

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter



JANUARY 2001

<http://personal.newworld.net/~wingman/sfarc/>
P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658

At the Key of S.F.A.R.C.

PRESIDENT:

Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO
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VICE PRESIDENT:

SECRETARY:

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Boeckman, WA6ULL
wa6ull@aol.com

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Richard Kuepper WA6RWS
rkuepper@jps.net

REPORTERS:

Satellite Report:

Greg Dolkas, K06TH

40 Years Ago at the SFARC:

Gary Cunningham KQ6RT

VE Program

Bob Metke, W6SUP

REPEATERS:

145.430 (-0.6 Mhz) PL 162.2
440.575 (+5 Mhz) PL 94.8
223.860 (-1.6 Mhz)

CLUB NET:

All welcome to check
in Thursdays, 7:30 PM
2M K6ARR & Club
Repeater 145.430

CLUB MEETINGS:

Second Fri of the
month 7:30 PM at the
Auburn Library 350
Nevada St. Auburn

CLUB BREAKFAST:

Last Saturday of the
month at Susie's Café
Cirby at Riverside Ave.
Roseville - 8:00 AM

NET CONTROL OPS:

Dave Jenkins, WB6RBE
Gary Cunningham, KQ6RT
Joe Sylvia KF6OQY
Wayne Mikel KE6DJE

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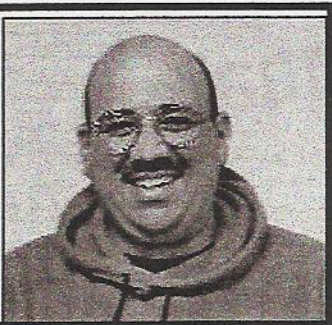
2001 Calendar of Events

(Operating Events in Italics)

Jan 6	<i>Kids Day</i>
Jan 6-7	<i>ARRL RTTY Roundup</i>
Jan 10	VE Test Session
Jan 12	Regular Meeting
Jan 20-22	<i>ARRL Jan VHF Sweepstakes</i>
Jan 26-28	<i>CQ WW 160m Contest(CW)</i>
Jan 27	Club Breakfast
Feb 9	Regular Meeting
Feb 14	VE Test Session
Feb 17-18	<i>ARRL Int'l DX Contest(CW)</i>
Feb 23-25	<i>CW WW 160m Contest(SSB)</i>
Feb 24	Club Breakfast
Mar 3-4	<i>ARRL Int'l DX Contest(SSB)</i>
Mar 9	Regular Meeting
Mar 14	VE Test Session
Mar 31	Club Breakfast
Apr 11	VE Test Session
Apr 13	Regular Meeting

From the President's Shack

**Matt
KC6RUO**



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. The Christmas party is getting better every year. Thanks for all the great food, music & company.

For those of you who have not met me, I am Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO, your 2001 SFARC President. I have been a Ham and a SFARC member since 1989. I currently hold a Technician Plus license. My hobbies are Amateur Radio (of course), electric trains, motorcycles, and poetry. I am usually monitoring the repeater in my office when time permits. You should be able to catch me to and from work, as I have a 2-meter rig in my truck as well as my motorcycle.

I hope to maintain Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club as a family oriented club. Please feel free to call me anytime, day or night at 916-632-4084 if you have questions or comments.

Hope to see you all at the meeting on January 12, 2001.

73,
Matt, KC6RUO

Thanks also to Bill KM6KV and Shannon KD6CMX for providing the musical entertainment for the evening.

President Wayne, KE6DJE gave out certificates of appreciation and club emblem paper weights to several individuals for their past efforts. A mechanical snowman who danced and sang was won by Gary KQ6RT who unknowingly sat on the chair that had a snowman decal attached to the bottom of it. The main prize (10 meter mobile radio) was won by Fred Jensen K6GDW. Way to go guys. Our regular raffle also went well. Thanks Patrick N6PBM for donating the additional raffle prizes.

Well looking back on the past year (where has it gone to?), I can say it was a great experience for me. Believe me when I say it was a pleasure to have worked with Wayne, KE6DJE, Roger, N7TK, Debbie, KF6LXN, Richard, WA6RWS, Dave, N6SHD, and Gary, KQ6RT. Their past efforts have made this club one to be proud of.

