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2017 Year End Summary, Update, Preview



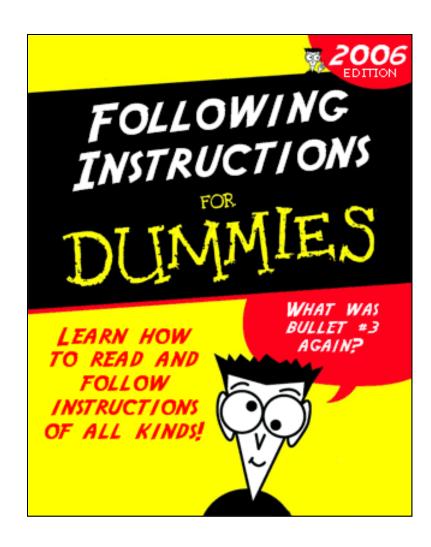
Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES

Revised: 06-Dec-2017

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Housekeeping

- Introductions
- Pen/pencil & paper
- Cell phones on silent or vibrate
- Side conversations
- Questions
- Refreshments
- Breaks
- Restrooms
- In case of emergency



Agenda

- Net Control
- Message Passing
- Shadowing
- Repeater Linking Delays
- Packet Networking
- SCCo Data Network The Next Phase
- District Emergency Coordinator Year End Report
- High Power Performance Award







Net Control 2017 Year End Summary, Update



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES Mark Laubach, K6FJC Revised: 05-Dec-2017

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Agenda

- Update on California AB 1222 (aka AB 1785, Section 23123.5(f) CVC) and our mobile ham radio use
- Updates to Resource Net mobilization and de-mobilization resource tracking
- Course-correcting for better net communications efficiency:
 - How to be a better Net participant
 - How to be a better NCO

Update on California AB 1222

(reference material for post class study)

- Signed into law on 27 Sep 2017
 - Slightly amended, taking away the "specialized mobile radio..." association.
 - Press release http://www.no1pc.org/handsfree/20170927-AB1222-SIGNED.pdf
 - Intent stated: for phones, not for "trained or licensed professionals, such as utility workers, from using their mounted and [wired] two-way radios for brief communications with one another or dispatch. These devices do not possess the myriad distractions of cellular phones."
- The published Legislative analysis, which although not issued by the Attorney General's office as legal interpretation, does spell out the intent of the law - prohibit hand-held cellular call and text application.
 - Analysis 1
- A CHP enforcement memo, which comes not from the administrative side of things, but field operations, clarifying for their LEOs what should or should not be enforceable: don't bother with stops for mike use.
 - http://www.no1pc.org/handsfree/CHPEnforcementMemo.pdf

AB 1222 Impact on Hams

- Since the last net control class, things are slightly better.
 - AB 1222 is still not stated crystal clear, and will likely not be improved in any near future.
 - Interpretation is still up to local jurisdictions.
- Opinions / interpretations are that:
 - Holding the active device (e.g. a handheld) by hand (still looks like a phone) is a violation.
 - Hand-held affixed to the vehicle with a speaker-mike is most likely OK.
 - Mounted mobile rig, using a wired hand microphone is most likely OK.
- Carrying a copy of the CHP memo in your vehicle is prudent.
- Visit Jim Aspinwall's (NO1PC) site for the most current summary and discussion:
 - http://www.no1pc.org/handsfree/

Impact on Resource Net Level 3 H&W

- Before 2017, NCO would call out individual calls signs expecting an immediate response from the individual.
- Because of our state government, the 2017 NCO 3B course taught a new method: when NCO is ready for H&W they will make an announcement, and then you are to respond when you determine it is safe to do so.
 - Requires driving to a location where you can safely stop and make your H&W check-in.
- Since then, the law has been further clarified to the point where it seems to be ok (we're not lawyers) if you use a wired microphone attached to a mounted radio.
 - You still determine if it is safe and legal to respond while driving.
- NOTE: This likely will create a communications pile-up.

Updates to Resource Net Travel Tracking

Mobilization

- Unchanged.
- Will continue to use as is.

Demobilization

- Optional.
- If you decide to use the net, check-in and continue to use until you reach your destination, and then check-out.
- If you are not going to use the net, simply don't use it.
 - Avoid "check-in, check-out".

How to be a Better Net Participant

- Observations and feedback, many comments of nets running slowly
 - Most often Resource Net Level 3 Travel Tracking during Mobilization
 - "Can't check-in", "can't check-out"
- After review (including recordings), root causes include the following:
 - Some participants are not coming to the event prepared
 - Thoroughly read and follow any instructions for an event, including anything sent in email before or provided at the event -> prepare your mind.
 - Equipment: make sure it is programmed and all works before arriving.
 - Note: still be able to program your radio in any weather situation or time of day.
 - Show up on time: anticipate lead time for parking, staging, and start of briefings.
 - Net Control's instructions are not being followed, creating repetition
 - If asking for reports, communicate just what was asked for, nothing more or less.
 - Reminder: if assigned a Tactical Call sign, your transmission is generally always:
 - "This is <Tactical Call> <message> <FCC Call Sign>"
 - The first second of a transmission is missing
 - With linked repeaters, press PTT and <u>THEN WAIT AT LEAST A FULL SECOND</u> before speaking!
 - Yaesu users: <u>TURN OFF WIRES</u> before transmitting anything!.

How to be a Better Net Control

- The NCO sets the tone, pace, and efficiency of the Net
 - Be clear on any instructions to participants.
 - Be concise and terse, say no more, say no less, stick to net business.
 - Follow scripts and procedures.
 - Try to avoid repeating large portions of assignment instructions.
 - Leave sufficient pauses between messages
 - Need to allow for other participants to transmit as well as allow for emergency or priority traffic interruption.
- If the net has become inefficient, expect:
 - Some corrective suggestions and coaching (from supervisor, scribe, etc.).
 - A shift change, if other personnel are available.
 - A two-way debrief after the shift or event is over.
- All of us: important to course correct an inefficient net into a more efficient net: prepare and practice outside the classroom!





Message Passing 2017 Year End Review, Update



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES

Don McKee, KE6DM

Revised: 05-Dec-2017

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Message Passing Fundamentals

The building blocks of the message passing process

Follow the NTS Manual (plus SCCo changes)

- Most of what we will cover comes from the ARRL NTS manual
 - Chapter 2 Sending Messages on Voice
 - Print it out; keep it in your go kit; refer to it often
- A (very) few NTS procedures don't fit RACES situation where the message author and recipient are not radio operators
 - Example: "X" for end of sentence
- Santa Clara County RACES additions and/or exceptions adjust for our environment (FM simplex or repeaters) and fill in missing procedures
 - Punctuation, symbols, GPS coords, ...

CHAPTER 2 - SENDING MESSAGES O	N VOICE
Table of contents (Double click RTF, click PDF page number to	ection; Ctrl-Home TOC.
2.0 CHAPTER 2, SENDING MESSAGES ON VOICE, INTROI	
2.1 TOOLS	
2.1.1 PHONETIC ALPHABET	
2.1.2 PAUSES	
2.1.3 PAUSING FOR INTERRUPTIONS	
2.1.4 PROWORDS, OPERATIONAL WORDS	
2.1.4.1 NUMBER (BEFORE MESSAGE NUMBER OR SVC)	
2.1.4.2 END (END OF MESSAGE)	
2.1.4.3 BOOK OF (#)	
2.1.4.4 END BOOK	
2.1.4.5 BREAK	
2.1.4.6 I SPELL	
2.1.4.7 I SAY AGAIN, (USE #1) TO REPEAT FOR CLARITY	
2.1.4.8 I SAY AGAIN, (USE #2) TO CORRECT AN ERROR	
2.1.4.9 NO MORE, ONE MORE (1), MORE (2 OR MORE)	
2.1.4.10 OVER	
2.1.4.11 ROGER	
2.1.4.12 MISC., AFFIRMATIVE, NEGATIVE, ROGER, Q SIGN	
2.1.5 INTRODUCTORY WORDS FOR GROUPS	
2.1.5.1 FIGURE(S)	
2.1.5.2 TELEPHONE FIGURES	
2.1.5.3 INITIAL	
2.1.5.4 INITIALS (LETTER GROUP)	
2.1.5.5 MIXED GROUP	
2.1.5.6 MIXED GROUP FIGURE(S)	
2.1.5.7 AMATEUR CALL	
2.1.5.8 ARL, CHECK AND TEXT, IF NUMBERED RADIOGR	
2.1.5.9 EMAIL, PACKET, AND INTERNET ADDRESSES	
2.2 RULES FOR VOICING MESSAGES	
2.2.1 SPELLING, PHONETIC OR LETTER	
2.2.1.1 MANDATORY USE OF PHONETICS AND SPELLING	
2.2.1.2 PHONETIC OR LETTER-SPELLING CHOICES	
2.2.2 NO EXTRANEOUS WORDS	
2.2.3 SENDING SPEED	
2.2.4 RULES FOR VOICING THE PARTS OF THE MESSAGE	
2.2.4.1 PREAMBLE VOICING RULES	
2.2.4.2 ADDRESS AND OP NOTE VOICING RULES	
2.2.4.3 TEXT AND OP NOTE VOICING RULES	
2.2.4.4 INTRODUCTION OF MULTIPLE TEXT GROUPS	
2.2.4.5 SIGNATURE AND OP NOTE VOICING RULES	
2.2.4.6 EMAIL, PACKET, AND INTERNET ADDRESS VOICE	
2.2.4.7 ENDING THE MESSAGE 2.2.4.8 MISC, INTRODUCED GROUP VOICING EXAMPLES	
	. 7

Symbols

- The NTS manual does not cover how to voice many symbols.
 SCCo RACES will adopt the following standard:
 - "/" is spoken "slash"
 - Example: "... and/or ..." is spoken "... mixed group alpha november delta SLASH oscar romeo ..."
 - "+" is spoken "plus"
 - Example: "... +1-408-867-5309 ..." is spoken "... telephone figures PLUS one <pause> four zero eight <pause> eight six seven <pause> five three zero niner ..."
 - "-" depends on the context
 - "-" is spoken "minus" as part of a number
 - Example: "... -123 ..." is spoken "... figures MINUS one two three ..."
 - "-" is spoken "dash" when used as a dash
 - Example: "... w2xsc-1 ..." is spoken "... mixed group whiskey two x-ray sierra charlie DASH one ..."

