



RADIO-ACTIVE!

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Deployment Preparation

Before emergencies or disasters happen, it is important to be prepared. One aspect of emergency preparedness is to have your needed supplies already together in a bag of sorts (Go Bag) and kept in a readily accessible location for use in an emergency evacuation. Literature has suggested the supplies be the items you must have to survive three to seven days.



Some have created modular systems such as one bag for food and general supplies and one for personal. Also one may consider having multiple go bags in multiple locations based where you spend the most time—one for your house, one for your car and one for work. It is a personal preference and they do require some maintenance. It is not helpful to have expired food, clothes that no longer fit or dead batteries.

As being a part of ARES it is suggested also to have a go bag ready with your radio equipment and supplies if you plan to participate in deployments. Radio go bag/s already prepared allows you to respond more quickly during an activation. You may have a basic bag prepared and it be modified depending on the what the deployment entails. Here are a few questions to think about when preparing for a deployment and modifying your go-bag/s:

1. Is the deployment location indoors or outdoors?
2. If outdoors, can you use your car or are you needed to be in a remote location?
3. Is there power at the location and what type?
4. What other types of additional communications (i.e. cellphone, internet) are available at the location?
5. Are there bathrooms available at the location?

The Santa Cruz County ARES go bag checklist can be found here: <http://63.249.81.58/plesk-site-preview/xczcomm.com/https/63.249.81.58/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/PSPS-Go-Kit.pdf>. The list shows those that are required, recommended and optional and does include some non-radio equipment and supplies. It is understood that if someone is new to ARES, the go bag may take time to develop. Just do not forget to put it on a routine maintenance schedule—at a minimum once every three months is suggested.

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Equipment available to loan

Santa Cruz Communications Support have two kits available for loaning to allow ham operators participate in a deployment when they have limited equipment. One kit is for a vehicle deployment and includes Mobile dual-band radio Icom IC-2730, mag mount antenna, battery and kneeboard. The other kit is for stationary outdoor deployments and includes the vehicle kit with additional supplies of a tripod antenna, lighting, and pop-up.

Volunteer / Training Opportunities

Here are some volunteer opportunities for the next four months.

- ▶ April 20-23: Sea Otter Classic, Monterey
- ▶ April 29: CERT/ARES/Firewise Countywide Exercise
- ▶ April 30: Big Sur Marathon, Monterey
- ▶ May 18: Bay Area UASI Golden Eagle Exercise
- ▶ May 21: Strawberry Fields Forever Bicycle Ride
- ▶ July 4: Aptos Parade
- ▶ July 10-15: Active Shooter First Responder Training, SLV School campus
- ▶ July 23: Santa Cruz Wharf-to-Wharf
- ▶ July 29: Santa Cruz Mountain Challenge Bike Ride
- ▶ August 12-13: AUXCOMM Training (see next page for details)
- ▶ August 20: Race Through the Redwoods foot race in Felton

Look for emails for sign-ups and additional details for each of these events.

VOLUNTEER





AUXCOMM Training Details

- ▶ **When:** August 12 & 13, Time TBA (20 hours of instruction)
- ▶ **Where:** Santa Cruz County EOC, 5200 Soquel Ave, 2nd Floor
- ▶ **Please fill out this form:** <https://forms.gle/4AFZsNn2mU9u3hgS6>
- ▶ **Submit IS certificates to** kk6zcu@gmail.com and EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us



Education opportunity Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) Training

The Department of Homeland Security National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant program adopted AUXCOMM for all auxiliary emergency/public service communications within most states. AUXCOMM encompasses amateur radio, RACES, CERT Team communications, citizens band, and other non-public safety communications services.

While AUXCOMM stands for Auxiliary Communications, it is considered a Primary Emergency Communications asset and is overseen by qualified amateur radio personnel. Some state AUXCOMMs are tasked with establishing county AUXCOMM units led by appointed and qualified volunteer AUXCOMM Coordinators. The AUXCOMM program can replace RACES and the ARES programs within a state.

