

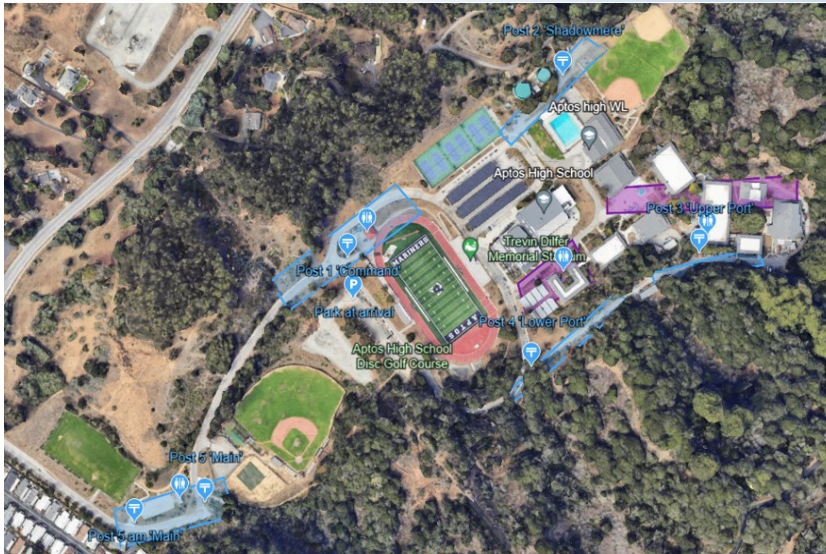


RADIO-ACTIVE!

August 18, 2024, Volume 3, Issue 8



The Gift Time and Expertise ... Perimeter Monitoring Debrief



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Coming Next Month!

Ham Radio Technician License Study Group

Do you have friends envious of your ability to talk on the radio and get information and want to learn about Ham radio? If so, we have a class for them to review the test study materials and prepare to take the exam. The study group begins Tuesday September 24th from 7:00 to 9:00pm and runs for 6 weeks. Encourage your friends to sign-up soon as the class is limited to 20: <https://rebrand.ly/hamclass>

In July, Santa Cruz County’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and ARES volunteers were activated to support the annual Santa Cruz Regional Active Shooter and Casualty Care Response Training event sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s department. The volunteers were tasked to monitor the perimeter of the access-controlled training site, redirecting unauthorized pedestrian and/or vehicle traffic that may inadvertently enter the area, and reporting/communicating potential suspicious activity or other issues.

The event ran for six days, July 15 to July 20, 2024, at the Aptos High School. It is a professionally conducted training for law enforcement, fire, and medical first responders who may be called upon to face an active shooter in a crowded environment. The training includes live scenarios with volunteer actors playing the roles of shooters, victims, and panicked bystanders. The organizing of the event was completed over several months. CERT command staff of John, Planning Chief, Bill, Operations Chief, Lynn, Logistics Chief (and brand new to her role) and JoMarie, Logistics Deputy along with Dan N6R1X, ARES Event Manager were included in the planning. Continued on Page 2

Main Gate volunteers provided lots of directions for attendees and turning around the public



Perimeter Monitoring Debrief—continued

Equipment available to loan

Santa Cruz Communications Support have made **FOUR** kits available for loaning to allow ham operators participate in a deployment or to trial a different setup. Two kits are for a vehicle deployment and includes mobile dual-band radio, mag mount antenna, battery and kneeboard. The other two kits are for stationary outdoor deployments and includes the vehicle kit with additional supplies of a tripod antenna, lighting, and pop-up. Contact either John, N6QX, Roberta, AJ6KN, Stephen, KM6NEP or Gary, K6PDL for arraigining for checking out.



A spontaneous volunteer?

Radio communications were via MURs and rented public safety radios. Health and welfare checks for each volunteer on site were completed at least every half hour by a designated radio operator. The Active Shooter event logistics coordinator provided additional communications via the public safety radio to the teams. Each team had to acknowledge these communications. This included scenario initiation and cessation. After signing in and a briefing by the shift lead, the perimeter monitor volunteers were paired up (when staffing allowed) and sent to one of five locations. The shifts (4 – 5 hours long) overlapped to allow time for the briefing and transition of volunteers at each of the posts. Sheriff officers in a roving gator utility vehicle augmented the perimeter monitoring posts.



