

ARES Operations Support Plan

June 20, 2000

Event: Amateur Radio Support for the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb

Served Agency: Pikes Peak Auto Hill Climb Educational Museum

Agency POC: Chief Steward

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Agency POC: Race Control

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Location: Pikes Peak Highway

Date: July 4, 2000

Time: 0400 - 1700 estimated; operators must be in position no later than 0700

Mission Coordinator: N7LV

1. Event Objective:

Provide safety and emergency communications support during the 78th running of the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb auto race.

2. Pre-Planning Meetings/Events:

- a. Safety briefing for all amateurs that have not been associated with this event in the past, and for any others that want to attend for a refresher. First meeting scheduled for 10 June at the Colorado Springs Police Station, Falcon Division, Community Meeting Room, Saturday at 0900.
- b. As new information becomes known it is announced on the PPARES Tuesday night net (1900 on the 146.97 PPFMA repeater) and the PPRAA Thursday Night Simplex Net (1900 on 146.58).
- c. Information will be posted to the web site found at <http://www.qsl.net/n7lv/ppihc.htm> and sent out via e-mail. At this time all volunteers have e-mail. Due to the large number of volunteers e-mail is used extensively for routine information distribution.
- d. All participants must complete the Volunteer Application form required by the PPIHC Museum, and return the form to the museum. The application is the basis for the credentials.
- e. All participants will be required to sign a liability waiver form which will be present at the base of the Pikes Peak Highway when the credentials are picked up.

3. Participating Amateur Radio Organization/Individual(s):

- a. Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Inc (PPRAA)
- b. Pikes Peak Amateur Radio Emergency Service (PPARES)
- c. Invitations are extended to all amateurs from other areas and other ham clubs to participate, including the Park County Radio Club, Pueblo Ham Club, Mountain Amateur Radio Club, and to hams in the Denver area.

4. Assignment/Estimation of Resources:

a. Mission: Amateur operators act as observers during the race to identify problems which could hinder the safety of the race participants, staff and the spectators. Amateurs are positioned at strategic points throughout the 12.4 mile course to watch for things like race vehicles going off the road, obstacles in the road, or other problems. Amateurs will maintain continuous contact from their position to the race control, which is an amateur station operated at the start line.

b. Required Resources:

Current estimates call for between 40 and 50 amateur operators. Each amateur is expected to remain on Pikes Peak for the duration, which is about 12 hours.

(1) Estimated Person Hours: 600 PHr (50 operators x 12 hours)

(2) Estimated Number of Operators: 40 - 50 Operators

(3) Specialized Experience: Prior experience with the Hill Climb, or attendance of the safety meeting.

c. Scope of Operations:

The following locations and operators are assigned to support communication requirements:

5. Supporting Elements to Accomplish Objective:

a. When available, the Informational Packet will be posted to the web at

b. Communications Network: All communications will take place on one net. This net will use one of the following repeater systems. In the event of all repeater failures the simplex frequency will be 147.48 MHz.

(1) Primary Repeater: 146.865 MHz using the PPARES portable repeater (obtained from WA0ZTI) [Repeater also has a secondary input on 446.1 MHz if a crossband repeater is used.]

(2) Backup Repeater: 146.820 MHz Mountain Amateur Radio Club repeater (107.2 Hz)

(3) 2nd Backup Repeater: 146.970 MHz Pikes Peak FM Association repeater (100 Hz)

c. Road/Traffic Routes: All operators will access their designated locations via the Pikes Peak Highway from US Hwy 24. Allow enough time to compensate for heavy traffic.

Operator Equipment Requirements:

(1) Inclement Weather and Winter Survival Gear

(2) HT or mobile (2 Meter) with spare batteries (HT only) to last all day, and spare fuses, programmed for operational frequencies

(3) Food/Water

(4) Shelter

(5) Optional mag mount 2 meter antenna if operating from poor coverage areas

(6) Optional fixed site (base) antenna if operating from poor coverage areas

(7) Informational packet for Amateur Radio Support for the PPIHC

(8) All necessary cables and connectors to operate from the location

e. NWS Forecasted Weather Conditions:

Connect to N4TGO or WA0VTU for latest EMWIN NWS bulletins released by the Pueblo National Weather Service. (144.93 MHz). All operators should remain aware of weather conditions. Severe weather, to include lightning, hail, or cold weather, are common on Pikes Peak. Seek shelter in the event of lightning or hail.

6. Misc Information:

a. Of primary concern is health and welfare of the operator. The operator must be prepared to survive all day on Pikes Peak: food, water, shelter, medication are essential. The operator should develop a check list of necessary and desirable items. A suggested list will be provided in the Informational Packet. Operators that have difficulty breathing at higher altitudes will not be assigned to high altitude positions.

b. A mandatory safety briefing is required of all amateurs that have not participated in this event before. The date/time/location will be specified on the ARES and PPRAA nets. It's usually held a week to two weeks in advance of the event.

c. Secondary is providing proper support for the served agency. The operator must be prepared to remain operational during the entire 12-hour period. The operator must provide gear, antennas, power and all necessary accessories for this period. Full coverage headphones which completely cover the ears is highly recommended over the small earpieces to be able to hear when race vehicles pass. A suggested list of items will be provided in the Informational Packet.

d. Operators will be assigned to a specific location. Movement after the road is closed is normally not allowed.

e. Operators will be provided parking permits to allow parking in non-spectator areas. Operators will be required to wear the PPIHC-provided ID, either a badge or wristband.

f. Overnight camping is allowed at specific locations. Permits are required and must be obtained in advance.

g. Some sites are primitive and may be without a latrine.

h. There are many other details which will be made available in the Informational Packet. The packet can be obtained via the web page mentioned above. If internet access is not available, contact the mission coordinator for a copy.

i. The person responsible for setting up the portable repeater should get in touch with WA0ZTI at least one month prior to the event to make arrangements to pick up and return the repeater, and to get instructions on the proper operation of the repeater.

j. The Hill Climb organization normally has their own radio systems for other functions, such as race timing and communications with the emergency vehicles. Amateurs have been asked to assist with race time this year, and that poses somewhat of a conflict of interest. The race timing information is normally collected and passed on to news media for dissemination to the general public. FCC rules prohibit the use of amateur radio for news gathering in this manner. [97.113(b) states that "... nor shall an amateur station engage in any activity related to program production or news gathering for broadcasting purposes, except that communications directly related to the immediate safety of human life or the protection of property may be provided by amateur stations to broadcasters..."] ARES and PPRAA organizers are not going to interpret the

FCC rules for the volunteers, but will advise volunteers to be aware of these rules and make their decision to operate based on these rules. Amateurs should not knowingly put their license privileges at risk.