

SPECS Users Group Annual Meeting

January 17, 2009

0800: Membership renewals, coffee, donuts, ID Photos by Phil Henderson, (KF6ZSQ).

0900: Meeting called to order by Dru Anderson (KG6LAD) on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at the El Camino Hospital Cafeteria. There were more than 85 attendees.

Welcome and Introductions

Dru Anderson welcomed everyone to meeting. Each attending EC stood up and recognized the city team members present.

ECs Attending:

Mt. View: Jerry Haag (K6GAC)

Los Altos Hills: Ed Jones (W7WPO)

Sunnyvale: Phil Stewart (K6PHL), filling in for Bob Gundrum (W6MOL)

Palo Alto: Paul Lufkin (K6PML)

Los Altos: Tom Smith (KD6SOJ)

NASA: None

Stanford: Elton Bell (K6EHB)

Lou Steirer (WA6QYS), President of SVECS, was introduced and he announced that the Quarterly Breakfast was Saturday, Jan. 24, 0900 food, 1000 meeting and that SVECS will sponsor the young person(s) who have signed up from the SVECS area for the Jan 24. ham class.

Larry Carr (KE6AGJ), District Emergency Coordinator, was introduced and he announced that stickers for the expired DSW cards are being verified by the ECs, and then will be mailed out. Don't argue with policeman who doesn't want to let you through a police line with an expired card. Call EOC if you have problems with expired DSW cards. There will be a county training exercise (floods) next Saturday.

Bill Dale (N2RHV), ARRL Section Manager was introduced by Dru who said 80% of SPECS members are ARRL members. Bill announced that the FCC is looking for assistance on DTV conversion, especially with at risk communities: seniors, ESL.

Jordon Makower (WA2BRV) announced that he is looking for help on a Shadowing Class that he is putting together for County. Send Jordan or Larry Carr stories of Shadowing experiences- good and bad- that you'd like to share.

Dru then introduced the SPECS Board Members.

Board Member Attending:

Yes	Dru Anderson (KG6LAD)	President
Yes	Maynard Stevenson (W7MVT)	1 st VP
No	John Benza (W6JJB)	2 nd VP
Yes	Wes Freeman (KG6POV)	Treasurer
Yes	Mike Murray (KI6JDY)	Secretary
Yes	Jerry Haag (K6GAC)	Training
Yes	Jim Thornton (KE6SZJ)	Past President
Yes	Scott Overstreet (N6NXI)	RA Liaison

Others: Peter Griffith (WA6VAQ) SPECS RA President and Repeater Trustee.

Dru thanked the coffee/donuts crew: Maynard Stevenson, June Welsh (KF6WPQ), and Tom Cascone (KD6SOJ) for procuring and set up of the coffee and donuts. Note: this year, instead of SPECS UG buying pre-prepared coffee, Tom brought the Red Cross coffee urns and the 3 crew members made the coffee, thus saving considerable cost to the organization on the coffee service.

President's Report

Dru noted she has spent six years in both membership and board service to SPECS – including first 3 years as VP and then 3 years as President. She said her objectives in the President's role was to find ways to “work across the aisle,” on various undertakings, including clarifying forms and understanding of the administrative details and requirements of a 501 C3 corporation and State Registered Charity, and the objective of building communications with ECs, with the youth initiative, and with the Repeater Association as they moved toward forming a separate corporation, and on the aspects of developing a mutually satisfactory MOU. She expressed a sincere thank you to everyone she has met and worked with during her service and membership in SPECS. And she thanked in particular 2 former board members who were very supportive and helpful in her early years as a new SPECS officer.

Introduction of Speakers

The speakers were Craig Anderson (N6YXK), Coordinator of the Silicon Valley Wireless Users & Experimenters Group (SVWUX.org) and Andrew Brown (N6ESS), Mt View SVWUX Coordinator

Craig Anderson started with a map of APRS installations in South Bay with the City EOCs as objects on map. Possible use of a map like this would be a shared map of damage points. APRS is a location system that uses GPS and Handie Talkie (HT has TNC) 144.39 MHz is the designated APRS Frequency. Software is from XASTIR.org.

