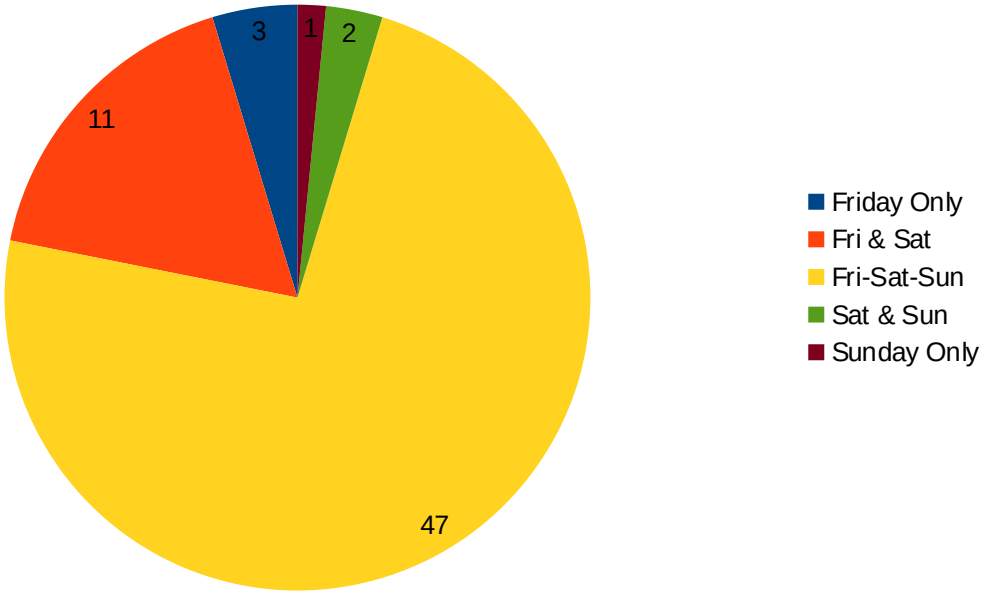
1. Which Days did you participate?

Friday only	3	
Friday and Saturday	11	
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday	**47**	**73.4%**
Saturday and Sunday	2	
Sunday only	1	
	64	



2. Level of Participation:

HF Regional/National only	**39**	**(67%)**
Local VHF/UHF nets only	2	
Both Local and HF	17	

Comment: I had GMRS freq on monitor just in case. 2

3. What modes did you use?

FLDIGI Suite	**56**
JS8Call/Commstat	48
VaraC	6
vARIM	10
Voice only	4
Other: Voice as well	8
Other: local BBS	2
Other: FSQ (in FLDIGI)	3

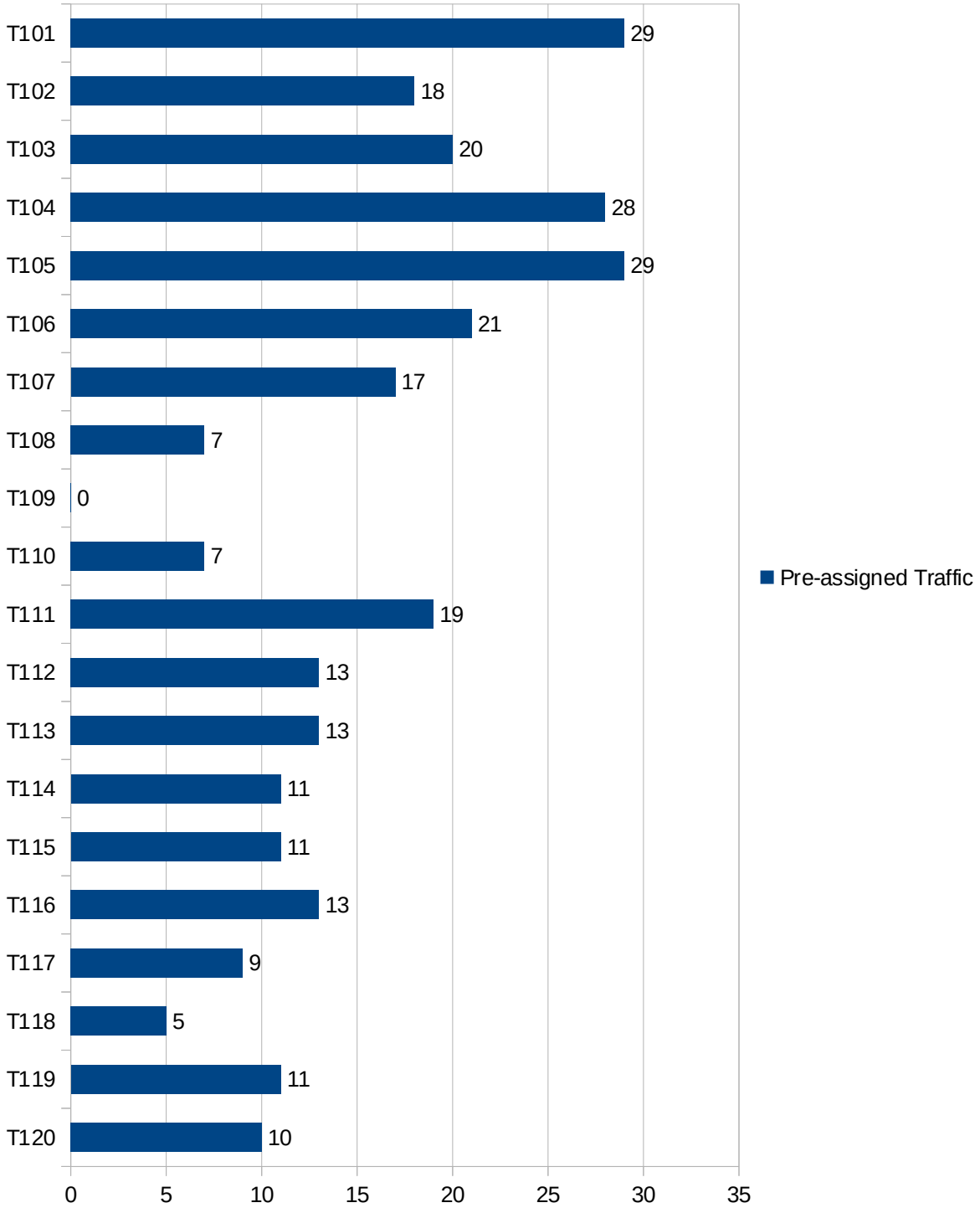
Other: publicized TREX in my comms org of 100+ members; posted inject Fldigi copy to members.
Other: HF, VHF and Meshtastic which continued to work after HF/VHF batteries failed.
Other: Attempted VHF/UHF with no success

