



Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club

SIERRA SIGNALS

<http://www.sf-arc.org/>

JULY 2011

PO BOX 1005, NEWCASTLE, CA

At the Key of SFARC

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

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Jim Griffith, KI6AZH

Field Day Chairman

Dave Hund, N6SHD

REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH
History: Gary, KQ6RT
Misc Radio: Fred, K6D6W
Sunshine: Richard WA6RWS
rkuepper@gmail.com

RESOURCES

REPEATERS

145.430 (-0.6 MHz/PL 162.2)
440.575 (+5.0 MHz/PL 94.8)
223.860 (-1.6 MHz/PL 100.0)

CLUB NET

Thursdays, 7:30PM, W6EK/R
145.430

CLUB MEETINGS

Second Friday of the month,
7:30PM at the Library, 350
Nevada St, Auburn CA

CLUB BREAKFAST

Last Sat of the month at
Susie's Café, Cirby at
Riverside, Roseville - 8:00 AM

NET CONTROL OPS

Dave Jenkins, WB6RBE
Gary Cunningham, KQ6RT
Norm Medland, W6AFR
Casey McPartland, W7IB

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Matthew Diridoni, KC6RUO
916-749-3032
matteod@comcast.net

WEBMASTER:

Carl A Schultz, WF6J

Calendar of Events

July 8	Club Meeting
Aug 12	Club Meeting
Sep 9	Club Meeting
Sep 10	Western Placer ARC Swap, Lincoln CA
Oct 14	White Elephant Sale
Oct 14-16	PACIFICON 2011

SFARC CLUB MEETING PRESENTATION

To be announced on the Net

Everyone is welcome, bring a friend!

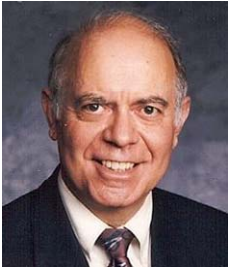
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We encourage members to receive Sierra Signals via email to save the Club the cost of reproduction and mailing

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From The Presidents Shack, Al Martin NI2U



Well, Field Day is behind us and the Picnic is set for August 20, 2011. We have a shelter reserved at Recreation Park in Auburn. The club social events are a fun time. Keep August 20th in mind and join the fun.

NO6NO (Dave) has the Volunteer Exam Sessions continuing. The first session saw 26 exams given and the second session, on the weekend of the Fourth, saw three exams, two generals and one extra. Dave has the sessions well publicized on the ARRL Site, Raley's site and the Club Site. We really appreciate Dave's

work.

Miscellaneous Radio

Outdoor Radio

Field Day is traditionally the event for hams to go outdoors and “play radio,” and this last Field Day was pretty well attended in North America [EU's have their own field day]. I've been part of the N6A crew that puts Alpine County on the air for the California QSO Party each year since the later nineties [shameless plug follows – “CQP is 1-2 Oct 2011”]. Until last year, we have always camped about 2 1/2 km north of the summit of Monitor Pass on State Route 89 at an elevation of about 8,400 feet.



The campsite was really great radio-wise, very quiet with the land sloping fairly gently to the northeast, which is pretty much where we left the beam, except when chasing the HI multiplier. This gave us about an ideal take-off angle, and, about 3 km out, the land falls extremely steeply about 4,500 ft to the valley floor which basically put us on an 8,500 foot tower with a ground plane. It is at the base of 9,550 foot Leviathan Peak, which is where I took the photo at the left on Saturday, 25 Jun.

The arrow marks the campsite. Physically, the site was good, fairly flat, access on that dirt USFS road you can see, and we set our “heated seat convenience” up looking down into the Carson Valley and Minden/Gardnerville NV which was beautiful if you had business to do after dark. That gray stuff in the photo below the arrow is really mountain sage, about knee high, and makes good tripping terrain, but we'd gotten the setup/takedown drill pretty well knocked. The photo is

looking at about 300 degrees [NW]. 070 [NE] is a line running from the tail of the arrow down the unforested tiny valley.

