



# RADIO-ACTIVE!

September 18, 2023, Volume 2, Issue 8



## What we did during the Summer!



John, N6QX; Alex, AJ6QY and Debra, KM6HGI

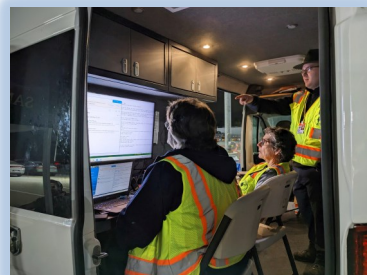
We started the summer off right by celebrating and getting reacquainted with each other. On June 21st we had a social and BBQ in lieu of the usual membership meeting. We had over 35 attendees and had a fantastic time sharing stories. We continued the socials throughout the summer. On July 19th approximately 25 attended the burrito-fest. Then again on August 16th we had 15 attend a potluck. There was lots of information sharing.

As July came upon us, the World's Shortest 4th of July Parade required our assistance as crowd monitors. Fourteen operators staffed various positions along the parade route and Net Control. We worked with the Sheriff's Department. Dan, N6RJK set up a crossband repeater to assure communications was adequate along the route. The crowds were joyful and well behaved which led to an enjoyable event. However, there was one lost child reported. All had to be acutely on the look out for the child for about 5-10 minutes until he was reunited with his parents.

As soon as the drums were stored from the parade we transitioned to supporting the Active Shooter Training event. See article on page 3 for additional details of this event.

The month of July was completed with providing radio support to the Santa Cruz Mountain Challenge Bike ride on July 29th. Due to the significant road damage encountered from this past winter, the ride courses were adjusted to new locations. The Start-Finish was moved to Cabrillo College. Seventeen operators either supported the rest stops at four locations or traversed the county roads with a SAG driver (Support and Gear) to offer support to riders with a mechanical issue. Most of the SAG operators were using APRS to augment their reported positions. The communications plan included the use of four repeaters. Dan, N6RJK was able to arrange for the repeaters to be linked but Net Controls (Phil, KE6UWH and Bob, KO6XX) did monitor all four repeaters. Many of the Ride staff were complimentary of the radio operators providing fantastic support for the event.

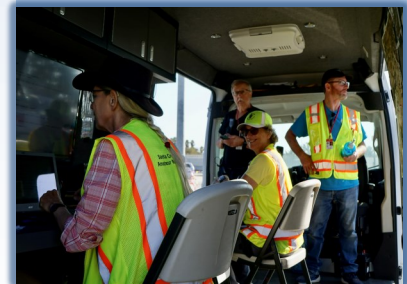
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JoMarie, KM6GURE; Roberta, AJ6KN; Ryan, KI6UAP

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SCC Fair Communications team



Debra, KM6HGI taking a check-in from a SAR volunteer

## 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.

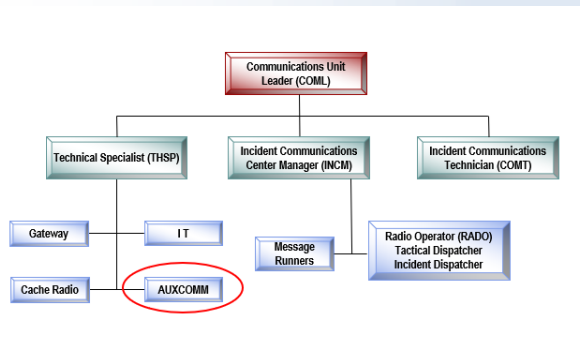
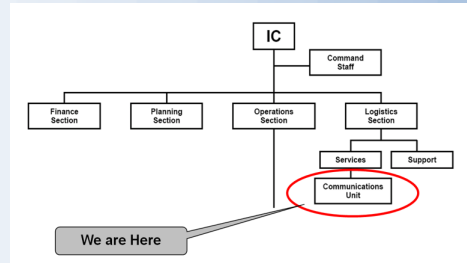
## New Technician class?

