



Q R M

JUNE 2007

KEATING FLOYD (KC4HSI) EDITOR

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bill Bode, N4WEB

It's that time of year ... Field Day. And in usual TARC fashion, we will be 'burning up the airways' and scaring all the neighbors with our array of equipment and activity.

As the 'big day' approaches and we again prepare for our annual foray in the US's largest 'non-contest contest', I'd like to have you think back to your most memorable Field Day, and the single event that made it so. I imagine your recollections will be quite varied and special to you. Some of you will remember all the setup activities, or unexpected events, like bad weather, mosquitoes, or even the great food, or that first contact or 'run' where you were the object of all

those hams' attention. Whatever made that memory so electric and Field Day so habit forming we plan family vacations around it, please be sure

to get all the new hams involved and share that excitement. It's a feeling that any new ham will never forget, and keep coming back for more.



Early TARC Field Day (TARC still holds the W4DUG call sign)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Field Day June 22-24 on clubhouse grounds.
- Hurricane Season is here—be prepared.
- ARECC classes now forming
- TARCfest XVIII on August 25.
- www.hamclub.org has more details

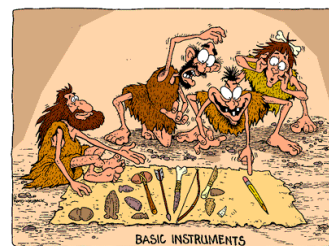
NEWCOMER ADVICE

Keating Floyd, KC4HSI

Now you've done it. You've gone and passed the test, and have your very own call sign. You even got a sweet deal on a radio. What did you get? You likely found either a handi-talkie or a mobile radio with VHF capabilities. You'd like to talk to someone on it, but you're a little unsure how. The display shows

144.000, and that doesn't really mean anything to you.

Remember that Technician Class test? One of the questions might have been "What is the frequency range of the 2 meter band in the United States?" The answer, as you knew then, is 144 to 148 MHz. Your display



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is simply showing the starting range of your transmission
(Continued on Page 4)

A HAM FOR ALL SEASONS

"Biff," we all call him.

"K4LAW" is his call sign. That gives us a hint that he may have another life. Biff is a true radiohead, yes, but he also has another life, even another name: Seth Craine. Attorney-at-Law.

Biff is one of those we might call "the Ham for All Seasons." He's one who is always willing, ready and able to put up a 100-foot tower, to run a meeting, to go on the air in an emergency drill. Or a real emergency. He's a familiar face at the clubhouse.

Busy as he is with TARC do-

ings, Biff's other life takes up most of his time. And, BTW, he has a private life, too.

He was first "hooked" on radio (we all know how that feels) at 14. Biff's father was a letter carrier in Fort Pierce and one of the people on his Dad's route gave Biff his first piece of radio equipment, an instant general coverage receiver. The giver, of course, was a ham operator. And, like all ham operators, he wanted to get others interested in all the fun that hams can have – and the many services that hams can give.

He certainly got Biff, the 52-year-old Biff that we know today, interested.

He could only receive, not send, but as Biff points out, back then you could not earn on-air privileges without Morse Code.

Later, Biff splurged, spending "lots of

money" for a Heathkit DX60, and entered into entry class with 75 watts, crystal, on three bands, 80, 40 and 15.

Oh yeah, he's had another life, too.

He left Fort Pierce for Tallahassee when it was time to go to college, graduating from Florida State University and becoming heavily involved in state politics.

"I never ran for public office," he insisted. But he ran many campaigns for others. Winning campaigns.

At FSU, Biff's undergraduate work had been in government.

"I was always interested in government," he said.

So interested that he went on to graduate school, studying urban planning, a major aspect of local government. Next was law school, also at FSU.

After being tapped by the Florida Democratic Party to become its executive director, he served as political director for the Florida Asso-

ciation of Realtors..

After spending 1972 through 1986 in Tallahassee, rising higher and higher, he moved to Tampa to open a law practice, focusing on land use and environmental law and on the zoning field. "P 'n' Z," the pros call it. Planning and Zoning.

You know how they tell you, when you're writing a resume, that it should seem that everything you've ever done has aimed you at the job you might be applying for? In Biff's case, it really has.

