

Date: January 19, 2010

Subject: Backbone Changes Completed; Update Your Station Configuration Now

Attention: All ECs, AECs, MACs and other Santa Clara County Packet Users:

The following email describes specific changes you need to make to your Outpost configuration to make it work with the new network, as well as a simple way to test that your new configuration is working.

This network change directly affects your city's packet connectivity. Please read this information thoroughly. There are several action items at the end.

Backbone Changes Completed – Update Your Outpost Configuration Now

The backbone changes have been completed successfully. All cities and agencies should update their Outpost configurations now. The instructions for adding or updating your Outpost configuration, including screen shots, are summarized in the document “**Outpost Configuration Instructions (Effective January 18, 2010)**” located on the county website at:

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/packet.html>

The cities and agencies which will have moved from the W6XSC-1 node to the K6MTV-1 node need to define a new BBS (K6MTV-1) in Outlook. These cities and agencies are:

- Los Altos
- Los Altos Hills
- Mountain View
- NASA / Ames
- Palo Alto
- Palo Alto Red Cross
- Stanford

ALL OTHER cities or agencies simply need to update their existing W6XSC-1 BBS configuration.

Access Frequency Changes

The frequencies and node assignments are summarized on the county website at:

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/freqs/packet-freqs.html>

The agencies which will move to K6MTV-1 will use either of the following access frequencies. It is recommended that EOCs use the 1.25m frequency, if possible.

- 2 meters: 144.310 MHz

- 1.25 meters: 223.540 MHz

All other agencies will continue to access W6XSC-1 on the same frequencies as before. It is recommended that EOCs use the 1.25m frequency, if possible.

- 2 meters: 144.910
- 1.25 meters: 223.660

Testing Your New Configuration

You can use the following method to test your new configuration:

1) From Outpost, create a new message:

- **BBS:** Either W6XSC-1 or K6MTV-1, whichever is assigned to your city or agency
- **From:** Your call sign or tactical call
- **To:** Your call sign or tactical call
- **Subject:** Test Message
 - If you have properly set up your three letter tactical and automated message numbering, you should see that information in the Subject field.
- **Message body:** whatever you want
- Press Send

2) Verify you are on the correct frequency for your assigned BBS node

3) At the main Outpost Window, press Send/Receive.

Your message will be sent up to the BBS. Outpost will then check to see if you have any messages and retrieve the message that you just sent. Outpost will download the message to your "In Tray" and then disconnect from the BBS. You can read the message in your In Tray. If you don't see your message, wait 15-30 seconds and press Send/Receive again.

Technical Support

As a reminder, a technical support Yahoo group has been created for Santa Clara County packet users. All persons who use or are responsible for packet communications are encouraged to join. The Yahoo group is called **scc-packet** and is located at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scc-packet>. The group is closed to prevent SPAM, so you must first request to sign up.

Schedule of Events

As a reminder, the near term schedule of events is as follows:

Monday, Jan 18	Notice to all ECs, AECs, MACs and other SCCo packet users (this notice) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First two nodes available for use • All cities make a small change to their Outpost configuration • A few cities change frequencies • All cities begin using the new nodes and mail addresses • Practice sending and receiving messages prior to the drill • Seek technical support for any problems prior to drill
Saturday, Jan 23	County Quarterly Drill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All drill traffic to use the new nodes
Feedback	Gather feedback from the drill
Evaluate	Evaluate feedback and experience
Continue	Adjust plan accordingly and continue

Action Items

The following list of action items summarize what you need to do as soon as possible between now, Monday, January 18th, and Saturday, January 23rd:

1. Ensure that you have completed the previously announced action items:
 - a. Upgrade Outpost to at least v2.3.0 c30. Jim Oberhofer has recently released Outpost version 2.4.0 which has some nice additional features. Either version should work fine.
 - b. Ensure that you have joined the scc-packet Yahoo group:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scc-packet>.
 - c. Ensure that all of the packet users in your city are aware of the upcoming changes. Forward this information to them. Help spread the word.
2. Update your Outpost configuration according to the instructions
3. Change your access frequency if your are connecting to the Mountain View node
4. Test your new configuration

Questions / Comments / Concerns

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, it is likely that someone else does, too. So it would be helpful if you direct them to the scc-packet Yahoo group. That way, everyone can see the answer.

Michael - N6MEF
Santa Clara County ARES/RACES Packet Committee