



RADIO-ACTIVE!

June 13, 2022, Volume 1, Issue 3

Volunteers urgently needed!



A few CERT and ARES participants of the 2021 event

Do you want to build interagency comradery? Do you want to be pampered and receive lots of snacks and water? Do you want to practice on the radio?

Once again ARES and CERT have been requested to assist at the **Active Shooter & Casualty Response Training event** sponsored by the UCSC Police Department. *Current events show the importance of this critical training. Show your support of local professional responders as they learn and practice their roles in active shooter response.*

Our purpose will be to monitor the perimeter and parking areas of the training site, redirecting unauthorized pedestrian and vehicle traffic entering the area, and communicating potential suspicious activity or other issues.

Radio communications will be via MURS. If you don't have a MURS radio one will be provided for the exercise.

- WHO: ARES and CERTs with a current DSW identification badge (see article page 5 on how to get a DSW badge)
- WHERE: Scotts Valley High School, 555 Glenwood Dr, Scotts Valley
- DATE: June 21 – June 29 (No June 26th)
- TIME: 3 shifts each day – 07:45am-11:00am, 10:45am-2pm, and 1:30pm-6pm. You may sign up for multiple shifts for this event including, on the same day.

We currently only have 50% of the slots filled and 8 days to go. Please assist as you can.

Sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45ADA62FA7F4C61-perimeter>



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Upcoming events

Monday, July 4, 2022: Aptos Parade Crowd Monitoring. Sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da9a822a4f4ce9-aptos>

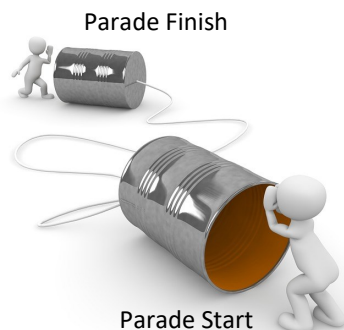
Events Save the Dates

- June 25 11am —26 11am, 2022: Field Day in Bonny Doon (see page for more details)
- Saturday, July 23, 2022: Mountain Challenge Bike Race
- September 14—18, 2022: Santa Cruz County Fair
- Sunday, September 25, 2022:

Equipment available to loan

Go Pro Hero cameras and supporting accessories to enable event participants to record content all of which can be edited to a viewable video. Contact Neil, KN6JOI at KN6JOI@slvares.org.

Roberta's Net Tips



Thanks to Alex, AJ6QY and John, N6SK for a couple of great tactical call sign exercises during the nets this past week! This is great practice for upcoming events – and I thought I would share a few helpful tips that will hopefully come in handy when you are working the parade or other events this season.

► Always say the OTHER party's tactical call sign first – if your tactical call

sign is Parade Start, and you are calling Parade Finish, it would be "Parade Finish . . . Parade Start". To call net control, it's "Net Control . . . Parade Start".

- WAIT for the other party to acknowledge that they heard you before passing your traffic.
- Always ACKNOWLEDGE that you got the message before passing it on so that the person giving it knows it got through
- Keep your traffic as short as possible, (think before you speak) and pass it in small bits – like message passing – 5 words at a time or so, speaking slowly and clearly.
- Only repeat what is asked for IF it is asked for, to save air time. No need to repeat the entire message for one word.
- When you are finished going back and forth, **always end with your FCC Call sign.**

Here is a helpful site for those who may not have worked events or need a refreshed on tactical call signs and tactical nets. <https://www.hamradioschool.com/post/tactical-nets>

I look forward to seeing you at the events! Roberta, AJ6KN – Santa Cruz County ARES Net Manager.



*Patrick W6AJR at the 2021 4th of July Parade in Aptos
Boy look at those gas prices!*

Test your knowledge

(question/s come from one of the Ham radio class exams; answers on page 8)

1. What is meant by the term "mode" as applied to an amateur radio satellite?
 - A. Whether the satellite is in a low earth or geostationary orbit
 - B. The satellite's uplink and downlink frequency bands
 - C. The satellite's orientation with respect to the Earth
 - D. Whether the satellite is in a polar or equatorial

Safety Bulletin

As we transition from spring into summer and have warmer weather, it is suggested to stock some extra water in your go-bags.