4. How many Commstat STATREPs did you copy?

41 Stations reporting on STATREPs copied in Commstat
1739 total STATREPs copied
= 42 average STATREPs received per station

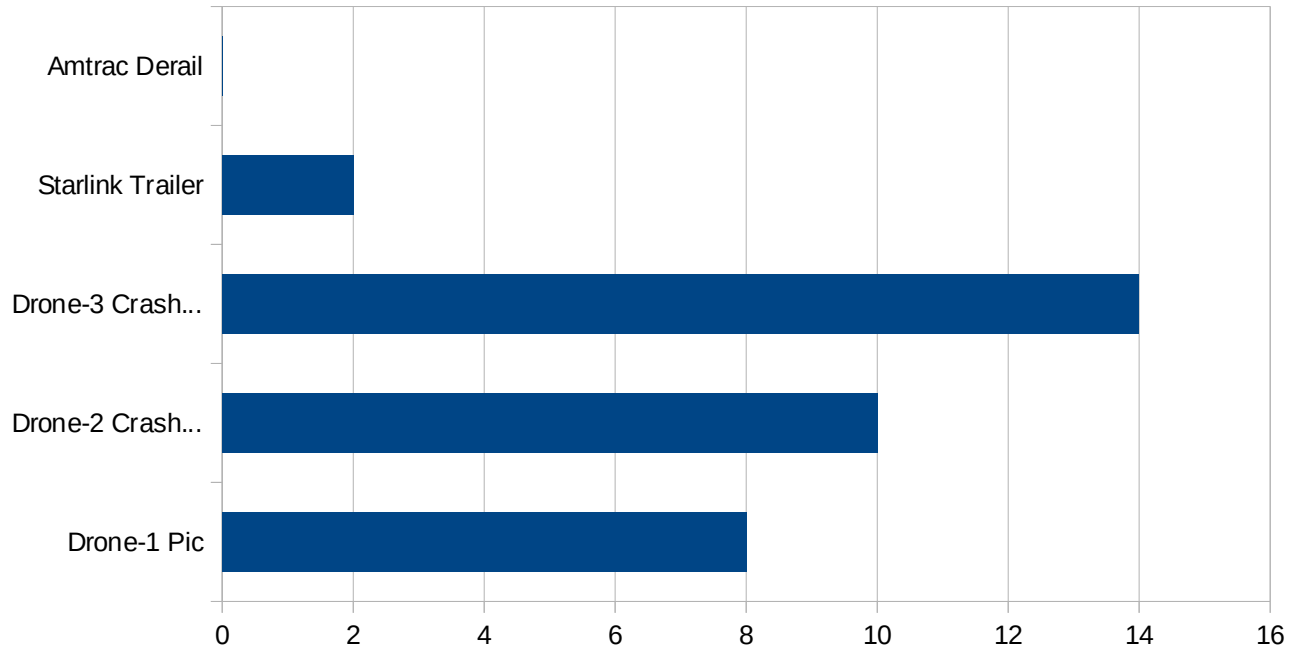
1739 / 41 = **Average # of Commstat STATREPs received 42**

5. MSGS Received



6. Images

Drone-1	8
Drone-2 Crash	10
Drone-3 Crash	14
Starlink Trlr	2
Amtrac Derail	



7. How did you power your communications station?

Grid power (simulating grid down)	12
Solar Battery Backup	**32**
Fuel powered generator	5

Other: Battery with solar standby (unused)

Other: have a couple Jackery explorer 300 units. Cigarette plug (10 Amp) to the radio turned down to 28 Watts. Evolve computer plugged into AC outlet of Jackery.

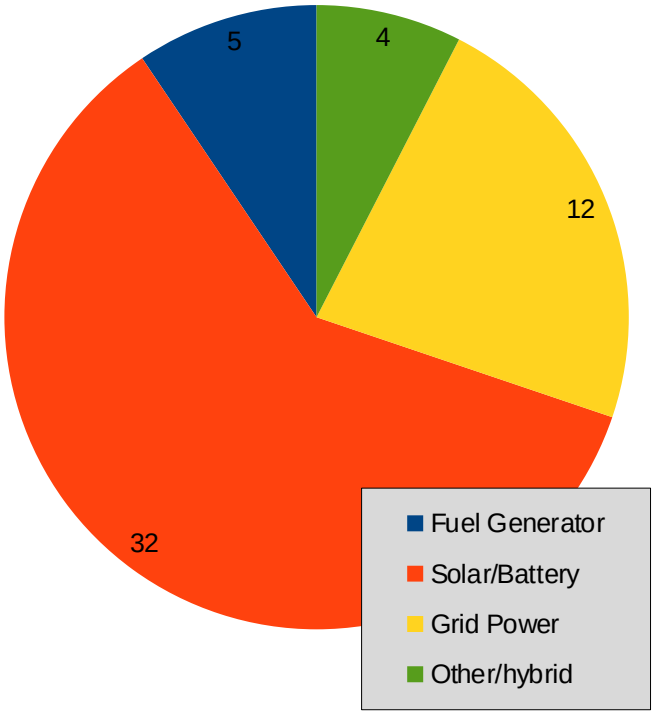
Other: 50% battery and 50% grid

Other: Fully charged Ecoflow 6000 AH Delta Max II primary, plus Ecoflow Delta Max secondary system

Other: Partial grid to solar failure

Addl comments: 12v Lifepo 100ah with a generator as backup and to charge as needed.

