



Cottonmouth 100

West Panhandle District ARES groups

After Action Report

November 11-12, 2017

Blackwater River State Forest, Munson, FL

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Summary -

On Saturday and Sunday, November 11 and 12, 2017, West Panhandle District ARES groups participated in an Ultra 100-mile and 100K endurance run providing radio support at each of 9 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.

- 31 Amateur Radio Operators and stations.
 - 4 Escambia County ARES (including 1 Asst. EC) and 4 non-ARES members
 - 12 Okaloosa County ARES and 2 non-ARES members
 - 8 Santa Rosa County ARES (includes EC and 3 Asst. ECs) and 1 non-ARES members

Radio Modes Used -

Net Control established the net using two frequencies: 146.700 (K4SRC) Santa Rosa County EOC repeater and 147.360 (W4AAV), the North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club (NOARC) repeater in Crestview. Simplex was not utilized due to the terrain. The aid stations were located at Bear Lake Connector, Juniper Creek, Deaton Bridge, Hutton Trailhead, 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 6:00 AM on November 11th. Our support began as the race started. Net control started radio operations at 06:00 am on the 11th and the net operated continuously until 11:00 am on the 12th.

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

The operations plan called for the ham operators to report each runner’s bib number as they arrived at each aid station. Initially the plan called for manning the aid stations on the upper part of the course only. However, due to the overwhelming response by local hams we were able to man the entire race course. 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.

What was learned –

- 1 – Because of the fantastic turnout of amateurs for this race we were able to cover ALL aid stations in the race, not just the ones overnight.
- 2 – We set up net control inside the pavilion where the race coordinators were, so no additional runners were needed to supply info from net control to coordinators.
- 3 – We used elevated j-pole antennas for each station at the net control point.
- 4 – Operators were ingenious with the shelters (i.e. tents, RVs, etc.) for protection from the elements, (primarily cold and dampness) during this event.
- 5 – Because of our participation in this race in 2015 (there was no race in 2016) all aid station hams were provided with lists of runners and locations of aid stations in race order, so they could keep track of where the runners were at all times. This helped when family members needed to know where their runner was located.
- 6 – All stations had back up equipment in case of failure. Also, the cross-band repeat function worked well utilizing a fixed mobile radio and antenna and an HT at several stations.

Additional Comments –

Because of the number of amateurs at net control, we were able to successfully man the 2 radios simultaneously. Also, there were 2 newly licensed hams who had never been on the radio and they also took their turns. There was one aid station that only had one operator and ideally at least two operators would have been optimal. The aid stations that had multiple operators did an excellent job of dividing the air time between them so that one operator was not tasked with the entire race. Since there were many campgrounds near the aid stations, several hams decided to make it a dual-purpose event, a weekend of camping and radio operations.

One of the most important things to come out of an operation like this is that ham radio operators really can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. They got the job done with the right equipment and the right people. Also, most all the operators are ready to come back next year. A "Hot Wash" was conducted with all operators. Items submitted will be reviewed and pertinent items implemented in next year's race.

ICS 211A CHECK IN LIST (COMMUNICATIONS)	1. INCIDENT NAME: Cottonmouth 100		2. DATE: 11-11 & 11-12, 2017	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, Event co-coordinator for communications	K1HG	SRC ARES	0520	1130	30	Net Control-Bear Lake Campground
Daisy Crepeau, event co-coordinator for communications	KT4KW	SRC ARES	0520	1130	30	Net Control-Bear Lake Campground
Neil Light Natalia Light	KK4VHX KN4FVE	OK ARES	0540 0540	0610 0610	24.5 24.5	Net Control Net Control
Roger Jones	KK4QMI	SRC ARES	1208	2008	8	Net Control
Joe McLemore	KF4DVF	ESC ARES	0945	1745	8	Net Control
Shannon Ball	KN4GXR		0600	1430	8.5	Net Control
Logan Ball	KM4YCJ		0600	1430	8.5	Net Control
Steve VanDenAkker	W4SJV	SRC ARES	0600	0705	1	Bear Lake Connector
Len Frantz	K4KBD	SRC ARES	0840	1020	26	Bear Lake Connector
Clint Southwell	KK4NDU		1108	1020	23.5	Bear Lake Connector
Ron Mahn	KI5FR	OK ARES	0608	1945	13.75	Juniper Creek North Trailhead
Bruce Adams	KA5DLV	OK ARES	0608	1945	13.75	Juniper Creek North Trailhead
Eugene Bannon	KB4HAH	ESC ARES	0651	1447	8	Deaton Bridge
Ron Slay	KW4ZC		0700	1258	6	Hutton Trailhead
Terry Hartwell	KK4WTW		0700	1258	6	Hutton Trailhead
ICS 211A ARES	6. NUMBER OF PAGES: 1 of 2		7. PREPARED BY (RESOURCE UNIT): Daisy Crepeau KT4KW			8. MISSION NUMBER

