



RADIO-ACTIVE!

April 15, 2024, Volume 3, Issue 4



Field Day — Come join the fun and bring a friend!

JoMarie, KM6URE

Field day is ham radio’s Open House and it will be June 22—23, 2024. It is a way to welcome the public to come learn more about ham radio as well as operators to explore other aspects of the hobby. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national association for amateur radio, connecting hams around the US is the principle organization for this activity. ARRL



boasts that Field Day is the largest on-air amateur radio event in the world with more than 40,000 hams throughout North America setting up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio’s science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. The event includes a contest to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions. This year’s theme is ‘Be Radio Active’.

Locally, in Santa Cruz County, our two radio clubs (San Lorenzo Valley Amateur Radio Club and Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club) have often joined forces for planning the event. A 2024 Field

Day Committee was created and their first order of business was to secure a location. The Field Day committee announced this past week that Grant, K6BDP, has invited to hold Field Day on his property - the old Par three golf course in Aptos (2600 Mar Vista Drive). It includes seven acres of land to spread out and it is in close proximity to highway 1. A site visit is being planned to identify set-ups for the different stations including *phone* (voice), *CW* (Morse code), *satellite*, *digital*, *VHF*, and a GOTA (“get on the air”) station that is staffed with a coach. Food and publicity are two other items that are important in getting organized. The general schedule of the event is Friday, June 21: setup day, Saturday, June 22: day #1 of operations, Sunday, June 23: day #2 of operations and teardown. If

you are interested in helping out with the organization reach out to Craig, N6SBN at Monte-rey10@hotmail.com or Jim, KN6NCG at jim@kn6ncg.com. Set your reminders to come visit on this weekend in June and consider bringing a friend to lure into the hobby!



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Aptos Par 3 History

Do we have to worry about golf balls flying over head on Field Day? Sadly no! The Aptos Par Three Golf Course opened for play 1962 with a 9- hole course and operated for more than 35 years but closed its doors in 2000. It was where many locals and visitors learned to play golf; where beginners of all ages, seniors, and the physically-challenged, all could enjoy their sport at their own pace. The Par 3 was where parents and grandparents could spend hours playing alongside their children and grandchildren on a course that was challenging, but not overwhelming.

The area is zoned for parks, recreation, and open space. The undisturbed setting of the property has fostered a home-site for Monarch butterflies, Allen’s hummingbirds, red-tailed hawks, deer, and other wildlife. And for a short time this June, a large array of aerials!

Event Spotlights

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>



SAVE THE DATE: S.A.F.E. is being rerun on Sunday, **June 9th 1400—1600**. Hope to hear you then! Watch your email for additional details.



SAVE THE DATE: We have received dates of **July 15—20th** for the Santa Cruz Regional Active Shooter And Casualty Care training. Our role is perimeter monitoring. The event 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 (**June 19th**) and July (**July 17**) will be taken over by a potluck social at Skypark. Come join in on the lovely evening soiree and yacking about ham radio.

SAVE THE DATE: 2024 Cal OES Coastal Region Radio Exercise **August 24th 1200—1700**. This exercise reaches beyond Santa Cruz County and stretches from Humboldt and down the coast. The exercise will be simulating a complete black out and/or severely impacted internet system following a major earthquake along the coast. Roberta, AJ6KN is participating in the planning calls and will share more information as the event date approaches.



Report your volunteer hours!

The reported volunteer hours for March 786 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 a valuable prize! *Congratulations to Christian, AC3T, last month's winner.*

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.
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/](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
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
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- Public Information officer
Allison / KM6RMN, KM6RMN@slvares.org
- Net Manager
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- AEC-MRC Liaison
John / KN6DCA, drjohnrx54@gmail.com
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- AEC-Scribe
JoMarie / KM6URE, KM6URE@slvares.org

FOUND ON THE WEB: *RepeaterBook.com*

Allison, KM6RMN, PIO

It will be an exciting month for me in May: my sis and I are going on an epic Southwest Road trip! Of course I'll bring my HT with me, so how am I going to find the best frequencies to monitor? I was on the verge of buying ARRL's repeater directory to pack in my kit when I stumbled upon this website. It looked like it would help me to find working repeaters on my laptop each night before setting out, so I took a look. I was in for a pleasant surprise: Right away, it explained there was a phone app attached. I grabbed it free from Google Play Store and was even *more* pleasantly surprised when I fired it up. So I'll cover that first.

RepeaterBook's phone app taps the user's current GPS location to create a listing of all repeaters in a selected distance range. It shows call letters, locations, distance and direction, frequency, and tone. If you click on any selection on the list it also tells you the band, input and output frequencies, service type (like "FM" or "echolink"), whether it has emergency nets, latest information update, and a 6 figure Maidenhead grid location code, aka QTH Locator. (I looked that up in Wikipedia -- an excellent subject for a Radio Active article in the future!)

I tapped on the filter and selected 2m and 70 cm, FM and echolink repeaters, hosts ARES nets, in a 10-mile range. It showed 10 results, all of which checked out. It didn't list WB6ECE, even when I changed to 50 miles, but it did list it when I removed the ARES net filter. More on that later.

