



Welcome to SFARC, Auburn, CA

Sierra Signals

P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

February 2016

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

At The Key of SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Orion Endres, AI6JB
ojendres@outlook.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Al Martin, NI2U
Amartin4@wavecable.com

SECRETARY

Bruce Anderson, K6BAA
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TREASURER

Sharron Griffith, KK6RGV
sharron@usamedia.tv

DIRECTORS

Birton Gilbert, N6UG
Bob Brodovsky, K6UDA
Andrew Silvester, N6REW

FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

Mark Graybill, W8BIT

REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH
History: Gary, KQ6RT
Sunshine: Richard, WA6RWS

WEB/YAHOO! GROUP

Birton Gilbert, N6UG
Dennis Gregory, WU6X

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
anderson51@wavecable.com

ARRL PIO:

Carl A Schultz, WF6J

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Al Martin, NI2U

Calendar of Events

February 12th:
Club Meeting

February 15th, 2016:
President's Day

February 27th:
Club Breakfast

March 12th:
SFARC Hamfest

April 24th:
MS Society's walk in Folsom

May 21st:
Diabetes Tour de Cure

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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 Cookie Jar

By Orion Endres – AI6JB, President

Exciting times on the W6EK Repeater! Birton, N6UG, and Richard, WA6RWS, have been feverishly upgrading our repeater. We now have Echolink and IRLP capability. Yes, that's right, Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club has gone INTERNATIONAL! We are a world class club and you too could hear someone from the other hemisphere. You will not want to miss our next General Meeting on Feb. 12th, as you will be amazed with all the cool things it can do during the TEC Ten session. The next time you hear Birton and Richard on the radio or see them, be sure to thank them for all their hard work! WAY TO GO GUYS!!

Hamfest is shaping up. We have all the major positions filled! Carl, WF6J, is hitting the media hard to get the word out. We need your help to put flyers in the Community, at your place of business, and at any place people go to get information. Jeff, AK6OK, has once again come through with exciting drawing prizes. Now it is up to you! We need folks to sign-up to help out on the event day. Al, N12U, is going to need lots of help to set-up and take-down. Dennis, WU6X, needs help at vendor relations to take money and get our sellers situated quickly and as effortlessly as possible. Robert, W6RBL, needs help on security manning the gates and making sure sellers stay within their space(s). Jim, WA8MPA, would like a couple of people to help him at the club table to sell our donated equipment. Jason, N6JDX, needs help selling drawing tickets and running the drawing. We will have sign-up sheets at the next meeting for you to select your preferred position. The more folks we have, the more enjoyable it will be for all. Many hands make light work.

Ralph Lucas, W6RWL, presented the club last month with TWO generous donations: one from the Western States Endurance Run (WSER) and one from the Western States Trail Foundation who organizes the Tevis Cup. Both events are 100-mile endurance races: one on foot, the other on horseback. This year the WSER is on June 25 - 26, 2016, (the same weekend again as Field Day) and the Tevis Cup is later in the summer on July 23 - 24, 2016. They are always looking for radio operators to help at both of these events. They also need help on The Canyon 50k Run on May 7, 2016, and on the WSER Training Run on May 28 – 30, 2016. If you are interested, check-out their website at comm.wstrail.org and fill out the Volunteer Sign-Up form. You can reach Ralph via email at w6rwl@arrl.net. Thank you WSER and Tevis Cup for your support!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next General Meeting or hearing you on the radio.

Volunteers Needed

We are planning to support the MS Society's walk in Folsom on Sunday April 24th, 2016, and the Diabetes Tour de Cure bike ride on Saturday May 21st, 2016.

Volunteers will be needed for each event to provide radio support for both stationary and mobile stations.

This is an excellent opportunity for newer hams and less experienced hams to get on the air and get some exposure to helping these two worthwhile events.

We plan on having at least two hams at each station during the entire event. We supply the net control personnel, mobile radio operators, and rest stop radio operators, so there is a place for YOU to demonstrate and practice your skills.

Contact **George Simmons, KG6LSB**, for more information and to sign up soon.

