



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

May 2017

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At The Key of SFARC:

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VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Perry, KK6GLP
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SECRETARY

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TREASURER

Sharron Griffith, KK6RGV
sharron@usamedia.tv

DIRECTORS

Greg Dolkas, KO6TH
Bob Brodovsky, K6UDA
Andrew Silvester, KC6O

FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

Al Martin, NI2U

REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH
Sunshine: Richard, WA6RWS

YAHOO! GROUP

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

WEB/ARRL PIO:

Carl A Schultz, WF6J

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Al Martin, NI2U

Calendar of Events

May 7th:
Enduro

May 12th:
Club Meeting

May 20th:
Tour de Cure

May 27th:
Club Breakfast

May 29th:
Memorial Day

June 24th & 25th:
Field Day

Inside this issue:

- *President's Message*
- *Tour de Cure event details*
- *Why are there so many Techs?*
- *Board & General Meeting 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

Field Day

"The largest on-air Amateur Radio event in the World!" May QST

You do not want to miss out on all the FUN!! AI, NI2U, and company are working hard on planning a fabulous event this year! There will be a BBQ along with a whole host of other ideas on the table. Think prepping, build project, and static displays.

This is a great opportunity to work new bands and modes. If you are a Technician class Ham, you too can work HF. Yes, that's right! You can operate the lower frequencies during this event. How about SSB VHF? Carl, WF6J, showed us all the opportunities out there on the upper bands at last month's meeting. There is talk of having a VHF station with a beam. Satellite anyone? Want to see CW in action? Or, want to see what it is like to do digital? Field Day is where you can try it all out.

Field Day is on June 24th & 25th this year. We have a perfect location at Nyack. Only about an hour away and right off the freeway. Perfect for an afternoon outing.

Help Wanted

"Many hands make light work" Proverb

We are in the need of help in the Club. We have several positions available now: Refreshments Chair, Club Picnic Chair, and Christmas Party Chair.

Refreshments at our monthly meetings are a wonderful delight. We need someone to bring the coffee, water, sodas, munchies, and anything else you think folks might enjoy. You will be reimbursed for all expenses and you would serve a vital role to funding the Lady's prizes at our annual Christmas Party.

The Club Picnic is in August this year at the Applegate Park. Club Picnic Chair is a One-shot Wonder position where you would organize all the food and activities for this afternoon even.

Christmas Party Chair is another One-shot Wonder opportunity. We need someone to organize the food, decorations, and any other activities. The Veteran's Hall is already reserved for Saturday, December 9th.

Please, please seriously think about volunteering! I promise you, you will enjoy the experience and you can feel good about doing your part for our club. If interested, please let me know by either email, ai6jb@arrl.com, or by phone @ 916.534.8251.

Radiosport

It pays to Show Up!

As you are aware, I find contesting, i.e. Radiosport, a really fun activity of our hobby. Last weekend, I participated in the ARRL SSB Rookie Roundup. The bands were horrible! I had 5 QSOs over 5 hours of spinning the dial which totaled 28 point! Yes, that's a Q rate of 1 per hour!! But, I still submitted my score. Guess what? I am the #1 ranked Rookie in the 6 call area, which is all of California and Hawaii! But then again, I was the only entry... As Mark, W8BIT, put it so eloquently, a "... perfectly executed winning strategy:

1. Get on the air.
2. Make contacts.
3. Report results."

Hope to hear you on the air!

Tour de Cure

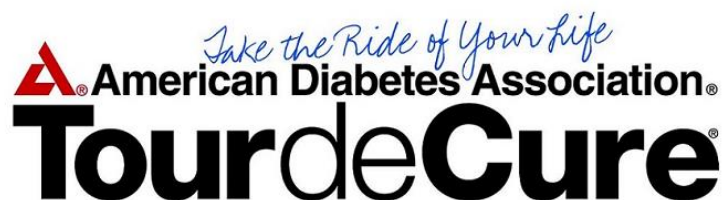
(Sponsored by the American Diabetes Association)

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, May 20, 2017
- **Location:** Johnson-Springview Park in Rocklin, CA
- **Address:** 5480 Fifth Street, Rocklin, CA 95677

Contact George, KG6LSB

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Why Are There So Many Techs?

