

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Escambia County, FL

E-Mail: EscambiaCountyARES@live.com

Enclosed is the Annual Report 2016 of ARES activities for Escambia County, Florida.

Highlights

1. ARES was activated this year for emergency operations for Severe Weather in February – Ferry Pass Tornado.
2. Improvements:
 - a. Replace our 800 watts amp with a 1500 watts amp (from the Navy MARS Corry Station equipment acquired last year).
 - b. Added the capability to send digital messages on VHF to the EOC from shelters and hospitals using Winlink via Peer to Peer connection.
 - i. Successfully tested in two exercises in 2016.
 - ii. Only have enough equipment to equip three locations so far in the field (i.e. shelters or hospitals). The EOC and the COOP site at ESAR is also set up for this capability.
 - iii. Added the TNCs to the three hospital jump kits to deploy where needed the most.
 - iv. Adding capability to send digital messages from the shelters to the EOC is a follow up action item from Hurricane Ivan. Used some of the equipment obtained from the Navy MARS Corry Station last year to help fulfil this need.
3. Continued making improvements to the ARES stations at the EOC and the COOP site at ESAR as time and resources (people and equipment) allows.
4. Confirmed ability to access the Florida Statewide SAR Net via Crestview while awaiting system extension to Milton.
5. Regular digital messaging via APRS on ECEN.
6. Coordinated with county Communications Supervisors and Emergency Manager regarding antenna changes at the EOC and repeater site.
7. Received tasking from county to provide rapid response communications to 16 primary fire stations in event of communications computer outage. Tested comms at 16 fire stations during Simulated Test Exercise.

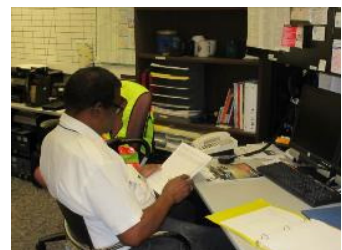


Announcement

To sign up to participate in upcoming events, please send an e-mail to EscambiaCountyARES@live.com or sign up at the monthly Five Flags Amateur Radio Association meetings.

Pictures Credits: N4XXO and KF4DVF

Simulated Emergency Test



8. Revised ARES registration form to include new communications modes, rapid operator response, and evacuation plans.

Operations, Activations, and Standby

Severe Weather – Ferry Pass Tornado – Feb 23 – Active for 8.75 hours.

- 46 radio operators participated during the event including 33 ARES members. 23.25 People-hours.
- ARES room staffed at the EOC.
- Tornado Watches, Warnings, and update messages passed via the local ARES net.
- ESF-3 Tornado touched down in the Pensacola area with major damage.
- This activation is covered in the QST NFL Newsletter for April 2016.
 - o <http://arrl-nfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/QST-NFL-April-2016.pdf>

Exercises

Escambia County Hurricane Exercise – May 18

- EOC ARES room covered by 3 ARES members. Additionally, 4 ARES members and 1 non-ARES amateur radio operator staffing other agencies desk at the EOC stopped by the ARES room.
- 16 Amateur Radio Operators participated.
 - o 14 Escambia County ARES members and 2 non ARES members.
- Simulated deployments of ARES members to multiple locations to cover Fire Stations, and Shelters.
- 12 digital messages sent.
 - o Successful testing of using digital modes (Winlink) for sending/receiving messages:
 - Long-distance on HF to Chipley for relay of message to the state EOC
 - Locally on VHF from near the Special Needs shelter to the EOC.
- 25 person-hours
- News article – QST NFL June newsletter - <http://arrl-nfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/QST-NFL-June-2016.pdf>

Simulated Emergency Test exercise (SET) – Oct 15th

- EOC ARES room staffed by 4 ARES members.

Upcoming Exercises in 2017.

