

## Report

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ARRL Annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET)  
South Texas Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)  
District 4

Conducted  
October 2, 2010  
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM CDT

Prepared by  
Tom Hargrave, K5BV  
San Patricio County EC

## INTRODUCTION & CONCLUSIONS

### **Stated Purpose**

Nationally the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is a training opportunity to try out something new under simulated emergency conditions. Amateurs can try or practice skills in a variety of areas, such as testing a communication mode that you may have not been too involved with yet and have an interest in. This experience could prove worthy so that you would be ready to operate if a real activation were to take place. You can also spruce up your traffic handling and net operation skills or use this time to help a newcomer in these facets of Amateur Radio.

Locally the eight (8) Texas counties of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) District 4 are Aransas, Bee, Kleberg, Live Oak, Jim Wells, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio. These have large land areas, 500 to 1,200 Sq. Miles with small to medium populations. Nueces County, the largest, has approximately 322,000 population. The other seven counties have populations between 7,000 and 69,000. VHF 2-meter Amateur Radio is the typical equipment the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) of these counties.

The success of District 4 ARES in providing communications during times of degraded and loss of normal communications will be very dependent on VHF 2-meter band. This SET is designed to evaluate the ability of VHF 2-meter to communicate within local areas and when needed to communicate with areas that should have normal communications.

### **Plan - Distributed the Week of September 27, 2010**

Our ARES District 4 is having a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) this Saturday October 2, between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM. The purpose of this drill is to test communications between the county EOCs (Emergency Operation Centers), and also to test how well each EOC can communicate within their own jurisdiction.

The first part of the drill will begin at 9:00 AM. At this time communications [check-in] will be held on the 146.980/147.060 linked repeater system which is capable of covering all 8 counties in the District. Net control will be Jim Bomer, W5IM, in Bee County. He will first ask for any EOC check ins [simulating an EOC acceptable]. After a brief time he will then open up check-ins to all amateur stations.

As early as 9:20 AM if no other stations are checking in, or at 9:30 AM at the latest net control will close the duplex net and give further instructions on operating simplex. All stations are asked to monitor and call if necessary on the simplex frequencies 146.49, 146.55, and 146.58 and make as many contacts as possible with other amateur radio stations. It is important to keep a log of all contacts. The exchange will be your call sign and city (location). Keep a log of all your simplex contacts. Please do not hog a frequency.

Give your call once and let someone reply. That way others can make contacts as well. Be sure to use all three frequencies (if free) to maximize the chances of contacting the most stations. At the end of the exercise email your simplex log to Tom, K5BV at [removed]. Tom will compile the data and distribute it.

Please make an effort to check into this SET. It is only for an hour and you will be helping ARES in a big way.

### **Summary Of Results**

The primary display of the SET results is presented in graphical form on a Map that shows all counties in ARES District 4.

The Appendix provides copies of each submitted Log.

#### **W5LOC Log**

The Net Control Station Log of W5LOC at the Live Oak County EOC identifies each station checking in on the Linked 147.060 and 146.980 repeaters before the Simplex Test. There was no check in from Aransas (1), Jim Wells and Refugio Counties.

*[(1) An email was received by K5BV from W0QF, Rockport, Aransas County that Net Control was copied and that attempts to check-in failed.]*

An important comment is on the W5LOC Log, "Comments: We only have a mag mount antenna on top of the roof here at the EOC. In the future we will have two beams pointed north and south which should give us a much better direct communication capability."

The reader may find it useful to reference the Map figure when reading the Logs.