I've read that the general North American weather is getting steadily more severe, which would match our experience. In the late 90's and into the 2000's, I was often in cargo shorts during the day. The temps would assume the glide angle of a brick when the sun went behind the western mountains, but all in all, we thought it was fairly balmy. We had plenty of power, one generator was a Honda inverter which idled under no load and our electric blankets were “no load” so we just let it run all night. Then, in 2007, we sort of got the crap beat out of us by the wind. 2008 added some hail and snow, and low temperatures in the low 20's. 2009 gave us a full house: High winds, some rain which then froze, hail from a couple of thunderstorms, maybe a foot of snow, more wind, and lows in the very low teens.

The core N6A team is collecting birthdays at about 1 year per year, and as we were leaving in 2009, we decided that would be our last at this campsite. We were too old to be that isolated, our phones worked only if sitting on the “Magic Rock” and then poorly, I had always registered us at the Sierra Fire Center at the intersection of US395 and SR89, we had their numbers, and they had ours, but it seemed clear Mother Nature was sending us a message. So, for 2010, we moved to Lake Alpine and you have already read that story.

All this time, we had no knowledge that an international Summits on the Air program had been established in the UK, and that Leviathan Peak had been cataloged in the program as W6/SN-039. I'd climbed it several times early on while we were goofing off waiting for CQP to start, and the last time, I drove up to the gate and hiked the short distance to the summit.

Now, we sort of fast forward to May 2011. Both Rich, NU6T [who has done a time or two at N6A], and I know that there is a SOTA program. And, then it came rather quickly – “Let's activate Leviathan!” There is an automated weather station about 3 km from the summit which measures temps and snowfall and accumulation, and we can access it from the internet. So we watched as the snow melted and temps rose, and finally, the snow accumulation went to zero point zero zero. This is the eastern face of the Sierra and

snowfall is significantly less than Squaw Valley got this year ... well over 60 feet total and 21 feet still on the ground near the end of May. One thing led to another, and, seeming like a good idea at the time, we decided to couple a Leviathan SOTA activation with a 2B Battery FD entry.

The plan we developed was conservative. I live at 1,780 ft, Rich lives at a few hundred, so we decided to make this a "road trip." We went to Topaz Lake NV [~5,000 ft] on Fri, had a nice dinner at the lodge, and spent the night getting acclimated to less oxygen while comfortably horizontal. The weather was perfect all the way there, and Topaz is about 50 min from the summit. Leaving Saturday at 0700, we were at the gate at about 0800, and the gate was exactly where I remembered it. Weather is super, still a little chilly, but sweatshirts were enough.

Our plan was to schlepp our gear in a big-wheel garden cart Rich had brought. This worked OK, lots of rocks, and we occasionally ran up against them, but we got about 2/3 of our gear to the summit on the first trip... which, incidentally was a lot farther than I remembered. Since the gate was exactly where I remember, my best guess is that a tectonic plate moved the summit farther away. It was a long grind pulling the cart. Second trip got the rest of our gear, I spent maybe 15 or 20 mins looking around the summit for some oxygen, and we began setting up.

You can see from the photo, the weather was about as "California Summer" that you could want, even at 9,500 feet. The farthest peaks in the distance are close to 200 miles away.

Rich has a fairly old Buddipole, he sets it up in a loaded horizontal configuration [that it in the distance, he's taking a photo of it]. I've worked out a vertical ground plane configuration for my newer BP, it's in the foreground. The stuff on the right in the photo is the radio vault, the catwalk of the abandoned fire lookout tower, and a radio tower. The cart we used is in the lower left.

Rich had his Elecraft K1, I had my Elecraft K2, and we set up on a camp table in the lee of what we knew from experience would be the prevailing wind. I also had my Elecraft KX1, a tiny trail radio about 3" x 5" x 1", and powered by a little Li-Poly RC model battery, but never needed it. We also had a variety of other "stuff" which never really got used. Next time, we won't drag that up the hill!



So, Plan A was to get on the air for the Summit Chasers prior to FD, and then make as many FD Q's as we could until either the falling temps or the lack of sunlight told us it was time to leave. The temps won. Given the winds that came up in the afternoon, we decided pack it in around 1600 local, it was getting pretty cold. We also weren't real sure how the trip downhill was going to go and we wanted to do it all in one trip.

