

## **Radio Officer's Annual Report for 2020**

Peter Chupity, KI6FAO  
email: radio\_officer@sc4arc.org

**Repeater Status:** The 440.100 repeater was moved to the attic of a privately owned garage on Hildebrand, overlooking Cuesta La Honda.

The 146.730 repeater continues to operate from its temporary, plastic shed home. Late in the year Neil, W6VG, oversaw the move of the storage container which will house the repeater, purchased in January, to its final location. There was a hardware failure which took the repeater off air twice for a total of about an hour's time. The problem was identified as a faulty connector or broken solder joint at the connector. The connector was repaired and soldered and there have been no problems since. A second, brief "failure" of the repeater was the result an operator failing to manually re-connect to grid power after an outage and the repeater subsequently stopped working when the reserve batteries ran down. The "power grid lost" alarm was not activated since grid power was available though the power cord was plugged into the wrong outlet. The mistake was corrected within minutes

Linking the 442.325 repeater remains on hold until a tower is erected at the Mindego Hill site. Without a permanent tower it is difficult to maintain alignment of the directional antennas used for the low power, radio link.

The 145.630 digital station on Castanea Ridge sees regular, weekly use as a node for check-ins to the weekly Northern California, Winlink Net. It was available during the Public Safety Power Shutoffs while Comcast internet service was interrupted at times. An additional, portable Winlink gateway was also pressed into service with a satellite internet connection, resulting in uninterrupted access to email during the Public Safety Power Shutoffs and throughout the CZU Complex fires.

**Licensing Class:** Due to COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings there was no licensing class. We will attempt to teach an online or hybrid format class in 2021.

**Web Site:** Basic maintenance and security updates were performed.

**La Honda Volunteer Fire Brigade:** We continue to maintain a good relationship with the fire brigade including having several club members on the board of directors and several licensed amateur radio operators among the fire fighters. During the CZU Complex fires SC4ARES volunteers staffed La Honda Fire DOC continuously as well as supporting the evacuation centers and the Large Animal Evacuation Group. Our infrastructure operated continuously providing much needed backup and communication support for the many volunteers during the operational period from August 16 through the 23rd. The dedication of La Honda Fire and SC4ARES was recognized by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in an honorary resolution passed November 17.