QuartzFest 2016 – A first timer's perspective

By Bob Brodovsky, K6UDA

2016 should prove a year of firsts. We're starting the year with a new IRLP and Echolink. Well I had a first this year too. First year I've started not being employed, and first time attending QuartzFest in Quartzite, AZ. So just what is QuartzFest all about? First, it's going on about 19 years now where hams from all over the west converge on the small town of Quartzite, AZ, for a week of Ham Radio, RV shows, Swap Meets, off roading, and meeting new folks you may have been talking to on HF, D-Star, IRLP, or whatever.

My wife Karen & I made it a week long RV getaway. Not being licensed, she was a bit apprehensive about the whole thing, and I was a bit tentative about immersing myself in everything Ham Radio while parked in the middle of the desert leaving my bride to fend for herself alone. So, we leave home on Saturday and drive into Palm Springs before I got tired enough to call it quits for the night. We parked in the RV parking lot at a local Indian Casino. We went in and had a mediocre meal at the

(Continued on page 4)

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buffet. When we got up at 7am, I made a quick walk around the RV and jeep we were pulling but didn't notice the stereo was missing & shifter was moved to 1st gear. We pulled out and proceeded on towards Arizona totally oblivious to the fact that the jeep was on a fast track to destruct mode. At our next fuel stop, someone pointed out that there appeared to be parts trailing off the jeep. Upon inspection, I discovered the fuel pump detached, the driveline missing, and a huge tear in the floor. I also noticed the stereo was gone from its cage in the center console and there were parts on the floor. Feeling fairly dejected at this point I just about gave up and turned toward home.

Being about 150 miles from Quartzite, we decided to press on if only for a few days. We were both glad we made that decision. We had pre-arranged to camp with friends from the 7.155 group. It was a great experience. About a dozen of us circled up and shared the sunny skies, chilly campfire nights, and provided Karen and I rides into town for shopping and shows.

Mornings on 7.155 proved challenging. Solar inverters, generators, and RF signals from 1000 sources made noise levels untenable at times. Then there was the front end issue. Guys 40 yards away key up and my front end is pegged at 60+db sometimes with the attenuator in line. What could possibly go wrong? So our group started operating QRP on 5 watts. We had great QSOs amongst the group and later discovered a guy in Whitefish Montana was listening to us Q5.

There were many official QuartzFest activities from contest seminars to off-grid operation and group 4X4 trips into the desert with official frequencies. Having non ham spouses and families in mind, the QuartzFest crew organized all sorts of non ham activities ranging from BrainGame quiz contests to "Burning Ham Man", stargazing and jewelry making workshops.

So despite having my jeep get turned into a trailer and having no wheels in Arizona, both Karen and I really enjoyed QuartzFest and we made a lot of new friends. Karen, who is not licensed YET, said she would like to go again so in my book, Quartzite is a winner. I posted a Quartzite video on my YouTube channel just look up K6UDA.



K6UDA Radio - Elmer with attitude

By Bob Brodovsky, K6UDA

Ham Radio Headlines

K6UDA Radio - Quartzfest 2016 Video

by **K6UDA** 2016-01-24 03:09:08 0 comments

This time on K6UDA Radio, We're live from Quartzfest 2016. This place is a must do on your ham radio bucket list. We'll check in with Gordon West, the guys from group 7.155 and check out this "Burning Man" for old men. Go see all the videos at the K6UDA channel on Youtube. ... [More...](#)

In my recent retirement, I've discovered I now have time to do some video production. I'd been looking for a project to sink my teeth into and recently realized my subject matter was sitting right in front of me. So, with little fanfare and in a few hours, I shot and produced my first episode of K6UDA Radio.

Now I'm not a technical expert by any stretch of the imagination, so I decided to put it together with a touch of sarcasm, a heap of non-primetime humor and I hope some cool topics. So far, I've posted three episodes on my YouTube channel. My latest, the QuartzFest video was posted three days ago and has been picked up on the QRZ.com news page. It's already got over 1000 views. Let's face it, there's a ton of ham radio stuff posted on the internet and YouTube in particular. Most of it is poorly shot, produced, and unless you're absolutely in need of a tutorial pretty boring in presentation. That's not me. I watch a lot of YouTube videos. The main focus of K6UDA Radio is to be #1 entertaining. To be entertaining it has to either be funny, have drama, or be extreme in so aspect. I don't have any clue about how to make ham radio dramatic so I'm sticking to funny with a few extreme camera shots when I can squeeze them in.

