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#### 2024 Year End Summary, Update, Preview

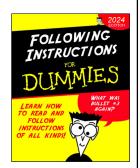


Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES Revised: 11-Dec-2024

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#### Housekeeping

- Introductions
- Pen/pencil, paper
- Cell phones
- Side conversations
- Questions
- Breaks
- Restrooms
- Do not park in side parking lot
- $\bullet \quad \hbox{Do not wander around the building} \\$
- In case of emergency



#### Agenda

- Message Passing Skills
- Training
- ICS Forms
- Credential Updates
- Packet Network Update
- Monthly Packet Message Passing
- P1 and HF Credentials & SHARES
- Weekly Packet Practice
- · Safety Issue Observed: no fuses in power cables
- Working with a Served Agency
- W2XSC BBS Failure

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#### Message Passing Skills

Can you send what the served agency needs?

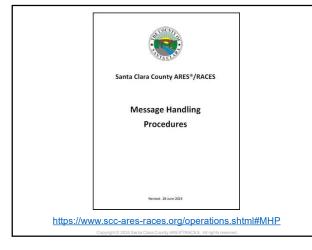
Tim Howard, KE6TIM Revised 10-Dec-2024

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#### Why is Message Passing Important

- · Trained Amateur Radio Operators
  - Do more than push a PTT button.
  - Know how to get agency specific messages from Point A to Point B accurately and efficiently, even when other systems are failing.
- No mater how much experience you have, your skills become stale without practice.
- We encourage everyone to attend the training classes every few years.
- We all think we are good enough, but how good is good enough?
- · Let's try some examples.
- No judgement, just some fun to see what we can do.


## Some Examples



#### Message Passing Skills

- We schedule two Message Passing Classes each year.
  - o January 27th
  - o July 19th
- Quarterly Training Nets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the 1<sup>st</sup>
   Month in each Quarter at 7pm on the Resource Net
   Repeaters is another opportunity to learn and practice.
  - January 21st details on web site--sign up.

#### **Training**

Judy Halchin, KK6EWQ Revised 22-Nov-2024

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#### **Classes**

- 24 training classes in 2024
- 16 unique classes
- 40 people in Introduction to Emergency Communications classes (not counting instructors and staff)
- 2025 schedule is very similar to this year's

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#### **Practices**

- Monthly packet practice
- Pop-up packet drill
- Quarterly message passing practice
- Quarterly drills at County EOC radio room
- Annual exercise in September

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#### **Hospital Training**

- Hospital employees got ham radio licenses (or already had them)
- ICS-214 and ICS-309 training videos
- Basic voice and packet training for hospital employees

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						inty ARES/RAC						
RAINING WK1	January Fieldigs Type SA Seric Set LI4 Instributed Soc SO auditorium	February Field dyn Type 36/2 Oars: Set 3/1 Inst: Howard Ion: 50 auditorium	March  Het Coroni Tipe 3A  Outs: Set 3/1  Inst: Howard  Les: Surmyvale DFS	Agril  Net Control Type 39  Oute: Set 4/5  Instr. Roward Lee: Summy-siz DPS:	Мау	Cvert Henring Date: Set 6/7 Instr. Howard Ion: Surrayusis DIS	July	Packet Type 3A Outs: Set 6/2 Instr. Sets (set Sannywell: 9/5	September  One-Send Report Antonia Fund. Outer Set 5/8 India Oil Loc Sunsyste DFS.	October  Packet Type 39 Date: Set 15/4 Inset Rath Lac Semyvale DPS	November	December
WK2		Into a to the Committee Co			Nat Control Type 2 Outs: Set 5/30 Inst: Round Lot: Sunnyvale DFS	PER Search & sociale Brace Sub-G/14 IC-190 Soc: 760					Packet Type 2 Dose Set 11/9 Inst: Oberholar Loc Summyvale OPS	End of Year Summa bear Sur. L3/13 instr. SCE Staff Loc Sherff Aud.
WK3	Cross-Band/Repeal. Antenna Fund. Bross-Sort (1/18) Instr. Ott Lac Summyvale (IPS)		Fundamentals of Em-Comm Ourse Set 3/25 Instr. TBD Late Summyssis GPS		Quarterly Ovill Ours: Set S/17 13sm - 13 noon	Shadowing Outer Sat 6/23 Instit Habitals LacSumyvale OPS	Message Funding Date: Sat 1/28 Sett: Howard Soc: Sunnyvalle DFS	Field Ope Type SS/3 Oarse Sad S/26 Indix Housed Lac S/3 auditorium	County-Mide Esendas Ours: Set 5/30 Loc: 100		offscaholder- Caurty (OC Radio Room Orientation	
WK4	Message Pensing Date: Set 1/25 Instr. Howard Lost Surveysale DFS	Quarterly Drill Date: Set 3/12 18am - 12 moon	RACKS Unit Lead Date: Set 3/22 Insin Howard Goo: ECCHEDO				Field Ops Type SA. Claim Set 26 Invite Howard Lan SO auditorium					
wks								Quarterly Drill Date: Sat 5/23 30am - 12 room			EC Council Meeting Date: Ther 11/13 7pm LOC: SCC+ EOC	
VENING		EC Council Moveting Basic Thur 2/13 Tigen LDC 5000-EDC			EC Council Monthing Ours: Thur \$78 Tom 100: 500:400	Introductions NGFT CLASS Date: Well GT11 Inde: TBO Iom: Sommade DFS	Fundamentals of EmCanum NPSHT CLASS Outs: Weed, 3/9 Inste: TRO Sot: Sumpraide 3/95	EC Council Meeting Date: Thur \$/54 Jon 100: 500x 600		into to Endown NOTE OASS Date Web 1875 Into TRO Lot Sarryvale OFS	Fundamentals of Emicrosin HIGHT CLASS Date: Wed. 11/12 Instr. 150 Loc Sumyvale OFS	