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PERSONNEL NAME	CALL SIGN	AGENCY	TIME IN	TIME OUT	HOURS	REMARKS
Tom Riederer	N9UY	ESC ARES	1150	0815	20.25	Peaden Bridge
Tom Henderson	KM4UQB	ESC ARES	1133	0815	20.25	Peaden Bridge
Jack Holladay	KM4QQN	SRC ARES	1255	0730	19.5	Wiregrass
Jon Holladay	KM4QQO	SRC ARES	1255	0730	19.5	Wiregrass
Scott Money penny	KF6LEC	OK ARES	1427	0400	13.5	Hurricane Lake North
Kathy Money penny	KM4YOH	OK ARES	1427	0400	13.5	Hurricane Lake North
Jesse Peters	KB2OBQ	OK ARES	1427	0400	13.5	Hurricane Lake North
ARC Thames	W4CPD	SRC ARES	1427	0400	13.5	Hurricane Lake North
Josie Thames	WD4DCL		1427	0400	13.5	Hurricane Lake North
Steve Hays	KJ4RWD	OK ARES	1502	0116	10.25	Fla/Ala Stateline
Mike Sharp	KK4LLS	OK ARES	1502	0116	10.25	Fla/Ala Stateline
Mike Wright	KJ4FNA	OK ARES	1328	0715	17.75	Karick Lake
Rich Girardin	N4DPM	OK ARES	1328	0715	17.75	Karick Lake
Alex Barthe'	KC7MEX	OK ARES	1328	0715	17.75	Karick Lake
Richard Bailey	KE4BFX	OK ARES	1328	0715	17.75	Karick Lake
ICS 211A ARES	6. NUMBER OF PAGES: 2 of 2		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 9 aid stations and the start/finish line for the Cottonmouth 100, a 100K and 100-mile endurance Ultra Race.**

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

4. Number of amateurs participating: **31**

5. Event start date/time: **11-11-2017 @ 6:00 am** 6. Event end date/time: **11-12-2017 @ 11:30 am**

7. Duration of event (hours): **30** 8. Total person-hours: **513.50**

9. Number of repeaters used: **2**

10. Estimated person-power cost: \$ **9,756.50** (person-hours times \$19/hr.)

11. Estimated cost of equipment used: **\$16,400.00** (hand-helds, repeaters, etc.)

12. Total estimated cost of service: \$ **26,165.50** (add amounts from lines 10 and 11)

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

Repeaters: 146.360 (W4AAZ) Crestview, FL – 146.700 (K4SRC) Milton, FL

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

15. Names of agencies receiving communications support:

Cottonmouth 100 Ultras – 100 Mile & 100K Run

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

K1HG, KT4KW, KK4VHX, KN4FVE, KF4DVF, KI5FR, KA5DLV, KB4HAH, KW4ZC, KK4WTW, W4SJV, K4KBD, KK4NDU, N9UY, KM4UOB, KM4QON, KM4QOO, KF6LEC, KM4YOH, KB2OBQ, W4CPD, WD4DCL, KJ4RWD, KK4LLS, KJ4FNA, N4DPM, KC7MEX, KE4BFX, KK4QMI, KN4GXR, KM4YCJ

17. Other comments:

Escambia County ARES, Santa Rosa County ARES, and Okaloosa County ARES; part 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 Counties** State: **FL**

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

Address: **7509 Brevard St. Navarre, FL 32655**

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 11/18/2017**