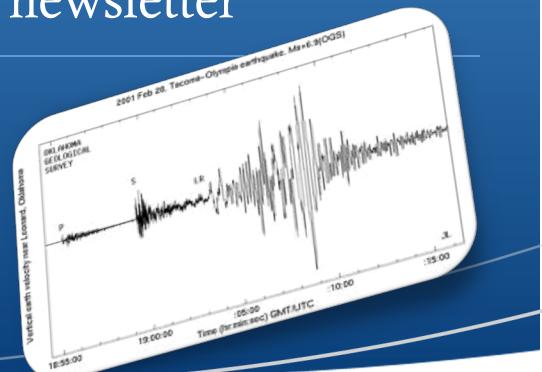


# “News & Views”

Your Taylorsville HAMnet newsletter

**This is your newsletter.** We encourage **YOU** to submit information that will be of benefit to our group members.

Submit ideas/articles to [tville.hamnet@gmail.org](mailto:tville.hamnet@gmail.org)



## Are you Prepared?

### It just happened!

It seemed like the ground shook for 10 minutes! The power went out and there were sounds of explosions! Looking out the window you can see smoke or dust coming from buildings around you. What just happened, you ask yourself.

**It is time for action!** You check your home and family situation, your neighborhood situation and then grab your go-kit and check in to see where you are needed.

How prepared are you right now as a Ham Radio Operator to step up to run or participate in a major event emergency net? Can you get to your Go Kit? Are your batteries ready to power your radio for the next several hours or days? Do you know the procedures?

The time to prepare is before it happens. Make sure you are ready for the Emergency!

In this issue of “News & Views” we will present some ideas to help you determine what you should be doing now.

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2014 Cart Dart Report

Published by Taylorsville HAMnet

Rulon Swensen, Chief culprit

Taylorsville, Utah 2014

**Disclaimer:** The Taylorsville HAMnet does not endorse or recommend any specific product for use in emergency communication. We provide these articles as a source of information and encourage you to do independent research to determine what will work best for your situation.

Go to our website [taylorsvillehamnet.org](http://taylorsvillehamnet.org) for more information on our group activities

# Keeping the power on!

When it comes to keeping your Go-Kit or base radio on the air, you can use a device known as an “automatic battery switch”.

One such device is the **Astron © BB-30M battery backup module**.



“Astron Corporation Battery Backup

Modules are wonderful power supply accessories! They switch your load to a backup battery upon power supply failure--automatically! These modules also use your power supply to charge wet or SLA standby batteries in either 12 or 24 volt systems. Fuses on the battery side provide protection during charge and discharge. A front panel LED is used to indicate full, discharging, or charging conditions for your batteries. Maximum battery load is 30 amps and maximum charging current is limited at 3.6 amps. These modules are very compact at 1.5 lbs. and just 3.8 in. x 4.5 in. x 1.93 in.”

- ★ We use these at the Pantry radio room to provide automatic switching to the batteries when needed.



## Member Spotlight Rulon Holyoak

Rulon Holyoak has been a member of our group almost from the beginning.

He was first licensed in 1958 and currently holds an Extra class license.

Rulon is the trustee license holder for the KG7BVO license, our call sign for the Taylorsville HAMnet

Thanks for your participation in our group.



## New Taylorsville City Emergency Response Coordinator

Ben Gustafson was hired by Taylorsville City to be the new Emergency Response Coordinator. Ben comes from a background of being a Salt Lake City fire dispatch operator. We welcome Ben and look forward to great things in the future.

Ben will utilize our group in the best way possible. He has helped us already in getting our antennas installed and will be working with us in our efforts to be volunteer communicators for our community.

# Amateur radio and emergency communications



## What do Amateur Radio operators do during and after disasters?

Amateur Radio operators set up and operate organized communication networks locally for governmental and emergency officials, as well as non-commercial communication for private citizens affected by the disaster. Amateur Radio operators are most likely to be active after disasters that damage regular lines of communication due to power outages and destruction of telephone, cellular and other infrastructure-dependent systems.

## How do Amateur Radio operators help local officials?

Many radio amateurs are active as communications volunteers with local public safety organizations. In addition, in some disasters, radio frequencies are not coordinated among relief officials and Amateur Radio operators step in to coordinate communication when radio towers and other elements in the communications infrastructure are damaged.

## What are the major Amateur Radio emergency organizations?

Amateur Radio operators have informal and formal groups to coordinate communication during emergencies. At the local level, hams may participate in local emergency

organizations, or organize local "traffic nets" using VHF (very high frequencies) and UHF (ultra high frequencies). At the state level, hams are often involved with state emergency management operations. In addition, hams operate at the national level through the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), which is coordinated through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), which is coordinated through the American Radio Relay League and its field volunteers. Many hams are also involved in Skywarn, operating under the National Weather Service and provide emergency weather information to the NWS for analysis and dissemination to the public.

### BE PREPARED - GET YOUR GO-KIT READY!

We talk about being prepared as HAM radio communicators.

Let's make sure we can walk the talk. Get that Go-Kit out and check it.

Make sure your batteries are good and that you have an adequate supply for your HT.

Make sure your radio is programmed and functioning.

Make sure you have a good antenna.

**We are at our best when we are prepared!**



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### Plan Now for the Great Utah Shakeout!

On April 17, Taylorsville staff will be participating in the Great Utah Shakeout. City staff will be setting up equipment in our council chambers for activation of our Emergency Operations Center. This exercise will allow staff to simulate their response to a 7.0 earthquake along the Wasatch Front. The intended outcome of this exercise is to see if the simulated response will reflect the written emergency plans and procedures.