## ICS Forms Tim Howard, KE6TIM Revised 10-Nov-2024

#### Forms Updated in 2024

- · In 2023 the Public Health Department relocated their operations center and renamed it:
  - o Was: Medical Health Joint Operations Center MHJOC
  - o Is: Public Health Department Operations Center PHDOC
- · This resulted in updates to Hospital Forms and the Recommended Form Routing Sheet.
- · We are still seeing numerous cases of MHJOC still being used instead of PHDOC.
- The Recommended Form Routing Sheet is your friend.

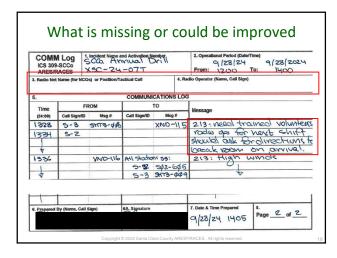
#### Forms Updated in 2024 (Cont.)

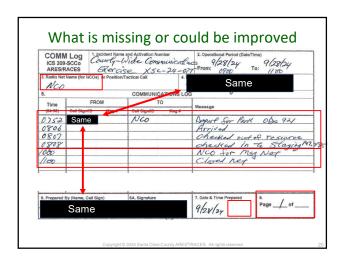
- · The RACES Mutual Aid Request Form was updated.
- The primary changes were on page two used at the County EOC to assist with resource assignment and tracking.
- · Some changes on the front for cities.
- · Those are used by city ECs/AECs and the changes were shared with city RACES leaders at a quarterly EC Council Meeting.

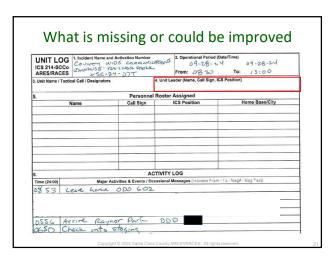
#### **Errors in Form Completion**

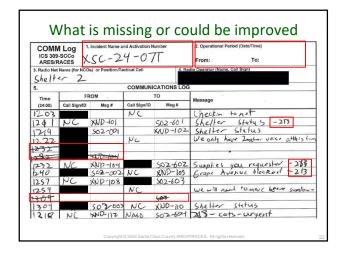
- · We continue to see errors in form completion.
- · Primarily 214 Activity Log and 309 Communications Log.
- Judging from the call signs, it is mostly newer operators; but, some experienced operators also make errors.
- · So new or experienced, we all can do better.
- These forms are legal documents and need to be accurate.
- · Let's review some of the more common errors to help us all learn. Names have been redacted to protect the innocent.

