



Amateur Radio Resources for South San Jose

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Almaden Radio Club
Santa Clara County ARES/RACES
Almaden Valley CERT, District 10
Almaden Valley Public Safety Net



What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur radio, also known as **ham radio**, is the use of the radio frequency spectrum for purposes of *non-commercial* exchange of messages, wireless experimentation, self-training, private recreation, radio sport, contesting, and **emergency communications**.^[1]

The term "amateur" is used to specify "a duly authorized person interested in radioelectric practice with a purely personal aim and *without pecuniary interest*;"^[2]

(either direct monetary or other similar reward) and to differentiate it from commercial broadcasting, public safety (such as police and fire), or professional two-way radio services (such as maritime, aviation, taxis, etc.).

Amateur Radio ≠ GMRS ≠ CB!



[1][2] See Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio

Role of Amateur Radio During Disasters & Emergencies

Amateurs historically provided:

- **Emergency Communications** (EmComm) when power, phone, cell, text, and internet have failed.
- **Trained personnel & equipment** for voice & data EmComm during regional disasters.
- **Close coordination** and **integration** with local CERT, city, county, & state emergency agencies.

Year	Event	Amateur Radio Activity
1989	Loma Prieta Earthquake, Santa Cruz	Provided 24/7 EmComm for week+ after quake.
2001	911 Attack, Manhattan	Coordinated disaster relief after all other systems failed.
2003	N. America Blackout	Connected fire with police departments, Red Cross with emergency personnel.
2004	Hurricane Frances, Bahamas	Distributed key weather info to forecasters during outages.
2004	Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami	Provided only EmComm for Andaman Islands after all communications was wiped out.
2005	Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans	Deployed 1000 ham operators for EmComm. Congressional finding: "one of few things that went right in the disaster relief effort."
2008	Sichuan Earthquake	Provided EmComm after all power & telecom infrastructure failed.
2017	Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico	Red Cross employed 50 hams to coordinate disaster relief & EmComm

Useful Amateur Radio Resources for South San Jose

- **Almaden Radio Club** (70 members)
 - Website & WA2IBM Repeaters.
 - EmComm – CERT, ARES/RACES, Wi-Fi Emergency Network (WEN).
 - Large Animal Evacuation team.
 - Scouts Boy Scouts of America – includes boys & girls.
 - Field Day, demos, meetups, classes, & other events.
- **San Jose Simplex Net** (52)
- **Santa Clara County (SCCo) ARES/RACES**, SJ RACES Agency (138, ~35 active)
 - ARES = Amateur Radio Emergency Service
 - RACES = Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
- **Almaden Valley Public Safety Net (AVPSN)** (275, ~10% ham operators)

Almaden Radio Club

- **ARC** is 501(c)3 serving amateur radio S. San Jose and beyond
 - Trent Engler N6CPR – President, 70 members.
 - Almaden Valley: **48K** residents, District 10: **100K**, S. SJ: **4.3M**.



Affiliations

- SJ Neighborhood & AV CERT, SCCo ARES/RACES, SJ RACES.
- Large Animal Evacuation Team.
- Scouts, Boy Scouts of America (boys & girls).



What, When, How

- Operate on HF, VHF, UHF using voice & digital communications.
- Field Day, Meetups, Contesting, Repeaters, **Weekly SJ Simplex Technical Net**.
- To join the club:
 1. Have an FCC Amateur Technician license class or higher.
 2. Go to <https://almadenradio.groups.io/>, click "Apply For Membership In This Group".

San Jose Simplex Net

- **SJ Simplex Net** is an informal weekly discussion group
 - Tom Nichols KQ6OT – Organizer & Net Control.
 - Technical topics, Q&A for radio & antenna advice, equipment check.
 - Relevant ham radio presentations and content shared on [website](#).
- **What, When, How**
 - Discussion group net meets on the air **each Thursday at 7:00pm**
 - Frequency: **146.520 MHz**
 - To join the net:
 1. Have an FCC Amateur Technician license class or higher.
 2. Go to <https://groups.io/g/SanJoseSimplex>.
 3. Click on “Apply For Membership In This Group”.
 4. Best results using rooftop antenna and higher power (40W+).



Santa Clara County (SCCo) ARES/RACES Organization

- Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) & Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)

- ARRL oversees and activates ARES operators (ARES=organization).
- FEMA oversees and activates RACES operators (RACES=service).
- Santa Clara County combines functions of ARES & RACES into one org.