Getting to know the Loma Prieta chapter of Santa Cruz County ARES

In October of 1989 a massive earthquake jolted central California with the epicenter close to Aptos in the Santa Cruz mountains. Although much damage and a few deaths occurred near the underground rupture, most damage and deaths was elsewhere. Loma Prieta is the most prominent physical feature in the Santa Cruz Mountains that ring Monterey Bay, running in a general north-south direction. The Loma Prieta Amateur Radio Club (LPARC) was formed after that terrible shake, partly, because the need for reliable communication became clear when public utilities ceased to function. Several local "hams" used their expertise to sow the seeds that would lead to the formation of LPARC, as it is now known. Eleven years after the earthquake that spawned the radio club, most of the original members were still active and meet regularly to hone their communicative skills and keep abreast of new equipment and techniques. The drive that keeps interest alive is the fact that we live in an area that is prone to disaster -- that we have survived several of nature's onslaughts and that we vow that we will be better prepared to communicate than we have been in the past. Because of this dedication there is a local Loma Prieta chapter of ARES. The LPARC ARES and Club NET is conducted each Tuesday at 7:15PM on the KC6TYG repeater, 440.650 with a PL of 94.8 Hz with a positive offset. Lets show our support and join on the nets.



Golden Eagle Training and Exercise

The Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative, a consortium of local governments and agencies, held their annual exercise Thursday, May 19. Santa Cruz County police, transit managers, and OR3 and UCSC emergency managers participated in a Bay Area disaster exercise which simulated a devastating earthquake. Many simulation updates came via

ARES members in the field who received phone calls from exercise managers with new information which they relayed via radio to W6XCZ, the ham station at the county Emergency Operations Center. ARES staff at the EOC also simulated the dispatch of hams to points in the county lacking communications. During the hot wash after the exercise, several public safety managers complimented ARES staff for their effectiveness. Participating from the field were *Bert KG6MBA*, *John NS6K*, *Roberta AJ6KN*, and *Dan N6RJX*. *Karen KM6SV*, *Gary K6PDL*, and *Stephen KM6NEP*, will be at the EOC.



AEC-Education Coordinator, Bill AJ6CQ, (wtyler@gmail.com) is looking for volunteers for conducting ARES education/training sessions. Last December we put out a survey asking about topics of interest.

Some of the top items were centered around field stations: how to set up, what's needed, antenna deployment, power, etc. If anyone is interested in offering some training in this general area, Bill is delighted to coordinate the effort.

Another topic of interest was how to manually program an HT. This becomes important in the event that frequencies and/or repeaters not in our regular ARES list are needed during an incident or event. Perhaps someone can volunteer to do a short course on this, using several of the more popular HTs. In particular the Baofeng/Btech HTs have a notoriously obscure programming system compared with the higher-end units.

In a more ambitious vein, exercises such as the PSPS exercises we've run in the past were a key topic of interest. If people are interested in setting up a simulated event of some kind, please let me know. Such events take a lot of planning, and would be a job for multiple volunteers.

If you have any other ideas for training that you'd like to offer, please

On the Radio

Bob Fike was interviewed on Tina Davey's mid-day news and events show on KBCZ community radio on May 24th. Tina and Bob engaged in lively conversation about San Lorenzo Valley/Santa Cruz ARES activities. KBCZ is at 89.3 FM on the radio dial. It is live-streamed at KBCZ.org.

You can hear Bob's interview here: <https://www.mixcloud.com/KBCZ/ares-interview-with-bob-fike/>

Helping out where we can

Many of our ARES members have been helping out with some clean up work occurring at the K6BJ repeater site. Thank you for all your time.



Upcoming class

Cross Band Repeaters, Monday August 8th provided by Dan, N6RJX. More details when we are closer to the date.

Crossband Repeating is a process where a Ham transmits one signal on one band (typically UHF), and it is received by another radio with a better antenna/power installation, and re-transmitted (typically on VHF) to another radio system, or a repeater.

A brief introduction will be provided at the upcoming meeting on Wednesday, June 15th.

Better inclusion suggestion

Most of us have referred to a group as 'Guys'. When referring to a group of mixed gender people, it is suggested to use an alternative such as 'Folks', 'Amateurs', 'hams', 'Y'all', 'We'. Each one of us may need a gentle reminder periodically as we transition.

Photo reminders

Next time you participate in a radio related activity, take a picture or two of yourself, your friends, your equipment, or your environment (preferably a combination of these factors) and send it to KM6RMN@SLVARES.org and KN6IAB@SLVARES.org.

With your permission, Allison will use the material to make creative Facebook posts. Extra points for natural action poses, equipment still-life, or well-framed presentations. Even a funny or awkward moment is useful. If your shots involve other people, try to get permission or identifying information so Allison can make sure it is all right to use their appearance in her posts.