We did manage one trip, there was a snow field on the way down, but we made it just fine. This is Rich on his K1 on 20 CW using his Buddipole dipole. One good thing -- we ate all the nuts, thus lightening our load downhill. ☺ We each took an industrial-strength dose of ibuprofen and crawled down the summit road in the truck.

Back to Topaz Lodge in about an hour, good steak dinners and off to a shower. The Best Western had Wi-Fi, and I had sort of planned on uploading my log to the SOTA Activation Database and maybe filing our FD entry, however about half way through

my email, I started falling asleep so I turned the Windoze laptop off by clicking "Start" [someday I'll figure out what Bill was

thinking when they did that!), and slept pretty soundly. Trip home up through Carson City, Reno, and over the summit was uneventful, and weather was still great.

One of the great things about getting “really” far out for radio is you get great views, have a lot of fun, and may not see anyone. Despite our remoteness however, we had three visitors, which we believe qualifies us for 100 points for being in a “public place.” A younger woman passed us dragging our gear up the hill, she later yelled down to us dragging up on our second trip, “Do you have any binoculars?” I did, I shouted to wait until I got there, and she came down and pulled our cart the last 50 meters or so to the top for us. Turned out she was a personal trainer and fitness trainer which we took as a favorable sign from the FD gods. The other two visitors were USFS Fire Lookout folks, a man and a woman, from St. Louis on their way to a summer's work via some California relatives. Their lookout is in the middle of Idaho, 6 hours from anywhere.

The lookout on Leviathan appears to be abandoned however, judging by the number of antennas on the building and tower, there are a lot of radios there. This is the back-side of the solar array that powers it all.

We made 58 QSO's total, all but one on CW with 5 watts. Rich made one SSB QSO on his Icom IC-706. Despite the physical effort, we both had way more fun than we had figured we would. There is something special about working stations outdoors from a super beautiful summit with radios you carried in running on batteries you carried in. We're already looking at some SOTA cataloged summits over in the Coast Range, Bald Mt. and Little Bald Mt. are open for me again this year [one activation per summit per ham per year], and Peavine Pk., W7/WC-011, over NW of Reno looks sufficiently accessible for a gimpy OF.



I've planned a couple of activations to coincide with a QRP contest or event and it worked well. I had lots of stations to contact and there was still room for me to find a spot and call CQ SOTA. Coupling this one with Field Day turned out to be in the “it seemed like a good idea at the time” class of plans. We managed only a handful of Q's with summit chasers before FD started and then the band was wall-to-wall stations and all we could do was search and pounce to call them. Next time, we'll pick a weekend with a little less activity.

More SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and there is a web site devoted to SOTA operations at www.sotawatch.org that hosts pages to post activation alerts, spots of current activations in progress, and all sorts of other information. It was a great trip, Rich is a great teammate, and we'll do another one soon.

73,

Fred K6DGW, Auburn CA




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ARRL VEC
AMATEUR RADIO
VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

SFARC has testing sessions on the first Saturday of each month at Raley's on the corner of Auburn Folsom Road & Douglas Bl. in Granite Bay. Sessions are in the multi-purpose room in the back left hand corner of the store. The session starts at 8:00 AM



Batteries Plus

910 Pleasant Grove Blvd. Suite 100
Roseville, CA 95678
(916) 786-2222

8025 Greenback Lane, Suite A,
Citrus Heights, CA 95610
(916) 722-3300

Field Day

Field Day ... Plus 20 – By Dennis Gregory, WU6X/portable



So, here I was, just another Field Day I was thinking, with guys in shorts and high-top shoes throwing tools over tree limbs to get antennas more than a few feet off the ground ... It had been 20-plus years since I participated in one of these “tests of emergency communications”, so to speak. Well, I was to discover things had changed ... a lot!

The guy in shorts was still there (I’m hard to break old habits), but the other guys looked a lot different. First off, throwing wrenches with rope tied to the handle was old-tech these days. After watching me make several

attempts, up walks this guy named Alan, I think, with this very high-tech sling shot that would probably take an eagle out at 100 yards ... and asks, “Which limb would you like?” Well, I pointed to my target some 15 feet off the ground. Alan suggests, “Wouldn’t it be better, like higher? Say ... that limb 50 feet off the ground?” “You mean that one waaaaaay up there, silhouetted by the moon?” “Sssure!”

