



## Emergency Communications Committee Minutes

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 scheduled 7:00 to 9:00 pm

LAH Council Chambers: 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

<b>Members</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Dru Anderson, Co-Chair	KG6LAD	P
Eduardo Arias, Co-Chair	KM6LSX	P
Bob Anderson	KC6ZWG	P
Jim Heintzelman	KD6Y	A
Ben H. L. Hu, Secretary	KK6HH	P
Edwin R Jones	W7WPO	P
Terry Kearney	KM6LTQ	E
Andrew Kirk	WB6CLS	P
Scott Overstreet	N6NXI	P
Sam Wood	K6MSR	P
<b>Council/Staff</b>		
<i>Council Liaison TBD</i>		A
<b>Associate Members</b>		
Larry Carr	KE6AGJ	E
Neil Katin, EC	K2LL	E
Greg Olsen	K6XM	P
<b>CERT/Guests</b>		
Lester Earnest	public	P

1. Roll Call: At 1900 hours, Dru KG6LAD called the meeting to order. Ben KK6HH took the roll call: Attendance: 10 including 8 members, 1 associate and 1 guest.
2. Minutes approved: Scott N6NXI moved to approve the December draft minutes, and Bob KC6ZWG seconded the motion. It passed with voice vote with no objection.
3. Public comments from the floor:
  - a. Eduardo KM6LSX co-chair, alerted all present, in view of windy weather in this time of the year, to be on the look-out for dangerous smoke around our home area, as had happened to Dru KG6LAD's neighborhood a few weeks back. Scott N6NXI again urged everyone to turn on radio to monitor both W6LAH and W6ASH repeaters at all time of the day. Especially the W6ASH repeater would be operational but is programmed to stay quiet after 22:00 without the time announcement.
  - b. Recognition for Gary Waldeck K6AIR, longtime ECC Council Liaison whose term ended in December: deferred to when Gary is present.
  - c. Scott N6NXI urged everyone to attend the coming Jan.12 SPECS annual meeting, starting at 0800. At 0900, there would be two talks, one given by Rob

Fenn on PARACHUTE MOBILE: Past-Present-Future and the other by Rachel Kinoshita on Off the grid battery/solar setups.

- d. Lester Ernest, guest, commented that he plans to request that the town council withhold financial support of the ECC, and to request that the council focus the need for emergency communication to Internet high speed, rather than Ham radios. Sam K6MSR recounted his ongoing work with high speed internet for emergency communication and concluded it is still not ready because the reliability of the Internet in an emergency, even with all three carriers, is still problematic.

4. ECC Activities and related.

- a. Council Member Liaison: TBD
- b. Ben KK6HH: Update on Data Link headed by David Gilmour WQ1K.

**David relayed to Ben the following summary:**

The plan is to test either or both backbone sites from La Cresta at the earlier of two following times:

- 1. When LAHEG can make arrangements to provide us a position to mount a small, directional antenna on the repeater tower, which necessarily also involves coordination with the town and the PHWD.
- 2. Or: If/when the HF antenna is installed on La Cresta such that we might have access to the top of the tank for a tripod test.

David, in an email to Ben KK6HH, indicated in his summary that only the first option is viable. Scott N6NXI, on behalf of LAHEG, asked those involved that any decision on the plan be deferred for a month or so.

- c. Ben KK6HH also made a report on the participation statistics of SPECSnet Monday evening check-in for members and associates for the last 2 years or 102 weeks: (See table).
- d. Please Note: SPECSnet is not an ECC committee function but is historically recognized as a net participation training opportunity for area ham radio operators. SPECS is a 502 C3 non-profit organization that serves the northern cities of Santa Clara County, and offers a weekly check-in opportunity for hams in the respective city areas.

Members: 9+1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	28%	91%	25%	33%	37%	77%	44%	77%	87%
Associates: 17	1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8
	0%	2%	77%	72%	10%	62%	0%	1%	2%
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	21%	0%	0%	3%	0%	8%	6%	3%	39%

5. New Business:
  - a. Eduardo KM6LSX suggested distributing the W32 radios currently in the inventory to hams participating in the town emergency response preparedness. Dru KG6LAD and Scott N6NXI pointed out that the W32s HTs were initially distributed as town issue to ECC members, but that over the years, members, as well as associates, have purchased their own preferable units and have returned unused W32s to town inventory. Dru noted that there is a plan in place that the W32 HTs, if necessary, could be checked out for town's walk-in volunteer ham operators in an emergency.
6. Tech Talk(s)
  - a. BEYOND THE GO KIT: Round table discussion of individual action plans for response to emergencies.
  - b. The Co-chairs encouraged suggestions for future Tech Talk topics ideas.
7. **Reminders:** Please check online schedules for activities in the following:
  - a. LAH town events: <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/calendar.aspx>.
  - b. **Note: 2019** County ARES/RACES courses & events: <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/aresraces.htm>
  - c. CERT activities: <http://www.lahcfd.org/community-programs/public-classes>
  - d. **EMERGENCY ALERTS:**  
LAH: <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/381/EMERGENCY-ALERTS> Alert  
SCC: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/alertscc/Pages/home.aspx>
  - e. ECC QRG (Quick Reference Guide): <https://goo.gl/h93sye>.
  - f. SPECS organization: 2019 activities, links to ham training. [www.specsnet.org](http://www.specsnet.org)
  - g. Adjourn. At 20:03, the meeting was adjourned after motion made by Bob KC6ZWG, seconded by Sam K6MSR, was approved unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted: Ben Hu KK6HH, Secretary**