

RACES Notes for 03/25/2009

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

4/25-26 - La Vuelta de Bisbee
5/2 CARA Hamfest
5/21 - Ft Huachuca Safety day
7/4 - Bisbee Coaster Race

2) Upcoming Travel – I will be on travel status from 27 Mar – 10 April. Dale will have the pager initially but would appreciate others taking the pager for a few days at a time. Please contact him if you will be available to assist.

Training:

Motorola/Tait Radio Configuration – The public service radios in the MCU are set up with zones and channels. This can cause some confusion to first time users. If you have used a radio scanner in the past you may be familiar with different terminology such as banks and channels. The term ZONE is used the same as the term BANK in most scanners. If you are not familiar with either term, think of it as a collection of specific channels that are grouped together for quick access. For example, you might establish one zone or bank of only Fire Department channels or frequencies, another zone that contained only Law Enforcement channels. This configuration is typical in most public service radios. So, if you want to find a particular agency's frequency or channel it would help to know which zone has that information loaded. Tonight I am going to give you the basic zone information for both the Motorola and the Tait radios.

The Motorola (radio on the wall) has the following zones:

SAR – Contains Search and Rescue Channels
SHF – Sherriff Department channels
FS – Forest Service
ALI – Alliance
QS – Quasi Sync
BU – Backup
SO – Cochise County Sheriff Office
PD - Police Departments
BP – Border Patrol
FD – Fire Departments
DOC – Department of Corrections

Tait Radio (on the desktop)

MCU – MCU primary channels

CCSO – Cochise County Sheriff's Office
MCU HAM – MCU amateur radio channels
POLICE – Police Departments within Cochise County
FIRE – Fire Departments in Cochise County
FEDERAL – Border Patrol
FOREST & BLM – Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
INTERAGENCY – Various Interagency channels
SHERIFFS – Other county sheriff departments
CC DEPT – Other Cochise County Departments
ALLIANCE – Border Alliance Channels

For most of our missions you will use the SAR Zone on the Motorola and the MCU Zone on the Tait. A digital copy of the zone loading and specific zone contents is located on the primary laptop computer. Additionally a paper copy is located in the file holder on the wall for quick reference. The Zone titled MCU HAM was recently added to the Tait to be used during the Foot Race support a couple weeks ago. The next time you are on a mission, ask me to show you how to switch zones for each radio and I will show you. It is much easier to show you how than to try to explain without the radio in front of you.

Before anyone asks the question, I did not do the channel loading or establish the naming conventions for the zones or the channels. I would have used the same common naming convention and protocols for both radios for standardization. At some point I still hope to get access to the software to establish commonality between the two.

OK, if you have any questions, ask them during comments.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life. It goes on."

Robert Frost