

Henry County ARES joined with Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club Inc. and Johnson County ARES to participate in the University of Central Missouri Homecoming parade. The parade included the Johnson County ARES trailer, a mobile 20m SSB and a digital mode voice (DMR) stations.

WARRENSBURG

'Hams' on air during parade

JACK 'MILES' VENTIMIGLIA
Star-Journal Editor

Warrensburg - A ham radio rarity took place during the University of Central Missouri Homecoming Parade, club spokesman Cary Altman said Wednesday.

The club made and broadcast from a float during the parade, he said.

"We built the float to show what we do in the community as emergency work," Altman said. "When all communication goes down because of an emergency, we can step up and provide the communication.

"We are the last line of defense for all communication."

In an emergency, he said, cell phone lines become overloaded, as proven when the tornado hit Joplin, but ham radios continued to operate.

While on the float Saturday, the club reached out to the nation and the world, Altman said.

"We showed we can put an emergency communication center on a float going through a parade effective enough to talk to eight different countries and 28 states while rolling down the road," he said.

Based on club research, the last time a ham radio operator broadcast live on a float occurred more than 25 years ago during the Rose Bowl Parade.



