



Welcome to SFARC, Auburn, CA

Sierra Signals



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

December 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

December 10th:
Christmas Party

December 25th:
Christmas

December 31st:
Club Breakfast

Inside this issue:

- **President's Message**
- **Field Day 2016 Stats**
- **Is There A Market For A \$400 "Prepper" Radio?**
- **Board Minutes**
- **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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President's Message

By Orion Endres – AI6JB, President

Party Time!

We have made it to the end of yet another year so it is time to PARTY! All members and their spouses are cordially invited to the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club Annual Christmas Party, Saturday, December 10, starting at 6:00 PM in the Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall (100 East St., Auburn, CA). This is a potluck. The Club is bringing the turkey, ham, beverages, paper ware, decorations, and condiments. Please go to our website, www.w6ek.org, scroll down to Christmas Party and click [sign-up](#) to bring your favorite dish, dessert or hors d'oeuvre.

We will have several Drawings, so bring cash!

First we have the **Lady's Drawing**. All ladies in attendance will receive one ticket. No cash necessary, just your smiling face. ;-)

Second, will be the **Club Drawing**, you'll want to make a cash donation for this one! The more tickets you buy, the better your chances are to WIN the Grand Prize, \$300 Gift Certificate to Ham Radio Outlet!! There will be four (4) runner-up prizes of \$50 each!

New this year is a **Food Drive Drawing**. It is important that our Club offer assistance to those in our community that might need a little help to make the holiday season special. To that end, for each non-perishable food item you bring to the party, you will get one drawing ticket. The more you bring, the better your chances are. All items collected will be delivered to the [Auburn Interfaith Food Closet](#). Please check out their [website](#) if you would like more information. So be sure to make a trip to the grocery store or raid your pantry before you come!! You'll be putting a smile on someone's face.

Oops!

I was remiss in mentioning our annual White Elephant Sale in last month's Newsletter. It was another resounding success! Bob, K6UDA, and Tyghe, W6TGR, once again entertained and cajoled the money out of our wallets to the tune of over \$700! The money gets allocated to the annual Christmas Party, see above. Thank you to everyone for bringing in their ~~junk~~ prized possessions for the good of all! We had a great time and I look forward to next year.

Welcome Aboard!

November is election time at Sierra Foothills ARC. But first, I want to say a great big thank you to Al Martin, NI2U, and Birton, N6UG, for their service on the board this year. With their mentorship and never ending contributions to the club you were instrumental in keeping the wheels on the track as I fumbled my way through the first year. Thank you Gentlemen!!

We have two new faces to the Board next year, Mike Perry, KK6GLP, and Greg, KO6TH. Mike will take over Al's position as Vice President and Greg takes on Birton's as Board member.

Sharron, KK6RGV, will continue as our treasurer, Bruce, K6BAA, as secretary and Bob, K6UDA, and Andrew, KC6O, as board members. Thank you everyone for your service to the Club and I am excited for next year's possibilities.

Help Wanted Update

Sharron, KK6RGV, has jumped forward to take on the Refreshment position next year from Laura and Scott Van Winkle. Thank you Laura and Scott for the goodies at our meetings! Also, thank you for hosting the Club Picnic and Christmas Party, see above!!

Aaron, KG6TVT, one of our newest members and his sons Donald and Vernon, jumped right in to take over the Club Drawing from Jason, N6JDX. Jason had them all trained up by the end of the November meeting. Jason was instrumental in making our Hamfest drawing so successful by soliciting donations for all the fabulous prizes. Jason, thank you for all your help!

We still need a Membership Chair. If you are interested, please let me know.

I wish everyone safe and joyous Holidays!!

