

PCOEM Communications

Meeting of the Leadership Council (LC)

July 10, 2014 -- 1800 hrs -- PECOC building

Draft notes (prepared by Jay Hand)

LC members present: Mike Boger, K7BUM  
Frank Brady, NOKWP  
Tim Brown, KF7SYU  
Bob Campbell, W6IK  
Jim Christian, KE7VJW  
Dan Donnelly, KC7VDA  
Stan Hamnett, KS7TAN  
Jay Hand, KG7JJH  
Ron Kalish, N7SPW  
Gary Keck, KE7DX

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10 of 16

1. Meeting was called to order in the Policy Room at 1805 hours.
2. Discussion items were from an agenda prepared in advance by Jay Hand, plus ad hoc items.
  - First Net – Gary wanted to know if the First Net project is going to impact PCWIN. Both Jim and Jay had attended a meeting on First Net at PECOC earlier in the week, and they shared with the group what they learned. First Net is a Federal government initiative to create a cellular network to provide mainly data communications capabilities to public service agencies in remote areas of the US. Coverage would primarily shadow existing US and State routes. The meeting at PECOC was sponsored by the State and was one of many County-targeted meetings to kick off an information-gathering and planning effort that will take 3 years. How First Net will collaborate with commercial cellular carriers remains to be seen. Frequent use of the word “compete” was a bit disconcerting. At this time, the business model calls for agencies either to subscribe to First Net services or to opt out. Land mobile radio (LMR) will remain the mainstay of voice communication, even after First Net goes into operation. Consequently, PCWIN will not be affected by First Net.
  - Statewide Communications Exercise – not a whole lot of information has been forthcoming regarding the tabletop portion on August 27 or the functional portion on November 18-19, but there will be a planning meeting in Phoenix at 0900 on July 22. If there is sufficient interest in attending in person, Jay will take an OEM vehicle up there. Otherwise, he will attend via telephone.
  - Club call sign – the matter of a club call sign to replace N7OEM is still pending. Jay voiced concern that his being trustee with a Technician class license would preclude the use of HF, which requires a General class license, but the consensus was that it would not. Jay was also under the impression that the original application could not request a vanity call right off the bat, but apparently that is not the case.

- Master frequency list and display-name convention – the air is still in the process of being cleared with respect to a standardized program load for all OEM Comm radios. The topics of VHF and UHF frequencies to be included, the order in which they are listed on a master spreadsheet, how that spreadsheet is maintained and stored, and what will appear on the displays were all discussed. The next step is to convene a committee of stakeholders from the Operations Units to decide, once and for all, what will be programmed and a protocol for managing the master program load.
- Storage locations for uploaded files – apparently files are being stored on both the website and GroupSpaces, and there needs to be a single location for file storage. Since GroupSpaces has fallen into disfavor as the group management tool of choice and will not be renewed (at \$200/year, it's no bargain!) in October, the time is right for making the website the official file storage location. Ease of use has been a key reason for the appeal of GroupSpaces, and the challenges now will be to see if the website can offer a similar experience and if those who are regular file up-loaders can adapt to the new protocol.
- Border Patrol to sponsor a COML class – the Tucson Sector is in the process of arranging with the Dept of Homeland Security (DHS) to offer a COML class here in town. The dates for the three-day class have not been set, but we're told that 15 slots will be made available to other agencies wishing to send personnel to the class. Not sure whether it will be DHS or ADEM who will ultimately evaluate taskbooks.
- Ajo connection – there was considerable discussion centering on the unresolved dilemma of how best to connect with hams in Ajo. Internet-assisted solutions are certainly available, but the temptation of a radio-only solution still haunts us. There are claims of being able to hit various sites this side of Kitt Peak, but no definitive study has been done to determine if these connections can be repeated randomly with guaranteed success. Billie Riner was contacted by phone, and after a lengthy conversation on speakerphone, he could not recommend any site in the Ajo area where he would put an antenna that would transceive Tucson metro area traffic. Ultimately, it was decided that empirical data collected during a series of visits to the Ajo area is the only thing that is going to help us find the appropriate radio-only solution, if there is one to be found.
- Metropolitan WMN – Jay's vision is of a wireless mesh network covering all of metro Tucson, providing an Internet-less, cutting-edge communications tool that will be the primary means of digital communication for the hospitals, as well as for any other hams wishing to be a part of the network. The more nodes, the more robust the network. The plan as it stands now is for OEM to underwrite the creation of a 4- or 5-node backbone to which each hospital can add its own node.
- LC structure – resolving the concept of a reduced Leadership Council working in conjunction with an "advisory board" took some discussion, but in the end it was agreed that in the context of the new format for general membership meetings, in which the functions of the former Leadership Council and General Membership meetings will be combined, a separate and distinct Leadership Council will no longer exist, and any advisory board will be an *ad hoc* assemblage of subject matter experts and those with opinions to voice on any given topic at any given meeting. To encourage and facilitate the attendance of those who would aspire to such a role, every attempt will be made to publicize the agenda at least two weeks in advance of the single monthly meeting, which will continue to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. Any decision items culminating in seconded motions will be voted upon by the OEM Comm members who are present.

3. Meeting was adjourned at 2020.