

Annual MSCG Inc. Newsletter



Special points of interest:

- * every single siren in the county has been tested at least once
- * Pot Lock style dinner and awards ceremony
- * All check-ins to ALL nets sponsored by the GC-ARPSC are important!
- * Communications Back-Up Plan

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Tornado Siren Testing Concluded for 2014

MSCG and the GC-ARPSC would like to thank all of those who participated in the siren testing program of 2014. Because of your participation, this has been our most successful year ever. To our knowledge, this is the first time since we started siren testing in 1979, that every single siren in the county has been tested at least once. Most sirens were checked at least twice.

Since we have started keeping detailed records in 2011, this year has had the highest average number of sirens tested per month, as well as the most reports submitted for the year.

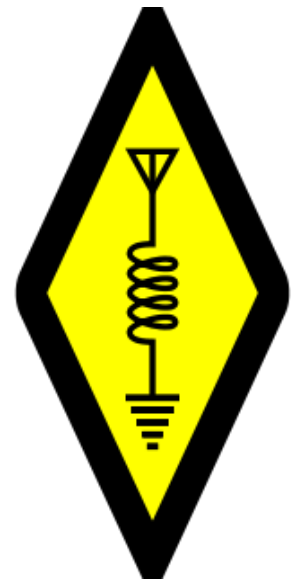
We averaged nearly 20 reports per month, and finished with a grand total of 177 siren reports submitted.

When you are on-site for a siren test,

if you noticed something has changed, or the information regarding the siren location needs updating, please make a note of the details and submit them to secretary@mscginc.org this way we can keep the database as current as possible. This also includes any new sirens that might suddenly appear in your area.

We could use more net control operators for the siren test. If you would like to learn how to be a net control station, the siren test is a great place to start learning. It's a slow paced, low-stress net that will allow you to learn the art of writing while listening or talking.

Contact Tim Crane, K8BVUI or Tim Knights, KC8OYE if you are interested.



MSCG / GC-ARPSC Awards Dinner

MSCG and the GC-ARPSC are hosting a Pot Lock style dinner and awards ceremony on the second Saturday of December (the 13th) at 1pm. Everybody is invited. Please contact Tim Crane, K8BVUI (pio@mscginc.org) to R.S.V.P and let him know what dish you

plan to bring.

The location will be at Mundy Twp Fire Station #2, at the intersection of Jennings and Hill Rd.

4011 Hill Rd
Swartz Creek, MI

This dinner will also serve as the GC-ARPSC/MSCG Annual Membership meeting. Any questions you may have for either the MSCG Board or GC-ARPSC Leadership, can be answered at this meeting.

147.100 Upgrades.

The repeater (147.100+) will be under going some upgrades in the near future. Among the plans are to replace the antique Syntor-X transmitter and receivers with a more modern Motorola Repeater that was donated to us by Genesee County. This will improve both the quality of the transmitted audio as well as the received audio, as well as reduce the



amount of heat in the cabinet, leading to longer equipment life.

We will also be adding internet connectivity to the .100 via USB 4G-LTE Modem. Adding this will provide us with a secondary means of programming the repeater controller..

Verizon is providing us with exceptional data rates, however, donations will be need to be able to support the cost of this modem. Current projected cost

is \$10/ month. Please remember all donations to MSCG Inc (A 501c3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

It is necessary to log-in to your Kroger rewards account and re-select MSCG as your non-profit of Choice.

GC-ARPSC ARES E.C Resigns

Tony Bryant, W8CCT has stepped down from the position of E.C of GC-ARES. Tony has said that his family and job are taking up a lot of his time, and he doesn't feel that he can perform the duties of the position adequately, and has decided to make room for someone else to take on the role.

The District 3 E.C, Joe Tuscher, N8DSL will be making his decision on the replacement E.C in the next few days.

Kroger Rewards

If you have a Kroger rewards card you now can have them donate to MSCG. We are listed as Michigan Specialized Communications Group Inc. and the organization number is 82853.

It is necessary to log-in to your Kroger rewards account and re-select MSCG as your non-profit of Choice. Kroger resets your selection in April.



November Training Continues forth as planned.

A Poll was conducted of GC-ARPSC members in attendance at previous trainings, and the decision was made to go ahead with the training on the 4th Tuesday of November, the 25th.

The topic of discussion this month will be Packet Radio, presented by Doug Parkinson, W8BDLN.

All GC-ARPSC training sessions are conducted on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm at the Genesee County

Administration Building, 1101 Beach St Flint, MI 48502, unless otherwise announced ahead of time.

The most current training announcements can be heard on the Monday and Wednesday night nets on the 147.260 repeater at 8pm.

