



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

April 2018

<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@suddenlinkmail.com

DIRECTORS

Greg Dolkas, KO6TH
Mark Graybill, W8BIT
Brian Gohl, AI6US

FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

Gary Frerking, KC3PO

REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH
Sunshine: Richard, WA6RWS

GROUPS io

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 Garcia, KM6JBI

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Al Martin, NI2U



Calendar of Events

April 13th:
Club Meeting

April 15th:
MS Walk in Folsom

April 28th:
Club Breakfast

May 5-6th:
Enduro

Inside this issue

- *President's Message*
- *Hamfest 2018 photo – thank you volunteers!*
- *ARRL How can we help?*
- *Club Breakfast group photo*
- *Valley of the Moon Hamfest ARC flyer*
- *Board & General Minutes*



We encourage members to receive Sierra Signals via email to save the Club the cost of reproduction and mailing

Sierra Signals is published monthly by the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club for the information of its members and friends, and is distributed via E-mail and USPS mail. Opinions expressed are those of the authors. Newsletter exchanges with other clubs via E-mail are welcomed. Contact the editor to be placed on the E-mailing list. The contents of Sierra Signals are copyrighted by the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club, and all rights are reserved. That said, we will gladly permit republications for non-profit uses of all text material. Photos require the consent of all persons pictured in them, and some of our material is copyrighted by others and published by permission. You'll need to contact them for permission.



President's Message

By Orion Endres – AI6JB, President

Hamfest 2018 ... Is in the History Books!!

The Loomis Hamfest 2018 is now in the history books and what an exciting event! Mother Nature blessed us with no rain even though the media spoke of doom and gloom. We counted 531 participants and over 700 drawing tickets sold! Needless to say, the Honda Generator was a hit! Congratulations to Jeff, AK6OK, as our grand prize winner.

Of course, the grand prize would not have been possible without the support of the members of the Sierra Foothills ARC. Your support of our crowdfunding campaign made it possible to put a marquee prize out there and I truly believe it was instrumental in getting the level of participation we did with the forecast of rain. Thank you to you all!

Something new for 2018 were two presentations. The first was presented by Bruce, K6BAA, FT-8: The Hot New Digital Mode and the second by Bob, K6UDA, Introduction to DSTAR Digital Radio. Thank you Bob and Bruce for being a part of taking our Hamfest to the next level!

Once again, we had wonderful support from local and several ham industry vendors. Thank you goes out to DX Engineering, ARRL, N3FJP, MFJ, Titanium Satellite, Dutch Bros., Raley's/Bel Air, Dynamic Imaging, and The RF Adapter Guy. When you make your next purchase, please consider these folks first and if you can, let them know you appreciate their support. I will have a detailed Hamfest report at our next General meeting. Mark your calendars for Loomis Hamfest 2019 on Saturday, March 16, 2019!

Dan Fogard, W6PRL, SK

We lost a member last month, Dan Fogard, W6PRL. Dan, and his son Ken, regularly attended our monthly meetings and Dan was often heard on our repeater. Dan was originally licensed in 1949 as W7VC and then W6PRL in 1957. According to his QRZ page he loves CW and to him "... that is amateur radio". Dan we will miss you!

Ken has donated Dan's radio equipment to the Club and asked that a scholarship fund be created from the proceeds in Dan's name for youth interested in getting their Ham license. Thank you Ken!!

Next Up ... Field Day!

Field Day 2018, the largest amateur radio event of the year, is coming up on June 23rd & 24th. Planning for this year's event is in full swing under the watchful eye of Gary, KC3PO (I just love that callsign!!). If you want to be a part it, no experience necessary, give Gary a call. Be sure to attend our next General Meeting, Gary will be sharing the dates ...

Get out there, make those QSOs, and, most important, have fun!!



Hamfest 2018 - Thank you to all who volunteered!



ARRL How can we help?

Submitted by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, I received this email from a reader:

"Hi Dan,

"Hope you're doing well. I have a couple of questions about the ARRL. I've been reading your blog and other sources, and it's clear that the ARRL is in a little trouble. I have to say, though, that as soon as the current administration in D.C. notices that some of their friends can make money off of amateur radio bandwidth, the whole amateur radio service is in very serious jeopardy. The only way I can think of to counter that would be an organization like the ARRL, and I think there's really only one organization like the ARRL. Is that not true? If it is, how can we help?"

I replied that it is true that there's only one organization like the ARRL. In the past, there have been groups that have tried to compete with the ARRL, but they've never really taken off. It's an incredible amount of work to set up an organization like the ARRL and none of the alternates have been able to get to critical mass.