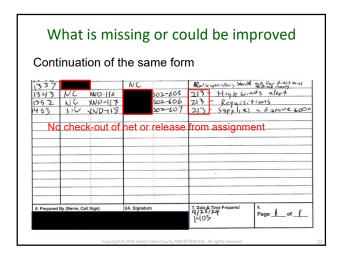
	,











COMM ICS 309- ARES/R 3. Radio Not 1	SCCo ACES X	(SC - W-			2. Operational Period (Date/Time) 9/24/2024 From: 2400 To: /200 dio Operator (Name, Call Sign)				
5.			COMMUNICA						
Time	FROM Call Sign/ID Msg #		TO Call Sign/ID Msq #		Message				
(24:00)	Call Sign/ID	Msg #	RESCREA		LEAVE HOME 000 356				
0155	_	1	RESCORE A		APPLE RAYME BARKODO 361				
0830	_	1	STABLING		CHECK TWO STAFFE				
00110	-		STR GANG		CHECK ON STREETING				
2690			JIN DANG	NC.	CHECK IND MESSAGE NET				
2016					HED OPS BELLETING				
09:01			NESSA	CLIET	CHECK IND ONESSAGE NET				
20:02	XSc	101	Vicano for	- 1	TKK 213				
29:22	-	×465-101	XAMPED GOC		SHEMERSTANDS				
20:30		X10-10-5	SHEUTER 5	\$65.001	JUS 213				
59:40		505.10E	(AUHO 6090	L-100	INFORMAL OP/OP MESSAGE				
10:26	-	50103	" X	MD- 119	ICS 213				
10:43	-	58 104	" X	121- QV	INFORMAL MESSAGE				
10:9		1			The second secon				
10:53		X9C-123	GREWER C	0510Y	ICS 213				
11:00		NET COM	ex i		MESSAGE NET CLOSES				

### Credential Updates

Tim Howard, KE6TIM Revised 11-Dec-2024

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#### Earned Credentials/Endorsements 2024

Credential	Field Operator	Net Control	Packet Operator	Shadow
Type I	0	1	3	0
Type II	1	1	0	0
Type III	2	2	2	2
Type IV			2	

Endorsement	Earned
Mutual Aid Communicator (MAC)	5
County EOC Radio Operator (ERO)	5
County EOC RACES Unit Leader (RUL)	5

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#### **Total Credentials and Endorsements**

#### Number of Credentials Earned by Type

Credential	Field Operator	Net Control	Packet Operator	Shadow
Туре I	5	7	3	5
Type II	17	13	13	9
Type III	42	30	33	20
				-

#### Number of Endorsements Earned

Endorsement	Earned
Mutual Aid Communicator (MAC)	43
County Fire Station Radio Operator (FRO) (Pending)	0
County EOC Radio Operator (ERO)	17
County EOC RACES Unit Leader (RUL)	5

#### Credentialing

- Credentialing in technical fields (usually called certification) has been used for 25+ years to verify an individual's ability.
- Credentialing is becoming more prevalent in Emergency Management, especially where mutual aid may be utilized.
- The State of California has a credentialing program for EOC positions and many cities are having their staff earn credentials.
- Served agencies are increasingly aware of credentialing and are expecting team members to be credentialed.

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#### Credentialing

- Credibility: Credentials demonstrate your training, knowledge, skills, and experience; and enhances your credibility with peers and served agency personel.
- Commitment: Earning credentials demonstrates your commitment to the EmComm role, validates your acquired skills as a volunteer, and can open doors to leadership and training roles within the organization.
- Assignments: Credentials can assure those that assign you to a task know that you are capable of handling whatever challenges the assignment presents.

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#### Credentialing Program Handbook



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES/ACS

Amateur Radio Operator Credentialing Program Handbook

Revised: 26-Mar-202

https://www.scc-ares-races.org/credentials/index.shtml#overview

#### **Database Update**

If you have a County DSW, the sticker on your DSW Card Expires at the end of December.



New stickers will be provided to your EC for distribution if you have updated your database contact information by December 31st.

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# Update/Verify Contact Information Personal Information Personal Information Personal Information Cal Sign\* Hormation Personal Information Personal Information Cal Sign\* Hormation Cal Sign\* Hormation Las Name\* Hormat My Contact Life My Primary Contact Life Emergency Contact Information Emergency Contact Information Emergency Contact Information Emergency Contact Life Contact number My Primary Agency Contact number Control of Sarta Clara Wy Primary Agency Life My My Life My Lif

### Packet Network Update 2024 Year End Review

Jim Oberhofer, KN6PE Revised 30 November 2024

Highlights Outpost and PackItForms		
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#### What's in the box?



- SCCo Integrated Packet Installer <u>163C</u> \*\*\* PRERELEASE \*\*\*
  - Outpost Packet Message Manager
    - GUI-based interface for managing packet communications
    - Makes using packet as simple as using e-mail
  - PackItForms
    - Next generation HTML-based forms for use with Outpost
    - Manual operation without Outpost

#### SCCo Installer v163C September 2024

#### PackItForm 3.16\*

- Various forms and .pdf updates
- · Even better manual operation support
  - Auto-logging of sent and received messages Updated ICS-309 log maintenance

  - Enhancements and bug fixes from user feedback

#### Outpost v3.8.6\*

- Resolves 3 reported defects; adds 6 requested changes, including...
- Signature update on the ICS-309 comm log
   Address book address expansion with sent messages