Craig then discussed his experiments with using commercial wireless home routers and high gain antennas to link City and County EOCs with an Emergency Wireless Network. Craig was able to use an 18 dB panel antenna to link the 10.4 miles from Los Gatos EOC to County EOC at a reported 34 Mbps. His plan is to use point-to-point stations on hills (narrow beam width antennas) and wider coverage into valley.

Craig discussed his frequency choice. He could use Part 97 (Amateur Radio Service), but no encryption is allowed and one needs encryption to keep people from injecting false data. So use Part 15 (Unlicensed Transmissions).

This network will get everyone involved by providing internet to Hams in EOC and internet to corporations during emergencies. Each EOC needs at least two point to point links for redundancy. Hilltops will have many high gain antennas for point-to-point links and wider antennas for sector coverage from hilltops. The group is gathering experience and growing. The plan is to link Los Gatos to Campbell, then next Los Gatos to Cupertino, and then Layer 42 to a house in Los Altos Hills.

This wireless capability adds another layer of technology for emergency communication: voice on 2m and 440, packet on 2m and 440, and wireless internet is another layer. The user of

wireless capability interfaces with standard internet. One doesn't need to know specific radio forms or procedures.

Andrew Brown then discussed his work in connecting the Mountain View EOC.

The antennas need to be above trees. Don't do the survey in January when want to use it in June. Mt. View EOC to El Camino Hospital (ECH) has high-rise in line of site. He is trying a different site in Los Altos Hills which has ECH (2 miles), Sunnyvale EOC and Layer42 in the same antenna pattern. Los Altos Hills to Mt View EOC has trees in the way. With multiple antennas, one may be able to reach 10 EOCs from Los Altos Hill site.

Additional Introductions and Thanks

Dru recognized SPECS UG Treasurer Wes Freeman and his assistants, Donna Philpott (WA6SCU) and Louise Freeman, who handled sign in and logging of membership dues and new members. Dru recognized Tom Smith as SPECS webmaster and meeting photographer. And she thanked Phil Henderson for volunteering to do the Photo ID work.

Break

Break started at 1027 and the meeting restarted at 1040.

Dave Cooper (K6WA, formerly KE6PFF) announced the Amateur Radio Technology Day on Jan 31st at SLAC. The event is once a month with an eastern slope, indoor area and BBQ grill with 70 to 110 people. They are looking for presenters. Go to FARS web site for more information. Setup is at 0715. Tear down is at 2100.

As a continuation of Andrew Brown's talk, he showed the Mt View triangle, Sunnyvale triangle, and Palo Alto triangle on Google Maps.

History of SPECS

Peter Griffith (WA6VAQ), from the SPECS RA, presented the "History of SPECS" which included a movie of the installation of the SPECS antenna on El Camino Hospital in 1981. Walt Reed (W6ASH) established SPECS in 1959. The first repeater was at Walt's house. In 1979, SPECS applied to NARCC to put a repeater at the hospital.

Annual Business Meeting started at 1111.

Secretary Report: Mike Murray

Mike highlighted the minutes from January 2008 Annual Meeting.

Motion (first and second from audience): To Waive reading of January 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Motion (first and second from audience): To Approve the January 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Wes Freeman

SPECS started 2008 with a checkbook balance of \$16,151 and ended the year with a balance of \$17,349, for a total income of \$1,198. Exhibit A is the Treasurer's Report. The Downey Savings account was moved to Bank of America. The major expenses for the year were the Meeting, newsletter, mailbox and SPECS Banner. There were 89 dues paying members in 2008.

Motion (first and second from audience): To Approve Treasure's Report. Motion Passed Unanimously.

1st VP Report: Maynard Stevenson

Maynard thanked June Welsh for her help for this meeting. The SPECS Flea Market is scheduled the second Saturday in April. Donations are being accepted. Last year, the food price was raised to \$1 even, which made handling the cash a lot easier.

ECs are invited to Board Meeting.

