

How to use the San Joaquin County ARES VHF Frequency Plan

A current version of this plan and any supporting files can always be found at www.sjares.org and www.n6tcy.org.

The purpose of this plan is to improve the ability of SJ County Amateur Radio operators to work together in an emergency. It is hoped that by having standardized channel names, alphanumeric display characters, and channel numbering, that it will be easier for everyone to be on the right frequency at the right time.

This plan has already been programmed into dozens of radios--including those installed at hospitals and medical clinics in our county, radios owned by the EMS Agency, Public Health, radios owned by Tracy Fire, and personal radios used by ARES members. This plan is intended to be as inclusive as possible. We have attempted to identify all repeater and simplex frequencies with designated emergency functions in San Joaquin County. If any have been missed, we will be happy to add them to this plan.

Room for personal channels

This plan begins with Channel 21 so that individual operators may program the first 20 channels of their radios to meet personal needs. If you need more than 20 channels, you may want to consider also using the highest channels in your radio. This may allow you to tune down from Channel 1 to Channel 999 (in a 1,000 channel radio, for example). I find this useful for keeping little-used channels and simplex repeater channels handy, yet out-of-the-way. My "personal group" thus extends from Channel 985 "up" to Channel 20.

You might also consider programming this plan to begin on Channel 121, 221, etc. This provides more free channels below the plan, yet still leaves the plan itself basically intact.

What channels do you need?

It is hoped that all users will program all channels into their radios. This provides a mix of local channels, regional/mutual aid channels, and every 2-meter simplex channel included in the current NARCC band plan. At the very least, please program the local channels (21 to 36) into your radio.

The simplex channels were added to make it easy to conduct training with multiple groups and are optional, but potentially useful if you have the space for them in your radio. (By programming these channels we can hand out radios and tell each group to go to their own channel without having to program the radios at the time of use).

Programming files

Because typing all these frequencies is a pain, I will be making both radio-specific programming files and an Excel version of this plan available. The Excel file can be used to generate a comma or tab-delimited file that most radio programming software is capable of importing. Please advise what program files you would be able to use.

Contact me

This plan will only be as successful as it is widely-adopted by hams in San Joaquin County. It was developed to help hospital operators and new hams easily use their radios. If you have questions, comments, requests--or want to tell me why you are *not* using this plan--please contact me.

Respectfully,

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If your ARES/ACS/RACES organization would like to coordinate with this plan, please contact me. I'd like to make the regional frequencies as useful as possible and can become a standard load for all organizations in the San Joaquin Valley. This will require a significant revamping of that portion of the plan at some future point, however.