Today, he's a Tampa attorney practicing not just in Hillsborough County. He also has cases in the surrounding counties.

"Each of the counties," he points out, "has a completely different set of planning and zoning regulations."

To keep up-to-date in his field, Biff has since taken classes available in Tampa, sponsored by FSU, in urban and regional planning. This
(Continued on Page 3)



Biff Craine, K4LAW

HEARD 'ROUND THE TARC FEST

I know my son and I had a good time. Tony had fun looking at all the radio equipment and pressing/turning knobs and buttons. Thank you for putting him on the air in the radio room.

That was the icing on the cake. Now, he keeps asking MOM, when is the next TARC FEST? I love it. We are looking forward to the next one. — Joe G., W4EMI

Well for me, I found the following:

A 2 meter Mobile rig. An ICOM mike that I needed for the IC-720 I have lying around. And last but not least, a Hauppauge TV Tuner

card for my Linux Box at home so I can share the TV if there is something I would rather watch than the rest do not.

Amazingly enough it all fit in my scooter trunk! — Mark B., KG4RDV

FIGHTING FIELD DAY FEAR

(Or, "How to Catch Field Day Fever for the Very First Time!")

Being **totally** inexperienced is **not** a drawback to the fun that can be had by participating in the Field Day experience. I know. I've been through it. Let me share what I thought of my first time on the Field Day 'frontlines', and share some tips to help you overcome your reservations about participating this year.

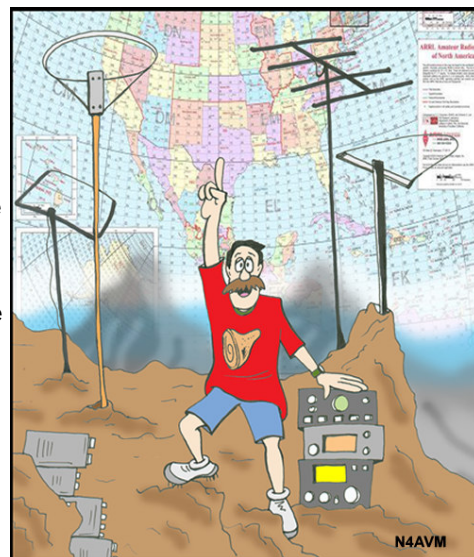
I was nervous just thinking about going to Field Day, at first, and had qualms about trying to help do anything! Being totally inexperienced was going to be a problem, I was sure. Well, let me assure you that I didn't break anything (I was being careful), and I had a great time helping with the set up of some of the equipment. I have to tell you that the radio hams that do this year in and year out are eager to share,

teach, and advise ANYONE who is willing to lend a hand! I just asked who needed help, and someone eagerly accepted my offer. My son, Alex, found that helping assemble antennas was enjoyable, even after a full day of work. Helping with the set up was interesting and fun, minus the influence of the starving mosquitoes munching hungrily on any exposed skin! That was the only drawback to our time in the field on Field Day. Bug spray applied generously soon took care of that problem. We liked seeing how challenging and rewarding it is to set up radio operations away from home! We learned that it's good to make lists so one doesn't forget to bring everything needed. We also learned that if you do forget something, the "MacGyver" talent found in many hams is very valuable! "Semper Gumby"!

The next day, we returned to try our hands at operating. Being nervous about my total inexperience amongst all the 'tried and true' radio operators, I entered the GOTA (Get on the Air) station camper trailer with Alex hesitantly. Ian, W4RIR, our control operator, made us feel immediately welcome.

Sitting at the radio and laptop computer (for logging in contacts) were a father and his young son. It was a relief to see that you didn't need to be a pro to contribute to the effort of making as many contacts as possible for Field Day. When it was our turn to give it a try, Alex went first. It was fun to listen, and to tune the radio to hear the people from all over the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean on

Jodi Pecoraro, K14FWJ



@ Jerry Gault, N4AVM

the air. We enjoyed speaking into the mike, saying the TARC call sign, and listening for our turn to make the contact. Alex really got the hang of it, and did a fine job, while I became good at logging his contacts into the computer. It was exciting, believe it or not, when we heard W4DUG being called back to us for our first contact! We wondered over the weird
(Continued on Page 4)

A HAM FOR ALL SEASONS

guy likes to study and learn.

