



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

February 2019

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**At The Key of SFARC:**

**PRESIDENT**

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AI6US@titaniumsattelite.com

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Gerry Brentnall, WA6E  
Dustin Yue, W6YUE

**FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN**

Gary Frerking, KC3PO

**REPORTERS**

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH  
Sunshine: Richard, WA6RWS

**GROUPS io**

Dennis Gregory, WU6X

**PIO**

Scott Vogelsang, WA6YNE

**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**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>:**  
**Club Meeting**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>:**  
**Valentine's Day**



**February 18<sup>th</sup>:**  
**President's Day**



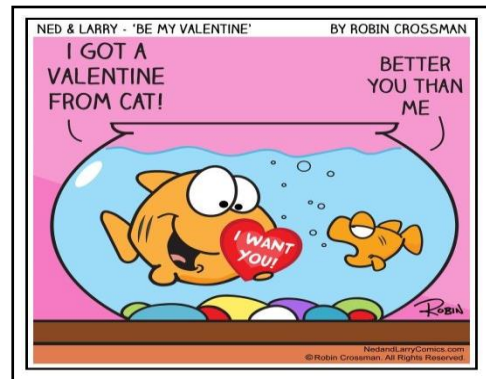
**February 23<sup>rd</sup>:**  
**Club Breakfast**

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>:**  
**STEM Expo**

**March 16<sup>th</sup>:**  
**Hamfest**

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- *Board Minutes*
- *General Minutes*



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## President's Message

*By Orion Endres – AI6JB,*

*President*

### **2019 Off to A Great Start!**

2019 is off to a roaring start! We had a full house at the January Board meeting and AI, W6WN, gave a presentation at the General Meeting on the Camp Fire that moved many of us to take action on disaster preparedness. His presentation on YouTube has already hit 264 views in one week! Thank you AI for the awesome talk, and thank you Greg, KO6TH, for the time and effort to post the video.

Another popular video on our YouTube channel is from Winter Field Day. 134 views in three days. Thank you to everyone who participated! Brian and I hope you had a great time. Brian, AI6US, put together an article for your enjoyment with all the details of the event. Check-out the photos section on Groups.io.

### **Folks Stepping Up to the Plate**

At our last General Meeting, we announced three vacancies that needed to be filled: Field Day Chair, Refreshments Chair, and Club Public Information Officer (PIO). By the time the intermission was over, we had multiple candidates.

George, KG6LSB, has once again stepped up to take on the Refreshments Chair position. It is great to see you well and eager to take on new challenges.

We had not one, not two, but three, or was it four, members step forward to be the Field Day Chair. Last I heard it was going to be a co-chair arrangement and frankly, I can't for life of me remember who. Once I sort it out I'll be sure to let everyone know.

Again, we had two volunteers for the PIO spot. Carl, WF6J, has been our PIO and the Section's for as long as I can remember. When the call went out, AI, W6WN, and Scott, WA6YNE, both responded. I am pleased to announce Scott is an Official ARRL Club PIO.

Thank you to everyone for your support and taking on these most vital roles.

## **Dues Are Due**

Yes, it's that time of year! Membership dues are due. A single year's membership is \$22, but, if you pay for 2 or more years, it is \$20 per year. Please go to our website, download a membership application, fill it out, and send it to Jeff, KM6RGO, our Treasurer. You can pay via PayPal, send in a check, or bring it with you to February's meeting. Thank you!

## **STEM Expo, March 2, 2019, William Jessup University, Rocklin**

SFARC is once again helping the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section with hosting a booth at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual STEM Expo on the William Jessup University campus in Rocklin. Mike, KK6GLP, is organizing the event. Please contact him if you would like to help out.

Even if you can't help but can drop by, please do so. It is fascinating what kids are doing these days. Some are doing things with computers and robotics that I only could dream of in college.

## **Hamfest 2019, Saturday, March 16, 2019, Historic Loomis Train Depot**

Hamfest 2019 is coming on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the Historic Loomis Train Depot in Loomis Calif. Be sure to save a special place on your calendars.

We received word today the ARRL has sanctioned our Hamfest as an official ARRL event.

We need a couple of presentations. If you have a Ham related subject you would like to share, please email me your idea. The presentations should be about 45 -60 mins. The 1<sup>st</sup> session will begin at 8:00 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30.

We are planning the staples of every high quality Hamfest: Drawings, Club Table, Test Bench, Talk-In, Coffee and Donuts, and of course, plenty of ham stuff to buy and sell.

We need lots of help to pull off our major fund raiser of year. If you are interested in being a part of the action, please email me at [ai6jb@arrl.net](mailto:ai6jb@arrl.net).

Well, I have already hit two pages so it must be time for me to stop. I am so proud and excited to be a part of such an energetic and active Club. You are truly the best!

