

RACES General Meeting

July 20, 2010

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Minutes of June General Meeting**
 - Highlights from minutes of last month's meeting were read and approved
- **Status of RACES Repeater**
 - The installation of the new repeater is being held up waiting for an antenna.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by all parties.
 - The new repeater location is Providence Medical Center.
 - Hope to have the new repeater fully operational by September 1, 2010
 - There is no longer an option of delaying moving the repeater. Everyone has been ordered off of the old water tower.
- **Boy Scout Jamboree – September 23 – 28**
 - A sign-up sheet was passed around to start getting an idea of volunteers that would be available to take shifts.
 - To be held at Camp Naish
 - Expecting up 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
 - The Comm trailer will not be a Special Event station.
 - The trailer will be running off of Shore Power. The generator will not need to be powered up.
 - Everyone is getting a little frustrated that time is running short and we still have not received any real schedule or plan from the Boy Scouts.
- **MECC annual SET drill – Saturday, October 2nd**
 - 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.

- **Fall RACE weekend – Oct 1, 2 & 3, 2010**
 - A sign-up sheet was passed around to start getting an idea of volunteers that would be available to take shifts.
 - Emergency Management is requesting one person per shift due to space limitations.
 - 2 people will be needed (2 shifts) to cover the Speedway during the October 2nd SET.
 - Radio operators that are working the Speedway are asked to use headphones if they choose to monitor the SET from that station. This will reduce noise and confusion in the EOC at the Speedway.

- **Storm Spotting and activations during the month of June.**
 - All Storm Spotting at this time will be conducted on the CERT repeater – 147.165 MHz
 - Regular RACES net and general communication traffic will use the backup repeater located at City Hall.
 - 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!”
 - Team members were asked how they felt about having a short, basic weather spotter knowledge/review type test at the monthly meeting following the Weather Spotter Seminar in the spring?
 - The question was asked – “Is there Storm Spotting information on our RACES website?” – YES!
 - Team members suggested possible short reviews on weather spotting throughout the year in after meeting continuing education.
 - Curt Robinson brought a copy of the new ARRL Storm Spotting & Amateur Radio handbook.

- **Field Day Review**

- Field Day 2010 was held at Fire House # 6, 9548 State Avenue, June 26 & 27.
 - Team members that attended Field Day agreed that this was a really great location.
 - Air conditioned meeting room for cooling breaks and dinner.
 - Clean indoor restrooms with running water.
 - The fire department people were more than kind in making parking spaces and allowing us full access to the area.
- The Comm Trailer, CERT trailer and Mobile Command Vehicle were all at Field Day this year.
- The logging Network worked great this year.
- Having 3 air conditioned trailers was really great in 100 degree heat.
- A very small group of people tried to do too much ... and didn't ask for enough help.
- In the future we want to try to set up more stations inside the Mobile Command Unit.
- We need to get more operators that are willing to work the radios late at night and early Sunday morning.
- Digital contacts – PSK 31 was fun – made several contacts Saturday evening.
- Need to work on more efficient use and placement of antennas.
 - We want to look at more use of ladder line.
- Many thanks to Joe Krout for loaning his personal antenna to use on CERT trailer.

- **Specialized Teams**

- We would like to start immediately to create specialized teams
 - Digital Team
 - Voice Communications Team
 - Comm Trailer Team – GOTA station
 - Mobile Command 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.

- **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.
 - Working on getting Army MARS stations set up in all 7 FEMA regions.
 - **Kent Dickinson, member of Army MARS, will be the Guest Speaker at our August 2010 RACES meeting.**
 - Red Cross in Kansas City, Missouri also has a MARS license.
 - All equipment in EOC is MARS capable.
 - There is a link on our RACES website to Army MARS.

- **Minimum Participation Requirements effective July 1, 2010**
 - Requirements are:
 - Active member will attend two meetings per calendar year. (July 1, 2010 thru June 30, 2011)
 - Active member will complete one RACES Net check-in per calendar quarter
 - Active member will present to Emergency Management proof of completion of ICS 100 & ICS 700
 - Active member must present to Emergency Management certification of attending one Severe Weather Seminar per calendar year ... regardless of whether or not the person chooses to become a weather spotter.

- **Team members present were asked how they felt about having CERT & RACES meetings on same night?**
 - It was decided that this was not a good idea at this time.
 - Each team is working on continued education for their individual team members and this would greatly limit the time allowed for each meeting.

- **Continued training**
 - The meeting ended with a review of radios and items included in each “To Go” bag located at the EOC.