First-time and experienced volunteers share a post

This was the first time using Aptos High School and it again encompassed a much larger footprint for perimeter monitoring. The campus is nestled into the Aptos hills and housing developments on both sides of the campus. Prior years the event had been at San Lorenzo Tri-campus School (elementary, junior high and high school), Scotts Valley High School and UCSC. Similar to last year, this year had some additional activities on-going during the same time as the event at the campus location. This included construction, athletics practice, maintenance crews and teachers getting ready for the upcoming year. New this year was a bumper crop of poison oak and a skunk spontaneously volunteering to manage the main gate and keeping away the additional unwanted visitors.



ARES and CERT manning the command post

Most days were in the mid – to high 70s and with an intermittent fog or breeze. Each post had a pop-up and most were positioned under a canopy of trees. This year the scenarios included the class participants using their vehicles (police cars and fire engines) to arrive near the 'shooting' location. This allowed one post to be closer to the action as they were positioned at the edge where vehicles were arriving at. Continued on page 4

Report your volunteer hours!

Our ever so diligent reminders from Dawn, KM6RME has been greatly appreciated for the years she performed them. She has moved out of the area and we will have to develop a reminder system to request hours submission. The reported volunteer hours for July was 209 hours. We know this underestimates the actual hours as we did have a week long activation for the Perimeter monitoring. 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 drawing. When you win, you get to select a valuable prize! Congratulations to Ed, N6EMA July's winner.

Save the Dates: ARES Events

2024 SCC ARES Events

Date	Event	Approx. or confirmed date?	Description
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.

Race through the Redwoods Recap

On Sunday, August 18th, 18 volunteers provided communications for Race through Redwoods foot race in Felton. Again this year, Dan, N6RJX led the organization of the event. He attended planning meetings with the race organizers. The ICS 201 and 205 was sent a few days ahead only to have to be reworked when Dan found out that the running course had changed two days before the event. The change removed some of the 'flat' parking lot areas and expand the run deeper and steeper into Henry Cowell. We arrived by 0645 and received last minute updates and we dispersed to our assigned locations by walking, biking or driving. It was a cool and damp morning but by the end of event, three hours later, it was approaching 80's. Radio communications was accomplished by HT's and enhanced by the use of a crossband repeater reaching Race Comms (Net control) without issue. Thank you all who volunteered.

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/UCHZH8TUSgh4SqHTPXSWolPA>
- Submitting deployment documents: **send in PDF form to** EOC.ARES@santacruzca.gov
- Submitting personal information such as DSW application, personal data update, education certificates: email K6PDL@ARRL.net, and 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
Vacant
- 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
Vacant
- 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

If you see a vacant position of interest, please reach out to John Gerhardt, N6QX, jfgerhardt@gmail.com

Perimeter Monitoring Debrief—continued



Vehicle parking during scenario

It was interesting to find out that the responders leave the vehicles running, 'just in case' of needing to exit quickly. This provided a challenge of extra noise during the afternoon shift at this location.

There was a total of 547 hours of service by 66 volunteers of the 2 organizations over the entire event. Thank you to each and everyone who participated and offered their time. Sergeant Randal Hop, our Sheriff's office contact, expressed his heartfelt gratitude of everyone's time donation and support of the event when he attended the debriefing on Zoom. Many of the volunteers have dual citizenship with both CERT and ARES. And because of this, it is difficult to state the exact hours were provided by each of the groups. Many returning volunteers

reported enjoying themselves more at this campus because of the challenges it presented. The Aptos campus has a large public use with the offerings of disc golf, running on the track, use of the swimming pool, playing basketball, using the baseball and soccer fields. This led to many interactions by the volunteers with the public explaining the purpose and length of the campus closure. There was a great sense of purpose of this activation.

The planning team hopes next year you will consider volunteering (first time or again) for this satisfying event.



What is that in the sky—drone or bird?



Monitoring the back side of campus