



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

November 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

To be filled

REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH
Sunshine: *To be filled*

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,
Online Zoom starts @7:30pm
Meeting ID: 962 6167 5605

CLUB BREAKFAST

On hold until further notice

NET CONTROL OPS

Dave Jenkins, WB6RBE
Orion Endres, AI6JB
Chip Bautista, KM6MDF

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Barbara Anderson, W6EVA
anderson51@wavecable.com

WEBMASTER

Herb Garcia, KM6JBI

STATION TRUSTEE

Clyde Campbell, AB4CC

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Andrew Silvester, K6OP

Calendar of Events

November 11th:

Veteran's Day

November 13th:

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

November 26th:

Thanksgiving



***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*
- *Members running in the November Club Election*
- *SOTA: How we got to Grouse Ridge W6/NS-195*
- *AMSAT 2020 Space Symposium now online*
- *Board & General Meeting Minutes*

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

Sierra Signals is published monthly by the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club for the information of its members and friends, and is distributed via E-mail and USPS mail. Opinions expressed are those of the authors. Newsletter exchanges with other clubs via E-mail are welcomed. Contact the editor to be placed on the E-mailing list. The contents of Sierra Signals are copyrighted by the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club, and all rights are reserved. That said, we will gladly permit republications for non-profit uses of all text material. Photos require the consent of all persons pictured in them, and some of our material is copyrighted by others and published by permission. You'll need to contact them for permission.



President's Message

*By Brian Gohl – AI6US,
President*

Ready for the Rain?

Fall is finally here and we have a short time remaining to get our outdoor projects wrapped up before the rain (and hopefully snow) begins. I spent last weekend getting the antennas ready for the winter storms, resealing coax connections and finishing up the new coax shack entry box complete with grounding plate and PolyPhasers. The recent PSPS event refocused many of us on our back-up power and cabling and gave us a short event to work out any kinks. Is your shack ready for winter?

Christmas Party

Mark Your calendars! The SFARC annual Christmas Party is scheduled for December 5th from 7 – 8:30pm on ZOOM. We will be having a trivia game and the prize wheel will be spinning to award great gifts. We will once again be collecting non-perishable goods and accepting donations for the Auburn Food Closet. Food drop-off locations and a link for an online donation will be posted in December.

To make the Christmas party an extra special event, we need something from you! As you celebrate Thanksgiving, take photos of you, the family, and maybe one of you operating your station. Before December 1st, email a few photos to Jim, WA8MPA jjupin@usamedia.tv. We will be editing a slide special show for the event and want you to be part of the celebration!

By-Laws and Elections

Be sure to join on us on Zoom for a very important club meeting on November 13th to vote on the By-Laws and the election for the 2021 club officers and directors. Many revisions have been made to the by-laws to facilitate electronic voting and better define our club's purpose and mission. Please review the document attached to the same email with this newsletter and contact me ASAP with any questions or comments.

To facilitate the Zoom online election polling, the "write-in" vote option will not be available this year. Any nomination or member wishing to run for a position will need to be recorded prior to opening the poll. Please contact Herb, KM6JBI with any additional member nominations.

Please note: Online voting may not work well with browser based Zoom and we recommend that all members download the free ZOOM app, plugin or browser extension @ <https://zoom.us/download>.

Zoom Meeting Log-in Information

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

<https://zoom.us/j/96261675605>

Meeting ID: 962 6167 5605

You can also call in using only your telephone, but there will be no option for voting.

1-669-900-9128, 96261675605#

Teleconference etiquette is to mute your own microphone unless you are speaking. Please join the teleconference from a quiet location, without background noise as this can be very disruptive to other participants. Sign in using your first name and call sign as ID.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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

Until then, 73

Brian Gohl – AI6US

SFARC President

Members running in the November Club Election:

President: Brian Gohl, AI6US

Vice President: Greg Dolkas, KO6TH

Secretary: Michele Bauer, WH7QC

Treasurer: Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO

Directors:

Gerry Brethall, WA6E

Roy Bauer, WH7DH

Chip Bautista, KM6MDF

Aaron Jones, K6ABJ

SOTA: How we got to Grouse Ridge W6/NS-195



If you like the outdoors, fantastic views and playing with radios, Summits on the Air may just be for you!

Summits on the Air is a program where people take their radios to summits (activators) and talk to people who are at home (chasers). Each individual summit has a specific number of points assigned by SOTA from 1 to 10 points. Keep in mind that the spirit of SOTA activation requires that you hike to the summit as best you can. In other words if you have mobility challenges, hiking less is appropriate. You can log these summits, whether you are a chaser or activator on the SOTA website and keep track of your progress.

And best of all, certainly appealing to us ham radio operators, it is FREE! Yes you register, but there are no costs, no dues and no charges.

