

# Packet Activity for County Drill

September 28, 2019

Edith Morley Park, Campbell

Report by Leslie Grimm, KK6EKN

Activity organized and run by MTV ARES/RACES

Mountain View ARES conducted a packet training activity as part of a county ARES drill. We designed one set of activities for participants new to packet, and another set of more challenging activities for experienced operators.



We were assigned 3 large tables under the trees. We borrowed canopies, cones, and a generator and laid table cloths over the tables to protect the equipment.



We arrived before dawn to begin setting up. We had to be ready to start by 9 am. Thomas observes as Phil ties a weight to the canopy leg.



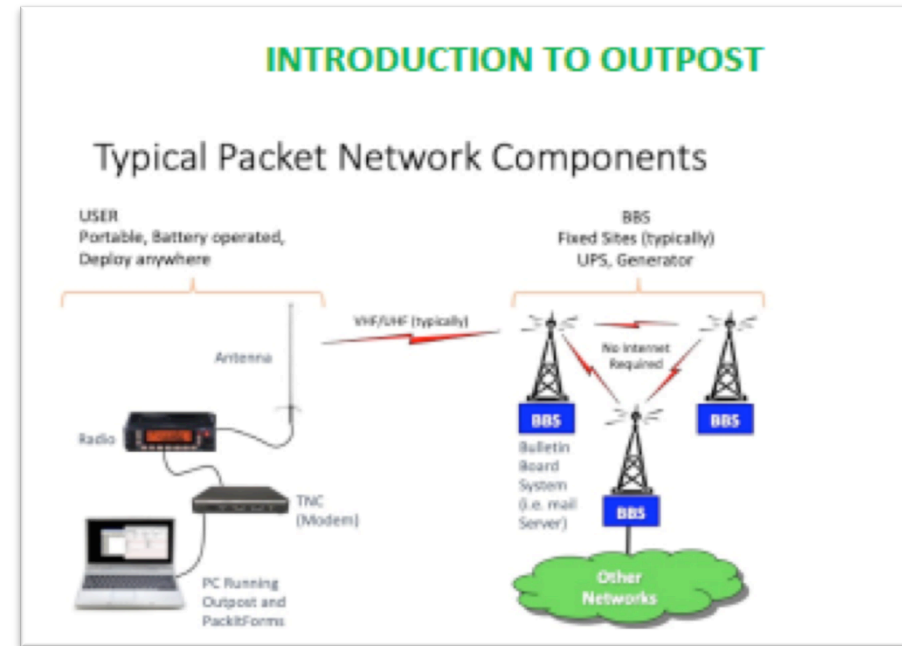
Each new participant was coached by an experienced operator, using a manual we had developed in a “Packet Lite” class earlier in the year. The coaches guided participants through the process of launching outpost, configuring the station, connecting to a Bulletin Board, and passing some simple messages. It took about 50 minutes and each student left with a personal copy of the manual.



Fish shows a new participant how to use Outpost.



Patrick and Thomas help a student.



Page one of the manual shows the components of the packet system



For the more experienced participants the challenge was to handle forms from a simulated health facility. The forms were new to many of them, and they needed to create routing slips for some, requiring them to check with the facility manager.



A participant consults with Lea, who played the role of facility manager.



Ed adjusts the shade while Thomas waits for new participants. Poul (supervisor for experienced participants) consults with Lea (Facilities Manager) while experienced hams (Jeff and another) work on their assignments.





Tracie, an experienced participant, brought her own packet kit, including a table and chair.





Leslie and Tracie study the instructions to determine how the routing slip should be addressed.



The county supplied us with an additional table so they could do credential evaluations with some experienced operators. We also used it for experienced operators, like John.





Sherril keeps the log, tracking all the participants as they move through their assignments.





Phil and Mike took turns being radio operator and scribe in the drill EOC. We had borrowed a printer from the county and it was an essential asset!



Altogether there were 28 participants: 13 new and 15 experienced operators.

We all learned a lot from this training – both participants and staff. Assembling the necessary equipment was a major challenge for the staff but we were fortunate to borrow what we needed for so many stations. Handling all the messages in the simulated EOC was a challenge, and slowed things down a bit for experienced operators. The activity for new participants went very well and they expressed satisfaction with the training.

Special thanks go to the incredible staff for this event:

Overall shift supervisor: Leslie Grimm, KK6EKN

Supervisor for Intros: Sherril Brennan, KK6LTH

Supervisor for Experienced: Poul Hansen, KZ6DM

SIMEOC operator: Phil Henderson, KF6ZSQ

Scribe for SIMEOC: Mike Kutner, N6IHT

Mentor for New operators:

Robert Fishman (Fish), K6FSH

Ed Brennan, KK6LTG

Patrick Muffler, KG6TMI

Robert Guillou, KV6B

Agency Manager: Lea Roberts, WA6ITV