



RADIO-ACTIVE!

April 18, 2022, Volume 1, Issue 1



ARES Meeting Redesign...

Some members have expressed a desire to redesign the monthly ARES to be shorter and more engaging. At the last ARES business meeting a proposal was discussed. One key item identified as important was that the Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AECs) should continue to share information and activities related to their section but most communications can be done in a written format. Hence, the birth of the Radio-Active! newsletter. Does that mean discussion or questions can not occur in the monthly meeting related to something in this newsletter? No, any member can ask a clarifying question and are encouraged during the meeting.

The monthly ARES meeting will be shortened to one hour and more heavily focused on training and guest presentations. It will retain a few of the usual AECs topics— New member introductions, Promotion of upcoming events, Safety bulletins, Focused training and Recruitment of control operators for the weekly nets.

We will continue to meet over zoom for the time being. Is the re-design already set? No, ARES members will be receiving a survey after the April meeting to solicit additional thoughts and improvements.



Who do you recognize in this picture? Check pg 4

DEC speak

John / N6QX, our District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) provides an update about the County-owned COM2 van. The COM2 van is potentially available for ARES use if the Santa Cruz County OR3 (Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience) can find funding for its estimated \$3,000 annual maintenance and upkeep costs.



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Upcoming events

- **May 15, 2022:**
Strawberry Fields Forever Bike Ride. Great event for new operators. Look for sign-up soon
- **June 22—29, 2022:**
Perimeter patrol for the Active Shooter Training for First Responders. Great inter-agency activity using MURS radio. Look for sign-up in May.



Christian / A3CT Net Control

Events Save the Dates

- Monday, July 4, 2022: Aptos Parade Crowd Monitoring
- Saturday, July 9, 2022: Fireworks Horse Endurance Ride
- Saturday, July 23, 2022: Mountain Challenge Bike Race
- September 14—18, 2022: Santa Cruz County Fair
- Sunday, September 25, 2022: Santa Cruz Triathlon

Santa Cruz County ARES Represents



Gary / K6PDL and John / N6QX receive shift briefing at Sea Otter Classic

The first two weeks of April had some of our ARES members putting their radio skills to good use for events outside of the county.

The Baker to Vegas (B2V) law enforcement foot race was April 9th and 10th. The charity race covers over 120 miles starting in Baker, California and ending in Las Vegas. It takes over 650 radio volunteers to support the event. *Bob / KO6XX and Dan / N6RJX* completed a late night shift along with the support staff of *Kathy / KE6VTY* and *Liz / W6LTS*.

The Sea Otter Classic in Monterey County was a four day festival (April 6—10) featuring mountain bike, road and gravel racing for all ages and levels of riders on all types of bikes including adaptive, tandem, and e-bikes. Radio operators were positioned by roadways or trails throughout the former Fort Ord and Carmel Valley as organized by the San Benito County Amateur Radio Club. Some volunteers included (but not limited to) *John / N6QX*, *Gary / K6GMG*, *Alex / AJ6QY*, *John / Ns6K*, *Christian / AC3T*, and *Gary / K6PDL*.



Dan/N6RJX and Bob/KO6XX at B2V

Attend May's ARES meeting to hear from Tim Takeuchi on what it takes to organize communications for a large scale event.

Test your knowledge

Who is responsible for ensuring that no person is exposed to RF energy above the FCC exposure limits?

- A. The FCC
- B. The station licensee
- C. Anyone who is near an antenna
- D. The local zoning board

Verify your answer on pg 4

Reminders

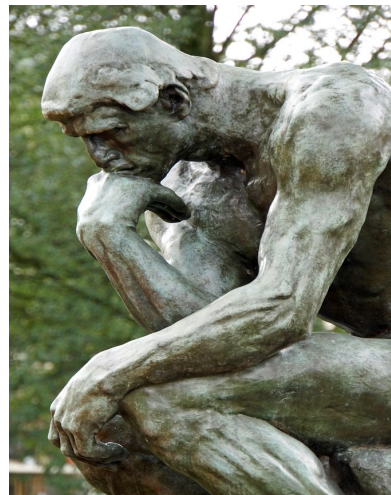
- Submit your photographs to Photographer Lisa/KN6IAB, KN6IAB@slvares.org and PIO Allison/KM6RMN, KM6RMN@slvares.org
- Net Control sign-ups will be taken during the monthly meeting. Everyone is encouraged to take this on this role.

