



## Deep East Texas Amateur Radio Club

**DETARC, Inc.**  
**Lufkin, TX**

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Roger K0YY Editor,  
[k0yy@arrl.net](mailto:k0yy@arrl.net)

### 1. DETARC INFORMATION

#### Club Officers:

President- Steve KG5ODZ, Vice President- Randy N5CRW. Secretary- RM K5AGE, Treasurer- Patricia K5HER.

Club Web Page: [www.detarc.net](http://www.detarc.net)

Club Email Reflector: **Notice:** The old DETARC email reflector is no longer in use. Join the "DETARC of Lufkin" Google Group email reflector to receive Club information. To join contact Megan KB5MEG the Group Administrator.

Meeting Times/Location: Our monthly meeting is the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the old armory on Tulane Drive, across from Kiwanis Park.

DETARC/ARES Net: 146.940 MHz-600, 141.3 CTCSS. Every Tuesday at 8 PM, alternates 147.360+600 MHz, 141.3 CTCSS, or 146.42 Simplex.

For additional information on DETARC/ARES see the web site at [www.detarc.net](http://www.detarc.net)

#### Meeting Minutes: March 2018

There wasn't a formal meeting in March. We didn't have the proper number of officers to constitute a quorum. We did have 11 folks there and had a great bull session/social gab-fest talking about everything from repeater status, to possible upgrades to our local repeater capabilities, to DXing, to ARES preparation for the coming hurricane season, to Megan explaining what the next door prizes will be. The non-meeting adjourned to IHOP for food and further discussion.

The Club is looking for a member to coordinate meeting presentations. Now is the time to get out of your comfort zone a little and volunteer to help the Club and your fellow members. These activities generate interest and bring in new and old members alike to our meetings.

We might also talk more about how to conduct a membership drive to gain more members.

Congratulations to new Ham Tim KG5YNA from Huntington who just received his license.

#### DETARC/ARES News:



Net Control Operators: Many thanks to Jerry KC5JWB for his great job. **Please step up and help out with NCS duties.** If you can't make an assigned date, please find someone to fill in for you. The April NCS is Roger K0YY.

#### Door Prizes: Megan's Raffle Comments:

Our June quarterly prize will be the Tiny Trac 4 from Bionix: <https://www.byonics.com/tinytrak4/>

The Byonics TinyTrak4 is an APRS tracker controller, digipeater, and KISS TNC. When connected to a serial GPS and a radio, it can send and receive APRS position and telemetry packets, as well as act as a standalone smart digipeater. A computer running APRS software can be connected to the second serial port to provide mapping of received traffic.

At our next meeting I will have information for our hand gun raffle and will need the Club's input.

We have the tickets taken care of - and legal-ease required for them. We need input by member vote on which of 3 hand guns to choose.

I am curious to know if there is an interest in a fun raffle contest for the top sellers! Bring your thoughts, comments and suggestions!

C-ya there! KB5MEG

### **DETARC/ARES Projects/Events:**

#### **Neches River Rendezvous:**

The Neches River Rendezvous is scheduled for **June 2 with a backup date of June 16<sup>th</sup>**. Radio operators are needed for all positions. See Steve KB8QWN to sign up. A sign-up sheet was passed around at the March meeting. Steve's email is [kb8qwn@hotmail.com](mailto:kb8qwn@hotmail.com)

#### **SAREX: SAR Exercise.**

The Hudson K-9 Search and Rescue Team (SAR) is once again hosting SAREX for 2018 and is in need of operators to provide communications for the search teams. This is a "boots on the ground" exercise and will be the second one we have participated in. The 2017 SAREX was rained out but the 2016 exercise was a great success with lots of participants and operators helping. (We'll try not to have any more fires in the cab of the military transport vehicle this year!) This exercise will test the skills of several area search and rescue teams coming here to participate in the event.

**It will be the last weekend of June, so Saturday and Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> are the dates.** Operators will be needed for the command center (Hudson VFD), an operator for the military transport vehicles and an operator to go with each team on their search in the field. Again, this is a real search looking for real people (previously placed in a hidden position) in several different areas of the county so solid communications back to the command center are vital. If you can help both days that would be terrific, or if you are only available one of the days that would also be very helpful.

All help is appreciated, and this is excellent training for us as communicators and is a very fun event! Contact Mike Miles, WD5EFY, at [wd5efy@arrl.net](mailto:wd5efy@arrl.net).

