



Monthly Packet Message Passing Exercise Review

Period: 08/17/2022 09:00 to 08/24/2022



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES/CRU

Last Updated: 02 Sep 2022

Author: Mark Laubach, K6FJC

ARES and Amateur Radio Emergency Service are registered service marks of the American Radio Relay League Incorporated and are used by permission.

Simulated Shelters and Messages Passed

Approximate number counts from the Xanadu EOC ICS-309 (as of 17:00):

Shelters assigned (total):		19
Participating / staff:		14 / 3
Content Messages exchanged *:		
	Form RACES-MAR	19
	Form ICS-213 sent to XNDEOC	18
	Form SHELSTAT	21
	Other	170
	Courtesy	0

Thank you for participating in this exercise!!!!

- Excluding DELIVERED:, includes resends and testing.
Overall total to/from Xanadu EOC: 717

Exercise Objectives

- Based on SCC documentation
 - SCCo ARES/RACES Packet Operations - Type III, Part A and Part B courses
 - How to Send a Packet Message with Outpost - 09/19/2013
 - Standard Packet Message Subject Line - 02/22/2022
 - Standard Packet Check-in/Out Message - 09/25/2022
 - Outpost Users Guide, Basics; Version 3.4 | July 2020
 - RACES Recommended Form Routing Cheat Sheet [Rev: 19-Feb-2022]
- Exercise simulated 3rd party and operator-to-operator messages
 - Check-In and Check-Out using new form
 - XND City Notice retrieval
 - Plain-text messages
 - URL-based “handing” of form to operator using xanadu-county.org
 - ICS-213 sending
 - XSC OA Shelter Status sending
 - XSC RACES Mutual Aid Request
- In addition
 - Outpost configuration
 - Challenges for form completeness
 - Following instructions

How did we do in general?

- City Notice XND@XSC downloaded reported by everyone !!!! (awesome first time)
- Radio Routing cheat sheet still needs to be studied in a little more detail
- ICS-213 form for “List of equipment”
 - Need to remember the Reference field.....
 - Issues reporting on how long able to operate on batteries
 - More details in later slides
- The EOC213RR should have been “fax machine” copied Field # by Field # from EOC style form (handed via URL) into the ARES/RACES form sent via packet
 - Some FAX machine errors
 - Some Incident Name errors
 - Larger than expected ICS To Location errors
 - More details in later slides
- Notifying the Xanadu EOC via a voice method
 - Had a few missing
 - More details in later slides
- ICS-309 task number and task names, some issues

- All in All very good go!

The Command Post Assignment:

Scenario for this month's exercise: you have been assigned as a packet radio operator supporting messaging at a Xanadu County shelter that is participating in a yearly county-wide communications exercise.

Your tactical number: 25

Your From ICS Position: Radio Operator

Your From Location: "Xanadu Shelter 25". You can shorten to: "Shelter 25" where applicable.

Your Tactical Call Sign is: XND025

Your message prefix is: X25

Starting message number: your_choice

Incident Name: Xanadu County Annual Communications Drill

Activation Number: XND-22-0817P

Your BBS: Use your normal primary/secondary. There is no simulated-down BBS for this exercise

Simulated physical location: Pick a nearby street intersection and use the street names.

Xanadu County EOC mailbox: XNDEOC@W1XSC.ampr.org (primary)
XNDEOC@W4XSC.ampr.org (secondary)

XND EOC activation period: From Wednesday, 08/17/22 09:00 until Wednesday, 08/24/22 17:00

Simulate Voice communications with Xanadu EOC: For simulated voice net messages, call the EOC at **650-542-8987** and leave a voice message., SMS/MMS text messages are also accepted, but voice messages are preferred.
Ref: [2021 Packet Type III Part B course, slide "Standard Packet Subject Line"](#)

You signed up as a: Primary_Station_test

How'd we do: City Notice

Good job!

How'd we do: Starting Status

- Check-in Ack & Welcome
- URL "handed to you" method explained
- Reminder on DD, HH, MM replacements
- Added +time instructions
- First URL message
- Note about "<" and ">" notes to you

Check-In to the Xanadu County Packet Net for this month's message passing communication exercise. You have these guidelines and assignments:

1) Please make sure each message you send has this somewhere in the message content:

```
**** This is exercise traffic ****
```

2) This month's practice will simulate forms being handed to you by your location leader available as PDF via URL.

a) After they "hand" you the form(s), they walk away and are not available for updates/corrections.

b) You may need to complete the form using the Radio Routing Cheat sheet and your best judgement.

c) They don't know about Guideline 1). You will need to add to any form missing this. Add to an appropriate field within the form.

3) In any messages you are asked to transmit, if you see an "XX" (double-X), replace the XX with your assigned tactical number. Similarly, any "DD" with today's date, "HH" and "MM" with current 24-hour and minutes respectively, etc. If you see a "(+time)" add the correction to the current time. For example, if the form has "HH:MM+3h", use your current time plus 3 hours, or "08/DD/2022+tomorrow", would be enter tomorrow's date for the DD replacement.

4) Your Shelter Manager just "handed" you a message. Download this message to send from this URL:
<https://xanadu-county.org/20220817/258-SheltStat.pdf>

NOTE: Enter your Use the address of the nearest large public building to you for your shelter's simulated address (school, community center, etc.)

5) This exercise has put some notes into the forms for various fields. The note is bracketed by "<" and ">" signs. For example, in the above form you download, you will see:

```
<enter your simulated shelter address as per instructions>
```

that refers back to the above NOTE: instructions. Please do not copy the note and the "<" and ">" into any form field(s).

```
[20220817 1-check-in-ack]
```

XSC OA Shelter Status

- Very good
- Mostly forgetting “**** this is exercise traffic ****”
- Couple shelter Type issues
- One XDHM replacement issue

RACES MAR Mutual Aid Request?

<u>Agency</u>	Name:	Xanadu Shelter XX	
<u>Event/Incident</u>	Name:	Xanadu County annual communications drill	Nbr:
<u>Assignment</u> (General duties, conditions	Provide radio communciatifon via both Voice and Packet for city managed shelter.		

- Many fax machine issues on correcting “communciatifon”
- Many “**** this is exercise traffic ****”

ICS-213

- Great job!
- A few “**** this is exercise traffic ****” nits

Summary

- Nice participation for this go!

Next practice will be September, 3rd Wednesday

- Participants may need to self-grade for this go, packet manager will be super busy during the practice with work.

Next UP: Exercise Scorecard

- Reminder, there is no pass or fail
- The scorecard is a tool for indicating areas for improvement