

RACE S Notes for 03/26/2008

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

4/26-27 – La Vuelta de Bisbee Bike Race
5/3 - CARA Hamfest
5/15 – Ft Huachuca Safety Day

2) MCU Status: The replacement coffee pot is now installed. The pot does not have the "dribble" problem the old one had and brews a hot pot of coffee. The Boom Microphone and Headset we requested for the Icom 706 also came in and is now in the MCU as well.

3) Sierra Vista Red Cross Office: This afternoon Cheryl Bender of the American Red Cross office in Tucson announced at the Fire Chief's Meeting that the Sierra Vista Office will not be renewing its lease. It will close at the end of April. Red Cross services will be handled by local volunteers but they will not have an office to work out of. I picked up the radio equipment this afternoon and we will remove the 2 meter antenna and coaxial cable tomorrow.

Training:

On our last net, I mentioned that I would like to start a series of training sessions devoted to handling formal message traffic. This evening we will first demonstrate a sample message and then discuss it. I would like all net participants to copy the message. I have asked Dale and Barb help me with this exercise. Barb, take it away.

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NJ7C THIS IS KD7YOZ, I HAVE ONE ROUTINE FOR THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OFFICE,  
SIERRA VISTA OVER.  
THIS IS NJ7C OVER  
MESSAGE FOLLOWS:  
NR 5 ROUTINE KD7YOZ 10 DOUGLAS AZ 0300Z MAR 26  
TO: AMERICAN RED CROSS  
1234 FRONTAGE RD  
SIERRA VISTA AZ 85635  
PHONE 458-5555  
BREAK  
REQUEST ADDITIONAL BUNKS AND BLANKETS  
FOR TEMPORARY SHELTER IN DOUGLAS  
BREAK  
SIGNED HAL BURTON  
OVER
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Thank you both for your assistance.

The purpose of using a standard or a specified format in any field of endeavor is so that everyone knows what to expect and with a minimum amount of explanation. The amateur radio message form, or radiogram is a standard format used for passing messages – otherwise known as traffic – via the National Traffic System (NTS). If amateurs are practiced in using a standard on a regular basis, use during emergency situations becomes natural. While the published standard may not be perfect for all applications, it serves as a baseline which can be readily adapted for use with a specific served agency.

For those of you who are familiar with sending and receiving traffic in the MARS system, there are some differences. The format demonstrated this evening is the standard for the National

Traffic System and the procedure used within the amateur community. MARS members receive training in converting traffic from MARS format to amateur and vice versa in a procedure called REFILE. If you are not familiar with NTS format, you may find the procedures identified in the following ARRL publications: The Public Service Communications Manual, The ARES Field Resources Manual, or The Radio Operators Handbook. We will cover the basic procedures over the next few training sessions.

We will complete tonight's training by just identifying the basic components of a message. The basic components are:

1 – The Preamble, often referred to as the header. This consists of administrative data including the message number, originating station, precedence and date/time or origination. The combination of the message number and the originating station serves as a unique message identifier that can be traced if necessary.

2- The Address, This includes the name, street address or PO Box, city, state, and zip code of the individual to whom the message is intended to be delivered. The address should also include telephone number since the majority of amateur radio messages are ultimately delivered via local phone call in the destination area.

3- The Text of the message, The text should be brief and to the point, limited if possible to 25 words or less. The texts should be written in lines of five words, to ease and speed the counting of words when generating the check count. Care should be taken to avoid contractions, as the apostrophe is generally not used in CW; for example the contraction for "I will" could cause undue stress to the receiver.

4. – The Signature, this can be single name, name and call sign, name and title of representative of served agency, whatever is needed to ensure the recipient can identify the sender. The amateur originating the message should have enough information so that a reply message can be returned to the originator.

The Arizona Traffic and Emergency Net web page: <http://www.atenaz.net/>

That's it for training tonight, now let's go down the net for comments.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

The desire to succeed means nothing without the will to prepare!