\*See the release notes for details

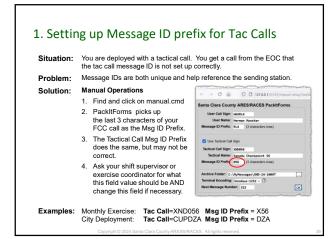
#### What's new

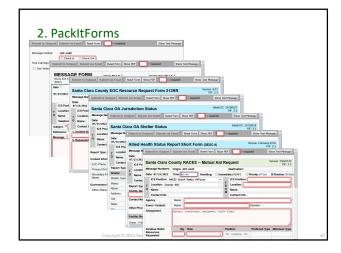
(or 6 things to make your packet life easier)

- 1. Setting up Message ID prefix for Tac Calls
- 2. Packet Forms and Manual Packet
- 3. Message search
- 4. Monitor RF Packet Traffic
- 5. Fixing JNOS extra line feeds
- 6. Packet Field References

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#### 1. Setting up Message ID prefix for Tac Calls Situation: You are deployed with a tactical call. You get a call from the EOC that the tac call message ID is not set up correctly. Message IDs are both unique and help reference the sending station. Problem: Solution: With Outpost 1. Select Settings > Station ID... 2. When you fill in your FCC Call sign, Outpost picks up the last 3 characters of your call as the Message ID Prefix. When setting up the Tactical Call, you need to fill it in vourself. 4. Ask your shift supervisor or exercise coordinator for what this field value should be. Examples: Monthly Exercise: Tac Call=XND056 Msg ID Prefix = X56 City Deployment: Tac Call=CUPDZA Msg ID Prefix = DZA



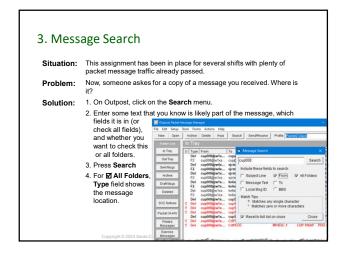


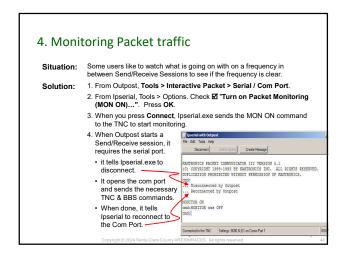
#### County Use of PackItForms

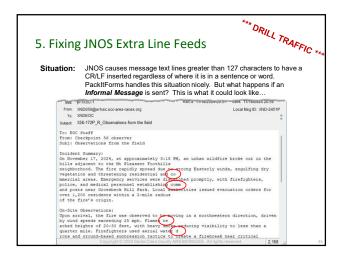
- Santa Clara County PackItForms contains these public forms
  - 1. XSC Check-In/Out Message Form
  - XSC ICS-213 Message Form adapted for Santa Clara County to transmit messages.
  - 3. XSC EOC-213RR Resource Request Form Requests specific resources needed to support an emergency.
  - XSC OA Jurisdiction Status Form Reports jurisdiction emergency situation status to county OEM.
  - 5. XSC OA Shelter Status Form Reports information and status on shelters opened in the cities to county OEM.
  - 6. XSC Allied Health Facility Status Reports information & status of private Skilled Nursing facilities to SCC Public Health Department.
  - XSC RACES Mutual Aid Request Form Used by a jurisdiction to request a RACES Mutual Aid.
- The SCC Installer program automatically installs these packet forms along with Outpost.
  - Additional forms may be provided by your EC

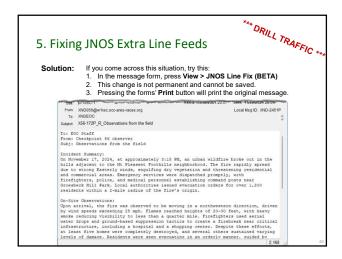
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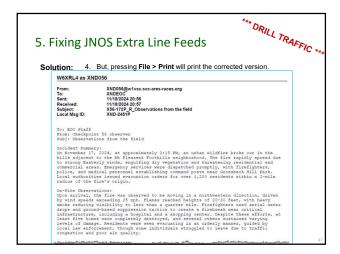
#### **Updated PackItForm Defaults** PackItForms ICS 213 Message Form County EOC EOC Resource Request 213RR Planning Section OA Jurisdiction Status Immediate Situation analysis Unit County EOC OA Shelter Status Priority Mass Care and Shelter Unit Allied Health Status Routine EMS Unit PHDOC RACES Mutual Aid Request Routine RACES Chief Radio Officer County EOC Immediate EMS Unit PHDOC Immediate EMS Unit Medical Facility Status PHDOC Resource Request Form #9A Obsolete -- Replaced by EOC Resource Request 213RR Aligns with the RACES Recommended Form Routing Cheat Sheet; updated March 2024 Updates are in BOLD text Fields can be changed at message create time Always double-check the RACES Recommended Form Routing Cheat Sheet for your specific situation



