
OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2026_0530

The meeting took place at the American Red Cross building and was kicked off by Donald, KG5PFN at 9:10 am, 13 people were in attendance.

Donald's Presentation:

Donald emphasized that water is the most important part of emergency preparation. You should plan on needing 1 gallon of water per day per person. Sources of water can be bird baths, swimming pools water heaters and toilet tanks. There are water bobs that can be put into a bath tub but they are one-time use.

When there is a boil alert, bear in mind that bleach loses effectiveness in 6 months. The CDC 8 recommends drops/gal to disinfect. Swimming pool water can be boiled but should be done outside because chlorine in the water will outgas. The use of Chloramine can be used that does not outgas. Plastic bottles (16.9 oz) can be kept on hand to disinfect water by placing them in the sun for 6 hours.

To store water, Amazon sells food-grade 5 gallon buckets. Also remember that 5 gallons weighs ~40 pounds and will be hard to carry for even short distances. Slightly more manageable, Sagan Life sells 3.5 gallon buckets with filters (See: <https://www.kellykettleusa.com/sagan-water-filters>). Houston Barrels has food-grade big barrels as well. You should consider buying a transfer pump to move water from large containers to smaller ones. They can be electric drill or hand operated.

When buying water buckets, buy blue ones so you won't be tempted to use them for other household purposes. Water tight lids for standard 5 gallon buckets are available from Gamma Seal. Kelly Kettle offers a 54oz "Base Camp" kettle that can boil water in minutes using twigs and paper as fuel, costing about \$90. They also sell a high efficiency "hobo" stove. See: <https://www.kellykettleusa.com/kelly-kettles>

Donald's website has lots more tips for storm and emergency preparedness. Please take advantage of his research at: <http://burger.com/hrcnwate.htm>

From Donald (via email):

This is a great water system to make rain barrel water drinkable. And swimming pool water drinkable. Almost no water filters will make swimming pool water drinkable in an emergency. And three days without water is an emergency. Sagan Life (<https://saganlife.com/>) advertises that their system does this. Below is an email I got on the system. This is a great sale at \$40 off. I just ordered my second one of the AquaBrick Emergency Drinking Water Kit with 2 containers and Spigot. Regularly \$205. With \$40 off it was \$164.99. Use coupon code AQB40. The code does not work on all of their products. But this is *the* starter kit.

Water is essential and you want to make sure you have this system. It is by far **the best system** I know of at this time... and at a great price. I got the coupon while we were out of town. I don't know how long the sale lasts.

From Mark (WB5ANN):

All, please find attached (separately) some of the videos we looked at or discussed in today's meeting for hurricane prep, go boxes, antenna launchers. The links should open and go directly to the videos in Youtube. The potato gun antenna launch fail is the one to watch first. Other information discussed today was the field day rules and an overview of N1MM Logger program that we plan to use for Field Day in June.