



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

June 2018

<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@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

#### **PIO**

Carl Schultz, WF6J

#### **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

June 8<sup>th</sup>:  
Club Meeting

June 23<sup>rd</sup>:  
Western States

June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>:  
FIELD DAY

June 30<sup>th</sup>:  
Club Breakfast

July 28<sup>th</sup>:  
TEVIS

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- *Board Minutes & General 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*

### ***The Drawing is BACK!!***

Doug, KM6QET, has saved the day! Thank you Doug for volunteering to chair our monthly drawings!! Doug will join Andrew, KC6O, who is helping to buy prizes. Of course, if you want to donate a prize you think other hams would enjoy, please bring it to the next meeting. Good luck to everyone!

### ***Volunteerism***

On the weekend of May 5 & 6, Sierra Foothills ARC hams ran communications for the California Endurance Riders Association's (CERA) Crazy Miner Enduro and Fool's Gold Enduro held in the El Dorado National Forest east of Georgetown. Thank you to Mike, KK6GLP, for organizing another very successful event. So successful, that CERA has made a very generous donation to our repeater fund; Thank you CERA and all the members who participated in this year's Enduros.

Volunteering for community events such as this is an excellent opportunity for the public to see ham radio in action and a great opportunity for you to practice your radio skills in a "no pressure" environment. There are several events scheduled later in the year to get involved with: Tevis Cup, Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), and Cystic Fibrosis Bike Ride. If you are interested in helping out, no experience necessary, please let him know.

### ***T-Minus 22 Days to Field Day 2018***

New Hams, this is your golden opportunity to get your hands on some high-end radios!! I'm told there will be an ICOM 7300, Flex 6300, and several Elecraft KX3's at Field Day this year. Every one of those radios is on my dream list of radios to own. You are not going to want miss out!

If you ordered a T-Shirt, it will be waiting for you at this month's meeting on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. The two large pop-ups purchased by club have arrived, so our main gathering area is taking shape.

We need help with our traditional BBQ. If you can take on this vital role, please let Gary, KC3PO, know as soon as possible.

Speaking of Gary, you are going to want to be at this month's meeting as Gary and crew layouts all the final plans for this year's Field Day.

Field Day is Saturday and Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> this year. We will be at our usual location at Nyack, only an hour away, on I-80. Perfect for a day trip. Or if you prefer, camp with us Friday and Saturday nights.

### **Club Officer Elections**

It is time to start thinking about who will lead our club next year. Club officer elections will be held at November's meeting. But first, we need a Nomination Committee Chair to head up the elections. If you are interested, please let me know. Remember, if you work on the Nomination Committee, you cannot hold a club office position next year.

Also remember, if you ARE NOT on the Nomination Committee, you are fair game for Richard, WA6RWS, to perform severe non-physical arm twisting!

Hope to hear you on the air!

73

**Orion Endres, AI6JB**

President

[AI6JB@arrl.net](mailto:AI6JB@arrl.net)



## Photos from the Enduro - 2018







The Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club provided communications support this past weekend (May 5 and 6) for the California Endurance Riders Association enduros in Eldorado National Forest on Georgetown Divide. It was a lot of fun, and it provided the operators the opportunity to use their radio gear in field conditions.

We met in Auburn, drove to our field assignments, set up our gear, and confirmed 2m simplex communications between stations. Our job was to relay pertinent information between the field and the CERA leadership at base camp. For example, the rider of a disabled motorcycle would report their situation to a field station - the field station would send the message to Net Control - Net Control would notify the CERA staff at base camp - then the CERA staff would dispatch a vehicle to retrieve the rider and the disabled motorcycle. CERA is very thankful of the support that our Club has provided to their enduro rides over the past many years.

Community service is an important part of the amateur radio hobby. Our Club provides radio support for various events throughout the year. If you haven't joined an event, I encourage you to come out to one and enjoy the fun and camaraderie!



