



## Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System

### NEWSLETTER

WINTER, 2019-2020 – PUBLISHED BY REGULAR PEOPLE  
ON AN IRREGULAR BASIS

## ANNOUNCING: The SPECS 2020 Annual Meeting

- Date: Saturday, January 12, 2019  
Time: 8:00 A.M. coffee, doughnuts and conversation  
9:00 A.M. meeting starts  
Where: El Camino Hospital, 2500 Grant Road, Mountain View  
Rooms E, F & G on the lower level.  
Speaker: Justin Stockman, Fire Captain, Santa Clara County Fire Department  
(see below for details)  
Topic: MOSES - Mobile Operations Satellite Expeditionary System

### Election of SPECS Officers

The slate below is the selection of the nominating committee and will be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting. Additional nominees will be solicited from the floor before the vote. Robert's Rules of Order will be followed during the voting. You must be a paid up member of SPECS in order to vote.

To renew or become a member visit [SPECSnet.org](http://SPECSnet.org).

### SPECS Slate of Officers for 2020

- President: Grant Elliot, KK6FMQ  
1st VP: \_\_\_\_\_ *candidate*  
2nd VP: Dave Koberstein, N9DK  
Secretary: Jack Pines, W1VSL  
Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ *candidate*  
Training Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ *candidate*

### Proposal to amend Bylaws

The full text can be found on our website: [SPECSnet.org](http://SPECSnet.org).

Featured Speaker: Justin Stockman



**Speaker Justin Stockman** was Hired as a firefighter in 2010 and promoted to Captain in 2017, Justin is currently assigned as a company officer in the city of Cupertino. In addition to his daily duties, Justin specializes in emerging information and communication technologies, and was appointed in 2017 to FIRESCOPEs Emerging Information Technology committee.

Justin has developed and deployed a light weight, low cost, highly configurable field networking kit to meet mission critical needs in austere and off grid environments. Additionally, Justin has worked closely with The Governors Office of Emergency Services and the Santa Clara County Fire Department to adopt and deploy an OES Incident Support Unit. Justin is also an Incident Technology Support Specialist and deployed in the summer of 2018 to support efforts to extinguish the Ferguson fire as it threatened the Yosemite Valley. Most recently Justin has played an active role in performing a gap analysis related to modern fire department communications and data needs and working on the adoption of two MOSES units to fill identified gaps. A firm believer in the role of advanced technology in the fire service, Justin is also focused on ensuring that technology remain lightweight, provider agnostic, and capable of successful failure. Justin lives in the Bay Area with his wife, daughter and three sons.

**Abstract:** As American reliance on communication infrastructure has grown, so have the consequences of having those communications interrupted. Events like earthquakes, wildfires, acts of sabotage and intentional power interruptions increasingly disrupt not only our daily lives, but in some instances the ability of both the public and first responders to receive essential information when it matters most. As part of the effort to guard against these interruptions and their consequences, the Santa Clara County Fire Department and the State of California have worked together to equip SCCFD with two MOSES units. MOSES - short for Mobile Operations Satellite Expeditionary System - is a trailer mounted communications system originally developed for military deployment. Completely independent of terrestrial power and telecommunications infrastructure, MOSES is capable of providing wide area communications coverage where ever it is needed.

During this presentation, Captain Stockman will speak to the general technology of each MOSES unit, specific use cases, and why it is more important than ever that technology and mobile communications have a "plan B" for when the unexpected happens.

### **Message from SPECS President**

*Grant Elliot KI6HLH*

This first year as President of the SPECS-UG has been an exciting challenge. I've met some new people, gotten to know some of you better and look forward to meeting more of you in the year to come.

Here's a summary of some of the challenges the board dealt with this year:

Our first order of business was to act on an opportunity to host the Flea Market in April rather than June as was scheduled. The Board decided to do this and it was a highly successful move. We had excellent

weather, all vendor slots were filled and there was a great turn out of visitors. Read Neil Katin's write-up for details (Neil is our 1 st V.P. in charge of the Flea Market activity).