There will not be a training in December due to the proximity to Christmas.



ATV Repeater Repairs

The P.C That controls the ATV Repeater needs to be replaced. The engineering team is on the hunt for a bargain on a replacement, with a board-voted limit of \$200. Anyone interested in helping the cause, please make your donations to MSCG Inc. Make a note in the donation that it is for the ATV Project.

Donations may be made by Cash or Credit Card in person at any MSCG Board meeting, or Saturday Night Coffee break (provided an MSCG Board member is present)

Donations can also be made via Pay Pal

147.260 Repeater Repairs

MSCG wants to replace the transmitter and local downtown receiver with Motorola equipment donated to us by Genesee County.

MSCG already has possession of the equipment, and has verified that it will serve our needs exceptionally well.

There will be some costs associated with this upgrade, as the new transmitter while being a more modern



solid state transmitter than the Syntor-X units that are currently in use, are crystal controlled, and will require the crystal units to be sent in to be recalibrated for our frequency pair. Donations are needed to support this project.



Net Check-Ins ARE important!

All check-ins to ALL nets sponsored by the GC-ARPSC are important!

When you check in to a net, even if it's just an "in and out" check in, the net control op takes the number of check-ins, multiplies it by the length of the net, and that nets a number of "Man hours" that is submitted back to the ARRL.

The ARRL uses those figures along

with a per hour dollar amount to use when it fights to protect our spectrum with the FCC.

Those man hours are used to justify our continued use of the spectrum, and are therefore very important!!

So please, check into any nets you may be listening to!

Communications Back-Up Plan

During emergency communications, the following frequencies will be used, in this order. Should communications fail on the current channel, protocol dictates that you automatically move to the next channel.

- 1) 147.260+ 100hz (GCARES/Flint)
- 2) 147.100+ 100hz (GCARES/Flint)
- 3) 147.340+ 100hz(GCRC/Flint)
- 4) 147.380+ 88.5hz (Burton)
- 5) 146.780- 151.5hz (Fenton)
- 6) 147.580 & 147.460 Simplex

The ARRL uses those figures along with a per hour dollar amount to use when it fights to protect our spectrum with the FCC.

The Story behind MSCG Inc.

As many of you know, local hams have been helping the fire departments in Genesee County with back up communications dating back to 1979. Hams have also helped the Office of Emergency Management under the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) whenever their office has been activated, including drills. The local hams also provide storm spotting (SKYWARN) for the National

Weather Service. The local hams have been helping the county with the county wide siren testing in Genesee County since 1980. These activities were done for many years under Genesee County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, Inc. (GC-ARES).

In 2010 GC-ARES Inc. underwent a structure transformation, due to discoveries of some clerical errors in the early 1980's with the IRS. We

found GC-ARES, Inc. had to make some changes and it was also an opportunity to clarify the difference between ARES and GC-ARES, Inc.

In January 2010 the local hams created Michigan Specialized Communications Group, Inc. (MSCG) a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity. MSCG carries liability insurance for its group and provides the resources for its registered divisions. Michigan Spe-



Michigan Specialized Communications Group, Inc.

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Flushing, MI, 48433

Phone: 810-545-7260 (text and picture msg)
E-mail: board@msginc.org

MSCG Inc. Oversees the Legal, Financial, and equipment needs of it's divisions. It does not interfere with the day to day operations of them. This allows each division to operate freely without fear of outside control.

We're on the Web!!!

www.msginc.org

Any questions, comments, or additions to the newsletter may be directed to the MSCG Secretary @ Secretary@msginc.org, or the information listed above.

Michigan Specialized Communications Group Inc. was founded on the principles of providing resources to the local Amateur Radio Public Service Corps.

The role of MSCG is not to replace, but to augment existing communications systems. A communications emergency is said to exist when "customary communications" are interrupted or overloaded. MSCG will, to the best of its ability, provide needed communications resources to assist governmental and private agencies upon request.

All activities and communications are conducted under Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules and Regulations.

The Story Behind MSCG Inc. (continued)

cialized Communications Group Inc. has registered the names: Genesee County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (GC-ARPSC), Genesee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (GC-ARES), Michigan Amateur Radio Emergency Team (MARET) with the State of Michigan.

GC-ARPSC leadership consists of five positions: ARES EC, RACES Officer, SkyWarn Director, National Traffic System, and the Genesee County Office of Emergency Management EM.

GC-ARPSC is the same group of hams that has been providing these services to our community since 1979. We still offer the same services that we have

in the past but now we are more coordinated within our group.

We will continue to serve our community when needed and if you have any questions about what services we provide, please visit our website at www.msginc.org.

