

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

AUGUST 1995

NEWSLETTER

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS AND PUBLIC SERVICE SINCE 1958

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 7

P.O. BOX 3262 Auburn, CA 95604

News Editor: Matthew Diridoni, KC6RUO

AT THE KEY OF S.F.A.R.C.

PRESIDENT

KA6WUW
Martha Vance
723-5488

VICE PRES

KC6RUO
Matthew Diridoni
632-4084

SECRETARY

K6GKR
Jerri Metke
783-7610

TREASURER

W6PYX
Jim Venneman
885-1677

DIRECTORS

WA6ULL
Bob Boeckman
983-2776

W6SUP

Bob Metke
783-7610

W3PMP

Bob Greenslade
624-5234

CLUB NETS:

ALL WELCOME TO CHECK IN

Wednesdays 7:30 PM 10M
On/Close to 28.415 MHz

Thursdays 7:30 PM 2M / 220
K6ARR & Club Repeater
145.430 (-600, PL 94.8) or
223.860 (-1.6 MHz)

CLUB MEETINGS: Second Fri.
each month, 7:30 PM Auburn
Fire Dept. 226 Sacramento St.
Auburn, CA.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET
Check Event Calendar For Dates
7:00 - 7:45 PM, Roseville City
Main Library, 225 Taylor St.

CLUB BREAKFAST
Last Saturday of the month
(Except in December), 8:00 AM
to 9:00 AM, Susie's Country Cafe
in Roseville Hwy 80 & Riverside Av.

Thurs Night Net Controller:
Dick Lund - WA6HYO 885-3190

1995 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 11

Club Meeting
Guest Speaker
Brad Wyatt, ARRL

Aug 27

Club Picnic

Aug 28

Board Meeting

Sept 3

Christian Runners, Bowman

Oct 13

White Elephant Sale

Oct 31

Community Event

Halloween Patrol,

City of Rocklin

Nov 10

Club Meeting,

ELECTIONS

Nov 27

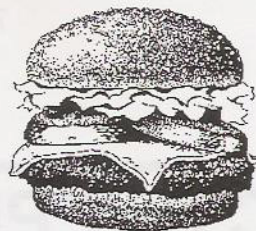
Board Meeting

Dec 8

Christmas Party

Dec 18

Board Meeting



S.F.A.R.C. PICNIC

AUGUST 27, 1995

11:00 AM

MEADOW VISTA PARK

BRING YOUR FAVORITE SALAD & DESSERT
SODAS, BBQ HAMBURGERS & CHICKEN WILL
BE PROVIDED

Bring your own table service !

See you all there!

YOUR SFARC NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY

SNAPPY PRINTING

2280 Sierra Meadows Drive

Rocklin, California 95677

(916)-624-3371

Thanks Snappy!



FROM THE PRESIDENTS HOUSE
MARTHA VANCE - KA6WUW

It was good to see so many of you at the July 14 meeting. Matt, KC6RUO gave a field day and will publish photos in the newsletter.

A nominating committee has been formed for the 1996 election of officers. The committee members are Russ Ahlberg, Jim Venneman and Lewis Tuttle.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting on August 11, 1995 featuring Brad Wyatt of the ARRL. See all of you there!

73's KA6WUW

D & C SUPPLIES

RADIO CHESTPACKS

\$29.95

FIELD DAY, V.I.P., SHARPS

EASY ACCESS TO RADIO

COMFORTABLE

ADJUSTABLE

CUSTOM ORDERS AVAILABLE

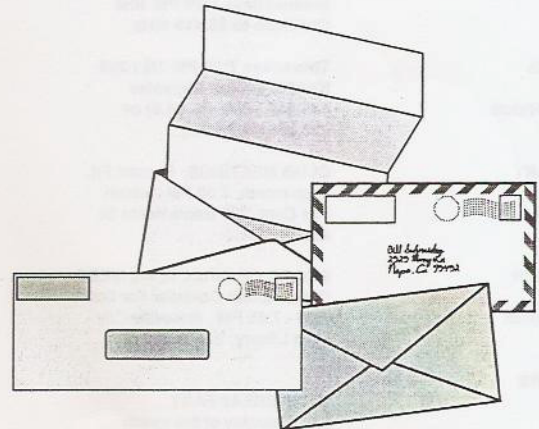
(916)-392-0903

Retail Price + Tax

YOUR POINT OF VIEW

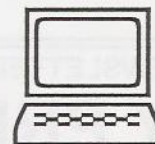


If you have questions, comments, complaints, suggestions, please feel free to call the President, Martha Vance at 723-5488.