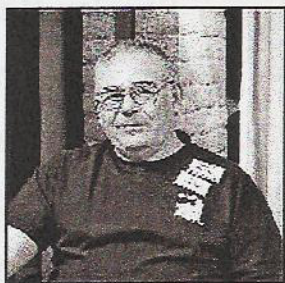


Now we will move on to this year of 2001 and a slate of new officers. I am looking forward to working with President Matt, KC6RUO, Treasurer Debbie, KF6LXN, and Board members Richard, WA6RWS, Eldred, KD6ZSL, and Bob, WA6ULL. Looking to a great year in 2001 for SFARC.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Sylvia, KF6OQY
Secretary

Secretary's Report

**Joe
KF6OQY**



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER December 8, 2000

There is no official business as we know it from our December 8, 2000 general meeting. This time it was our annual Christmas Party. Once again it was a good time for all who attended. A turkey and a ham with side dishes and dessert made for a great meal for everyone.

I wish to thank those who helped set up and take down the tables and chairs. Also thanks to those who set up the food table and later cleaned up the kitchen.

40 Years Ago At The SFARC

**Gary
KQ6RT**



January 11, 1961 8:10PM

The first meeting of the year was called, to order by our new president, Lin Hunter, at home of Mike Bowman. The minutes and treasury report of the out-going secretary-treasurer were read and approved.

Discussion was held on finding a permanent meeting place and Jim Carmen explained the possibilities of acquiring a room in the old naval reserve building as soon as they build a new Naval Reserve building next to the armory, scheduled for April or May, 1961.

Sunday net was discussed. There will be no change until further notice. Ways of acquiring more members were discussed. It was suggested that a mimeographed letter be sent to past members and inform them of our activities.

A barbecue outing at Recreation Park was planned for June 4th or 11th. The steak, drinks, and ice cream will be bought by the Club, and the remaining food such as bread, salads, beans, and dessert will be potluck. Drawings will be held for remaining steaks.

It was moved by Frank Carmen and seconded by Jim Carmen that we hold the outing as planned above. Motion was passed.

All old bills were approved and paid

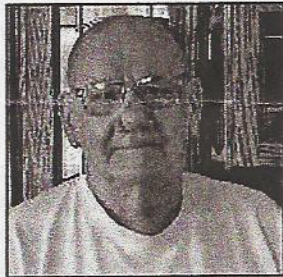
Field Day was discussed, along with A trip to Manteca for surplus gear. Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:30 P.M. (No dues were collected)

Respectfully Submitted,
Sage Otow,
Secretary

73,
Gary

VE Report

Bob
W6SUP



Volunteer Examiner Report

Bob and Jeri report that four people sat for their exams in Dec, 2000 ... and all four passed. Total statistics for the VE Program for 2000 are:

Upcoming Exam Dates for 2001

January 10

February 14

March 14

April 11

Pre-registration is required. Contact Bob Metke, W6SUP for more information.

Special arrangements and dates can be made to accommodate the disabled, including conducting tests at home.

73,
Bob, W6SUP
511 Oak St.
Roseville, CA 95678
916.783.7610
w6sup@rsvl.net

Sunshine Report

Jerri
K6GKR



Roger Hedgpeth, N7TK called and said that Linda's mother had passed away due to cancer. I have sent a card to them. This is a terrible blow at this time of the year, and it would be nice to let them know we are all thinking of them.

2001 Officers Begin Term

At the Christmas Dinner, outgoing President, Wayne, KE6DJE introduced the club officers for the new year. Left to right, they are: President Matt, KC6RUO, Treasurer Debbie, KF6LXN, Secretary Joe, KF6OQY, and Board Members Richard, WA6RWS, Eldred (a.k.a. Santa), KD6ZSL, and Bob, WA6ULL.



The office of Vice President is still open. Richard, WA6RWS has assumed the job of printing and mailing the newsletter as well.



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**MAJOR SPONSOR OF
THE SFARC FIELD DAY!**

Amateur Satellites

**Greg
KO6TH**



Phase IIID Launch Update (AMSAT News Service)

The long saga of the Phase 3D Satellite, now known as AO-40, continues. While the launch on November 15th went as planned, trouble soon developed. At the appointed time, about 3 hours after launch, the satellite should have checked in with a telemetry beacon on 70cm. Nothing was heard. Never ones to be rattled by such things, the command team quickly sent commands to enable the 2 meter beacon, and the satellite sprang to life. Good strong signals were heard by many. Even at a distance of thousands of miles, I could pick up and decode the signal with just a simple ground plane vertical antenna.

The topic of this article, then, was going to be a quick guide to setting up your own telemetry decoding station. It's really easy – get the free software from the Internet (look on the www.amsat.org web site for the link to IZ8BLY's site by following the link to "Telemetry info"), hook your rig to your computer, and tune in the beacon. But hold on a moment, for here the story takes another turn.

