

May 21 club meeting – Special Speaker Diana Feinberg, AI6DF

One of amateur radio's founding pillars is to provide public service communication during emergencies or disasters. In return for this expectation amateur radio has been given a large swath of radio spectrum—free of charge—ranging from 135 kHz (below the AM Broadcast band) up to beyond 275 GHz for emergency communication, DXing, experimentation, personal communication, and many other non-commercial uses.

Here in Los Angeles County numerous government-affiliated disaster amateur radio groups are ready to serve public needs when necessary. The W6HA's May 21 meeting will provide a tour through the various disaster ham radio groups in L.A. County by explaining the respective agencies served, the membership of each group and its assets, plus the steps many of these groups have recently been taking for interoperability with each other.

Presenting this from a unique perspective is Diana Feinberg, AI6DF, who is active on several emergency communications fronts. She has been very active since 2006 in the Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service—the volunteer emergency communication organization overseen by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department—that interfaces with many city radio groups and between Sheriff's Stations. Diana has served as head of the Lomita Sheriff Station's DCS group since mid-2009 and in mid-2015 also became the countywide DCS Training Officer and member of the DCS Administrative Staff. In 2016 the Lomita Station's DCS group absorbed the South Los Angeles Sheriff Station's DCS function (formerly Lennox Station) to provide coverage throughout all 14 South Bay cities comprising Area G of the Los Angeles County Operational Area. Diana is also a member of the PVAN radio group serving Rancho Palos Verdes and as ARRL Los Angeles Section Manager is Interim District Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL's ARES LAX-South District centered in Long Beach.

While there are numerous government-affiliated disaster amateur radio groups in L.A. County there are substantial differences among them in training, readiness, frequencies, and area coverage. This presentation will address many of these issues as well as spectrum chaos that might spontaneously unfold in a wide-area disaster across the County. We hope you can attend our May 21 meeting.