

## Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System

### NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2014 - Published by regular people on an irregular basis

## **ANNOUNCING: The SPECS 2015 Annual Meeting**

When: Saturday, January 31, 2015  
Time: 8:00 A.M. coffee, doughnuts and conversation  
9:00 A.M. meeting starts  
Where: El Camino Hospital - Rooms D, E & F on the lower level in the new building  
Speakers: Michael Fox, N6MEF  
Topic: The Expanding Role of Data Networking in Public Service Communications

***THIS NEWSLETTER IS THE OFFICIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE  
2015 SPECS ANNUAL MEETING and  
ELECTION of OFFICERS.***

- This slate is the selection of the nominating committee and will be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting.
- Additional nominees will be solicited from the floor before the vote.
- Robert's Rules of Order will be followed during the voting.
- You must be a paid up member of SPECS in order to vote.

### **SPECS Slate of Officers for 2015**

President	Marc Roddin	KI6HLH
1st VP:	Andy Rose	KI6SEP
2nd VP:	Jack Pines	W1VSL
Secretary:	Bruce Riter	KE6EEX
Treasurer:	Wes Freeman	KG6POV
Training:	Paul Lufkin	K6PML

### **SPECS Membership Renewal**

You can renew your SPECS membership for 2015 at the meeting. Membership is only \$5.00 per year - new or renewal. A membership form is with this newsletter. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please mail your membership form to the address on the form.

**Join us for the Monday Night Net at 8:00 P.M. on  
W6ASH Repeater 145.270 MHz (-) 100.0 Hz PL**

### **FEATURED SPEAKERS**

Michael Fox, N6MEF will be our featured speaker this year. Michael has been an incredible member of the amateur radio community and has been instrumental in designing the MAC certification program as well as the county packet system. He will be speaking on The Expanding Role of Data Networking in Public Service Communications and will show us how data networking technology is increasingly being used in public service communications, for both planned events and disaster incidents, and what role each communications technology can play.

### **Message from SPECS President**

*Steven Olson, KI6MYE*

It's hard to believe but another year has come and gone. There have been some changes this year, but perhaps the most noteworthy and sad was the passing of June Welsh, KF6WPQ. June was an integral part of SPECS for many years and volunteered in a number of roles. She was perhaps best known as the 220/440 Net Control operator. She will be sorely missed.

#### **Your Call!**

There were other changes as well in the number of members, number of check-ins, and number of new net control operators. The number of paid members was 123, up from 116 last year. However, our average number of check-ins has dropped by almost two and packet check-ins have dropped a little bit more. This is surprising as packet radio has picked up in popularity and we are finding more operators capable of running packet at their stations. I would encourage you to check-in with your packet station in addition to your local city net if you have such capability.

Our goal this year was "to substantially increase the number of new net control operators for the city and SPECS nets" and while we don't have exact numbers, judging by the number of new voices heard as net control, we have been successful. The SPECS net and the local city nets are a great opportunity to learn

net control skills as well as to improve them. These nets are less stressful than some of the drills and events, but still provide you with an opportunity to improve your skills. While you may choose to never run a larger net, you will find these skills will serve you well both as a participant and as a net control.

SPECS has participated in and sponsored a number of activities this past year including the ASVARO Flea Market and multiple training opportunities. More details are available in the 1<sup>st</sup> VP Report by Jerry Haag and the Training Officer report by Paul Lufkin.

And speaking of change, the Board will undergo some changes as well. Doug Greig, Jerry Haag, and I will be retiring from our positions. I will stay on as Past President to facilitate the transition to the new president. Doug and Jerry have served for many, many years and SPECS will miss their services. They have been instrumental in the organization. Jerry has been on the board for eight years--and has served as Training Officer for two years, President for four years, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President for two years. Doug has been on the board for six years—two as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, two as 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and 2 as secretary. There are 14 years of experience between the two of them! Please thank them for their outstanding service to SPECS.

Scott Overstreet will continue as the Repeater group liaison, and Jack Pines, Wes Freeman, and Paul Lufkin will stay on in their current rolls as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Treasurer, and Training Officer respectively. Marc Roddin, Andy Rose, and Bruce Riter have all agreed to be nominated for the President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and secretary positions respectively. We are appreciative of their willingness to participate on the SPECS board.

### **Training Officer Report**

*Paul Lufkin, K6PML*

We attended and promoted SPECS and SCC ARES/RACES at the BAEARS ham study sessions and SPECS also sponsored the BAEARS class held in April at Google. Additionally, we attended other drills, where attendees could learn about opportunities available in radio Emergency Communications to help with their city's preparedness. There we also helped with radio programming, and distributed compact reference cards for programming radios.

### **Treasurer's Comments**

*Wes Freeman, KG6POV*

SPECS had a good year last year. Our membership is up to 123 and 70% of us are ARRL members.

Our main fundraising tool is the annual Flea Market, and we had another great year. Jerry Haag will give more information, but complete details are in the treasurer's report. As we do every year, we split the Flea Market income with the SPECS Repeater Association (RA).

We didn't have any expenses from the repeater group in 2014, other than splitting the Flea Market income with them. Nobody seems to know when the repeater move will occur so we are maintaining our cash in CDs which do not have a prepayment penalty.

Hope to see all of you at the Annual Meeting. Please remember to bring your renewal form and \$5!

### **Secretary's Comments**

*Doug Greig, KG6DSV*

The SPECS Users Group held four board meetings in 2014 (February 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, September 14<sup>th</sup>, and November 23<sup>rd</sup>) in addition to the Annual Meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The board was lead by the President Steven Olson KI6MYE who continued useful discussions on the purpose and direction for SPECS. Other discussion topics included flea market planning and post market review, training events, and review of the organization finances. The minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting that are pending member approval are on the SPECS web site.

### **Flea Market Report from First V.P.**

*Jerry Haag, K6GAC*

The Electronics Flea Market on August 9<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Although some antenna upgrades were installed and the 220 and 440 transceivers needed a little attention this year, most of our funds are being held in reserve to finance the move of the repeaters and antennas to the new hospital building at a time yet undetermined. My thanks to all of you who helped at the Flea Market, especially to Seth and Ed who staffed the gate at oh-dark-thirty in the morning, to Doug who provided his pickup and trailer to haul the "stuff", to Svend who gets tons of ice for us each Flea Market, to George who makes sure we get the generators, tent, tables, etc., to the scene at 0600, to June who provided a lot of the incidental supplies we needed, to Wes who ordered and picked up donuts and cash for the change box, to Mikel of ASVARO who takes care of month-to-month coordination with the college, to Doña, our favorite cashier every month, and to all of you who worked behind the counter, taking care of everything else that was needed. Recognition is also due to Scott, Dave, Peter, Barbara, Jim and Keith for the hard work put into sorting, transporting arranging and selling at the surplus equipment sales booth.

The first Flea Market of next year is on Mar. 14, at DeAnza College. Hope to see the same support at the next SPECS hosted Flea Market on Sep. 12.

### **SPECS REPEATER ASSOCIATION**

*Peter Griffith, WA6VAQ; Scott Overstreet, N6NXI;  
Dave Platt, AE6EO; Keith Amidon, KJ6PUO*

The repeater system is still located in the old El Camino Hospital tower, and is working just as it has been for the past few years. We have no definite date or requirement for a move to the new tower(s).

Scott N6NXI will do a teaching presentation after the SPECS annual meeting, at which he will instruct new SPECS members about the operation of the repeater, and hand out copies of the user command codes.

**In 2015 SPECS will sponsor the Flea Market  
on Saturday, September 12th  
*Save the Date.***