New to ARES and need to get your DSW badge

Some of the ARES activities will be limited to those with a current DSW (Disaster Service Worker) badge issued by Santa Cruz County. This may include formal activations for disaster/emergency response and certain events.

The Cal Office of Emergency Services (<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/administrative-services/disaster-service-worker-volunteer-program>) explains:

“The Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program (DSWVP) was created as the result of legislation to provide workers’ compensation benefits to registered Disaster Service Worker (DSW) volunteers who are injured while participating in authorized disaster-related activities, including pre-approved training. Disaster service, as defined for the Program, is designed to aid in the response and recovery phases in a disaster or emergency. It does not include the day-to-day emergency response activities typically associated with, for example, law enforcement, fire services or emergency medical services. The Program also provides limited immunity from liability.”

There are four levels for the badge—Basic, Level I, Level II and Level III. The levels are dependent on your level of proficiency and experience. There maybe some activities where the Badge level will be important. For example, to work in a government building a Level II or higher badge is required.



The Basic level is accomplished by completing the DSW application but is only to be used as a temporary stop gap while you work on the Level I or greater requirements. The application can be found on the website, <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/dsw/>, and returning to the emails identified and requesting an appointment for photo and swearing in.

Level I simply requires a few more hours of work by participating in 3 ARES Nets, 1 ARES event and completion of the 2-hour online course FEMA IS-100.C, Introduction to the Incident Command System (<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c>). The incident command system is the structure most first responder organizations work under.

We look forward to this accomplishment for you.

POTA and GOTA —what do they mean?

POTA is the acronym for Parks On The Air. It is an international program for portable amateur radio operations that promote emergency awareness and communications from national/federal and state/provincial level parks.

It is program you must register for and follow their Code of Conduct. Website: <https://parksontheair.com/> and their rules are here: <https://parksontheair.com/rules/>.

GOTA stands for Get On The Air. It is an opportunity for any Technician licensees, newly licensed amateurs, other generally inactive licensees, and non-licensed persons to experience first-hand the fun of amateur radio by allowing them to get on the air.

There are also SOTA, Summits On The Air, IOTA, Islands On The Air, and BOTA, Beaches On The Air. These are more for contesting and operation challenges from various locations.

Reminders

- ▶ AECs submit articles for newsletter by the Sunday before the meeting to KM6URE@slvares.org
- ▶ Net Control sign-ups will be taken during the monthly meeting. Everyone is encouraged to take this on this role.



Calling all party planners

If anyone is interested in helping plan the next party in October please contact Lisa at KN6IAB@slvares.org



WB6ECE Update

After Dan N6RJX retrieved the radio parts last month, the WB6ECE repeater group have been building cables. Testing will occur in the next two weeks.

Disclaimers

This newsletter is made of news items provided by many of the Leadership and AECs of the ARES membership. Clarifications can be asked at the monthly ARES meeting.

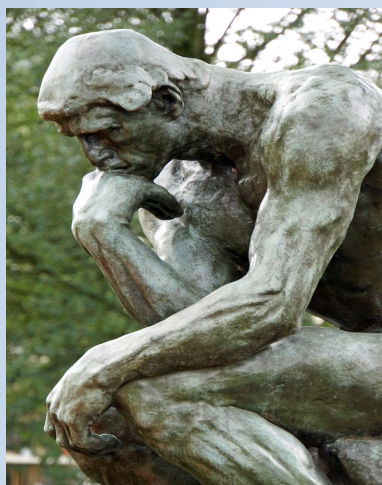
EC Bob's Thoughts

Hi everyone!

I want to thank you all for your volunteering in our communities and ARES.

We have a lot of things going on this summer. Lots of our wonderful friends who are planning and being active. Just a few of the things we are working on:

- ▶ The improvement of the W6JWS repeater. This continues, and we will get this complete.
- ▶ Our ARES instructors have started working on what teaching tools will be used for the next Technician class as the question pool changes July 1. There are 51 new questions and 62 questions were eliminated.
- ▶ Planning and coordinating with our summer time events are in the works.
- ▶ We are having great coordination with our county Sheriff's office. This is wonderful.



- ▶ Others are working on our digital infrastructure.

- ▶ Much, much more in the works.

As always, please have fun, and in our busy lives please take care of yourself first. Jump in and help when you can. We appreciate you and very happy you are with us.

I am incredibly blessed to be part of our group.

