



RADIO-ACTIVE!

July 15, 2024, Volume 3, Issue 7



The Long Days of Summer Continue

ARES is welcoming the long days of summer by having a **Mexican themed Potluck gathering at Skypark Gazebo (361 Kings Village Road) on Wednesday, July 17th, 6pm—8pm.**



This is a replacement for the monthly membership meeting. Come join in on the lovely evening soiree and yacking about ham radio among other operators and friends. Last month we had about 20 participants. We all had a good time enjoying the fare and we forgot to take pictures.

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New 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>



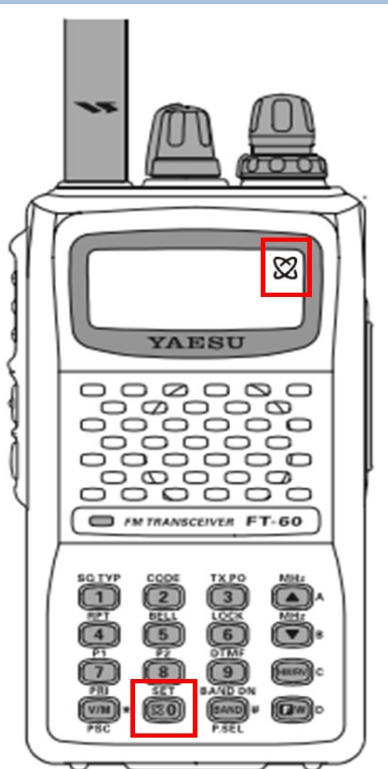
Disabling Yaesu 'WIRES' on FT-60

So, you bought yourself the Santa Cruz County ARES recommended Yaesu FT-60 handi-talkie. You programmed it to our frequencies. Then you start participating in Nets and events. And you try to transmit. Either you are not heard at all or the first part of your transmission is cut off. Net control asks for a repeat of the information but this time hears a DTMF tone at the beginning of your transmission. Net control or other listeners may chime in and state the station (you) has "Wires" turned on. How did that happen? *Very easily.* Most of us have experienced this phenomenon with this radio.

Yaesu's WIRES stands for **W**ide-coverage **I**nternet **R**epeater **E**nhancement **S**ystem. It is an internet communication system that allows amateur radio repeaters to connect over Voice over IP (VoIP). WIRES uses DTMF signaling to connect, so any radio with a DTMF encoding keypad can be used to establish an internet link. When your radio sends out the DTMF tone, it simultaneously mutes your voice audio (or lowers it significantly). Continued on Page 2.

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 arraigning for checking out.



Disabling Yaesu WIRES - Continued

That's why Net Control and the rest of the Net can't hear you! When you are saying your call sign, the radio has muted or lowered your voice signal. Additionally, most repeaters automatically mute the audio when they hear DTMF tones, cutting off the user. The person making the transmission generally has no idea this is happening other than a small, easy to miss indication on their display.

WIRES is a feature that is well used elsewhere but has had challenges in getting a foothold in the US. According to some, the introduction of Echolink may have influenced this.

On the FT-60R, which uses WIRES-II technology (and not the current X version), the key that is used to turn on WIRES is the "0 Set" key, located on the bottom row, second from the left (see diagram to left). Press it momentarily to turn WIRES on (or off). You might do this by accident if you want to enter Set mode and forget to first hit F/W key. You can tell WIRES is on if the small 'atom' symbol appears in the top right corner of the display. When participating with an event, we encourage locking your radio after setting your frequencies for the event and verifying the WIRES is not active.

If you do not plan on using this feature consider an alternative way of handling it by following the steps in the next column. After

performing the steps, it's still possible to 'activate' the WIRES and the symbol will appear, *but it will not send tones over the air and mute your audio!*

'Disabling' WIRES

1. Verify radio is unlocked. To unlock—Long press #6
2. Press the F/W key (lower right button) then immediately press the 0 key to enter the menu mode.
3. Rotate the Dial knob to menu 23 – INT MR.
4. Press the F/W key then rotate the Dial knob to select a memory (d1 through d9) that is empty, i.e. it contains ●●●●●● (six dots) = no tone.
5. Press the F/W key to store the setting.
6. Rotate the Dial knob to menu 21 – I NET.
7. Press the F/W key then rotate the Dial knob to select INT.MEM.
8. Press the F/W key to store the setting.
9. Press the PTT button to exit the menu mode.

Report your volunteer hours!

The reported volunteer hours for May 657 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 drawing. When you win, you get to select a valuable prize!

Save the Dates: ARES Events

2024 SCC ARES Events

Date	Event	Approx. or confirmed date?	Description
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. SIGN UP HERE: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA9A822A4F4CE9-race
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.

As this issue is being published, the Perimeter Monitoring for the Active Shooter Training event is just getting underway for the week of July 15—20th. It takes many ARES and CERT volunteers to support our small contribution for this event. There are 180 time slots to be filled. We have been successful in filling 82% of these slots. Thank you and heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has volunteered for this event.

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
Dawn / KM6RME, KM6RME@slvares.org
- Safety Officer
Stephen / KM6NEP, KM6NEP@slvares.org
- Public Information officer
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Field Day Recap



Field day at the old PAR 3 Golf course on June 21st through 23rd had over 90 participants. Many participants were Ham radio operators (new and experienced) and came out for the comradery and check out all the cool toys. But there were several non-hams that came by because of the publicity and interest in alternative forms of communications. We even had a Scout troop working on their communications badge. It was a comfortable day, lots of fantastic conversations and much energy. The event was even the lead story for the 5pm KSBW news on Saturday. Thank you to the organizing team for a great event. Enjoy the montage of pictures, most captured by Lisa KN6IAB, our photographer using her drone.

Field Day Recap



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