

SPECS

The Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

(<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 Users Group Annual Meeting

January 11, 2014

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

0902: Meeting called to order by Steven Olson (KI6MYE) on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at the El Camino Hospital Rooms E, F and G. There were ~70 attendees.

NOTE: The Treasurer's Report, by Wes Freeman (KG6POV), is included as Appendix A in this document.

Welcome and Introductions

Steven Olson (KI6MYE) welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that he had a very busy week (changing jobs).

Larry Carr (KE6AGJ), Section Emergency Coordinator, commented that he is very impressed by everything that this group has done. He noted that it would be good for more CERT trained people to join the armature radio ranks.

Each attending EC stood up and recognized the city team members present.

ECs Attending:

Los Altos:	Peter Griffith (WA6VAQ) AEC
Los Altos Hills:	Ed Jones (W7WPO)
Mt. View:	Jerry Haag (K6GAC)
Palo Alto:	Pat Muffler (KG6TMI)
Sunnyvale:	Jerry Thalls (KG6HI) AEC
NASA Radio Club:	No EC present
Stanford Radio Club:	Lea Roberts (WA6ITV)

Peter Griffith went over the history of SPECS. It started out as a net in the 1950s on two meters AM. Walt Reed (W6ASH) started the net, and in the early 70's he decided to add a repeater at this house in Los Altos. Later the repeater was moved to the site at El Camino Hospital and was the first antenna at the hospital. The SPECS RA was subsequently formed as the legal entity that owns the repeater. The user group was formed later.

Steven reviewed the purpose of SPECS, and reported that the board has been working to insure that the user group is truly working towards this purpose. The metric he is using for measuring

this is the number of new net control operators. The next step after “getting your feet wet” at SPECS is to move to the county. He recounted his experience at a Dxpedition in Costa Rica making newbie mistakes, and how one learns from these experiences. SPECS is a good, friendly place to get started.

Speaker: Michael Fox (N6MEF)

Topic: Santa Clara County ARES-RACES Packet Committee – “Towards An Integrated Electronic Messaging System”

Michael introduced the packet committee and their mission and scope. He made the point that electronic communication has become much more prevalent than voice. He then reviewed all the improvements in hardware, software, and usability since 2009. This has greatly improved the efficiency and reliability of the packet network. All requirements identified in 2009 have now been met, but as needs change and new requirements are identified further improvement are planned. He welcomes any suggestions and invites all interested parties to get involved.

The presentation will be available on the county web site on the packet page.

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/packet.html>

Break

Break started at 10:41 and ended when Steven started the Annual Business Meeting at 11:00.

Attending Board Members:

Yes	Steven Olson	President	KI6MYE
Yes	Jerry Haag	1st VP	K6GAC
Yes	Mike Prince	2nd VP	KJ6DAK
Yes	Wes Freeman	Treasurer	KG6POV
Yes	Doug Greig	Secretary	KG6DSV
No	Bjorn Liencres	Training	KN6IW
Yes	Dru Anderson	Past President	KG6LAD
Yes	Scott Overstreet	RA Liaison	N6NXI
Yes	Dru Anderson	Director-At-Large, Los Altos Hills	KG6LAD
Yes	Mark Foster	Director-At-Large, NASA-Ames ARC and Palo Alto ARES	KI6DHU
Yes	Jack Pines	Director At Large, Stanford Amateur Radio Club	W1VSL

Steven made a request of the membership for more participation in board meetings. He then asked for comments from audience.

Dru Anderson (KG6LAD) announced Dru announced the SVECS breakfast meeting on 1/25/14

Treasurer Report: Wes Freeman (KG6POV)

The check book balances. The full Treasurer report is in Appendix A.

A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report by Paul Goldstein (KJ6AMM) second by Lea Roberts (WA6ITV). Passed unanimously.

Secretary Report: Doug Greig (KG6DSV)

The minutes of last year's annual meeting were approved since there were no objections.

1st VP Report: Jerry Haag (K6GAC)

2013 Flea Market was very successful, and help at the markets is always appreciated. Next SPECS Flea Market is Sept 13th, 2014.

2nd Vice President Report: Mike Prince (KJ6DAK)

Steven recognized Annual Meeting helpers for Mike as he had to leave earlier due to child care issues. Thanks given to El Camino Hospital, Wes, Doug, Andy, Phil, Jerry T, Jerry H, and Michael and the packet committee.

Training Report: Bjorn Liencres (KN6IW)

Delivered by Steven. The newsletter lists the many activities available for training and practice.

Repeater Association (RA) Report: David Platt (AE6EO)

The flea market was very successful for the RA. We remain in the old hospital building and only share the space with the Verizon cell site. The new site proposed would interfere with the hospital net since we would be very close to their antenna.

Repeaters are still on 3 bands and can be operated independently or linked together. We can also link with AA6BT to cover almost all of Santa Clara County. Training on the repeater codes will be given after main meeting.

Elections:

Steven led the election portion of the meeting. The slate of officers for 2014 from the nomination committee is:

President:	Steven Olson	KI6MYE
1st VP:	Jerry Haag	K6GAC
2nd VP:	Jack Pines	W1VSL
Secretary:	Doug Greig	KG6DSV
Treasurer:	Wes Freeman	KG6POV
Training:	Paul Lufkin	K6PML

There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion ([KI6EOC] first, Pat Muffler [KG6TMI] second: Move to close and accept nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

Steven recognized Mike Prince (2nd VP) and Bjorn Liencres (Training Officer) retiring from the board. Thanks to hospital for room support.

