

**Art and Wine Hotwash
Festival Sept 9 and 10, 2023
Leslie Grimm**

The location on Villa near Castro was fine, and the 32 -foot antenna mast worked well. We used bungee cords to strap it to the canopy pole and raised it to about 20 feet. On simplex we could reach about a block short of El Camino, but had no trouble reaching everywhere on the 440.800 repeater. The mobile radio equipment and battery performed well – we used the Kenwood TMV71 from our mobile command post kit and the Jackery power supply. We had the dual band roll-up antenna and 25 feet of coax. Leslie recharged the jackery Saturday night. It went down to about 84% each day.

We got permission for Leslie to park her car containing the equipment at 1000 Villa during the event (displaying parking permit tag), and she used the red wagon to transport equipment to and from the booth. Setup and take-down each took about 45 minutes with many hands helping.

We had some lost and found items – glasses, credit cards, and an iphone. Most were successfully returned to owners. Leslie turned in the glasses and one debit card at the police station Sunday evening and Poul was able to look up the name on the card and let the owner know where to pick it up. We had one medical emergency Sunday afternoon – a woman had fainted. Our rover called it in to net control and net control walked to the firefighters nearby to let them know, and medical help was dispatched quickly, arriving about 10-15 minutes after the initial call.

We shared the booth with CERT members, who had signs and brochures. We did get people asking about CERT, but not many people asked about ARES. Occasionally we sent the CERT people out with a ham so they could experience the fair, and the hams handled any CERT questions that came to the booth during that time. The CERTs really appreciated being able to get out and walk the fair.

_____ Stuff to think about for next time _____

The time we need people the most is Sunday afternoon, when it's most crowded, hot, and people are tired, as well as some are suffering the effects of too much wine. On both afternoons we should have at least 4 people roving, if possible.

Our location was on the sunny side of the street and it got really hot even with a breeze. We needed to erect a shade for the radio, which helped, but we should look into making/buying a shade and possibly getting a small battery-operated fan. The jackery was on the table next to the radio since the powerpole connector was short. We draped a shirt over it to shade it and it functioned fine, but didn't look very professional. Next time we need to take the 6 foot

powerpole extension cord we got in this year's grant so we can put the jackery on the ground and in the shade.

We tested the radio/antenna on Saturday morning to see how far we could reach, since this was a new location. We found that we could reach about a block short of El Camino using simplex (146.535), but could reach everywhere using the repeater with 440.800. When planning the drill, we need to be sure to get permission for the repeater (Dave Platt), as we did this time.