

Cupertino ARES/RACES 2025 Year-End Review

December 4, 2025
Jim Oberhofer KN6PE



Topics for tonight

Six topics of interest for CARES and Cupertino Citizens Corps operations...

6. Participation Record
5. Packet Update
4. WW6HP Repeater
3. Handbook Update
2. SNF Drill Recap
1. AREDN Mesh



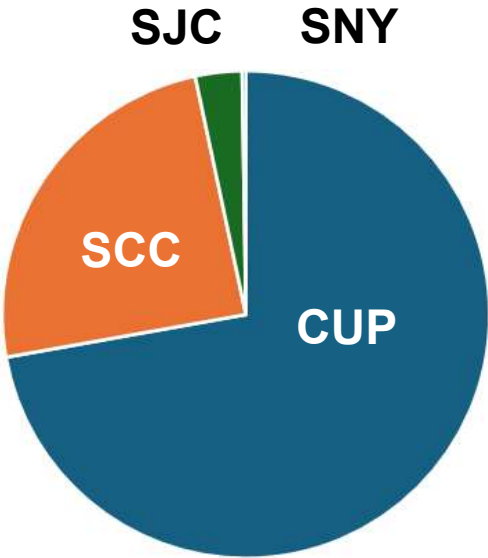
An illustration featuring two stylized human figures in dark blue, positioned at the bottom and holding up a large, glowing yellow lightbulb. The lightbulb has several short, dark blue lines radiating from it, suggesting light or inspiration. The entire scene is set against a white background.

#6

PARTICIPATION RECORD

Participation Record – 2025 YTD

By host organization



		Hours
host_org		Total
CUP		874.4
SCC		296.3
SJC		37.5
SNY		3.0
Grand Total		1211.2

Cupertino Activities



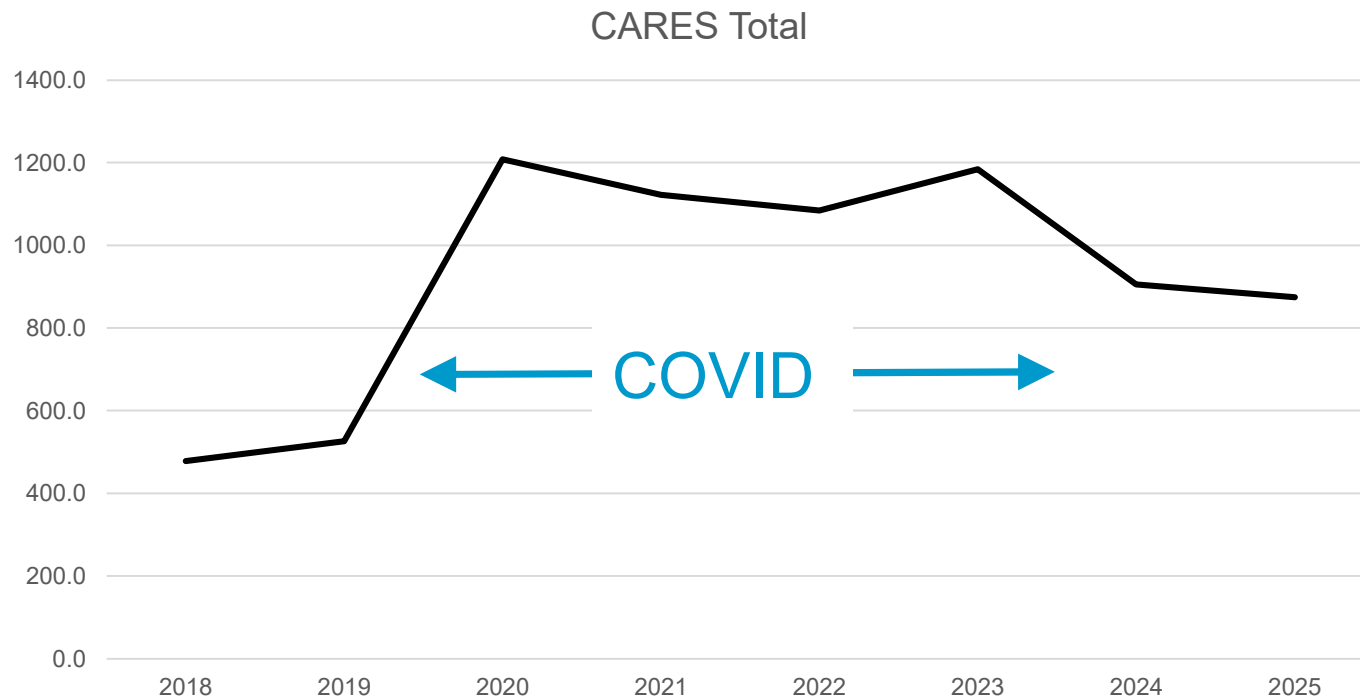
		Hours
host_org	type	Total
CUP	Net	257.8
	Meeting	235.7
	Exercise	179.0
	PSE	120.5
	Training	41.5
	Planning	25.0
	Other	15.0
CUP Total		874.4



