



Welcome to SFARC, Auburn, CA



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

September 2020

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

At The Key of SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Brian Gohl, AI6US
AI6US@titaniumsattelite.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Greg Dolkas, KO6TH
ko6th.greg@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Michele Bauer, WH7QC
mickeybauer2012@gmail.com

TREASURER

Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO
jamontrail@gmail.com

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

Calendar of Events

September 7th:

LABOR DAY

September 11th:

*On-line Club Meeting
@ 7:30 PM*

(Instructions on how to
join the meeting are in
Brian's column)

Club Breakfast

(Is suspended until
further notice)

October 4th:

*California Endurance Riders
Association (CERA)
Fool's Gold Enduro is
tentatively scheduled*

*Join us every morning starting
at 7:30am for the Coffee Break
Net on the W6EK repeater
145.43, PL 162.2*

Inside this issue

- *President's Message*
- *Craig KM6LYW shares his wilderness experience*
- *Board Meeting Minutes*
- *General Meeting 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 Brian Gohl – AI6US,
President*

What did you do this Summer?

The hot and smoky air seems to greet us each day of this endless Covid summer of 2020. While we wait for the plague of locusts to arrive, many of our members are escaping to explore California and beyond. Members are checking in from their activities and it is sure great to hear so many of you that are out and about.

Jim, KQ6VP has been recently checking in on Echolink as he and his wife Ellen travel North into the Glacier National Park. Craig, KM6LYW just backpacked from Loon Lake to Lower Echo Lake and checked in daily with Jodi back home in Cool. Jodi got some great practice putting her brand new Technician license, KN6JYI on the air! Orion ran the Coffee Break Net from Grouse Ridge Fire Lookout then returned at 11am to summit on foot to activate for SOTA (Summits On The Air). Amateur radio certainly is a great tool for keeping us in touch and is a part of almost every activity and outing!

Maybe next month you will let us know what interesting place you are operating from. Of course, if you don't take a few photos, who will believe it really happened? All kidding aside, we love receiving your photos for the newsletter, sharing on W6EK.org and Facebook posts!

Radio License Training and Scout Merit Badge

Orion, AI6JB is taking the lead for SFARC to offer training for Technician, General and Extra class licensing. The SFARC board confirmed our club's commitment to providing training and support for these classes. Please be sure to submit your completed training questionnaire to help us plan for future classes. If you did not receive the emailed questionnaire link, please contact Orion.

Orson, KG6UCS and Phillip KM6NFS assisted Orion with teaching the first technician class for three students, who are now signed-up for the next exam session on September 26th. Five online Zoom sessions and two labs have prepared the students to not only pass their exams, but to also give them practical experience. Students built their own 450 ohm window feedline roll-up J-pole antenna and worked SFARC members on the VHF repeater and simplex during an expedition to Recreation Park, located in Auburn.

During the August 22nd portable operation to Recreation Park, three Scouts and their Scout Master worked VHF and HF operations to complete requirements for the Radio Merit Badge. The Scout Master and one of the scouts now wish to study for their license. Congrats and we look forward to these new operators joining us on the air.

Club Meeting September 11

Join us on September 11th at 7:30pm for our next online club meeting. Mike, N6MRP will give a presentation on supporting community events with radio communications. Jim WA8MPA has assured us that there will be another awesome item for auction and Dennis, WU6X will once again spin the prize wheel. Look forward to seeing you at the next online meeting. They are quite fun!!!

We want to make sure that all members and guests are comfortable with joining the meeting and are able to participate. If you have any questions about how to use GoTo Meeting, please contact any of SFARC board members and we will arrange assistance. Please be sure that your name and call sign are correctly displayed when you log in so we will have an accurate record of attending members.

Click on this link to join our meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/423173365>

You can also view the meeting online and dial in using your phone to vote.

(872) 240-3212 then enter this access code when prompted: **423-173-365** or

One-Touch Telephone: **+18722403212,,423173365#**

Looking forward to talking with you again, a little further down the logbook!

Until then, 73

Brian Gohl – AI6US

SFARC President





My seven-day Desolation Wilderness backpacking expedition from Loon to Echo Lake covered 32 miles of trail and there was APRS/packet coverage the entire way. My newly licensed XYL was in contact with us the whole time on 146.805/KA6GWY.

I checked in to the W6EK Coffee Break Net via a five-watt HT, SignalStick whip and counterpoise from Lake of the Woods. If I stood on my toes I could get the S-meter to flicker up to S9 during the net -- not bad for 51 miles away at 8000' on the HT!

