



RADIO-ACTIVE!

March 18, 2024, Volume 3, Issue 3



S.A.F.E: Looking back and forward

Vince, KM6YHE and JoMarie, KM6URE

On the drizzly Sunday of February 25th, for two hours, operators joined in the Scavenge Around Field Exercise (S.A.F.E.). There were a total of 13 check-ins to the Resource Net with a mixture of experienced and new operators attending. After checking in operators went over to a tactical net of their choosing to obtain an assignment to look for a location nearby. The locations had recently been re-scouted, updated and expanded by the planning team because of the impacts of the storms of 2023 and general property changes. The majority of the operators worked from a HT to a mag mount on their car. Only one operator used APRS in addition to voice.

Cap, KE6AFE performed an armchair copy from the couch at home, reading the mail (i.e. listening to WB6ECE/K6BJ/WR6AOK). He shared the following, "Excellent drill! Best yet. Operated wonderfully by all on air. All stations properly identified their final transmissions on each frequency as required. Very good signals and very good protocol all around. Courteous, friendly nets. Improved net organization and operation, well planned. Thanks for transmissions!"

One newer operator learned a lot about her location and how adaptable one has to be to transmit in a mountainous location. She had a can-do attitude and did not give up (but did have to fight the urge).

Sunday evening a hotwash was held for those who participated to provide feedback and commentary of their experience. Those who attended stated they

enjoyed themselves and are eager for another. The group felt the organization of the event was good but wished for more participants.

A survey was sent to the entire ARES membership asking several questions related to the event to gain better understanding of participation interest. There were 29 respondents and 52% indicated they did participate in the exercise and of those, 67% indicated it was fun and they learned something. One went on to state "It was fun and helped me to remember necessary preparation for events." and another, "Really fun and a great test for the mobile equipment in real conditions."

Of the 48% who did not participate, the reasons included the following:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I didn't hear about the exercise in time.	0.00%
The date and time didn't work for me.	46.67%
I was busy with another activity.	60.00%
I didn't think it would be fun or useful.	6.67%
It seemed too complicated.	0.00%
Another reason (please specify)	Responses 13.33%

There was one suggestion that newer operators be paired with a more experienced operator.

The survey also asked about using APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) during the exercise. There was interest from 40% of responders. The comments primarily indicated many do not know how to set up or use during the event.

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S.A.F.E. is being re-run on Sunday, June 9th 1400—1600. Hope to hear you then!

More event updates!

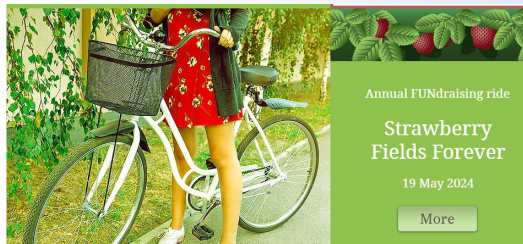
Equipment available to loan

Santa Cruz Communications Support have **FOUR** kits available for loaning to allow ham operators participate in a deployment when they have limited equipment. Three kits are 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. Contact John Gerhardt for checking out.

New Technician class?

We still need more interest in a class to organize. It is a bit of work to coordinate and host a class. Please encourage sign-ups if you are aware of interest.

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>



Sunday May 19th will be the the Strawberry Fields Forever Bike ride sponsored by the Cyclists for Cultural Exchange. Cyclists for Cultural Exchange was established in 2004 with the express purpose of fur-

thering peace and international understanding through exchanges between people with a common interest in cycling. There are 3 routes (30 miles, 10 km and 100 mile) that traverse areas of South Santa Cruz and North Monterey counties for approximately 1200 participants.

Ham radio operator volunteers will be positioned at 4 rest stops, several Support and Gear (SAG) wagons and the start/finish post. New this year is the coordination of SAG by ARES and potential involvement of CERT. With the need of more volunteers, sign ups will be starting soon through sign-up genius application—look for an email with the link and additional details. Benefit of signing up is to get of those home-grown and local Strawberries and maybe even a t-shirt!!



Sadly, the organizers of the Santa Cruz Mountain Challenge have determined the annual July event will not be occurring this year. Fingers crossed for 2025!



We have received dates of July 15—20th for the Santa Cruz Regional Active Shooter And Casualty Care training. The organization is being led by Sgt. Randall Hop of the Santa Cruz County Sheriffs department. The location is changing to a different school location more centrally located in the county. Specific location is being withheld until scheduling begins.



The two membership meetings in June and July will be taken over by a potluck social at Skypark. Come join in on the lovely evening soiree and yacking about ham radio.

