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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 last month has been a whirlwind in Milam County. From the heavy rains, wind, hail, power outages, and even the few tornados have stretched our communities pretty thin. All of this has been handled with the Rockdale PD moving into a new building, and all the local Law enforcement and VFD's working tirelessly to make our lives safe in these conditions.

For this month, I want to touch on different ways you make sure that all your operating equipment is maintained. From checking SWR's to making sure your coax is in working order and your radios are functioning the way they are supposed to perform.

The first thing is to make sure you get a decent SWR analyzer for your antennas. I would refrain from including one that has to use commercial power, since during an actual emergency it would not work anyway. It is alright to test out your antenna throughout the year while using commercial power, but you need to have one that can use batteries for in the field.

I will not go into each SWR analyzer on the market, but I will suggest getting one you are familiar with, and one that can be used in the field with batteries. Again, I would refrain from using one that has all the bells and whistles as that can get confusing when in an actual emergency. Look at it this way, when in the field, think of each piece of equipment you bring with you should also be usable by someone else with little or no additional training. It is always a good idea to have more equipment than you need for everyone who shows up than to have only one of something that needs commercial power, and a computer just to operate it.

When you test out your other equipment, like the radio, or other equipment like for Packet radio I would suggest at least once a month turn on the radio and other equipment to make sure it works. And also to update any software you are using for any of the equipment. It would be a shame to go out in an actual emergency only to find out either your antenna needs repairs, the radio will not turn on, or the software is so out of date it will not connect to the other packet station.

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