The second question—How can we help?—is the big question. Here are a few thoughts:

- Join the ARRL. If you're not currently a member, join. You'll have little or no influence, if you are not a member.

- If you are a member, but your friends are not, encourage them to join. The more members the ARRL has, the more influence it will have. This is common sense, but the ARRL doesn't really seem to care about this. In the past, I've encouraged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of licensed radio amateurs ([link 1](#), [link 2](#)). I honestly don't think this is asking too much, and I've never heard a good argument for them not to do this. They continue to ignore me, and the percentage of licensed radio amateurs that are ARRL members continues to decline.
- Take an interest in ARRL matters and let your director and vice director know your views. Get your friends to do likewise. Get on the mailing lists for the board meeting agendas and minutes. To do this, log into the ARRL website, click on "Edit your profile," then "Edit email subscriptions."
- Invite your ARRL elected officials—your division director, vice director, and section manager—to talk at your club meetings. Be prepared to grill them on issues that you think are important.
- Run for office yourself. I ran for Great Lakes Division vice director twice. Unfortunately, I lost both times, but even running is a way to have an impact. I'd like to see the "loyal opposition" get organized and challenge the status quo, especially in divisions where I think the current director is making bad decisions.

Having said all that, there are ways to make an impact besides playing ARRL politics:

- Get on the air. It's easier to lose bands if we're not using them. Encourage others to be active.
- Be an Elmer to those that need it.
- Teach classes to help those who want a license get a license and to help those who are already licensed to upgrade their licenses.
- Be an ambassador for amateur radio, especially to related groups, such as the "maker" groups that have sprung up around the country. Make sure that they know about your amateur radio club and the classes and exam sessions that you offer.

I'd love to hear any other thoughts that you all may have on this. I really do think that at this point, we need to inundate the ARRL Board and staff with input from the membership. While they may have a long history of ignoring the membership and just going about their own merry way, now is really a time of change, and this might be the right time to set the ARRL on a better path.

*When he's not getting all worked up over ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](#), teaches amateur radio classes, and works CW on the HF bands. He's the author of the *No Nonsense amateur radio license study guides* and *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code*.*

Club Breakfast - Saturday March 31, 2018





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2018

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

Roll Call: All officers and Directors were present. Guests included Richard-WA6RWS, Andrew-KC6O, Al-NI2U, Herb-KM6JBI and Toni-KK6JPJ.

REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

President's Report: Orion-AI6JB submitted the agenda and asked for officer, board and committee chair reports. Orion asked each of the board members to submit their duties in a report.

VP Report: Mike-KK6GLP reviewed this evening's presentation. He also advised a volunteer is needed to open the Rose Room for April's general meeting. Brian-AI6US volunteered.

Secretary's Report: Bruce-K6BAA advised the club repeater site lease extension is to be updated and submitted to the Auburn Union School District.

Treasurer's Report: Sharron-KK6RGV updated the board on the budget and dues received from renewals. Sharron and Richard are working on the financial review.

Sunshine: Richard advised George-KG6LSB is undergoing medical treatment.

Directors:

Brian-AI6US advised he attended the River City Amateur Radio Club monthly meeting. He noted they have an Elmer program which assigns a club member to new members to act as an Elmer. Brian believes this would be a good addition to our club. Orion advised someone in our club would have to come forward and organize the Elmer program.

Greg-KO6TH advised he is looking into see if D-Star and Analog can share the same repeater.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

Membership: Orion is updating the roster and advised club membership renewals are lacking.

VE: Al-NI2U advised because of his pending surgery, Andrew-KC6O will assume VEC lead duties.

Events: Mike-KK6GLP advised the MS Walk is scheduled in Folsom April 15, the Enduro will be combined May 5-6 and the Tour de Cure has been cancelled this year. The Tevis Cup will be placed on club calendar.

Repeater: Richard-WA6RWS spent this afternoon trouble shooting the interference issue which has not been resolved (At time of newsletter posting, the issue was traced to a bay area repeater malfunction).

Drawing/Refreshments: Volunteers needed for both, contact Orion. Andrew-KC6O advised he will assist the drawing chair once a volunteer fills the position.

WEB: Herb-KM6JBI advised he is updating the web site and is working with Burton and Carl.

Social Media: Mark-W8BIT updated the board on Facebook, advised he would like to see more people to participate.

Hamfest: Orion-AI6JB advised \$660 has been raised for the Honda generator grand prize, \$360 from members and \$300 from the Hamfest budget. Advised internet traffic is increasing everyday regarding the event. Orion has a sign up list for members who want stalls at the event to sell items.

Field Day: Al-NI2U advised a Field Day Chairman is needed as he cannot chair this year.