Cyber Security Exercise

Jan 25 – Wed – 1100-1500
Location: EOC

Escambia County Communications Outage Exercise

Date and Locations: TBD

Escambia County Hurricane Exercise

Date: in May - TBD
Location: ARES room at EOC

Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test

May 7 – Sat – Time: TBD
Location: ARES room at EOC

Simulated Emergency Test

Oct 7 – Sat – 0800 – noon
Location: ARES room at EOC

Cottonmouth 100 trail run

Tentative dates: Nov 12-13 – Sat 0600 to Sun at noon

Deer Dodge 50 trail run

Tentative date: Dec 9 – Sat 0600 - 2000

- 18 Amateur Radio operators participated.
 - o 14 ARES members and 4 other operators/stations.
- 40 locations covered by 4 jump teams including 1 EOC, 15 shelters, 16 Fire Stations, 3 Hospitals, 3 COOP sites, 2 Police Stations, and the Volunteer Reception Center.
- 25 digital messages sent/received via Winlink on VHF and 1 message on HF using Pactor III.
 - o 7 ICS213 messages
 - o 3 Red Cross shelter messages
 - o 3 resource requests messages
 - o 3 hospital message (bed count, transport request, blood bank order)
 - o 1 severe weather message
 - o 3 Health and Welfare messages (1 on HF)
 - o 1 ARES member at shelter message.
 - o 5 test and training messages.
- 129 people hours.
- News article – QST NFL November newsletter - <http://arrl-nfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/QST-NFL-November-2016-ver-2.pdf>

Deer Dodge 50 trail run – Dec 12 – Blackwater River State Park

- 50 miles and 50K races.
- Santa Rosa ARES is the lead agency for this event. 2 Escambia ARES members and 2 non-ARES members from Escambia County assisted in this event. (32.25 hours).
- News article – QST NFL January newsletter - <http://arrl-nfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/QST-NFL-January-2017.pdf>

Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test – May 14

- 1 ARES member participated in this test in the ARES room at the EOC. 10.9 People-hours
- 5 contacts made with MARS stations including the Pentagon.

Events

Field Day – June 25-26 – Escambia Search and Rescue Building.

- At least 29 people attended the event including 11 guests. 4 people without an Amateur Radio call sign. At least 20 ARES members participated. We made 60 contacts in 26 states and 1 Canadian province.
- Channel 3 – WEAR-TV, did a story about Field Day. It was on the 10 pm News on Saturday night. <http://weartv.com/news/local/amateur-radio-operators-sharpen-skills-at-annual-field-day>

Pensacola Hamfest – Sept 24 – Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds

Upcoming Events in 2017

Field Day

June 24-25 – Sat and Sun

Location: Escambia Search and Rescue (tentative)

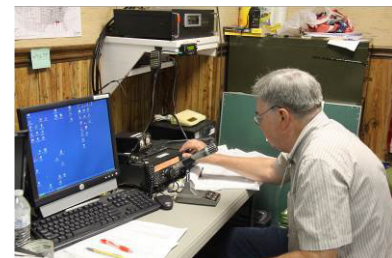
Upcoming Training in 2017

EC-001 – Introduction to Emergency Communications

April 22 & 29 – two Saturdays

Location: Escambia Search and Rescue

Field Day:



ARES members assisted in this event including:

- o Talking to people about ARES operations.
- o Providing talk-in support with the 2- meter repeater and APRS.

Work day



In ARES room at EOC – connecting the 1500 watt amt.



at ARES COOP site at ESAR.

Training

WebEOC Training – Jan – at EOC.

- 5 ARES members attended (10.5 hours)

Overview of ARES Report Forms webinar – March

- 2 ARES member attended (2 hours)

EC001 – Introduction to Emergency Communications – July – at Okaloosa County EOC

- 1 ARES member attended (4.45 hours)

Training and Demo of Digital modes – November – at EOC

- 1 ARES member provided the training to 2 Santa Rosa ARES members. (6.6 hours)

Work Days

Work days: April 16 and Aug 13

Additional work done on: 3/19, 4/2, 4/8, 4/9, 4/24, 4/26, 5/3, 5/14, 6/16, 6/23, 8/1, 8/2, 8/3, 8/6, 8/10, 8/17, 8/22, 8/23, 8/24, 8/25, 8/27, 9/17, 9/21, 10/2 10/8, 10/14, 10/22, 11/12, 11/24

- **March** – Software updates. Test Winlink on both HF radios. - .6 hour.
- **April** – 38.35 hours
 - o replaced two power supplies in the ARES room
 - o Added Power Pole connectors to radios in the ARES room and jump kit radios
 - o Connected Rigblaster to one of the HF radios for digital modes
 - o Added ICS 309 log to computers.
 - o Set up a shared folder for all ARES computers to use to share files
 - o Verified that the ARES computers can print to the ARES room printer, Also connected the ARES computers to also print to two printers in the main EOC room.
 - o Software updates
 - o tested Winlink on HF by sending and receiving messages between the EOC and COOP site.

