



August 2010

A big “thanks” to all those who participated in the simplex drill this past weekend. It was designed to see how well we could communicate on VHF in the very unlikely event all the repeaters in the area became inoperable.

We found a couple of issues early on; The main antenna at net control decided not to function properly and the main antenna at the alternate net control also did not hear well and required a switch to a backup antenna.

Other than that things went fine. Members were sent to a number of spotter locations and we attempted to communicate between those stations and the net control. Most of our mobile operators could also hear each other as well.

Overall we found we had good communications in Sangamon and Menard counties.

After the drill we over indulged at the Golden Coral buffet.

Operators were: John Anderson W9TRC as net control, KC9KLX Geoff McHugh, K9ZTK Merle King, KA9VYN Ken Owens, KC9MHG Ryan Juhl, KB9KAK Dave Bruce, N9PUZ Tim McDonough, WA9AQN John Swartz, K9IDQ Ben Kinningham, KA9HLZ John Ransdell, W9AQL Ed Skube, KC9JFN, Steve Ogden, KC9LSM, Rudy Rudolf, NA9GW, Bob Carson, K0HMO, Dick Drew

Thanks again ..hope you had a good time.

What's next?

We decided to have a “build your own antenna” Saturday. We are tentatively looking at Saturday, October, 9th for a get together and have those members who are interested, build a copper J pole antenna. We will probably meet at one of the local parks. You will need to preregister and we will purchase the parts necessary to build a two meter J pole antenna. (we will just charge for the necessary parts, probably around \$10.) You will build the antenna but we will furnish the parts, plans, tools and any supervision necessary. There will also be folks on hand to offer guidance on how to put it up at your home QTH.

As time gets closer and we firm up to location I will ask you to register then.

Even if you do not need to build an antenna we would like to have you come out and lend a hand.

We are still talking about a drill later this year and are trying to team up with another group. We do not know at this time if that will happen.

Thanks to all...and to all...a good weekend

Dick K0HMO