



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

AUGUST 2013

WWW.K5GCC.US

VOL. 19, No. 8

## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

Last Saturday we participated in the annual Kiwanis bike rally and I must say it was a great success. I want to thank each and every one of you that volunteered your time, gas, and hard work. The entire net sounded very professional and ran smoothly all day. We used APRS in key vehicles and monitored them from net control. It really helped keep track of everyone throughout the day. There were a few dead spots on the north end of the route, but the south end was covered pretty well with the help of a portable digipeater at rest stop 7. We did have trouble with a couple of weak signals but we can work on that. We didn't have enough mobile radios to go around, but you guys did great with what we had. I was impressed with rest stop 5 where we had Daniel and his wife. He is newly licensed and had his portable homemade 2 meter yagi all set up and ready to go. Special thanks to Jeannie for putting this all together. She worked many hours on this event and did a great job. At the end of the day I didn't hear one complaint from the Kiwanis people, only how great a job we did. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people. Thanks guys!!



Please visit the [Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Calendar](#) to stay in the loop of the different activities.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next club meeting on August, 16th at the Grayson County Courthouse where I will do a presentation on digital HF communications. If you have ANY comments, questions, concerns, or ideas...Please contact me at [bencsly@gmail.com](mailto:bencsly@gmail.com)

Thank You,  
Ben Sly (KF5OEB)

*"It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community."*

From the GCARC Constitution

---

## CLUB INFORMATION

---

### 2013 OFFICERS

---

President: Ben Sly KF5OEB  
Vice President: Harold Peeples KF5IPP  
Secretary: Brad McMillon KE5UMJ  
Treasurer: Brad McMillon KE5UMJ  
Activity Director: Jeannie Dopson KF5PDM  
Trustee: James Hunt KI5DQ

### MEETINGS

---

When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month  
Time: 7:00pm (1900 hours)  
Location: Grayson County Courthouse  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Assembly Room  
100 W. Houston Street  
Sherman, TX 75090  
GPS: 33.38.18N, 96.36.59W

### MAILING ADDRESS

---

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club  
718 Highway 82 E, # 198  
Sherman, Texas 75090

### NEWSLETTER

---

Published: Monthly via e-mail  
Editor: Michael Bernier KF5NPM  
To Submit News or to Add/Remove from E-Mail List: Send E-Mail to [KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM)  
Submission Deadline: 12 midnight on the Saturday prior to each monthly meeting

### WEBSITE

---

Address: [WWW.K5GCC.US](http://WWW.K5GCC.US)  
Webmaster: Jim Hubbell N5COP

### GCARC, ARES, AND SKYWARN PATCHES

---

GCARC club patches are available and may be purchased from Brad KE5UMJ at each club meeting; cost is \$5.00 each. These are round patches with the club logo, and are great for wearing on vests and other non-club clothing, placing on equipment bags and go-kits, etc.

ARES and SKYWARN patches may also be purchased from Brad at each club meeting; cost is \$4.00 each. If you choose to wear patches on your club shirt or jacket, the ARES patch should be placed on the right shoulder and any other patch (SKYWARN, RACES, CERT, etc.) should go below it. Since some members have tactical shirts with pen pockets on the left sleeve we do not recommend placing any patches on that side.

### CLUB CLOTHING ORDERS

---

Several times each year, members have the opportunity to purchase club-related clothing (shirts, caps, jackets, etc.). These items have the GCARC logo and the member's name and callsign embroidered on them. An order form with instructions will be included in the newsletter each time orders are being taken.

---

### GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

---

Starting Balance 6/30/2013	\$631.90	<b>NOTES:</b>	
Cash On Hand	\$0.00	<u>Deposits:</u>	None
Deposits	+ \$0.00	<u>Expenses:</u>	None
Expenses	- \$0.00		
Ending Balance 7/31/2013	\$631.90		

Brad McMillon KE5UMJ  
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

---

## GCARC MEETING MINUTES

---

### GCARC Meeting, 19 July 2013

Call to order by president Ben Sly KF5OEB at 1907 hours. Motion made by David KC0EHR, second by Bill KK5RW to approve last month's meeting minutes and Treasurer's report. Brad KE5UMJ read Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

#### Old Business:

- GCARC booth at Main Street Festival in Denison. Discussion by club. Date will be October 5, 2013. Motion made by John WD0FIN, second by William KF5ISC to pay \$50.00 for booth. Motion passed. A check will be written for \$50.00 for booth.
- Grayson County Fair. Discussion on having a booth at the fair this year.
- Special Event Station. Ben KF5OEB gave discussion on having someone designated as a meet and greet person during Club events.
- QSL Cards. Club members can come and view all QSL cards that the club has received from Special Event station contacts.
- Red River Bridge War QSL Cards. Discussion on cards. Club will get cost of cards for printing. Motion made by Jim KI5DQ, second by Bill KK5RW to approve QSL card design. Motion passed. Motion made by John WD0FIN, second by Mike KF5NPM to allocate funds to purchase QSL cards. Motion passed.
- Kiwanis Bike Rally. August 10, 2013. Still need volunteers to help.

