



Welcome to SFARC, Auburn, CA



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

October 2020

<http://w6ek.org> [info@w6ek.org](mailto:info@w6ek.org)

### At The Key of SFARC:

#### **PRESIDENT**

Brian Gohl, AI6US  
[AI6US@titaniumsattelite.com](mailto:AI6US@titaniumsattelite.com)

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Greg Dolkas, KO6TH  
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#### **SECRETARY**

Michele Bauer, WH7QC  
[mickeybauer2012@gmail.com](mailto:mickeybauer2012@gmail.com)

#### **TREASURER**

Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO  
[jamontrail@gmail.com](mailto:jamontrail@gmail.com)

#### **DIRECTORS**

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

#### **FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN**

Gary Frerking, KC3PO

#### **REPORTERS**

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH  
Sunshine:

#### **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  
Orion Endres, AI6JB  
Al Martin, NI2U

#### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Barbara Anderson, W6EVA  
[anderson51@wavecable.com](mailto:anderson51@wavecable.com)

**WEBMASTER:** Herb Garcia, KM6JBI

#### **VOLUNTEER EXAMINER**

Al Martin, NI2U

### Inside this issue

- *President's Message*
- *Casey McPartland, W7IB Silent Key*
- *Vaca Fire excerpt from River City ARCS Sept newsletter*
- *Board & General Meeting Minutes*



### Calendar of Events

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>:**  
*California QSO Party*

**October 9<sup>th</sup>:**  
*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 31<sup>st</sup>:**  
**Halloween**

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

**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*

### California QSO Party

The Fall season has finally arrived and it is time to fire up our HF rigs and work the California QSO Party during the first weekend of October. SFARC will be represented using the W6EK call sign and Placer County from the Blue Canyon Airport. You don't need a big contest station or be on an expedition to an exotic location to participate. Operate this contest in CW or SSB modes from the comfort of your home station and get this... stations from 58 states and provinces will be trying to contact you, a California station!!! For more information, check out [www.cqp.org](http://www.cqp.org)

### In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened with news of the passing of Casey McPartland, W7IB. Casey will be greatly missed by our amateur radio club and the nets just won't be the same without his awesome sense of humor. Our continued thoughts and prayers are with Leslie. Please read David's, WB6RBE tribute, later in this newsletter.

### Club Meeting October 9, 2020

Join us on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm for our next online club meeting. The Tech Ten segment will be presented by Nathan, K6NDC on computer based radio programming software. Get an inside look into a members radio shack. Dennis, WU6X will provide suggestions and tips on how to participate and excel at radio sport (contesting), and then he will spin the prize wheel as we give out more prizes!

This month we will transition to using [ZOOM](https://zoom.us) for our online club meetings. You may either run Zoom on a web browser or download the application. You do not need to sign-up or pay any subscription fee to attend the club meetings. We want to make sure that all members and guests are comfortable with joining the ZOOM meetings and are able to participate. If you have any questions about how to use ZOOM, please contact any of the SFARC board members and we will arrange assistance.

The club meeting login information will be posted on [W6EK.org](http://W6EK.org) and we will be hosting a few Zoom meeting sessions in advance of the club meeting to test your connections.

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

Until then, 73  
Brian Gohl – AI6US  
SFARC President



CASEY MCPARTLAND, W7IB, Silent Key, passed away on August 31, 2020 from complications of multiple myeloma. McPartland was ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Manager from 2006 until his resignation in 2007 due to a temporary move out of the section.

Casey discovered ham radio back in the late '50's while tinkering around in a neighbor's garage. The neighbor was a US Navy Commander stationed at Moffett Field in Mountain View, and many hours were spent in his shack during that memorable solar cycle. Twenty years later in 1978 Casey became licensed as WB1DYZ while living with his family in Hebron, Connecticut. Thirty years and many call signs later (including KA1BZ, NS6K and K6WJM) he was appointed Assistant Section Manager for the Sacramento Valley Section. He succeeded Jettie Hill, W6RFF, as Section Manager in December 2006.

Casey brought many years of leadership and management background from his work in the Information Technology and Management Consulting fields. Casey operated "about 90% CW" and enjoyed Field Day, DXing, ragchewing, and serving as net control. He and his wife Leslie, K7NYE, frequently volunteered communication support for the Tevis Cup Trail Ride, the MS walk, and numerous bicycle events.

Casey was an ARRL Life Member, held an Extra Class License since early 1983, an OES appointment having completed all three Emergency Communication Courses, and was a long time member of FISTS (#9758), the Quarter Century Wireless Association, the Mother Lode DX Contest Club, and the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club where he had served as instructor, Volunteer Examiner, secretary, director, vice president, and president.

