



Moreno Valley Repeater

Moreno Valley Amateur Radio Association

May 2009

Are You Ready

for

Field Day 2009?

It's almost time for all you Moreno Valley Hams to work the air waves for the annual ARRL Field Day! Saturday June 27th 11:00 am to Sunday June 28th 11:00 am we'll be at the Moreno Valley Community Park, Frederick and Cottonwood, for an exciting and fun filled 24 hours. Come work one of the stations and enjoy the comradery of your fellow Hams. Don't forget to bring your family and friends!

For more info or if you can help set, tear down, bring food or just lend moral support, contact Dennis, KC6FJC by email at denfjc@msn.com or call Glenn, AB6PA at -----

Next Meeting

Is Thursday, June 4, 2009 at the Roundtable Pizza, 7:00 PM. Our main topic will be Field Day. See you there!

A Message from Our New President



Welcome to MVARA. I hope every one had a wonderful Christmas and will have a great new year. In the coming year I would like to see the club become involved in

some of the charitable events that go on in the area. Some of us are helping with the Diamond Valley Marathon on January 24. I have been doing some of these events for years. I have found that some of the hams can not put in the correct frequency and this is a good way learn your radio and help your community.

I would like to see some input from the club members as to what they would like the club to do this coming year. Without your input, how can the club do things you would like, like Club meetings and events.

Alvin, KD6UZM

ARRL FIELD DAY 2009



WWW.ARRL.ORG

Golden Guardian from County SIM CELL

On November 13, 2008 as a member of Riverside County RACES, I participated in the Golden Guardian. I was located at the Flood Control facility on Market Street just north of the 60 freeway in Riverside.

Participants:



There were three hams at the facility; Harold K6TQM, Alvin KD6UZM and myself Glenn AB6PA. The three of us worked on 2 meters, 40 meters and the 440 MHz band.

Setup:

The preparedness demonstrated by Harold and Alvin was quite impressive. They both brought enough equipment (radios, antennas, coax, connectors, power supplies, extension cords, meters, portable generators, tables, chairs, etc) to do the job.

They had obviously worked events similar to this before.

We placed three antennas on the roof of the facility, to cover the three bands we were working. We ran the coax through an open door and set up the radio stations in the hallway just outside the main situation room.

Because of the close proximity of the three stations, the operators wore head phones. Therefore we each did our own scribing.

Situation:

For the purposes of the exercise, an earthquake greater than 7.0 rendered all land line communications inoperable. Emergency traffic needed to be sent to the PEOC in Riverside.

Before the exercise began we attended a briefing meeting to learn the situation and our rolls.

Mission:

Our mission was to inject situations into the drill. From 9:00 A.M. until roughly 2:30 P.M. we did just that. The situations were scripted by evaluators at the Simulation Cell (SIMCELL) where we were located.

Methods:

We used the tactical call of County SIM CELL. I lost count of the number of message we sent and received, but the three of us were quite busy for the duration.

It became apparent early on; the way best way to send messages verbally was going to be using the "Break and Go" method (see *Break & Go* elsewhere in this issue). It was also apparent that those we were trying to communicate with at the PEOC were not experienced in using that method.

The three of us tried (by example) to get that method working. The folks at the PEOC caught on... somewhat.

Things that went well:

Equipment provided by the experienced hams went together smoothly and quickly and worked great. The folks at the PEOC for the most part got responses to situations passed. Con't next page

We convinced the folks at the Flood Control facility they should put up permanent antennas on the roof of the facility with coax for each coming into a common area.

Recommendations:

The PEOC was insufficiently equipped to handle the volume of traffic in an emergency situation. We were told they only had one radio for VHF, one for UHF and one HF rig. They could only operate on one frequency in any of those bands at a time. For the volume of traffic to be sent and received by the PEOC they should be equipped with a lot more radios so they can work multiple frequencies on the same band.

Not all hams are experienced with the "Break and Go" method of sending messages verbally. Operators handling traffic verbally should be trained and practiced in the use of the "Break and Go" method.

The messages we were to send from the situation room were often quite wordy and with no particular addressee and no sender information. Messages should be concise and to the point with all the necessary information.

During the drill we were told the PEOC was going to break for lunch. I find it hard to believe that during an emergency communications would stop because of lunch. Additional operators would have alleviated that situation

Other methods of sending traffic should be explored, like packet, PSK, radio facsimile and other digital modes.

Success?

Was the *Golden Guardian* a success? I really can't tell because the drill was an ongoing event and was statewide. So I am unqualified to comment on the success or failure of the entire project

We did learn a lot, and one of the purposes of the drill is to learn your strengths and weakness so that plans and changes can be made to do a better job the next time. So from that standpoint it was a success.