Submitted by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, one of my readers asked, "Why do most people have a Technician license and not a General or Extra? Is it simply not interesting enough to get more privileges?"

This is a very interesting question, one that I've written about before. I think there are several issues at play here. In no particular order:

- *It's pretty easy to get a Tech license, so a lot of people get them just for the challenge, but really never intend to use the license.*
- *Some people get a Tech license, but then find out that amateur radio isn't what they thought it was going to be.*
- *Some people get a Tech license, then can't find an Elmer to help them. They lose interest and give up on ham radio.*
- *Some people get a Tech license, buy an HT, and think that's all there is to amateur radio. They quickly lose interest in amateur radio, because talking on the repeaters just isn't all that interesting.*
- *Some people get licenses to participate in local emergency communications or CERT organizations. There's no need for them to get anything more than a Tech license.*
- *Since it's so easy to get a Tech license, even those that aren't technically inclined get them. Getting a General Class license requires a fair amount of study, and because they don't see the benefits of putting in that kind of work, they just don't bother.*

I posted this question to my blog and got several interesting replies. Perhaps the most cogent was by Kenneth, W6KWF. He wrote: "The only thing General/Extra gets you is HF, which is becoming an increasingly small fraction of the possibilities of the amateur hobby. Amateurs could easily spend their whole lives moving from FM repeaters to microwave to VHF packet to EME to CERT/event support, etc, etc, without having any interest to explore what few facets of the hobby need HF privileges."

I think this is a great point. When incentive licensing was put into place in the late 1960s, HF was where the action was. Nowadays, more of the "cool stuff" is happening on VHF, UHF and microwaves. Getting additional HF privileges is not really a big deal anymore for many hams.

Yet another new license class?

Right on the heels of this discussion, the ARRL posted a news item, "ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License" (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-opinions-concerning-possible-new-entry-level-license>). According to this report, the ARRL Board of Directors set up an an Entry Level License Committee in September 2016.

The committee is gathering member input via an online member survey (<http://www.arrl.org/license-1>) and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC. They

note, "The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF. The survey will be online until April 7, 2017.

According to the survey page, the committee is trying to address several issues, including:

- The declining population of new hams under the age of 30.
- A decline in the number of new licensees who actually get on the air.
- Amateur Radio's lack of appeal for those under the age of 30, compared to other technical hobbies.
- The increasing challenge of engaging and retaining Technician licensees.
- A reluctance in much of the amateur community to embrace newer technologies of interest to the younger segment of the population.

Personally, I don't think that coming up with a new entry-level license class with privileges that are even more limited than the Technician Class is a bad idea, but whether or not it's successful will depend completely on the implementation. Unless the new class of license is accompanied by some kind of program that will help these new licensees really become engaged with amateur radio, then we're just creating another class of inactive licensees. I don't know exactly what this program would consist of, but without it, this effort is doomed to failure.

And, who's going to develop and run this program? The only organization that has the horsepower to make this work is the ARRL. They are going to have to step up big time. Most clubs don't have the people or resources to do it properly. If you have any thoughts on this, I urge you to contact your ARRL division director (<http://www.arrl.org/divisions>).

When he's not pondering questions about the amateur radio licensing structure, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2017

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

Roll Call: All officers and Directors were present with the exception of Andrew-KC6O. Guests included AI-NI2U, and Richard-WA6RWS.

REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

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

VP Report: Mike-KK6GLP had nothing to report.

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

Treasurer's Report: Sharron-KK6RGV presented the budget to board members and advised she is obtaining the COI for the field Nyack site. She also advised the membership online application should be updated and will work with the web master Carl-WF6J on this issue.

Directors:

Greg-KO6TH had nothing to report.

Bob-K6UDA is looking to possibly have another club contest in the future.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

Repeater: Richard-WA6RWS updated the board on the repeaters status. He is currently addressing some issues with the 2 meter /440 repeaters.

