



Welcome to SFARC, Auburn, CA

Sierra Signals



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

February 2017

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

At The Key of SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Orion Endres, AI6JB
ojendres@outlook.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Perry, KK6GLP
mrpry2@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Bruce Anderson, K6BAA
anderson51@wavecable.com

TREASURER

Sharron Griffith, KK6RGV
sharron@usamedia.tv

DIRECTORS

Greg Dolkas, KO6TH
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

February 2nd:
Groundhog Day

February 10th:
Club Meeting

February 14th:
Valentine's Day

February 20th:
President's Day

February 25th:
Club Breakfast

Inside this issue:

- **President's Message**
- **ARRL 2016 Sweepstakes Score**
- **Need a Winter Project?**
- **Board & General Meeting Minutes**
- **Flyers for Hamfest, WSER, & TEVIS**

IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT

Hamfest is coming!!!

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Saturday March 18th, 2017

(See page 8 for details)

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

Hello All!

January flew by, so as I pen this article I took a moment to reflect on what has been and what is yet to come.

January's meeting was attended by a good many of you, but if you missed it, Greg, KO6TH, pulled back the curtain on what exactly goes on inside that PC box under your desk. If you want to catch up, his presentation was uploaded to the Yahoo Groups site. Dennis, WU6X, in his Tech Ten, showed us QRZ.com features you may not know about.

January was a month with a few notable contests: North America QSO Party, ARRL VHF Contest, and the Winter Field Day. I am finding radiosport as a great way to fine tune your station, broaden your skills, and get satisfaction from watching your scores and QSOs go up. If you haven't dipped your toe in yet, give it a try. There are many club members who would be more than happy to help you to get started.

Hamfest is Coming! Hamfest is Coming!

Hamfest 2017 is only **45 DAYS** away. Carl, WF6J, is promoting the event to clubs, websites, television stations, and local newspapers from here to the bay area and beyond. Yes, look in the next QST magazine, and you'll see we are in there!!

The drawing is shaping up to be more spectacular than last year. So far, we have two Yaesu FT-3200DR 2 meter digital/analog radios. Many other great prizes are in the works.

We are expanding the Hamfest to include a few new features. First, Richard, WA6RWS, will set up a Test Table, so buyers can test a radio they are thinking about purchasing before actually plunking down the cash.

Second, we are going to hold "Elmer Tours." If you are a new ham and wondered what all this stuff is, how you use it, or is it worth the money, we will provide you an Elmer to take you around and show you the ropes. If you would like to host Elmer Tours, let me know via email. This is a great opportunity for you to participate and see all the good stuff.

Thirdly, we are going to sell "Premium" spaces to the sellers. A few spaces will come with a pop-up already setup on a parking stall. This is a great way for sellers to show off their wares and not have to worry about the elements. Premium spaces will be sold for \$20 each. Sorry, no member discounts. If

you have a pop-up you can loan the club, please send me an email and let me know. If need be, we will have someone come pick it up.

And lastly, do you have a kit or project you created, a homebrew antenna, a perfect mobile rig, or a special ham related thing you are proud to show off, we are setting up a demonstration area. Let me know via email if you are interested.

SF ARC NEEDS YOU!

How can you help make this year's Hamfest another rousing success? Here is a where you can help out:

Club Promotion. We still need members to attend other clubs in the month of February to get up and pitch our Hamfest. If you are a member in another club, or willing to attend a club meeting, please give Carl, WF6J, a call and let him know.

Net Promotion. We need members to do QSTs on nets. If you regularly attend a net, please let Carl, WF6J, know you will be promoting our club. If you can help, get with as will. We are interested any net within a 250 mile radius of Loomis.

Help On The Day of Hamfest. All teams have openings. Please email me if you can help out with Setup/Tear-down, Parking, Security, Vendor Relations, Concessions, or Drawing. Many hands make light work.

Post Flyers. Are you a member of a community club or know of a place to post our Hamfest Flyer? Take a copy or copies and hand them out or post them. The more often people see us, the greater the excitement, and the more likely they will show up.

Looking farther into the future, Ralph, W6RWL, needs radio operators for the Western States, June 24-25, TEVIS Cup, August 5-6, The Canyon 50K Run, April 29, and training sessions, May 27-29 & July 7-9. If you are available, please be sure email him at W6RWL@arrl.net.

Thank you everyone for all you do for the Club, for amateur radio, and for the community!

The ARRL posted our Club's participation score for the 2016 ARRL Sweepstakes as follows:

CALL -- SCORE -- MODE

AI6JB -- 6,192 (Phone)

KK6GLP -- 4 (CW)

N6CKV -- 220 (Phone)

W6DT -- 15,618 (Phone)

WU6X -- 22,490 (CW)

TOTAL CLUB SCORE = 44,524 (logs included: 5)

ARRL has not posted the overall "standings" yet, so not sure where we fall in Club participation, but my thanks to those who participated for a little Sweepstakes fun!

