



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

October 2014

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At The Key of SFARC:

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Robert Bell, W6RBL
Jim Jupin, WA8MPA

FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

Mark Graybill, W8BIT

REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH
History: Gary, KQ6RT
Misc Radio: Fred, K6DGW
Sunshine: Richard, WA6RWS
rkuepper@surewest.net

REPEATERS

145.430 (-0.6 MHz/PL 162.2)
440.575 (+5.0 MHz/PL 162.2)
223.860 (-1.6 MHz/PL 110.9)

CLUB NET

Thursdays, 7:30PM, W6EK/R
145.430

CLUB MEETINGS

Second Friday of the month,
7:30PM at the Auburn City Hall,
1215 Lincoln Way, Auburn CA

CLUB BREAKFAST

Last Sat of the month at Mel's Diner
1730 Grass Valley Hwy, Auburn 7:30AM

NET CONTROL OPS

Dave Jenkins, WB6RBE
Norm Medland, W6AFR
Bob Brodovsky, K6UDA
Al Martin, NI2U

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Barbara Anderson, W6EVA
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WEBMASTER & ARRL PIO:

Carl A Schultz, WF6J

Calendar of Events

October 4th & 5th:
California QSO Party

October 10th:
Club Meeting

October 17th – 19:
Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA)

October 18th:
Cystic Fibrosis Bike Ride

October 25th:
Club Breakfast

October 25th:
CERA Motorcycle Ride

October 31st:
Halloween

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- ***Jettie Brushwood Hill, W6RFF SK***
- ***Miscellaneous Radio: Seven No-Code Years***
- ***Board & General Minutes***



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 Mic

By Tyghe Richardson – KD6MLH, President

The Next 3 Months:

The next three months are special for the club. We will not have a regular meeting until January of 2015. We have a sale, an election, and a party!! What a fun way to spend the next three meetings!

October



The white elephant sale is this month so we will not have a regular meeting. Bring your items that are ready to be sold at Auction to benefit the club. I have no idea how many items we will have but I know it will be FUN!! I look forward to seeing all the club members at this event.

November



The November meeting is a special one! We will be electing the new club officials. I encourage all members to get involved and run in the club election. I will be re-running for president, as I have enjoyed the last year and would love to be re-elected for another term. Others will be re-running for their positions, but I know we are also going to have a few positions we need to fill, so the election chairperson will be soliciting volunteers for next year.

December



As tradition goes the December meeting is the Christmas Party!! As usual it is going to be a good time! The party is for current members and their guest(s), so if you know any one that did not renew this year remind them that they must be a member before December to attend. I would also like to remind all the members that if you renew for 2015 at the Christmas Party you get one more ticket to the drawing at the party.

Jettie Brushwood Hill, W6RFF SK

Jettie died peacefully September 21, 2014, at age 93.

Born in 1921, he leaves behind his 2 sons, Chris of Roseville, CA, and Tom of Sandia Park, NM, along with their spouses, Debbie and Tina, as well as 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

He survived his wife of 66 years, Lois Marie, by 5 years and until the last few months, was active and living independently.

First licensed as a ham radio operator in 1938, he engaged daily in his passion for amateur radio, active in ARRL, participating as Sacramento Valley Section Manager for 17 years (1988-2005) after retiring from various management positions in Silicon Valley. He was still involved in the local clubs and national conventions, retaining his radio license all of those 76 years.

He lived a long, fruitful life and will be missed by family and friends alike.



MISCELLANEOUS RADIO

Seven No-Code Years – How's It Going?

Short answer: "Fine!" It's been seven years since the Morse receiving and sending test was eliminated from all US amateur license examinations [and essentially world-wide too], and that's probably been long enough to re-visit the subject and see how reality played out against all the predictions [dire and otherwise]. 75 meters in the evening has been ham radio's "Hyde Park" for as long as I can remember, and when the FCC proposed eliminating the requirement for Morse proficiency from all license classes, the soap boxes were out in force on "The Medical Band." The predictions and prognostications spanned a very broad spectrum of issues that were predicted to arise, most concluding that it would be "The End of Amateur Radio As We Know It," which I'm going to shorten to just, "The End."

