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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, I thought we would discuss participating in nets. There are several types, from regular club nets, Ares nets, emergency nets, and bad weather nets. When you decide to join a net, first make sure that you listen to the net first to make sure you are familiar with the requirements for that net before

you check in to it.

After you listen for awhile, you will notice a certain style the net controller has for that net. This style is very important, since it seems to make that particular net work. The regular club nets are mostly for all members to check in weekly, and discuss certain topics. These nets also can turn into other types of nets when needed. If you ever wish to check in to these nets, as well as other ones too, but want to ask questions before hand, I suggest sending the net controller an email. Most net controllers are extremely nice people, and ready to give any advice to help out. It serves two purposes, one to answer your questions, and the second is it also helps them out on the net if you check in; it makes you a little more comfortable when on the air.

One of the more stringent types of nets is the ARES nets. The net controllers are mostly concerned with getting everyone checked in, not with rag chewing. When the ARES nets are over, as with most other nets, the net controller will open the repeater back up to 'regular conversation'. This is the time to ask someone who you heard earlier checking in a question. Some of these nets move so fast you have to really listen to all the call signs so you know when to check in.

The emergency nets, are similar to the ARES nets, but are mainly used for when certain clubs are participating in an event. Like when the local hospitals are having a drill, certain repeaters are activated for these very specific events. If you happen to listen to one of these drills, pay attention to what is going on so you do not mistake a drill for an actual emergency.

I saved one of the most important nets, the bad weather nets, for last. It is the most important in my opinion since it is not a drill, and not a regular net. During these nets, a repeater is activated specifically due to the fact that bad weather is actually in the area right then, or is about to be any minute. The net controller will ask for specific information, and sometimes from a very specific location. They not only are receiving this information, but most of the time they pass along this information off air to other entities that have need of it. Some net controllers pass this information to the National Weather Service or local weather forecasters too.

When the net controller for bad weather nets ask for information, please keep in mind that they only want/need specific information. If there is hail, be very specific about the size, and the time it fell before moving out of the area. The best thing you can do is attend a SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program, these will tell you in very clear terms what will be required of you if you wish to pass along information during a bad weather net. (Also, a NWS Skywarn checklist sheet can be picked up at the Milam County Emergency Mgmt. office in the courthouse or contact Susan Reinders and she can mail or email a copy to you. Her email address is sreinders@milamcounty.net)

I will end this newsletter with a few simple statements. When on one of these nets keep in mind that most of these air every so many minutes. just like anyone else and ner. And they are also vol- one else, they try not to quired for that net. So if you required way, and pass along the information in the required format, the correct terminology that you learned in the SKYWARN class. It serves no one if inaccurate information is passed along.

Above all else, if you wish to help with being the net controller for any type of net, ask the net controller when the next class is for the training, or if there is a program already in place. Most net controllers like what they do, but are also glad for the chance to sit out a net every now and then.

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://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.