Symbols (cont.)

- Reminder, voicing of "." is context dependent:
 - In a number, "." is spoken "decimal"
 - Example: "... 146.475 ..."
 - Spoken: "... figures one four six DECIMAL four seven five ..."
 - In an email, packet, or internet address, "." is spoken "dot"
 - Example: "... joe@host.com ..."
 - Spoken: "... email address juliet oscar echo atsign hotel oscar sierra tango DOT charlie oscar mike ..."
 - At the end of a sentence, "." is spoken "period"
 - Example: "... Bring food. ..."
 - Spoken: "... bring food PERIOD ..."

Message Passing Prowords

- Prowords are special words used to facilitate message passing by voice
- They are NOT written into the message
- Prowords can be grouped into three categories, depending on how they are used:
 - Operational/Control Prowords
 - Define the start, end, or control the flow of the message
 - Clarification Prowords
 - Always spoken after a group
 - · Clarifies or emphasizes what was just said
 - Introductory Prowords
 - Always spoken before a group
 - Alerts receiving operator to what is coming next
- It is important to use each of them in the right place to avoid confusing the recipient and slowing down the message transfer

Intro Proword: Figure(s)

- Identifies one or more numerals to follow
- Voice each digit separately
- A "." is voiced "DECIMAL"
- A preceding "-" is voiced "MINUS"
- Examples:
 - Written: Send 12 dozen jelly donuts right away
 - Spoken: "Send FIGURES ONE TWO <pause> dozen jelly donuts right away"
 - Written: Switch to frequency 146.115
 - Spoken: "Switch to frequency FIGURES ONE FOUR SIX DECIMAL ONE ONE FIVE"
 - Written: The temperature will dip to -10
 - Spoken: "The temperature will dip to FIGURES MINUS ONE ZERO"

Intro Proword: Telephone Figures

- Identifies a telephone number to follow
- Best to include area code for clarity
- Examples:
 - Written: 408-555-1212, (408) 555-1212, or 408.555.1212
 - Spoken: "TELEPHONE FIGURES four zero eight<pause> five five <pause> one two one two
 - Written: +8816-408-555-1212
 - Spoken: "TELEPHONE FIGURES plus eight eight one six <pause> four zero eight<pause> five five <pause> one two one two

Intro Proword: GPS Coordinates

- Identifies a set of GPS coordinates to follow
- Used when a set of numbers contain one or more of the coordinate "marker" symbols:
 - ° (degrees), ' (minutes), " (seconds)
 - N (north), S (south), E (east), W (west)
- Voice the "marker" symbols where they appear
 - But don't add them, if not already part of written message.
- Include the word "AND" between the latitude and longitude parts.
- Send as a single "unit", even if written across multiple "slots"
 - You may need to make adjustments to fit the "5 words at a time" rule
- If the numbers look like coordinates, but don't contain any "marker" symbols, just send them as FIGURES.

Intro Proword: GPS Coordinates (cont.)

• Examples:

- Written: 41° 24.20′, 2° 10.44′
- Spoken: "GEE-PEE-ESS COORDINATES four one DEGREES <pause> two four decimal two zero MINUTES <pause> AND <pause> two DEGREES <pause> one zero decimal four four MINUTES"
- Written: 41°24′12.2″N 2°10′26.5″E
- Spoken: "GEE-PEE-ESS COORDINATES four one DEGREES <pause> two four MINUTES <pause> one two decimal two SECONDS NORTH <pause> AND <pause> two DEGREES <pause> one zero MINUTES <pause> two six decimal five SECONDS EAST"

Intro Proword: GPS Coordinates (cont.)

• Examples:

Written: 32.30 N, 122.61 W

 Spoken: "GEE-PEE-ESS COORDINATES three two decimal three zero NORTH <pause> AND <pause> one two two decimal six one WEST"

• Written: 32.30°, -122.61°

 Spoken: "GEE-PEE-ESS COORDINATES three two decimal three zero DEGREES <pause> AND <pause> minus one two two decimal six one DEGREES"

Problem Solving

How to handle the problems that will inevitably happen

Proword Is Part of the Message

- What if a proword like "figures" is part of the message?
- Answer: Use "I spell"
- Examples:
 - Written: "The latest figures are encouraging."
 - Spoken: "The latest figures I SPELL foxtrot india golf uniform romeo echo sierra <pause> are encouraging."
 - Written: "Itemize 4 figures for each."
 - Spoken: "Itemize FIGURE four <pause> figures I SPELL foxtrot india golf uniform romeo echo sierra <pause> for I SPELL foxtrot oscar romeo <pause> each."

Long Messages

- When you run out of room on the form when receiving a message:
 - Make it abundantly clear on page 1 that there is more than one page ("Page 1 of X")
 - Use plain paper for subsequent page(s)
 - Number each subsequent page ("Page X of Y")
 - All subsequent pages MUST include message number
 - Use only front of paper
 - Copying and/or scanning often misses the back of pages
 - Immediately staple or otherwise affix all pages together





Shadowing 2017 Year End Review, Update



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES

Don McKee, KE6DM

Revised: 05-Dec-2017

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Shadow "First 5 Minutes" Checklist

- Inspired by Scott, K6SLB, who made something for his personal use.
- A "checklist" to remind you what to cover during your initial interview with your principal.
 - Who are you? Who is your principal?
 - What you CAN and CAN'T do.
 - Specific instructions from your principal.
 - Reconnect plan.
- Handy "tear off" tab for your contact information.
- Available on the "Shadowing Type III" course description page

Name, FCC Call Sign: Tactic Event/incident Name:		Tactical Call Sign:	Date and Time:	
		I	Activation Number:	
1.	Introduce yourself.			
2.	Principal (Name, Title, Tuctical, etc.):			
3.	Explain role of shadow, capabilities provided: a. To ensure you can always be reached. b. I am able to get information for you while you attend to other matters.			
	c. I can take messages for you at times you don't want to be interrupted. d. My services are limited to providing communications. e. Any questions?			
4.	In addition to using my personal ham equipment, I can use principal/event supplied equipment, too a. Mobile Phone Commercial Radio FRS/GMRS Other:			
5.	Roles and Responsibilities of principal:			
6.	Is there any specific message traffic, or	particular events, that y	ou would like to be kept informed about?	
	Is there any specific message traffic, or			
7.				
7.	Reconnect plan if separated:		SII out — Tear Here — Give to Principal	
7.	Reconnect plan if separated:	Name:		





Repeater Linking Delays 2017 Year End Review, Update

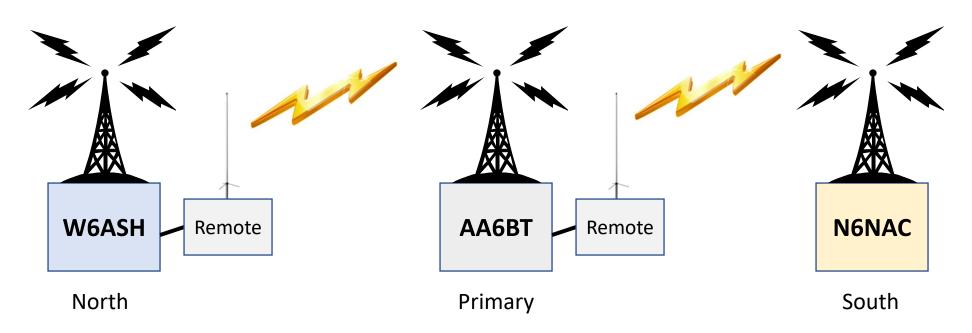


Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES
Tim Howard, KE6TIM
Revised: 05-Dec-2017

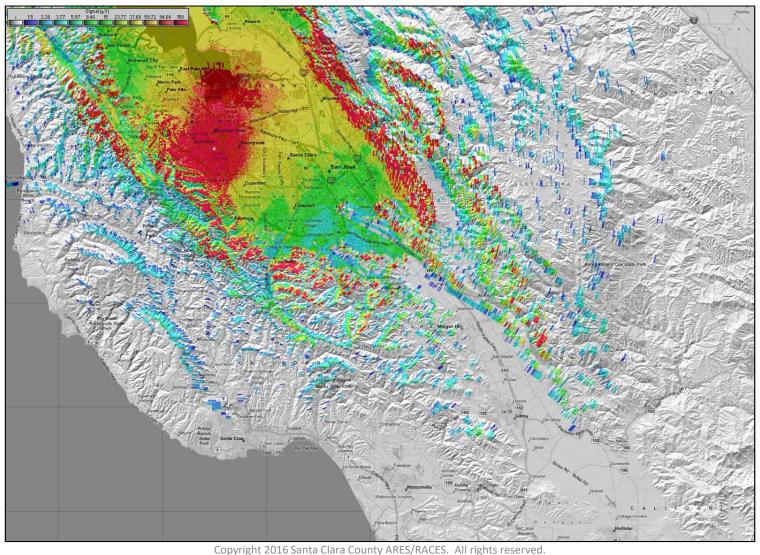
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Repeater Delays when Linked

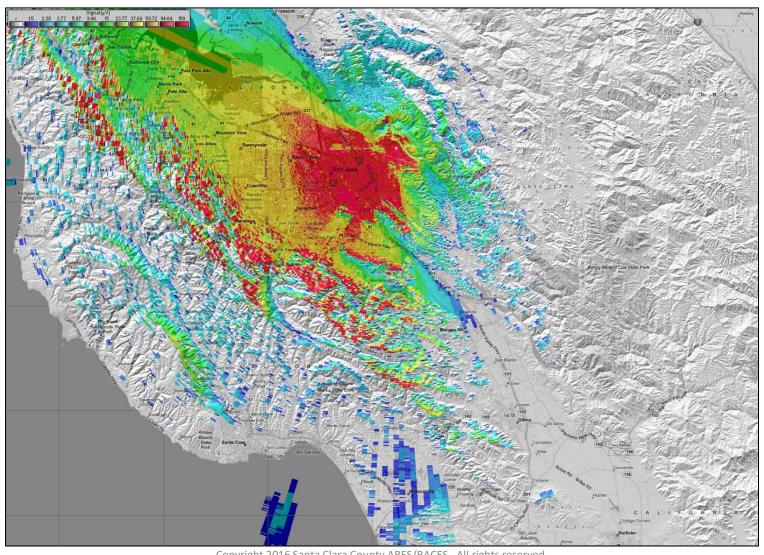
- Normally, the repeaters used for Resource Net are not linked
- When linked there is a delay -- you need to allow for it
- Max delay when sending from W6ASH to N6NAC (or reverse)



