



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

August 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

August 12th:
Club Meeting

August 20th:
Club Picnic
Applegate Park

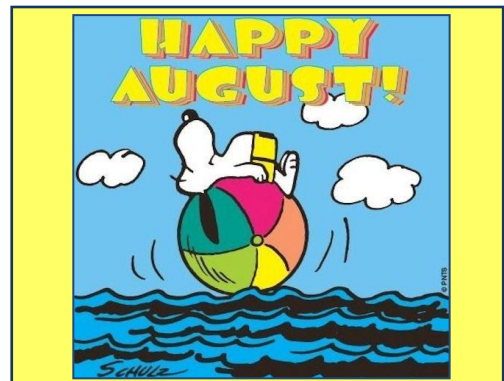
August 27th:
Club Breakfast

October 8th:
Cystic Fibrosis bike ride

October 8th:
Enduro

Inside this issue:

- **President's Message**
- **SFARC's Annual Summer Picnic**
- **Volunteers Needed**
- **5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports**
- **Board & General Minutes**



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

Sierra Signals is published monthly by the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club for the information of its members and friends, and is distributed via E-mail and USPS mail. Opinions expressed are those of the authors. Newsletter exchanges with other clubs via E-mail are welcomed. Contact the editor to be placed on the E-mailing list. The contents of Sierra Signals are copyrighted by the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club, and all rights are reserved. That said, we will gladly permit republications for non-profit uses of all text material. Photos require the consent of all persons pictured in them, and some of our material is copyrighted by others and published by permission. You'll need to contact them for permission.



President's Message

By Orion Endres – AI6JB, President

Why did you Join?

So why did you join the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club? I am sure everyone has one or two good reasons why. After talking to you, our members, I think the common thread is we want to share our hobby with other people. What better way than to get involved in Club activities!

Club Picnic

We have just such an occasion coming up on August 20th. Our annual club picnic!! This year the picnic is at the Applegate Park in Applegate. It is hosted by Scott and Laura Van Winkle. It starts at 10:30 am and goes until 2:00 PM or whenever ... The club is providing the meat and condiments. Please bring your favorite appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Please let Scott and Laura know you are coming so they can be sure to have enough food. You can call or text them at 916-201-2828 or 916-200-8246.

Radiosport

Did you happen to catch the QST article by Scott, N3FJP, in the August issue? He invigorated his club by bringing Radiosport, i.e. Contesting, to the club. They didn't go hog wild, they only do a few contests a year. As a matter of fact, ARRL has 9 contests each year where members can submit a club entry. Only ARRL affiliated clubs can submit an entry... But, guess what, We Are An ARRL Affiliated Club!! So we can submit a club entry.

Scott noticed that when they got together, they had fun working as a team and it built camaraderie throughout the club. Does that sound like fun to you? Let me know and we will set a time to get together and pick a few contests to work. You do not have to be experienced, although it would be nice if we had experienced contesters on board to show us newbies the ropes.

Help out the Club

Another way to get involved is to help out the club. We have a couple of immediate needs you could help with. Club elections are just around the corner. Please let AI, NI2U, know which position you would like to run for on the board.

We also need help with the drawing at our monthly meetings. If you are interested, please let me know.

Getting involved with our club is the best way to maximize your membership dues. You'll be doing what you love while working with some of the best people on the planet. Looking forward to seeing at your next get together.

SFARC's Annual Summer Picnic

You're invited to SFARC's Annual Summer Picnic. This year will be a social event: meaning, enjoy each other's company, food and hopefully some great weather.

Please bring a dish (appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert) to share with your fellow SFARC members and family can enjoy. The club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs - including condiments.

Can't wait to see you there!



Saturday
August 20, 2016

10:30am - 2:00pm

Where: [Applegate Park](#): 290 Applegate School Road; Applegate, CA
RSVP: Call or text Scott Van Winkle (K6SVW) at 916-201-2828,
Laura Van Winkle (K6LVW) at 916-200-8246
or
visit the [SFARC website](#)

For those that have not been to Applegate Park, the facility has a covered picnic area with picnic tables and benches. A portable restroom is also on the premises. Please visit our website for more details, driving directions and amenities available at the park.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 2016

There are two remaining events for this year that we need volunteers to work:

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

Saturday October 8, 2016-- Enduro near Georgetown from 0700 until about 1500

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

5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports

Submitted by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm big on Twitter. It connects me to a lot of interesting amateur radio operators, and I find a lot of food for thought there. Yesterday, I saw the following Tweet:

Charlie – MOPZT @MOPZT

Blog updated: RST and Speed Matters <http://www.m0pzt.com/blog/rst-and-speed-matters/> #hamradio

Being a CW geek, of course I was interested. Charlie's point is that if you get a bad report, you probably should send more slowly. I certainly have no argument with that. What I do take a little bit of an issue with is that Charlie says, "A Readability 4 report should really make it known that information needs to be brief, but repeated – Certainly no ANT/RIG/WX waffle!"

According to most sources, Readability 4 means, "Readable with practically no difficulty." When I receive an R4 report, I might slow down a little, but it doesn't mean to me that I have to cut the contact short or repeat information over and over. I replied on Twitter that if the operator at the receiving station is having so much trouble copying, then the report should probably be 319 or even 219. Of course, RST reports are open to interpretation. With that in mind, I thought I'd explain a little more fully how I decide what Readability report to give:

R5: Perfectly readable. To me, this means that copying a signal is no work at all, and that it sounds like it's coming out of a code practice oscillator. I can put my feet up on the desk or putter around the shack while I'm ragchewing with the other operator.

