



MEETING OF MEMBERS OF HAMNET NARC : RADIOKOP : 21 FEBRUARY 2009

PRESENT

Gert Botha ZS6GC, Kobus vd Merwe ZS6JPY, Goosen Thompson ZU6FBM, Steven Baynes ZS6XU, Jan Schubart ZS6ARV, Paul Ras ZS6PR, C Ras ZS6CJR, Craig Symington ZS6RH, David-John Miller ZS6MSE, Leon Lessing ZS6LMG, David Hood ZS6HO, Chris Gryffenberg ZS6COG, Roy Newton ZS6XN, Frank Mercier ZS6MER, Graham McNally ZS6GPM, Strauss Roux ZS6JFS, Dave Leeds ZR6LEE,

APOLOGIES

Hans Potgieter ZS6ALJ, Chris Bothma ZS6LOG, Eddy Leighton ZS6BNE, Norman Human ZS6NMN, Mark Zank ZS6YES, Roy Martin ZS6HH, Gerald Smith ZS6IG, Frans Badenhorst ZS6ZS, Trevor Putterill ZS6EMS, Norman Merrifield ZS6NKM.

WELCOME

All present were welcomed by Francois ZS6BUU National Director of HAMNET.

GUEST SPEAKER

Henk van Elst addressed those present and outlined the importance of HAMNET within the Disaster Management structure at local government level and extending through Provincial structures to National Government levels.

Henk also spoke on the priority events being the Confederation Cup to take place in June 2009 and the 2010 World Soccer event in 2010.

HAMNET was known in Disaster Management circles nationally and internationally it was important that a continuing liaison be maintained at local, provincial and national levels with all parties concerned, to ensure an ongoing relationship in providing support to those in distress when natural and manmade disasters occurred.

Henk was thanked for his attendance and presentation.

INTRODUCTION

Francis ZS6BUU spoke on the possibility of stations being set up in public spaces to create an awareness of amateur radio and specifically HAMNET during World Amateur Radio Day on 18 April 2009.

Sites such as Hypermarkets could be considered and Brochures would be made available as handouts.

Copies of the HAMNET CD were made available to members present.

Francois also spoke on the long standing decision that members of HAMNET were expected to be members of the SARL and the reasons behind this decision.

At present HAMNET membership stood at 140 which was sufficient to provide a core of trained amateurs who were able to deliver professional service. Such members would also form the basis of any extended operation when non-members were required and may volunteer to assist in any disaster of any magnitude or where operations may extend for any length of time.

HAMNET GAUTENG SOUTH

Chris ZS6COG Provincial Director (PDGS) HAMNET Gauteng (South) then addressed the meeting.

The area that fell under his jurisdiction extended from Midrand in the north to the Vaal Triangle in the south and from Springs in the east to Carletonville in the west.

Chris said that as he lived on the East Rand he had focused his efforts on that area initially.

Chris then used power point presentation to outline the structure of HAMNET in Gauteng South.

He was supported by Andre as Assistant Provincial Director (APD).

HAMNET had been active during the xenophobic unrest that occurred nationally.

This had spread rapidly e.g. in Alexander township from 200 refugees to 5 000 in 72 hours.

Communications had again shown that government did not have the logistics to deal with areas that were widespread and HAMNET could fulfil such a function.

A problem encountered was that HAMNET volunteers who were able to work many hours still had to return to their normal work and then left a void that could not be filled.

If sufficient people were available, it would take 1 000's to deal with this type of disaster and support DM staff many of whom did work with little rest for weeks whilst dealing with this matter and its aftermath which ran on for months via emergency "camps" set up to house refugees.

A further issue that had to be dealt with and that was the safety of volunteers. This aspect would have to be addressed in the future.

A word of thanks was extended to all who helped at this time.

NATIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Chris ZS6COG briefly referred to the Disaster Management Act which provided for the establishment of volunteer units.

Amateurs had to join DM as volunteers to gain protection of any kind and to be considered for compensation in the event of personal injury whilst “on duty”.

HAMNET was not specifically referred to but specialised groups were catered for e.g. HAMNET, Off Road Rescue Unit, K9 Unit, Mountain Rescue etc.

Again Chris had dealt with the East Rand only and showed slides of the Command Structure that existed and showed many “blank spaces” that still had to be addressed and positions filled.

Co-operation with bodies such as the Disaster Management Institute of SA, Off Road Rescue Units, SA Search & Rescue (SASAR) and others had to be maintained.

HAMNET could provide communications that linked these operating entities and allowed communications to be spread to all role-players in an emergency.

Members were encouraged to meet and get involved with their local Disaster Management organisations.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Members were encouraged to utilise local events as training exercises and which also assisted the community by providing communications.

Events that should be considered ranged from cycle events to rallies, marathons and many others.

This also provided much needed publicity for HAMNET and Amateur Radio.

We needed to demonstrate to everyone that we really can communicate anywhere, under any conditions and on a self-sufficient basis.

HAMNET FUNDING & SUPPORT

The Department of Transport provided HAMNET with funds on a national basis which funds were administered by the National Director.

In Ekurhuleni a control room had been established and an East Rand centre was nearing completion in which HAMNET would be included.

Meetings were held on a regular basis to coordinate activities.

On a wider scope, the xenophobic attacks had resulted in an advisory forum being established that liaised amongst volunteer groups and acted as an umbrella to provide information sharing.

Getting more volunteer group's active had to be promoted.

THE FUTURE

Accepting that there were many organisations, both statutory and volunteer, that had to work together in any disaster situation or where great numbers of people congregated, an Advisory Forum had been established to coordinate the 30 odd

groups that were needed during the Federation Cup and during 2010 World Soccer event.

The Confederation Cup would serve as a trial run for 2010. This event would require stations to be active at Bafokeng (Rustenburg), Tshwane (Loftus), and Johannesburg (Coco Cola Ellis Park) and in Bloemfontein.

This would require coordinating the North West, North & South Gauteng and the Free State.

The Disaster Management provincial centre at Midrand would probably be a focus point and if space could be provided, communications (HF and VHF/UHF + electronic support (interne)] would have to be considered.

The use of SMS messaging can also be considered.

During the 2010 event communications on a national basis i.e. including HF links would be imperative.

In the future Echolink could be considered.

Thanks to Jan Schubart ZS6ARV for the minutes

Francois Botha – ZS6BUU