Dennis - WU6X

Need a Winter Project?

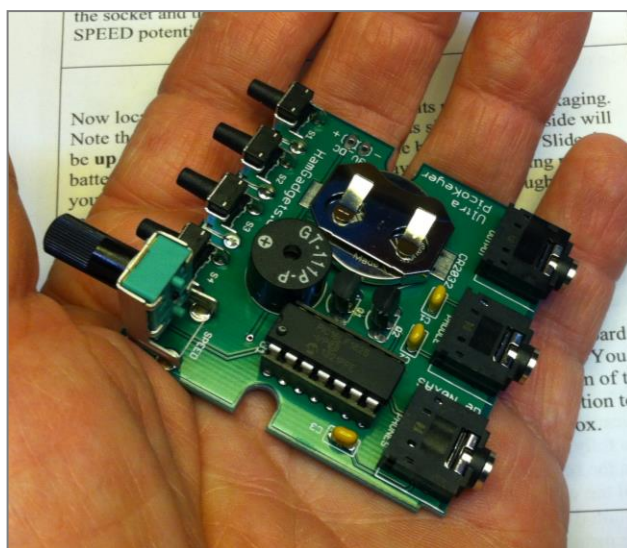
Submitted by Dennis, WU6X

Are you looking for a winter project that produces a very cool tool for your ham shack, or for portable CW operations? You might want to consider the *Ultra Pico Keyer* (UPK) by Ham Gadgets. The UPK is a 4-memory programmable, battery-powered, Morse Code, auto-keyer with speed control. Some of you may have noticed mine in use at Field Day last year, connected to my KX3? Programming is easy and includes "special codes" for repeating characters, pausing for input (like a sequential QSO number), and other automatic functions.



The UPK output provides a short to ground (60v max) which works nicely with any radio not having a built-in keyer, or with newer radios when connected to the key connector (set menu set to straight key, if applicable). A built-in speaker provides sound for programming the unit with a CW paddle, or listening to the programmed memory while in operation. memories are accessed with four individual memory buttons.

This is truly a fun project to build. Ham Gadgets has sold thousands as the kit makes an excellent project for new hams or old hams with too much winter time on their hands. Build time is about a 1/2 hour, with excellent pictorial instructions. The unit is powered by a CR232 Lithium coin cell. The UPK is priced at just under \$30 and includes the case.



(<http://www.hamgadgets.com/ULTRA-PICOKEYER>)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2017

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

Roll Call: President Orion-AI6JB along with new Vice President Mike-KK6GLP, Secretary Bruce-K6BAA, Treasurer Sharron KK6RGV, returning Director Bob-K6UDA and newly elected Director Greg-KO6TH. Director Andrew-KC6O was absent. Guests were AI-NI2U, Scott-K6SVW, Laura-K6LVW, Richard-WA6RWS, Jim-WA8MPA, Toni-KK6JPJ and Mark-W8BIT.

REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

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

Vice President's Report: Mike-KK6GLP had nothing to report.

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 have a printed check register. Richard-WA6RWS volunteered to conduct an audit of the club's finances. Sharron is looking into the rate changes with Cal Star now known as Air Med.

Directors:

Bob-K6UDA had nothing to report.

Greg-KO6TH had nothing to report.

Repeaters: Richard-WA6RWS updated the board on the repeaters status.

Memberships: Currently at 106.

Nominations: Orion advised there is a need to establish a committee and chairman.

VE: AI-NI2U advised there were 12 candidates, 20 elements resulting in 11 receiving new licenses or upgrades. Aaron-KG6TVT received his Extra. Congratulations Aaron!

Club Contest: Dennis-WU6X advised the board of upcoming contests.

Field Day: Orion advised A Field Day chair is needed.

New Business

Budget: Orion asked for a motion to approve the 2017 club budget. Greg-KO6TH made the motion, Sharron seconded, the budget passed unanimously.

Hamfest: Orion-AI6JB reviewed the budget and advised expenditures increased for prizes which included two Yaesu Fusion transceivers. He asked for a motion to approve the Hamfest budget. Bob-K6UDA made the motion, Sharron-KK6RGV seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Bob advised the need to explore indoor vender space and suggested club membership to donate prizes and money for the event.

Facebook: Mark-W8BIT will be working with Donna-W6CQX to update the Facebook page.

Jim-WA8MPA advised he received a projector for club presentations.

