



Be Informed and Ready for Any Emergency

By Roger Smith, President and Bill Nelson, Chair, Public Safety Committee

Alamo Public Safety Fair

Mark your calendars for March 24th, the date scheduled for our *Alamo Public Safety Fair*.

This event will be open to the public between 10^{AM} to 2^{PM} and will be held at Creekside Community Church located at 1350 Danville Blvd. in Alamo.

Information will be presented on programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), and Emergency Preparedness for local and regional disasters. Fingerprinting of children for family identification records will be available. In addition information will be presented and available on Communication in Emergency Situations with local First Response Organizations.

Program information will be provided by the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Office of Emergency Services, American Red Cross, and others.

RACES

The **Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)**, founded in 1952, is a public service provided by a reserve (volunteer) communications group. During periods of RACES activation, certified volunteer (unpaid) personnel are called upon to perform many tasks for the government agencies they serve.

The **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** provides planning guidance and technical assistance for establishing a RACES organization at the state and local government level.

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A wide variety of acclaimed bands have performed at the annual benefit over the years including Carlos Reyes, Joyce Cooling, The Sun Kings, San Jose Taiko, PEACE with Jorge Santana, and Foreverland: A Tribute to Michael Jackson. Each concert begins with an opening set by SRVHS student performers and is followed by a full concert by a regional or national headliner. Student musicians sit in as guest performers with the main act for a few of their songs. A few days following the concert, students are treated to a master class taught by the headlining band, where they learn some of the ins and outs of the music and what it's like to be a professional musician. Rogers noted that the students do a lot of competitive shows but the benefit concert is just a fun show for the students and the general public. The students work really hard at competitions but, for this show, they get to loosen up.

Doors open for the Evolution: The Ultimate Tribute to Journey concert at 6:15^{PM}. Students perform at 7^{PM} followed by Evolution at 8^{PM}. The concert will be held at the SRVHS Performing Arts Center located at 501 Danville Blvd in Danville. General admission tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Preferred seating Gold Circle tickets cost \$40. SRVHS student and staff tickets cost \$10. Call 707-869-9403 or visit www.communityconcerts.com for information about purchasing advance tickets.

Rogers recounted that when she came to SRVHS as a freshman, she wasn't very happy with life. However, not that she is a senior, she is much happier largely due to the instrumental program. Rogers says that, "There are many teachers who care about their jobs but not their students. Chief is one of the most aggravating people because every time you try to give her a compliment on something, she turns it back to her students and our hard work."

Students need the balance of math and science with music and art. "After the end of every year, there is a fear in the students that the next level class won't be there the following year and that they won't be able to play," says Rogers. "Many qualities that high school wants us to gain are best expressed through arts where you have to work with difficult people, work in groups, and have to learn to problem solve. These qualities are also needed in college and music," she continued.

Glass notes that she is worried about the effect the economy has on students who want to become music majors. Having a music degree gives a musician flexibility. With Chief's job, she gives students ideas so music will stay a part of their lives. Glass adds, "Please remember, there are students who don't do well in school. Give them a reason for wanting to be here." Rogers follows up with, "Sometimes I used to come to school just for music."



Contra Costa County Library Offers *Discover & Go*

Looking for something fun, educational, and free to do with the family? Have guests coming into town and want to show off the area's cultural highlights? The Contra Costa County Library offers *Discover & Go*, an exciting new service providing library cardholders residing in Contra Costa County with free passes to local museums and cultural institutions. For questions call 800-984-4636. Make your reservations and print out up to two passes at discover.ccclib.org for the following destinations:

•Asian Art Museum • Bay Area Discovery Museum • Beat Museum • Bedford Gallery • Blackhawk Museum • California Academy of Sciences • California Historical Society • California Shakespeare Theater • Cartoon Art Museum • Charles M. Schulz Museum • Contemporary Jewish Museum • Exploratorium • Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse • Habitat Children's Museum • Lindsay Wildlife Museum • The Marine Mammal Center • Museum of Craft and Folk Art • Museum of the African Diaspora • Oakland Aviation Museum • Oakland Museum of California • Pacific Pinball Museum • San Jose Museum of Art • San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles • The Tech Museum • Town Hall Theatre • UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive • USS Homet Museum • Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum • Yerba Buena Center for the Arts • Zeum: San Francisco's Children's Museum.

The **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** is responsible for the regulation of RACES operations. RACES is administrated by a local, county, or state civil defense agency responsible for disaster services. RACES is a function of the agency's Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), sometimes known as DCS (Disaster Communication Services or ECS (Emergency Communications Services).

The **Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS)**, in its RACES and other reserve emergency communications functions, provides a pool of emergency communications personnel that can be called upon in time of need. ACS/RACES units across the country prepare themselves for the inevitable day when they will be called upon. When a local, county or state government agency activates its ACS unit, that unit will use its communications resources (RACES, as necessary) to meet whatever need that agency has.

Traditional RACES operations involve emergency message handling on Amateur Radio Service frequencies. These operations typically involve messages between critical locations such as hospitals, emergency services, emergency shelters, and any other locations where communication is needed.

Whatever need arises, trained ACS personnel are ready and prepared to help. Via RACES or other means, ACS/RACES groups develop and maintain their communications ability by training throughout the year with special exercises and public-service events.

American Red Cross

Visit the local American Red Cross website www.RedCrossBayArea.org for valuable information on Emergency Preparedness, including a "Child Friendly" program for teaching your children about Emergencies (using a non-threatening format).