

San Benito County ARES Group Minutes of the Meeting Held 16 June 2011

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hours by President Jack Kirk.

The following members were present at this meeting:

Zack DeVoe	KJ6OQC
Brad Klemek	KJ6AFT
Ron Ross	KD6ZXG
Jack Kirk	KJ6AMZ
Cathy Kirk	KJ6AMY
Heatherly Takeuchi	N6HKT
Tim Takeuchi	W6TST
John Meeks	KJ6KQI
Ed Presley	WB6EDD
Brent Hawks	KG6KPD
Bryan Lynch	N6LY
Sara Steiner	KJ6SAS
Gary Cameron	K5CHP
Cathy Farnham	KJ6GXX
Kathleen Hill	KB6INO

Visitors:

San Benito County Sheriff Daren Thompson

San Benito County Emergency Services Manager (ESM) James Clark - KJ6MFX

President Jack Kirk opened the meeting at 1900 hours on June 16, 2011. For the benefit of our two visitors, all members in attendance were introduced.

Jack Kirk, Tim Takeuchi and Ron Ross reviewed for Sheriff Thompson the various resources that The SBC ARES maintains as a community service. Item covered were the repeaters located in downtown Hollister and the repeater located near The Pinnacles in the San Benito South County area. Additional reported were the future repeater site near the San Justo Reservoir, and the portable "Pelican Case Radio" being assembled.

Tim Takeuchi reviewed for Sheriff Thompson and ESM James Clark, the ACS/RACES plan is in an approval process between San Benito County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA). One minor correction need to be made and the document could be finalized.

The San Benito County ACS Group has created an identification system for operating in the RACES mode. James Clark indicated that the identification method may need to be modified in the future.

San Benito County Sheriff Daren Thompson took the floor and gave an overview of the Sheriff's Department, his acclimation into the Sheriff's Department and its uniqueness from that of a police department. He also indicated the challenges that the department faces with continued pressure on budgets and the increased pressure from the state to push costs back down to the counties.

Sheriff Daren Thompson stated that he looked forward to working with and supporting the San Benito County ARES Group and would welcome our support and assistance where warranted.

Emergency Services Manager James Clark then presented to the signed charter

document from the San Benito County Board of Supervisors approving the SBC ACS/RACES Communications Plan and recognizing the SBC ACS/RACES Group as an integral part of the San Benito County Office of Emergency Services communications network.

1. Tim Takeuchi made mention that our meeting place at the BKP meeting room was getting too small because we have grow from a group of four individuals to a group now attending our meeting of ten to twelve on average. Tim indicated that he had acquired permission from the American Red Cross - San Benito Service Center to use their office/meeting room for future meetings. As a result, the San Benito County ARES Group will meet in the future at the Red Cross office on 5th Street.

During the discussion, Sheriff Daren Thompson indicated that when the Sheriff office moves to its new facility out near the existing probation department, a meeting room upstairs that is accessible from the building lobby is available and we could use that location.

It was agreed that the SBC ARES Group would take advantage of that location when it becomes available.

2. Gary Cameron reviewed the Net Control for the month and the issue of other groups and individuals checking in on the "Net." Tim Takeuchi indicated that he would update the script of the "Net Control" to work with guests and groups who might now connect in through the IRLP node. Gary indicated that John Meeks will complete the month of June as Net Control, Ed Presley will do the "Net Control" for the month of July and that Sara Steiner will do the Net in August.

3. Heatherly Takeuchi presented the Treasurer's report (see Attached). Heatherly indicated that after all of the bills for the IRLP node implementation are paid, the group will have \$161.06 in the account.

Gary Cameron made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Cathy Kirk seconded the motion and the motion carried.

4. Ron Ross and Jack Kirk gave a short report on the Alternate Repeater. They indicated that Johnson Merrill had received approval from the Scout Council and was now working on the procurement of funds to fund the project.

5. Ron Ross and Bryan Lynch had a short discussion on the alternate repeater equipment and possible issues with false broadcasts that can/could affect the "Downtown Repeater." Ron indicated that he had not seen and unusual broadcast incidents with the radio setup, but would do more testing to make sure all is working correctly.

