



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

September 2019

<http://w6ek.org> info@w6ek.org

At The Key of SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Orion Endres, AI6JB
AI6JB@ARRL.NET

VICE PRESIDENT

Brian Gohl, AI6US
AI6US@titaniumsattelite.com

SECRETARY

Michele Bauer, WH7QC
mickeybauer2012@gmail.com

TREASURER

Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO
jamontrail@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Greg Dolkas, KO6TH
 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

September 13th:
Club Meeting

September 23rd:
Autumnal Equinox
(First day of fall)

September 28th:
Club Breakfast



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- *Club helps Eldred KD6ZSL move*
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HAPPY FIRST DAY OF FALL!



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*

Hams Helping Hams

Eldred, KD6ZSL, is leaving us for greener pastures. He needed help to dismantle his station he has lovingly grown for many years. Brian, AI6US, and the SFARC crew came to the rescue. With the help of a crane, they lowered his 65 foot high tower and dismantled his antennas. Thank you to Richard - WA6RWS, Rich - K6NYC, Richard's wife, Bob - K6ZLY, Jim - KQ6VP, Jim - WA8MPA, Rob - KM6YKX, George - KG6LSB for donating your Friday to help out a fellow club member. You folks exemplified the best of our Club.

And Eldred, we wish you the best and our fondest farewell! Safe Journey.

Tevis Cup 2019 Was A Success

Despite a date change due to snow in the high Sierras, the 2019 Tevis Cup had one of the highest participation and completion rates in many years. 184 riders and their mounts traveled the 100 miles from Robie Park near Lake Tahoe to Auburn in the 64th Annual Tevis Cup with 109 completing the race. That is 60% completion. Most years, barely 50% get to the finish line. This is a world class event with riders representing 22 different countries.

SFARC once again played a significant role in the event. Our repeater system is the primary repeater used by Net Control. It can be heard pretty much the whole length of the course from Cougar Rock onward. We had a very good showing in the number of members staffing radio positions, 11 if I counted correctly. Thanks goes out to Joe, K6SAT, Jim, N6MED, Gary, N6UWQ, Gene, KG6NYH, Aaron, K6ABJ, Mike, KK6GLP, Ken, KK6RXS, Jeff, KM6RGO, Brian, AI6US, and Nathan, K6NDC, for representing our Club. You may remember Joe. He is the communications director for the Western States Endurance Run and once again put in countless hours on this event. Thank you all for your hard work.

ARRL is Celebrating Hiram Percy Maxim's Birthday

To mark the 150th Birthday of ARRL's first president, ARRL is hosting an operating event starting on August 31st, 0000 UTC, and running 9 days until September 8th, 2359 UTC. This is a great excuse, just in case you needed one, to get on the air. For more information, go to the ARRL.org website. Free logging software is available at www.n3jfp.org.

Hope to hear you on the air!

73

Orion Endres, AI6JB

President

AI6JB@arrl.net



The Western States Trail Ride (aka the TEVIS Cup)



KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog

DXpedition to use FT8 robot?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It's inevitable. At some point, machines are going to render humans irrelevant. It's been a recurring theme in science fiction since before I was born (1955), and there are numerous predictions of the Singularity, the point in time when machines will be smarter than human, occurring between 2030 and 2045.

It may happen in amateur radio sooner than we think. A couple of days ago, one of my readers, sent me a link to a blog post by John, AE5X: [Automated FT8 "FoxBot" in upcoming DXpedition – confirmed](#). He wrote:

"A [DXpedition to Tokelau](#) will take place from 1 to 11 October and it will be your chance to work an FT8 robot operating in Fox/Hound mode.

"Stathis SV5DKL has been working on a "FoxBot" for some time now, is listed as a partner to this DXpedition and has confirmed that the DXpedition will be using his FoxBot."

John has since updated this post, noting "The SV5DKL logo has now been removed and the DX team will be in 'full compliance' with the mode." Full compliance meaning following the rules set up by the ARRL DXCC rules.