W6ASH Coverage (Resource Net North)

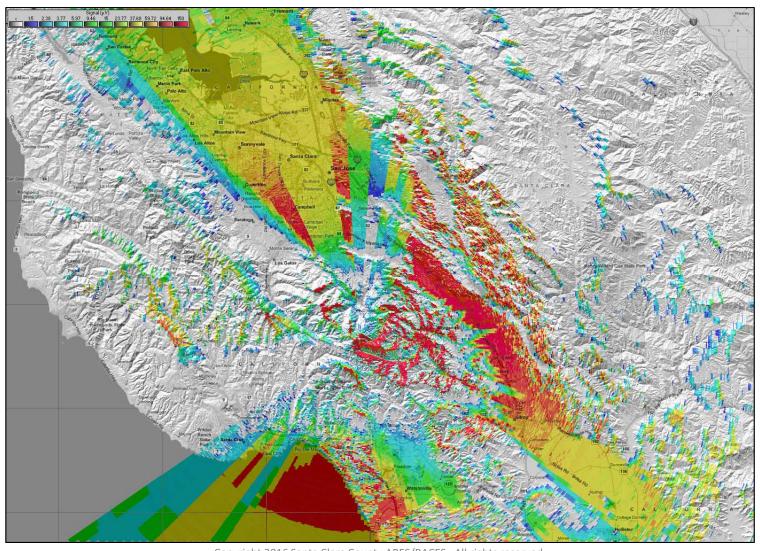


AA6BT Coverage (Resource Net Primary)



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N6NAC Coverage (Resource Net South)



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Linked Repeater Delay Examples

Resource Net level 1

N6NAC



AA6BT



W6ASH



Linked Repeater Delay Examples

Resource Net level 3

AA6BT



N6NAC



NC calls K6PIG, K6PIG acknowledges
NC puts K6PIG back in assignment que, K6PIG acknowledges

NC calls K6GA, K6GA acknowledges NC to K6GA with assignment, K6GA acknowledges NC gives K6GA details of assignment, K6GA copies NC gives travel directions



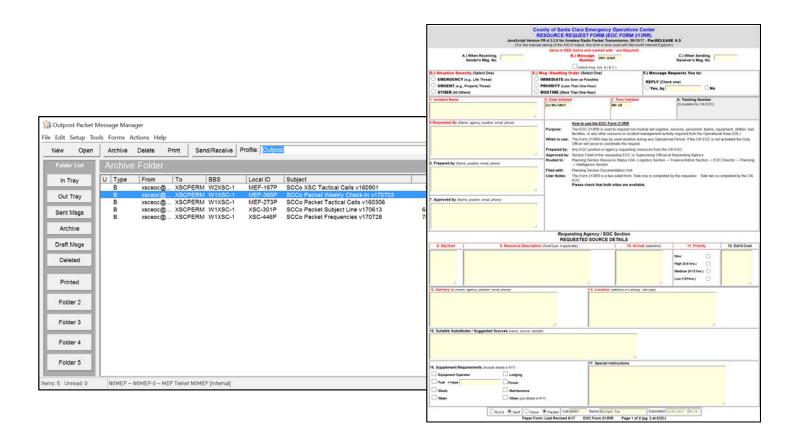


Packet Networking 2017 Year End Review, Update



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES
Michael Fox, N6MEF
Revised: 05-Dec-2017

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Outpost & PacFORMS

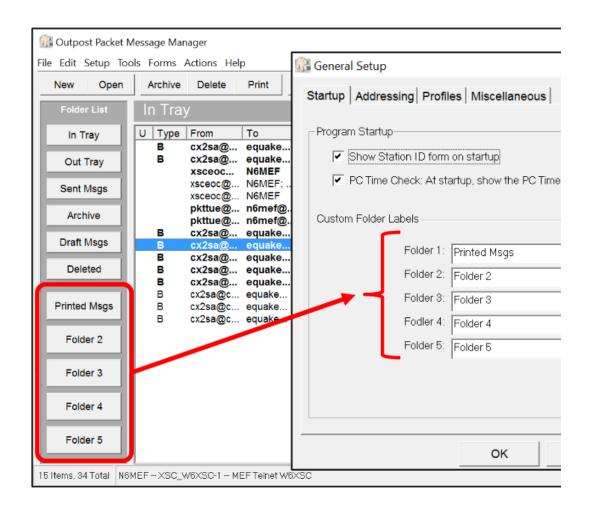
2017 Review, Updates

User Configurable Folders

- Five more folders for managing the workflow
- Customize the labels
- Supports message drag and drop

Find it...

Tools > General Settings

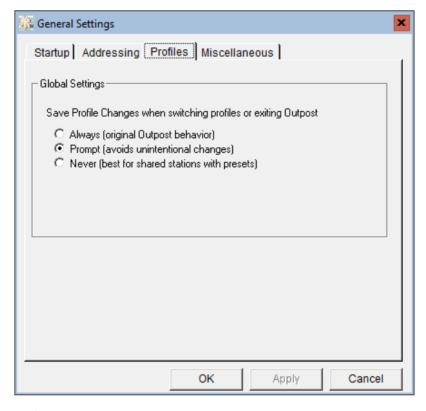


Profile Locking

- Controls whether configuration changes are saved to the active profile when switching profiles or existing Outpost
- "Always" is the original Outpost behavior
- "Prompt" avoids unintentional changes
 - SCCo default
- "Never" is best for EOCs

Find it here...

Tools > General Settings, 3rd tab



Message Retrieving Changes

- Moves the Retrieving Tab from the Send/Receive Set up to the BBS setup
 - Now, each BBS can have its own set of Retrieve Settings
- Custom Bulletin Retrieval
 - Takes JNOS commands specific to message retrieval, like...

A ALLWW

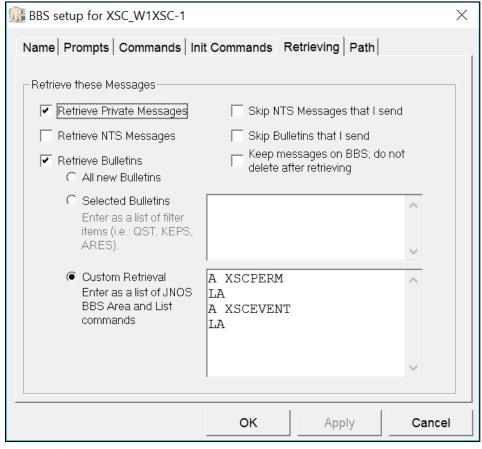
L> EQUAKE

L> SWPC

L> TECH

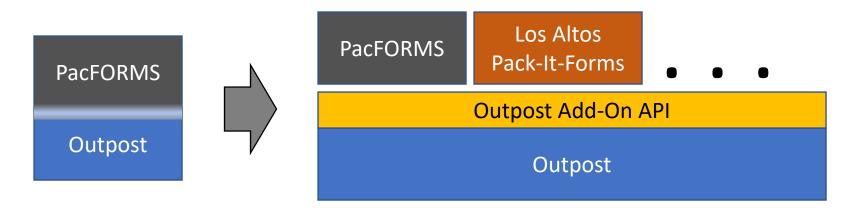
 Requires a good understanding of BBS Message commands

Find it here...
Setup > BBS, retrieving tab



Add-on API

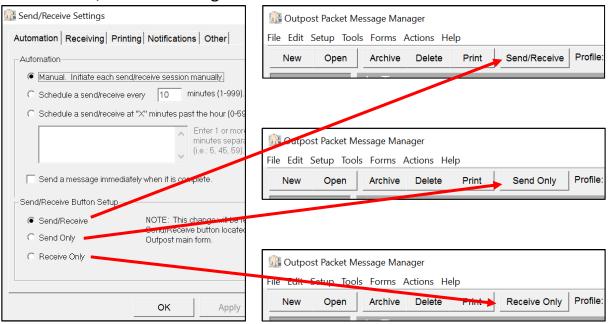
- The Outpost/PacFORMS integration has been very useful
- But much of the interaction is hard-coded in Outpost
- New API provides standard way to connect apps to Outpost
- Enables more automation and integration with workflow
- PacFORMS will eventually migrate to API as well

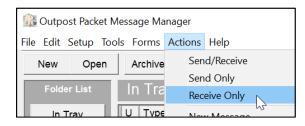


Configurable Send/Receive Button

- Button can be set to: Send/Receive, Send Only, Receive Only
- Perfect for EOCs with one machine sending, one receiving
- Saved in profile; override with Action menu

Tools > Send/Receive Settings



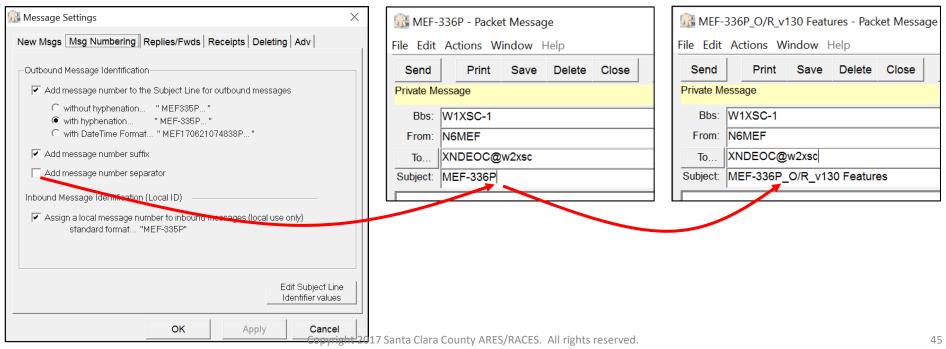


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Configurable Message Number Separator