73, de Bob KO6XX

2022 ARRL Field Day

The year's **Field Day** is hosted this year at the **Bonny Doon Airfield, 8647 Empire Grade, Bonny Doon CA 95060**. The Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club & San Lorenzo Valley Amateur Radio Club are co-hosting the event and the public is welcome. The airport owners (Rafael Ortiz and Lisa Allen Ortiz) are also honored to give back to the emergency communications organizations and want ARES to visit. The airport provides the lifeline to emergency responders during emergencies and is live for emergency vehicles and helicopters/ planes.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45A4AB2AAAF8C52-2022>

Date: June 25th at 11a.m. through June 26th 11a.m. PST.

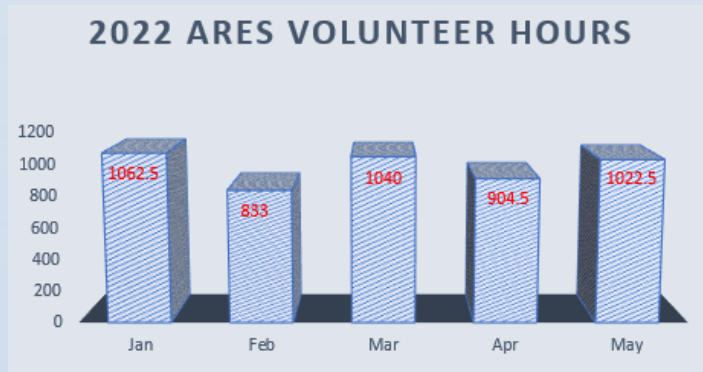
Stations to check out: **SATELLITE** , **MESSAGE PASSING** / **WINLINK** , **PHONE** , **DIGITAL** , **CW** / **Morse Code** , **GOTA** (see GOTA explanation on page 5)

FOR ARES MEMBERS ONLY

John KJ6ZL is offering a clinic on how to operate and make contacts via **Satellite Friday, June 24th between 3pm - 8pm** . If you are interested, please contact Roxy KN6MLM at nitrosquirrel@gmail.com and include in the subject line: ARES SAT Clinic, state your call/name and time of arrival. (This is separate from the Sign Up Genius.)

Hours Corner

Amazing job fellow hams. 1022.5 total volunteer hours just in the month of May! There are more activities coming up so the numbers should get even higher. Keep up all the great work and thank you. Please remember to enter your hours on the form on <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/hours-reporting/>



OR3 Staff Attrition

The two county staff members we work most closely with at the Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience (OR3), which operates the Emergency Operations Center (EOC,) left their positions at the end of April. David Reid, the OR3 Director, is covering and hopes to have one new hire in place by end of June.

SHARES Grant Award

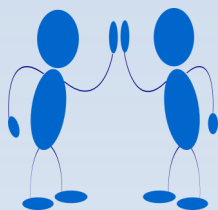
The Santa Cruz County EOC has received a \$59,000 grant from the California Office of Emergency Services for HF radio equipment. Most of the funds will go to purchase equipment supporting the Department of Defense's non-ham SHARES HF radio system, but \$12,000 is allocated for additional HF ham gear. Some of this money will be reserved for mitigation of interference to ham operation which we fear we'll get from the new weather radar system going on the roof of the EOC.



COM2 Van Update

Still awaiting OR3 agreement to fund routine maintenance.

New Safety Vests coming your way



Santa Cruz Communications Support (www.santacruzcs.org) is the nonprofit 501c3 agency supporting the trained volunteers Santa Cruz County depends on to supplement public safety communications during emergencies and large events. The agency is supporting ARES by providing a standardized new safety vest to each of the members. The vest has the ARRL logo on the front, 'Santa Cruz

Amateur Radio' on the back and lots of pockets. Distribution of the vests will be at events as the order arrives. *Thank you* Santa Cruz Communications Support!

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/>
- XCZ 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)
- 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, jfgerhardt@gmail.com
- Assistant DEC
Gary / K6PDL, K6PDL@arri.net
- Assistant DEC and Deputy EC
Karen / KM6SV, KM6SV@slvares.org
- Operations and Events
Dan / N6RJX, N6RJX@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
vacant
- 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
vacant
- AEC-Education Coordinator
Bill / AJ6CQ, wtyler@gmail.com
- AEC-Logistics
{temp vacant}
- AEC- Meeting Trainer
Jim / N6EWP, N6EWP@arri.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

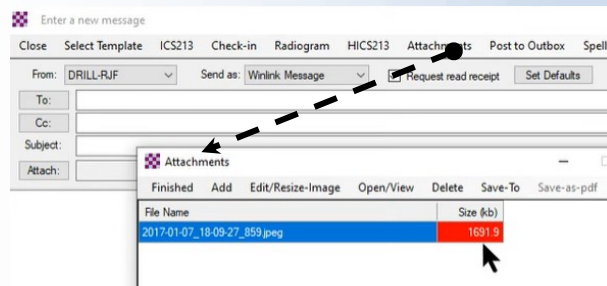
ASK AN ELMER

?

