

RACES Newsletter

Serving Montgomery County Kansas

Published Quarterly

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Inside This Issue

- 2 Spring Cleaning - HAM Style
- 2 Weather info on the Web
- 2 S.E.K. Skywarn Notes
- 3 Happenings in the area
- 4 Local Nets

A Busy Spring and A Well Deserved Thanks

I attended the Green County Hamfest last month in Clarmore, Oklahoma. We talked with John Thomason (WB5SYT), who has been appointed as the new Vice Director in the West Gulf Division. He replaces Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV, who moved up to Director with the retirement of Division Director Coy Day, N5OK. We wished John all the best and know he will be a very capable and competent Vice Director. This weekend April 18th, is the Ararat Hambash in Kansas City, Mo. Next weekend, April 25th is the Arkansas State Convention in Bentonville, Arkansas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the RACES members for their continued support of the Montgomery County RACES Group.

During the past three years many things have happened in our State and community. From the time we spent at Greensburg, Kansas, to the Coffeyville Flood of 2007. It has been a very interesting and fulfilling time to be a member of RACES. You have helped build a very fine Organization and one you should be proud of! Both Jim the Emergency Manager and I, are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you.

THANK YOU !

Ken – NUØB
Montgomery County RACES Officer



From the Emergency Manager

I want to take this opportunity in the Montgomery County RACES Newsletter to spend a little time to discuss the relationship between the mission and capabilities of the amateur radio profession and the emergency management homeland security profession and how the two professions interact. First of all the two professions are not at odds with each other; rather, they complement each other and amateur radio plays an important role in the mission of the local emergency operations center (EOC).

In order for the two professions to be able to interact, especially during an emergency, there must be common ground and common understandings in place. For many years, amateur radio has longed to be taken seriously by governmental authorities as a professional-quality resource in disaster response.

Being taken seriously as a resource, however, comes with a price. It is a price that must be paid by individual volunteers, not in dollars, but in precious personal time. When the federal government instituted the National Incident Management System (NIMS), it imposed a set of requirements on state and local emergency management agencies.

Those affected by these mandated guidelines include not only paid employees of the emergency management profession, but also volunteers such as those in volunteer fire departments, RACES, Civilian Emergency Response Teams (CERT), County Animal Response Teams (CART), and other volunteer organizations responding to a disaster.

(Continued on Page 3)

Spring Cleaning – HAM Style

The warming weather makes us want to get outdoors after having cabin fever from the winter months. This is also a good time to check our antennas and cables that are exposed to the elements.

First check the weather to see what the storm dangers are in your area, before you begin any work. Although this is typically the most intense time of year for lightning storms, we must remember they can occur on any day, at any time of the year.

Carefully check your grounding system. This may very well be what saves your life and your home and property. Make certain that your grounding is up to code. Grounding is a complex science in itself. Do not take your system for granted. If in doubt get a second opinion from a professional.

When the weather forecast is for thunderstorms anywhere in your area, your antennas need to be disconnected from your equipment and connected to a proper ground. Cold water pipes are NOT a proper ground!! Also do NOT daisy chain the grounds on your equipment. If you do not understand these terms, or the reasons behind them, then you really need to seek the advice of a professional that does. Due to possible liability issues, I am being intentionally vague, but feel it is necessary to make you aware of your own knowledge and limitations.

(Continued on Page 3)

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

This has been an interesting month weather wise, to say the very least! Between unseasonably warm weather, several wild and wooley thunderstorms; which spit out some rotating thunderstorms and even a couple of rope type tornadoes; the SKYWARN Coordinators and the National Weather Service personnel have been busy putting on STORM FURY ON THE PLAINS spotter training sessions all over the area.

This year's focus has been on spotter safety as well as more detailed radar interpretation information which have been very well received by the folks attending. We have seen a marked increase in folks, both ham and non-ham, who wish to become a part of SKYWARN as well as to learn about ham radio. We have been scheduling Technician classes in several areas as well as doing more detailed operational brief for those hams who have asked to join the group. This will be an ongoing function for the Coordinators. But, it is not too late. If you have had the training session with NWS this year, have a desire to be part of a disciplined group who are dedicated to serving the community's safety and still want to join the team shoot an email to me at kc0nyk@gmail.com and we will get the information to you.