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/hamclass>

## Summer! - Continued

August offered a bit of education to those interested. Because there was enough interest in the county, Gary K6PDL was able to facilitate bringing the course to us locally. The class was 20 hours of instruction over August 12 and 13th and attended by nine local operators and about five others. The AUXCOMM

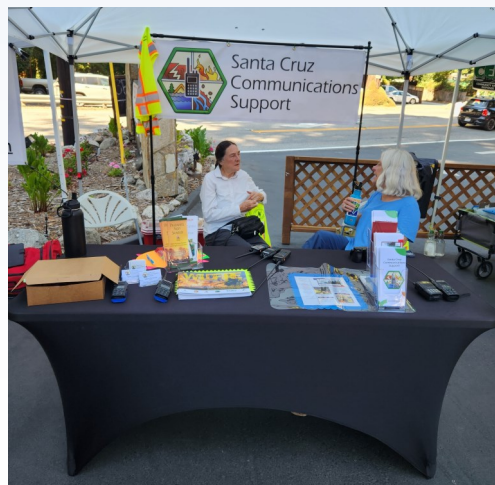
course presented topics on auxiliary communications interoperability, the relationship between the Communications Unit leader (COML) and the volunteer, emergency operations center (EOC) etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations, auxiliary communications 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. The class focused heavily on the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System. And there were lots of acronyms. The value was obtained from



the multiple tabletop exercises in which each of the teams had to produce a communication plans (ICS205). Now there are many operators that can assist Dan N6RJX in creating a 205 for events or activations.

On August 19th, the 3-year remembrance of the CZU fire, was held at the Brookdale Lodge. Many Emergency Preparedness groups spoke and had booths demonstrating options for preparedness. ARES / Santa Cruz Communication Support, Equine Evac and CERT were among the present. Lisa, KN6IAB spoke about how she used Ham Radio to report one of the initial fires that later grew into the CZU Fire. Tablers included Dawn, KM6RME, Alex, AJ6QY and JoMarie, KM6URE.

Continued on page 3



Dawn, KM6RMN and Lisa, KN6IAB waiting to share information on the best ways to communicate

## Hours Corner

The reported hours for the summer are the following:

- ▶ June 896 hours
- ▶ July 970 hours
- ▶ August 941 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. Attend the monthly meeting to see who is the winner! The reported hours are also shared with the County to keep them informed on how active we are.

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

## Summer! - Continued

The end of August brought Race Through the Redwoods, an ~10K foot race on August 20th. Twelve operators were positioned along the course at Roaring Camp and Henry Cowell State Park and communicating using a crossband repeater setup. The operators were responsible for reporting first woman and man passing by, counting the total numbers of runners and assisting the runners course correct. There was also an operator following the last racer/walker to identify when the course was clear of participants.



Kids racing at the 2022 Race through the Redwoods

September saw the week long operation supporting the Sheriff's department communications at the Santa Cruz County Fair, September 13—17. There were sixteen operators filling the roles as shift lead, logger and communicator for approximately 14 hours each day. The operators monitored/reported communications from the Fair Administration, Security, Safety, Medical, and patrolling Sheriffs. Communications included events such as a person with chest pains, person fainting, impaired or drunk persons, lost child, found child, lost car, lost phone, parking backups, or a BOLO (be on the look out) for a runaway teenager. On one shift there was reported one lost child, three found children and one BOLO. Thankfully all were resolved fairly quickly.

We hope you found these recaps entertaining and enticing enough to consider joining us next year. These are enjoyable volunteer opportunities.

## 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@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us) and your appropriate EC (Bob: [KO6XX@slvares.org](mailto:KO6XX@slvares.org))
- 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@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us),

## 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](mailto:KM6RMN@SLVARES.org) and [KN6IAB@SLVARES.org](mailto: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 [KM6URE@slvares.org](mailto:KM6URE@slvares.org)
- ▶ Net Control sign-ups will be taken during the monthly meeting. Everyone is encouraged to take this on this role.

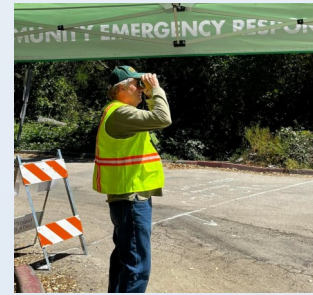
## Observe and Report!

JoMarie, KM6URE

In July, Santa Cruz County's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Search and Rescue (SAR) 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 and parking areas 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 10 to July 15, 2023, at the tri-campus location in Felton of the San Lorenzo Valley Schools. 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 and JoMarie, Logistics Deputy along with Dan N6RJX, ARES Event Manager were included in the planning. This was the first time using the tri-campus location and it encompassed a much larger footprint of perimeter monitoring. Prior years the event had been at Scotts Valley High School and UCSC. Also, this year was different as there were additional activities ongoing during the same time as the event at the campus location. This included preschool operation, construction at two locations, and a high school all-class reunion.

Radio communications were via MURs and 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 health and welfare bulletins (i.e., keeping hydrated) and 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.

Most days were in the mid – to high 80s and with an afternoon breeze. Each post had a pop-up and most were positioned under a canopy of trees. However, the planners did have to evaluate each day as there were issued weather alerts for extreme heat.