Membership: 115. Roster getting updated.

VE: Al-NI2U reported there were 10 candidates resulting in 4 Technicians, 1 General and 1 Extra.

Refreshments: Sharron-KK6RGV reminded everyone needs to contribute. Additionally, if a club member would volunteer to take over refreshments, it would free her to handle the Christmas chair.

Field Day: Al-NI2U, Chairman; discussed prizes and announced the field day shirt will be the ARRL 2017 FD shirt. He will attempt to get a group rate price. Al also advised the winner of the club picnic QIF contest should receive a \$ 25 gift certificate. Sharron made the motion for the prize, Bob seconded. Passed unanimously.

Ham Fest: Orion-AI6JB reviewed the financial report. Revenue was down to less stall and drawing tickets sold. Bob-K6UDA suggested for next year's Hamfest to presell stalls and tickets, contact vendors in advance and increase advertising.

Vacant Committees: Orion-AI6JB advised volunteers are needed for the club picnic and Christmas party.

Financial Audit: Richard-WA6RWS briefed the board on the results of his audit and presented a written report. He recommended a separate account for the repeaters. Sharron advised she will open another account.

CAL Star: Orion-AI6JB updated the board; Cal Star/Air Med will give a short presentation at the June Club meeting.

PA System: Mike-KK6GLP updated the board on the PA system purchase for club activities. Greg suggested one wired microphone and two wireless. Orion advised stand should also be included.

Meeting adjourned at 1857. Submitted by *Bruce Anderson, SFARC Secretary*

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2017



The SFARC General meeting for April 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-KC6O. Orion led approximately 40 members and guests in a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. An introduction of Officers, members and guests followed. Ed Morell-W6OSC, former SFARC President was in attendance.

REPORTS:

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

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

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 left the meeting early to attend to an urgent matter.

Repeater Report: Richard-WA6RWS reviewed the repeaters status.

VE's Report: Al-NI2U advised there were 10 candidates resulting in 4 Technicians, 1 Generals and 1 Extra.

Activities: George-KG6LSB reviewed upcoming events and asked for members to sign up.

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

Library: Jim-WA8MPA briefed members on the library and invited members to contribute materials.

Web: Carl-WF6J has assumed the duties of the club web master. He advised members to check the club site for updates on field day and video links on club activities.

Refreshments/Drawing: Aaron-KG6TVT reviewed items planned for the drawing and asked members for suggestions for prizes. Sharron-KK6RGV previously had asked for a volunteer to take over refreshments so she could take the Christmas party chair.

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

Christmas Party: Chair needed to volunteer.

Financial Audit: Orion reviewed the audit to the membership.

Cal Star/Air Med: Orion-AI6JB updated the membership; Cal Star/Air Med will give a short presentation at the June Club meeting.

Field Day: Al-NI2U, Chairman; needs volunteers to assist with this year's field day.

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

Facebook: Mark-W8BIT updated members on the club Facebook page and U-Tube link.

Tech-Ten: Al-NI2U reviewed upcoming field day activities.

Presentation: Carl-WF6J gave an informative and interesting talk on "2 Meters, Beyond Repeaters and FM".

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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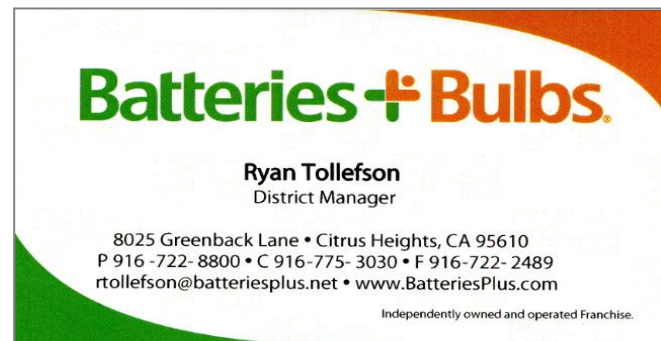
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P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

2017 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
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