Participation Record

(or, the impact of a pandemic on volunteer hours)

Participation over the years (since keeping records)



	Total
2018	478.5
2019	526.2
2020	1208.5
2021	1122.2
2022	1084.0
2023	1183.9
2024	905.2
2025	874.4





Packet Update

- The SCC Installer 164B was released that addressed:
- Outpost changes
 - delivered 8 enhancements
 - resolved 3 defects
 - Nothing that extraordinary
- PackItForm Changes
 - WebEOC to VEOCi

PackItForms – what's changed

WebEOC is out...

- In early 2024, CalOES terminated WeEOC and replaced it with a resource ordering system using Salesforce.
- **Purpose:** WebEOC was used with the CalOES system for two capabilities: Resource Ordering and EMMA (Emergency Management Mutual Aid) requests.
- **Impact to SCCO RACES:** Workflows based on WebEOC are no longer in use; counties interfacing with the state now use updated formats.

Veoci is in...

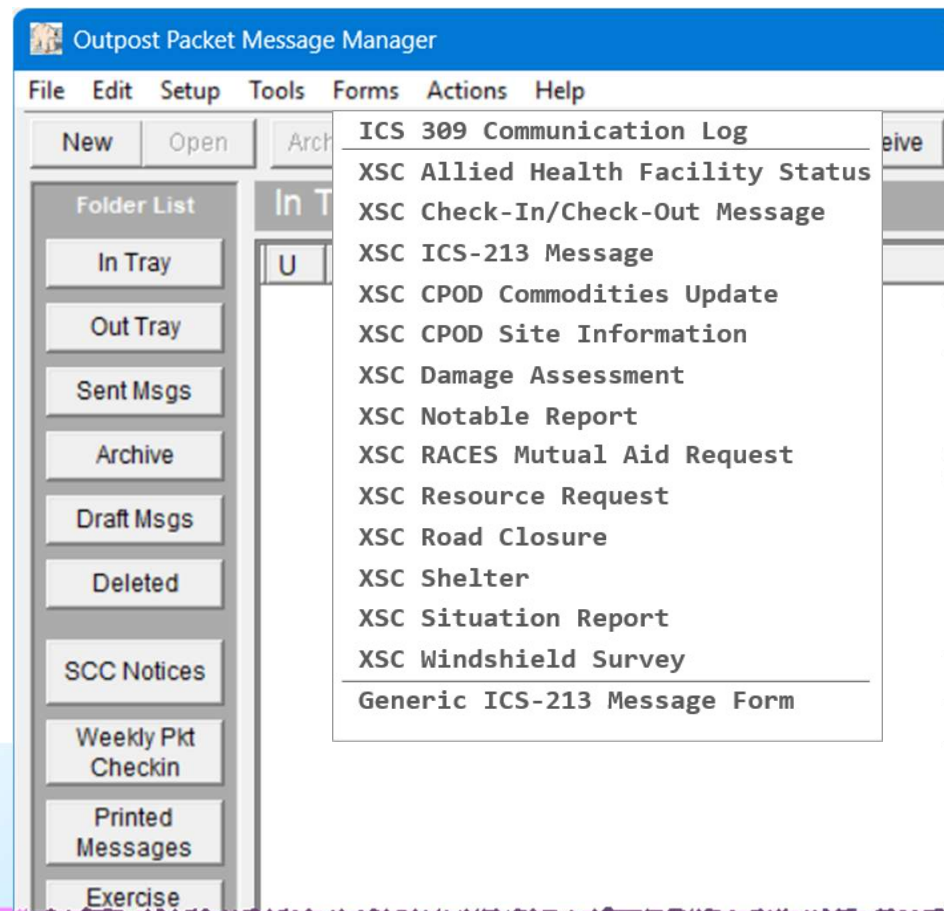
- In early 2025, Santa Clara County terminated WebEOC and replaced it with Veoci (launched in July 2025).
- **Purpose:** Veoci supports Situational Awareness, Resource ordering from the Jurisdiction to the Op Area, Initial Damage Assessment Tracking, Fixed asset inventory (generators, portable lighting, traffic message boards. etc.), and tracking.
- **Impact to RACES:** County EOC forms were redesigned in the Veoci format.
 - All PackItForms were updated to align with the new Veoci format.
 - Some old WebEOC forms were removed.