6. Tim Takeuchi made a final review of the San Benito County Air Show and what we might do different next year. He did indicate that there was a big issue with wind static on most of the microphones and on Sunday when they put a "sock" over the mic boom, the noise was greatly reduced. It was recommended that for future events, that members acquire a headset with a boom microphone with noise canceling and wind screen to reduce the background noise.

7. Bryan Lynch reported on the SBC ARES IRLP Node 7662. He indicated that the project came in under budget. Bryan then made a demonstration of how to access the IRLP Node 7662 and the EchoLink Node #597169 (Pictures & instructions).

8. Under New Business, Tim Takeuchi indicated that The Condor Classic is in the planning stages and he will start making a communications plan for the event when more information is available. The event is to be held on 22 October 2011.

9. ARRL Field Day: Our participation for field day on the 25 June weekend was cancelled because of the lack of a location. It was agreed that the SBC ARES will hold a field day sometime in September in conjunction with a BBQ.

10. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday July 14th at our new location at the San Benito County Red Cross office at 357 5th Street at 7:00 pm.

11. John Meeks noted a letter received from Representative Sam Farr indicating that he would take into consideration the need to continue the 70cm band usage by Amateur Radio. John encouraged all in attendance to write their representative as well to try and maintain support.

12. Heatherly Takeuchi displayed a hat manufactured by Rustic Turtle on Washington Street here in Hollister. She encouraged all who want one to stop in and place an order.

Prior to issuing these minutes, Heatherly has made contact with Rustic Turtle and they have asked that we wait and place an order for all of the hats at one time to make their job more efficient.

11. Bryan Lynch made a motion to close the meeting at 2115 hours. The motion was seconded by Heatherly Takeuchi and Jack Kirk closed the meeting.

Respectively Submitted: John Meeks - Secretary

Treasurer's Report for June 2011

Beginning Balance 20.00

Deposits 976.96

(Dues = 160)

(SOC 2011 = 540)

(SBC VE = 106.61)

(IRLP overage = 2.35)

(VE Testing fees = 168)

Withdrawals 494.00

(IRLP Project = 410)

(W5YI VEC = 84)

Ending Balance 522.96

(VE Acct = 190.61)

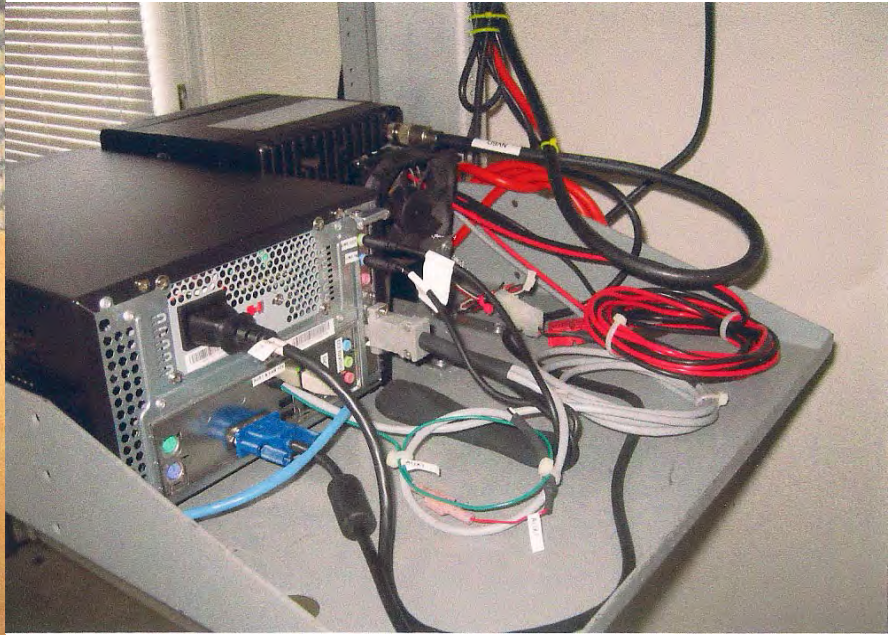
(Gen Fund = 332.35)

Submitted by Heatherly Takeuchi/N6HKT

Treasurer SBC ARES



Attachment B1



Attachment B2

San Benito County ARES IRLP and EchoLink User Guide

Revision: 06/13/2011 Compiled by Bryan Lynch, N6LY

General Node Information:

IRLP Node #: 7464	EchoLink Node #: 597169
<i>IRLP is used to connect the N6SBC repeater to other linked repeater systems</i>	<i>EchoLink is used to connect other linked repeater systems and users from a computer or smartphone device.</i>

DTMF "73" will disconnect any active call

The NUMBER ONE rule to remember when using IRLP or Echolink is to PAUSE, PAUSE, PAUSE! Give all of the systems a moment to come up in sync otherwise your first word or two may be cut off.