- Turn off ": " separator after message number in subject
- No need to back up/delete ": " before typing SCCo standard subject line separator "_"

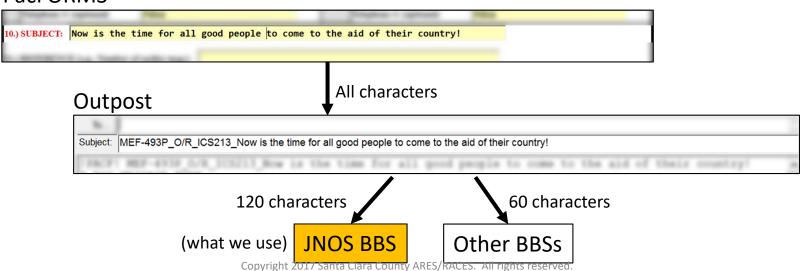
Tools > Message Settings



Longer Subject Lines for PacFORMS

- Previous version of PacFORMS limited the Subject line sent to Outpost to 50 char
- PacFORMS now sends all characters to Outpost
- Different BBSs can handle different length subjects
 - JNOS = 120 char; Other BBSs (FBB, BPQ) = 60 characters

PacFORMS



Station ID Changes

Creates a single location for managing information about

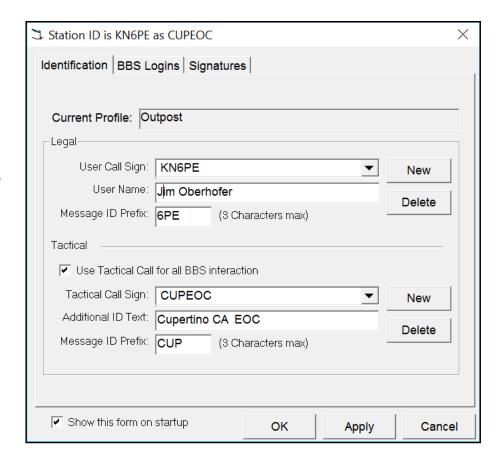
station identifications.

1. Changes to how users and tactical calls are defined and selected.

2. Consolidates the Signature fields and controls

Find it here...

Setup > Station ID, 1st and 3rd tab



New BBS Telnet Logon

Moves telnet logons from the TNC setup to be clearly

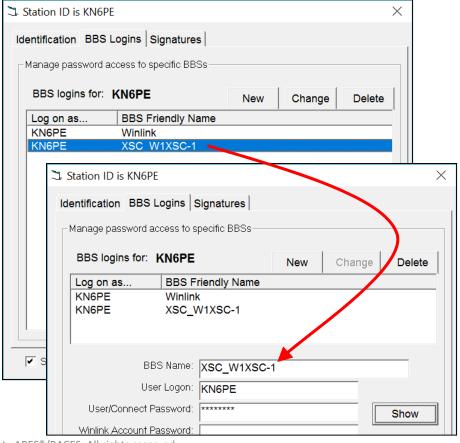
associated with the user ID.

 This will be useful with the new high speed access options

Adds support for Winlink
 Secure Login

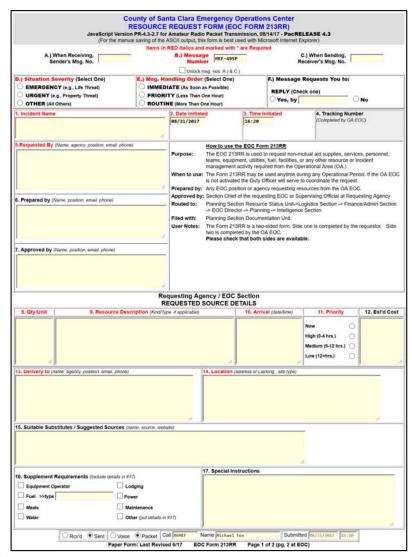
Find it here...

Setup > Station ID, 2nd tab



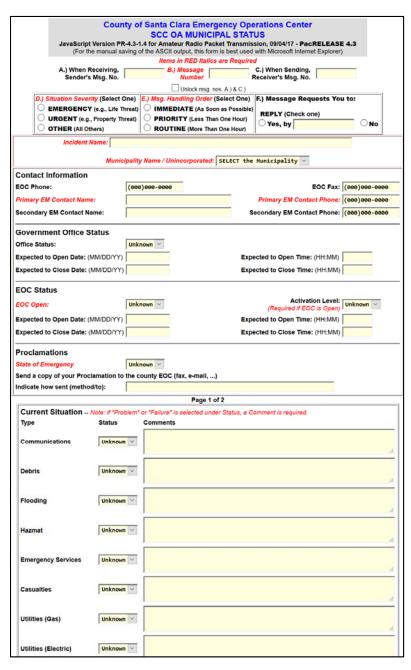
Updated EOC-213RR Resource Request

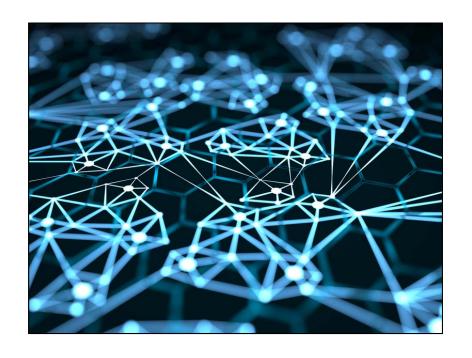
- OES updated again, June 2017
- New format
- New required fields rules
- Only first page is sent
- Second page is added by EOC personnel when received



Preview: Work Underway ...

- New OA Municipal Status form
 - Replaces City Scan
- Updated RACES Mutual Aid Resource Request, Fulfillment
- MS Edge browser support
 - Firefox is still recommended
- Several other user interface and workflow improvements ...

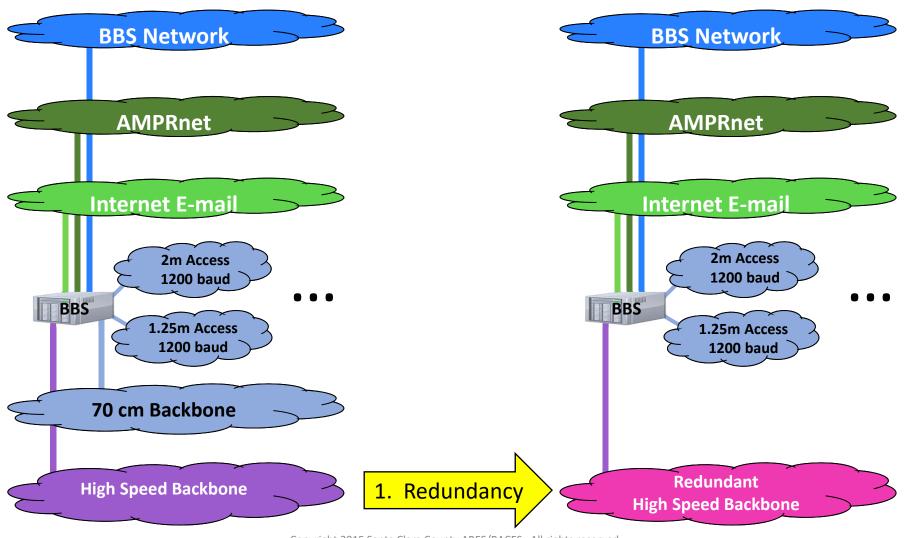




Network

2017 Review, Updates

Reminder (2014): Migration Strategy



Reminder (2016): New Home for W3XSC

- The City of Mountain View has been a great host
 - Provided initial radios, antennas, space, power, etc.
 - But the site is too low for microwave line of sight
- New Home: Channing House, Palo Alto
 - 200 feet ASL (vs. 125' in Mountain View)
 - Clear line of sight to W1XSC, W4XSC (vs. none)
 - Multiple mounts for microwave dish/sector antennas (vs. none)
 - Generator, earthquake dampeners
 - Other backup site uses
- Schedule
 - Construction: current
 - Move target: H1-2017



Channing House: Looking SW toward San Jose

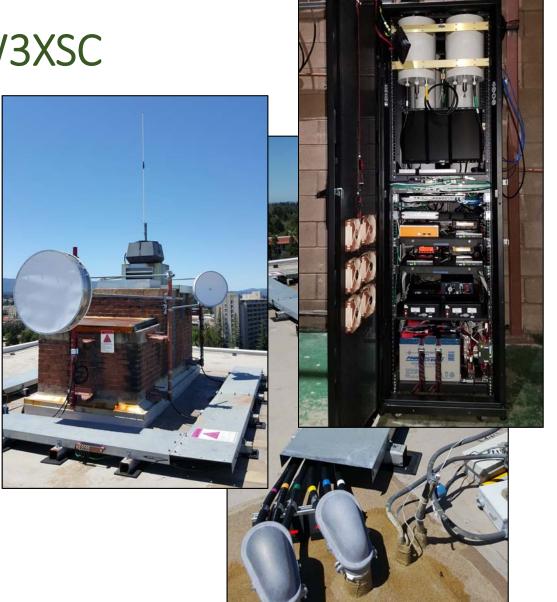
New Home for W3XSC

Done

- Design approvals
- Power
- Conduits
- Roofing
- Cable tray
- Innerducts
- Grounding
- Mounting posts/braces
- Backbone antennas
- VHF/UHF antenna
- Cabinet (radios, network, servers)

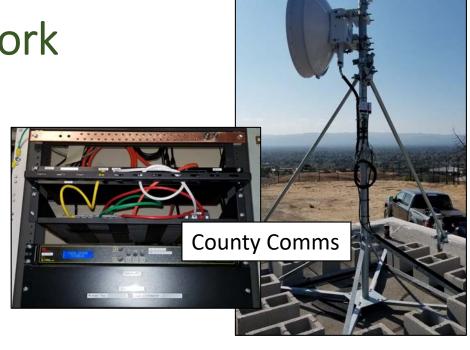
Next

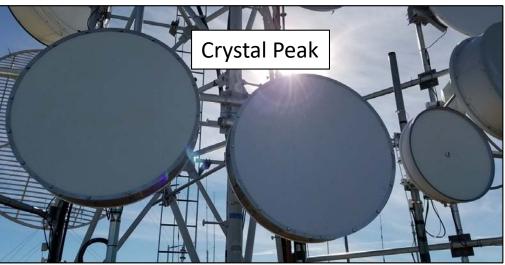
 Access antennas, cabling, network gear for connecting surrounding sites



