



RADIO-ACTIVE!

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Summer Gatherings

ARES is welcoming the long days of summer by having a **Mexican themed Potluck gathering at Sky-park Gazebo (361 Kings Village Road) on Wednesday, July 16th, 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. Tortillas (corn, wheat and GF) will be provided along with a pot of black beans and a pot of meat; please bring salsas, guacamole, pico de gallo, salads, desserts, side dishes or whatever else you like to complement the meal!



Another fun gathering is the monthly, on the third Saturday, Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club's Swap Meet. It meets at Upper DeLaveaga Park, next to Shakespeare Santa Cruz 08am to 1pm and it is free to attend. Some operators are cleaning their shacks and others are bringing new and novel items. Bob, KO6XX of Fike Custom Equipment has been offering 3D printed useful items. Come check

out what is being offered. See page 9 for some sample items.



Bob, KO6XX talking with Reed, N1WC; Dave, WB6DWP; and Becky, KI6TKB at swap meet

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ARES NET Survey

ARES SLV and Coastal nets may be changing to one night a week, utilizing the Allstar link, on either Wednesday or Thursday. (See the email from Roberta, AJ6KN on 7/12, with further details). If you have not already voted for your preferred night, please do so here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjbVxFp-lqS_SHVsu_lfK7jRy43MH047giWtf4yplbUiYVlg/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=112391000198181857570

It's a wrap for 2025 — Field Day



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

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.

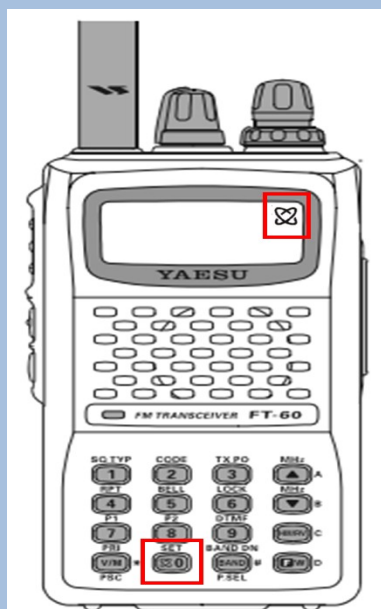
Field day, ham radio's Open House occurred June 28—29, 2025 with over 75 attendees at the old Par three golf course in Aptos. Many attendees were Ham radio operators (new and experienced) and came out for the comradery and check out all the cool toys. It also welcomed the public to come learn more about ham radio. The event was hosted by our two radio clubs—San Lorenzo Valley Amateur Radio Club and Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club. New this year and one of two in the country, were short educational presentations/discussions on topics such as ARES, Meshtastic, HamClock, Starlink, Tracking down powerline noise, contesting and Foxhunting. It was a comfortable day, lots of fantastic conversations and much energy. We also had a free lunch with some scrumptious tacos. Thank you to the organizing team for a great event. Field Day happens twice a year with the next one January 24—26, 2026.



Presentation at field day

'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.



Yaesu WIRES—A challenge to you

(A repeat article from July 2024)

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). 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.

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 WIRES feature consider an alternative way of handling it by following the steps in the left 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!*

YAESU

Report your volunteer hours!

The reported volunteer hours for June was 374 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.

Events Support the Sheriff's Office

Two events happened over the past month—continue reading for a recap of these events.



In June, Santa Cruz County's Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 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 office. 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 five days, June 23 – June 27th, at the Soquel High School campus. The Active Shooter training is 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 a few months. Continued on Page 5

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://arri.santaclaravalley.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

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 arraiging for check out.

Events —continued

John, N6QX; Dan, N6RJX; John, CERT Planning Chief; Lynn, CERT Logistics Chief; and JoMarie, KM6URE, CERT Operations and Logistics Deputy were included in the planning.

