

RACES Notes for 07/25/2007

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

Sep 1-3 - Paradise 2007

2) MCU Update:

On Friday afternoon we received a call from Fleet confirming that a new generator door is now on order with Frontline Communications to replace the damaged one. No delivery date was given. Also on last Friday morning Pablo (KE7FPP) & Roy (KE7LIZ) came over and we did some work on the MCU. We checked some cabling and receiver sensitivity issues. Two "suspect" RF Connectors were replaced on the two Motorola radios. We were having some erratic SWR readings off these two cables. Although the SWR on the Big Stick is within expected ranges, we also found what we believe to be loose elements inside the fiberglass shield. Pablo said he would order a replacement because that could also be causing some of the erratic reception problems we have been experiencing. I can tell you that in a brief test on last Saturday, we compared the Big Stick up at about 25 foot to a roof top antenna and it did show an improvement in signal reception over the roof top antenna. Just be very careful when changing the cables from one connector to another and hold them steady to avoid twisting while reconnecting the connectors to the patch panel.

A replacement cell phone booster has been temporarily installed as well. It is currently connected to a cigarette lighter in the cab. The inside booster antenna is inside the shelter and an external antenna on the cab roof. Be doubly sure this is turned off at the end of the mission as it pulls quite a bit of power and could draw down the battery. A more permanent installation will be worked out.

Training:

Some of you are aware of the type of reports that are prepared during the year. I thought tonight I would bring you all up to date on the number and content of the aperiodic, monthly, quarterly, and annual reports.

Aperiodic reports –

These are not submitted on any particular schedule. Currently the only aperiodic report being prepared is the After Action Report that is completed after each mission that we complete. Most of you have seen one or more of these so we won't go into any greater detail. This report is submitted to the Incident Commander and to the County Emergency Services Coordinator, usually within 48 hours of the conclusion of the incident while the information is still fresh in our mind.

Monthly Reports –

DEC Report - Currently the monthly District Emergency Coordinator Report goes to Rick Aldom-W7STS, the Arizona Section Emergency Coordinator, and Mr. Evans, the County Emergency Services Coordinator. This report is used as input to the section

emergency report that Rick submits to the ARRL. It summarizes the activities within the county for the past month as well as provides some specific statistical data. The primary data points include: # of members, changes in member numbers, # of hours of training, public service support and emergency operations. If you remember on my last net we asked for Home Unit Members to provide N7INK with a short report identifying the mission and number of hours you were active. These hours are included in this report.

ARRL Net Report – This report goes to the Section Net Manager who keep track of the number of nets conducted as well as the number of messages processed. Although the RACES/ARES net we have twice a month is not specifically organized to handle traffic, we certainly can and may start including some practice formal messages in the future.

Quarterly Reports –

Volunteer Report – This is submitted to the county. It includes a roster of current RACES members and is used to document the participation of members in various deployments. Each month you deploy from your home in support of any RACES mission, such as a SAR mission, the county makes a contribution to the AZ Worker's Compensation Insurance Fund. This is true for the Sheriff's Assist Team or other volunteer units registered as a county element. You are basically covered for injuries from the time you leave your home until you return from the mission. I would also remind you that when you sign in and out at the mission location, allow travel time for your beginning and ending time.

Annual Reports

SET Report – The ARRL conducts an annual Simulated Emergency Test or SET in October. We routinely document any major county exercise support during the year to satisfy this requirement. Some years we have conducted an exercise that was not conducted with the county but that is rare.

That's all for tonight, let's go down the roster for comments.