



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

March 2019

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At The Key of SFARC:

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VICE PRESIDENT

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Greg Dolkas, KO6TH
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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

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Barbara Anderson, W6EVA
anderson51@wavecable.com

WEBMASTER: Herb Garcia, KM6JBI

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Al Martin, NI2U

Calendar of Events

March 2nd:

STEM Expo

March 8th:

Club Meeting

March 10th:

Spring Forward



March 16th:

Hamfest

March 17th:

St. Patrick's Day

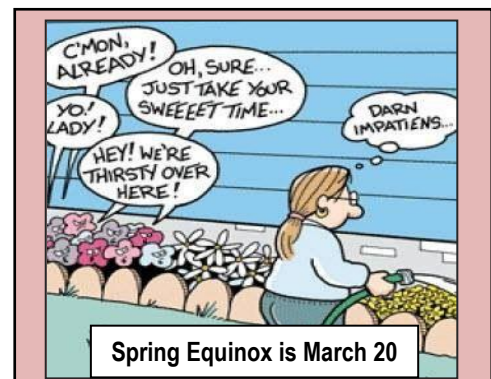


March 30th:

Club Breakfast

Inside this issue

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- *Board & General Minutes*



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President's Message

*By Orion Endres – AI6JB,
President*

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

The ARRL Sacramento Valley Section is hosting an interactive booth at this year's Placer County STEM Expo @ William Jessup University in Rocklin. Mike, KK6GLP, is spearheading the event and has several SFARC and Western Placer ARC members helping out. The event is this Saturday, March 2nd, from 9 AM to 4 PM. We will have several stations available for the kids to use and several pieces of "eye candy" on hand to show-off Ham radio.

Watch for us around 14.240 and 7.240 on SSB or the W6EK and K6PAC repeaters. Even if you can't drop-by, please hang out on these frequencies and be available to talk the future Hams.

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

Hamfest 2019 is just around the corner. Everything is falling nicely into place. Jason, N6JDX, is pounding the pavement for prizes. So far the list of door prizes includes not one, but TWO \$100 Gift Certificates from DX Engineering, plus catalogs and stickers. MFJ came through with 6 prizes and catalogs. RF Adapter Guy once again donated a \$10 Gift Certificate and we have a Gift Certificate for the full suite of N3FJP Logging software. The Grand Prize, a Yaesu FTM-400 mobile and TWO Yaesu FT-70 handhelds are on order.

Alan, W6WN, and Greg, KO6TH, will each give a presentation inside the depot on the Camp Fire: Phones, Fires, and Failures and APRS, respectively. We have a dedicated group of team leaders excited about this year's Hamfest. Carl, N6CKV, and Mike, KK6GLP, will be parking cars. Dennis, WU6X, is in-charge of Vendor Relations. You better not mess with our Security Chief, Bruce, K6BAA. You will definitely want to stop by our club table. Jim, WA8MPA, has plenty of awesome deals ready for you. George, KG6LSB, and Chip, KM6MDF, will be busy beavers setting up and tearing down the site. Our perennial MCs, Bob, K6UDA, and Tyghe, W6TJR, will be manning the mic once again.

We need someone to run the concessions team, i.e. sell coffee and donuts. Please let me know if you can help in that capacity.

WE NEED EVERYONES HELP TO PULL OFF A SMOOTH EVENT!! We need all the help we can get on the day of the event. Please let me know if you would like to help out with parking, security, door prizes, club table or selling coffee and donuts. Many hands make light work. You can contact me at ai6jb@arrl.net or call me at 916.534.8251.

We also need tables and pop-ups. If you have some to loan us, please drop me an email.

If you want to be in the “KNOW”, join us on the Groups.io Hamfest subgroup, or join us for our last planning meeting on Wednesday, March 6th, at the Historic Loomis Train Depot, 5775 Horseshoe Bar Road, Loomis, CA, starting 5:00 PM.

“Summer” Field Day Planning is ON!