2014 marks my sixty first year as a ham radio operator. My activity levels during those 61 years have waxed and waned as life went on ... very active as a teen, marginally active in college [had an almost full-time job as well as full-time student], moderately active my first year and a half in uniform, QRT for 4 years doing war, and then on the air some – and not -- as we made a family and everyone grew. Retirement heralded a return to my teen years in terms of activity although the equipment [and I] sure had changed.☺ I've seen "The End" predicted multiple times and the removal of Morse proficiency as a requirement for a license has pretty much followed the pattern of all the others.

I began as a Novice at 13 in 1953 when the Novice was brand new, and it was my first encounter with "The End." To say the Novice license was "not real popular" with many of the OT's of the time is akin to suggesting that Bernie Madoff only committed a "small indiscretion." It played out on 75 meters in double sideband AM, if you missed his argument on one sideband, there was always the other sideband.☺ It also played out in print in the letters in CQ and QST, although somehow the written word was not nearly as forceful as the 1KW arguments on 75, where you could actually hear the reverberations of the "clank" of the big antenna relay as he began his predictions of woe.

I don't know the real statistics, and mindful that 87.6% of all people make up their own, I'll equivocate and guess that about half of the Novices were teenagers, nearly all male.¹ The other half were primarily young adults, almost all male too. The ranks of amateurs had been slowly declining. The war had ended, the economic upturn in the 50's had begun, television had arrived, people had jobs, and I guess the lure of wireless was fading some. The Novice gave it a huge shot in the arm, and it wasn't just new people. Heathkit, Knight, Harbey-Wells, and World Radio Laboratories, among others were born. Suddenly there was a new market for receivers, transmitters, parts, tubes, and just about everything "ham-ish, and manufacturers to market them. History tells us that despite the predictions, it was anything but "The End."

At that time, the ham bands were 160 [unusable if you lived on a coast due to LORAN-A], 80/75, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters to cover the MF, HF, and VHF ranges. 6 meters was right next to TV channel 2, TVI was a problem, and 6 was basically unused. So, in 1956 or so, the FCC permitted Technicians, previously restricted to 220 MHz and up, to use 6 meters. Again, the power companies cashed in as the 1KW soap boxes fired up on 75 meters. There were three primary arguments against this action:

- 1 *"Technicians weren't technically capable of operating "properly" on 6 meters, which often had openings over long distances."*

¹Based on the Check in the ARRL Sweepstakes exchange, I think it was really quite a bit more than half

2 "6 meters was a General and Extra Class band and Technicians didn't have the code proficiency."²

3 "It's the start of Technician encroachment ... 6 today, 10 tomorrow, who knows where it will end"

but it definitely will be "The End."

It didn't turn out that way. Heath came out with a very low cost rock-bound radio called the "Sixer,"³ and many Technicians flocked to 6. They probably saved 6 meters for us as an allocation [for which they got no credit], and "The End" was postponed to some time in the future.

One change in the mid-60's, while incorrectly predicting "The End" yet again, was a hugely divisive and unproductive effort by ARRL called "Incentive Licensing." From the early 50's p to this point, holding an Extra-class license bought you nothing you couldn't have with a General-class license, except the satisfaction of knowing you passed the exam. I sat for mine as soon as I had 2 years as a General⁴ ... just because it was there.

ARRL's Incentive Licensing would do two things:

- 1 Create a new, Advanced-class license midway between General and Extra⁵
- 2 Create new sub-bands for both CW and Phone based on license class

To create the new sub-bands, the proposal took portions of the CW/Data and Phone/Image sub-bands away from the Generals and divided them for the Advanced and Extras. ARRL's rationale for this was to "improve the technical and operating proficiency of the Amateur Corps. It has never been clear to me exactly how that proficiency was lacking, and, if it actually was lacking, how this proposal would change it, and in the end, it was definitely not one of ARRL's finest hours. Extras got their exclusive segment plus all the others, Advanced had theirs [shared with Extras] and the General segments. Generals were banished to their smaller segments, shared with Extras and Advanced, and were understandably incensed.

