# LSARA
## Lone St★r Amateur Radio Assoc.

## Hamfests in Texas

**06/17/2017**
W5AW Tailgate
Location: Big Spring, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Big Spring Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.qsl.net/
w5aw/

**07/08/2017**
Texas City/Tidelands ARS Hamfest
Location: Texas City, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Tidelands Amateur Radio Socitey
Website: http://tidelands.org

**08/04/2017**
South Texas Section Convention
(Austin Summerfest 2017)
Location: Austin, TX
Type: ARRL Convention
Austin ARC & Texas VHF-FM
Society
Website: http://www.
austinsummerfest.org

Upcoming Amateur Radio Events
(some ctsy The ARRL Letter, David
K5RAV & Lee W5LHC):

www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-
conventions-calendar

www.arrl.org/arrl-audio-news

**Search for Hamfests:**
http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-
and-conventions-calendar

# Go-Kit –
## one for every event

*A Look Inside KE7HLR and
KF7IAW's Go-Kit*

### In-Pocket Carry

Kept on my person, whenever I leave
the house.

- Driver's License
- "Notify in Case of Emergency"
  telephone list
- Cash/Coins
- Cell phone
- Leatherman Skeletool
- Wristwatch

### HT Pack (One for each person)

Kept in vehicle, ready for immediate
use. The pack is a Fishpond "San
Juan" fly fishing chest pack, which
can be worn as a chest pack, a (tiny)
backpack, around your waist like a
fanny pack, or on your belt with the
built-in belt loop.

- WCARES Identification
  Communications Equipment:
- Radio, Handheld, 2m/70cm, Yaesu
  VX-7R
- Antenna, 8" whip, Diamond
  SRH519
- Speaker/Microphone, Pryme
  SPM-2142
- Earphone, Pryme EH-1300SC
- Battery Pack, Rechargeable, FNB-
  80LI (2)
- HT external 12Vdc power cable,
  w/ PowerPole connector
- HT antenna adapter cable, SMA
  to SO-239
- Radio Programming/Frequency
  Chart
- Nifty Quick-Ref. Guide, VX-7R

# NEWHAMS.info

### Know Your Radio

*September 9, 2016 AF5NP*
Do you know how to change the
settings on all of your radios?
You should, particularly with the
VHF/UHF rigs that would be used
in an emergency situation in case of a
local disaster.

It may seem silly to ask this question
when such knowledge is often
assumed. But consider these factors:

Many of the modern radios can be
configured via software on a PC,
often including memory channels
for local repeaters. Did you actually
set up your radio manually, or was it
cloned or computer configured?

Many hams have multiple
transceivers- handhelds (HTs),
mobile, and base station rigs.
Configuration of these is likely
different for each model, even with
the same manufacturer.

Hams may have different makes of
the same type of radio as well, each
with very different configuration
procedures. If you have both Yaesu
and Baofeng HTs, the procedures will
be quite different.

Consequently some hams only
know how to turn the radio on
and off, adjust the volume and
squelch, and then select a memory

## Go-Kit

**Personal Go-Kit for Emergency Communications**

**Safety Equipment, Tools and Supplies:**
• LED Flashlight, Surefire 6P
• Extra batteries, 123A (2)
• LED Headlight w/ retractable headband
• Extra batteries, AAA (2)
• Pen, highlighter
• Pen, ball point
• Pen, Sharpie marker
• Pencil, mechanical
• Waterproof notebook, 4½" x 7"
• Whistle

**Personal Items:**
• Moist wipes (4)
• Ear plugs, pr. (2)
• Eyeglass cleaning cloth
• Prescription meds, daily supply
Personal First Aid Kit:
• Adhesive bandage, 1½" x 2"
• Adhesive bandage, knuckle
• Adhesive bandage, 1" strip (3)
• Antiseptic wipes (2)

• Nitrile gloves, disposable, pr.
• Hand sanitizer towelette (2)
• Ibuprofen tablets, 200 mg (4)
• Imodium A-D tablets (2)
• Insect repellent towelette
• Lip balm
• Moleskin, 3" x 4"
• Nail clippers
• Storage bag
• Safety pin (2)
• Tweezers

# Field Office Kit



## Field Office Kit

The equipment needed for operation of an amateur station during drills and exercises, public events, or manning a shift during an emergency.