## *Is the internet, millennials or FT-8 killing ham radio?*

*Submitted by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU*

Amateur radio bloggers love to write about the demise of amateur radio. To wit, we have:

- \* KONR's Is the Internet destroying amateur radio? (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2017/11/internet-destroying-amateur-radio/>)
- \* NOSSC's Millennials are killing ham radio (<http://n0ssc.com/posts/583-millennials-are-killing-ham-radio>)
- \* PE4BAS' Is FT-8 damaging amateur radio? (<https://pe4bas.blogspot.com/2018/04/is-ft8-damaging-hamradio.html>)
- \* NZ0T's Did Joe Taylor K1JT Destroy Amateur Radio? (<http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html>)

Of course, none of these posts are really saying that the internet, millennials, or FT-8 has killed amateur radio. What they are saying is that all of these are changing amateur radio as we know it. Well, duh, the way we live our lives changes every day. Why should amateur radio be any different?

For example, Bob, KONR, discusses how the operation of remote stations is changing the game of DX. Can you really claim that you worked a DX station if you rented time on a super station? I've written about that topic, too (<https://www.kb6nu.com/dx-advisory-committee-wants-to-put-the-screws-to-remote-operation/>).

There has also been much written about how FT8 is changing the amateur radio game. One blog post (<https://ve7sl.blogspot.com/2017/10/160m-ft8-end-of-era.html>), talking about the effect of FT8 on 160m operation, even goes so far to say that this is the "end of an era." On DX World, the results of the poll, "FT8 – Damaging to Amateur Radio?" (<https://dx-world.net/yes-or-no-a-poll-on-ft8/>) show more than half of the respondents think that FT8 is damaging amateur radio.

I specifically used the word "game" in the previous two paragraphs because that's exactly what's changing. The physics of amateur radio certainly isn't changing. Our transmitters are still generating electromagnetic waves like they have been for decades, and on the HF bands, anyway, those radio waves are bouncing off the ionosphere just as they have been for more than the past 100 years.

What's changing is the human component. By that I mean what's changing is how we think people should participate in the hobby. The hams that are complaining that the internet or millennials or FT8 is killing amateur radio are really just complaining that people aren't participating in amateur radio the way they want them to participate.

Here's where we talk about millennials. In his blog post, Sterling, NOSSC, suggests that setting up remote stations is one way to engage young people. He writes, "I believe that remote operating, and other internet-assisted means of ham radio operation, are critical to youth engagement."

He's also big on an idea he calls "ham radio hackathons." He writes,

"A hackathon isn't a coding competition. It's explained well in this Medium article (<https://medium.com/hackathons-anonymous/wtf-is-a-hackathon-92668579601>). It goes even further than that, not limited to coders and engineers, but open to thinkers, doers, philosophers, system engineers, math people, teachers, students, artists, stakeholders...anyone with an interest in solving a problem with technology."

I support both of these ideas, but I think that millennials (and, to be fair, it isn't just millennials we're talking about here, but any newcomers to the hobby) need to step up and get these things going. I don't think it's my job to try to get kids interested in amateur radio. I don't even know if that's really possible. What I can do, however, is be there to encourage and support kids (and anyone else that expresses a sincere interest in amateur radio).

For example, I'm not sure how fruitful it would be to set up my station to be remotely operable and then saying to some kids, "Hey, come and operate my station." What I think would be more fruitful is to say to a kid, "Hey, come help me set up my remote control station, so that we both can use it." Then, it turns into a learning situation, and we both gain from the exercise.

The same kind of thing has to happen with ham radio hackathons. The motivation has to come from the ground up, not the top down. I do hope that this idea gets off the ground, though, and I'm standing by, ready to support this effort however I can.

I think that millennials (I'm really getting tired of that term, by the way) need to grab the bull by the horns and take amateur radio in the direction they want it to go. Feel free to kill amateur radio as we know it. Make it better!

-----  
*When he's not trying to figure out how to save amateur radio, Dan builds stuff, blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about what you think is killing amateur radio at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.*





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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### May 11, 2018

The SFARC Board meeting for May commenced at 1800 hours at the Mel's Diner restaurant in Auburn.

**Roll Call:** All officers and Directors were present with the exception of Sharron-KK6RGV and Mark-W8BIT. Guests included Richard-WA6RWS, Al- NI2U, Dennis-WU6X and Gary-KC3PO.

#### REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

**President's Report:** Orion-AI6JB submitted the agenda and asked for officer, board and committee chair reports. Orion discussed the scholarship funds received from Dan-W6PRL's estate. It was decided to use the funds for paying VE examination fees for youth under 18 years.

**VP Report:** Mike-KK6GLP reviewed this evening's presentation. Added a thank you letter for the Enduro is forthcoming.

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

**Sunshine:** Richard-WA6RWS advised a get well card was sent to Carl-N6CKV who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

#### **Directors:**

Brian-AI6US suggested any scholarship funds distributed from Dan-W6PRL estate have Dan's name attached when presented to the recipient.

#### OTHER DISCUSSIONS

**Membership:** Richard-WA6RWS advised membership now stands at 105.

**VE:** Al-NI2U advised there were 7 candidates resulting in 6 technicians and 1 extra who had his license reinstated.

**Events:** Mike-KK6GLP advised the Tevis Cup will be placed on club calendar and anyone wishing to volunteer for the event can do so by going online. Brian-AI6US suggested placing the Western States event on the calendar. Brian also said the club picnic and campout will not be combined as a site accommodating both will not work. Club picnic TBA for September.

**Repeater:** Richard-WA6RWS is working on a feedback issue in the 2meter/440 system.

**Drawing/Refreshments:** Orion said the drawing will be suspended until a volunteer is found.

**WEB/groups.io:** Herb-KM6JBI is implementing changes to include links to Bob-K6UDA's YouTube page. Groups.io now has 108 subscribers, Dennis advised he will attempt to link groups.io with Facebook.

**Field Day:** Gary-KC3PO reported on the events preparations. Brian-AI6US presented his proposal for the purchase of 2 10'X20' pops up tents. A motion was made to purchase by Greg-KO6TH and seconded by Mike-KK6GLP, passed unanimously. Cost \$ 340. Orion suggested the club purchase a "feather" banner for club events.

## **Old Business**

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

**Financial Review:** Orion-AI6JB and Mike-KK6GLP will be reviewing the report submitted by Richard-WA6RWS.

Meeting adjourned at 1901. Submitted by *Bruce Anderson, SFARC Secretary*




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## **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES May 11, 2018**



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 with the exception of Mark-W8BIT. Orion led approximately 39 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 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 presented to the membership, his proposal for the purchase of 2 10'X20' pop up tents. A motion was made to purchase by Gary-KC3PO and seconded by Jim-WA8PPA, passed unanimously. Orion suggested the club purchase a "feather" banner for club events. Brian also said the club picnic and campout will not be combined, as a site accommodating both will not work. Club picnic TBA for September.

**Repeater Report:** Richard-WA6RWS reviewed the repeaters status.

**Sunshine:** Richard advised a get well card was sent to Carl-N6CKV who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

**VE's Report:** AI-NI2U advised there were 7 candidates resulting in 6 technicians and 1 extra who had his license reinstated.

**Activities:** Mike-KK6GLP thanked members who volunteered for the Enduro. Advised the Western States is 6/23/18 and the Tevis 7/28/18.

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

**IT Summit:** Scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>.



**Refreshments/Drawing:** Doug-KM6QET volunteered for drawing chair. (Thanks Doug!) Refreshment chair still needed.

**Field Day:** Gary-KC3PO updated the membership, asked for a volunteer(s) for cooking/barbeque. Brian-AI6US had a signup sheet for Field day T-shirts and pins.

**WEB:** Herb-KM6JBI advised he is continuing to update the web site.

**Contests:** Dennis-WU6X advised of the Armed Forces Day cross band split operation scheduled for 5/12/18.

**Groups.io:** Dennis reviewed web group, but advised you must be a club member to post.

**Membership:** Richard-WA6RWS advised membership at 105.

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

**JOTA:** Orion-AI6JB advised the event will be held at Beale AFB. He will have signups at next month's meeting and added the Air Force needs the volunteer's names in advance.

**Presentation:** Ron-WE6BB of the Placer County Search and Rescue Unit gave a presentation of the units capabilities and had the units communications truck available for the membership to tour.

**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 **Mel's Diner** 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.

Meeting adjourned at 2145. Submitted by *Bruce Anderson, SFARC Secretary*



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**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:**

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