This was the first time using the Soquel High school campus location and it encompassed a modest sized footprint of perimeter monitoring. Prior years the event had been at Scotts Valley High School, SLV Tri-campus, Aptos High School and UCSC. Also similar to last year, there were additional activities ongoing during the same time as the event at the campus location. This included Alternative Education Summer School, and a multitude of athletic activities. Radio communications were via MURs and public safety radios. Health and welfare check 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 posts and acknowledged

through MURs to the shift lead. This included scenario initiation and cessation.

After signing in and a briefing by the shift lead, the perimeter monitor volunteers were sent to one of six locations. The 4-hour shifts overlapped to allow time for the briefing and transition of volunteers at each of the posts. Sheriff officers in a roving utility vehicle augmented the perimeter monitoring posts. Augmenting one post this year was a mob of sheep, hired to complete a weed eating campaign. It was the most requested post by our volunteers and stories of the various activities were shared frequently – two kids practicing their head butts and rams asserting their territory.

Most days were in the mid – to high 70s and with an afternoon breeze. Each post had a pop-up with weights and a few supplies. There was a total of 448 hours of service by 44 volunteers over the entire event. Many of the volunteers have dual citizenship with both CERT and ARES. Continued on Page 6



Law leading Fire to Active Shooter Scene

Events—continued

And because of this, it is difficult to state the exact hours were provided by each of the groups. The average number of shifts worked by a volunteer was two. This was the first activation for several of the volunteers and thought it was a very rewarding activity.

Many returning volunteers reported enjoying themselves more at this campus because of the various activities it presented at the posts. We had many interactions with the public explaining the purpose and length of the campus closure. But also enjoying the various aspects of the flora and fauna. There was a great sense of purpose in this activation.

The first Friday of July was another activation of ARES to support the Aptos 4th of July Parade. The fifteen volunteers were tasked to monitor the crowd and roadways along nine positions of the parade route under the direction of the Sheriff's Office. New this year was the deployment of large buses at either end of the route to identify the road closure and to mitigate any possible threat of spurious vehicle traffic to cause crowd harm. Communications was accomplished via Handi-talkies on a simplex channel in connection with a crossband repeater. The net control post was also monitoring the Sheriff's Office Red to allow situational awareness. The greatest challenge, also experienced in prior years, was managing the traffic after the parade has ended. This is a short event but rewarding to help support the Sheriff's Office.



Mike, KO6GGX at Parade End



Mike, KO6GGX at Parade End



Cal Fire Showing their stuff

Helpful Tips for new ARES members

Roberta, AJ6KN

We have had a few new ARES members this year, and some are also new ham operators. **Welcome!** Hopefully, you have navigated to or been directed to the New Member area on the website, but if not, this info is for you!