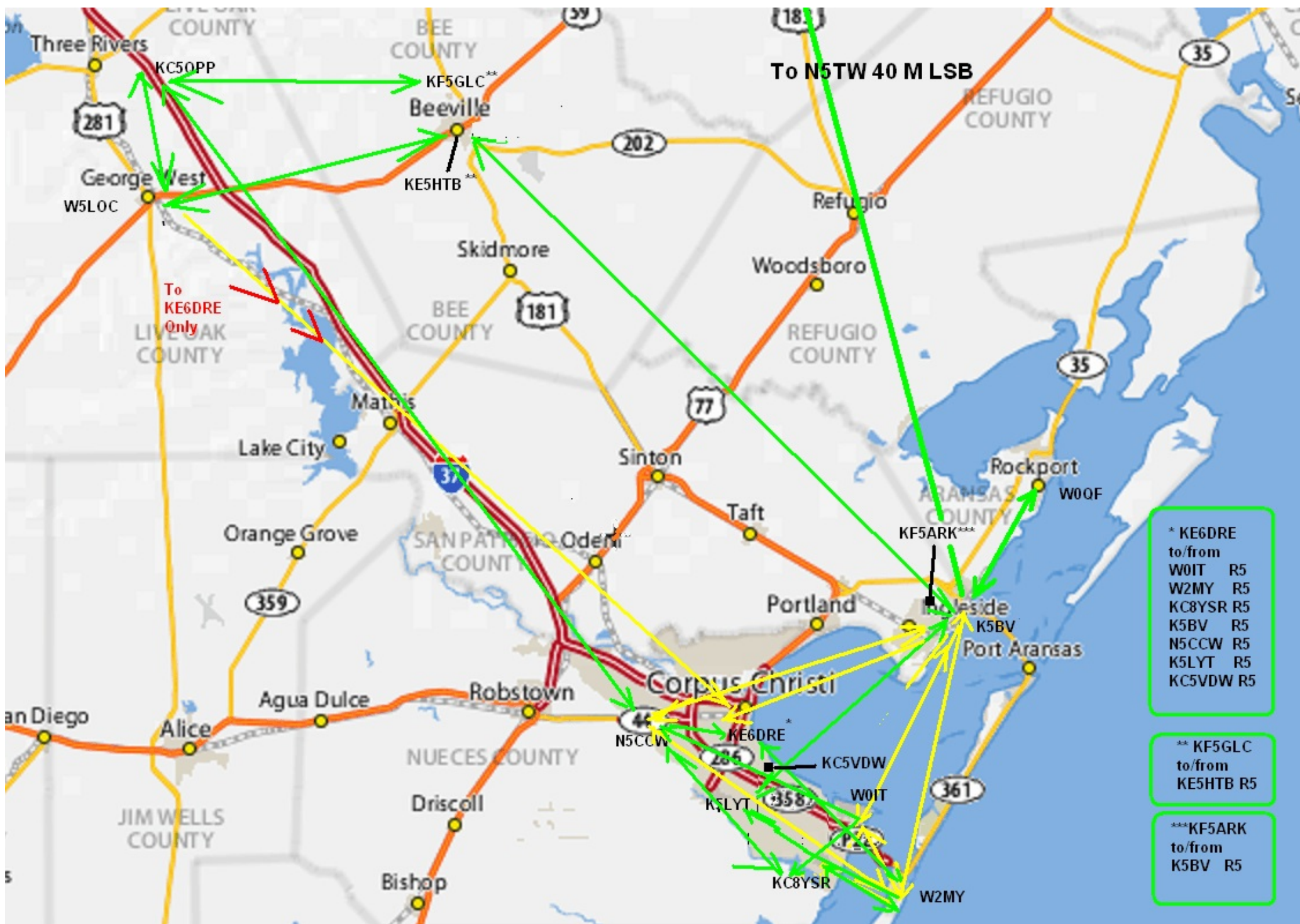
### **Conclusion**

District 4 is approximately 80 miles North to South and 130 miles East to West. There was Simplex communications possible between all areas that checked into Net Control. Some of these areas may require a relay of traffic by one or two other stations.

The need for a relay will be minimized by the beam antennas at W5LOC (Live Oak County EOC) and if the simulated EOC stations were at the actual EOC with higher VHF antennas.