Hope to hear you on the air soon!

Orion, AI6JB  
President



## Winter Field Day - 2019

*By Brian Gohl – AI6US*

As it often goes, the plans started out very small and simple. Orion – AI6JB and myself, Brian – AI6US reviewed the contest schedule and decided to head up somewhere in the Sierras to “zero noise land” and work the 2019 Winter Field Day emergency communications exercise. We wondered if anyone would be interested in joining in the fun. Wow! We were surprised at the interest of the SFARC members and others who heard about the event through friends and monitoring repeater chatter. 28 members and visitors converged at the Georgetown Airport campground for a fun weekend at an idyllic location enhanced by perfect weather, excellent band conditions, delicious food and great company!

The Georgetown Airport, CA location was first suggested as a possible Field Day location by Craig – KM6LYK during a site survey of another location. We were immediately interested in the location for Winter Field Day due to the 2600' elevation situated below the typical snowline, the location on a North / South ridge and flaunting great terrain profiles on SARTopo. I had just found out that new club member Scott – KK7AIR lives in Georgetown and asked him if he knew anything about access to the gated limited use campground at the airport. Not only did he know about the campground access, but Scott has several hangars and a business at the airport! Scott met Orion and I for the site check and gave us a tour of the facility then facilitated permission and access for use of the campground and restrooms. The campground is a beautiful location overlooking the sparsely used runway, tarmac and hangars and the Sierras. The site terrain features a semi-open tree canopy, medium height pine and cedar trees, wood chips for ground cover and easy small RV / vehicle access.

WFD set-up began at 12 noon on January 25<sup>th</sup> with the help of Al – N12U, Ken - KK6RXS, Jim – WA8MPA and Craig KM6LYW. Al - N6ADT flew in for several hours to help out. He offered rides to check out the camp from above. Orion jumped at the chance and got a little time behind the controls, while checking out the incredible views.

Within the 1,000 foot diameter operating area, we setup the two club's 10x20 pop-ups and two 10x10 pop-up canopies near the fire pit. Three 100w (max) stations (Icom 7300 - CW/SSB, Yaesu 857D – Digital, Flex 6300 – SSB) with band pass filters were located in the 10x20 radio tent. Jeff – K6IOK loaned two Honda 2000 generators, which were synced to provide reliable and quiet power for the shack. Three 80m 131 foot North/South doublets were quickly hung with maximum separation at 75'+ elevation with pneumatic launchers. The long runs of ladder feedline were flown via support lines hung from tree limbs. A Hexbeam on a 35' mast was hoisted via a gin pole and tackle engineered by Orion. Al – N12U singlehandedly lifted the beam into position while the rest of the team tended the mast, guy lines and prayed. The 200 feet of RG213 coax was laid on the ground outside of vehicle access area. All antennas and feedlines passed Jim's analyzer testing without any changes. Not bad, camp set-up took only ½ hour longer than planned, with everyone quite comfortable working under the brilliant blue sky warm sunlight and pleasant 60 F temperatures.

After sunset, it was time for the real fun to begin... Potluck! Homemade beef stroganoff with noodles, oven-hot bread rolls and meatballs. After the day visitors left, Aaron – K6ABJ and his son Jacob arrived. Once the overnight camps and breakfast prep equipment was set-up, we met in the social tent. Late into the night, tall tales were spun and stories swapped over a fine sippin' whiskey. Temperatures stayed in the 40's and it was quite comfortable visiting inside the walled canopy.

The sunrise sky appeared like a painting, but for some reason, it seemed to come earlier than usual. The griddle was fired up and day visitors started arriving at 8 AM for coffee, then a large breakfast of pancakes, hash browns, scrambled eggs and sausage links. Station equipment set-up and the pre-event meeting reviewing rules and exchange examples wrapped as the 24 hours of Winter Field Day began at 11am. Jim made exchange signage for each station and boy did those prompt cards come in handy. Great to reference the cheat sheet when you lose train of thought during a contact or juggling the logger and pile-ups!

Bands were in great condition and almost everyone took turns calling logging and running digital. More visitors joined us throughout the day, arriving by air and land. AL – N6ADT returned flying in formation with a friend Leon - KM6IOU, and his two young children. Scott opened several hangars and offered tours of 1920's era radio gear (including recent donations by Jim – W6LG), a vintage camera collection and some very cool aircraft.

A fun time was had around the camp, visiting, enjoying the fire (fueled by visitors contribution of firewood and a rescue by Chip – KM6MDF buying a hatchet along the way to camp), grazing the drinks /snacks table (the Ikeda Razzleberry w/whip cream didn't last long). For many, it was their first time to call or log in a contest.

