

This report was submitted to ARRL HQ at 10:35 PM February 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: January	Year: 2021
AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE			
Total number of ARES members: 1621		Change since last month: 22	
# DECs/ECs reporting this month: 32			
# of ARES nets active: 142		# with NTS liaison: 70	
Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: AE5VV K0LTB K0YA K5BV K5DDM K5LGV K5RIK K5WEL K7MAL KD5BJ KD5JBT KE5FGA KE5HAM KF4WSO KG5IRM KG5JRA KG5RXG KI5FU N4DDM N5MTX N5SBN N5SMS N5TW N5TW/XYL N5WKM NT5CC W3OQ W5ATN W5KKL WB5HJV WB5TAD WB5UZZ WP2AHG			
Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month	109	Person hours:	4160
Number of public service events this month	31	Person hours:	1025
Number of emergency operations this month	6	Person hours:	5
Total number of ARES operations this month	288	Person hours:	5189

SEC

- Work on STX webpage updates of ARES Content
- STX SEC Report generation
- 5 weekly HF 3873 nets
- Brian Miller KE5WHV appointed EC for Cameron County in District 15
- Ric Sauer KD0RMK appointed EC for Medina County in District 6

ASEC Web

Maintain weekly backups of the ARRLSTX.org website both locally and in the cloud. The ARRLSTX group has 73 members, the STXARES group has 591 members. Only 2 new articles were added in January.

ASEC Other

STX Depot web pages and database oversight. Monthly review & stats. Weekly Depot bounce report for pages sent during each week. Added Vara HF and Vara FM to the Profile page. Removed all WINMOR member data in the Depot, and all presentation of WINMOR on the web pages.

ASEC Advisor

Winlink software beta testing and station work. New computer for Winlink Packet and VARA FM setup and deployed at Scott & White Hospital Taylor.

EC Fort Bend County

Continue to reinforce utilization of Winlink and NTS. There was 111 Winlink messages utilized in our monthly nets, NTS produced 34 messages. We had folks involved in Winter Field day, primarily at the park. Continue to promote monthly check-in into WebEOC.

EC Galveston County

The number of hours of drills, tests and training included 4 ARES members who provided 19 hours providing VE services to a local VEC Test Session, 2 ARES members who provide 36 hours of support for ARES exercises and nets, and 2 ARES members who supported the City of League City's EMCOMM equipment and procedures. We have been slowed down, but not stopped working our EMCOMM development for Galveston County.

EC Waller County

25 voice 21 digital

DISTRICT 02

DISTRICT 03

DISTRICT 04

DISTRICT 05

EC Brazos County

First Tuesday monthly ARES net. Monthly meeting second Monday was Zoom meeting. Topic was NVIS antenna. Asking how to get more attendance from other members. Had Winlink weekly exercises.

DISTRICT 06

EC Kinney County

We had 5 Sunday night net sessions plus an Antenna party to install a "J" pole VHF antenna for John Wooddell, KG5A00. This resulted in a very good signal to our local repeater.

DISTRICT 07

DEC

Participated with Williamson County ARES at Winter Field Day at Wilson H. Fox Park on Lake Granger. Checked into 1413 packet stations in District 7 in January.

EC Caldwell County

Hours and events reported under Hays Co.

EC Hays County

Coordinating equipment purchases for new Amateur Radio Room at County EOC.

EC Lee County

It has been a very busy month for LeeCARES. We prepared an exercise to test simplex communications in Precinct 3 by traveling in the area and studying maps. We successfully completed the exercise finding out the weaknesses and the strengths of our signals and narrowing down a location to put a permanent antenna

and 40' mast that might facilitate communication within the precinct. We also started working on the AAR studying propagation software and terrain obstacles and analyzing data. The AAR is still undergoing. We also are advancing with our MOU with the County and we received from our E.M. flood maps to be aware of which road might be submerged by waters. We are also starting relationships with Precinct commissioners and local volunteer fire departments. We also started meeting to discuss a three-year strategic/business planning for LeeCARES. Two members are active in training with the American Red Cross, training that will lead to the National Red Cross drill in May. Members kept on working with new equipment, improving old ones, and working on towers on their premises, training with digital modes like Winlink Packet and VARA FM, and learning CW, training to upgrade licenses, and participated in Winter Field Day.

EC Milam County

Working on Winlink express setup.

EC Travis County

Was on stand-by for communication outages due to possible civil unrest at the request of American Red Cross and other partner agencies.

EC Williamson County

January 2021 has started off with a very active month, for Covid-19 times.

This month say us getting access back into the Williamson County EOC for the first time since March of 2020 due to Covid restrictions. Plans have been developed for installation of several radio upgrades that have been waiting since before Covid.

