



Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System

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 28, 2017

08:00 Membership renewals, coffee & donuts, ID Photos by Phil Henderson KF6ZSQ

09:03 Meeting called to order by Marc Roddin KI6HLH on Saturday 28 January 2017 at the Hillview Community Center Multipurpose Room, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos. There were 48 attendees.

NOTE: The Treasurer's Report, by Patrick Muffler (KG6TMI), is included as Appendix .4 in this document.

Welcome and Introductions

Marc Roddin KI6HLH welcomed everyone to the meeting

Remarks by Larry Carr KE6AGJ, ARRL Assistant Section Manager. Larry discussed how to enlarge the group of ARES operators. CERT has become helpful for this. Use of HF may become more important for ARES.

Each attending EC stood and city team members for each city introduced themselves.

Cities represented:

Los Altos	Jim Clark N6JRC
Los Altos Hills	(multiple members)
Mountain View	(multiple members)
Palo Alto	Patrick Muffler KG6TMI
Sunnyvale	Jerry Thalls KG6HI
NASA Radio Club	Mark Foster K16DHU

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Speaker: Stephen D. Stearns K6OIK

Consulting Engineers, Radio Frequency and Wireless Systems

Topic: “VHF/UHF Propagation Planning for Amateur Radio Repeaters”

Steve discussed propagation mechanisms at VHF/UHF, algorithms for propagation prediction for VHF/UHF link, system and cell planning, and available software modeling tools. He showed examples of coverage for W6ASH and Henry Coe Park repeaters.

The presentation slides are available at <http://www.specsnet.org/annual-meeting>.

Break

Marc started the Annual Business Meeting after a break.

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were approved by acclain.

Attending Board Members:

Yes	Marc Roddin	President	KI6HLH
Yes	Neil Katin	1st VP	K2LL
Yes	Jack Pines	2nd VP	W1VSL
Yes	Patrick Muffler	Treasurer	KG6TMI
Yes	Bruce Riter	Secretary	KE6EEX
No	Paul Goldstein	Training	KJ6AMM
Yes	Steven Olson	Past President	KI6MYE
Yes	Scott Overstreet	RA Liaison	N6NXI
Yes	Mark Foster	Director-At-Large, NASA-Ames ARC and Palo Alto ARES	KI6DHU
Yes	Jerry Thalls	Director-At-Large, Sunnyvale	KG6HI





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1st Vice President Report: Neil Katin (K2LL)

Neil reported on the 2016 flea market. It was threatening to rain and there was low turnout. Gate sales were low. SPECS losses were reimbursed by the ASVARO rainy day fund. This was the first ASVARO rainy day fund reimbursement in a decade.

This year SPECS flea market will be in April. Neil will request volunteer signups on the radio.

Longer term the flea market is in a shaky situation and declining. Many clubs are making more on coffee and donuts than gate sales. Gate sales just about cover the DeAnza College expenses.

Some clubs are talking about dropping out, and that will be the end.

2nd Vice President Report: Jack Pines (W1VSL)

Jack was in charge of organizing the meeting.

Treasurer Report: Patrick Muffler (KG6TMI)

The full Treasurer report is in Appendix A.

Secretary Report: Bruce Riter (KE6EEX)

Website updates by Leslie Grimm have simplified membership renewal.

Training Officer Report: Paul Goldstein (KJ6AMM)

In Paul's absence, Marc noted that SPECS UG makes itself known at the ham cram sessions.

Repeater Association (RA) Report: Scott Overstreet (N6NXI)

The old hospital building is mostly gone now, where the new building will be built. SPECS will move with Verizon to the top of the new building, which will be the tallest in Mountain View.

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Scott and Dave Platt AE6EO are responsible for the repeater system. The 2m repeater started generating noise and was shut down. The noise may be due to an interfering signal. Scott, Dave and another volunteer have used their own equipment to build a whole new 2m repeater in the hills that is not linked to the 220 and 440 repeaters.



It is unknown if the interference is intentional. SPECS members are invited to use the 2m repeater so that the frequencies won't be lost.

The capability to link the 2m repeater to the 220 and 440 repeaters using tone codes is currently not available. Linking can be done using another repeater.

Dave Platt will talk about user codes and use of the repeaters after the meeting, with a handout for any paid-up SPECS member.

Election of Officers:

Marc led the election portion of the meeting. The slate of officers for 2017 from the nomination committee is:

President:	Marc Roddin	KI6HLH
1st VP:	Neil Katin	K2LL
2nd VP:	Jack Pines	W1VSL
Secretary:	Grant Elliot	KK6FMQ
Treasurer:	Patrick Muffler	KG6TMI
Training:	Paul Goldstein	KJ6AMM

There were no nominations from the floor.

For each office a motion was made and seconded to close and accept the respective nominee. All motions passed by acclaim.

Briefing on new California “Hands-Free” law:

Dave Ricci WA6TJX discussed the new California “hands-free” law (CVC 23123.5) and its possible effect on using mobile communications equipment.

Slides of Dave’s presentation are available at <http://www.specsnet.org/annual-meeting>.

Meeting Adjourned by Marc at 11:58.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Riter (KE6EEX), SPECS Secretary

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APPENDIX

SPECS Users Group Treasurer's Report

01 January 2016 through 31 December 2016

SPECS Users Group assets:

Table with 4 columns: Asset Name, 01 Jan 2016, 31 Dec 2016, Change. Rows include Regular checking account, Business Fundamentals checking account, Certificate of Deposit 6424, Certificate of Deposit 6425, PayPal account, and total assets.

There was one outstanding bill, a payment of \$26.00 to the California Board of Equalization for sales tax on the 2016 Flea Market concessions. This could not be paid until January 2017.

See the attached Profit and Loss Statement and attached Balance Sheet for FY 2016

Income from the Flea Market Saturday 12 March 2016 at DeAnza College was impacted by inclement weather. Several clays of rain prior to the event, and threatening skies on the morning of the event, resulted in fewer sellers than the number required to break even from gate receipts.

The only payment to the SPECS Repeater Association in 2016 was the usual transfer of 1/2 of Flea Market profit.

SPECS Users Group had a total of 133 dues-paying members in 2016. 72% indicated that they are ARRL members.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Muffler, KG6TMI
Treasurer, SPECS Users Group





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SPECS Users Group
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2016

Dec. 31,2016

Table with columns for ASSETS, LIABILITIES & EQUITY, and monetary values. Includes sub-headers like Current Assets, Checking/Savings, and Current Liabilities.





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SPECS Users Group
Profit & Loss
January through December 2016

Table with columns for categories and amounts. Rows include Ordinary Income/Expense, Income (Donations, Dues, Flea Market, ASVARO Rainy Day Fund, Concessions, Donations, Gate), Total Income, Costs (ASVARO, Concessions, SCC Sales Tax, SPECS Repeater Association, Supplies, Trailer), Total Costs, Total Flea Market, Interest, Total Income, Expense (Bank Service Charges, Insurance Expense, Internet Services, Postage, Refreshments, Sales Tax, Sect'y of State filing fee), Total Expense, Net Ordinary Income, and Net Income.



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