

EmComm Report

It's May already! The opportunities for EmComm exercises are closing out for Phoenix, but if you check the MCECG website (<https://www.mcecg.net/guest/>) you will see a couple opportunities in the cooler climates. The Aug 5th Flag2GC mountain bike ride has all the hams they need for support. The Sep 9th Mogollon Monster near Pine AZ will be looking for about 38 hams to support this event. It is a 36-hour event so needs lots of Hams to cover the entire schedule. Registration is not yet open for the Mogollon Monster, but you may want to pencil it into your calendar. You'll also see more local opportunities for November and beyond on the event schedule.

In other EmComm news, I have been in contact with Avondale EOC (Emergency Operation Center) for future opportunities for our club. They will be looking for 8-12 volunteers. The volunteers will require background checks, training but then they will have opportunities to use the EOC for ham radio contests, special event support and EOC exercises. This is an exciting opportunity for our club! Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming year. Feel free to contact me and express your interest. I've also been in contact with the Maricopa County Emergency Management for future club participation in the next Palo Verde Drill. Both opportunities are in the early planning stages.

The final item I want to share with you is the Hamshack Hotline. This is a free VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) system that is used to communicate with other Hams on the system (it has no access to the "normal" phone network"). You need to purchase a phone for the system; check to see which phones are supported. Many of these phones can be purchased for \$15 (used) or you can spend a little more. I chose to spend a little more on a Bluetooth system that I can connect to my mobile phone to for making and receiving calls. There are conference lines that you can just hang out on for possible contact and there are audio-only links where you can practice listening to morse code or listen to some interesting broadcasts. For more information go to: <https://hamshackhotline.com/> or stop by the West Valley Ham Shack (<https://www.westvalleyhamshack.com/>) – we have one setup and ready for demo. The screenshot below shows some of the local users of the system.