Upcoming Work Days in 2017

Dates: TBD

Sat – 0800 – noon

Location: ARES room at EOC.

Other events in 2017

Pensacola Ham Fest

Sept 23 – Fri-Sat – Pensacola Interstate Fairground

Escambia County Emergency Net (local ARES net)

Every Monday night at 1930 on 146.76 repeater.

Five Flags Amateur Radio Association Monthly Meeting

First Thursday of every month at 1900 at Golden Corral.

- o Successfully configured and tested using Winlink Peer to Peer (VHF) for digital communications using various combinations of TNC and radios (Kenwood D710, D700, V71, KPC3+, KPC3). Sent multiple test messages between EOC stations, home station, and mobile station.
- **May** – More testing with Winlink Peer to Peer (VHF) for digital communications. Prepared for upcoming Hurricane Exercise - 3 hours
- **July** – Reconnected HF radio used during Field Day. Software updates, Sent and received Winlink messages via HF (2 In, 5 Sent). Continue testing with Winlink Peer to Peer (VHF) for digital communications. – 1.5 hours
- **August** – 79.78 hours
 - o Replaced 800 watts amp with a 1500 watts amp
 - o Rerouted cables. Fixed connectors.
 - o Replaced VHF/UHF radio at COOP site with a VHF/UHF/APRS/data radio. Configured and tested APRES and Winlink Peer to Peer on VHF.
 - o ARES equipment inventory
- **September** – preparing for SET exercise and testing Winlink Peer to Peer on VHF. Completed the ARES equipment inventory. 23.4 hours
- **October** – preparing for SET exercise and testing Winlink Peer to Peer on VHF. Added TNCs and power cables to hospital jump kits for digital modes – 11.8 hours
- **November** – Prepare for training. Checked Winlink on HF. 2.7 hours

ARES membership

- 105 ARES members. 5 new ARES members joined this year.
- 6 losses - 2 ARES member moved out of the area, 2 ARES members due to health reasons, and 2 ARES members FCC license expired.
- At least 61 ARES members participated in one or more activation, exercise, event, training, or weekly net during 2016.

Category	People-hours	Number of Participates and Ham Guests.	
		Escambia County ARES members	Other hams
1 Operations	24	33	12
4 Exercises	197	21	7
2 Public Events		20	5
4 Training Events	23	6	2
2 + 29 Work Days	161	6	
51 Weekly Nets	287	43	66
Research	33		
Meetings	20+		
Documentation and other items	78+		
Totals:	823	61	79

Escambia Emergency Net stats	
Average number of checkins per week	21
Min number of checkins	12
Max number of checkins	32
Number of announcements (for the year)	52
Number of messages handled	31
Number of Technical Discussion items	23

2016 EC Annual Report (ARRL)

FORM C

PLEASE PRINT

Based upon your current file of registration cards (FSD-98) for present Amateur Radio Emergency Service members within your jurisdiction, please compile the following information. Information from this form is used to indicate general trends in ARES activity. The more reports returned, the more accurate our analysis will be. Please take a few minutes to complete this report. Mail one copy to ARRL Headquarters, one copy to your SEC/DEC and retain one copy for your own files.

ARRL Section: Northern Florida

Area of Jurisdiction: Escambia County, FL

Name and Call: John Greene, AJ4NA

E-mail address: EscambiaCountyARES@live.com
Report compiled by Joe McLemore, KF4DVF, Assistant EC

1	Total number of ARES members in your group	105
2	Total number of new licensees (licensed since 2012) in your ARES group	15
3	Total number of members who operate CW	At least 16
4	Total number of members who operate VHF	88
5	Total number of members with HF emergency-power capability at home	48
6	Total number of members with VHF emergency-power capability at home	56
7	Total number of members who can operate HF mobile	29
8	Total number of members who can operate VHF mobile	73
9	Total number of members who are active on digital modes	37
10	Approximate number of ARES drills or nets per year	55
11	Is your ARES net affiliated with or have liaison to the ARRL National Traffic System?	Yes
12	List the primary agencies served by your ARES group (civil preparedness, Red Cross, NWS, etc)	Escambia County Emergency Management
13	Does your ARES group work with RACES? If yes, explain the relationship	Dual enrollment

Deadline for reporting is February 3, 2017.

Mail to: ARRL HQ, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, or e-mail the form to sewald@arrl.org

CC: ARRL HQ, SEC/DEC