Okay, so Alan steps back a couple paces and the next thing I know I’m fishing a small rope with one end of my dipole tied to it over a limb previously occupied by some kind of bird ... I think ... It was really too high to tell. Next thing I know, the other end of my dipole is being hoisted by a couple other guys who just dived-in to help. This Alan guy was deadly with that sling shot. Wow! ... This was definitely NOT how I remembered Field Days of 20 years ago. Back then, there were tents, sleeping bags, mosquitoes, drooping antennas, warm sodas and soggy sandwiches.

Yes, Field Day 2011 was a real hoot! ... For those of you who missed it, you missed operating in style, RV-style that is. No more soggy sandwiches and no more drooping antennas that took your hat off while walking around in the dark. We’re talking motor homes, easy-ups for shade, and plenty of batteries and generator power to charge them. And, lots of volunteers, so no one had to work too hard ... Yes, plenty of time for visiting and napping, too.

No, Field Day for 2011 was a very different affair than I recall from years past. After the wagons were circled and the antennas were all up, good times began. Lots of good social time, followed by a few tests of communications, more social time, computers networked over a wireless network so a single log could be shared (no more duplicates!), some kind of “roast beast” cooked to perfection by Chef Donna, scalloped potatoes, smokin’ chili beans, salads, ... simply more food than a bunch of nerds could ever hope to consume in one sitting. Did I mention Marion berry pie, brownies, cookies and other goodies for desert? I’m getting full again just writing about it.

Yes, somehow we did manage to test “emergency communications” despite the circle of motor homes and all the visiting (and napping). We made over 350 contacts in 24 hours, 134 of them on CW, and over 200 on SSB, with the “get on the air” (GOTA) station and other incentives racking up extra points. I worked all my contacts on battery power, with only the laptop and wireless router running off a small and very quiet generator

furnished by Dave, N6SHD. He and Wayne really rung up the points on 40m SSB, while Bob-WE6C and I nailed 'em on 20m CW. Chuck-AE6LR, Al-NI2U, Gary, Dick, Carl and a few others kept the RF flowing almost continuously on 10m, 15m and even 80m ... Checking the log, I see we even made a few 6m and 2m contacts. Okay, we did nap some after midnight ... all that food does take its toll, you know.

I hated to see it end, really ... So much good radio fun, and new friends to make and old friends to catch up with. 24 hours seemed to fly by. Propagation was good to the "right coast" on 20m, too. We made several contacts with New Hampshire, New York, the Carolinas, Georgia, Rhode Island and Florida; Alaska, Hawaii, and Canada, too, ay.

So, if you think you might like to try it next year, maybe get your code speed up? Mark the next-to-the-last weekend in June on your calendar and ... we'll save a piece of Tri-tip for you. 73, Dennis-WU6X

WF6J Report

By Carl Schultz, WF6J – Reporting from Field Day

Field Day satellite and 2 meter sideband station:

There was a lot of activity on both AO-27 and AO-51, unfortunately did not hear anything from the International Space Station. While we could hear the stations, were not able to make contact. Later in the day, I found that the 2 meter coax was shorted for the uplink. As Dick, WD6EDR said: "You never know what's going to happen on Field Day". I Did make some SSB contacts and 1 CW using the HO Loop on top of the Jeep. Have the dimensions and info about building your own 144/435 satellite "cheap" antenna. I will upload a document to the web site with the information.

Press Information Officer report:

h
Allen Pitts, W1AGP our ARR: HQ media and PR Manager, was smoking the emails to help everyone get the word out about Field Day. Over 47 states were able to get the Governor to issue a proclamation making June 20-26 "Amateur Radio Week". While several of us tried in CA, Governor Brown did not respond. We did get some local PR from the Auburn paper and a mention in a story in the BEE.
Next year, need to start earlier and "get the word out" including our own Video.

Website report:

Photos of Field Day are loaded on the website. Go there and click on the Home page photo or got to the Photos page and see them there. Working on editing videos and will put them up soon.

Membership page - working on making the membership application fillable on-line and hopefully credit card/Paypal friendly.

The latest roster is also available on the bottom of the membership page. If you were not at the meeting and need the password, email me.

Links page – I added the new 75 year logo for ARES, plus a link to the ARRL site. It's just under the Placer County ARED/ARES link.