Biff also teaches. He's in demand to make speeches for groups of people who are worrying about Florida's future. What about the planning field? Is it taking care of Florida?

One of his favorite lines in those speeches is: "We have moved from failing to plan to planning to fail."

Is he more optimistic about the field of ham radio?

Not really. Biff worries that we've gotten far too sophisticated. He's worked the drills, and is concerned about the over-sophistication of equipment.

"With code, you can send with two wires."

By bringing computers into

the equation, he wonders what will happen in a real emergency, when power to the computers goes out.

To get around to what we all want to know: Does he watch *Boston Legal*?

"Very seldom," says Biff. "I liked the former one (*The Practice*) better.

Boston Legal is just farcical."

(continued from page 2)

This ham for all seasons still pursues politics, strictly as a hobby today. He's very interested in elections and watches them carefully. Liars and cheaters better be careful.

BTW, all us hams: next time you're looking over your unused equipment, pick out an old receiver and give it to some kid. It works.

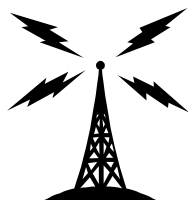
FIGHTING FIELD DAY FEAR

(continued from page 3)

science that allowed folks from Alaska to sound so clear, while folks in Alabama sounded scratchy. Must have been the conditions AND the amount of power being used to transmit. I also did a decent job at making contacts, and we found out that some hams preferred talking to the Young Ladies (YLs) during Field Day!

I guess you could say that Alex and I got over our shy-

ness. In fact, we became somewhat addicted to the "Hunt and Pounce" excitement of the event. It's like playing 'hide and seek', 'tag you're it', or a game of skill and chance! The operating environment was supportive and patient. Ian was an excellent host. We returned several times over the course of the next 24 hours. We ended with helping take some of the antennas down, and bringing some radios to



bad either!

Overall, it was a GREAT experience, and I look forward to participating this year. My tips for you 'first timers' are simple. I believe that it helps to have a friend come with you the first time to Field

the trailer for the ride back to the clubhouse. Hey, and the food wasn't half

Day, and you're in luck this year! I'll be helping man the GOTA station with Ian, and we will gladly be your friends! We promise to make you feel welcomed and comfortable! Bring bug spray with you, too, unless the mosquitoes don't like you. Whether you're an experienced ham or not, you should plan on joining the effort! I bet that you'll be glad you did!

Jodi

KI4FriendsWithJodi

(continued from page 1)

NEWCOMER ADVICE

privileges. Pretty straightforward, huh? No? Still no help?

I agree. The radio you've acquired, while obviously functional, doesn't really do much for you until you tell it where you want to talk. There is probably a button or a switch that's labeled VFO/Mem, or V/M, or something like that. You need to be in VFO mode - press that button a couple of times, perhaps, as needed, until you can spin a knob to get 147.105 into your display (or even key in those numbers on your microphone).

Great progress! Attach an antenna, and you're now set up to listen on the 147.105 repeater in Tampa! Congratulations!

What? Oh - you want to talk, too? OK. Don't worry - we can do that. A little more

work is needed. The radio needs to transmit a sub-audible tone (or PL tone, or CTCSS tone) along with your voice in order to access this machine. It also needs what's called "positive offset" (which simply means that the radio will transmit on 147.705, while listening on 147.105).

Positive offset is easy - almost all radios today understand the band plan, and will set things up to transmit at 147.705 (600 Hertz up from 147.105).

The tone is a little tougher, and you'll need to refer to your manual for that (check the internet for your model if you got no manual, or send an email to the elmer team via elmer@hamclub.org). Look for the section that describes PL tone (not likely called that, unless you have a Motorola radio - they've copy-

righted that) or CTCSS tone (that's likely what they're calling it) or DCS (probably not that, but it may be near that section).

Once you've found that, you need to change the tone to 146.2Hz, which is what is needed to access the 147.105 machine.

Now you're getting somewhere! Your radio is set up to transmit on the TARC VHF machine! Listen for a little while, and see if anyone is talking, and to get a feel for how people use this machine.

