

Date: January 11, 2010

Subject: Access Configuration Changes for new SCCo packet network

Attention: All ECs, AECs, MACs and other Santa Clara County Packet Users:

The following email describes the specific changes to the Santa Clara County packet network that will occur on Monday, January 18, 2010. It also includes the specific changes you need to make to your Outpost configuration to make it work with the new network.

This network change directly affects your city's packet connectivity. Please read this information thoroughly. There are several action items at the end.

Overall Plan:

As mentioned in the January 4th notice, the overall packet plan is included in a presentation made by Jim Oberhofer to the SVECS breakfast on Oct. 24, 2009. It can be found at: <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/packet.html>.

The plan is being implemented in steps or phases in order to synchronize the migration of many agencies and users. A number of phases have already been accomplished. The changes scheduled for Monday, Jan. 18, 2010 are the next phase. There will be additional phases. A schedule for the additional phases will be developed after we receive feedback from the quarterly drill.

Backbone Changes Scheduled for January 18th, 2010:

The following changes to the BBS systems are scheduled for Monday, January 18th, 2010:

1. Disconnect the existing county AA4RE BBS system from its radios and antennas. Retain the system as a fall back plan.
2. Connect the replacement JNOS BBS system to the existing radios and antennas. The new system will have the same call sign: W6XSC-1.
3. Transition the status of the Mountain View node, K6MTV-1, from testing to production. Up until this point, heavy testing has been underway between K6MTV-1 and the new W6XSC-1, typically for several hours each day. This change in status means that K6MTV-1 and W6XSC-1 will now be available 7x24x365 for service. Going forward, most major testing will be accomplished elsewhere and maintenance will be announced via the scc_packet Yahoo user group.

Once these changes have been completed, a notice will be sent to the SCCo EC list, the SCC-RACES-MACS list, and the SCC-PACKET list. AFTER receiving this notice, users are encouraged to update their Outpost configurations and send test messages prior to the quarterly drill. Seek technical support from, and report any problems to, the scc_packet Yahoo group.

Outpost Configuration Changes Scheduled for January 18th, 2010

The overall packet network plan calls for a total of four backbone nodes, with the various cities and agencies connecting to the closest node. In this phase of deployment, the cities at the Northern end of the county will move from W6XSC-1 to K6MTV-1 for access. This change represents a 23% reduction in the number of agencies using the W6XSC-1 node access frequencies and should improve performance for everyone.

The cities and agencies which will be moving from the W6XSC-1 node to the K6MTV-1 node need to define a new BBS (K6MTV-1) in Outlook. These cities and agencies are:

- Los Altos
- Los Altos Hills
- Mountain View
- NASA / Ames
- Palo Alto
- Palo Alto Red Cross
- Stanford

ALL OTHER cities or agencies simply need to update their existing W6XSC-1 BBS configuration.

The instructions for adding or updating your Outpost configuration, including screen shots, are summarized in the document “**Outpost Configuration Instructions (Effective January 18, 2010)**” located on the county website at:

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/packet.html>

PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE UNTIL JANUARY 18th! You should not make your Outpost changes until after you receive notice that the backbone change has been completed. However, please read the instruction document thoroughly prior to Monday, January 18th and seek any clarifications you need on the scc-packet Yahoo user group.

Access Frequency Changes Scheduled for January 18th, 2010

The agencies which will move to K6MTV-1 will use either of the following access frequencies:

- 2 meters: 144.310 MHz
- 1.25 meters: 223.540 MHz

All other agencies will continue to access W6XSC-1 on the same frequencies as before:

- 2 meters: 144.910
- 1.25 meters: 223.660

The frequencies and node assignments are summarized on the county website at:

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/freqs/packet-freqs.html>

Technical Support

As a reminder, a technical support Yahoo group has been created for Santa Clara County packet users. All persons who use or are responsible for packet communications are encouraged to join. The Yahoo group is called **scc-packet** and is located at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scc-packet>. The group is closed to prevent SPAM, so you must first request to sign up.

Website Changes

The Santa Clara County packet radio web page has been updated to reflect the above changes. The web page is located at: <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/packet.html>.

Schedule of Events

As a reminder, the near term schedule of events is as follows:

Monday, Jan 11	Notice to all ECs, AECs, MACs and other SCCo packet users (this notice) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One week until cut-over• Instructions for reconfiguring Outpost• Access frequency changes• Do not reconfigure until Jan 18th
Monday, Jan 18	Notice to all ECs, AECs, MACs and other SCCo packet users <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First two nodes available for use• All cities make a small change to their Outpost configuration• A few cities change frequencies• All cities begin using the new nodes and mail addresses• Practice sending and receiving messages prior to the drill• Seek technical support for any problems prior to drill
Saturday, Jan 23	County Quarterly Drill <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All drill traffic to use the new nodes
Feedback	Gather feedback from the drill
Evaluate	Evaluate feedback and experience
Continue	Adjust plan accordingly and continue

Action Items

The following list of action items summarize what you need to do between now, Monday, January 11th, and Monday, January 18th:

1. Ensure that you have completed the previously announced action items:

- a. Upgrade Outpost to at least v2.3.0 c30. Jim Oberhofer has recently released Outpost version 2.4.0 which has some nice additional features. Either version should work fine.
 - b. Ensure that you have joined the scc-packet Yahoo group:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scc-packet>.
2. Ensure that all of the packet users in your city are aware of the upcoming changes. Forward this information to them. Help spread the word.
3. Review the Outpost change instructions and request clarification for anything you don't understand via the scc-packet user group.
4. Plan to change your Outpost configuration on or shortly after Jan 18th and to test both the sending and receiving of packet messages prior to the county drill on Jan 23rd. The January 18th notice will include a suggested test methodology.

Questions / Comments / Concerns

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, it is likely that someone else does, too. So it would be helpful if you direct them to the scc-packet Yahoo group. That way, everyone can see the answer.

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Santa Clara County ARES/RACES Packet Committee