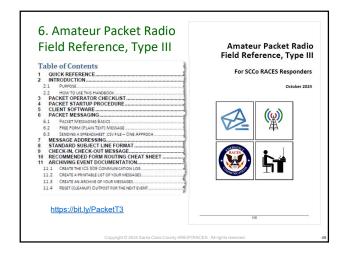


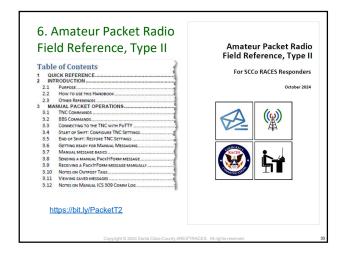






#### 6. Amateur Packet Radio Field Reference, Type III Amateur Packet Radio Field Reference, Type III For SCCo RACES Responders • an Unofficial SCCo RACES reference. October 2024 · Provides a reminder (job aid) for how to perform tasks that need to occur during a packet field deployment. · Helps ensure task consistency, completeness, and operational alignment with SCCo RACES policies and procedures. What it is not the only source of information on which you should rely. an official SCCo RACES deliverable.





## mpmp, P1 and HF Credentials & SHARES Mark Laubach, K6FJC 14-Dec-2024

			Not Held					Not Held				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
Participants	24	21		19	20	16	11		16	27	15	169
Messages by participant by Type	•											
ICS213	29	29		57	40	28	33		39	40	42	337
EOC213RR				20		14	11		19	27	21	112
Shelter Status					20		11			28		59
Allied Health Status		22										22
RACES Mutual Aid	26						11					37
CSV	26					14						40
Op-to-Op & Other		281		249	205	?	38		216	311	208	1508
	816	768		674	577	387	330		617	913	602	5684

#### **Packet Credential Changes**

- Packet Operator Type I (P1)

  - Removing: out of county assignments

    Moving out of P1 to a new area of focus:
    - Set up, manage, and troubleshoot a JNOS-based packet BBS system, running on Ubuntu, etc.
      Changing focus to W5XSC BBS to set up and operate for a training or
  - exercise event, with instructions from net team
  - Refining knowledge items, digipeaters and nodes, and other problems
- Motivations
  - P1 should be on parallel with other Type 1 credentials, e.g., specialist and plan, design, deploy, train,
  - It's a lot of work to complete existing requirements
  - P1 credential != county BBS sysop
  - Doesn't need to incorporate SCCo BBS sysop/network
- · When: next Credential Program Handbook update

#### **Member of County Networking Staff**

- The network team is looking for a few "good people"

  In discussion likely in the form of a member of
  - network staff position posting (likely)
- · Discussed new endorsement not the way to go
- Recommendation from CRO and Pkt Manager
- Prerequisites: P2+, demonstrated team player

  Not for everyone, interview will be required with credential evaluator
- and network team member think of a position posting
- Successful interview,, candidate will be assigned mentor County BBS knowledge and demonstration (for all candidates)
- Building Ubuntu-based JNOS system to county configuration
- BBS JNOS sysop privileges demonstration, message and notice management, log maintenance, Ubuntu tcp/ip networking, etc.
- Knowing what and what not to touch
- Additional skillsets desired among one or more of the following
  - Network management, Network security, firewalls, monitoring, Network routing, email (configuration, spam), devops, analysis, logging, maintenance and upgrades, SCCo BBS operational knowledge, etc.

This is all under consideration and development

Need

You!

#### **Changes in County EOC Radio Room**

HF Radio Remove / New State-funded HF Technology

- New radio technology has reduced the need for HF radio users to deal with the complexities of HF propagation (solar conditions, time of day, antenna orientation, etc.)
  - · State has called this SHARES for SHAred RESsources
  - SCCo OEM has two rigs: EOC radio room fixed and mobile unit
- The use of new technologies all but eliminates the need to be concerned about HF propagation for state-wide EmComm purposes.
- The need for a three level HF Credential is being removed from the Credentialing Program and a "SHARES Radio Operator Endorsement" is being added to the next version of the Credentialing Program Handbook.

