



Sebastian County **ARES**

What is ARES? **ARES** stands for **A**mateur **R**adio **E**mergency **S**ervices. **ARES** is a non-profit, volunteer organization of amateur (HAM) radio operators who dedicate their time, equipment and personal resources to the mission of supporting local Emergency Managers, Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS when widespread disasters occur that either cripple or overwhelm traditional means of communication. ARES volunteers have provided critical lines of communication during events like the terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001, Hurricane Katrina, multiple widespread wild land fire events, Hurricane Sandy, and most recently Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Essentially if there's a widespread catastrophic event, ARES volunteers are there.

What does it take to be an **ARES** volunteer? A sincere desire to serve your community, some time to dedicate to training and your own amateur radio. The world of Amateur Radio can currently be entered for less than 50\$. Amateur Radio is an incredibly enjoyable hobby with endless opportunities to have fun, volunteer your time and services or just talk to someone halfway around the world without the need of commercial power (the grid). Amateur radio operators serve their community in many ways, from planned events like marathons and fairs, to being trained Severe Weather Spotters who provide critical eyes-on, ground-truth to NWS meteorologists and local emergency managers.

If you are interested in joining your local **ARES** team, or for more information you may contact:

Mac McDonald – Sebastian County **ARES** Emergency Coordinator – ab5sg@cox.net

Keith Byrd – Sebastian County **ARES** Volunteer – k2acp@outdrs.net

Emergency Communication Test with Amateur Radio occurs within the Planning Committee the 1st Wednesday each month, see frequency and tones below:

- Primary/Centralized Repeater 146.640, tone 88.5
- Secondary/Regional Repeater 145.350, tone 151.4
- Medical/Public Health Repeater 146.970, tone 123

If you first need your Amateur Radio License, you can study for the entry level “technician” test in many places on the internet, but one of the best resources is www.hamstudy.org

You may also contact the Fort Smith Area Amateur Radio Club through our website at www.fsaarc.org for testing dates, available testing resources and general Amateur Radio related questions.

Contact Us at 479-783-3932 or at DEM@co.sebastian.ar.us

8400 Zero Street Fort Smith, AR. 72903