73

Orion Endres, AI6JB

President

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club



Hi SFARC,

FD2016 results are finally posted and we did better than ever before, it appears. 5w power, battery power, and good antennas got us the points and standings we were hoping for ... a few more "Q's" and we might have taken the our Section. Here are the numbers compared to last year (2015 / 2016):

Sacramento Valley Section: 3 / 2 out of 32

Pacific Division: 12 / 10 out of 147

Overall: 302 / 222 out of 2,696

Power Multiplier 5AB: 11 / 22 out of 284

Notes:

2015 we ran 5A and were 11 out of 66

2014 we ran 4A and were 49 out of 150

2013 we ran 4A and were 80 out of 156

It's interesting to play the points game ... If we had run only 4 transmitters in Class AB this year we would have come out in 2nd place with our 5,020 points rather than 22nd. I think next year, if we really want to have a shot at first place, we might want to do the analysis and see where a similar effort (same points), number of transmitters, power class (multiplier) would give us the most success for the effort.

Thanks again to all who participated in making this past Field Day fun and challenging.

73,

Dennis - WU6X

Is There A Market For A \$400 “Prepper” Radio?

Submitted by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of days ago, a reader wrote:

"I would like to know if it would be feasible to build a radio with the following features:

- * SSB operation (only SSB is required, CW would be an additional benefit)*
- * 20 – 50W of power*
- * Portable-friendly (lightweight, capable of operating at lower voltages from small portable batteries)*
- * Low receiver current drain*
- * Coverage of 40m and 80m bands. Very limited coverage is acceptable. Even channelized coverage of a few select frequencies would be acceptable.*
- * S-meter*

"It strikes me that there is a large market for ham radio products for “preppers,” and there has been a lot of interest in the Baofeng line of radios from that market. I think there would be a LOT of interest in a radio that could go far beyond line-of-sight and contact friends or family hundreds of miles away. Preppers would have little interest in contacts more than a state or two away, and no interest at all in novel operating modes. I wonder if a radio that trims away excess features (all-mode operation, wide frequency coverage, high power output, sophisticated audio filtering) could be produced for a lot less cost than currently available HF rigs. If so, and it was paired with a decent NVIS dipole and some General-class study materials and sold as a package deal, it could be a huge hit – Something you could tuck in a bug-out-bag, set up in the field, and use to make contacts in a reasonably local area, or set up in your backyard at home and use minimal power to operate.

"Is there a reason why I don't see radios like this on the market, some kind of technological limitation that would make this sort of thing impractical? If something like this was built, what kind of cost and performance would you expect? I'm certainly not expecting any kind of detailed analysis, but even just a speculation about if such a project could be feasible would be appreciated."

I replied:

"I think one of the reasons you don't see radios with the feature set you describe is that more full-featured radios are already pretty inexpensive. The Yaesu FT-450D, for example, costs less than \$800 and offers 100W output. The FT-817ND, which is designed for portable operation, costs less than \$700. Is that too much for preppers?

"While it might seem like you could sell a radio with fewer features for less, I think that you hit the law of diminishing returns. At some point, removing features, doesn't reduce the cost all that much. For example, removing the CW capabilities from a transceiver capable of SSB operation really doesn't save that much because in a way CW operation is really just a subset of SSB operation. You'll save the cost of a key jack, but how much is that? Maybe a buck or two. Having said that, it could be that the big amateur radio manufacturers are overlooking an opportunity here."

We swapped a couple more e-mails about this. He noted, “Most preppers would probably rather buy a

high-end AR-15 or several months' worth of storage food for \$800 than a radio." I suggested, "If there was a catastrophic event, and you really needed to communicate, wouldn't it seem silly to have not spent the extra \$400 on a really decent radio?"

What do you think? Is my analysis a little too simplistic perhaps? Are amateur radio manufacturers ignoring a potential market?

=====

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.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

November 11, 2016

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

Roll Call: All officers and Directors were present. Guests present were Dennis-WU6X, Mike-KK6GLP and Gary-KB7QWC.

REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

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

Vice President's Report: AI-NI2U discussed having a special award meeting to organize write ups for the Christmas party. Sharron—KK6RGV will assist.