Classifieds - not much activity on this section at all. I would like to ask the membership to consider changing this to Elmer's Corner or something that should be on the website. Open for suggestions.

SFARC VE REPORT

By Dave Albright NO6NO

WOW, we had quite a session, looks like advertising on ARRL, Raley's, the club website & the club newsletter paid quite a dividend!

We literally had a line clear out the door by 8:15.. We administered 26 Elements to 22 Candidates. 19 elements were passed successfully and only 7 elements were failed. 3 of the failures were attempts at a higher element after qualifying for a lower license. 17 Candidates earned a new license or an upgrade. 5 Candidates did not receive an upgrade, but indicated they were going to study further and take the test next month.

I would like to thank Jim, KQ6VP, Gerald W6GU, Richard KI6NOX, Al NI6U, David AF6DK & Gary KQ6RT for participating in the session. Hope to have at least one more VE next session so we can have two groups checking exams.

Richard & myself will not be there due to vacations, so I guess we really need three more. BTW, it went quick 8:00 to 09:30 and it was all done. Great job by everyone, again thanks.

Techs taken 9 – passed 8

Generals taken - 14 passed 10

Extras taken 3 – passed 1

26 exam elements taken by 22 candidates.

Liaison VE, Dave Albright NO6NO

Satellite Report

By Greg Dolkas, KO6TH

Get Ready for ARISSat-1



It's finally July, and time for the "launch" of ARISSat-1. Ok, so that simple statement needs some explaining.

ARRISSat-1 is the successor to SuitSat, which was a clever 2006 experiment in both satellite technology and public relations. This unusual spacecraft was essentially a simple beacon transmitter, bolted onto an old Russian space suit that was to be discarded anyway, to make use of the suit's battery for power. The beacon was a pre-recorded message containing greetings from kids around the world (including a "secret word" to be listened for!), an SSTV picture, and a few bits of telemetry. The transmitter was actually a Kenwood TH-K2 Handheld

Transceiver that was attached to a custom controller board that contained the necessary power conditioning, message storage, and the interlock switches that prevented transmission before launch.

"Launch" for SuitSat was also unusual for this unusual satellite. The electronics package was lofted to the International Space Station aboard one of the Progress cargo missions. Once on board, it was attached and cabled to the suit by the astronauts. Then, during a planned space walk, the switches were turned on, and the satellite was tossed out of the Space Station hatch to orbit on its own.

As with SuitSat, ARISSat-1 will be "launched" from the hatch of the International Space Station. This satellite, however, has no suit.

Mid-way through the satellite's construction, the then-named SuitSat-2 team received word that the Russian suit that was to be part of the satellite had already been discarded. Lack of space to store it. So, lacking a Suit, they decided to move forward with its construction anyway, building a different frame to house the electronics and, of course, its own battery. And a different name; SuitSat-2 became ARISSat-1.

The electronics package in ARISSat-1 is different and significantly upgraded from SuitSat. Instead of starting with an HT, they are using pieces of other satellite projects, making this a testbed for future missions. The simple controller is replaced with a full Internal Housekeeping Unit (IHU), a computer and software-defined radio combination that drives everything. Where SuitSat had only a simple beacon, ARISSat-1 will add a full 70cm to 2m Transponder. The prerecorded SSTV picture of SuitSat is replaced by "live" pictures recorded from the four cameras on board. There's a student experiment to measure the vacuum of space, and to keep it all running, solar panels and battery charging circuitry should provide power for the estimated 1 year orbital life.

ARISSat-1 was originally intended to be deployed back in February of this year. The satellite was even powered up while still inside the Space Station as a pre-launch check, connected to the Ham antennas mounted outside the Station. But plans were changed. It was decided that the satellite would be an excellent publicity vehicle to underscore the 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's famous ride into space on April 12, 1961. To be sure it was operational, they decided to delay the launch until a space walk scheduled for July, and run the satellite again from within the Station on the anniversary. But, they also decided that it was too risky to recharge the on-board battery, since they have limited recharges. So, after running the satellite for a few days back in February, there was insufficient charge left for the publicity event in April. "Left hand, meet Right hand"... Oh, well.