Glenn, AB6PA

From the Red Cross

Here's a little update about the radio station at the Riverside Red Cross. After some discussion following the *Golden Guardian* Drill of 2008, it was decided that the original location is physically too small, not enough operating stations, and too noisy. So, we took our "bias for action" literally...and moved the station to it's new home. Thanks to many of you, we now have three separate radio stations, that can hopefully allow three operators, plus scribes, to work with relative ease. One station is dedicated to 2-meters FM. The next is for 2m or 440 FM. The third shares both HF and the standard Red Cross 47.42 FM radios.

The station is actually in the north half of the building, and is somewhat difficult to access from the "Response Operations Center", know as the R.O.C., which is in the south half. This is intentional, as the actual radio operators should be left completely alone to do what they do best (and vice versa for the R.O.C. personnel). The messages are electronically passed between the R.O.C. and the Radio Room, via shared network folders. Of course, if the network fails, there's always going to be the low-tech "runner" available. In any case, this setup is a work-in-progress, and therefore subject to test/proof.

Our plans are to increase the functionality of the Radio Room, possibly adding Winlink and other Packet systems, APRS tracking, and more. Again, thanks to the ham radio community of Riverside County for all the help.

-73, NR6T

MVARA brings Santa to MoVal Kids

Operation Santa Clause has begun. This as members of California's Moreno Valley Amateur Radio Association, provided an opportunity for children to 'Talk to Santa' via amateur radio at the 10th annual Lake Perris State Recreation Area's, 'Lights on the Lake' holiday season celebration, held on Saturday, December 6th.



Some 15 members of the Moreno Valley club participated along with members of the City of Moreno Valley RACES organization. Each child received a name tag identifying their radio contact and entitling them the opportunity to personally meet Santa following the evening finale of the parade of boats.



Alan Pearson, KB6DMZ, is a spokesperson for the club. He says that the overall success of the event was gauged by the long lines of children making their Christmas wishes known to Santa at the groups lakeside amateur radio station.



(Steve Evans, AF6HR)
Reprinted from
Newsline.



The Moreno Valley Repeater is by the Moreno Valley Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 7642, Moreno Valley CA 92552

President: Alvin Brown, KD6UZM

Vice President: Ed Winters, N6CPM

Secretary: Karen Ott, KI6SOT

Treasurer: Glenn Toby, AB6PA

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Field Day Chair: Dennis Brucks, KC6FJC

Newsletter contributions from Alvin, KD6UZM, Glenn, AB6PA, Clint, NR6T, Alan, Kb6DMZ, Steve, AF6HR.

Weekly Net

Tuesday, weekly at 8:00 pm
on 449.300 and/
or 146.655



Sunday

Every
7:30 am
Burgers
Blvd.



Breakfast

Sunday at
at Perris
on Perris
north of the

60 Freeway.

The Break & Go method of sending messages

The Break & Go method of sending messages verbally has been proven to be an efficient method of handling traffic. It may seem slow when someone (other than the message sender and message receiver) listens to the traffic being sent. But, consider that the message can only be sent as fast as the receiver can write it down. Any attempt to send it faster than that will just delay the message by requiring unnecessary repeats of information. Using the Break and Go method puts the receiver in control of how fast the information is sent. After all, he/she is the one that has to write it down.

Message Sender:

The sender is to slowly speak the information to be sent in groups of 5 to 10 words. In the case of header information (message number, who to, who from, subject, etc) the prompt for the information should also be stated. In the case of call signs, acronyms or uncommon words, spell them phonetically.

After 5 to 10 words have been spoken by the message sender, the sender says "break". Then the sender does nothing except wait until he hears a "go" or other instructions from the receiver. This allows the receiver to "catch up" with writing any information that was sent faster than the receiver could write. Until the receiver says "go" or requests a repeat or a spelling; the sender waits.

Hint: The sender should put tick marks on the printed text they are sending so they can easily keep track of where the last set of 5 to 10 words sent, ended.

Message Receiver:

It is the receiver's responsibility to control when additional information is sent. By saying "go" when he/she is ready, the sender can then begin to send the next batch of 5 to 10 words. Or the receiver may ask for a repeat of all or part of the last 5 to 10 words sent, or ask for the phonetic spelling of a word if unsure, or for words that have different meanings but sound alike.

Common Mistakes when using Break & Go

Sender doesn't wait for receiver to say go. This was observed at the Golden Guardian event. The sender sends 5 to 10 words of information then says "break". Then the sender doesn't wait for the receiver to say "go". After some undetermined period of time, the sender just starts transmitting again without knowing whether or not the receiver is ready for additional information or needs part of the message repeated. The sender doesn't find out they have to repeat part or nearly the entire message until they have sent the whole thing.

Receiver doesn't wait after keying down to say "go". This has been observed at every training session or drill I've participated in where the Break & Go method has been employed. In an effort to say the single word "go" the receiver key's down the microphone says go as fast as they can then un-keys. The sender may hear "o" or hear no sound at all other than the squelch opening and closing. Take time to key, pause (let the repeater come up) then say "go", then after saying "go", un-key. It sounds like a simple process, but it's amazing how many people do it incorrectly.

Glenn, AB6PA