Many Elmer's were passing on valuable skillsets, demonstrating voice and CW operating techniques, how to park and bark, spin and pounce and optimizing the rig settings. One Boy Scout was signed off for the radio badge and several students got on HF for the first time. Best of all, a wonderful learning experience while having a ton of fun!

As the sun sank low in the sky, most of the day visitors left and the overnight crew prepared for the extreme task of consuming a fresh, hot, takeout deluxe combo pizza pie from Terry's Pizza in Georgetown. We worked in shifts on SSB throughout the night under the glow of the red color night work lights. An Eldorado Sherriff visited camp around 2am after neighbors reported the airport gates being unlocked and some suspicious and unusual activity. Yep, with Ham radio portable operation, that is an understatement! BTW... Scott V. – WA6YNE is a beast on digital modes, operating nearly non-stop through the entire night up until the end of the contest at 11am!

One of my operating highlights for the weekend was that I had the opportunity to have an incredible run on 20m just after the Sunday AM greyline while working solo. The Hexbeam and 100 watts held frequency for an hour and 145 contacts on a packed wall to wall band! This was a rush and a first-time experience. Stations were occasionally 8 to 10 operators deep and were repeatedly saying that they hadn't heard a WFD CA station yet (really??). For a moment, I felt like I was on a rare Dxpedition, calling out an op from a single letter of a call heard in the extreme pileup. Then it was all over, 8 AM and back to reality... time to make Sunday breakfast for the team...

Three visitors stopped by early Sunday morning after hearing members talk about the WFD on the repeater. It was really special to have folks from outside the area and not involved with any club to drive in just to experience the event! They worked some contacts with us then hung around after WFD ended to help us lower the Hexbeam mast then tour the hangars.

Since most of us were running on very little sleep, the breakdown took about 4 hours. A special thanks to Craig and Ken, who made a special trip back up to Georgetown up just to help with the wrap party! The teardown team consisted of Orion, Scott V., Craig, Ken, Aaron and his son Jacob and I.

Learn more about Winter Field Day at [www.winterfieldday.com](http://www.winterfieldday.com)

A special thanks to everyone who chipped in to make this an event a tremendous success. Did you miss out this year? Hope to see you on a key, at the keyboard or on a microphone for next year's Winter Field Day 2020!

#### **The numbers:**

649 total contacts were made by 11 Operators in 23:30 of the 24 hour event.

Worked 77 of 84 ARRL/RAC Sections and 55 of 58 States/Provinces, 1 DX (Spain\*)

<b>Band</b>	<b>CW</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Dig</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
80	0	44	0	44	7
40	4	116	99	219	34
20	9	377	0	386	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>100</b>

## Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) EXPO

The Placer County STEM Expo will be held in the Academic Warehouse at William Jessup University on Saturday, March 2, 2019, where elementary to high school students will display their projects.

The ARRL's Sacramento Valley Section will have an exhibit booth on amateur radio at the event, operating as Special Event Station N6S. Club members interested in participating in the exhibit booth can contact Mike Perry KK6GLP. Or, stop by for a visit!

73,  
Mike - KK6GLP



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2019

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

**Roll Call:** All officers and Directors were present. There were several SFARC club member visitors.

### REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

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

**Vice-President's Report:** Brian AI6US gave a brief report

A discussion ensued regarding the switchover responsibilities of the Executive officers ie. Former Secretary, Bruce Anderson-K6BAA and former Treasurer, Sharron Griffith-KK6RGV to their replacements- Secretary, Michele Bauer-WH7QC and Treasurer, Jeffrey Morgan-KM6RGO. A meeting at the Wells Fargo Bank in Auburn on Elms Street to do the official transfer of responsibility. Bruce-K6BAA handed over his key to the P.O. Box to Jeff-KM6RGO until Jeff receives his from Sharron-KK6RGV.

**Sunshine Report:** Richard-WA6RWS had no report at this time.

**WEB Report:** Herb-KM6JBI reported on the status of the WEB. He suggested a new page for newbies-for non-HAMS.

**GROUPS-IO:** Dennis-WU6X reported that users are now at 122.

**Membership:** Richard-WA6RWS gave a report regarding paid/unpaid memberships. It was suggested that individual notices via email be sent to members when their membership is about to expire. Memberships unpaid will be removed from the roster.

**AL Report:** Jeff-KM6RGO has achieved his General license. Congrats to Jeff! There were 7 candidates testing for licenses-4 Techs, 2 Generals and 1 Extra getting their license reinstated.

**Volunteer Events:** Mike-KK6GLP reported on the MS Walk coming in Folsom.

**Contest Chair:** Dennis-WU6X updated on upcoming contests.

**Drawing Chair:** Doug-W2VX updated. From April-Nov we cleared \$402.

**Refreshments:** Chip-KM6MDF reported.

**Digital Repeater:** Bob-K6UDA updated regarding a new YAESU DR2 digital repeater. This YAESU is possible to do both digital and analog—can fuse/mix. Getting a 440 pair is no problem. It translates from Fusion to Analog but not Analog to Fusion. Bob's job is to research and report what works and keep the club together and not fractured.

