



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

July 2017

<http://w6ek.org> [info@w6ek.org](mailto: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**

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  
Casey McPartland, W7IB  
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**

**4<sup>th</sup> of July**

**July 14<sup>th</sup>:  
Club Meeting**

**July 29<sup>th</sup>:  
Club Breakfast**

**TEVIS  
August 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>**

**Club Picnic  
August 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Inside this issue:**

- *President's Message*
- *Photos from Field Day*
- *How to Copy CW in Your Head*
- *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 WAS GREAT!

Judging by the repeater traffic and all other accounts, everyone enjoyed themselves at Field Day this year! This wonderful event would not have been possible without the dedication and the hard work of this year's Field Day Chairman, Al, NI2U, and his committee. My hat is off to Al and his crew for a well-organized and well attended event. According to George, KG6LSB, we had over a hundred people show up. Be sure to check out our website, Facebook, and YouTube channel for pictures, videos, and reactions. Also, be sure to congratulate Al and his team for a job well done.

### W6EK is on Twitter

Mark, W8BIT, our **SMO**, i.e. Social Media Officer, setup a Twitter page for our club. You can reach it by pointing your web browser to [https://twitter.com/SFARC\\_W6EK](https://twitter.com/SFARC_W6EK) or logging into your Twitter account and searching for @SFARC\_W6EK. Twitter is an excellent platform for you to immediately let other members know you are on the air, which bands are hot or not, about that rare DX you just discovered, about a new ham gadget, or something you just learned. Twitter is great for sharing links. Get on, become a follower, and let us know what you are up to.

### The Date Is Set!

The Club Picnic is set for Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10 AM in the Applegate Park. Applegate Park is located at 290 Applegate School Road, Applegate, CA 95703. This year's Chairman is Jeremiah, W6DLO. If you want to help out or have any suggestions, please let him know. Here is a link to their website for more information:

<http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/facility/parks/parks-content/parks/applegate-park>

### Club Meeting Refreshments

This month, **July**, and next, **August**, Wendy, KK6HSK, and her daughters will be handling the Club Meeting refreshments in George's absence. Her daughters are raising money for a trip to our Nation's Capital, Washington DC, this summer. In exchange for helping out while George is on vacation, the Board has agreed to donate the profits to the girl's travel fund. Please come, enjoy the refreshments and generously feed the donation jar. Thank you!!

## The Unseen Heroes:

A large and busy club like ours cannot be successful without the hard work and dedication of its members. As with any volunteer organization, there are few individuals who are always there to lend a helping hand, or step in when there is a need to be filled. Often, these folks take on the behind the scenes tasks which are not glamorous, but vital to our success. I was reflecting the other day and realized that I haven't recognized any of those folks. Without any particular order, here are few folks that I feel deserve your admiration and accolades:

**George, KG6LSB.** For as long as I have been in the Club, George drives over to the City each month to pick-up and drop off the room key for our General Meetings. He recently stepped forward to cover the refreshments for those meetings. In the past, he has run our Drawings too. He is our volunteer events coordinator. You will find George at most of our events as more than an attendee. At this year's Hamfest, he was the Setup and Take-Down Team Lead. If you were at Field day this year, George was there to get your signature. Thank you George for always being there!

**Carl, WF6J.** How many of you know we have a Public Information Officer? Well, that person in our club is Carl, WF6J. Sierra Foothills ARC is regarded in the ARRL Sacramento Section as one of its premier clubs. No one would know that if it wasn't for Carl's monthly articles to the Section Newsletters. Our Hamfests are successful because Carl promotes the event to ARRL, to clubs from San Francisco to Reno, and to local radio, TV, newspaper, & community websites. Carl has run and continues to help out with our website. Our Elmer Net on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each and every month would not be possible without Carl hosting them. Thank you Carl for all you do!

**Al, N12U.** Al has recently gotten a lot of well-deserved notoriety for his outstanding performance as Field Day 2017 Committee Chair. Al makes this article not for stepping forward with two months to go to run the Field Day Committee; he is here because Al is a regular presenter at our General Meetings along with being the Club's Volunteer Examiner for our VE Sessions. You will hear Al weekly giving his ARRL Report on the Club Net. And he is another one who is at virtually every club activity helping out. Thank you Al for your support!

**Dennis, WU6X.** Need a Baofeng programmed? Need a presentation at the General Meeting? Having trouble subscribing to the Yahoo Groups? Dennis is the guy! Even though he wasn't here in California for Field Day, that doesn't mean Dennis didn't have a key role in our Field Day success. Dennis meticulously setup a half dozen laptops, and trained Jim, WA8MPA, and Brian, AI6US, on how to run the logging system. He is, as I write this article, working on the logs and preparing them for submission. Like the others above, you will find Dennis at the club events helping out one way or another. Thank you Dennis for keeping the Club moving forward.