So, finally, here we are in July. "Launch" is planned for later this month, again a toss out of the Space Station's hatch during a space walk. When it occurs, you need to be ready. The FM downlink for all the prerecorded voice messages and the SSTV transmissions is going to be on 145.950 (but tune around +/- a few khz to compensate for Doppler shift!). The whole frequency chart and other information about the satellite is posted on the ARISSat website (<http://www.arissat1.org>), along with software to copy and decode the various telemetry beacons.

Get ready, it won't be long now!

73,

Greg KO6TH



Friday, October 14th through Sunday, October 16th

Marriott Santa Clara Hotel

2700 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, California

SEARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

10 June 2011

The June Board meeting commenced at 1800 hours at the Round Table Pizza in the Auburn Town Center.

Present were officers Al Martin-NI2U, President; Chuck Baker-AE6LR, VP; Bob Balthorpe-KD6WTY, Treasurer; Dennis Gregory-WU6X, Secretary-elect; Directors Mary Balthorpe-KE6EST, Gary Cunningham-KQ6RT, and Jim Griffith-KI6AZH. Also present were, Dave Hund-N6SHD, Field Day Chairman; Richard Kuepper-WA6RWS, Sunshine Reporter; Carl Schultz-WF6J, PIO/Webmaster; George Simmons-KG6LSB and Jim Carman-K6ARR.

Discussion: A financial report was reviewed showing a combined starting balance of \$669.63 with \$1,283 received, \$586.30 paid and current balance of \$1,366.33. A “positive” accounting difference of \$91.13 was later identified to be raffle income. The budget vs. projected expenses was discussed and showed an end-of-year projection of \$2,210.28.

Richard presented Dennis with a well-organized binder of Secretary-related items. Al agreed to provide Dennis with the latest copy of By-Laws to be edited and published to the membership for approval.

The Picnic was discussed and planned for August. Gary agreed to check the availability of dates and report back.

An online membership application form and possible PayPal/credit card acceptance was presented by Carl and discussed. The additional cost for PayPal and credit card fees if the method is adopted might be an issue. The Board agreed to present the online “fee” issues to the membership for discussion, but decided the online “form” would be beneficial and should be implemented.

Other discussions included: the club breakfast at Suzie’s; Jim-KI6AZH asked about repeater battery operation and the length of time the repeater can operate on battery-power. Jim Carman reported the batteries are a truck-type and in good shape. An absolute on how long the repeater would run on battery might be calculated from current draw as measured at the site and the amp-hour battery capacity (and was speculated to be a couple days), but will vary with transmit-receive use and standby times; ARRL Special Service Club approval.

Meeting adjourned at 1915 hours.

Submitted by Dennis-WU6X, Secretary-elect

SFARC General Meeting Minutes

10 June 2011

The meeting commenced at 1930 hours at the Placer County Library in Auburn. Present were officers Al Martin-NI2U, President; Chuck Baker-AE6LR, VP; Bob Balthorpe-KD6WTY, Treasurer; Dennis Gregory-WU6X, Secretary-elect; Directors Mary Balthorpe-KE6EST, and Jim Griffith-KI6AZH. Gary Cunningham-KQ6RT was absent. Also present were, Dave Hund-N6SHD, Field Day Chairman; Richard Kuepper-WA6RWS, Sunshine Reporter; Carl Schultz-WF6J, PIO/Webmaster and Gene-KG6NYH, Raffle chairperson.

Al led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Richard presented Dennis with the Secretary's badge to a round of applause, in which case Dennis officially accepted the Secretary's duties for the club. 23 members and 1 guest were present and introduced.

Previous Minutes – The minutes from the previous meeting, as published in the Newsletter, were approved without changes.

Treasurer's report – Bob reported receipts and expenses and a balance on hand \$1,944.99. Al expanded on the details with forecasted expenses from a comprehensive accounting spreadsheet.

VE report – Al reported that Dave-NO6NO is now coordinating exams. 26 exams given with 22 candidates took exams on Saturday, June 4th. Taken/Passed in each class: Tech 9/8, General 14/10, Extra 3/1. The next VE exams will be in July. Al cautioned that a new General exam will be given and to get the word to any candidates to study the new question pool materials.