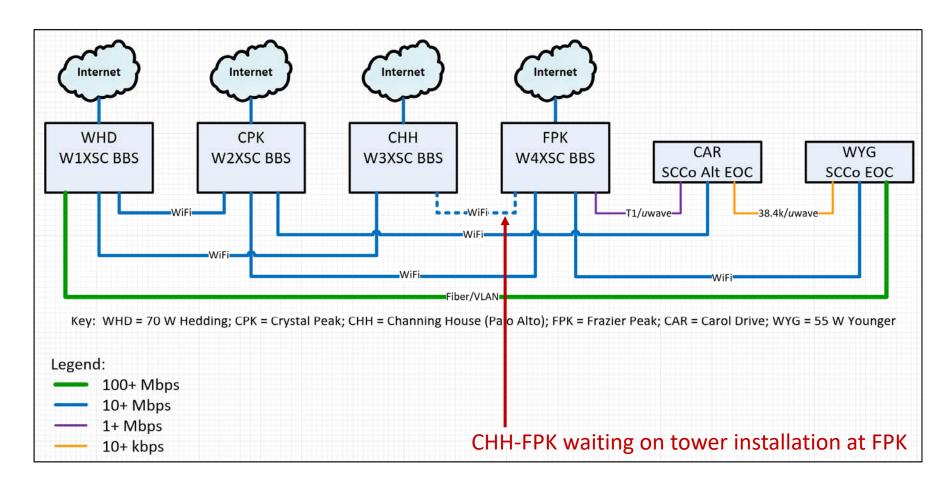
Other Backbone Work





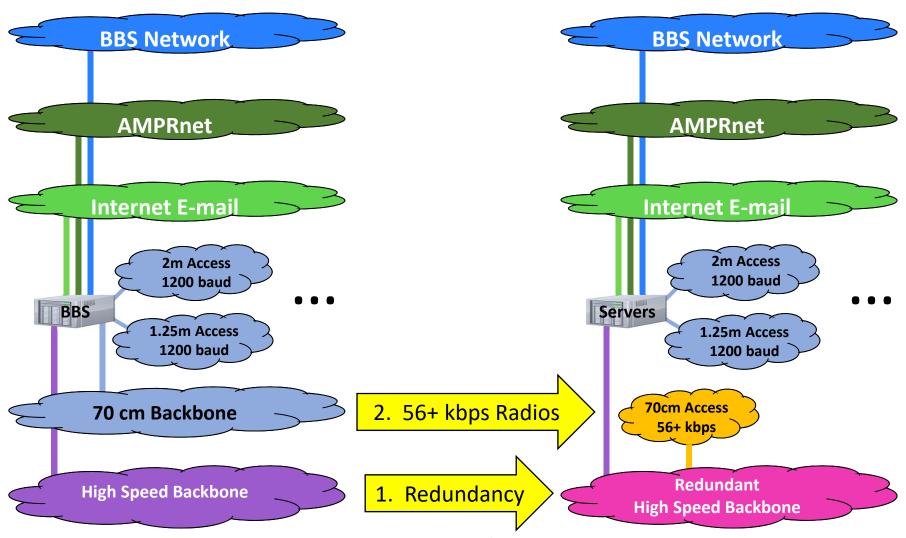


2017 High-speed Redundant Backbone Status



When completed, no single site or link outage can interrupt the network

Reminder (2014): Migration Strategy

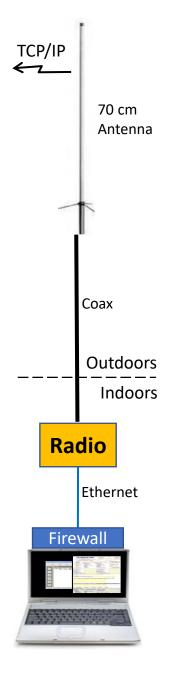


56+ kbps UHF Radio Update

- No show: previously anticipated amateur data radio
- Found: commercial radio with more capabilities
 - TCP/IP Ethernet/radio bridge/router
 - Channel BWs to 50 kHz; data rates up to 128 kbps (100x)*
 - Compression, RTS/CTS, advanced diagnostics, ...
 - Thousands deployed: commercial, government
 - Can operate in amateur radio 70 cm band
 - Turn off encryption, turn on CW ID

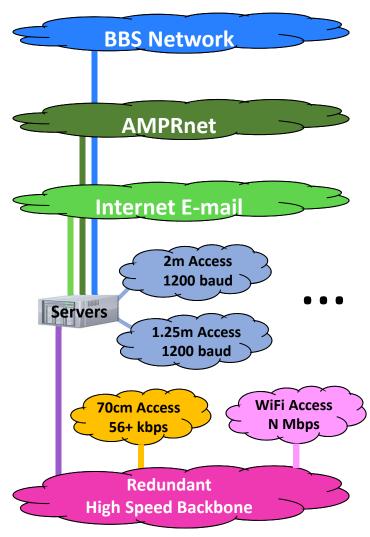
Status

- Reviewed application/specs with manufacturer; looks good!
- Next: testing (bench, field), bids/negotiation, contract(s), ...
- Likely H1-2018 deployment
 - Need to complete redundant backbone first



Mbps Access Update

- High speed (Mbps) access available
- Requires line of site to hub site
- Construction already started
 - Mounting points
 - Antennas
 - Cabling
 - Firewalls
- First subscribers anticipated in early 2018



Packet Networking Summary

- Outpost & PacFORMS
 - A dozen or so improvements to efficiency, effectiveness of EmComm workflow
- Network Infrastructure
 - Reliability:
 - Major enhancements to redundancy of high-speed backbone
 - No service outages for seven years!
 - Accessibility:
 - Continued county-wide connectivity to at least two backbone sites (VHF)
 - Soon: 56k+ bps packet access via <u>telnet</u> for most of the county
 - New: Mbps packet access via telnet in many key locations now
- What's Next?
 - Can we do more than packet with the new high speed connections?





SCCo ARES/RACES Data Network The Next Phase

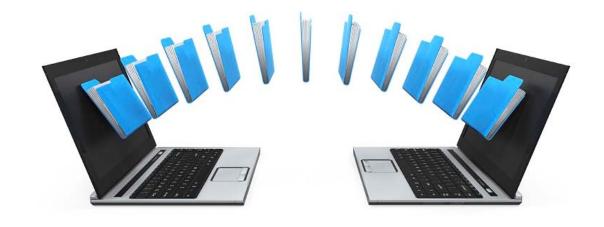


Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES
Michael E Fox, N6MEF
Revised: 05-Dec-2017

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Overview

- The Santa Clara County RACES data network provides emergency communications responders with a reliable, efficient and effective digital network environment that meets the needs of our served agencies.
 - Emergency communications responders: usually amateur radio operators, but could also include CERT personnel and others
 - Primary need: message traffic
 - Reliability: No service outage in over 7 years!
- Until recently, the network provided one service: packet
 - Accessed using VHF amateur radio for maximum county-wide coverage
 - Provides plain text "e-mail" messages plus bulletins, HTML versions of county EOC and hospital forms, 2-way Internet e-mail gateway
- Recent enhancements to the network allow more services
 - The result is poised to be a major step forward in amateur radio EmComm



Service Offering Overview

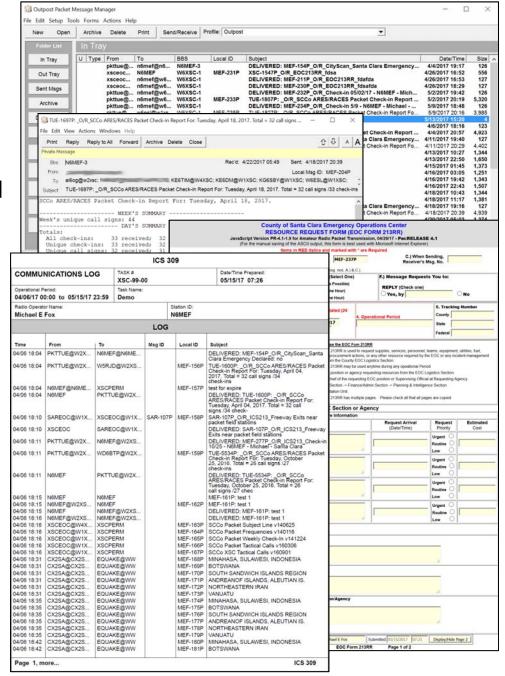
Managing and moving information during emergencies

Service Strategy

- Initial services have been focused on message, status traffic
 - It's the bulk of EOC communications needs
 - Even at packet speeds, it's ~15 time faster than voice!
 - And it's about to get even faster, with even better message services!
- Future services depend on needs of served agencies and/or amateur radio operator responders
 - Potential next step: intranet, image and file transfer/sharing
 - Other services as the need arises
- Cities can use the network to develop their own services
 - Example: city-wide damage assessment forms with roll-up display in EOC

Packet BBS Service

- E-mail-like service with automated workflow and documentation
- Capabilities:
 - Simple, e-mail-like client
 - Plain text e-mail-like messages
 - Optimized HTML EOC forms
 - Multi-user notices/bulletins
 - Message numbering & tracking
 - Automatic acknowledgement
 - ICS-309 Comm Log generation
 - Internet e-mail gateway
 - · But Internet is not required
- Optimized for low bandwidth
 - VHF/UHF radio access
- Availability:
 - RF throughout county
- Also useful at higher speeds
 - TCP/IP access

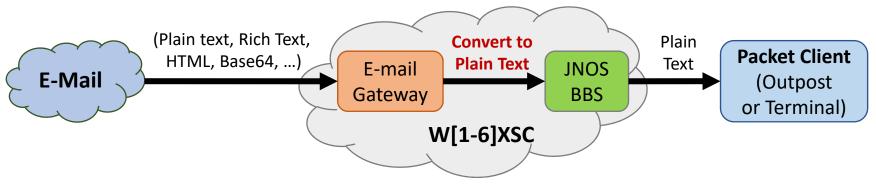


New for 2018 Plain Text Conversion Service for Packet

Let's Packet Users Read Encoded Messages

Reminder (2016): E-mail to Packet: Conversion to Plain Text

- Most E-mail uses MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions) format
 - Packet BBS doesn't understand MIME
- Most E-mail is sent as HTML; packet is plain text
 - Most e-mail senders don't know they need to set plain text mode
 - Even if they do, they may not know how to do it, or they may forget
- Some service providers automatically encode; no choice!
 - Example: Mobile phone text message > HTML > Base64 (ugh!)
- Investigate MIME conversion to plain text in mail gateway



It Turns Out ... It's REALLY Complicated

Partial List of Text Message Formats

Carrier	Text Message	Resulting E-mail
Sprint	Test	Text > HTML > Base64-encoded
Verizon	Test	Plain text (subject and body)
	Test (S)(S)(S)	Quoted-printable (subject and body)
	Test (S)(S)(S)(S)	Base64-encoded (subject and body)
	Blah blah blah blah Test (S)(S)(S)(S)	Blank (subject and body); file attachment

(S) = Smiley face emoji

- Each client/app is different; any of the above could change at any time
- So, we must handle just about every possible combination

What Should We Do With These Messages?