Report your volunteer hours!

The reported volunteer hours for February 735.5 hours. 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! *Congratulations to John, KN6DCA, last month's winner.*

Save the Dates: ARES Events (UPDATED!)

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.
July 15 -20, 2024	Santa Cruz Regional Active Shooter and Casualty Care Response Training	Confirmed	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
August 18, 2024	Race through the Redwoods	Confirmed	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 Sherriff 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
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: https://sbcara.org/otter/
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. e email: Jeff Ackerman—KG6UYZ at kg6uyz@gmail.com for a volunteer form.
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

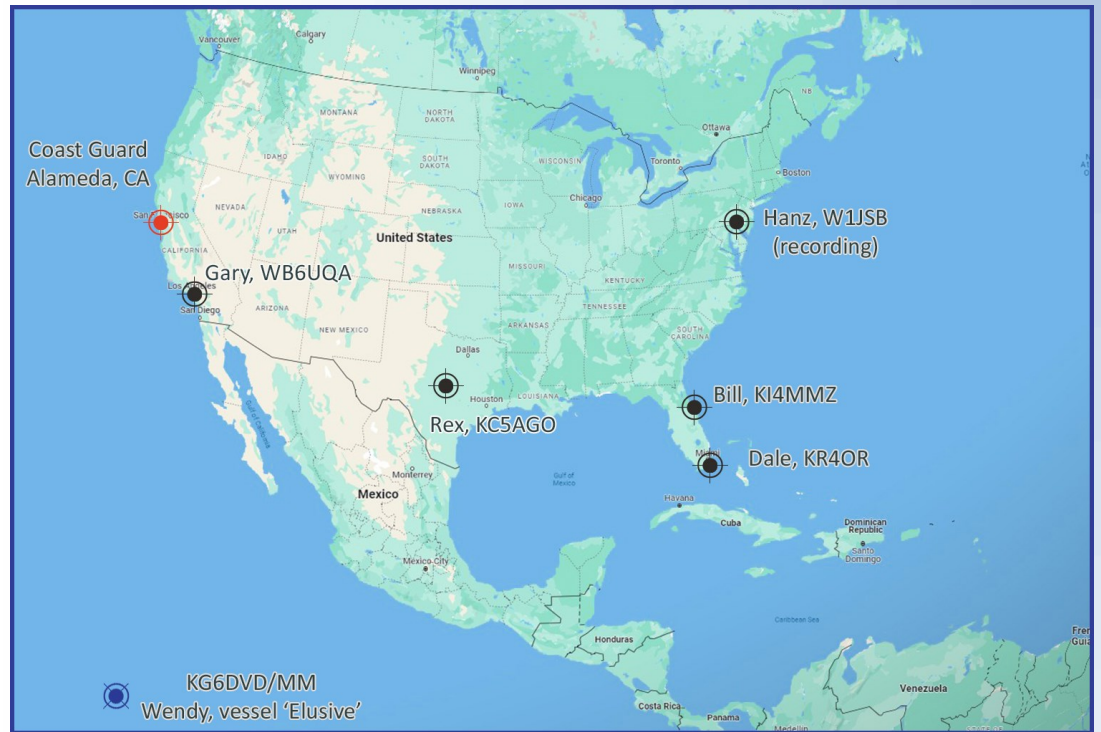
- Website: <https://xczcomm.com/>
- Reporting volunteer hours: <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/hours-reporting/>
- Upcoming events: <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/calendar-of-events/>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ARES-of-Santa-Cruz-County-Ca-296232310799866>
- Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/431308973875528>
- 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
- Submitting personal information such as DSW application, personal data update, education certificates: email K6PDL@ARRL.net, KM6SV@SLVARES.org, and EOC.ARES@santacruzca.gov

Org. Positions

- DEC
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- Assistant DEC and Deputy EC
Karen / KM6SV,
KM6SV@slvares.org
- Operations and Events
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- Webmaster
Ed / N6EMA
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KM6URE@slvares.org

FOUND ON THE WEB: *Routine Net Receives an Urgent Call*

Allison, KM6RMN, PIO



We have a short one this month, a YouTube video I recently stumbled across that reminded me of a SLV ARES net in July, when our routine check-in procedure was interrupted by an urgent communication. After the issue was resolved and the net closed, we evaluated and discussed it at the following ARES meeting. This YouTube video followed the same pattern as our net, but covered more than one mode of communication, thousands of miles, and two languages. One of the participants had the foresight to record this and post it on YouTube to educate others. Hanz, W1JSB in New Hampshire, was taking part in a radio net on 20 meters a few years ago, when one of his California contacts picked up an urgent call from a maritime vessel 2000 miles southwest of San Francisco. The 40-minute exchange that followed had

great examples of chain of command, relays, problem solving, and eventual return to the net. Listen a couple of times, and you can sort out who did the talking and how information was passed along during the event. You can find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAotPh9M6aU>

If you know a cool website, podcast, YouTube series, or online tool, send me a heads-up at KM6RMN@SLVARES.org. I'll check it out and pass it on to the community.

