

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

"QuakeNet" 2010 Exercise Series

QuakeNet is an emergency preparedness exercise involving two-meter simplex operation around San Diego County, California. It is designed to provide the opportunity for licensees to use their two-meter gear to get to know it, learn limiting factors in their equipment, locations, output power, antenna and terrain, and become knowledgeable of the two-meter systems and environment in San Diego County. A goal is to keep the operation simple enough to encourage everyone to participate -- veteran amateurs, new hams and NBOAs (Never Been On the Air).

The QuakeNet 2 series for 2010 involves monthly exercises that are named after infamous earthquakes of the past. It began with an idea that Joseph Matterson, KI6TTF, had while attending a Communications Summit last September. The summit was a meeting held at the San Diego Salvation Army Headquarters that included local emergency response organizations and California OES as well as some fire districts. The summit covered the spectrum of radio operations in an emergency. There was a unanimous understanding of the need to exercise two meter simplex operation as the most viable lowest common denominator in an emergency or disaster.

Another topic was outreach to the "never been on the air" (NBOA) licensed Amateur Radio operators in the San Diego area. The estimate provided was that of the approximately 8,800 licensed operators in San Diego, 25% or 2,200 of them have never been on the air.

ARRL Southwestern Division Director Marty Woll, N6VI, added "KI6TTF is the driving force behind this exercise, and it turned out to be very popular, with demand for more in the future. It's worth emulating, assuming operators have an accessible mountaintop that sees the entire region involved, or other suitable radio vantage point for net control functioning. We include simplex and NVIS HF in nearly all of our drills for both ARES LAX and LAFD ACS in order to wean

hams from the notion that all they need is to be able to hit a repeater." [Woll is also Assistant DEC for ARESLAX, and Training Officer for the LAFD ACS, CERT III -- ed.]

For more information, see the [QuakeNet](#) page of the ARRL-affiliated [El Cajon Amateur Radio Club](#) Web site.

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Posted by WD9T at [10:54 PM](#)