



# RADIO-ACTIVE!

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## Happy New Year!



Happy New Year to All Ham Radio Operators! May your airwaves be clear, your signals strong, and your connections far and wide. The Radio-Active Newsletter is back from the holiday break to kick off the new year with fresh ham radio projects, life updates, and engaging conversations about the hobby we love. Often, as a new

year starts, resolutions are made to inspire us and set some goals for the upcoming year. Chris, of the YouTube K2CJB Radio Channel put together a list of 10 resolutions that we can all consider and probably keep most. Listen to his inspiring listing here: <https://youtu.be/PgxjsQsG5H8?si=v1PupOyrHFarZiun>

But, for expediency, here are the 10 resolutions he suggested:

1. **Join a Radio Club.** Most radio clubs sponsor a repeater and joining a local club supports the local repeater. Also be actively involved in the Club. Your participation helps enhance the community of ham radio.
2. **Try a new operating mode.** Maybe tryout Winlink with the resurgence of a re-designed Winlink Net. Try out a new digital mode.
3. **Build an antenna.** This activity helps one understand how transmission lines work and maybe help you work a band not previously available to you.
4. **Carry your HT (and turn it on).** It is a great public relations tool by encouraging discussions with your community about the hobby. It also increases your understanding of operations outside of your usual location.
5. **Go to a Local Hamfest.** Pacificon is our local event that occurs in mid to late October at the San Ramon Marriott hosted by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club. It offers lots of presentations on different aspects of the hobby as well as supplies and gear for purchase.
6. **Participate in a Contest or Special Event.** One does not need to be a winner of awards to find some fun. This can be an opportunity to make contacts worldwide that may not usually be available during normal operation. This activity can really help hone your skills during pile-ups.
7. **Donate extra gear.** This may extend the hobby to some who cannot afford the purchase.
8. **Reorganize or rearrange your shack.** Check your equipment for safety concerns, neaten or tidy wiring.
9. **Participate in Parks on the Air activities.** Locally, Jim, KN6NCG has spear-headed the monthly activity to play radio at a park such as Seacliff beach or Wilder. It will be resuming in March on the first Saturday (March 1st). This hones your skills of being able to work portably.
10. **Upgrade your license.** And if you already are an extra class holder, consider becoming a volunteer examiner (VEC).



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## 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 check out.

## Operator's spotlight—Moses, KN6TXF

In 2019, the average age of a ham radio operator reported by the ARRL was 68 years old. Locally, most of our clubs and organizations include operators that are thirty-something or later. So, when a young operator joins ARES, it is refreshing and affirming that the hobby may carry on.



Moses, KN6TXF is a high-schooler raised in the Aptos area. He currently is home schooled and is also taking classes at Cabrillo College. He is on a career path that involves engineering.

In 2022, as part of high school extra credit, Moses and his father, Justin, KN6TXF spent some memorable father-son time together studying and getting their licenses. This was at the encouragement of an awesome neighbor and Elmer, Grant, K6BDP. It was a proud moment when Moses achieved his amateur extra license.

Moses enjoys spending time exploring the outdoors, building stuff, and learning new things.

Hobbies are flying radio-controlled aircraft, archery, woodworking, and tinkering with electrical circuits.

The FT Yaesu 991-A All mode transceiver is Moses' favorite radio equipment piece. To compliment the radio he made a homebrew end-fed half-wave antenna from scratch that actually works well and he understands how all of it (even the transformer) works. He recently acquired a Yaesu FTM-200D with a Ed Fong Antenna and is still learning all it's bells and whistles including APRS. He also has a Baofeng UV-82 handi-talkie.

Moses joined ARES to participate in emergency communications as part of a community, to help people and finds it fun and gratifying. He also enjoys acting as net control for the California Rescue Communications 40 meter net, aka the GORDO net (named after the originator Gordon West, WB6NOA). In the next year, Moses ham radio goals are to become a better communicator, take more courses to help achieve that goal, improve his CW skills, and refine his go-kit.

Moses currently embraces the saying by Aristotle, "The more you know, the more you realize you don't know." And this is why he always wants to know how everything works. If he tries a new mode or build a new circuit, he will always want to know why it does what it does.