A picture is a 1000 words...

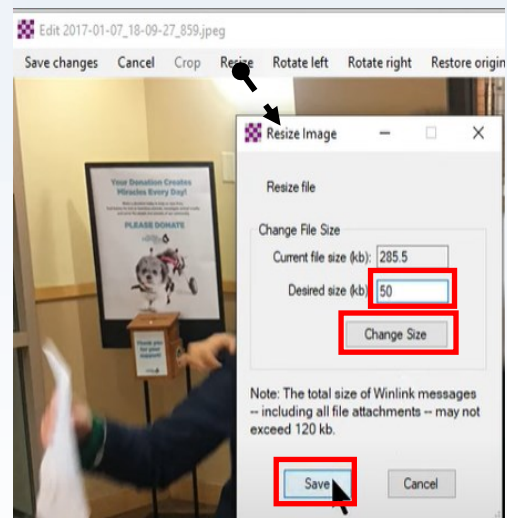
Winlink Skill: Sending an image

While working with Winlink during an event, a disaster, or an emergency, you may be asked to send an image. Images are often used for reporting damage assessment, for maps, facilities identification and many other purposes. When transmitting an image, it's important to resize it to a manageable file size, without destroying its content or making it unreadable.



Steps:

- Acquire image to computer and save in location.
- Open Winlink Express
- Click Message
- Click Attachments
- Click Add
- Navigate to stored location of image and select image. Note the Size will display red if image outside of acceptable limit of 120 kb.
- Click Edit/Resize Image
- Click Crop (if desired) to remove sections of the image not relevant (Caution not to remove too much of image to change meaning)
- Click Resize
- Enter size in Desired size field.
- Click Change Size
- Click Save
- Click Save Changes. Note Size should no longer be displaying red.
- Proceed with Select Template and finalizing message and send.



Test your knowledge from page 3 Answers: Question 1—The correct answer is B. The satellite's uplink and downlink frequency bands

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.

Who is looking at us?

As you may be aware, ARES has a YouTube Channel, XCZ Comm. The site is a valuable resource to the group and shares our content worldwide 24/7. Neil KN6JOI reports the following analytics of viewing of our channel.



Last 28 days — 610 views

► Top Content

1. DIY Instructions Dual Band 2m 70cm Vertical Ground Plane Antenna; 298 views
2. End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) 10-15-20-40 meter Antenna; 203 views
3. DIY Dual Band 2m 70cm J Pole :Roll up: Retail Kit Build; 57 views
4. Amateur Radio Technician Class License Course Class 1 of 6: 21 views
5. DIY Build Instructions Tiger Tail Counterpoise Antenna; 15 views
6. DIY Build Instructions RF Antenna Dummy Load: 4 views

► Traffic source

1. Browse Features; 61.3%
2. You Tube search; 19.7%
3. Suggested videos; 10.5%

Last 365 days

► Top Content

1. DIY Instructions Dual Band 2m 70cm Vertical Ground Plane Antenna; 8,096 views
2. End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) 10-15-20-40 meter Antenna; 5,051 views
3. DIY Dual Band 2m 70cm J Pole :Roll up: Retail Kit Build; 2,306 views
4. Amateur Radio Technician Class License Course Class 1 of 6: 1,132 views

5. DIY Build Instructions Tiger Tail Counterpoise Antenna; 526 views
6. DIY Build Instructions RF Antenna Dummy Load: 166 views
7. Winlink Email for Hams 1Q2022; 110 views
8. Amateur Radio Technician Class License Course Class 4 of 6: 101 views

► Traffic source

1. Browse Features; 2,058 @ 42.0%
2. You Tube search; 1,416 @ 29.7%
3. Suggested videos; 633 @ 13.3%
4. External 205 @ 4.9%
5. Channel pages 159 @ 3.3%

There maybe additional opportunities that our group can share event activities and a 'travelogue' style at supported events such as background, preparation, day of the event, opportunities, and simply sharing problems and how those problems were solved.

Here are a few thoughts personally suggested by Neil (may not be popular)

1. SC Communications Event Travelodge; max 8 minutes
2. Radio Chat; What is Cross Band Repeat, Tone, Upper, Lower??
3. What is a Go Bag, What do you really need to take. BTW links can be added to the video for the item discussed.
4. Channel Housekeeping—keep it fresh and relevant