It would be recommended that each EOC have a plan for putting HF stations in service understanding that:

- 1) there are a limited number ARES members with a class of license permitting HF operation, and
- 2) each City and County has budgetary limitations and frequently the amateur station at an EOC is furnished by the participating ARES member. Such individuals will only bear so much personal cost.



Connectivity Map for ARES South Texas District 4 SET  
 Except where noted all communications are VHF (2-Meter) FM

APPENDIX  
Logs Received As Email

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W5LOC - Net Control Log, George West, Live Oak County

ARES District 4 Net Log  
Freq.: 146.98/147.30 Link  
Time: 0900 CDT to 0918 CDT  
Check in Log

N5VL - CCDOC  
KE5HTB - FRED BEEVILLE  
W2MY - STEVE CC (REP. EOC)  
KF5GLC - RON 4 MILES N. BEEVILLE  
KC5QPP - FRANK OAKVILLE  
K5LYT - ROBERT CC  
K5BV - TOM ARANSAS PASS (REP. EOC)  
W0IT - LOUIS TEXAS A&M CC  
N5CCW - STEVE CC NATIONAL WX STATION  
KE6DRE - JIM MOBILE AT CC EOC  
AD5MX/M - FALKO CR 249 MATHIS  
KC8YSR - MIKE CC  
WA2MCT - MARK CC  
KE5MKM/M - JOE BEEVILLE FIRE DEPT.  
WB5IZD - CHARLES KLEBERG CO

TOTAL: 16

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W5LOC - SIMPLEX Log

DIRECT LOG

146.49

KC5QPP 5X9 OAKVILLE  
KF5GLC 4X4 N. BEEVILLE

Comments: We only have a mag mount antenna on top of the roof here at the EOC. In the future we will have two beams pointed north and south which should give us a much better direct communication capability.

73  
Jim, W5IM

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APPENDIX  
Logs Received As Email

W2MY SIMPLEX LOG North Padre Island  
Simulating Corpus Christi EOC

Hi Tom,

This is my simplex log:  
MY LOCATION IS NORTH PADRE ISLAND - 50 WATTS TO X50 AT 25 FEET

1 K5BV	ARANSAS PASS	SCRATCHY BUT READABLE
2 W0IT	CORPUS CHRISTI A&M CAMPUS	SCRATCHY BUT READABLE
3 N5CCW	NWS CORPUS CHRISTI	SCRATCHY BUT READABLE
4 KC8YSR	SOUTH CORPUS CHRISTI	LOUD AND CLEAR
5 K5LYT	CORPUS CHRISTI	LOUD AND CLEAR
6 KE6DRE	CORPUS CHRISTI NEAR EOC MOBILE	LOUD AND CLEAR

VTY,  
Steve, W2MY

**KE6DRE SIMPLEX LOG**

Simplex contacts 146.490 My location Corpus Christi (mobile north side near EOC) Called on 146.550 and 146.580 no new contacts these freq.'s

Time	Call Sign	Handle	Strength	Location
0921	ke5loc	Jim	Week copy	Live Oak EOC
			(I could copy him of, but he could not copy me.)	
0921	w0it	Louis	Loud and clear	Corpus Christi
0922	w2my	Steve	Loud and clear	Corpus Christi
0922	kc8ysr	Mike	Loud and clear	Corpus Christi
0922	k5bv	Tom	Loud and clear	Corpus Christi
0925	n5ccw/n0wzh	Steve	Loud and clear	WX St. Corpus Christi
0925	k5lyt	Robert	Loud and clear	Corpus Christi
0930	kc5vdw	Eileen	Loud and clear	Corpus Christi

**KF5GLC LOG 4 Mi. North of Beeville**

146.490			
K5BV	5.9,5.9	ARANSAS PASS	TOM
KE5HTB	5.9,5.9	BEEVILLE	FRED
W5LOS	4.4,5.9	LIVE OAK	?
KE5QPP	5.3,	LIVE OAK	FRANK
KE5MKN	5.9,5.5	BEEVILLE	JOE

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**KC5QPP LOG 5.5 Mi West of Oakville, Live Oak County**

Frank Pattillo Jr.

