



Cottonmouth 100

West Panhandle District ARES groups

After Action Report

November 14-15, 2015

Blackwater River State Forest, Munson, FL

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Summary

On Saturday and Sunday November 14 and 15, 2015 the West Panhandle District ARES groups participated in an Ultra 100-mile endurance run by providing radio support at each of 6 aid stations and the start/finish line. This race took place in parts of 2 counties (Santa Rosa and Okaloosa) in a forest that encompasses almost 200,000 acres.

- 16 Amateur Radio Operators and stations.
 - 8 Escambia County ARES (includes 2 Asst. EC's) and 1 non-ARES member
 - 1 Okaloosa County ARES
 - 6 Santa Rosa County ARES (includes EC and Asst. EC)
 - 1 West Panhandle DEC

Radio Modes Used

Net Control established the net using two frequencies: 146.430 Simplex and 147.360 (W4AAV), the Crestview repeater. The goal was to use simplex as much as possible and only use the repeater for those aid stations that could not be heard on simplex. The aid stations were located at Bear Lake Connector, Peaden Bridge, Wiregrass, North Karick Lake, North Hurricane Lake, and the Alabama/Florida state line. The runners utilized several "Florida Trail" hiking trails.

The race began at 6:03 AM on November 14th. Our support did not begin until the first 50 miles had been completed by the runners. Net control started radio operations at 12:00 noon on the 14th and the net operated continuously until 11:00 am on the 15th.

Tactical call signs consisting of the name of each aid station were used, e.g. Karick Lake, Wiregrass, State Line, etc.

The original plan called for reporting only the first male and female runners arriving at each aid station. Because many were interested in runner progress it was quickly changed so that each aid station reported each runner's number as they came through each aid station. This change

assisted in tracking runners. A large portion of the race occurred in darkness and there needed to be a way to account for each runner in case someone was hurt or lost. This change proved invaluable.

What was learned –

1 – We needed more operators

2 – We needed a backup net control station and a runner at net control

3 – We needed a spreadsheet (in lieu of scratch sheets) for each radio operator listing each runner and bib number to allow better tracking

4 – We needed elevated antennas for each station

5 – Bear Lake Connector aid station was added late in the night time portion of the run.

Fortunately, we had a volunteer ham operator show up at this location and call in to net control to see if he could help. His efforts proved extremely valuable during the late stages of the race.

6 – We needed some type of shelter for the operators (i.e. tents, RVs, etc.) for protection from the elements, (primarily cold and dampness) during this event

Additional Comments –

Overall the event was a resounding success! All the operators learned the importance of back up equipment. We also learned that an elevated gain antenna and a minimum of 25 watt radios is preferred when using simplex. Hand held radios were problematic. Some stations could hit the repeater but simplex stations could not.

We all felt that if we had the enough operators we would have liked to cover the entire run.

It would have been good to have a “sag” wagon (with a radio operator) for the runners who could not finish. Race rules were they would need to find their own way back if they could not finish but in some instances there was no way to contact anyone in their support group to come and get them.

Some areas of the race, especially turns, were not visible enough in the dark. Reflective tape or light sticks would have been great.

ICS 211A CHECK IN LIST (COMMUNICATIONS)	1. INCIDENT NAME: Cottonmouth 100		2. DATE: 11-14 & 11-15, 2015		3. INCIDENT NUMBER:	4. CHECK IN LOCATION Bear Lake Campground
5. INFORMATION						
PERSONNEL NAME	CALL SIGN	AGENCY	TIME IN	TIME OUT	HOURS	REMARKS
Ray Crepeau	K1HG	Santa Rosa ARES	11:00 11-13	11:00 11-15	48	Net Control-Bear Lake Campground
Daisy Crepeau	KT4KW	Santa Rosa ARES	11:00 11-13	11:00 11-15	48	Net Control-Bear Lake Campground
Neil Light	KK4VHX	West Panhandle ARES	04:00 11-14	11:00 11-15	31	Shadow-Race Director - Jeremy Nowling
Jim Walters	N4SAR	Escambia ARES	11:15 11-14	02:35 11-15	15:20	Stateline Aid station & Wiregrass Aid station
Skip Bollens	N4XXO	Escambia ARES	12:26 11-14	17:59 11-14	5:30	Rover & North Hurricane Lake Aid Station
Joe McLemore	KF4DVF	Escambia ARES	13:36 11-14	20:49 11-14	7	State Line Aid Station
Larry Thompson	W4LAT	Santa Rosa ARES	15:04 11-14	07:48 11-15	15:45	North Karick Lake Aid Station
Don Nicholson	N4DGN	Santa Rosa ARES	09:37 11-14	17:00 11-14	7:37	Peaden Bridge Aid Station
Tom Reider	N9UY	Escambia ARES	17:00 11-14	09:00 11-15	16	Peaden Bridge Aid Station
Len Frantz	K4KBD	Santa Rosa ARES	13:32 11-14	19:35 11-14	6	Wiregrass Aid Station
Steve Hays	KJ4RWD	Okaloosa ARES	19:35 11-14	00:04 11-15	4.5	Wiregrass Aid Station
Roy Wilkinson	KV4LY	Escambia ARES	02:30 11-15	0827 11-15	6	Wiregrass Aid Station
Bill Kanne	KK4SSO	Escambia & Santa Rosa ARES	14:22 11-14	19:22 11-14	5	North Hurricane Lake Aid Station
Rick Dewey	N6KC	Escambia ARES	19:22 11-14	04:20 11-15	9	North Hurricane Lake Aid Station
Kathy Dewey	N6KCD	Escambia ARES	19:22 11-14	04:20 11-15	9	North Hurricane Lake Aid Station
Colt Adkison	KM4MIA	Unknown	?	10:42 11-15	?	Bear Lake Connector
ICS 211A ARES	6. NUMBER OF PAGES: 1 of 1		7. PREPARED BY (RESOURCE UNIT): Daisy Crepeau KT4KW			8. MISSION NUMBER

