



# RADIO-ACTIVE!

January 15, 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1



## S.A.F.E. Is Happening Soon

Allison, KM6RMN, Public Information Officer

**Save the date: Sunday, February 4, 2024, 10 am to noon.**

Get ready for a little outdoor fun and exploration as Santa Cruz County's ARES conducts its Scavenging Around Field Exercise (S.A.F.E.). This exercise is a rerun of previous successful events, focusing on developing our mobile radio skills and overall disaster preparedness.

The SAFE exercise follows a systematic process that includes checking in on the resource net, moving to a tactical net to receive instructions, and driving to nearby locations for field assignments. Participants will report their observations from their vehicles while maintaining a record of their actions using ICS-214 log sheets. The exercise concludes with participants demobilizing and reporting their safe arrival home. It is a voluntary skill-building exercise, not a formal ARES activation.

We aim to achieve several goals:

- ▶ Enhance mobile radio communication and logging skills — Participants in S.A.F.E. will actively work on improving their mobile radio communication and logging skills. Engaging in field assignments will provide hands-on experience, helping participants become more proficient in effective communication during emergencies.
- ▶ Boost confidence and proficiency in field operations — The exercise encourages participants to practice executing field assignments, providing tasks that help participants to increase their confidence in independent operations. This will boost proficiency during emergency situations when quick and reliable communication is paramount.

- ▶ Deepen knowledge of county geography and repeater coverage — Navigating through vetted locations all over Santa Cruz County will not only improve our geographical knowledge but also contribute to a better understanding of the local infrastructure and propagation conditions.
- ▶ Promote fun and build a strong cooperative force — Yes, fun. It's a fact that people learn better when having fun. And fun is also good for team building. The exercise is not just about developing individual skills but also about building a strong, united force for disaster preparedness.

S.A.F.E. goes beyond traditional training by combining education, practical experience, and cooperation. As we work towards achieving these goals, we contribute to a more resilient and prepared community, ready to face Santa Cruz County's frequent communication challenges.

Want to know more? Watch your in-box for informational emails as February approaches. You will be directed to online instructions, FAQs, forms, and any other information you might need. Contact me if you have specific or unusual questions.



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# Providing Radio Guidance

Roberta, AJ6KN, Net Manager

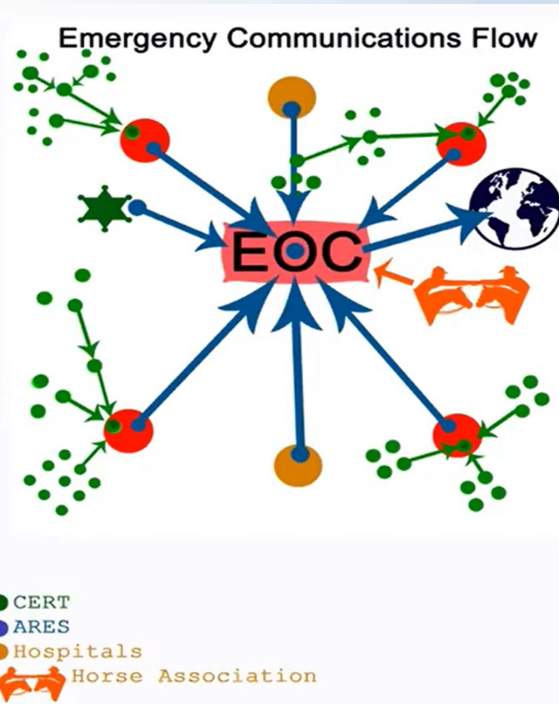
## Equipment available to loan

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.

