

# BCARES BOARD MEETING – September 24, 2013

## CALL TO ORDER

The BCARES Board meeting called at 19:02 by Allen Bishop (KØARK) in the Pawnee room of the Boulder Regional Communications Center / EOC, 3280 Airport Road, Boulder, Colorado 80301-2226.

## Attendees:

| Board Member                               | Name (Position)                           | Present? |
|--|---|----------|
| BARC Primary                               | Mike Derr W3DIF                           | N        |
| BARC Alternate                             | Dave Sharpe KIØHG                         | N        |
| LARC Primary                               | Ron Thomas KCØNEV(Secretary)              | Y        |
| LARC Alternate                             | Jerry Schmidt NØOUW                       | Y        |
| RMVHFS Primary                             | Len Koppl KDØRC                           | N        |
| RMVHFS Alternate                           | Mike Borenstein NØBP                      | Y        |
| 2 year At-Large Primary, elected even yrs. | George Weber KAØBSA (Vice Chairman / AEC) | Y        |
| 2 year At-Large Alternate, even year       | Louis Perley III KCØVJE                   | N        |
| 2 year At-Large Primary, elected odd yrs.  | Allen Bishop KØARK (Chairman / EC)        | Y        |
| 2 year At-Large Alternate, odd year        | Mark Huff KØLRS (Treasurer)               | N        |
| 1 year At-Large Primary                    | Joey Stanford NVØN                        | Y        |
| 1 year At-Large Alternate                  | John Clary N1NES                          | Y        |
| Director, Office of Emergency Mgmt.        | Michael Chard                             | N        |
| Boulder County Sheriff's Office            | Cmdr Phil West (BCSO Volunteer Coord.)    | N        |

Additional Attendees: Jack Ciaccia WMØG (PIO), Joe Callahan KCØJCC (IMA Liaison)

## OLD BUSINESS AND HOUSEKEEPING

### 1. Review of Minutes from August Board Meeting

Minutes of the previous BCARES board meeting, held August 22, 2013 were unanimously approved.

### 2. Treasurer's Report – Mark/Allen

The bank statement dated September 11, 2013 reports that BCARES has \$772.60 in checking.

#### a. Transfer Accounting Records from Allen to Mark

Allen has not yet been able to connect with Mark about transitioning treasurer duties. Allen will continue to serve as temporary treasurer. Allen will contact Mark Huff before the next board meeting to determine whether he's still interested in continuing as BCARES treasurer. If Mark is not interested, John Clary has volunteered to take the position.

#### b. Receipts / Disbursements / Balance / Planned

George's check from January could not be located. George is going to write another check assuming the old check is stale and will not clear his bank.

Dave did not submit expenses for the Allenspark repeater installation in time, this item is considered closed and no reimbursement will be issued.

### **3. Training, Certification, and Credentialing – George and Jerry**

After the net on September 23, 2013, George compiled an extensive list of training needs and will be coordinating with Jerry to schedule training courses.

Joey asked about the status of BCARES credentials that Allen was going to print. Allen is going to see what he can do about that before the next board meeting.

### **4. MERN Updates**

#### **a. Next FCC Training Dates for Nederland and Allenspark – George**

Allen reported that IMA has enough interest for two technician classes. One will be held in Nederland and one will be held in Allenspark. George will schedule this.

### **5. BCARES Website Updates and Status – Ron**

Allen acknowledged Ron for creating a web-based form to allow individuals to register their availability for training and emergency events.

Ron has added the calendar functionality back to the website and corrected the problems with event email notifications. Ron also created a couple of new email addresses for BCARES, [webmaster@bouldercountyares.org](mailto:webmaster@bouldercountyares.org) and [staffing@bouldercountyares.org](mailto:staffing@bouldercountyares.org). Anyone who would like to receive copies of the emails sent to these addresses should contact Ron Thomas. Additional email addresses can be created upon request.

### **6. Grant Status**

#### **a. Ball Aerospace Project Grant – Dale**

Allen spoke with Dale. Unfortunately, Dale has had no time to work on this and does not know when that will change.

#### **b. Intrado / Steve Meer – Allen**

Allen has spoken to Steve Meer again. At the moment, Intrado does not have the funds to donate to BCARES. Allen will re-engage with Steve during Intrado's next budget cycle.

### **7. D-Star Status (Statewide Net and Acquisition of Northern System) – George / Joey**

The relocation of the Mt Thorodin D-STAR system was removed and is in Doug Sharpe's garage. Some equipment (including duplexers) seems to be missing.

If the Mt. Thordin D-STAR system is installed at Devil's Head, Jefferson and Douglas County are willing to supply the missing equipment and provide tower and shack space at no cost to BCARES. Joey is going to put out some feelers to people he knows in Monument who might be able to assist with installation at Devil's Head.

The repeater at the Boulder Airport could be easily relocated to the Longmont water tower. Joey advised that requesting a six-foot square space would be a good place to start. Ron has emailed Vince Jordan with Longmont Power and Communications to see if that's possible.

### **8. Boulder County Site Survey Project Status – John**

John hasn't had an opportunity to update the spreadsheet due to the recent flooding. However, he has received some good additional site information from communications during the flooding that he will include.