The “Summer” Field Day planning is in full swing. We’ve got more folks than I can remember excited about pulling off the best field day yet. New location with less noise, better view of the valley for 2m & 6m, and better area for RV’r, campers, and folks to get around.

Mark your calendars for June 22 & 23, 2019.

Hope to hear you on the air soon!

Orion, AI6JB
President



Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club • w6ek.org

Hamfest 2019

Saturday, March 16th

First swap of the year - Rain or Shine

Historic Loomis Train Depot Plaza
5775 Horseshoe Bar Road, Downtown Loomis

This is our 5th year for a Hamfest, Meet & Greet everyone, visit the ARRL Booth, Buy Drawing tickets there are hourly drawings and the Big Prize toward the end of the day.



Hot coffee and Donuts - lunch deal at Taylor's, SFARC Club table with radio demonstrations, Elmer Tours Talk-in: 145.430 pl 162.2 Parking is free for Buyers starts at 7am - Noon



**Grand Prize at 11am
other prizes hourly**



SFARC is an ARRL Affiliated and Special Service Club. ARRL is the National Organization representing Amateur Radio Operators Stop by the ARRL Booth and visit the W6EK Club table



Talk-in • W6EK/r 145.430 PL162.2Hz • Talk-in

Amateur radio (illegally) aiding yacht racers

By *Dan Romanchik, KB6NU*

The Golden Globe Race (<https://goldengloberace.com>), a 30,000 mile, non-stop solo yacht race to celebrate Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's historic 1968/9 world first solo non-stop circumnavigation. There are 18 sailors in the race, which started on July 1, 2018 from Les Sables-D'Olonne, France.

Amateur radio is at the heart of the latest controversy surrounding the race. Scuttlebutt Sailing News reported (<https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2019/01/21/maintaining-information-barrier/>) on January 21, 2019 (day 205 of the race):

“Sailors have been making use of the Amateur Radio net (ham radio) for decades, and while National telecommunication authorities have often turned a deaf ear to unlicensed operators using made-up call signs while at sea, warnings from a National regulator to Golden Globe Race skippers has created intrigue into an exciting finale for race leaders.

“Modern navigation and routing tools are restricted from use in the 2018-19 contest, limiting GGR skippers to the type of equipment available for the inaugural Sunday Times Golden Globe solo non-stop round the world race in 1968-69. That includes Amateur Radio.

“The skippers have been using this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, which is allowed under the Race Rules. However, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by National and International regulations which Jean-Luc Van Den Heede and Mark Slats, in first and second in the race, have not been doing. [[Neither Van den Heede or Slats have valid amateur radio licenses...Dan]]

“Said the warning, 'You use an amateur callsign and are making connections with amateur radio operators. The call sign letters are not registered, and thus illegal. I ask you to stop. If you have a legal amateur callsign then I urge you to present it.'”

As a result of this warning, Slats is considering dropping out of the race, even though the race is nearly complete. Yachting Monthly reports (<https://www.yachtingmonthly.com/boat-events/golden-globe-race/golden-globe-race-slats-considers-quitting-comms-row-68574>):

“Mark Slats, who is less than 50 miles from Golden Globe Race leader Jean-Luc Van Den Heede, has announced he is thinking about retiring from the race after being banned from broadcasting on the Ham Radio Net.

“Race organizers said the Dutch skipper does not have the required license, and has been warned by the Dutch authorities to stop broadcasting, which has left him unable to communicate with his shore team.

“Under the rules of the race, all of the entrants are able to use this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, but, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by national and international regulations.”

It's not only the yachters that are flouting the rules, it's the amateur radio operators who are communicating with them. According to Yachting Monthly, OFCOM, the UK regulator issued the following warning:

“Fair warning both to unregistered GGR skippers and to legitimate Ham radio operators communicating with them. In Britain, the Ham Radio net is controlled by OFCOM, which recently revoked more than 500 licenses for non-compliance. This includes communicating with unregistered Ham radio operators. The maximum penalty is 6 months in prison, a £5,000 fine and loss of their license.”