58% Solar Battery Backup



8. What went well?

I sent two statreps during the exercise. I did not receive any confirmation if they were received. I understand why, but it would be nice to get some feedback (now that the exercise is complete) on if they were picked up by someone and if they were routed to the appropriate station.

Good reach and plenty of traffic, while the national messages did not make it to me there is still great comfort in regional contact and news.

Getting to do some work on a project without power tools

We ran through all of our backup power setups as well as very basic radio checks with our neighbors. We shared the T-Rex exercise with someone who had not been a part of it before.

Received traffic and was successful at being ANCS both Friday and Saturday nights for the FLDIGI nets.

I was able to use my equipment to send sitreps and request fills for two reports I was able get via fldigi.

Seemed to have good results on 40m (not surprising, participate in PPN)

I received a good amount of messages. Enough I feel that would have kept me informed in a real world emergency.

Finally learning fldigi and getting comfortable using it

Having teammates this year was the best feature. TREX has become an opportunity to train and grow skills with great comrades. A new battery bank made things much better. SPOT report training and working on meals and security upped the realism factor.

Equipment choices worked well, diy antennas had adequate range, brand new to HF ecomm, so forcing myself last minute to put everything together and figure out the traffic flow were the highlights.

Batteries lasted for entire trex

Enjoyed seeing all of the consistent traffic on JS8. Allowed me to continuously try to tweak my system to get things working. I'm new to HF and especially digital modes, so this provided an opportunity to try something and get near instantaneous feedback that it was working.

First Trex just learning about Js8call.

Was able to test JS8Call & CommStat for the first time. Helped me learn some of the features.

Took place while I was out of town so I had to operate by remote log in online. Made operating limited abilities. Also, having issues with FLMsg auto-opening.

Wasn’t real sure where I should be hanging out. I just left JS8Call on 40m with CommStat in back ground. Wasn’t sure if I should be using FLDigi. I would like to figure out how to keep several apps open & monitor multiple bands same time.

Good band conditions, hearing lots of JS8Call/CS.

Last week had a derelict rv and brushfire, 200 yds from me. FD put it out, but inspired 10 minute evac drill. Chaos, need 20 or 30 minutes for orderly exit.

Good band conditions so found no stations needing relays, good but boring.
TCP port issue caused fldigi and flamp problem. Not new. Reboot to clear up.

Closing JS8Call and opening fldigi several times, finally convinced to run tri-mode.
Poor PERSEC to announce status of personal supplies, gens etc. Pirates have radios too.

Sending FLASH reports (inject) T112 & T114 of Norfolk NAS being attacked, then sending image with QSL from NCS East!

Laptop locked up when I was trying to relay a FLASH message (naturally...) Rebooted and them successfully passed it to NCS East, but was conscious of induced delay for FLASH tfc!

SigCen staff collaboration coordination

All software worked as expected and was stable. Two instances of FLdigi running Contestia/MSK32 at 900WF, FSQ 1500WF, JS8/Commstat at 2000WF.

My Commstat Map lit up mostly across the country with the exceptions of ND, IA, WY, NV, ID, WA, and the New England states. I know there had to be a lot of activity coming out of WA and ID at least but the propagation to AR is always piss poor. I need to do some maybe VOACAP research or something and watch the propagation maps. I'm thinking of linking up to VII through IMH vial JS8CALL MSG just for fun.

Received a lot more traffic this year and used 3 different laptops on two different radios. Laptops are high risk failure point for me in the past. Able to evaluate battery power use/availability much better this year. Increased skill on how to extend battery life with better decision making on power and use. Established a cadence for data collection since in real event not going to be sitting in front of a radio 24/7 so better automation is helpful. Did a better job keeping my head in the exercise using a more balanced approach....so no info overload.

Training and learning more about Commstat, refresher HF digital modes practice. Used TREX to program my new Btech UV Pro (thank you Amrron for discount link). Successfully sent test APRS and Winlink traffic using APRSdroid and WoAd.

Ecoflow Delta Max II held up well running IC-7200 at 20W, 12V Intel i7 PC with 1 monitor, only running out of power in the early hours of Sunday morning before daybreak.

JS8 was the most active and informative. It worked well with bad conditions. Fldigi worked but the long strings of data would get corrupted with noise and band conditions.

1. COMMSTAT V2.0!!!
2. Opportunity to discuss AmRRON with others
3. Realistic scenario

JS8 and commstat worked very well again (second TREX for me). The highlight was my improvement in digital HF modes. Compared to my First TREX, I had at least 60% better results in working Digital modes from 2024. I copied a lot mode traffic.

My alternate new 'go station' rig worked well, both on voice and digital modes, although I did not use it in 100% of my TREX contacts and data relays.

Commstat not working was a bummer. Chaotic pileups during data transfers was disappointing, especially during Flamp fills with impatient stations walking into Flamp fills with 'missing' report requests. This is a chronic bad behavior also seen in weekly AIB broadcasts.

I got a lot of practice using the software Fldigi, Varim, comstat

varim worked reliably. LinuxMint 22 I think is more reliable than LM21 was.

Receiving the regional and national executive summary reports.

Considering the scenario, my location, career, and the attacks on the DC, I would have been at work throughout the entire exercise. I may not have been on the floor from 1600z Friday to 1800z on Sunday, but I would likely would not have made it home. With the scenario and the communications network failures contained within, I need to look at how I am going to get my family home and communicate with them without traditional infrastructure. They have no interest in amateur radio, and I live out of GMRS range from work.