EC Bob's Thoughts

As you can see, we are trying a new format for the monthly meeting, and this Newsletter. Thanks to everyone contributing! In respect for everyone's time, we want to see how this works. This also allows us to read what is going on with our wonderful group at our own leisure, when we have the time. Your thoughts are very important to all of us, so please let us know how you are feeling about this format after this Wednesday's meeting. You can email me if you would like to share.

I want to thank all of you for your participation in ARES!! All of you are wonderful in sharing part of your time to keep our group going. Does not matter if it is 2 minutes a month to more, your participation is greatly appreciated. I am so blessed to be in our group, THANK YOU!!

We have some fun events coming up which I myself enjoy participating in. Some of my favorites are: Race Through The Redwoods (when they have it), Strawberry Fields, Santa Cruz Triathlon, Mountain Challenge, Fireworks 50, Aptos Parade, and demonstrations among just a few. Makes me feel good inside that I am contributing to our communities, I acid test my new and old equipment systems, meet new people who are like minded about our communities, make new friends, reconnect with old friends, keeps my



muscle memory training up. Many more facets to this, but just to mention a few. I always encourage everyone to join me.

I have successfully built the Signalink alternative DRA-50 modem board, and have also designed a 3D printed case for it. Check DRA-50 modem board out at <https://www.masterscommunications.com/products/radio-adapter/dra/dra50.html>

The case in my opinion is beautiful. Ultimately, I will be marrying a Raspberry Pi to the DRA-50, and then to a Baofeng UV-82 HT radio. I have all the pieces parts. Will let ya all know when it is all put together and working.

Also, still working on a headset adapter for the Yaesu FT-60. Will be for a standard analog gaming headset with two 3.5mm audio jacks. More on this later.

This is all I can remember for now. Hope to see you at the new meeting!

73,
Bob / KO6XX



Updated EOC email address

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) email we use to submit our DSW paperwork and documents has been changed to:

EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us.

Please update any information you have stored for this email.

Hours Corner

March was another impressive month with **1040** hours submitted by ARES members. Please submit the hours that you have spent in all types of ham radio activities for the month by the first week of the following month. Please use the form which can be found on the X CZcomm.com website under Forms.



It's a Party!

GOTA, Sophie, Fun games and prizes

When: Sunday May 1, 2022, Noon - 3pm (though nobody is going to kick us out if you wanna keep the party going longer)

Where: Woodhouse Brewing, 119 Madrone St, Santa Cruz

Who: All ARES members, potential ARES members (aka friends), significant others, canines, and children are welcome

Cost: Admission is FREE! (Food/drinks are pay as you go)

RSVPs are not required but we would like an approximate headcount for the venue. You can RSVP at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45ADA62FA7F4C61-ares1>

Please note that the ARES COVID policy is still in effect, you must be fully vaccinated to attend this event.

Thank you to our party planning crew—Karen / KM6SV, Lisa / KN6IAB, Roxy / KN6MLM and Nana / KT6G

Resources

- Website: <https://xczcomm.com/>
- Reporting volunteer hours: <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/hours-reporting/>
- Upcoming events: <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/calendar-of-events/>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ARES-of-Santa-Cruz-County-Ca-296232310799866>
- Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/431308973875528>
- PIO Articles: <https://arri.santaclaravalley.org/news/> or <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/news/>
- X CZ Comm You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHZH8TUSgh4SqHTPXSwoLPA>
- Submitting deployment documents: send in PDF form to EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us and your appropriate EC (Bob: KO6XX@slvares.org or Mike: ac6e@hotmail.com)
- Submitting personal information such as DSW application, personal data update, education certificates: email K6PDL@ARRL.net, KM6SV@SLVARES.org, and EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us,