Here's where you come in - I'm looking for show ideas and friends I can turn into YouTube sensations. Let me know if you can help or have any ideas.

My goals for this endeavor are simple, I'm trying to hone my video production skills, and promote one of my favorite hobbies in a fun and humorous way that will appeal to both hams and those considering the hobby. So move over Randy K7AGE, K6UDA Radio is taking over and I'm doing it with attitude.



New Year's Day SOTA/NPOTA Activation

By Jordan, KJ6NHF

New Year's Day marked the beginning of the National Parks On The Air event. NPOTA, is a yearlong event sponsored by the ARRL to help celebrate the National Park Service's 100th year anniversary.

While visiting with family in southern California during the holidays, I had made tentative plans to make a Summits On The Air Activation in Joshua Tree National Park on New Year's Day. As the summit was in the National Park, I decided to make a joint SOTA and NPOTA Activation

There was an active solar storm earlier in the week with the Planetary K Index reaching as high as 7, so I decided to wait and see what the solar conditions were going to be like the morning of my Activation. It is very frustrating to try to operate a low power, portable station when the propagation conditions are against you. That morning the propagation reports and forecasts were favorable so I left Orange County at 5 A.M. and arrived at the trail-head before 8 A.M.. Inspiration Peak is 5,580 feet high and overlooks Palm Springs. It is a relatively easy one mile hike with about 700 feet of elevation gain. I reached the peak and was on the air a little after 9A.M..

I was using my Elecraft KX3 with a new 45 watt backpacking amp for the first time. I ran the amp at 30 watts through a PAC-12, 1/4 wave, vertical ground mounted antenna. I operated on both 20 and 40 meters SSB for less than two hours and made a total of 138 contacts.

I didn't arrive home to Placerville until 9 P.M., but it was well worth the effort to be able to visit Joshua Tree once again. I was very pleased with the number of contacts I made and I have plans to make more joint SOTA and NPOTA activations in 2016. Since participation in NPOTA requires that all logs must be entered using Logbook of the World, I also hope to earn my Worked All States Award by the end of the year.



Upcoming General Meeting agenda:

Tech-Ten: W6EK repeater IRLP and Echo-Link operation

Program: On-line calculators by Bob Naylor, WE6C. Calculators for
 Demonstration: Ohms Law with Power, Voltage Divider, Parallel
 Resistor (up to 10), Voltage Drop Networks, Loading Coil Selection and
 Loading Coil Design.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2016

The SFARC Board meeting for January commenced at 1800 hours at the Sizzler restaurant back room in Auburn.

Roll Call: Newly-elected President Orion-AI6JB and all officers and Directors were present for the first meeting of the New Year, along with new Vice President AI-NI2U, Secretary Bruce-K6BAA, Director Birton-N6UG, newly elected Treasurer Sharron KK6RGV, returning Director Birton-N6UG and newly elected Directors Andrew-N6REW and Bob-K6UDA. Past President Tyghe-W6TJR, past Treasurer-Richard-WA6RWS and past Director Jim-WA8MPA were in attendance to assist with the leadership transfer. Marty W6TOC and John-NT6ET attended as guests.

REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

President's Report: Orion-AI6JB started by asking for old business to which there was none. Under new business, Orion called for a bylaw review as required for the New Year. A bylaw committee was formed with Tyghe-W6TJR and Andrew-N6REW as members.

VP Report: AI-NI2U welcomed everyone, reviewed the upcoming Tech-Ten presentation planning and disbursed a 2016 program agenda sheet to board members. AI advised each Tech-Ten presentation would be scheduled with a backup presentation. AI also asked the board for a projector to be used for the presentations. The request was tabled until the February Board meeting.