(to the above… you “may” want to explore Meshtastic. In the DC area there are a lot of nodes. Depending on terrain, you just might have a path to them many miles away. It only requires an app downloaded and paired to the Meshtastic devices to send texts from their phones, and does not require a license).

Watching comstat, and learning how it works. Receiving all the traffic that I did.
Working together will all on VHF.

Nets ran good and on time.

Most scenario info obtained from EXSUM reports and Commstat STATREPs.

I was able to get the "Gist" of what was happening but was not able to copy the majority of comms

Smooth Eastern Digital Net on Friday
The amount of traffic received.
EXSUMs were sized better than in prior T-Rex exercises

JS8call in slow mode worked the best FLDiGi wasn't very good this time due to propagation maybe. js8 and commstat were the winners for me

At the beginning, having CommStat work!

Being able to pass EXSUMs and IES on 2m Digital. Taking abbreviated SITREPs [STATREPs?] on 2m Simplex nets.

The level of participation was great. Commstat V2 worked well. Pleased to have operated modest QRO digital station throughout from a 100 Ah LiFePO4 battery (plus headlamp, at times!) The scenario with Maoistanis, Salami-Salami, and Bubuskas was worth the price of admission (LOL); very fun.

I was grateful for the chance to practice digital operations.

Running the 2M voice nets, having another AmRRON member stop by on Saturday to hang out and visit between the nets.

- CommStat 2.0 Amazing!
- Neighborhood participation via CH3.
- Produced many listed items to work on.
- Messenger for neighborhood welfare checks & hard copy updates for those interested/CH3 group.

Seeing how FLDIGI, FLMSG and FLAMP worked together. It was a good feeling to see that report pop up!

Six AmRRON members simulated a bug-out to my QTH. We had fun working together, and helping folks getting operational on previously unused antennas and software.

Not being mobile this year was a huge plus, was an awesome experience being able to participate to a greater degree. Very educational and encouraging to see such a large, coordinated group work together to pass all this info around the country.

My VHF and CB comms worked very well, I was able to reach several family members and relay them traffic from HF.

I received a lot of traffic, it was a lot of fun and a great learning experience. I found some vulnerabilities that I have upgraded, but overall, it was a great and positive test of my systems; it's good to know they are working.

I also thoroughly enjoyed the videos this year. VERY educational and helpful. Thank you!

Great conditions and participation. Much more activity on my BBS node compared to the previous 2 or 3 exercises. Commstat v2.0 was a great improvement with the offline maps. Western Sigcen did a great job of making its presence known on the PPN and invited and shared traffic.

Since I was only involved in 2 m voice, I appreciated the use of the abbreviated staff report which quite frankly is the first time I've ever completed it with confidence. Thank you JJS.

Couldn't receive anything down in the south.

-heard communication updates from around area and country
-learned not to take small details for granted, be sure where necessary equip is located and is operable

Getting Fldigi and FLAMP to work (somewhat). New to Fldigi
- JS8Call worked well for me
- Impressed by the planning and execution that went into this exercise.

Couldn't leave Fldigi unattended, receiving freq seemed to wander.
- Had trouble receiving MFSK-32 messages due to band fading
- Not knowing if I should be on 20M or 40M
- Not knowing what messages I was missing. Would be nice for someone to summarized what is currently circulating.
- People taking up time forwarding old/expired messages.
- People transmitting over the top of Fldigi traffic while in JS8Call. Usually SNR requests.
- I should have read the SOI :-)

It would be nice to have a "pull" method for comms, such as a BBS or some other repository of information.
- More use of JS8Call to communicate briefs of the long form messages that were sent via Fldigi. Then I'd know that I was missing something. Maybe a use for Bulletins in CommStat?
- what is the purpose for switching between Contestia and MFSK-32? The switch didn't work for me sometimes and I missed data.
- Can the preamble be sent twice, before the body of the communication? Not fully copying the preamble made it frustrating.

I was most impressed with the training and discipline of AmRRON radio operators demonstrated during the exercise. If this scenario had been real, the general population of the US would likely turn to panic very quickly. It is comforting to know that calm, trained, disciplined radio operators are ready at a moment's notice to step up and provide communications across the nation. Many thanks to JJS for his vision and persistence in creating this emergency communications network.

Traffic was passed and info was spread.

9, **What went poorly, or broke, or the downside**

Based on the number of messages sent on the previous survey page, I did not receive many of them. My equipment is quite good. I am in California and can hear Idaho, Colorado and Arizona most of the time. Anything east of Colorado is hit and miss. Were the east coast messages relayed to us folks on the west coast?

National messages were not forwarded and should be the focus, instead there was a lot of messages from people (me included) that provided our own local status .

Downside was I had commitments on the weekend that limited my participation, otherwise everything went smoothly

I'm a mess when it comes to setting up the types of communication that AmRRON uses.

Commstat shutdown after a corrupted data was received. Down side was stations stepping all over each one and JS8call constantly going and making FLDIGI traffic weak. Also had issues with stations Firday night stepping all over NCS (including Sigcen) because they could not recieve NCS and did not wait for ANCS instructions to send.

Probably not realistic but the lack of confirmation of sitrep reception made me question if I was wasting my time or not. Also a few times I requested news update on fldigi and received zero replies. Maybe it was just me and I didn't request the information properly.

I need more experience with sending pictures and general traffic. Wanted to simulate some realism by generating message "at last minute" for realistic training, and forgot some details when under pressure from yl to "wrap it up". Need a better antenna for 80m... I can get out, but deaf as a post.

