P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604 **January 2020** http://w6ek.org info@w6ek.org

At The Key of SFARC:

PRESIDENT
Brian Gohl, AI6US
AI6US@titaniumsatellite.com

VICE PRESIDENT
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ko6th.greg@gmail.com

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mickeybauer2012@gmail.com

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DIRECTORS
Gerry Brentnall, WA6E
Nathan Chilton, K6NDC
Wayne Stilwell, W6DT

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/FUSION)
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
Orion Endres, AI6JB
Al Martin, NI2U

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Barbara Anderson, W6EVA
anderson51@wavecable.com

WEBMASTER: Herb Garcia, KM6JBI

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER
Al Martin, NI2U

Inside this issue

Calendar of Events

January 1st:
New Year's Day
2020

January 10th:
Club Meeting

January 20th:
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 25th:
Club Breakfast

January 25th - 26th:
Winter Field Day

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

President's Message

By Brian Gohl – AI6US,
President

Happy New Year!

As we look back on 2019, what a great year it has been for the club! So many special memories have been made at our community events, monthly breakfasts, portable operations, contests, club meetings, and in helping each other with ham radio projects. Looking forward to the club activities in 2020, but with each new year comes change.

Please join with me in recognizing and thanking our outgoing President, Orion Endres - AI6JB, for his leadership and the hundreds of hours that he has volunteered to coordinate club activities over the past four years. Four years is a club record for most consecutive years served as President. We are so fortunate to have had him continue to lead our group for so many terms. His endless energy and organizational skills have engaged the membership and chairs in our community communication support, Hamfests, Field Days, JOTAs, contests, and social events. We certainly look forward to Orion's continuing participation in club activities as the SFARC 2020 Hamfest chair, Jamboree on the Air chair, and of course organizing numerous radiosport events. Thank you, Orion!

2020 promises to be another exciting year for SFARC!

The six month digital Fusion test officially began with a QSO between K6UDA and K6BAA on December 28th, 2019, at 11:30 am. The W6EK 70cm repeater (440.575MHz, +5.0, Dig ID 00) is currently operating only in digital Fusion C4FM mode. Thank you to Scott - KK7AIR for your generous loan of the Yaesu DR-2X repeater and the Wires node station. W6EK repeater trustee, Clyde - AB4CC has spent many hours learning about Fusion and Wires-x, configuring and consulting to make sure this test is a success.

For digital newbies, like myself, the February club meeting will feature a much anticipated "how to" presentation on Fusion / Wires-X. The basics will be covered on repeater etiquette, accessing via a hotspot and how to visit other repeaters or rooms. The repeater committee looks forward to your feedback on this digital repeater test. As features are activated, Wires-X room information and repeater linking updates will be posted on Groups.io.

Winter Field Day is only a few weeks away, January 25-26, 2020! The location is once again hosted by Scott - KK7AIR at the beautiful Georgetown, CA, airport's private campground, only a 30 minute drive or a 5 minute flight from Auburn. The campground is the perfect location for the 160m – 70cm stations operating on Voice / CW / Digital modes (no FT8). Come up to camp or visit for the day. Stations and antennas set-up start January 24th at noon, a Friday evening potluck, Saturday and Sunday free pancake breakfasts and then on Saturday evening a pizza party!

A community coffee and snack table with a roaring campfire will be perfect for hanging out with old and new friends. The club canopies with walls and propane heaters will provide comfort and protection from any weather. Camp break-down starts on Sunday at 11am. RSVP today on the Groups.io site or sign-up at the next club meeting. If you are unable to join us, please look for us on the bands. Every contact helps (especially on VHF/UHF)!

The SFARC Hamfest is right around the corner and the planning committee will be meeting soon. The success of our annual Hamfest depends on the participation of every member. We have scheduled a perfect, clear and warm springtime day, so mark your calendars for the year's first regional Hamfest on March 21, 2020, at the historic Loomis Station.

Communication support for community events is an excellent opportunity to get out of the shack and exercise your HT or portable “Go Box”, Elmer a new op, or learn beside an experienced operator. This year, Michael - KK6GLP will again organize many fun volunteer opportunities. SFARC will be partnering with both the Western States Endurance run (see Joe - K6SAT) and the Tevis Cup to help staff these world class 100 mile events.

ARRL Field Day is scheduled for June 27 and 28, 2020. Based on the positive feedback from last year's successful FD event, we will be returning to the Blue Canyon Airport location. The planning committee starts soon and we look forward to building another great FD team with your participation and ideas.

Planning for the Picnic and Christmas holiday party will start earlier this year. Please let me know how you will be able to help out with these awesome events. Don't be surprised to receive a call from me in the next few weeks as we begin to organize for the 2020 Sierra Foothills ARC events!

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your club President in 2020. I am excited to work with the board and each member as we continue to grow in our hobby, mentor and educate, provide community communication services along with all of the other exciting activities which make the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club stand out in our region. I would love to hear your ideas and feedback and am looking forward to a great 2020!

Brian Gohl – AI6US
AI6US@titaniumsatellite.com

KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler" is a quote attributed to Albert Einstein (https://quotationcelebration.wordpress.com/2017/01/07/everything-should-be-made-as-simple-as-possible-but-not-simpler-albert-einstein/comment-page-1/). Here's one way to apply this principle in amateur radio, specifically to code practice oscillators.

