About the Clark County, Washington ARES®/RACES Organization

The Clark County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® group uses the flexibility of the dual organization, ARES®/RACES. All members are registered in both ARES® and RACES. The group is organized into six field teams and six specialized teams.



Members meet on the third Monday of each month (except August & December), 7:00 PM at the location announced on the Clark County ARES®/RACES website:

www.ccareswa.org

Visitors are always welcome.

For further information contact:

Gary Takis - K7GJT, EC/RO (360) 281-9224
Vern Smith - KA7DCQ, AEC/ARO (360) 513-0099
Don Peter - ND7P, Operations (360) 892-5212
Jerry Schue - KD7KWO, Training (360) 254-5523

For Information about the Clark County Amateur Radio Club, call (360) 896-8909
Website: www.w7aia.org

**Amateur
Radio
Emergency
Service®**



ARES®

RACES



**Radio
Amateur
Civil
Emergency
Service**

**What's it all
about?**

➤ A BRIEF HISTORY ◀

Since the early days after the invention of radio (in the 1890s), there have always been those who were intrigued by this new "magical" way of communicating without wires. As radio matured into its different applications such as broadcasting, ship-to-ship, ship-to-shore, military, government, radio-telephone and so forth, these "amateurs" (also called "hams") continued experimenting and building their own equipment in order to communicate with one another. When radio became regulated by the government (1912), amateurs were licensed and were assigned their own frequencies to "do their thing". One of the earliest organizations formed to bind the interests of Amateur Radio was the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Founded in 1914, it survives to this day with its own monthly technical publication, QST Magazine.

Because of the examination requirements and licensing procedure, the hobby is a well disciplined one (unlike today's unlicensed Citizens' Band Radio Service). The hobby has been so successful in self-policing that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has authorized Volunteer Examination Coordinators (VECs), selected from the ranks of amateurs themselves, to conduct the required examinations for licensing.

Radio Amateurs have a wide variety of avenues by which to communicate. They can operate on a wide range of frequencies from high frequency (HF), VHF, UHF to microwave. They have their own orbiting satellites through which they can communicate. Digital communications via Packet Radio is another exciting way to communicate world wide. Even amateur television (ATV) is allowed.

Although Amateur Radio has a long history as an electronics and communications hobby, it also has a long history of public service communications. The FCC has recognized this fact and has taken it into account when commercial forces compete for radio

spectrum. Public service communications have been a traditional responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service since 1913, when amateurs at the University of Michigan and Ohio State University in conjunction with numerous individual amateurs in and around the region, successfully bridged the communications gap surrounding a large isolated area left by a severe windstorm in the Midwest.

➤ TODAY - ARES®, NTS, RACES ◀

In those early days, such disaster work was spontaneous and without previous organization of any kind. In today's Amateur Radio, disaster work is a highly organized and very worthwhile part of day-to-day operation, implemented principally through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) and the National Traffic System (NTS), both sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and other amateur public-service groups are also a part of ARRL-recognized Amateur Radio public-service efforts.

ARES® now consists of over 80,000 licensed amateurs who have registered their availability for emergency operation in the public interest. The operational leadership of ARES® consists of over 2,200 local and district Emergency Coordinators (ECs), along with section ECs. The primary purpose of ARES® operation is to provide emergency communications for local government agencies and non-governmental service organizations (public and private) in times of non-declared emergencies or disasters.

The **NTS** operates daily to handle local, medium and long-distance written message traffic in standard ARRL format. NTS consists of nets at four levels, with lines of liaison connecting them for the systematic flow of message traffic from point-of-origin to point-of-delivery in the shortest possible time consistent with organization training objectives and mass handling.

A separate subpart of the U.S. amateur regulations (Part 97, Subpart E) provides for the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. **RACES** is a special phase of amateur operation sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and applies to U.S. amateurs only. The primary purpose of RACES is to provide amateurs with a special opportunity to serve governmental and civil preparedness agencies during "declared" emergencies and disasters. ARRL has signed a memorandum of understanding with FEMA to enhance the coordination of ARRL and FEMA resources.

➤ "TWO HATS" - ARES®/RACES ◀

Although ARES® and RACES are separate entities, the ARRL advocates dual membership and cooperative efforts between both groups whenever possible. The RACES regulations now make it simple and possible for an ARES group, whose members are all enrolled in and certified by RACES, to operate in an emergency with great flexibility.

Using the same operators and the same frequencies, an ARES® group, also enrolled as RACES, can "switch hats" from ARES® to RACES and RACES to ARES® to meet the requirements of the situation as it develops. For example, during a "non-declared" emergency, the group can operate under ARES®, but when an emergency or disaster is officially "declared" by a state or federal authority, the operation can become RACES with no change in personnel, equipment, or frequencies.

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in ARES®. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership. The eligibility for RACES is the same as ARES®, except that each amateur must also be enrolled in a local civil-preparedness agency.