



Welcome to SFARC, Auburn, CA

Sierra Signals

P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

November 2014

<http://w6ek.org> info@w6ek.org

At The Key of SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Tyghe Richardson, KD6MLH
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VICE PRESIDENT

Dave Albright, NO6NO
no6no@pacbell.net

SECRETARY

Dennis Gregory, WU6X
wu6x@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Richard Kuepper, WA6RWS
rkuepper@surewest.net

DIRECTORS

Mark Graybill, W8BIT
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

November 11th:
Veteran's Day

November 14th:
Club Meeting

November 27th:
Thanksgiving



November 29th:
Club Breakfast

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- *KX3 PS, Trip to Virginia & Buckmaster Antennas*
- *Successful White Elephant Sale*
- *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

Leading the club and you

It is election time! As I write this I am reflecting on the last year and how much fun we have had. I was apprehensive when Bob, K6UDA and I talked about the position of president and it was suggested that I run for office. I was not sure what I was getting into, but after a long phone call with Bob I said “what the heck the club needs some help and I should be happy to do it.” I had no idea it would be so enjoyable. The events and volunteer opportunities have been a joy to participate in. From the leadership side of the club it is interesting to see what goes into making everything happen. I have to say it has been worth every minute of time I invested and the return has been tenfold!

The duties of a club officer are not that taxing and I think every member of the club should jump at the opportunity to run for a leadership role. When you think about it we have a few e-mails, articles, nets, meeting, and events that the officers are expected to participate in. That is not much time at all most of the officers and board members work full time and spend minimal time working on club matters. Many of the club members already attend every meeting, some attend the board meetings and the events, so why not run for an office?

I encourage all the members to get involved and run for a leadership role in the club.

Club Committee Opportunity

If you are interested in a little more responsibility in the club but not ready for leading I suggest getting on a committee. We are going to have several openings for committee chairs available at the January meeting, and we need your help! All but 2 of the committee chair positions are going to be up for grabs after the first of the year. As you know we have several awesome events throughout the year and we need the support of the members to make them happen. Every member is invited to head up one of the events; it is an awesome opportunity to be a bit more involved in the club and a rewarding thing to do.

All I ask is that every member gives some thought to volunteering and help make next year as much fun as this one has been!!!

A Busy October

From Bob K6UDA

Wow. October has been a very busy month here for me & ham radio. As a fairly new ham, I've been trying to experience all that I can in the world of ham radio. In keeping with that theme, there have been some really big changes in my shack this year. I sold my Icom IC-9100 to a ham in Florida and bought **Jeff's AK6OK** old Icom IC-7600. This is a very impressive HF+6 Meter station. I really miss working the DV (D-Star) HF nets so I very recently augmented my collection with an Icom IC-7100. With the passing of **Jettie W6RFF**, I was able to enter the high powered world of amplifiers. My station is now equipped with an Ameritron AL-80B. It feels good to be heard at 1KW.

As summer is quickly turning to fall, the contest season has been heating up. A few weeks back I participated in the California QSO Party. I played for just over six hours and logged just over 200 contacts. If you've never tried contesting, I highly recommend it. It's amazing how many DX contacts and states you can get into your log.

Speaking of logs, this year is the ARRL's 100th anniversary. To celebrate, they've commissioned W1AW/X in each section of the country. In case you've never heard of W1AW, it's the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, a highly coveted QSL everywhere in the world, and a must operate if visiting headquarters. Well, at the beginning of October, our very own **Dennis WU6X** ponied up his station for W1AW/6. I went over and worked W1AW with him we took turns at the controls one logging and identifying call signs and the other on the mic. We logged a little over 400 contacts worldwide and forever engraved our calls as W1AW ops. Thank you Dennis for the opportunity.



October also heralded in my now annual pilgrimage to Santa Clara for Pacificon. This year, I dragged a few club buddies along with me. **Dennis WU6X**, **Bruce K6BAA**, **Birton N6UG** & I saddled up at zero dark thirty on Saturday and headed out to the biggest show on the west coast. We walked through the outdoor swap meet, made a seminar or two and then onto the main floor to see all the manufacturers and their toys. The show isn't a real success unless someone makes a major purchase and this year; Birton dutifully plucked down his credit card on a brand new Icom ID-51a Dual Band D-Star, GPS enabled handheld. This is really an impressive little radio. Turn it on right out of the box, and tell it to go find nearby repeaters. BAM. You're on the air. I'd like to welcome Birton into the cult of D-Star.