S.A.F.E: Looking back and forward—continued

Because there was enough interest expressed another exercise has been scheduled for Sunday, June 9th, 2pm—4pm. The format will remain the same. If you participated in the prior S.A.F.E. events, you are welcome to again participate. There are no limits. Perhaps ride with a buddy, take on another location area and determine what equipment adjustments you need to do, or use APRS, or try borrowing some equipment (see Equipment available to loan article on page 2) to learn another radio or the difference between HT and Mobile rig. Plan now what you would like to adjust and just do it! You have 83 days OR 1992 hours to plan. **Save the date: Sunday, June 9, 2024, 2pm—4pm**

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.

What are operators doing in the hobby

Pictures courtesy of Craig, N6SBN

There are many aspects of our hobby and it can be challenging to know where to talk / share ideas with like minded people.

Here are a few ideas and fun activities that have been occurring or upcoming. These events are not just ARES focused.

1. Loft Coffee (2701 Cabrillo College Drive, Aptos) - Wednesdays ~10 –12. Many aspects of the hobby and many Elmers available.
2. C.A.K.E. (Coffee Assisted Knowledge Exchange) at Loft Coffee (2701 Cabrillo College Drive, Aptos) 2nd and 4th Saturdays 10—12.
3. Join a local radio club
 - ▶ Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club (<https://k6bj.org/wordpress/club-meeting-membership>) — meets 3rd Friday of month at 1930, either in person in Santa Cruz or Zoom
 - ▶ SLV radio club (<https://www.slvarc.org/club-meetings>)— (Unable to validate but has been 1st Friday of month at 1930 at Zayante Fire Station)
4. Participate in ARRL Field Day, June 22—23, location TBD. Theme is "Be Radio Active".
5. Participate in the spontaneous gatherings. Often these are the Wednesday afternoon at Seacliff State Beach.



In the FOG!

Jim, Membership Trainer, N6EWP

What do we actually do in our ARES field operations? You will see the term FOG used for Field Operations Guide. Actually, there are many FOGs and manuals that can guide us as ARES operators. Some are for high level planning at the national level for emergency communications. These are not particularly useful for the average ARES member, but the links are below if you want to take a look. The more useful FOGs and Manuals for most of us are the Auxiliary Communications FOG which has information for amateur radio operators, and the ARRL produced ARES Field Resources Manual and ARES Manual (2015). These are available for free download or in the case of ARRL publications hard copies can be purchased.

There is far too much material here for the training time in the monthly SCCARES meeting. Instead, read over some of this material yourself and we will have a question and discussion time at the meeting.

First, the national level FOGs are found at this URL: <https://www.cisa.gov/safecom/field-operations-guides>

National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG)

The *National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG)* has been updated to version 2.01 and can be viewed and downloaded by clicking on the link below. New content in 2.01 includes references on Information Technology, Emergency Wireless Carrier Services, Interference Management, Encryption, and Cybersecurity.

The NIFOG is a technical reference for emergency communications planning and for radio technicians responsible for radios that will be used in disaster response. The NIFOG includes rules and regulations for use of nationwide and other interoperability channels, tables of frequencies and standard channel names, and other reference material, formatted as a pocket-sized guide for radio technicians to carry with them.

Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG)

The *Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG)* is a reference for auxiliary communicators who directly support backup emergency communications for State/local public safety entities or for an amateur radio organization supporting public safety.

Next are the ARRL manuals which are specifically for ARES operations and therefore the most useful and practical for ARES members: http://arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARESFieldResourcesManual_rev10-2019.pdf

ARES Field Resources Manual

This manual is intended to serve as a quick trainer and field resource guide for the emergency communicator. It is a reference for amateurs deployed in the field for emergency services work, primarily through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES).

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARESmanual2015.pdf>

ARES Manual 2015 – ARRL This is the official **manual** for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), a program of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) that provides emergency communications to public service agencies and communities. The **manual** covers the history, organization, policies. . . .

