

This report was submitted to ARRL HQ at 8:19 PM April 13, 2021
 SM, SEC, ASEC, DEC and EC's are copied. Thank you for your input.

Monthly Section Emergency Coordinator Report to ARRL Headquarters			
ARRL Section: South Texas		Month: March	Year: 2021
AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE			
Total number of ARES members: 1640		Change since last month: 9	
# DECs/ECs reporting this month: 31			
# of ARES nets active: 190		# with NTS liaison: 109	
Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: AE5VV K0LTB K0YA K5BV K5LGV K5RIK K5WEL K7MAL KB5DTS KD0RMK KD5BJ KD5JBT KE5FGA KE5MHJ KF4WSO KG5IRM KG5RXG KI5FU N4DDM N5MTX N5SBN N5TW/XYL N5WKM NA5RC NT5CC W0HIP W5ATN WB5HJV WB5TAD WB5UZZ WP2AHG			
Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month	115	Person hours:	3026
Number of public service events this month	41	Person hours:	839
Number of emergency operations this month	11	Person hours:	208
Total number of ARES operations this month	357	Person hours:	4072

SEC
 Work on STX webpage updates of ARES Content
 STX SEC Report generation
 HF Net control duty March 15
 5 weekly HF 3873 nets

ASEC Web
 Maintained the ARRLSTX.org website, made backups, maintained Groups.io reflectors for ARRLSTX and STXARES.
 ASEC Other
 STX Depot web pages and database oversight. Monthly review & stats.
 Weekly Depot bounce report for pages sent during each week.
 Gave Zoom demo of STX Depot for Lee Cooper and the emcomm committee.
 Fixed member data item that wrongly set master authority status for them.
 Revised authorization treatment to uniquely identify dbadmin status. No longer possibly confused with other 'master' entries.
 Answered question about how to remove a silent key from the Depot rosters.
 DISTRICT 01

EC Fort Bend County
 Continued progress on Winlink activities with 32 people participating and 99 messages. 94 people attending the local Houston NTS training with 49 radiograms Participation in the Woodlands Marathon. Has people participating in the Houston area simplex test. Involvement with the Statewide DMR Net

EC Galveston County
 Number of hours in Drills, Tests and Training included 132 hours by 9 ARES members participating in a Hurricane Preparedness Committee to improve digital

communications within Galveston County during emergency situations, 20 hours by 5 ARES members supporting the CLARC monthly VEC Test Session, and 38 hours by 4 ARES members supporting emergency communications maintenance in support of the Galveston County Emergency Management Office. Nine ARES members spent 113 hours supporting the Seabrook Lucky Trails weekend of marathons.

EC Waller County
25 voice 21 digital
DISTRICT 02

EC Walker County
During the month of March, OEM has supported COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics in Walker Co. Two-way radios were used for the clinics since they were held at the fairgrounds and a local medical complex to route vehicles. One ARES operator was designated as command post radio operator. Over 3 events he provided 36 hours of time.

DISTRICT 03

DISTRICT 04

DISTRICT 05

EC Brazos County
We gained a new member. Continue to meet using Zoom. Members worked on Task Book. Local Winlink i-gates and Mailbox working well.

DISTRICT 06

EC Kerr County
Winlink Thursday and prep for May 8th Exercise

EC Medina County
~12 hours were spent on snow operations during loss of power grid. Between 2 and 5 people were providing information during this period.

DISTRICT 07

EC Caldwell County
Hours reported with Hays Co. information

EC Fayette County
Met with the FC Emergency Manager, Craig Moreau, at the Court House. He is starting a CERT class soon and will advise. He asked me to find several ARES members from surrounding counties for this class. I will try to attend this training. Explained x-band repeat and advised I have radios available for this purpose.

Purchased 6 Baofeng 888 UHF radios. This makes 10 total. These will be programmed with the standard x-band frequency, local repeaters, and FRS/GMRS frequencies.

Registered with Winlink. Purchased a DRM-45 modem kit and cable for Yaesu FT-8800. This will be a VHF gateway located 4-miles south of La Grange.

Registered with Hamshack Hotline. Purchased a phone and it is now provisioned. Number is 12090. Provisioned a line for the F.A.R.T.S. repeater system - number is 94074.

Requested a coordinated frequency for a UHF repeater to be dedicated primarily to ARES. This repeater will be connected to 444.200. I will have an ARES specific Hamshack hotline phone number provisioned for this repeater.

Met with Lee County EC, Marida Favia, in Giddings to discuss cooperation and linking. I will be providing her with a link radio for the 147.24 repeater and I will be coordinating with Mark Stennett. Marida has several people she can send to FC CERT class.

