

## **EmComm Feature For September 2022**

By Krissy KI7GJJ & Dan K2LH

Are you ready to operate your radio during a power outage? If there is an extended power outage your phone may not work. Cell networks can become overloaded if everyone is making calls. You need a method to charge your cell phone during a power outage (I recommend Anker power banks). If you have a land line, remember that cordless phones will not work without power. But if you have a ham radio license you can still communicate with your radio – if you have a source of power!

There are 3 basic options for operating your ham radio during a power outage:

1. Use a handheld radio. Just make sure you have spare charged batteries for it!
2. Use a mobile station from your vehicle. You are using your car battery, so you'll want to be careful not to drain your car battery.
3. Use an off-grid power system to keep your home base station operating.

Club member Dan K2LH has an impressive off-grid system. A curiosity about how solar power works was the genesis of this impressive shack project. Dan uses solar panels connected to a bank of batteries to power his home base station.

***See the September Short Skip for more details...***

You are probably like me and use a power supply plugged into the wall outlet to power your station. But if there is a power outage, then we need to use an alternative power source. While I'm out in the garage bringing in batteries that I keep on battery tenders, Dan can operate unaffected by the outage.

Dan does recommend using Anderson Power Poles for connecting your system. It's a little upfront cost getting the tools, wire, and connectors but well worth it. It makes it easier to connect and disconnect quickly.

Watch for more detail on setting up your own off-grid solar system in the October Short Skip.

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***Krissy, KI7GJJ***