As the weather cools off, amateur radio shifts into high gear. If you haven't been very active on the bands try something new. There are plenty of guys & gals in this club ready to show off their little nook & cranny of this immense hobby. I know my next project is putting up a 500 ft. Loop antenna. **Jeff AK6OK**, is putting the finishing touches on a multi band, multi mode, repeater system that will absolutely rock in this area. The idea here is simple. Try something new, get involved and have a great time with our hobby.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to work the Cystic Fibrosis Bike Ride on October 18, 2014

Volunteers were: George KG6LSB, Jim KD4BKZ, Larry KJ6UOV, Justin K6UVK, Richard WA6RWS, Les KG6NME, Joe KN6FH, Mike KK6GLP, Tyghe KD6MLH, Robert W6RBL, and Richard KI6UOV.



KX3 PS, Trip to Virginia & Buckmaster Antennas

From Dennis Gregory, WU6X

KX3 Power Supply

First the power supply ... I purchased a computer-style power supply for the Elecraft KX3 (\$60) from ProAudio Engineering ... what a nice unit. The manual states they do some "special filtering" for the KX3, and it works perfectly, putting out 14v DC to drive the KX to 12w. Thanks for the tip, W6OPO. If others reading this are interested, drop me an email and I'll give you the particulars. Unfortunately, it did not come in in time for the trip.

Virginia Beach, VA

My trip to Virginia Beach to get my buddy Bob-K4JPP back on the air went very well. Unfortunately, the lady behind the desk at the Double Tree/Hilton hotel didn't know her north from south and put me on the south-east corner of the building on the 8th floor. I asked for the north-west ... oh well. I was able to get a 66-foot loop wire taped to the inside of the window and across the top of the valence and down to the 10:1 long wire balun ... I immediately heard a loud W1AW/8 on 20m CW, and called him several times with the KX3 running 5w, but the conditions were just not that great late Friday when I arrived, plus I was being blocked by the entire building in that direction. Still, it was pretty fun trying... Love this little radio.

Work at my friend's complete Yaesu FT-2000 station (K4JPP) went well too. I checked out of the hotel and stayed at his house to save a few bucks as they were away in Las Vegas. The tower was still horizontal in the yard from hurricane Isabell, and the 6-band dipole was badly damaged from hitting the sidewalk next to the house. So, I bought him a new Buckmaster 7-band OCF dipole (I actually called and then drove up to Mineral, VA to meet

with Jack Speer of Buckmaster Antennas in person). Jack was a super guy and I visited with him at his shop for a 1/2 hour or so on Saturday, then back in the rental car for the 2 and 1/2 hour drive back to Virginia Beach. Jack says he has been at Dayton for 30 years now! ... He sure builds a quality product. I bought the necessary UV antenna rope from him as well.

The most challenging thing about this trip was I had no help and no tools to work with. I mean NO tools. So, I had to be very resourceful. At least I thought to pack my 6-foot collapsible fishing rod (collapses to 16-inches, 2 pieces for suitcase travel) to pitch a sinker over a limb and pull the rope up, but otherwise I had to go to a local hardware store for everything else. No ground crew either ... up and down from the roof with no one around ... except for the 3 dogs, of course, wondering what the heck I was up to. I had to use a spare section of the tower tilted against the house to climb onto the roof... Like I said, resourceful!

Buckmaster Off-Center-Fed Dipole

I put the center of the antenna up in a tree at about 35 feet at the apex (according to the instructions) and sent one leg (long leg) off to the north, and the other leg (short leg) to the west in an inverted-V, 120 degree droop configuration, hoping to give Bob a somewhat 360 degree pattern. The antenna performance was way better than I expected ... I worked 60+ stations (mostly SSB) over a couple days when band condx were good, the farthest being **Australia** on 17m SSB, and **Hawaii** on 17m SSB as well! Of course, Spain, France and other EU's were soooo loud, like for us talking to Hawaii from the west coast. Most people thought I was using a beam of some kind. Reports were mostly S9 or better with 800w going into the antenna from the Quadra amp. CW operation was good as well. Worked both W1AW/8 and /4 stations on CW and others. I talked with Bob-KGUDA and a couple other guys who hang out on 7.155 every morning. I made a lot of new friends.

