

## LeeCARES By The Numbers - 2023

by KD5BJ

Tonight's training is not quite a training, but a year summary of our activities in 2023 to improve the communication system of our beloved County. We train, experiment, exercise, attend endless meetings, and build from zero the amateur radio infrastructure always looking ahead toward responsibilities, challenges, and, yes, issues. But we never take a pause to look back.

We do this on a personal level – Rudy KI5UAJ until not too long ago was elmered by Ruben; today he is elmering someone else and he has become a great safety officer on top of that. Julia KI5LNM, the self-defined low-tech lady, has become an expert in winlink in such a way that she left a former EMC captivated by ARES capabilities. Mark KI5MA learned to climb towers becoming a pro like Jason KI5ABB. Calvin WB5YYQ has given outstanding guidance on technology and its use; Tim W5TRL and Daniel KI5QHC honed their skills as leaders, leading the construction of the back-up radio communication infrastructure. James NA5RC keeps us on top of AllStar and repeater systems increasing our chances to connect far and wide. Tim K5TBS helped us with GRLevel 3 and our metereological needs. and Andy KC5DJT has become a liaison to other groups. Don KJ5BQY started FaceBook, Gaye Lynn KF5PWN, Lynn Rose KF5SSW, and Ruben WB5WTF have supported LeeCARES when their work schedules allowed. LeeCARES as a group, non-existent at this time in 2019, is now helping the Highland Lakes ARES to get started. And I could go on for each of us and as a group. But rather than complimenting, I would like to give facts.

January is a good time to stop and look back. The numbers are in: Lee County ARES members have contribute in 2023 some 3124 hours. And I know they are not all recorded because occasionally I caught a few of us (yes, myself included) forgetting hours we had not turned in. We spent most time in training (1077 hours), followed by public service, such as build up the EOC (936), followed by exercises (539.5). We spent 145 hours serving our community, 24.25 in SKYWARN<sup>®</sup> Nets, 233.5 in meetings and 163 hours in miscellaneous such as driving to meetings, trainings, etc.

2023 has been the year dedicated to the EOC. We started in late March-early April and we finished at the end of November (have we really finished yet? More improvements and changes have been already identified; like Calvin WB5YYQ once said: we may be able to complete the LCRA/Bluebonnet Community Grant, but we will never finish the EOC!). We invested 512 hours working on the LCRA/Bluebonnet Community grant (and again, I know many hours went unrecorded being our focus on finding solutions and solving problems, not counting hours).

Because volunteer hours during this period was valued \$31.80/hr, we contributed to Lee County \$16,289.55. A good return for the donations they invest in us yearly, the County donating us \$1500, the City of Giddings \$1000, and the City of Lexington \$500, for a total of \$3,000 a year.

Our reports to the ARRL/ARES officers and headquarters are among the most details, longest, and registering more hours than other groups.

Thank you, Lee Co. ARES Members! You ought to pat yourselves and each other on the shoulder, and start another year full of enthusiasm and see what the Good LORD has in store for us! Job well done! Let's keep rolling.

This is KD5BJ back to net.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Exercises</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>Public Service</b>	<b>Community service</b>	<b>SKYWARN</b>	<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>January</b>	195.75	110.25	15	0	0	27	6	354
<b>February</b>	244.75	171.25	24.5	0	0	25	18	483.5
<b>March</b>	0	112.5	100	0	0	16.5	19.5	248.5
<b>April</b>	0	112.35	107.15	32	18.25	22	0	297
<b>May</b>	6.5	92.15	65.5	47.75	6	9.9	13	240.8
<b>June</b>	87.5	61	64.5	60	0	13.5	30	316.5
<b>July</b>	0	90	53.5	0	0	0	3.5	147
<b>August</b>	0	69.75	79.5	0	0	15.75	4.5	169.5
<b>September</b>	0	84	88.25	0	0	20	14	206.25
<b>October</b>	5	65	141.5	0	0	20.75	30.5	262.75
<b>November</b>	0	65.5	56.25	0	0	19	13	153.75
<b>December</b>	0	43.25	140.5	5.5	0	44	11	244.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>539.5</b>	<b>1077</b>	<b>936.15</b>	<b>145.25</b>	<b>24.25</b>	<b>233.4</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>3123.8</b>