I was too busy with other necessary tasks to devote a lot of attention and mostly left the system running unattended for receive only information

Still need practice with other modes to get hang of all the message handling. But all in all it was fun and wish we did more exercises like this in a year

Commstat broke. Flrig broke. We figured out workarounds and gave thanks. Wx got a little crazy.

Local lightning and no prior operational experience on the hf data programs IRL was a setback. I need to add lightning arresters and either multiband antenna or selector switch to the set up.

FLdigi lock-up X 2
JS8 snr requests caused @ least 2 commstat statreps to be incomplete.

My family just got home from 2 weeks vacation on Friday and the wife was not receptive about cutting grid power for the weekend lol

My clock was giving me problems. Now I have a GPS dongle.

We could add sharing primary source tfc to anyone interested via a nearby frequency...we could call it the What We're Hearing Net.
Our summaries are top-notch but why make folks wait for the film at 11? Don't we enjoy Agenda Free TV?

Received partial message Friday, was unable to receive missing parts/fills. (Friday participation only)

Only 1 Commstat STATREP received other than mine. The majority were not coming across in the proper format. Many were missing many fields that prevent Commstat from processing.

Even the downsides was positive as it simulated a real-life scenario. At one time, we had a pile-up on FLAMP with propagation bleeding across regions. So, it was hard to coordinate with weak stations. However, i the thick of battle this will be a real problem, so while a negative, it was a positive to show the complications to expect.

FLDIGI was a huge disappointment. I'm on a Linux Mint 22.1 build EvolveIII with the script build. I was just kinda laughing at NCS out of OK expressing in frustration his just locked up in the middle of a NET. 20 seconds later mine did as I was trying to get a FLMSG! I'm glad I had the "sudo killall fldigi" command so I didn't have to wipe out everything. (Karma's a b*&tch) [Another station, out of IN) jumped in and saved the day on that NET until [OK NCS] could get running again! It's been said that the FLDIGI freezing could be from FLamp. From what I've seen now I don't think so. The first time it froze I was receiving a FLMSG. The next time, I can tell it's running because my FLamp is reduced in the toolbar but I can still see if it's CONNECTED or not, I just enlarged FLDIGI from the toolbar and clicked on a panel and it froze. It froze at least 5 times with differing scenarios. Very annoying if trying to receive a FLMSG! Now that I see all the injected traffic I missed I'm frustrated. Depends where it came from and when. I actually frustrated myself maybe Saturday afternoon for awhile. I tuned into my longwire antenna and to do that I use AM. Tunes great, but receives nothing until discovered and switched back to USB-D! And no, leaving it in USB-D and using the Tune buttons in the programs does not work well. I also wasn't sure from the get go if we were supposed to inject our own phoney baloney Commstat, so first and only one was all green. My FLMSG traffic of phoney baloney was Saturday night 2100L NET to Alabama.
Also my Squelch for whatever reason just floats up from its setting. It will even shut off on its own, hmmm, that's probably when it floats. So then it's above the signal sometimes and it cuts off some of my FLMSG. We shouldn't have to babysit.
Then I notice NCS in OK was having quite a bugger of a time with his GPS dongle. (off -1800 ms) I jumped to his timing and let him know, but I would think he would see that himself: IDK? I have one for each computer, but don't use them because I'd like to see a white paper on how to set it up. Yup, all the right Linux terminal commands that will make it work in the first place and a kick start command when it doesn't. I am new enough to Linux to have a like/hate relationship with it. Ports and directories mainly; HOW?
We need a comprehensive list of Linux commands that work. Not just this time either, but every time.

While a big fan of VarAC, I did not use it and kept an eye on 1500 for FSQCall users. It was rarely used which is a little disappointing. It has some features that JS8 lacks but it appears to have run its course as a mode except for a niche group of operators. What I wanted to see was reports and summaries at 900 using Cont4/250/MSFK; a control channel at 1500; and SRs at 2000+ with JS8. The 1500 part was totally missing for me, and that is on me for staying off VarAC which might have been used in that role, or not.

Purchased new Xiegu HF radio, portable and mobile multibrand HF antennas, and battery set up intending to use for off grid TREX, but work intervened and I was not able to do so. Next purchases will be for solar equipment so I can do portable and mobile NVIS in addition to VHF, UHF.

Received several duplicates, but better than receiving too few.

I Had problems with Commstat

Not knowing which freq and mode that was being used. 20m fading. I had 2 radios on 2 computers and still could not keep up with it all. 20m beam defiantly out preformed my 20m dipole. The dipole while on Fldigi had trouble pulling in a complete message without many repeats mainly from 6 and 7 zones {band conditions) . I'm in em25, AR

Poor reception. Didn’t get traffic I would have expected. Demonstrates the power of JS8.

I would like to see more relaying of important traffic received by SIGCENs if possible. Not sure how that would work exactly but it seems that the SIGCENs focus heavily on receiving all traffic but don't put as much effort into relaying it back out locally. Maybe that is by design. It is also not lost on me that I have said this from a place of my more or less non-participation in the core team here in my area so take all that info accordingly. This is certainly a personal area of

improvement.
I have also already mentioned my disappointment with 2m simplex comms.

Commstat not working was a bummer. Chaotic pileups during data transfers was disappointing, especially during Flamp fills with impatient stations walking into Flamp fills with 'missing' report requests. This is a chronic bad behavior also seen in weekly AIB broadcasts.

Found out my battery bank needs time off at night to replenish. Maybe I just need a higher amperage battery charger.

JS8call almost continuous slow BS needed filtered out.
Collectors asking for block fills against the flow away from Nat'l instead of towards them. Not satisfied with flmsg files.
No or low commitment people just playing with software toys and radio toys wondering why we don't do it the way they are picturing. Pushing buttons and seeing what happens.

Commstatone was not working properly on my Windows 10 computer even after trying to troubleshoot before the exercise.