As required by our bylaws, we had an independent audit of the organization's finances. Rick Van Mell, KI6PUR, and Phil Henderson, KF6FZU, again performed the audit. They worked closely with Treasurer Patrick Muffler, KG6TMI. No major issues were found, but the auditors made several suggestions to improve our support documentation. Their report can be found on our website.

The California Corporations Code requires Articles of Incorporation and any subsequent amendments to be filed with the California Secretary of State's office. We filed the 2019 amendments voted on last January based on the Articles of Incorporation adopted January 20, 2007. Our filing was returned to us. To our dismay, we found that the 2007 amendments to the articles had not been filed. This meant we had to rewrite the 2019 documents, referring to the original, filed articles and refile them.

Since the inception of this organization, all meetings have been governed by "Robert's Rules of Order". As you may know, Robert's Rules of Order were established primarily for efficiently conducting meetings of large organizations where complex issues and competing factions hold sway. The rules are complex and unnecessarily burdensome for conducting small group meetings. The Board of Directors thought it prudent to use a simpler, friendlier set of rules, reflecting more how our meetings are actually run. To this end, the Board voted to institutionalize "Rosenberg's Rules of Order" for our meetings. This necessitates another membership approval of the bylaws. The proposed bylaws as well as a link to Rosenberg's Rules may be found on our website.

The set of amended Bylaws approved by the membership last year has an error. The position of "Training Officer" was inadvertently omitted from the list of officers. This will be corrected with membership approval of the proposed Bylaws mentioned above.

Last year, we also modified the main SPECSNET net control script to simplify and streamline it. Any feedback you might have, positive or negative, would be appreciated.

It is my desire that SPECS-UG provide a rewarding experience for each of you. I am sure there is more that SPECS can do to help you become a more proficient emergency communicator. Please let me know what you would like to see happen with SPECS.

**First VP:**

*Neil Kaitin, K2LL*

The SPECS flea market (as well as the other clubs) continues to perform well. The weather for our session was clear and temperate; we filled almost every concession spot and had a good turnout of buyers.

We had approximately \$725 in concession sales, \$3K in gate sales, and \$1K raised at the donation table. The total net proceeds to SPECS was about \$4K, which we split 50-50 between the SPECS user group and the SPECS repeater association.

This was my fourth year as 1st VP. In accordance with the bylaws I am now "termed out". I look forward to showing my replacement the details of running the flea market.

**Second VP:**

*Dave Koberstein, N9DK*

Officially, the Second Vice President shall be the social event coordinator, arranging events in a timely manner for the organization’s benefit. The Second Vice President shall prepare and manage the event calendar for participation of the organization in various events, providing communication services. In practice, this means planning and executing the Annual SPECS-UG meeting. Planning involves ensuring the location is reserved and configured, food is provided, guest speakers are scheduled, and generally ensuring a smooth-running event. The time commitment involves 5 hours the day of the event plus <10 hours of emails, phone calls and documentation over the course of the year. After the meeting, the 2nd VP executes a post mortem to improve for next year. Multiple volunteers contribute to make the event a success.

**Secretary:**

*Jack Pines, W1VSL*

The secretary is responsible for the minutes of each board meeting and also for publishing the newsletter once a year in preparation for the annual meeting. I would also like to thank Leslie who was appointed as the assistant secretary for publishing the meetings minutes when I was not around for the meeting. I am sorry I miss some of the meetings, but being retired means traveling :-)

**Treasurer:**

*Patrick Muffler, KG6TMI*

01 January 2019 through 17 November 2019

**SPECS Users Group assets:**

	<u>01 Jan 2019</u>	<u>17 Nov 2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Bank of America main account:	\$15,241.57	\$16,827.94	\$ 1,586.37
Bank of America secondary account:	\$ 4,458.63	\$ 4,458.63	\$ 0.00
Bank of America certificate of deposit 6424:	\$10,355.60	\$10,359.41	\$ 3.81
Bank of America certificate of deposit 6425:	\$ 5,173.18	\$ 5,175.09	\$ 1.91
PayPal account:	\$ 282.10	\$ 414.05	\$ 131.95
Petty Cash	\$ 135.00	\$ 0.00	\$ -135.00
<b>Total assets:</b>	<b>\$35,646.08</b>	<b>\$37,235.12</b>	<b>\$ 1,589.04</b>

There is one current liability, a payment of \$60.00 to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration for sales tax on the 2019 Flea Market concessions. This cannot be paid until January 2020.

