

Standard Operating Procedures for Pacific County RACES Stations Annex 3 – Explanation of the Pacific County Standard Frequency Chart

A3.1 This document explains the structure of the Pacific County Standard Frequency List. The list is intended as a ready cross-reference so that frequencies can be referred to by consistent “channel numbers” when that will expedite matters. The listing is intended to be exhaustive, containing every frequency a RACES operator would ever need in Pacific County. There are unassigned channels scattered through the list for future expansion.

A3.2 Knowing that there are likely to be 2-meter-only radios in the fleet, and that 70-centimeter radios are likely to be dual-band sets, the lowest numbered block of numbers is reserved for 2-meter frequencies, to maintain consistency across all radios. The UHF frequencies occupy the higher channel numbers. Normally, RACES radios will be programmed with the memory channels congruent with the Frequency Chart.

A3.3 Channel 001 corresponds to **146.520** Simplex. This is the traditional “default” 2-meter channel. In a situation where all the repeaters have failed and our infrastructure has collapsed, we will be left to conduct our operations on simplex. If this should happen suddenly, as it well might, when nothing else works, we want the operator to dial down to 146.520 Simplex and we will pick up the pieces from there.

A3.4 The rest of our 2-meter simplex frequencies are logically stacked in this lowest block, with **146.550**, the Pacific County standard simplex assignment as Channel 002. There are three areas of the 2-meter spectrum where dedicated simplex frequencies are found: 146.4-146.6, 147.4-147.6 and 145.55. The 146 range is the traditional area for simplex use, beginning at 146.520 and stepping upwards in 30 kHz increments to 146.580. Thence, the operator would step downward from 146.520 in 30 kHz increments to 146.430. This process would then be repeated in the 147 MHz bank, beginning at 147.510. If using several simplex frequencies from a single location, such as an EOC, it is best to spread them out as far apart as possible to avoid unnecessary interference.

A3.5 The next block of channels is for the 2-meter repeaters that are usable in and around Pacific County. This may be the most used part of the channel scheme. These are generally listed in ascending frequency order, since most “Hams” use “frequency” rather than “channel”, and the corresponding memory slots should be easy to find either way.

A3.6 The next block of channels is “Simplex on the Output” for all the 2-meter repeater frequencies. These channels are useful in several ways. First, they are available as extra simplex channels if needed. Second, in the event of a repeater failure, a simplex net can be established on the output frequency. Should the repeater return to operation, this fact would be immediately evident to those listening. Third, in a situation where a repeater has failed, and a station that is monitoring that frequency needs to be called to

switch to an active channel, another station close enough to the monitoring station can switch to the correct one of these and call the monitoring station.

A3.7 The last 2-meter block contains our packet frequencies. It is entirely likely that in the event of a failed packet radio, one of the voice rigs might need to be used in this capacity. Although not intended for voice, it is only prudent to include them here. The normal packet radio frequency in Pacific County is 145.630. Two frequencies used in the Astoria area of Oregon are included, 144.930 and 144.960. The Seattle area frequency 145.010 is also included.

A3.8 The UHF channel blocks start with the repeaters usable from Pacific County. This is followed by the same frequencies, as Simplex on the Output. This is similar to the 2-meter portion of the list.

A3.9 The final block is dedicated UHF simplex frequencies. Note that there are only two of these, making the Simplex on the Output channels even more important.

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