We will be asking for additional help from some of you folks who are VE's to help with testing sessions, as well as doing some of the training sessions to get the new folks up to the Technician level license. Then we all need to make sure we don't just let them flounder around. We all need an Elmer from time to time to advise us on things we don't understand. A little help will go a long way toward making a new ham feel welcome in the hobby as well as to bring more folks into the various clubs.

So, keep an eye to the sky, remember to report those things you see to Net Control or directly to NWS or your local Emergency Manager.

Stay safe.

73's
Jim Tuggle kc0nyk
SKYWARN Assist. Coordinator NWS/ICT
Elk Falls, KS

From the Emergency Manager

(Continued from Page 1)

Federal funding is tied to the few simple training requirements imposed by the NIMS policy and the Incident Command System implemented by the Federal Emergency Management System and the Department of Homeland Security. All personnel, both paid and volunteer, must complete a number of FEMA training courses dealing with the incident command system (ICS) and NIMS. Personnel who do not complete the training will not be allowed to participate, even as volunteers. These FEMA courses include IS-100, IS-200, and IS-700, as a minimum. These three courses are essential for all response personnel to understand the basics of a response organization and allow all responders to be able to operate on the "same page". These three courses are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to training opportunities provided by FEMA, but they contain the basic information needed by all responders. These FEMA courses are free of charge, available online, and are periodically offered in person by various response agencies. These courses are valuable in familiarizing volunteers with the principles of the incident command system and showing where communications fits into the ICS structure.

I feel it is absolutely crucial for Montgomery County emergency operations to include and involve amateur radio capabilities and I applaud the Montgomery County RACES officer, Ken Collins and Chuck Vest, assistant RACES officer, for their dedicated effort to implement the County RACES organization.

Jim – KC0WAA

Montgomery County Current RACES Members:

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Ken Collins | NU0B |
| Charles Vest | W5COV |
| Robert Martin | N0RDM |
| David Hanna | N0TAP |
| 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 |

Spring Cleaning – HAM Style

(Continued from Page 2)

Many people are killed every year, by their lack of understanding or being aware of the potential danger from improper grounding.

Also remember when you are out checking those antennas and feedlines, insulators, and all related components of an amateur radio station, of ANY electrical lines. Do not believe for a minute that only the lines on the poles are the ones that you have to take into consideration. That 240 volt line to your house can be every bit as dangerous due to the current involved.

Also remember the distribution and transmission lines on the poles do not have to come into direct contact with any part of your installation, to electrocute you. High tension lines have the potential to "jump" several feet to another conductor!! If you think parts of your system are too close to electric lines, THEY ARE!! Call your local power provider if there is a shadow of a doubt.

Last but not least, you can be electrocuted right in your radio shack. ALWAYS "SWITCH TO SAFETY".

Also remember the rule to always work with one hand in your pocket. Unplug everything BEFORE attempting to service it. If there is a high voltage supply involved remember the capacitors can hold a lethal charge for months, in some circumstances.

Be sure these are safely and properly discharged, before beginning any work. Again do not even attempt service if you are not a trained professional.

We want everyone in good health. If any of us are injured, then we are not of any use to the people we are trying to serve.

THINK SAFETY FIRST!!

Chuck Vest, W5COV

Happenings in the area

Coffeyville Amateur Radio Club (CARC) had a failure on the 147.300 machine; parts are on order for its repair. 7/8" Helix feedline and a DB antenna are on the activities list this summer for the 146.610 machine. We will also increase the antenna height about 80 feet on the tower.

At the Montgomery County EOC we have added the capability to run PSK31. Work on the Mobile EOC is continuing and hopefully before too long it will be fully functional. *Ken – NU0B*

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
67301**