Secretary's Report: Bruce-K6BAA had no report

Treasurer's Report: Sharron-KK6RGV coordinating with Richard-WA6RWS, presented the club's 2016 budget to the board. Richard reported the clubs December beginning balance was \$ 9471.97 and the ending balance in December was \$ 8817.29 with \$ 1026.93 received and expenditures of \$ 1681.61. He explained the club expenditures utilizing the 2015 final report spreadsheet and proposed a budget of \$ 4625.00 for 2016. Birton-N6UG asked that the budget be amended for ATT expenditure and made a motion for approval, Andrew-N6REW seconded and the amended budget was approved. Richard-WA6RWS discussed the expenditures for the newsletter, repeaters, insurance, Auburn Trophy, swap meet, Secretary of State and field day.

Repeater: Richard-WA6RWS will continue with his repeater activities.

Directors: No reports.

Other Business: Birton-N6UG a made a motion to keep the Christmas party at the current Veteran's Hall location in Auburn, AI-NI2U seconded, and the motion was approved. Tyghe-W6TJR advised he would chair the White Elephant auction and it was noted that Scott-K6SVW and Laura-K6LVW will chair the club picnic.

Meeting adjourned at 1900 hours.

Submitted by *Bruce Anderson – K6BAA, SFARC Secretary*

Don't forget February 14th



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2016



The SFARC General meeting for January commenced at 1930 hours at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, President Orion-AI6JB presiding. All Officers and Directors were present. Orion led approximately 52 members and guests in a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. An introduction of Officers, members and guests followed.

REPORTS:

Past minutes: None as December was the club Christmas party.

President's Report: Orion briefly discussed the agenda and reviewed this evening's board meeting.

Vice President's Report: Al-NI2U won the Christmas raffle to head the election committee for 2016. .

Secretary's Report: Bruce-K6BAA requested input for the club newsletter; advised a welcome letter was available for new members and guests, and a reminder to the membership to sign the attendance sheet.

Treasurer's Report: Sharron-KK6RGV and former Treasurer Richard-WA6RWS reviewed the club 2016 budget to members. The December beginning balance was \$ 9471.97 and the ending balance in December was \$ 8817.29 with \$ 1026.93 received and expenditures of \$ 1681.61 Gary-KB7QWC made a motion for approval, Tyghe-W6TJR seconded and the budget was approved.

VE's Report: Al-NI2U, VE reported 1 candidate, resulting in 1 new tech.

Repeater Report: Richard-WA6RWS and Birton-N6UG reviewed the repeaters status and future upgrades.

Refreshments/Drawing: Jason-KK6RXT reviewed items planned for the drawing. Scott-K6SVW reported on refreshments for the break.

Activities: George-KG6LSB asked for volunteers for the MS Walk April 24th and the Tour the Cure May 21st.

Yahoo: Dennis-WU6X advised the membership on the Yahoo group status.

Ham Fest: Orion-AI6JB advised the Ham Fest will be on March 12, 2016 and he needs prize donations. Bob-K6UDA advised he has some donations to contribute.

Christmas Party/Club Picnic: Scott-K6SVW and Laura-K6LVW will chair the committees.

Satellite Report: Greg-KO6TH reviewed the ISS slow scan event to take place in January 2016.

White Elephant Sale: Tyghe-W6TJR advised members to start saving for the event.

Field Day: Mark-W8BIT and Tyghe-W6TJR are looking for field day volunteers.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS: Al-NI2U reviewed a list of Ten-Tech presentations and asked club members to volunteer as presenters. Dennis-WU6X presented a Heathkit station for sale to club members. The station was donated by the family of Roy Johnson (SK). The proceeds will be donated to the club. Swan equipment was also donated but is currently being tested prior to sale.

General Announcements: The Club Net meets every Thursday at 7:30pm; Board and General Meetings occur on the 2nd Friday, Board meeting is held at **Sizzler Restaurant** in Auburn, 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 the first and third Wednesday night at 7:30pm on the 2m repeater. See www.w6ek.org for more information.

Tech-10 & Presentation: Richard-WA6RWS gave an excellent presentation on antenna analyzers that was well received. John Hestenes-NT6ET, the new Placer County EC gave an ARES presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 2100.

Submitted by *Bruce Anderson – K6BAA, SFARC Secretary*

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

2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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 or 20x _____ 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

New---New---New---
Multi-year DISCOUNT Membership
****\$20 per year for 2 or more years (new or renewal)**

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