PackItForms – what's changed

- **VEOCI and PackItForms**

- SCCo RACES rewrote almost all PackItForms to align with VEOCI forms.
- Outpost's form list has been updated



PackItForms – what's changed

- Almost every PackItForm was updated, plus...
- Nine (9) new forms added
- Three (3) were replaced

2024 Version

XSC Check-In/Out Message
XSC ICS-213 Message
~~XSC EOC-213RR Resource Request~~
~~XSC OA Jurisdiction Status~~
~~XSC OA Shelter Status~~
XSC Allied Health Facility Status
XSC RACES Mutual Aid Request

2025 Version

XSC Allied Health Facility Status
XSC Check-In/Check-Out Message
XSC ICS-213 Message
XSC CPOD Commodities Update ... **NEW!**
XSC CPOD Site Information **NEW!**
XSC Damage Assessment **NEW!**
XSC Notable Report **NEW!**
XSC RACES Mutual Aid Request
XSC Resource Request **NEW!**
XSC Road Closure **NEW!**
XSC Shelter **NEW!**
XSC Situation Report **NEW!**
XSC Windshield Survey **NEW!**

Packet Practice

The best place to get familiar with these forms...

1. Weekly Packet Practice
2. Monthly Packet Message Passing Exercise

And, we still have a packet kit available for long-term loan if interested.



A photograph of a radio tower with several large satellite dishes on a grassy hill under a cloudy sky. The tower is the central focus of the background image.

#4

WW6HP

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Introducing WW6HP

1. The May 2020 home (Covid-19) exercise uncovered a gap in our ability to coordinate multiple nets when field conditions were less than optimal (in this case: HTs at home).
2. To address this, CARES did two things:
 - Sponsored a group buy of the *Ed Fong* roll-up j-pole for home HT use. Over 20 members took advantage of this purchase opportunity.
 - Developed an agreement with the *HP Silicon Valley Repeater Club* (HPSVRC) to use the WW6HP Repeater during activations.
WW6HP, 442.000+ (151.4)
Location: Black Mountain above Los Altos
3. The WW6HP repeater is now a part of our frequency line-up, listed as the CARES Command Net.



WW6HP repeater ... where is it?

But, what's the status?

- WW6HP repeater failed in July 2024
- Access to the repeater site was removed
- It took several individuals from CARES and Los Cumbres ARC to work this issue
- Problems with different site ownership and management complicated matters
- We finally found someone who could get us into the radio vault to check out the equipment, and
- We removed both the WW6HP UHF and LCARC's K6FB UHF repeaters!

WW6HP repeater ... where is it?

And...

- Transfer trustee from Rick/HPSVRC to Tae for WW6HP
- Transfer NARCC Org Rep from Skip/HPSVRC to Tae
- CARES is now the managing organization for WW6HP repeater operations
- We are looking for a new home for WW6HP; several options are being explored:
 - A different Black Mountain Repeater site
 - Cupertino Civic Center *Twin Towers* rooftop
 - Westport Senior Apartment rooftop
 - SJWC water storage tanks at Regnart Ridge
 - Any member living in the hills above Cupertino interested in hosting the repeater?



2025 HANDBOOK UPDATE

Handbook updates

Released the 2025 Field Comm Handbook.

- Aligns closer with SCCo Operations
- A series of general updates plus specifics, such as...

Field Communications Handbook

Cupertino ARES/RACES

April 2025



Handbook updates

Released the 2025 Field Comm Handbook.