The ARRL is, of course, against the use of robots. A recent *ARRL Letter* noted:

"ARRL has incorporated changes to the rules for all ARRL-sponsored contests and DXCC, prohibiting automated contacts and requiring that an actual operator is initiating and carrying out a contact. These changes also apply to Worked All States (including Triple Play and 5-Band WAS), Fred Fish W5FF Memorial, and VUCC awards. The changes are effective immediately and affect the rules for both HF contests, and VHF/UHF contests as well as DXCC.

"A resolution at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting pointed to 'growing concern over fully automated contacts being made and claimed' for contest and for DXCC credit. The rules now require that each claimed contact include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may either be local or remote."

As AE5X says, however, the use of FT8 robots in the future is a certainty. Sooner or later, some DXpedition is going to use an FT8 robot without saying anything about it. How is the ARRL going to know that a DXpedition is using robots if the DXpedition operators don't tell them?

I'm wondering when some DXpedition is going to give up on SSB and CW altogether. Why bother with those modes when you can make hundreds or thousands more contacts by just operating FT8?

Another thought just occurred to me. If the ARRL gets its way and Techs are awarded HF digital privileges, how long will it take for some enterprising Tech to make the DXCC Honor Roll using FT8 exclusively. Oh, the horror of it all!

=====

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 often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not wondering when robots are going to take over the world, he likes to (manually) operate CW on the HF bands.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2019

The August 2019 Board meeting was called to order by Orion at 1800 hours at Mel's Diner in Auburn.

Roll Call: All Officers and Board members were present

OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

President's Report: Orion/AI6JB announced that an American Legion radio club is being formed in Auburn. He also informed the group that it is about \$400 a year to rent the Rose Room in Auburn for our club meetings—not a bad deal. Orion also asked us to please keep any “Repeater” talk until after the Tevis Cup.

Some suggestions came forward as to how to keep our meetings to ending by 9:00 pm or earlier: one presentation OR two short ones for our General meetings.

Vice-President's: Brian/AI6US briefly announced that at our next meeting will a presentation by Tom Preston from AREDN-Ham Radio Internet.

Secretary: Michele/WH7QC had no report.

Treasurer: Jeff/KM6RGO said he is waiting to hear back from “Amazon Smile” regarding donations. For Field Day monetary information, he referred us to the data sheet. Field Day cost the club a little over \$700 with us budgeting for \$500, so we unfortunately went over.

Directors: Greg/KO6TH asked what we all thought of the video from our last meeting. The new equipment has made a difference in the quality.

Gerry/WA6E had no report.

Dustin/W6YUE mentioned that the responses to having a meeting day change seem mixed. A weekday *may* draw more members.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee): Clyde/AB4CC just emphasized what Orion said about keeping Repeater discussions until after the Tevis Cup is finished.

Greeter/Sunshine: Richard/WA6RWS was not present. It was announced that Sharron/KK6RGV is doing better.

Newsletter: Barbara/W6EVA does a great job!

Webmaster: Herb/KM6JBI informed us that there are no server issues. We have just the one “info @.....” Herb put general information for the public to attract new members. The site is a “Blue Fish”.

Groups.io: Dennis/WU6X was not present.

Social Media Officer (SMO): Bob/K6UDA was not present. He does suggest though that Social Media be put on once a month--like Instagram.

Membership: Richard/WA6RWS was not present; however, Jeff/KM6RGO has taken over some Membership duties, and reported that we have about 118 active members.

VE Exam: Al/N12U was not present, but Clyde/AB4CC announced that there are 2 new Techs and 2 new Generals. He said that he and Al want to hold a 5-session Tech training.

Volunteer Events: Mike/KK6GLP announced about the Rocklin Mini Maker Faire which is in October. The Tevis Cup is next weekend.

Contest Chair: Dennis/WU6X was not present.

Drawing Chair: We do not have one yet; however, Aaron/K6ABJ “volunteered” as the Drawing Chair with Andrew’s/K6OP help. Hooray Aaron and Andrew!

Snack Bar: George/KG6LSB was not present but is doing a great job.