1. **NEW MEMBER LINK** (Note: Level 1 and up are the only DSW levels - we are in the process of changing the guidelines): <https://xczcomm.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ARES-New-Member-Guide.pdf>
2. **CLUBS:** You are encouraged to join the local clubs, [K6BJ.org](https://www.k6bj.org) (Santa Cruz) and <https://www.slvarc.org/> (San Lorenzo Valley). You will meet other ham radio operators and learn a lot from them! Their websites offer when they have their monthly meetings.
3. **SOCIAL/EDUCATIONAL:** Many ARES members are also members of local clubs, so we “mix and match”.
 - ▶ The Santa Cruz club invites all hams to join them at <https://www.loftcoffeeshop.com/> on Wednesday mornings from 10-12. No Agenda - just meet, talk and learn from each other.
 - ▶ The SLV club invites all to meet every Wednesday as well up in Ben Lomond from around 11:30 to 1:30 at <https://www.coffeenine.com/>.
 - ▶ **CAKE** (Caffeine Assisted Knowledge Exchange) is held for everyone on the 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings at Loft Coffee. Some folks bring projects to share and discuss, and others listen in, ask questions and learn. You are welcome to join in any of these gatherings.
4. **FREQUENCIES:** We recommend that you program the ARES Frequency list of repeaters and simplex frequencies to your radios. <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/frequency-list/> If you don't know how to do this, there are many folks willing to help and program recommended radios for you. To find someone to program your radio, you can go to the Loft Coffee meetings mentioned above, or contact our new member coordinator, Bob Fike at Bob@slvares.org.
5. **EQUIPMENT:** If you don't yet have a radio, see our recommended list here: <https://xczcomm.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Recommended-Equipment-for-New-Hams.pdf>
6. **NETS:** nets are one of the ways that we practice our radio skills, connect with other hams and learn things like being “net control”. We have a radio net on the K6BJ 2m repeater and/or WR6AOK repeater weekly. These repeaters are linked on Allstar so that you can monitor/talk on either one and it transmits on the other. We are currently considering changing the schedule a bit and will keep everyone posted if this happens. The net schedule is on our website here: <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/calendar-of-nets/> You will also get a reminder each week about the Nets if you are on the mailing list. You sign up for the mailing list here: <https://lists.xczcomm.com/mailman/listinfo/everyone> If you have any trouble with signing up here, just email rob-erta@slvares.org and she will sign you up.
7. **MEETINGS:** We have ARES monthly meetings which are held in person at the Santa Cruz County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7 - 9 pm. If you are on the mailing list, you will receive notifications about these meetings. The meeting is a combination of information exchange, trainings, practical exercises and opportunities to meet each other and get a radio programmed, if needed. The SCC EOC is located at the Sheriff's Office Building, 5200 Soquel Avenue at Chanticleer and Soquel on the 2nd floor. Entrance is from the door on the Chanticleer side of the building, which is always locked, so please arrive early so that the door monitor can let you in. If you are late, try calling on the K6BJ 2m repeater. Don't be late!
8. **EVENTS:** We have several opportunities a year to practice our skills in person during bicycle and other race events as well as support for public safety. You do not need to be a seasoned ham operator to participate in these events, as you will receive instruction and partner with someone who is able to show you the ropes. We highly encourage you to take part in any of these events. Some events require a DSW card and that would be indicated on the sign-up list. So you would need to be Level 1 or above to participate. But many of our events are open to all, so please join in the fun! Next Event: Race Through the Redwoods 8/17 - sign up here: <https://bit.ly/rttr2025> no DSW required!

2025 SCC ARES Events

Date	Event	Approx. or confirmed date?	Description
8/17/2025	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: bit.ly/rtrr2025
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.

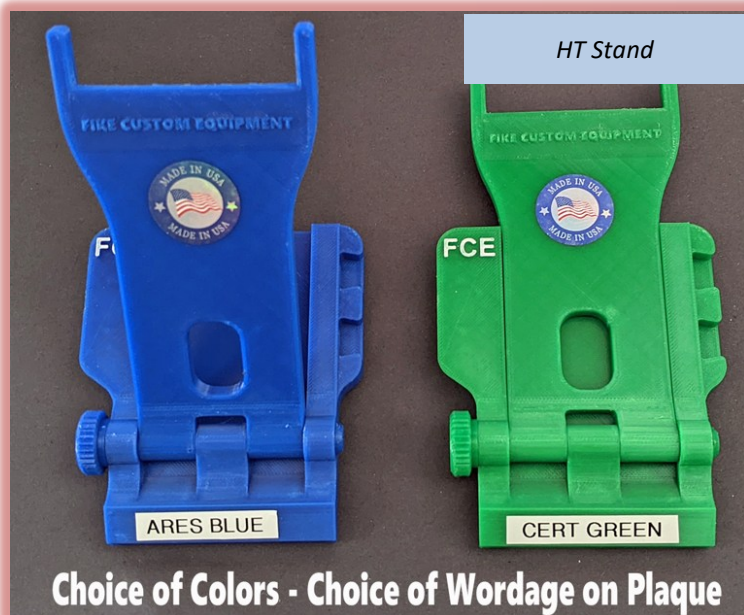


2025 Other Radio Events for Ham Operator Participation

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
1st Saturday of each month [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

Swap meet offerings —continued

Visit Bob, KO6XX,
Fike Custom Equipment
at the swap meet



Handy Talkie Rubber Ducks