#### New Business:

- Gainesville Hamfest. Flyers received by Ben KF5OEB and distributed to meeting attendees.
- Presentation by David Bond KF5CMR on the Texoma Hamarama coming up on October 25-26, 2013.

No further business presented to the club and motion moved to adjourn at 1944 hours by John WD0FIN, second by Harold KF5IPP. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned.

Next Club Meeting will be August 16, 2013 at 1900 hours at the Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd floor assembly room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brad McMillon  
KE5UMJ  
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

---

### ATTENTION FACEBOOK USERS!

---

BE SURE TO VISIT THE GCARC FACEBOOK PAGE AT  
[HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/K5GCC/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC/)

---

## CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

---

### Club Meetings

#### **Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 7:00pm CT

Grayson County Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> floor assembly room, 100 West Houston Street, Sherman TX

<http://www.k5gcc.us>

#### **Cooke County Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00pm CT

Cooke County Library, 200 S. Weaver Street, Gainesville TX

<http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org/ccarc.htm>

#### **Durant Amateur Radio Club (DARC)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00pm CT

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

#### **Fannin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 9:00am CT

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

<http://www.k5frc.org>

#### **McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00pm CT

Spring Creek Barbecue, 1993 North Central Expressway, McKinney TX

<http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

#### **Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 41**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 11:00am CT

Midway Point Restaurant, 12801 Midway Road, Dallas TX

<http://www.texasqcwa41.org>

### **ARES® / SKYWARN®**

#### **Grayson County ARES® Training**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each odd-numbered month (Jan / Mar / May / Jul / Sep / Nov) at 7:00pm CT

Sherman Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., Sherman TX

<http://www.tecoares.org>

### **GCARC Club Events**

#### **Denison Main Street Festival – Information Booth**

October 5, 2013

Main Street, Denison TX

#### **Eisenhower Special Event Station**

October 12, 2013

Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, TX

#### **World Aerobatic Championships Special Event Station**

October 19, 2013

North Texas Regional Airport, Denison TX

#### **American Red Cross “Ride For The Red” Bike Rally**

October 20, 2013

### **VE Testing Sessions**

#### **Texoma VE Team – Bi-Monthly Testing**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each even-numbered month (Feb / Apr / Jun / Aug / Oct / Dec) at 7:00pm CT

Sherman Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., Sherman TX

Contact: Moe NT7C (903) 564-7115 or [nt7c@arrl.net](mailto:nt7c@arrl.net)

#### **Durant Amateur Radio Club – Monthly Testing**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 8:00pm CT (following the DARC monthly meeting)

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

Contact: Jim Harmon ([jharmon@netcommander.com](mailto:jharmon@netcommander.com))

### **Texoma Amateur Radio Association – Monthly Testing**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at 2:00pm CT

The Java Stop Café, 5700 North FM 1417, Sherman TX

Contact: Dave K5YM (281) 743-7478

### **Fannin County Amateur Radio Club – Appointment-Only Testing**

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

Contact David WA0URJ ([wa0urj@yahoo.com](mailto:wa0urj@yahoo.com)) to schedule a session

## **Hamfests**

### **Gainesville Hamfest**

September 7, 2013 7:00am-1:00pm (ARRL VE testing starts 9:30am)

Gainesville Civic Center, 311 South Weaver Street, Gainesville TX

Talk-In: 147.340 (PL 100.0) or 442.775 (PL 100.0)

Public Contact: James Floyd N5ZPU (940) 668-7511 or [jfloyd54@suddenlink.net](mailto:jfloyd54@suddenlink.net)

Website: [www.gainesvillehamfest.org](http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org)

### **Ada Hamfest**

September 13-14, 2013

Chickasaw Community Center, 700 N. Mississippi, Ada, OK

Talk-In: 147.285+ (PL 114.8)

Public Contact: Chris Faulkner KD5NQA (580) 332-1435 or [kd5nqa@yahoo.com](mailto:kd5nqa@yahoo.com)

### **Texoma Hamarama (Ardmore)**

October 25-26, 2013 (Friday 5:00pm-8:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-1:00pm)

Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 North Rockford Road, Ardmore OK

Talk-In: 146.970 (no PL)

Public Contact: Henry Allen W5TYD (214) 673-7942 or [w5tyd@arrl.net](mailto:w5tyd@arrl.net)

Website: [www.texomahamarama.org](http://www.texomahamarama.org)

## **Contests**

### **ARRL Rookie Roundup - RTTY**

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 1800 UTC – 2359 UTC (12:00pm – 5:59pm CT)

The Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while Old Timers make contact with only Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event!

