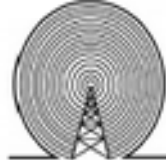


The Ham Arundel News



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

May 2015

36th Year of Publication

KK4GV SK

It is with a heavy heart that I pass on the news that Rick Creager, KK4GV, became a Silent Key Monday afternoon. Rick was a long-time club member, mentor, and outstanding ambassador for the Amateur Radio community.



You'll recall his excitement about retiring to the Pacific coast of Ecuador, finally making the move in early March. He came into his house yesterday shortly after noon and told Jennifer he was having chest pains. He collapsed before they could head to the local hospital. Emergency help arrived quickly, but there was nothing that could be done. He was 61.

Please keep Jennifer and Cody in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I'll pass along more information as it becomes available.

Godspeed Rick. You will be missed.

Brian [k3hmx](#)
President AARC

#####

I got the word of Rick's passing from Jennifer on Monday. I was absolutely shocked and speechless. He and I have been exchanging several emails a day as he was helping me with a project I was working on.

That was the kind of guy he was, always willing to help someone out, whether it was putting a new station on the air, elmering new hams, or just someone to bounce ideas off of. He was one of the first people that I met when I got into Ham radio and he was instrumental in getting my station on the air. After he helped me raise my first antenna, he got me on the air right away and I took off after that.

I will certainly miss Rick.

Mike – K3MAW

#####

[Re: KK4GV \(SK\)](#)

It is sad to hear of the passing of a good friend, Rick - KK4GV. As I ponder on the news, I started to remember how and where I met him. He was one of the first contacts I made when I moved from the Caribbean

island of Grenada to the cold state of Maryland. We always kept in touch, even after i moved from Maryland to Texas, we still kept in touch. He was instrumental in introducing me to a the AARC and its members. We even had a mutual friend Clem (J7CI) in Dominica. Then one day he emailed here in Texas to say he was going to central America, as he was retiring, and felt he wanted to lived like we did in the islands(free style). We even emailed each other about us working each other, once he moved and was setup to work HF. I agree with all the comments I have read here so far, He was a good man, a good ham and a very good DXer. His death is a great loss to the amateur hobby. May he rest in peace, and may his family be comforted in their time of lost. To his family from my family, please accept our deepest condolences. May God be with you at this time of your lost. And we will keep you in our prayers, that you may be comforted.

God bless.
Jerry, Aberdeen
KB3RWT/J39DF

#####

[Prayers sent for Rick.](#)

Prayers sent for Rick, Jennifer and Cody.

Rick was an awesome person and hearing of his passing was a great shock.

#####

(Ed. Note: KK4GV sent this for the May Issue on April 19, 2015 at 3:15 pm.)

Greetings from the coast of Ecuador from KK4GV and N3MDS.

Most of you know we moved in early March to our home on the Pacific coast of Ecuador. Although we did our research and explored the country extensively we knew there would be challenges. Learning a language and a different culture would be required for sure. We planned to import the dog, ship our household goods in a sea container, and apply for permanent residency visas. Some other things we just deal with as they occur.

First we spent a few days in Quito and bought a Mazda 4X4 diesel pickup so we would have transportation right from the start and not be in a rental car and living a day's drive from the airport. Even with an interpreter we hired it was somewhat of an ordeal but we did get the truck and insurance but no license plates. A week later our lawyer threatened them and they sent the plates by

courier.

When we got to Crucita the house was OK but the electricity had been cut off and the pool pump had failed before that. So it was like camping at first. I hooked up the electric meter and figured we would worry about the bill later. The pool was a yucky green and had dead crabs and other things the birds drop. It was also the hot, wet, mosquito season and the wind had died. Welcome to Ecuador.

One of the first things we needed was an internet connection but only 1 Mbps is available. Surprisingly, it mostly supports both of us remoting into work in Maryland and email, browsing, Echolink, TV streaming, etc. with only occasional buffering. We tried to retire but our companies need us so we will take the money for now. Talk about telecommuting.

Each day we make progress with something. Some days we lose ground. Eventually we got the pool cleaned up and a new pump running so lately after the intense equatorial sun has gotten low, I swim in the pool and watch the sunset over the ocean. We did get the electric in our name and paid the bill.

We have a 2000 gallon concrete water cistern but with the pool needing so much water in the first place and daily pool evaporation plus normal usage we use it up fast. But I just flag down the tanquero de agua and they fill it up for \$20. Funny thing, we also occasionally get supposedly chlorinated city water through a meter that is piped into the cistern. So just the other day we found the water company office and got that bill in our name and paid the \$27 balance due.

