



Welcome to SFARC, Auburn, CA

Sierra Signals

P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

April 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
anderson51@wavecable.com

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

April 5th:
Field Day Meeting
(Denny's in Newcastle)

April 8th:
Club Meeting

April 24th:
MS Society's walk in Folsom

April 30th:
Club Breakfast

May 1st:
Enduro

May 21st:
Diabetes Tour de Cure

Inside this issue:

- **President's Message**
- **Hamfest photographs**
- **Field Day is coming**
- **Volunteers Needed**
- **Board and General Minutes**
- **Emergency HAM Radio Course**

*Field Day is coming...
Field Day is coming...
Sat June 25!*



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

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President's Message

By Orion Endres – AI6JB, President

Wow! March was an exciting month for our Club!! The BIG news was our successful Hamfest. While the sellers may not have come out in droves due to the weather, we still had plenty of buyers to go around and great deals were had by many.

Success can only possible with lots of support from you, the members. We had over twenty folks there bright and early to start setup at 4:30 am. Al, NI2U, and his merry men quickly had the pop-ups, barricades, and caution tape in place. Dennis, WU6X, and his Vendor Relations team, came poised to quickly take the seller's money. Robert, W6RBL, and Team Security helped the sellers to their spaces. George, KG6LSB, and his wife, Pat Simmons, and Richard's, WA6RWS, wife Kerry Kuepper got the coffee hot and served up donuts to the staff and guests with a smile.

Jim, WA8MPA, lead Team Club Table, through the daunting task of setting up the Club Table, organizing the endless treasures donated to the club and some of your gems for sale. Jason, N6JDX, beat the bushes, so to speak, and garnered almost 20 raffle prizes from Ham Radio Outlet. He and his team sold ALL 1,000 raffle tickets! Jeff, AK6OK, went above and beyond the call of duty by donating not one, not two, but THREE brand spanking new Yaesu FT-2900, 75 watt 2 meter radios. Thank you so much for your generous donation!!

Of course our two club hams, I'm not talking about amateur radio operators or poultry, I am referring to Tyghe, W6TJR, and Bob, K6UDA, gave the day a festive atmosphere with their entertaining announcements and editorials. Carl, WF6J, once again got the word out. He had our flyer out to 31 clubs, press releases to major newspapers and TV stations, and listed the event in QST for several months. People as far away as Oregon and Arizona contacted him about a visit. Nets up and down the Sacramento Valley were talking about it. I personally heard very good comments the following week on those nets.

The Hamfest caught Good Day Sacramento's attention who sent a camera crew to see what all the fuss was about. Of course Tyghe and Bob couldn't resist the chance to get in front of the camera. With all these good things happening, you are probably wondering how we did financially. The club took in \$1,500 profit for our hard work.... Yes!

Thank you everyone for your dedication to the club and labor of love. The success of Hamfest 2016 would not be possible without you!!

Hamfest 2016



See our website for more photographs of Hamfest <http://w6ek.org>



It's getting close to Field Day again. It seems like it's crept up on us quickly this year. At this point, it seems we're just beginning to plan for the event. While many of us have been doing Field Day with SFARC for many years and have "seen it all," remember we have new amateurs who have never experienced the fun and excitement of setup day, the great food, the fun of operating anywhere on the band regardless of license class, and our world famous breakfast of champions.

If you've never done it before, you owe it to yourself and the club to haul your butt up to Nyack and check it out. If you're an old timer, you owe it to the next generation of ham radio operators to show them the ways of the RF Jedi. Field Day is the 4th Saturday and Sunday of June. Plan on making it a campout if you can. We're planning some fun activities for you and your families. A sneak peek is the club sponsored dinner on Saturday night, just bring a side to share.

As we enter a solar low point for the next few years, band conditions will steadily decline and using the spectrum will become increasingly challenging. In these conditions, the most efficient way of getting the message through is going to be digital modes. We're considering changing things up a bit for this year. Come closer, I'll explain. What if we decided to place both CW/Data stations alongside SSB on each band? How can we do that you ask? If we change our classification to QRP on battery power, bring in the big gun antenna systems and concentrate on how to get your signal out as opposed to splattering each other with RF for 24 hours, we can build one big operating tent, setup stations alongside each other so we can all play together. Each SSB contact would be multiplied by 4 and CW/data by 6. We won't have to have big generators running all day and night; we'll learn how to maximize our signals and overcome poor conditions. These sound like great skills going into a solar low and even better skills once great propagation returns in a few years.

We are looking for members to fill some positions on the Field Day committee also, all of the big scary positions have been filled. Please come to the next meeting on 4-5-2016 at from 5:30-7 at the Newcastle Denny's. If you can make it for all or part of the meeting we look forward to seeing you there.