I was able to keep the radio batteries topped off with a 5-watt solar panel, along with powering the GPS, flashlights, and cameras. Every gram of radio/electronics earned its weight on this spectacular hike.

*--Craig
KM6LYW*





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Video Conference “Go to Meeting”

August 14, 2020 @ 1800

The August 2020 SFARC Board meeting commenced at 1800 by videoconference on GoToMeeting.com.

Roll Call: Officers and directors present: Brian Gohl/AI6US (President), Greg Dolkas/KO6TH (Vice President), Jeffrey Morgan/KM6RGO (Treasurer), Gerry Brentnall/WA6E (Director), and Wayne Stilwell/W6DT (Director). Absent were Michele Bauer/WH7QC (Secretary) and Nathan Chilton/K6NDC (Director).

Guests included: Mike Perry/N6MRP, Orion Endres/AI6JB, Herb Garcia/KM6JBI, Clyde Campbell/AB4CC, Dennis Gregory/WU6X, Jim Jupin/WA8MPA, and Don Hay/WB6LPJ.

Mike N6MRP took minutes for the Board and General meetings.

Officer and Board Member Reports: None

Committee Chair Reports:

Repeater: Clyde AB4CC said the two Telcom 125AH AGM SLA batteries ordered for the repeater vault arrived with leakage found on the package. We obtained a \$530.88 refund for the batteries and were allowed to keep them. We found them to be serviceable, so they are in use in the vault. (Greg KO6TH asked if the leakage would affect reliability or safety. Brian AI6US said the batteries have been tested and are charging without leakage.) We decided to apply part of the refund to buy a Samlex SEC-1250OUL power supply for use in the vault. The existing supply was not working. Brian AI6US purchased the Samlex for \$310 with his own money. Jeff KM6RGO made a motion to reimburse Brian the \$310. Wayne W6DT seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the issue will go to the General meeting. Also, the 220 repeater is fixed. The 70cm repeater is connected full time to Sierra NorCal FCS, Sierra NorCal Wires-X Room, and YouTubers FCS.

Greeter/Sunshine: Brian AI6US said Richard Kuepper/WA6RWS wants to resign his position. The Club appreciates his work in this position over the past many years. A replacement is needed. Orion AI6JB and Wayne W6DT suggested Michele WH7QC. Brian will ask her, plus solicit other names at the General meeting.

Newsletter: No report.

Webmaster: Herb KM6JBI asked that we advise him of needed updates.

Groups.io: Dennis WU6X had no updates.

Social Media Officer: No report.

Membership: Jeff KM6RGO said membership stands at 128. The Coffee Break Net seems to have attracted new members. Herb KM6JBI added that he is working on a membership web page that can handle multiple members in a household. Also, he is coming up with a design for stickers for new hams that pass the Tech test.

VE Exam: Brian AI6US said Andrew Silvester/K6OP has offered to step down from the position. Greg KO6TH asked of the Club's relationship with ARRL's VECs. Brian said this would be discussed under new business.

Volunteer Events: Mike N6MRP said: 1) The California Endurance Riders Association Fool's Gold Enduro is scheduled for Sunday, October 4. CERA must obtain permits from El Dorado National Forest and possibly the county. They submitted to us their District's COVID-19 guidelines, which they will revise to be specific to the county and this event. (Brian AI6US earlier provided the Board these guidelines for review.) Brian wants to make sure the CERA guidelines incorporate the county guidelines. Also, all volunteers will be queried that they will comply with the guidelines. Discussion followed. Jeff KM6RGO said the guidelines are in line with the guidelines at his medical work and look like common sense. Greg KO6TH said that Net Control would have to be careful relaying messages in person to CERA officials, when contact by FRS radios cannot be made. Mike said the messages can be relayed following the COVID-19 guidelines. Mike added that all volunteers would be advised that their participation is contingent upon them agreeing to follow the COVID-19 guidelines, plus they would be required to sign a CERA release as in past years. Brian asked the Board members if there were any concerns, and none were expressed. Mike will go forward with arranging the Club's participation in the event. 2) The CERA Crazy Miner Enduro, scheduled for Saturday, October 3, has been canceled. CERA did not want to run two events on the same weekend. 3) The Rocklin Mini Maker Faire, usually held in October, will likely not be held this year. There has been no update on their website.

Contest Chair: Dennis WU6X discussed upcoming contests.

Drawing Chair: Dennis WU6X said prizes will be handed out to attendees who are still around at the end of today's General meeting. Jim WA8MPA said he has an amplifier that can be used for a future prize. Brian AI6US said all attendees including Board members are eligible for a prize.

Snack Bar: Brian AI6US said George Simmons/KG6LSB wants to step down. The Club thanks him for his service in this position. We will reach out to Club members for a new volunteer.

