



Every Time We Learn Something

Congratulations on a Job Well Done!

We can be proud of the job our team did for the JFK. We tracked the lead runners, we had all positions staffed except two, thankfully Don, WB3FTQ filled another position then went on to his regularity assigned assignment. In spite of the loss of the two key assignments we were able to complete our assigned mission. Needless to say we hope that in the future all our assignments are filled. As usual we learned important lessons. Since your editor was a member of the team and its leader, I am not about to comment about anyone but myself. What follows is a close self-examination. These are MY thoughts about MY operation during the run. It is hoped that everyone who plans to respond in the time of an emergency or participate in an event will also examine their own operating procedures.

Personal Reflections on the JFK

First I do think that as a team we did a good job! Could I have performed better? Surely I could have used better operation techniques. What might I have changed? For a start, the following list gives me things to keep in mind:

- Provide better information to the radio volunteers on the run course.
- Provide better directions to the Net Control Operators, especially where we can expect to have transmission/reception difficulties.
- Suggest a way to keep track of the location of mobile operators to the Net Control operators.
- Provide better guidelines to the Net Control stations.
- Revise my "go kit" and have some extra food, equipment and such.
- Double check to make sure all the equipment will perform properly.
- Always follow proper "Directed Net" protocol.
- Always use tactical call sign -
- Transmit my call sign only at the end of each transmission.
- Never transmit the receiving station's call sign.
- Really listen. Keep up with what is going on with the other operators.
- Transmit details only to the intended station.
- Unless my message is an actual emergency I should pause prior to calling the net control to get permission to transit.
- Use earphones and boom mike.

The first and most important element to follow when participating in the net is to follow the "directed net" protocols. Proper net procedures don't need to be a chore, rather they should be "second nature." This is a skill that can be developed and refined by participating in the scheduled nets.

Generally the concept of a directed net means that ALL communication is done with the permission of the net control (nc). Often we do follow that rule, however during some events we fall short here, at least I did. We really need think about developing a set of procedures which will allow us to request permission to transmit and perhaps allow the nc to prioritize the messages when traffic is heavy. The following thoughts on "break tags" provides one way of handling this process. The following comes from an ARES® newsletter.

Break Tags

Some of our leaders are drilling their crews on a new method of getting attention on a net called "Break Tags."

When net communication gets heavy, someone may have a quick solution to a problem that is taking up too much valuable airtime for discussion, but can't break into the net to share it. We came up with "Break Tags" to deal with such a scenario.

There are currently seven one-word Break Tags. They are: "answer," "question," "info," "priority," "medical," "emergency" followed by your call sign. Most of these tags have been used with great success in large public/emergency services nets. Here is how they work: Instead of saying "break" between transmissions during a directed net, the operator uses the word specified as a Break Tag without a call sign.

They are to be used only when the operator's traffic will be appreciated by net control and results in more efficient communication. They are to be used wisely, as net control is directed to stop and turn over the net to the breaker. The message that follows a break should be as short as possible. Definitions and use:

"Answer": To be used when you have the definitive answer to a question currently being discussed on the air.

"Question": To be used when the answer of a question can't wait; for example, when the mayor is standing next to you and requesting you to get information using your radio.

"Info": To be used when information needs to be transmitted rapidly but is not related to what is being said on the air; for example, if an event that net control needs to know about is going to happen in the next few seconds or if waiting for the end of an exchange will negate the value of the information.

"Priority": To be used to report an important but non-life threatening situation such as a fender-bender that just happened.

"Medical": To be used to report a minor medical incident that affects the operator in some way; for example, having to leave his/her post for a few minutes to walk someone with a minor cut over to a med tent.

"Emergency": Only to be used to report an ongoing life or property threatening or damaging incident.

Your Call Sign: An indication that the operator has traffic that can wait and does not require the cessation of the ongoing exchange. This tag is an expectation to be put on hold and in queue for transmission.

"Break Tags" takes little training. Its use is contagious and comes very naturally. I hope that everyone adopts it. I would like to hear if other groups try it and how it works. It will be a part of our communications from here on in.-- Rod Lane, N1FNE, Section Emergency Coordinator, Connecticut Section <n1fnc@arrl.net>;

What are your thoughts on our using something like this? If you like it we would have to develop some Tags for special activities such as the JFK and the Ft. Ritchie events.