- Updates in passing 3rd party messages, follows county ICS-213.
- Removed Alt911 reporting and added Incident Report (911) message passing, “what to say” and the forms.
- Updates to ICS 309 Comm Log example.
- Removed the half-page message form and added ICS 213 message form example.
- Updated pro-words section.
- Other minor changes.

Field Communications Handbook

Cupertino ARES/RACES

April 2025



Looking for a copy?

Check out...

> www.cupertinoares.org

> [Docs & References](#)

> [Field Refs](#)

> **Field Communications Handbook**
[Manual](#) | [Booklet](#)

Field References

Name	Description, Content
Net Control Station Handbook Manual* Booklet*, November 2023	PDF, This handbook covers the methods and approach CARES will use for managing the CARES Emergency Net.
Field Communications Handbook Manual Booklet, April 2025	PDF, This Handbook is a compilation of several SOP areas as well as key procedure training. This handbook should be carried by all CARES members. Note: The <i>Booklet</i> file is formatted to create a 5½" x 8½" booklet when printed with a 2 sided printer. See the printing instructions here.
Message Passing Proword Cheat sheet, December 2022	PDF, This is a compilation of the prowords used for accurate message passing.
Cupertino City Map, Aug 2012	PDF, This is an 11"x14" map of Cupertino with the

Cupertino ARES/RACES





Recap

Definitions

- **AHF – Allied Health Facilities**, a term used by SCC PHD to describe the Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) with whom they coordinate.
- **Surge – Healthcare Surge**, the overwhelming increase in demand for medical care arising out of an emergency event... (*and patients “surge” to hospitals*).



Surge Plan Overview (high level)

What happened during COVID?

Lessons learned during COVID SCC PHD surges:

1. Opening surge units for critical care.
2. Transferring patients across county hospitals
3. Collaborating with other hospitals partners
4. Expediting discharges to reduce hospital stay durations



Surge Plan Overview (high level)

Key strategies

Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)

SCC PHD has pre-established agreements, methods, and procedures with SNFs for seamless coordination, and alternate care sites.

Santa Clara County's approach to managing hospital surges involves:

1. comprehensive emergency preparedness,
2. strategic coordination with SNFs and alternate care facilities,
3. ***process to free up hospital beds by transferring less-critical hospital patients to available beds at skilled nursing facilities that may exist.***

How transfers work

1. Monitoring hospital capacity and identifying non-acute transfer candidates
2. Assessing SNF bed availability
→ **ARES/RACES involvement**
3. Coordinating transfers
4. Ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements
5. Post-transfer follow-up

2. SNF Bed Availability

Assessing SNF Bed Availability

- Real-time coordination with SNFs to determine available beds and care capacity
- SNF-to-PHD communications by standard means
- SNF-to-PHD communications by **amateur radio** when commercial systems fail (and if resources are available)

SCC PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT BED TRACKING

DIATRIS	2800 UROLOGY	3000 NEUROLOGY	3200 MATERNITY	4000 ORTHO.	5000 ONCOLOGY	6100 NEUROL.
2804A	3002A	3201	4010A	5012A	6101	
B	B	3202	B	B	6102	
2805	3003A	3203	4011A	5013A	6103	
2806A	B	3204	B	B	6104	
B	3004A	3205	4012A	5014A	6105	
2807A	B	3206	B	B	6106	
B	3005A	3207	4013A	5015	6107	
2809A	B	3208A	B	5016	6108	
B	3006A	B	4014	5017		
2810	B	3209A	4015	5018A		
2812	3007A	B	4016A	B		
2813	B	3210A	B	5019A		
	3008A	B	4017A	B		
		3211A	B	5025		
	3009A	B	4018A	5026		
2910	B	3212A	B	5027A		
2911	3010	B	4019A	B		
2912	3011	3213A	B	5028A		
2913	3012	B	4020A	B		
2914	3013	3214	B	5029A		
2915A	3014	3215	4021A	B		
B	3015	3216	B	5030		
2916A	3016A	3217	4022A	5031		
B	B	3218A	B			
2917A	3017A	B	4023A			
B	B	3219A	B			
2918A	3018A	B	4024A			
B	B	3230	B	5035A		
2919A	3019A	3231	4025A	B		
B	B	3232A	B	5036A		
2920		B	4026A	B		
2921		3233	4027	5037A		
2922				B		



What did we do?