This is a fascinating story, and I wish that I'd found out about this sooner. It would be interesting to listen in on some of these communications. One question I have is why these guys failed to obtain a valid amateur radio license? The Golden Globe Radio website notes, “[The race] will be sailed under the auspices of the Royal Nomuka Yacht Club in the Kingdom of Tonga. His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Tupouto'a Ulukalala is Patron of the Race.” They probably could have issued

valid amateur radio licenses to all the racers.

If any of you have heard the communications or know any more about the technical details, I'd love to hear from you.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast (NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com). When he's not thinking about operating maritime mobile, you'll find him on 30m, 40m, and 80m.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2019

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

Brian AI6US set up our spanking new SFARC banner in the Mel's dining room and then Orion AI6JB officially opened the meeting. Brian also donated a great pointer with nifty green light to be used during our various SFARC meetings. Thank you Brian for your contributions to the club!

Secretary Report: Michele WH7QC reported that the official changeover on the two accounts occurred at the Wells Fargo Bank in Auburn earlier that afternoon. This transfer releases responsibility of the accounts from the previous secretary, Bruce K6BAA and treasurer, Sharron KK6RGV over to the new secretary, Michele WH7QC and new treasurer, Jeffrey KM6RGO.

Treasurer Report: Jeffrey KM6RGO reported about PayPal payments on dues.

Directors' Report: Greg KO6TH, Gerry WA6E, and Dustin W6YUE had no report.

Membership and Sunshine: Richard WA6RWS reported that there are 73 paid members and 55 unpaid.

Newsletter: Bruce was complimented as to how great the newsletter is.

Website: Herb KM6JBI reported that people have given nice photos for the website. He mentioned that Unime has an online course for about \$25-30 for website training he could use in improving his skills. He asked for possible reimbursement for the course.

Groups i.o.: Dennis WU6X reported that there are now 120 count on io. Dues payers are on the site and non-payers are off.

Social Media: Bob gave his report.

Volunteer: Mike KK6GLP reported

Contest: Dennis WU6X reported that the next event is the ARRL North American QSO Party on 23 February.

Drawing: Doug W2VX reported that the drawing is going good

Refreshments: Chip KM6MDF

Vice-President Report: Brian AI6US reported on Winter Field Day in Georgetown. It was a great event with the perfect location and awesome weather conditions. It would make a nice annual club event. There were 28 people that signed in. Some folks flew in for the event and some folks brought their children along. Scott, a member in the area made all the arrangements, even for the porta potty.

Hamfest: The date is March 16.

Club Christmas Dinner: Date is set for Saturday, December 7, 2019.

Banner: It looks great! Thank you so much Brian AI6US

Digital Repeater: Bob K6UDA

Field Day Site Selection: Site to be determined

Liability Exposure: The SFARC falls under the liability of the Auburn City Hall where we meet

2018 Financial Review: Dennis WU6X and Mike KK6GLP gave the audit report. Among other items it was mentioned that receipts need to be disbursed to people for refreshments, cash paid, etc. The General fund is the operating account and the Repeater account is used primarily for repeater-related items, ie upgrades. The Club has no debts-yay!

Greg KO6TH moved to accept the Audit report with a second motion by Michele WH7QC.

Club Video Lighting Kit: Brian AI6US gave the report on the needed video lighting kit. This will greatly enhance lighting for guest speakers and the like. He proposed to spend an extra ~\$20 to buy parts separately to customize the light stands. The minimum lighting package Brian recommends cost ~\$200, encompassing the LED Video light (\$160), 8.5' photography light stans-2 pack at \$25 and 4X sand bags to weight down the stands at \$12.

Repeater Upgrade: Bob K6UDA reported that in the past we looked at DSTAR Repeater then expanded to DMR Fusion. Fusion appears to suit what we need, but we have people on Analog and Digital so there could be some discontented people on either side. There was a DR2X offer from Jeff AK6OK. It was suggested that a special meeting with stake holders to go over what to acquire along with the costs involved.