There are a couple of nets running on this repeater. On Tuesday night, at 8 PM, is the TARCNet. Check that one out, and when the Net Control says "New stations, call now" or "Any station, please call now" or something like that, take a deep breath,

press the Mic button, and say "This is" (let go the mic, and see if anyone else is talking that moment) (press the mic again) "KI4XXX (your call sign), (your name), in Tampa. First time check in."

You'll be rewarded for your clean check in by the net control station calling on you by name, and welcoming you to the net. (The other net is on Wednesdays at 8PM. It's the CERT net, and you're welcome there, too.)

Congratulations! You've used your radio for the very first time, and now have access to a large group of people who are always willing to lend a hand. The Amateur community is a wonderful fraternity of people who love to help other people learn to do new things, so don't hesitate to ask questions.

Enjoy!

AN AMERICAN TRADITION

CERT: Carrying on an American Tradition

You might be wondering how CERT can be part of an American tradition? It's a relatively new group, right? Let me ask you a question before I explain myself. What is more American than being self-reliant, having a "can do" spirit, and being supportive of each other in times of emergency? Aren't these some of the best traits we Americans share? Aren't these the traits of many amateur radio operators?

Let me provide a bit of background for those of you unfamiliar with CERT. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) group was started after the Loma Prieta Earthquakes hit California in 1989. Many people tried to help out with search and

rescue, but ended up becoming victims themselves when roads and buildings would collapse on them! The folks at FEMA decided it would be a better idea to train civilians to know the proper way to help out when the professionals are overwhelmed by a mass disaster, such as an earthquake or hurricane. They teach you how to be prepared for emergencies, battle small fires, conduct safe search and rescue, do triage, basic first aid, and learn a bit of disaster psy-



chology so you can handle the stress in yourself and others. You get hands-on training during the classes, and practice drills are held periodically.

The CERT program is based upon self-reliance. You are taught to take care of yourself and your family first. If you escape a disaster unscathed, then you may want to help your neighbors. If your neighbors have fared well, too, then you can help out in your neighborhood. However, there is never an obligation to do anything after you're trained, but you'll know what you're doing if you decide to help out!

We all were shocked and saddened by the disaster that started with Hurricane Katrina, the total lack of preparedness demonstrated by

Jodi Pecoraro, KI4FWJ

many of the residents of the Gulf States, and the disastrous response of FEMA. I don't know about you, but I don't want the Tampa area to ever look like that area did after the storm passed and all the human errors took over. The more people there are who know what they're doing, the better off we'll all be if a disaster comes calling.

I encourage everyone, regardless of age or circumstances, to take CERT training. You can add CERT training to your toolbox of skills, on top of ham radio, that might prove useful to YOU during emergencies. The only thing it costs is your time. You will become part of a group of people who are willing to take responsibility for taking care of themselves, and are often willing to help others in times of need.

INTERESTING LINKS

National Radio Astronomy Observatory

<http://www.nrao.edu/>
Via: Sheldon Harvey,
Greenfield Park, Quebec

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) is a research facility of the U.S. National Science Foundation. We provide state-of-the-art radio telescope facilities for use by

the scientific community. We conceive, design, build, operate and maintain radio telescopes used by scientists from around the world. Scientists use our facilities to study virtually all types of astronomical objects known, from planets and comets in our own Solar System to quasars and galaxies billions of light-years away.

Founded in 1956, the NRAO has its headquarters in Charlottesville VA, and operates major radio telescope facilities at Green Bank WV, Socorro NM, and Tucson AZ.

Maritime Radio Historical Society

<http://www.radiomarine.org/>

Via: Sheldon Harvey,
Greenfield Park, Quebec

A group of dedicated individuals who share the goal of documenting, preserving and restoring the remaining artifacts of maritime radio history, with a special interest in the stations, ships and companies of the Pacific coast of the United States.

Courtesy, The Radio H. F. Newsletter

THE WORLD OF DX

DXCC card checkers are now permitted to check WAS and UVCC cards.

I am available to check cards after Mid Florida DX Association VE Sessions on the second Saturday of every month. Keep in mind that we only have the room reserved till

noon. First priority is the VE session candidates. Contact me at

TonyN2MFT@gmail.com or 318-1700 to set up an appointment. I'm available during the day since I'm retired.

A check list for DXCC is on

W4FDX.com web site. Make sure to bring a stamped business envelope with you.

