

FEBRUARY 2016

# MILAM COUNTY ARES NEWSLETTER

AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Published by:  
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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### Milam County Judge Office

Judge Dave Barkemeyer  
254-697-7000

### Milam County EOC

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## MILAM COUNTY ARES NEWS



*KD5WRO Commentary*

### What Is The MESH ?

An interesting meeting was held by the Milam Amateur Radio Club last Tuesday evening in Rockdale. The program was conducted by K5KTF from Austin and AE5CA from Waco. These gentlemen brought several pieces of equipment to illustrate a node which any of us can build and install. Cost for the basic equipment is less than 100 dollars. The node can be considered a terminal in your home or a repeater. Typical operating frequency may be in the 5.4 Gigahertz band.

The antenna may be inside a 4 or 5 foot long PVC pipe which is inside a building or on the roof or mounted on a fencepost. The coverage may be your neighborhood. For a path of many miles microwave dishes are mounted on towers so as to have a line of sight path.

Equipment needed are firmware and a computer, such as a Raspberry Pie, the size of an iPhone. Firmware is available which can operate under FCC Part 15 or Part 97.

Input to the system may be a telephone handset, internet connection, video camera, or any electronic signal. Music can be legally sent over Part 97 equipment since it is sent as zeros and ones and not musical notes.

A system of nodes might include your neighborhood or the entire city. Hence the name MESH. Cities may be linked by using microwave dishes.

The typical power output of a node is about 700 milliwatts. This low power consumption will allow battery operation for many hours during a power outage. Battery operation will be crucial during disasters when there is no power. Another advantage is the ability to send video of disaster areas to emergency managers.

The low cost and small size of this type equipment is opening up a whole new world of communications.

### Literature for Ham License

Technician Class Book GWTM-14 \$21.95  
General Class Book GWGM-15 \$24.95  
Extra Class Book GWEM-12 \$24.95  
Order from Gordon West W5YI 800-669-9594

### Belton HAMFEST

April 15-16 and September 30-October 1, 2016

ARES Net each Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Milam ARC meet each 2nd Tuesday at Taqueria Banda's in Rockdale at 7:00 P.M.

Milam County ARES Thursday 7 PM 147.020 PL 123.0  
Khz. Please sign up for Milam ARES NET Controller-call Franklin Stewart at 254-605-0678.

Bell County NET Thursday 8 PM 145.130 PL 123.0

STX ARES HF Net Monday at 7:30 pm on 3873 Khz

### 2016 SKYWARN

Was held in the Bay area of the Cameron Volunteer Fire Department on Monday, January 25th from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Meteorologist Daniel Huckaby from Ft. Worth NWS provided the powerpoint presentation. Cameron Jr. High Science teachers provided extra credit to those students who participated in the Storm Spotter's training. Attendance was an all time record with 126 participating from throughout the county. The program is rotated between Cameron and Rockdale.

NOAA WEATHER FREQUENCIES	
WACO	162.475 Mhz
BRYAN	162.550 Mhz

