



Cherokee County ARES Basic NET Communications

14 JAN 2023



References

- [Cherokee County ARES Operations Manual](#)



Welcome

Welcome to the Cherokee County, Georgia Amateur Radio Emergency Service®

- While amateur radio is a hobby, we encourage you to participate in our weekly nets, various drills/exercises throughout the year, and be prepared to answer the call from our community when emergency communications are needed.
- We are NOT storm-chasers, nor are we First-Responders.
- We are a dedicated group of amateur radio operators that follow the chain of command.
- We deploy only when requested by our served agency, and only when approved by your Emergency Coordinator of Cherokee County, or one of the delegated Assistant Emergency Coordinators.



Introduction

- Taking part in a Formal or Directed net and learning how to handle traffic are perhaps the major qualifications required of an ARES/RACES team member.
- Being a successful participant of an ARES/RACES net, requires exercising discipline, and observing a few basic rules of the road.



Net Communications

Ground Rules for participating during a Directed / Formal Net:

- During a Directed Net, Only use the frequency for official traffic.
- ***LISTEN.*** The **Net Control Station** (NCS) will provide instructions on how to check into the net and what is expected during net activities.
- Follow the net protocol established by the NCS.
- If you need to talk to someone directly, ask the NCS for permission.



Net Communications (cont)

Ground Rules for participating during a Directed / Formal Net:

- Answer promptly when called by the NCS.
- If you leave your station during a Directed Net, Inform NCS and Request Permission to “Close-Down”.
- Properly Utilize Prowords.
- Properly Utilize ITU Phonetics for Spelling and for providing Figures/Numbers.



Net Communications (cont)

Ground Rules for participating during a Directed / Formal Net:

- Do not utilize Q-Signals, 10 Codes, etc. Speak normally in clear language.

For Example:

- Do not use *QSL* to Acknowledge a message, instead use the Proword, **'Acknowledge-Over'**.

This is important as we will be working with many different Served Agencies and the communications must be fully understood by all parties. (Including National Weather Service, MARS, American Red Cross, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Local County and City agencies, etc.)



Prowords

What are Prowords?

Procedural Words are used in message handling to ensure accuracy and efficiency.



Common Prowords

Below is a list of Common Prowords we shall utilize. Emergency Communications requires clearly spoken language to avoid any confusion or miss-interpretation of meaning:

- **CORRECT / WRONG.** The proword **CORRECT** means "what you transmitted is correct". The opposite is **WRONG**.
- **NEGATIVE / AFFIRMATIVE.** The proword **NEGATIVE** means "No". The Opposite "**AFFIRMATIVE**" meaning "Yes".
- **SAY AGAIN.** The proword **SAY AGAIN** is used to request a repetition of something that was transmitted. The Proword **I SAY AGAIN** means I am about to restate something I have already transmitted.
- **WAIT and WAITOUT.** The proword **WAIT** is used when a pause is required and will last less than five seconds. Wait should not be over-used; you may simply pause a second or two without saying it. **WAIT OUT** means I must pause for longer than five seconds before continuing/responding, in the meantime other stations can transmit as normal.
- **BREAK.** The proword **BREAK** indicated separation between the heading and the text and between the text and the end procedure. Break is not used to interruption transmissions.



Common Prowords (Cont)

- **PRIORITY.** The proword **PRIORITY**, is used to prioritize traffic and can be used to interrupt the communications by stating the precedence of his/her traffic. E.g., “**PRIORITY PRIORITY**”. NCS upon hearing the interruption will seize control of the net , stop the communications so that the higher precedence of traffic can be passed.
- **WILCO.** The proword **WILCO** is a contraction of the phrase "will comply". It is used in response to a request or tasking and means that you understand the tasking and agree to accomplish the task. Because it implies you understand the request, it is never used with the proword **ROGER** as that would be redundant.
- **OVER.** The proword **OVER** means, I have finished my transmission, go ahead and transmit.
- **OUT.** The proword **OUT** means, I have concluded my transmission, no reply is expected.
- **ROGER.** The proword **ROGER** means, "I have received the information by you" without indicating approval or disapproval, agreement or disagreement. Do not confuse **ROGER** for **WILCO**.
- **THIS IS.** The proword **THIS IS** means, "The current transmission is from the station who's call sign follows." This proword can be omitted after communications are established.