According to the site, the data is stored in an offline mode so that it can be accessed when a person's smart device does not have a data connection. It will locate the closest repeater even when no cell signal or Wi-Fi is available. (At least the closest from the last location pinged, I suppose.) You bet I'm going to try it when we're out of range on the road.

Turning back to the website, RepeaterBook touts itself as "Amateur radio's first comprehensive, worldwide, free repeater directory. Powered by the popular community database of repeaterbook.com, easily find repeaters across the world."

It has even more features than the phone app and incredible filtering flexibility to sort all

Search Parameters:
 County Codes (2): 085, 087
 County Names: Santa Clara, Santa Cruz
 Band(s): 2m 70cm
 Service(s): FM
 Sort: County Name, Frequency

161 repeaters found

● = On-Air ● = Off-Air ● = Testing/Reduced ○ = Unknown
Click on the frequency for additional details. Click on a header to sort. Notes: Sorting does not carry through to exports!

Freq	Offset	Hz	Azimuth	Location	County	Call	Use	Modes
29.6600	-0.1 Mhz	156.7		Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	K6H0U	OPEN	FM ○
51.7400	-0.5 Mhz	114.8		Wilkes, Laughlin Ridge	Mendocino	K7WVA	OPEN	FM ●
51.7600	-0.5 Mhz	114.8		Monterey	Monterey	W6GR	CLOSED	FM ●
51.8000	-0.5 Mhz	136.5		Modesto, Mt. Oro	Stanislaus	W6SEJF	OPEN	FM ●
51.8200	-0.5 Mhz	100.0 / 100.0		Paso Robles, Paso Robles Radio Ranch	San Luis Obispo	W6SR	OPEN	FM AllStar ●
51.9600	-0.5 Mhz	100.0 / 131.8		Atadena, Mt. Disappointment	Los Angeles	K6VGP	PRIVATE	AllStar EchoLink ●

kinds of information. Each repeater listing shows additional status features and repeater history, supplied by member-contributors. Search results can be downloaded into spreadsheets and even ported to device programming apps such as RT Systems and CHIRP. There are a host of other pages on the site with articles, a wiki, FAQs, legal matters, and -- I found this quirky-- yet another call sign search tool that is an aggregator of other database sites, some of which I've covered in previous articles.

The lookup tools on the website are free for anyone to use, but you need to sign up as a member to unlock the download feature or to suggest any corrections to the database. I signed up (it's free); and once I get more familiar with the site, I'll research why WB6ECE was not listed as an ARES host and correct the matter if it needs to be corrected. (It could be that the repeater administrators removed that designation while the Empire Grade tower is out of commission.)

Note that when you initially land on the website, there's a warning that they are overhauling the database, but it doesn't seem to affect the features I discussed above. If anything, the progress status page looks like they are bringing in even more useful features and filters. If you like the website, check out their Facebook presence for updates and webmaster gossip. It also gives tips for using the database in new ways.

<https://www.repeaterbook.com/>
https://www.repeaterbook.com/wiki/doku.php?id=repeaterbook_app
<https://www.facebook.com/repeaterbook/>

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.

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.

Communications Corner: Texting 911 and using SOS

Roberta, AJ6KN, Net Control Coordinator

As communicators, we need to know how to use all of the tools in our toolbox and our cell phone is one great communication tool.

Sometimes, there is no cell service, BUT you are able to get a short text message out. You can use this mode to contact 911 if no other method is available.

- ▶ Enter the numbers "911" in the "To" field
- ▶ The first text message to 911 should be brief and contain the location of the emergency and type of help needed
- ▶ Push the "Send" button
- ▶ Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 911 call taker
- ▶ Text in simple words – do not use abbreviations
- ▶ Keep text messages concise
- ▶ Drop a pin on a map (Apple or Google maps are tested) to get your latitude and longitude location coordinates (it looks like 37.05277° N, 121.89534°W; 37.05277, -121.89534 or sometimes 37°3' 9.97", 121°53' 43.22" (degrees, minutes, seconds format). **You don't have to understand it** – just copy and paste the coordinates into your text and 911 will know how to find you or the incident you are reporting. But, if you would like to know more about coordinates, google "Latitude and Longitude explanation" and you will have plenty to choose from. I like this short explanation: <https://journeynorth.org/tm/LongitudeIntro.html>

For more information and tips – see the UCSC article here: <https://police.ucsc.edu/crime-prevention/alerts/community-alerts-current/alert-121020.html> .

If you are unable to even text, you may have SOS available on your iPhone, which will connect you with local emer-

gency services. Some iPhones (later models) have satellite access capabilities. There are Apple instructions for all iPhone versions at <https://tinyurl.com/ywwt6m4h> .

You can even add emergency contacts to be contacted when you use the SOS mode.



If you do not have an iPhone, you may not have this capability. Emergency SOS is available on Android 12 and later. During the recent AT&T nationwide outage, Wi-Fi calling was suggested until cell service was restored. That's all well and good, unless you have lost internet capability as well or are mobile . . .