



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

July 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, KC6O

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

4th of July

**July 8th:
Club Meeting**

**July 30th:
Club Breakfast**

**August 20th:
Club Picnic
Applegate Park**



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- **Savoring Each Contact**
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- **Board Minutes**
- **SFARC License Class Distribution**



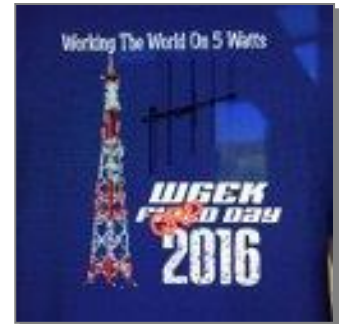
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President's Message

By Orion Endres – AI6JB, President



Field Day Recap

Field Day was once again a raging success! Over the course of three days, Richard, WA6RWS, logged 39 members plus 32 visitors. Of the visitors, 15 were hams and they convinced one to join our club. Thank you to all those hardworking members who helped out and who lended us their equipment. I want to especially thank Tyghe, W6TJR, and Bob, K6UDA, for leading the charge as the Field Day committee co-chairs. These are two guys who keep giving their time and leadership to the club. Thank you gentlemen!!

Help Out, You'll Feel Good

As with all volunteer organizations, our club's strength comes from you, its members. I encourage you to step forward as often as possible to help out. You will feel great that you did. You will also get a chance to work with some of the finest people around.

Your club has a need for some of its members to step forward. Jason, N6JDX, who has run our drawings at the General Meetings for a year now needs to hand it off. We are looking for a club member to take-over. If you are interested, please let me know.

Al, Ni2U, and our Vice President is our nomination committee chair. He is looking for folks interested in serving on the board. Please let him know if you would like to throw your hat in the ring. Don't worry, club campaigns are nothing like the presidential race....

If you are ready to take on more responsibility, let me know and I am certain we can find you want.

Club Picnic

Mark your calendars for August 20th! That is our next big event, Club Picnic, at Applegate Park. It's going to be time of more fun and camaraderie!

73

Orion Endres
President

Savoring Each Contact

Submitted by Bob Brodovsky, K6UDA

It's in the history books now, but let me talk about Field Day 2016 for a quick second. As we enter a solar low cycle the HF bands don't come alive quite like I remember when I first got licensed 5 years ago. Last year, the crowd dwindled from previous years of field day and I think the current solar conditions along with the Sacramento heat kept many from coming up to play. If you were one of those, too bad for you. The weather was 15 -20 degrees cooler on "Mt. Nyack," Burger King made a special free dish called the Field Day mushroom bacon burger just for us, and each and every contact we made was a celebration of achievement.



This year by no coincidence was almost sponsored by Elecraft. Each station was equipped with an Elecraft KX3 owned by several club members. Elecraft even sent us one of the brand new KX2 radios to try out for Field Day. I'll be reviewing this cute little transceiver on K6UDA Radio in the next week or so.

What was so special about using the KX line of radios? Well for starters, instead of sitting in front of a strange radio when switching stations, everyone was treated to a fairly simple learning curve on the first radio. The KX3 was and still is rated as one of the best receivers money can buy at any price. It's low drain was invaluable when running QRP on battery power, I measured .20 amps on receive when coupled with a QRPworks SideKar or PX3 Pan adaptor and just 1.1 amps of draw while transmitting on CW with the extra gear. Probably the most impressive part of the operation was the built in decoder on The KX3. Non CW speaking guys like me were able to make CW, RTTY & PSK-31 contacts without the use of a computer. When you see the scores, you'll understand why this was such a big deal.



Many of our contacts questioned our A/B designator as well as our sanity for limiting ourselves to 5 Watts and solar/battery power when conditions are generally as crappy as they are now. It seemed counter intuitive to run QRP for Field Day. Unlike previous Field Days in the Sierras, This one started of slow. Real slow. After 4 hours of running hard, a quick look at the board showed a dismal 23 contacts between 5 stations. Each time someone made a contact, any contact it was cause for celebration.

My first contact was on 15 meters CW to Hawaii. I'm still talking about it. As the sun went down the bands suddenly came alive. Overnight we upped our QSO count to well over 400. With

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the QRP A/B multiplier of X5 that is 2000 QSO points alone without the extras we always add. We've pretty much bested our score from last year and I'll bet we're in the top 3-5 nationally for a 5AB configuration.

What does it mean in the future? We as a club are learning to adapt and overcome. Solar lows come and go; we tested our metal on this one, and won. We did it with one beam and tower and lots of wire in the air. If we can best our score on 5 watts in these conditions just think what we can do when conditions are good again. More importantly when we as individual operators and as a club face a real emergency where there isn't a wall to plug into and we need coms outside the area, we'll have the tools in our toolboxes to make it happen. So for all of you who did show up, THANK YOU from both Tyghe and I. You were part of a real DXpedition in my eyes. We worked as teammates to successfully accomplish this mission despite the conditions.

Be sure to tune into K6UDA Radio on youtube.com for the complete story on SFARC's QRP Field Day. (I know, it's shameless self-promotion but it had to be done.) BTW, I was lying about the free Burger King. <https://youtu.be/3iZ6tKkW-lg>

73, Bob_K6UDA





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2016

ATTENDEES:

Andrew, N6REW; Bob, K6UDA; Al, N12U; Sharron, KK6RGV; Birton, N6UG; Jim, WA8MPA
Tyghe, W6TJR; Orion, AI6JB

OPEN MEETING:

Orion called the meeting to order at 18:10 PST.
A proposed agenda was presented, and accepted.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Al, Vice President – Nothing to report.
Sharron, Treasurer – Presented a treasurers report for Board review.
Birton, Director - Nothing to report.
Bob, Director – Field Day T-Shirts are in. He will pass them out at the General Meeting. They really look cool!!
Andrew, Director – Nothing to Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Repeater, Birton. 2m and 440 are connected to Echolink & IRLP. Some folks are using Echolink. 220 is on a stand-alone transmitter. Jim & Bob noted an issue with the 2m last week. Birton will look into it. We agreed to setup DStar this year. It looks like we will be making some progress in July. Put in the UPS and replaced the repeater batteries with large marine batteries. AC UPS in installed and warming up. Western States and Tevis are coming up. Bob requested additional Echolink tutorial at the General Meeting, perhaps July? Andrew noted an extended delay to receiving the transmit button on Echolink. With any internet radio system, there will be a delay, as much as 2-3 seconds.

