

RACES General Meeting

August 17, 2010

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Training on the Towing & Set-Up of the Communications Trailer**
 - We began this month's meeting outdoors with training on the towing and set-up of the Comm Trailer to take advantage of the available daylight.
- **Minutes of July General Meeting**
 - Highlights from minutes of last month's meeting were read and approved.
- **Status of RACES Repeater**
 - The new repeater is up and operating well.
 - The new repeater location is Providence Medical Center.
 - Some people are having problems reaching the new repeater from Handi Talkies
 - Other people are now getting better coverage than before
 - Storm Spotters, and RACES members checking in to the weekly net, are asked to state their locations so we can get a better idea of where "holes" in our coverage might exist.
 - We are getting very good coverage in the west end of the county – but we're suspecting some "holes" in the east portion of the county.
 - Some Storm Spotters may need to consider going to a 50 watt mobile radio unit instead of using Handi Talkies
- **Night Out Against Crime – August 3, 2010 – Indian Springs Shopping Center**
 - Everyone that had attended Night Out Against Crime agreed that being inside during the extreme heat was great.
 - The Communications Trailer was set up outside Indian Springs Shopping Center and was fully functional as a radio station.
 - Larry Eker and Ed Rust were able to make contacts with both Florida and Pennsylvania from the trailer.
 - The CERT trailer was also set up for that evening.
 - Doug & Susan Brown also had their SUV with Storm Spotter equipment on display.

- **Storm Spotting and activations during the month of July.**
 - All Storm Spotting has now been switched to the new RACES repeater.
 - Kudos were given to all Net Control operators for jobs well done.
 - Also, kudos and many thanks to all operators in the field.
 - Emergency Management acknowledges that National Weather Service does not always acknowledge what our spotters are reporting.
 - E.M. wants all spotters to know that “Probably, YES” – Wyandotte County would most likely sound the sirens based on what our trained spotters are reporting to us at the EOC.
 - If you’ve got hail, rain, rotation ... all the elements are there – “We will hit the big button!”
 - Fortunately this has been a fairly quiet storm season. Many thanks to everyone who participate in Storm Spotting.

- **Kent Dickinson, Kansas Director of Army MARS, was our Guest Speaker at this month’s meeting.**
 - Kent explained the MARS mission. (see our website – wycoraces.org – for more information)
 - Talked about having additional frequencies available to MARS that are beyond normal Amateur radio frequencies that can be used during emergencies.
 - Talked about working on getting Army MARS stations set up in all 10 FEMA regions.
 - We are in region 7 which covers the same area as FEMA region 7.
 - Emergency Management now has an Army MARS License – AAN7ZW
 - Emergency Management is looking for Control Operators for our Army MARS station.
 - Must be a General Class operator – or obtain a General Class upgrade within 1 yr of joining Army MARS.
 - Being a member of MARS offers a really great opportunity for practice in using digital modes.
 - All equipment in EOC is MARS capable.
 - There is a link on our RACES website to Army MARS.

- **Recognition of participants in Operation Perfect Storm**
 - Operation Perfect Storm was conducted in April 2010 – participants were by invitation only due to the need to perform specific tests.
 - Multiple evaluators from the exercise put into their written evaluations how impressed they were when Amateur radio stations were operational

and passing important information much earlier than regular emergency response channels.

- **NIMS Audit**

- The Emergency Management Staff is working on the required FEMA annual audit regarding NIMS compliances.
 - As first responders or first responder support, the RACES members must have completed at least the ICS100 and IS 700 FEMA courses.
- Larry Eker will send out an email to everyone asking for a verification of their records.
 - When you receive the email, please, email back as to which of the NIMS courses you have completed. IS 100, 200, 700, 800, 300, 400, and others.

- **Signup sheets for upcoming events.**

- A sign-up sheet was available to start getting an idea of volunteers that would be available to take shifts for the Fall Race Weekend at the Ks Speedway – Oct 1, 2 3
 - Asking for only one person per shift due to limited space at Speedway EOC.
- Another sign-up sheet was available to start getting an idea of volunteers that would be available to take shifts for the Boy Scout Jamboree – September 23, 24, 25, 26, 27
 - To be held at Camp Naish – Very little information is known at this time.
 - We will need 1 RACES person per shift to man the Comm. Trailer.
 - Our Communication Trailer will not be used as a Special Event Station.
 - Expecting up to 10,000 to 20,000 scouts & parents
 - The Comm. trailer will be at Camp Naish for the entire event.
 - The Comm. trailer will need to be staffed 24 hrs each day of event.
 - The trailer will be used as an Internet HotSpot
 - We expect to have HF radios set up
 - The exact location for placing the trailer is still being worked on.
- A third sign-up sheet was available to start getting an idea of volunteers that would be available to participate in the Metro Wide Simulated Emergency Test (SET) – Saturday, October 2, 2010

- **MECC annual SET drill – Saturday, October 2nd**

- We have received confirmation that the SET this year will be held at Kansas City, Kansas Community College Campus
 - The drill this year is expected to be following the same scenario as last year. Storms have passed through Kansas City area causing damage and injuries in multiple locations.
 - The RACES portion of the drill may be a 6 hour drill to allow for shift changes to be inserted into the drill.

- We will be running 4 to 5 nets during this drill.
- We will be receiving mutual aid from Leavenworth County ARES again this year.
- The Hot Wash will be held in a conference room at the College immediately following the drill.

- **Specialized Teams**

- We would like to start right away to create specialized teams.
 - Digital Team
 - Voice Communications Team
 - Comm. Trailer Team – GOTA Station
 - Mobile Command Vehicle Team.
 - Each team would be responsible for having equipment ready to deploy at a moment notice
 - Including radios, computers, antennas etc.
 - Each team would be responsible for knowing how to set up their equipment in emergency conditions.
 - What if there are not a lot of trees to attach antennas too?
 - Each team would be responsible for knowing how to get their equipment on the air as quickly as possible.