

RACES Newsletter

Serving Montgomery County Kansas

Published Quarterly

1st Quarter - January 2009

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A word from the Kansas State RACES Officer Joseph Plankinton - WDØDMV

Let me share some good news about the Kansas RACES program. Jason Moses, KSØTAG, the State contact for the Kansas Adjutant General's Office, had a telephone conference call on Dec 15th with a number of Hams in Kansas about what was needed to get the RACES program regenerated.

A number of great suggestions came out of this conference call. Some of the ideas were a monthly RACES newsletter, more information about RACES to the Counties and its use, training and direction from the State and a RACES web site. Jason implied there maybe more of these conference calls in the future.

On Thursday, Dec. 18th, Jason and I spend the afternoon installing the radios back in the communication room at the State Defense Building. RACES has two antennas still on the tower, both UHF/VHF verticals. Jason may have located an HF antenna which could be used for RACES HF communications. The one thing that Jason and I did not locate were the coaxes to attach the radios to the antennas, Jason is working on locating these.

I want to thank Jason for all his work in getting the station up and about ready to transmit again. It has been numerous years since RACES had a transmission out of the State building. Well mark your calendars now for the first Thursday of each month. I hope to hear many of you on the Net next month. The Kansas RACES Net meets each month on the first Thursday at 7:00 pm on 3940 KHz. All stations are welcome.

Joseph WDØDMV - State RACES Officer - wd0dmv@arll.net

From the Emergency Manager

Just a short history about the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and its initial formation.

RACES is an organization of amateur radio operators who volunteer to provide radio communications for State and local governments in times of emergency. Created in 1952 primarily to serve in civil defense emergencies, RACES provides essential communications and warning links in order to supplement State and local assets during emergencies.

RACES is sponsored by FEMA and is a special part of the amateur radio operation to provide emergency communications for emergency preparedness purposes.

During emergency situations, the RACES organization provides or supplements communications during emergencies where normal communications systems have sustained damage or are overloaded.

In Montgomery County, the RACES organization is formed and organized to operate in the County Emergency Operations Center in the event of a disaster.

The County RACES Officer is designated to organize the RACES team, conduct and record required County training, issue RACES Identification cards, and respond to emergencies as required by the County Emergency Manager.

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New Midwest Lab

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has recommended Kansas as the site for a new high-security animal disease lab. A decision that would eventually close Long Island's Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

The department released an environmental-impact statement endorsing Manhattan, Kan., as the site for a \$450-million National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. The lab, which will study foreign animal diseases that can destroy livestock, will be a biosafety level 4 facility - the most secure and able to study the most dangerous diseases.

Plum Island, a biosafety level 3 facility, has been the only lab in the country able to study foreign animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease. But the department has said it is too small, too outdated and isn't appropriate for biosafety level 4 research.

Homeland security spokesman John Verricoe said Plum Island will remain open until the new facility is operating but will eventually be closed. In a release, the department said it "will evaluate options in the coming months for transitioning [the Plum Island] facility and land for future sale or use."

The Kansas site - at Kansas State University - is expected to be formally designated on Jan. 21. It is expected to be operational by 2015, the department said.

Weather information on the Web

Here are a few of the common website for weather:

NOAA (Wichita Weather):

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=KSZ099>

Weather underground:

<http://www.wunderground.com>

Accu Weather:

<http://www.accuweather.com>

Weather Channel:

<http://www.weather.com/>



Be safe, have a weather radio!

S.E.K. Skywarn Notes

Skywarn Recognition Day

December 6, 2008

The National Weather Service Office in Wichita participated in what has now become an annual event.

Amateur operators set up an hf single sideband, PSK 31, VHF, and UHF as well as even EchoLink. All of these modes are used during storm activity for reporting to NWS/ICT as well for them to guide the spotters in the field.

Amateur Radio Operators (HAMS) are a vital link in the spotter and communication network used by the NWS during severe or otherwise inclement weather. They noted that the volunteer staff had grown from 30 to over 120 currently....with a need for more!

Not only do they report what they see with their own eyes, but they can report what others see, and also provide communications to other NWS offices should normal communication modes fail.

Jim Tuggle KCONYK

Asst Coordinator Skywarn NWS/ICT

SKYWARN Net Control SEK

Elk Falls, Ks

Leadership and Responsibility

A person that has been selected to be the leader of an organization, whether it be appointed, elected or a paid position, has certain inherent responsibilities to the people they serve.

The leader must lead by example. It is therefore incumbent upon the leader to properly prepare themselves, for the role they have accepted.

They, themselves, on their own initiative, must seek out and receive the proper training, certifications, and education, required to properly carry out any function that may fall under their authority. If one doesn't do this on their own, but waits until someone tells them that they are "required" to do so, then they are at that point, no longer a leader, but merely a follower.

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CARC Happenings:

Updating of the Coffeyville Amateur Radio Club (CARC) and its activities. We remain a viable and active part of the community in many and various areas.

