

November 25, 2007

Team,

I hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

I wanted to personally thank everyone that I have had the opportunity to talk with, email, share information, etc. KPARN is a team of very dedicated individuals which I am happy to be associated.

I wanted to provide the team with some updates on what has been occurring in the last couple months and what the future may bring.

1. With significant support from Dale and the entire Threat Assessment Group, a new commercial grade repeater has been purchased for installation on Santiago. The repeater is a Daniels Electronics system with a 200 Watt power amp. The system will have some battery backup (200 Watts draws 50+ Amps @ 12 Volts). A new commercial grade omni directional, unity gain antenna has also been purchased. Both antenna and repeater will be professionally installed.
2. With cooperation from the weather, the new 6 meter repeater will be installed in January or February. This is a basic voice repeater, no linking, phone patch, etc at this time. As this is a public safety grade repeater, there is no "courtesy tone". The repeater does not have to, and should not "drop" between operators. "Hang time" will be set long to allow normal verbal communications.
3. The repeater and radio will be installed at a new building on Santiago. This may be the third or fourth building this repeater has been in over the last decade.
4. The old six meter and 1.2 GHZ repeater cabinet has been removed from the mountain and is now at a radio shop in Riverside. The radio site owner has been very supportive of KPARN.
5. The goal is to work on getting the old six meter repeater operational. Would then like to maybe consider reinstalling in someplace at the north end of the LA basin. Oat Mtn may be such a location.
6. At one time there was a KPARN operational manual for the repeater system with DTMF codes and other information. If anyone has a copy, I would appreciate same.
7. The hope is to install a D-Star repeater on 1.2 GHZ at Santiago to allow high speed data transmission between all the KP medical centers. The 1.2 GHz system will also allow voice capabilities.
8. The 1.2 GHz repeater is fully coordinated. It will have to be "technically" re-coordinated to use D-Star. I have been told, and have a touch of documentation that the 6 meter repeater is coordinated. Does anyone have specific information on the 6 meter coordination?
9. We are currently reviewing every hospital (and other) site with installed equipment. The goal is to present an upgrade plan and budget to KP Threat Assessment that may allow this upgrade to be budgeted and funded.
10. Antenna work has been determined to complete the new station upgrade at Walnut Center. Hopefully, that work will occur after the first of the year.

11. A frequency list has been created that will allow standardized programming of any new radios to the same standard. As most radios have a hundred or so channels available we can work so anyone can go to any location and the equipment (and programming) will be the same. If you would like a copy of the current draft list of frequencies, please email me and will send out. This is a draft list, so any and all input is appreciated.

12. I have been in contact with San Diego, Orange and LA County ARES. San Diego and Orange County have hospital specific support groups, which we will continue to interface with. Someday in the future we will formalize these agreements with mutual aid and MOU agreements. I hope to meet with LA County ARES leadership early in the new year.

13. We are reviewing documentation that may be submitted to allow KPARN to be a not-for-profit organization - with normal business structure.

14. With Dale's urging, I have been in contact with KP members in Northern California. I believe the ideal goal is to create a seamless system for all of California.

15. We are looking at adding Winlink (the ARRL standard) to the HF stations at Walnut Center and San Diego. The Bellflower station will be relocating at sometime to the new Downey campus. Goal for Downey is a complete upgrade with Winlink capabilities as it relocates.

16. We have started looking for the previous KPARN members and defining strategy to add members. Any and all suggestions are most welcome.

17. We will be creating membership application forms, rewriting the KPARN mission statement, creating a basic training program (four on-line classes), and hopefully scheduling some meetings.

Any input, suggestions, ideas, criticism, etc is welcome. This is everyone's team.

My view of KPARN is a triangle with three key components. Infrastructure (repeaters, etc). Hospital Equipment (properly installed in correct location, admin support, standardized). Radio Operators (trained and motivated). With a "balanced" triangle our success's will be many and significant.

I wish you all the very best this holiday season. Thank you for all you do for the amateur radio community, your community and the KP community.

Happy Holidays

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