

ARES District 4 Net Script

02-04-2021 Rev-B (net date)

Script Rev 01-31-2021

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 Counties
(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
Jim EC for Live Oak County----- w5im@arrl.net
Harley EC for Kelberg County----- kg5ayd@arrl.net

The net is currently scheduled monthly for the First Thursday at 8 PM. This is subject to change. We are currently using the W5CRP repeater in Sinton operating on 147.080 MHz 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 an 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 of messages that an amateur may be asked to handle during an emergency** .

For Check-In, if the frequency has been clear a second or two key the MIC and s-l-o-w-y give your FCC call sign using ITU phonetics spoken clearly and slowly and UNKEY. Stating your name as well will be appreciated. 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*

Now our subject

Before we go down the list for comments, suggestions and hopefully additional information if there any late check-ins please provide your call now.

(again note these actions)

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

Net Control _____ *(your call)* will now go down the list for comments.

- *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*

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 maintainers 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

DATE ____ - ____ - ____

01 _____

_____ *(ENTER NET CONTROL)*

02 _____

03 _____

04 _____

05 _____

06 _____

07 _____

08 _____

09 _____

10 _____

11 _____

12 _____

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24 _____

25 _____

Amateur Radio Message Handling

First a few words about the message service Amateur Radio has provided from many years.

- * When I became a ham radio operator in the 1950's hams had the unique ability to quickly send messages across the country for no cost. The public was limited to expensive long distance phone calls, Western Union Telegrams taking hours and the US Mail taking days.
- ** It was not unusual for hams to be asked to send personal messages with subjects ranging from births, vacation plans, illnesses and worse.
- ** Hams frequently used a message form called a Radiogram to relay messages.
- ** Radiograms may be sent by Morse Code, the original digital ham radio.
- ** Radiograms remain in use today. Most of the users are ham operators maintaining skills.

A lot has changed in 65 years. In the normal world most people communicate with almost instant texting, voice, video with voice and email from a cell phone and common home computer.

A large part of the population appears to believe instant communications will always be at our finger tips. The ham radio community knows better. When there is a wide spread loss of communications the ham radio delivering messages is often a critical component in summoning aid and restoring some degree of normal.

Formal vs. Informal Messages

Both formal (written in a specific format, i.e. ARRL) and informal (verbal or written but not in a specific format) messages have their place.

Formal messages are more appropriate when two or more people will handle them before reaching the recipient, or where the contents are critical or contain important details. The most common formal message format is that used by ARRL's National Traffic System.

Informal Verbal Messages

In general, informal messages are best used for noncritical and simple messages, or messages that require immediate action.

Emergency messages are best sent informally in the interest of saving precious seconds. If you need an ambulance for a severely bleeding victim, you do not have time to compose and send a formal message.

Other messages do not require a formal written message because they have little value beyond the moment. Letting the net control station know where you are or when you will arrive need not be formal. The message is going directly to its recipient, is simple and clear, and has little detail. Many of the messages handled on a tactical net fit this description.

Formal Written Message Formats

A standard written message format is used so that everyone knows what to expect. This increases the speed and accuracy with which you can handle messages. The ARRL message form, or "Radiogram," is a standard format used for passing messages on various nets, and is required for all messages sent through the National Traffic System. While this

format may not be perfect for all applications, it serves as a baseline that can be readily adapted for use within a specific served agency. Regular practice with creating and sending messages in any standard format is recommended.

Detailed information on using the Radiogram may be found at traffic net WEB Sites. Use your browser search feature entering 7290 traffic net, or 7285 traffic net or 3873 traffic net. Then look around for detail documents on Message Writing.

WINLINK

Today's ham radio world has the ability to send email by ham radio. Take a look at winlink.org. The software is free and with an Internet connection an account may be established with Telnet Winlink.

Two features of Winlink Express to keep in mind:

- * Peer to Peer abbreviated P2P.
- * Telnet Winlink.

P2P sends messages directly between two amateur stations avoiding the Common Mail Servers. There are a number of examples when ham radio needs to be used in spite of the downside that the message has no privacy. P2P messages are difficult for other than the operator at the destination station to read.

Telnet Winlink mode allows sending and receiving WL2K messages with only an Internet connection.

As a final thought before we go down the check-in list for suggestions and comments. What if you are in a developing situation such as an approaching storm and you are asked to send 2 pages of part numbers or address or similar with a destination phone number? Don't overlook calling the destination and asking if they have working a FAX machine. Hams should put priority on efficiently delivering the message. Consider that there may be a station having only their radio with urgent traffic.