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

Total number of ARES members: 1666   Change since last month: 11
DECs/ECs reporting this month: 28
of ARES nets active: 163   # with NTS liaison: 60

Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: AE5VV AF5OS K5BV K5DDM K5GOL K5LGV K5WEL K7MAL KD4HNX KD5BJ KE5FGA KF4WSO KF5NIX KG5RXG KI5FU KW5PA N5LVQ N5MTX N5SBN N5TQ N5TW N5TW/XYL N5WKM NT5CC W5IM WB5HJV WB5TAD WB5UZZ WD5H

Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month	106	Person hours:	2647
Number of public service events this month	25	Person hours:	404
Number of emergency operations this month	0	Person hours:	0
Total number of ARES operations this month	294	Person hours:	3051

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SEC
Work on STX webpage updates of ARES Content
STX SEC Report generation
Greater Houston Hamfest ARES Forum Mar 7
EC Appointment Gary Drescher Ki5FU Mar 14
EC Appointment Stephen Schwarz, KA5WJY Mar 14
4 weekly HF 3873 nets

ASEC Web
Made weekly and end of the month backups of the ARRLSTX.org website.
Welcomed new members when they joined the STXARES Groups.io email list.

ASEC Other
STX Depot web pages and database oversight. Monthly review & stats.
Weekly Depot bounce report for pages sent during each week.
Responded to question about adding picture for a member.

ASEC Advisor
This month, built up 6 DRA-45 sound cards for WC-ARES/county Vara FM
installations and completed documentation for these installations.  Other
time testing new Winlink software versions and setting up and testing a
neat HF/VHF channel simulator designed by a member of the Winlink
development team.  This will be used for evaluating/tweaking sound card
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protocols and for improved busy detector research.

DISTRICT 01

EC Fort Bend County
HAM Fest demo/oper RCU. VE 3 member x 3hrs not reported above.

EC Galveston County
Number of hours of drills, tests and training include 15 hours of support
by 3 ARES members in support of emergency communications operations and
maintenance for the city of League City. All face to face meetings and
public service events for March and April have been cancelled because of
COVID-19.

DISTRICT 02

DISTRICT 03

DISTRICT 04

EC Live Oak County
As a result of the Live Oak County Law Enforcement Center losing internet
service, we were tasked to demonstrate our capabilities to get an email
into the DDC in Corpus Christi without using local internet. We
accomplished this task on March 25 via winlink as requested and received a
confirmation winlink email in return. Thanks go to Tracy, KI5GZE for
doing all the ICS paperwork. The event was also used as a winlink
training session for those listed as present: W5IM, KC5QPP, KI5GZE.

DISTRICT 05

EC Brazos County
Members working on Winlink skills. Packet, Pactor, Winmor and p2p modes
being used. April we be an interesting month with no in person meeting -
but will have ARES meeting on the air. There is a new igate on 149.05 -
N5SBN-10. There is a local digipeater KE5ISM-11 on 145.03. Encouraging
members to still connected by radio and email.

DISTRICT 06

DISTRICT 07

DEC
All ARES units in District 7 are on stay home orders. That said, Wilco
ARES has implemented video conferencing in place of meetings and is
conducting some additional nets that way.

EC Caldwell County
HOURS REPORTED UNDER HAYS CO. ARCHES TESTING SUSPENDED. COLLECTING
MATERIALS TO PUT UP NEW ANTENNA AT EB DAVIS HOSPITAL.

EC Hays County
ARCHES TESTING SUSPENDED.

EC Lee County
LeeCARES has been invited by the Blue Volunteer Fire Department to participate at their Springfest in April (postponed) to demonstrate ham radio and ARES capabilities. LeeCARES members trained at the Blue VFD deploying the go kits and the antennas and checked radio signals. We also talked with the Sheriff's Office to discuss our involvement with the Lee Co. Fair. We received our charges and checked radio signals. We held our monthly meeting at the S.O. EOC where Mark W5MAE installed on our computers NetLog and trained us to use it. He also discussed antennas and better way to reach TCARES and WC-ARES. Worked to improve the radio and antenna go kits to improve deployment after training at BVFD. Participated at Packet Cavalry and Winlink Wednesday.

EC Travis County
Most activities have stopped due to COVID19. On Air and Virtual training has occurred on a limited occurrence.

