



5/31/2010

1st Hollister Airshow

After Action Report – W6TST/N6SBC

Tim Takeuchi – W6TST – San Benito
District Emergency Coordinator

Overview

Event: 1st Hollister Airshow

Dates: Saturday May 29, 2010 and Sunday May 30, 2010

Who: San Benito County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Operators.

What: Emergency, Priority, and Logistic communications support.

Where: Hollister Municipal Airport – Hollister, California

How: VHF / UHF communications. The event Net Control Station (NCS) was located in CalFire's COM 46 mobile communication platform.

Why: Amateur radio provided professional level of communication support between key personal and locations.

Joint Operation

CalFire's COM 46 mobile communication platform was very useful for the operation. Our thanks to Battalion Chief Sam Walker for permitting us to use COM 46 and participation of CalFire volunteers Brad Klemek, Mark Conrad, and Bill Sproul.

Thanks again to Brad Klemek and the American Red Cross for use of space in their information booth and joint operation with set-up, operation and clean-up.

Participation

Thirteen amateur (ham) radio operators supported the operation during the two day event as well as setup and test the day before and many hours before the event for planning and preparation. I estimate nearly 200 person hours were committed to this. Five were regular event participants and eight newer operators who were working their first event.

<u>Ham Radio Operator</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Mark Conrad	W1CON	Setup/Test	Event Command	Parking
Bob Farnham	KJ6GXL	-	Net Control	Air Boss
Cathy Farnham	KJ6GXK	-	Info Booth	-
Brent Hawks	KG6KPD	Setup/Test	Air Boss	-
Penny Johnson	KB6ZOZ	-	-	Tarmac
Cathy Kirk	KJ6AMY	-	Tarmac	-
Jack Kirk	KJ6AMZ	-	Parking / North Tarmac	-
Brad Klemek	KJ6ATF	Setup/Test	Com 46	Com 46 / Flight Line
Ron Ross	KD6ZXG	Setup/Test	-	Event Command
Neal Schatmeier	KJ6FFV	-	Info Booth	-
Bill Sproul	KJ6GWD	-	Com 46	Com 46
Heatherly Takeuchi - Event Planner	N6HKT	-	Info Booth	Info Booth
Tim Takeuchi - Communications Lead	W6TST	Setup/Test	Net Control	Net Control

Results

From our perspective and experience, the event went smoothly and there were no communication related issues and most people seemed to enjoy the day.

Issues / Recommendation

For a first event, everything worked remarkably well. There were some issues on the first day that needed to be dealt with (i.e. where is the lost and found, what is the procedure for a lost child, etc.) but there were no such issues on the second day.

On the second day, the air boss wanted improved communications to the flight line and the public address (PA) announcer and we shifted our deployment and added a new post to support that and all seemed to work well. I advised the air boss that this communication would be disrupted should we have emergency or priority traffic and that was understood.

In future events, we might want to establish this communication on a separate channel to avoid conflict between air boss communications and other emergency, priority or logistic communications.

Another improvement would be for the office personnel, parking and ham radio have business band radios for communication so issues with money drop / change requests could be handled more directly. Ham operators could still backup such communications, but this would free up the ham channels.

Conclusion

Amateur radio operators performed professionally and demonstrated their radio skills at the event and provided excellent communication during this event. Fortunately, there were no major incidents that required emergency communications, but I feel we were ready for it had it occurred.

5/31/2010

X 

Timothy S. Takeuchi - W6TST
San Benito County District Emergency Coordin...