Letters to the Editor can be mailed to:

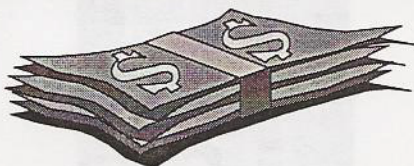
SFARC Newsletter Editor
4941 Gibbons Drive
Carmichael, CA. 95608



Letters or photos received by the 20th of the month will be printed in the next months issue of the SFARC newsletter.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

THE TREASURERS REPORT



By Jim Venneman - W6PYX

INCOME

ADVERTISING INCOME	\$ 25.00
ARRL DUES PAID IN	\$ 97.00
AUTOPATCH DONATIONS	\$ 108.50
BADGE SALES	\$ 22.00
COMMUNICATIONS SIGN SALES	\$ 4.00
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 1,189.00
PATCH SALES	\$ 14.00
REPEATER DONATIONS	\$ 167.50
SWAP MEET INCOME	\$ 228.00

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,855.00
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EXPENSES

ARRL DUES PAID OUT	\$ 60.00
AUTOPATCH LINE CHARGES	\$ 77.05
BADGES EXPENSE	\$ 45.05
FIELD DAY EXPENSES	\$ 85.13
MEETING ROOM RENT	\$ 150.00
NEWSLETTER EXPENSES	\$ 588.80
OFFICE EXPENSES	\$ 19.48
PICNIC EXPENSES	\$ 40.00
REPEATER ELECTRICITY	\$ 223.22
REPEATER EXPENSES	\$ 21.00
WORLD RADIO CLUB AD	\$ 60.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,369.73
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$ 485.27

ASSETS

AUTOPATCH FUND	\$214.13
CHRISTMAS FUND	\$697.68
GENERAL FUND	\$147.73
REPEATER FUND	\$443.14

TOTAL	\$1,502.68
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DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST ON THE LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH (EXCEPT DECEMBER), 8:00 AM TO 9:00 AM AT SUSIE'S COUNTRY OAKS CAFE IN ROSEVILLE, INTERSTATE 80 & RIVERSIDE AV.

FREE HAM RADIO CLASSES

The Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club is pleased to announce the following amateur radio classes for upgrading and no code technician in two locations. Students required to supply your own book.

ROSEVILLE LIBRARY 225 TAYLOR ST

MONDAY NO CODE CLASSES

1. 7:00 TO 9:00 PM. August 7, 14, 21, September 11 and 18, 1995.
2. 7:00 TO 9:00 PM October 2, 16, 30, November 6, 13, 1995

MAIDU COMMUNITY CENTER SENIOR MEETING ROOM, 1550 MAUDU DRIVE.

FRIDAY NO CODE CLASS

1. 1:00 TO 3:00 PM. August 11, 18, 25, September 8, 15, 22.

SPECIAL NOVICE THROUGH EXTRA CLASS

Contact Lewis Tuttle at the number below.

TESTING PROCEDURES

Contact Bob Metke, W6SUP 916-783-7610 for an appointment. Testing is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Space is limited to 5 persons per test session.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT LEWIS TUTTLE,
KE6MFL
(916)-771-2336**

ADVERTISING ?

THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS
FOR \$5.00 PER MONTH

(6 month minimum)

Contact Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO

916-487-1969

IN SEARCH OF HOME MADE EQUIPMENT

The vice-president is in search of members with home made equipment that could be shared with members at a future club meeting. Radio gear, antennas, test gear, what ever you made is great. Two or four members would make a good presentation.