Location: 28° 28' 15.3" N, 098° 01'04.1" W 5.5 miles of Oakville Live Oak County  
696 FM 1358 Three Rivers, Texas 78071

Affiliation:

Live Oak County EOC

Equipment: Kenwood TS 2000 100 watts Diamond X50 75 feet in height.

Simplex Contacts as follows

146.490

10/02/10	09:20am	W5LOC	Live Oak County EOC in George West	5 X 9
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10/02/10	09:23am	KF5GLC	Ron Stricklin 4 miles north of Beeville	5 X 5
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146.550

No Contacts

146.580

10/02/10	09:27am	W5LOC	Live Oak County EOC in George West	5 X 9
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**W0IT LOG, TEXAS A&M CORPUS CHRISTI**

Tom,

Thanks for doing this.

I decided to see what my handheld and minimal setup at school would do. I have it on hand at work every day. I am almost never more than 20 ft from my handitalkie. At home I have 50 watts and a 40 ft antenna with some gain I decided it was not the information I wanted.

Incoming signals all 5

W2MY The Island

K5BV

N5CCW weather service

KC8YSR South Side CC

Louis, w0it



APPENDIX  
Logs Received As Email

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**N5CCW LOG NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
**CORPUS CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

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Sent from Steve's phone

146.58	146.49	146.55
k5bv	ke6dre	
w2my	k5bv	
w0it		
k5lyt		
kc8ysr		
kc5qpp		

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**KE5HTB LOG BEEVILLE (AS EOC)**

OK ke5htb was at home as the Beeville EOC and did ok on repeater check ins  
Joe ke5mkm was at the Beeville FD mobile sitting outside the firehouse and pd offices.

for logs on simplex all I had was  
ke5mkm at beeville FD Joe Rugar with 59 report  
kf5gls [KF5GLC] Ron in N. bee county with 59 report

heard kc5qpp frank but unable to get a signal to him.

Again KE5HTBI checked in from home for the Beeville EOC as no radio at the EOC  
and it was not Available for uses today. also checked in as AEC Bee County for  
repeater.

Joe ke5mkm checked into the net also via repeater from Fire House Beeville.

I know my 2m will be better I hoped to have it done before todays test but I did not  
manage enough help to get the new antenna system in place.  
I will be at 50' with my dual bander and also will have my 2m beam in better shape also  
soon.

at present my dualband antennas are only 20ft and plenty of noise from power lines.  
the power line noise will also be fixed soon as AEP has 5 bad poles between myself  
and the EOC area so it will help both stations.

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other then this I didnt hear much activity. simplex from my house. Joe Said he could not hear anyone BUT Ron from the FD but that was expected as only have a glass mounted antenna on my car and thats what he was using.

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Fred Rugar  
KE5HTB  
AEC ARES BEE COUNTY TX.  
ASST. CLO. RACES BEE COUNTY TX.

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**W0QF LOG ROCKPORT, ARANSAS COUNTY**

Hi Tom

My signal wavers here in Rockport. I could hear net control which was fading in and out here but could not make contact with net control. I heard your call pretty good but a lot of communications were scratchy. I have always had trouble hitting this repeater since I've been here in Rockport. Also, we will head to Florida for about a month next week.

73s  
Joe  
W0QF

## DISTRIBUTION

STX ARES Document Collection [arrlstx.org](http://arrlstx.org)  
STXARES/files/Exercises/ (Yahoo Group)  
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N5TW  
AD5CA  
W5IM\*  
W2MY\*  
N5VL\*  
W0QF\*  
KF5ARK\*  
KE6DRE\*  
KF5GLC\*  
KC5QPP\*  
W0IT\*  
N5CCW\* (operator N0WZH)  
KE5HTB\*  
K5LYT\*  
KC8YSR\*  
AD5MX\*  
K5BV\*