Common Prowords (Cont)

- **THIS IS A DIRECTED NET.** This proword **THIS IS A DIRECTED NET**, spoken by NET Control, means that until further notice the NET is directed. This means that all stations need permission of NET CONTROL to call other stations. The Opposite is **FREE NET**. In a FREE NET, any station may call any other station without NCS Permission.
- **CLOSE-DOWN.** The proword **CLOSE-DOWN** can be used to request your station to leave the net, or used by Net Control to End the Net.
- **UNKNOWN STATION.** The proword **UNKNOWN STATION** means, “the identify of the station I am attempting to contact is not known to me or whose callsign was not heard or only partially heard.
- **WORDS TWICE.** The proword **WORDS TWICE** is used when communication is difficult. The station is requested to transmit the phrase twice that is trying to be communicated in an attempt to understand the message.



Common Prowords (Cont)

- **FIGURES.** The proword **FIGURES** means, you are about to transmit numbers. FIGURES is not used in conjunction with the prowords TIME, GROUPS, NUMBER, CALL SIGN, or FREQUENCY. FIGURES is used to distinguish the numerical form versus textual form, (i.e., to distinguish “2” from “two”). FIGURES is not needed in these situations: “Change frequency to 146 decimal 640, OUT.
- **I SPELL.** The proword **I SPELL** is used to spell the previous word or letters communicated. When used, Say the Word, Say the proword **I SPELL**, spell the word Phonetically, Say the Word again, continue with your message.

Example:

This is W1JKU, report to **Lane**, **I SPELL** Lima Alpha, November, Echo Lane Street immediately, Over.

IF you did not spell Lane phonetically, might the receiver have thought they heard Main Street?



ITU Phonetics

- **What is ITU Phonetics?**
- **Why do we use ITU Phonetics?**
 - The ITU Phonetic Alphabet standard is also called the **NATO Phonetic Alphabet**.
 - This standard of phonetics is currently used by the military, civilians, aviators, and radio communicators across the globe.
 - The Phonetic Alphabet is used when spelling out Words or Numbers over radios, telephone lines, etc. This ensures that there are no misunderstandings.
 - The standardization provided by using one form of communication also makes it easier to provide clear instructions without confusion or mistakes being made due to miscommunication during an emergency situation.



ITU Phonetics (Cont)

- What you hear on HF /Contesting normally **DOES NOT** adhere to ITU Phonetics.
- Operators are making “Cute” Names for Letters, which adds to confusion.
- Do not set yourself up for failure and utilize non-ITU Phonetics. It’s then a hard habit to break!

We **WILL NOT** utilize Non-Standard ITU Phonetics on our Directed Nets



ITU Phonetics (Cont)

ITU Phonetic Alphabet- Letters

A - Alpha	J - Juliet	S - Sierra
B - Bravo	K - Kilo	T - Tango
C - Charlie	L - Lima	U - Uniform
D - Delta	M - Mike	V - Victor
E - Echo	N - November	W - Whiskey
F - Foxtrot	O - Oscar	X - X-ray
G - Golf	P - Papa	Y - Yankee
H - Hotel	Q - Quebec	Z - Zulu
I - India	R - Romeo	



ITU Phonetics (Cont)

ITU Phonetic Alphabet- Numbers

Numbers in the phonetic alphabet also have their own pronunciations. Most of them are pronounced as you normally would, a few however, are modified to provide a clearer sound definition.

Number	Phonetic Word	Pronunciation
0	Zero	zee-roh
1	One	wun
2	Two	too
3	Tree	tree
4	Fower	fa-wer
5	Fife	fife
6	Six	siks
7	Seven	seh-vin
8	Eight	ate
9	Niner	ny-ner



ITU Phonetics (Cont)

- If you are Net Control, do not Respond back with Non-Standard ITU Phonetic, give the correct spelling.
- Make on the Spot Corrections.
- We must enforce the standard, else there is no standard.
- You may be kicked off many Directed Nets if you intentionally violate radio procedure.
- Our Served Agency's we are supporting and our community, requires we remain disciplined and properly communicate so no message is misunderstood or transferred incorrectly!
- An incorrectly transmitted message could make a difference of mission success/failure, (life or death).



Passing Formal Traffic

- During an emergency, precise message handling is critical. It is important to record and pass on messages quickly and accurately
- Keep Transmissions to a minimum.
- Avoid Spreading Rumours – Don't expand or speculate on what you may hear on the air or while in the presence of officials.
- All "official messages" should be written and signed by the originator.
- Send formal traffic EXACTLY as you received it. Don't correct it, change it, elaborate, or try to interpret it. Ask for clarification before Sending
- Copy it as you received it. Send it as you were requested.
- Use the right mode and band to suit the need.



Weekly ARES Training NETS

- To help prioritize the nets for the Cherokee ARES teams, we are requesting that we participate, as time allows, on the Cherokee ARES, Cherokee CARS, and NW GA ARES weekly nets.
- By keeping focus on our County and District we are better able to mutually support one another during an activation or incident.