### Communications/Navigation Equipment:
- Radio, Handheld, FRS/GMRS, Motorola T7100
- Headset, Microphone/Earphone
- Extra batteries, AA (4)
- GPS Receiver, Garmin 60CSx w/ carrying case
- Extra batteries, AA (2)
- Manuals, VX-7R and T7100 radios
- Manual, GPS receiver quick reference
- Reno/Tahoe street guide
- Reno/Sparks street map, laminated
- Nevada/Utah highway map, laminated
- Northern California highway map, laminated

### Station Field Book/Operating Aids:
- Copies of Amateur Radio/GMRS licenses
- Copies of Driver's License
- ARES Field Resources Manual
- Local ARES/RACES Frequency Chart
- FSD-3, Numbered Radiograms
- FSD-218, Formal Messages
- FSD-220, Communication Procedures
- FSD-255, Emergency Reference Information

### Forms:
- ICS 205—Incident Radio Communications Plan
- ICS 205-A—Communications List
- ICS 213—General Message
- ICS 216—Radio Requirements Worksheet
- ICS 217—Radio Frequency Assignment Worksheet
- ICS 309—Communications Log
- Net Control Sheet
- Radiogram, ARRL format
- Radiogram, extended format
- Damage Assessment Report

### Office Supplies:
- Clipboard, Aluminum (2)
- Envelope, 9" x 12" (2)
- Steno pad, 6" x 9"
- Post-It notes, 3" x 3"
- Paper clips, asstd.
- Pen, highlighter, yellow
- Pen, ball point (2)
- Pen, Sharpie marker (2)
- Pencil, mechanical (2)
- Rubber bands, asstd.
- Scissors
- Stapler and extra staples
- Tape, cellophane, ½" x 80 ft.

**newham.info**

channel to work a local repeater. This is OK when you want to chat with a buddy, since little can go wrong and there are no real consequences.

But during a drill, public service event or EmComm deployment, we have to be flexible and prepared to change things up. There are many reasons things don't go as planned, and you may have to change a setting on your radio. Even something as simple as communicating outside the local area will require different repeater access tones. Some events use a portable repeater that you may not have programmed into your radio. Many of us have been embarrassed in the field when a simple setting was not made correctly; so learn from our mistakes and don't let it happen to you.

Radios are all different so we cannot go into detail here. For specifics consult your manual or quick reference guide, which you should always have handy. Listed below are the settings that are most likely needed to be changed on your VHF/UHF radio.

Turning the radio on and off and adjusting the volume should be a no-brainer so we won't spend time on that. Squelch adjustment should also be a gimme but is actually complicated on some of the newer HTs. Instead of a simple adjustment knob for squelch, some newer radios have the squelch set from a menu which requires a sequence of button pushes.

So here we go with eight likely settings that require some knowledge of your radio to manipulate:

Frequency setting. Be aware that with most modern transceivers there are two main modes under which frequency can be set. One is VFO mode (Variable Frequency Oscillator) where you can directly set the frequency by keypad or by rotating a dial. The other is Memory mode where you can select a number of pre-programmed frequencies, which is how most of us operate. Usually it's a simple pushbutton toggle between the two modes, so learn how to do this and tune to the desired frequency in either mode as needed. In memory mode there should be a simple way to display the frequency that the memory channel is set to, so know how to do this as well.

Repeater offset. Remember that repeaters re-transmit what is received on another frequency that is offset by some number. Offset is usually automatic with most modern radios but you may run into a case where it is the opposite direction, positive or negative. So know how to change the frequency offset if needed. By definition simplex operation is transmitting and receiving on the same frequency so offset is not involved if your communication is simplex.

Repeater tone. Remember that tones, also known as CTCSS (continuous tone-coded squelch system) and PL (private line) are often required for your transmission to be heard on a repeater. A few repeaters do not require a tone for access, but most do. In addition to the tone number, many radios have a separate setting for turning the tone on or off, so make sure you know both how to set the tone and turn it on. Proper tone setting is probably the main reason for failure to communicate via repeater.

Power level. Most radios allow you to set the transmit power at three or more preset levels. Remember the general rule of amateur radio is to use the minimum power necessary for communication. Not to mention that we will often be on battery power so a low power setting will prolong battery life. Of course, if higher power is needed to make a contact, that's OK. Either way, know how to change power level.