73's

Bob K6UDA & Tyghe W6TJR

(Need a key or computer)

CQCQCQ CW and Digital operators..... we need you..... BRAKE

Please show us how to copy and work CW and Digital in a contest situation..... BRAKE... Contact Tyghe W6TJR for details..... BRAKE.....

That's right do you want to try and work CW or Digital?? We want some experienced operators to show us how the magic of CW and Digital works.... Personally I am sure it is sorcery!! But I want to learn more, and I have always love magic. To me this is what field day is truly about, learning something new about Ham Radio, or dinner!

73's Tyghe W6TJR



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 2016

The club is rapidly acquiring a reputation for providing dependable communications support for charity events. We've been supporting the MS walks from at least 2002 which was my first one. We've now done four Cystic Fibrosis bike rides in the Newcastle area and now we are being asked to support our fourth Tour de Cure Diabetes bike ride in Rocklin. We are also asked to support the California Enduro Riders Association events which take place in the Eldorado National Forest near Georgetown. These are usually in the spring and in the fall and are an all day event in the woods. Everyone who has done them says they are great fun and a tremendous learning experience. The Club has supported this event since before 2002.

Consequently I am asking for volunteers for the following events:

Sunday April 24, 2016 --MS Walk in Folsom --starts about 0700 and is done by 1030

Sunday May 1, 2016-- Enduro near Georgetown from 0700 until about 1500

Saturday May 21, 2016-- Tour de Cure (Diabetes) -- Rocklin --starts 0630 and ends by 1700

Saturday October 8, 2016 —Cystic Fibrosis bike ride —Newcastle area—starts about 0700 and is over by 1300

The end times shown for each event are for the last station to be closed. As the events progress, we are able to release the stations as the last walker/riders pass by. In other words if you are manning the first rest stop then you will most likely be the first released. Also the report times are varied depending on the estimated time that the station would be manned. So this means that the total event time does not apply to all volunteers.

We provide radio support for the start/finish line, each rest stop, and the SAG wagons-the mobile vans that patrol the routes and assist riders in need. In the past we have found that it is best to have two people at each station-including the SAG wagons. The second person does not have to be a HAM, but it helps.

Each operator needs to supply the radio equipment for the station assigned. For the SAGs this means usually a dual band HT and a mag mount antenna.

This is a perfect opportunity to use your radio for more than checking into the Thursday night and Sunday night nets. I highly recommend that each new HAM volunteer for at least one event. You would be paired with an experienced person who will show you the "ropes" about volunteering. New hams do not need to carry a radio with them.

If you have a question about volunteering for specific events, please contact me by email, kg6lsb@arrl.net or phone. 530.888.0860, or see me at a club meeting.

George KG6LSB



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2016

The SFARC Board meeting for March commenced at 1800 hours at the Sizzler restaurant in Auburn.

Roll Call: All officers and Directors were present with the exception of Director Andrew-N6REW. Also present were guests Dennis-WU6X, Richard-WA6RWS and Tyghe-W6TJR.

REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

President's Report: Orion-AI6JB submitted the agenda and asked for officer, board and committee chair reports.

Vice President's Report: Al-NI2U had nothing to report.

Secretary's Report: Bruce-K6BAA advised Bi-Law additions were sent to Tyghe-W6TJR, Bi-Law chair.

Treasurer's Report: Sharron-KK6RGT reported net cash on hand at the beginning of February of \$9546.79; deposits of \$1301.50, expenditures of \$151.98 with an ending balance of \$10,696.31. Sharron advised the club roster is being updated.

Repeaters: Richard-WA6RWS advised the repeaters are operating properly.

Directors:

Birton-N6UG had nothing to report.

Bob-K6UDA advised Mark-W8BIT has vacated the Field Day Chair and is to be replaced by Tyghe-W6TJR. Bob will co-chair.

Newsletter: The editor will be looking to add new content, possibly adding propagation reports.

Memberships: Richard-WA6RWS suggested the club president should send a renewal email to members who haven't renewed.

VE: Al-NI2U asked that W6EK should be the official sponsor for the VE sessions. Birton made the motion, Bob seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Al also requested that VE session testing packages should be split between two VE officials in case one is unable to attend the session. Al advised he will not be at the April 16th session. Al also reported during the last session, 19 elements were given resulting in 10 new techs, 3 General and 2 extras.

Field Day: Bruce-K6BAA advised the insurance certificate for field day at Nyack is needed. Sharron-KK6RGT advised she is obtaining the certificate.

Christmas Party: December 10th at the Auburn VFW Hall.

Bi-Laws: Tyghe-W6TJR advised updates are in progress.