Check the [Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Calendar](#) for additional contests and activities.

---

## **CLUB ACTIVITY REPORTS**

---

### **Kiwanis Bike Rally – August 10, 2013**

Wade KF5AUD and Rick K5ECX served as Net Control and APRS was used to track the locations of key vehicles on the routes. Overall a very well-run and professional operation.

#### **Bike Rally Photos**







---

## SWAP MEET

---

*(Disclaimer: This section is provided for hams to list items they wish to buy, sell, or trade. GCARC will not be responsible for the accuracy or completeness of any descriptions, will not guarantee any items function as described, and will not participate in any transactions. The individual buyer and seller are responsible for all discussions, negotiations, and resolving of differences.)*

### FOR SALE: Collins KWM-2

Collins KWM-2 (Round Emblem) in great condition. Just aligned and checked out. Asking \$900. Will be glad to meet and deliver in Sherman area.

Contact: Doug Mentzer K7DAM  
Phone 903-989-2210 or e-mail: [dougment@gmail.com](mailto:dougment@gmail.com)



### FOR SALE: Cushcraft ASL-670 Log Periodic Antenna

The Cushcraft ASL-670 is the ultimate multi-use antenna. Since the antenna is a log periodic, it offers continuous coverage through the 2 and 6 meter bands as well as 220 and 440 MHz. So while being a terrific antenna for operating those bands, it's also a great aviation and public safety band monitoring antenna.

Use the antenna for contesting and mountain topping if you like. The antenna is compact and easy to assemble and disassemble with no tuning required. Yet it is rugged enough for permanent installations.

This antenna has excellent gain f/b with good VSWR bandwidth to boot. Enjoy the fun of high performance operation *and* multi-frequency.



\$225 Pick Up Only in Bonham, TX  
Contact: David Reeder WAØURJ  
E-mail [WA0URJ@yahoo.com](mailto:WA0URJ@yahoo.com)  
Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773

### FOR SALE: Mobile 10 Meter Radio and Amp

Mobile Palomar 300 watt amp and RCI 2950 10 meter radio. Asking \$300 for both but will take offers.  
Contact: Tim KB5SSQ 903-816-3100

### FOR SALE: Estate Sale Items

My husband Ronnie Hartwell KE5ASH died March 6th and I (Lora Hartwell his wife) have moved to Dallas from Louisiana. I brought all of his radios, tuners, amplifiers, and a crank up tower with me. All of this is for sale:

Ameritron ALS600s 600w amplifier with power supply ..... \$850  
Ameritron AL811 amplifier ..... \$650  
HF +6m zero power auto tuner z100 ..... \$75



LDG AT11MP auto tuner .....	\$100
MFJ-986 Tuner .....	\$200
Vertex VX-150 HT .....	\$75
Yaesu FT 857D ultra-compact transceiver .....	\$700
Yaesu FT 8900R quad band FM transceiver.....	\$375
40-ft crank up tower.....	SOLD
ICOM 735 HF all band transceiver.....	SOLD
MFJ-4125 25amp Switching Power supply .....	SOLD
MFJ-994 600 w automatic antenna tuner.....	SOLD
Ten-Tec Jupiter 538 HF transceiver.....	SOLD

(Note: Ben KF5OEB is assisting Lora with this sale. Contact Ben via e-mail [bencsly@gmail.com](mailto:bencsly@gmail.com) or call 903-815-2698.)

---

## AMATEUR RADIO NEWS OF INTEREST

---

### Vandals Topple California Radio Tower

Authorities in California suspect that vandals late on July 28 or early on July 29 cut several guy wires supporting the Rocky Ridge radio tower in the hills of the Las Trampas Regional Wilderness above San Ramon and Danville, causing the 200 foot structure to topple.

“The Rocky Ridge Tower has been a key communications tower for amateur, commercial, and public safety radio operators, alike,” says Jim Siemons, AF6PU. “This was an important communications hub in the Contra Costa and Alameda counties’ East Bay Regional Communications System Authority ([EBRSCA](http://EBRSCA.org)) group that is just now providing P25 communications to many municipalities and districts within the San Francisco East Bay.”