**Future Meeting Presentations:** Patrick W5DVG volunteered to do a presentation at the June meeting on the 900 MHz Ham repeater system set up in Austin. He will bring his 900 MHz radios as well.

We are also discussing the possibility of a presentation on DXing and QSLing if there is sufficient interest. Let your interest be known.

#### **Fox Hunt:**

We are planning another Fox Hunt to coincide with the CQ Magazine World-wide Fox Hunt **weekend of May 12 & 13<sup>th</sup>**.

All that is required to participate in the Fox Hunt is a basic 2-meter hand-held radio. All the better if you have built a 2-meter directional Yagi and have the adaptor to connect it to your handheld.

Fox Hunting is popular with Hams throughout the world. Some Clubs make it a full day by holding a BBQ picnic or meeting at a restaurant afterwards.

Some Clubs invite other local groups such as the Scouts to participate. This is a good way to introduce Ham Radio to new people.

The Hudson K-9 Search and Rescue (SAR) team is also interested in "Fox Hunting" in a slightly different area of searches, such as missing persons equipped with low power locator transmitters, as well as searching for Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELT) signals from downed aircraft. The SAR team in fact recently purchased the very popular VK3YNG "Sniffer 4" microprocessor controlled advanced receiver designed specifically for locating hidden or lost transmitters. Hopefully this will become a joint learning effort for both groups with a common interest in "fox hunting"!

Contact Roger K0YY [k0yy@arrl.net](mailto:k0yy@arrl.net) or Mike WD5EFY [wd5efy@arrl.net](mailto:wd5efy@arrl.net) for details. See last month's Newsletter for more details.

Editor's Note: All past Newsletters are posted out on our web page. [www.DETARC.net](http://www.DETARC.net)

## 2. Upcoming Ham Radio Contests/Special Events:



Logging Software News: Scott, N3FJP, announces that version 6.2 of [Amateur Contest Log](#) is available, featuring automatic upload of contacts to LoTW, eQSL, and Clublog, additional support for Icom and Yaesu radios, and support for feeding multiple real-time scoreboards. (Scott, N3FJP).

--ARRL Contest e-Letter March 21, 2018

Editor's Note: The full N3FJP suite of contest and special event logging software is fantastic and easy to use if you enjoy contesting.

### UPCOMING CONTESTS:

#### Texas State Parks on The Air (TSPOTA)

04/7-8/2018, <http://www.TSPOTA.org>

DETARC will participate. This is a fun, slow-paced event that provides a good opportunity to learn about HF operations. If interested contact Roger K0YY, Gary KI5LR or Jerry KC5JWB. See more information below.

### SELECT HAM SPECIAL EVENTS:

#### 04/21/2018 | San Jacinto Day Special Event

Apr 21-Apr 22, 1400Z-2100Z, K5T, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club. 21.350 14.270 7.220. All contacts will be confirmed via LOTW. Special QSL card available for SASE. [w5nac.com](http://w5nac.com)

### UPCOMING HAMFESTS:

There are no local or regional Hamfests for this month.

For further details on Contests/Special Events/Hamfests see:

[www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/](http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/)

[www.arrl.org/contest-calendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar)

[www.arrl.org/special-event-stations](http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations)

[http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq\\_contests/cq\\_annual\\_contest\\_calendar/cq\\_annual\\_contest\\_calendar.html](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_annual_contest_calendar/cq_annual_contest_calendar.html)

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/>

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/Location.state:TX>

<http://www.ng3k.com/> Great resource page.

## 3. AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE® (ARES)

Mike WD5EFY, South Texas Section, District 2  
Emergency Coordinator (DEC) (Angelina & Surrounding Counties)



We had two tornado warnings in Deep East Texas this past week. There has been flooding in parts of east Texas.

You never know when we might get the call to assist. Walker County activated their EOC during the storms in March and opened shelters for evacuees fleeing a natural gas leak from a large gas line uprooted by a blown over tree. We must be prepared for most any type of call at any time!

We plan to have a **Saturday "EMCOMM DAY" on April 14<sup>th</sup>** to actually set up all of our "GO KITS" and fully test all the capabilities of all the equipment we have staged at the Comm Center.

This will include erecting the portable dipoles, firing up all the equipment (HF, VHF, and UHF) and making contacts, putting the portable repeater/s on the air and testing all the GO KIT hand-helds with the repeaters and simplex.