CUP-25-31T CommEx

- Activated 3 of the 4 SNF sites
- Activated 3 simulated SNF sites
- Passed voice traffic -- 30 messages passed
- Passed packet traffic -- 36 PackItForm messages passed
- **Exercise Findings**
 - Plausible scenario where CARES members are likely to respond
 - Initial city priorities are likely to relegate SNF activity to Day 2
 - SNF deployment is not automatic, depends on availability of commercial communication systems
 - CARES members as residences with SNFs have the potential to build solid relationships.

Want more details?

<https://cupertinoares.org> >

[Exercises & Events](#) >

[Exercises](#) >

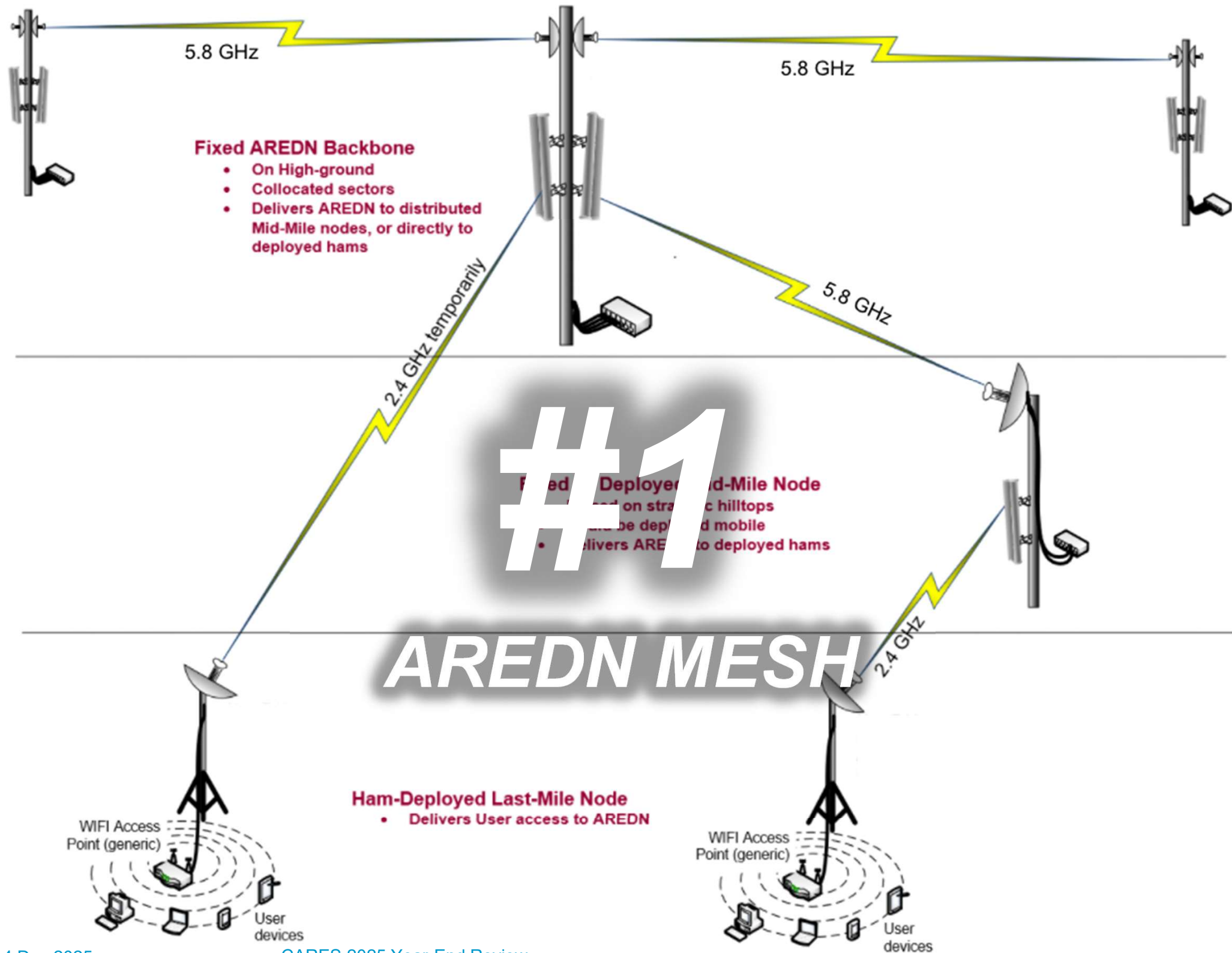
look for **‘CUP-25-31T, SNF Communications Exercise’**

