

GCVARC President's Message October 2021

As autumn closes in and winter but a couple of months away it is always prudent to check your emergency equipment to be sure all is working well.

This past week some members of our club and some from the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club joined forces to aid the Tour de Greene bicycle tour with emergency communications. All went smoothly until one rider experienced a fall on the gravel course which resulted in a head injury.

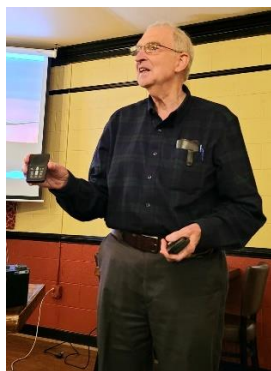
The location of the accident was in a part of our county which is one of the worst areas from communications. The first Amateur Radio SAG vehicle on the scene had difficulty reaching the repeater but could be understood by those close enough to hear him on the reverse repeater frequency and were able to relay the bicyclist's medical status to Steve, KN4AOB who was net control, who then called for medical assistance. An ambulance was dispatched along with a Greene County Sheriff's Deputy and one VA State Trooper.

We are happy to report that the bicyclist was medically treated and released.

It can not be stressed too much that repeated practice with various methods of relaying messages be completed often to allow for smooth and efficient emergency operations.

At our October meeting member Sid, WA4MBS and Galcom International member and former F-16 pilot, Gary Nelson gave a presentation of how the Galcom organization is getting solar powered FM receivers in the hands of people living in remote areas of the Earth which enables them to hear Gospel information, local news, and weather in their own native languages.

For information on the mission statement of Galcom visit their website at, [ttps://galcom.org](https://galcom.org).



Be well and be safe. 73

Bill, K4FZE
President, GCVARC