

Net Notes for August 12, 2009

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events

9/5-7 Annual Trek to Paradise

9/30-10/2 COM-L Class

10/17 Cochise County Cycling Classic (CCCC) Perimeter Bike Race

10/17 Old Pueblo Radio Club & Radio Society of Tucson (OPRC/RST), Fall Hamfest & ARCA Meeting.

2) Paradise – Just a couple weeks away from the 30th anniversary trip to the Ghost Town of Paradise. The Special Event Notice has been placed in QST and arrangements made with the Forest Service. We are just recruiting participants now to make sure it is a fun and memorable anniversary. The Porta-Potti from Roto-Rooter is reserved for pickup to take out with us. For folks who wish to go with the group, the convoy typically leaves the CARA club-site around 0730 in the morning and returns on Monday afternoon. We were turned down on our request to cut a larger area in the meadow in advance of the deployment.

3) CCCC Bike Race – We are recruiting volunteers to assist in this annual bike race event. Unlike the La Vuelta event, this requires us to set up stationary check points and assist in keeping track of the progress of the race and report any emergency situations. If you have not signed up with RB yet, please do. RB, any additional comments you would like to make at this time?

Training – MCU updates – After a recent mission a couple issues came up that have indicated that maybe a few more labels were needed to assist folks remember some operational points. Last week Jim Lewis and I did some relabeling of the antenna patch panel and the public service radios to help operators ensure they are making correct patches.

Additional labeling has been added to the both laptop and desktop computers to assist during setup and log-in. A reminder was added to the ACU-Stack Astron power supply at the bottom of the rack to turn it off after any ACU operations are complete. This should help ensure that it is not left on and possibly blow a fuse or circuit breaker when the MCU is initially powered up.

All operators are encouraged to be familiar with the basic rooftop antenna configuration. The other day, we lost both the APRS antenna on the curbside rear and the UHF antenna on the top curb side near the rear of the vehicle. From the remaining evidence, it appears that they were snapped off while going under low branches on a recent mission. I am not sure exactly when they were broken off but suspect it was on the way to Gleeson leaving Tombstone.

Anyone who goes upon the roof of the MCU should take a walk around while they are up there and check to ensure each antenna is in place and then reach down and be sure they are tight on their mounts. Many of the roads we go down cause things to loosen up and require occasional retightening. For example, while closing down operations at DICE a couple months ago, it was noticed that the Air Conditioner unit had become loose and moved off its mount. Fortunately, no damage occurred and it was easily re-secured by the County Fleet Maintenance crew. If you see any damage or something strange, please let me know so it can be fixed.

Well that is all we have for this evening.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

"I think we dream so we don't have to be apart so long. If we're in each other's dreams, we can be together all the time."

Calvin & Hobbes