

RACE S Notes for 02/11/2009

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

- 2/20-21 – Yuma Hamfest
- 2/27-28 – Exercise Cochise Smile
- 3/7 – Old Pueblo Foot Race Support
- 4/25-26 – La Vuelta de Bisbee
- 5/21 Ft Huachuca Safety day

2) Cochise Smile – The County Health Department will be conducting an exercise on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 February. One of the goals of this event is to practice protocols that would be used in the event a portion of the Strategic National Medical Stockpile were to be deployed to Cochise County during a medical emergency. RACE S will have a couple of roles to play in this exercise so I will be looking for volunteers for Saturday morning. We will deploy the MCU to a Command Post but there will also be other locations that will need to be served. I hope to have more details on the next net (25 Feb).

Training Note: In the last couple of years we have reviewed core proficiencies in January for that each of us should work on to be and to remain fully qualified RACE S members. I am a little behind the power curve this year but I think it is appropriate for each of us to look back at the previous year and assess our own individual progress as trained operators. Most of you are aware that for much of last year I was pretty distracted by the loss of two members of my close family and did not focus very well on providing training for some of these areas or even honing my own individual skills. As we start into the new year I want remind everyone of the core skills and proficiencies that we should be working toward. I have again broken them down into two groups.

A. 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 recently updated)
- 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

B. Advanced proficiencies are:

FCC General Class License or above
ICS 200 (Incident Command System) (New)
ICS 800 (National Response Plan) (New)
MCU Computer Map Support Software (Hands On OJT)
MCU Driver Qualification (Hands On)
MCU HF Setup
 HF Antenna Selection
 Inverted V
 NVS Dipole
 Whip Antennas
 HF Radio operations
 Icom 706
 LDG Auto Antenna Tuner
 HF digital operations
 Airmail 2000/Winlink 2000/PACTE RM 98
 MARS PACTOR BBS Operations (MARS Digital Guide)
MCU VHF digital operation
 Packet (PACTE RM 98)
 APRS (UI-View)
 APRS Tracker Operations (New)
ACU 1000 Interface Unit Operations
 Kenwood On-Site Programming
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 RACE S/ARE S team in the state. 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.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

"Live so that when your children think of fairness and integrity, they think of you."

H. Jackson Brown Jr.