

Date: Fri, 10 Jun 2005 13:41:54 -0700 (PDT)
From: Mike Moses <ki7wh@yahoo.com>
Subject: Annual Post Card, Training and Other Goings-On

Harriet, the Admin Asst. at the EOC, will be mailing out post cards to all members of RACES in her database minus those I have pulled who have resigned or will soon be leaving the area.

The forms, once they are returned, will allow you to remain in our database as members of RACES. If no card is received, we will need another application filled out in order for you to remain active in RACES. The forms are revised from last year using some ideas from Lee County's RACES managers.

There is upcoming training at the EOC on the 15th at 2:30 PM. Those with the older RACES ID cards will need to have them renewed. Gerry Mallet, at the EOC, can do this if you show up a half hour or so early--you will need your driver's license. There will be another opportunity for reapplication on the 20th of July at which date we will have an annual meeting. If we have it at the EOC during daytime hours, IDs can be issued as well.

Al Sanders is taking over from Mac McDaniel as the repeater technician for both the CARS and the PRRA sites. We welcome him with gratitude for the service (and will supply him with all the Excedrin he needs, free of charge). Mac has done sterling and dedicated service for many years and gratitude can't convey how indebted we are to him (Mac, you may turn over any excess Excedrin to Al).

I will be developing a questionnaire to so I can get a time line and capture needed data for RACES/ARES operations during hurricane Charley. Filling this out and returning it to me is important for three reasons: (1) It documents time spent by each individual so that we may recognize your efforts(2) It provides a history, once analyzed (3) It allows us to develop "lessons learned" and improve our operation for the future. The questionnaire will be sent out on-line. If anyone needs a mailed copy, please notify me. Look for it on line next week.

The results of the questionnaire will also influence the contents of a status report on Charlotte County RACES that we have started drafting.

Finally, It is important to mention that RACES (and ARES) membership requires a commitment that you will be able to perform assigned duties per your stated availability on the application and the post card questionnaire. Whether it is staying at home and monitoring frequencies to act as a relay, manning tactical positions (as assigned), or traveling to an adjacent or distant location (if you agreed to it), if you are not sure you will be there, do not say you are available. Much larger counties than Charlotte have much smaller memberships than we do. That is because it is not the quantity of people that counts, it is the reliability, level of commitment, availability, participation in nets and training, ability to accept direction from a chain-of-command and follow through that is critical to RACES being able to credibly perform. Operators who basically just want to

belong, are advised to check-in to our nets as non-RACES members and not to be an active card carrying member of RACES. Operators who live near Charlotte are welcome to belong so long as they make clear the limitations of their service (i.e., if the disaster hits, let's say, Sarasota and Charlotte Counties equally and you live in Sarasota County, we can understand that you might want to work your home county. However, If the disaster effects Charlotte County in a major way and Sarasota in a minor way, you would be expected to be available in Charlotte). Note, if you are a member in more than one county, you need to apprise the EC's in each county. Some coordinators may not allow this kind of split loyalty. Although this email is directed at RACES membership, the message applies to ARES as well.

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