



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

August 2021

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

At The Key of SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Brian Gohl, AI6US
AI6US@titaniumsatellite.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Greg Dolkas, KO6TH
ko6th.greg@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Michele Bauer, WH7QC
mickybauer2012@gmail.com

TREASURER

Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO
jamontrail@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Gerry Brentnall, WA6E
Wayne Stilwell, W6DT
Chip Bautista, KM6MDF

FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

To be filled

REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH
Sunshine: Roy, WH7DH

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

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
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

August 13th @ 7:30pm

In-Person

General Meeting

(see Brian's column for details)

August 21st @ 6pm

*Ice Cream Floats &
Watermelon*

An Evening in the Park

(see Brian's column for details)

August 28th @ 7:30am

Club Breakfast

Sept 10th - 12th

*Campout at Stampede
Reservoir*

~ ~ ~

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

Inside this issue

- ***President's Message***
- ***Al Martin – N12U, SK***
- ***Herb, KM6JBI antenna project***
- ***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*

Busy Summer

It sure feels like we have had an exceptionally long, hot and active ham radio summer so far. This month found many members volunteering for radio communications teams, supporting the Tevis Cup, and helping fellow members with projects like taking down towers and putting up new antennas. Yet, somehow we find spare time to activate dozens of Summits on the Air, camp/backpack with portable radio operations from NorCal beaches to the Sierras and check-in to the nets via AllStarLink, Echolink and Wires-X from adventures all across the country. Hold on, the summer isn't over, yet! Check out what this month has in store.

In-Person Club Meeting

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the first in-person club meeting in almost 1 ½ years! On Friday, August 13th at 7:30pm, we will be meeting outdoors in a beautiful park-like setting at the 1st United Methodist Church of Loomis, [6414 Brace Rd, Loomis, CA 95650](https://www.google.com/maps/place/6414+Brace+Rd,+Loomis,+CA+95650).

Bring a lawn chair for a short business segment then we will move to the adjacent parking lot where members will show and tell about the radio equipment that we use outside of our shacks. We are asking members to share your mobile ham radio installs or set-up a table and show your Go Kit or the gear you use for SOTA activations. I will be showing a hitch mounted pneumatic mast and WiFi controlled 12Vdc rotator. What will you be bringing?

Please come early to the meeting to park and set-up before the meeting starts. Post a small sign about the equipment including your name and call sign. Please remember to take photos and videos and upload to the W6EK.org photos folder.

If you are unable to attend the club meeting in-person, the first portion will be streamed on Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/96261675605?pwd=eDR6VGZxbW5hUHdYa1E2Kzg2MTBadz09>

Bring Donations for the Food Bank

The church is not charging us for the use of their facility to hold our outdoor club meeting, but have instead asked that we donate non-perishable items for their food bank. The food bank director has indicated that they especially need canned soups such as tomato, cream of mushroom, etc. Please be generous and bring a few items for this worthy cause. Donors will be entered to win some great prizes at the 8:30pm drawing!

Ice Cream Floats & Watermelon – An Evening in the Park

What is your favorite ice cream float? Root beer or orange soda? Can't make up your mind? Try both! The club will be serving up ice cream floats and ice cold watermelon slices at the Recreation Park, [123 Recreation Dr, Auburn CA 95603](https://www.auburn.edu/recreation) on August 21st, Saturday evening beginning at 6pm. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets (guitars, fiddles, banjos and harmonicas). Be ready to experience the biggest and most action packed watermelon seed spittin' contest to be held by any local ham radio club this side of the Mississippi River during 2021!

RSVP soon, so we know how many watermelons and gallons of ice cream and soda to bring.

<https://forms.gle/fp3i1ABbcfndcjXc8>

A fun evening for the whole family. See you there!

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

Until then, 73

Brian Gohl – AI6US

SFARC President

Al Martin - NI2U, SK

Our fellow Sierra Foothills ARC life member and friend Al Martin, NI2U passed. We will greatly miss Al's smile, laughter, leadership, mentoring and friendship.



He grew up in central New York and graduated from Rome Free Academy in 1959. Al went on to Syracuse University to become an engineer. Even though money was tight, through hard work and determination he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering. He proudly served in the United States Air Force, achieving the rank of Captain and becoming the Chief of Communications at Mather Air Force Base.

On October 27th, 1968 he was united in marriage with Shari, a devoted and happy union of 52 years.