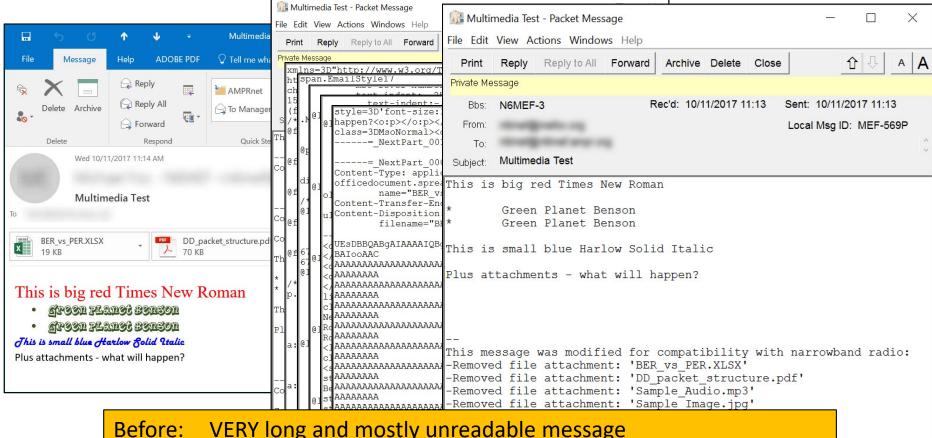
- We could pass them through "as is" (like we do now)
 - "Test" becomes "VGVzdA==" in Base64 (unreadable)
 - Increasingly, many 3rd party e-mail/text messages will need translation
 - Every packet operator would need local tools (no Internet) and training
 - Recreate or rewrite message before passing on; VERY time consuming
 - Result: no communication or greatly reduced throughput
- We could reject them
 - Sender may not receive or understand a rejection notification
 - Sender may understand, but not have control over the format
 - Sender may have control, but not know how or may forget
 - Result: deadlock; no communication
- Or, we could do something else ...

*New*Decode / Notify Conversion Filter

- Try (very hard) to get a usable message through
 - Decode to plain text where possible
 - "VGVzdA==" in Base64 becomes "Test" (readable!)
 - Non-text content left encoded for possible manual decoding
 - Recipient sees that "something" is there; can manually decode if needed
 - Notify recipient of other necessary changes
 - Attachments removed
 - Redundant HTML removed
- Only reject messages that we can't handle at all
 - Currently, only MIME-type message/partial (rarely, if ever, used)
- Result: most likely, a usable message
 - If necessary, recipient can perform further decoding or ask sender for additional clarification

Example: HTML E-mail w/attachments to Packet

Original E-Mail Packet: Old Behavior Packet: New Behavior

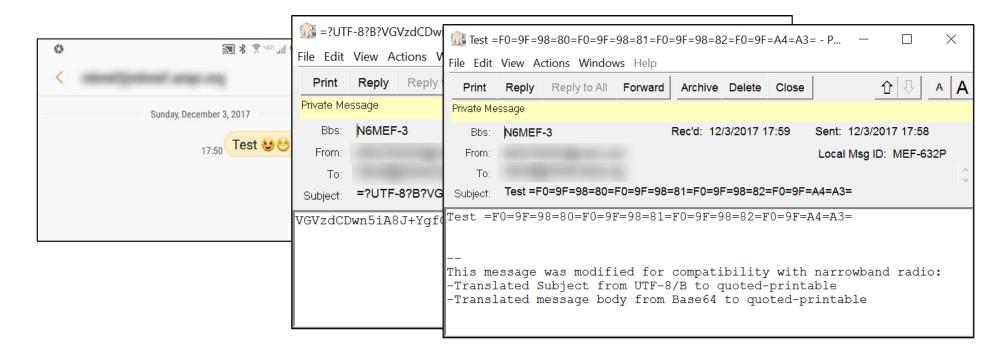


After: Text portion is readable, printable; recipient can decide on rest

Example: Text Message w/ Emojis to Packet

Original Text Message

Packet: Old Behavior



Before: A completely unreadable message

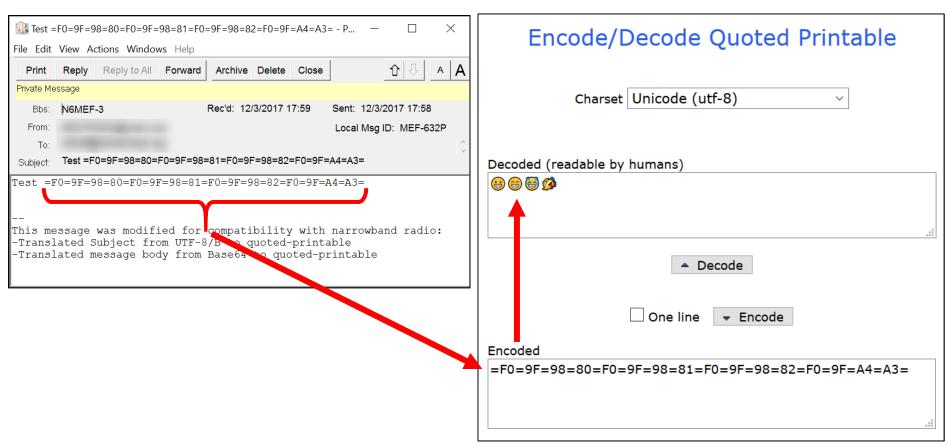
After: Text portion is readable, printable; recipient can decide on rest

Packet: New Behavior

And, in case you were wondering ... Yes, you can recover the graphics!

Outpost Message

Decoder



New

Status: Plain Text Conversion Service

- Basic functionality working on development server
- Need to add
 - Error-handling
 - Case of blank body w/ text attachment
- Lots more testing needed; move to test server
- Expect production deployment: Spring 2018

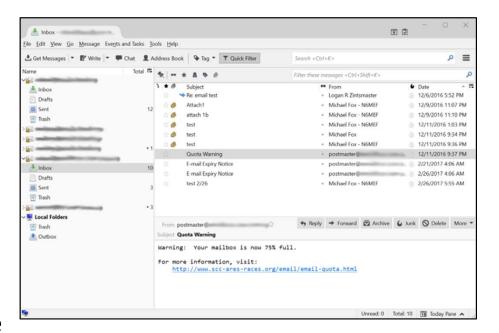


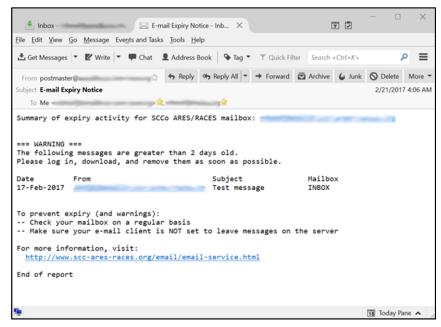
New for 2018 Standard Internet E-mail

... no Internet required!

New E-mail Service

- Standard e-mail service
- Capabilities:
 - Standard server software
 - Standard e-mail client software
 - Recommended: Thunderbird
 - Standard features
 - Rich text formatting, attachments
 - Standard e-mail protocols
 - POP3, SMTP, TLS, SPF, DKIM, ...
 - Anti-X measures
 - Internet gateway
 - But Internet is not required



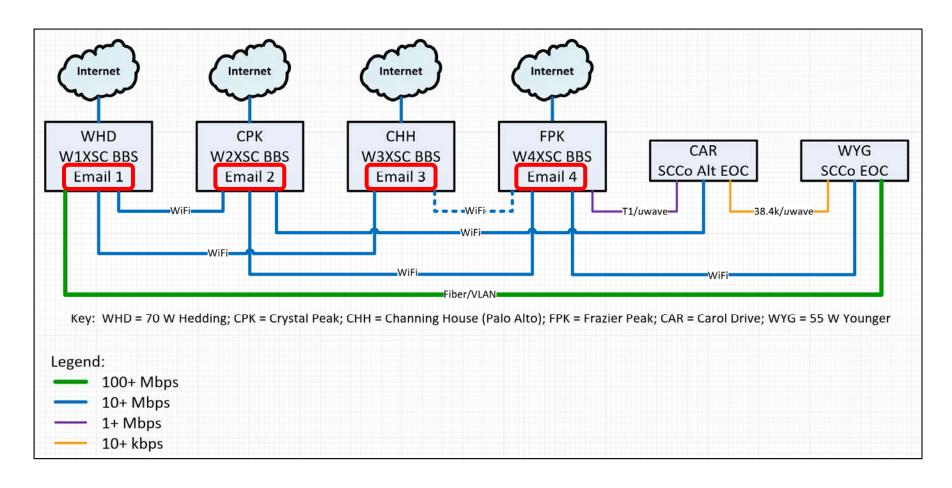


E-mail and Packet Servers are Co-Located

- Multiple servers, just like with packet
- Numbered 1-5, just like with packet
- Each city has primary and secondary, just like with packet
- Failure of one doesn't affect the others, just like with packet