Our greatest accomplishment was to get two 18,000 BTU air conditioning units installed, one on each floor. That required a pair of 220 volt circuits to be run. My tools were not here yet and this type of construction is reinforced concrete, blocks, and stucco. Not something I have any experience pulling wire through. Sometimes they just rip a path in the wall, bury the new wires in cement, and sand and paint it. We opted for some surface mount conduit on the exterior to a hole in the wall.

But here is the funny part: The electricista arrived on a motorcycle with his tools, a helper, and a metal ladder. (I had purchased the wires, boxes, receptacles, breakers, and a ground rod.) Then they kicked off their sandals and worked in my electric panel barefooted! Not much here is grounded so I had them drive a ground rod and tie it into the A/C unit circuits. More electrical upgrades are planned including a new 100 meter wire run to the transformer (on the existing bamboo poles of course) so we won't be on the same undersized feeder with 4 other houses. GFI breakers on the 2-wire circuits, and a main breaker would be nice.

The sea container with all our stuff cleared customs and arrived in early April so we have been very busy unpacking and assembling and setting things up. It just does not end but we see progress every day. The shack with an ocean view is set up but no antennas are up yet. I put the weather station up here and you can access via Weather Underground at:

<http://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=IMANABIC2>

Note that the windspeed and direction are not

currently reporting. A sensor module PC board is on order from the US. Windspeed was the thing I am interested most here since nothing else changes much. The station worked fine for 5 years in MD and failed in a week here.

The weather station page has a map so you can see just where we live just about one degree south of the equator in Crucita, Manabi, Ecuador. Or you can just look us up on Google Maps or Google Earth.

Crucita means "little cross" and is a small fishing village. The fishermen beach their wooden outboard motor boats on the sand. Then they roll them on logs to launch them in the surf to go out again. They catch everything from tuna to shrimp so the seafood here is excellent. The town where we do most of our shopping is Portoviejo about 20 km away. Then there is a larger city Manta about 50 km away. The big port city of Guayaquil is 4 hours away and nice new international airport outside of the capital city of Quito is about 7 hours away. More if there is a flood or a mudslide. Quito is high in the Andes mountains so just imagine the road to the coast. It is a switchback adventure with steep dropoffs, crazy drivers, trucks, busses, fabulous views, and thundering waterfalls. Recently it was blocked by a mudslide for weeks. Back in January a bus went off the road and over the edge.

Motorcycles are popular low cost transportation here. Some times you see the whole family on the bike. Dad's driving with mom and two kids on the back and she's holding the baby.

My HC1GVT license was temporary from when I was traveling down here. I made over 1000 QSO's last year but the license has expired. I am trying to get HC4GV (we live in the 4th call area – the 1's are near Quito) but the regular license requires my residency visa first. We have been to our initial meeting with Inmigracion and the visas are applied for. With any luck I will be on the air in a few months.

I shipped a brand new hexbeam down here which will be on top of the house. With the hill we are on, the height of the house, and 20 feet of mast that should put the beam at about 80 feet above the Oceano Pacifico. The Flex-3000, the AL-80B amplifier, and a bunch of wire, insulators, and coax made it here too. The Manabi Radio Club in Portoviejo is nearby and we will join at the next meeting.

Lot's of critters in these parts. Ecuador has the worlds greatest bio-diversity. It's the wet season so when the wind dies there are mosquitos. Beetles and ants attack occasionally. A few little bright green chameleons like to come inside. Jenn found one hanging out on her computer keyboard. He looked like the Geico gecko. I unrolled a rug the other day and a small scorpion came out. The neighbor's kid grabbed a pair of scissors and cut the stinger off. I have seen one iguana so far but at least it was outdoors. Did I mention the fire ants and land crabs?

One night the neighbors called my attention to a large snake that was cornered outside their wall. They called it mata caballo which literally means "bush horse." It looked like a bushmaster to me. It is very deadly and just too close to the people and it will eat the neighbor's chickens so it was killed with a machete. On the less exiting side there are many beautiful birds to watch. I grabbed my camera to photograph two huge turkey

vultures sitting on my balcony rail. One pooped like a fire hose so now Rigel is trained to chase them away. He is learning to bark in Spanish. (Barking joke credit: W3VFR) No, really there are many exotic bird species. Lots of pelicans too here on the coast. Many exotic plants abound here as well.