Public Information Officer: No report.

Nomination Committee: Herb KM6JBI said Nathan K6NDC will step down from his Director position, and we have three potential nominees to replace him - Roy Bauer/WH7DH, Chip Bautista/KM6MDF, and Aaron Jones/K6ABJ.

Christmas Party: Jim WA8MPA asked for a decision on whether we will hold the Christmas Party in person. Gerry WA6E motioned that the in-person party be canceled. Wayne W6DT seconded the motion. The motion carried. Jim will arrange to have a virtual party using Zoom, and will provide a plan at the September meeting.

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS: Brian AI6US went over upcoming events.

OLD BUSINESS

By-Laws: Gerry WA6E said he had forwarded the by-laws to Nathan K6NDC for action. Brian AI6US said he would put this on the September agenda.

Repeater Batteries: See discussion in Committee Reports.

White Elephant Sale: Brian AI6US asked if this should be held this year, considering COVID-19. The Board agreed to table this for 2020. Jim WA8MPA discussed the donated Buddipole system that will be out for bid at the General meeting. The bids will start at \$150.

Christmas Party: See previous discussion.

Repeater Lease: Brian AI6US said there has been no movement on this issue, and we do not want to raise it with the school as they are dealing with other issues. Orion AI6JB added that he had earlier left several messages with the school, with no return call.

NEW BUSINESS

Repeater PSU Replacement - Samlex SEC-1250OUL \$310: See earlier discussion.

Election Procedures: Greg KO6TH asked about what method to vote when we cannot meet in person. Discussion followed. GoToMeeting does not have the ability to record votes. Gerry WA6E said by-laws allow any method resulting in a written record. Brian AI6US said the options are a private vote on Zoom or physical mail. Jeff KM6RGO will advise at September meeting if Zoom fits our needs, else we will do physical mailings.

Amateur Exam Preparation Training: Orion AI6JB said the Club is giving training, and it might be offered twice a year. He went over the training format and the pricing. There are antenna building projects. Jeff KM6RGO asked about marketing. Orion said he would post information on the Club's Facebook and website pages. He said his training was developed separate of Al Martin's/NI2U proposed training. The Club's W6PRL scholarship program will reimburse youths passing the Tech exam, plus give them a manual. Brian AI6US added that training could possibly be held at Jeff Hilliard's/AK6OK Zoom Studio in Rocklin.

Snack Bar: See earlier discussion.

Sunshine/Greeter: See earlier discussion.

Prize Wheel: See earlier discussion.

JOTA Event: Orion AI6US said the event is scheduled for October 17 or 18, but we are unsure of attendance. Brian AI6US asked if our effort was worth the number of people we would see. Mike N6MRP said COVID-19 guidelines might make operating a radio difficult. Brian suggested this is not the right year for us to participate. The Board agreed to cancel our 2020 participation.

VE Exams Coordination: Brian AI6US said that Jeff Hilliard/AK6OK was having ham cram sessions August 29th at his site in Rocklin. He will off line the W5YI and ARRL VEC testing and training issue with Greg KO6TH and others interested, as time constraints prevented further discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 1926. Submitted by Mike Perry N6MRP.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Video Conference “Go to Meeting”

August 14, 2020 @ 1930

The SFARC General meeting for August 2020 commenced at 1930 hours by videoconference on GoToMeeting.com, with President Brian Gohl/AI6US presiding.

Officers present were Brian AI6US (President), Greg Dolkas/KO6TH (Vice President), and Jeff Morgan/KM6RGO (Treasurer).

Michele Bauer/WH7QC (Secretary) was absent. Mike Perry/N6MRP took minutes in her place.

Directors present were Gerry Brentnall/WA6E and Wayne Stilwell/W6DT. Nathan Chilton/K6NDC was absent.

There were 37 attendees: 30 members and 7 guests. Attendees recorded by Dennis Gregory/WU6X.

Brian led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

INTRODUCTIONS - OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Greg KO6TH discussed today's presentations. Others had no report.

Brian AI6US recognized the new Club members, two of whom were at the meeting: William Gipson/K6WEG and Steve Wiley/W6PIC. He recognized guests at the meeting: Gary Eiler/WA6KIR and Justin Gregory/N6FWD.

CLUB BUSINESS

Gerry WA6E and Wayne W6DT agreed the meeting had a quorum.

July 2020 Minutes: No corrections noted. Accepted as submitted.