In May 2007 Scarborough Reef was on the air. This is the #1 country in the world on the Most Wanted List. BS7H logged over 45,000 QSO's.

If you were one of the few lucky hams World Wide who was able to work them, congratulations.

Most of the time I could not hear them, between the KC Cops, Tuner Uppers, intentional interference and operators who were so excited to hear them they forgot which VFO they were TX on. Conditions were not favorable to Florida this time.

Remember: Work First Worry Later. You may not have worked the DX station you thought you worked. There

are some Pirates out there operating every day.

This team deserves a lot of credit. Operating from a platform no larger than 2 m x 2 m on top of coral for hours on end is not easy. Photos of the team and Scarborough Reef are on their website at www.BS7H.com

Other photos and interviews can be found around the web on YouTube and [http://www.dokufunk.org/index.php?](http://www.dokufunk.org/index.php?ID=2094&PHPSESSID=7becd1dc03dcd15e016780a86adfe5c6#A2094)

[ID=2094&PHPSESSID=7becd1dc03dcd15e016780a86adfe5c6#A2094](http://www.dokufunk.org/index.php?ID=2094&PHPSESSID=7becd1dc03dcd15e016780a86adfe5c6#A2094)

The DX Cluster is for spotting DX. The past few rare DXpeditions I saw more and more "nothing here (insert state)." Using this tool properly helps others locate DX. To chase that DX, use your basic HF operating skills first. Tune
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The BS7H Team on one of the platforms at Scarborough Reef

DID YOU KNOW — LIGHTHOUSES!

The Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society offers up the first Sun Solstice Sweepstakes!

DATES & TIMES

1806 hrs UTC on June 21, 2007 (=2:06 PM EDT, June 21), the exact time when the sun reaches its northernmost latitude on its travel north, through 1806 hrs UTC on June 24, 2007, to allow for weekend participation.

MODES & FREQS

Any and all modes: SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK, FM, SSTV, etc.

Call "CQ SSSS"

Suggested Calling Frequencies:

Suggested SSB freqs (+/- 20 kc): 1.970, 3.970, 7.270, 14.270, 18.145, 21.370, 28.370

Suggested CW freqs (+/- 20 kc): 1.830, 3.530, 7.030,

14.030, 18.073, 21.030, 28.030

Since this is NOT a contest, contacts on WARC bands are allowed and will be counted toward certificates.

EXCHANGES

ARLHS members send call sign, member number, state/province/country

Non-members send call, serial number, state/province/

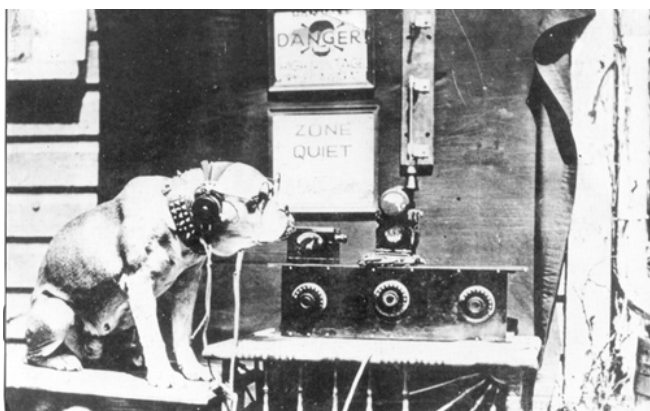
country

Lighthouse/Lightship Stations send call, ARLHS lighthouse number, state/province/country

NOTE: A numbered list of ARLHS lighthouses is available by going to page 10 of the ARLHS web site at <http://arlhs.com>.

Certificates are available. For more information, see <http://arlhs.com>

GO KIT IDEAS



SEE SPOT. SEE SPOT RUN (NOT IN THE GO KIT)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|
| consider HF as well | above choice |
| • Headset/speaker microphone for above | • Ropes |
| • HF antenna, depending on | • Wire ties |
| | • Screwdrivers |

- Socket Set
- Multimeter
- Soldering iron
- Power tools (drill, saw – chainsaw?)
- Other useful tools

This of course goes along with your own provisions and readiness kit for you and your family.

