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AMATEUR RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS

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MILAM COUNTY ARES NEWSLETTER

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MILAM COUNTY ARES NEWS



Stuart Wolfe – KF5NIX, Milam County Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator

This month will be about driving in the state if Texas if you are an Amateur Radio Operator. One of the first things is always have a copy of your current up-to-date license on your person or in your car. One of the new laws that went into effect for Texas is that you are not allowed to talk or text on your phone, which also includes several different wireless devices (some being handheld radios) while driving or while the car is not parked or stopped safely if you are the driver.

Some of the counties have very specific laws/rules or ordinances about where you can use/operate your amateur radio, so please check these out before attempting to operate your radio. In Travis County they implemented a new law that states you can operate your radio as long as you have a copy of your license on you, and your radio can't be a handheld or wireless device (unless it is solely operated via Bluetooth). So the best thing is to try to only operate a mounted mobile radio, since it is considered a wired device it is not enforceable under their new law. They tried to include several types of radio devices in their new law, but were told by the FCC (Federal Government) that since Amateur Radio Operators fall under Federal jurisdiction that State law can NOT override Federal law unless you openly are driving reckless or through school zones, and work zones.

The best piece of advice I can give is this, always use common sense when operating your radio. It does not matter where you are, or who you are. There are lots distractions in modern vehicles, and our radios are just one more thing added to all the bells, and whistles. So always make sure if you can, sync your phone via Bluetooth to your vehicle before you begin your trip, so you fall under the hands free part of the new law across the state. And for some of you who have Bluetooth in your radios, use that instead of your microphone.

If you ever find yourself in or near a school zone, please never operate your radio for absolute safety around where children are located. I can't stress that enough. And if you are in a construction zone remember to use to same caution.

One of the best parts of being an Amateur Radio operator is that not only do we get to help out our local entities and community during an emergency, but we can just as easily pick up and move to another community and help out as well. Just remember that different counties may have different requirements to take part in emergencies. So be sure to ask the Emergency Coordinators of surrounding counties what they require so you can be prepared before an emergency.

I openly encourage everyone who reads this newsletter to attend an ARES meeting in surrounding counties to see how others work together and with local entities. It will not only let you meet new Amateurs, but also bring our counties closer together so when an emergency actually occurs it will make working with them easier.

If you wish to be a net controller for the Milam County Ares net please contact me and I will send you a 'basic' script that you can either follow, or make it up as you go along. Everyone who participates in the ARES net should be able to be net controller in case of an emergency.

Also if you wish to have something put in one of the newsletters, send it to me at KF5NIX@ARRL.NET and I will find a way to put it in.

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 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 as well as other forms at the Milam County Ares website:
<http://milamcountyares.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.