Meeting Adjourned by Steven: 11:27. There was a first (Paul Zander AA6PZ) and second (Rick Van Mell KI6PUR).

Respectfully submitted, Doug Greig, SPECS Secretary

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SPECS Treasurer's Report for 2014

January 11, 2014

Our checkbook balance on January 1, 2013 was **\$11,272.06**. We had **\$15,464.10** invested in CDs, so our total assets were **\$26,736.16**.

Our checkbook balance on December 29, 2013 was **\$13,394.95**. The total value of our two CDs was **\$15,491.61**. Adding the CDs to the Checkbook balance, our cash assets are **\$28,886.56**.

Gross income was **\$7,477.71** (mostly from the Flea Market) and expenses were **\$5,327.31**, so our net income for 2013 was **\$2,150.40**.

Income from member dues in 2013 was **\$675.00**. Income from bank interest in 2013 was **\$27.51**. Our CDs now pay interest monthly, unlike 'traditional' CDs which have prepayment penalties for early withdrawal.

The Electronics Flea Market resulted in a net income to SPECS of **\$2,326.32**. Receipts were \$6,725.20 (gate = \$2,780.00, donation table = \$3,000.00 and food = \$945.20) and expenses were \$4,398.87. Expenses include a payment of \$1,625.00 to ASVARO and \$2,326.33 transferred to the Repeater Association.

Meeting and newsletter expenses of **\$345.96** were partially offset by contributions of **\$50.00** for donuts. The mailbox fee was **\$240.00**, liability insurance was **\$300.00** and we paid the CA Board of equalization **\$31.00** for 2012 sales tax on taxable Flea Market concessions.

There were no Repeater Association expenses in 2013, other than the transfer of Flea Market funds.

There were two outstanding bills at the end on 2013: A payment of \$28.00 to the CA Board of Equalization for sales tax on the 2013 Flea Market concessions and \$144.33 to Tom Smith for printing the newsletter. These expenses will be paid in January, 2014.

We had a total of 116 dues paying members in 2013, of which 82 (71%) indicated that they are ARRL members.

Respectfully submitted,

Wes Freeman, KG6POV
SPECS Treasurer

SPECS Accounts for 2013 by category						
Date	Check	Item Description	Received	Payments	Balance	Category
1/1/2013		2013 Initial Balance			\$11,272.06	
1/11/2013		Dues	\$165.00		\$11,437.06	1
1/18/2013		Dues	\$95.00		\$11,532.06	1
1/9/2013	155	Jerry Haag, newsletter printing and stamps		\$152.06	\$11,380.00	3
1/16/2013	156	CA Board of Equalization- 2012 Sales tax		\$31.00	\$11,349.00	10
2/5/2013		Donations for donuts at Annual Meeting	\$50.00		\$11,399.00	3
2/5/2013		Dues	\$305.00	\$0.00	\$11,704.00	1
2/9/2013	157	Doug Grieg, donuts for Annual Meeting		\$78.00	\$11,626.00	3
2/9/2013	158	Village Mail Center, mailbox		\$240.00	\$11,386.00	6
2/9/2013	159	Hays Companies, liability insurance		\$300.00	\$11,086.00	7
2/20/2013		Dues	\$85.00		\$11,171.00	1
3/4/2013	160	ASVARO for Flea Market		\$1,650.00	\$9,521.00	4
4/10/2013		Dues	\$5.00		\$9,526.00	1
4/29/2013		Dues	\$10.00		\$9,536.00	1
6/8/2013	161	Mike Prince, coffee for Annual Meeting		\$115.90	\$9,420.10	3
7/5/2013		Dues	\$5.00		\$9,425.10	1
8/12/2013		Flea Market, Gate Receipts	\$2,780.00		\$12,205.10	5
8/12/2013		Flea Market, Concessions	\$837.00		\$13,042.10	5
8/12/2013		Flea Market, Donation Table	\$3,000.00		\$16,042.10	5
8/14/2013	162	Jerry Haag, (Jerry paid June for cups, tea and napkins that she provided at the Annual Meeting)		\$34.37	\$16,007.73	4
8/14/2013	163	Jerry Haag, sodas and supplies for the Flea Market		\$189.65	\$15,818.08	4
8/14/2013	164	Wes Freeman, donuts for the Flea Market		\$210.00	\$15,608.08	4
9/3/2013		Leftover sodas from Flea Market	\$108.20		\$15,716.28	5
10/15/2013	165	SPECS RA		\$2,326.33	\$13,389.95	8
11/12/2013		Dues	\$5.00		\$13,394.95	1

Totals by category:	Income	Expense	Category
Dues	\$675.00		1
Interest (Reinvested in CDs)	\$27.51		2
Meeting and newsletter expenses	\$50.00	\$345.96	3
Flea Market expenses		\$2,084.02	4
Flea Market receipts	\$6,725.20		5
Mailbox		\$240.00	6
Liability Insurance		\$300.00	7
SPECS RA, one half of flea market profit		\$2,326.33	8
Donations and miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	9
Sales tax (for 2012)		\$31.00	10
Totals:	\$7,477.71	\$5,327.31	

Calendar Year 2013 Profit	\$2,150.40
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