

RACE S Notes for 07/09/2008

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

7/18 -19 - Williams Hamfest
8/30-31 9/1 - Paradise
9/12-14 – Southwest Convention, Mesa
9/20-21 - SAR Training: Overnight at E. Stronghold—All Specialties
10/11 – Cochise Perimeter Bicycling Classic

2) Bisbee Coaster Race – Thank you for another successful year. I especially want to thank RB (K7HVV) and Fred (W7LGN) for their help in doing most of the upfront coordination. Mr. Jack Porter, the primary Coaster Race Coordinator, was very appreciative of our support and said again: " I don't know how we would put it on without your support."

3) Paradise – Just a reminder that Paradise is only a couple months away. I have submitted the special event announcement to the ARRL.

4) National SOS Radio Network – I received an email from Mike Evans that had been forwarded from the State Emergency Management office about a National SOS Radio Network. Eric Knight, the founder of this volunteer organization is encouraging an awareness of his organization. They are encouraging the use of "FRS / GMRS Channel 1" as a communications option of last resort. That is, to only be used when all other traditional means of communication (landline, cell phone, etc.) become disrupted. Apparently they have conducted some National SOS drills over the past three years. He is requesting "that, during an emergency, your regional EMS / EmComm teams monitor FRS / GMRS Channel 1 (which is 462.5625 MHz)." Supplemental to that, he requests, that your teams not only monitor 462.5625 MHz, but also be able to transmit on that frequency -- to respond to and comfort a person in distress. I know that some of the RACE S unit members have that capability but it is not currently part of any of our protocols. We can certainly add that channel to our scanner but do not have a transmitter for that channel in the MCU. We should probably purchase a unit for the MCU radio cache.

Training: We will have a short training multiple-choice quiz tonight on lightning I copied from the Internet. Write down your answers as we go down the short list and then we will cover the answers.

1. Where is the safest place to be during a lightning storm?

- A. In a car
- B. In the middle of a field
- C. In a house
- D. Lying face down on the ground

By far the safest place to be during an electrical storm is in a house or building. The metal plumbing and wiring in the walls of the building form a protective barrier. It is important to remember not to be touching that metallic cage, i.e. stay away from electrical appliances, plumbing fixtures, etc.

2. Using a telephone during a lightning storm is dangerous.

True

False

Lightning can strike telephone and electrical wires and travel into your house, through your phone cord, into your telephone, to the handset, and SHOCK you! Cordless phones are not dangerous because there is no physical connection to the wires. It is, however, rude to use your cordless phone during an electrical storm to call your neighbor who does not have a cordless phone.

3. A car is a safe place to be in an electrical storm because it has rubber tires.

True

False

While cars are a very safe place to be, it is not the tires that protect you! This is a very common misconception. It is actually the metal that is surrounding you that affords the protection. This is due to something called the Skin Effect which says that electricity, like lightning, will travel only on the surface of enclosed metal objects. So while your car may be hit by lightning, as long as you stay inside, you are safe. This is of course provided that you have a metal car that is not a convertible. Incidentally, your tires would have to be about a mile thick and made of solid rubber to afford you adequate protection.

4. The average number of people who die in the United States each year from being struck by lightning is about

A. 10

B. 100

C. 1,000

D. 100,000

About 100 people die each year in the United States as the result of being struck by a lightning bolt.

5. The greatest number of people who die from being struck by lightning are

A. Golfers

B. Fisherman

C. Farmers

D. Joggers

According to a study by Dr. Martin A Uman, in his 1971 book, "Understanding Lightning," 29 percent of those killed were farmers. This compares to 19 percent being golfers, and nearly 15 percent were fisherman. Joggers were not mentioned in the study.

We will now go down the roster for comments.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

"If you see a friend without a smile; give him one of yours."

Proverb