Public Information Officer (PIO): Scott/WA6YNE announced that the FCC is saying what we can/cannot do.

Digital Repeater: Bob/K6UDA was not present.

Nomination Committee: Rich/AA6RS announced that Brian/AI6US is planning to run for President of the club, Greg/KO6TH for Vice-President, and Michele/WH7QC will remain as Secretary, Jeff/KM6RGO will remain as Treasurer, and Gerry/WA6E will remain as a Director. Herb/KM6JBI volunteered to be a Director and Rich said that he will find one more to make the three needed for the club. Please contact Rich if you are interested!

Field Day Committee: Herb/KM6JBI, Bob/K6UDA, Al/N12U, Gary/KC3PO. There was no report.

Club Picnic Chair: The Club picnic was cancelled last month.

Club Christmas Party Chair: Jim/WA8MPA will Co-Chair, but we still need another Co-Chair. Bruce/K6BAA said Barbara/W6EVA would have chaired the event, had it been on the next weekend, like last year. Orion said next year we should do that!

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS

August 17: NAQP SSB-Chaired by Dennis/WU6X

September 13: Club Officer Nominations (next club meeting) Chaired by Rich/AA6RS

October 5: Calif QSO Party, Chaired by Dennis/WU6X

October 11: Annual White Elephant Auction, Chaired by Tyghe/W6TJR & Bob/K6UDA

October 12: Mini Maker Faire, Rocklin, CA, Chaired by Mike/KK6GLP

October 19: 62nd Jamboree on the Air 2019. It has been considered the biggest HAM event of the year and is chaired by Orion/AI6JB. We still need a location. A possibility is the park off Horseshoe Bar & Taylor Roads in Loomis—The “Loomis Basin Community Park”.

October 26: CQ Worldwide SSB Contest, Chaired by Dennis/WU6X

November 8: Club Officer Elections, Chaired by Rich/AA6RS

November 16: ARRL Sweepstakes, Chaired by Dennis/WU6X

November 22: CQ Worldwide CW Contest, Chaired by Dennis/WU6X

December 7: Club Christmas Party, Co-Chaired by Jim/WA8MPA and ??

January 1, 2020: Winter Field Day, Chaired by Orion/AI6JB and Brian/AI6US

OLD BUSINESS

Establish a Repeater Committee to address the Repeater issues:

Repeater Lease expired June 2018, Repeater Upgrades Proposal, New Repeater Site

SFARC Ham Class: AI/NI2U and Clyde/AB4CC are in charge

Reserve Vet Hall for 2020 Christmas Party on December 12, 2020. Orion submitted the application, but no word thus far.

Change in Club meeting day and venue: After sending out a questionnaire, there are mixed feelings.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 1855. Submitted by Michele/WH7QC



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2019



The SFARC General meeting for August 2019 commenced at 1930 hours at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room with President Orion Endres/AI6JB presiding. We did our usual Pledge of Allegiance.

Officers present were Orion/AI6JB, Vice-president Brian Gohl/AI6US, Secretary Michele Bauer/WH7QC, and Jeffrey Morgan/KM6RGO. Directors present were Greg Dolkas/KO6TH, and Dustin/W6YUE.

Guests were welcomed and SFARC members introduced themselves. There were 42 members and 3 visitors signed in on the roster.

Brian/AI6US introduced our guest speaker, John Arenz/N6YBH, who spoke on the Rubicon Trail Association Ham Network & Training. OHV (Off-highway vehicles) is a community, with Repeater system-500-watt transmitter. It is located at Log Town, near Diamond Spring. They have 11 receivers on mountain tops all over the El Dorado County. There is no cell service, so communication is via HAM Radio. There is a Rubicon Repeater at Spider Lake that allows reception all along the trail. There are 82-250 jeeps on the trail each weekend. So, this is very popular indeed!

Our "Show and Tell" table is run by Jim/WA8MPA

CLUB BUSINESS

The July 12 General Meeting minutes were approved.

Drawing Chair-we need one!