Out

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Congratulations on a Job Well Done | 1 |
| Personal Reflections on the JFK | 1 |
| Break Tags | 1 |
| The Maryland COMMEX November 9 th | 2 |
| Nets on December 14 th and 21 st | 2 |
| Local COMMEX Plans | 2 |
| Coordinators' Corner | 2 |
| Call Out List/Active Members | 3 |
| Calendar of Events | 3 |
| Out of County Members | 3 |
| Emergency Frequencies | 3 |

The Communicator is published for the benefit of amateur radio operators in Washington County as well as other interested parties
 Editor: Bob Long ACES EC / RACES Officer Washington Co. MD
 10618 Roberts Lane
 Hagerstown MD 21742-9708
 E-Mail: rjlong61@myactv.net
 Phone: 301.824.5132
 Application Form At: http://www.qsl.net/w3hag/images/races_app.pdf

Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/w3hag>

Reader submissions are encouraged

The State COMMEX Schedule

The next COMMEX will be held on January 11, 2011. The scenario for that drill should be released closer to that date.

Over

Nets on December 14th and 21st

While looking up some topics for this newsletter, we found just over 20 topics that would be appropriate for use as training topics. These are not original with our team, rather are from the Greenville, SC ARES®. These are excellent short training topics.

Over

Local COMMEX Plans for December 14th

Our local COMMEX for December will consist of passing a ICS-213 using the 146.940 repeater. We then move to our primary simplex frequency, 146.43 for roll call and to pass a simple ICS-213. Our plans are to involve the team from the hospital and hopefully the EOC. We included with our latest newsletter both a SITREP form and an ICS-213 form.

Over

Coordinators' Corner

Shortly after I entered the Comm. Trailer during the JFK, a comment was made to me about all the "chatter" on our net. Since then several of our colleagues have made similar comments. Some have suggested that we place emphasis on using tactical call signs, and ID only our own call sign in keeping with FCC guidelines, every 10 minutes or at the END of a transmission. Using this system tells the net control (nc) that we are finished our message. Oh, and by the way, we have moved to using earphones in the trailer.

While thinking about this we heard from one of our operators that there could be confusion between ourselves and the race officials with regard to the names. To reduce this potential point of confusion, I asked that Mike Spinnler review the names. The only assignment that he felt needed to be clarified was Dam #3. Mike said that they called that location Lock 34. We have made that change on our sign up sheet.

Another suggestion that was made was that we establish a "command post." This would be in keeping with the NIMS training that a lot of us have had. I asked Director Lewis when the comm trailer was open for the JFK he told me that this year it was open prior to 5 a. m. If we were to open a command post position it would probably take two or three operators working in shifts to handle this position. They would not be performing as net control.

Other participants in our net have suggested the need for a meeting to discuss some of their concerns.

How do you feel about this?

What ever we do, let's keep it simple!

For now, 73 and out. KD3JK

| Pre Event Assignment | | | |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|
| Call | Name | ID | Location |
| K3ABH | Carlo | 2 | EOC Team 1 |
| K7BMG | Peter | 7 | EOC Team 2 |
| N3JAX | Fred | 11 | Hospital Team 1 |
| N3PMN | Jeff | 24 | Hospital Team 2 |
| KB3MBR | Richard | 21 | Hospital Team 3 |
| K3OJG | Linn | Needs one | Red Cross |

Training Status:

If any of your data is incorrect please contact Bob.

| ID # | Exp | A C T I V E | Name | Call | REQUIRE D (Operations) | | | | | | | | 2 day class es | SUG GES TED 800 | OPTIONAL | | | | |
|------|-----|----------------------------|------------|--------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 0 0 | 2 0 0 | 7 0 0 | 8 0 0 | 30 0 0 | 4 0 0 | CERT | AREC 1 | | | AREC 2 | AREC 3 | | | |
| | | | Gary | K3FCC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Joe | K3LLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Linn | K3OJG | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Mike | K3XH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Mike | K3XRY | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | |
| | | | David | KA3OZK | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Donnie Sue | KB3AOO | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | William | KB3DTP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Bryan | KB3EPP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Phil | KB3FJN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Richard | KB3GOS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Lance | KB3HOQ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | John | KB3ISG | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| | | | Michael | KB3JNJ | | | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Tom | KB3KRN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Frank | KB3ODM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Richard | KB3RNM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Bryan | KB3SRU | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Russ | N3KKW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Charlie | N3MVR | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Tim | N3VGS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Richard | N5PRV | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Bill | N8UKC | | | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Jack | W3NHR | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | John | W3SPY | X | | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Joe | WA3PTV | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Larry | WB3FHV | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Don | WB3FTQ | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Joe | WB8QPG | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Richard | WX3SWX | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Y | Bill | N3NHW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 01 | 11 | Y | Bob | KD3JK | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 02 | 11 | Y | Carlo | K3ABH | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 03 | 12 | Y | Dean | KB3HOO | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 04 | 11 | Y | Ron | KB3MBS | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 06 | 11 | Y | Herm | K2AVA | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 07 | 11 | Y | Peter | N7BMG | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 08 | 07 | | David | KB3ISI | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 09 | 11 | Y | Joe | W3BUI | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 10 | 11 | Y | Karin | KB3GFV | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 11 | 11 | Y | George | KA3OTR | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 12 | 07 | Y | David | K7DLB | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 13 | 11 | Y | Page | WA3EOP | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 14 | 11 | Y | Garry | W3GTL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 12 | Y | Mac | W3MBH | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 16 | 11 | Y | Bill | K3UMV | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 17 | 12 | Y | Jimmy | KB3ISF | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 18 | 11 | Y | Fred | N3JAX | | | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | 07 | Y | Tori | AB3BE | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 20 | 09 | Y | Brian | W3PDW | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 21 | 09 | Y | Richard | KB3MBR | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 22 | 11 | Y | Eric | KB3ISH | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 23 | 11 | Y | Mike | N3WSP | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 24 | 11 | Y | Jeff | N3PMN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | 11 | Y | Butch | N12W | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 26 | 11 | Y | Aaron | KB3SWU | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 27 | 11 | Y | Kathy | KB3JRI | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | 11 | Y | Tom | KB3ZV | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

