

Colorado ARES® District 24 – Douglas and Elbert Counties

After Action Report



Date of report:

Public Information Section (this section will be posted to the website)

Mission Coordinator: Peter Gallanis/KOPTG

Name and date of activity: Spring 2009 Poker Run June 7, 2009

Operational period(s): 0730 - 1800

Served agency/agencies: Rampart Range Motorized Management Committee (RRMMC)

Number of ARES D24 participants: 17

ARES D24 Participants (names & call signs):

Peter Gallanis-KOPTG

Frank Watervoort-AB0WV

Rob Rude-KORAR

Robert "Matt" Matthew-WONAC

Walt Burns-AB0VZ

Daeron Cofer-KC0CNS

Richard Anderson-W9BNO

Robert Wareham-NOESQ

Donita Hilfinger-KC0SWX

Jase Feichko-KD0EXJ

Garry Sutton-WB5PJB

Neil Austin-WONJA

Eric Freund-KOEFW

John-Michael O'Brien-KB0LZU

Randy Reynard-W0RDR

Josh Offut-KD0GRB

Adam Cartwright-W0AKO

Person-hours of ARES D24 service: 195

Description/Objective of the event: A non-competitive off-road motorcycle event, using trails in the Rampart Range.

Description/Objective of ARES D24 activity:

1. Provide communication support between checkpoints, registration and event officials.
2. Provide tracking capabilities using APRS for the event sweep teams.

How were the ARES D24 objectives met?

1. ARES D24 participants were able to provide reliable communication between the various checkpoints using handheld communication and a portable repeater site established at the Devils Head campground.
2. Problems were uncovered with the APRS trackers as they moved away from the registration area.

What went well?

1. Repeater deployment was able to completely cover the entire event courses and checkpoints were able to communicate using handhelds.
2. Participants remembered to use close with their tactical and ham call signs.
3. An open mic was addressed correctly by switching to the alternate frequency until it was resolved.
4. A radio was beaconing every 15 seconds, and the rover was able to identify that person's location and asked them to increase the time interval.
5. As inclement weather approached, the repeater site and checkpoints were able to shutdown their sites to the base communications capabilities to prepare for possible quick shutdown and departure.

What needs improvement?

1. RRMMC as well as DCSAR now have a number of licensed ham radio operators and wanted to participate. Tactical call signs were given for the RRMMC hams and DCSAR tactical were used for them. They were not formally included in the briefings and while a copy of the IAP was sent to Barry Mitchell, it is unknown whether that was shared with the entire DCSAR group. In the future, I recommend that DCSAR and the served agency provide the names and call signs to the MC so that they may be included in the IAP as well as sending representatives to the briefing.
2. The inclement weather plans were not included in the IAP and must be in future engagements. While all participants followed broadcast instructions, the plans should have been formalized into the IAP prior to the event.
3. Reliability testing of the trackers prior to deployment into the field.

Suggestions for additional training: None