CUP-25-31T, SNF Communications Exercise

17 May 2025. This exercise addresses how we would execute the field reporting portion of the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Status reporting as required by Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

[Explan v1.5](#) | [Surge Overview](#) | [Drill Prep](#) | [IAP*](#) | [Voice Injects](#) | [Packet Injects](#) | [Packet Msgs](#) | [SCC Injects](#) | [After Action Report](#) |





Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN)

What is it?

- AREDN is an amateur radio high speed Wi Fi data network which is independent of the commercial Internet.
- The Bay Area has a 100 Mbit backbone with especially good coverage on the peninsula
- Links to nodes as far away as Livermore, Roseville, and Cloverdale.
- Backbone nodes have emergency power, often solar, and redundant routing.
- Wi-Fi access points on AREDN can be used by phones, laptops, and tablets.

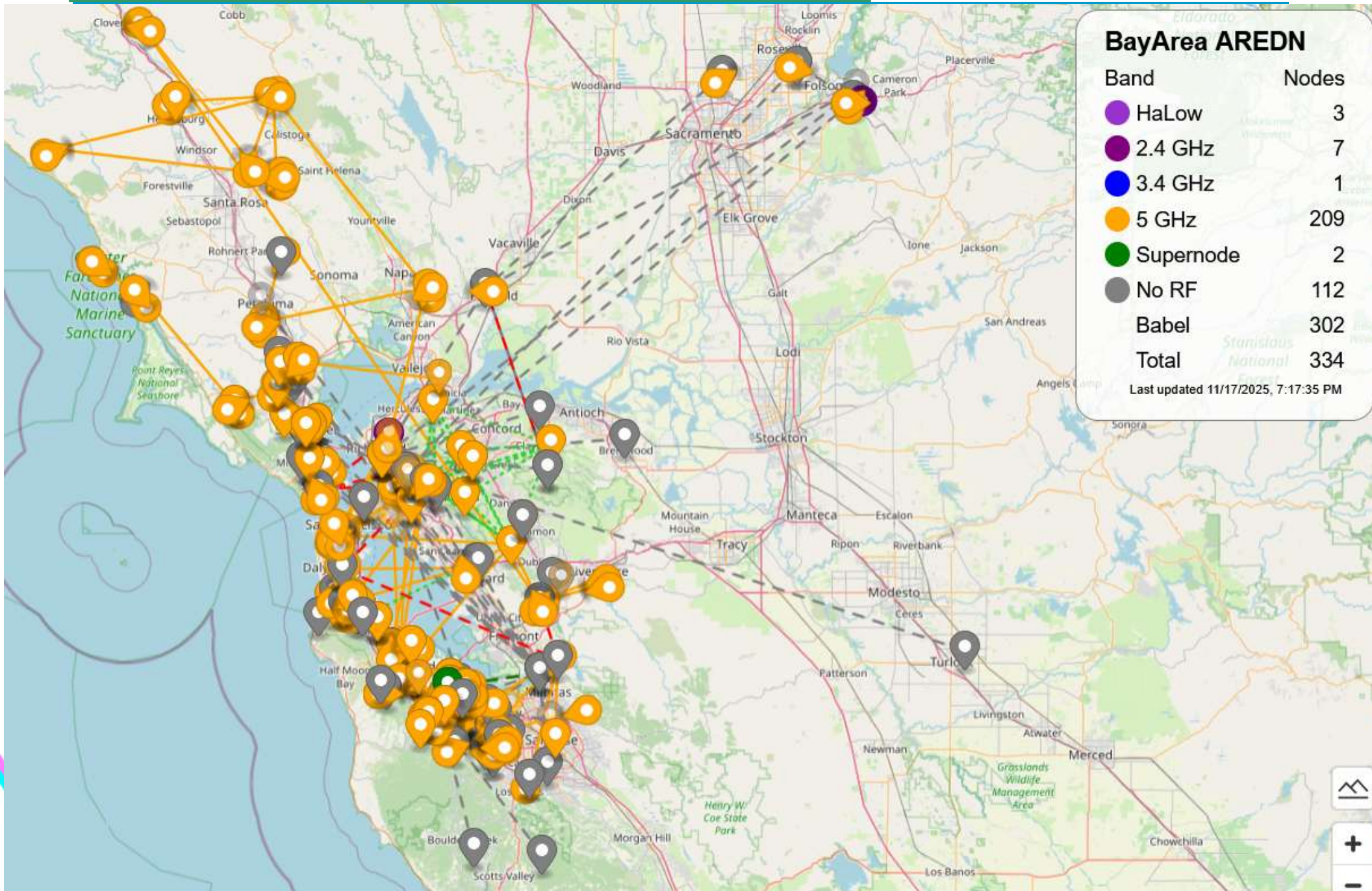
What can you do with Mesh?

