

Good Afternoon!

As I stated in yesterday's general e-mail to all NFL ARRL members, I hope you have had a safe and "cool" Florida Summer!

I sent the general membership an e-mail with a few general interest items yesterday. I hope you received it and reviewed it. If you didn't receive it, it is attached in a file for you to read.

Over the last several months I received e-mails, phone calls, or "eyeball" contacts from several folks all expressing frustration with ARES groups that had few members, no activities, or no interest or support from hams that live in their county/area. In each instance, I responded that it is no unusual for any "community" or "interest group" to wane from time to time – that cycle is prevalent in most organizations. Additionally, many folks "exit" or become inactive in groups for a wide ranging variety of reasons.....lack of continuing interest, not what they wanted, new interest in something else, nothing to excite them in what they are doing, personal, work, or relationship conflicts. I learned long ago a few things about working with volunteers....the "don'ts" – don't expect thanks or appreciation for what you do; don't think for a minute everyone has the same level of participation, activity, or interest; don't worry about things you have no control over; and don't get yourself down about other folks lack of interest. The "do's" – do remember that you need to cultivate good folks into your group; do look for new, different, alternative activities to keep interest; do seek new members constantly and understand the "number" changes regularly; do thank your folks for ANY participation in ANY areas; do the right things for the right reasons; and do unto others how you wanna' be done! Volunteer organizations are not an easy road, but keeping a positive attitude and "keeping the faith" is the best way to move past the not so fun times. Believe me, I've been there...more times than I wished!

With that said, I've attached two files – both are the current lists of newly licensed hams, and the new ARRL members that occurred in June. When July's comes out, I will forward that list too. I would suggest that you look through both lists and identify (by the city) some potential new ARES members. Reach out by e-mail, letter, or better yet, telephone, and after congratulating their license grant of ARRL membership, invite them to your next meeting! Encourage them to join your ARES group, join a local club, and if not an ARRL member, encourage them to join. Even if you only get 1 out of 10, it's better than nothing out of nothing!

I will continue to send this information every month in this monthly update. Let me know if it creates some successes!

So everyone is aware, I start back at UCF the second week of August for night classes.....Tuesdays and Thursdays.....through the first week of December. Yes, many of your meetings are on those nights, so unless something changes, I won't be making many meetings on those week nights. I am planning on being at the Melbourne Hamfest (yeah, I know that a SFL Section Hamfest!), and I am starting to schedule ARES and Club meeting visits on the days other than Tue/Thu. I am always reachable by e-mail or phone.

I have also attached the updated DEC/EC list, and it will be placed on the Yahoo!Groups site. Thank you for what you continue to do.....Enjoy the rest of the summer.....see you soon!

73!

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