Several years ago, long time club member Fred Jensen, K6DGW, gave a short talk to the club about his experience with SOTA. I thought it was pretty cool at that time, but did not do anything about it, until recently. My friend Peter, WB6POT, brought up the subject saying that he was going to see about working some of the summits because it would help him with his Morse code and would be an interesting study to see how his antennas worked. And SOTA, in some ways is like a mini contest starting every day, and Peter loves a contest!

After a couple of months, Peter came up with the idea that we should expand from just working the stations on the summits to being one of the stations on the summits!

We talked about the idea and decided to start as basic as we could, see how we liked it and go from there. Searching for an easy summit revealed Quick Benchmark W6/NS-422. (All summits have a unique number.) This is basically a local summit that you can drive right up to, a one pointer. That is exactly what we did, drive up, get out of the car, walk the short rest of the way, got out the 2 meter handheld, announced our presence on the local repeater and started calling CQ on the calling frequency of 146.52. After a short time we each had logged 4 different stations (It takes 4 QSOs to qualify for an activation). If you choose to do this summit, keep in mind that it is on a private road.

We went home, logged our contacts into the SOTA online database and we were on the very bottom of the Activator Roll of Honor! Nowhere to go from here but up.

Having had a taste of a SOTA activation, we were ready for more. And we had to make more decisions. We selected Grouse Ridge W6-NS-195 as our next 'target'. This was because we knew people who had been there, it was not too far away and only involved a short uphill hike, ½ mile or so. Now equipment choice enters into the equation. While many people just use VHF, we wanted to try some HF also. In order to avoid buying new 'toys' for an as yet untested aspect of the hobby, we decided to go with what we had. That turned out to be an old Yaesu FT100 HF radio, Peter had laying around. We purchased an end fed antenna (10,15,20 & 40m) and a BioEnno LiFePO4 battery to power the radio. This 100 watt radio is not exactly backpacker friendly, but its size is fairly small and we ran it at reduced power in order to conserve the battery. Experienced SOTA Activators may carry a very small CW only radio the size of an Altoid can that weighs in the ounces! We did not mind carrying this gear for this activation, but as the distance gets farther and harder, we may need to look for something smaller and lighter.

We tested the set up in the driveway and succeeded in making a couple of SSB contacts so we were good to go!

On a Friday morning we drove to the freeway exit for this summit, went down a few miles of paved back road and then turned onto a rutted dirt road that we followed for a slow 5 miles. Four wheel drive was not needed, but a high ground clearance was very helpful in several places. After what seemed like about 45 minutes, we arrived at the campground. There were people here, but it appeared they were day hikers and not here to activate this summit. Another activation on the same day is a real possibility, especially on weekends as Grouse Ridge is relatively easy to get to. In fact, it was activated later that same day well after we left. On weekends, one might have to share the summit, or just wait!



There was plenty of parking outside the gate on this day. We grabbed our gear, in backpacks, and hiked up to the unused lookout. Here we found an operating spot in the shade and started on 2 meters again, which yielded 4 or

5 contacts each. We then strung the long wire as this was one of the things we wanted to test. We spotted our operation on the SOTA website and Peter operated 20 meter SSB which yielded contacts from Pennsylvania as well as Kansas among others. We then switched to 40 meter SSB and I made contacts in Utah, Washington and Oregon! Not bad for an antenna whose highest point above ground was about 10 feet! Overall we made about 20 contacts. We enjoyed the views and then packed up and headed home where we celebrated with an adult beverage and talked about our next step. Oh yes, after we logged our activation into the SOTA database, we each now had 9 points, moving right on up!



A word about mode. Most of the activators use CW because of the much lighter gear involved, the simplicity and less power needed to make a contact. However, there is certainly activity on VHF, and many people start their activation on 2 meters, it just does not have the range of HF. Also, there are many stations on SSB, just as we were. If you post your activation onto the SOTA website, you will find chasers for whatever mode you are using. If you want to start by chasing, look at the posts and see what you can work! Have fun.

We look forward to working you from our next activation.

Wayne - W6DT

Peter - WB6POT

KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog

AMSAT 2020 Space Symposium video now online

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The 38th AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting was held online on October 17, 2020. I'm kinda bummed about this because I just joined AMSAT, but somehow, I managed to miss this event. Fortunately, the symposium was recorded and is now online, and I've been enjoying watching the video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHDgrl_w8hY).



The video includes updates on AMSAT projects and presentations on amateur satellite technology. For details on presenter names and presentation titles, visit the AMSAT website. AMSAT members can access the Symposium Proceedings on the AMSAT website as well. (The proceedings for all the AMSAT Symposiums are available there as well, but you do have to be an AMSAT member.)

