



Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System

NEWSLETTER

WINTER, 2023-2024 - PUBLISHED BY REGULAR PEOPLE ON AN IRREGULAR BASIS

ANNOUNCING: The SPECS 2024 Annual Meeting

Date:	Saturday, January 13, 2024
Time:	8:30 A.M. Social time, 9:00 A.M. Meeting begins
Location:	El Camino Hospital, rooms E, F and G
Speaker:	Bob Iannucci, W6EI
Topic:	AREDN – the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network

THIS NEWSLETTER IS THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2024 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 2024

One member is retiring, so we need to fill that position. The board typically meets 4 times a year and coordinates an Electronic Flea Market once a year. Our efforts support the W6ASH Repeater Association. We all use the repeaters, so please step up and volunteer for a position.

The slate is posted on the SPECSnet.org website. [\(link\)](#)

This meeting is in-person with masks optional. [We will have coffee and donuts this year \(yay!\)](#). You can also attend virtually via the zoom link below.

The main business item is the election of officers for 2024. The Annual Meeting is a chance for you to meet the board and volunteers from other cities. We look forward to seeing you!



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Email: info@SPECSNet.org • Web: www.specsnet.org



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Zoom link for meeting: <https://l.specsnet.org/SPECS-annual-meeting>

SPECS Membership Renewal

Join SPECSUG or renew your membership for 2024 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

Bob Iannucci, W6EI, will tell us about AREDN – the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network
An Abstract and Bio is posted on the website.

Message from SPECS President

Grant Elliot, KK6FMQ

As we approach 2024 I've been reflecting on my association with SPECS. I first got my FCC license in 2013, prompted by my involvement in Palo Alto as a CERT along with urging by my colleagues. I attended my first SPECS Annual Meeting in 2014. In 2017 I joined the Board as Secretary, and in 2019 was elected President, making 2023 my 7th year serving as an officer of SPECS.

Volunteering in this capacity has been very rewarding. I've met a lot of new people, made new friends, became more connected with the community of Hams involved with emergency communications and gained

a greater sense of purpose, a sense of “giving back to the community.” I am sure that others who have served on the Board would concur.

I urge you to seriously consider volunteering to serve on the SPECSUG Board of Directors. The time commitment is nominal. The Board meets four to five times a year, usually by Zoom. Meetings typically last an hour. Please give it some serious consideration. Some fresh insight and new views on how to best serve the membership would contribute greatly to the organization. I am willing to talk with anyone who is interested.



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Treasurer's Comments

Jim Weatherford, WU6K

In 2023 we were able to hold an in-person annual meeting for the first time since the pandemic, although food and drink were not allowed so we did not incur refreshment expenses as we usually would. We were also glad to be able to host an Electronics Flea Market in June resulting in \$1,778 net income after expenses and sales taxes due.

As of October 31, 2023, our assets are \$38,697.26 compared with \$37,214.80 last year. Our main expenses aside from the flea market were D&O insurance (\$200), Meetup (\$168.20), new Post Office box (\$115), and tax/registration filings (\$85). We had \$235 gross membership fee income this calendar year and \$16.68 in transaction fees, for a net income of \$218.32.

Our assets are held in two Bank of America checking accounts (\$16,816.33 and \$6,337.04), and two B of A CDs (\$10,365.66 and \$5,178.23).

The SPECS Users Group currently has 76 paid-up members, of which 10 are new for 2023. 41 people who were members in previous years did not renew for 2023.

Secretary's Comments

Leslie Grimm KK6EKN

The SPECS Users Group board met five times in 2023, via Zoom. In February we explored ideas to improve outreach, such as using Meetup. In April we began plans for the Electronic Flea Market, to be held in June. The SPECSRA reported that the

installation of the W6ASH repeaters at the new location at El Camino Hospital was complete. Stiv Ostenberg, our Community Outreach Officer, played a major role in organizing and promoting the Flea Market this year and created a "how to" document to help next year's organizers plan. In July the board decided to switch to an "Anytime Mailbox" since costs had gone up for the box in Mountain View. The September meeting focused on plans for the Annual Meeting,

Community Outreach Officer

Stiv Ostenberg, K9STV

Hello SPECS Members:

As the newly minted "Community Outreach Officer" my goal is to increase engagement with the members and community while providing activities and social opportunities to help us with our mission to support Emergency Communications. My first task involved organizing our month hosting the Electronics Flea Market. It was a daunting task, only made possible by a host of valiant volunteers.

I will be bringing a list of proposed activities to the board, but what I really need is you. If you have ideas for events you would be interested in, send them to me and I will see if I can make them happen. If you are willing to share your knowledge on any topic, please let me know so I leverage you as an Elmer to less experienced Hams (like me). You can contact me directly at K9STV@stiv.com. Finally, I would like to encourage you to join the SPECS MeetUp group, where I hope to start posting



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events of interest to SPECS members.

<https://www.meetup.com/southern-peninsula-emergency-communications-system/>

SPECS Repeater Association

Dave Platt, AE6EO

The W6ASH repeater system has spent all of 2023 in its new home, in the penthouse of the Sobrato Pavilion at El Camino Hospital. All three repeaters are operational, using the new antennas purchased for the installation. The linking feature for the Resource and Travel net has been used successfully in support

of several training and public-service events this year.

We had one short-term failure of the 2-meter repeater, caused by a faulty audio connecting cable. The cable has been repaired, and a complete refurbishment of the system cabling is being planned.

REMINDER - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please take a moment to go to our website and renew your membership for 2024. Do it now, while you're thinking about it. It's only \$5 - a real deal!



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