

Date: Sun, 24 Jul 2005 18:35:00 -0700 (PDT)
From: Mike Moses <ki7wh@yahoo.com>
Subject: Weekly Activities and Information E-Letter

Hi All,

(Please note the new title of this weekly info letter)

ANNUAL MEETING

We had our annual meeting last Wednesday. The topic was the evolution of emergency communications in today's high tech environment and our need as RACES/ARES to evolve as well. Attendance was at the upper end of my expectations--about 30 people.

My sense and the feedback I have had so far was that the meeting was productive. I have asked Freeman Crosby, our webmaster, to upload the powerpoint presentation to our website. When that is done, I will notify everyone so those who missed the meeting can get an idea of what was presented. I can also email the file to anyone who asks for it.

An interesting portion of the presentation was a futuristic video of emergency management response to an earthquake. It turned out that it was not so futuristic, as Gerry Mallet, our EOC Coordinator, indicated most of the systems are already in use here in Charlotte County. You can view the video at <http://www.racom.com/Downloads/RACOM HP Web.wmv>

Information and Operations Net for this Wednesday July 27, 2005

This week we should involve our Skywarn Subnet. Virginia Kandansky, our RACES Skywarn Coordinator, hopefully will be able to convene the net at 8 PM for Skywarn Members after which she would open the net to all local (by region e.g., south county, west county, north county) RACES/ARES members then RACES/ARES visitors and finally, non-RACES/ARES visitors. Other than the Skywarn portion, the preamble in the current emergency plan can be used.

Preparations for our Next Training Session Wed 17 Aug

The topic for our next training session is "Behavioral Expectations when Interacting with Public Safety and Other Governmental Employees--Guidelines for Volunteers".

I would ask anyone with a background in law enforcement, Fire, EOC operations, FEMA, Public Works, etc. to assist me with developing material to be covered, and if possible, to assist with the preparation and presentation of the training. Your experience with volunteers, to include examples, case studies, problems, improprieties, dissatisfactions, dissappointments, etc. can be emailed to me. You can also email points

of etiquette, expectations, and suggested "rules of the road". Feel free to add anything you deem important that I may have not mentioned and please indicate if you are able to share helping in the review and development process as well as podium time.

This training is open to any volunteer or volunteer agency, but please email me so that I can get an idea of how many people are coming.

RACES/ARES Leadership

We need to start rewriting our communications plan. I have asked Gary Sessums, the EC/RACES Officer of Hillsborough County to share the draft of his county's plan, which is written to be NIMS compliant. Hopefully, I will receive this document prior to convening our leadership meeting. Perhaps we can have our first meeting in the hour before we have our monthly training meeting and that this can turn into a standard part of the monthly meeting.

I would like to have a "key leadership team" in keeping with the ICS concept. Here's how I envision it: You have the RACES Officer and three deputy officers, each of whom is qualified to assume the duty of RACES Officer. There would be a deputy RACES Officer representing each of the three regions currently reporting during our tactical nets. The Deputy RACES Officer would also be involved in managing one or more of the other functions or responsibilities within the RACES/ARES administration such as Operations, Planning, Logistics, etc. As the regional RACES/ARES officer, liaison within the region to tactical sites, clubs would also be a responsibility. There would also be room for other officers, as needed, and as action items are identified beyond the ability of the deputies to handle. This would be determined after our first leadership meeting. At this time, I would ask for volunteers who have previously served as officers in RACES and who are willing to commit to the demands of the position(or at least to a first meeting where they can share their ideas and recommendations) to contact me for possible appointment as Deputy RACES Officers representing their region (North, South, West).

Other News

We met with the DARN members at a recent board meeting. We hope to continue developing a cooperative relationship as part of a broader goal to be able to respond to an emergency with an integrated and coordinated effort, sharing personnel and equipment assets among all communicators.

We have had initial contact with the county CERT coordinator and will be meeting in the future to coordinate and develop this relationship.

We are asking for input to develop exercises for our tactical and ops nets, with the idea being to start with simple exercises and proceed to more complicated networked exercises both internal to RACES/ARES and external to other communication agencies (Red Cross, DARN, etc). Some of the future tactical exercises will involve the

deployment of pool operators to establish communications or to operate pre-established sites..

MIKE MOSES--KI7WH

RACES Officer/Emergency Communications Coordinator(ARES)

Charlotte County