### **9. Redbook Updates – All**

*Dale was coordinating all the Red Book updates, so someone needs to track him down. Allen will attempt to reach out to Dale via telephone at Ball Aerospace.*

### **10. CU Football – George Reporting on behalf of Mark and Dave**

George reported that there are four new cameras at the CUPD, but the old umbilical cables do not work with the new cameras. Until new cables are built, CU football ATV teams will be using the older cameras.

#### **11. Donated Repeater Status**

The donated repeater has been temporarily set up in Nederland to support communications for the Boulder County flood. Allen was going to go up and remove the repeater, but there is a hard closure established for Boulder Canyon. Allen plans to return to Nederland to retrieve the equipment on Saturday, September 28, 2013, but he does not yet have a firm schedule.

#### **12. Broomfield Update**

George Weber was able to obtain W0BRM as a club call for use at the Broomfield Office of Emergency Management.

#### **13. Uniform Update – Allen**

Allen will forward the information about the process to obtain the new Colorado ARES patch to the board.

### **New Business**

#### **1. New Member Requests Generated by Flood Emergency – George W. / Jerry**

George has three individuals who are interested in becoming BCARES members. Steven J. Birt submitted a new application for membership.

Joe Biniskiewicz (KD6ECF) moved to California and has resigned as a BCARES member.

#### **2. Certification Updates George W. and Jerry**

George and Jerry are going to get together and plan some training.

#### **3. The Boulder Flood**

##### **a. Summary of Our Performance**

Based upon the feedback BCARES has received, BCARES performed fantastically. Resources were available quickly, deployed expeditiously, and in some cases resources and capabilities were offered and enabled that exceeded the expectations of all agencies involved.

Throughout the event, the average number of viewers of Ustream feed from the Boulder Airport flight line was 15. The maximum number of viewers at any one time was 42. There were several regular viewers from FEMA and other federal organizations on the east coast.

Jack has been receiving comments from around the world about how well BCARES performed during the flooding. Jack has spoken with officials and amateur radio operators that were around during the Big Thompson Flood that resulted in the founding of BCARES who have said, "BCARES has become what we hoped it would".

##### **b. Issues at the EOC**

###### **i. Antennas**

BCARES encountered some difficulties with the antennas installed at the EOC. BCARES needs to perform an audit of the antenna and coax installations between the EOC roof and the BCARES cubicle. With the current antenna installations, any radio key-up wipes out any ATV feeds.

Bill McCaa provided a notch filter for the BCARES packet setup to avoid wiping out the ATV or voice feeds with packet transmissions.

It was discovered during the flood that several antennas had been disconnected or moved and not documented, so it took some additional work to become fully operational.

Jack suggested that BCARES build a patch panel to route the various antennas and feedlines.

**ii. Radios**

The 2-meter only ATV radio needs to be replaced with a better dual-band radio. George is going to write up recommendations for new radios and antennas and report them to Allen.

**iii. Longmont**

The Longmont EOC is set up in the Longmont Police Department's training room. When the EOC is activated, the room is divided into quarters. Early in the EOC's operational period, the BCARES table was being used for mapping and planning.

Joey reported to the Longmont EOC to offer support from BCARES. The Longmont EOC was kept very busy with tactical planning and coordination of road closures and assistance from BCARES could not be used.

**c. Issues Outside the EOC**

**i. Evacuation Centers – Red Cross**

**ii. Mutual Aid between ARES Districts – Portable Repeater and APRS Units**

Mutual aid between ARES districts worked very well. Six-hour shifts worked very well for this event. Other ARES districts and EOCs often do "12-on/12-off" shifts. Individuals who prefer these kinds of shifts can volunteer for two in a row.

When BCARES requested a portable repeater and APRS units, it was provided and functioned fantastically.

**iii. APRS effectiveness during Damage Assessment**

The APRS units Rocky Mountain Hams provided functioned very well. All high-power APRS units worked very well. Joey has a TNC-X with a digipeater mode that might be able to function as an APRS I-Gate, perhaps at the Longmont water tower location.

**iv. MERN success and a summary of Allen's meeting today at the IMA**

Allen attended the IMA meeting. Boulder Canyon will be closed a minimum of two weeks, more likely three to four weeks. Chief Chris Finn of the Gold Hill Fire District confirmed that the new MERN radio system absolutely saved at least three lives.

**d. New Grant opportunity with Foothills United Way (possibility to request \$25,000 grant per Amy Hardy)**

Amy is going to provide Allen with additional information about the grant via email on September 25, 2013.

The BCARES board is going to coordinate a wish list via email to start the grant process.

**4. Celly Performance During Boulder Flood**

The Longmont OEM provided so much information that John and others disabled the Longmont feed. The information was very useful and provided helpful information to all current users.

At the next meeting, Joey would like the board to discuss how the testing of Celly can be rolled out to the BCARES membership at large and the BCARES board.

**5. Joey Wants to Resign as Longmont Liaison**

Due to personal and work conflicts, Joey feels like he cannot usefully continue as the Longmont liaison. Allen asked that Joey stay on long enough to oversee a transition to the new liaison or liaisons.

**Next BCARES Meeting:**

**Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 19:00**

**Location: Boulder Regional Communications Center / EOC, Pawnee Room,  
3280 Airport Road, Boulder, Colorado 80301-2226**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board meeting was adjourned at 22:30.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Thomas – KCØNEV  
LARC Primary Liaison  
BCARES Secretary**