



Emergency Communications Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Kitchen Area at Town of LAH: 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

Members	Call Sign	Attendance
Dru Anderson, Co-Chair	KG6LAD	P
Eduardo Arias, Co-Chair	KM6LSX	P
Bob Anderson	KC6ZWG	E
Ben H. L. Hu, Secretary	KK6HH	P
Edwin R Jones	W7WPO	P
Terry Kearney	KM6LTQ	P
Andrew Kirk	WB6CLS	P
Scott Overstreet	N6NXI	P
Jay Sutaria	KN6JAY	P
Sam Wood	K6MSR	P
Council/Staff		
Kavita Tankha,	Council Liaison	E
Associate Members		
Larry Carr	KE6AGJ	P
Robert Johnson	KG6UWZ	P
Kjell Karlsson	KD6BPP	P
Greg Olsen	K6XM	P
Neil Katin, EC	K2LL	P
Bill Lattin	KK6PCA	P
Craig Miller	WA6OXK	P
Guests:		
Victoria Bebee, LAHCFD	KN6HOU	P
Mauri Okamoto-Kearney	KM6LXC	P
Janice Carr	KI6PNR	P
Brigitta Indaco, Planning Commission, LAH		P

1. At 19:02 hours, Dru KG6LAD, Co-Chair called the meeting to order. The meeting was held at the Kitchen Area of the Town Council because the regular meeting place was preempted by the Primary election.
 - (a) Roll Call: Ben KK6HH made the roll call. Attendance: 20 including 9 members, 7 associates, and 4 guests. There was a round of introduction among all attendees to welcome our first-time visitor to the meeting.
 - (b) Minutes of February 2020 approved: Scott N6NXI moved to approve the February Minutes, Terry KM6LTQ seconded, and all voted to approve without dissent or abstention.

2. No update from the Council Liaison Kavita Tankha as she was not available.
3. EC Report Update and Activities - Neil K2LL, EC:
 - (a) A County drill is scheduled for April 25, aiming to teach CERT members how to use Radios. Anyone interested can sign up with Neil K2LL.
 - (b) The access to ARK is imminent, awaiting the approval from Foothill College.
 - (c) The purchase of antenna and internet equipment for the ARK would be completed shortly.
 - (d) The drill on Feb 22 to survey Ham radio propagation throughout the TOWN went well. A dozen or so volunteers joined the exercise. It was found that all the surveyed locations, including the past problematic areas, could reach the W6LAH repeater with an HT and Mag-mounted antenna.
4. Public comments from the floor:
 - (a) CERT update by Victoria KN6HOU:
 1. She presented lists of CERT activities for March and April and indicated these are all posted on <https://www.lahcfd.org/calendar/>.
 2. She also asked for volunteers to participate in the March eighth's LAH youth commission emergency preparedness.
 - (b) Dru KG6LAD reported that she is working with Marsha Hovey in early stages of neighborhood fire evacuation drill, involving up to 40 families. The first step is to develop the plan and see if it is of interest to a majority of the neighbors. The drill would require the assistance of various first-responder agencies as well as members of CERT/ECC. More details as they develop.
5. Old Business
 - (a) Vests for ECC/CERT
 1. Victoria KN6HOU indicated she was able to get vests of almost all sizes, except for the 2XL, for ECC/CERT to try on and to complete the final count.
 2. The cost of each vest ranges from \$40-\$60.
 3. The emblem on the backside has been decided but the front insignias are still being discussed.
 4. Victoria KN6HOU and Neil K2LL are tasked to finalize the front insignias and report back in the next April ECC meeting.
6. New Business
 - (a) Neil K2LL reported that during the last drill, he found out that Radio 4 in the EOC did not work and asked for help, to which Scott N6NXI generously agreed to diagnose the problem as his time allows.
 - (b) Neil requested to purchase three headphone amplifiers for EOC at the total cost of no more than \$250. Terry KM6LTQ moved to approve the request, Eduardo Co-chair, KM6LSX seconded, all nine members voted for the motion.

- (c) Jay KN6JAY reported his efforts to update the ECC inventory to move the current paper format “to the cloud,” beginning July 2019 when he took over from Mauri KM6LXC.
 - 1. Jay intends to put the inventory lists in Google sheets. The decision as to who could assess the information is to be made later.
 - 2. Jay would implement an electronic checkout procedure of equipment/books.
 - 3. Jay would get help from others to gain access to information/equipment for off-site emergency EOC stored in the main Council chamber.

7. Tech Talks

- (a) Status of microwave high data connection between LAH’s EOC and the County ARES/RACES: On behalf of David Gilmour WQ1K, Neil stated that a critical link, specifically, the placement of the Microwave antenna at a Water Tank location previously agreed on by the owner, is in doubt because of some other disagreements between the owner and the Town of LAH.
- (b) Sam K6MSR elaborated on his last month’s proposal on a high-speed data link to LAH EOC.
 - 1. At present, there is a private fiber-optic link between some LAH residence and the “Internet exchange point” (the physical infrastructure through which Internet service providers and content delivery networks exchange Internet traffic between their networks.).
 - 2. This fiber-optic link provides a multiple Gigabit high speed link to the internet and is highly reliable in an emergency.
 - 3. This link could then be further linked via Microwave to a station high above the Town and/or the LAH EOC.
 - 4. After much discussion, Scott N6NXI urged Sam to put in a succinct and concrete proposal for the ECC to consider whether it would be appropriate to recommend to the Town.

8. Reminders: Please check online schedules for activities in the following:

- a. LAH town events: <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/calendar.aspx>.
- b. County ARES/RACES courses & events:
<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/aresraces.htm>
- c. CERT activities:<http://www.lahcfd.org/community-programs/public-classes>
- d. EMERGENCY ALERTS:
 - i. LAH: <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/381/EMERGENCY-ALERTS>
 - ii. AlertSCC: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/alertscc/Pages/home.aspx>
- b. SPECS Monday Night Net information: www.Specsnet.org. Northern SCC emergency ham radio volunteer activities.

9. Adjourn: At 20:50 hours, Scott N6NXI moved to adjourn; Andy WB6CLS seconded, and all nine members present assented.

Respectfully submitted: Ben Hu KK6HH, Secretary