

FROM: George W. Taylor, KJ6GT

6 September 20

TO: Golden Triangle Amateur Radio Club

SUBJECT: After Action Simplex Exercise Test Report, For 5 September 2020

1. The following is an After Action Report generated as a result of the above subject event.

2. BACKGROUND:

- a. The purpose of this exercise was and still is, to make a reasonable determination of Simplex Communications capability between all members of the Golden Triangle Amateur Radio Club, here in, and after referred to as GTARC, and to offer a Net Control experience for the members.
- b. Prior to this event, it was proposed that this type of activity would occur each month on a Saturday morning, on a date just prior to the Monthly GTARC General Meeting so the results could be shared with members not either participating or able to monitor.
- c. It is intended that the purposes of executing these events is to provide the following:
 - (1). **To document** a file containing the member contact availability in the event of a disaster where a Master Net control opens a GTARC Resource Net.
 - (2). **To Satisfy** a GTARC EmCom requirement in regard to the construction and running a planned exercise.
 - (3). **To provide** the Opportunity for members of the club to gain Net Control Experience.

3. OPERATIONS:

This exercise commenced at 0745 Hrs on 5 September 2020 using the Elsinore Peak Repeater to determine the presence of the participating Members. Following the Resource net, The North Master Net Control directed all stations to QSY to the planned Simplex Frequency. The exercise Began and continued with the North Master net control directing each SubStation to call all participants on their ICS 214 List. Because this operation was conducted as a Northern Valley Simplex Exercise, having a Master Net Control and Seven (7) Club Sub Net Stations, KJ6PCW was requested to monitor in the South, which he did do. It was anticipated that this number of Members conducting the Sub Nets would cause the exercise to last until noon or later (A four hour operation) this same date, however the exercise concluded, (to include after exercise comments,) at approximately 0845 hrs the same date.

In this event, The North Master Net Control was KJ6GT, and the assisting Master South Master Net Control was KJ6PCW for obvious reasons. This exercise validated the need that both of these Master Net Controls are a necessity during Future Simplex operations, depending upon the scope and needed coverage at the time.

4. COMMENTS MADE:

- a. Visitor, N6FTW, not part of the exercise, who resides in North Elsinore near Central checked in as a matter of curiosity. KJ6 GT (North Net Control for this exercise, and KJ6 PCW , South Net Control for this exercise, both read him 5 x 5 .
- b. Visitor and President of the GTARC KG6GTR, checked in for presence only, KJ6GT in Wildomar Read him 5 X 5. This contact validated a generated path profile between the two stations.
- c. Visitor k6XA checked in to provide input that he copied all stations but made no comment how well he heard them.
- d. KJ6PCW, South Net Control Advised that I had stepped on other stations transmitting in the the South part of the Valley that I, in the North part of the Valley did not hear at the time.
- e. K6DSC checked in saying that he was interested in participating at the 24 October Exercise. (A. kj6pcw advisement). He was Read 5 X 5 at this station KJ6GT)
- f. KI6RIV checked in, requesting that he be a participant in October. (KJ6PCW advisement), I read him 5 x 5 at KJ6GT).
- g. KJ6PCW advised that KJ6GT the North Net control doubled with other stations attempting to communicate in the Temecula area, that KJ6GT in the North could not hear at the time. This may be a future concern when Simplex is the only mode of GTARC communications.
- h. KJ6GT advises that since we ,The GTARC proposed to continue these Simplex exercises and that the desire is for members to have the opportunity to participate, that we might consider more than 6 or 7 member stations at each of the coming exercises.
 - l It was suggested that we plan the October exercise to use a mid band frequency since I was advised that two meter antennas are cut for best resonance at mid band.
 - j. KJ6PCW suggested 146.550 as the frequency in question.
- k. It is noted that David Donnelly sent an advisement to KG6 GTR suggesting that George Taylor, as the exercise coordinator, be included in the GTARC E-mail sent to all members on 4 September 20. (KJ6GT agrees with this suggestion).
- l. KJ6GT suggests that David D. provide his Call Sign, equipment and antenna data for inclusion into the Exercise database and for identification into the boiler plate plan for when he may participate. He further advised that he had adequately, not perfectly, heard everyone except for WF6TC in Elsinore, and N6CPX in North Sun City.
- m. KJ6PCW, who acted as the South Master Net Control for this exercise provided a very comprehensive spreadsheet report that detailed his observations and communications as they were heard and / or responded to in coordination with KJ6GT, the North Master Net Control officiating at the 5 September exercise.
- n. W6UCI returned his responses via a typed copy of a ICS 214 Activity log that indicated the findings for all stations on his SubNet List at his station.
- o. KJ6GT will include further participating Sub station reports as they are received for inclusion into the database.
- p. KJ6GT suggests that this coordination is necessary when attempting a Simplex mode of operation for the reasons identified in item "d" in the comment section above, and further that when the South Master Net control is running the operation that a station on high ground in the North part of the coverage area such as KJ6GT @ 2000 Ft. AMSL monitor and provide relay capability as a part of the operation.
- q. KJ6GT suggests that the results of this and all future Simple Communications exercised be made a permanent part of a GTARC Disaster plan for good management when a GTARC Resource Net is needed in an Emergency / Disaster.

- r. KJ6GT will email the boiler plate, (11 Page plan) to include only the necessary pages that will affect the operation and participation for each of the future exercises.
- s. KJ6GT suggests that all members of GTARC not participating in an exercise, Monitor and provide comments if any at the end of an exercise.
- t. KJ6GT has suggested that there be one exercise per month and that it be held on the Saturday just prior to the Monthly GTARC General meeting. The intent being to get more comment on what either the Participants, the visitors monitoring, and any further findings by either master net controls may have to offer for inclusion into the database.
- u. A comment was made, (not during this exercise), " What does Simplex propagation look like using the 70 Cm Amateur Band as the Means of Communication !

5. PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS:

These are the major outcomes as I see them.

- a. **That** Simplex Mode of operation in the lower part of the 2 Meter Amateur Band is a feasible way to communicate if necessary, where there is no repeater availability.
- b. **That** using a frequency, mid band, where manufacturers cause their antennas to resonate may provide a better response for our needs. (to be validated in the October 24 exercise).
- c. **That** operation in the 70 Cm (440 Mhz) band should be tested before the final determination of Simplex operation is resolved as a means of calling a resource net in the event of a disaster.
- d. **That** Both a North and a South net control is a necessity for good communications using the Simplex Mode of operation.
- d. **That** conducting these exercises may spark member interest in advancing their capabilities, **AND** the GTARC need for on hand information in a disaster.
- e. **That** considering the unanticipated short operational period of the 5 September exercise, the number of club members desiring to participate and their availability, discussion is warranted for the number of members wanting to participate in a given exercise.
- f. **That** the After Action Report produced as a result of this type of exercise be published for all members to read as a benefit to acquire a better understanding the "Big Picture" of the communications environment in which we all live.

Respectfully submitted,

**George W. Taylor
GTARC EmCOM Member &
Exercise Planner/ Director.**