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AMATEUR RADIO  
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# MILAM COUNTY ARES NEWSLETTER

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## MILAM COUNTY ARES NEWS



**Stuart Wolfe – KF5NIX, Milam County Amateur Radio  
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This month we will discuss different ways to seal your outside coax connections. One of the first things is locate all of the actual connections that need sealing up. You may laugh at the previous statement, but believe me, not properly preparing for this will end up with not enough of what you need to complete the job. And nothing is more frustrating than getting almost finished with your job only to realize you need to make a mad dash to the store that is getting ready to close to get the last specialty tape, or liquid electrical tape they have.

After you have your count of connections, I always try to add a 1/3 of your total to your count just to make sure you have enough before you begin. Before you begin, always make sure all connections are as clean as you can get them.

There are several items you can substitute on the list I am referring to below, but always remember, in the business of sealing you get what you pay for. I use the method below, and I am also including the names of the product and where you can get them.

The first step: I use Nashua Stretch & Seal tape; it stretches up to 300% its length. Follow the directions and it will work just fine. It can be found in Home Depot and other home improvement places as well. I would suggest looking it up online first.

The second step: I use is Scotch Heavy-Duty Grade Super 88 vinyl electrical tape. The reason I use this after the Nashua tape is that even though some tape advertises UV resistant, in Texas I assume the worst and just cover it up with the Super 88 tape. Since the Nashua makes a waterproof seal, I cover it up from about 2 inches on either side the Nashua to make sure it is completely covered.

The third and final step: is really not needed but I use it for comfort of mind. I cover up both ends of the Super 88 tape with Gardner Bender Liquid Tape. This is a little hard to find, but we found it in Ace Hardware. The reason I went with this is because several other brands mention they are UV resistant but if you read the actual directions from the website of the manufacturer it says that it is only UV resistant if not directly in the sun or in high winds. Now, I see you shaking your head like I did, and I do not understand it either. The website for the Gardner tape says it takes UV very well, and directly in the sun is not a worry, so that is why we chose this brand.

There are some that say these methods go a little too far, but in Texas heat, can you really go too far if you are protecting your investment? If you have other methods and wish to share them please send them to my email address below.

Since I am also the President of the Milam Amateur Radio Club in Rockdale, I am inviting all who get this newsletter to the club's 2019 Field Day event. It will be on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 303 San Jacinto Dr. in Rockdale, TX. We focus more on the social aspect of this event instead of trying to get all the contacts you can. We share ideas, show off previous designs/ideas, make eyeball QSO's, share contact info, eat lots of great food, and of course play on radios. After all it is Field Day!!! If you do not have a call sign, do not worry, we are using the club's call sign, KG5DUO. Since we are not doing this for the points, that is why we only do this on the Saturday instead of both days. We hope to see you there!

If there is a topic you wish discussed in a newsletter, send it to me at

[KF5NIX@ARRL.NET](mailto:KF5NIX@ARRL.NET)

If you have not done so yet, go to the ARRLSTX depot site listed below. [http://www.arrlstxvps.org/vault\\_area/vault\\_gateway/site\\_gateway/vault\\_gateway.php](http://www.arrlstxvps.org/vault_area/vault_gateway/site_gateway/vault_gateway.php) There are several items listed on the workbook there that many of you have already accomplished in the past, just use your best guess as to the date and I will approve them.

If you complete any of the online courses send me a copy of the certificate so we can have it on file in case of an emergency so we know who we can call on.

You can get your workbook, the newsletters, or other forms at the Milam County ARES website:

<http://milamcountvares.weebly.com/>

Thank you,

Stuart Wolfe – KF5NIX – EC Milam County – 512-660-9954

**Rockdale** – 146.760 – PL – 123, Milam ARC weekly net – Monday nights at 8:00 P.M. The members also voted to move the Milam County Ares net to Monday nights, at 7:00 P.M. Most felt that having the ARES net on the same night as the Milam Amateur Radio Club's net may increase the sign-ins for both nets as well as free up the rest of the week.

**Cameron** – 147.020 – PL – 123, Milam County ARES net – **Monday nights at 7:00 P.M.**

**Davilla** – 147.000 – PL – 123, Milam ARC nets – Last Monday of each month held here. **Milam ARES 2 Meter Data Repeater** 145.030 Mhz This repeater is a simplex repeater with store and resend software in the modem at the transceiver. This call sign is CAMRLY. The repeater is on the Milam County Communication Tower and uses the same antenna as the 147.020 repeater. That antenna is a db224 with 6db gain. It is approximately 150 feet AGL.