I have to say, I am very impressed with the Buckmaster OCF antenna. No tuner required. Sweeps with the Autek analyzer showed less than 2:1 SWR on 7 bands, including 6m. I used the tuner in the Quadra amp anyway, but don't think it was needed. One issue is the antenna is not made for 15m, so K4JPP will have to do something else on that band. I have a feeling it may work anyway, but a 4.5:1 SWR would keep him from running any power ... it should take 100w, however, but anything more might smoke the 6:1 balun even with the beefy torodial inductor it contains. I had a peek inside the other antenna as the PVC was cracked in half from the fall from the 60 foot tower. The antenna is rated for 3KW.

Virginia is a beautiful place to visit this time of year. I was a couple weeks early for Fall, but still green is the color of choice, and the favorite pastime for residents appears to be ... mowing grass. If you have a chance to visit, do so... but, bring your own tools.

Cheers, **Dennis - WU6X**

Hello All,

We made **\$930.50** from the White Elephant Sale. What a great turnout and special thanks to Tyghe for his gift of selling.

Also thanks to some of the buyers who donated their change to the club.

73,

Richard WA6RWS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

October 10, 2014

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

Roll Call: All officers and Directors were present. Guests included Toni-KK6JPJ and Birton-N6UG.

REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

President's Report: Tyghe-KD6MLH started a short discussion on the White Elephant Auction planned for the General Meeting.

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

Secretary's Report: Dennis-WU6X discussed the Election Committee needs currently looking for Secretary and VP candidates. Incumbents will run un-opposed unless someone else volunteers to enter the election.

Treasurer's Report: Richard-WA6RWS reported finances for September showed us on budget.

Repeater: Richard-WA6RWS had no report other than the repeater is working normally.

VE Report: Dave-NO6NO reported 14 examiners in attendance for (2) candidates to pass (2) Tech exams.

Directors: Mark-W8BIT gave a FD Committee meeting update and reported the following band captains and assignments: Tyghe for 80/75m; Robert for 40m; Joe for equipment chair (Dennis will co-chair).

Other Business: Motion by Dave-NO6NO to spend up to \$500 for Christmas gifts; Jim-WA8MPA 2nd; passed and will be brought to the Membership for final approval.

Meeting adjourned at 1830 hours. Jim-WA8MPA requested we look for a replacement Refreshments Chair.

Submitted by **Dennis-WU6X, Club Secretary**



Batteries + Bulbs.

Ryan Tollefson
District Manager

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 10, 2014



The SFARC General meeting for October commenced at 1930 hours at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, President Tyghe-KD6MLH presiding. All Officers and Directors were present. Tyghe led approximately 45 members and guests in a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag followed by an introduction of Officers and Directors. Most other General Meeting activities were suspended in lieu of the White Elephant Auction scheduled.

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 voted and approved to spend up to \$500 for Christmas Party gifts. A call for a vote was extended and the motion passed with no objections.

Elections Committee: Dennis-WU6X reported that there are currently (3) positions that will become vacant with the New Year; the Vice President, Secretary and one Board Member seat. Those interested should contact Dennis or one of the Elections Committee volunteers as soon as possible, as election will be held next month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bob-K6UDA is still looking for volunteers for the SFARC Swap meet set for March 14, 2015.

Carl-WF6J is still looking for help or someone to assist or pick up the web master duties.

Jim-WA8MPA is looking for a replacement Chair for refreshments.

George-KG6LSB is looking for a replacement Chair for the drawing

Please contact each of these people with any interest you might have in serving your Club.

Vince-K2NE spoke about a 6 meter repeater project he is involved with. For more information, contact Vince or go to: www.netk2ne.net/contest.html

White Elephant Auction: Tyghe discussed auction rules briefly, and the White Elephant Auction commenced immediately after the meeting adjourned at 2000. The auction was a great success with approximately 100 items up for grabs; some very good bargains were had and the proceeds will go to help fund the SFARC Christmas Party.

Submitted by **Dennis-WU6X, Club Secretary**



SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

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2015 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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