Submitted by *Michele Bauer-WH7QC, SFARC Secretary*

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2019



The meeting began promptly at 19:30 with our usual Pledge of Allegiance (yay!) and introductions. There were about 48 in attendance at head count with 43 having signed in, including visitors. There were 2 visitors, including one from Sunnyvale. The January 2019 minutes were approved.

Officer and Board Reports were as follows: President-Orion, AI6JB, Vice-President-Brian, AI6US, Secretary-Michele, WH7QC and Treasurer-Jeff, KM6RGO.

Greeter/Sunshine/Membership: Richard WA6RWS mentioned that if dues are paid, you are on the roster. ☺

VE: AI, NI2U who announced that from the most recent exams, there were 3 new Techs, 1 new General and 3 new Extras! Congratulations to all!

Volunteer: Mike, KK6GLP announced that the next event is the STEM Expo on March 2.

Satellite: Greg, KO6TH

Report by Scott WA6YNE

Website: Herb, KM6JBI

Contest: Dennis, WU6X announced that the next contest will be the ARRL North American QSO Party-RTTY on February 23.

ARES: Carl, N6CKV announced about the upcoming "Face to Face" being on Saturday, March 30. Please bring your "Go Kits".

Drawing: Doug, W2VX announced the big variety of drawing prizes.

Refreshments: were brought in by George, KG6LSB who brought in personal favorites.

Field Day: Herb, KM6JBI, Bob, K6UDA, AI NI2U and Gary, N6UWQ are the organizers.

Hamfest: Scheduled for March 16. The club needs a co-chair. Orion has volunteered this for years and now it's time for another to receive the blessings.

Library: Mike, KK6GLP announced there is \$200-300 worth of reading materials on hand to borrow from the club.

PRESENTATION: Given by Joe Steinmetz, K6SAT on Western States Trail Communications for the upcoming annual Western States Endurance Run (Cross-country run). This year's event will be held on June 29 & 30. Joe is the HAM coordinator for Western States. The race relies mainly on HAM radio communication for the 100 mile course as cell service is very lacking. The WSER runs from Squaw to Auburn through many canyons, for the 100.2 miles. There are approximately 100 HAM volunteers, 1500

total volunteers and 21 Aid stations with one or more radio teams at each station. There are 11 Repeaters, 6 Simplex frequencies and 7 Digital frequencies. W6EK-VHF is one of their main wide-coverage repeaters and W6EK-UHF is used by net control to reduce local TX interference. Linking VHF/UHF is critical to WSER.

What's new for 2019? A new commercial radio fleet for net control. There is an added new Winlink Gateway at Michigan Bluff. Radio cover for all 21 Aid stations. Last race there were serious illness and injuries so these additions should prove very helpful.

FYI: The annual Tevis Cup will be held this July 20 and is being coordinated by Randy Hackbarth, KD6MWI.

PRESENTATION: Given by Greg Dolkas, KO6TH on Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS). It was developed in the late 1980's. It is not Winlink! It is humans communicating information with humans.

Various APRS Stations: "Trackers", Handheld & Mobile RF, In-shack/Internet-Mobile

Voice alert is set APRS band to CTSS-100. Keep the volume turned up for voice alert.

Kenwood-TH 074 is APRS and not DPRS. It can do texts and email messages! Winlink is RF and Internet messaging. It has been used extensively during recent emergencies as well as Western States and Tevis Cup.

What's the difference between APRS and DPRS? DPRS is one-way only, like a tracker, and marginally useful.

Our monthly SFARC meeting adjourned at 21:25. Submitted by *Michele Bauer-WH7QC, SFARC Secretary*



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2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ e-mail: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Associate Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ email: _____
Phone: _____ Cellphone: _____ Application is: (New / Renewal) _____

Dues / Donations:

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Membership: yearly* | \$22.00 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)**

OFFICE USE ONLY:

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Date: _____ Treasurer: _____ Secretary: _____ Roster: _____
Payment: _____ Check Number: _____ Cash: _____ PayPal: _____

Rev. 11-13-2018