Training Report: Jerry Haag

CERTS and QUALS are becoming more important. Put training on your calendars. Pick up Special Talent Survey and return to back table. He called attention to the flyer on the Feb 21st, Introduction to Emergency Communication class.

Jim Clark (N6JRC) and Ron Nelson (K6RJN): Youth Initiative

The Los Alto High School Amateur radio organization is losing it host, Ron Nelson, and will not continue because can't find a host on the school staff. Ron Nelson had emergency preparation class at the school with 7 to 10 students a year. On Dec 9th, there was a meeting to discuss moving forward with a Youth Initiative in the community. What can we do to help? Boy Scout merit badges, Girl Scouts, Team with science teachers, standardized demonstration environment. SPECS, PARA and FARS are all participating. Please fill out Special Talent Survey-need volunteers. Suggest youth groups, church youth groups.

Ron Nelson has seen 50 people thru CERT programs. He thanked everyone for help over last years.

MOU: Peter Griffith and Jim Thornton

Things were simple 20 years ago. The legal things have gotten more complicated. SPECS as a term is generic in reference to both SPECS UG and SPECS RA. The two organizations are separately formed and incorporated and their interaction needed to be formalized. The Repeater Association is small group dedicated to maintaining repeater forever. User Group has an open membership with lots of opportunity to participate and open to a wide audience. The MOU between the 2 organizations defines the details of the financial arrangements between the 2 organizations.

Elections

Dru yielded the meeting to Jim Thornton (Past President) to preside over the election of officers. Jim welcomed people to get involved. The Nominating Committee consisted of Jerry Haag, Bob Gundrum, and Jim Clark. The slate of officers for 2009 are:

President:	Jerry Haag	K6GAC
1st VP:	Maynard Stevenson	W7MVT
2nd VP:	Doug Greig	KG6DSV
Secretary:	Michael Murray	KI6JDY
Treasurer:	George "Wes" Freeman	KG6POV
Training:	Jim Clark	N6JRC

Motion (first and second from audience): To close nominations. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Motion (first and second from audience): To elect slate as read. Motion Passed Unanimously.

New officers came to the front for photos. Jerry Haag presented Dru with a plaque from the SPECS organization to thank her for her years of service to SPECS. Dru thanked Jerry, the board, and the membership for the recognition and expressed appreciation to the years of supportive teamwork.

Meeting Adjourned by Dru: 1159

Respectfully submitted, Michael Murray, SPECS Secretary 2009



SPECS

The Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System – K6SPX

(<http://www.specsnet.org>)

Serving the communities of Palo Alto, Stanford, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale by helping to recruit, train, and maintain a crew of amateur radio operators ready to provide emergency communication services in a time of need.

SPECS Treasurer's Report for 2008

January 17, 2009

Our checkbook balance on January 1, 2008 was **\$16,151.09**.

Our checkbook balance on December 31, 2008 was **\$10,348.98**. In August we purchased a Certificate of Deposit in the amount of **\$7,000.00** with an interest rate of 3.92% and a term of seven months. Adding the CD to the Checkbook balance, our cash assets are **\$17,348.98**. Our total income for 2008 was therefore **\$1,197.89**.

Income from member dues in 2008 was **\$455.00**.

Income from bank interest in 2008 was **\$306.01**.

The Electronics Flea Market resulted in a net income to SPECS of **\$1629.85**. (Receipts were \$4,451.98 (gate = \$2,600, donation table = \$632.67 and food = \$771.47) and expenses were \$2822.13. Expenses include a payment of \$1,550 to ASVARO and \$632.67 transferred to the Repeater Association.)

Meeting and newsletter expenses were **\$690.65**, the mailbox fee was **\$228.00**, and the SPECS banner was **\$245.90**. We did not pay liability insurance in 2008.

There were no Repeater Association expenses in 2008, other than the transfer of Flea Market funds.

There were no outstanding bills at the end on 2008. We have committed to scholarships for 10 students for the 'Ham Cram' course at a maximum cost of \$350.00

We had a total of eighty-nine dues paying members in 2008.

Seventy members (79%) indicated that they are ARRL members.

