

## The History of SPECS by Peter Griffith, WA6VAQ

The acronym "SPECS" came into use in 1959 and stood for Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication Service. The SPECS group met 'on the air' every Monday night at first on 146 MHz AM and later on FM. Walt Read obtained a sanction from NARC on October 27, 1979 and ran the first repeater from his home. The "repeater" consisted of two separate radios each running 100ft of coax to two separate antennas. One at the base of a pine tree and the other at the top.

The SPECS repeater board was also formed in late 1979. It consisted of the following people: W8RPA/N6IIU, WA6TJX, WA6VAQ, WA6ROM, WA6LIJ, K6RTU, KT6W, WB6OLM, and W6ASH. Each of them donated \$100 to \$200 towards building a new repeater. The repeater was installed at El Camino Hospital on April 19, 1980. Sy Stein knew people at El Camino Hospital and arranged for us to install the repeater and antennas there. It was solely owned by the repeater board members. Ted Harris was appointed President. When a couple of the members died, the remaining members appointed new people to join the board.

In April 1986 the SPECS board acquired a sanction to operate on 224.36MHz at a remote site and about the same time on 440.80MHz on the hospital. As the number of repeaters grew and were linked with remotes, we began to call ourselves the Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System.

Later some of the users of the system wanted to start a users group. They had an infrequent newsletter and started an annual meeting so that all the users of the system could meet face to face. They also gave financial support to the SPECS board. This group was called the SPECS Users Group. This raised money via the flea markets and donated most of the money to the SPECS board. The group eventually went inactive, due to lack of interest.

Meanwhile, the SPECS board adopted the name SPECS Repeater Association.

In 1998, it was decided to resurrect the old users group. A group of volunteers wrote a new set of by laws and this is now the current SPECSUG.