

# 2008 Simulated Emergency Test

*Emergency tests take center stage October 4-5.*

Steve Ewald, WV1X

When an emergency or natural disaster strikes, Amateur Radio is often called into the limelight of public service to establish a line of communication to and from the stricken areas. Amateur Radio networks, once established, sustain communication during the emergency efforts by helping the disaster relief workers and public with point-to-point communications or health and welfare messages. During weather related threats or during the actual occurrence of severe weather, Amateur Radio networks are commonly on standby to gather information and report this data to the National Weather Service or other pertinent authorities.

You've read about and/or have heard about these important stages of Amateur Radio public service here in *QST* or on the Web or elsewhere. Make this the year that you take a role to learn more and become ready to serve in public service and emergency communications.

The ARRL sponsors a nationwide audition for Amateur Radio operators for a role in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service®, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, the National Traffic System, the National Weather Service's SKYWARN, the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) or other groups as well. It's the ARRL's annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET), and you're invited to join on October 4-5, 2008, or whenever it is held in your area.

## How to Join the SET

To participate in this year's emergency test, contact your local ARRL emergency coordinator or net manager to find out the details. Although October 4-5 is the focal point weekend, ARRL Sections, ARES teams and nets may conduct their exercises anytime during September through December. If you don't know who — to call, please touch base with your ARRL Section Manager for assistance. See page 16 of *QST* for contact information or consult the

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ARRL Web page. The URL to start with is [www.arrl.org/sections/](http://www.arrl.org/sections/). From there, you'll find links to ARRL section home pages with names and contact information for your Section Leaders including the Section Emergency Coordinator and Section Traffic Manager. Whether you're a new licensee or an experienced radio amateur, the SET is a golden opportunity to learn or practice useful skills in traffic handling, net operation and emergency communications protocols and management.

ARRL Section Leaders and local or District Emergency Coordinators are encouraged to work closely with served agencies in planning these exercises. This not only helps to heighten awareness of Amateur Radio in the community, but also

helps ensure that effective communication networks will be in place if an actual emergency occurs. ARRL maintains National Memoranda of Understanding with several organizations and entities, and the SET is a prime chance to put these agreements into action. More details may be found at [www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/).

## National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is an annual nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. Once again this year, ARRL is a coalition member. National Preparedness Month 2008 is sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security.

The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. Throughout September and the months surrounding it, Homeland Security will work together with a wide variety of organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to highlight the importance of family and business emergency preparedness as well as to promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation. More information can be found at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

You are encouraged to consider this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test and all preparations as well as post exercise evaluations as a demonstration of your readiness and Amateur Radio's readiness. Be an active participant in SET, and join others nationwide in National Preparedness Month.

Additional background on the annual SET is presented in the article, 2007 Simulated Emergency Test Results. See July, 2008 *QST*, pp 62-65. Also, guidelines and specific SET reporting forms for the ARRL Section and Field Leaders will be posted on the ARRL Web at [www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms).



ALLAN KUONG, WA1SCS

Workshops and conferences are important components of training, and the Sagadahoc County (Maine) ARES held their annual emergency communications seminar this past February in Brunswick. "Interoperability and Amateur Radio," was the main topic of discussion. Shown (left to right): Al Corderman, WB1EFN; Dolph Holmes, WA2NTW; Marjorie Turner, KX1I; Allan Kuong, WA1SCS (EC Sagadahoc Co); Bill Woodhead, N1KAT (Maine Section Manager); a guest at seminar; Steve Kercel, AA4AK, and Harry McNelly, N1TTT.



RICHARD JOHNSON, AE3C

A temporary command post became a center of activity during an emergency exercise in West Newton, Pennsylvania.