Year	ASVARO fee	Gate	Rainout Fund	Flea Market Donation Table	Concessions	to SPECS RA	Profit	SPECS UG
2015	\$2,200	\$2,681		\$1,475	\$489	\$1,231		\$1,231
2016	\$2,300	\$1,795	\$ 505	\$2,132	\$424	\$1,288		\$1,288
2017	\$2,400	\$1,035	\$1,365	\$ 591	\$147	\$ 364		\$ 364
2018	\$1,100	\$2,680		\$1,910	\$317	\$1,901		\$1,901
2019	\$ 550	\$3,055		\$1,016	\$351	\$1,936		\$1,936

Income from the SPECS Flea Markets in March 2016 and April 2017 at De Anza College was seriously impacted by inclement weather, resulting in fewer sellers than the number required to break even from gate receipts. The rainy 2017 flea market was particularly bad. Fortunately, the ASVARO Rainout Protection Fund covered both the 2016 and 2017 gate shortfalls. Note that these two rainy flea markets nearly exhausted ASVARO’s Rainout Protection Fund.

The excellent financial recovery in 2018 was due primarily to transfer of the flea market from De Anza College to Fry's parking lot in Sunnyvale, resulting in a 58% decrease in the occupancy fee paid to ASVARO. In addition, good weather obviously helped. The flea-market performance in 2019 (also at Fry's) was helped by another large decrease in the ASVARO fee and an increase in the number of vendors (gate). However, the donation table was down from \$1,910 to \$1,016, resulting in only a slight increase in overall profit.

Payment to the SPECS Repeater Association in 2019 was \$1,935.93, the usual transfer of ½ of total Flea Market profit.

SPECS Users Group had 109 dues-paying members in 2019, down 25 from 134 in 2018. 60% indicated that they were ARRL members.

### **SPECS Repeater Association:**

*Dave Platt, AE6EO*

The W6ASH repeater system is operating in its usual location at El Camino Hospital on the 224.140 and 440.800 MHz repeaters.

Operations on the 2-meter frequency of 145.270 continue to suffer from a persistent RF interference issue at the hospital "old tower" location, which significantly degrades the system's sensitivity. For this reason, the 145.270 repeater is operating from an alternate location using a "stand-alone" backup repeater system. As this backup system doesn't have access to the hospital-based "linking" equipment, we continue to use the 440.800 MHz repeater to support the county's linked "Resource Net" configuration during trainings and events.

We carried out several additional testing sessions during 2019, attempting to isolate the problem's cause and find a cure. We were able to demonstrate convincingly that none of the repeater system equipment is at fault - we can reproduce the problem entirely with other radios and antennas - but we haven't been able to pin down the actual culprit. We're almost certain that the origin is on the "old tower" and we believe it will no longer be an issue once the repeater moves to its new location.

The hospital has largely completed work on the new Integrated Medical Services building. We have a "handshake agreement" with the hospital facilities staff for new locations for our repeater equipment and antenna mountings up on the roof. At the time of this writing (early December) we're waiting for a meeting with the hospital's cabling installers, who will be running the new feed lines to the antennas. New antennas have been ordered for all three bands. We don't have a "hard date" for the actual equipment move, but hope to have this established in time to be able to announce it at the annual meeting.

## **Reminder - Membership Renewal**

Whether or not you plan to attend the January 11th annual meeting, please take a moment now to go to [specsnet.org](https://specsnet.org) to renew your membership for 2020. It's a real deal!