

Net Notes for December 9, 2009

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events

- 12/12 CARA Christmas Dinner
- 2/20 Yuma Hamfest/ARCA Meeting
- 3/13 Scottsdale Hamfest/ARCA Meeting, Ft McDowell Casino

2) SV XMAS Parade Feedback – I spoke to the Chamber Parade Coordinator earlier today and they were extremely pleased with our support. She has asked me to put us on their calendar for next year as well. There are a few lessons learned from this experience that we should capitalize on for next year. First, we will probably use the repeater for most communications between the outstations and the Parade Command Post (MCU). Second, we will assign a couple more simplex channels for flexibility between local stations. As soon as we update the Frequency Appendix to the RACES Manual I will put the information out and suggest that everyone include the basic channels in their radio (HT and/or Mobile) channel load. A couple members used earphones to help overcome the ambient noise at their location and recommend that others try this technique. I use a separate speaker/microphone unit clipped to my collar. The unit I use has a place to plug in a separate earphone as well. I am guessing they would be a great addition for events like the coaster race as well.

3) RACES Photo ID Cards – We are scheduled to have the County Photo ID card machine at the CARA meeting on January 4, 2010. If your card is expired, lost or you have never received a photo ID card, please plan to attend the meeting early so we can get your card made.

Training – Tonight I want to add some comments about the Go-Kit we discussed on our last net.

First – Safety. I believe I may not have stressed the importance of having a reflective vest, belt, and/or even a small strobe light like a lot of cyclists use for visibility during night and even day operations. The reflective vests are also extremely useful in the event you have to stop by the side of the road to change a tire or have a similar roadside emergency. I would suggest that having many of these Go-Kit items in your vehicle all times in the event of any roadside emergency.

A word about light sticks. You probably wonder why I suggest Green or Red light sticks as opposed to some of the other colors available. Police and military units like the red LED for night operations because it will not interfere with night vision technology and can't easily be picked up by other people. The green LED light is preferred by hunters and fishermen because it is a very soft light that will not spook their prey. Green also does not attract insects like white or yellow light does. Any really bright light is going to

impact your night vision but you will recover more quickly if you are using red or green. You can get the holders for individual light sticks at the MI Store or on the web.

Most of you are familiar with using electrical tape for taping wires together. Did you know it can also be used with the large garbage bags with a little lightweight rope or cord to make a temporary shelter. Duct Tape is also good for that purpose but I am trying to not load you down too much.

I keep a lot of my food items such as power bars, individual coffee packs or tea bags in Ziploc style bags to help keep them dry and fresh longer. I also date any food items and spare batteries as to when it was packed so I can be sure to rotate them every 6 months or so. I use the gallon size or larger Ziploc style bags to keep my change of socks, underwear, or other clothing items clean and dry and then reuse them to put any dirty laundry that might accrue during the mission from smelling up the clean stuff.

I also have assembled a smaller bag that has just my handheld radio, microphone, earphone, GPS and spare batteries.

Earlier this week I sent out a home work assignment for you review the list of items for your Go-Kit. The second part of the assignment was to bring to the net this evening at one or two of your favorite "can't-live-without" items to discuss during comments. One of my all time favorite items is a small LED headlamp. I keep one in both the truck and in the car. It allows me to do keep my hands free while accomplishing a variety of tasks. Some come with a strap around your head and others as a clip onto the bill of your cap. Whichever style you use, once you have tried it, you won't want to be in the field without it. I am keeping my comments relatively short this evening to allow more time for discussion as we go down the roster for your suggestions. And, just because someone else has identified one of your favorites, don't be afraid to mention it again. The repetition may just indicate how important or useful that item is if it is mentioned multiple times.

Well that's all the training for this evening. Are there any late members or visitors wishing to check in at this time? OK, let's start down the roster for comments.

Couple of Favorites from the net tonight:

"Rite-in-the-Rain" writing tablets

LED Headlamps

Fire Starter

Small First Aid Kits

Laser Pointer

Pouches of Tuna Salad

Beanee Weenee cans

Granola Bars

Toothbrush/Paste

Blanket/Sleeping Bag

Jacket with lots of pockets

Don't forget our next Net will be on December 23rd at 2000 Hrs. Don't forget the CARA net on Thursday evening at 1900 hours on the 146.76 repeater and the CARA Christmas Buffet on Saturday at 12:00 Noon. This net is closed.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

***Life Lesson # 26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words
'In five years, will this matter?' - Regina Brett***