

2019 Mountain View ARES/RACES Newsletter

2019 has been a full year for our ARES members! Thanks to all of you, we have been able to report to the City and County ARES/RACES that Mountain View Hams have invested over 4000 hours in City and County training, exercises, and community events. In 2019 our members participated in 4 Mountain View classes, 4 County exercises, 4 city events and 2 City-Wide CERT exercises, plus attending County classes. It was a busy and productive year! This investment to both be ready to serve during an emergency, and to generally support the community is both rewarding to our members and appreciated by the community.

We continue to support people becoming hams and added eight new members this year! We also added two new AECs (Assistant Emergency Coordinators). They are part of our core group of members who operate as Shift Supervisors for our weekly Monday night SPECS check-ins, and our February and August responsibilities for being Net Control for the Main SPECS Net and 220/UHF nets.

Probably our biggest growth has been in developing packet operations. Our Intro to Outpost and Packet class in February was well received and it was a great opportunity to show how it works and help those who are interested to set up their own packet rigs.

Our support of City-Wide CERT exercises in April and November showcased our packet growth by staffing 10 of the 11 participating Neighborhood CERTs with packet stations for the November exercise. Our goal is to have resident hams with packet capability in each active neighborhood CERT. We had a total of 26 hams acting as hams during the November drill – and that doesn't count another half dozen hams who were wearing their CERT hats for the exercise!

We continued to support the city by acting as eyes and ears and communication through Blackberry REACT at four City events (Spring Parade, Art ala Carte, Art & Wine and Trailblazer). These provided an opportunity to get the word out about Amateur Radio and demonstrate our communication skills and support capabilities.

We also received grant funding for maintaining or upgrading equipment at fire stations and our K6MTV radio room at 1000 Villa. We are exploring the

possibility of being included in the Association of Mountain View Neighborhood CERTs (AMVNC) which would provide a way for donors to give us tax-deductible contributions.

We wrapped up the year with an update to our [MTV ARES Emergency Plan](#). The key updates were the Emergency Notification Phone Tree and the Emergency Locations sections to reflect priorities for ARES support. It's a nice read for a "cold winter's night."

So where do we go from here? You are encouraged to check out our initial 2020 Calendar at [K6MTV.org](#) (which will be posted soon) and reserve the dates for events that interest you. First up is the Antenna Party, Jan. 18, 10am to noon. We need Net Control positions filled on all Monday nights, and our AECs and experienced hams will be happy to Elmer anyone interested in trying it. We will also be revising our credentialing system, adding a new "Type IV" credential. More about that later!

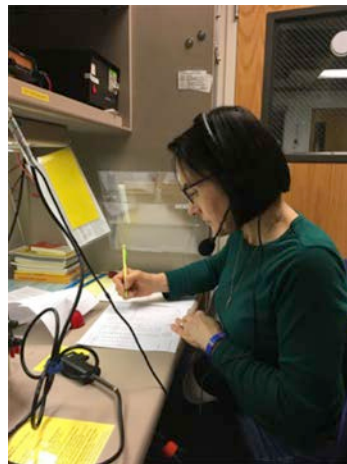
And finally, we are always looking for ways to involve our members, so drop me or any of the AECs a line and tell us what you would like to do.

Leslie Grimm, EC
Email: kk6ekn@arrl.net

2019 Highlights



Bob takes DSW oath from new Members Dave and Kathy



Molly takes Monday Night check-ins



Antenna Party 2019



Phil teaches Outpost Basics to Martin,
Marc and Barbara
February 2019



Paul and Rick teach message passing
to CERTs and Hams
March 2019



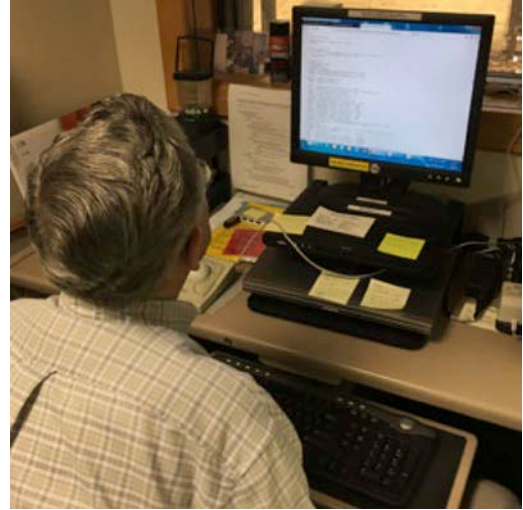
Leslie tries to shade her computer
screen at county Packet Pop-up
Exercise
April 2019



Donna and Molly with Packet radio at
Gemello Park CERT drill
April 2019



Micky and Jeff at Net Control
April 2019 CERT Drill



Phil handles Packet
April 2019 CERT Drill

At the May County/City COMM drill ham operators in the field sent voice messages to packet operators at the fire stations for transmission to MTV EOC. Phil was at Fire Station 4 and Rick and Jeff handled non-stop packet traffic from fire stations and between the city and County EOC.



Rick and Jeff operate Packet in Radio
Room during May drill



Hams gather for debrief at 1000 Villa after the May drill



Forrest learns Radio Direction Finding in County Exercise August 2019



Sherril and Phil at REACT Net Control for Mtn. View Art and Wine Fair September 2019

Our Mountain View Hams were in charge of the Packet Activity for the County-wide COMM drill in September. The exercise was held at a city park in Campbell. We set up multiple packet stations and trained new and more-experienced hams.



We had to set up before dawn to be ready for the first students. September County-wide COMM drill



A new student and our "drill EOC" crew
at one table.
Sept. County-wide COMM drill



Experienced students learned at this
table.
Sept. County-wide COMM drill

The day after the big County-wide COMM drill we came out at dawn to support the Steven's Creek Trailblazer 5 & 10 K walk/runs in Shoreline Park.



Donna waits for runners at the mile 3
marker – Trailblazer 2019



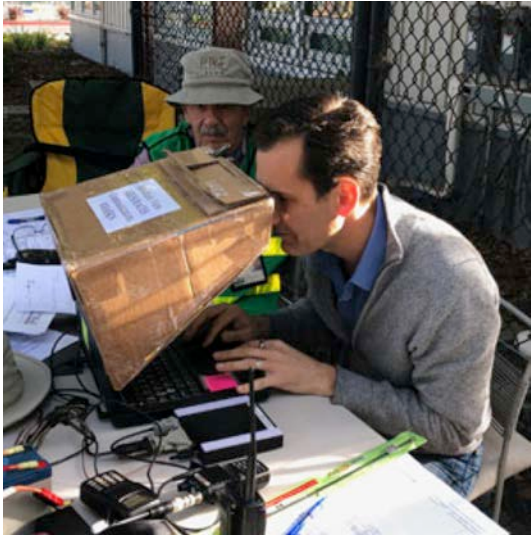
Ed is one of three "bike sweeps" who
tracked runners
Trailblazer 2019



Monta Loma CERT member Henry assists Leslie at the Whisman school district drill October 2019



Rudy and Sally operate Voice and Packet at the Cooper CERT CERT/COMM drill Nov. 2019



Jim and Greg learn Outpost basics with Leslie's help at the Monta Loma neighborhood CERT. CERT/COMM drill Nov. 2019



Mike, Jeesse and Micky operate Voice and Packet at Cuesta Park CERT neighborhood CERT/COMM drill Nov. 2019

If you would like copies of originals of any of the pictures please contact Leslie at kk6ekn@arrl.net