## Report your volunteer hours!

The reported volunteer hours for December was 495 hours and total for 2024 was 6855 hours. This is a little lower compared to 2023 where we had 9208 hours. We did have one less event this year that accounts for some of those 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!

## Winter Field Day

Join in the fun for the upcoming Winter Field day, scheduled from January 25th 0800 to 26th 1400 at the Mounted Posse House, 2127 Ocean Street Extension. This is sponsored by The Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio and San Lorenzo Valley Radio clubs. *The goal of the Winter Field Day Association is to help amateur radio operators improve their preparedness for disasters and enhance their operational abilities. The winter months present unique challenges for operating, including shorter days, the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards. (WFD 2025 rules)*

The clubs will operate under the K6MMM call sign. There is something for everyone as there will be stations for CW, Digital, Phone, and FM. Because the site is far smaller than the Aptos Grange, the site of last year's event there will be less public outreach.

## Holiday Gathering

The holiday party was held December 21st at Bangkok West restaurant in Aptos. It was sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club (SCCARC) but ARES members were invited. Nearly 50 attended the joyous occasion which included a random gift exchange. Some items in the gift exchange were a Christmas whale sweater, programmed Baofeng radio, boat antenna, HT programming book. One gentleman, had his gift stolen 4 times that produced a lot of smiles and laughs. As part of the festivities, the new Board for SCCARC were installed. Funny, we recognized them also as ARES members. See link to pictures : <https://k6bj.org/wordpress/archives/8974>

## 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](mailto:EOC.ARES@santacruzca.gov)
- Submitting personal information such as DSW application, personal data update, education certificates: email [K6PDL@ARRL.net](mailto:K6PDL@ARRL.net), and [EOC.ARES@santacruzca.gov](mailto:EOC.ARES@santacruzca.gov)



## 2025 SCC ARES Events

Date	Event	Approx. or confirmed date?	Description
May 18, 2025	Strawberry Fields Forever Bike Ride	Approximate	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 4, 2025	Aptos 4th of July Parade	Approximate	We provide monitoring of the public to provide information to the Sheriffs
July 14-19, 2025 (est)	Santa Cruz Regional Active Shooter and Casualty Care Response Training	Approximate	This event is sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's department and provides first responder training for an active shooter. ARES along with CERT provides perimeter monitoring in maintaining a closed event location.
8/17/2025 (est)	Race through the Redwoods	Approximate	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.
9/21/2025 (est)	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 31, 2025 (est) 1530 - 2000	Halloween Trunk or Treat 5200 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz	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.

## 2025 Other Radio Events for Ham Operator Participation

Date	Event	Approx. or confirmed date?	Description
Each Wednesday 10am - 12pm	Loft Coffee 2701 Cabrillo College Dr, Aptos		Gathering of general interest, sharing of ideas, getting some elmer help
2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month 10am	C.A.K.E. @ Loft Coffee 2701 Cabrillo College Dr, Aptos		C.A.K.E. = Coffee/Caffeine Assisted Knowledge Exchange. Gathering of general interest, sharing of ideas, getting some elmer help
1/25/2025	Santa Cruz County Winter Field Day	Confirmed	Explore the various aspects of the Ham radio hobby. Anticipated demonstrations/participation in GOTA, Phone, Digital, VHF/Vara Winlink, Satellite at the Aptos Grange. Additional and updates can be found on the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club website, <a href="https://k6bj.org/wordpress/">https://k6bj.org/wordpress/</a>
1st Saturday of each month [3/1/25, 4/5/2025, 5/3/25, 6/7/25, 7/5/25, 8/2/25, 9/6/25, 10/4/25, 11/1/25, 12/6/25] 10am - 2pm	POTA	Approximate	Play radio at a scenic park near by. Not formal and any mode can be used. Emails sent prior to event to indicate the specific park. Prior parks have been Seacliff State Park and Wilder State Park
April 10-13, 2025	Sea Otter Classic	Confirmed	World premiere Cycling festival. Ham radio operators provide communications from the Fort Ord National Monument backcountry. More information: <a href="https://sbcara.org/otter/">https://sbcara.org/otter/</a>
April 27, 2025	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.
June 28-29, 2025	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.