There are other behind the scenes heroes that I will save for next month. In the meantime, be sure to let these folks know you appreciate them for the work they do for our Club.

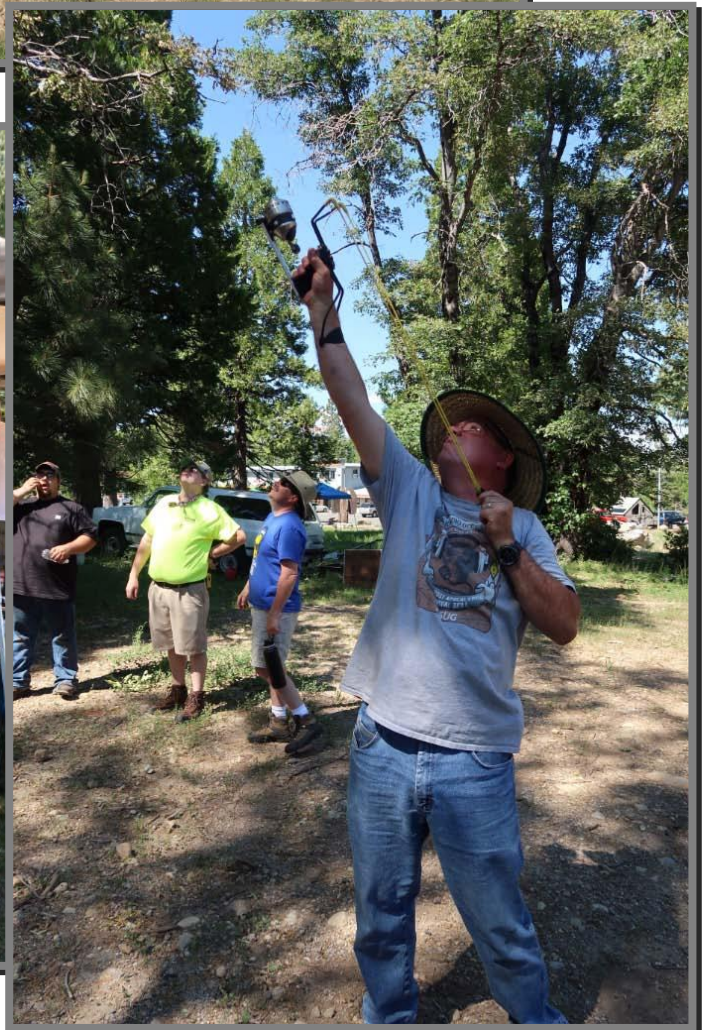
Hope to hear you on the air!

73

Orion, AI6JB

President

# Field Day 2017







## How to Copy CW in Your Head

**Submitted by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU**

*The second most common question that I get about CW is, "How do I learn to copy in my head?" When I get this question, I give, what to some, is a very unsatisfying answer. One day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.*

*Carlo Consoli, IK0YGI, author of Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy ([http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART\\_r20101008m.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf)), says that what operators need to do is to program themselves to copy in their heads. He counsels operators to practice relaxation and visualization exercises. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and maybe one day you will be one.*

*This approach seems to have worked for Consoli. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. I'm not sure that this is really going to work for everyone, though.*

*Another approach is touted by Carl, N7AGK. On his website, Carl writes, "I have created a program to assist you in learning to copy Morse code in your head. Everything you need will be contained on a single USB flashdrive that I will provide to you. In the program there are audio Morse code presentations followed by a visual display. The visual display shows the information in large print and upper case letters. The visual display verifies that you have received the Morse code correctly." Carl's program costs \$20 and is available from [n7agk.com](http://n7agk.com).*

*Zeb, HB9FXW, has created a free web application called Seiuchy (<http://www.kb6nu.com/let-walrus-help-copy-head/>) to help people learn head copying. Seiuchy, which Zeb says is Japanese for walrus, simulates on-air contacts. The trick to using this app is that instead of copying exactly what's sent, you only copy the most important bit of information. The idea is that if you train yourself to do this, then you can concentrate on what's important rather than getting bogged down in copying what's not important.*

*A different take on head copy was sent in by one of my blog readers, Bill, W3MSH. He wrote, "I was a CW op for many years and discovered something fascinating. I first began to hear "dots and dashes", then letters, words, sentences and at 35+ wpm, thoughts in my head."*

*I think Bill may have hit the nail on the head with this comment. I like the idea that copying code in your head is more akin to generating thoughts than it is to copying individual characters or words. Everybody talks about how getting faster is about moving from copying individual characters to copying words to copying entire sentences. I've never thought of it that way, although I was at a loss as to how to describe how I do it. I think the idea that when copying in your head, the code creates thoughts directly is a beautiful way to put it.*

