

Monthly Section Emergency Coordinator Report to ARRL Headquarters
ARRL Section: South Texas Month: August Year: 2020
AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Total number of ARES members: 1573 Change since last month: 8
DECs/ECs reporting this month: 31
of ARES nets active: 149 # with NTS liaison: 74

Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: AE5VV K0LTB K0YA K5BV K5DDM K5LGV K5RIK K5WEL K7MAL
KB5DTS KD4HNX KD5BJ KE5FGA KE5HAM KF4WSO KF5NIX KG5IRM KG5RXG KI5FU N5LVQ
N5MDT N5MTX N5SBN N5TW N5TW/XYL N5WKM NT5CC WB5HJV WB5TAD WB5UZZ WD5H
WP2AHG

Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month	127	Person hours:	2836
Number of public service events this month	27	Person hours:	512
Number of emergency operations this month	15	Person hours:	1135
Total number of ARES operations this month	318	Person hours:	4483

SEC

Work on STX webpage updates of ARES Content
STX SEC Report generation
ARES HF Net Control Duty taken by KD5E 91 participants August 17
4 weekly HF 3873 nets
Section IAP created and posted on STX website. Updated daily.

A zoom meeting conference call was called for by Mr. Ed Hudgens, WB4RHQ of the Delta Div Council on August 25. Attendees included ARRL officials, and representative for the Delta and West Gulf Divisions including the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi Tennessee, the North Texas and South Texas Sections. The full report can be viewed here <http://www.arrlstx.org/>

ASEC Web

Continue to make backups of the ARRLSTX.org website and install updates as needed.
Posted 3 new articles.
We have 577 members in the STXARES email group.
We have 58 members in the ARRLSTX email group.

ASEC Other

STX Depot web pages and database oversight. Monthly review & stats.
Weekly Depot bounce report for pages sent during each week.
Fixed tiny but critical bug in submission of monthly reports to the report log.
Fixed bug where Documents page and Map page would not show for someone logged in.
Revised code regarding detection that someone was not logged on.

ASEC Advisor

Time spent testing Winlink beta software and building sound cards for Vara FM installations. Ran Pactor 4 per FCC waiver in support of hurricane Laura briefly but communications infrastructure largely survived.

DISTRICT 01

EC Fort Bend County

Activities for the month included zoom mfg. with District 14, Radio Gram meetings, various nets in STX, Simplex backup test for Fort Bend, SkyWarn (8-2) and stand by radio support for Fort Bend during Hurricane Laura (8-25-27).

EC Galveston County

Number of hours for drills, tests and training included 24 hours by 5 members for our first outdoors VEC test session, 62 hours by 3 ARES members supporting Galveston County Emergency Communications development and maintenance, and 10 hours by 2 ARES members participating in ARES VARA-HF Exercise. Galveston County ARES activated for Hurricane Laura with 8 members providing 32 hours of monitoring service while we were still concerned about possible effects of the hurricane in the County.

DEC Montgomery County

Limited activation for standby duty as a result of Hurricane

DISTRICT 02

EC Walker County

During Marco and Laura activation, one operator task by EMC to take 213s via phone from 7 shelters set up within Walker Co. Operator worked night shift. 79 hours of time.

DISTRICT 03

DISTRICT 04

DISTRICT 05

EC Brazos County

Slow month on activities. Visited CEOC to check on Winlink equipment. We held our monthly meeting on the air. We have several members doing work at home for the Red Cross and we have one member that is deployed to Louisiana.

DISTRICT 06

DISTRICT 07

DEC 07

All counties are doing great in keeping up drills and public service events in light of the uncertainty of today.

EC Caldwell County

Hours reported under Hays report

EC Hays County

Did preparatory work for installing new masts/antennas at Luling ARCHES station. Checked on operational status of Seton/Hays ARCHES station.

EC Lee County

Lee County ARES was engaged in building a 48' tower on which we had started last month (thank all who participated very much!), and the tower was erected and partly operational although not finished. Other Lee Co. ARES members worked on their own tower and equipment, advancing their communications capabilities. Lee County participated in the WC-ARES Simplex exercise, and one station was able to be heard and to hear most stations in Williamson County, confirming Lee County a player for communications and relays also without a repeater. We are looking forward to see the difference with the new antenna on the new tower! EC started also the revision for the Lee CO ARES Emergency Communications Plan due to the changes occurred last month. However, the most exciting news is that two members upgraded their license to General and are studying for their Extra. They are already getting HF experience on the air and joined in ARES HF weekly nets. A visitor has also expressed interest in ham radio and emergency communications and was considering studying for Technician. Lee County ARES has grown also welcoming one new member, resident in Lee Co., who holds a General License and holds his basic FEMA classes. We keep holding successful nets with an average of 11 members per net, all but two locals.

EC Travis County

Was on standby with ARC for relief efforts for Hurricane Laura. Created ICS 205 for ARC partners and prepared my team for possible deployment. No response was needed and stood down. Gave a presentation to AARC on ARES Overview. Received good feedback with 4 new people showing interest in joining ARES.