Please contact Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO, AT (916)-487-1969

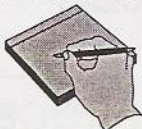
WANT TO BUY
WANT TO SELL

WANT TO TRADE

SFARC MEMBERS ADVERTISE
FREE

CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

THE VOLUNTEER EXAMINER REPORT

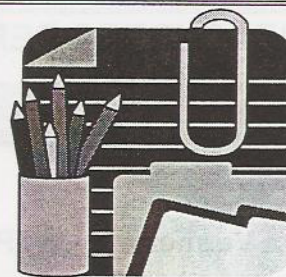


Bob Metke, W6SUP

For the month of May, the SFARC V.E. Team gave 6 tests to 6 applicants.

A special thanks to all members of the V.E. team for taking the time to help promote amateur radio.

If you need to take a test, or have questions about testing, please feel free to call me at (916)-783-7610.



FROM THE DESK OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT

Matt Diridoni - KC6RUO
1995 FIELD DAY REPORT

The 1995 Field Day was attended by few members, but was still a success. It was a success not because we made more contacts than other clubs, but showed that SFARC, even with few operators, could setup and operate in simulated emergency operations within a matter of 3 hours.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following dedicated SFARC members for assisting with field day.

Dave Hund, N6SHD, for the use of his camper and HF station. Bill Aston, W6JDT for the use and operation of his QRP station, Dave Jenkins, WB6RBE for the use of his 2 meter rig, and for operating with Bill Aston, Bob & Jerri Metke for the use of the tables, patch cords and equipment, Captain Bill Hertoghe of the Rocklin Police Dept. for the use of the DARE shade tent, and all the members of the California National Guard.

I would also like to thank the following operators that showed up for this event.

Dave Pellonini, KE6MBI, Tyghe Richardson, KD6MLH, and Wayne Mikel, KE6DJE and Dick Lund, WA6HYO.

M.B. Diridoni, KC6RUO

Vice President

CLUB MEETING MINUTES**July 14, 1995**

Jerri Metke, K6GKR

Meeting called to order by President Matrha Vance, KA6WUW, introductions were made.

Bob Metke, W6SUP gave a VE report and a report on the Fox Hunt to be held on July 29, 1995 after the club breakfast.

Lewis Tuttle, KE6MFL, gave a school report and Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO, gave a newsletter report.

Mr. Tuttle made a motion to accept the minutes as published in the June newsletter. Bob Greenslade, W3PMP second the motion and the motion was carried.

Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO, gave a report on the Rocklin Jubilee and thanked all that participated.

He also gave a report on Field Day and reported the expenses were \$85.13. All items that were not perishable were turned over to the snack bar and the rest of the money turned over to the Treasurer.

Matt then volunteered to be chairman for the 1996 Field Day. Matt is also looking for a member to keep the club photos in an album. The album will be provided, thanks to Dave Pellonini, KE6MBI.

During the break, President Martha Vance was contacted by Bev, KE6DJA who volunteered to chair the club picnic in August. Thanks Bev!

Meeting Adjourned

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR
WANTED**

SFARC IS LOOKING FOR A
NEWSLETTER EDITOR FOR 1996.

IF ANYBODY IS INTERESTED IN THIS
MOST INTERESTING TASK, PLEASE
CONTACT ME AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE AND I WILL BE GLAD TO
SHOW YOU HOW IT IS CREATED FOR
THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO

BOARD MEETING MINUTES**July 24, 1995**

Jerri Metke, K6GKR



The meeting was called to order by Vice President Matt Diridoni.

Attending was Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO, Jerri Metke, K6GKR, Bob Metke, W6SUP, Bob Greenslade, W3PMP.

(Continued on next page)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
CONTINUED**

Absent were President Martha Vance, KA6WUW, Bob Boeckman, WA6ULL, and Treasurer Jim Venneman, W6PYX.

Visiting members were Dave Pellonini, KE6MBI, Lewis Tuttle, KE6MFL, and Ralph McCune, KE6DJB.

The Board made a motion to give Bev McCune, KE6DJA a check for the picnic expenses not to exceed \$100.00. The motion was second by Jerri Metke and passed. Bob Greenslade will attempt to contact Lowell to see if he is attending the picnic and if he will be bringing his award winning beans.