ARES PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITY REPORT

About This Form

Amateur Radio donates thousands of person hours of supplementary public service communications in civil emergencies, official drills and events such as parades and marathons each year. Such events show Amateur Radio in its best light, and it is critically important that ARRL bring documentation of this public service work to the attention of the Congress, the FCC and other public officials. Your information below is an important addition to the record. Please complete and return this form to the Public Service Branch at ARRL Headquarters. Thank you.

1. Nature of activity (Check one).

Communications Emergency. Amateurs supplied communications required to replace or supplement normal communications means.

Alert. Amateurs were deployed for emergency communications, but emergency situation did not develop.

Special exercise. Amateurs supplied communications for a parade, race, etc.

Test or drill. A training activity in which amateurs participated.

2. Brief description of activity: **Provide communication support at 5 of 8 aid stations and the start/finish line for the Cottonmouth 100, 100-mile endurance Ultra Race.**

3. Places or areas involved: **Blackwater River State Forest Management Area Munson, Florida**

4. Number of amateurs participating: **16**

5. Event start date/time: **11-14-2015 @ 11:00 am** 6. Event end date/time: **11-15-2015 @ 11:00 am**

7. Duration of event (hours): **24** 8. Total person-hours: **292.55**

9. Number of repeaters used: **1**

10. Estimated person-power cost: \$ **5,558.45** (person-hours times \$19/hr)

11. Estimated cost of equipment used: \$ _____ (hand-helds, repeaters, etc.)

12. Total estimated cost of service: \$ **5,558.45** (add amounts from lines 10 and 11)

13. Nets and/or frequencies used (including repeater call signs):

Repeaters: 147.360 (W4AAZ) Crestview, FL – 146.430 Simplex

14. Number of messages handled: **0**

15. Names of agencies receiving communications support:

Cottonmouth 100 Ultras – 100 Mile Run

16. Please list call signs of amateurs who were major participants:

K1HG, KT4KW, KK4VHX, N4SAR, N4XXO, KF4DVF, W4LAT, N4DGN, N9UY, KV4LY, K4KBD, KJ4RWD, KK4SSO, K6KC, K6KCD, KM4MAI

17. Other comments:

Escambia County ARES, Santa Rosa County ARES, and Okaloosa County ARES; pat of North Florida Section West Panhandle District

Please attach photos of amateurs in action, newspaper clippings or other data.

Name of Amateur Radio organization providing service:

West Panhandle ARES Groups

Location of organization: City or town: **Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa County** State: **FL**

Your name: **Daisy J. Crepeau** Call sign: **KT4KW**

Address: _____

ARRL appointment, if any: **Assistant Emergency Coordinator** e-mail address: **KT4KW@arrrl.net**

Telephone: **407-399-1192** **same**

(Days)

(Evenings)

I attest that the information provided above is complete and true to the best of my knowledge.

Daisy J. Crepeau **submitted using online form 11/20/2015**



W4LAT Larry Thompson at North Karick Lake aid station



N9UY Tom Reider at Peaden Bridge aid station



K4KBD Len Frantz at Wiregrass Trail aid station



KK4SSO Bill Kanne at North Hurricane Lake aid station



KK4VHX Neil Light Shadow for Race Director



N4DGN Don Nicholson (Tango pictured) at Peaden Bridge aid station



N4XXO Skip Bollens rover



KF4DVF Joe at Stateline aid station



KT4KW Daisy Net Control



K1HG Ray Net Control