Siemons says several ham radio groups had repeater equipment on the tower, including his own Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club ([MDARC](http://MDARC.org)). MDARC had a packet/APRS digipeater operating on 144.390 MHz that Siemons says was in constant use up until the tower came down. “There will certainly be challenges with coverage in areas unless or until the tower is replaced in parts of Walnut Creek, Alamo, Danville, Diablo, Blackhawk, San Ramon, Moraga, and Canyon,” Siemons added.

KCBS Radio in San Francisco reported that police were investigating the tower collapse. No injuries occurred, and authorities believe vandalism was the cause. Damage could go as high as \$1 million. A Contra Costa County Fire official told the radio station that the tower collapse has affected some dispatch services in the western part of the county, but police say back-up systems headed off any disruptions. According to KCBS, police “are trying to determine why vandals would target the tower, which is located in a remote area of the park behind multiple gates and fences.”

Originally Published Online at [ARRL.org](http://ARRL.org)

### Hawaii Hams Muster To Help Forecasters Track Tropical Storm Flossie

Amateur Radio operators kept National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologists and state and local emergency operations centers up to date on changing conditions as Tropical Storm Flossie passed over the Island State July 29-30. The NWS had earlier notified residents to prepare for heavy rains, high winds and flooding. Clem Jung, KH7HO, opened a SKYWARN net from the NWS Honolulu office ham station the evening of July 29 to establish an operational plan. The net reconvened the next morning on the AllStar Link repeater system and on 7.088 MHz. ARES and RACES members also participated.

Over its 12 hours of activation, the net recorded 67 check-ins and reports from hams in all four Hawaii counties. Net control stations received reports from throughout the state via Amateur Radio as well as by cell phones and even social



media. All reports were shared with meteorologists in the Central Pacific Hurricane Center ([CPHC](#)). Harvey Monomura, AH6JA, and others on East Hawaii provided ground observations of rain and lightning conditions to supplement what forecasters were seeing via radar and infrared satellite imaging. The state EOC and all county EOCs monitored the SKYWARN reports. As the storm moved west, stations on Maui, Lanai and Oahu provided reports.

With Flossie continuing toward the Big Island, the mass of the Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa volcanoes, with summits towering above 13,600 feet, combined with upper-level shear from the northwest, causing the storm to split in two. One portion moved south around the Big Island, and the other headed northwest toward Maui.

“Combined with the mass of a third volcano, Mount Haleakala on Maui, the tall volcanoes affected the circular motion of Flossie, causing it to further downgrade to a tropical disturbance,” Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, explained.

The volcanoes also caused Flossie’s moist air to deflect upward and raise the tops of the thunderclouds to heights approaching 60,000 feet above Maui. The vertical motion caused more ice and static electricity, resulting in increased lightning activity over Maui, and reports started coming in of considerable lightning and rain, and even small hail, coupled with power outages in Maui.

As the storm diminished, the CPHC gave the okay to close the SKYWARN NET late on July 30.

“This cooperation between the SKYWARN net control stations and the NWS was fantastic,” said Jung. “This success was possible because emergency coordinators had worked previously with the Amateur Radio community that participated in this net.”

Originally Published Online at [ARRL.org](#)

## Boy Scout Jamboree Hosts Space Station Ham Radio Contact



European Space Agency Astronaut Luca Parmitano, KF5KDP, aboard the International Space Station spoke July 20 via ham radio with Scouts attending the 2013 Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree, July 15-24, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Mount Hope, West Virginia. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program arranged the 2 meter contact between the Scouts’ K2BSA and NA1SS.

“What really matters is to be good at what you do,” Parmitano told the Scouts. “So, pick something you like, love it and be really good at it.” Parmitano also said that the stars look different -- more natural -- from the ISS but appear the same size as on Earth, as do the planets.

ARISS is an international educational outreach with participation from ARRL, NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), the Russian Space Agency (Roscosmos), CNES (the French Space Agency), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and AMSAT.

ARISS Technical Mentor Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, coordinated the contact with the Jamboree. Some 40,000 attendees were anticipated at the National Jamboree over its 10 day run. Amateur radio has been a part of the Jamboree experience since 1953, when

K6BSA was on the air from Irvine Ranch in California. An ARISS direct contact with Space Station Commander Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC, was a highlight of K2BSA’s activities during the BSA’s centennial National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, in 2010.

Originally Published Online at [ARRL.org](#)

---

## LOCAL RADIO NETS

---

### Weekly

#### **Durant ARC Weekly Net**

Tuesdays 7:00pm CT on the 147.390+ (118.8 PL) repeater.

No net on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month due to the DARC monthly meeting.