Matt reported he will try to publish an updated club roster in the next newsletter. SFARC received a message from Nick Vogt of the Christian Runners. They are requesting amateur radio operators to assist them with communications for a biathlon on September 4, 1995 starting at

Bowman Elementary School between 7:00 AM and 11:45 AM.

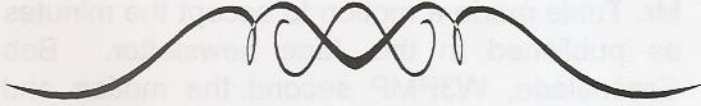
We briefly discussed the White Elephant Sale and the Christmas Party and the need for a chairperson.

We also discussed the Fox Hunt on July 29, 1995.

Meeting Adjourned



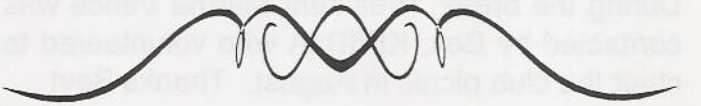
KC6RUO Matt Diridoni and WA6HYO Dick Lund at the 1994 Field Day in Nyack CA.



QUAD A's ELECTRONIC SUPPLY

**7360 AUBURN BL. #B
Citrus Heights, CA
95610**

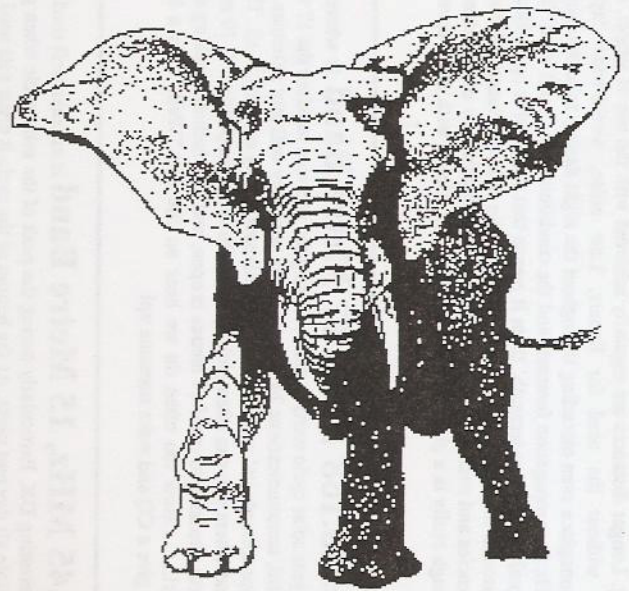
**Retail & Commercial Sales
Knowledgeable Assistance
(916)-723-7360**



AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS NEEDED

The Christian Runners are looking for at least 12 Amateur Radio Operators to provide communications for a biathlon on September 3, 1995 between 7:00 AM and 11:30 AM starting at Bowman Elementary School.

Please Contact Matt Diridoni at 632-4084, if you would like to volunteer for this special event. The phone number above has 24 hour voice mail. Please leave a message anytime day or night.



Don't forget our White Elephant Sale on October 13, 1995 at the Rose Room next to the Auburn City Hall



Dave Pellonini, KE6MBI and Dave Hund, N6SHD preparing for the 1995 Field Day in Nyack CA.

QUICK GUIDE TO THE HF BANDS

Because of the nature of electromagnetic waves and their interaction with the Earth, its' magnetic field and the ever changing ionospheric layers, each segment of the Amateur HF allocation exhibits very different propagation characteristics.

These characteristics vary with the time of day, the solar (sunspot) cycle and even some other more subtle and less understood factors.

The 1.8⇒2.0 MHz, 160 Metre Band, often referred to as 'Top Band' is the closest band to the MF frequencies (Broadcast Band). Due to ionospheric signal absorption, daytime propagation is limited to about 80 to 100 miles (120 to 150 km). As night falls, absorption declines and 500 miles (750 km) is typical, under the right circumstances signals can even propagate around the world. This is a fun and friendly band for local 'chit-chat' and just about any radiator can be loaded up for this purpose, though working DX will generally take some relatively serious antennas. However, listening for distant AM broadcast stations will give you a good indication of conditions and what your chances really are. Static can be a real nuisance in the summer months, especially without sophisticated audio filtering.