- Video (e.g., web cams)
- Telephone (VoIP)
- File Transfer
- Chat
- Packet/BBS over mesh
- QuickCapture reports over mesh

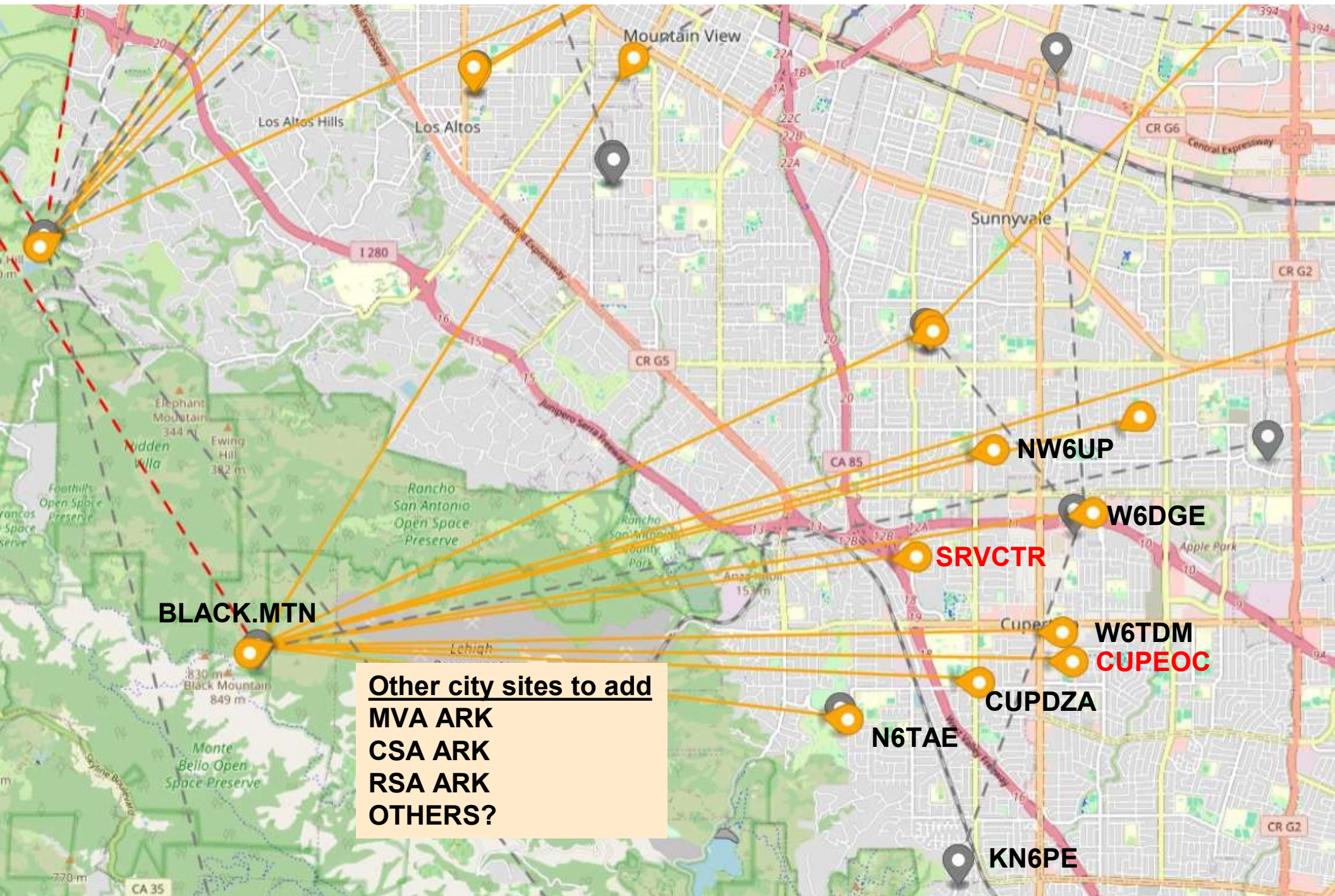


Mesh in the Bay Area

<https://sfmap.xojs.org/#7.57/37.81/-122.546>



Mesh in Cupertino



What's next

1. Define and test out some portable field station locations
2. Test smart phone connectivity for QuickCapture reports
3. Deploy more city sites in 2026
4. Develop how AREDN / mesh fits in the CARES field response



Want to help?

1. Define and test out some portable field station locations
2. Test smart phone connectivity for QuickCapture reports
3. Deploy more city sites in 2026
4. Develop how AREDN / mesh fits in the CARES field response
5. Like to tinker with computer networking or just want to check out mesh networking? Then we want to hear from you!

#0

HELP!



2024

A focus on EMCOM

- Have you ever taken a look at the list of topics we typically cover?

www.cupertinoares.org >

[Training](#) >

[By Date](#)

- 5-Dec-2024 - 2024 Year-End Review
- 11-Nov-2024 - CARES and Net Control
- 7-Nov-2024 - Intro to Informal Messages
- 3-Oct-2024 - Windshield Survey Area, Drill Prep
- 5-Sep-2024 - Cupertino Parks on the Air Overview
- 6-June-2024 - 2024 Field Day Prep
- 2-May-2024 - 2024 Earthquake Risks
- 18-Apr-2024 - Severe Weather Communications Exercise
- 4-Apr-2024 - Field Portable Power Review
- 14-Mar-2024 - Comm Refresher and Radio Basics, 2024
- 7-Mar-2024 - Communications Beyond CARES
- 1-Feb-2024 - Type IV Credential Deep Dive Refresher
- 4-Jan-2024 - Informal Damage Observations