## New Technician class?

Do you have family, neighbors or friends interested in getting their ham radio license and want a class? We are taking sign-ups from people interested to assist in planning. Please share this link to those interested: <https://rebrand.ly/ham class>

Over the last several years, the Santa Cruz Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) have been working on an expanded communications plan beyond the use of message 'runners'. This included the introduction of MURs (Multi-Use Radio Service) as their standard. Through the vision and guidance of CERT team leader and fellow Ham Radio operator, Liz, W6LTS (along with Dan N6RJX, and Bob KO6XX), a 'network' concept was developed on how a message can be passed from the field all the way to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and response back again using the varied skill sets of volunteers. Liz passed the baton to Bob KO6XX to continue the implementation of the vision. However, Bob found time constraints did not allow him to continue the endeavor.



Enter Roberta AJ6KN. In December, Roberta volunteered to take over the position of CERT 'Communications Coordinator'. Her personal goal is to be available to CERT team leaders, team radio leads (ham, MURS, or both) and team members on, at least, a monthly basis. She will also be available to speak to various CERT teams, upon request, and help train them in radio communications, as needed. Roberta will also be assisting with communication exercises with the teams.

Roberta plans to continue performing MURS radio CERT programming, but wants to have others who are also able to do this in various places around the county. That is more of a long-term goal. Short term, there will be a communications meeting on the fourth Monday of the month for team leaders, their radio leads and members. This will be either on zoom or in person. The January meeting will be on zoom. Any ARES members who are also part of a CERT team, who would like to work with their team on radio, please contact your team leader, so that we can get you on the email list. Roberta looks forward to using both her CERT and ARES skills in this role with CERT.

## Report your volunteer hours!

The reported volunteer hours for December was 428 hours. 2023 had a grand total of 9208 hours reported through the website.

Please remember to enter your hours on the form on <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/hours-reporting/>

Reporting the time you spend on ARES and ham radio activities reminds county public safety managers that we're around and ready to serve in time of need. Also, when you report your hours, your call sign is entered in a monthly drawing. When you win, you get to select one of these valuable prizes!

## Save the Dates: ARES Events

### 2024 SCC ARES Events

Date	Event	Approx. or confirmed date?	Description
May 19, 2024	Strawberry Fields Forever Bike Ride	Confirmed	Strawberry Fields Forever is an annual benefit bike ride through some of the most beautiful regions of Santa Cruz County. ARES provides comms between rest stops and SAG vehicles.
June 17 - 22, 2024	Santa Cruz Regional Active Shooter and Casualty Care Response Training	Approximate	This event is sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's department and provides first responder training for an active shooter. ARES provides perimeter monitoring in maintaining a closed event location.
July 4, 2024	Aptos 4th of July Parade	Confirmed	We provide monitoring of the public to provide information to the Sheriffs
July 27, 2024	Santa Cruz Mountains Challenge	Approximate	An annual benefit bike ride through some of the most beautiful regions of Santa Cruz County, organized by the Santa Cruz County Cycling Club. ARES provides comms between rest stops and SAG vehicles.
August 18, 2024	Race through the Redwoods	Approximate	Race through the Redwoods is a 10K foot race that starts and finishes at Roaring Camp but the majority traverses the redwoods in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. It is promoted by the Felton Business and Community Association. ARES provides monitoring of runners positions and safety for the organizers.
September 11-15, 2024	Santa Cruz County Fair	Confirmed	ARES provides Net Control functions for Sheriff Office, Security, and Fair personnel.
September 22, 2024	Santa Cruz Triathlon	Approximate	Santa Cruz Triathlon is a non-profit that donates proceeds to various athletic programs in the county. ARES provides monitoring of participants positions and safety for the organizers.
October 25th, 2024	Halloween Trunk or Treat	Approximate	Trunk of Treat is organized by the Santa Cruz Sheriffs. ARES provides monitoring of participants along with closed road staffing and shuttle parking location.