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#### **Changes in County EOC Radio Room**

HF Radio Remove / New State-funded HF Technology

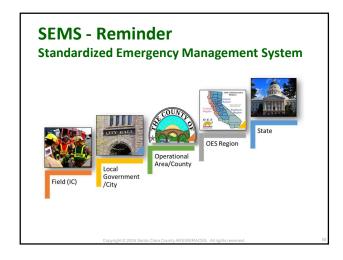
- The "SHARES Radio Operator Endorsement" will be available to anyone holding the EOC Radio Operator Endorsement.
- Early next year we will offer a SHARES HF Radio Orientation class for those interested

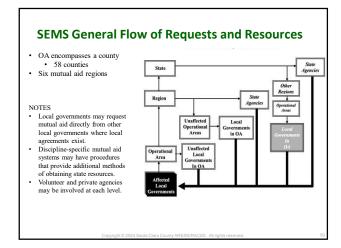
#### Quick Overview

- Based on Codan Communications equipment (Australia)
   Limited to state civil defense and emergency management agencies and some
- Limited to state civil defense and emergency management agencies and some select agencies within the state of California.
- Shared channels in the 2 to 8 MHz range. Access to 10 channels providing pointto-point emergency radio coverage across the state. 24x7 Link Quality Analysis and Automatic Link Establishment to eliminate ToD propagation concerns
- Operates in accordance with FCC Rules Part 90 Private Land Mobile Radio
   Services (primary) and Part 97 Amatour
- Services (primary) and Part 97 Amateur

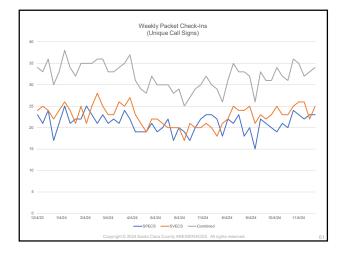
   All "push button"

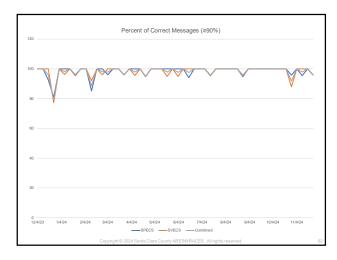


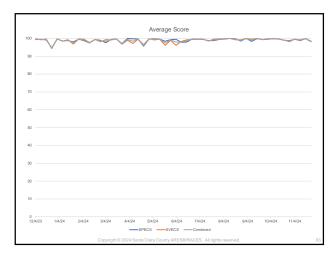




# Weekly Packet Practice Steve Roth, KC6RSC Revised 11-Dec-2024







	iviu	ıı-ye	ar Cor	npari	son		
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Messages	2116	2844	3138	3226	3200	2932	2408
% Correct	93.2%	93.7%	95.5%	96.6%	88.4%	83.1%	98.3%
Unique Calls	25.5	29	31	30	27.4	34.3	32.0

#### Mailbox Full — Now What?

You are assigned to a rarely used station. You connect to the BBS, and it has 142 messages waiting. That will take forever!

- 1. Abort the connection
- 2. Switch to alternate BBS
- 3. Connect manually, list with LL. If the backed-up messages are obsolete or unimportant, kill them with K.

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#### Can't Wait for Bulletins to Download?

You're waiting for a critical message but Outpost wants to download the XSCPERM bulletins. That will take too long!

- 1. Abort the connection
- 2. Outpost: Setup  $\rightarrow$  BBS  $\rightarrow$  Receiving
- 3. Turn off "Retrieve Bulletins" checkbox. (Don't forget to turn it back on later!)

### Switching between RF and TCP/IP network access in Outpost

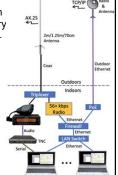
Using Profiles extensively

Andreas Ott, K6OTT Revised 11-Dec-2024

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#### BBS settings and access paths

- you are in an EOC or tactical location
   you know your primary and secondary
   BBS, your tactical call, your FCC call –
   and know how to configure all this in
   Outpost
- your main access to the BBSen has been over RF
- you recently got connected to the SCCo Systems TCP/IP Subscriber Network (or your EOC location has a wired Ethernet connection to our network)



#### Workflows on RF

- . No Issues: you are using your primary BBS over RF
- primary BBS "unreachable": you manually switch to the secondary BBS, and announce this fact on a net to the County EOC (and other stations) so that they can adjust sending you messages to your secondary BBS address
- primary BBS "reachable": you have the choice of continuing on the secondary BBS or switching back to the primary BBS (same..., announce it, so others know where to find you)
  - → your easiest way of "switching around" is by using Outpost Profiles

#### **Create RF Profiles**

• the default Outpost profile after new install is "Outpost"



- create new profile (naming convention below)
- for your primary BBS, device and StationID
- test it!
- repeat for your secondary BBS, then test some more!
- practice switching between profiles, do not forget to "switch" and verify the radio frequency at the same time
- switching between RF bands on the same BBS without changing the profile

