

## WX7RIK's Portable Ham Go-Kit

I like this go-kit because it is relatively small, weighs 20 pounds, can be backpacked into a remote location, and yet it is a complete setup and has served me well in many applications. I have used this kit to run net control for the NODM, to set up a "wilderness" station for the GOAT marathon, and to communicate between start and finish during the Dry Hill mountain bike races. I have also field-tested this kit at various ARES emergency exercises.

This kit is always evolving, but listed below are the contents as of July 2015. Prices are what I paid whenever I purchased them over a period of years. Needless to say, since I purchased these items over a period of time, I was surprised to see how much I have invested in this rig. Total cost of my setup was \$928.

- PowerPort Emergency Radio Go-Box "Bare Bones 12", \$200, included:
  - 12 Amp 12V AGM sealed no spill battery
  - 3 outlet DC outlets
  - Anderson PowerPole connector on battery
  - Overnight 2-stage automatic charger
  - Miscellaneous support items: notepad, pen, LED flashlight, Phonetic Alpha card, Velcro wire ties, ARRL message forms.
  - <http://www.powerportstore.com/Emergency%20Go-Box%20Portal.htm>
- Yaesu FT-60R handheld, \$180 \* with the following accessories:
  - Microphone Speaker Handheld, \$30
  - Car power dc adapter, \$24
  - Yaesu VC-25 Headset for FT-60R, \$60
  - Spare rechargeable battery pack with Eneloop batteries, \$50
  - AA Battery holder, loaded with Eveready Lithium batteries, \$17 for case, \$10 for batteries
  - CT-44 Headset dongle, \$17
  - Radio Quick Reference laminated card, \$12
- MFJ-1730 roll-up J-pole antenna, \$30 \*
- Powerwerx PS-4, 4-way Power Pole splitter, \$18
- Mirage BD-35 Amplifier, \$150
- Miscellaneous:
  - Assorted coaxial adapters, \$20
  - Scorpion lithium powered flashlight \$40 \*
  - Leatherman tool, \$25 \*
  - Coaxial jumper (18", SMA male to SO239 female) \$10 \*
  - BNC Coaxial 12' extension cable, connectors & adapters \$15 \*
  - 2 short Coaxial cables, various SMA / SO239 connectors, \$15 \*
  - Micronta SWR/Power meter (19-320) \$5, @ field day sale \*

Everything is wired to either plug into a 12v car adapter on the battery or with Anderson power-poles. This setup also works great from a vehicle with a mag-mount on top.

Additionally, I have a Goal Zero Yeti 150 battery pack (AGM 12V 14Ah) charging with a Boulder 15 (15W) solar panel. I bought this through a Costco sale for \$199 in 2014. If I have to set up at my home, that is the way I will use the system for an extended period. The GZ is not really all that heavy, so it could be added to the backpack, but I have not sit down to figure a way to backpack the solar panel safely. I am sure if the need arises, I will come up with something.

### Conclusion

You do not necessarily have to go with the equipment I selected, and there are several ways to decrease your cost. Obviously, you can get a really inexpensive Chinese radio. When I decided to put this Go-Kit together, I already had the Yaesu FT-60R and accessories, as well as the other \* marked items lying around the shack. Use your imagination and get a Go-Kit together so you can test it out on our next exercise and be ready for a real emergency!