## Save the Dates: Other Events

### 2024 Other Radio Events for Ham Operator Participation

Date	Event	Approx. or confirmed date?	Description
1/27/2024	Santa Cruz County Winter Field Day	Confirmed	Explore the various aspects of the Ham radio hobby. Anticipated demonstrations/participation in GOTA, Phone, Digital, VHF/Vara Winlink, Satellite at the Aptos Grange. Additional updates can be found on the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club website, <a href="https://k6bj.org/wordpress/">https://k6bj.org/wordpress/</a>
April 18 - 21, 2024	Sea Otter Classic	Confirmed	World premiere Cycling festival. Ham radio operators provide communications from the Fort Ord National Monument backcountry. More information: <a href="https://sbcaro.org/otter/">https://sbcaro.org/otter/</a>
April 28, 2024	Big Sur International Marathon	Confirmed	Point to Point foot race/run along Highway 1 from Big Sur to Carmel. Ham radio operators provide communications along the route.
June 22-23, 2024	ARRL Field Day	Confirmed	A national activity promoted by ARRL to share all the various aspects of the Ham Radio. Often hosted by both radio clubs of the Santa Cruz County. More information to be shared at a later date.

## 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/>
- X CZ Comm You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHZH8TU5gh4SqHTPXSWolPA>
- Submitting deployment documents: send in PDF form to [EOC.ARES@santacruzca.gov](mailto:EOC.ARES@santacruzca.gov)
- Submitting personal information such as DSW application, personal data update, education certificates: email [K6PDL@ARRL.net](mailto:K6PDL@ARRL.net), [KM6SV@SLVARES.org](mailto:KM6SV@SLVARES.org), and [EOC.ARES@santacruzca.gov](mailto:EOC.ARES@santacruzca.gov)

## 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  
Ed / N6EMA
- 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
- 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

## FOUND ON THE WEB—xczcomm.com

Allison, KM6RMN, Public Information Officer



It's a short section this month; actually, a reminder: You can find all previous issues of Radio-Active on our very own website, xczcomm.com.

The easiest way to reach this resource is to go to main website and click on NEWS in the header. While you're at it, you can check out other sections such as CALENDAR, TRAINING, RESOURCES, or FORMS.

When you're in the NEWS section, you can also click through to pages 2 and 3 at the bottom to find past ARRL articles written by members of our team.

The RADIO-ACTIVE archive is a great source of Santa Cruz-centric information, some of which can be fetched by using keywords located on each issue icon. For instance, clicking on June 2023 issue's keyword: "Winlink," will display every issue containing information about Winlink.

Have you been confused of when the ARES nets are? The fabulous Net Calendar has all the Nets identified along with the repeaters (initial) used for check-ins. Click on CALENDAR and select Net Calendar.

You may notice the site's bare-bones visual appearance. We need a webmaster with WordPress skills to help spruce things up a bit and maintain our look. If you are interested, drop me a line to learn more.

Happy browsing. If you know a cool website, podcast, YouTube series, or online tool, email me at KM6RMN@SLVARES.org. I'll check it out and pass it on in the future.

Home » Net Calendar

### Net Calendar

Today	Monday, January 15	Week	Month	Agenda
	<b>Tuesday, January 16</b>			
	7:15pm Net - Loma Prieta Area			
	<b>Thursday, January 18</b>			
	7:30pm Net - Coastal Area ARES Net			
	<b>Tuesday, January 23</b>			
	7:15pm Net - Loma Prieta Area			
	<b>Wednesday, January 24</b>			
	7:30pm Net - SLV Area ARES Net			
	<b>Tuesday, January 30</b>			
	7:15pm Net - Loma Prieta Area			
	<b>Thursday, February 1</b>			
	7:30pm Net - Coastal Area ARES Net			
	<b>Tuesday, February 6</b>			
	7:15pm Net - Loma Prieta Area			
	<b>Wednesday, February 7</b>			
	7:30pm Net - SLV Area ARES Net			
	When Wed. February 7, 7:30pm - 8:30pm			
	Description San Lorenzo Valley Area ARES Net, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays			
	WR6AOK repeater (147.120+ PL94.8) or			
	WB6ECE 70 cm Repeater group (441.300+ PL100.0 Hz)			
	Net Control for this week			
	<a href="#">more details</a> <a href="#">copy to my calendar</a>			

