



# Kent County

## Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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Kent County Sheriff Department, Emergency Management Division, Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
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## Search Management Class

Over the weekend of January 25, we hosted a Search Management Class and graduated thirty-seven new Search Managers, including KCSD Sgt. Sikkema and GRPD Capt. Vanderkooi. The class also included students from Dowagiac, Hiawatha County, and Henry Ford College. It was a great weekend and we have great feedback from the people in the class. From their comments they are anxious to start using their new knowledge and have a better appreciation for what search managers do when during search operations. This class would not have been possible without the help of the following KCRACES SAR team members: Andy Schultz, Nathan Deppe, Terry Decker, Kim Karr, and Tom Gerger. Of course, a huge thanks goes out to my good friend Anthony Marzano for making the trek to Grand Rapids from Will County, IL to teach the class.

Students are already asking when the next one will be hosted. I promise that we'll get the next one scheduled so keep checking back.

Thank you,  
Jeffrey Nawrot

## Points of Interest

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## Canonsburg Search

At approximately 11:15 PM on Saturday, January 19, Kent County Search and Rescue was activated to help search for a 57-year-old man who was overdue from cross-country skiing in the Canonsburg State Game area. The man frequently skied in that area so he knew the area well. The Kent County Sheriff Department located his vehicle in the parking lot off 4 Mile Road. After an extensive search, the person was located around 7 AM. Unfortunately the man passed away. The autopsy showed that he had a massive heart attack.

Thanks to all of those who participated in the search. That night several of our thermometers showed temperatures around -12 degrees Fahrenheit. This presented multiple challenges from the bloodhounds' faces frosting, getting the generator started, and keeping searchers warm when they returned to staging. Thanks again!

## ARRL ARES Update

An update from the Amateur Radio Emergency Service program: The ARES program is made up of RACES members and amateur radio operators who are not interested in or unable to make the RACES requirements. Members from ARES can assist with communications during Skywarn, CERT activations, public service events, and assist the Red Cross during large-scale disasters. Kent County ARES has a new online sign-up that allows us to keep track of ARES participants and send them text messages for activations if they have text messaging capabilities. ARES members are not required to make meetings, go through the background check process, nor meet all of the same requirements that RACES members do. Obviously we encourage ARES members to become RACES members if they have the interest and are able to meet the requirements.

ARES members are required to do the following training by the Michigan ARPSC:

IS-100 & IS-700.

ARES members will be issued an ARRL ARES card within three months of joining and coming to at least one ARES/RACES meeting. ARES is open to any amateur radio operator living inside Kent County. Please use the following information to sign up:

Signup Link: <http://www.kcvrm.net/resourcesignup.php>

Use the following information:

Resource Code: ARES - This is case sensitive

Password: HamRadio - This is case sensitive

## SAR Standby on January

The morning of January 29<sup>th</sup> the SAR team was placed on standby while waiting for a final confirmation from KCSD on a missing child. We were on standby mostly because of the weather conditions and that the potential for responding was very high. The child was located shortly after we placed everyone on standby.

## Rob Lindblom K9 Coordinator

With the New Year comes a new appointment to the SAR leadership team. Congratulations to Ron Lindblom ([rlindblom@kentcountysar.org](mailto:rlindblom@kentcountysar.org)) who was appointed the K9 coordinator to run the K9 Unit in the SAR team. Ron has the experience and knowledge to make this aspect of our SAR team work. The K9 unit will not be replacing K9 SAR organizations or teams that currently work with the group. Instead, the unit will continue to work with those teams/organizations to better coordinate their use. Ron will also look for new members in Kent County who are interested in joining the SAR team and becoming part of building the K9 unit. We will continue to rely on the know-how of the K9 SAR organizations and teams that work with our group as this unit is developed. Thanks to everyone for their dedication and support, both past and future. Congrats Ron!

## Upcoming Events



February 21: Kent County Severe Weather Spotter Training, 7pm

February 28: RACES Meeting, 7pm

## N8JSN Notes

Wow where did January go? This month went fast. The New Year began with new programs for Kent County RACES Communications and SAR teams. During the month of January we responded to one SAR call out, hosted a management class, and graduated 37 new Search Managers. Of course, we did several other things in this month too, but if I wrote about all of them it would be a book instead of a newsletter. I know I always end the newsletter with a "Thank You" and I won't break that tradition. Those of you reading this take a moment to pat yourselves on the back. You make your community a better place by doing what you do and being who you are! We couldn't do what we do without everyone's support. Thank you and enjoy the snow!

Jeffrey Nawrot N8JSN  
Kent County RACES Coordinator/Search and Rescue Director

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## DID YOU KNOW...

Snow-related deaths  
can occur from  
accidents,  
overexertion, and  
exposure...protect  
yourself this  
winter!