SJ ARES VHF Freq Plan

Channel	Display	Long Name	Rx Freq	Offset	PL	Note	Location	Coverage	
SJ ARES Local Frequencies									
21	ARES1	SJCO ARES 1	146.8800	-	94.8	Primary ARES repeater	Mt. Oso	Very wide	
22	ARES2	SJCO ARES 2	146.6550	-	100.0	Secondary	Site 300	Very wide	
23	ARES3	SJCO ARES 3	147.1200	+	107.2		Mt. Oso	Very wide	Use CTCSS. Check links.
24	CALL	NATL CALLING CHANNEL	146.5200			ARRL NATIONAL SIMPLEX		Simplex	
25	LODI1	LODI	147.0900	+	114.8		35m East of Lodi	Very wide	
26	MAN1	MANTECA ACS PRIMARY	146.9850	-	100.0		Dtwn Manteca	Local	
27	MAN2	MANTECA ACS BACKUP	145.3100	-	118.8			Very local	E:253191
28	REDX	AMERICAN RED CROSS NATL SIMPLEX	147.4200			AGENCY NATL SIMPLEX		Simplex	
29	SJS1	SJ ARES SIMPLEX 1	146.5500		100.0	SIMPLEX		Simplex	SJV ARES
30	SJS2	SJ ARES SIMPLEX 2	147.4650		100.0	SIMPLEX		Simplex	TRACY
31	SJS3A	SJ ARES SIMPLEX 3	146.5350		100.0	SIMPLEX		Simplex	LODI SIMPLEX
32	SJS4	SJ ARES SIMPLEX 4	146.4300		100.0	SIMPLEX		Simplex	
33	SJS5	SJ ARES SIMPLEX 5	147.5100		100.0	SIMPLEX		Simplex	
34	STK1	SJCO RACES	147.1650	+	107.2	Not for ARES use.	Pine Grove (Sierra Foothills)	Wide	
35	TCY1	TRACY ACS	146.655	-	100.0			Wide	Same as ARES2
36	SJS3	SJ ARES SIMPLEX 3	146.58		100.0	Do not use			Added for compatibility and will be removed in future.
Regional Frequencies									
41	ALCO1	ALAMEDA CO	147.2400	+	107.2		Alameda Co.	Unk	This needs to be reprogrammed into most hospital as early loads had wrong PL.
42	AMA1	AMADOR COUNTY	146.8350	-	100.0		Pine Grove	Wide	
43	CALA1	CALAVERAS COUNTY	145.1700	-	100.0		Angels Camp	Wide	I:3428 Offset issues on V-7
44	CALA2	CALAVERAS SAR	146.9400	-	100.0			Unk	N6LZR CANNOT HIT
45	COAL1	COALINGA	147.3300	+	100.0		Coalinga	Stockton to Bakersfield	W6IYY
46	DIAB1	MT. DIABLO	147.0600	+	100.0		Mt. Diablo	Very wide	I:3057 E:92518
47	DIAB2	MT. DIABLO	145.3500	-	100.0	CTCSS	Really in Livermore	Wide	AB6CR Use CTCSS
48	EDLO1	EL DORADO	147.8250	-	82.5		Camino	Unk	OES
49	MOD1	MODESTO CLUB REPEATER	145.3900	-	136.5		Modesto	Very wide	Modesto
50	SAC1		146.9100	-	100.0		Sacramento	Unk	OES, DGS, Blood CANNOT HIT
51	STAN1	STANISLAUS COUNTY	145.1100	-	136.5		Modesto (low-level)	Local	Stan ARES
52	SUTT1	SUTTER	146.0850	+	127.3		Sutter	Unk	CALTRANS CANNOT HIT
53	TUO1	MOCCASIN	145.2900	-	100.0		Moccasin	Wide	Tuolumne Co.
54	TUO2	SONORA	147.9750	-	100.0		Sonora	Wide	Tuolumne Co.
55	TUO3	TUOLUMNE ARC	147.9450	-	100.0		Columbia	Wide	Tuolumne Co.
56	TUR1	TURLOCK CLUB REPEATER	147.0300	+	100.0		Mariposa (Mt. Bullion)	Wide	Turlock ARC
57	VACA1	MT. VACA	147.1950	+	123.0		Vacaville	Wide	SVC ARES CA DEPT OF HEALTH I:7650
58	YNP1	YOSEMITE NP	147.0000	+	107.2		YNP	Local?	Linked to 147.030
Training (Need not be programmed unless desired)									
71			146.4150		100.0	Simplex			
72			146.4300		100.0	Simplex			SJS4
73			146.4450		100.0	Simplex			CAL FIRE SCU VIP
74			146.4600		100.0	Simplex			
75			146.4750		100.0	Simplex			
76			146.4900		100.0	Simplex			
77			146.5050		100.0	Simplex			
78			146.5200		100.0	Simplex			National Simplex
79			146.5350		100.0	Simplex			Lodi ARES Simplex
80			146.5500		100.0	Simplex			SJS1

Channel	Display	Long Name	Rx Freq	Offset	PL	Note	Location	Coverage
81			146.5650		100.0	Simplex		146.580 is not used -- digital
82			146.5950		100.0	Simplex		146.580 is not used -- digital
83			147.4050		100.0	Simplex		
84			147.4200		100.0	Simplex		
85			147.4350		100.0	Simplex		
86			147.4500		100.0	Simplex		
87			147.4650		100.0	Simplex		SJS2
88			147.4800		100.0	Simplex		
89			147.4950		100.0	Simplex		
90			147.5100		100.0	Simplex		SJS5
91			147.5250		100.0	Simplex		
92			147.5400		100.0	Simplex		
93			147.5550		100.0	Simplex		
94			147.5700		100.0	Simplex		
95			147.5850		100.0	Simplex		
Additional Frequencies (For information only)								
	KH7I		443.0000 +		82.5		Tracy	Local
		SJ ARES Packet	145.7500					Echolink: Proposed -- Not in use at this time.

Note: This is a draft plan that is subject to change. It reflects the intended programming of EMS Agency-owned radios at hospitals and other locations and is intended to make operation of those radios easier. It also provides backup, regional, and simplex frequencies. ARES members and others are encouraged to use this plan for their own radios.

Channels 1-20 are intentionally not used, allowing individual amateurs to program their favorite frequencies without impacting the channel designations used in this plan.

Channels 21-35 are used within San Joaquin County.

Channels 41-58 are Mutual Aid channels and regional repeaters.

Channels 71-95 include all allocated 2-meter simplex channels and are included for training use.

KNOWN ISSUES:

Some early loads have SJS3 in channel 31. That frequency is incorrect and is being replaced with SJS3A as shown. The former SJS3 has been moved to Channel 36 and should not be used.

CHANGE HISTORY:

Early loads of this plan had the wrong PL for ALCO1. Is now correct as shown.

Adding CTCSS where needed, including ARES1, due to Fresno interference.

Added proposed packet frequency -- 145.750 to list (9/8/2008)

Comments/concerns? N5FDL@ARRL.NET