

ROSS Partner Conference Call Notes July 18, 2002

Participants:

ROSS Team: Nancy DeLong, Rod Chaffee, Mary Ann Szymoniak and Andy Gray.

ROSS Partners: Ray Nelson, Wendy Dougherty, Karen Feary, Larry Barr, etc.

Other: Debbie Bozarth (RMACC ROSS Administrator).

Business Community Update -
(Neal Hitchcock was unable to participate)

Implementation and Project Update - Nancy DeLong

- ◆ With last night's ROSS update there are two more reports.
- ◆ New training materials available on ROSS Instructor website:
 - Outline version (which several instructors have asked for)
 - Text version (which includes everything) – can be printed for a reference
- ◆ Met with IQCS Project Team – good information sharing between groups
- ◆ SACS-IQCS import currently being tested. Jon says it should work well.

Comment (Ray Nelson):

Looked at the “Available National Resource Status Summary By Subordinate Dispatch Centers” and the “Resource Status Detail by Catalog Item” reports. The formats of these reports are fine, but the information shown on each doesn't quite match so I think they might not be working correctly.

Nancy: please write this up in an e-mail so we can look into this and see what's going on.

Comment (Ray Nelson and Wendy Dougherty):

The Status report (“Available National Resource Status Summary By Subordinate Dispatch Centers”) is great for the GACC, but it needs to show the resources' home units in order to be useful to dispatch centers. Also need ability to sort several more ways – like you could using the web-based Brio report. **Note: in conversations with Ray following the call, it appeared that what would meet his users' needs best would be a similar report but sorted by Home Unit instead of (or in addition to) Subordinate Dispatch Centers. Ray also said the resource name (e.g. person's name if a DIVS shows available) needs to be available via the report. Rod Chaffee will work with Ray to document and develop more useful report formats.**

Rod: Report showing available resources and their home units is coming soon.

Nancy: Rochelle (Lockheed-Martin) says they're working on giving users the ability to sort several more ways when doing reports. **Note: following the call, we ran the “Resource Status Summary by Dispatch Center Provider” report, which sorts all resources by Dispatch Center and then by the Provider. ROSS users are encouraged to try these reports and give the Team feedback on their usefulness to you.**

Comment (Ray Nelson):

We're glad to be trying the reports, but what we're getting is not quite effective for us yet. Also, we're getting busy with fires, so we've got less time to work on this now.

Comment (Wendy Dougherty):

I've been working on a couple of Windows 98 PCs in my office to get them to where they'll run reports. The Helpdesk people have been terrific, but I just don't have the time to work on the reports now, so I'll probably wait until the PCs are replaced by Windows 2000's in September and hopefully the reports will be more useful by then, too.

Nancy: If you could use a person to help you get your PCs set up so you can run reports now, let me know.

Question (Andy Gray):

What has the postponement of ROSS courses because of fire activity done to the implementation schedule?

Nancy:

- ◆ No sessions scheduled until November, however Brian Lee called today and the Southwest Area is interested in scheduling courses soon. **Note: also, the Southern Area might have a coach's training session in September.**
- ◆ Rob Juhola working with all the Geographic Areas on reschedule dates.
- ◆ Travel restrictions within the Forest Service are another factor for rescheduling.
- ◆ Instructors are at a premium. If you can teach in other areas, let me know.
- ◆ Full nationwide implementation of ROSS will probably not be complete until 2004. **Note: as mentioned previously, each Geographic Area will decide when they are ready to implement.**

Question (Ray Nelson):

Training is one aspect of implementation. What is the progress on the application (i.e. incident project order numbering)?

Rod: Version 1.2.5 will have that change work done – around November release.

Infrastructure Update –

(Steve Simon was unable to join us, but there's not much to report on infrastructure).

Business Team Update – Rod Chaffee:

- ◆ A couple of reports were in the new release last night, and more are coming – including versions of existing reports showing resources' home units.
- ◆ We're writing the requirements documentation for work on the next change request items that will be worked on:
 - Prepositioning
 - Support Requests, etc.
- ◆ Steve Tarver is working w/ L-M on schedule for testing version 1.2.4, which will be a performance upgrade.
- ◆ We're working on ROSS version release schedule.

ROSS Partner Update – Andy Gray:

- ◆ With Dave Hendren's move to NICC, Rick Dupuis is working on signing up two more Alaska ROSS Partners.

- ◆ Most Partners are busy now doing their real jobs – sending folks to fires, etc.
- ◆ We're interested in ideas on how to get more Partners involved as coaches and trainers. Please call or e-mail me any ideas or suggestions.

Comment (Ray Nelson):

Partner participation in the ROSS training in the Northern Rockies was good, but our confidence in our ability to teach others on the product is not that high. We need to build our proficiency and confidence. A more refined product and more practice will help.

Comment (Karen Feary):

I went to coach training, but I've been so busy with fires since then I'm forgetting some of what I learned.

Nancy DeLong: We are looking at doing refresher courses after the initial training for that very reason.

Rocky Mountain Update - Debbie Bozarth:

- ◆ We have some of the same concerns about the existing reports as Ray.
- ◆ Hardly any resources have been available – which makes status easier to do.
- ◆ Will be glad when reports are reworked and reformatted (e.g. list available overhead by mnemonic, not spelled out in a paragraph).
- ◆ Installed the latest fix for report writer on a Windows 95 PC and it works.
- ◆ All RMA dispatch centers were using ROSS Resource Status and reports. Version 1.2.3 has knocked two of them out until they can install the fix.
- ◆ It looks like the training might have been held too early, but we're plugging along.

Question (Debbie Bozarth):

I'm looking forward to using the roster (for Teams, Crews etc.). When will that function be available?

Rod: it should be available in v 1.2.4. **Note: "roster" will actually be released in version 1.2.5 around November.**

Next call:

Thursday August 15 at 1000AK/1100P/1200M/1300C/1400E. Same number and pass code.

Note: the following message from Jon was forwarded to the Partners earlier today:

Neal: Thought I would write you a quick note to pass on to the Coordinators and the general Dispatch Community that Web Status is up and running and available for use. This is a GREAT tool that will quickly reduce the statusing workload (on a dispatch office) for overhead and vendors. We have posted the instructions for configuration and use on our helpdesk website. To download the instructions, click here: [ROSS Web Status Instructions](#). If you have any questions, you may contact the [ROSS Help Desk](#).

Jon