

NET Net Topic for November 29, 2020 – Preparing for Wintertime Deployment

Two weeks ago, as Net Control for this net; I reminded all to take a look at their current set-ups, especially their Go-Bags, to determine if they are ready for cold, wet, windy, dark Winter deployments. Portland NETs have already been deployed in these conditions and official Winter isn't even here yet. Tonight is Part 2 on this topic.

As radio operators we face special challenges if operating in the field and in the elements. First, we must keep warm and dry but we also need to keep our equipment dry too as well as powered and lighted. Carrying a NET and Radio pack on our backs may not be optimal. We may need to remove our backpack, set it down (most likely on a wet ground) in the dark to find something in the pack we need to use.

Therefore, two weeks ago, I suggested we rethink what we carry in a back pack. I suggested adding a front chest pack or vest so that all the key items you need to operate on the radio in an ARO capacity are in front of you, assessable without the need to stop, put gear down and dig around in a dark bag - in the dark.

In 2019 and 2020 many fellow HAMs part of this net have put together helpful lists of items and resources for your ham shack, your mobile deployment setup and in your Go-Bag as a HAM operator station and Amateur Radio Operator (ARO). I will give you the web addresses to these documents in a moment.

But first, think about all the places on your body you can potentially put something to be able to access it while standing. It must be on your body and accessible without putting a bag or pack on the ground or other surface to retrieve it.

Head:

Inside your helmet you could put a frequency list, mask ...

Neck:

Hanging a lanyard with contact numbers, frequency lists, pens, mini flashlight ...

Wrist, Ankle & Shoe bands/wallets:

Laminated contacts, frequencies, radio instructions, blank sheets to write on and more.



Shirts:

Pocket lists, pens, flashlights...

Jackets:

Pockets (inside and out) as well as sewn in pockets on outside arms & chest

Vests: (Tactical, Radio, Fishing & Hunting)



Also check out:

TacticalGear.com

Tactical Cave

VooDoo Tactical

[KenMax](#) vests



[Nifty Chest Organizer:](#)

RADIO-HARNESS

Price: **\$38.95**

Holds up to two Radios, Antenna, Accessories, GPS, Flashlight, Pen etc.



[Columbia Sportswear](#)



[Rel](#)



[Cabellas](#)



[Tactical Gear](#)



Fanny Packs & Belts:

[Cabellas Transporter Fanny Pack](#)



SHELTER: [Under The Weather](#)



The top three NET-Net lists relevant to tonight's topic are the following:

1. [Go Kits for Neighborhood Emergency Team \(NET\), Amateur Radio Operators \(AROs\)](#), by Alex Sinnott, KE7SIN January 27, 2019
2. [Ham Radio Field Go-Bag or Kit, Compiled by Jim Weisgram, KJ7DMV, and Alex Sinnott, KE7SIN, and others. 9/8/2019 revised 09/25/2020](#)
3. [Sources of Amateur Radio, Training, Learning, Supplies and Equipment Portland Neighborhood Emergency Teams \(NET\)](#), Compiled by Bruce Schaefer AA7PB
4. [Examples of Radio Go Bags and Boxes](#)

Last, if you are interested in getting a HAM license or upgrading to General or Extra Class, check out the daily listings of in-person as well as online (via Zoom) exam sessions at [HAM Study](#) (hamstudy.org/sessions). The local team that normally offers the HAM classes and exams at PCC is giving exams usually Monday-Saturday at 2-4 PM with some sessions at 6:30 PM depending on interest. You can find the local team under [AA7HW.org](#) or email Herb Weiner at herbw@wiskit.com.

Thank you all for your generous service as HAMS and AROs and joining in this discussion topic tonight. If you have questions or comments, you may send them to me at AG7MO@arrl.net. I now turn it back to John KF7JLG, NET Control for this evening.