We will also be checking out the Go Equipment staged at both the Hospitals, City EOC, and Public Health District office. Plans are also being made to have the City bring their Command Trailer to our event and let us test all the HF, VHF, and UHF equipment installed in it.

Some folks have never seen the awesome setup the City has for us so be sure to stay tuned for this fun day of emergency communications testing!!

As always, be prepared personally with fueled vehicles, charged batteries, fresh fuel for the generators, staged equipment and a ready go-bag!  
--73 for now, Mike WD5EFY

ARES monthly Wide-Area Net Remember the ARES Wide Area Net is held monthly on the third Monday night on the 146.94 and other participating repeaters at 2030 hours local time. Multiple Counties participate.

To join our **ARES email reflector**, send an email request to [ares-join@detarc.net](mailto:ares-join@detarc.net).

### **YES, ARNOLD BAD THINGS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU IN YOUR HOME TOWN!**

Read On:

#### **Radio Amateurs Pitch In to Help as "Hat Trick" of Major Coastal Storms Hit Northeast**

Amateur Radio volunteers with [WX1BOX](#) at the National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts, and various ARES groups had their hands full during March, as Mother Nature's hat trick of nor'easters brought severe weather conditions and a lot of snow to the northeastern US. The storms caused the Cape Cod ARES team to extend activations for



[SKYWARN](#), [WX1BOX](#), and shelter operations.

"This has been a very

active period of significant severe weather for the region after a relatively quiet stretch from late January through the end of February," observed Rob Macedo, KD1CY, the Eastern Massachusetts Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for SKYWARN.

The first in the trio of nor'easters -- on March 2 and 3 -- brought mostly heavy rain and wet snow to parts of Massachusetts, Connecticut, eastern New York, and northern New England. Strong to damaging winds swept central and southern New England, with hurricane-force gusts across southeastern New England and Cape Cod and the Islands. The storm caused severe coastal flooding across multiple high-tide cycles.

WX1BOX volunteers were active for 17 hours straight, and afterward, some continued to monitor high tides and strong winds, which persisted into the weekend. The volunteers

handled more than 1,000 reports of wind damage, wind gusts measured 40 MPH or

higher, localized road flooding from heavy rainfall, and coastal flooding. At the height of the storm, nearly a half million customers in Massachusetts alone lost electrical power. Macedo said Amateur Radio nets were active on repeaters, and on the [New England reflector](#) on EchoLink® conference node 9123/\*NEW-ENG3\*/IR LP 9123 system.



**Coastal flood damage in Marblehead, Massachusetts, from the March 2-3 nor'easter. [Jim Palmer, KB1KQW, photo]**

"Some of the highest astronomical tides of the year coupled with wind gusts of more than 70 MPH -- and as high as

93 MPH at the Barnstable County, Massachusetts, emergency operations center (EOC) -- to trigger some of the worst coastal flooding in decades," Macedo recounted.

Eastern Massachusetts ARES was on standby, and Cape Cod ARES was active for several days with a regional sheltering operation, until power was largely restored to Cape Cod. "Marc Stern, WA1R, guarded the HF net on 75 meters during the nor'easter," Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator Marek Kozubal, KB1NCG, reported. WC1MAB at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Region 2 Headquarters was also active through the efforts of Mike "Sparky" Leger, N1YLQ.



Only a few days later, a second nor'easter brought heavier snowfall to southern New

England, although winds and coastal flooding were not as severe as in the first storm. In the interior of southern New England, temperatures hovering around freezing meant heavy, wet snow, causing another round of downed trees and power lines and nearly a half-million customers without power in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Eastern Massachusetts ARES was on standby during the storm and for several days afterward until most power was restored.

At WX1BOX, another 14 hours of SKYWARN operations ensued. Amateur Radio nets in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island

fielded reports of heavy snowfall, including "thunder snow," wet snow damage, strong gusty winds, heavy rainfall, and minor coastal flooding. Widespread snowfall amounts totaled up to 16 inches in interior southern New England. As much as 30 inches of snow fell in western Massachusetts as well as in parts of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