Here's a list of the different presentations on the video and the times at which they start:

- 0:00:00 Welcome
- 0:02:07 AMSAT GOLF-TEE System Overview and Development Status
- 0:43:02 GOLF IHU Coordination
- 1:19:10 GOLF Downlink Coordination
- 1:50:15 FUNcube Next
- 2:13:50 LunART – Luna Amateur Radio Transponder

2:45:35 CatSat HF Experiment Overview

3:13:30 Neutron-1 CubeSat

3:39:58 Progress and Development of Open Source Electric Propulsion for Nanosats and Picosats

4:15:00 AMSAT Education

5:14:00 ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) / AREx (Amateur Radio Exploration)

6:14:00 AMSAT Engineering

7:21:16 AMSAT Annual General Meeting

So far, I've only watched the GOLF-TEE System Overview and the AMSAT Education presentation. They were both interesting and I'm looking forward to watching the others.

I really hadn't been keeping up with AMSAT lately, so the presentation on the GOLF project was definitely news to me. GOLF is an ambitious project aimed at sending up high Earth orbit (HEO) satellites. GOLF is short for "Greater Orbits Larger (user communication) Footprints." This is really pretty exciting stuff.

Watching these presentations really gives one an appreciation for the work that goes into the design of these satellites and the technical skills and dedication of the hams working on these projects. These guys are not getting paid to do any of this work, and as Eric Skoog, K1TVV, the GOLF System Engineer said in his presentation, "Space is hard."

=====

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 work the satellites, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Video Conference Zoom Meeting

October 9, 2020 @ 1800

Roll Call: All officers and Directors were in attendance with the exception of the Secretary Michelle-WH7QC who was out of town on family matters.

REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS

President's Report: Brian-AI6US submitted the agenda and asked for officer, board and committee chair reports.

The September minutes were accepted by the board.

VP Report: Greg-KO6TH outlined tonight's Tech Ten and presentation.

Secretary's Report: Bruce-K6BAA recorded the minutes.

Treasury Report: Jeff-KM6RGO advised there were 10 new club members for a total of 138. Jeff reported the scholarship fund has \$ 566.00 remaining. He is currently working on the 2021 club budget and will use 2019's budget for guidance. Upon Brian's questioning, Jeff said the 2020 budget showed net gains as there were less expenditures due to the cancellation of club events.

Directors: Nathan-K6NDC advised he is relocating to Texas in November permanently, but will continue club meetings via the internet. Brian wished Nathan and his family well and thanked him for his service to the club. Gerry-WA6E advised an ARRL reporter will be needed to replace Nathan on the club weekly net.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

Sunshine/Greeter: Brian-AI6US advised there still a need for a club member to chair this position. Brian briefed the board regarding Dennis-WU6X's condition as he is currently hospitalized and is undergoing tests. Sam-KB6SQT had back surgery in San Diego and will be returning home soon.

Repeater: Brian-AI6US suggested reproaching the Auburn School District regarding the repeater site lease. Brian advised the repeater vault open spot needs updating to correct issues and discussed the advantages of an open spot 3 purchase for \$ 325. Greg-KO6TH moved to purchase the replacement, Gerry-WA6E seconded, passed unanimously. To be forwarded to General Membership for approval.

Nominations: Club elections to be held during Novembers club meeting, four candidates for election. Orion-AI6JB will coordinate with Herb-KM6JBI on the election process to use the Zoom voting system. Concerns to the board are non-club members voting during the Zoom session as the votes are anonymous.

Bi-Laws: Gerry-WA6E briefed the board on the revisions to include the club's non-profit status, changes to verbiage and pronunciations. Brian asked for approval and submission of the minutes to the general membership. Gerry-WA6E moved to approve, Wayne-W6DT seconded, passed unanimously.

WEB: Herb-KM6JBI reviewed his club web page activities. He advised the board he has obtained 100 stickers with the club logo to be made available to members. Herb asked the board for ideas for distribution and or sales of the stickers.

Christmas Party: December 5th, to be via zoom. Jim-WA8MPA to work out the details and invites club members to volunteer and assist him.

Club Breakfast: Mel's Dinner is currently open for inside and outside dinning. The board decided not to endorse, promote or reserve the club breakfast, but advised if individual club members wanted to informally meet, it would be an individual decision, but not endorsed by the club.

Prize Wheel: Dennis-WU6X previously suggested a \$ 20 gift certificate as a prize. After discussion, Jeff-KM6RGO moved to approve a \$ 20 gift certificate, Gerry-WA6E seconded, passed unanimously.

Jim-WA8MPA briefed the board on the gifts he has arranged for this evenings General Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1916. Submitted by *Bruce Anderson, SFARC Member*



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Video Conference Zoom Meeting

October 9, 2020 @ 1930

The SFARC General meeting for October began at 1930 hours on the club's first Zoom meeting. President Brian-AI6US began with a meet and greet with all persons logged on. At 1950 hours, Brian called the meeting to order with 42 members and guests online. Brian led everyone in a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. An introduction of Officers followed. Both Michelle-WH7QC and Jeff-KM6RGO were excused due to family obligations.