It is important for all residents of Taylorsville to take advantage of this “Shakeout” as well. Writing, practicing, and evaluating your family emergency plans will help your family feel confident that in a disaster situation, they have a game plan and will know what to do. It is particularly important to teach children in an age-appropriate way, how to prepare for a disaster and have confidence that they will receive the help they need even if it takes a little while.

Please take this opportunity to prepare by going to [beready.utah.gov](http://beready.utah.gov) and sign-up to participate in a manner that fits your family and where you are in the preparedness process. You can put together a 72 hour kit or go through an existing one. You can go over your family emergency communication plan, test neighborhood emergency plans by activating your neighborhood block program or CERT teams. You can simply prepare dinner as if your utilities were not working. You can do an evacuation drill at your place of work. The [beready.utah.gov](http://beready.utah.gov) website has ideas on how you can get involved and protect your family. For more information regarding local emergency planning and how you can be involved, please contact your city Emergency Response Coordinator,

Ben Gustafson <[bgustafson@taylorsvilleut.gov](mailto:bgustafson@taylorsvilleut.gov)>

# BATTERIES AND CONCRETE FLOORS

The following is from a publication from Interstate Batteries called **TechTalk ©**

While this article deals with automotive batteries specifically, it can apply to many other types of batteries we use in HAM radio.

## Fact or Fiction

Will today's batteries be damaged or discharged by letting them sit on concrete?

**NO!**

Why then do so many people believe that concrete is a battery enemy? Years ago, batteries could have been electrically discharged by sitting on a concrete floor. My dad reminded me time after time, "Set that battery on wood! I know batteries discharge on concrete because I've witnessed it!" And he was right at that time.

## Historical Basis

You see, the idea that concrete drains batteries does have some historical basis. Many, many years ago, wooden battery cases encased a glass jar with the battery inside. Any moisture on the floor could cause the wood to swell and possibly fracture the glass, causing it to leak. Later came the introduction of the hard rubber cases, which were somewhat porous and had a high-carbon content. An electrical current could be conducted through this container if the moist concrete floor permitted the current to find an electrical ground.

The wise advice of the old days to "keep batteries off concrete" has been passed down to us today, but it no longer applies because of the advanced technology of today's batteries.

## Today's Technology

For more than a decade, automotive and commercial battery containers have been made of polypropylene, which is a highly isolative material. In fact, the Interstate Batteries poly material is at least five times more isolative than the old hard rubber. Also, tremendous technological improvements have been made in the seals around the posts and the vent systems, which have virtually eliminated electrolyte seepage and migration.

## Battery Discharging

The fact is, all batteries self-discharge whether they're sitting on the shelf or on concrete. This is why manufacturers regularly rotate their inventory. As the temperature increases, a battery's self-discharge level also increases. Some lead acid batteries discharge 4% - 8% per month at a temperature of 80°F. The level of self-discharge is also contingent upon the type of lead plate alloy plus the age and cleanliness of the battery.

If the battery has a surface layer of acid or grime, which is electrically conductive, it self-discharges more rapidly. This surface layer may actually allow you to measure the DC voltage across the battery's poly case (using a 10 meg-ohm digital voltmeter). For that reason, we recommend that you always keep batteries clean.

## In Summary

That block of wood may not be necessary today, BUT it won't hurt either.

In HAM radio, we may use different types of batteries. Regardless of what we use, it is good practice to treat our batteries with care. After all, we will need them to be at their best in emergencies.

## **Calendar Events - March, 2014**

March 3 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
March 10 - Weekly Net 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
March 17 - Weekly Net 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
March 24 - Weekly Net 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
**March 29 - In person meeting, Location to be announced - Packet Radio workshop**  
March 31 - Weekly Net 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater

## **Calendar Events - April, 2014**

April 7 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
April 14 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
**April 17 – The Great Utah Shakeout**  
April 21 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
**April 25 - In person meeting, Location to be announced - Go kit antenna workshop**  
April 28 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater

## **Calendar Events - May, 2014**

May 5 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
May 12 - Weekly Net 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
May 19 - Weekly Net 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
May 26 - Weekly Net 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
**May 30 - In person meeting, Ham's in the park activity**

## **Calendar Events - June 2014**

June 2 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
June 9 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
June 16 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
June 23 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater  
**June 28 - In person meeting, Taylorsville Dayzz activity**

## **Who's calling the net?**

March 3rd	Rulon	KE7OJX
March 10th	Keith	KE7UMK
March 17th	Edric	KG7IPP
March 24th	Rulon	KE7OJX
March 31st	Doug	AD7LO
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Open	Please Volunteer
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Open	Please volunteer
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Open	Please volunteer
April 28th	Rulon	KE7OJX
May 5th	Open	Please volunteer
May 12th	Open	Please volunteer
May 19th	Rulon	KE7OJX
May 26th	Open	Please volunteer

## **Taylorsville CART DART. (formerly called the Urban Iditarod)**

The 2014 TAYLORSVILLE CART DART was held on March 1<sup>st</sup>

The Taylorsville HAMnet group provided communications support for this event.

It was, as usual, a most interesting event. The rally point was at City Hall with event challenges in several locations up and down 2700 west.

There were some interesting themes and costumes and the enthusiasm was contagious.

**Thanks to all who helped with the communications on this event.**