EC Williamson County
Like everyone else in Texas, we are in a shelter in place situation in Williamson County since mid-March. We spent time preparing for the event before the lock down. All ARES meetings face to face meetings have been canceled until further notice. ARCHES onsite testing was canceled in early March, before we were required to do so. With only minimal approved gatherings of less than 10 for operations prep, maintenance on equipment, etc. I requested, and I have been issued, the APEX radio assigned to WCARES by Emergency Management to communicate with them and other served agencies in Wilco as needed. We also have been authorized for years to operate on Interop Freqs locally. So, we have communications for many of my team and our Emergency Comms trailer in those bands on UHF and VHF. This provides us an enhanced ability to work with served agencies for SKYWARN activations, and in the event, we are activated by served agencies during this Covid19 event. The EOC's here are locked down, and many in EM are working remote as IMT.

I have kept our personnel out of Covid19 support functions, as many of our personnel are in the risk age group, and I do not want our personnel being caught in a lockdown situation. However, WCARES is in the Emergency Management plans to support activations outside COVID19 direct support. i.e. SKYWARN, Flooding events, Damage Assessment, and other deployment actions where normal resources are limited due to everyday events these days.

For WCARES communications, unity, and training, we have implemented a number of new activities. We have purchased commercial level video conferencing licenses, and have had SITREPS and planning meetings with up to 50 personnel to date. Our regular monthly meeting will be held second week in April, and will be done via this video conference medium. In this month's meeting we are holding training on how to operate in the National Traffic System nets.

WCARES has added an additional weekly net night on Thursdays during the duration of the shelter in place orders. These may be by video, or radio nets. The week after our monthly meeting we will begin nets testing NVIS communication from our residences on 80,40,60, 10 meters for in county

comms in event repeaters go down. We will also be testing HF digital comms (JS8call). We will move to Simplex nets, Wilderness protocol tests, etc.

Winlink weekly tests will continue, with encouragement for members to move to VARA FM while we have the opportunity at home. Many have already done so. Our Wilco Emergency Operations Center ARES room station has been upgraded by with VARA FM software and donated Hardware. All laptops and PC's for County Go Kits (ARES owned) and our Emergency Communications trailer have been software upgraded. The donated VARA FM soundcards and cables have arrived are ready to be installed as soon as feasibly possible. This is on hold due shelter in place but working on options to get these installed for use if needed.

April already stacking up for a busy month. Additionally, have encouraged all members to upgrade ham licenses, and take FEMA courses online, to fill out task book during this event with time at home. WCARES has already scheduled VE session to take place as soon as restrictions lifted, and a location can be secured. Or may hold it outdoors.

DISTRICT 08

DISTRICT 09

EC Jasper County
No meetings, no training

EC Newton County
No meetings, no training

EC Orange County
Nothing to report from Orange County for March.

EC Tyler County
Tyler County ARES conducted a "boots on the ground" exercise to test our emergency notification system, county-wide operator deployment, emergency net operations and messaging using simplex relays. We utilized ICS-213 and ICS 214 Forms to support the exercise.

DISTRICT 10

DISTRICT 12

EC Gonzales County
Three (3) members deleted (2 moved, 1 expired).
Two (2) new members joined.
I have sent emails to all to see if they wish to continue membership.
I am making arrangement to put up a repeater to cover the county.

DISTRICT 13

DEC
The month of March was pretty quiet. However, we now have a DMR repeater which has made connecting with other counties in our district much easier. We are currently planning on starting up a DMR net, but for the time

being, this is a significant accomplishment for us. Our DMR repeater ID is 311588, FYI. Many thanks go out to Dick Allen (KG5CKR) for purchasing the repeater and setting up at his QTH. We would also like to thank AE5JO and N5JLR for their tremendous help in setting it up.

DISTRICT 14

DEC
WebEOC Drill - 3/4
TEXAS ARES Statewide HF Net (NCS) 3/2
Houston Area HamFest ARES Meeting 3/7
Houston Area HamFest ARRL Forum Meeting 3/7
Houston Area HamFest STX D14 ARES Booth Meeting 3/7
SkyWarn Training Web-based 3/16 (>100 attendees) D14# only
SkyWarn Advanced Training Web 3/17 (>100 attendees) D14# only
Red Cross Winlink RMS node work (W5LDK/WB5HJV) 3/26
HCARES D14 Wide Area VHF Net 3/29
HCARES D14 Wide Area HF Net 3/29
Houston Area Hospital Net 3/29
HC TranStar Volunteer Training program development
FEMA Training IS-00201 Forms for IAP (W5LDK)

EC Harris-NE County
ARES operations include 5 nets with TEAC

EC Harris-NW County
Month started busy, then everything got shut down by Covid response.
Membership is observing social distancing and following guidance from
County officials. Plan to continue training nets and connecting with
membership by radio.

EC Harris-SW County
I feel that this is the calm before the storm

DISTRICT 15

Signature: Jeff Walter   Callsign:KE5FGA

ARRL Form 4