At our last regular monthly meeting on November 11, 2008. We held our annual election of Club Officers. The following people we elected to these positions for the next calendar year of 2009.

NØRDM - Bob Martin, Club President.
W5COV - Chuck Vest, Vice President
NU0B - Ken Collins, Treasurer.
NOTAP - Dave Hanna, Secretary.

The CARC holds the regular Monday evening Nets as follows. At 8:30 PM we hold the CARC Net on WR0MG 442.875+ MHz Repeater. At 9:00 PM we hold the RACES/SATERN Net on NU0B 146.610 Machine with a tone of 91.5.

Many of our club Officers and Members also hold other Titles and Jobs that are related and/or connected to amateur radio. We all stand ready in Amateur Radio to be of service when called upon and/or when we see a need to take appropriate action when dispatched by the proper authorities.

We still hold a monthly meeting at the Coffeyville Club House on the Hill. We have an on-going study and testing program to advance amateur radio and many other activities that tie directly to Amateur Radio such as licensing upgrades in Amateur Radio.

All kinds of learning experiences.
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES).
National Incident Management Systems (NIMS)
Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC).
This is just to name a few of the important areas we work in.

We also, need and do hold work days when help is available. This Club, the (CARC) like most organizations does not remain static, as we are either moving ahead or sliding backwards, depending on what the Club wants to get accomplished. This is not the Club of a few but belongs to all the Members. Please be active and make your desires know to your elected leadership so we can move forward, we need and must have an enjoyable experience in Amateur Radio as well as have fun and be useful.

73's and hope you see you all soon.
Bob - NØRDM

Leadership and Responsibility

(Continued from Page 2)

A true leader can not expect those under them to be properly trained and certified, unless they themselves have already taken those steps.

We are fortunate today to have a system that does work; it is called NIMS / ICS. The training is free and ever expanding. Link: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>

In almost any incident you see today, from a local parade, to a terrorist response, or mass casualty incident, all are organized under the NIMS / ICS protocols.

The leader must be prepared to deal with the individual that will be in charge of any such incident. This is typically going to be the local Emergency Manager. They should also be fully aware in advance of what the requirements are to allow their people to participate in any event. There should be regular contact maintained between all parties involved to resolve any potential problems, before they become real life problems in the time of need.

The bottom line is if you want to be a leader, then get the training today!! You will then be setting the proper example for those under you to do the same, and you should lead them and encourage them to take the training. For without proper credentials and training, you become more of a liability, than an asset in any incident, even if you have some "Title" in a leadership position!!

Chuck, W5COV
Train-The-Trainer, KS. Training Cadre

From the Emergency Manager

(Continued from Page 1)

The County EOC and mobile EOC is equipped for amateur radio communications and will be activated by the Emergency Manager in the event of a disaster.

Montgomery County believes strongly that RACES members have the training necessary in order to function in an incident management structure and be familiar with the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), along with having the requirements necessary to operate amateur radio equipment and amateur radio frequencies.

Jim Miller, KCØWAA

Websites of Interest:

In this issue of the Newsletter we will take a look at the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders. WISER is a system designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents. WISER provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including substance identification support, physical characteristics, human health information, and containment and suppression advice.

WISER (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders) is a system designed to assist First Responders in hazardous material incidents. Developed by the National Library of Medicine, WISER provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including substance identification support, physical characteristics, human health information, and containment and suppression guidance.

WISER is available as a standalone application on Microsoft Windows PCs, Windows Mobile devices, and Palm OS PDAs. Download it for free!

WebWISER is also available! When an Internet connection is available, access the same WISER functionality with your web browser. Support for PDA-based browsers, including BlackBerry, is included. Link: <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov/index.html>

This service is provided by: United States National Library of Medicine Specialized Information Services

How to be left OUT!

This next article is an oldie, but it still pertains today.
(Release 06/17/96)

TO: Emergency Communications Units, any place,
any where

By: Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), the volunteer communications reserve of the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

We get inquiries about why volunteers are not called upon after they have some kind of agreement with a local official. Here, in the words of an unnamed emergency management agency official is one perspective on why they are left out.

"Volunteers serve the will of the local government. Like it or not and more often than not, if a volunteer embarrasses the local government, they will not be asked to serve again."

No reason may ever be given. The volunteers are simply left out in the cold. This is often because the volunteers have often put their own desires and practices before those of the local government. Like it or not, this is not the way to success and long term involvement. That's one reason the Radio Officer must become intimately familiar with the local government policies, practices, procedures and -- yes -- politics. The politics of a radio club or association must never get in the way or it can be a one-way road to "out!" Remember, we got along without you before and we can get along without you in the future."

"I know that many of my counterparts simply won't say these things to you. But if somebody doesn't, some of you may wonder why we have had bad experiences with some volunteers. The sheriff doesn't have these problems with reserve deputies. Any questions?"

Our next series will cover the various types of volunteers, not just those in communications. As we've spoken about this around the area it is startling to realize how few people discern that there are actually different TYPES and QUALITIES of volunteers.