Lost my main antenna to Tropical Storm Debby last year and haven't gotten it back up into the air. I strung a homebrew dipole up in the days preceding the exercise to get back on the air, but the initial configuration was subpar. Saturday morning, I relocated and while it helped with receiving, it is only cut for 40M digital frequencies, so transmitting on 80 and 20 meters wasn't successful. I really need to rent a lift so that I can get my main antenna back up into the air.

Had computer problems. Some software problems. Voice always worked on VHF

Stations not putting mode back to Contestia.

First day, lots of tx overlaps while folks trying to relay reports. This got better as the exercise went on.
Once I rebooted, I didn't know how to forward block fills of files closed from previous session. (something for me to figure out). When returning to radio after a break, often found I had been left in MFSK32. No idea on the image transmission stuff.

Commstat worked for outgoing comms but not for incoming.

JS8 operations. JS8 operators transmitting during the FLDigi Nets interfering with receiving traffic on the FLDigi nets.

Large size IES for the scenario that we were simulating in the exercise.
Stations who were chasing traffic like trophies asking for fills interfering with getting a priority directed message relayed to the intended recipient in a timely manner.

Batteries and solar need to be improved. It was overcast for most of the weekend, and solar production did not keep up as it has in the past with full sun. Also, the fact that I couldn't participate on Saturday was a downside for me as well.

ComnStat. It was running great until there was a break in power, the plug accidentally came out of the power source when it was jostled around. This break required a restart of everything, CommStat would not restart because it now had an error related to an invalid maiden grid square. Perhaps, it was in the middle of receiving a CommStat report when the power was interrupted? We were able to replace the traffic.db3 file from the previous version (1.0.5) to get CommStat 2.0 up and running, but it never started receiving reports again.

I was not able to find the voice net on Sat night.

AmRRON members were disappointed they did not reeive traffic on voice simplex. I explained message traffic was too long to send over voice and stressed the need for digital capabilities.

I missed lots of traffic on fldigi passed below 900 Hz. Must have missed a memo on that. Did a WWV check of 1000 Hz tone to verify my audio was right. My fldigi "Sweet Spot" check box for "Always start new modem..." was on initially. That bit me on traffic mode switches. I had figured that was for when I was switching modes, myself, rather than on RsID signals.
The amount of higher tier traffic kept me from sending STATREPs and I didn't request needed fills figuring that I shouldn't interfere.

Because of family emergency I was not able to engage the fictitious communications. My reports reflected reality.

Shorted out my lifepo4 battery charger being an idiot.

- Failure to CHECK ALL CONNECTIONS when operating outside in the dark.
- Lack of proficiency due to being away from equipment & software updates way too long (Use it or Loose it)
- Shortsightedness regarding how much I would rely on gas generator.

On my end, solar failure. It has already been replaced, but failed.

Six AmRRON members simulated a bug-out to my QTH. We had fun working together, and helping folks getting operational on previously unused antennas and software.

QRN (helicopter noise) right on .338, fine either side of it. That was a bummer. 80m at my QTH always has s9 QRN/M, so getting anything further than OK/AL is usually a chore unless the other party is running close to legal limit, always sucks for regional winter voice nets. Had FLRIG/JS8 CAT fail a couple times, misconfiguration, my fault.

My solar battery power did not last as long as I was hoping it would, will look to add more batteries soon.
Also, I did not receive as much of the inject traffic as I thought I would, not sure why that is.

I heard NOTHING on voice. Not even during the scheduled nets as per the SOI. During the scheduled net times, all stations seemed to still be on digital, like there wasn't a net at all. I figured at least a few would have moved over. It would have been nice to have heard some voice.
I also heard nothing on VHF, which isn't weird, but I thought I might pick up something from the areas surrounding me.

This time I tried powering a small A/C unit for my shack using only solar/batteries and an inverter. The A/C unit worked perfectly, even with 107-110 degree temps, but I would have been unable to power the unit and all of my radio gear indefinitely. More testing is needed but I estimate that I could have gone for one week, assuming continued sunny days.
Was not able to participate in all of the 2 m simplex 146.420 because of poor propagation

Stations transmitting FLDigi Statreps in the blind and interfering with other traffic
Regional EXSum not available in FLAMP. Had to convert from FLMsg to relay in poor band conditions and to farther stations.
I was unclear on what messages needed to be relayed to SigCen. Did not know what they had or needed. Would FSQ, vARIM, or VarAC be utilized for comms to SigCen?

The problems that I observed were mostly due to operators who were not familiar with the S.O.I.
Schedule Bravo and Schedule Delta were both announced in traffic.
Several stations interfered with national traffic by doing FLAMP fills.

There should be voice nets at designated times.
There should be clearer instructions.

Once I was trying to get fills on a message being passed by fldigi. I needed fills on the message. I kept asking for fills but was finally told that the message was for sigcen only. That kinda thing will kill any participation with excercises and/or real-deal operations. People shouldnt be shoved aside like they dont matter.

[JJS Note: The above sounds like it was what is called “Directed traffic.” There is “Wide distribution” traffic, intended for everyone, and there is “Directed traffic,” intended for a specific destination or station. Not every piece of traffic is intended to be widely distributed, and the sending station has the responsibility to get it there, or a relay station assisting with getting a message from Point A to Point B. This has previously been highlighted a lot. Station operators who don’t know this and who continuously ask for the message can interfere without even knowing it. A sending or relay station is trained to inform the third party that “this is directed traffic” or that it is intended for a specific station. If this happens, they are not being rude or shoving anyone to the side. They’re simply handling traffic the way they’re supposed to. Others are trained to clear the way when they learn a message is directed traffic and they’re not offended when they learn they are not the intended recipient of traffic being directed to another specific station].

10. Any other questions, comments, unique experiences you want to share with others to encourage them or they can learn from?

Local status should be once per day unless there is an imminent threat . Focus should be forwarding national messages .