The mountain to our east is an international paragliding destination. Owing to the constant ocean breezes and tall hill, people come from all over the world to glide. They stay up there for a long time and fly over our house. Sometimes we see a dozen colorful chutes flying back and forth. Usually they land back where they started but sometimes they fly right past the shack window and land on the beach. The hill will likely block RF to Brazil and Africa but some compromises had to be made to live in this incredible spot. There is some possibility in the future of getting an antenna or remote base up on the hill.

So if you are considering ex-pat living and want to be the DX come to Ecuador.

73

Rick, KK4GV

Jennifer, N3MDS



Prez Sez...



Spring has finally sprung! I know I said it was here last month, but I think it's finally got a foothold. At least it seems that way most days. Time for the age-old ritual of spring cleaning. I've been trying to declutter my shack, which is in an 8' x 10' storage room full of cans of paint and stains, craft supplies, my electronics bench and gear, and a little HF station in the corner. Not as fancy as a lot of you have, but I enjoy my modest setup. Getting a little more space from cleaning out will be welcome.

Speaking of cleaning out, we had several folks show up for most of Saturday the 11th to help clean out the storage building nearest the clubhouse. EVERYTHING came out except the shelves and an ancient low-band repeater in a cabinet that was too heavy to deal with at the time. We tried to be pretty good about getting rid of things, most hams are packrats at heart. We topped off the dumpster, got rid of some scrap wood, set aside some more promising items for an upcoming equipment sale, and left a pile for the Electronics Museum to look into. All of the speakers and such that are owned by the Roedown folks have been taken to their storage facility and we now have an almost clear floor! It will probably gradually get cluttered up again, but it looks nice for now...

Speaking of equipment sale, we've accumulated a lot of stuff and will be having a sale at the club meeting on May 21st! Come with an empty trunk, leave with an empty wallet!

Recently Bob Jeter, K3RSJ, asked to step down from his roles as repeater trustee and registered agent for the club. He's served in these roles for many years and done an excellent job for the club. At the April board meeting the board voted to select Giff Hammar, K1GAH, as our new trustee and Justin Leishman, KC3BJT, as our agent. For those not familiar, the resident agent is like the trustee but for the state instead of the FCC. He's the contact person for any business where the state needs to interact with AARC. I'd like to thank both Giff and Justin for volunteering for those jobs. They may be mostly behind the scenes types of things, but they're critical positions that keep the club legal and running smoothly.

We have had a volunteer for Public Service Coordinator, but given that the board hasn't met to vote on it, we'll save the big reveal for next month. In email exchanges with our prospective coordinator, I mentioned that I thought it might be harder to get volunteers in larger clubs versus smaller ones. In the smaller clubs, I think folks realize that there are only so many folks available to get things done and so they may be more inclined to take on various roles. In larger clubs, such as ours, it might be easier to assume that with so many members someone else will do it. Just realize that most other folks might be thinking the same thing! I'm sure the folks heading up the various Field Day tasks could all use some help, so please consider volunteering to help on one of the groups. While it's not difficult, it still takes a fair amount of people to pull off Field Day – if you've attended in the past you know it's

a big deal! Willing hands are needed all around, so get in touch with Dick Maio, WW3R, if you can help out.

I'll keep it short for this month and end with a couple of pictures of the clean-up earlier this month. As I write this IT'S 61 DAYS UNTIL FIELD DAY!!!

73 Brian K3HMX



A small portion of the contents. There's a lot here that's going bye-bye.



Jim, Justin, and Patty making one of MANY trips to the dumpster.



Look at all that glorious space!

Friends Moving On

Dear friends

As Shakespeare wrote in Romeo and Juliet, "...Parting is such sweet sorrow."

The time has come when we must say goodbye and endure that sweet sorrow as we embark upon our new journey.

Since 1993 we've made many friends within the AARC and we've probably pissed some people off along the way as well. But for the most part, it has been an enjoyable 22+ years. The fondest memories we'll take with us will be of the VE Team, Field Day and AARC Jr.

While we've become good friends with many club members over the past 20+ years, there are some relationships that center around and then extend beyond our shared hobby. These very special friends are like family and while we will miss all of you, we will especially miss them.

K3TH - Tom Hogevoil

K3MHL - Mark Houston-Ludlam

K3BAY - Steve Kelly

Our favorite memories include planning and conducting numerous Field Days with AARC Jr. and later with AARC; Wild trips to Dayton; Participating in and winning the MDC QSO Party twice including the elusive "Worked All Multipliers"; Participating in lots of contests; Working with Tom and Steve on the VE Team. All three were members of the Board of Directors with AARC Jr. For a good portion of 6-7 years the five of us met at the clubhouse nearly every Saturday to help a few kids get their license, discuss amateur radio, experiment with antennas and other things, and help people who stopped by with questions. Occasionally we helped people get on the air and enjoyed each others company. Those were very special and memorable times never to be forgotten.