EC Williamson County

WCARES Prepped for the Hurricane that never came to our area. As we were not sure of impact at the time. Also, Ran a Countywide Simplex Net (VHF) from our home locations. This was to test operations in case of long-term power outages or repeater damage from whatever reason. Pleasantly surprised at the positive results, and who all could communicate with each other Will be doing another exercise in September to attempt to cover blank areas of coverage in the county. Exercise Was so well received, will be starting a weekly Simplex Informal ragchew net on our main VHF Simplex channel due to popular demand. This will give everyone an opportunity to visit during this Covid Jungle episode, and to tweak home QTH antenna set ups.

DISTRICT 08

DEC 08

1. Renew k5rik@winlink.org
2. Red cross support hurricane Marco and Laura, planning section

EC Burnet County

Started a training series to raise preparedness of the organization. Recruiting efforts are starting to show promise. We have two new ARES members this month and the possibility of several more in September.

DISTRICT 09

EC Jasper County

Recovering from hurricane. Lots of damage in east Texas, but not as bad as Louisiana. Electricity was out 2.5 days. All antennas were down except for 2m.

EC Jefferson County

Jefferson Co ARES was activated when DDC-15 in Beaumont was brought to Level 1 Emergency Response Condition on 08/25/20. Two ARES/RACES personal activated to prepare/test radio equipment. Due to current COVID- 19 ARES and a few other state

agencies were asked to remain virtual and on call to report if needed. ARES remained in contact with the TDEM District Coordinator.

Jefferson & Orange Co ARES also provided communications for the Sabine Causeway Bridge 5k Run from Texas to Louisiana. Good to be back out in public service/training again.

Kirk Mahaney - N5WKM

EC Newton County
See jasper county for details

EC Orange County
During Hurricane Laura event a request was made to stand up the Orange Co. EOC ARES Radio Rm operations (VHF and HF) to support the Coast Guard and others to monitor and relay messages for C.G. Operations stationed in Tyler TX. No traffic passed. 3-radio operators, KF5SRG, AF5DT & AD5OG supported this effort.

EC Tyler County
Tyler County established communications with the State SOC during Hurricane Laura by linking the WD5TYL Repeater to the Lufkin Texas Wide Area Network Hub to support the Tyler County Emergency Operations Center with direct radio communication to the SOC. Tyler County ARES was not activated during Hurricane Laura but remained on standby and ready to provide support if required.

DISTRICT 10

DEC 10
Lead a convoy of vehicles from Jackson County to Hackberry, Louisiana to deliver truckloads of donated relief supplies.
Got approval from county commissioners to finally purchase all needed equipment to establish an amateur radio station at the county EOC. Expect to start the assembly process in October, when funds are released.

DISTRICT 12

DISTRICT 13

DISTRICT 14

DEC

- HCARES District 14 Digital Strategy Meeting (Winlink Focused) 8/3
- Texas ARES HF Net 8/3
- NE ARES Monthly Meeting (ADEC) 8/4
- WEBEOC Training 8/5
- VARA Conference (AUXCOMM sponsored) 8/8
- ECHO Society Meeting 8/10
- Winlink Peer to Peer training (WB5HJV/W5LDK) 8/11
- D14 SW Unit VARA FM Peer to Peer exercise (W5LDK) 8/13
- HCARES D14 meeting - presented the Digital Strategy for District 14 (Winlink focused) 8/17 42 attendees
- Station readiness review: WOMAC, W5NWM, K5TCH / article preparation / Facebook page material prep
- Red Cross Gulf Coast Region Hurricane Tabletop Exercise (8/22 W5LDK/WB5HJV)
- AE5PA Earl ADEC-Training - Developing instructions for WinLink Packet and VARA on Kenwood TM-D710 and District VARA FM Gateway Test
- HCARES D14 DMR viability net 8/25 - used talkgroup SETTECG 8686

- Hurricane Laura Response - ICS-205 Incident Radio Communications Plan prepared and published; Several groups of radio operator volunteers formed but not activated; Home stations for situational reports, initial comm teams of 3-4 operators each and radio operators for potential PODs operations (up to 45 operators). Several Hospital Radio Teams on standby not activated. Transtar AUXCOMM team activated staffing N5TRS Transtar station; D14 NW Unit activated staffing DPS Region 2 HQ (TDEM)
- Hurricane Laura Debriefing 8/31
- Hospital Net (W5LDK NCS) 8/30 32 check ins

EC Harris-NE County

The NE had eight people monitoring from their QTH. The EC was the only able to be deployed, with a possibility of other depending on their work schedule.

EC Harris-NW County

Our team was activated to support communication needs during a hurricane. We were able to use this event as a way to train several operators within our unit. Their experience is greater and will be better prepared for any future activations.

EC Harris-SW County

The D14 SW Unit continues to test VARA. K5OB conducted a VARA FM P2P Drill on 8/13; KG5OFB conducted a VARA FM Gateway Drill on 8/20.

Training AEC Linda Kangas W5LDK presented Winlink P2P training session

N5TQ and KG5OFB deployed to Harris County of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Hurricane Laura; W5LDK committed to ARC; WD8RZA committed to District 1; 5 SW Unit members volunteered for POD/shelter deployment. We did not muster enough members to staff the PODs & shelters anticipated by Harris County. CoViD was a recurring reason for members declining to volunteer. More work needs to be done on preparedness for deployment.

DISTRICT 15

Signature: Jeff Walter Callsign:KE5FGA

ARRL Form 4