

## RACES General Meeting

March 15, 2011

- **Old Business**

- **Health Department Exercise Review**

- Health Department is preparing for a Regional Exercise (Kansas & Missouri).
  - They will need RACES participation on
    - Tuesday – April 19, 2011 – 0800 thru 1200 (noon)
    - Wednesday – April 20, 2011 – 1200 (noon) thru 1700.
- Plans are still being made & discussed
- RACES will be responsible for all radio communications for the Health Department
  - Web EOC
  - 800 MHz Voice Communications
  - RACES Voice Communications
  - Digital Communications (MT-63)
- RACES members would like to consider doing a “Trial Run” from Reardon Center – Saturday Morning – April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- **Up Coming Weather Seminars**

- Wyandotte County – KCK Weather Seminar will be at Kansas City, Kansas Community College – Thursday, March 24, 2011.
  - Sandy Rust has a database prepared and will ask members to help with registration table.
- Advanced Weather Seminar in Lawrence, Kansas – will be held on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Larry Eker will add a link to RACES Website for registration.

- **New Business**

- **A Brief discussion of Japan Disaster and the role of Amateur Radio emergency communications.**

- How & where could we help with a disaster in another country?
  - Hams can receive and relay health & welfare messages on HF
  - General Class & Extra Class operators are encouraged to check in to HF nets for practice in message passing.

- Checking into HF nets gives you the chance to familiarize yourself with listening for other operators around the state.
  - What do their voices sound like?
  - How strong is their normal signal?
- The Jayhawk Radio Club website has a list of HF frequencies and nets.
  - Kansas sideband net
  - Kansas weather net
- What if a disaster like this happened here?
  - Hams can receive and relay health & welfare messages.
  - RACES members should monitor RACES repeater
- Things to consider:
  - How long can you operate without power?
    - Do you have access to a generator?
    - Do you have adapters to use a car battery?
      - Did you fill your gas tank?
    - Does your radio use a battery pack?
      - Do you have good batteries on hand?
- **RACES digital net**
  - Ed Rust reported that they are continuing to hold a RACES digital net every Monday night immediately following the regular RACES voice net.
    - They begin the net by asking for voice check ins first.
      - This allows to check for coverage from either Ed or Joe's locations.
        - The voice check ins have shown fairly good coverage.
    - They are currently getting 3 to 5 check-ins each week.
- **Spring Exercise – Saturday – May 14th**
  - This will be a "Cold Start" drill
    - RACES members will know nothing in advance, other than the date.
    - Pages will be sent out the day of the drill. The pages will include:
      - Time to report
      - Location
      - Conditions
      - Purpose

○ **Field Day**

- It appears that Field Day will be held at Fire Station # 6 again this year.
- The set up will be similar to last year.
  - Communications Trailer
  - CERT Trailer
  - Mobile Command Vehicle
- We are looking at possibly putting the Get On The Air station in the MCV.
- We would like to ask people to sign up for 2 hour shifts this year.
  - Each shift would work one of four radio stations:
    - Get On The Air
    - Voice contacts
    - Digital contacts
    - CW
      - We really need more CW operators to sign up.
  - Working shifts would give everyone an opportunity to get hands on experience at each station that they are interested in.
  - Working shifts will hopefully help us stay on the air for the full 24 hrs without over taxing any one person.
- Concerns from last year's Field Day was the lack of interaction among attendees.
  - We're looking for ways to encourage more interaction.
    - Perhaps setting up tents outside in a shaded area where people can mingle and visit with one another.
    - Consider putting clear plastic drapes over open doors to trailers
      - The open doors would make the trailers look more inviting.
      - The plastic drapes would help to hold in the air-conditioning.
  - RACES members would like to see better public attendance.
    - Need to get the location of Field Day registered on ARRL.
    - Consider getting location posted on "Larry's List."
    - Can someone handle contacting local TV stations?
      - Ed Rust will speak to Joe Lauria (Fox 4) at Severe Weather Seminar in Lawrence.
  - Would like to check into getting a banner.
    - Having a banner professionally printed without a date would allow us to have a good quality banner that could be used for several years.

- **Training**
  - **Glen Dikes, KDOGIE, Instructor**
    - Training on ICS forms in preparation for Public Health Exercise.
      - ICS 205 – Radio Plan
      - ICS 213 – Message Form
      - ICS 214 – Unit Log – WyCo RACES format
      - ICS 309 – Radio Log – WyCo RACES format (These forms are located in the Members Only Section of the RACES website)