

Radio Officer's Annual Report for 2021

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Repeater Status: The 146.730 repeater was moved into its new home which has proved resistant to weather and rodents. The shipping container box was fitted with electrical service, and will be fitted with cable racks and an extensive grounding system bringing the installation up to public safety service standards.

Jerry Haddox, N6QZH, the owner of the 442.325 repeater, has donated all of the repeater and link hardware at the Butano site, hardware for the Mindego Hill end of the link and supplies of spare parts to the club. Linking the 442.325 repeater remains on hold until a tower is erected at the Mindego Hill site. ROHN tower parts have proven difficult to obtain as the pandemic disrupts the supply chains. The tower parts did finally arrive in late December. Without a permanent tower it is difficult to maintain alignment of the directional antennas used for the low power, radio link. Jerry had hired a tree climber to remove a branch which was very close to the repeater's antenna. The climber is also helping to assess moving the antenna from the tower to the top of an adjacent tree which would add significant height to the antenna.

The 440.100 repeater is operational but sees little use. The repeater hardware is showing its age and repair parts are difficult to find. My recommendation is to replace this in the next 12-24 months in order to have reliable service.

Winlink Status: In addition to our gateway on Castanea Ridge, which handled some 800 messages last year, we have added a node/digipeater on Butano ridge which extends Radio Mail Service into the South Coast area and, importantly, to the La Honda Fire DOC. In coordination with Kings Mountain and Half Moon Bay radio clubs a gateway was installed in Half Moon Bay and the node/digipeater at the Kings Mountain fire station was moved to our shared frequency of 145.630 MHz. The coordination extends Winlink service to the Coastside EOC and provides redundant signal paths on both sides of Skyline in case of component failure.

The Windows 7 based computer at the Castanea Ridge gateway has proven erratic this year. My recommendation is that we replace this at the earliest opportunity. Given the difficulty dealing with the free version of TeamViewer for remote management and Windows 10's heavy reliance on the internet I strongly suggest the next computer be based on the Linux operating system for ease of management and reliability.

Licensing Class: We adopted a hybrid class approach with self study, on-line practice tests and weekly online reviews. Of 44 people who indicated interest in being licensed, 28 registered for the class. 25 have taken and passed their exams.

Volunteer Examiners: We have registered with the ARRL Volunteer Exam Coordinators program and we can now administer licensing exams from within the club. We administered one "drive-in" exam in April and three more in November.

Pop-Up Communication Centers: The grant writing committee sought recommendation on the needs for readily deployed communication centers. An itemized list of what was needed to build out 5 complete pop-up centers including radios, antennas, laptop computers, shelter, tables, chairs, lights, heaters and fans was submitted. Puente awarded SC4ARC a \$24,320 grant for the project of which nearly all parts have been received and are stored in a trailer for ready deployment.

Web Site: The board approved the adoption of the sc4ares.org domain to be used for ARES communication. Basic maintenance and security updates of the website were performed. A website committee was formed which has been building a new site

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.