As members of the AARC VE Team it was an honor for the both of us to serve as the Team Leader and we are proud of the team we leave behind. You are, in our humble opinions, the absolute best of the Laurel VEC. As the Laurel VEC Regional Coordinator for the 3rd VEC Region, Bob will be keeping a real close eye on you guys. We know you'll do just fine with Steve Kelly in charge. No pressure Steve.

Field Day has always held a special place in our hearts since the mid-90s. So it was a distinct honor and a pleasure to have a minor role in three "large format" Field Day events including "winning" the 10A category in 2013. While we played a minor part in those events, it was you, the AARC membership, who did all the work, operated the radio stations and made all the contacts. All of the success we enjoyed as a club is because of your efforts. You made it happen in spite of the crazy "commercials" you were forced to endure. We hope you'll become more heavily engaged in the AARC Field Day operating event this and every year. It's the biggest operating event in US and Canadian amateur radio and we're hams. It's what we do. No excuses. Be there and help make a difference and

AARC STAFF - 2014 OFFICERS

President:

Brian Mary / K3HMX 301-262-4075
b_mary@comcast.net

Vice Pres:

Wayne Precht / AB3RY 240-268-9070
wayne@wayneprecht.org

Secretary:

Jonathan Grafe / KB3ZVO 240-426-2664
KB3ZVO@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Justin Leishman / KC3BJT _____
leishman.public@icloud.com

Directors:

Mark Bova / W2PAW 240-274-6294
w2paw@markbova.com
Giff Hammar / K1GAH 443-221-7273
k1gah@arrl.net
Timothy Nagel / KB3YQK _____
kb3yqk@gmail.com

REPRESENTATIVES

Trustee:

Resident Agent:

Bob Jeter / K3RSJ 410-315-9403
jeter904@verizon.net

DFRC Rep:

Milford Craig / N3WYG 301-218-8867
n3wyg@w3vpr.org

Public Relations:

Paul Bowling / W4ATN 410-934-1355
paul@w4atn.com
Assistant: Holly Bevan / N3MB 410-923-0229
n3mb@arrl.net

Program Chairman:

Wayne Precht / AB3RY 240-268-9070
wayne@wayneprecht.org

ARES/RACES:

Ron Boller / N3WOF 410-956-6127
n3wof@arrl.net

Joint 440 Comm:

Walt King / N3USB 449-791-4174
mdfirenet55@aol.com

FAR Representative

Ed Brown / KA3ZPE 301-856-3317
brownmejr@comcast.net

COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

Public Service:

Repeater Ops:

John Williams / K8JW 410-847-7406
k8jw@verizon.net

VE Team:

Steve Kelly / K3BAY 410-975-6246
k3bay@comcast.net

Training:

Keith Miller / AE3D 301-805-1854
ae3d@graykitty.net

Packet Radio:

Jonathan Grafe / KB3ZVO 240-426-2664
KB3ZVO@arrl.net

Newsletter:

Milford Craig / N3WYG 301-218-8867
n3wyg@w3vpr.org

Web Page:

Steve Kelly / K3BAY 410-975-6246
k3bay@comcast.net

Field Day:

Dick Maio / WW3R 410-956-5099
ww3r.maio@gmail.com

MDC QSO Party

Mike Watterson / K3MAW 301-830-2500
mwatterson@gmail.com

MD Slow Net:

Bruce Stewart / W8CPG 304-940-3076
chickenfarm9@gmail.com

ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator:

Martin J. Pittinger / KB3MXM 410-356-7899
kb3mxm@arrl.net



VE Testing Schedule

**Second Saturday of each month –
Noon – AARC – Steve Kelly / K3BAY
410-975-6246 k3bay@comcast.net**

**Third Saturday of each month – 9AM – Laurel ARC –
John Creel, 301-572-5124**

**Fourth Tuesday of each month – 6PM – MMARC –
Mike Montrose / KA2JAI 443-310-4907 web site is
tinyurl.com/marylandmobileers**

To all exams bring:

- Picture ID
- Social Security Number or FCC Registration Number (FRN)
- **ORIGINAL** and a **COPY** of current FCC amateur radio license
- **ORIGINAL** and a **COPY** of all element credits (eg., FCC letters, old licenses or unexpired Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination-CSCE).