Once in orbit, and with 2-way command and status communications established, the control team began orienting the satellite into the proper position to begin the series of rocket firings to move it into its final orbit.

It's really quite clever how they do it – the satellite has a set of electromagnets that can be energized in a sequence. The magnets push against the Earth's magnetic field, turning the satellite in the process. The Earth's field isn't very strong, so the process takes a number of days, but there are no moving parts, and the hardware to do it is small and inexpensive.

That done, the firing sequence was uploaded, and at the appointed time, nothing happened ... stuck valve. With a little coaxing from the ground, they got things flowing and tried again. Success – actually, too much success. The rocket fired 3 minutes too long, putting the satellite in a higher than expected orbit.

This was nothing serious, mind you ... the orbit will be refined again later anyway. But, something was definitely wrong with the propulsion system. Before doing anything more with the satellite, over the next several days, the command team sent commands, and picked through telemetry to try to find out what went

wrong. Then, disaster. The beacon sputtered, and went silent.

Now, this too is nothing serious, mind you. Other satellites have gone silent and been recovered to live long productive lives. AO-40's predecessor, AO-10, is still operating after a nearly disastrous launch mishap. AO-16 was also rescued. As the others, AO-40 has built-in safeguards and timers to keep things from getting too far out of hand.

The first of these, the command timer, was due to trigger on Saturday, December 16th. It should have put the satellite back into the post-launch state, whereupon the controllers would again switch over to the 2 meter beacon. But, the 16th has come and gone, with nothing heard. Other commands have been tried, but as of this writing, nothing seems to have worked.

Some of the other famous satellites that have gone silent, most recently one of the Mars probes, were found to be in many pieces as a result of a rocket malfunction. The controllers, after all, were trying to debug a faulty rocket motor, so this was a concern of some. However, NORAD's radar has verified that the satellite is still in one piece, and it is still in the same orbit they left it in.

There are other timers which will kick in around Christmas, and there is a "last resort" hard reset facility that has not yet been attempted. Perhaps by the time you read this, one of these will have done its job, and all will be well again.

On that assumption, I return to the topic of this article – AO-40's telemetry. The beacon is centered at 145.898 Mhz. It is a 400-baud PSK signal, the same signal format developed and proven on other OSCAR satellites. I have found the IZ8BLY program the easiest to get running. It needs no special hardware, other than the typical PC sound card, and an all-mode 2 meter receiver.

Connect the audio line-out of the rig to the line-in on the sound card, and tune the rig to the beacon in either USB or LSB mode. Adjust the receiver so the recovered audio is somewhere around 1600 Hz, and the program will take things from there, decoding and displaying the satellite's text-based telemetry and broadcast messages. The other telemetry (satellite systems status, battery voltages, temperatures, etc.) can be passed on to other decoding programs for display. P3T.exe is an especially good program for this, and a link to it is also on the AMSAT web page.

So, from the shack at KO6TH, I hope you have all had a Happy Holiday season. Best wishes for a prosperous first real year of the new millennium, and the hope that the command team for AO-40 will get things back on track once again.

73,

Greg, KO6TH

"This Just In"

Ed Note: After Greg emailed his column to me and as we go to press, the AMSAT web site reports that AO-40 began transmitting telemetry, this time on the S-band beacon (2.4 Ghz), on Christmas day. This, of course, is GREAT news. Watch www.amsat.org for the latest news.

Annual Christmas Dinner

As reported by Secretary Joe, the SFARC's Annual Christmas Dinner was held on December 8, 2000 at the Rose Room in the basement of the Auburn City Hall. Bill and Shannon (KM6KV/KD6CMX) provided the music for the evening, and Wayne, KE6DJE was even heard giving a fairly professional version of a sing-along.



The Rose Room was comfortably filled for the event with both members and family, with a number of kids in evidence. Two held still long enough for a photo ...



two of them didn't (see next picture).

The food was a real treat, with ham and turkey, numerous side dishes (some no doubt family traditions), and seemingly unending desserts.

Our outgoing President, Wayne presented a number of certificates of appreciation for work over the past year,

and several paper weights bearing the "Great Seal of the SFARC," pictured below for those who didn't know we had a Great Seal.



The raffles (there were actually three of them ... one for radio nuts, one for wives, and the grand prize) were conducted using a standardized ticket selection system which would have made the Supreme Court proud.

And, for the first time since joining the SFARC when it was reconstituted in the early 70s, your editor won something big ... the RS 10m transceiver. It will go in the truck with call plates.

Wayne also introduced the incoming officers and directors.

It was a great evening – in a tradition of great evenings over the years.