E-mail Domain	Location	Co-located Packet BBS
email1.scc-ares-races.org	San Jose (Santa Clara Co office bldg)	W1XSC
email2.scc-ares-races.org	Crystal Peak (South County)	W2XSC
email3.scc-ares-races.org	Palo Alto	W3XSC
email4.scc-ares-races.org	Frazier Peak (above Milpitas)	W4XSC
email5.scc-ares-races.org	varies (drills, events, incidents)	W5XSC

2017 High-speed Redundant Backbone Status

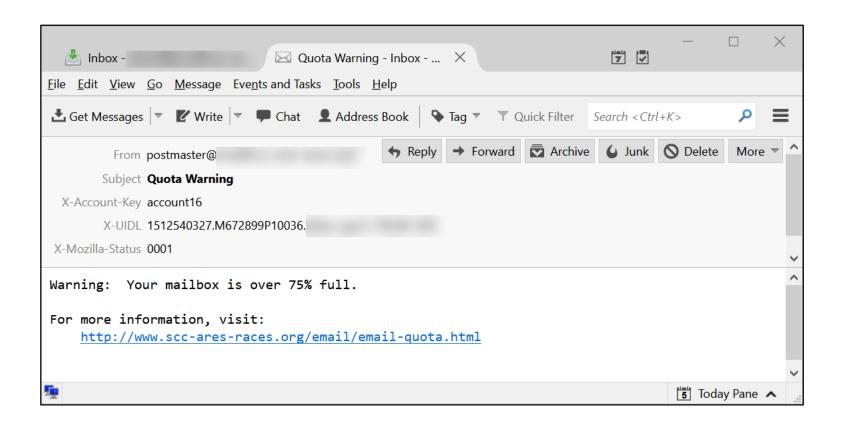


When completed, no single site or link outage can interrupt the network

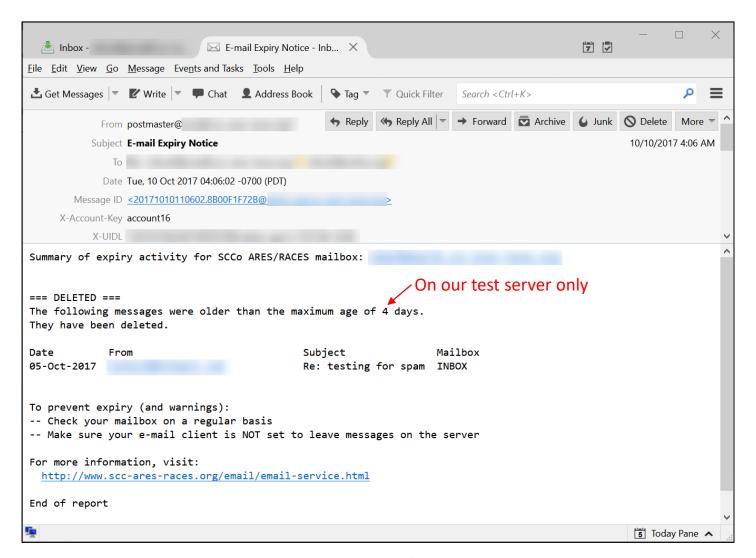
Account Details

Maximum Message Size	10 MB
Mailbox quotaWarnings at 75% and 90%	50 MB
Old message expiry and removal • Warnings at 7 days	92 days

Example: Mailbox Quota Warning



Example: Old Mail Expiry Notice



& E-mail vs. Packet - Summary

E-mail	Packet	
GUI Interface	GUI Interface	
Supports rich text	Plain text	
Supports attachments	No attachments	
Requires higher bandwidth	Requires minimal bandwidth	
Reduced RF coverage	County-wide coverage	
No workflow	Rich EmComm workflow (message numbering, delivery receipts, logging,))

- Packet still best for EmComm
 - Best RF coverage; best EmComm workflow
- E-mail can help with some 3rd party communications
 - Complex encoding, attachments; but requires more BW; less coverage

Accessing the E-mail Service

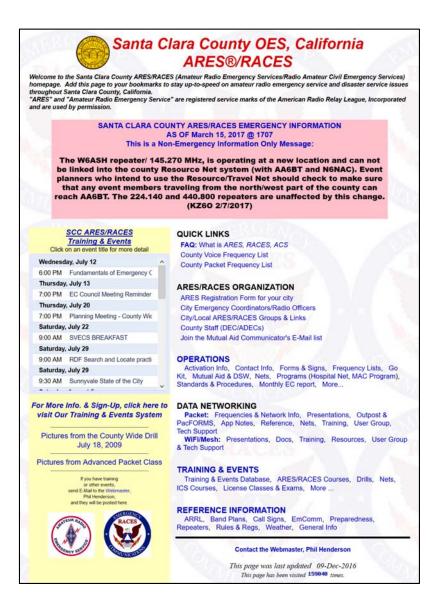
- E-mail needs MUCH more bandwidth than packet
 - Larger packets, chattier protocols, attachments, rich text formatting
- To get more bandwidth, we have to use higher frequencies
- Higher frequencies mean less RF coverage
- Access options for our network:
 - TCP/IP at n* Mbps via WiFi: from locations with line of sight to hub
 - TCP/IP at 56+ Kbps via UHF: soon, from most of the county



*New*Intra/Internet Service

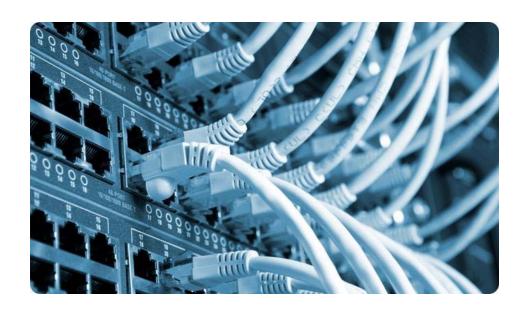
*New*Intra/Internet Service

- Standard TCP/IP connectivity
 - To internal servers (as they are developed)
 - To external, Internet sites
- Capabilities
 - Standard, general TCP/IP service
 - Connect isolated radio room PCs
 - Connect to internal servers or Internet
 - Emergency backup Internet access
 - NOT a replacement for commercial ISP
 - Considering other services
 - Internal DNS, VPN, etc.



Accessing Intranet/Internet

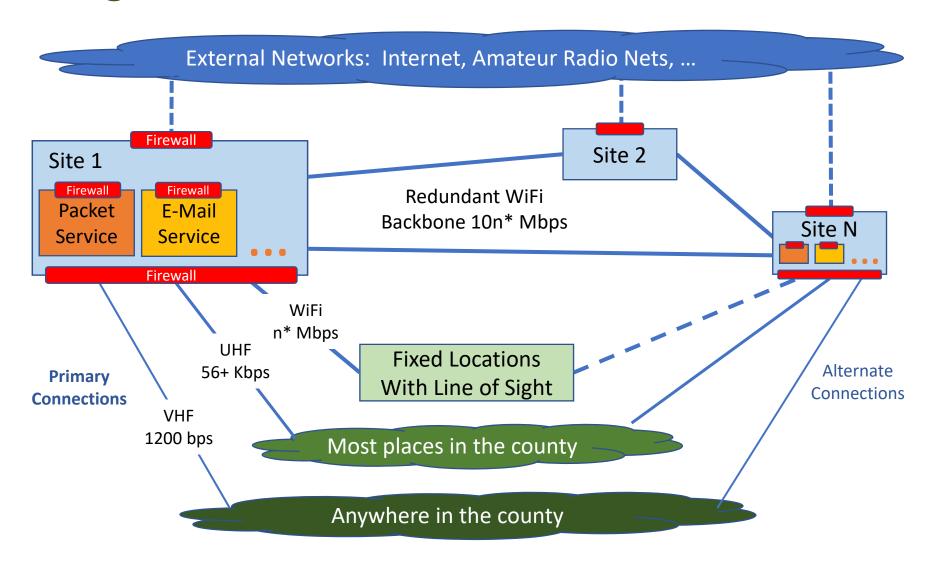
- General web browsing, file sharing, and other services require even more bandwidth than E-mail
- These services are not possible at VHF/UHF; need WiFi
- Access options for our network:
 - TCP/IP at n* Mbps via WiFi: from locations with line of sight to hub



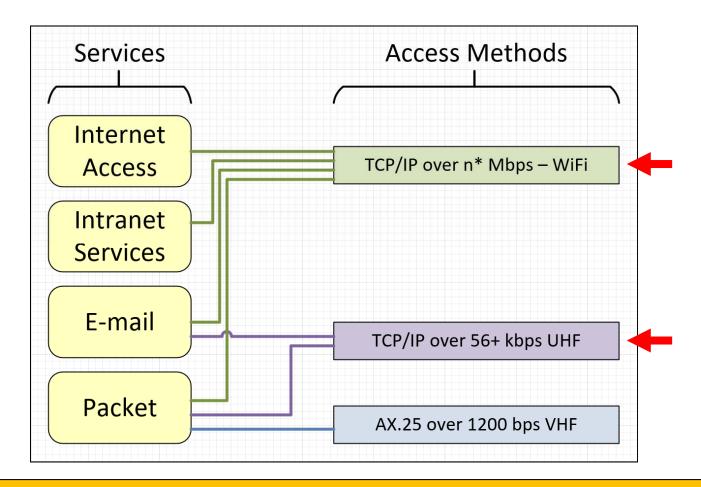
Network Infrastructure Overview

Options for accessing the services

High Level Network Architecture



Services vs. Access Methods/Speeds



To use the new services, you need one of the new high-speed connections

General Connectivity Recommendations

- The faster your connection, the more services you can use
- EOCs, hospitals should install WiFi connections, if possible
 - Enables use of all services
 - Line of sight to hub site is required; possible at many EOCs, hospitals
- All fixed sites should install 56+ kbps UHF connections
 - Enables use of e-mail and packet services
 - Available where line of site doesn't exist
 - Can act as fallback in case of WiFi failure
- All sites (fixed or otherwise) should have 1200 baud VHF
 - Enables packet services; broader coverage
 - Can act as fallback in case of UHF failure