A Cheap and Easy Microphone Repair

What's the part of your transceiver that gets the most use? Maybe it's the dial. Or maybe the other knobs that change settings other than the frequency. There are many candidates, but one morning last month, I learned about one of them the hard way. I was driving down the road and attempting to join the "Holly net", and I knew something was wrong. You are not supposed to hear a courtesy tone while transmitting, are you? Well, I did. And although I was recognized on the net, I could tell that all of my transmissions were not being received. A little bit more detective work lead me to suspect my push-to-talk switch, and later I confirmed it. It was very erratic, and I wondered how much longer it would function at all. So after I got home, I began to investigate the problem in my usual manner: surf the web for information and answers. My radio is an ICOM 2200H, and the model of the microphone is HM-133V. When I searched for a replacement microphone, I learned two things: 1) the list price for the HM-133V is about \$80 (ouch!). 2) There are counterfeit versions with almost the same markings selling for about \$18 on eBay. I didn't find either of these observations encouraging, so I dug a little deeper. And I hit pay-dirt! I found this site:

<http://www.directdirt.com/2015/01/repair-icom-hm-133-ptt-switch/> and it walks you through the repair of the microphone. It seems that the most difficult problem for the author was to detect what the switch part number is. Once he had found out that it is a C&K PTS645VK39-2 LFS, he ordered one from Digikey (part number [CKN10053-ND](#)) and it cost him 29 cents, plus postage. The microphone is easy to disassemble, and the switch can easily be de-soldered and replaced. So I ordered the part myself, and did my own repair, and now it works like a champ. Total cost was \$2.81: .29 plus .02 tax plus 2.50 postage and handling.

Now some would say that this was a successful solution to the problem, but there is even more good news: I also have an ICOM 7000 radio, and although the microphone model is different (HM-151), it looks a lot like the HM-133V, and the shape and size of their housings are almost identical. So I took that microphone apart, and indeed, its PTT switch seems to be the identical model. So I surmise that you can fix any similar ICOM microphone with this part. And who knows, maybe it also could be used with mics from other manufacturers. But this is a topic for more research

If you do not wish to tackle the de-soldering and re-soldering task associated with this repair, you can of course have someone else do it for you. Bob Nagy, AB5N, is famous for his "upgrade" service for ICOM HM-151 microphones, and he also replaces the PTT switches for \$19.95. Postage both ways adds another \$18. He says that "the installation is a bear and takes a while to do". I personally found it moderately challenging, but with a proper soldering iron with a sharp pencil tip and some de-soldering braid, it went relatively smoothly and took me about 15 minutes.

And now for the best part for you, dear AARC member and reader of this article. I have placed a second

order for a quantity of these switches, under the assumption that there are many AARC members who may own a similar ICOM microphone, which either has a malfunctioning PTT switch, or which WILL have a malfunctioning PTT switch sometime in the future. If your ICOM's microphone needs a new PTT switch, see me for the part—provided free to AARC members—which you can use to repair it.

---Chuck Tanner K3ACT k3act@verizon.net

AA

Did you Know???

Where did "73" come from and what does it mean?

The traditional expression "73" goes right back to the beginning of the landline telegraph days. It is found in some of the earliest editions of the numerical codes, each with a different definition, but each with the same idea in mind--it indicated that the end, or signature, was coming up. But there are no data to prove that any of these were used.

The first authentic use of 73 is in the publication *The National Telegraph Review and Operators' Guide*, first published in April 1857. At that time, 73 meant "My love to you!" Succeeding issues of this publication continued to use this definition of the term. Curiously enough, some of the other numerals then used have the same definition now that they had then, but within a short time, the use of 73 began to change.

In the National Telegraph Convention, the numeral was changed from the Valentine-type sentiment to a vague sign of fraternalism. Here, 73 was a greeting, a friendly "word" between operators and it was so used on all wires.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the standard "92 Code". A list of numerals from one to 92 was compiled to indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 Code, 73 changes from a fraternal sign to a very flowery "accept my compliments," which was in keeping with the florid language of that era.

Over the years from 1859 to 1900, the many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* shows it merely as "compliments." *The Twentieth Century Manual of Railway and Commercial Telegraphy* defines it two ways, one listing as "my compliments to you;" but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments." Theodore A. Edison's *Telegraphy Self-Taught* shows a return to "accept my compliments." By 1908, however, a later edition of the Dodge Manual gives us today's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older meaning in another part of the work where it also lists it as "compliments."