Additionally, Wilco OEM has included EC and support staff to participate in the development and plans in integrations for the OEM ESF2 comms plan that will be submitted to the State of Texas. Making WCARES an integral part of OEM's published plans to support the county in emergency operations events going forward. First time ever been done here, even though we have had a close working relationship for years. Good indicator that all the hard work, training, activation support, and relationship management by our whole team is being successful.

WCARES had necessary and repairs and optional upgrades made to our Emcomm trailer in December and January that involved quite a number of hours from our members as well as the RV Repair shop. Replaced the A/C and heater, rebuilt the generator door, coax and DC distribution box on the roof and resealed it. We replaced 9 NMO mounts and coax as a preventative measure in the roof rails and revamped the internal patch panels. Also added an external patch panel for HF antennas & ethernet. We updated three internal computer workstations, and additionally the WCARES PC's that run the 3 Williamson county go kits. Also added an electric lift for the 1,000+ lbs. trailer tongue from a donation, to make vehicle hook up less of a stressful experience. Equipment is now spiffy and ready to deploy again before Spring Storm season.

Team is working on Tickets CAD integration to operate portable operations and had an excellent conference call with Montgomery County EC/DEC who has this operational there locally to get advice.

WCARES had a huge in-person event in January for the fun of it and to reconnect with our team members in a laid-back environment. We conducted our second annual Winter Field Day event at Lake Granger, Texas, for the weekend of Jan 29, 30, 31.

We had an excellent turnout considering Winter Field Day with 26 members attending in person. We had 12 campsites populated, with four stations running. A large number of our members participated from homes along with us due to Covid. Their points are added to our totals under the WFD rules. This Successfully Exercised our Emcomm trailer for checkout after the repairs and upgrades. Also exercised 3 of the Wilco EOC Go Kits on HF, along with several Blue Sky Masts. Tested the use of JS8Call on HF digital with excellent results, with even in-county contacts made. Will be utilizing this mode going forward for operations.

We had a great time reconnecting in the first deployment/group in person event in almost a year due to Covid. WCARES ran the health protocol included forehead temp registration at each safety brief. We had multiple meals around a huge campfire including Brisket and Dutch Oven Peach Cobbler.

Overall, a very good month. And the chance to see members in 3-D (in person) versus 2-D (Zoom).

DISTRICT 08

DEC

Red Cross support 159 hours

EC Burnet County

There was a break in at the Burnet County Emergency Management Center. Damage was mostly caused from pouring coffee creamer onto computers and discharging fire extinguishers. All EOC radio equipment and computers were determined to be operational and the area cleaned up.

DISTRICT 09

EC Jasper County

VEC testing program going strong.

EC Newton County

See Jasper County for all other details

EC Orange County

Nothing to report from Orange Co.

EC Sabine County

Replaced coax for link radio on UHF repeater that was damaged during October hurricane. No other activity due to COVID 19.

DISTRICT 10

DEC

Great progress being made to get Jackson County and surrounding counties hams back active. We have confirmed 104-mile range for the vhf 145.330 repeater and will be moving the 444.500 to the same site soon. Waiting only on non-penetrating mounts for courthouse to install HF and vhf/uhf antennas.

DISTRICT 12

DISTRICT 13

DISTRICT 14

DEC

- WEBEOC Training 1/6 (12 participants)- D14 members log into WEBEOC and perform functions including STAR requests
- Testing new VARA HF version (supports 2750 Hz bandwidth) at HF RMS Gateway KB5MAC (higher throughput) WB5HJV
- HCARES STX District 14 Peer to Peer VHF VARA FM Exercise

- January 11 through January 18, 2021 Purpose: To test the ability of Harris County ARES (and surrounding areas) Winlink digital capable members to utilize Winlink Peer to Peer mode over VARA FM including the new digi-peating capability to send Winlink messages. 40 stations participating 67 messages received; great exercise with valuable lessons learned!

- ECHO Society Meeting 1/11 12 attendees
- HCARES D14 monthly meeting - Year 2020 in review - 48 attendees 01/18
- Houston Area Hospital EMCOMM net K5TCH Texas Children's Main campus Net Control 1/31/21 40 check ins, all Harris County ARES Units, Ft. Bend, Galveston, and Montgomery county
- Harris County ARES District 14 Wide Area net (Simplex) K5TCH Texas Children's Hospital NCS 1/31/21 50 check ins, all Harris County ARES Units, Ft. Bend, Galveston and Montgomery county
- AE5PA Earl ADEC-Training - District training work - 5 hrs, 1 hr WAN, 4 hrs VARA P2P Exercise

EC Harris-NW County

This has been a slow month. We continue to stand ready when called on.

DISTRICT 15

DEC Cameron County

Data: Winlink communication/Testing. Voice: VHF repeater operation, and HF 80/75 Meters Ares Net. Daily casual meetings which serve to keep members up to date.

Jeffery A Walter - KE5FGA

ARRL STX SEC

RACES 16-201-U

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