# Columbia County ARES(R) Whirlwind Boom 2021
# After Action Report  /Improvement Plan

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**Introduction**
This was the first time in recent memory that Columbia County ARES participated as a group in an exercise of this magnitude. When we first began planning to participate, there were only two known volunteers. By the time of the exercise 9 had stepped forward, but one of those was put on "injured reserve" by his Doctor. At least two had never been in an exercise like this before. One of those just got his amateur license a few days earlier and built an antenna that was used in the exercise.

**Real World Problems Encountered**

The "Ft Whitesboro" shelter is the real local Community Center and there were ball games that evening which created some automobile traffic. This both gave us some public exposure and altered the placement of our generator. Audible noise from the generator created a challenge for our operators to hear their radios.

| IMPROVEMENT PLAN | | |
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| **Item** | **Suggested Improvement** | **Responsible Party** |
| Miscommunication in Exercise Planning: Original Ex Plan had one shelter open and one on standby based on expected volunteers. When more volunteers came forward, plans were made over the phone, however the written document was not revised. The result was the second shelter stayed on standby. | 1. Better communications<br>2. Use an inject to open the second shelter | ARES(R) leadership |
| Frequency Confusion:  Calls to EOC just before exercise revealed misunderstandings of frequencies despite published ICS-205 | 3. Improve training on how to use the ICS documents. | ARES(R) leadership |
| Formal Traffic:   Successfully moved, but not in any recognizable format. | 4. Train how to convert injects and reports into either Radiogram or ICS-213 format, the latter possibly encapsulated within a Radiogram.<br>5. Practice converting and sending in these formats. | ARES(R) leadership |
| WINLINK Congestion:  Some Winlink messages were delayed being transmitted by | 6. Become more familiar with distant HF Gateways that can be | ARES(R) leadership |

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| over 90 minutes due to busy RMS stations. | reached based on band condidtions and time of day.<br>7. Practice peer to peer Winlink between shelters and EOC. | |

**Note:** This document is intended to be considered along with the Main AAR/IP and is not meant to be a stand alone document. The main document written by Gordon Gibby can be found here
https://qsl.net/nf4rc/FBDR/2021/WhirlwindBoomAARIP.pdf