R4: Readable with practically no difficulty. "Practically no difficulty" is the key phrase here. There may be some QRN or QSB on this signal, and I have to pay some attention while copying. An R4 is still solid copy, though, and ragchewing is definitely possible.

R3: Readable with considerable difficulty. A signal that rates an R3 needs my full attention. I have to work at copying the signal, and even then, might miss characters here and there. Even though I don't copy every single character, I'm able to fill in the gaps. An R3 signal might not be good enough for a ragchew, and repeating information is probably a good idea.

R2: Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable. A signal that rates an R2 is usually so weak that it's below the noise level or drops below the noise level occasionally. At this level, the contact will definitely be brief and any important information, such as the callsign needs to be repeated.

R1: Unreadable. Generally, I would never give out this report, as I would never attempt making contact if a signal was truly unreadable.

Although my explanations above reflect the fact that I'm primarily a CW operator, I think they also apply to phone or even digital contacts. For example, an R5 for a phone contact would mean that the signal sounds like it could be coming from just down the street or coming through the local repeater.

What do you think? How do you decide what Readability report to give?

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. If you want an honest Readability report, look for him most evenings on 40m CW.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2016

The SFARC Board meeting for July commenced at 1808 hours at the Sizzler restaurant in Auburn.

Roll Call: All officers and Directors were present with the exception of Directors Andrew-KC6O and Bob K6UDA. Also present were guests Carl-N6CKV, Dennis-WU6X, Jef-N5JEF, Jim-N6MED and Mark-W8BIT.

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 advised he has a volunteer for director for the upcoming elections. Birton-N6UG will put meeting agenda for future general meetings on the website and a CW ops presentation will be at a future meeting.

Secretary's Report: Bruce-K6BAA submitted Field Day expenditure receipts to Sharron-KK6RGV and advised a thank you letter will be sent to Stewart Wells for the use of their Nyack picnic area.

Treasurer's Report: Sharron-KK6RGV reported net cash on hand at the beginning of June of \$12,781.12; with an ending balance of \$12,170.79. Sharron also made a lifetime membership nomination and Birton seconded. Presentation will be made at the Christmas party.

Repeaters: Birton-N6UG reported that Richard-WA6RWS is adding a second receiver at the repeater site. The board discussed updating the bi-laws to reflect repeater expenditure procedures and approvals.

Directors:

Birton-N6UG had nothing to report.

Newsletter: The editor will be looking to add new content, possibly adding cooking recipe's citing the lack of technical articles submitted for publication.

Memberships: Orion-AI6JB will look into the establishment a membership chair.

VE: Al-NI2U reported during the last session, 13 elements were given resulting in 9 new techs, 3 General and 1 extra.

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

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

Bi-Laws: Orion-AI6JB distributed copies of the updated bi-laws to the board. He asked members to review for accuracy. Also distributed, were copies of the Personal Invitation letter from the club president to new/upgraded hams to join SFARC.

Meeting adjourned at 1911. Submitted by Bruce-K6BAA, Club Secretary

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2016



The SFARC General meeting for July 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 Directors Andrew-KC6O and Bob K6UDA. . Orion led approximately 36 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. Last month's minutes as published in the newsletter, were approved.

Vice President's Report: Al-NI2U reviewed the meeting presentation and Tech-Ten. Al also advised he is missing his black three ring binder from Field Day.

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 reviewed the clubs July 2016 finances to members.

Repeater Report: Birton-N6UG reviewed the repeaters status.

VE's Report: Al-NI2U reported during the last session, 13 elements were given resulting in 9 new techs, 3 General and 1 extra.

Nominations: Al-NI2U looking for members to volunteer for next year's club positions.

Field Day: Dennis-WU6X presented the club's Field Day results.

Activities: George-KG6LSB asked for volunteers for the Newcastle Cystic Fibrosis bike ride October 8th and the Georgetown Enduro also October 8th. Ralph Lucas-W6RWL advised he needs volunteers for the Tevis event.

Satellite Report: Greg-KO6TH briefed members of upcoming ISS activities.

Refreshments/Drawing: Jason-N6JDX reviewed items planned for the drawing. Scott-K6SVW reported on refreshments for the break. A volunteer is still needed to replace Jason for the drawings.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Birton-N6UG advised members of the upcoming Maritime Radio Historical Societies K6KPH special event on July 12th.

Tech-Ten: Greg-KO6TH gave an electrifying presentation on electric vehicles.

Presentation: Jim-WA8MPA gave an interesting presentation on vacuum tubes.

General Announcements: The Club Net meets every Thursday at 7:30pm; Board and General Meetings

(Continued from page 7)

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.

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



WebDonuts.com



 **MISSION CONTROL**

DENNIS H. GREGORY
Instructor/Technician

Computer Repairs and Support
Reasonable rates, free consultation
Placer County Business License #92311

Phone: 530-305-0180
Auburn, CA

Email: WU6X@hotmail.com
www.yourmissioncontrol.com

Batteries + Bulbs.

Ryan Tollefson
District Manager

8025 Greenback Lane • Citrus Heights, CA 95610
P 916-722-8800 • C 916-775-3030 • F 916-722-2489
rtollefson@batteriesplus.net • www.BatteriesPlus.com

Independently owned and operated Franchise.

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: (New / Renewal)

Dues / Donations:

Membership: yearly* \$22.00 or 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: _____