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#### **Profile Parameters**

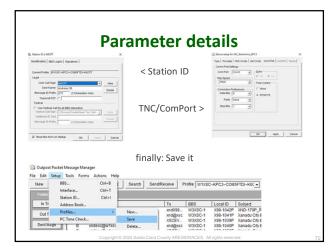
- . BBS name
- device/connection
- . Interface name
- StationID

(your callsign, tactical or FCC)

. Create, save as (use  $\sim$  in profile name as separator)

#### Examples:

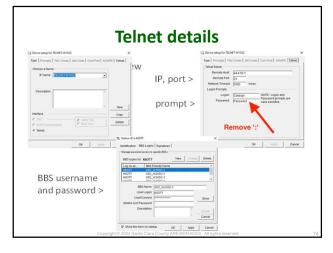
- . W1XSC~KPC3~COM5FTDI~K6OTT
- . W1XSC~TELNET-W1XSC~K6OTT



#### **Create Telnet Profile**

- for your primary BBS, telnet connection and StationID
- add username and password, remove colon ":" from password prompt field
- test it!
- · repeat for your secondary BBS
- test some more!
- when switching back to any RF profile, do not forget to "switch" and verify the radio frequency to match the BBS frequency on that band at the same time

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#### **Workflows on Telnet**

- No Issues: you are using your primary BBS over telnet
- primary BBS "unreachable": you manually switch to the secondary BBS, and announce this fact on a net to the County EOC (and other stations) so that they can adjust sending you messages to your secondary BBS address
- primary BBS "reachable": you have the choice of continuing on the secondary BBS or switching back to the primary BBS (same..., announce it, so others know where to find you)
  - → your easiest way of "switching around" is by using Outpost Profiles

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#### References

For Outpost, see training slide decks from SCCo ARES/RACES Packet Operations classes

Packet Operations - Type III, Part A Packet Operations - Type III, Part B Packet Operations - Type II

and of course the  $\underline{\text{Outpost Documentation}}$ 

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### Safety issue observed: no fuses in power cables

Batteries are no fun

Andreas Ott, K6OTT Revised 11-Dec-2024

#### **Energy content in a battery**

- Energy content in a (SLA) battery:
   3.6 \* voltage \* mAh = Energy [Joule]
   Example: SLA 12V@18Ah
   3.6 \* 12 \* 18,000 ≈ 777 kJ
   (approximate energy needed to boil 1/2 gal of water from room temp)
- Energy density in LiFePO4 battery:
   3x of SLA battery by weight, also higher load current possible

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#### The Big Short

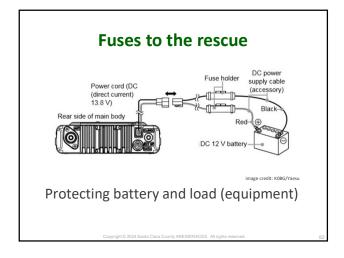
Now picture this: if your battery shorts out, you will set free most of the energy in a fraction of one second (aka. boil the water in < 1 second). Until something fails, such as the wire melting, or the battery liquids heat past their boiling point, with "steam" quickly escaping.

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#### **Rapid Unscheduled Disassembly**

Escaping electrolyte steam usually leads to the entire battery exploding. [\*] Good engineering practice is to insert something into the circuit that will fail before it turns into an incident, preferably a protective device such as a fuse. "All circuits shall have fuses".

\* "Don't try this at home - go to a friend's house."



### Charge controllers with electronic load limiters

Check the manual: They will recommend minimum wire sizes *and* fuses, at least at the battery and the power source!

DC Load:

20 amps

Cutoff

Solar Panel
Battery Fuse

Battery Fuse
Court Affective Court Affective Affectiv

Working with a Served Agency
Golden Eagle 2024

Jeff Grafton, AJ6XZ Revised 10-Dec-2024

#### Golden Eagle 2024: Hellyer Park C-POD

- Simulated M7.5 earthquake
- County OEM established Type III C-POD in Hellyer Park
  - Simulated cell phone outage at site
- RACES mobilized to provide comms between C-POD site and EOC

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#### Golden Eagle 2024: Hellyer Park C-POD



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#### **Golden Eagle 2024: A few surprises**

• RACES wasn't in the org chart...





