



# “From the Shack”

June 2021 Newsletter



## Emergency Preparedness?



Emergency Preparedness is a citizen responsibility.

Consider the following with respect to emergency preparedness in our community:

Are we in a better position now than we were when the 5.2 earthquake occurred on March 18, 2020?

What are you, a citizen of Taylorsville, willing to do to make sure we can respond to emergencies when needed?

In the past, there has been a tendency to rely solely on the Taylorsville City emergency manager to have all the answers. That has not been successful. As citizens of this community, we find ourselves with an opportunity to help the city build a better emergency response.

Emergency Preparedness is an individual, community, and city government responsibility.

1. Each citizen needs to carefully consider and prepare for those times where they may need to stand on their own. Part of this planning needs to include how you can join with your neighbors in times of need.
2. The community needs to step up and join forces with the city to develop the CERT or Safe Neighborhood program. Local emergency communications is currently well established within the organization of the Taylorsville Amateur Radio Club – TARC. You can join in that effort as well.
3. The city needs to provide a well-organized emergency plan with leadership and direction coming from a proactive and enthusiastic emergency manager.

We know there are several citizens in our community who will step up to assist the new emergency manager.

Each citizen and member of this community needs to become proactive in providing support for the city emergency plan. You have a responsibility to become active in your city and neighborhood efforts to develop a workable and active CERT or Safe Neighborhood response program.

In years past, our city was known to have been developing a strong emergency plan. We were near the top in the valley in our community efforts. There was an extensive effort to develop the CERT program along with emergency communications support from the local ham radio operators to create a workable coalition between the two. CERT was being developed as our primary response program. Safe Neighborhood was a new program being introduced but the city had not fully adopted and implemented that program. Some efforts were being made to combine the two.

In the past couple of years, however, we have seen a failure of the CERT and/or Safe Neighborhood program. These programs are not active at this point, except in very localized neighborhoods. Unfortunately, we are now counted among the lowest of cities with a working emergency plan. There has been little interest in the community to lead, join and actively participate in this important activity. That needs to change!

The Taylorsville Amateur Radio Club, TARC, (also known as the Taylorsville HAMnet) continues to grow in numbers, now averaging

40 + weekly participants. We are actively seeking out other licensed radio operators to join with us. We are prepared to provide support to the city emergency efforts but need to have an active and strong emergency plan in conjunction with a CERT/Safe Neighborhood organization to be most effective.

### **Where do we go from here?**

Our current Emergency Manager for Taylorsville City has accepted a new position with the new Taylorsville Police Department effective July 1, 2021. We thank Donny for his efforts and wish him well in his new position.

This will leave the city without an emergency manager for a period of time. We look forward to a new person being named to fill that position. This change will bring with it some new direction and ideas. The Taylorsville Amateur Radio club, TARC, stands ready to assist in the transformation.

We do not know at this point what is going to happen with emergency preparedness. We hope it will grow rapidly with new leadership. It is essential for the city to fill this position with a well-qualified person who can provide leadership in the development of our community response. The city needs to promptly review and publish an emergency plan that will actively involve the community. All citizens need to know what the plan is.

As citizens, we must step up and actively support the city emergency plan, we need to show the city that "We, The People" are

dedicated to the cause. You, the citizens of this great city, are the key to that image.

As a member of the leadership of the Taylorsville Amateur Radio Club, I assure you

that our group will continue to give our best to this great community. Join us in moving our emergency response efforts forward.

Rulon Swensen, K7BTU

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## You are the “Key” to a more successful radio club



Building a successful organization takes more than a few leaders. It takes cooperation between each member of the group. It takes being willing to step up and do more. It takes more than checking in each week.

When the decision was made some 13 years ago to form an organization of ham radio operators, it began with just 4 people. There were grassroots efforts being made by a volunteer “Emergency Manager”. Her name is

Lisa Schwartz. When I approached Lisa about using ham radio operators in conjunction with CERT efforts in the city, she responded with a resounding “YES”.

Working with Lisa was a great experience and the work to build a ham radio organization moved along slowly until we gained more members.

After a period of time, Lisa became a part-time city employee and was largely responsible for obtaining “grants” to help the city purchase radio equipment and other preparedness items.

When Lisa moved on to a new opportunity, the city hired Ben Gustafson to fill the position and he brought his experience as a fire dispatcher working with emergency calls with him. Ben helped to develop stronger CERT and HAMnet bonds and was very proactive in his efforts.

When Ben accepted a position with the Red Cross, the position was left unfilled for a few months with Donny Gasu ultimately being hired to be the Emergency Manager.

Donny had to learn much of the basics, protocols and workings of his job and has filled the position until now. So now, we find ourselves at another crossroads and we as an organization need to show the city what we are made of. We need to do all we can to support emergency preparedness.

## What is ARES?

The Salt Lake County ARES group is a ARRL sanctioned organization.

Many members from clubs around the valley are participants in this group.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

We encourage you to join and participate in our local ARES organization. More information can be found on their website located at [www.slcoares.net](http://www.slcoares.net)

While we will always encourage you to serve your local community first, we may find ourselves serving under the direction and control of ARES when requested.



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## CALENDAR ITEMS

- **Our June “Fox Hunt” will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 0900 hours local and running until 1200 hours local. Frequency information is on the event calendar and our website.**

**We will conduct this fox hunt in person at the Gary C. Swensen Valley Regional Park. Meet at the parking lot on the north side of the ball diamonds at 9 a.m.**



TARC Logo stickers are available from Kalani Mack, K7VWZ.  
[kalanimack@gmail.com](mailto:kalanimack@gmail.com)

**OK, we have tried asking, we have tried begging, now we are going to try BRIBERY! DON'T MAKE US PULL OUT THE BIG GUNS!**

We are going to begin offering you a chance to win some prizes, just by calling the net. How does that sound? Each time you call the net, your name will be entered into the drawing. The drawings will be done at the end of each quarter. {We are even going to reward those who have participated the first quarter of the 2021 year.} 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter winners will be announced on the first net in July. Then we will announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter winner the first week of October, 2021, and the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in January of 2022. It will be good stuff and worth your effort to help.

**We really need your participation. Let us know when you can be “net control” by email at [tville.hamnet@gmail.com](mailto:tville.hamnet@gmail.com) Dates are open from now, through the rest of the year.**

73

Taylorville Amateur Radio Club Officers

Troy, N4HAM

Kelli, K7KDP

Gary, AG7PY

Rulon, K7BTU

WHAT DOES

I W C T N

STAND FOR?

GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO

FIND OUT

“From the Shack” is published by the Taylorville  
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Email [tville.hamnet@gmail.com](mailto:tville.hamnet@gmail.com)

Rulon Swensen, K7BTU