



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

June 2017

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

At The Key of SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Orion Endres, AI6JB
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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

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

WEBMASTER:

Herb-KM6JBI

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Al Martin, NI2U



Calendar of Events

June 9th:
Club Meeting

June 24th:
Club Breakfast

June 24th & 25th:
Field Day

WSER/TEVIS
June 24th-25th /August 5th-6th

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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 Is This Month! *"The largest on-air Amateur Radio event in the World!" May QST*

Plans are shaping up nicely thanks to **AI, NI2U**, and company! Field Day is on June 24th & 25th. Our perfect location at Nyack is only about an hour away, right off I-80. Make it a perfect afternoon outing and join us for the BBQ hosted by BBQ Master Jim, KQ6VP.

This is a great opportunity to work new bands and digital. 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. Field Day is where you can try it all out. The Placer County Search & Rescue Communications Team will have their communications truck on display Saturday. You will not want to miss it! Be sure to attend this month's General Meeting to get all the final details.

Club Picnic Is ON!

A great big **THANK YOU** goes out to **Jeremiah, W6DLO**, for stepping forward to Chair this Year's Club Picnic! August is the month, so don't schedule anything for the weekends yet. We'll get a date and location soon.

Another great big **THANK YOU** goes out to **George, KG6LSB**, for taking over the refreshments at our monthly general meetings. George is now pulling double duty each month by picking up and returning the Rose Room key and handling the refreshments. If you can come early, please drop in and help him out.

New Webmaster!

Herb, KM6JBI, is taking over the website reins from **Carl, WF6J**. Thank you Carl for jumping in to help out and THANK YOU Herb for filling such a vital role. Please help Herb out by providing him content. You got any photos to share? Interesting links or posts?

W6EK is on Facebook

Mark, W8BIT, has our Facebook page up and running now. You can reach it via a link from our website home page. Look for the Facebook icon at the bottom right. Or, point your web browser to www.facebook.com and search for "W6EK Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club (SFARC)." There is quite a bit of action going the page, don't miss out!

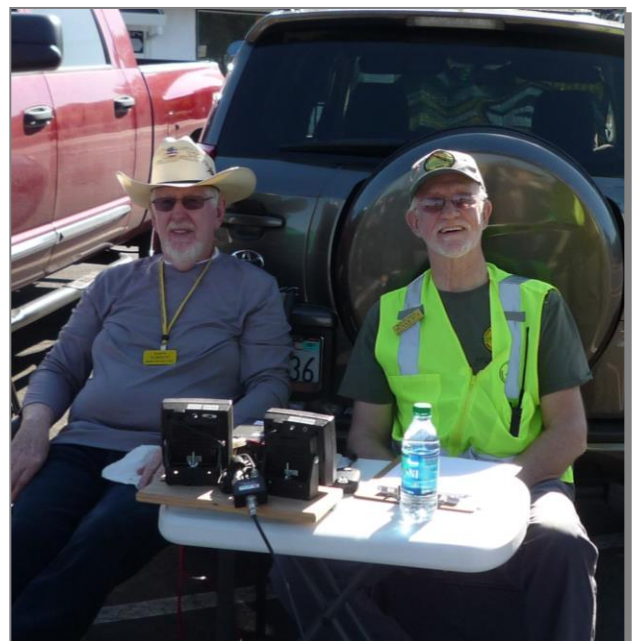
SFARC
is on





The Enduro took place in Georgetown on Saturday May 6th, 2017. **Birton-N6UG**, and **Bruce-K6BAA** (above right) worked this event and set up their station at the intersection checkpoint. As you can see, their station was in a primitive field location alongside poison oak and biting insects. The motorcyclists passed them by at high speed and at times with their front wheels off the ground. Other members that worked this event were **Mike-KK6GLP**, **Jason-N6JDX**, **Richard-WA6RWS**, **Ed-W6OSC**, and **Zac-KF6ATH**.

The Tour de Cure took place in Rocklin on Saturday May 20th, 2017. Net control (below left) is **Greg-KO6TH** & **George-KG6LSB**, and manning the trailside checkpoint (below right) is **Gene-KG6NYH** & **Richard-WA6RWS**. Despite a lower attendance this year, the event went well without incident, and everyone that participated had a good time.



Joe-KN6FH's Mast and Antenna Story

Submitted by Mike Perry, KK6GLP

Joe Ramirez, KN6FH, returned home to an awful sight in early January 2017. Next to his backyard radio shack was a Hy-Gain TH5/MK2 five-element antenna atop a 60 foot tower. He normally lowered the tower upon hearing of a wind advisory, but he was in Southern California when the 45 mph gusts hit Roseville. Now the tower was bent. It would have to come down.

Joe has been a ham since 1958. His first call sign was YN1GR, the license issued by Nicaragua while he was in Managua with the U.S. Air Force. His Air Photographic Charting Service unit was part of a team surveying possible routes for a proposed Nicaragua canal. His first radio was a Heathkit DX-40. While in Managua, he heard the cries of his firstborn son from a Passaic, New Jersey hospital over a ham radio band. Settling down in Roseville, he received his Novice license (KC6LWZ) in 1990. He upgraded to Technician and General in 1991, and reached Advanced (KM6QA) in 1992. He changed his call to KN6FH in 1993.

The bend prevented Joe from vertically lowering the tower, so he had to tilt it to the ground. The weight above the bend was too much for the weakened metal. The tower snapped in two: the upper part landing on a chain link fence and the antenna resting in a neighbor's backyard.



