



Following are two examples of how ham radio can be a very useful in an emergency. Heather Ballaine sent the following account a few weeks ago.

Heather Ballaine, AB7JT, checks in from Hawaii

Dave and I have the good fortune to have a second home on the island of Maui in Hawaii. We returned this fall on October 13. On Sunday, we were watching the Seahawk game at 7 a.m. At 7:08 the ground started to shake and the windows rattle. We headed for the doorframe as the aftershock arrived. A little shaken, we checked the condo and realized all power was out and the phone lines down. I had brought my 2 meter radio along and within three minutes of the quake, we were tuned into the Haleakala Amateur Radio repeater (147.02) and listened to reports from the entire state. The first concern was tsunami. We were assured within ten minutes that no tsunami had been generated with this quake. The strength and location of the earthquake were available in the first ten minutes and the net controller was able to keep the frequency running smoothly allowing emergency traffic only. The facts are in now through the media but that morning we were in the dark in more ways than one. The little radio gave us comfort and later in the morning we were able to give a full report to the congregation at church.

Another example occurred last summer. Dave and I were able to help a hiker who returned to his van in north Seattle to find the windshield broken. We were in our kitchen at our home on Bainbridge Island and heard his call for aid. His vehicle was vandalized and all he had was his ham radio. We were able to use a land line to get 911 to give him aid. We stayed with him on the radio until help arrived.

We always keep an Amateur radio close at hand with a couple of spare batteries. An earthquake can happen in Seattle and we believe that when the next one happens, our two meter radio will be there to provide communication. Consider joining SYC radio club. You don't need to be a ham to join but if you want to get on the air, check out the January 6, 2007 class. Aloha, Heather Ballaine AB7JT



Radio Installation on Small Craft –

Notes from Barrie Arnett, N7ATC

We recently sold our sailboat and now have a 34' powerboat called *Cloud 9*. I lost two very good radio components when we sold our sailboat, the backstay antenna, and the lead keel. Much has been written about marine mobile radio installations and a couple of good references are: *Marine Amateur Radio* written by the US Power Squadrons and can be ordered thru the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) or at Order Toll-Free 1-888-277-5289 for \$12.95. The Seven Seas Cruising Association (SSCA) has a SSCA Ham Installation Guide for only \$8.00. It can be found at <http://www.scca.org/viewstore/viewpublications.htm> and is very good.

At the moment I plan to install a Morad 23' vertical antenna (the radiator) for HF. I also may install the largest size Dynaplate when I haul out next time. I will bond all metal components (the counterpoise) I can on the inside and outside of the vessel, engine, fuel tank, bow pulpit, flybridge railings to the Dynaplate, transom zinc and all the HF radio components (tuner, radio etc.). The antenna lead from the tuner to the Morad antenna will be GTO 15 cable. One of the best ways to explain "counterpoise" is to imagine a lap swimmer in a swimming pool and if there is no wall on the pool for the swimmer to bounce off he has to use a lot of energy to return. This is why we need to bond our metal components together so the antenna energy has a spring board (counterpoise) to get the signal out of the radiator or antenna. The ideal material for all this bonding is copper foil about 3 inches wide. I have also used wide tinned copper strapping which is easier to run through tight areas and easier to secure. (to be continued)



Radio Class – January 6th

We are offering a one day Technician Class and Examination Session. If you missed your chance to join in the fun of ham radio last time, don't miss it this time. The day is Saturday, January 6, 2007, and the volunteer team is getting ready to provide a day packed with fun learning followed by the ARRL exam for Technician Class. With the Technician license, you can use a VHF ham radio to reach boating friends from the San Juans to Port McNeill, participate in radio nets boating and at home, receive information and help in emergency situations, and be an active member in the radio