

ARES District 4 Net Script

11-02-2016 (net date)

Good Evening everyone and welcome to the South Texas District 4 ARES net. This is

_____TOM_____ (name) _____K5BV_____ (call)

_____ARES EC for ARANSAS and SAN PATRICIO COUNTY_____ (position e.g. member, AEC, etc. & County)

I will be the Net Control Station for tonight's net. First, if there are any stations with priority or emergency traffic please call

_____K5BV_____ (call) at this time. UN-KEY

Either say "**nothing heard**" or handle the traffic immediately.

All hams in all Counties are welcome to check in to this net. You do not need to be an ARES member to participate in this net.

The purpose of ARES, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, is to furnish emergency communications via amateur radio when regular means of communications fail or become inadequate during an emergency situation. ARES is sponsored by the ARRL, and supported by area radio clubs and individual hams. The only qualifications for ARES are that you possess an amateur radio license and you have a desire to help others. For more information or off-net questions please contact one of the following by email

Mark Dist. 4 EC - - - - - ad5ca@arrl.net

Tom EC for Aransas & San Patricio County - - - - - k5bv@arrl.net

The net is currently scheduled monthly for the First Wednesday at 8 PM. This is subject to change. We are currently using the 147.060 repeater in Corpus Christi with a (+) PLUS offset and a 107.2 tone.

This net is being conducted for the purpose of providing training and information related to emergency communications; to serve as a forum for discussion; and to foster fellowship among Amateur Radio operators.

Next, are there any operators who would like to make announcement or provide information related to EmComm? This is not general check-in. Please State your call now.

Tonight after Check-In we will have a discussion on Amateur with Emphasis on Emergency Nets.

NOW CHECK-IN. If the frequency has been clear a second or two key the MIC and s-l-o-w-l-y give your FCC call sign using ITU phonetics spoken clearly and slowly. Also please say your name used on the radio. Writing calls down takes a moment so allow a couple of seconds between check-ins. Keep checking in and calls will be reviewed for clarifications, errors and missed calls. Please check-in with _K5BV_ (Call) now.

(note these actions)

- *read each call back,*
- *ask for corrections*
- *ask for additional check-ins*

We will have comments after the tonight's material on NETS. **During the comments please state if your radios are programmed for the Ingleside Repeater K5EJB, 147.220 MHz, + (plus) offset, 173.8 Hz Tone.**

(note this actions)

- *go to page 4 material*

Before we go down the list for comments if there any late check-ins please provide you call now.

(again note these actions)

- *read each call back,*
- *ask for corrections*

Now comments. Remember to inform us if 147.220 K5EJB repeater is programmed.

- *go down list of check-ins*
- *now have presenter give their comments)*

Final call for check-ins. Additional stations for the net please check-in now with _____ *(your call)*.

(again note these actions)

- *read each call back,*
- *ask for corrections*
- *ask for comments*

We had XX check-ins tonight. Thank you all for joining the ARES net tonight, and thanks to the repeater owners and mountaineers for the use of these fine repeaters. I am now closing the net and returning these repeaters back to normal amateur radio use. Stations may remain on frequency to make additional QSOs.

Net Control _____ *(your call)* Out.

FCC CALL	NAME	147.220 MHz question
01 _____	____ (NET CONTROL)	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
02 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
03 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
04 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
05 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
06 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
07 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
08 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
09 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
10 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
11 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
12 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
13 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
14 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
15 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
16 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
17 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
18 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
19 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
20 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
21 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
22 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
23 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
24 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N
25 _____	_____	147.220 MHz ___ Y ___ N

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

1) Why We Have Nets

A major strength of Amateur Radio in an emergency setting is our ability to share information in a "group setting" in real time across multiple locations and multiple served agencies.

Unlike many other types of communications, our radio messages can be heard by everyone in the group at once and they can respond. This gives flexibility to emergency response managers that is very useful.

