

LA ARES Region 2 Quarterly Meeting
08.14.18
American Red Cross

The Louisiana ARES Region 2 held its 3rd quarterly meeting at the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross on Tuesday evening from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Robert Hobbs, N5ULA, Region 2's Emergency Coordinator, welcome amateur radio emergency operators and thank Steve Irving, WA5FKF, Red Cross DST Lead, for hosting the meeting.



The purpose of the meeting was to give fellow operators an update from the major “served agencies” within Region 2. Those agencies attending included the American Red Cross, EBRP MOHSEP, and GOHSEP. SkyWarn updates are planned to be presented at the 4th quarter meeting with EBRP MOHSEP. Steve, WA5FKF, spoke to the group regarding Red Cross updates where there will be a National response to Baton Rouge within 120 hours of a major storm hitting South Louisiana. At 96

hours Steve would be alerting the 16 supervisors within DST as to the event. Steve is actively recruiting communication personnel for those positions. Robert, N5ULA, gave an update regarding the status of the radio room at EBRP MOHSEP and HamShack Hotline that can interface with smartphones. Roger Fabre, N5NXL, GOHSEP, was introduced by Jim Coleman, AI5B, ARES Section Emergency Manager. Roger, N5NXL, introduced the link system using repeaters in Southeast Louisiana along with GOHSEP band plan. Jim Coleman, AI5B, presented the 2018 LA Section Emergency Operation Plan. Jim, AI5B, indicated that there is no Command Staff, but rather a Section staff of volunteers who would be available to assist the Parish Emergency Coordinator (EC) when called upon to do so. If a Parish does not have an EC, the Region's EC would be available to the Parish EOC if there is a request for amateur radio emergency services. The major point in the plan is that the request must be initiated by the Parish EOC Manager for the event or incident. In regards to training, an EC is recommended to have ICS courses IS100c, IS200b, IS700b, and IS800c. The online courses are available on the FEMA's Emergency Management Institute website, <https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>. Region ECs and Section level leadership are recommended to have additional courses IS300 & IS400 which are classroom based. Non leadership emergency amateur radio operators are not required, but recommended to have the basis courses, IS100c & IS200b, IS700b, & IS800c. Both Roger, N5NXL, and Jim, AI5B, shared that a number of the parishes EOCs, “served agencies”, do require the basic 4 courses to operate in their respective agency. The consensus of the presenters indicated that it is important for ARES members to become embedded in their “served agency” of choice rather than wait for an event or incident. A copy of Jim's, AI5B, presentation will be requested to post on the BRARC's website.

John Mark Robinson, K5JMR, Section Manager, attended. John Mark, K5JMR, thanked all who participate in amateur radio emergency services for their time, money, and work in serving others.