The SF Bay Area Auxiliary Communications Group has arranged an AUXCOMM training locally at no cost to the students. *Santa Cruz operators will be given priority and remaining seats filled with other county until 25 students.* Register early!

Offering Overview:

This class is designed for auxiliary communicators and groups who volunteer to provide backup radio communications support to public safety agencies. Typically, this includes amateur radio and Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team (REACT) communicators and other types of volunteer communicators.

This course focuses on auxiliary communications interoperability, the relationship between the COML and the volunteer, emergency operations center (EOC) etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations, auxiliary communications training and planning, and emergency communications deployment. It is intended to supplement and standardize an operator's experience and knowledge of emergency amateur radio communications in a public safety context.

Prerequisites for attendance are:

- ▶ Completion of [IS-100.b](#), [IS-200.b](#), [IS-700.a](#), and [IS-800.b](#) prior to the workshop **Email copy of Certificates to EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us**
- ▶ An active FCC amateur radio license (Novice, Technician, General, Advanced and Extra)
- ▶ Past experience in auxiliary communications
- ▶ An Affiliation with a Public Safety Agency (Santa Cruz County OR³)
- ▶ A desire to work with COMLs in a NIMS/ICS environment

Hours Corner

In February operators logged 842.5 volunteer hours. Keep up all the great work and thank you for volunteering. Those who enter hours are eligible for the month drawing of a fabulous prize. Please remember to enter your hours on the form on <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/hours-reporting/>

And the winner is...

We collect volunteer hours from our membership for the following reasons:

- ▶ On-going training by ARES volunteers demonstrates to county public safety managers that our members will be ready when called upon.
- ▶ Some state and federal grants require matching funds from local government. Documented volunteer hours may fulfill this requirement.
- ▶ We track member participation as a measure of ARES readiness.

Any hours one spends operating or upgrading their station counts, as does participation in our meetings, nets, exercises, and deployments.

The winner of the monthly drawing has a choice from these fine prizes:

- ▶ Weller WLC-100 solder station. Used, in good condition.
- ▶ Anderson PowerPole 4-way power splitter.
- ▶ Duracell DURA12-10F2 10 amp-hour AGM rechargeable battery
- ▶ BTech NA-771 dual band whip antenna
- ▶ Assorted handy padded equipment bags
- ▶ ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook, 1st Edition, 1926, signed by F.A. Handy (reprint)

Christian, AC3T was March's winner. Congratulations Christian!

Annual Survey underway...ends April 28th

We annually survey our group members, who have signed up on at least one of the Santa Cruz County ARES Mailing lists (Coastal, Loma Prieta and/or SLV), to verify and update preferences. **New this year is that we are merging the three lists into one.** Our purposes for the separate lists have become obsolete.

Similar to last year, we are also collecting some additional information for the 'Activation' database associated with the Counties' Code Red Program.

If not already completed, please complete this survey by clicking this google form link: <https://forms.gle/9FEoNxwHJo6RDspdA> It will take less than 5 minutes and we ask that you complete no later than Friday, April 28th. Those who do not respond will be dropped from the mailing list (and we are sorry to see you go). However, if later you decide to resume you can by completing a registration form.

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://arrlsantaclaravalley.org/news/> or <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/news/>
- XCZ Comm You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHZH8TU5gh4SqHTPXSWolPA>
- 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,

Radio comms at the Galapagos Islands

Roberta, AJ6KN

Here are some pictures from my trip to the Galapagos Islands in March

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.



Reminders

- ▶ AECs submit articles for newsletter by the Sunday before the meeting to KM6GURE@slvares.org
- ▶ Net Control sign-ups will be taken during the monthly meeting. Everyone is encouraged to take this on this role.



Bridge of the National Geographic Endeavor 2



HF radio used to communicate between crew and ports



HF HT Icom M-73 used by crew in its water proof case (it rains a lot here!)



