

Report from SEPARS  
February Activities at Surrey EOC

Last weekend (Feb. 6/7, 2010) several SEPARS and SARC members operated HF, IRLP and D-Star from the EOC radio room. We operated in the BCQSO party on Saturday and had a score of 5,300+ points with 156 Q's which was a reasonable effort. Many contacts were made on IRLP and D-Star using the Olympic call VG7G on both Saturday and Sunday. Sunday we operated HF as well with VG7G and made another 150 Q's with the Olympic call on both CW and SSB. The Surrey ARC has loaned us their new tower and TH 7 for use during the Olympics so we have the beam for 10, 15 and 20 meters as well as the GAP vertical for 40 and 80 meters. Fred ran 40 meters on Saturday evening and worked many stations in California, Michigan and Wisconsin so the vertical is working quite well. The new Icom 2820's are all equipped with D-Star and we used two reflectors plus the IRLP reflectors and worked stations in the UK, Germany and all over North America on 2 meters either D-Star or IRLP. Noise levels at the radio room are low on HF making this a very good site.

The SARC tower is planned to be onsite at Firehall #1 until the end of March and hopefully we will have lots of activity during the Olympics using the special call VG7G. If members would like to operate from there Fred needs to know in advance as use of the call has to be reserved.

The radio room has turned out very well and is a pleasure to work in as all radios are equipped with headsets and the

operating positions are very comfortable. After operating at the EOC on the weekend it has become very clear that this will make an excellent training facility for our operators albeit that we will have to train in small groups. At this time Jim Hurrell, Jay Melvin and Pat Speer are involved in providing a plan for the radio room operation. Drew Elvins is taking care of the digital communications side including the D-Star keyboard to keyboard project.

As you can see we now have a first class Amateur radio emergency communications structure in place for Surrey and it is now time to put it to use for amateur radio operation so that everyone can become familiar with the equipment and operating procedures. Getting on the air is the best way to hone your communications skills and I encourage everyone to consider having some fun operating this state of the art equipment. The radio room and go kits are as good as any in the metro area and all of this is for SEPARS use. If you would like to spend some time at the radio room please let me know and Fred will arrange to have someone assist you with the equipment making sure your time there is enjoyable.

While we may have a commitment to Surrey to provide emergency communications the equipment should be used by our members for all activities including contests and general communications, practice makes perfect. If you are unfamiliar with contests we can guide you through some small events that are guaranteed to make you a better operator for emergency communications.







A few photos above from the weekend - we had the TH 7 at about 80 feet on the weekend it was amazing as the bands were quite open.

We are in the process of developing a training schedule and will have this well under way by March 17th when we are doing a walk through for the Surrey Fire Battalion Chiefs.

73 Fred VE7IO