I was doing war on the other side of the planet at the time, and Incentive Licensing was a brand new, done-deal when I came home at the end of 1967. It was the most divisive, mean-spirited action that I've ever seen in ham radio and in all honesty, I do not remember finding anyone who was in favor of it. Being an Extra, I didn't need to pay attention to the sub-band limits, but I was clearly not welcome in the General and Advanced segments. It was classic grounds for class warfare, and was widely predicted to be "The End."

The Advanced license is gone⁶, as are some, but not all of the license-class sub-band segments. If anything could have done-in ham radio, Incentive Licensing would have been a good candidate, but it didn't. I am certain that ARRL lost a slug of members, and I'm certain it has taken a long time to replace them with new folk,⁷ but the hobby survived and thrived.

There have been other examples, and as most of you know, I do pay attention to history. When the concept of two classes of Technician [Tech with no code exam and Tech-Plus with a 5 WPM code test] came along, I heard all the soapboxes on 75 set up. "If one class can be no-code, eventually all will be, and it will be 'The End'." I predicted it would be just fine. HT's had come on the scene, it was now easy

²Which sort of ignored the fact that Generals and Extras didn't use the band

³Anticipating the FCC, they also offered the "Twoer" for 2 meters, and yes, Technicians got part of that band too

⁴2 years on-air service was required then

⁵The advanced-class license had existed since the 1951 restructuring and could be renewed but no new ones were issued until 1967

⁶Existing ones will be renewed but there haven't been new ones for some time now

⁷You can bet your paycheck the displaced Generals never came back

to get “on the radio,” and repeaters gave you a reach. Husband and wife get licenses and now they can talk to each other and coordinate the kids' soccer, Little League, dance and piano lessons, gymnastics, Pop Warner practice, school, and all the other things they never tell you about as you're welcoming that little bundle of joy into your lives.

And I was right. HT sales skyrocketed, sadly most \$\$ going to Japan but US dealers do get a cut, ham club membership took a big leap, ARES and EMCOMM became familiar acronyms, public service communications for charity events jumped. And what happened for the “traditional hams” on 75 meters or DX'ers on 20? Exactly nothing. Tech Plus got a segment on 10 meters which almost none of them used. Effect on everyone else? Nil ... and “The End” was yet again relegated to the future.

So we went through the slow removal of Morse as a requirement for a license, unfortunately accompanied by some mean-spirited things. Tech-Plus and Techs [i.e. “no code Techs”] merged and Techs no longer had to pass a code test. Generals went to 5 WPM, followed by Extras. Now we had Extras [20 WPM] and “Extra-Lites” [5 WPM],... again class-warfare which never results in anything good. And of course, we finally reached that dreaded point in ham radio, “Zero WPM for everyone” It clearly signaled, without doubt, “The End.”

Well, seven years have passed and we no longer have to predict the future. History has been written, and it sure doesn't look like “The End” to me. As a requirement for a license ... and it's important to remember, that is **all** this was about ... Morse code is an anachronism, just as requiring the examinee to draw the schematic of a Colpitts oscillator became an anachronism.⁸ No one had to give up Morse, and anyone who wanted to could learn and use it, it just wasn't a requirement for a license. And, there is no evidence that fluency in Morse automatically makes anyone a “better ham,” whatever that might mean. Ever since the invention of radiotelephone, a fairly large percentage of hams learned the code to get a license and never used it again.

The CW Ops group founded the CW Academy, connecting 4 or 5 aspiring CW Ops with an “Advisor” via a free video conference package, and using a proved method for learning code. They've graduated multiple classes now, and the waiting list for the new “semesters” continues to grow. Summits On The Air came to North America about 4 or 5 years ago and caught on like wildfire. Most of the avid summiteers are younger folk [for obvious reasons], and started out on VHF FM and HF SSB. They have quickly found that 5 watts with a compromised antenna will yield many more QSO's on CW than phone will, and for many, CW is now their preferred and in a number of cases their only mode when activating a summit.