Monday

Cherokee ARES /SKYWARN

- 20:00 hours Net starts on WA4EOC Repeater (443.075 + PL 107.2) and Alternate Repeater KG4VUB (145.270 - PL 100.0)

Tuesday

[NW GA ARES DISTRICT](#)

- 1st Tuesday 19:30 District Simplex Net (Check [NW GA ARES District Facebook](#) weekly)
- 19:30 Winlink Net – Send Winlink Check-in form to W4NWG
- 20:00 hours Net starts on KC4AQS Repeater 146.805 + PL 100.0 (Additional Instructions will be provided on the net or [NW GA ARES District Facebook](#))
- Exercises varies including:
 - DSTAR using REF030B
 - Winlink (Telnet/Vara/Packet) to W4NWG
 - Winlink P2P- TBD
 - Simplex Testing VHF/UHF/HF- Based on weekly exercise
 - DRATS

Thursday

Cherokee Amateur Radio Society Club Net ([WX4CAR](#))

- 20:00 EST via the KG4VUB Repeater (145.270MHz - PL 100Hz encode and decode)



Cherokee ARES Registration



Reminder to Register

- Submit your FSD-98 and RACES to Register Form for Cherokee to **W1JKU and KO4IFY**
- Submit your Certificates of Training to **W1JKU and KO4IFY**
- On Monthly Basis, Sign the ARES Sign-in Roster at our Meetings and verify your Contact Information is correct



Cherokee County
Amateur Radio Emergency Service@
ARES Registration Form



Name:	
Call Sign:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, ZIP code:	
Grid Square:	
E-mail address:	
Home phone number:	
Work phone number:	
Ham Shack Hotline:	
Cell phone number:	
License Class:	
License Expiration:	

MODE	80M	40M	20M	10M	6M	2M	1.25M	.70CM	900Mhz	1.2 Ghz
SSB										
CW										
FM										
DATA										
PACKET										
Winlink										
D-Star										
"Go Box"										
Portable HT										
Mobile										
Home										

Can your home station be operated without commercial power? Yes [] No []
 May we include your contact information in our membership listings? Yes [] No []

Signature _____ Date _____
 (Your typed name will serve as signature)

Contact: Rob Bruderer, Emergency Coordinator-Cherokee County ARES at W1JKU@ARRL.NET
 Information on this document will not be released to anyone without your permission as indicated above.
 Learn about ARRL sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses:
<http://www.arrl.org/ices/>
 CC ARES FSD-98 (01/2022)



Cherokee County
RACES Registration Form
"Amateur Radio Volunteers for Community Emergency Communications Service"

Name:	
Call Sign:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, ZIP code:	
Grid Square:	
E-mail address:	
Home phone number:	
Work phone number:	
Ham Shack Hotline:	
Cell phone number:	
License Class:	
License Expiration:	

MODE	80M	40M	20M	10M	6M	2M	1.25M	.70CM	900Mhz	1.2 Ghz
SSB										
CW										
FM										
DATA										
PACKET										
Winlink										
Telnet										
Winlink VARA										
PACKTOR										
FLDIGI										

Can your home station be operated without commercial power? Yes [] No []

Signature _____ Date _____
 (Your typed name will serve as signature)

Contact: Rob Bruderer, Emergency Coordinator-Cherokee County ARES at W1JKU@ARRL.NET
 CC RACES (01/2022)



After Registration

1. You will be added to the [Cherokee ARES Groups.IO](#)
 - Please follow the steps in the email you receive to accept the invitation, and please set your name in Groups.IO as Firstname + Callsign
 - This specific page is limited for Cherokee ARES training, Activations, and Upcoming ARES Events.
 - For Non-ARES related postings use the WX4CAR Club Groups.IO Page [Cherokee-Hams.groups.io](#)
2. You can then request access to the [Cherokee ARES Facebook Page](#), which for short message/reminders. Only ARES members will be admitted to the page. (Facebook is not mandatory, just another tool in the toolbox to help notify members)
3. Please access and make a favorite on your web-browser: the [Cherokee ARES Website](#). This is the official site for complete listing of our Operations Manual and important details of our Organization.
 - Please Establish your own Binder that includes the Cherokee ARES Operations Manual
 - Please Print 10 Copies of each of the Blank ICS Forms, so you have them available during an incident
 - Please Check the website at least quarterly for updates. (If we make a major update to this site, we will post a notification on the Cherokee ARES Groups.IO page as a reminder).
4. Participate in Weekly NETS and Exercises



Participate

Give Back to the Community

Have Fun and Advance your Skills



Thank you!