

HSØZHM, Monitoring the 2011 GERC W6C Covina Christmas Parade Net

On Sunday, 5 Dec, 0415 local Thai Time (04 Dec, 2115 UTC; 04 Dec, 1315 PST), we made initial contact with Mark, N7YLA from the GERC W6C Net Control Station at the Covina Christmas Parade.

By prior arrangement, the RTC-TH EchoLink® “Link” station (node 520300) agreed to monitor the GERC parade Net simplex transmissions to the GERC EchoLink® “Link” Gateway (node 358124). The main purpose of the monitoring was to see the performance of the remote simplex communications between the Covina Parade Net control, the GERC hams, and the EchoLink® Gateway. (See attachments



Greg, HSØZHM, in Thailand monitoring W6C Net Control



GERC W6C Net Control Station courtesy of Jim (KG6TQT)

showing the geography of this arrangement.) This would be an empirical assessment of the performance of GERC remote access to the Gateway from various locations in the San Gabriel Valley. A secondary purpose was for HSØZHM to practice monitoring “on air” directed Net Control operations.

The terrain profile of between the N7YLA EchoLink® “Link” Gateway and the W6C Net Control station site in Covina revealed no major terrain obstructions. The LOS (line-of-sight) distance was 2.78 miles. The Covina site was about 90 m lower than the GERC Gateway site.

The monitoring took place for the duration of the W6C operations. Particular attention was

paid to the periodic Roll Calls to see if it was possible to pick up GERC hams using HTs (Handi Talkies or handheld VHF radios) in an urban setting.

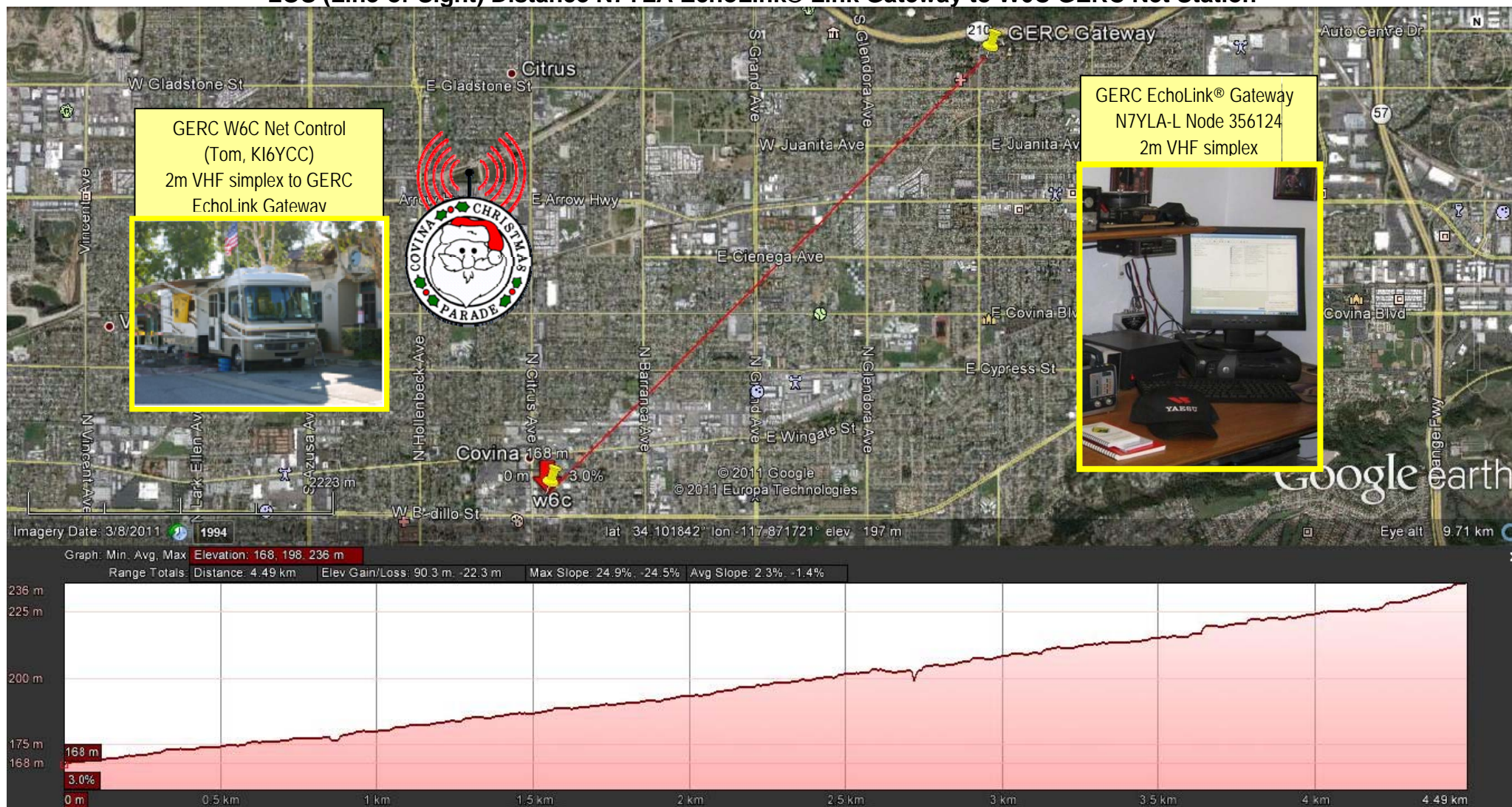
Monitoring Results:

Radio Transmissions: Transmissions from W6U Net Control Operator Tom (K16YCC) were very clear (RST 5-9) which is pretty much standard between the RTC-TH and GERC gateway stations. This indicated that the GERC W6C Net Control station had a good signal to the GERC EchoLink® Gateway (and the Internet connection to the RTC-TH EchoLink® Link station was stable).