By every measure I can think of, ham radio is far richer in terms of ways to enjoy the hobby with all the people who are part of it now, than when I first began. The increase in that richness has been steady, and “The End” was never, ever, a credible threat. I have however, given up on 75 meters in the evening. 😊

Cal QSO Party is 4-5 Oct, you're the hunted, you don't want to miss it. Exchange is a QSO serial number and your 4-character county abbreviation. Our youngest, now 43 year old bundle of joy, signed us up to ferry granddaughter and fastpitch softball pitcher to SoCal for the weekend and I will not be activating PLAC this year. More info at cqp.org

73,

Fred K6DGW

⁸That was one of the questions on my Extra exam in early 1956



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2014

The SFARC Board meeting for September commenced at 1800 hours at the Auburn Ravine Denny's Restaurant meeting room in Auburn.

Roll Call: All officers and Directors were present with the exception of Board member Jim-WA8MPA. Guests present were Bob-K6UDA, Amaryllis-KJ6TFT and Toni-KK6JPJ.

REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

President's Report: Tyghe-KD6MLH started a discussion on a potential Bylaw amendment that would allow committee members to serve extended terms to provide continuity over changes in Officers. The Bylaws confirmed that the President can "appoint" committee members for any term length, so no Bylaw changes were needed, only a clarification for the Board. Discussion was also held regarding the outgoing President being held-over as an x-officio for a 1-year term for continuity and support purposes. Further discussion ensued whether to make him/her a voting member to back-fill a missing Director at Board meetings, or simply a non-voting support person. No decisions or changes were necessary.

VP Report: Dave-NO6NO had no report or business for the Board.

Secretary's Report: Dennis-WU6X discussed the need to begin the Election Committee. Mark-W8BIT agreed to vice-chair; three others will be sought at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Richard-WA6RWS reported finances for August showed us on track with budget and planned expenses. Richard asked that we spend \$150 for (3) \$50 prizes for the Christmas Party. W6RBL moved and W8BIT 2nd; passed.

Repeater: Richard-WA6RWS reported that noise is still present when the 220 repeater is linked; he plans to setup the 220 as a standalone. Also, the 2m repeater PL is set back to 162.2 but will leave the 141.3 PL as a secondary for now.

Sunshine Report: Richard reported that Dick-WB6EDR is having knee replacement surgery; Jettie-W6RFF is not doing well and losing ground quickly; and Dave-NO6NO had a hand operation and is doing well.

VE Report: Dave-NO6NO reported 13 elements were given seven passing.

Directors: Mark-W8BIT reported the next FD Committee meeting is scheduled for October 8th.

Other Business: Bob-K6UDA gave a SFARC Swap Meet report; now scheduled for March 14, 2015 in Loomis at the Train Station and parking area. Bob asked the Board to poll the Membership at the meeting to spend \$75 to reserve the space and a \$300 refundable deposit.

Meeting adjourned at 1847 hours.

Submitted by *Dennis Gregory - WU6X, SFARC Secretary*

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2014



The SFARC General meeting for September commenced at 1930 hours at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, President Tyghe-KD6MLH presiding. All Officers and Directors were present except for Jim-WA8MPA. Tyghe led approximately 40 members and guests in a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag followed by an introduction of Officers, members and guests.

REPORTS:

President's Report: Tyghe called for approval of the minutes from last meeting as posted in the newsletter. A motion and 2nd to approve as posted passed unanimously with no corrections. Tyghe reported the Board has suggested that the Club grant Jeff-AK6OK membership for the remainder of 2014 for his extensive Field Day contributions. Bob-K6UDA so moved, Dave-NO6NO 2nd; passed. Tyghe asked for (3) volunteers to serve with Dennis-WU6X, this year's Chair for the Elections Committee. Jeff-AK6OK and Robert-W6RBL volunteered, Mike-K5CWV was appointed.

VP's Report: Dave-NO7NO reported he had VHF/UHF radios for sale for \$40, \$5 goes to the Club; Dave also suggested members start collecting items for the upcoming White Elephant auction, scheduled in lieu of the October meeting. Dave has Club patches and hats for sale as well.