Org. Positions

- DEC
John / N6QX, jgerhardt@gmail.com
- Assistant DEC
Gary / K6PDL, K6PDL@arrl.net
- Assistant DEC and Deputy EC
Karen / KM6SV, KM6SV@slvares.org
- Operations and Events
Dan / N6RJJ, N6RJJ@slvares.org
- Webmaster
Nate / KM6THA, KM6THA@gmail.com
- Administration
Dawn / KM6RME, KM6RME@slvares.org
- Safety Officer
Stephen / KM6NEP, KM6NEP@slvares.org
- Public Information officer
Allison / KM6RMN, KM6RMN@slvares.org
- Net Manager
Roberta / AJ6KN, AJ6KN@slvares.org
- EC Loma Prieta
Mike / AC6E, ac6e@hotmail.com
- EC Coastal and SLV
Bob / KO6XX, KO6XX@slvares.org
- AEC-Antenna Specialist
Neil / KN6JOI, KN6JOI@slvares.org
- AEC-CERT Liaison
Liz / W6LTS, W6LTS@slvares.org
- AEC-Coastal
Patrick / W6AJR, pathung@gmail.com
- AEC-Education Coordinator
Bill / AJ6CQ, wtyler@gmail.com
- AEC-Logistics
Mikail / KK6NNB, KK6NNB@slvares.org
- AEC- Meeting Trainer
Jim / N6EWP, N6EWP@arrl.net
- AEC-MRC Liaison
John / KN6DCA, drjohnrx54@gmail.com
- AEC-Net Trainer
Kathy / KE6VTY, KE6VTY@slvares.org
- AEC-New Member Liaison
Alex / AJ6QY, AJ6QY@slvares.org
- AEC-Packet Radio /Digital
Sebastian / KK6FBF, Sebastian@steinhauer.info
Ryan / KI6UAP, KI6UAP@gmail.com
- AEC-Photographer
Lisa / KN6IAB, KN6IAB@slvares.org
- AEC-Scribe
JoMarie / KM6URE, KM6URE@slvares.org
- AEC-SLV Safety Officer
Tom / KK6NMZ, KK6NMZ@slvares.org
- AEC-SLVEN Liaison
vacant
- AEC-Video Production Team
vacant

ARES at Bonny Doon Strong Fair

On Sunday, March 27th ARES (with Sophie) was one of the groups present at the Bonny Doon Strong Fair. Other groups represented included Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Firewise, Neighborhood radio group and Santa Cruz Communications Support. Many attended despite the chilly, and damp weather. Lots of information sharing and seeing our friends.



Moving into the Digital Era

Over 20 operators attended the 4-week online Winlink class that began February 28. It was coordinated by *Bill / AJ6CQ* and instruction provided by *Roberta / AJ6KN* and *Sebastian / KK6FBF* though many elmers supported the program. There was an overview and setup of Winlink and the use of the various modes such as Telnet and Packet. The operators had tasks to complete and many were successful in achieving the tasks. There were some challenges for those that use the MAC comput-

er platforms. There was a fantastic amount of collaboration and learning by all. Everyone was encouraged to participate in Winlink Nets to gain proficiency. Those still needing can reach out to elmers or Sebastian / KK6FBF.

A proposed set of standard operating procedures for digital deployment are under construction (these will include notes on setting up a digital station, checking in online, operating a digital station, how to handle exceptions, shutting down).



- Computer running Windows
- Windows Laptop
 - Mini PC w/ windows
 - Mac with VM or dual boot



- Very lightweight TNC alternative
- TNC functionality is provided via software while SignLink USB provides PTT/VOX and soundcard features



Your VHF/UHF radio (technically HF works too..)

Santa Cruz County ARES Purpose

- We serve the public, not our egos and the best service we can render in a truly major event. To provide and distribute a corps of trained operators into the right places of the scene in that first, critical 48 hours (sometimes weeks).
- We are not Fire personnel, Police Officers, Sheriff's Officers, or any other authority. We are volunteers who care about our communities by using our emergency communication skills.
- Before volunteering we first take care of ourselves, immediate family, friends, and some of our relatives.
- We value the contributions that everyone makes, irrespective of license class, years of experience, or the price tag of your radio.

Ham Radio's Motto

"When all else fails – ham radio works". That is because, when all the normal communication systems stop working, Ham Radio is still in operation, helping people, conveying messages, and sometimes, even saving lives.

Collaboration at its finest

On April 3rd was a County-wide Communications Exercise. This was an attempt at bringing all the county MURS users and the supporting ham operators together to practice the organization of communicating what could be vital information from the "boots on the ground", in a coordinated and efficient manner, to an ARES net. MURS users include the multiple teams of the Santa Cruz County Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Firewise neighborhoods and many other neighborhood radio communication groups.

Leading organizer, Dawn / KM6RME has been active ever since the CZU Fire organizing Bonny Doon neighborhoods in radio communications using the MURS. Bonny Doon has always had challenges with communications but the CZU Fire exacerbated the issues. There has been renewed interest in having alternative, redundant methods of communications. In

the past year, many of the neighborhood groups have been practicing almost weekly their radio skills. It was now time to explore the next step and move out of the individual neighborhoods and integrate with other groups and agencies.

The Communications exercise was very successful and it identified some improvements needed. There were some challenges reaching the selected repeaters by some groups, intermittent transmissions by persons not part of the exercise, and multiple teams using the same frequency causing some interference.

ARES nets were supported by *Debra / KM6HGI*, *Gary / W6GMG* and *Christian / AC3T*. All three operators received great kudos on their performance.