2023

- 7-Dec-2023 - ISA Drill AAR, 2023 Year-End Review
- 2-Nov-2023 - ISA Process Overview & Drill Prep*
- 5-Oct-2023 - Emergency Response Go-Kits
- 7-Sep-2023 - Forms Refresher and update
- 1-Jun-2023 - 2023 Field Day Prep
- 4-May-2023 - Power Outages... Car as a Generator
- 20-Apr-2023 - Tips on getting your Credentials
- 13-Apr-2023 - Comm Refresher and Radio Basics
- 6-Apr-2023 - Extreme Wind Event AAR Review
- 2-Mar-2023 - Disaster Communications
- 2-Feb-2023 - Canceled
- 5-Jan-2023 - Messaging 101

2022

- 1-Dec-2022 - 2022 Year-End Review
- 3-Nov-2022 - ALT911 Update
- 6-Oct-2022 - Preparing for an EMP
- 1-Sep-2022 - NOAA Weather Radio Overview
- 2-Jun-2022 - CTF Evacuation Exercise Retropective, CARES Field Day, 4th of July PSE Prep
- 9-May-2022 - CTF Evacuation Comm for Affiliated Volunteers, Recording
- 5-May-2022 - CTF Evacuation Comm Exercise Prep
- 7-Apr-2022 - Coordination in Community Evacuation, Discussion

A focus on EMCOMM

Topics on...

- helping new members get started
- Tools of the (EMCOMM) trade
- Interesting communications technology
- updates on our risks
- expanding our mission
- refresher training
- opportunities to explore
- Others?



Interested in helping out?

- I am looking help from members who are interested in picking up an existing topic and presenting it to the group.
 - Powerpoint skills are optional.
 - New topics are welcome, and...
 - existing presentations already exist!
-
- If you see something and interested in giving it a try, please let me know.



Thank you

Any Questions?