We have had good success with using the term "unpaid staff" or "unpaid professionals" rather than volunteers, largely due to the negative images that exist in people's minds. There is really no way we can know what another person categorizes 'volunteers' so anything we can do to get beyond those mental images is a step in the right direction.

Montgomery County Current RACES Members:

Ken Collins	NU0B
Charles Vest	W5COV
Robert Martin	NORDM
David Hanna	NOTAP
Eldon Hunter	KB0RVO
John Vest	KC0WAB
Ed Howard	KB5FUP
Teddy Banks	KC0WNY
Joe Palmer	KD0BQY
Charlie Vest	KC0WYW
James Tuggle	KC0NYK
Ron Barrett	K0RJB
Larry Vest	KC0WYZ
Wilbur Schwatken	KC0TLC
Louis Canaday	K0LC

CALIFORNIA O.E.S.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services

POLICY ON THE USE OF AMATEUR RADIO:

The Amateur Radio Service is a valuable resource to the State and local governments in time of emergencies large and small. Many jurisdictions use trained "hams" on a regular basis, yet others, unfortunately, not at all.

This is due in large part to the retirement of government people familiar in this area and the lack of written guidelines and expertise in managing and using volunteers.

Many local governments use volunteers. They're called reserve deputy sheriffs, reserve police officers, and volunteer firefighters. They must meet certain qualifications and training. Ham radio operators used by government are, in effect, deputy communicators. They are recruited, enrolled and administered in much the same manner as the other volunteers--the reserve law enforcement and fire personnel.

These deputy communicators are sometimes identified as the RACES--the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. The RACES is a communications unit of government sanctioned by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

In California all RACES are considered part of the ACS Program and all auxiliary radio services using Amateur Radio for government are considered RACES. No local government should use volunteers unless they are registered Disaster Service Workers.

This applies to the use of Amateur Radio operators as well. The legal risks to government, its managers, the volunteer and their families today are too great.

The enclosures can help take the mystery out of the ACS Program and clear up misunderstanding about the what, who, why, when, where and how. The ACS is not a collection of names to be filed away as a "doomsday resource" anymore than one would with police and fire reserves.

A communications unit of government should be exercised and trained as would any reserve component of that government.

Link: <http://www.oes.ca.gov/WebPage/oeswebsite.nsf/HomePage?OpenForm>

Texas – Governor's Division of Emergency Management

RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE (RACES) PLAN FORWARD

The State of Texas is susceptible to the effects of both natural and man-made disasters. The Division of Emergency Management, as directed by the Governor, is responsible for coordinating State resources in response to these threats and for advising local governments in their preparations toward meeting these situations. At times, State and/or local government resources are inadequate to effectively respond to such incidents. This can be especially true in the area of communications when normal day-to-day systems are used in support of widespread emergencies or disasters. Because of system outages or overcrowding by emergency traffic, normal communications systems may become unusable or inadequate to meet emergency or disaster needs.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has authorized emergency management organizations to officially organize and employ radio amateurs to supplement state and local government communications systems in emergencies or disaster operations. The FCC advocates the principle that a fundamental basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service is to provide voluntary noncommercial emergency communications to the public. Although there are other amateur radio organizations that provide excellent volunteer public communication service, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations are the only Amateur Radio Service stations authorized by the FCC to provide communications during periods of declared emergency when clear frequencies are established by the FCC.

The State of Texas, through the Governor's Division of Emergency Management, endorses the RACES program as an official resource of the State in support of emergency or disaster operations. The Chief of Division of Emergency Management has appointed a State RACES Radio Officer responsible for organizing and directing the State RACES program and for providing guidance to local governments to establish and operate local RACES programs. This plan provides direction and guidance for both the State and Local governments to initiate and conduct RACES programs in accordance with established authority.

(Clip from the Texas DEM-103 document.)

Link: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/index.htm>

Remember:

The State RACES Net is held the first Thursday of each Month on 3.940 MHz at 7:00 pm.

(You do not have to be a RACES member to check-in.)

Anyone is welcome to contribute to the newsletter. Items may be submitted either via email to: mgcoraces@mgcountyks.org Or US mail to:

MG Co. Emergency Management
RACES
300 East Main
Independence, Kansas
67301

Montgomery County RACES Website: <http://www.mgcountyks.org/races.htm>

Local Nets:

Monday:

Coffeyville ARC Net
Coffeyville 442.875 + WR0MG 8:30pm
RACES/SATERN Net
Coffeyville 146.610 – 91.5† WR0CV 9:00pm

Tuesday:

Skywarn Net
Beaumont 145.130 – 156.7† KSOKE 7:30pm
Parsons ARC Net
Parsons 146.685 - NORRY 8:30pm

Thursday:

Chanute ARC 146.745 – 100† AIOE 7:30pm
Independence ARC Net
Indep 145.490 - NOID 8:00pm
6 Meter Simplex Net
Liberal, Mo 52.525 FM KB0MSB 9:00pm

**Montgomery County Emergency Mgt
RACES Group
300 East Main
Independence, Kansas
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