



## FORSYTH COUNTY AUXCOMM

### VACATION GO-KIT

Go-Kit 102  
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There is an endless discussion and debate over the optimal “Go-Kit”-- a bag, box, or other containing the essential items we will need to serve on an emergency communications operation. The basic idea of the Go-Kit is simple— collect what you think you will need, in advance, so that when you are deployed, you will not need to spend the next two hours wandering around the house, the shack, the attic, the garage, the trunks of you cars, the garden shed, the boat trailer, or whatever, with a checklist, looking for all that stuff, and so that when you arrive on the operation, you won't be missing that essential whatcha-ma-jigger that makes our radio work.

When we travel, whether on vacation or for business, it is often not practical to carry our complete EmComm Go Kit, especially if we're going by air, and are not planning a DXpedition. Most Go-Kits are designed to reside at home, in the garage, or in the car, and to contain nearly everything we think we will need to serve as an EmComm operation. They are sometimes quite bulky and heavy.

Although many of us will, as a matter of course, carry a hand-held radio whenever we travel, we might not carry some of the other items that could be valuable or essential to success if we find ourselves unexpectedly pressed into EmComm service. Following is a list of suggested items for an extremely pared-down Go-Kit that addresses the needs of impromptu EmComm service, but that is still practical for travel.

1. Radio suitable for travel
  - (a) Small
  - (b) Light in weight
  - (c) Full Power
  - (d) Li-Ion Battery (low self-discharge rate, high energy density)
  - (e) Multifunction receiver (receives commercial radio, NOAA WX radio, etc.)
2. Means to provide renewable or long-term power for the radio. Many options available—use several if you have space and can tolerate the weight. Examples include:
  - (a) Battery charger
  - (b) AC adapter for radio
  - (c) AA-cell battery pack
  - (d) High-capacity battery pack (either one that fits the radio or an external, outboard battery)
  - (e) Car charger/adaptor
3. Light-weight, efficient antennas
  - (a) 19-inch HT ground/counterpoise wire
  - (b) Long rubber duck
  - (c) Small dual-band mag-mount antenna with tiny magnet base
    - i. Available from several vendors for under \$25;