Harbor Authority at San Cristobal

Org. Positions

- DEC
John / N6QX, jfgerhardt@gmail.com
- Assistant DEC
Gary / K6PDL, K6PDL@arrl.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
vacant
- AEC-Antenna Specialist
vacant
- 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@arrl.net
- AEC-MRC Liaison
John / KN6DCA, drjohnrx54@gmail.com
- 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

Radio comms at the Galapagos Islands— Continued

Roberta, AJ6KN



A repeater in the Highlands at 12,500 feet



Baby Booby bird



Galapagos tortoise



Galapagos Penguins

Santa Cruz County ARES Purpose

- The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes
- We are not fire fighters or police or sheriff's officers. We are volunteers who care about our communities by using our emergency communication skills.
- Before volunteering in an emergency we first take care of ourselves, our family, and our home.
- We value the every member's contributions, irrespective of license class, years of experience, or the price tag of equipment.

Ham Radio's Motto

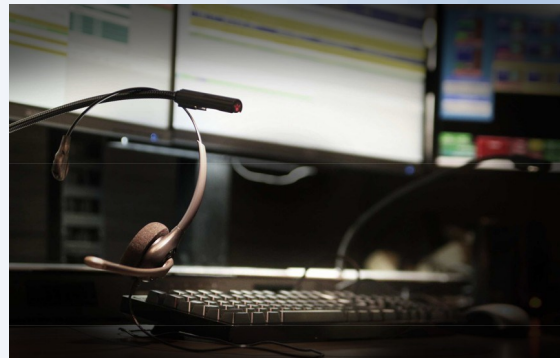
"When all else fails – ham radio works". That is because, when all the normal communication systems stop working, Ham Radio is still in operation, helping people, conveying messages, and sometimes, even saving lives.

Found on the Web

Allison, KM6RMN, Public Information Officer

Santa Cruz Regional 911 (NetCom)

Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1, also known as NetCom, was created in 1996 to provide public safety and 9-1-1 dispatcher services for first responders in Santa Cruz County. They expanded their services to San Benito County in 2011. I went to their web-



site to see what they had for us. Though it wasn't packed to the gills like last month's OR3 site, it did have important things to say and it's worth exploring. Besides the usual *about us*, *careers*, and *calendar* tabs, one tab is of primary interest to us: *education/preparedness*. This is the portal to handy tools in a deployment or evacuation situation. Some of us have these tools. Others may have wondered where to get them. Well, here they are.

- ▶ Menu item: *CodeRED* (aka reverse 9-1-1) is the disaster and evacuation notification application currently used by Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1 to call and warn residents of dangerous situations. There is news that Santa Cruz County OR3 will be employing an independent system in the future, but this is the app of choice for now. Instructions and click-through are on the page.
- ▶ Menu item: *Know your Zone* takes you to a page explaining Zonehaven, the nationwide topographic map divided into locally delineated evacuation zones. During the CZU fire and recent floods, many of us used the map and became familiar with our zones. If you haven't used it yet, read their informational page. Once you familiarize yourself with it, click through to Zonehaven's site to zero in on your local area. It is an excellent guide for gaining awareness of potential flood or fire exposure in your immediate environment. It is also essential for assessing where danger has been detected on the way to deployment.
- ▶ Menu item: *Emergency preparedness* doesn't look like much at first glance, but the links near the bottom of the page lead you to important resources connected to recent disasters. Other submenu choices include targeted information connected to recent experiences in Santa Cruz County. Flood, fire, PSPS, and Covid-19 specific pages have instruction and more click-through resources for whatever you happen to be needing most.

After checking out the essentials listed above, I recommend you stick around and click around on the site to find shortcuts to connected services like nearby fire districts, road work, county services, etc. The menu: *how do I?* addresses procedural questions regarding law enforcement. Readers are encouraged to check it out to familiarize themselves with these matters in case they become involved in police activity. If you're nosy and want to know the inner workings of Netcom, *About Us* will take you into the heart of their operations, which can help gain a better understanding of their protocols next time you relay a PSPS connected report.

<https://www.scr911.org/>