Contacted Gonzales County EC Gary Drescher and offered to provide linking capability for his repeater.

EC Hays County

Replacing old computers in ARCHES stations.

EC Lee County

We LeeCARES have been busy in two exercises in March. We planned and executed a mobile signal report exercise in the Lee County Pct 4 very successfully. Propagation that day was tricky, and signal varied sometimes quite a bit, but for the most part signals were solid. Four LeeCARES members operated mobile units from a total of 28 locations from south of Dime Box to north of Lexington, and two members operated from stationary locations at Bubba's Travel Stop on HWY 21 in Dime Box, by FM141, and the other at the Lexington High School in Lexington, to assist the net control operator who was based in Lexington on FM 696. At each location, radio operators evaluated radio signals using both of the amateur radio repeaters in Lee County and from mobile unit to mobile unit. Now we are writing the AAR.

Some of us also participated to the Florida Statewide exercise WhirwindBoom 2021.

The exercise, sponsored by the Florida Baptist Disaster Relief group, involved the Florida State Division of Emergency Management, the Emergency Operations Centers of five Florida Counties, one city, and several dozen volunteers from 13 states. The exercise simulated the devastation caused by a band of tornadoes moving across the Florida peninsula, taking down power and internet in their swaths, and then a terrorist attack on a telephone switching hub in the north east corner of the state. It closely simulated the actual disaster caused by hurricane-line straight line winds that tore through two mid-western states in August last year, and left the city of Cedar Rapids, Iowa largely cut off from state disaster officials, and was also inspired by the Christmas Day explosion in Tennessee. LeeCARES received injects during the exercise.

We also have been improving our skills, from studying to upgrade licenses, to become more familiar with CW, and learning Vara HF and Winlink in view of the Red Cross Exercise on May 8.

Among our public service hours, we also started establishing a relationship with Fayette County ARES; discussed with a local utility provider ways to expand our capabilities, including exploring to add repeaters and places where to install high antennas for mobile units to hook up to. We kept an ongoing relationship with local authorities informing them of our activities and exercises, wrote press releases, and two of us contributed to the AAR report of WC-ARES response to the Feb 2021 Winter Storm and continue our collaboration with WC-ARES. Two of us also participated in a storm watch two nights ready to start a SKYWARN net.

EC Milam County

KI5ISN - SK

EC Williamson County

WCARES had two Severe Weather SKYWARN Activations this month. Served agencies were supported in both events.

March has been a Refit, Replenish, Repair and Replace month after all the long hours of activations in February.

WCARES is in the process of building a "Lessons Learned" document from our experiences during the 2021 Winter Storm event. This will be used to prepare new members for years of what to actually expect during an event as related to Amateur Radio from our organization, rather than what we learn from FEMA classes.
DISTRICT 08

DEC

Red Cross disaster activity 120 hrs

EC Burnet County

2 Skywarn Severe Weather Nets. Documented 1 Microburst with damage in Bertram, TX.

DISTRICT 09

EC Orange County

Continued work this month to improve the Orange Co. EOC radio room and antennas.

DISTRICT 10

DISTRICT 12

EC Gonzales County

27 DTTN

18 NTTN

2 STXARES

DISTRICT 13

DISTRICT 14

DEC

- WebEOC Training (8 participants)

- HCOHSEM PPE/Supply Distribution (required ICS-213RR submission for supply requisition of MREs, PPE, long term water, sanitizer, wipes)

Houston Area Hospital Net (30 participants)

-Training ADEC Earl Pack AE5PA

-HCARES D14 Meeting 3/15 (38 participants)

-Sherwin Klemp K5SEK to assume HCARES D14 duties May 02, 2021 (training)

-Texas ARES Net 3/15 (WB5HJV:NCS) (78 participants)

EC Harris-NE County

Busy Month in NE Unit:

ARES DIST 14 Monthly Meeting March 2 (9 NE Unit members)

NEHC ARES WEEKLY Net March 4 (36 participants)

NEHC ARES WEEKLY Net March 11 (36 participants)

NEHC ARES WEEKLY Net March 18(39 participants)

NEHC ARES WEEKLY Net March 25(36 participants)

Montgomery County ARES Net (NE Unit member checkins - 8)

Texas ARES HF Net (x4) (3 participants)

CERT Training & Drills (7 participants)

Skywarn Training (1 person)

Other Local Trainings (10 participants)

Ham license study and FEMA training, other study (8 participants)

EC Harris-NW County

We are starting to participate in public service events. Many of our team have spent time preparing for an active storm season coming up.

EC Harris-SW County

Inaugural session of 'Elmer's Corner' (open Q&A session) was held during the 5th Wednesday training net this month.

DISTRICT 15

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