

Net Notes for July 14, 2010

## News and Announcements

### 1) Upcoming Events

7/16-17      Williams Hamfest  
9/4-5-6      Paradise Outing

2) Bisbee Coaster Race – Thank you all for your support. Only a couple minor glitches including another spin out in the shut down area. Fortunately there were no serious injuries. Sgt Echave of Bisbee PD wants an antenna like I was using. He couldn't hear much at the overpass and was amazed at our coverage. And next time you want to let a car down the course with a "cupcake" to go to Iron Man, please indicate it is a "Giant Cupcake" art car. We were all puzzled at first what that was about until it showed up and it was described just how big that sucker was. Good Job, Again!!

3) Paradise – If you have not made plans yet, this is a good time to start thinking about the annual outing to Paradise over the Labor Day Weekend. For any new folks, we operate a "Special Event Station" from the Ghost Town of Paradise on the east side of the Chiricahua Mountains. We are coming up on number 31. It is always a fun event contacting stations around the country and even DX stations occasionally over that weekend. You get some good operating experience on the MCU as well as just plain good camaraderie with fellow hams and their families. It is a low pressure event, families are invited. Well behaved pets are also invited. Some folks use this as test of their 24 hour deployment kits. We leave on Saturday morning and return on Monday afternoon. If you do not want to stay the whole weekend, that is OK. Just come out on whichever day you would like to. I will want a headcount a little closer to the event. I need to send a letter to the Forest Service.

Training - Tonight I want to review some common communications Procedure Words (prowords).

a. We use prowords to achieve brevity during voice communications. These words are used to convey in condensed standard form certain frequently used orders, instructions, and information related to communications. Knowledge of prowords enhances brevity and clarity of network exchanges. Procedure signs (prosigns) and operating signals such as "Q" and "Z" are not designed for radiotelephone transmissions; they are used correspondingly in CW and during digital network operations. The following prowords are fundamental to efficient voice communications and every member must understand and be able to differentiate between their meaning and proper usage.

(1) Prowords "OVER"/"OUT". A voice transmission on VHF repeaters are rarely concluded with either the proword "OVER" or "OUT". The courtesy tone or "bee bop" of the repeater serves the function to tell the other party you are finished talking. Sometime in weak signal simplex operations, it is good practice to use the proword Over or Out. On HF, it is strongly recommended but one never never uses both. Why you might ask. Each proword signifies to the station you are in contact with that your transmission is completed and that you are either awaiting a response ("OVER"), or not awaiting a response ("OUT"). The other station should not transmit until the current net operation (traffic relay etc.) is completed and one of these two prowords is used. When entering a net always conclude your check-in with the proword "OVER" because you are awaiting acknowledgment from the NCS of your check-in.

(2) Prowords "WAIT"/"WAIT OUT". If it is necessary for a station to pause during their transmission for any reason, the prowords "WAIT" or "WAIT OUT" will be used. The proword "WAIT" is used when the pause required will last for only a few seconds; "WAIT OUT" is used when the pause requires more time. Even though the proword "WAIT OUT" ends with "OUT" the communication between these two stations is not yet complete, therefore no other station will transmit during this pause unless they have emergency traffic or traffic of a higher precedence than that being handled.

(3) Prowords "ROGER"/"AFFIRMATIVE"/"NEGATIVE". The proword "ROGER" signifies only that you understand the information transmitted to you, without indicating approval or disapproval; "AFFIRMATIVE" signifies approval and "NEGATIVE" disapproval. Additionally, since it only signifies understanding, the proword "ROGER" is not used as an action word. For example, it is inappropriate to say "I ROGER INTO THE NET..." or "I ROGER YOUR TRANSMISSION", where "ROGER" spoken alone will suffice.

(4) Proword "WILCO". The proword "WILL COMPLY" or its contraction "WILCO" may be used interchangeably. It is used in response to a request or tasking and means that you understand the tasking (thus no need to use in conjunction with the proword "ROGER") and agree to accomplish the task.

(5) Proword "BREAK". The purpose of the proword "BREAK" is twofold. First, it is primarily used in the transmission of messages to signify the breakpoints between the message heading and the text of the message, then again following the end of the message text. The second use of the proword, "BREAK", spoken once, is used to interrupt a net when a station has an emergency or traffic of a higher precedence than that which is being handled at that time. You will sometimes hear it repeated for emphasis as in "BREAK BREAK BREAK". Unlike the military service and MARS operations, amateur operators also use the proword "BREAK" to conclude their communication with one station and immediately establish it with another. Example, if I am talking to Joe and sign with him I might say:  
"Thanks Joe, BREAK, NJ7C this is N7INK"

b. Difficult Words/Groups. Difficult words or groups within plain text messages may be spelled using the phonetic alphabet preceded by the proword "I SPELL".

(1) Where text is composed of commonly used pronounceable words, they will be spoken and not spelled out. Where clarification is needed, say the word followed by the proword "I SPELL", spell the word phonetically and say the word again. For example, "CATENARY, I SPELL CHARLIE ALPHA TANGO ECHO NOVEMBER ALPHA ROMEO YANKEE, CATENARY."

(2) Single letters will be spelled phonetically preceded by the proword "INITIAL". However, the words "I" and "a" are considered words not initials; they are not spoken phonetically.

(3) Numerals will be preceded by the proword "FIGURES" when there is a need to distinguish between numerals not in mixed groups and words. "FIGURES" is not used when transmitting the heading of a message or when the prowords "NUMBER", "TIME", or "GROUPS" are used. Numbers will be transmitted digit by digit, except that exact multiples of hundreds and thousands are spoken as such. The decimal point is spoken as "DAY-SEE-MAL". Roman numerals will be transmitted as the corresponding Arabic letters, preceded by

the proword "ROMAN". For example, the Roman numeral "XVI" is spoken as "ROMAN NUMERAL X-RAY VICTOR INDIA".

(4) The proword "PERIOD" is used to indicate the end of a sentence during voice communications.

(5) E-mail addresses that include the "at sign" (@) and periods are spoken as "AT SIGN" and "DOT". For example, [JIM.JONES@COX.COM](mailto:JIM.JONES@COX.COM) may be spoken as "JIM DOT JONES, AT SIGN, I SPELL CHARLIE OSCAR X-RAY DOT COM".

That's it for tonight's training. If you have any questions, please ask them during comments. Don't forget our next Net will be on Wednesday, July 28 at 2000 Hrs. Don't forget the CARA net on Thursday evenings at 1900 hours on the 146.76 repeater. This is N7INK and the net is closed. Out.

**Bob**

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

*"There lies within all beings an awakening. It is the hunger of life that seeks the dawn."*

*Shane Pendley*