



Santa Cruz County ARES Membership Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 1900;

In-person at the Emergency Operations Center, 5200 Soquel Avenue

Welcome and thank you!

John (N6QX)

Introduction of New Members

Bob (KO6XX)

- There are some challenges currently with the notification process. We apologize to those who have not been acknowledged as new members. We are working on the issue.

Upcoming Activities

John (N6QX)

- Santa Cruz Triathlon, September 21
- Trunk or Treat, October 24
- Holiday Party with SCCARC, December 7th 2 -4pm at the Posse House on Ocean Street Extension. Potluck.

Ham Radio on a Boat

Martin (KN6GWQ)

- Martin shared highlights from his sailing adventure along the coast to the Channel Islands. He gave an overview of the onboard communications setup, which included a VHF/UHF radio with its antenna mounted on the starboard side, and a marine radio with its antenna positioned on the mast. The marine radio operated primarily on Channel 16 (156.8 MHz)—the designated emergency channel—and is not intended for casual conversation. One can use it to hail another vessel before switching to a working channel. This is how Martin communicated with buddies on another boat as they are not currently licensed ham radio operators. While within 15 miles of shore, Martin was able to connect to coastal repeaters using the VHF/UHF system. He also had mobile Starlink onboard, which provided reliable connectivity. A standout moment from the trip was watching SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket launch (used to deploy more Starlink satellites) from Vandenberg Air Force Base right from the deck.

Brainstorming ideas for activities

Roberta (AJ6KN)

- The attendees were asked to share ideas of activities for future meetings and / or exercise. The following were shared:
 - Message passing in the parking lot of the EOC
 - Emergency reporting exercise (aka P.O.W.E.R.: **P**actice for **O**utages **W**ith **E**mergency **R**adio). Could use the flashcards in lieu of actors
 - Antenna Workshop
 - Programming manually HTs
 - Field Day to include ARES training workshop
 - Winlink training to move beyond telnet. Debra, Martin, Roberta use of the phone
 - Training on how to disconnect a repeater
 - Guest speakers with Fire, Police, Sheriff, SAR, CERT, Firewise – Dialog to include how can we better help them but also better understand their expectations.

ARES Emergency Activation

John (N6QX)

- See attached PowerPoint that outlines how an emergency activation may occur.

Your gift today: A confusing variety of adaptors!

John (N6QX)



Santa Cruz County ARES Membership Meeting Minutes




- For those attending the meeting were each given a gift package of multiple RF connectors. See attached PowerPoint slides where John outlines the adapters types. The gift is from our nonprofit, Santa Cruz Communications Support (SCCS). See attached brochure for additional information about non-profit

Net Control Recruitment


Roberta (AJ6KN) or Ed (N6EMA)

NET Date	Repeater NET Controller
Wed, Sept 24	Ad hoc
Wed, Oct 1	Bruce, KN6DBR (on WR6AOK)
Wed, Oct 8	Ad hoc
Wed, Oct 22	John, N6QX
Wed, Oct 29	Allison, KM6RMN

Next meeting: October 15 at 1900 at EOC




Santa Cruz County ARES Emergency Activation




In an Emergency

1. Make sure you, your family, and your home are safe and secure. Assess your local situation.
2. Listen for net activity. If none, start a resource net.
 Primary area emergency repeaters:
 Santa Cruz – Aptos **K6BJ**
 San Lorenzo Valley – Bonny Doon **WR6AOK** or **W6TUW**
 Watsonville **K6RMW/W**
 If repeaters are down, listen and transmit simplex on the repeater’s output frequency.
3. A deployment request may come by telephone, text, email, or radio.
4. Do not deploy to any government building without receiving a request.




September, 2025

1



Santa Cruz County ARES Emergency Activation




Keep your own Activity Log (ICS 214)

Resource Net

- Recruit and track operators and equipment
Who’s available with what capabilities?
- Direct resources to areas of greatest need
- Check in operators as they become available
- Check out operators as they demobilize

Tactical Net

- Cover action in a particular geographic area
- Communicate control and status information with public safety agencies
- Relay health and welfare traffic



September, 2023

2



RF Connectors



Everything you ever wanted to know
about RF connectors,
and **more!**





RF Connectors



RF = Radio Frequency

When hams say “RF”, we really mean “radio signals” or “radio energy”.

Confusing variety of RF connectors, confusing variety of names.



Your gift today: **A confusing variety of adaptors!**

Paid for by



Santa Cruz
Communications
Support



UHF Connectors



SO-239



PL-259



- Most common RF connectors on ham equipment.
- Inexpensive, handle high power, easy to attach to coax.
- Designed in 1930's when *Ultra High Frequency* meant 30 MHz.
- Work great to 100 MHz, pretty good on 2-meters, just OK on 70-cm.
- Impedance poorly controlled.
- No controlling industry specification.



