

September 18, 2008 Message

Section Emergency Coordinator, Dennis Smith

Some of you know me well and some not so well so let me introduce myself a bit anyway.

The name here is Dennis Smith--KA6GSE and I'm the SEC for LA Section and have been steadily building ARES over the last couple of years.

I hope to get a very strong and active ARES program going in the LAX Section this can only be realized with your help of course. This isn't the Dennis show (or any of my DEC's or EC's) as it were by any means, I'd like your help and cooperation.

Here is my Plan I'd like to get underway with that I'm asking for your help with.

Statement of fact: We do a pretty good job of promoting our local clubs to the hams in our local areas. But we generally do a rather poor job in promoting ham radio to the general public. So how do we do that ? yes, sure we promote Field day but how many get big media coverage?.....not too many at least that I know of.

Here is what I'm planning on doing I have an editor and myself (at first-I would like to later back off and go on to something else) will put together a newsletter for the **non-ham** public and will distribute it to various agencies and groups that I have contact with as well as public outlets as well as the internet.

I'm looking for about 3 pages from each of your groups, telling the public about your group , including things like:

- ham licensing class schedules
- meeting dates and times-locations--(and contact persons info)
- Net times and frequencies (for scanners to listen in)
- Upcoming events that you do--(maybe a contact persons number and E-mail)
- maybe if your involved in some special modes like ATV, Remote Control UAV's or other modes)
- Do you have scholarships for teenagers if they are studying technology available? if so what are the qualifications needed to apply.

This is some of the things I'm looking for but in no way all inclusive but I think you get the idea.

Remember things like contesting and DXPeditions are of no real interest to the general public for the most part.

I am angling to show that ham radio is a service to their local community and help out at various community events, Disaster training etc. I will also look at de-hamming some of the terms, sure this isn't for hams it is for the general Public so if they can't understand it they won't read it. It will be available to your members as well but they should be a good tool for them to use in presenting ham radio to those involved in CERT and other similar groups on the benefits of ham radio and how being involved can be a real assist to their community.

We hope over time to have a pretty good circulation and it should help to bring allot of new hams in to the hobby, this as well will increase your membership and the activity in ARES as well.

Now for the little catch if you will, sure I am doing this to help ARES and in doing that you can get new members as well for they will want to belong to a club as well.

What I'd like is to have in each club a member who would be willing to except a AEC appointment in ARES (AEC's don't even need to be league member) this can be you or someone else the reason is that we have some 60-70 different clubs in the LA basin and I know of about 15, this isn't good for we need to operate in concert not all trying to do the same thing. This is nuts and this is why we have a somewhat disjointed ARES/Ham radio role here in LA section.

As some of you know already and others will get with working with me I'm not real big on formalities just an e-mail or small comment from time to time is all and answer some e-mail when needed is about all the AEC's will need to do is to be sure we get the newsletter information by submission date is all. As well as pass along the information we ask to their club members either by net or whatever you have going in your group.

Well I covered allot so I'll let you think about it and let me know, I know some of you know of many others that aren't on this mailing and they will be invited eventually but I thought I'd start out small for now and add as I go. So tell them I haven't forgotten them if I know about them that is later on I'll be asking for suggestion from you about other groups we can include as well.....

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