- What, When, How

- SCCo ARES/RACES provides training, certification & FEMA-defined command hierarchy.
- Trained radio operators are activated during emergencies or for civilian events.
- To learn more, “Introduction to Emergency Communications” classes are available:
[https://www.scc-ares-races.org/training/courses/Intro to EmComm/Course Intro to EmComm.html](https://www.scc-ares-races.org/training/courses/Intro%20to%20EmComm/Course%20Intro%20to%20EmComm.html)
- To join:
 1. Have an FCC Amateur Technician license class or higher.
 2. Go to <https://www.scc-ares-races.org/activities/profile.php>, fill out registration form.

Almaden Valley Public Safety Net



- **AVPSN** is a 501(c)3 serving all of 95120
 - Provides a **private FCC licensed communications channel**.
 - Founders: Trent Engler, Phil Barbaccia, Steve Conaway, 275 members, ~10% ham operators.
- **Mission**
 - Provide **24/7** radio communications for **public safety of 95120 neighborhoods**.
 - Support **Neighborhood Radio Watch** members, **liaison with emergency responders** & community policing efforts, provide daily radio check-ins.
- **What, When, How**
 - Enable & encourage **neighbor-to-neighbor communications** to strengthen community awareness of events & potential dangers.
 - Assist neighbors/family members when cell communication is limited, i.e., at home during power & telecom outages, hiking, biking and walking trails.
 - To join AVPSN:
 - Go to <https://www.avpsn.org/index.php/join>, see the instructions.

Thank you!

Questions or comments?

