



Cupertino
Amateur
Radio
Emergency
Service

Cupertino ARES/RACES

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1999 STATE OF CARES REPORT

24-January-2000

This report summaries how CARES performed during 1999.

Accomplishments: How we did in 1999

CARES pursued four (4) objectives in 1999. Here's what they were and how we did with each:

OBJECTIVE #1: Build the NCS Operator Pool

RESULTS: CARES set a goal to add 10 new Net Control Station (NCS) operators to ensure there is sufficient staffing for the NCS position. As a result, 5 new NCS Operators volunteered and performed as NCS for multiple sessions. New NCS operators include Andy Zander W9BJX, Ken Foot KR6CO, Bill Mannion KF6HFR, Leigh Stevens KF6HFW, and Bill Klein KD6TQJ.

OBJECTIVE #2: Document CARES Operating Procedures

RESULTS: CARES published its first release of a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document that included the following four Parts: Organization, Procedures, General Information, and Attachments. The SOP was applied to all regular Net Control activities, the Preliminary Damage Assessment Drill, the Field Day Exercise, and the Y2K Transition Increased Readiness Operations.

OBJECTIVE #3: Build CARES General Participation

RESULTS: With a roster size of 75 members, CARES has about 50 active members. An active member is anyone who participated in any net, meeting, drill, event, or organized neighborhood activity at least once over the course of the year. While the number of active members was up by 5 over the past year, overall participation increased by 11% across the general membership (see the graphs in the attached handout).

Additionally, CARES members logged 621 volunteer hours (excludes Y2K operations) for the city in 1999, more than double the number from the previous year.

OBJECTIVE #4: Develop CARES Public Relations

RESULTS: Bill Mannion KF6HFR volunteered as CARES Public Relations Coordinator. This position is intended to help make CARES more visible to the community and help explain who we are and why we're here.

Additionally, Brian Vargo KE6ZOY volunteered as webmaster for the CARES home page. An initial page was brought on line with plans for refining it over the next year.

1999 General Activities

CARES held monthly membership meetings, each with a different speaker or training objective aimed at enhancing member preparedness. Speakers included representatives from the USGS, Red Cross, and County Fire to name a few. A CARES net was held weekly and was well attended (20 to 40 average participation of active members).

Preparedness Operations - Drills. CARES members also participated in the following drills:

- **Field Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA):** CARES' first PDA Drill was held in the field over two days with participation from 24 CARES members. Feedback on the drill was collected and changes were designed and incorporated back into the SOP.
- **Field Day:** Eighteen members participated in a 9 hour drill to establish and operate an Emergency Communications Station as part of national 1999 ARRL Field Day event. CARES operated solely with member equipment and emergency power. HF (High Frequency) operation was introduced and over 110 contacts were made both locally and throughout the U.S. One member subsequently upgraded his license to Amateur Advanced and has brought an HF station on line at his house.
- **County Simulated Emergency Test (SET):** This exercise was primarily a packet exercise for CARES. This also gave us an opportunity to offer training to the membership on packet with some hands on experience. Several members subsequently purchased Packet TNCs for their personal use.
- **Neighborhood drill support:** CARES supported several organized neighborhoods with simulated EOC participation and traffic.

Y2K Increased Readiness Operations: CARES shifted into Increased Readiness Operations on 31-December-99. Five nets over 4 days were held with a total of 47 member check-ins. CARES members spent an estimated 250 hours monitoring the CARES frequency in preparation for a potential activation. Increased Readiness Operations were secured on 4-January-00.

Antenna Raising Party: We held an Antenna Raising Party for one member interested in operating as Net Control. Five CARES members helped erect an antenna for a member who then went on to take on NCS responsibilities.

Cupertino Art & Wine Festival: CARES members staffed the CARES booth both days and talked to those who stopped by about emergency preparedness and ham radio.

Objectives for 2000

The following three objectives are set for 2000:

OBJECTIVE #1: CARES is a practiced organization

No one knows when we will be called to support the city. To this end, we all need to ensure we are ready with skills and material to support Cupertino. CARES will pursue being a practiced organization through the following three activities:

- Skills development: Operating, new technologies
- Roles Definition: Refine and practice different response roles
- Practice: PDA, Traffic Handling, Field Assignments, EOC Operations

OBJECTIVE #2: CARES has an experienced NCS Operator Pool

We will continue to build operator expertise with members operating as net control. The goal continues to be >10 new, experienced NCS Operators. We will encourage members to gain experience and ensure they have the technical support and coaching needed to be successful.

OBJECTIVE #3: Continue CARES Public Awareness

As a service organization, ensuring we are working on the right things and communicating our capabilities to the city and other served agencies is critical to ensuring our effectiveness. We will pursue this objective with the following activities:

- Participate with the City. Continue an on-going dialogue with CARES sponsors to ensure we align our effort correctly.
- Presence in the press. Develop and share our experiences with our neighbors
- Awareness in the Community. Work within the community to leverage our skills
- Formal WWW presence. Ensure we can share information among others and ourselves.

End of Report.

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