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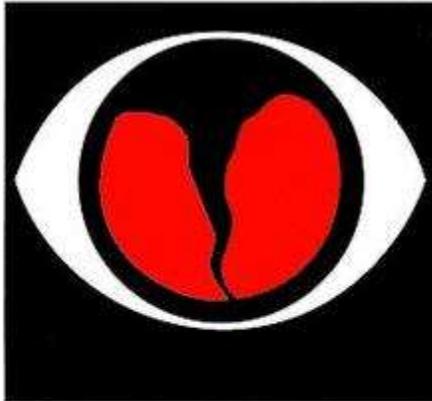
*Cape Cod ARES was active for several days with a regional sheltering operation, until power was largely restored to Cape Cod.*

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Macedo said it became clear from SKYWARN reports that the region would experience extended power outages. "These reports were noted by state emergency management and the media and used to inform the public about storm risks and to prepare and act accordingly," Macedo said. SKYWARN nets were also active in the Greater New York City area, reporting damage from wet snow, strong winds, thunder snow, and snowfall totals.

The third storm turned out to be a major nor'easter and blizzard that affected the entire New England region with heavy snowfall -- 2 feet or more in more northern areas. Wind gusts greater than 70 MPH across Cape Cod and the Islands, combined with the weight of wet snow, took down trees and utility lines. "Minor coastal flooding also occurred at high tide, but lower astronomical tides again precluded a more significant coastal flood event," Macedo said. Eastern Massachusetts ARES went on standby once more after blizzard warnings were posted.

SKYWARN nets were active throughout the region, gathering snowfall and wind reports from around southern New England. WX1BOX volunteers were on duty for 16 hours, bringing the monthly total to 47. Macedo said, "The [National Weather Service] Forecast Office is in the process of moving, but antennas for



# SKYWARN

coastal storm at mid-week. -- Thanks to Rob Macedo, KD1CY

--ARRL Letter March 23, 2018

#### 4. OPERATING/TRAINING:



#### Ham Radio Classes: Tyler County ARC

We will be holding the General Licensing class on March 23 & 24. We start at 8am sharp and it runs until around 5pm on both days. CANCELLED!

We switched to Friday and Saturday to keep from interfering with church. Plus, it gives us Sunday afternoon if needed for testing if the classes run long. Classes are limited to 12 students top and we charge \$14 upon reserving the spot. The \$14 is

VHF/UHF were left in place, and volunteers provided their own gear to operate over the course of these three nor'easters.

The storm-weary northeast batted down the hatches for another

used for the testing fee if they show up and forfeited if they are no shows. We do understand things can happen so if someone contacts me with significant notice then we can refund the money.

Student materials are supplied. They must bring a copy of their existing FCC license or they cannot test. If they contact me by email I will confirm their spot upon arrival of the funds. They can mail the funds to me at 165 Feagin St, Chester, TX 75936.

We will be doing the Extra class in April. I will let you know the dates once we firm them up.

Thanks, and 73 de KF5YDG,

Chuck Petri  
[kf5ydg@wd5tyl.org](mailto:kf5ydg@wd5tyl.org)  
936-635-0060 cell  
Chester, TX  
Tyler County ARC [www.wd5tyl.org](http://www.wd5tyl.org)

#### Texas State Parks on The Air (TSPOTA).

TSPOTA is an annual event that takes place on the second full weekend in April, *(except when Easter falls on the second weekend, then the contest is moved to the first weekend of April).*

This year TSPOTA will be April 7-8, 2018.

TSPOTA is a low pressure, fun contest, designed to give Texas hams that have been house bound during the winter, a chance to go to a local state park and make a few contacts. It is a great opportunity to check out your radio gear and enjoy a little sunshine in the park.

The Lake Area Amateur Radio Klub LAARK in The Colony TX is sponsoring the **Texas State Parks on the Air contest.** See <http://www.TSPOTA.org> for complete rules and park activation information.

DETARC has reservations for a cabin and will activate Fort Boggy State Park south of Centerville. Come on over for the day on Saturday or Sunday morning and get on the air in a low-key event. Contact Gary KI5LR, Roger K0YY or Jerry KC5JWB if interested. See-- <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/fort-boggy>

### 5. REPEATER NOTES:



As always, reports of operational status, good or bad, are always appreciated and should be reported to me, Mike WD5EFY.

The new Alto Intertie repeater that will allow us to link all the way to Tyler and beyond is ready to be installed but is delayed with some logistical and timing issues we are working through.

The local UHF hub repeater that links everything together is still having issues and is being trouble-shot. We have several options that we'll be discussing at the meetings, so your input is valued to discuss what our options are and what the best path to take might be for the UHF linking hub repeater. This system will provide the backbone for this valuable linking infrastructure for large coverage emergency communications for such events as hurricane evacuations and large areas of severe weather.