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Almaden Radio Club

Santa Clara County ARES/RACES

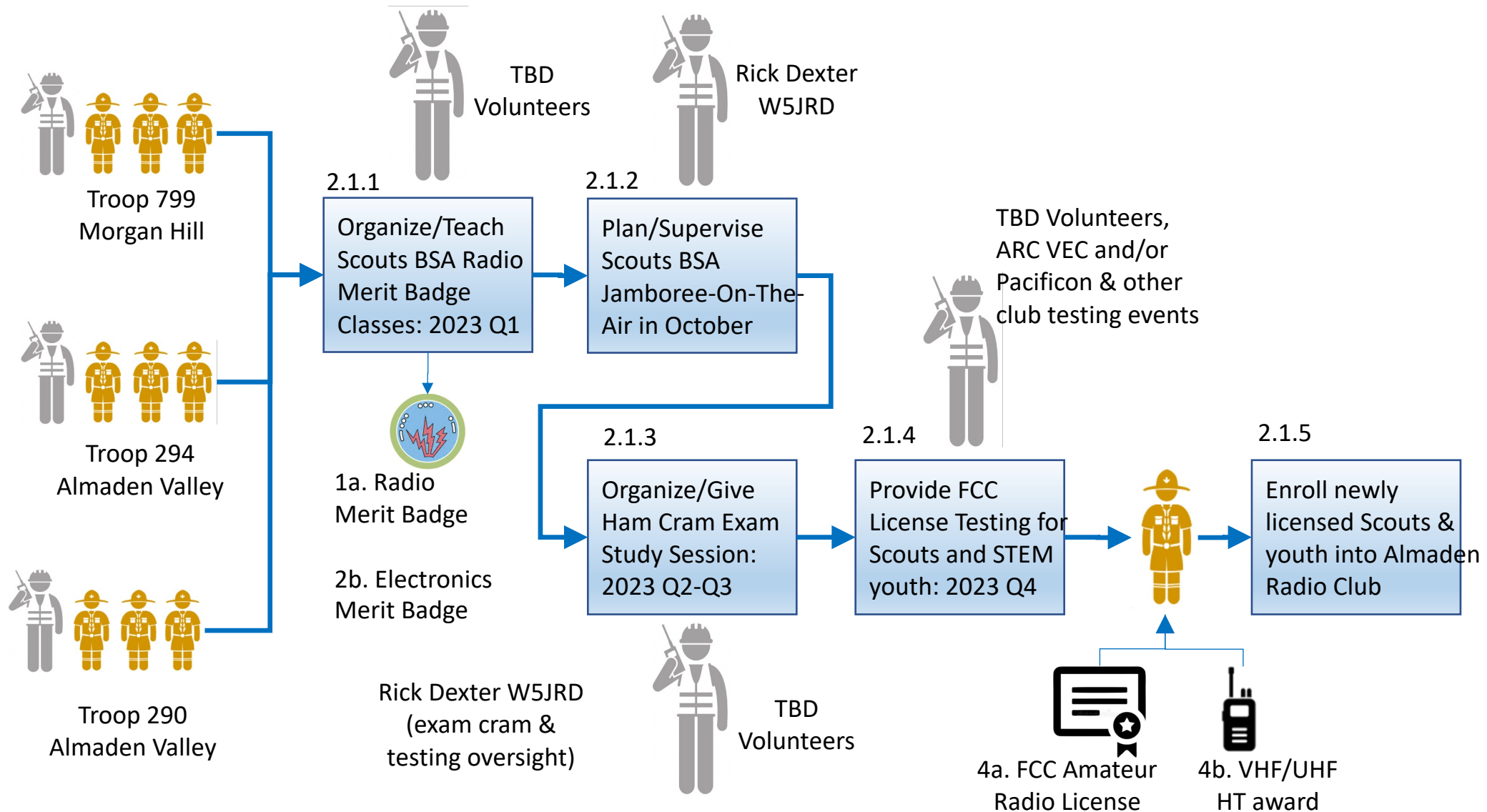
Almaden Valley CERT, District 10

Almaden Valley Public Safety Net

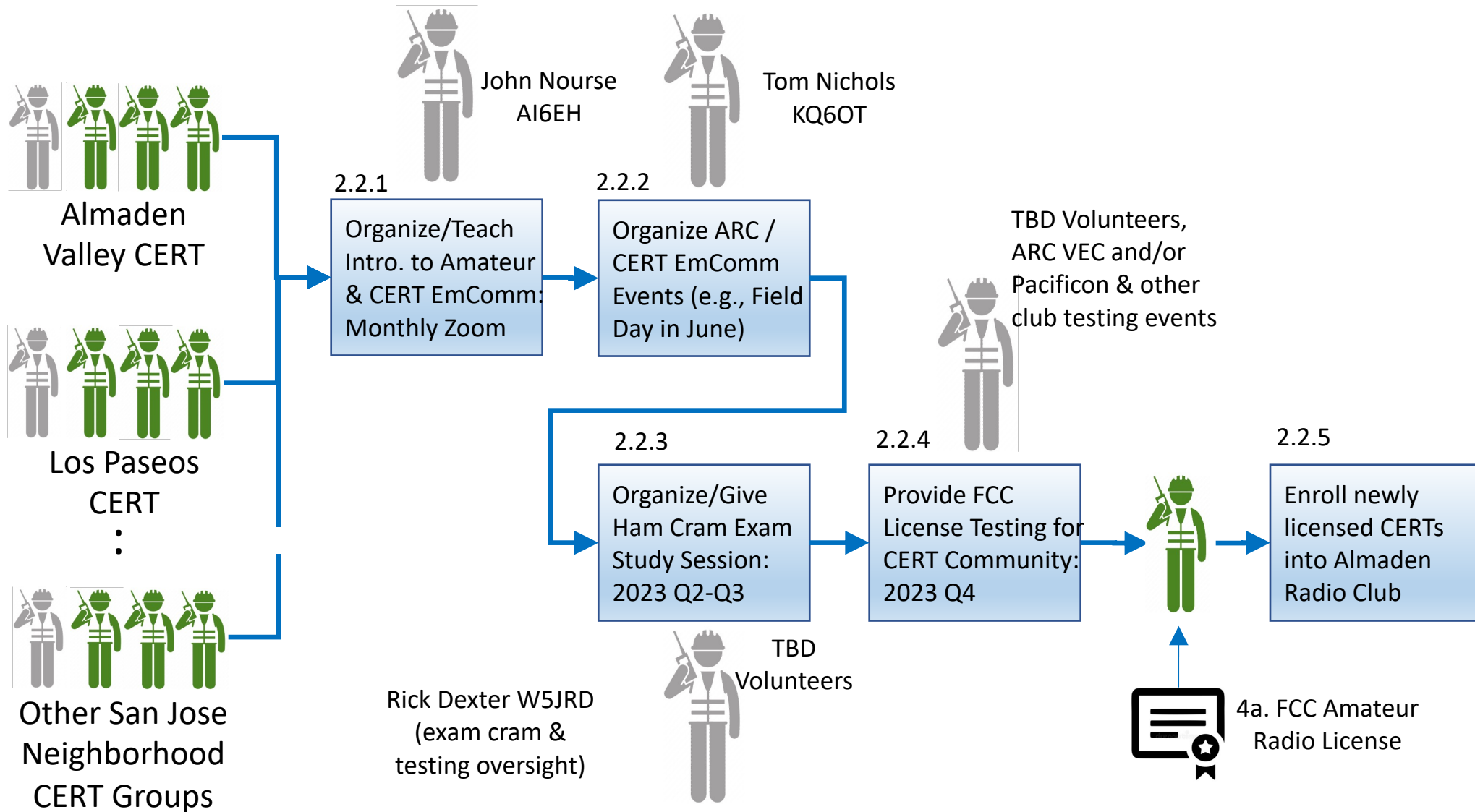
wchang@sbcglobal.net

2.1 Training Plan for Scouts Boy Scouts of America (BSA)

Oversight by ARC Treasurer Rick Dexter, W5JRD + (1 - 2) TBD recruited volunteers



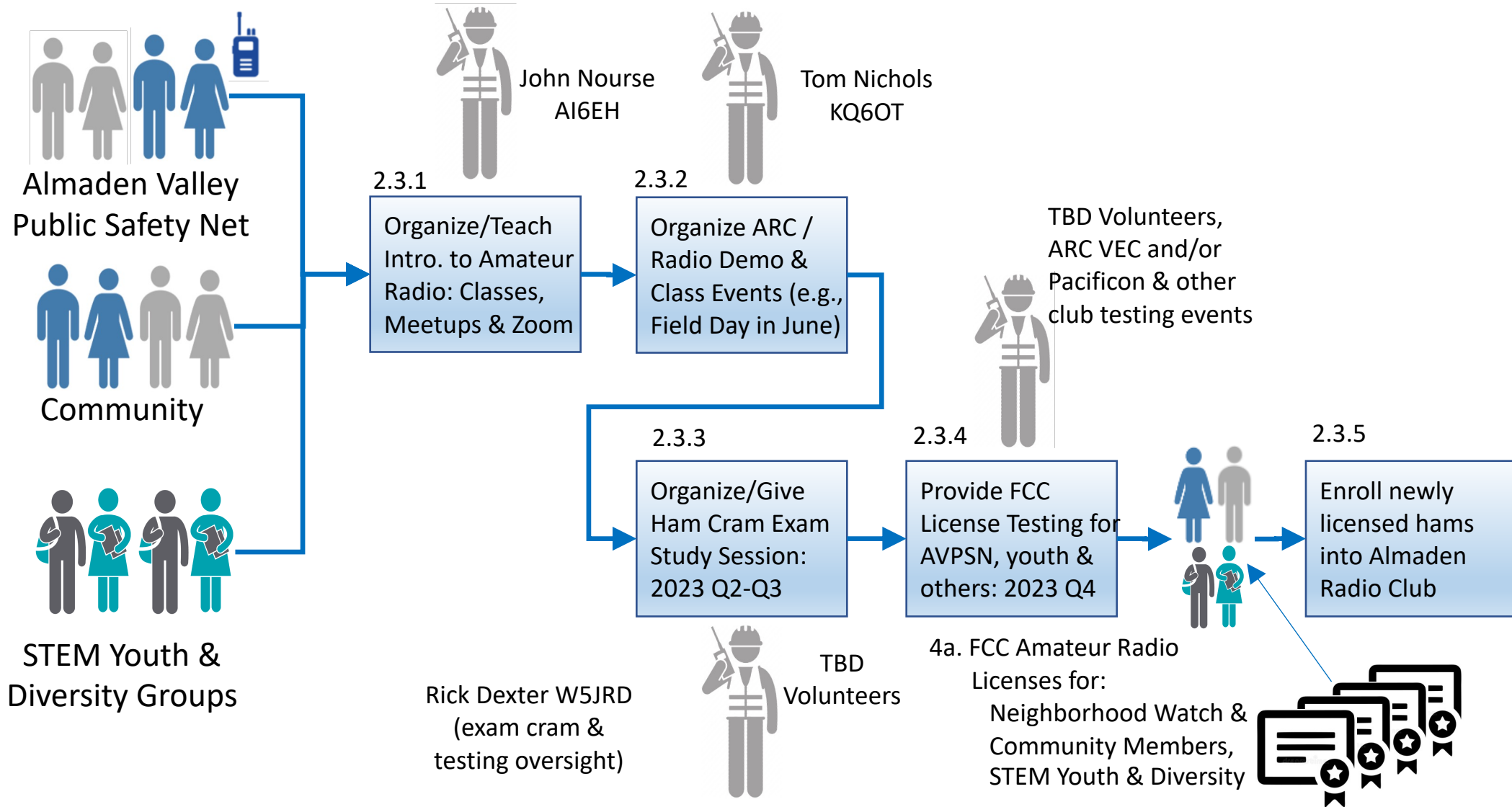
2.2 Training Plan for San Jose Neighborhood Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Oversight by ARC Members: Herb Bowen KD6IRG, SJNCERT Coordinator and Administrator & Steve Conaway KN6SLC, Almaden Valley CERT Organizer



2.3 Training Plan for Neighborhood Radio Watch (AVPSN), STEM Youth & Community

Oversight by ARC Members: Trent Engler N6CPR, President, Neighborhood Watch Co-Founder

Steve Conaway KN6SLC, Almaden Valley CERT and AVPSN Organizer



AVPSN 95120 Neighborhoods