Control Lock. In an event or deployment it is recommended that you lock your controls against radio setting changes which can happen inadvertently (bumping the freq knob or pushing a keypad button). Most radios provide some means of locking the frequency and other settings while allowing you to change only basic controls such as squelch and volume as needed. Learn how to lock your radio.

Transmitter timeout timer. It is important to set our own radios to stop transmitting after a period of time in case of a stuck microphone or long-winded operator. This is especially important in an event or deployment where we can't tolerate the net frequency being tied up.

Disable WIRES. For those of you with Yaesu transceivers, be aware of the WIRES function and know how to disable it. WIRES causes the first few seconds of a transmission to be cut off and causes headaches during a net if somebody has it turned on. WIRES is unique to Yaesu so ignore this if you have a different brand radio. For more info, see our WIRES post.

Disable VOX. If you have a radio with a VOX feature, make sure you know how to turn it off. VOX is an abbreviation for voice-operated transmit and it activates the transmitter when there is sufficient audio from the microphone. VOX should never be used in an event or deployment because background noise can key mics and tie up the net with noise.

Quick guides or cheat sheets for each radio are very useful for all these settings. Even with these handy references, still go through the motions of actually changing settings before an emergency so you will have that experience and catch any surprises.

**Go-Kit**

**Safety Equipment, Tools and Supplies:**
- ARES yellow safety vest (2)
- Leather work gloves
- Leatherman multi-tool, Surge
- Ibuprofen tablets, 200 mg
- Insect repellent
- Moist wipes (8)
- Nitrile gloves, pkg./6
- Respirator, N95, NIOSH-approved (2)
- Sunscreen
- Waterless hand sanitizer
- 1/8" nylon rope, 100 ft
- Duct tape, 1"
- Electrical tape, ¾"
- Nylon cable ties, asstd.
- Silicone repair tape, 1"
- Storage bag, gallon
- Storage bag, quart (2)
- Trash bag, 42 gal. (2)

**Food and Water:**
- Snacks, asstd.
- Water, 0.5 L bottle (4)

**Personal First Aid Kit:**
- Mirror
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Adhesive bandage, 1 " strip (10)
- Adhesive bandage, 1¾" strip (2)
- Adhesive bandage, 2" x 3" (2)
- Adhesive bandage, 3" x 4" (2)
- Adhesive bandage, fingertip (2)
- Adhesive bandage, knuckle (2)
- Butterfly closure, small (2)
- Cotton swabs (10)
- Emergency blanket, 56" x 84"
- Finger splint, ¾" x 6"
- First aid tape, 1"
- Gauze dressing, 3" x 4" (2)
- Gauze trauma pad, 5" x 9"
- Gauze roller bandage, 2"
- Hand sanitizer wipes (2)
- Moleskin, 3" x 4"
- Nitrile gloves (2)
- Safety pin (3)
- Wind- and water-proof matches
- Antibiotic ointment pack (2)
- Antiseptic wipes (4)
- First aid/burn cream pack (2)
- Ibuprofen tablets, 200mg
- Imodium A-D tablets
- Insect sting relief pen
- Zantac 150 tablets

** *Information enclosed is provided by Dan O'Connor, KE7HLR, Reno, Nevada.*

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# ARRL Field Day June 24-25

1:00 PM local on Saturday to 1:00 PM local on Sunday

Pick a Field Day event or visit them all!

Austin Amateur Radio Club, AARC-
American Red Cross
2218 Pershing Dr, Austin, TX 78723

Stuart K5KVH@ARRL.NET

Williamson County Amateur Radio Club, WCARC-
Devine Lake Park
1807 Waterfall Drive, Leander, TX

Mike 512-690-4110 W9MC@austin.rr.com

Hambuds
SW Williamson County Regional Park off of CR175

Jim - Jim@K5KTF.com,
Danny N5DRG,
Jimmy KC5WLF 146.840

# Word Search

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A G L R A G C H E W V U S B R
A O J B L W T R I B A N D S S
E A A D I C V N R O W L I H S
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K A M N T V O L T A G E P C G
L N E O L A G N N H V Y L O L
A T R T O W E R N S F E A N O
T E H R S X A O C S H B Y N R
Y N A N D A C A N W O A C E R
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DISPLAY
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HANDYTALKIE
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JAMMER
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NEGATIVE
PUBLICSERVICE

RAGCHEW
ROTOR
SCANNER
SHIELD
TOWER
TRIBAND