



'The Rag'

**COARECT'S Online Monthly Newsletter
September 2026**

Emailed to all COARECT members monthly and available on the COARECT.com website.

SEPTEMBER'S GENERAL MEETING



COARECT'S General Meeting took place on September 5th, Labor Day weekend. A topic of great interest focused on a proposal from Walker Range Fire Protection Services to create a COARECT Type 3 fire communications team. Wildfires are rated in size from Type 5 to Type 1, with Type 5 the smallest and Type 1 the largest. Each type of fire has a different level of support and logistics. A Type 3 fire is the first level of fire requiring interagency fire fighting teams and these teams must be able to communicate with each other.

Interagency fire fighting teams had a problem cloning or synchronizing their radios to the same frequencies at a recent Type 3 fire in Oregon. Teams fighting fires must be able to communicate during these dangerous conditions. The longer it takes to get communications synchronized the more the fire grows.

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Here is some of the information that we currently know about this proposal:

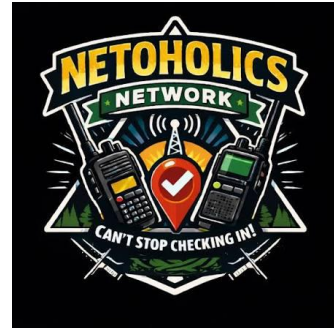
- COARECT'S primary function would be to clone or synchronize the radios in a Type 3 fire situation.
- When COARECT is contacted to help on a Type 3 fire, a team of 2 COARECT members will move the MICU to a designated site and prepare to clone, synchronize radios and provide communication support as needed for firefighting teams.
- COARECT Type 3 Comms teams will transition from COARECT volunteer status to paid status. In addition, COARECT will receive a daily fee when the MICU is deployed for emergency communications in a Type 3 fire.
- Walker Range and other firefighting communications experts will train and certify COARECT'S Type 3 Comms team members.
- Walker Range and COARECT will enter into a memorandum of understanding that defines the requirements and responsibilities of all parties involved in forming a Type 3 fire communications team.
- COARECT will need to make sure that the MICU meets the Oregon Department of Forestry Inventory Requirements for a mobile communications unit. We currently have most of the inventory items in the MICU.
- COARECT members who want to become a Type 3 Comms team member must make a commitment to the training. In addition, Type 3 Comms members must be ready to deploy at a moment's notice, when possible.
- The COARECT team at September's general meeting voted to move forward with this proposal.

COARECT'S Board of Directors will continue to share information and updates as this process moves forward. Please forward any questions or concerns to Mike, KK7NBQ or Cliff, WB7PSE. Do not contact Walker Range directly.

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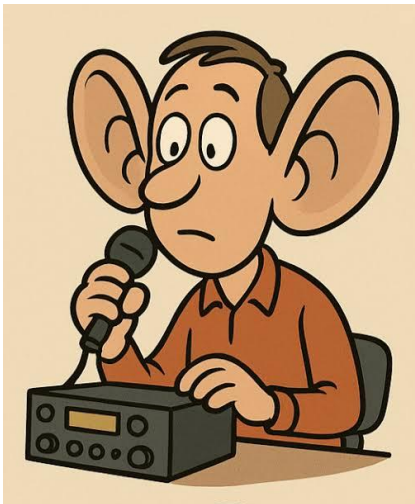
NET CONTROLLER TRAINING

A net controller training class will take place on Friday, September 11th from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM at the La Pine Library Community Room. The class is for all COARECT members and will cover information related to COARECT radio operations involved in Rag Chews and various Radio Nets. Please bring pencil/pen and paper to the meeting. Training certificates will be given out to all participants, including those on Zoom. We hope to see all COARECT members at the class even if you are not a net controller. Please contact Beverly, N6DFW, with questions or concerns.



KEEP YOUR EARS TUNED TO THE RADIO

Keep your ears tuned to your radios when storms or potential hazardous situations



are predicted in our part of Central Oregon. It is a good idea to disconnect your antennas and radios when severe lightning storms are predicted. Reconnect them as soon as the lightning ceases. The COARECT emergency team will always try to make announcements concerning the team on the Walker Mtn. repeater. Remember, the Spring River repeater is the default backup repeater if something happens to the Walker Mtn. repeater. Ask for a radio check if you are not hearing radio communications on the repeater you are using.

Remember, **GO TO YOUR RADIO IF YOU HEAR OF AN EMERGENCY.**

SURPLUS HAM EQUIPMENT AT HiDarg



HiDarg, our fellow ham radio team in Bend, wants to clean out their ham equipment conex Saturday, September 12th. Some items will be for sale and or given away to hams who want them. Stay tuned to the Rag Chews this week for location and times.

FIRE OR EMERGENCIES MAY CHANGE PLANNED EVENTS

Planned events could be cancelled or postponed due to wildfires or emergencies in our area. The COARECT emergency team will try to get the word out, as soon as possible, concerning changes to scheduled events. Always check the COARECT website, radio, email, text or Pushover notifications for changes to scheduled events.



COARECT TEAM ACTIVATION DRILL

There will potentially be a COARECT TEAM ACTIVATION DRILL taking place sometime in September. Specifics will not be communicated ahead of time, just like specifics surrounding emergencies. You never know when an emergency is going to



"My team likes to see me spring into action."

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happen. This drill is to evaluate our ability to bring the team together should an emergency happen. Stay tuned!

ARE YOU REALLY READY FOR AN EMERGENCY?

We continue to beat the drum about being prepared. This summer may be the test that shows you if you are ready. Mid-State Electric may need to shut down the main power lines coming into La Pine. Customers have been notified that the power supply could be shut down to prevent forest fires during extreme fire danger situations. ARE YOU READY? Our concern is NOT how the Team is going to respond to an emergency; it is how are you going to respond personally.

First step, forget about COARECT and Walker Range preparation. Just make sure you are ready at home.

There is no way you can help COARECT or Walker Range if you aren't prepared at home.

If the power goes out, will you be able to get gas for your vehicles? Will you be able to get money out of the ATM machine or buy groceries? Think about what conditions will be like if the power goes out and be prepared.