*Submitted by David Jenkins, WB6RBE*



## VACA FIRE

I made the trip to Vaca, Saturday after getting through a CHP road block in Vacaville. The 145.25 voting receiver site survived with no exterior damage to the building and tower, just no power.

The PG&E infrastructure is 75% destroy on the hill and along Pleasant Valley Road. I would be surprised if PG&E has the hill turned on in 3 to 4 weeks. They have miles of wire to restring, not just to restore the hill but all surrounding area impacted by the fire.

The attached pictures are the shared site for my repeater 147.195, with 3 2 meter, 2 UHF repeaters, 927 and 1.2 GHz repeaters and varies interconnecting links. We have heat damage issues with the hardline entering the building and the lower 40' of the tower.

This is going to be a slow and tedious process to get these systems back on the air. My biggest concern is the tower structural integrity.

Chris N6ICW





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### Video Conference “Go to Meeting”

September 11, 2020 @ 1800

The meeting was called to order by President, Brian/AI6US promptly at 6:00 pm. All officers and directors were in attendance. The August 2020 minutes were accepted by the board.

There were no reports by Vice-president, Greg/KO6TH, Secretary, Michele/WH7QC, or the Directors, Gerry/WA6E, Nathan/K6NDC, and Wayne/W6DT.

Treasurer and Membership chair, Jeff/KM6RGO reported that our latest PG&E payout came in at \$17.37. The club has two new members: Ryan/N6RDA and Wally/KK6YYF.

Tyghe/W6TJR who is on the SFARC By-laws committee will be giving a report later this evening per the necessary revisions to the By-laws.

Brian announced the recent passing of Casey McPartland/W7IB. He did so much for the club and will be greatly missed.

Repeater (Station Trustee), Clyde/AB4CC reported that things are fine, but he will be moving club items.

Webmaster, Herb/KM6JBI reported that there is nothing new on our web. For the membership application, he asked, “How do we handle multi-household club members i.e. associates? He will work with Jeff/KM6RGO on that aspect of the site.

VE: Brian/AI6US reported of his recent sitting in on Jeff/AK6OK’s VE group which is located in Rocklin. We will recruit a SFARC member to work together with Jeff until we can again meet at Raley’s for our own VE. Gerry/WA6E and Don/WB6LPJ also sat in. Orion/AI6JB is planning classes for General Class beginning in October which can use Jeff’s venue, or we can do it online until we are able to do it on our own in person. Orion/AI6JB announced that his General Class will begin on October 16-November 20. It will be a 6-week course with the test given possibly on the final class day—but it is also up for discussion.

Volunteer Events coordinator, Mike/N6MRP reported that the CERA Enduro on October 4 has been cancelled. The annual Mini Maker Faire has also been cancelled.

Contest chair, Dennis/WU6X: There will be some cool drawing prizes at this evening’s General meeting.

#### Old Business

Tyghe/W6TJR briefly went over the By-laws changes. The major changes were to bring the club up to the California non-profit meeting code. Provisions were made for emergencies, live-streaming and in-person meetings. Things are looking acceptable. There was a motion to move this to the General meeting next month for membership vote. Greg/KO6TH motioned and Jeff/KM6RGO seconded it. Brian proposed that the By-laws with the proposed changes need to be posted for all to see on Groups.io and an Email PDF.

Nominations chair, Herb/KM6JBI reported that the names to be voted on will be posted for club members to peruse. Director nominations are Gerry/WA6E, Aaron/K6ABJ, Roy/WH6DH, and Chip/KM6MDF. One Director position runs for a two-year stint and the other two Director positions are one year. The current officers of President, Brian/AI6US, Vice-president, Greg/KO6TH, Secretary, Michele/WH7QC, Treasurer, Jeff/KM6RGO and one Director, Wayne/W6DT will remain in place.

Jeff/KM6RGO said that we can do an election via "ZOOM" online as we would vote per logged on person. He asked if the club should purchase ZOOM for a long term annual rate of \$149.90? Michele/WH7QC motioned and Wayne/W6DT seconded it that we purchase the annual subscription to ZOOM for the club. The Board voting was unanimous.

Christmas party chair, Jim/WA8MPA had a list of possibilities for our annual Christmas party, such as: Member Christmas greeting video (30 seconds or so each), Short looped video showing past Christmas parties, Plan on a food donation option by members with several locations (open a week or so before the event), and a Live-stream ZOOM drop-in session. Gerry/WA6E motioned that the club move forward with a hosted ZOOM party on December 12 and Greg/KO6TH seconded the motion.