Picnic: August 20th at Applegate Park. 10 – 3 PM.

Old Business:

Bob-K6UDA asked the board to amend the Bi-Laws allowing the past club president to be appointed as a director for 1 year after leaving the presidency. The Bi-Law committee will review this addition.

Sharron-KK6RGT reported she has obtained the key to the club post office box.

New Business:

Sharron-KK6RGT advised the club nameplate prices have increased: \$ 10 clip on, \$ 15 magnetic. Price increases are immediate.

Bob-K6UDA suggested for the 2017 Hamfest, Loomis School, which has covered solar parking, could be a better

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venue considering inclement weather. This suggestion was tabled to the April 16th meeting.

AI-NI2U will look at having another Cal-Star air ambulance presentation for an upcoming club meeting. AI also asked that all pass words for club accounts be held by the Club Secretary.

John Hestenes-NT6ET advised the WPARC needs 3 instructors to assist teaching a one-day Ham Cram course. The instructors do not need special certificates to teach. A flyer/Info will be sent on the Yahoo Group and Newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 1849. Submitted by Bruce-K6BAA, Club Secretary

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2016



The SFARC General meeting for March commenced at 1930 hours at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, President Orion-AI6JB presiding. All Officers and Directors were present with the exception of Andrew-N6REW. Orion led approximately 34 members and guests in a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. An introduction of Officers, members and guests followed.

REPORTS:

President's Report: Orion briefly discussed the agenda and reviewed this evening's board meeting. Orion updated members on the need to renew or face getting dropped from the club roster at the end of March 2016.

Vice President's Report: AI-NI2U had nothing to report.

Secretary's Report: Bruce-K6BAA had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Sharron-KK6RGT reviewed the clubs February 2016 finances to members.

VE's Report: AI-NI2U reviewed his board meeting VE report.

Repeater Report: Richard-WA6RWS reviewed the repeaters status.

Refreshments/Drawing: Jason-KK6RXT reviewed items planned for the drawing. Jim-WA8MPA, filling in for Scott and Laura, reported on refreshments for the break.

Activities: George-KG6LSB asked for volunteers for the MS Walk April 24th, Tour the Cure May 21st and the Enduro May 1st.

Yahoo: Dennis-WU6X advised the membership on the Yahoo group status and was programing radios.

Christmas Party/Club Picnic: December 10th at the Auburn VFW. Picnic, August 20th at Applegate Park. 10 – 3 PM.

Satellite Report: Greg-KO6TH advised members the ISS Cube Sat was getting prepared for deployment after delays.

Field Day: Tyghe-W6TJR advised the first Field Day meeting will be held 1730 hours, March 22nd, at the Newcastle Denny's restaurant.

ARES: John Hestenes-NT6ET advised the WPARC needs 3 instructors to assist teaching a one-day Ham Cram course. The instructors do not need special certificates to teach. A flyer/Info will be sent on the Yahoo Group and Newsletter.

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OLD BUSINESS:

None

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: No presentations, Orion-AI6JB briefed the club membership on tomorrows Ham Fest activities.

The meeting adjourned at 2100. Submitted by Bruce-K6BAA, Club Secretary

HAM Cram: Emergency HAM Radio Course

SPEAKER: John D. Hestenes, Ph.D.

Emergency Coordinator, Placer County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Member, SRMC Emergency Preparedness Committee

Member, Western Placer Amateur Radio Club

DATE & LOCATION: Saturday June 4th, 2016

Sutter Roseville Medical Center, Conference Room 16

TIME: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Course Description: Disasters strike daily all over the globe. California is no exception. Communications are critical in an emergency, but what if they fail? HAM CRAM is a no code AMATEUR RADIO TECHNICIAN LICENSE cram course. This course will review the FCC Technician license exam questions and help keep you talking when disaster hits. The FCC exam will be provided the day of the course between 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm. To take the FCC exam students must bring with them an identification such as a government issued photo ID, a drivers license, passport, military ID, etc.

Prerequisites/Study Material: Instructions will be provided and sent to you via e-mail upon registration. Please provide a **valid e-mail address upon registration** so the material can be sent to you.

Registration/Cancellation: No walk-ins allowed. You must be pre-registered for the course no later than May 10. Space is VERY limited, so contact the SRMC Education Department at 916-781-1278 or e-mail Soraya Shadwick at shadwism@sutterhealth.org. Cancellations should be received at least 72-hours prior to the course if possible. Lunch is available at the cafeteria next to the class room.

Course Fees: There is no fee for the course itself. However you must bring a \$15.00 check payable to "ARRL VEC" for the test fee if you are taking the FCC test after the class. No cash or credit cards.

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)**

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