Some useful web sites for go-kit idea include:

- <http://zinfoserv.com/arkan/prepare.php>
- <http://www.races.org/gokit.htm>

- <http://www.falara.org/eops/Basic24hourKit27RFD07-03-03.pdf>

And a link to some links:

- <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/cuti/N1HY/Go-Kits/>

There are likely as many go-kit ideas as there are amateur radio operators willing to be deployed in a disaster scenario. The key here is to understand not only what's in your kit, but be ready to rapidly find the bag or box, and be prepared to use it during a disaster or when the need arises.

THE WORLD OF DX

around and listen for them. Are they operating split? Search the Cluster for previous entries on a QSL route.

To help ensure return QSL cards, a good tool for checking call signs is Pathfinder, found at <http://www.dxlabsuite.com/pathfinder/WebClient/> Check at least 2 sources of QSL information. Nothing is more frustrating than seeing your QSL come back marked addressee unknown. This happens even when the address has been known for centuries. I worked G6UW, Cambridge University Wireless Society, in February 2005. My QSL was returned by the UK Royal Post. I checked the address again to make sure it was correct.

Sent it a second time and was successful. When addressing my outbound envelopes I copy and paste the address to each envelope to minimize transcribing errors. Mistakes do happen from time to time.

As you are aware, US postage increased on 14 May 2007. Postage has also increased in many other countries. The UK has increased their rates slightly more than 1% 2 April 2007. Keep this in mind when QSLing.

QSLing is part of the contact. I really enjoy seeing a nice color card from some place I will never see in my lifetime. The cost is minimal to have a professionally printed card, and you can provide the



The BS7H Logo

same feelings of joy for your contacts. Most cards cost less than \$0.15 to print. It gives each QSO a special place in my mind.

In the same way a box full of

old family photographs brings back happy thoughts, so do all my cards.

Tony is the President of the Mid Florida DX Association, W4FDX

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(Continued from page 6)

Easy to get to! Take 22nd street north till you run out of road, look to the right and then up! We are at the bottom of the towers!





Tampa Amateur Radio Club Inc.

7801 North 22nd Street
P.O. Box 11933
Tampa, FL 33680
813-301-7209
info@hamclub.org
www.hamclub.org
Since 1922




**THE SOUTHEAST'S
PREMIERE AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB!**

The Tampa Amateur Radio Club holds meetings at the TARC Operations Center every Monday night at 7:30pm.

On the first Monday of the month, regular business meetings are held. The second Monday features training & mentoring for new hams. The third Monday of the month features presentations on topics of interest to the club membership. The fourth and fifth Mondays are usually informal and are a great time to chat and play with the radios. TARC also holds licensing classes and hosts VE Testing.

Please check www.hamclub.org for current dates and times.

Have an idea for a story or article for QRM? Please send email to QRM@hamclub.org

Attach mailing label here

QRM is lucky to have acquired the talented services of a ham who also happens to be a skilled artist. Jerry Gault, N4AVM, made the colorful illustration on page 3. A big QRM "thank you!" goes out to Jerry!

GO KIT IDEAS

Keating Floyd, KC4HSI

Hurricane season is here, and, as we've often reminded you in QRM, you should have your go kit ready. Some of you have asked the question "What should be in my go kit?" We'll answer that here.

There are two sorts of go kits to be considered. The first sort goes with you, pretty much all the time. It lives behind the seat of the car, or near the front door of the

house, so it can be grabbed and used at a moment's notice. This kit will keep you operating in the first few hours of an incident or event. The basic list of items in this go kit should include:

- **your handheld radio**
- **the manual for same**
- **the antenna**
- **a "better" antenna**
- **additional battery packs**

- **speaker/microphone**
- **assorted adapters**
- **a copy of your license**
- **pocket multi-tool**
- **small flashlight**
- **ink pens (2)**
- **pencils (2)**
- **sticky note pads**
- **emergency money (some cash, some coin)**
- **small medicines (headaches,**

tummy aches, etc.)

The other sort of kit is designed for the first 72-hours in an incident or event, and requires a lot more space!

The basic list of items in this go kit should include:

- **Gain antenna**
- **Antenna mast & guy rope**
- **100' coax**
- **Mobile dual-band radio –**

(Continued on page 7)