

Net Notes for February 10, 2010

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events

- 2/20 Yuma Hamfest/ARCA Meeting
- 2/20-21 Search and Rescue Academy, Sierra Vista
- 3/06 Old Pueblo 50 Miler, Santa Rita Mountains
- 3/13 Scottsdale Hamfest/ARCA Meeting, Ft McDowell Casino
- 4/24-25 La Vuelta de Bisbee

2) SAR Academy – Another reminder that if you are relatively new to RACES, I strongly recommend that you attend the SAR academy. It is a one time requirement but brings you up to speed on the legal basis for why the Sheriff's Office is responsible, exposes you to the common vocabulary you will hear on the radio as well as map reading and the techniques you will hear discussed on the radio. All of these will help you, the operator, react appropriately and understand what is going on during a mission. If you have attended a previous academy, a refresher every so often is also recommended. The Academy is two days long from approximately 8:30 – 5:00 with a break for lunch. It consists mostly of indoor classes but there is also an outdoor segment so dress accordingly. It will be held at the County Building located at the corner of Foothills and Hwy 92 in Sierra Vista.

Training: Traditionally over the past years we have reviewed core proficiencies in January for each of us to review to be and to remain fully qualified RACES members. I am a little behind the power curve again this year as we are already into February. I think it is appropriate for each of us to look back at the previous year and assess our individual progress. As we start into the new year I want to remind everyone of the core skills and proficiencies that we should be working on. I have again broken them down into two groups, Basic & Advanced.

A. Basic Core proficiencies are:

- FCC Technician Class or above license
- Complete the ICS-100 - Introduction to the Incident Command System operations
- Complete ICS-700 - National Incident Management System
- Use the ICS Form 309 – Communications Log
- Be Familiar with National Traffic System (NTS) Procedures (ARRL Public Service Communications Manual)
- Attend SAR Academy to learn Basic Search And Rescue support procedures
- 24-Hour Survival Skills (SAR Academy/Overnight training opportunities)
- Blue Eagle System (Appendix 1 of the manual)
 - Hospital/Law Enforcement Site manning
- 911 System Backup procedures (Appendix 13)
- Mobile Communications Unit (MCU) Characteristics (Appendix 11)
- MCU Setup
 - Site Selection
 - Generator Operations
 - Antenna Selection/Installation
 - Big Stick (Public Service)
 - VHF/UHF Antenna options
- MCU Operations
 - HAM VHF Radio operations

- FT 2800 (MCU Shelter-Voice)
- FT 2600 (MCU Shelter-Digital)
- FT 8800 (MCU Cab-Dual Band Voice)
- HAM UHF Radio operations
 - FT 7200 (MCU Shelter-Voice)
- Public Service Radio Operations
 - Tait/Motorola (MCU Shelter-Voice)
 - Kenwood (MCU Cab-Voice)
- MCU TracStar Satellite Communications
- MCU Mast Operations
- MCU Camera Operations

- B. Advanced proficiencies are:
 - FCC General Class License or above
 - ICS 200 (Incident Command System)
 - ICS 800 (National Response Plan)
 - MCU Computer Map Support Software (Terrain Navigator)(Hands On OJT)
 - MCU Driver Qualification (Hands On)
 - MCU HF Setup
 - HF Antenna Selection
 - Inverted V
 - NVIS Dipole
 - Whip Antennas
 - HF Radio operations
 - Icom 706
 - LDG Auto Antenna Tuner
 - HF digital operations
 - Airmail 2000/Winlink 2000
 - MARS PACTOR BBS Operations (MARS Digital Guide)
 - MCU VHF digital operation
 - MT-63 Digital Mode (New)
 - EasyPal Digital Mode (New)
 - Packet (PACTERM 98)
 - APRS (UI-View)
 - APRS Tracker Operations (New)
 - ACU 1000 Interface Unit Operations
 - Kenwood Radio Programming
 - Icom HT Programming (New)
 - HAZMAT First Responder Awareness (HAZMAT Class)
 - HAZMAT First Responder Operations (HAZMAT Class)
 - 72-Hour Survival Skills (SAR Academy + Practical overnight exercises)
 - National Weather Service Skywarn Training

During the past year, we have covered some of these areas. If you had to test and grade yourself right now, what kind of grade do you think you would make?

- Fully proficient (Perform as Team Lead on a Mission)

- Mostly proficient with some areas requiring some additional study/work
(Asst Team Lead on mission)
- Can perform most operator duties and MCU set up without assistance
- May require assistance performing setup and refresher on various Radio/Antenna configurations
- Still an apprentice requiring considerable on-the-job-training (OJT).

As we finish closing out the past year and look toward new challenges in the new year I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your support and sacrifice in the past year. We have once again accomplished a lot as a team and I want you to know that I still believe we have the best RACES/ARES team in the state and it is a result of your dedication and hard work.

During comments, I would like you suggest those areas or specific hands-on training sessions you would like to see conducted as we put together a training schedule for the coming year.

Don't forget our next Net will be on February 24 at 2000 Hrs. Don't forget the CARA net on Thursday evening at 1900 hours on the 146.76 repeater. This is N7INK and the net is closed.

Bob
Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD:

5. It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.