Secretary's Report: Dennis-WU6X asked guests and new members to pick up a Welcome letter at the break containing important information about the club, and discussed other information available on the Club's Yahoo! Groups site at: (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/w6ek/info>).

Treasurer's Report: Richard-WA6RWS reported finances on budget as of September 1st; full details available upon request.

Sunshine Report: Richard-WA6RWS reported that Jettie-W6RFF is not doing well; Dick-WB6EDR is in the hospital having knee replacement and Dave-NO6NO having a hand operation.

Repeater: Richard-WA6RWS reported the 2m repeater PL changed back to 162.2. Also, the 220 repeater will be set to standalone mode due to continued noise into the system when linked. He also reported on repeater codes available to members to test mic gain into the repeater receiver.

Satellite Report: Greg-KO6TH reported on a "sculpture" satellite launch headed for an asteroid scheduled to pass us in 2018. ISS now has a tracking antenna on the DCSS system.

VE Report: Dave-NO6NO, reported VE testing results of (13) elements given with (3) new Techs, (2) new Generals and (2) new Extra class passing.

Drawing/Refreshments: George-WB6LSB reviewed items planned for the drawing, while Jeremiah-W6DLO reported on refreshments for the break, standing in for Jim-WA8MPA.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bob-K6UDA reported on the planned SFARC Swap meet and moved to spend \$100 for swap site rental, as well as \$300 for a refundable deposit for the site, 2nd by Carl-N6CKV; passed. The date has been set for March 14, 2015.

Field Day: Mark-W8BIT gave an update on Field Day 2015 planning and reported the next meeting is scheduled for October 8th at the Denny's in Auburn located on Auburn Ravine drive. Bob-N6EMS volunteered to serve as Vice-chair on the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Christmas Party: Gene reported the date is set for December 13th Saturday and is looking for volunteers for

several support needs including setup, decorations and cleanup. George-KG6LSB made a motion to spend \$150 for (3) \$50 prizes for the Christmas Party on recommendation of the Board. 2nd by Gene-KG6NYH; passed.

Opportunities to Volunteer: Tyghe asked members to contact Bruce-K6BAA or himself regarding volunteering for Patriots Day again this year, scheduled for October 11th, to be held at the Target on Sierra College Blvd this year.

General Announcements: The Club Net meets every Thursday's at 7:30pm; Board and General meetings occur on the 2nd Friday, Board is held at **Round Table Pizza** in on Elm Avenue at 6pm (location subject to change – see the Yahoo! Groups event calendar), and General meetings at 7:30pm at **Auburn City Hall**. The Club breakfast is held on the last Saturday at **Mel's Diner** in Auburn; an Elmer Net is held every other Wednesday night at 7:30pm on the 2m repeater. See www.w6ek.org for more information.

Tech-10 & Presentation: The Tech-10 was presented by Dave-NO6NO on transmitter design. The main Presentation was by Jeff-AK6OK who set up a spectrum analyzer and signal generator, to demonstrate how the equipment can be used to align transmitters and repeater cavities.

The meeting adjourned at 2140. Submitted by **Dennis–WU6X, Club Secretary**



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2014 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ e-mail: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Associate Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ email: _____
Phone: _____ Cellphone: _____ Application is: (Circle) New Renewal

Dues / Donations:

Membership: yearly*	\$ 22.00	Name Badge:	\$ 7.00	Yes (special name)_____
Associate: yearly*	\$ 7.00	Repeater Donation:	\$ _____	
Auto Patch Donation:	\$ _____	Newsletter Booster:	\$ _____	
Misc. Donation:	\$ _____	Christmas Donation:	\$ _____	ARRL member? (circle) Yes No
TOTAL:		\$ _____	Please add \$1 if paying via PayPal	

*Prorated dues for NEW Members/Associates Only

July	\$ 20/6	October	\$ 14/3 + following year
August	\$ 18/5	November	\$ 12/2+ following year
September	\$ 16/4	December	\$ 10/1 + following year

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