

RACE S Notes for 05/14/2008

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

- 5/15 – Ft Huachuca Safety Day
- 5/27 – Skywarn Training Class, Oscar Yrun Center, Sierra Vista
- 5/31 – Prescott Hamfest
- 6/7 – White Mountain Hamfest, Showlow
- 7/4 – Bisbee Coaster Race
- 7/18-19 - Williams Hamfest

2) Spectra Radios – As most of you know, Cochise County provided the County RACES unit a number of obsolete Motorola Spectra 45-watt Radios early last month. Several of you took advantage of the Hamfest Special and either picked one up or committed to one of the VHF or UHF units that were available. We still have a few left if you are interested. Additionally, we now have a few of the connector boards required to convert the two part remote units into unified units. That means you have no remote cable to figure out where to stuff. You can either purchase the factory connector board (\$25 including shipping and handling) or make one from parts available from Radio Shack and DigiKey. For the more adventuresome of you, Dale – NJ7C, has put together a couple working prototypes and can provide step by step information on how to do it. If you are interested in either option give me a call or drop me an email for more information.

3) Ft Huachuca Safety Day – We have a volunteer now for each of the time segments. If you want to come on over, come on down. We will be at the Thunder Mountain Activity Center, formerly known as the NCO Club just off Irwin St on Ft Huachuca.

Training:

A couple nets ago, we started a series dealing with National Traffic System message formatting. We provided a sample message to introduce you to the basic radiogram elements. On the first net we covered Element I, the Preamble and tonight we will finish the elements of a formal message, Elements II – IV.

Element II – Address: This sounds obvious but there can be hitches. The address is of course the person or the agency that is supposed to receive the message. It should be as complete as possible and should include a complete name, street address, zip code and telephone number. In emergencies, the phone number may be critical to expedite delivery of the message. The street address will assist if it needs to be delivered by messenger. Who knows, the phones may be out and messenger delivery may be the only option.

Element III – The Text of the Message – We encourage messages to be limited to 25 words or less if possible. During emergencies, we may not be able to control that. The text is everything between the Break to Break. As you receive the message I recommend that you write five words per line to assist you later in verifying the word count.

Element IV – Signature – During an emergency, the messages you handle can easily contain requests for very expensive supplies that have a very limited shelf life (such as blood for an aid station), or for agencies that will only respond to authorized requests (Critical Air Helicopters). As such, it is imperative that you ensure signature/authority is included in every message. If you are the first operator in the handling chain, try to ensure to have a method to contact the message originator if there are questions coming back. Okay, let's send a message for practice. Every one should try to copy the message, listen carefully to how Dale and Barbara send and acknowledge it.

NJ7C, THIS IS KD7YOZ. I HAVE ONE ROUTINE FOR THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OFFICE,
SIERRA VISTA OVER.
THIS IS NJ7C OVER
NR 5 ROUTINE HXC KD7YOZ 12 DOUGLAS AZ 0300Z MAY 14
TO: AMERICAN RED CROSS
1234 FRONTAGE RD
SIERRA VISTA AZ 85635
PHONE 458-5555
BREAK
REQUEST TEN ADDITIONAL BUNKS AND
BEDDING FOR A TEMPORARY SHELTER
IN DOUGLAS
BREAK
SIGNED HAL BURTON, DOUGLAS, ARC
OVER

KD7YOZ, THIS IS NJ7C, ROGER YOUR NR 5, OUT.

I know for many of you, this has been your first exposure to formal message traffic handling while for others it is a refresher. While NTS formats can handle many different types of information flow, there will often be requirements for formats that are unique to an individual emergency. Use the most effective message format for the event you are working.

As I mentioned before, the handling instructions in the preamble are optional but I included one in the message tonight after the precedence. Here are the meanings of each of them for reference:
HXA – (Followed by a number) Collect landline delivery authorized by addressee within XX miles.
(If no number, authorization is unlimited)
HXB – (Followed by a number) Cancel message if not delivered within XX hours of filing time;
service back to originating station.
HXC – Report date and time of delivery back to originating station.
HXD – Report to originating station the identity of the station from which received plus date and
time. Report identity of station to which relayed, plus date and time, or if delivered, report
date, time and method of delivery.
HXE – Delivering station get reply from addressee, originate message back.
HXF - (Followed by a number) Hold delivery until ..(date)
HXG – Delivery by mail or landline toll call not required. If toll or other expense involved, cancel
message and service originating station.

Hopefully the preamble and basic format now makes more sense to you than it did last time.
Okay, this is quite a bit of information so we will stop at this point and pick up again on our next
net. We will now go down the roster for comments.

Bob

Robert L Hollister, N7INK