New **Updated Web Site**

- New "Data" section coming
 - "Packet" is one part of it
- Includes
 - Service details
 - Packet BBS
 - E-mail
 - Intra/Internet
 - Access technology details
 - VHF Packet
 - UHF TCP/IP
 - WiFi TCP/IP
 - Mesh TCP/IP
- Expected: Dec 2017/Jan 2018

Santa Clara County ARES/RACES

Home Operations Packet WiFi/Mesh Training & Events Reference FAQ December 4, 2017

E-MAIL SERVER INFORMATION

Locations | Servers | Assignments

Santa Clara County ARES/RACES

Home Operations Data / E-mail Training & Events Reference FAQ December 4, 2017

E-mail Service Description

Overview | Functionality | Access | Domains | Accounts | Security

Overview

The Santa Clara County ARES/RACES network provides a standard Internet-style e-mail service. The service is specifically designed to provide e-mail functionality throughout Santa Clara County even if the entire Internet is completely down. The service can also send and receive e-mail to/from Internet e-mail addresses. But the service is not in any way dependent on the Internet

This page describes the features and functionality of the service. Two fictitious entities are used in the examples below to avoid posting real e-mail addresses:

- . Individual: Herman Munster (a 1960s TV character), amateur call sign W6XRL4
- . Agency: City of Xanadu, with assigned tactical prefix of "XND"

one for sending SMTP server for

-located with

Functionality

The Santa Clara County ARES/RACES network provides a standard, Internet-style e-mail service. The service works just like commercial e-mail services. It can send/receive e-mail to/from any e-mail address, whether that address resides within the ARES/RACES network or outside, in the public Internet. But the service is not dependent on any public Internet infrastructure. Therefore, if the Internet is completely down, the service will continue to operate within Santa Clara County

The service is available for use at any time. But it is specifically designed to survive and be available during emergency scenarios when other systems may be down or unreachable. The service is provided by five sets of servers located at five different places in the county. Most locations in the county can reach at least two of the sites via amateur radio. Therefore, even if a site suffers a catastrophic failure, users that normally connect to that

A standard e-mail client is used to create send, receive and organize messages. Standard e-mail protocols are used: POP3 for retrieving mail, and SMTP for sending mail. The recommended client is Thunderbird.

The e-mail service can be accessed from a variety of wireless and wireline options. The most ubiquitous access method is via 56+ Kbps radio on the 70 cm (440 MHz) UHF amateur radio band. Most places in the county can reach at least two of the backbone locations on UHF. This provides protection against single points of failure in a disaster. Stations can be easily set up just about anywhere, using antennas as simple as a roll-up j-pole.

Fixed locations that have a WiFi connection to one of the county network sites will have higher speed access; typically 10 Mbps or more. But reliance on a single WiFi connection is a single point of failure. Such sites should have at least two WiFi connections or else a WiFi connection and a UHF radio connection.

The service is also available via the commercial Internet. But the whole point of the service is to provide intracounty communications without the need for the Internet. So, testing and practice via an Internet connection is possible. But, reliance on an Internet connection to access the service in an emergency is obviously not

connect to the

our EC/CRO if

tactical call signs

s.org

s.org

Domains

Santa Clara County ARES/RACES operates five independent e-mail domains, each of which is located in a different part of the county and co-located with one of the packet BBS systems. The five different locations improve survivability in the event of a major catastrophe. Each domain can operate independently and all domains have identical functionality. Think of it as having accounts with different e-mail service providers so that a problem at one provider doesn't impact the service at another provider.



Getting Involved Is Easy

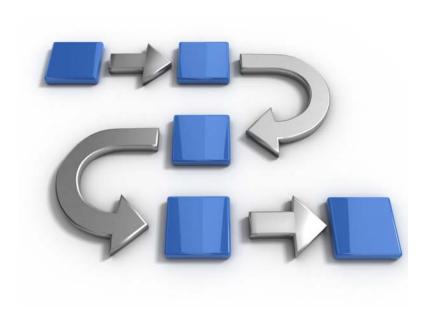
And there's lots to do!

Your City/Agency Needs Your Help

- We have impressive capabilities to offer our served agencies
 - But they don't know about them!
- Your agencies depend on you to help them understand
 - The services you/we can provide to them
 - What you need in order to provide those services to them
 - Equipment, space, procedures, etc.
- Opportunity for a team effort in each city
 - Use existing expertise and/or gain new expertise in several areas
 - RF: radios, antennas, propagation
 - Networking: TCP/IP, LANs, E-mail, PC software
 - Operations: procedures, documentation, installation, training, support
 - Room for everyone that's interested to participate

Help Also Needed at the County Level

- Help build, maintain the county network and services
- It's challenging. But it's fun!
- Do you want to be a part of making it happen?
- We could use:
 - BBS sysops, Linux sysadmins
 - RF and network engineers
 - Software engineers (shell, Perl, PHP, SQL, ...)
 - Installers (electrical, mechanical, tower, ...)
 - Testers (services, access methods)



How To Get Connected To The New Services

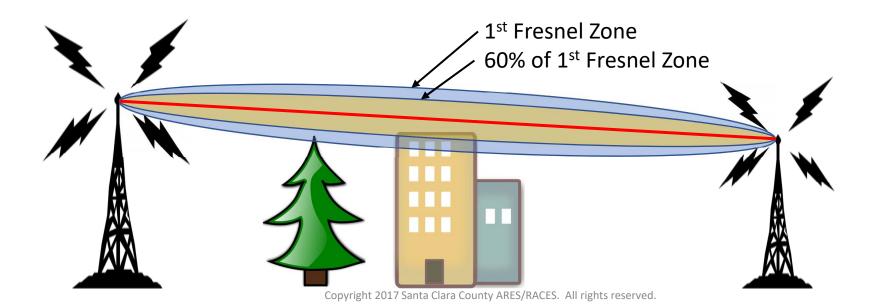
A recommended approach

How To Get Connected to New Services

- Form a data networking team within your ARES/RACES group
 - Include whoever wants to participate (some lead, some learn)
 - Variety of expertise needed: some technical, some operational
 - Recruit expertise where needed (your city, other cities, county team)
- Form a plan for using the new services within your group
 - Learn more details about the services, network infrastructure
 - How can these services be used within your ARES/RACES group?
 - How can these services benefit your served agencies?
- Investigate options for high-speed connections
 - WiFi: Clear line of sight to a hub site
 - UHF: Line of site not required; but best antenna location is needed
 - Collect details: Lat/Lon, height above ground, etc.

Evaluate WiFi Line of Sight to Hub Location

- Absolute minimum = clear 60% of 1st Fresnel Zone
 - Remember: trees grow; buildings get built, rooftops are modified
- Consider antenna mounting options
 - A clear line of site may require installation on a pole or tower; consider wind load
 - Highly directional antennas must be within (climbing) reach for alignment
 - Longer distances require larger antennas; consider installation, maintenance, wind



How To Get Connected to New Services (2)

- Submit site info form (available 1/2018)
- County team verifies line of sight, coverage, signal levels, ...
 - Recommends radio, antenna, cabling, etc.
- Prepare a presentation of your plan for your city/agency
 - Benefits to city/agency of using new services
 - Requirements: equipment, space, access, ...
- Present the plan to your city/agency; get buy-in
 - Funding may take time (government budgets, procedures, ...)
- Keep county team informed of installation plans
 - It helps us to schedule hub site work so we'll be ready

How To Get Connected to New Services (3)

- Coordinate installation with county team
 - Antenna alignment, signal level checks, routing/firewall updates, ...
- Train users and encourage usage
 - Local procedures, county procedures, troubleshooting, maintenance
 - Weekly check-ins, drills, pubic service events







District Emergency Coordinator 2017 Year End Report



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES/ACS Logan Zintsmaster, KZ6O Revised: 05-Dec-2017

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Key Activities

- Multiple Presentations
 - Santa Clara County Emergency Operational Area Council
 - City of Palo Alto, Stanford University, Stanford Medical
- New Emergency Coordinators
 - Jack Pines Palo Alto
 - Bert Bailey Loma Prieta
 - Don McKee San Jose
- Ranked in the top ten nationally for 2016 SET Drill
- High Power Performance Award Created for Annual Drill

Weekly Net Check-ins

- SPECS Net Weekly Average
 - 109 Voice
 - 22 Packet
- SVECS Net Weekly Average
 - 191 Voice
 - 30 Packet
- Total Weekly Average
 - 300 Voice
 - 52 Packet

Activity Reported to the ARRL

- Average Number of Members
 - 542 Average since Jan 2017
 - 557 reported in October
- Average Number of Operations
 - Drills, Training, Public Service, Emergency
 - 75 operations per month
- Average Number of Participation Hours
 - 1092 hours per month

Training Summary

- Taught 11 classes
 - 399 attendees
- Training exercise in the field
 - 22 attendees
- Taught 3 sessions (2 classes) of Introduction To and Fundamentals of Emergency Communications for newly licensed operators
 - 98 attendees
- 143 Unique Sign-ups

2017 Activations

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
XSC-17-01	1/1 - 12/31/17	SCCo ARES/RACES Data Network Maintenance
XSC-17-02-T	2/18/17	County City Communications Drill - County EOC only
XSC-17-03-T	3/11/17	Red Cross Shelter Support Training- Cancelled
XSC-17-04-T	5/20/17	County City Communications Drill - County EOC only
XSC-17-05-T	7/9/17	Search and Locate SCC Mini-Drill
XSC-17-06-T	7/4/17	Cupertino July 4th Mutual Aid
XSC-17-07-T	7/8/17,7/9/17	Los Altos Art and Wine Festival
XSC-17-08-T	8/19/17	County City Communications Drill - County EOC only
XSC-17-09-T	9/16/17	Santa Clara Art and Wine - Day 1
XSC-17-10-T	9/17/17	Santa Clara Art and Wine - Day 2
XSC-17-11-T	9/14/17	County EOC Activation
XSC-17-12-T	10/14/17	County Simulated Emergency Test
XSC-17-13-T	11/26/17	2017 Los Alfto Festival of Lights

Supported Statewide Hospital Drill

2017 Simulated Emergency Test Drill High Power Performance Award











High Power Performance Award



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES
Barton Smith, N6HDN
Revised: 05-Dec-2017

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End

See you at a training class next year!