Transmissions from the various GERC hams on the street were disappointing. We were able to hear only Station 1 RST 3-3. Almost all other stations were RST 1-1. This was probably due to HT radios, power settings, antennas, and signal attenuation due to buildings. These results strongly suggest GERC hams using HTs should consider keeping a supplementary external antenna for EmComm use when operating in the field away from their base stations.

Net Control Operations: I was able to hear W6C Net Control Operator Tom, K16YCC clearly. This meant only hearing ½ of the conversations going on. However, Tom followed the GERC Net protocol for this event every well. He spoke clearly and maintained calm, clear, courteous, effective communications through the event. I wasn’t able to detect if any reports coming to him were of an urgent nature. Tom’s transmissions were calm, brief, and to the point. Most of his transmissions in response to incoming calls ended with a polite “Thanks for the information.” Tom conformed to the required practice of properly identifying the event call sign and his personal call sign periodically.

LOS (Line-of-Sight) Distance N7YLA EchoLink® Link Gateway to W6C GERC Net Station



W6C GERC Parade Net Station: ~168m amsl; LOS 4.48 km / 2.78 mi at an azimuth of 45.11° TN to the GERC N7YLA EchoLink® Link Gateway with no major terrain obstruction.

RTC-TH GERC-AI / W6C 2011 GERC EchoLink® System



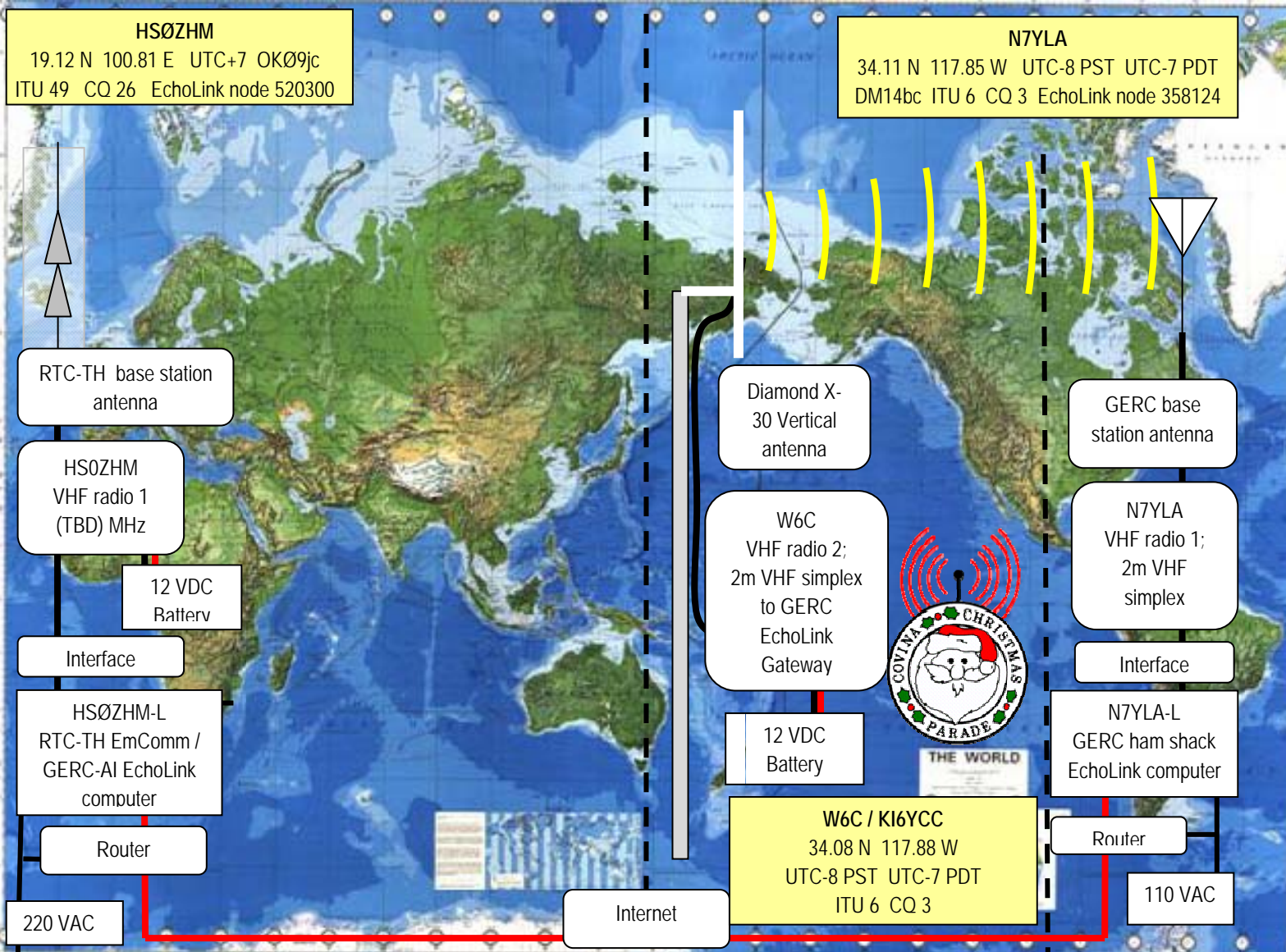
Rural Training
Center-Thailand



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and Sustain Our
Community



Greg
HSØZHM
(KI6GIG)



Glendora Emergency
Response
Communications



*Ham radio may not
change the world,
but it will change
the way that you
hear it.*



Mark, N7YLA



Tom, KI6YCC

The RTC-TH EmComm EchoLink® Link node is on a computer. The GERC W6C Net field EchoLink® radio connects by simplex to the GERC EchoLink® gateway.