**Nomination Committee:** Rich-AA6RS gave a report.

**HAM Fest:** Orion updated the board on the HAM Fest which will be March 16, 2019.

**PIO Public Info Officer:** Carl Schultz-WF6J needs a replacement.

**Field Day:** Orion asks for a volunteer to chair the 2019 Field Day.

**Old Business:** Club officers' duties checklist

**Repeater Lease:** The lease expired June 2018. Orion discussed the status. We inherited the "tower" at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, where SFARC meets.

**Club Feather Banner:** Brian-AI6US will order the 8' X 2' once he has the design. Monies were approved. We have a design picture on paper.

**Field Day Site Selection:** The date is planned for June 22, 2019. Brian-AI6US and Gerry-WA6E arranged for Blue Canyon airport as a new location. We are not abandoning Nyack; however, Blue Canyon appears ideal.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Financial Auditors:** Orion nominated Dennis-WU6X and Mike-KK6GLP.

**Club Budget:** Accepted as is. Gerry-WA6E motioned and Brian-AI6US 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed.

**Lifetime Memberships Nomination:** It was motioned by Michele-WH7QC and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gerry-WA6E that we nominate Earl K6GPB and Bob-KV6SS for SFARC Lifetime Memberships, which nomination passed. Brian-AI6US suggests that the Lifetime Membership be part of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Meeting adjourned at 1900. Submitted by *Michele Bauer-WH7QC, SFARC Secretary*

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## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2019



The SFARC General meeting for January commenced at 1930 hours at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, President Orion-AI6JB presiding. All Officers and Directors were present. Orion led the approximately 35 members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. An introduction of Officers, members and guests followed.

**Field Day:** Update given by Brian-AI6US

**Tevis Cup and Repeater System:** Richard WA6RWS gave report

**VE Exam:** AI-N6ADT gave report

**Volunteer Events:** Mike-KK6GLP gave report and mentioned a sign-up sheet

**Satellite:** Greg-KO6TH gave report

**WEB:** Herb-KM6JBI gave report

**Groups-IO:** Dennis WU6X gave report

**Contest Chair:** Dennis WU6X gave report

**Membership:** Richard-WA6RWS reported that rosters have been sent. He will send out membership expiration dates beginning in February.

**Refreshments:** Chip-KM6MDF reminded us that the proceeds from meetings go towards the annual Christmas dinner party.

**Raffle:** Doug-W2VX displayed the raffle items for the evening.

**Christmas Party 2018:** It was a great success and with the biggest attendance (about 83). The food was awesome and the gift raffle a lot of fun for the women! Many thanks to Chip-KM6MDF and Pam and their family for all their hard work!

**Field Day 2019:** We need a volunteer chairperson



**Events:** The 2018 Christmas Party/60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary honored past club presidents. During the meeting, was the unanimous voting for the honor of Lifetime SFARC Memberships presented to: Earl-K6GPB and Bob-KV6SS. Also honored at the meeting as past presidents of SFARC were: Gary-KQ6RT (1998) and Matt-KC6RUO (2001).

Brian-AI6US introduced Jim-WM8MPA who gave an interesting presentation on MFJ/SDR YAESU. Which is better?

George-KG6LSB gave us a “show and tell” with Heliar LED Road Flares which have a magnet and hook with each one. You can purchase these on Amazon under emergency lights.

Brian introduced Alan Thompson-W6WN who gave a fascinating and very telling presentation on: “The Camp Fire: Disaster Recovery and Disaster Mitigation”. Butte County sheriffs own Repeaters and most sheriffs are HAM operators. From the “Camp Fire”, 86 lives were lost and 50,000 people were displaced. There is an estimated \$11-13 billion in damages and 153,336 acres burned, and 18,800 residences, commercial buildings and structures destroyed. The “Camp Fire” was not a forest fire, but a ground fire ignited by sparks. Embers literally leap-frogged, spreading the fire.

Some important take-aways: Be aware of high-risk fire areas. Have an evacuation plan. Be on the Evacuation Alert System. Have “Go Kits” for yourself and family members.

Neighborhoods having a Siren/Audible warning device would be helpful and/or a General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS). For a GMRS, no test is required, but you need a license (\$70) which is good for 10 years. Also helpful is a “Neighborhood Radio Watch” system in place with organizations such as CERT groups, churches, schools and scout troops involved. Also there is Family Radio Service (FRS).

Meeting adjourned at 2100. Submitted by *Michele Bauer-WH7QC, SFARC Secretary*



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**2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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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)**

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Rev. 11-13-2018