This can also cause a problem if not organized.

During an emergency communication situation a high volume of disorganized messages will quickly turn an overloaded communication system into a disaster of its own.

Each month this Net and other Nets we join is in fact training ourselves to conduct organized exchanges.

2) Net Types

In identifying Net Types first we need to understand the difference between:

Open Nets

and

Directed Nets.

An Open Net, also known as Informal Net. An example is a casual net we frequently have talking with friends as we drive to work. Another is relaxing in the evening at the radio. Most often chatting with other amateurs we may never meet face to face.

Open Nets are appropriate when standing by for an approaching event prior to declaring a Directed Net. Operators participating in an Open Net learn the connectivity and readability to and from geographically separated locations. Becoming familiar with the radio environment is valuable.

A Directed Net, also known as a Formal Net. This Net tonight is a Directed Net. A Directed Net is one where all participation is managed by the Net Control Station.

A Directed Net is appropriate when there are a large number of stations and when traffic cannot be dealt with on a first-come first-served basis.

In a communication emergency of any size, it is usually best to operate a directed net. In such situations the Net Control Station can prioritize traffic by nature and content.

The 7th item on the ARES South Texas Courses and Training Activity Matrix is to "Participate In A Directed Net Quarterly." Each ARES member on the Net tonight should keep this updated.

3) Specialized Nets

Specialized nets are created to serve specific agencies or activities supported by Amateur

Radio communications. These vary over a large spectrum associated with Emergency and non-Emergency scenarios. Not all sections and districts will be providing Nets for the same types of agencies or activities.

Keep in mind that opportunities to help with a Marathon or directing cars to available parking at a large public event each require a Specialized Net. Nets such as this are two examples of opportunities to prepare for a BIG EVENT or EMERGENCY that we hope never happens.

All amateur activities and especially Net activities provide a level of training to develop and maintain our communications skills as well as staying familiar with and verify that our radio gear is ready to use.

4) Net Security

Amateur Radio is not a secure method of communication. Using various digital modes we can greatly decrease the possibility of interception, but these are also not secure nor should we ever allow a served agency to assume that they are. Examples of secure methods to be used for sensitive materials are telephone, FAX. While amateur digital modes such as Packet, WINLINK, D-STAR and PSK-31 are MORE secure than voice, remember that the messages may be available to other than the intended recipient.

If something must be sent that would be considered sensitive I would suggest getting a signature of an Agency Manager before sending by Amateur Radio.

Quoting from ARRL EC16 Course

Traffic which would contain sensitive information must be confined to a SECURE communications method and never through direct voice communication where information such as proper names tied to private information or health conditions are mentioned.

Amateur Radio is not a secure method of communication. Using various digital modes we can greatly decrease the possibility of interception, but it is not secure nor should we ever allow a served agency to assume it is.

5) Guidance for Specialized Nets

Working with a local EOC may require adapting to the Emergency Manager's needs. Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the NIMS or ICS system has become widely used. For this reason taking the FEMA Independent Study courses and being familiar FEMA forms such as the ICS 213 will help us provide the proper format and protocol that the served agency needs to use.

Never forget that we serve at the supported agency's pleasure. Advance preparation must include becoming familiar with Agency needs so that when the time comes we are on the same page with them.

SUMMARY - We must be accustomed to the proper format and protocol which is dictated by the served agency, and not what WE would elect to use.

6) Conducting Nets

An EOC is usually not the best place for a NCS to operate. For example amateur station in a City EOC is there to provide communications for that City.

It is often better to have the NCS located off-site in a different location for best results.

An EOC may need to have information transmitted to a neighboring city, the Texas DDC and a local Point of Distribution. It is best however if a neighboring City's EOC doesn't have to relay traffic for another EOC.

References

ARES Manual - <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARESmanual2015.pdf>

ARRL ARES Field Resources Manual. See
<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ARESFieldResourcesManual.pdf>.