There was a total of 434 hours of service by 52 volunteers of the 3 organizations over the entire event. 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 SLV campus has greater 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 and access to the Fall Creek part of Henry Cowell. 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.

## 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

## EMERGENCY!

Compiled from reports by Allison, KM6RMN; Roberta, AJ6KN; and Ryan, KI6UAP

On July 26th, the routinely scheduled SLV ARES Net on WR6AOK began promptly at 1930. There was not an assigned Net Control. So, Allison, KM6RMN decided to opt-in as Net Control. There were 18 operators who checked in, including Ryan, KI6UAP. He was mobile as he was driving home and transversing the mountain roads of Highway 35 to Highway 9. We were just transitioning over to the second portion of the Net when the airways cracked at 20:02 "EMERGENCY" and callsign of KI6UAP. There was a pause and Allison asked for the details of the Emergency. Ryan proceeded to report a driver who had lost control of their vehicle around a corner on Highway 9 and needed a call to 911 for a tow truck as he did not have cell signal. (Ryan later learned he did have at least two-bars on his cell phone and that he instinctually grabbed his radio). After had just been flagged down by the driver's friends, Ryan had already started making the scene safe by asking for someone to place flares and requesting another person to identify the nearest mile marker. Allison requested the location and vehicle description and Ryan replied it was a single car accident, a pink Miata convertible which had overturned at mile marker "2-4-0-8" on Highway 9. He indicated the accident was on a blind curve and flares had been deployed. His signal became S3-4 as he was outside of his car on his HT rather than his usual mobile radio in his car. This required a few clarifications between Allison and Ryan.

Allison then requested a listening operator from the Net to call 911. Lisa, KN6IAB and Roberta, AJ6KN both volunteered. Roberta had already started dialing and stated this. Roberta was able to hold up the phone up to a radio speaker to allow the operator to hear directly from Ryan the details. Roberta did have to ask for clarification if there were any injuries. Also the CHP requested additional location information as they had difficulty in identifying the location based on the mile marker presented (It was actual 24.08). Ryan also indicated he was about 1.5 miles from the Sempervirens Outlook.

Periodically, Allison was announcing she was keeping the net open and directed to allow the emergency to resolve. State Parks arrived on scene at 20:25 and CHP 20:34. Once the emergency responders were on scene, Allison transitioned to closing the net and breathing a sigh of relief.

### What went right?

- ▶ Everyone remained calm and clearly communicated to address the issue
- ▶ When Ryan broke in with Emergency, Allison immediately went into information gathering mode and started asking questions
- ▶ Ryan remained focused on mitigating immediate hazards at the scene and relied on fellow radio operators to communicate with 911
- ▶ Allison left the radio airwaves open and kept the listening operators aware of the situation in case additional needs were required
- ▶ Roberta started immediately calling 911 and was able to share information in a timely manner

This event demonstrated the importance of the NETs. The practice we do is to allow us to instinctually respond in a calm and controlled manner when something real happens.



## 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.

## GPS Coordinates

Bill, AJ6CQ

If you participate in a weekly WinLink net, you are providing your latitude and longitude in degrees down to the fifth decimal place. But just how precise a location is that?

Here's the calculation for latitude. Earth's circumference is 24,901 miles. That distance is equivalent to 360 degrees. So one degree of latitude is equivalent to 69.16944 miles. But the fifth decimal place is 1/100,000, so we need to know how big 1/100,000 of a degree is. That's 69.16944/100,000 or 0.000691644 miles. Multiply by 5280 feet in a mile and we get 3.6 feet, just a little over a yard, plenty close enough for any purpose ARES is likely to need it for.

### San Lorenzo Valley Emergency Network presents a Town Hall Meeting

#### Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)



What impact will these zones have on our community?

**Tuesday September 26, 2023  
7:00 to 9:00 PM**

In person:

**Highlands Park  
Senior & Community Center  
Ben Lomond**

on Zoom:

**[meet.slven.org/events](https://meet.slven.org/events)**



**Deputy Chief Scott Witt, Office  
of the State Fire Marshal**  
Plus speakers from Cal Fire,  
Firewise Communities,  
California Department of Insurance.

Representation from  
Real Estate, Construction,  
Local Community Services.



More information at [SLVEN.org](https://slven.org)  
Email queries to [info@slven.org](mailto:info@slven.org)



Thank you to all the volunteers such as Dan, N6RJX; Jim, KN6NCG; Casey, KN6AKO; Karen, KM6SV; Roberta, AJ6KN and others for assisting in planning all of our events. Many hours have been spent making the events enjoyable and successful.