Conserve your batteries and ditch vertical antennas. Also you to participate in nets passing traffic so you do not mess it up in real word emergency.

More power is not always better. By keeping power turned down and making contact with optimal stations at optimal times, was able to remain on air full time. Will participate more moving forward in practice nets and other exercises to hone skills.

What’s SIGCEN?

We encountered a real motorcycle club on the road and used it as a talking point for a SALUTE report via sitrep. Congestion prevented sending before ENDEX but great fit into the scenario. We used scanners to capture real world events and discuss potential effects on security posture. Many great comm discussions within group.

Sit back and watch the pros and pay attention. WE-13

Less stressful due to ironing out issues from prior Trex participation. Lots of new call signs seen.

I appreciate the videos before the event! I know they are a bitch to do... But you are good at it! There is soooo much to learn!

People often transmitted, not nothing which mode the station so on freq are using.
Some messages arrived without mode change intro or Txid.

Thanks for letting me be a part of AmRRON.

All in all, it was a positive experience. Lots of waiting, but again that will be real. Commstat decode issues was a problem. Not sure if that was due to operations not completing all the fields, or propagation or congestion on the band.

The frustrated ones probably expected a lot more. I just realize unfortunately that a lot of the real work falls on the NCS, the SIGCEN, and moving traffic and correlating it. We don't see that side of it, and you don't see our side of it which a lot of it is the ol "hurry up and wait". I mean the injection list really tells the story. I received 1, yup 1! No pictures! Yet comparing my Commstat Map picture to Indiana and California, I have a more full map than they do. So what would be interesting to me is who the heck really did receive injected traffic and how did it get to National? I really want that picture. Because obviously I didn't see any relaying of all those injected messages either. So without relaying how did National get them? I would have thought at those Schedule B NETS there would have been a list of "T" traffic put out that had been received and then asking for those that don't match. Not necessary? They got to where they needed to go by magic? Then I think exercise. Would it be more fulfilling for the rest of us out here if we had the injection list? Now it's up to us to find it, by relaying and asking through JS8CALL messages who's got it. Can we find the missing information? Once we find the holders of the keys to the kingdom, they have to transmit them to us to complete the story. Anyway a little sidetracked there. Must be pretty good sweet tea or heat stroke. On another side bar, I'm thinking if/when SHTF that people here are going to realize the frequencies we operate on are not ours. The FCC does not delegate them to AmRRON. Where are we really going to find each other and how? The up 3k down 3k etc? There could be a lot of different kinds of noise up to including jamming. Maybe it's chaos drill time. How do we find NCS as they are QSYing all over the place to find a clear frequency.

OK, the picture tx freaked me out a little. I did a quick check of the laptop and there was this pic of a drone. How cool is that! EZ small file transfers among members might be a worthy goal, since if anything does kick off, I am not going to look up the correct syntax for naming a file....AND what a great piece of code for reading messages using flmsgviewer. Wow. Easy to check if a file is authenticated (received no authenticated traffic during T-Rex) and just a super nice and easy message viewer. Many thanks to all who put in hours of work pulling this exercise together. We will rise to the level of our training if anything comes our way. Great effort by true patriots. God Bless and 73

The new videos Amrron released in the weeks leading up to TREX were great! Highly encourage those new to comms to learn about HF radio, digital comms in particular, and the value of the "persistent presence" network.

This is my 3rd TREX, participating as a non-official station, only providing eyewitness reports from my local community. I learned that it wasn't necessary for me to leave the HF rig in receive mode 100% of the time because almost everything that arrived via HF also arrived via local VHF BBS. In future, I will turn off HF overnight to save battery, and collect messages arriving overnight from the BBS.

Prep ahead. I learned my propane generator was INOP. Sent for repair prior to exercise.

I know there is a lot of talk RE JS8 and SNRs. I didn't feel that the SNRs them selves were an issue. I did see issues with folks not using slow mode and stepping on others signals. I saw several message go out prior to kick off asking folks to use slow mode to make room on the WF. During the event itself I put out a reminder twice, and some did actually switch modes so that is positive, but some still didn't. Perhaps just a training issue.
Also I saw a couple of folks running js8 down the WF in the VARA area and was able to get them to adjust, so again positive on that and could be improved with training and practice.

My biggest pet peeve is 2 or 3 different people making copies of an Flmsg they received and putting out a Flamp message with a different queue number, all of the same message. Another problem was people with poor reception, just kept asking for blocks to be repeated, over and over, and taking time on the main frequency, when the sender and receiver, could have moved off the main frequency and asked for the blocks to be repeated until they got them all.

Re: Off grid power. My radios are setup in my shop building which is fully solar powered but is tied to the grid which is the mode I was in during the exercise. If power goes down, it switches to off-grid mode automatically. Also, have a

physical switch which allows me to cut off the grid power when I want to be disconnected (such as during a powerful solar storm).

After not hearing a thing last year on Fldigi, it was so much better to listen this year. I had issues with my programs on the Windows 10 computer, so I had both desktop HF radios (the other with Linux) on receive when I could much of the time. Thanks for conducting this exercise, I had fun and learned a lot. I wish I knew if my Statreps got heard from someone out there.

This exercise, like all of the others, was a lot of fun. It showed me deficiencies in my processes and equipment, now I just need to implement changes.

Thanks for what you do ! Eastern SIGCEN rules!

Sent six Commstat STATREPs but did not receive a single one. Only displayed my Call.
(AmRRON Staff response: This is usually caused by one of two reasons: 1) incomplete data on received Commstat, or 2) **Most likely** not configured correctly. In Commstat File>Settings>Reporting tab, ensure API box is checked – check mark box – to “Allow setting station information – and the ‘Enable UDP Server API’ and the ‘Accept UDP Requests’ boxes are checked.)

