

RUSS

Radios Under Sun Shade

Take your portable equipment that you would use for communications during times of emergency to your local city park, school field, picnic area, etc and set it up.

Plan on powering your equipment from generators, solar panels, car batteries (in or out of cars), other portable batteries, hand cranks, etc. **Anything except the commercial power grid.**

Erect your antennas using your home made or store bought masts, tripods etc, a mag mount atop a picnic area with a metal roof, an antenna tied to a lighter than air balloon, etc, etc, etc.

The only formality of this event is to set up a 2 meter portable station connected to an antenna atop a portable push up mast of some type to get the antenna at least 15' above the ground in a fairly open, clear area.

Feel free to use a cross band set up or remote controlled base station for this purpose if you wish to and have one available.

Program your 2 meter transceiver to **146.460 MHz SIMPLEX** (no offset) and *program your PL tone encoder to **77.0 Hz**.

***For those who have transceivers with PL tone decoders**, this will make it possible for you to have your receivers in the decode mode and they will remain quiet should others not participating in our activity get on the freq for a rag chew.

This will prevent you from being distracted and turning your volume down and forgetting to turn it back up should someone else get on the freq & have a QSO.

You will not hear them, thus you can leave your volume up so someone who is participating in our activity, transmitting with the tone will come through and be heard.

You will have to turn your PL decoder OFF or look at your signal strength meter to confirm there's no one co-channeling with you before you initiate a call.

Feel free to set up early and stay late or set up and take down whenever you wish to. Set up more than one portable 2 meter stations at your location.

Thus you can monitor 146.460 for coordinating experiments etc with other groups in other parks, as well as simultaneously operate on other 2 meter simplex freqs & repeater pairs. If you don't know callsigns of others at other parks (locations), just get on 146.460 with 77.0 PL tone and call out to **"Anyone participating in the RUSS event"** followed by your callsign. Once contact is made, QSY to another simplex freq or repeater pair, ideally with a second transceiver to carry on your conversation.

This will keep 146.460 quiet for other participating groups to use and no one will have to turn their volume down and then forget to turn it back up.

Set up one or more 220Mhz, 440Mhz, 900Mhz, 1200Mhz, 6 Mtrs, HF stations (especially 75 & 40Mtrs with NVIS antennas). Set up whatever you have!

Do whatever you wish on your own; try to see what distant repeaters you can get in to. See how far you can operate simplex, etc.

Find out how long it takes to get a portable station on the air in case of emergency.

Find out how long your generator will run on a tank of fuel.

Find out how long your battery(s) will last.

Find out how far you can run a 12 volt power cable from a car battery.

Etc, etc, etc, etc.....

Cook a picnic lunch using emergency powered appliances.

Experiment, practice and play. Make it a fun experience that you'll want to do often.

Find out what you need to improve your system then put your improvements to practical use during future RUSS events.

The goal is to do this on Saturday late mornings through afternoons an average of 4 to 6 times per year from the months of October through April, when the weather in the AZ desert is too beautiful to not want to be outdoors. Always remember.... #1 Be SAFE! #2 Have FUN!

Radios in the Park was initiated by Doug Pelley WB7TUJ & Russ Jorgensen N7TWG.

Russ became a silent key suddenly and unexpectedly on 10 June 2013.

In memoriam and tribute to my dear friend and active ham N7TWG, from now on this event will be known as Radios Under Sun Shade that will form an acronym for his name RUSS.

The event from now on will simply be known as **RUSS**.

73,

Doug WB7TUJ
www.dapcom.com