(Ed Note: My wife gave me "Digital Photography for Dummies" for Christmas ... Hopefully, I will learn something to improve the pictures in the future. Quite a few from the party were trash)

Latest News on the Phone Patch

Here's the latest on the K6ARR/R phone patch, direct from the source:

Subject: Re: Repeater PL and Patch

Date: Sun, 26 Nov 2000 13:17:45 -0800

From: "James M. Carman" <jmcarman@jps.net>

To: Fred Jensen <k6dgw@pacbell.net>

Hi Fred,

The Autopatch right now has to be brought up with the 3 digit code. There are 2 codes, one for local only and one for both local and long distance, as before no change, then drop and wait for dial tone. Then key up and dial the number, a 2 step process now. One could put the access code in a radio's autodialer under a number and the phone numbers under others as needed. For some unknown reason, the old way does not work with the new controller software ... it should.

Fabulous CD Offer

How would you like to own your own personal CD containing the entire electronic record of the SFARC News that currently exists? Such a deal! ... you say? Well listen to this: For just \$1.00 (if you pick it up at a club meeting, or \$1.75 if you want it mailed), you can have a cataloged set of all SFARC News issues from 2000, plus many back issues for 1999, 1998, 1997, 1993, and even some from 1992. Each issue is provided in HTML format for viewing with web browsers, and in its native MS Word 97 format as well. 1993 and 1992 issues are also provided in Word Perfect 5.1 for those still running DOS.

As an additional bonus, the CD will contain all JPEG images of SFARC events that currently exist in the official archives, whether they were published or not. All of this for a single dollar (the cost of the CD-R and case) or a buck seventy five (additional cost of mailer and postage) for mailing.

But wait!!!! There's more!!! With this CD, you will be eligible for annual upgrades each year at a cost of - get this - z e r o ... if done on your CD each year. Since CD's hold about 650 MB, this offer should last until your editor has QSY'd to the Big Band in the Sky. Just send an email to k6dgw@arrl.net to get on the list, and send your \$1.75 to the editor if you want it mailed. CD's will be produced in mid-January, 2001 ... if there are any takers.

WB6RBE's Projects Return to SFARC News

Dave, WB6RBE, known far and wide as a Thursday Net Control Station, and also as the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Technical Representative, has agreed to conjure up several small projects for useful stuff in 2001. Assuming we old timers can recall anything at

all, some of us will remember a series of Dave's projects from a number of years ago. They are small, simple things that can be built easily and quickly, and which will enhance the fun of the hobby. A pair of his 2m/70cm duplexers currently allow your editor to feed both satellite antennas with once Belden 9913 coax.

Look for the first project soon.

Ham News

(Courtesy ARRL and AMSAT)

FCC Seeks to Require FCC Registration Number

ZCZC AG48

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 48 ARLB048

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT December 7, 2000

To all radio amateurs

The FCC has proposed requiring everyone it does business with obtain and use an FCC Registration Number—or FRN. Many amateurs registered with the Universal Licensing System already have been assigned a 10-digit FRN by the Commission Registration System—or CORES. The FCC has not made its use mandatory, however.

The FCC says requiring individuals and entities to obtain an FRN will help it to better track and manage the collection of fees. The FCC proposes requiring that FRNs be provided with any filings that require payment of a fee, such as the vanity fee for amateurs. FCC Form 159 has been modified to accommodate this requirement, the FCC says.

The FCC is proposing to reject filings requiring an FRN that do not include the number. "These proposed rules would make the use of the FRN mandatory in certain circumstances so that anyone not yet assigned an FRN or who has not yet obtained one must obtain one," the FCC said in its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (MD Docket 00-205), released December 1.

An individual does not have to hold an FCC license to obtain an FRN. The FCC says the information collected by CORES includes the "entity name and type," Taxpayer Identification Number or TIN—typically a Social Security Number for an individual, contact

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address and e-mail address. CORES information is not made public.

Comments on the FCC rulemaking notice are due 30 days from the date of publication in The Federal Register. Reply comments are due by 45 days from the date of publication.

The FCC began implementing CORES earlier this year. CORES registration eventually will replace Universal Licensing System, or ULS, registration. More information on CORES is available by visiting the FCC Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov> and clicking on the CORES registration link.
NNNN

PRESIDENT SIGNS CB ENFORCEMENT BILL

President Bill Clinton has signed legislation that permits the enforcement of certain FCC Citizens Band regulations by state and local governments. Amateur Radio operators are exempt from the provisions of the law, now PL 106-521.