REPORTS:

President's Report: Brian briefly discussed the agenda and reviewed this evening's board meeting.

Vice President's Report: Greg-KO6TH reviewed the evening's presentations. Dennis-WU6X's presentation was moved to November and Nathan-K6NDC will discuss computer programing of amateur radios.

Secretary's Report: Bruce-K6BAA recorded this evenings minutes.

Treasurer's Report: See Jeff-KM6RGO's board meeting report.

Gerry-WA6E: Advised 28 members are needed for a quorum and 41 are currently online.

Nathan-K6NDC: Nothing to report.

Wayne-W6DT: Agreed with Gerry's quorum advisement.

Brian-AI6US welcomed guests to introduce themselves and encouraged everyone to reach out for an "Elmer". Brian advised there were 10 new member applications and asked Orion-AI6JB to display their names for a Zoom meeting approval by the membership. Orion advised 26 voted for approval. Brian reviewed the results of the bi-law committee revisions and advised the membership that the changes would be put to a general vote during the November meeting. Gerry-WA6E reviewed the changes as discussed during the board meeting.

XMAS Party: Scheduled for December 5th and will be Zoom only. There will be major prizes and members are going to be encouraged to take a picture of their family and/or shack for the presentation. Volunteers are needed, please contact Jim-WA8MPA.

Club Breakfast: The club breakfast will not be promoted as a club event. Individual members can go on their own.

Prize Wheel: A \$ 20 dollar gift certificate will become part of the prizes.

Repeater: The board approved the purchase of an Open Spot replacement for \$ 325. Brian asked for member approval and vote. Orion sent a vote request online to members and received a 66% approval by 24 members. Bob-K6UDA asked for an online Zoom “open mic” vote. Members unanimously voted yes to the purchase.

Sunshine: Dennis-WU6X’s is currently hospitalized and is undergoing tests. Dennis’s son Justin advised his father is awaiting the test results.
Sam-KB6SQT had back surgery in San Diego and will be returning home soon.

Presentations:

Tech Ten: Nathan-K6NDC, who gave an informative presentation on software programing of amateur radio equipment.

Show Your Shack: Ron-K6DAV gave members a tour of his shack.

Bob Hess: Bob-W1RH, president of El Dorado Amateur radio Club discussed the fire at the Mount Vaca repeater site August 18-19 2020.

Auction: Jim-WA8MPA presented a MP1 Super Antenna and accessories for auction. Bidding started at \$ 50. Rob-KM6YKX was the winning bid at \$ 200.

Prize Wheel: Gary-KQ6RT won a computer mouse. Jeff-W6VP won a computer keyboard and Gary-KB7QWC won a tripod/selfie stick.

VE: Club is working with Jeff-AK6OK’s group on exams October 24th, 12 PM. Orientation for technician class at 10 AM.

Volunteering: Mike-N6MRT advised there are no scheduled volunteer activities.

Satellite Report: Greg-KO6TH updated members on ISS and satellite activity. Stated the ISS cross band has been turned off but the packet should be available on 145.8.

CQP: Brian-AI6US thanked everyone for stopping by the event and participating.

ARES: Carl-N6CKV updated members on Placer County ARES activities. ARES net on Sunday’s, 1940 hrs. W6EK 2 meter repeater.

General Announcements: The Club Net meets every Thursday at 7:30pm; Board and General Meetings occur on the 2nd Friday, via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 2146. Submitted by *Bruce Anderson, SFARC Member*

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 -- Multi-year DISCOUNT Membership *\$20 per year for 2 or more years (new or renewal)
August	\$ 18/5	November	\$ 12/2+ following year	
September	\$ 16/4	December	\$ 10/1 + following year	

OFFICE USE ONLY: DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

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



MISSION CONTROL

Computer Repairs and Support
Reasonable rates, free consultation
Business License #114527

Phone: 530-305-0180
Auburn, CA

Email: yourmissioncontrol@att.net
Web: www.yourmissioncontrol.com

Dennis H. Gregory
Instructor/Technician



Macintosh Computer Repair

2905 58th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817

916 862-6802
support@carlschultz.biz

Carl Schultz
Hardware, Software, Network, Tutoring

SACRAMENTO RADIO EXPO



Doug Wilner
916.769.5016

4343 Marconi Ave. Ste. #2
Sacramento, CA 95821

sacramentoradioexpo.com

Batteries + Bulbs®

Ryan Tollefson
District Manager

8025 Greenback Lane • Citrus Heights, CA 95610
P 916 -722- 8800 • C 916-775- 3030 • F 916-722- 2489
rtollefson@batteriesplus.net • www.BatteriesPlus.com

Independently owned and operated Franchise.