## Santa Cruz County ARES Purpose

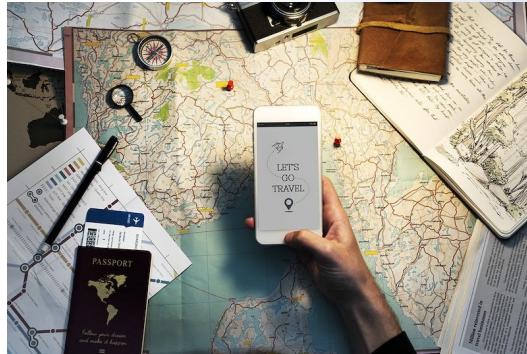
- The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes
- We are not fire fighters or police or sheriff's officers. 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 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.

## Location ... Location ... Location

Jim N6EWP, Meeting trainer



With the upcoming S.A.F.E. exercise, we'll be heading to various locations in Santa Cruz County. What's involved in describing a location . . . or finding a location . . . or communicating about locations? In emergency situations, it's important to know how to get help to . . . LOCATIONS. It's an everyday part of life for medics, fire and law. How about tow truck

drivers or plumbers for that matter? There are many ways to describe how to find locations -- just ask the 911 call center staff that have to take calls and make it possible for the responders to find where they are needed.

ARES is part of that action too. *At our Jan. 17 Zoom meeting we'll be looking at how to communicate about locations competently and clearly in a variety of situations.*

## New Winlink Gateway

Dan N6RJX

Calling all Winlink Vara users! There is a new Winlink VARA FM gateway available from downtown Felton. This is may include the reach into the San Lorenzo Valley. It is N6RJX-12 on 145.610. You may have to refresh your Winlink Channel Selections to see the option.

Vara FM Channel Selector						
Select Channel	Update Table Via Internet	Update Table Via Radio	Exit			
Stations found within 300 kilometers of your grid square.						
Callsign	Frequency (MHz)	Channel Width	Grid Square	Group	Distance (km)	Bearing (Degrees)
N6RJX-12	145.610	Wide	CM87XB	PUBLIC	004	180
K6BJ-11	145.710	Wide	CM96AX	PUBLIC	015	152
K2RDX-10	145.630	Narrow	CM97AH	PUBLIC	024	017
KD6UCA-10	145.630	Narrow	CM87WH	PUBLIC	025	341
W6VOM-11	145.630	Wide	CM87WR	PUBLIC	070	354
N6DOZ-10	144.910	Wide	CM87SP	PUBLIC	071	329
W6ABJ-13	145.630	Narrow	CM97HM	PUBLIC	075	051
K9ONR	145.630	Wide	CM87WW	PUBLIC	089	355

## Repeater relocation

Dawn KM6RME



The county owned repeater, W6TUW, 145.290, pl 94.8 Hz (Channel 40 of ARES Frequency list) is currently off the air. This repeater is being moved from a location on the west side of Ben Lomond mountain in lower Bonny Doon to a new location on a ridge with good propagation to lower Bonny Doon but also more exposure to the south and east. Installation, testing and placing a new antenna on a tower will take a couple of weeks. This location will have auto start generator emergency power and battery backup.

Thank you for your patience and we will let you know when the repeater is available again and will appreciate your testing the coverage.

## Holiday Celebrations

Lisa KN6IAB, Photographer

In lieu of the monthly Membership meeting on December 20th, about 15 operators attended the Holiday Gathering at Cowboy Diner in Felton. Good food and conversation. Enjoy the pictures.



Kathi KE6VTY and Bob KO6XX



Gary K6PDL and Maggie K6ACT



Roberta AJ6KN and JoMarie KM6URE



Liz W6LTS and Dan N6RJX



Terry KN6ZVN