Amidst some technical difficulties the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.  
Submitted by Michele Bauer/WH7QC.



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### Video Conference "Go to Meeting"

#### September 11, 2020 @ 1930

President, Brian/AI6US greeted everyone logged in to our monthly "Go to Meeting". He led our group in the Pledge of Allegiance and then gave Board members introductions. All Board members were present: Vice-president, Greg/KO6TH, Secretary, Michele/WH7QC, Treasurer, Jeff/KM6RGO, and Directors, Gerry/WA6E, Nathan/K6NDC, and Wayne/W6DT.

Greg/KO6TH and Michele/WH7QC had no reports for the evening.

Jeff/KM6RGO reported that all our PG&E PSPS refunds are depleted and now we will be paying the full monthly bill.

The Directors had no reports. Gerry/WA6E and Wayne/W6DT confirmed that at tonight's club meeting we are well over a Quorum for voting purposes.

Guests in attendance: Rob from Sacramento, Dan from Lincoln, and Anthony from Roseville.

New members: Ryan/N6RDA and Wally/KK6YYF (who was not present).

Dave Jenkins/WB6RBE gave a tribute on Casey McPartland/W7IB who recently became a “silent key”. Casey did so much for the SFARC and will be greatly missed.

The August 2020 minutes were accepted as distributed.

Orion/AI6JI announced that he will be teaching General classes and exam prep beginning on October 6.

The Board voted to purchase an annual ZOOM subscription at \$149.90. ZOOM allows us to vote in the November officer’s election. The club members present all voted unanimously to subscribe to the ZOOM account.

Tyghe/W6TJR gave a By-laws Review due to the necessary revisions and expressed thanks to Gerry/WA6E for his advising on the matter. The club offers its thanks to: Tyghe/W6TJR, Earl/K6GPB, Orion/AI6JB, Jim/WA8MPA, Nathan/K6NDC, and Gerry/WA6E for their work in updating this important document! The By-laws with its revisions highlighted in red will be sent out via Email and Groups.io. At our October meeting, the membership will vote on it.

Nominations chair, Herb/KM6JBI announced that the officer elections will be held in November. We have four nominations for Directors: Gerry/WA6E, Aaron/K6ABJ, Roy/WH7DH, and Chip/KM6MDF. The other officers will remain in place: President, Brian/AI6US, Vice-president, Greg/KO6TH, Secretary, Michele/WH7QC, and Treasurer, Jeff/KM6RGO, and Wayne/W6DT. Rich/AA6RS and Carl/N6CKV helped Herb with the selection process. Thank you, gentlemen for your efforts!

Auction item: Jim/WA8MPA announced and displayed a Yaesu 2100 B Linear HF Amplifier in great shape and runs on 120 or 240. There is a manual that comes with it. ☺ This Yaesu is a donation from Ron Carmichael/N6CU. His generous gifts have netted the club \$650 in the last two months. Thank you so much Ron! Jim gave the starting bid at \$75. Someone mentioned that the same set is being sold on Ebay for about \$400, but not looking in as good of condition.

Greg/KO6TH then announced our Tech Ten presenter for this evening, Ted Deppner/KJ6NON

### Tech Ten

“JS8 Call”

“How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Propagation”

JS8 Call is an amateur radio QSO communication mode based on FT8. It is popular among amateur radio operators for its ability to send and receive messages despite challenging propagation conditions, noise environments, low power operations (QRP), or even compromised antennas. It uses USB mode.

What’s neat!

QSOs are typical (not just an exchange). Type ahead, with the SEND button showing length of transmission. Contextual transmitted frame detail. Beacons mode. Auto mode Various speeds available, as propagation permits. There is a JS8 Call download available.

Thank you, Ted, for your interesting presentation!



### “Show Us Your Shack”

Earl/K6GPB

Earl owns a very impressive and electronically extensive radio shack! It includes several keys. He also has a shack and bench in his garage, complete with a large parts cabinet. Earl, are you open for business? 😊

### Program

Mike/N6MRP

SFARC Volunteer Events chairman/coordinator

Mike reminded our group that sad, to say, due to the COVID-19, every volunteer event was cancelled. He expressed thanks to his predecessor, George Simmons/KG6LSB, who spent many years running volunteer events. Mike had some wonderful presentation pictures he showed at our meeting. Mike gave us all an overview of the why, what and how of volunteer events with regards to the club. He reminded us that ARRL is a special service club.