The 3.5⇒4.0 MHz, 75/80 Metre Band is one of the most popular operating bands for both nets and 'rag-chewing'. The degree of daytime absorption decreases as frequency increases, so allowing greater distances to be enjoyed during the day; propagation up to 250 miles (400 km) is quite typical with modest antennas. At night, particularly in winter, trans-continental working is quite normal and achievable. World-wide coverage on any routine basis once again demands carefully sited and well designed antenna structures. In the summer atmospheric noise (static) can disrupt communications quite severely and reception aids are needed. Poor power-line maintenance by the local utility will also tend to show up here first! For a quick check on propagation listen around 3.8 MHz and see who the 'Big Guns' are talking to. The BBC on 3.955 MHz, or other broadcast stations above 3.8 MHz are a good check as well. Somehow it seems that on this band you will get a lot of 'expert' advice from just about everyone, about just about everything; treat it accordingly!

The 7⇒7.3 MHz, 40 Metre Band offers great opportunities for working around your regional area during daytime hours. Typical distances of 500 miles (750 km) are quite easy with a simple wire antenna. At night, worldwide communications are a realistic achievement for even a modest station. The key as always is antenna efficiency and height, the necessary 45 to 60 feet (15 to 20 m.) for 40M often being achievable. The band quite frequently will hold up year round, so if you can find a space amongst the broadcast stations.....they in fact can be used as a good indication of where the band is open to. Remember though that they are typically running many kW or even a MW to vast antenna arrays, so do not be disappointed if you are not a reciprocal 9 +30 dB in Moscow! You can meet a lot of very different people around this band and quite have some enjoyable times!

The 10.1⇒10.15 MHz, 30 Metre Band has the characteristics of both the lower and higher ends of the HF spectrum. It typically offers 24 hour use with signals easily traveling 1000 miles (1500 km) by day and around the world by night. The solar cycle does not have as much effect on these frequencies permitting year round schedules to be maintained. You may hear SSB on the band, but do not be tempted, here is a haven for CW operators, phone is not allowed! Check WWV on 10 MHz for propagation forecasts and listen to the broadcast stations on the high end of 9 MHz band for a general indication of conditions. Listening around here can also often produce some really interesting communications, especially if you 'habla espanol' the conversations can be quite intriguing!

The 14⇒14.35 MHz, 20 Metre Band is the first choice of many operators. Little wonder as it provides 'first skip' distances of 500 miles by day and 1000 miles at night (750/1500 km). Longer distances are regularly achieved with the use of simple, even indoor antennas and without the need for linears. Low noise, world-wide daytime communication is commonplace even extending throughout the night during solar maximums. Check WWV on 15 MHz for propagation forecasts and the condition of the band itself. If you can hear other time signal stations 'underneath' them it means that the band is open. Beware, there are some people around on this band that take amateur radio rather seriously, 'forbidden and/or allocated' frequencies and some too who seem to enjoy the opportunity of 'broadcasting to the world'! Here though really is a place to make international friends with other operators the world over.

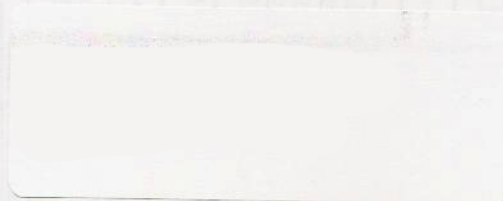
The 18.068⇒18.168 MHz, 17 Metre Band is where real susceptibility to the 11 year solar cycle starts to show. During the sun-spot maxima the 17 metre band supports good, solid, communications 24 hours per day with very ordinary antennas. Yet, as sun-spot activity drops towards its' minima the band collapses, rarely opening at all. This is an under populated band where you can often pick up DX with little competition. If 20 metres is open it is always worth checking to see if 17 metres is open, and that includes making a call, not just tuning across!.....How too often do we hear on the air: "Well, I do a lot of listening".....Go on, give a CQ and wake someone up!