*Isn't that what's happening when you talk to someone? When someone talks to me, I don't consciously parse the sentences and then analyze them to see what was just said. It's more of an unconscious process. The sounds being uttered are creating ideas in my head.*

*Shouldn't we approach head copy in the same way? Instead of thinking about head copy as the process of writing down the characters on an internal blackboard to be read later, it should be about translating the sound of the Morse Code directly into concepts. The sounds "dah di dit...dah dah dah....dah dah dit," should conjure up the image of a poodle or a pitbull, not the letters "D O G."*

*How that translates into a program or a method for learning to copy the code in one's head is another matter. It might be worth thinking about, though.*

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*Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code and the No Nonsense series of amateur radio study guides. When he's not head copying on 30m, he blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com*

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### June 9, 2017

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

**Roll Call:** All officers and directors were present except Bruce - K6BAA (Secretary) and Bob - K6UDA (Director). Mike - KK6GLP took the minutes in place of Bruce. Al - N12U attended as a guest.

#### REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

**President's Report:** Orion - A16JB submitted the agenda and asked for officer, director, and committee chair reports.

**Vice President's Report:** Mike - KK6GLP advised he had purchased the PA speaker and wireless microphone per the Board's direction, and had been reimbursed by the Club for same.

**Secretary's Report:** Bruce - N6BAA was not present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sharron - KK6RGV presented the May 2017 ledger and the 2017 Field Day Budget (approved May 12, 2017) to the board members.

#### Director's Reports:

Bob - K6UDA was not present.

Greg - KO6TH stated that sometimes people do not self-identify as required on transmissions during the Club's weekly net. The board agreed this should be discussed with the net controllers.

Andrew - KC6O had nothing to report.

#### OTHER DISCUSSIONS



**Repeater:** Orion - AI6JB stated there were no new issues with the repeater since the last board meeting.

**Newsletter:** Orion - AI6JB stated that the June 2017 Newsletter was published and distributed.

**Webmaster:** Orion - AI6JB stated that Herb - KM6JBI is the new Webmaster. He suggested that the website should be in a format easier to work with than HTML (perhaps WordPress). Orion will discuss with Carl - WF6J, and provide options at the July board meeting.

**Yahoo Groups:** Orion - AI6JB stated there were no new issues with Yahoo Groups since the last board meeting.

**Social Media Officer:** Orion - AI6JB stated that Mark - W8BIT is now the Social Media Officer, and has set up an account for the Club on Twitter.

**Membership:** Orion - AI6JB stated the Club has 114 members.

**VE Exam:** AI - NI2U stated that 3 people took tests at the exam session the previous Saturday, and 3 passed (Technician).

**Nominations:** Andrew - KC6O stated he had nothing new to report since the last board meeting.

**Volunteer Events:** Orion - AI6JB stated there was no new information since the last board meeting.

**Drawings:** Orion - AI6JB stated that there was no new information since the last board meeting.

**Refreshments:** Orion - AI6JB stated that someone needs to handle refreshments for the July and August meetings, in the absence of George - KG6LSB.

**Field Day:** AI- NI2U stated that he would discuss Field Day plans at this day's Club meeting, in the Main topic talk.

**Calendar of Club Events:** Orion - AI6JB reported that a VHF contest would start June 10. He reviewed the other radio events and contests on the General Meeting Agenda. He is awaiting word on a date for the Club's annual picnic. He said he needs a Christmas Party chairman.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**By-Laws Review - Publish Final Version:** Orion - AI6JB stated that he would send to the board members the approved By-Laws including typos. Sharron - KK6RGV will edit the copy for distribution to the Board for final approval.

**Repeater Fund:** Sharron - KK6RGV reported the following: 1) The bank is requiring that, to set up the separate repeater fund account, the Club application removes Dennis - WU6X and adds Orion - AI6JB, so the records show the club officers to be President, Orion - AI6JB, Treasurer, Sharron - KK6RGV, and Secretary, Bruce - K6BAA; 2) The application needs to reflect a key executive officer, i.e. President; 3) Richard - WA6RWS needs to be removed from the account records; and 4) It was confirmed, capital

improvements and repairs will come out of the repeater fund, while utility costs will come out of the general fund.

**Club Inventory List:** Orion - AI6JB stated there was no update from Bruce - K6BAA since the last board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**July - August Refreshments:** Orion - AI6JB reported a suggestion that Wendy Rouch handle refreshments for the July and August meetings, during the absence of George - KG6LSB; for doing so, she can use the proceeds towards the DC summer trip for her daughters. The board agreed this would have no financial impact to the Club and would be a worthy cause to support a Club member.

Meeting adjourned at 1840. Submitted by Mike Perry, SFARC Vice President.