Use Instructions for IRLP:

To connect the N6SBC IRLP node to another IRLP station, all that is needed is to know the node number of the repeater system you wish to contact. Node numbers and node status may be found at <http://status.irlp.net/>

1. Once you know the node number you wish to call, key up the N6SBC repeater and announce: "This is (YOURCALL), opening Node number (xxxx)."
2. While keying your radio's PTT button, enter the node number you wish to call on your radio DTMF keypad.
3. The IRLP node will respond with a successful connection message or an error. (If an error message is played, wait a few moments and try again. Errors can result from the destination node not being online, busy, or due to any number of internet problems.)
4. When you are ready to disconnect the call, announce "This is (YOURCALL), closing the IRLP node."
5. On your DTMF radio keypad, enter "73"
6. The IRLP node will respond with a disconnected message. Your call is complete!

IRLP notes: If you are ever unsure if the IRLP node is operating properly, you may connect to the IRLP Echo Reflector. Simply dial node# 9990, wait for the connection to be completed. Anything you transmit into your microphone will be replayed to you after a moment. This verifies the connection is working. When you are finished testing, enter "73" to disconnect.

The IRLP node is a computer and radio located at the home station of Bryan Lynch, N6LY. It acts just like any other repeater user. Remember, PAUSE, PAUSE, PAUSE during use!!!

Use Instructions for EchoLink:

Limited access to the EchoLink system will be granted on a per-user basis. Because this system enables a licensed operator to connect to the N6SBC repeater from a computer or smartphone device, the individual operator is responsible for ensuring that their microphone and speakers/headset are operating properly.

Repeated connections from an operator whose audio levels are not properly set may lead to the removal of their EchoLink access privileges.

Initial connection to the N6SBC EchoLink node from a computer or smartphone device:

1. Set up Echolink software on your computer or smartphone device. The free software as well as instructions for installation & license validation may be found at <http://www.echolink.org>.
2. Connect to the Echo Test server. Adjust your microphone audio level to ensure proper communications.
3. Once everything is set up, email irlp@sbcares.org with a request for your call sign to be added to the authorized user list. Once an admin adds you, you will receive an email confirmation.
ACCESS ATTEMPTS WILL FAIL UNTIL YOUR CALL SIGN IS ADDED TO THE AUTHORIZED LIST.
4. Connect to EchoLink Node: 597169 . Your callsign connection/disconnection will be announced automatically over the air. Please operate as you normally would. Remember to give your call sign every ten minutes and at the end of your QSO.

Making an EchoLink call over the air:

1. Once you know the EchoLink node number you wish to call, key up the N6SBC repeater and announce: "This is (YOURCALL), opening EchoLink Node number (xxxxxx)."
2. While keying your radio's PTT button, **enter an asterisk (*)** followed by the node number you wish to call on your radio DTMF keypad. (To call node number 55555, you would enter *55555)
3. The EchoLink node will respond with a successful connection message or an error. (If an error message is played, wait a few moments and try again. Errors can result from the destination node not being online, busy, or due to any number of internet problems.)
4. When you are ready to disconnect the call, announce "This is (YOURCALL), closing the EchoLink node.
5. On your DTMF radio keypad, enter "73"
6. The EchoLink node will respond with a disconnected message. Your call is complete!

Final Notes:

Please remember that the IRLP/EchoLink node is a shared resource. Only ONE user may connect to it at a time. Please make your call/connection and release the node for use when you are finished.

If you have any questions regarding the operation and use of IRLP/EchoLink, please contact Bryan Lynch, N6LY or email irlp@sbcares.org . ENJOY!