Newsletter. Bob, K6UDA, noted it would be nice if the President provided an article for next month.

Membership. Richard, WA6RWS, is making calls to all the Members who didn't re-register with the club.

VE Exam, Al, N12U. Gave out 12 elements. 4 new Technicians, 4 new Generals, and no new Extras. Bob, K6UDA, proposes we market the new hams for membership. Al will capture contact information via a sign-up sheet. President will invite them personally with a letter.

Nomination Committee, Al, N12U. Orion and Sharron have agreed to continue in their current positions. We need two new directors. Birton is termed out.

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS

Nothing new.

OLD BUSINESS

Field Day, Bob, K6UDA. We need a BBQ and need someone to be charge of it. Bob will make announcement at meeting. Birton is concerned many long time members are not planning to come. The Board discussed possible issues. QRP is a concern. It's not going to be easy, but it is an opportunity to learn and expand our skills. A personal invitation from the President would be nice. The Pres. will send an email to each member.

By-Laws Review, Tyghe, W6TJR, & Andrew, KC6O. Committee met. Mostly rewording for readability.

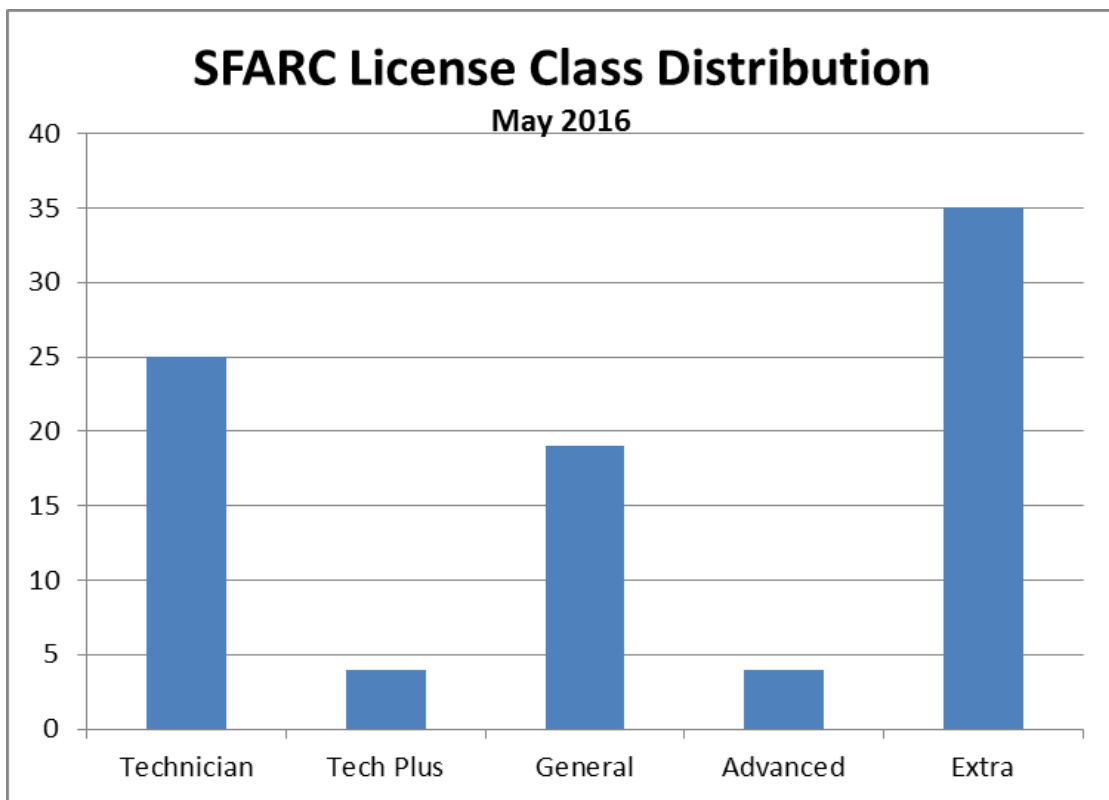
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Committed will have a draft for review. Orion suggested we have the final vote in November at the annual elections.

W6EK QSL Card. Bob, K6UDA, will create a draft card for board review next month. The cards will be used to send to memberships who are missing at General Meetings to let them know we miss them. It was suggested by Andrew we could use them to market at the VE Sessions. Bob suggested we could use them to invite other clubs. There are many possible uses. We agreed to focus on missing members and VE Sessions.

Meeting adjourned at 18:51 PM.

Meeting minute prepared by Orion Endres.



Distribution chart created by Andrew Silvester, KC6O

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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: (New / Renewal)

Dues / Donations:

Membership: yearly*	\$22.00or 20x__	Name Badge:	\$ 10.00/15.00	Yes (special name)_____
Associate: yearly*	\$ 7.00	Repeater Donation:	\$ _____	
Auto Patch Donation:	\$ _____	Newsletter Booster:	\$ _____	
Misc. Donation:	\$ _____	Christmas Donation:	\$ _____	ARRL member? (Yes/No/Life) _____

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: _____