"Best regards" has remained ever since as the "put-it-down-in-black-and-white" meaning of 73 but it has acquired overtones of much warmer meaning. Today, amateurs use it more in the manner that James Reid had intended that it be used --a "friendly word between operators."

(Thanks to the "ARRL Radio History for this vignette)

Emergency Communicator's Notebook - 5

- **Do not overdo it**

Do not insist on working more than your assigned shift if others can take over.

From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book

- **Two operators at every station**

Experience has shown that emergency stations work best if there are at least two operators on duty at all times. One should stay completely focused on the radio traffic. The other should assist and also "run interference" for the first operator. At the very least, the second operator should keep the area quiet. The two operators should periodically switch positions.

From Briefings from many Simulated Emergency Tests

- **Plan for a windy day**

If you have to set up your field station outside, you almost certainly will have to contend with the wind. It will affect your ability to hear and may even get into your microphone and garble your transmissions. It will also scatter any loose papers you have at your station. Think about how you can address these issues before your next deployment.

From Everyone who has ever set up an outside station

- **Generator spikes**

If you plan to connect your communications equipment to a generator, you may get an erratic supply of electricity. Worse, your equipment could be damaged by power spikes. If you have to use a generator, put a line conditioner between it and your radio equipment.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

- **Take care of yourself**

The Introduction to Emergency Communication manual says that your personal safety comes ahead of the mission. Don't put yourself at risk. You cannot help the emergency relief efforts if you allow yourself to become sick or injured.

From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book

- **Time to check your go-bag**

Just as the arrival of Daylight Savings Time is a reminder to check the batteries in your smoke detector, the arrival of Field Day should remind you to go through your go-bag and check the perishables. Don't stop with the food and water. Remember the toothpaste, anti-perspirant, medicines, and anything else that might dry out or go bad. While you're at it, check the batteries stored in your bag.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

- **Consider upgrading your license**

Your day-to-day activities in the amateur radio hobby may not require a higher level license, but what about when disaster strikes? The additional privileges and the knowledge that you gain while obtaining them could serve you well during an emergency.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

- **Know what tools you will need**

You cannot anticipate every tool that you may need, but a good start would be to figure out which tools

you need to assemble and disassemble your field station. Make sure that your Go Kit includes all of them.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

- **Plain language is best**

Plain language is best, especially during an emergency. Q-signals and jargon aren't understood by everyone. Some police departments are even dropping 10-codes in favor of plain language.

From Various, including IEC course book and the Cable News Network

- **Anyone can be a mentor**

You can help a new person, no matter how much or how little you know. Newcomers always have questions, but are often reluctant to ask them. If you see someone new at a meeting go over and introduce yourself. Break the ice and make him or her feel welcome. A little friendliness can go a long, long way.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

- **UHF as well as VHF**

We are used to ARES activities taking place on the 2 meter band, but this may not always be so. The Missouri ARES Interoperability Plan indicates that on-site operations should take place on the UHF 70 centimeter band. If you do not have any 70 centimeter equipment, consider purchasing a hand held transceiver for that band.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

- **Have a backup**

Experts in preparedness tell us that we need to have three ways to do everything. We may never achieve that goal, but we can at least have spare pens and pencils, extra batteries, and more than one flashlight. Once you have spares of the easy stuff, you might consider adding such things as backup antennas and transceivers.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

- **Don't step on the tail**

Before you key up, wait for the repeater "tail" to drop. That is, wait for the repeater to stop transmitting completely. Then mentally count to three. That should allow enough time for any person or device that has difficulty with connecting to get in.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

- **Don't forget the message forms**

When going to a disaster scene, don't forget to take along some standard ARRL message forms. The agency managing the disaster may not have a form of its own, and you almost certainly will be asked to send some formal messages. Our recent mass power outage showed the value of a simple battery powered AM-FM radio. It could be your only source of important news and announcements. Also be sure to have spare batteries on hand.

From Bob Ernst, KC0NRK

- **Generator safety**

When running a gasoline powered generator, do not place it indoors or in any location where the exhaust could be blown indoors. Many people end up in emergency rooms with carbon monoxide poisoning because of poorly placed generators.

From Ed Harris, KC0UKR; Dr. Zulfia Kisrieva-Ware, M.D., Ph.D.; and a host of others

Anne Arundel Radio Club, Inc.

Anne Arundel Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 308
Davidsonville, MD 21035

First Class Mail