Satellite report – No report

Sunshine Report – Richard acknowledged Len Taylor's (WB6HGS) presence at the meeting and the passing of his wife, Marilyn (WB6KFL). The membership offered condolences.

Raffle – Gene-KG6NYH reviewed the items to be raffled including the requisite atomic clock. Lots of other cool items were shown including a donated cell phone speaker phone kit.

Repeater - Richard reported his check of the repeater site found no issues and everything appears to be working in good order. Other repeater: as an FYI, Mary reported that the Western States communications needs should not interfere with our Field Day operations, and that Tevis Cup had been postponed to October.

Tech-Ten was by Chuck-AE6LR. Portable antennas were reviewed, especially the need to check and tune antennas before the need to use them, for example, for Field Day. Be aware that height may have an effect on resonance. One of the easiest to use is the inverted-V; with long enough leads on each side of the feed point, and if fed with ladder line and a tuner, virtually any frequency may be operated. Using coax feed line may induce losses. The merits of other antennas used by other members was discussed, along with a new antenna constructed by Chuck and Alan that will be used at Field Day (as published in QST).

Old Business – Richard reported that ARRL Special Service Club approval is now in place. The picnic is planned for August with the date TBD, Gary checking availability.

New Business – Online membership applications along with PayPal or credit cards was discussed and the percentage for handling that would be charged. Generally, the membership thought that an online form would be a good thing, but that the ability to take PayPal or credit card payments is not a necessity. More discussion by the Board is suggested before presenting options to the membership.

Richard reminded members renewing ARRL membership to check with Dennis as if paid through the club, we get a portion of the fee.

Jim reported on the County communications facility going in on his ranch and the 32x32x10-foot deep hole with rebar now ready for concrete, to support the new 120+ foot tower. He invited any interested members to visit and view.

Announcements – Al reminded everyone of Club Net every Thursday at 7:30pm; Club breakfast on the last Saturday of every month at Suzie's Café at Cirby/Riverside in Roseville; and the raffle.

Speaker –Dave-N6SHD and Chuck-AE6LR reported on the Special Field Day Meeting held before the Board meeting, and the up-coming FD event on Saturday-Sunday, June 25/26. We again have permission to use the Nyack site. A wireless networked logging program will be used to log contacts and prevent dupes. All connected computers will be able to instantly see statistics and points on-screen, as well as who is operating. Chuck reported that each station will have an exclusive indicator showing which band/mode is being operated to be legal by the rules, and stations will be operating in 2-hour blocks to give everyone a chance to operate. Generators were discussed. George is looking into the Army Reserve's portable unit. The availability of solar or QRP operation was discussed. Food was discussed and Donna volunteered to cook the meat. A potluck sign-up sheet was passed around for other essentials, and an equipment sign-up sheet was also circulated. A tally showed that approximately 9 members in attendance were planning to show for Field Day. Richard reported that a portable toilet is available across the street as well as fast food, so and invitation is extended to anyone interested to come up for the day. Water is available by hose and electric from generators. (*Secretary's Note: FD rules indicate that the power multiplier is determined by the maximum output power used by any transmitter, regardless of any battery, solar or QRP operation. For example, if one station is running 100w and another 3w, a multiplier of 2 [for the 100w station] will apply to the QRP transmitter's contacts rather than the 5 available to an all-battery, QRP or Solar only operation.*) Complete rules are available for download at: http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2011/2011_Rules.pdf

President Al passed out codes for the auto-patch to any interested members.

The meeting adjourned at 2100 hours. Raffle was held immediately thereafter.

Submitted by Dennis-WU6X, Secretary

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

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**Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club
2011 Membership Application**

Please Print

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ e-mail: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Associate Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Phone Number: _____ Application: (Circle One) New Renewal

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

Membership: (P)	\$22.00	Name Badge: (R)	\$7.00
Associate: (Q)	\$ 7.00	Repeater Donation: (S)	\$ _____
Auto Patch Donation: (T)	\$ _____	Newsletter Booster: (V)	\$ _____
Misc. Donation: (X)	\$ _____	Christmas Donation: (W)	\$ _____
TOTAL: (Y)		\$ _____	

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Date: _____ Treasurer: _____ Secretary: _____ Roster: _____

Payment: _____ Check Number: _____ Cash: _____