Don't forget to donate to our refreshments! Donations are being accepted towards our refreshments in lieu of our drawings tickets until we get a volunteer to handle the drawings. Proceeds go toward our annual Christmas dinner party etc.

OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Vice-president-Brian/AI6US announced that next month we will have Tom Preston speaking on AREDN. Secretary-Michele/WH7QC had no report, but simply reminded both members and guests to sign-in. You may collect a SFARC business card from her.

Treasurer-Jeff/KM6RGO had no report as he had to leave early.

Director Dustin/W6YUE has asked us to think about a possible meeting day change. Orion sent a recent email to members to inquire as to their feelings on this. He discovered a mixture of feelings on this.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee) -Clyde/AB4CC announced that the Repeater is still there and still works 😊

Greeter/Sunshine-Richard/WA6RWS was not present

VE Exam-Al/NI2U was not present, but Carl/N6CKV announced that we have 2 new Techs and 2 new Generals.

Volunteer Events-Mike/KK6GLP announced that TEVIS Cup is this weekend. Please keep your Repeaters clear.

Satellite-Greg/KO6TH

Public Information Officer (PIO)-Scott/WA6YNE

Website-Herb/KM6JBI had no report

Groups.io. Site-Dennis/WU6X was not present

Contest Chair-Dennis/WU6X was not present

Social Media Officer (SMO)-Bob/K6UDA was not present

Membership-Richard/WA6RWS was not present; however, we have about 180 members

ARES-Carl/N6CKV announced that ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) meet over the Air every Sunday evening at 7:30 pm. Visitors are welcome.

Digital Repeater Implementation-Bob/K6UDA was not present

Snack Bar-George/KG6LSB announced that for refreshments we have the same stuff, as before, except for fresh red vines 😊

Drawing Chair-Aaron/K6ABJ volunteered! Thank you Aaron!

Nomination Committee-Rich/AA6RS, please let him know if you are interested in being an officer

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS

August 17: NAQP SSB, Chaired by Dennis/WU6X

September 13: Club Officer Nominations, Chaired by Rich/AA6RS

September 19: Club Picnic is cancelled

October 5: California QSO Party, Chaired by Dennis/WU6X

October 11: Annual White Elephant Auction, Chaired by Tyghe/W6THS & Bob/K6UDA. Sift through your garage! 😊

October 19: Mini Maker Faire in Rocklin, CA and is Chaired by Mike/KK6GLP

October 19: 62nd Jamboree On the Air 2019, Chaired by Orion/AI6JB

November 8: Club Elections, Chaired by Rich/AA6RS

November 16: ARRL Sweepstakes, Chaired by Dennis/WU6X

December 7: Annual Club Christmas Party, co-chaired by Jim/WA8MPA and we need one more co-chair!

TEC TEN-Brian/AIGUS announced that Herb/KM6JBI will speak to the club about his cool engraved wood chocks he made and brought to Field Day. Herb used a Model Da Vinci Super 3D Printhead with laser.

1. Create graphic using Gimp
2. Software
3. Position graphic in the software
4. Setting parameters for engraving. You can do Vector or Raster (like photos). Each Field Day block took 2 hours. You can do leather or wood.
5. Place the wood block into printer.

Lessons learned: You need a lot of ventilation, a lot of wood, and to take your time with this project. Questions? What is cost of the software? Equipment? The software comes with it. Is blue laser special? Herb has seen red and black before, but not blue. Will we be setting up a template for the club? Right now, Herb said he still learning. Can you burn a circuit board? You cannot remove tattoos, but Herb said he can change them for you. 😊 You can get from XYZ Printing and the cost is about \$2,000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Club Nets-Every Thursday @ 7:30 pm (145.430, PL=162.2)
 Elmer Net-Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30 pm (145.430, PL-162.2)
 Club Board Meeting-2nd Friday of the month, September 13 @ 7:30 pm
 Club Breakfast-Last Saturday at Mel's in Auburn
 Are there any QSTs from the Members?
 The July 2019 minutes stand approved.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours. Submitted by Michele/WH7QC





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P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

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: _____

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