#### **Scout Ham Net**

Tuesdays 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater. This net is designed for all Scouts, Adult Leaders, and active Merit Badge counselors who are Amateur Radio operators.

#### **Fannin County ARC Weekly Net**

Tuesdays 9:00pm CT on the 145.130– (no PL) repeater.

This is an informal information net.

#### **McKinney 6 meter AM Net**

Wednesdays 10:00pm CT on 50.400MHz

#### **Ladies Net**

Thursdays 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

Net Control Operator: Linda KE5YUC

#### **McKinney ARC Info Net**

Sundays 8:00pm CT on the 146.740– (110.9 PL) repeater.

### Semi-Monthly

#### **Grayson County ARC Information Net**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

This is an informal information net and Buy/Sell/Swap net.

#### **Grayson County ARES Net**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

This is a directed information net used for training.

#### **RACES Command Net Check**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:00pm CT on 7.255 MHz LSB

This is a RACES Command Net check for statewide RACES Command Net members ONLY. All other Amateur stations are welcome to listen, but DO NOT check in!

### Monthly

#### **North Texas ARES HF Net**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 8:30pm CT on 3.860 MHz LSB

This is an information net open to all ARES members in the ARRL North Texas (NTX) Section.

#### **McKinney ARES Net**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740– (110.9 PL) repeater.

---

## AREA REPEATERS

---

#### **Sherman TX**

147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL)

W5RVT

147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL)

W5COP

444.750– MHz (100.0 PL)

W5RVT

#### **Bonham TX**

145.470– MHz (no PL)

K5FRC

145.130– MHz (no PL)

K5FRC

443.750+ MHz (no PL)

K5FRC

#### **Durant OK**

147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL)

K5KIE

147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)

K5CGE

#### **Gainesville TX**

147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)

WB5FHI

#### **McKinney TX**

146.740– MHz (110.9 PL)

W5MRC

145.350– MHz (100.0 PL)

N5GI

#### **Melissa TX**

443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)

W5MRA

#### **Rosston TX**

145.490– MHz (85.4 PL)

WD5U

#### **Van Alstyne TX**

443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)

W5VAL

### Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX  
Grayson County ARRL EC



### Did You Know September Is National Preparedness Month?

Yes, I got this info right from the Internet so it has to be right. Now, clean up that coffee we just made a mess with. NO, Virginia, not everything on the Internet is true; however, this is. So, I thought I would take a few lines to help get yourself and those in your care prepared for emergencies and disasters.

Those of us involved in ARES know that emergencies can happen unexpectedly in our communities. We've seen it on the news: tornado outbreaks, river floods and flash floods, historic earthquakes, bus rollovers, tsunamis, and even water main breaks and power outages in U.S. cities affecting millions of people for days at a time. Believe it or not police, fire and rescue may not always be able to reach you quickly in an emergency or disaster. I think self-care – being able to take care of yourself and those in your care – is the most important step you can take in helping your local responders. The more people who are prepared, the quicker the community will recover. The website Ready.gov recommends to prepare and plan in the event you must go for at least three days without electricity, water service, access to a supermarket, or local services. Here's what they say...

“Just follow these four steps:

1. **Stay Informed:** Information is available from federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial resources. Access Ready.gov to learn what to do before, during, and after an emergency.
2. **Make a Plan:** Discuss, agree on, and document an emergency plan with those in your care. For sample plans, see Ready.gov. Work together with neighbors, colleagues, and others to build community resilience.
3. **Build a Kit:** Keep enough emergency supplies - water, nonperishable food, first aid, prescriptions, flashlight, and battery-powered radio on hand - for you and those in your care.
4. **Get Involved:** There are many ways to get involved, especially before a disaster occurs. The whole community can participate in programs and activities to make their families, homes and places of worship safer from risks and threats.

Community leaders agree that the formula for ensuring a safer homeland consists of volunteers, a trained and informed public, and increased support of emergency response agencies during disasters.”

I suggest that by taking those few simple actions, you can make your family safer. I would add to the lists “out there” for the public some additional items for our Hams: spare batteries for your HT, a length of known-to-be-good coax maybe 30-50ft (whatever your plan dictates), a mag-mount antenna for your HT, a copy of the manual for the HT, and - oh yes - the HT itself or a spare if that's in your budget. For a longer list of ideas check the [www.TECOARES.org](http://www.TECOARES.org) website for Go Kit info.

September is National Preparedness Month. Let's set a good example, get prepared and share your preparedness with others. Who knows? You just might save a life.

For more information, check out: [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) then browse the site for /be-informed, /make-a-plan, /build-a-kit and /get-involved.