

## Robert Wareham, NØESQ, Named Colorado Section Emergency Coordinator Designee

BOULDER, COLORADO – Colorado Section Manager Elect Jack Ciaccia, WMØG, has named Robert Wareham, NØESQ, as the Colorado Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) Designee. Wareham will assume the SEC position on October 1<sup>st</sup> when Ciaccia becomes Section Manager. Ciaccia has also asked Wareham to continue in his previous role as State Government Liaison for the Colorado Section.

Wareham has served for the past two years as the A.R.E.S. Emergency Coordinator and R.A.C.E.S. Officer at the Colorado Division of Emergency Management's Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC), otherwise known as the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). Wareham led the move to decommission the SEOC as A.R.E.S. District Ø and make it a section level served agency.

In making the announcement Ciaccia noted Wareham's past contribution to the amateur radio service in general and emergency communications in particular. "Robert's testimony before a Colorado legislative committee resulted in an amateur radio exemption being added to the handsfree cellular telephone bill two years ago," noted Ciaccia. The language was eventually included in the new law which prohibited texting but did not require handsfree cell phone use. "The exemption established an important precedent and recognized the importance of the amateur radio service as a disaster response resource," Ciaccia added.

In his capacity as E.C. for the State E.O.C. Wareham has overseen improvements in the operational capabilities of the Communications Support Group. He also founded a non-profit corporation, EmComm Colorado Inc., to develop and maintain communication systems in support of emergency communications. In 2010 EmComm Colorado deployed two sister 70cm repeaters, one on Devil's Head peak in the Rampart Range of the Pike National Forest; the other at a public safety communications site on a bluff between the communities of Lone Tree and Parker. The two sites offer exceptional redundant coverage of the metropolitan Denver area. The Devil's Head site, including the building, standby generator, and 60 foot self-supporting tower were donated to EmComm Colorado by Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting, a previous user of the site. In addition to the traditional 70cm repeater, the Devil's Head site hosts a MotoTRBO 70cm repeater, an APRS digipeater, and a Winlink VHF internet gateway. The site, located over 9,000 above sea level, covers most of north central Colorado.

Wareham said that he was honored to be considered for the Section Emergency Coordinator position and that he was looking forward to working with Ciaccia and other hams as they continue to develop emergency communications and disaster response capabilities in

the amateur radio community. "When Jack called to discuss the position with me it quickly became obvious that we had a shared vision for the future of Colorado A.R.E.S.," Wareham said. "This is an exciting time for hams. Local, state and federal agencies are increasingly looking to amateur radio as a critical component in their emergency response plans. Whether using amateur television, packet technologies, IP linking, position reporting or traditional voice modes emergency managers know that the ham community can be innovative and responsive," he added.

In his professional life Wareham is an attorney practicing criminal justice and domestic relations law. In May of this year he announced that he would seek election as District Attorney for Colorado's 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District comprised of Douglas, Arapahoe, Elbert and Lincoln counties. When asked how he would juggle the responsibilities of his professional life and the duties of Section Emergency Coordinator Wareham responded, "When I decided to run for office I made a pledge to myself that I was not going to abandon the hobby that provides me so much pleasure and sense of contribution. Besides, some of my best friends are people I met through amateur radio." The election for District Attorney is in November of 2012, and the successful candidate will take office in January of 2013.

Wareham will be working with current S.E.C., David Markham, WØCBI, to transition into the new role by October 1<sup>st</sup>. "I appreciate very much the contribution that David has made to Colorado A.R.E.S. since his appointment, and I look forward to his continued active involvement in the coming years," Wareham said.

Wareham is married and his wife, Jennifer, is also a licensed ham with callsign KCØYYI. Jennifer has actively supported Field Day and other events with her event planning and culinary skills.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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