

JULY 2011

AMATEUR RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS

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MILAM COUNTY ARES NEWSLETTER

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Milam County ARES NEWS

KD5WRO Commentary

When All Else Fails

ARES exists to provide communications for those who respond to and manage disasters when all other communications fails. We now have most Texas Counties with an ARES organization and the ability to provide 2-way radio communications to any disaster managers who ask for help. Here in our 97 county South Texas Section one of the great dangers is the ability of hurricanes to slam into the Texas coast and do untold damage while moving inland toward the interior of Texas.

ARES, along with RACES and ARMY MARS has provided many hours of radio communications along the Texas coast during storms such as Rita, Ike, and Dolly. Most ARES work is done with repeaters in the 2 meter band. Repeaters allow solid voice communications within a 30 or 40 mile range. ARES groups can call on standby equipment which can be carried into a devastated area and within hours can have a radio net on the air even when the local equipment has been knocked out by the storm.

In recent years the State Emergency Manager in Austin has insisted on direct hour by hour contact with the County and City Emergency Managers in devastated areas. This communications is normally done over conventional phone lines. However with phones out after a storm it may be necessary to use radio circuits. While the ARES 2 meter systems can relay messages across the state it would be much better to have a push to talk circuit from each county direct into the situation room in Austin in Texas Department of Emergency Management. Toward this end some ARES ECs have started the ball rolling by scheduling tests using Single Side Band modulation on 2 meters.

The concept is to use the 2 meter band where there would be little noise or interference. High gain beam antennas mounted as high as possible and perhaps high power amplifiers producing several hundred watts would be used for testing. It is very feasible to establish communications over the 100 to 150 mile distance using these techniques.

Among those amateurs promoting these tests are KB5DTS, EC in Walker County and WR5TX, EC in Trinity County. Testing began Wednesday night 7-13 and results were great. We will see if this is a new technique for providing highly reliable communications along our Gulf coast and around the state. More work has to be done.

NET SCHEDULES

Milam County ARES Thursday 7 PM 147.020 PL Tone 123.0
Bell County ARES Thursday 8 PM 147.140 PL Tone 123.0
STXARES HF NET Monday 7:30 PM 3873 Khz

SUMMERFEST

The Summerfest meeting in Austin will be Aug. 5 and 6. There will be ARES and ARRL forums.
Go to www.ausitnsummerfest.org.

HAMEXPO

HamExpo in Belton will be October 1, 2011.

73 Franklin

Milam County ARES organization has completed all necessary paperwork and has an account with the Buckholts State Bank, Cameron Branch. We are now able to collect membership dues. If you have any questions please contact Susan Reinders, Secretary/Treasurer at 254-697-7060 or 254-258-8975 or email: sreinders@milamcounty.net or sareinders@yahoo.com.



Amateur Radio Testing:
To practice testing check
out the website:
www.QRZ.com