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

Treasurer's Report: Sharron-KK6RGV reported on the club's finances. Sharron further advised she will be contacting former treasurer, Richard-WA6RWS for the availability of an auditor to review the club finances. Orion advised he is looking into obtaining the deposit from Placer County for the use of the park for the club picnic.

Repeaters: Birton-N6UG advised he is researching ATT services for internet and voice repeater operations.

Directors:

Birton-N6UG made a motion to research and purchase a new presentation projector with a minimum of 2000 lumens and zoom capability. AI-NI2U seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Orion suggested also having speakers/audio output in conjunction with the projector.

Bob-K6UDA advised he is still researching an antenna trailer for the club.

Andrew-KC6O reported on a new state law, AB1785 which effects the operation of amateur radio equipment in a moving vehicle.

Memberships: Currently at 106.

VE: Al-NI2U advised there were 6 candidates including two 14 year olds, one of whom upgraded to general.

Club Contest: Dennis-WU6X advised the board of the ARRL November SSB Sweepstakes on the 19th.

Christmas Party: December 10th at the Auburn VFW Hall. Al-NI2U reviewed current status of the preparations.

Hamfest: Orion-AI6JB advised the first planning meeting will be on November 29th at the Newcastle Denny's.

New Business

Orion led a discussion regarding moving the raffle into the clubs intermission.

The meeting adjourned at 1841. Submitted by Bruce-K6BAA, Club Secretary.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 11, 2016



The SFARC General meeting for November commenced at 1930 hours at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, President Orion-AI6JB presiding. All Officers and Directors were present. Orion led approximately 38 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. A motion to approve the club bi-laws was announced, Jim-KI6AZH brought to the boards attention of a typo, Bob-K6UDA made a motion to approve the bi-laws with the typo fixed, Gary-KB7QWC seconded and the bi-laws were unanimously approved. Orion also asked for a motion to approve the purchase of a new presentation projector not to exceed \$ 800.00. Scott-K6SVW made the motion, Don-WB6LPJ seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice President's Report: Al-NI2U immediately began the election process for the club officers and administered the election which resulted in the following officers:

President: Orion-AI6JB (Incumbent)

Vice President: Mike-KK6GLP

Secretary: Bruce-K6BAA (Incumbent)

Treasurer: Sharron-KK6RGV (Incumbent)

Director: Greg-KO6TH

Director: Andrew-KC6O (Hold over position)

Director: Bob-K6UDA (Hold over position)

Al-NI2U advised club members that Jim-WA8MPA volunteered to be the club librarian.

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 November 2016 finances to members.

Repeater Report: Richard-WA6RWS reviewed the repeaters status.

VE's Report: Al-NI2U reported there were 6 candidates including two 14 year olds, one of whom upgraded to general.

Activities: The Georgetown Enduro on October 29th was cancelled due to weather.

Satellite Report: Greg-KO6TH briefed members on the Dutch satellite EO-79 also known as "QB50p1".

Refreshments/Drawing: Jason-N6JDX introduced the new drawing chair: Aaron-KG6TVT and reviewed items planned for the drawing. Scott-K6SVW reported on refreshments for the break. Sharron-KK6RGV volunteered to be the new refreshment chair.

Christmas Party: December 10th at the Auburn VFW. Scott-K6SVW and Laura-K6LVW updated members on the preparations and had signups.

Hamfest: Orion-AI6JB advised the planning meetings to start November 29th at the Newcastle Denny's.

Yahoo: Dennis-WU6X advised the membership on the Yahoo group status which is at 130 subscribers.

Club Contest: Dennis-WU6X advised members of the ARRL November SSB Sweepstakes on November 19th.

Tech-Ten: Richard-WA6RWS gave an informative presentation on coax connectors.

Presentation: Birton-N6UG gave an interesting presentation on ECHO Link/IRLP, hybrid analog/digital systems.

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.

The meeting adjourned at 2130. Submitted by Bruce-K6BAA, Club Secretary




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2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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: _____