Some other ideas have also been suggested to somehow provide a wider coverage system for EchoLink in our area, so some conceptual design work is being done in that area as well and will be presented soon to the Club. Stay tuned for new and exciting things happening with our repeater systems!

--73, Mike WD5EFY, Trustee & W5IRP Repeater Systems Maintenance Technician.

### 6. ARRL NEWS:



**Puerto Rico/Red Cross Mission "Force of Fifty" Member Named Hamvention® 2018 "Amateur of the Year"**

The Dayton Hamvention® Awards Committee selected Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L, of Crescent City, Illinois, as the 2018 "Amateur of the Year." First licensed in 2006, Hotzfeld has been active in ARES®. In 2017, she traveled to Texas after Hurricane Harvey to help rescue small animals. Hotzfeld was subsequently deployed to Puerto Rico with the American Red Cross for 3 weeks as part of a group of volunteer Amateur Radio operators, facilitating critical communications after Hurricane Maria.

### "Serving the Community" is the Theme for Hamvention® 2018

The venerable Dayton Hamvention is May 18-20 this year, at the Greene County Fairgrounds, Ohio. The theme is "Serving the Community," and numerous forums related to public service will be scheduled. Many will be of special interest to ARES members. The ARRL is offering a Public Service track of programs on Friday and Saturday.

--ARRL ARES e-Letter March 21, 2018

### 7. FOR SALE/WANTED:

Do you have something to sell or are you looking for a Ham related item? Place a free ad by sending ads to [k0yy@arrl.net](mailto:k0yy@arrl.net). (Kilo Zero Yankee Yankee).

#### Ad Rules:

1. Ham related only
2. DETARC/ARES Members receive priority.
3. Include asking price, name, call, and email address or phone number—**this is required for all ads**. You give your permission to publish your email address and/or phone number by submitting an ad.
4. Be specific, short & concise. Use brand and model numbers if available. State condition if appropriate- poor/fair/good/excellent, or as is.
5. Newsletter Editor determines what is/isn't appropriate and may edit ads to fit or limit the number of ads.

6. Be aware that the Newsletter is shared among many of the regions Hams.
7. This is on a trial basis to see how it works.
8. **Disclaimer:** DETARC and the Newsletter Editor are not a party to or responsible for transactions between individuals. Strongly recommend buyers thoroughly check purchases prior to completing any transaction. Buyers may want to check prices for similar items on [www.eham.com](http://www.eham.com) or [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com).
9. The cutoff date to receive ads is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the monthly meetings. The next month's Newsletter is published immediately after the DETARC/ARES monthly meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. For example: to place an ad in the May Newsletter, your ad must arrive by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Ham Radio Ads:

**FOR SALE:** New Possum J270 Dual-band 2/440 J pole base/portable antennas \$40 each, \$10 discount for seniors. 1 ½ inch mount. Gary KI5LR. [gary.antley@consolidated.com](mailto:gary.antley@consolidated.com)

**FOR SALE:** Rohn BX-64, 64-foot medium duty free standing tower. Rotor platform in top section. 8 8-foot sections, excellent shape, never been in the air. Hardware package (bolts/nuts) not included. Good for 2/440 beam, small 6-meter beam, or dual-band vertical. \$450 cash/**negotiable**. Pick up only in Lufkin. Roger K0YY, [k0yy@arrl.net](mailto:k0yy@arrl.net)

**WANTED:** Rohn 25 tower sections, 10-foot sections, 4 each in good to excellent condition. Will consider partial trade for above BX-64 tower. Contact Roger K0YY, [k0yy@arrl.net](mailto:k0yy@arrl.net).



Remember others listen to us. Please consider what you say over the air. Lots of local folks have scanners and know or have found our repeater frequencies.

### **Members— we would like your input.**

What have you done recently in Ham Radio that is exciting? Let us know and I'll include mention of it in the next Newsletter.

Perhaps we could talk about it at an upcoming meeting. Bring your latest project for show and tell.

Roger K0YY,  
DETARC Newsletter Editor

DETARC QSL Card— hope to send some out for the Fort Boggy SP operation.

## LUFKIN, TEXAS USA

# W5IRP

Angelina County  
CQ Zone: 4

Grid: EM21  
ITU Zone: 7



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WWW.DETARC.NET