### Why Do We Volunteer?

- \*To operate in field conditions \*To promote our hobby to the public
- \* It gives us an opportunity to serve our community \* Camaraderie

### Types of Events

- \*Charity (MS Walk Folsom) \*Competition (CERA Enduros, FATRAC, Tevis Cup, WSER)
- \* Public Relations (STEM Expo, Mini Maker Faire, JOTA)

### Where Can We Find Club Events?

\*The Club Website-W6EK.org Main Page\*

One can contact the contact person of a particular event to receive specific information

Mike then took us through various major volunteer events that our club regularly participates in such as: MS Walk Folsom (a great event for new hams), CERA Enduros, FATRAC Foresthill Fondo (a new event for 2020), and the TEVIS CUP (horse race) and WESTERN STATES Endurance Run (foot race)—both being 100 miles!

Mike explained about Field Event Operations Preparation, Field Event Operations Assignment Positions, and Field Event Operations Procedures. Mike stressed that for Field Event Operations Procedures, for privacy, volunteers are identified by a number, and not their name. He explained a Sample Communications with Net Control, Relay and Fuel Stop, using a simple role play by Orion/AI6JB, Greg/KO6TH, and Mike himself.

Mike then talked about Public Relations Events (under ARRL Sacramento Valley section (where Morse Code is very popular with the youngsters!)), STEM Expo, Rocklin Mini Maker Faire (under ARRL), and Jamboree on the Air (International Scouting event which Orion/AI6JB handles every year).

Get involved! Join an Event in 2021!

Mike, thank you for a very interesting and well-done presentation! Bravo! Sign us up!

### Reports

Repeater (Station Trustee), Clyde/AB4CC reported that our Repeater is working. There will be a 2m wires-x analog node going to Brian's business due to the need for a business internet account.



Greeter/Sunshine, Richard Kuepper/WA6RWS has retired from this calling. If you are interested, please contact Brian/AI6US.

VE Exams: Carl/N6CKV reported that Joe Cardoza is providing VE exams at Jeff/AK6OK warehouse in Rocklin. Carl announced about the ARES Net on Sundays at 7:30 pm. There are lots of fires! Please be prepared!

Satellite, Greg/KO6TH gave an ISS Crossband report (International Space Station). The radio can run at 25 watts up there. Several club members have worked the ISS Repeater.

Website, Herb/KM6JBI asked members to send him projects and he will share them on the web. Herb's friend reprinted SFARC logo bumper stickers and donated to the club!

Groups.io, Dennis/WU6X announced that the World-wide TTY contest is September 26<sup>th</sup>. We now have 170 members on Groups.io. There is information on it, old newsletters, information on building antennas, a chat room, and you can also sell items.

Membership, Jeff/KM6RGO reported that our numbers keep growing, especially with our wonderful "Coffee Break" Net which is a big hit! We have 129 on the roster plus 2 more to process.

Equipment Donations/Library, Jim/WA8MPA announced that our club is a 501c3 non-profit. You can buy, sell, and donate. We have our library to borrow items for 1-2 months, and if you can, please donate. Tonight, Jim has a Yaesu 2100 Linear HF that is in great shape and runs on 120 or 240 and has a manual to go with it! Jim opened the bid at \$75 and the highest bidder for the evening was Rob Newburn/KM6YKX for \$250! What a deal, especially since it was reported that the same radio (in not as good a condition and no manual) is selling on E-bay for \$400!

Nominations, Herb/KM6JBI is still taking nominations if you are interested, so please let him know if you are interested in being nominated for elections, or if you know someone interested AND you've talked to that person about it.

### Prizes!

Many thanks to Dennis/WU6X, we have a drawing with great prizes tonight!

3<sup>rd</sup> place prize of an ARRL Field Day 2020 cap goes to one of our guests, Rob/N6XYZ!

2<sup>nd</sup> place prize of a Microsoft 6000 Wireless Keyboard goes to Clyde/AB4CC!

1<sup>st</sup> place prize of an Arduino Development Kit goes to (ta da!) Dustin/W6YUE!

Thank you all for your attendance and for an interesting and enjoyable evening!

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, 9 October 2020 via "Go to Meeting".

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Submitted by Michele Bauer/WH7QC

**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**

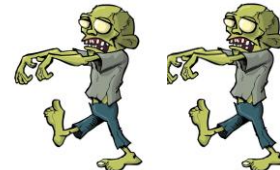
\*Prorated dues for NEW Members/Associates Only

July	\$ 20 /6	October	\$ 14/3 + following year
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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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Roster: \_\_\_\_\_  
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