The 21⇒21.45 MHz, 15 Metre Band is another well used band that is often full of interesting DX. Particularly during the peak of the solar cycle when global communication is possible all day and night. At the bottom of the cycle it often gets used as an around town 'natter' band where you can be surprised by having some piece of rare DX call you! This is typically a result of Sporadic E, which is where large 'slabs' of ionization drift around the E layer of the ionosphere permitting propagation out of an otherwise 'dead band'. The causes are not fully understood and still the subject of considerable research. There is also a satellite up-link allocation in this band and many operators have been down-linked onto 2 metres without being aware of it!

The 24.89⇒24.99 MHz, 12 Metre Band can offer daytime communications even during low or medium sun-spot periods and long distance contacts well throughout the evening during the maxima. Sporadic E can provide lots of surprises on quite a regular basis and this band is still relatively unknown to the majority of Hams. Modest power and simple, efficient antennas can provide lots of opportunities for DX fun and interest derived from investigation into the various propagation modes. There are also plenty of fascinating fixed and mobile commercial stations on either side of the allocation, these too can offer a useful indication of where the band is open to.

The 28⇒29.7 MHz, 10 Metre Band is just amazing when it is open. Virtually the proverbial piece of wet string for an antenna and real QRP offers world wide communications for weeks on end! At the bottom end of the cycle the band is good for local contacts and as a satellite down-link. These signals will often appear when the satellite is not 'around' or in range, posing even more questions about the very nature of electromagnetic wave propagation. Another question is that operators with high power and high gain arrays can, at times, seemingly make their own openings on this band; it may be theorized though that they are really taking advantage of a distant sporadic E opening or scattered pockets of ionization to propagate their signal. One word of caution, it is not unusual to hear or even be called by 'unusual' stations down at the bottom end of this band, ignore them, they are generally escapees from 11 metres!

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
PO Box 3262
Auburn, CA 95604-3262



Name: _____

License Class: N T G A E ARRL? Y N LM

Spouse/Assoc Name: _____

License Class: N T G A E ARRL? Y N LM

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Member Dues: \$17.00 \$ _____

Spouse/Assoc: \$7.00 \$ _____

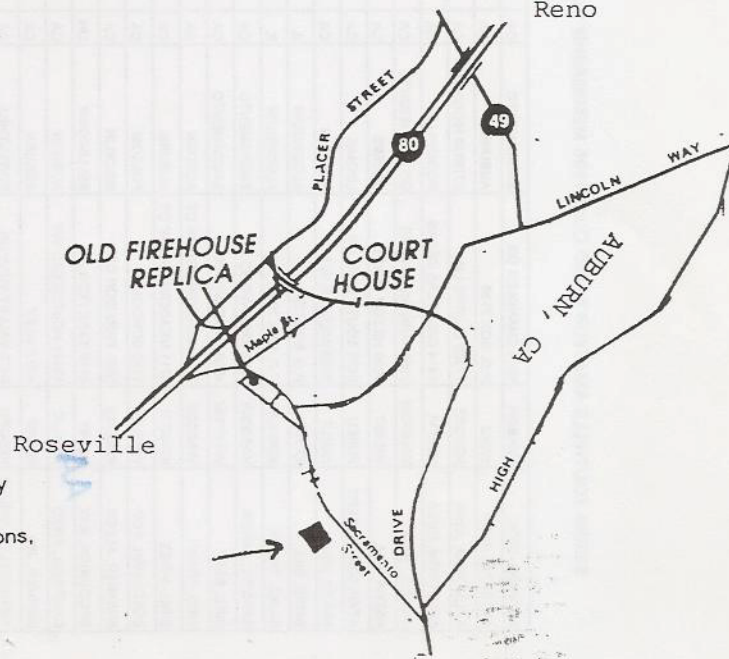
Repeater Donation: \$ _____

Autopatch Donation: \$ _____

Badge: \$5.00 \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Reno



Regular club meeting is at 7:00 PM on the 2nd Friday of each month, at the Auburn Fire Station, 226 Sacramento Street, Auburn CA. See map for directions, and talk-in on 145.43 (PL 94.8)