

RACES Notes for 08/22/2007

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

Sep 1-3 - Paradise 2007
Oct 13 – Perimeter Bike Race

2) MCU Update:

The generator door replacement was accomplished and the Big Stick antenna replacement has been put in the MCU. Generator was to have been serviced today. I was unable to confirm that.

3) Paradise:

Preparations for our annual trek to Paradise are moving along. I'll be going over to the Forest Service Office tomorrow to see if the permit is complete. The supervisor who is supposed to sign it has been out of the area working a fire but is supposed to be back now.

Training: National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month and Amateur Radio operators are joining a wide variety of national, state and local organizations, including the US Department of Homeland Security, in educating the public about preparing for emergencies. When unexpected natural or man-made emergencies occur, our greatest individual defense is preparedness. Getting an emergency supply kit, making an emergency plan, and identifying preparedness and response resources within our communities are several things we can do to prepare ourselves. This nationwide effort is to encourage individuals and families to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

Potential Threats

We know that terrorists are working to obtain biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons, and the threat of an attack is very real. The Department of Homeland Security, the federal government, and at other organizations across America, people are working hard to strengthen our Nation's security and to reduce our vulnerability to emergencies of all kinds. Whenever possible, we want to stop terrorist attacks before they happen. All Americans should begin a process of learning about potential threats so we are better prepared to react during an attack, natural disaster or other emergency. While there is no way to predict what will happen, or what your personal circumstances will be, there are simple things you can do now to prepare yourself and your loved ones. Some of the things you can do to prepare for a terrorist attack, such as assembling a supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same preparations for both a natural or man-made emergency. However, as you will read in this brochure, there are important differences among potential terrorist

threats that will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. With a little planning and common sense, you can be better prepared for the unexpected.

Just like having a working smoke detector in your home, having emergency supply kits will put the tools you may need at your fingertips. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for **at least three days**, maybe longer. While there are many things that might make you more comfortable, think first about fresh water, food and clean air. Remember to include, and periodically rotate, medications you take every day such as insulin and heart medicine. Plan to store items in an easy-to-carry bag, such as a shopping bag, backpack or duffle bag. **Consider two kits**. In one, put everything you will need to stay where you are and make it on your own. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you have to leave home. I recommend that you go to the following web site and look at the materials and checklists that are available there. The website address is:

<http://www.ready.gov/america/>

They have downloadable brochures for emergency kit checklists, Family Emergency Plans, and general information on Being Ready for a variety of scenarios. Some of the brochures available include:

- Are you Ready Manual
- Emergency Supply List
- Family Emergency Plan
- "Older Americans"
- Disabilities and Special Needs
- Ready Pets
- Ready Kids
- Every Business Should have a plan

In addition to general family preparedness, as amateur radio operators I would suggest that this is a good time to check out your radio gear before the fall and winter set in. I am sure that it does not feel like fall or winter yet with 90 degree temperatures but it is not that far around the corner. So, double check batteries in your portable equipment, power cables to your mobile and home station, and of course the RF cables to your antennas.

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

Bob
Robert L Hollister