Ventura County ACS/ARES

For some time Gary, WB6MAA, has been doing a great job of tracking the status of our served agency packet mailboxes and other packet infrastructure such as digipeaters. Accordingly, if the need to put them to use in an emergency should arise, at a moment's notice we will know which assets to utilize and which to avoid, thus helping greatly to assure we are effective communicators.
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An Important New Reporting Program

It has been suggested that we should have a similar level of real-time knowledge and awareness of various county voice repeater assets on an ongoing basis, so we have decided to put in place a similar program to the digital report, but designed specifically to provide us a better awareness and coordination tool to help with voice communications.

We're asking everyone in the Ventura County Amateur Radio community to make a conscious effort to note the operational status of the repeaters they use during nets and in everyday communications, and then forward that information to a central point of contact where the overall status and record can be maintained.

For the time being, at least, that central database will be maintained by Rick, KQ6NO, Assistant District Emergency Coordinator, so when you have information about a change of status of a repeater or remote base system that serves our county, please drop me an email at **kq6no@arrl.net**. He will incorporate that information into a spreadsheet which he will update as changes occur. At a future time we may decide to post it in more of a summary form in a place where all will have access to it. If we determine that new information should be forwarded to the appropriate repeater owner, then we will do so. That provides an opportunity for us to give the repeater owners a summary of information, and potentially get pertinent information back to share with all. It also relieves the repeater owners from having to receive many repetitive calls on the same issue. This also allows Rick to include pertinent updated information on the weekly County net.

What to Report

The emailed reports should include such issues as repeaters that suddenly become non-responsive, erratic behavior, consistent bad audio, off frequency, significant changes in sensitivity, coverage area, or co-channel interference. In other words, significant issues that have a negative impact on the effective use of that system. Major positive changes could also be reported.

What NOT to Report

What we are looking for is quality information about changes that happen, and that impact our ability to effectively communicate. We are not looking for gripes, complaints, opinions or venting about individuals, timing, or how the repeater systems are handled. I should note here that each individual or group of repeaters are the sole responsibility of the respective owners, and they make the decisions regarding adjustments, repairs, updates, etc. We are simply desiring to be able to provide more consistent and comprehensive information to each repeater owner, and our expressed desire to operate effectively as a team. It also fulfills our desire to be more aware

of our collective assets and operational resources as we face the many opportunities to be valuable, effective communicators to all those that we serve.

Where to send your reports

Again, email your reports to Rick Tate, at **kq6no@arrl.net.** Also, please pay special attention to the information related to this announcement on the weekly nets. If you have questions or comments about this new program, don't hesitate to ask Rick or Rob. Thanks to all for your cooperation.