Sixty-nine members (78%) indicated that they had a DSW card.

Respectfully submitted,

Wes Freeman, SPECS Treasurer

SPECS Accounts for 2008

Date	Check	Item Description	Received	Payments	Balance	Category
1/1/2008		2008 Initial Balance			\$9,151.09	
1/9/2008		Interest	\$1.86		\$9,152.95	2
1/12/2008	119	Dru Anderson, airfare for speakers at Annual Mtg		\$247.60	\$8,905.35	3
1/21/2008	120	June Welsh, donuts for Annual Mtg		\$66.00	\$8,839.35	3
1/31/2008	121	Maynard Stevenson, coffee, bagels for Annual Mtg		\$158.25	\$8,681.10	3
1/31/2008		Deposit dues	\$45.00		\$8,726.10	1
2/1/2008	122	Village Mail Center, mailbox		\$228.00	\$8,498.10	6
		Deposit dues	\$110.00		\$8,608.10	1
2/5/2008	123	Maynard Stevenson, cash for flea market		\$400.00	\$8,208.10	4
2/12/2008		Interest	\$1.59		\$8,209.69	2
2/16/2008		Deposit dues	\$260.00		\$8,469.69	1
	124	ASVARO for Flea Market		\$1,550.00	\$6,919.69	4
3/12/2008		Interest	\$1.25		\$6,920.94	2
3/17/2008		Flea Market gate receipts	\$2,600.00		\$9,520.94	5
3/29/2008	125	Rick Ellinger, banner supplies		\$82.67	\$9,438.27	7
3/31/2008	126	John Benza, SPECS banner		\$163.23	\$9,275.04	7
3/31/2008	127	Maynard Stevenson, Flea Market supplies		\$239.46	\$9,035.58	4
4/4/2008		Deposit dues	\$30.00		\$9,065.58	1
4/8/2008		Maynard Stevenson, Flea Market concessions	\$1,171.47		\$10,237.05	5
4/12/2008		Interest	\$1.66		\$10,238.71	2
4/16/2008		FARS for Flea Market leftover soda	\$47.84		\$10,286.55	5
4/19/2008	131	Secretary of State, biannual corporate filing fee		\$20.00	\$10,266.55	8
5/3/2008		Peter Griffith, Flea Market Donation Table	\$632.67		\$10,899.22	5
5/4/2008	128	SPECS RA		\$632.67	\$10,266.55	4
5/12/2008		Interest	\$0.18		\$10,266.73	2
6/4/2008		Deposit dues	\$10.00		\$10,276.73	1
7/29/2008	129	Purchase 7 mo, \$7,000 CD from B of A		\$7,000.00	\$3,276.73	na
7/29/2008	129	Start Bank of America checking account		\$25.00	\$3,251.73	na
8/28/2008	130	Dru Anderson, Copy of Corporate Registration		\$8.42	\$3,243.31	8
8/28/2008		CD at Downey matures	\$7,299.47		\$10,542.78	2
11/28/2008		Transfer to B of A checking account		\$10,400.00	\$142.78	na
12/26/2008		Balance of Downey acct to B of A		\$142.78	\$0.00	na
7/29/2008		Start Bank of America checking account	\$25.00		\$25.00	na
11/28/2008		Transfer from Downey	\$10,400.00		\$10,425.00	na
12/26/2008		Transfer balance of Downey account	\$142.78		\$10,567.78	na
12/22/2008		AID Mailing, print and mail the newsletter		\$218.80	\$10,348.98	3
12/31/2008		2008 Final Balance (not including bank transfers)	\$5,212.99	\$4,015.10	\$10,348.98	

Totals by category:	Income	Expense	Category
Dues	\$455.00		1
Interest	\$306.01		2
Meeting and newsletter expenses		\$690.65	3
Flea Market gross expenses		\$2,822.13	4
Flea Market gross income	\$4,451.98		5
Mailbox		\$228.00	6
SPECS banner		\$245.90	7
Secretary of State filing fee		\$28.42	8
Totals:	\$5,212.99	\$4,015.10	