ARES District 4 Net Script

<u>   Dec. 07, 2016   </u>   (net date)
Script Rev 12-02-2015

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

<u>   TOM   </u> *(name)* <u> K5BV   </u> *(call)*

<u>   ARES EC FOR ARANSAS and SAN PATRICIO COUNTY   </u>
         (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

<u>   K5BV   </u> *(call)* at this time.   UN-KEY

Either s*ay "**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 Hz tone. The Alternate Repeater is 147.220 with (+) PLUS offset and 173.8 Hz 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 discuss **FCC Rules on Emergency Communications**.

Next, 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 and UNKEY. Writing calls down takes a moment so allow a couple of seconds. 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 **FCC Rules on Emergency Communications**.

(GO TO MATERIAL AFTER PAGE 3)

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*

We will now go down the Check-In list for comments. This is K5BV.

- *go down list of check-ins*
- *now have presenter Net Control Comments*

Final call for check-ins. Additional stations for the net please check-in now with __**K5BV**___ *(your call)*.

(again note these actions)
- *read each call back,*
- *ask for corrections*
- *ask for comments*

THIS IS NET. 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 __**K5BV**___ *(your call)* Out.

FCC CALL   NAME

01 _____   _____ *(ENTER NET CONTROL)*

02 _____   _____

03 _____   _____

04 _____   _____

05 _____   _____

06 _____   _____

07 _____   _____

08 _____   _____

09 _____   _____

10 _____   _____

11 _____   _____

12 _____   _____

13 _____   _____

14 _____   _____

15 _____   _____

16 _____   _____

17 _____   _____

18 _____   _____

19 _____   _____

20 _____   _____

21 _____   _____

22 _____   _____

23 _____   _____

24 _____   _____

25 _____   _____   **PAGE 3**

(ENTER NET CONTROL)

FCC Rules on Emergency Communications

General
The FCC's rules affect Amateur Radio EmComm operations in a number of ways. Tonight will provide guidance for EmComm operations. Additional personal study is recommended.

A Drill is Not an Emergency
There have been occasions in which people involved in a drill mistakenly believed that their role play also allowed them to transmit under greatly relaxed rules. That is not true.

Safety of Life and Property
In a situation involving the **immediate** safety of life and/or the immediate protection of property, and **where no other means of communication are available** the rules permit Amateurs to use any means to send essential information. This rule is straightforward and needs little interpretation.

If someone's life or property is immediately threatened and there's nothing else working, the last thing you want to do is waste precious time worrying about government regulations.

Be prepared in the aftermath of an incident to justify your action in a possible FCC or local law enforcement inquiry. If any other means of communication, such as a cell phone, emergency call box, relay through another Amateur station, or other public-access system is available, they should be attempted first.

Keep written notes in "real time" and write up the incident immediately after it concludes

A Limitations Of "In an Emergency Use Any Means Of Radio Communications Disposal"
There is a report in the ARRL EC-001 Course of an Amateur modifying their radio to operate on Emergency Responder frequencies. At a later date, after modifying the radio, the Amateur happened upon an accident and used the modified equipment to contact and summon Emergency Responders.

An involved party, probably the Emergency Organization, filed Charges against the amateur. In a state Court the Amateur was found guilty of charges filed. Altering equipment in advance to operate in a Radio Service requiring FCC approved equipment was found unlawful.

When Your Station is in Distress
Another FCC rule states "an Amateur station in distress may use any means at its disposal to attract attention, make known its condition and location, and obtain assistance". Also, it states that an Amateur Radio station may use any means of radio communication at its disposal to assist another station in distress. Note that this is not a "might happen" or even "probably will happen." It is only if it **IS** happening right now and no other means are available.

Think about this. You are monitoring a local repeater and hear a person calling for help, "calling anybody, I need help." This is obviously not an Amateur, what do you do?

My opinion is you don't have any choice but to asked the caller "what help is needed?" And the relay the request to the appropriate "professional responder." **AND KEEP WRITTEN NOTES OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE EVENT SHOULD THERE BE A COMPLAINT.**

Disaster Communications
The rules say, "An amateur station may transmit . . . transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions." This rule is also straightforward: the FCC encourages the use of Amateur Radio service for disaster communications. The FCC recognized that "one of the key purposes of the amateur service is providing emergency communications to the public."

The FCC has made it clear in rulings that "While we, Amateurs, are there to provide emergency communications we are not by definition an emergency radio service."

As a footnote - I have been asked by a new ARES Member if the ID Card allowed the installation of emergency lights and a siren on their personal vehicle. **ALWAYS REMEMBER WE ARE NOT EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

Allowing Critical Responders to Speak Directly Over the Radio
Many years ago most Amateurs had equipment connected to our radios known as a phone patch. This was an interface to our telephone between our transmitter and receiver. Those carrying on conversations were not licensed amateurs.

In those days an Amateur had no problem letting a non-ham sit in front of the microphone or letting a voice over the telephone modulate our transmitter.

Keeping this in mind. In any situation, especially during an emergency, when the situation is best served by non-amateurs speaking directly with each other let it happen.

In an Emergency if:
the Mayor wants request urgently needed supplies from the State Operations Center, or a Fireman needs to describe a needed part that a nearby city Fire Department may have, or a medical technique an EMS responder needs to describe to a person apply First Aid, let those involved to speak directly.

Put a phone in speaker mode and hold the microphone close and key the microphone when appropriate.

We may need to caution that the conversation is not secure and to keep the language clean.