

Emergency Help Given Through Amateur Radio

Two South Bay "hams" can give personal verification to the emergency service benefits derived from amateur radio. Recent experiences have been chronicled by two Torrance members of Marina Amateur Radio Club, Russ Sanford and Steve Leasko.

Russ Sanford, WA6NQQ, Marina Secretary-Treasurer, was listening to his amateur

radio set on the evening of May 26 when he heard an emergency call. Standing by to offer assistance if he could, Sanford followed a dramatic sequence of vents.

Two teenagers were in a single-car accident on Highway 60-70 east of Blythe. The car rolled over several times. Both occupants were thrown clear, the driver dazed and hurt, the passenger badly injured.

ARRIVE

The first person to arrive at the scene was a Los Angeles amateur, John Varveiro, K6VAK, who was enroute to Phoenix. After administering first aid, Varveiro began to send out an emergency call, using the mobile radio equipment in his car, on mobile frequency 3.995 megacycles.

Varveiro's call was answered by Rowell Roberge, W6OZS, in Long Beach. Roberge transmitted the message in turn by interrupting the session of the V.F.W. Golden Bear Amateur Radio Net, a state-wide traffic and practice Civil Defense Net sponsored by V.F.W. Post 10040 of Hollywood.

Net control officer Frank Champlin, W6FFF, of Rosemead, called the California Highway Patrol office in Baldwin Park, and this organization teletyped the Arizona Highway Patrol in Phoenix.

In less than thirty minutes from the time of Varveiro's first call, help arrived and an ambulance was on hand to care for the injured. All these transactions took place in a matter of minutes, with amateur radio the only communication from the accident site.

Steve Leasko, WA6DUX, Marina Activities Chairman, was on the receiving end of an urgent message. A call from K8AAG, a radio operator in Lakeview, Ohio, was sent out to any amateur in the Torrance area.

W6JXP, Cliff Pugh, answered the call and was asked by the K8 station to relay to Leasko the information that his mother had undergone emergency surgery. Within a few minutes Pugh had placed a telephone call to the Leasko family and another special message was delivered.

SITUATIONS

Numerous situations have been recorded where amateurs have assisted in emergencies, often saving lives or property by using their sending and receiving equipment to secure help where other means of communication are impossible. "Nets," or groups of amateur operators who contact each other at a regular time during the week, provide a means of practice for possible emergencies. Many of these nets are affiliated with Civil Defense groups.

Perhaps less spectacular is the routine, but valuable, service provided by amateurs in relaying messages to and from all parts of the United States and the world. Servicemen in remote areas have particularly benefited from this program where amateurs help them to maintain contact with their homes.

"Hams" not only derive pleasure from helping others, but also enjoy activities that provide a check on the efficiency of their equipment.

One of the highlights of the year for radio amateurs is the annual Field Day, sponsored by the American Radio and Relay League. This three-day event, to be held June 23, 24, and 25, enables amateurs to have an operational check of their equipment under conditions which might be encountered in an emergency.

PORTABLE

Around-the-clock operation of five portable radio stations, to be located on the Palos Verdes peninsula, will be Marina Amateur Radio Club's part in Field Day, according to Leasko.

The Marina operators, working in shifts, will try to contact as many stations throughout the United States as possible during the three days. Marina members are hoping to have their organization among the top point-earners in the country.

Licensed amateurs in the South Bay area who would like to participate in this event may secure information by writing William Gray, WA6AWY, Club President, P.O. Box 2112, Torrance Post Office.

Those interested in joining the recently formed radio group can do so by visiting club meetings held at 7:30 p.m., second Thursdays of the month, at Eucalyptus Park Recreation Building, 123rd Street and Inglewood Avenue, Hawthorne.

Fine for Borders

When it comes to bloom, Fibrous Begonias are no match for their tuberous rooted cousins. But few things are. And, besides, we grow Fibrous Begonias not for the beauty of the individual plant but for their total effect when massed together.

Fibrous-rooted Begonias are excellent in the border—either massed in a bed or when used as an edging. Their blooms, so insignificant in the individual plant, take on new dimensions when seen in quantity. And their rich foliage, tinged with bronze or red overtones, is in itself a striking thing to see. It is always succulent and fresh even in the hottest weather. They are pest free and in no way a trouble to the gardener.

These fibrous-rooted Begonias are sold as bedding plants by California Association of Nurserymen members. Twelve inches apart is not close enough to plant them. Figure only half that distance between plants and buy accordingly.

These bedding and border Begonias will stand more sun than the shade-loving Tuberous Begonias of lath house culture. Inland, however, they are better for shade during part of the day—especially at high noon—and are best used along the east or north side of your house.

Most garden soils will satisfy these bedders, but one that is liberally worked over with oakleaf mold, peat moss or steer manure is preferred. Frequent water, as might be expected along the edge of a lawn, is desirable.

Because the rich bronze overtones of the foliage contrast so nicely, Fibrous Begonias are often seen planted with Dusty Miller for a companion. The gray contrast is indeed a striking effect. If the gardener would try for this, use the Dusty Miller as a foreground to the Begonias.

Vacations Are Be Careful Days

Fifty weeks a year you work hard, help out with community projects, attend church and service group meetings regularly, prod the youngsters through homework.

Then comes vacation. You have only two, perhaps three weeks, so you plan carefully. You're going to see California this year; drive all through the state.

When you start, everything has been well prepared. The car has new tires, luggage is stowed, milkman has been notified, the kids are all in the car. No worries—you can leave them all behind for those 14 short but relaxing days.

Now, as you wheel out of the driveway, could the California Highway Patrol have one minute of your time? Could we ask you, in these few moments before you hit the open highway, to consider two things?

First, let driving be part of your enjoyment. Don't make it a chore by trying to push too far each day, by letting minor traffic delays destroy your patience, or by giving in to anger when someone else makes a mistake. Allow the extra time you will need for meals, sightseeing and refueling.

Second, observe traffic laws and highway control signs. They are designed to help, not hinder. Let them do their job; then you can more easily do yours—operate the car safely.

Finally, have a safe, pleasant vacation. The Patrol is sure you will if you devote these few moments at the start of your trip to consideration of the simple requirements for carefree, yet cautious, driving.

THIN PEACHES

It isn't necessary to thin peaches, but if you're willing to sacrifice quantity for better quality fruit, take a tip from commercial growers and thin peaches to leave only one fruit every five or six inches along the branch.



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