

ROSS Partner Conference Call Notes September 19, 2002

Participants:

ROSS Team: Jon Skeels, Nancy DeLong, Rod Chaffee, Sue Roussopoulos, Carolyn Rutledge, Mary Ann Syzmoniak and Andy Gray.

ROSS Partners: Larry Elder, Brian Lee, Tony Diaz, Kathy Wiegard, Cherie Ausgotharp, Karen Feary, Kit Kemsley, Blanche France, Jennifer Trudeau, Lindsey Lien, Phil Cardin, Dave Quinn, Flint Cheney, Deanna Olson, Laura McIntyre-Kelly etc.

Others: Corey Doolin, Annie Burns, Dave Boyd, Rick Black, Susie Stingley, Ed Duncan, Gina Paski, Ruta Glinski, etc.

Business Community Update -
(Neal was unable to participate on the conference call)

Project Update – Jon Skeels

- ◆ Thanks for joining us today.
- ◆ Final testing on Version 1.2.4 began September 3; finish on September 20
 - Deployment scheduled for September 26
 - Users will see a significant performance improvement
 - Tests completed will be used as a baseline to compare future testing with.
- ◆ ROSS Dispatch training resumes October 7 with a session in the Southwest Area
- ◆ All qualifications system (Red Card, SACS-IQCS and IQS) import routines are operational
 - Current problem with SACS: if you import more than one unit's data, ROSS deletes the previous unit's data. We're working on this, but you can contact the ROSS Helpdesk for a workaround (**1-866-224-7677**).
- ◆ Web status now being used by 600 to 800 people per day (**Note: Instructions are on the web at http://64.208.210.210/ross_docs/statusing_resources.pdf**)
 - Developing a workaround for a problem, discovered by Phil Cardin, concerning vendors having resources dispatched by different dispatch centers

- ◆ Over 200 dispatch centers now using ROSS for resource status
- ◆ Over 200 ROSS users working with the Dispatch function on ROSS Practice
- ◆ ROSS "Supply Module" coming out next year
 - **In the meantime, please don't enter supplies in ROSS.**
 - Continue to enter crews, overhead, aircraft and equipment.
- ◆ ROSS Tip #12 and #13, covering vendor-owned resources and contracts, are on the web (click on "ROSS Tips & Tricks" on the ROSS homepage: <http://ross.nwccg.gov>).
- ◆ More reports being released in v 1.2.4

- ◆ Looking into a multiple application data warehouse. Would allow more robust "ad hoc" reporting and reporting using products other than Brio.
- ◆ Procuring the fourth run of servers for ROSS
- ◆ Upcoming meetings:
 - California agencies – week of October 21 in Reno
 - National Coordinators – week of December 10 in San Antonio

Implementation Update - Nancy Delong

- ◆ **Instructors and Coaches: please don't change any data on the ROSS Training database!**
- ◆ The Practice database is up and available
- ◆ Both of these databases will be down on 9/20 (moving to a different server) and on 9/30 (so we can put on the new version)
- ◆ Need all the help we can get from trainers to put on sessions across the U.S.
- ◆ Planning ROSS Dispatch refresher courses in Great Basin, NICC, Northern Rockies and Rocky Mountain Areas:
 - Larry Elder will discuss with Ray Nelson for Northern Rockies
 - Kathy Wiegard and Cherie Ausgotharp will discuss for Great Basin
 - Flint Cheney will discuss with the Rocky Mountain folks for RM.

- ◆ User Guide is on the web – now in multiple sections.
 - ◆ Being updated a piece at a time as necessary
 - ◆ Feedback on the Guide is always welcome
- ◆ Jerry Clements working on PowerPoint training aid and other media for new ROSS features
- ◆ ROSS Dispatch Instructor/Coach training begins October 7 in Phoenix, AZ.
 - ◆ Brian Lee: looking at help from Steve Tarver and Shep Crim
 - ◆ 17 to 20 people signed up
 - ◆ First week's schedule: Tuesday at 0800 to Friday at 1700
 - ◆ Will get info from Beth GreyCloud on amount of time needed for practice session during second week
- ◆ ROSS Dispatch Instructor/Coach training begins October 28 in the Portland, OR with 20-22 students.

Question (Phil Cardin): How much time will we need for the second week of our session? Nancy: Each session is different. Number of students is big factor. Minimum: 3 days.

- ◆ Phil will work with Rob Juhola on scheduling ROSS Dispatch student sessions in the Northwest.
- ◆ Ruta Glinski: doing initial planning for January training session in Eastern Area. Neal Hitchcock will contact Eastern Area Coordinating Group about this.

Infrastructure Update –

(Steve Simon was unable to participate on the conference call)

Business Team Update - Rod Chaffee

- ◆ Began testing v 1.2.4 on September 3
- ◆ Four SMEs (Subject Matter Experts) doing regression testing (making sure all previous functions work on new version) – it's going well
- ◆ You should really see some good performance improvement when v 1.2.4 is released on September 26
- ◆ Testers working on business requirements for v 1.2.5 (e.g. rosters, trouble reports, etc.)

Comment (Jon Skeels): A roster is basically a manifest, and this was available in initial versions of ROSS. We felt that it could do a lot more. For example, you could build a roster for an engine, a strike team or task force, or an NFES kit. If a strike team includes engines, personnel and some supply kits, the status of all of these items would change

when you changed the status of the strike team. Another example is that you can designate team primary and alternate members when an updated roster function is released in v 1.2.5.

- ◆ Version 1.2.5: better prepositioning of resources and some other problems will be solved.
- ◆ Version 2.0: will improve the sorting feature.

ROSS Partner Update – Andy Gray:

- ◆ I've extended these monthly calls for six more months (third Thursdays).
- ◆ Next Call: October 17 with the same numbers and times.

Question: What's the status of the "Organization Entry" ROSS Tips that are being updated? Jon: these new ROSS Tips have been posted on the web:

- #3 – Organization Entry
- #4 – Entering Forest Service Organizations
- #5 – Entering National Park Service Organizations

The ROSS Tips on County and City, State, FWS and BIA organizations are being reviewed and finalized. Walt Embree: "Jerry Clements, Dennis Derr and I are working on the County and City, and State tips." **Note: since the call, Tip #7 – "Entering State Organizations" has been posted on the web.**

Final comments – Jon Skeels

- ◆ When it comes to incident numbering and request numbering, there's a lot less uniformity among dispatchers than most people think. An information paper will be developed to explain upcoming changes to how ROSS handles numbering (effective: version 1.2.5).