Congressional lawmakers saw the measure as a way to give a voice to those experiencing radio frequency interference resulting from illegal CB radio operation. The FCC will not yield its authority to regulate Citizens Band or other radio services, however.

In short, the measure authorizes states and localities to enact laws that prohibit the use of unauthorized CB equipment—consistent with FCC regulations. This would include the use of high-power linear amplifiers or equipment that was not FCC-certificated.

FCC-licensed stations in any radio service—including the Amateur Service—are excluded from such state or local enforcement, and state or local laws enacted under this legislation must identify this exemption.

The bill—HR.2346 is the House version; it was S.2767 in the Senate—actually is the old Senate "Feingold bill" from several sessions ago. The bill's sponsor, Rep Vernon Ehlers of Michigan says local hams asked him to support the bill because of the bad rap they were getting from illegal CBers using high-power linear amplifiers that resulted in TV and telephone interference while the CBers involved hid behind federal preemption.

As did Feingold before him, Ehlers asked the ARRL to review his measure to ensure that it would not unintentionally harm Amateur Radio.

A copy of the new legislation is available on the ARRL Web site at www.arrl.org/news/stories/2000/11/29/3/cbbill.html.

FCC TO ACCEPT INTERNET DATA TO IDENTIFY SILENT KEYS

The FCC now is prepared to accept a printout from an Internet Web site as sufficient proof of death to cancel a license in the Amateur Service. The FCC will

continue to accept death certificates and published obituaries, and now can accept multiple cancellation requests.

According to a spokesperson in the FCC Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch in Gettysburg, the FCC now can accept a printed copy of information appearing on the Internet as adequate proof of death "provided the printout contains certain, verifiable, information." The Licensing Bureau also will accept a list—with supporting documentation—of multiple requests for cancellation of amateur licenses.

"It's basically no different than us taking requests today, other than a person can now send multiple cancels in one request and can also send documentation printed from a reliable Web site," the Licensing Branch spokesperson said. "We still require the same information."

According to information on the FCC's vanity Web site, www.fcc.gov/wtb/amateur/vnityfaq.html, individuals can report the death of a licensee by submitting a signed request for license grant cancellation accompanied by a copy of an obituary or death certificate to the Licensing Branch.

The FCC says it's been able to match up the name, address and birth date of the deceased included on some submittals it's received via the Ancestry.com site (www.ancestry.com) on the Internet. "The validity of these printouts as proof of death is equal to the same level of sufficiency as an obituary, in terms of reducing the risk of the inadvertent cancellation of a valid amateur call sign," the FCC spokesperson said.

Repeater Busy?

Need another Sacramento area /Foothill area repeater when the K6ARR 2m system is busy? Here are two that you might find useful.

KI6TE/R (146.355 +600 Khz PL 94.8), located at the CDF station in Bowman, just above Auburn. It's an open repeater with coverage more or less similar to K6ARR/R (it's on the edge of the canyon, and may be shadowed from some parts of the valley) Note also that it is a "reversed repeater" ... you transmit on 146.955. This repeater is used primarily during the Western States Endurance Run and Tevis Cup events, and is generally vacant at other times.

If you have UHF capability, try K6ARR/R (440.575 +5 Mhz PL 94.8), co-located with the 145.430 repeater at the Alta Vista Elementary School in Auburn. It is almost totally unused, and has a very similar coverage pattern to it's VHF cousin in the same vault.

Both of these are "vanilla" repeaters, with no linking, phone patch, etc. However, if all you need is a machine to converse on, and 145.430 is busy, these might fill the bill for you.

**SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2001 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Associate Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Application: (Circle One) New Renewal

Member Dues: Circle Amounts That Apply. Applications received in the middle of the year will be pro rated. Contact the President or Treasurer for exact rate.

Membership:	\$22.00	Club Patch:	\$2.00	Newsletter Booster	\$ _____
Associate:	\$ 7.00	Emergency Placard:	\$3.50	World Radio Renewal	\$ _____
ARRL	\$34.00	Name Badge:	\$5.50		
ARRL (Spouse)	\$ 5.00	Repeater Donation:	\$ _____	TOTAL:	\$ _____
ARRL (Special)	\$28.00	Auto Patch Donation:	\$ _____		

NOTE* Renewing your ARRL membership through the Club earns the Club money with no additional cost to you. To renew your ARRL membership through SFARC, make check payable to SFARC and mail to P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658.

OFFICE USE ONLY:		DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE	
Date: _____	Treasurer: _____	Secretary: _____	Roster: _____
Payment: _____	Check Number: _____	Cash: _____	

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
 P.O. Box 1005
 Newcastle, CA 95658