Old Business

Orion advised club officer duties list is still needed from each officer. Richard-WA6RWS will receive the lists.

Membership feedback: Greg-KO6THadvised new members want more interaction and suggested during the general meeting, have members discuss their recent activities.

IT Summit: A web membership fillable application and payment procedure will be added to the agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 1846. Submitted by *Bruce Anderson, SFARC Secretary*



Batteries + Bulbs.

Ryan Tollefson
District Manager

8025 Greenback Lane • Citrus Heights, CA 95610
P 916-722-8800 • C 916-775-3030 • F 916-722-2489
rtollefson@batteriesplus.net • www.BatteriesPlus.com

Independently owned and operated Franchise.




MISSION CONTROL

DENNIS H. GREGORY
Instructor/Technician

Computer Repairs and Support
Reasonable rates, free consultation
Placer County Business License #92311

Phone: 530-305-0180
Auburn, CA

Email: WU6X@hotmail.com
www.yourmissioncontrol.com



Macintosh Computer Repair

2905 58th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817

916 862-6802
support@carlschultz.biz

Carl Schultz
Hardware, Software, Network, Tutoring

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2018



The SFARC General meeting for March commenced at 1930 hours at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, President Orion-AI6JB presiding. All Officers and Directors were present. Orion led approximately 42 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. Orion also encouraged members to see Sharron and renew their membership dues.

Vice President's Report: Mike-KK6GLP reviewed upcoming presentations and events.

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 on the club's finances.

Directors

Brian-AI6US discussed the Elmer program proposal from the board meeting.

Repeater Report: Richard-WA6RWS reviewed the repeaters status including the interference issues.

Sunshine: Richard advised George-KG6LSB is undergoing medical treatment.

VE's Report: Al-NI2U advised there were 10 candidates resulting in 7 technicians, 1 general and 2 extras.

Activities: Mike-KK6GLP advised the MS Walk is scheduled in Folsom April 15, the Enduro will be combined May 5-6 and the Tour de Cure has been cancelled this year.

Satellite Report: Greg-KO6TH briefed members on current satellite activity to include the ISS, D-Star satellite and OSCAR 7.

IT Summit: Scheduled for March 20th.

Refreshments/Drawing A new drawing and refreshment chair is needed. Contact Orion.

Hamfest: This year's grand prize is a Honda-2000 generator, \$1200 retail value. Orion asked for volunteers for the event, pop ups and tables.

Field Day: Gary-KC3PO volunteered to be the chair, first meeting March 30th at Mel's Diner, Auburn.

WEB: Herb-KM6JBI advised he is updating and streamlining the web site and is open to suggestions for improvement.

Social Media: Mark-W8BIT updated the membership on Facebook, advised he would like to see more people to participate.

Nomination Committee: Orion asked for a volunteer for chair and reminded everyone, the chair is exempt from elections.

Tech-Ten: Mark-W8BIT gave an informative presentation on simple digital mode interfacing.

Presentation: Orion-AI6JB reviewed with the membership the preparations for the rain or shine March 17th Hamfest event.

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 2135. Submitted by Bruce-K6BAA, Club Secretary



Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club
presents

HAMFEST 2018

Saturday, April 28th,
8 am to 12 noon

Featuring

- Swap Meet (indoor and outdoor spaces)
- Breakfast
- VE Testing Session
- Station Demos
- Fox Hunt

PLUS: special exhibit of vehicles that support
emergency communications
Radio Control helicopter using 70cm.
On the air demo of FreeDV digital voice on HF



Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building
126 First Street West
Sonoma
For info: 707-935-7441

Admission: FREE
Breakfast: \$8.00
Talk-in on 145.350 MHz (88.5 pl)
for flyer and map: www.vomarc.org

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ e-mail: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Associate Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ email: _____

Phone: _____ Cellphone: _____ Application is New / Renewal (circle one)

ARRL member? Yes / No (circle one)

DUES / DONATIONS:

Membership: yearly * \$22.00 or 20.00 X how many years _____ = \$ _____ *** see below Multi-year Discount

Associate: yearly \$7.00

Repeater Donation: \$ _____

Auto Patch Donation: \$ _____

Newsletter Booster: \$ _____

Misc. Donation: \$ _____

Christmas Donation: \$ _____

Name Badge \$10 or \$15 (circle one) ** see below for type of badge requested Name on Badge _____

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

** Clip Badge = \$10; Magnetic Badge = \$15

*** Multi-year DISCOUNT membership \$20 per year for 2 or more years (New or renewal)

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date: _____ Treasurer: _____ Secretary: _____ Roster: _____

Payment: _____ Check Number: _____ Cash: _____ PayPal: _____