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## **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

### **June 9, 2017**



The SFARC General meeting for June commenced at 1930 hours at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, with President Orion - AI6JB presiding. All officers and directors were present except Bruce - K6BAA (Secretary) and Bob - K6UDA (Director). Mike - KK6GLP (Vice President) took the minutes in the absence of Bruce. The sign-up sheet reflected 32 members and 12 guests, a total of 44 attendees. Orion led the members and guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Then followed an introduction of officers, directors, members, and guests.

**TECH TEN:** Sonja Conklin, Membership Manager of AirMedCare, gave a presentation on AirMedCare and the membership discount provided to Club members (and their household members).

## **CLUB BUSINESS**

**May Minutes:** Mark - W8BIT made a motion to approve the May 2017 minutes. Jim - WA8MPA seconded the motion. The Club members voted to approve.

**Board Meeting Updates, Old Business:** Orion - AI6JB reported the following: 1) Sharron - KK6RGV will chair the Christmas Party; 2) Mike - KK6GLP had purchased the PA speaker and wireless microphone, both now being used for the first time at this club meeting.

## **REPORTS**

**President's Report:** Orion - AI6JB 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 was not present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sharron - KK6RGV reported that the club budget is available for members to review.

**Directors:** Attending directors had nothing to report.

**Repeater (Station Trustee) / Greeter / Sunshine:** Richard - WA6RWS was not present.

**Newsletter:** Bruce - K6BAA was not present.

**VE Exam:** Al - NI2U reported that 3 people had tested, and 3 new Tech licenses given, at the last VE session.

**Volunteer Events:** George - KG6LSB discussed the past month's Tour de Cure event, that the Club provided 20 volunteers. The next event is the Cystic Fibrosis charity ride, the date and location to be determined. Then follows the Enduro ride in October.

**Satellite:** Greg - KO6TH had nothing new to report since the last meeting.

**Website:** Herb - KN6JBI was not present.

**Yahoo Groups Site:** Dennis - WU6X was not present.

**Contest Chair:** Dennis - WU6X was not present.

**Social Media Officer:** Orion - AI6JB introduced Mark - W8BIT as the chairperson of the new Social Media Officer position. The Club's new Twitter account was discussed.

**Membership:** Orion - AI6JB announced that the club has 114 members.

**Field Day:** Al - NI2U stated he would discuss Field Day details later in the program. He said there was a sign-up sheet for the Field Day dinner, to get an accurate attendee count. Also, he had tee shirts and pins ordered by Club members, and was taking payments for same.

**Club Picnic:** Jeremiah - W6DLO was not present.

**Christmas Party:** (See Board Meeting Updates, Old Business)

**Hamfest 2018:** Orion - AI6JB had nothing new to report.

**Refreshments:** George - KG6LSB discussed what was available, and that he was looking for someone to take over refreshments for the July and August meetings.

**Drawings:** Aaron - KG6TVT announced that the "Mystery Gift" is back.

**ARES:** Carl - N6CKV stated that the ARES net meets each Sunday at 1730 hours on the W6EK

repeater. He said that Placer County ARES would be setting up a table at the local Home and Garden Show, September 28 to October 1.

**Club Library:** Jim - WA8MPA discussed the Club Library, that members can borrow materials for 1 - 2 months.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** Ron Andre of the Salvation Army gave an overview of his organization and its operations in the Auburn area. He seeks volunteers and provided information on how to join.

**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](http://www.w6ek.org) for more information.

**PROGRAM:** Al - N12U discussed the Field Day activities to be held later in the month. Jim - WA8MPA showed a YouTube video on the logging software to be used. Mike - N6BRP discussed a display on Disaster Preparedness, inviting members to show their Go Bags, Go Boxes, and other items related to Disaster Preparedness.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2110. Submitted by Mike Perry, Vice President.

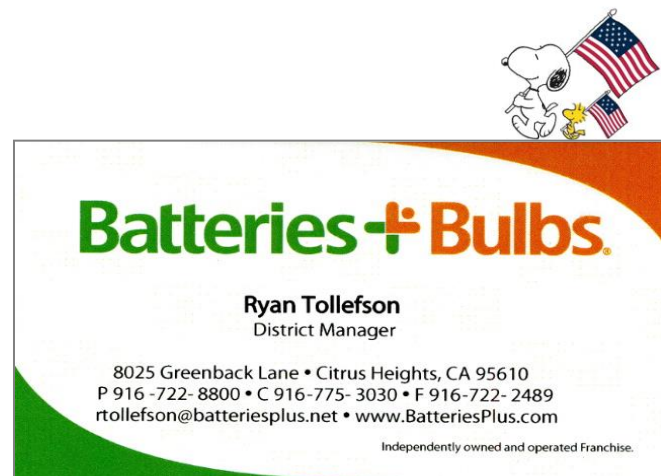


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DENNIS H. GREGORY  
Instructor/Technician

**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)**

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Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ PayPal: \_\_\_\_\_