Now commenced a four month project. Joe did most of this work himself, getting occasional help.

Joe first removed the antenna. It was beyond repair, so he would have to buy a new one. He removed the damaged sections of tower. It would never again reach 60 feet, but he would use what he could. He got his welder and other tools, and started work.

Adding to his tower and antenna problem, Joe's primary HF radio and his amplifier conked out. He purchased a replacement radio, a used Kenwood TS-950S. Jim Jupin WA8MPA inspected the Ameritron AL-811H amplifier and provided advice, and Joe sent it to the manufacturer for repairs.



Joe had a secondary HF radio and two dipole antennas, 40m and 17m, so he could still get on the air.

The new Mosely Jr. Model M three-element finally arrived, and Joe mounted it atop the tower, which could go up only 25 feet.

Joe was on the air with his repaired tower and new antenna on May 11, making a 20 meter voice contact with W7CZ in Mesa, Arizona. Four months of hard work and perseverance had paid off.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES May 12, 2017

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

Roll Call: All officers and Directors were present. Guests included Al-NI2U, Richard-WA6RWS, Mark-W8BIT and Toni-KK6JPJ.

REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

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

VP Report: Mike-KK6GLP discussed purchasing a Wi-Fi router for club meetings, Greg-KO6TH advised he has a "Hot Spot" available and no router is needed. Mike also gave thanks to Carl-WF6J for stepping up and handling a last minute presentation vacancy.

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 is working on a separate repeater account. Sharron also advised Air Med/Cal Star was initially charging \$ 65 for coverage, but is now charging the correct \$ 55 for club members. Sharron also purchased the \$ 25 gift certificate for the 2016 picnic contest winner.

Directors:

Andrew-KC6O is working on nominations advising he has one director candidate. He also advised of the status of AB1222 for the removal of wireless communication devices from the current cell/text device law.

Greg-KO6TH had nothing to report.

Bob-K6UDA had nothing to report.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

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

Membership: 115. Some members have not renewed and will be contacted.

Facebook: Mark-W8BIT currently building up the page, advised any club member can approve a new member of the page.

VE: Al-NI2U reported there were 7 candidates resulting in 4 Technicians, 1 General, 1 Extra and one "grandfathered" Technician+ applicant upgrading to General.

Refreshments: George-KG6LSB will assume the duties of refreshments.

Field Day: Al-NI2U, Chairman; presented to the board the FD budget to include the purchase of band filters. Bob-K6UDA made the motion to approve the budget to include \$ 150 increase for the filters, Mike-KK6GLP seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Bob brought up the need of a club property custodian to track and store club equipment. Orion advised the board will have a future discussion on a property custodian. Mike suggested a property book

Vacant Committees: Orion-AI6JB advised volunteers are needed for the club picnic and Christmas party. If there is no picnic chairman volunteer, the event will be canceled.

PA System: Mike-KK6GLP updated the board on the PA system purchase for club activities. He recommended the purchase of a Power Works PA 50 with stands at \$ 250.

Meeting adjourned at 1855. Submitted by *Bruce Anderson, SFARC Secretary*

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**May 12, 2017**

The SFARC General meeting for May commenced at 1930 hours at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, President Orion-AI6JB presiding. All Officers and Directors were present. Orion led approximately 43 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.

Vice President's Report: Mike-KK6GLP advised the July meeting will have a presentation on antenna

building and August will be a hands on antenna building session. Additionally, \$ 250 has been approved by the board to purchase a 3 channel PA system.

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 reported the club budget is available for members to view.

Director: Andrew-KC6O asked for volunteers for club elected positions.

Repeater Report: Richard-WA6RWS reviewed the repeaters status.

Sunshine: Richard advised Paul-KB6NYB has not been well lately.

VE's Report: Al-NI2U reported there were 7 candidates resulting in 4 Technicians, 1 General, 1 Extra and one "grandfathered" Technician+ applicant upgrading to General.

Activities: George-KG6LSB reviewed upcoming events and asked for members to sign up. He advised the MS Walk and Enduro both were on Saturday May 6th and were successful operations.

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 asked for a volunteer to take over the web page, Herb-KM6JBI stepped up and volunteered.

Refreshments/Drawing: George-KG6LSB will be the new refreshment chair. Aaron-KG6TVT reviewed items planned for the drawing and asked members for suggestions for prizes. Aaron also briefed members on his work with a Boy Scout Troop, introducing them to HF radio operations and encouraging some to study for the Technician's test.

Club Picnic: Jeremiah-W6DLO volunteered as chairman. The event will be held again at Applegate Park in August. Date TBD.

Christmas Party: Chair needed to volunteer.

Contests: Orion advised the VHF contest is in June and club members can use the SFARC as the club station.

Field Day: Al-NI2U, Chairman; \$ 1700 FD budget has been Board approved to include 8 band pass filters, balauns and twinlead. Jim-WA8MPA made the motion to the general membership to approve the FD budget from \$ 1000 to \$ 1700. Seconded by Carl-WF6J, passed unanimously.

Facebook: Mark-W8BIT updated members on the club Facebook page.

Tech-Ten: Greg-KO6TH gave an entertaining and informative historical presentation on slide rules.

Presentation: Carl-WF6J gave a follow up presentation on "2 Meters, Beyond Repeaters and FM". He played audio clips of the different modes and atmospheric conditions.

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

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
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Foresthill, CA 95631-1083
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W6YDD - 146.625, -, PL (1)151.4 / (2)123.0 / (3)100.0



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SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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*	\$22.00or 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: _____