UHF Connectors



SO-239



PL-259

Why the funny numbers?

Adopted by the old US Army Signal Corps in the 1930's.
Assigned next sequential numbers on lists of plugs and sockets.

PL-259 (plug #259)

SO-239 (socket #239)



SMA Connectors



- Used on hand-held radios.
- Small.
- Male and female plugs and sockets.
- Good to 1 GHz or more.
- Less robust than UHF series connectors.



Designed in 1958 at Bendix Research Laboratories by John Bryant, Jim Cheal and Vince McHenry.

Designated **SMA** (for Subminiature Type A) by the *Defense Supply Center: Columbus* in 1993.

SMA Male



SMA Female



RP SMA Male



RP SMA Female





BNC Connector



- Convenient bayonet fastener.
- Good to 1 GHz or more.
- Widely used on professional electronic equipment.
- Infrequently used on ham gear.





BNC Connector



What does “BNC” stand for?

- 1940: Paul Neill of Bell Labs designs first successful connector for microwave frequencies. Named “**Type N**” in his honor.
- 1941: US Navy creates a smaller version of this connector, “**Type BN**” for Baby N.
- 1944: Paul Neill designs improved “BN” with constant 50-ohm impedance and bayonet fastener. US Navy calls this “**Type BNC**”, C for constant impedance.





RF Connector Adapter Kit



What's in the adapter kits?





RF Connector Adapter Kit



Universal cell phone charging cable



USB C male input to
Apple Lightning
USB C female
USB Micro

Adapter to connect a
battery box or car
recepticle:
USB A male to USB C
female





RF Connector Adapter Kit



SMA male to SO239



Connect an FT60 HT to an antenna coax for greater range.



Add an SMA double female to connect a Baofeng HT.



RF Connector Adapter Kit



BNC female to SO239



Connect an Ed Fong Roll-Up J-Pole Antenna to coax





RF Connector Adapter Kit



SO239 to SO239



Connect 2 lengths of coax together





RF Connector Adapter Kit



BNC female to SMA male



Connect roll-up J-pole directly to HT



SMA double female





RF Connector Adapter Kit



6-foot coax with PL259's



Connect antennas and other stuff.



RF Connector Adapter Kit



Paid for by Santa Cruz Communication Support



Santa Cruz
Communications
Support

Local 501(c)3 non profit.
Donations gratefully accepted.

santacruzcs.org

Our Mission

Supporting Public Safety Communications

We support the trained volunteers Santa Cruz County depends on to supplement public safety communications during disasters, emergencies, and large events.

Santa Cruz Communications Support acquires, maintains, and lends equipment and supports training to ensure disaster response readiness.

Santa Cruz Communications Support is a nonprofit public benefit corporation.
Tax ID 85-3915550

Santa Cruz Communications Support



Contact Us



info@santacruzcs.org



www.santacruzcs.org



9305 Glen Arbor Rd, Ben Lomond, CA 95005

Why We Exist

Santa Cruz Communications Support was founded to strengthen our community's disaster readiness by supporting the volunteers who keep us connected when it matters most.

Our emergency radio volunteers provide their own equipment, supplies, and time—often at personal expense—to ensure reliable communication during wildfires, storms, and other crises. After the devastating events of 2020, generous individuals and organizations offered donations to help—but without nonprofit status, we couldn't accept them. Now, as a formally incorporated nonprofit, we can receive tax-deductible contributions that directly fund training, equipment, and deployment readiness. Your support helps ensure that when disaster strikes, our volunteer communicators are prepared, equipped, and ready to serve.

Together, we're building a more resilient Santa Cruz County.



Ways to Donate



Use Paypal Giving Fund

www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/4318925



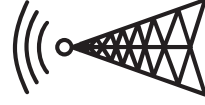
Write us a tax-deductible check

Santa Cruz Communications Support
9305 Glen Arbor Road
Ben Lomond, CA 95005



Sign up for matching donations by your employer, facilitated by Benevity Causes.

(Tell us if your employer uses a different matching program).



Supporting Disaster Communications



In 2020, extended power shut-offs left parts of Santa Cruz County without internet or phone services. Volunteer radio communicators were deployed to relay 911 reports.



During the disastrous CZU Lightning Complex Fires volunteer radio communicators joined citizen teams so they could safely enter fire evacuation zones to supplement Cal Fire ground observations and care for stranded domestic animals.

Your support powers these efforts and ensures we're ready for the next emergency.