

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of a Special Events Station

And What Does It
Have to Do With
ECOMM

UFO Museum



Acknowledgements

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- The unending support of all the members of the PVARC!! Many others that if I don't stop now this list will go on forever! To ALL THANK YOU!!

So, you want to do a Special Events Station! That is OUTSTANDING!
Now what do you do?
SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY for you, your team and your community!!!

First – what is the event and why is it special. The Pecos Valley Amateur Radio Club decided to do a SES for the 70th Anniversary of the Roswell Incident and the 50th Anniversary of the International UFO Museum. That's special and of import to our community. Choose something you can get community support behind. Make this a community thing not just amateur radio!

Second – Start planning at least a YEAR in advance yes it can/will take this long to get all the parts and pieces together!

Third – Pick a date! This needs to correspond to the date of whatever, hopefully, the community event you've chosen.

Fourth – Pick a place to conduct/operate the SES. Now this may seem easy BUT there are some things you need to think about:

- a. Is it readily accessible to your operators and the public!
- b. Does the site have access to facilities i.e. bathrooms!
- c. Are there adequate space/electrical outlets to set-up one or more stations?
- d. Where can your antennas be setup and what is the access for coax to the stations?
- e. What other events are going on in conjunction with your SES -more on this in a bit and why this is VERY important!

Fifth – PLAN, PLAN, PLAN – play what if! I can guaranty Mr. Murphy WILL pay you a visit at some time during your event!!

Sixth – HAVE FUN!!!!

I said I'd talk about other events going on at the same time your event is planned. Well here is Mr. Murphy!! We setup 2 weeks in advance, at the International UFO Museum, and checked out all our antennas, stations and the like. We made contacts around the country so knew things were working properly. Did the same thing the day before the event started! THEN on the first day of the event the noise level was 8+! We had no idea why. After several hours and some detective work – and we did NOT know this in advance -we discovered that a ½ block north of our location the street had been blocked, for 2 blocks, and VENDORS were set up in the street. Well OK what's the problem with that? Nothing OTHER THAN most of the vendors were using generators of one kind or another and the RFI coming off 15-20 generators was absolutely destroying our receive capabilities! It was so bad we shut the stations down and several operators went home and took over operating from their home stations.

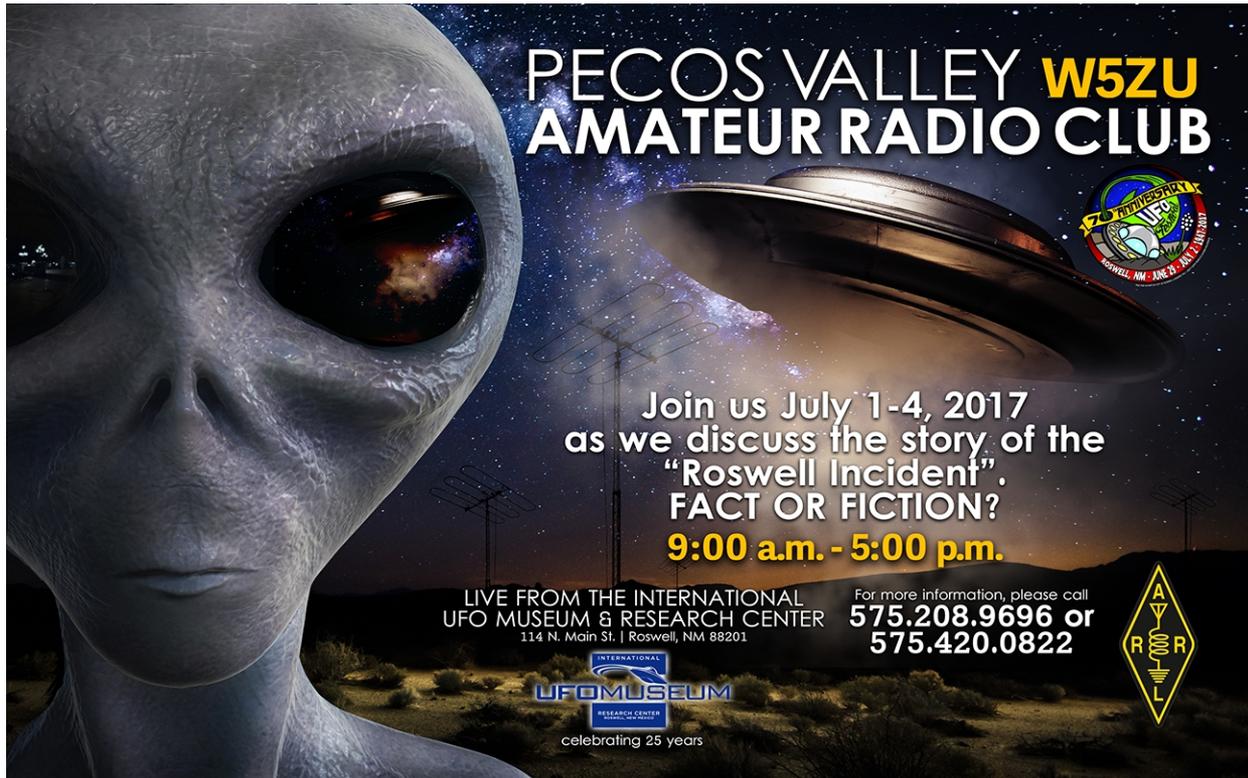
More thoughts:

Are you going to offer a QSL card or a certificate for the event? This needs to be a How are you going to pay for them and how are you going to send them out after the event? I.E. envelopes, postage return address labels and the people to sit down and fill in the contacts – date, time, band or frequency, and signal report.

What logging software are you going to use and will you have enough computers to run the software. Will your operators need training on the software?