A week ago, my friend, Paul emailed me:

> *"I am planning on teaching a two-hour introduction to Morse code to 14 girls ages 8 to 9* [Paul's granddaughter is a Girl Scout]*. I plan on having the girls build a code practice device. I need your help in selecting a low cost buzzer and battery holder. Please take a look around and see would you can find. I would like to limit the power to one or two AA batteries."*

I replied that I'd be happy to help him with the demonstration, and offered the following advice:

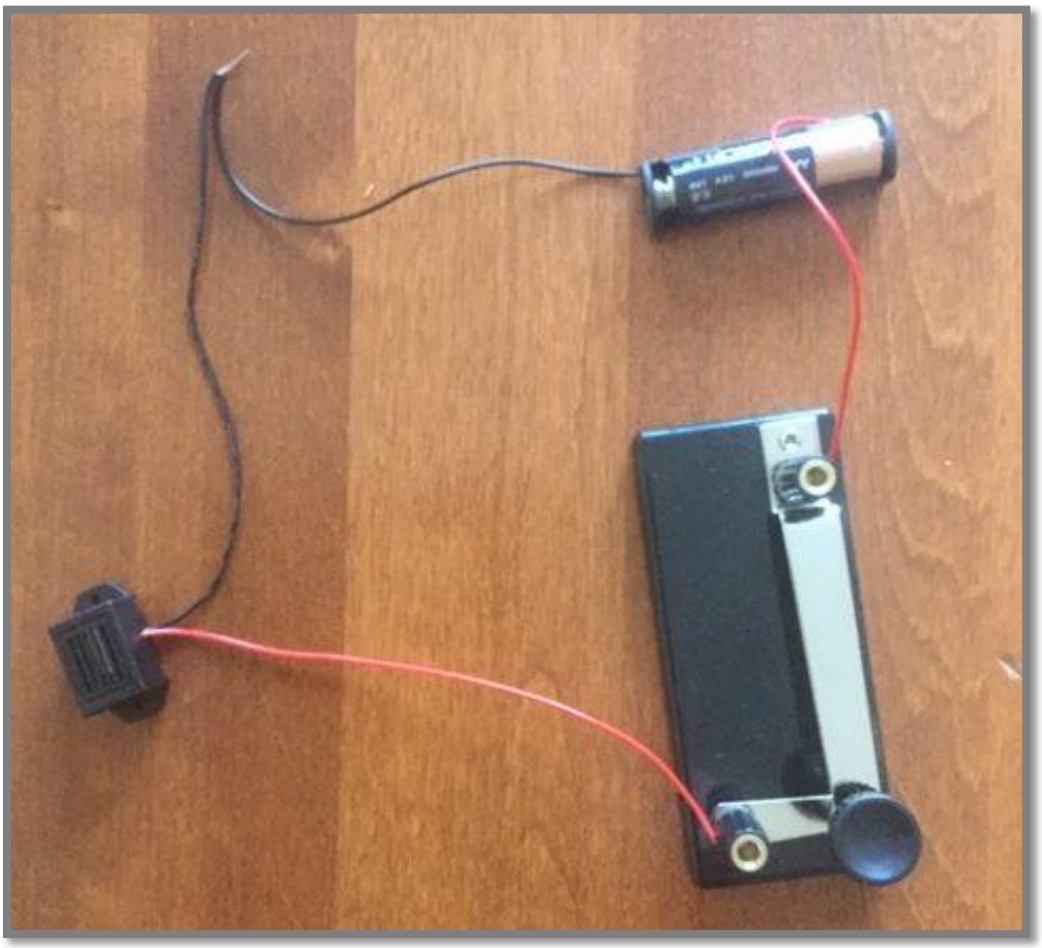
> *"A while back, I built the QRPGuys' K7QO Code Practice Oscillator* (https://qrpguys.com/k7qo-code-practice-oscillator). *It uses a CR2032 coin battery. Unfortunately, they don't sell it anymore, but the assembly manual is still online* (https://qrpguys.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cpo_assy_012616.pdf). *The assembly manual doesn't call out specific parts, but here are some Amazon SKUs:"*
>
> - B00J4BK0NS, Black 3V Electromagnetic Type Piezo Buzzer, 20 pcs/$6.58
> - B06XF3K4NP, Coin Cell Button Battery Holder, 30 pcs/$9
> - B008SNZUYC, 3 Pin PCB Mount Female 3.5mm Stereo Jack, 10 pcs/$5.40
> - B071RMD6FD, 1/8" 3.5mm Stereo Male Connector, 10 pcs/$7
>
> *"Batteries are available at the dollar store for about 30 cents each. So, you could do the whole thing for less than $5 for sure, even with a printed circuit board, which I would suggest that we do. Heck, if you ask nicely, the QRPGuys might even give us the artwork, or even better, have some boards still in stock. Even if they have neither, you should be able to get the boards in plenty of time."*

Later that day, Paul replied:

> *"Thanks, Dan, for the information and making yourself available to help. I am just going to use a buzzer, key, and battery. The buzzer has a frequency of 400 Hz."*

- https://www.xump.com/science/Buzzer-Leads15V.cfm
- https://www.xump.com/science/ContactKeySwitch.cfm
- https://www.xump.com/science/Single-AA-Battery-Holder.cfm

And this morning, he sent me this photo, noting, *"FYI. Also sounds great."*



I think that this is as good an example of "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler" as there can be. I've volunteered to help Paul with his class. That will be fun, too.

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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 often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not trying to keep things as simple as possible, but not simpler, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

2020 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	**New- - - New – New –**
August	$ 18/5	November	$ 12/2+ following year	**Multi-year DISCOUNT Membership**
September	$ 16/4	December	$ 10/1 + following year	***$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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