The meeting adjourned at 1850. Submitted by Bruce-K6BAA, Club Secretary.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2017



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 with the exception of Director Andrew-KC6O. Orion led approximately 46 members and guests in a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. An introduction of Officers, members and guests followed. Orion introduced Bert Strong-W6PSH, 99 years old to the membership. Additionally, Orion recognized Richard-WA6RWS for receiving the clubs life-time membership which was presented at the club Christmas party.

REPORTS:

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

Vice President's Report: Mike-KK6GLP asked members for ideas for club meetings.

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 January 2017 finances to members and advised she is taking dues. Sharron advised she is in possession of a woman's ring found at the club Christmas party.

Repeater Report: Richard-WA6RWS reviewed the repeaters status.

VE's Report: Al-NI2U advised there were 12 candidates, 20 elements resulting in 11 receiving new licenses or upgrades. Aaron-KG6TVT received his Extra. Congratulations Aaron!

Activities: George-KG6LSB reviewed upcoming events. .

Satellite Report: Greg-KO6TH briefed members on current satellite activity.

Refreshments/Drawing Aaron-KG6TVT reviewed items planned for the drawing. Sharron-KK6RGV reported on refreshments for the break.

Club Picnic: Chair needed. Event will be held again at Applegate Park in August. Date TBD.

Christmas Party: Chair needed to volunteer.

Hamfest: Orion-AI6JB advised the membership of the preparations for the rain or shine March 18th event and invited members to attend the next planning meeting at Denny's.

Field Day: Chair needed, Mark-W8BIT will assist and advise the chair who volunteers.

Nominations: Chair needed to volunteer.

Yahoo: Dennis-WU6X advised the membership on the Yahoo group status which is at over 100 subscribers.

Club Contest: Dennis-WU6X advised members of the North American QSO Party.

Club librarian: Jim-WA8MPA reviewed the club's library and check out procedures.

Tech-Ten: Dennis-WU6X gave an informative presentation on QRZ.com and its web site features.

Presentation: Greg-KO6TH gave an interesting presentation on the historic progression of computers and demonstrated his own antique computer.

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

A bit of trivia...

*The first official **Groundhog Day** celebration took place on February 2, 1887, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. It was the brainchild of local newspaper editor Clymer Freas, who sold a group of businessmen and groundhog hunters—known collectively as the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club—on the idea. The men trekked to a site called Gobbler's Knob, where the inaugural groundhog became the bearer of bad news when he saw his shadow.*

If the groundhog sees his shadow, we should expect six more weeks of winter.

But if it's a cloudy day, the arrival of spring will be early.





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Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club presents:

Hamfest 2017

Saturday, March 18, 2017

Historic Loomis Train Depot

First swap of the Year!



Drawings, Free Parking, Great Seller Spots, Food & Drink available. Last 2 years were fantastic, 2017 should be even better!

Come on out and have some fun, talk with buddies and enjoy the swap more Info at: w6ek.org



California (Loomis) — Mar 18 D F H R T V
7:30 – 11 AM. *Spr:* Sierra Foothills ARC. Historic Loomis Train Depot Plaza, 3640 Taylor Rd. *TI:* 145.43, 223.86 (both 162.2 Hz). *Adm:* Free. www.w6ek.org.



Directions:

Located Northeast of Sacramento or Southeast of Auburn, off Interstate 80.

Loomis Exit off I80 - Horseshoe Bar Road
Go NNW to the Taylor Road stoplight.

Follow Signs to Buyer's parking.

Seller's go straight at the stoplight, then turn into the Seller's parking area.

Talk in on W6EK/r 145.430 pl 162.2Hz

CQ Hamfest - CQ Hamfest - CQ Hamfest - CQ Hamfest - CQ Hamfest - CQ Hamfest

WSER/TEVIS

Western States Endurance Run and Tevis Cup (Western States Trail Ride).

Both are 100 mile events from Lake Tahoe to Auburn, CA. (Endurance Capital of the World). WSER is also known as "The Other Field Day" since 9 out of 10 years it falls on the same weekend as Field Day. We do have more fun!!!!

WSER: June 24-25, 2017 / TEVIS: August 5-6, 2017

We're always looking for Radio Op's to help. If interested? Please checkout our Web Site at:

comm.wstrail.org

If you're still interested, fill out the Volunteer Signup Form and submit it. Any web site issues please call, email or use the radio freq. below.

Thank you,

Also we need help with:

The Canyon 50K run – April 29, 2017

WSER Training Run – May 27-29, 2017

TEVIS Education Ride – July 7-9, 2017

Ralph Lucas, W6RWL

P.O. Box 1083

Foresthill, CA 95631-1083

408-640-0963 (c); 530-367-3026 (h); w6rwl@arrl.net

W6YDD - 146.625, -, PL (1)151.4 / (2)123.0 / (3)100.0

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

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P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

2017 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: _____