



Paradise Amateur Radio Society

Teach, Learn, Communicate & Have Fun

W6PAR



President

Vice - President

Treasurer

Secretary

Doug Poppelreiter – KD6LOK

John Findley – KM6JIF

Ernie Wilson – K6SQN

Grant Hunsicker – KK6FKW

ivwheeler@yahoo.com

km6jif@gmail.com

panaxis@sbcglobal.net

grant.hunsicker@gmail.com

Communications Course Write Up 1 – Course Overview May 2019

Why put on a series on Communications Concepts for PARS Members?

Many believe that amateur radio has two distinct segments of interest including amateur radio as a hobby and the other as a communication method when other methods fail (emergency communications). Some radio clubs / organizations focus on one, or the other, but some focus on both.

When PARS first began to meet regularly, the leadership focused solely on the hobby segment and not the emergency communications segment. Subsequently, and even more so after the Camp Fire Incident, more and more Members have shown interest in allocating at least some of the program and resources to the emergency communications segment.

Radio communications for hobby and for unusual or emergency situations is different from other modes of communication such as the cellular phone and guidelines and best practices exist for radio communications for each of the various situations. Allocating a balance of time and resources to both the hobby and unusual or emergency communications segments may help all PARS Members communicate more effectively on the radio regardless of different interests and situations.

On the hobby side, many rely on the use of repeaters to reach friends in places simplex cannot reach. Even seasoned amateur radio operators can use a refresher on Repeater Etiquette to help everyone enjoy the hobby. When communicating during unusual situations, such as assisting a stranded vehicle in an area without cellular service, there are tips that will make the communication more efficient and effective. During actual emergencies, a more formal “style” is required.

We all have a choice regarding using the radio for hobby related communications and many listen with rarely transmitting anything. However, there may come a time when your ability to properly communicate via radio will be necessary for a person’s safety. Learning and gaining experience in all situations is instrumental in demonstrating professionalism and setting an example for others regardless of the purpose of any particular communication.

The overall concept of the Communications Course is to share tips and learn from each other about handling radio communicating during all situations.

Course Content & Format

The Communications Course will be delivered over several months and include short write ups placed on the website, presentations and mini-trainings during meetings and a workshop to supplement the process. Everyone is encouraged to participate and while Kevin Fullerton, WB7SKS, and Grant Hunsicker, KK6FKW, will be leading the course, others are encouraged to bring input and suggestions so we can all learn together. The Communications Course will range from routine hobby oriented communications through unusual communication situations and, finally, communications in serious situations for those interested.

Here is a draft outline of the Communications Course:

Course Overview:

- We are planning a brief presentation during the May General Meeting to ensure the Communications Course is meeting the needs of PARS Members.

Phase One – Radio Communications as a Hobby

- The focus of this phase, including an interactive presentation during the June General Meeting, covers Repeater Etiquette.

Phase Two – Radio Communications in unusual and urgent situations

- This phase, with presentation and discussion during the July General Meeting, focuses on communications that differ from day to day “rag chews”. This includes contesting and practicing taking the responsibility of Net Control with the hope that others will sign up for trying out the Net Control seat to gain experience. We will also discuss the use of the PARS emergency call out plan and some tips in handling non-routine urgent communications.

Phase Three – Radio Communications in a significant emergency

- As the schedule comes together, we are hoping to have a presentation provided to PARS by Alan Thompson (W6WN) on the failure of traditional communication tools.
- Plans for the August General Meeting call for a presentation and discussion outlining some background and being prepared for emergency communications including the use of contact information and radio equipment carried in the car.

Workshop

- The Communications Course will wrap up with a Workshop in September where simulated events will help us gauge how far we have come in being able to communicate no matter what. Details will follow.