



Marvin Hoffman

AUXCOMM COURSE IN LEE COUNTY (SANFORD) NC

Registration is now open on TERMS (<https://terms.ncem.gov/TRS/logon.do>) for the Auxcomm Course which will be held in Lee County (Sanford) on January 27, 28 and 29. This is an in-class course designed to train radio operators to be able to support emergency management during disasters and other emergencies while operating with the incident management system.

Prerequisites for enrolling are:

- An affiliation with a public safety agency and approval to enroll given by the emergency manager for the local Authority Having Jurisdiction.
- A currently valid FCC amateur radio license.
- A desire to work within a Communications Unit in a NIMS/ICS environment.
- Past experience in auxiliary communications.
- Completion of the current versions of four ICS courses:
 - IS 100.c, Introduction to the ICS
 - IS 200.c, for Single Resources and Initial Incidents
 - IS 700.b, National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction
 - IS 800.d, National Response Framework (NRF)

The four ICS courses are available online at no cost at <https://training.fema.gov/nims/> . All four can be completed in an afternoon while it is too cold to be outside.

Travel expenses (mileage, lodging and meals) up to state limits are available for persons who travel at least 50 miles from home to attend the course.

Questions should be directed to Virginia Enzor (NC4VA) at nc4va@nc.rr.com..

PENDER COUNTY EXERCISE

COMU trainees (COML and AUXCOMM) with open PTB's who need an exercise and an opportunity to get portions of the Task Book signed off may want to consider an upcoming exercise in Pender County in Southeastern North Carolina.

This email is from Brandy Osbone and offers information to make each of you aware of an upcoming land search exercise in Pender County, NC. PENSAR, in conjunction with NCEM and Pender EMS and Fire will be hosting the Swamp Stomp in the Holly Shelter Game Lands January 19-21, 2023.

“Along with being a land search exercise, there will be a communications component supported by the exercise that will provide an opportunity for those with open position task books to demonstrate the skills necessary for sign off. There will also be an opportunity for those with completed task books to serve as mentors for those still in training to further enhance already acquired skills.

The opportunity is best suited for the following Communications Branch positions: COML, INTD, and AUXC. However, there will be equipment on site to aid in the development of COMT and ITSL skill development, though there will be less structured training in those positions.

This event does not allow for state reimbursement for hotel accommodations or per diem for food, though there is a primitive camping area on site for tent camping and limited space for campers, though there will not be generator hook up available. Hotel rooms are available in Wilmington at the attendee’s expense.

The event is scheduled to begin at 1800 on January 19, but communications personnel would not necessarily need to attend until Friday, January 20th. The first night is structured to be a local event, as a real incident would traditionally unfold.”

RARS RECEIVES ARRL CLUB GRANT

Congratulations go out to the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society for being selected by ARRL to receive one of 20 grants awarded during the second phase of the Club Grant program which was made possible by a very large grant to ARRL from the Amateur Radio Digital Council.

John Honeycutt, N8ZU, RARS President advised me that the grant will provide the following;

“First, we will purchase two complete HF stations and 2 FM Satellite stations that can be used at club group activities and also lent out to individuals so that they can get active on the air from their homes, or on personal portable operations throughout the month between our club’s monthly get-on-the-air group activities.

Next, we will purchase Radio Direction Finding (RDF) equipment so that we can host regular “fox hunts” during our monthly get-on-the air meetings. This gear will also be used for educational purposes and during other events such as Field Day, etc.

Finally, once our monthly on the air activities are running solidly with this new equipment, we will mail a post card to every ham in Wake County, inviting them to participate in our activities.”

NWS RALEIGH WINTER STORM VIRTUAL TRAINING

Virginia Enzor (NCVA) asked me to make note of two training webinars put together by the National Wester Service Raleigh. The webinars focus on Winter Weather.

- a. Saturday, January 7, 2023, 10 AM EST. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3781400136263181654>
- b. Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 7 PM EST. Register at

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3039731164816763737>

BABY ITS COLD OUTSIDE IN THE HIGH COUNTRY

It is bitterly cold up here in the High Country (11:40 am Friday temp is -2.5 degrees and the 25 mph winds giving us a -26 degree chill factor). I checked the temperature up on Grandfather Mountain which is -10 and the wind is blowing at 25 mph.

No matter how cold it is where you live, I hope your spirit is filled with the blessings of Christmas and that you take time to do what you can to help homeless people and animals in this very dangerous weather.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope you are looking forward to 2023 as much as I am.

Marv, WA4NC