



Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System

NEWSLETTER

WINTER, 2021-2022 - PUBLISHED BY REGULAR PEOPLE
ON AN IRREGULAR BASIS

ANNOUNCING: The SPECS 2022 Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, January 8, 2022
Time: 8:30 A.M. virtual link opens (zoom)
9:00 A.M. meeting starts
Zoom: <https://bit.ly/specs-ug-2022>
Talk in: Zoom help on 145.27+. 440.8+ and @Leslie G.
Speaker: Peter Griffith, Dave Platt, Scott Overstreet
Topic: History of SPECS

THIS NEWSLETTER IS THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2022 SPECS ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION of OFFICERS

Election of SPECS Officers

- The slate of officers 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.
- Rosenberg'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 2022

President: Grant Elliot KK6FMQ
1st VP: Dave Koberstein N9DK
2nd VP: OPEN
Secretary: Leslie Grimm, KK6EKN
Treasurer: OPEN
Training: Rick Van Mell, KI6PUR
Directors at Large:
Los Altos Steve Olson, KI6MYE
Los Altos Hills OPEN
Sunnyvale Jerry Thalls, KG6HI
Stanford Lea Roberts, WA6ITV

View pictures and brief biographies of all the candidates on the SPECS website Officers Page (available as drop-down choice from the "About" tab at the top of the page.)



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SPECS Membership Renewal

Join SPECSUG or renew your membership for 2022 at www.specsnet.org or mail a five dollar check with your contact information and Call Sign to SPECS, PO Box 1491, Mountain View CA 94042

You can also join or renew by mailing payment with the form on the website.

Featured Presentation

The History and Making of the SPECS Repeaters

Over 100 of us use the SPECS Repeaters every week, and our local hams have been doing it for over 60 years! We rely on repeaters when we communicate within our own neighborhoods for emergency communications, training exercises, and special events. We know how they work – well sort of for most of us.

But how did the SPECS Repeaters become such a useful tool? How did the Users Group and Association evolve over the years? What electronic hoops does a repeater go through to receive an input and broadcast an output? What pieces of equipment accomplish that? But what does one really look like when they are assembled and work together? And finally, what will the next generation of SPECS Repeaters do?

We are honored to have with us the pioneers of the SPECS repeaters, WA6VAQ Peter Griffith, N6NXI Scott Overstreet and AE6EO Dave Platt who will walk us through this wonderful accomplishment and we will be all the wiser for it.

You really want to hear this story, so join us for the Annual Meeting on Zoom on Saturday, January 8, 2022.



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Message from SPECS President

Grant Elliot, KK6FMQ

We're nearing the end of our second COVID-dominated year. While the intensity of the virus has lessened, we must still be vigilant and continue masking and social distancing until the risk of infection is further reduced. So, once again our Annual Membership Meeting will be held using Zoom.

In the last year membership has dropped a little – 113 now vs 121 last year. But, despite the virus we continue to move down the road. Activity on the SPECSNETs has remained strong. We revised the UHF net control script to make it more consistent with SCCo's guidelines. Also, SCCo training classes have restarted with some activities in person (masked and separated). However, the Electronic Flea Markets in which we participated yearly appear to have succumbed to COVID. There is no longer a venue for them since Fry's Electronics closed. Thus, we have lost the major source of funding.

Not much has happened with respect to installing the W6ASH repeaters on El Camino Hospital's new Building. The SPECSRA group has everything ready once the Hospital says OK. Volunteers will be needed to help move and install the repeater equipment and install the antennas.

SPECS Users Group's mission is to promote, encourage and assist all radio amateurs in preparing for and carrying out emergency communications. We do this primarily through the Monday night nets using the W6ASH Repeaters and by supporting the repeaters owners - the Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System

Repeater Association (SPECSRA).

To effectively carry out our mission, the Board needs input from you. Give us your ideas about training activities, about funding our operations, etc. There are two positions on the Board for which there are no candidates – 2nd VP and Treasurer. We need people to step up and fill these positions.

I wish you a very happy holiday season and all the best in the new year.

Treasurer's Comments

Neil Katin K2LL

Our financial situation is substantially the same as last year, since our major expense (annual meeting food/drink) and income (flea market) did not occur.

Our assets are \$37,280, down a few hundred dollars from last year. Our main expenses were D&O insurance (\$300), web site and domain (\$175), our share of our post office box (\$59), and tax filings (\$40). We had \$254.17 in membership fee income this calendar year, and approximately \$500 in membership fee income since Nov 1st 2020 (the start of our renewal 'season').

We currently have 113 paid members. 23 people did not renew in 2021. We also had 17 new members.

We are switching our payment system



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from powr.io + paypal.com to square.com this year. The process will look a bit different but is functionally the same. If you have any issues with or comments about the renewal process please contact treasurer@specsnet.org.

Secretary's Comments

Leslie Grimm KK6EKN

The SPECS Users Group board held four meetings in 2021: January 28, April 29, July 15, and October 13. All meetings were held online (Zoom)

January Meeting: We discussed alternate methods for member renewals and reviewed the by-laws on election procedures.

April meeting: We voted to change the UHF/220 Net Control Script to include the manner in which the NC acknowledges the caller, specifying responding with the full call sign and first name of the caller.

July meeting: We were updated on the status of the repeater move plans. We discussed plans for the annual meeting, with a proposed presentation on the history of SPECS. The rooms were reserved, but we maintained the option of conducting the meeting online or as a hybrid online/in-person meeting.

October meeting: We reviewed election procedures. Current officers agreed to serve another year if elected. We decided to hold the

Annual meeting online with a presentation of the History of SPECS. The secretary was asked to collect articles from Board members for the Annual Newsletter, to be published in November. The webmaster and Treasurer will pursue the "Square" option for membership renewals.

SPECS Repeater Association

*Peter Griffith, WA6VAQ Scott Overstreet, N6NXI
Dave Platt, AE6EO, Keith Amidon, KJ6PUO, Jim
Abraham, W6EB (SK), Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE*

Not much has changed in the W6ASH repeater situation over the past year. Our repeater move to the Sobrato Pavilion roof has been further delayed. We're in line to move after Verizon has finished building out their new cellphone installation in the Pavilion, and this process has taken longer than expected due to some equipment issues. We expect to continue working with the hospital staff on move planning over the next few months. We'll put out a call to SPECS members for hands-on assistance with the move when the time arrives.

W6ASH continues to operate in the same general configuration as it has for the past few years, with 220 and 440 radios operating from the primary site in the hospital's "old main tower" and the 2-meter system operating primarily from an off-site location (to avoid some local interference at the hospital). The W6ASH 440 repeater is used periodically for the linked county-wide Resource Net during drills and events.



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Reminder - Membership Renewal

Please take a moment **now** to go to specsnet.org to renew your membership for 2022, right now while you're thinking about it. It's a real deal!



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