Can you setup your station/s ahead of time and check for operation/function/issues? Do this at least a week in advance and then again NLT the day before your event.

UFO Certificate



**PECOS VALLEY W5ZU
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

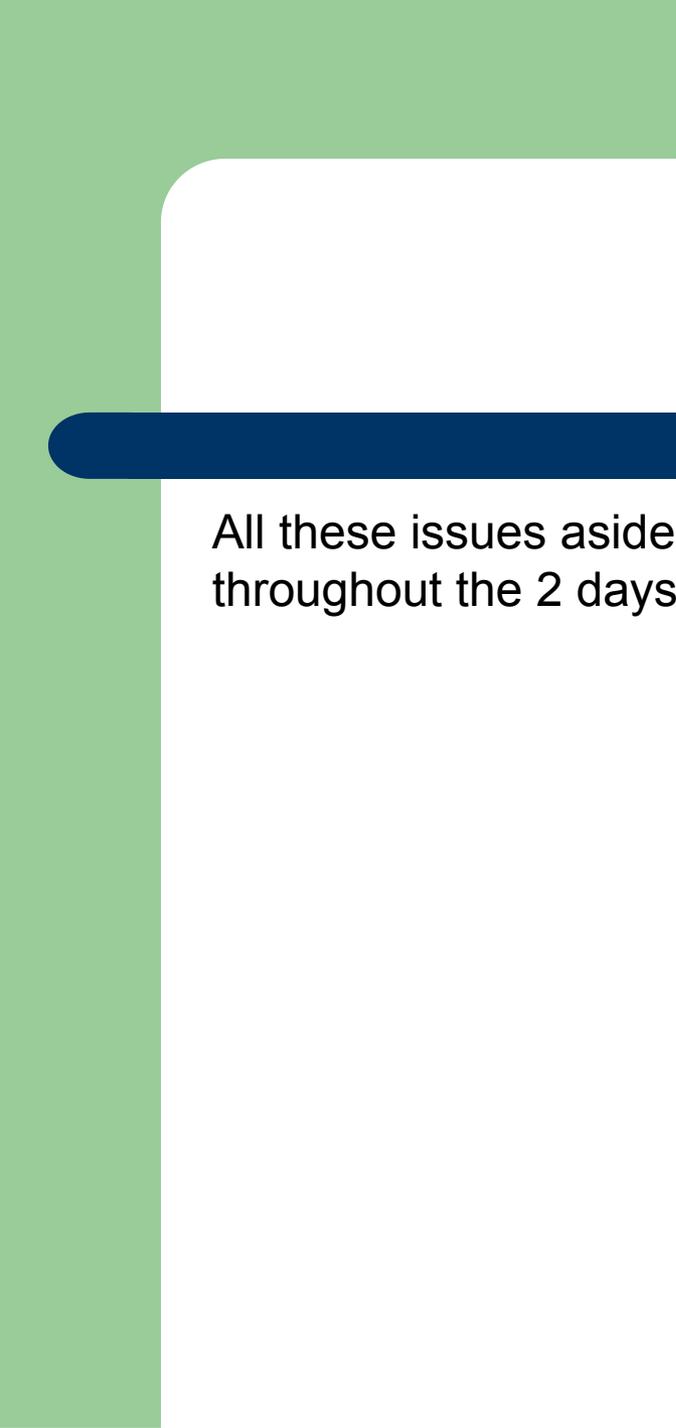
Join us July 1-4, 2017
as we discuss the story of the
"Roswell Incident".
FACT OR FICTION?
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a light green vertical bar and a white rounded rectangle with a green top-left corner. A dark blue horizontal bar with rounded ends is positioned above the text.

All these issues aside we had a very good SES with around 200 contacts throughout the 2 days of operation.



Let's look at this as "Practice" for a disaster/emergency. Are there corollaries? Most definitely! So something happens in your community and your group must deploy for assistance. Do you have a Plan B? Everything must have a Plan B, and maybe more! So you're going to deploy to your EOC and get going. Hang on a second your EOC was destroyed by that EF4 tornado that just hit your community...now what? What other sites have you surveyed as a backup? Is the backup accessible to the majority of your operators? What equipment do you have that can be rapidly deployed to your backup site? How will you get it there? What power access do you have?

Well Bubba brings his generators to Field Day so we'll use Bubba's generators! Oops Bubba lives 10 miles out and the roads are blocked and he can't get there. Now what?



How will your operators get to the EOC or backup site? How many operators will be available? Well Elmer is always there for Field Day and operates during the entire period. OK but Elmer is sick, injured or has other disaster obligations and can't be there. Now what? This seems to be a bigger problem than most after all disasters are a large part of amateur radio, BUT. Do you have one or two people that seem to be there all the time and help always when needed? That's great but again I state what if those folks have other disaster related obligations or simply cannot get to the operations site? Now what?



What I'm getting at is everyone involved in your organization should be on the planning and execution of any event you are doing regardless if it's a SES or preparing for a disaster. Everyone has a part to play no matter how big or small! Who can get to just about anyplace in your community regardless of the conditions? Who has the equipment on hand and ready to deploy on very short or no notice? Who can supply food/water other necessities for a short or longer period of time?

I state again: PLAN, PLAN, and PLAN! REHEARSE, REHEARSE, REHEARSE! Without doing this you will NOT know your capabilities.



Always plan an after action report/meeting this is the way you learned what worked and what didn't, and what needs to be changed for next time so it does work! Mistakes WILL be made, STUFF will happen and Mr. Murphy WILL come to visit.

I hope this presentation has been helpful both in getting a SES up and running as well as helping your organization prepare for things we pray never happen.

Thanks for attending!
73's