Board Meeting Updates:

- 1) Brian AI6US thanked Richard Kuepper/WA6RWS for his service over the years as Sunshine/Greeter. Richard (in attendance) wants to step down and the Club will look for a replacement. The Club thanked Richard with applause.
- 2) Brian thanked George Simmons/KG6LSB for his service on Refreshments. George (in attendance) wants to step down and the Club will look for a replacement. The Club thanked George with applause.
- 3) Brian discussed the upcoming election and procedures. Members interested in officer or director positions can contact Herb Garcia/KM6JBI. Nominations are due September, with the election in November. The Board will make a decision on voting procedures.
- 4) Brian said the Christmas Party will be held on-line, not in person.
- 5) Clyde Campbell/AB4CC discussed the repeater vault replacement batteries. We found leakage on the shipment box, and were given a refund, though we could keep the two batteries. We found the batteries serviceable and are using them in the vault. He added that the 220 system has been fixed, it was out for a while. Also, 70cm repeater is connected to Sierra NorCal FCS, YourTubers FCS and Sierra NorCal Wires-X room.
- 4) Clyde/AB4CC made a motion that the Club reimburse Brian/AI6US for the \$310 he spent for the Samlex 1250UL power supply for the repeater vault. Orson Fackrell/KG6UCS seconded. The motion carried.
- 5) Jim Jupin/WA8MPA discussed the Item of the Month, a brand new BuddiPole system, value \$590, with bids starting at \$150. Brian added that the Items of the Month are in lieu of the White Elephant Sale. The Buddipole system was donated to the Club by Ron Carmichael/NC6U, and the proceeds will go to the Club.
- 6) Dennis Gregory/WU6X discussed the Prize Wheel, a new feature for our on-line meetings. There are five prizes today: 2 ARRL 2020 Field Day pins, 2 ARRL 2020 Field Day hats, and a \$50 ARRL gift certificate.

TECH TEN: Greg KO6TH introduced Ken Crouse/K6KEC, who gave a talk on Winlink: An Overview, Modes of Operation, and Challenges.

SHOW US YOUR SHACK: Greg KO6TH went over photos of the shack belonging to Gary Willett/KB7QWC.

MAIN PRESENTATION: Greg KO6TH introduced the speakers, Devon Bautista/KM6MDG and Trevor Bautista/KM6MDH. Their talk was titled Phoenix Cubesat. More information can be found at phxcubesat.asu.edu/ Devon and Trevor worked on this Cubesat as part of their Master's program at Arizona State University. They are the twin sons of member Chip Bautista/KM6MDF.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee): See earlier discussion.

Greeter /Sunshine: See earlier discussion.

VE Exam: Brian AI6US discussed the August 29 Ham Cram hosted by AK6OK. RSVP needed.

Volunteer Events: Mike Perry/N6MRP said the California Endurance Riders Association (CERA) Fool's Gold Enduro will be held Sunday, October 4. The Club will provide communications support to the event. A call for volunteers with more information will be forthcoming on Groups.io.

Satellite: Greg KO6TH gave an update on satellites.

Website: Brian AI6US gave an update on the website.

Groups.io Site: Dennis Gregory/WU6X said the site has 168 members.

Contest Chair: Dennis WU6X discussed upcoming contests.

Social Media Officer: No report.

Membership: Jeff KM6RGO gave an update on membership, saying our expenses are low and the membership fees add to our funds.

ARES: Carl First/N6CKV advised on the Sunday nets, and encouraged people to be careful with the heat wave.

Refreshments: See earlier discussion.

Equipment Donations/Library: Jim WA8MPA discussed the lending library, books can be checked out for two months. Equipment donations to the Club will be sold, the money going to the Club treasury.

CLUB EVENTS

Brian AI6US said the Club picnic was canceled. The Christmas Party will not be held in person, it will be held on-line.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Brian AI6US provided information on nets and meetings.

Dennis WU6X announced the winners of the Prize Wheel:

- Field Day 2020 Pin - Chip Bautista/KM6MDF
- Field Day 2020 Hat - Steve Wiley /W6PIC
- Field Day 2020 Pin - Jeff Morgan/KM6RGO
- Field Day 2020 Hat - Don Hay/WB6LPJ
- ARRL \$50 Gift Certificate - Herb Garcia/KM6JBI

Jim/WA8MPA announced the high bid for the BuddiPole system, \$400: Chip Bautista/KM6MDF.

QST - Carl/N6CKV gave an update on the condition of Peter Wittenberg/K2LRC.

The meeting adjourned at 2212. Submitted by Mike Perry/N6MRP.

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) |

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Date: _____ Treasurer: _____ Secretary: _____ Roster: _____

Payment: _____ Check Number: _____ Cash: _____ PayPal: _____

Rev. 5-11-2018



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