The above list provides a summary of each Washington County primary responder as the records provided to us indicate. If our records are incorrect please send us a note along with the certificates that have been provided to you. Please send us a note when you have completed a course and then as soon as you can send us a copy of your certificate of completion.

**Registered RACES Members with Washington County ID
Call Up List Available for activation**

| ID | Call | Name | Phone | Tree | City | Skywarn | Active |
|----|--------|---------|------------|------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| 01 | KD3JK | BOB | | A | HAGERSTOWN | WAE04 | 11/22/08 |
| 02 | K3ABH | CARLO | | A | SMITHSBURG | WAC35S | 11/22/08 |
| 03 | KB3HOO | DEAN | | A | WILLIAMSPORT | WAC44 | 01/17/09 |
| 04 | KB3MBS | RON | | A | HAGERSTOWN | WAN15 | 10/08 |
| 06 | K2AVA | HERM | | B | HAGERSTOWN | WAC11 | 11/08 |
| 07 | N7BMG | PETER | | A | HAGERSTOWN | | 05/09 |
| 08 | KB3ISI | DAVID | | A | BOONSBORO | | |
| 09 | W3BUI | JOE | | A | HAGERSTOWN | WAN23 | 05/09 |
| 10 | KB3GFV | KARIN | | A | BOONSBORO | | 11/08 |
| 11 | KA3OTR | GEORGE | | A | HAGERSTOWN | WAN22 | 10/08 |
| 12 | K7DLB | DAVID | | A | SHARPSBURG | WAS13 | 11/08 |
| 13 | WA3EOP | PAGE | All | A | HAGERSTOWN | WAC10 | 1/11/08 |
| 14 | W3GTL | GARRY | Phone | A | HAGERSTOWN | | 11/09/09 |
| 15 | W3MBH | MAC | Numbers | B | HAGERSTOWN | WAS03 | 10/08 |
| 16 | K3UMV | BILL | are | B | HAGERSTOWN | WAC05 | 05/09 |
| 17 | KB3ISF | JIMMY | Restricted | B | HAGERSTOWN | | 11/08 |
| 18 | N3JAX | FRED | on | B | HAGERSTOWN | WAN21 | 10/08 |
| 19 | AB3BE | TORI | this | B | RANSON WV | WAC45 | 11/08 |
| 20 | W3PDW | BRIAN | Site | B | CHAMBERSBURG | | 10/08 |
| 21 | KB3MBR | RICHARD | | B | HAGERSTOWN | WAN17 | 05/09 |
| 22 | KB3ISH | ERIC | | B | WAYNESBORO | PA 136090 | 11/08 |
| 23 | N3WSP | MIKE | | B | HAGERSTOWN | | 11/08 |
| 24 | N3PMN | JEFF | | B | HAGERSTOWN | | 02/10/09 |
| 25 | NI2W | BUTCH | | B | SMITHSBURG | | 11/08 |
| 26 | KB3SWU | AARON | | B | BOONSBORO | | 11/09/09 |

Calendar of Events

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 11/09/10 | 07:00 pm | LOCAL COMMEX | 146.940 (-) |
| Tuesdays | 07:00 PM | EMCOMM Net | 146.940 (-) |
| Thursdays | 07:00 PM | 4 States Net | 147.090 (+) |
| 11/09/10 | 07:30:00 PM | MD. COMMEX | 147.060 (-) pl 123 |

Registered RACES Members Not Washington County Residents.