Discovered I needed to disable my "Sweet Spot" in FLDIGI

Pay attention to the traffic being sent. Not all traffic is intended for you unless you are able to relay to intended recipient do not ask for block fills or resend on directed traffic.
JS8 operators should not transmit during the FLDigi nets and stay within the JS8 operating window.

Once a year or twice a month participating in a national net is not enough practice. Should be regularly participating on regional nets

Need to come up with an SOP for Varac. would like to use it, just don't have much practice with it. Also noticed someone who moved off 1500 but was in the JS8Call lane using vara of some kind. Didn't seem to affect js8call, but it could have been a problem for some people.

Loved the encouraging SitRep from the AL station, relayed by another station, with a message based on Psalm 46.

Always figure that Murphy will join the party. My primary laptop ran amok early on and I had to switch to a backup, which didn't have updated forms and GPG signatures. That led to some stepping and fetching off-grid from a USB backup.

Locally, we need more digital support, instruction and practice.

A T-REX ‘recap’ breakfast today with the neighborhood group driving home our ‘to do’ list before the next exercise.

I think you have a great system and I have already gotten other people to join for next year. I was surprised that everyone was not using the newest forms. It did get fixed over time.

Maybe look at a Winter T-Rex a year is a long time to wait. Thanks again!

TREX-2025 is, or was supposed to be far more than a ComEx. We didn't quite have the participation level to implement Mutual Assistance Group divisions of labor. We were still too focused on individual comms skills. (That said, there were significant improvements made in Comms Skills)... The rest was more of a bunch of individuals camping in the same location rather than a team effort. For example, One Comms station with rotating duty-shifts for comms, perimeter security, implementation of Listening and Observation Posts, KP, and Sanitation, and medical. Briefings on received intelligence and local developments... There is so much more we could have done.

A couple members of our group suffered fatigue and discomforts associated with age or fitness conditions. This was actually quite perfect because such issue can and will be part of the TEOTWAWKI reality. We won't all be fit 20 or 30 something young adults. There will be children, elderly, and the infirm, not to mention injuries and illnesses that will develop.
Thank you JJ, and the AmRRON Corps for putting on this exercise joined I'm by so many nation wide. I'll close my remarks by quoting Matthew 24: 44-46
44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.
45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?
46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing

Everyone did extremely well, proud to be an AmRRON member. The organization and professionalism and proficiency of everyone involved was impressive. Keep it up!

Statreps - I see some people send just numbers, (some send straight 1s, some send 2s, & 3s), and some send comments about fictional events. Are you supposed to make them up if you want? I couldn't find any direction in that regard.
Almost everyone on JS8Call seemed to beaconing within the same minute, did I miss something?

I know this is an off-grid exercise, but is there a chat? I heard you folks might use Telegram? I would have been helpful to communicate with others during the Ex, but maybe that isn't in the spirit of the Ex.
[JJS note: All grid-up comms stops once the exercise begins. The Telegram channel is actually shut off. You can read previous posts that were posted up until Friday, 16:00Z, but unable to post any content after that. Just like real world. We have communications channels all year long to help folks]

FLDigi, which I monitored 24/7 along with JS8Call, offered me nothing. I think I got one partial decode the entire ex. It's ancient, convoluted and outdated, I think it needs to be dumped. VARAC, which I saw was an option on the survey, but was not aware was being used, is way better - I think it would serve us far better. Regardless, having multiple different programs, even though I could monitor more than one at a time, seems unnecessarily complex and kinds scatters everyone to the wind.

I appreciate JJS' instructional videos, when I have to start writing Python script, I am out. Commstat sounds great, but there has to be a better way to use it than the multi-step, overly complicated way that exists now.

Unfortunately, I am away from my station and just wanted to get this survey complete before the deadline, but I had issues with the SOI - there were some poorly worded/ vague / unclear and needlessly confusing things I can across. One I can think of is the Emergency nets are called Emergency Nets in one spot and Operational nets in another. I would be happy to provide what I found at a later date.
I noticed a better lead up this year, there actually was WIWT News in the week prior, and JJS' videos were good, but it would nice for buy-in if there was more. This is a nitpicky and almost dumb point, but it would be fun.
Thank you again, this was a great experience.

Day 1 National IES was received well in AZ but the Day 2 National ExSum was not heard. Too many SNRs on JS8Call. I set mine to not auto-reply, but many others did not and probably missed out on STATREPs. If everyone turned off auto-respond, it would negate many of the best features of JS8. Ops need to knock off the constant SNRs and HBs. This also continues to happen during scheduled nets. Many ops need to learn about brevity. Several pieces of traffic were written like news reports rather than radio traffic. Though improved from previous exercises, I would like to see more use made of the BBS. Several Ops spent far too much time and energy chasing block fills when the full traffic was available for download from the BBS.
Outstanding exercise! My compliments to the developers and all the key players!

In Commstat: 60 Commstat Statreps
- 64 Stations on 40m JS8Call

- 40 Stations on 80m JS8Call
- 32 Stations on 20m JS8Call
- 16 Statreps on FLDigi
- 12 Files downloaded from the BBS
- Participated in Regional Voice and Digital Nets
- Station ran on Battery/Solar (normal routine)

This was my first T-Rex and I learned a lot about my capabilities. I was unable to pull the breaker on the house this year (my wife said no), so hopefully next year. Looking to run multiple stations next year to cover more modes and bands. The weekly practice on our regional nets made it an overall good experience.

Two recommendations:
1. Use the T-REX exercise as an opportunity to review the S.O.I. before the exercise begins.
2. Be sure to watch JJS videos leading up to the exercise.

Should go back to having voice and digital nets on a regular schedule such as with regional schedule.

[JJS Note: We do have voice and digital nets on a regular basis. However, there is a gap in voice net coverage due to lack of NCSs. We need voice NCSs in particular. If this is something that is of interest to you, please contact us and we'll get you trained and plugged in.]