

<b>Expectations for the SET</b>	This was an exercise to test the ability of Amateur Radio stations to test their skills in high volume traffic handling. It's purpose was not to develop working relationship with local agencies. This is best done by local units working with their local partners. This exercise was to provide an opportunity to get to know hams from across the state and develop a relationship with them to enhance working together when the real thing hits. It entails finding modes and routes for long distance communication as well as handling local traffic. I have been in a number of agency planned exercise and no traffic or failed communications was planned. This is helpful in understanding the agency's missions but can quickly discourage Amateur Radio operators that came to the event expecting to play a communications role.
<b>What Occured</b>	It appears this was a "tell of two cities". There were complains by some that the use of 5 canned messages was a waste of participants time. This is measured against a backdrop of those single stations handling over 100 pieces of traffic. The difference was that many local stations took responsibility for composing additional traffic. The size of messages was also criticized. The goal was not to fashion huge messages to send. The mechanics of getting a message from point "A" to point "B" is not dependent upon size. Many stations that run Winlink are running Windows 98 and Airmail software and don't have fancy boarders etc but the content is there. Accurate content is what is primary.
<b>What Went Well and Why</b>	Lots of traffic was passed. Stations overcame equipment failure and still passed huge volumes of traffic. Propagation was poor but 60 meters provided an excellent band for most of the event. Those that are serious about emergency communications should equip themselves with rigs, antennas or turners that will operate on 60 meters. Where we are primary users or not on 60 meters is not the point. It is an important tool in our toolbox. The primary reason we were given 60 meter privileges were for emergency communications.
<b>Improving Operation and How</b>	Encourage new hams to see HTs serving as a secondary rig for emergency communications. Mobile style rigs for VHF/UHF are the minimum. Cutoff date for registration needs to be earlier to give additional time to prepare traffic. Insure that registration closing is a drop dead date. We need to educate hams that Telnet is just an Internet email service and provides no valid backup to regular email. To use Telnet in an emergency exercise circumvents the exercises real purpose.
<b>Your Call</b>	W4GHS
<b>Your Location</b>	SKYWARN SIMULATION
<b>Other Calls at Your Location</b>	KI4JTV BEVERLY
<b>Messages Sent</b>	52
<b>Messages Received</b>	42