| Call Sign | ID | Name | Phone | City | Active | Skywarn |
|-----------|----|---------|-------|----------------|--------|---------|
| N3YMY | | ERIC | | BRUNSWICK | | |
| N8UKC | | BILL | | FALLING WATERS | 05/09 | |
| W8SEE | | DAN | | FALLING WATERS | | BKE11 |
| K3LN | | Ellen | | WAYNESBORO | 09/08 | |
| KB3COE | | JEAN | | FAYETTEVILLE | | |
| WN3DUG | | CARL | | FAYETTEVILLE | | |
| KB3NL | | LEONARD | | FREDREICK | | |
| KB3ODN | | Bob | | FREDREICK | | |
| WB8KDS | | JACKIE | | FREDREICK | | |
| KA3ZKU | | ELDON | | GREENCASTLE | | |
| KB3FJN | | PHIL | | GREENCASTLE | | |
| KZ3AB | | AL | | LAUREL | 10/08 | |
| KB8SVU | | DENNIS | | MARTINSBURG | | |
| WB8QPG | | JOE | | MARTINSBURG | | |
| WA3PTV | | JOE | | MERCERSBURG | | |
| KB3FTP | | JAMES | | MIDDLETOWN | | |
| K3XH | | MIKE | | SHIPPENSBURG | | |
| N3QBI | | DARRELL | | ST. THOMAS | | |
| AA3QL | | HERB | | WAYNESBORO | | |
| KB3GMM | | JOHN | | WAYNESBORO | | |
| KB3KRN | | TOM | | WAYNESBORO | | |
| NR9P | | DEAN | | WOLFSVILLE | | |

On the Roster but not fully available due to lack of either training or ID Possible NCS Operators

| CNT | Call | Name | Phone | Tree | City | Skywarn | Last |
|-----|--------|------------|-------|------|-------------|---------|----------|
| 1 | KB3GOS | RICHARD | | C | CLEARSPRING | | 5/09 |
| 2 | N3NHV | BILL | | C | CLEARSPRING | | 9/08 |
| 3 | K3FCC | GARY | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 4 | K3OJG | LINN | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | 9/08 |
| 5 | K3UA | HAROLD | | | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 6 | K3XRY | MIKE | | | HAGERSTOWN | WAC08 | |
| 7 | KA3OZK | DAVID | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 8 | KB3A00 | DONNIE SUE | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | 10/08 |
| 9 | KB3HOQ | LANCE | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 10 | KB3ISG | JOHN | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 11 | KB3ODM | FRANK | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 12 | KD8ADL | FRED | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 13 | N3ARZ | KENNETH | | | HAGERSTOWN | | 11/08 |
| 14 | N3HQB | BILL | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 15 | N3MVR | CHARLIE | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | 02/09 |
| 16 | N3TCR | BILL | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 17 | N3VGS | TIM | | C | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 18 | W3NHR | JACK | | D | HAGERSTOWN | WAN09 | 10/08 |
| 19 | W3ZSA | AL | | D | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 20 | WX3FRD | STEVEN | | D | HAGERSTOWN | | |
| 21 | KB3DTP | WILLIAM | | D | HANCOCK | | |
| 22 | N5PRV | RICHARD | | D | HANCOCK | | 9/08 |
| 23 | N3KKW | RUSS | | D | KEEDYSVILLE | | |
| 24 | WB3FTQ | DON | | D | KEEDYSVILLE | | 11/22 |
| 25 | KB3JDT | TOM | | D | SHARPSBURG | WAS10 | |
| 26 | KB3JRI | KATHY | | D | SHARPSBURG | WAS11 | |
| 27 | WX3SWX | RICHARD | | D | SHARPSBURG | | |
| 28 | K3LLP | JOE | | D | SMITHSBURG | | 10/08 |
| 29 | KB3EPP | BRIAN | | D | SMITHSBURG | WAN03 | 10/08 |
| 30 | KB3JNJ | MIKE | | D | SMITHSBURG | | |
| 31 | N3ZHI | NICK | | D | SMITHSBURG | | |
| 32 | W3SPY | JOHN | | D | SMITHSBURG | | |
| 33 | WB3FHV | LARRY | | D | SMITHSBURG | | 07/08/09 |

- Not on our 1st call list, but on our roster.

Emergency Frequencies

| Name | Frequency | Comment |
|--------------------|--|----------------------|
| Skywarn Net | 147.300 | AS Needed |
| Skywarn Sub Net | 147.090 | Called up as needed |
| MEMA backbone | 147.060 (+) | EOC to EOC |
| State HF Primary | 3950 kHz | +/- QRM (3 OR 6 kHz) |
| State HF Secondary | 7250 kHz | +/- QRM (3 OR 6 kHz) |
| Tactical | 146.94 (-) | Local Tactical |
| Resource | 147.375 (+) | Resource Net |
| Simplex | 146.430(S) Primary 146.505(S) Secondary 28.450 (s) | Simplex Frequencies |
| Packet Node (HGN) | 145.750 MHz | Packet and WinLink |

Getting an ID

Call Bonnie Keltner for an appointment at 240-313-4362 Her work schedule is Monday – Friday from 8 to 4 .Any amateur who is registered with Washington County RACES is eligible to get an ID - Check with Bob Long to make sure that your name is on Bonnie's list.