

ARES District 4 Net Script

June 03, 2021 Rev. A (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 & 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

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

Mark Dist. 4 EC for all other Counties - - - - - ad5ca@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 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 preparation for 2021 Hurricane Season.**

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

We begin our discussion of **Hurricane Season Preparation**.

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AFTER PAGE 5 MATERIAL

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

(again note these actions)

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

Net Control **K5BV** (*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 **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 owner for the use of this fine repeater. 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

DATE 06 - 03 - 2021

01 K5BV

 TOM *(ENTER NET CONTROL)*

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ARES PREPARING FOR 2021 HURRICANE SEASON

Update information on the South Texas ARES WEB Page

* each person needs to go to the South Texas ARES WEB Site and be sure all contact information is current.

** Go to arrlstx.org

** in the menu list at the top select STX ARES

** list expands and immediately below STX ARES click STX Info Depot

** that opens a new page. Either Login or Register new member if that has not been done.

** Once a member has Logged In on the left select Update Member Profile.

Be sure everything is correct and including that your Cell Phone Carrier is correct.

Freshen up our personal evacuation plan

Be sure to provide for getting family and property to safety allowing for personally returning before mandatory evacuation, if needed.

Backup Electric Power

That means that when things get bad and hams are asked to help we need to produce and that requires a suitable electric source to operate day and night with enough radiated power to communicate.

Under most scenarios we will be using electric resources from the served agency's electric power system. What if the agency generator needs refueling or maintenance or worse fails? Ham tradition is for us to continue "when all else fails." Options to stay on the Net:

- have our own generator
- RF adapters and coax connecting our battery powered HT to a base station antenna
- use our vehicle mobile radio setup
- Storage Batteries for short term operation
- an Inverter to supply 120 VAC from the storage batteries
- Booster to supply 13 to 14 VDC from batteries as they discharge to 9 VDC
- Spare Rechargeable batteries and charger to take to/from a 120 VAC power source close by or maybe some distance away

Personal research and experimentation will be needed.

Battery Types

Except for a vehicle installed battery we need to limit our choices to sealed or closed types of batteries. These may be rechargeable or disposable.

Be sure to have spare disposable batteries for an HT, PC mouse, flashlight and so on. Sizes may include AAA, AA, D and on and on. Some of these may be available in rechargeable but there is no harm having a supply of the disposable batteries.

ALWAYS ADHERE TO ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND ESPECIALLY:

- COVER SPARE BATTERY TERMINALS OR KEEP IN MANUFACTURER'S CONTAINER
- DO NOT ATTEMPT RECHARGING DISPOSABLE BATTERIES
- RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES NEED A MATCHED CHARGER
- OBSERVE ALL MANUFACTURERS SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

EXPANDING ON STORAGE BATTERIES

For serious power over a short period of time to power our long reach radio gear we need charged storage batteries. Only consider the models that are sealed.

Some may exceed 75# weight and keep in mind they made need to be carried. Batteries may be "hot swapped" allowing us to rotate between 3 or 4 batteries weighing 40# each rather than 2 weighing 75# each.

Sealed means Spill Proof, AVOID Wet or Flooded batteries. The types with removable caps to add replacement water are not Sealed. If the battery will need water chemistry and physics tells us that Hydrogen and Oxygen are produced and a spark may cause a disastrous explosion including blowing apart the entire battery. Such explosions are not rare events. If a wet or flooded battery spills acid the result is a dangerous and destructive situation.

The battery types designed for deep discharges and multiple recharges are more suitable for our use than those primarily for vehicle starting. Read the manufacturers literature.

SAFELY USING A STORAGE BATTERY

A battery and especially a storage battery may be thought of as a bundle of energy just as capable of releasing all the bundled energy in a violent accident as they are capable of releasing the energy over several hours powering our radios.

Shoving a charged storage battery post against a metal desk or other object may suddenly draw 1000 AMPS triggering a dangerous situation such as a fire or explosion.

Fuses or circuit breakers must be installed at the terminals. Then the battery placed in a suitable battery box with only the fused leads coming out to an insulated connector.

BATTERY LIFE

Remember that all batteries have a limited life. Storage batteries will self discharge. Dry cell batteries deteriorate. Read the literature and replace as recommended.

Another thing to remember many devices have backup batteries like smoke alarms. With the power outages we experienced this past winter these batteries need to be replaced.

GENERATORS

A properly sized generator is the ideal source of back-up electric power. Keeping a generator ready to provide power to an amateur station is a commitment.

We have recently had Net sessions on generators including those suitable for the entire home.

If a generator is part of your hurricane season plan check it out this weekend. If the fuel doesn't have an additive and is more than 3 months old drain the fuel. Put in fresh fuel with an additive like Sta-Bil. If the generator is kept fueled with Sta-Bil I suggest running it until thoroughly warmed up while applying a load every two weeks.