# 

#### **Golden Eagle 2024: More surprises**

- FRS radios were used for on-site comms
- The IC expected RACES would handle all comms, including FRS
- RACES staff had not been briefed on use of FRS



#### Golden Eagle 2024: Message flow

- Many incident staff (including IC) were unfamiliar with forms and message flow to EOC
  - RACES provided blank forms and coaching
  - Handing off the Recommended Form Routing Cheat Sheet worked wonders

The message author can be Septing. As a present sale staffed, send it to the brane Defencing. As a present in.	ins the recommended funding. To Location, and To friest whetever funding Order, To Location and XS I, address a message to the most specific CS patric ob. If the funding his most study, such of this the sector at, definer the message to the leader of the "To CS had position is not staffled or available, deliver to the particular or the message of the sector of the the position is not staffled or available, deliver to the control or the sector of the sector of the control or the sector of the control of the control or the sector of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of control control of control of control control of con	Position (c) he choises, for other is staffed at the dis- t. Position" stantified in the	and mession tration location. If the specified o mession with leader, Branch De	
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OA Sharker Status	Priority(n), (n)	For city-managed City 60C For county-managed County 60C	Myor Care and Shelter Link She: Care and Shelter Sherch She: Uperations Section	
** For actual EDC activations, use For an AREL/RAZES exercise or Sente Clara Equity FAREL/RACES	the defined to Lacation and fin CS Position(s) as indi- training event, use the information green for that as Annual. 2019.	est, e.g. "Kanado EOC" es	se by the message originator. ny te specified instead of "County	100°, etc.

#### **Golden Eagle 2024: Operations**

- RACES sent and received multiple 3<sup>rd</sup>party messages over packet and voice
  - ICS-213
  - 213RR with routing slip
  - Informal
- Cross-trained operators
  - Able to fill in while others were coaching incident staff or taking breaks

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#### **Golden Eagle 2024: Takeaways**

- Exercising with served agencies is invaluable
- Keep current on training and practice so you know how message flow works
- · Semper Gumby!



#### W2XSC BBS Failure June 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

Tim Howard, KE6TIM Revised 16-Nov-2024

#### **Initial Evaluation**

- · Problems with W2XSC were reported
- A number of remote troubleshooting steps were taken.
  - o The network connection between the BBS PC and the other network infrastructure at the site had failed.
  - o The JNOS BBS, the TNCs, and the Radios were fully functional.
  - $\,\circ\,$  The BBS was usable as a standalone BBS without external connectivity to the rest of the network.
- · It was determined that a spare computer, data switch, and data cable should be taken to the site.
- Because of the remote location of the site, other parts, tools, and equipment were collected for the trip.

#### Plan for Trip to Site

- Over a one hour drive one-way
- · Take anything and also bac
- · Need a high other times.
- · Because of the two people.
- It took a coup
- · The keys to a
- · Once on site cable issue.

g you might need. Spare parts for repair kup monitor, keyboard, mouse, tools, etc.	
clearance vehicle in good weather, 4WD at	
he remote location we want to send at least	
ple of days to get the material together.	
access the site were not readily available.	
, it was quickly determined there was a	
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#### **Initial Visit**

- · Cable was replaced
- TNC Firmware updated
- General cleaning and inspection of cabinet
- Remote testers checked all radio, BBS, and email connections to the site
- The site was up and back to normal operation



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#### Less than 16 hours later

- The BBS failed with the exact same symptoms. Remote diagnostics indicated a similar failure.
- A second visit the next day was scheduled with spare parts, a hardened data cable, and mouse deterent.



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#### Second Visit



· The same data cable was chewed breaking wires



- · The data cable was replaced with the shielded cable.
- No additional problems with mice eating cables
- Site owner has placed more traps and sealed any openings found. Reminded tenants to keep door closed.
- · Thanks to:

Thomas Leibold – spare parts and technical expertice Bertrand Achard – extra tools and computer monitor Tim Howard – driver and support

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- · PG&E PSPS power shutdown
  - Generator started but shutdown failed due to overheating
  - o Fan Blades were broken providing no cooling air
  - Mice or larger rodents had got inside the fan shroud and when engine started the fan blades broke off.
  - Our batteries did not work due to several years of use with numerous PG&E and generator issues
- Site owner has enclosed all openings to the generator with wire mesh to allow air flow but block mice and other rodents from access
- New batteries are on order and when they arrive a site visit will be scheduled

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Q&A

All Training Staff

#### Thank You!

Please check your email and follow the instructions to complete and return the Course Evaluation.

To get course credit the Course Evaluation is due by next Saturday.  $\label{eq:course} % \begin{subarray}{ll} \end{subarray} % \begin{subarray}{$ 

If you have questions or feedback about this or other training activities, you can join our Training discussion group.

<a href="https://scc-ares-races.groups.io/g/training">https://scc-ares-races.groups.io/g/training</a>

This is a moderated group.

See you at a training class or exercise next year!