After his honorable discharge from the Air Force, he worked as an electrical engineer for General Electric in Utica, NY, and later as an optical engineer for Kodak, in Rochester NY. Al's favorite hobby was being an amateur radio operator. He was a proud member of the Rome and Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club receiving a certificate of appreciation and life membership presented on June 11, 2021. He taught his sons how to enjoy the outdoors through Scouting, even becoming a Scout Master along the way.

Amir, N6ADL, Chip, KM6MDF, and Orson, KG6UCS helped Herb, KM6JBI, dismantle an antenna tower on one of the hottest days of the year!

Herb plans on installing the tower at his QTH and top it with a hex beam antenna. He hopes to improve his FT8 and DX contacts.





A couple of years ago I was in the Oakland HRO store and suggested that they should open a store in Sacramento. I was told they were considering it and then asked if I would like to work for them. They took my name and callsign.

Well the rest is sort of history now. I was hired to manage the new Sacramento store starting in June 2021. My job is to schedule the crew, stock the shelves, and generally keep things running. The best part of the job is meeting the many area hams that come into the store to shop.

We plan to have Club day or night in the future as well as be at Pacificon this fall.

~ Clyde AB4CC (I'm the one on the far right)





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Video Conference Zoom Meeting

July 9, 2021 @ 1805

The board meeting opened at 18:05 pm by President Brian/AI6US.

In attendance were President: Brian/AI6US, Vice-president: Greg/KO6TH, Secretary: Michele/WH7QC, Treasurer: Jeff/KM6RGO, Directors: Gerry/WA6E and Chip/KN6MDF. Wayne/W6DT was not present.

Reports:

Secretary, Michele/WH7QC had no report

Treasurer, Jeff/KM6RGO reported that Field Day donations were given, even by non-attendees. We were well under budget. Renee Fortenberry, widow of "Silent Key" Dave Fortenberry wrote a very nice thank you to the club, expressing her gratitude for those many SFARC members and their valuable assistance.

There were no Director reports.

Webmaster, Herb/KM6JBI reported that they are fine tuning the code for the website to run smoother for multiple applications. He also announced that there are 8 new members to be voted into the club this evening.

Repeater, Clyde/AB4CC reported that Joe/K6SAT said that Western States went fine over the weekend. The Tevis Cup is July 24-25 (24 hours), beginning at 5:00 am. It is on our Groups io calendar.

Sunshine/Greeter, Roy/WH7QC reported that a card was sent to Sharon Martin, widow of our recent "Silent Key", Al Martin/N12U. Upon the Bauer's exit for their upcoming mission, Pam/KM6GTK will serve as Sunshine.

Groups io, Dennis/WU6X reported that we have 220 members going strong.

Contests, Dennis/WU6X reported that the North American QSO Party on CW and the North American QSO Party on Side Band will be held on August 21.

VE Exams: Brian/AI6US reported that we still have no word from Raley's about the conference room there. They are still not allowing the public to use their space.

Volunteer Events, Chip/KM6MDF reported that the Tevis Cup is on July 24-25. Committee chair is Rick/N6KLB.

Public Information Officer (PIO), Scott/WA6YNE did a great outreach for Field Day!

Nominations, Rich/AA6RS will be handling this year. Please reach out to him with suggestions, what YOUR plans are, and offer support.

HamFest 2022, Orion/AI6JB reported that we are penciled in for Saturday, March 3, 2022. We need to pay insurance by January 2022 to participate.

Field Day 2021: Many thanks go out to Gerry/WA6E for his outstanding leadership in organizing it for this year. It was great!!

“Warm August Nights” chairs, Roy/WH7DH and Michele/WH7QC are planning the event for root beer and orange soda ice cream floats and watermelon, including a watermelon seed “spitting contest”. It is to be held on Saturday, August 21 from 6-9 pm at ARD. This event is in lieu of our annual club picnic.

Old Business

Repeater lease-schedule for after Event Season August 2021.

Membership Management software-Jeff/KM6RGO has been looking at the technically free version. He has added features. We reasonably should look into this.

New Business

Meeting location: Brian/AI6US and Jim/WA8MPA are both looking into a suitable SFARC meeting location due to the tremendous club member growth over the past year and a half. The target is for September in-person. A couple of choices are the church near Jim/WA8MPA and another one near George Simmons/KG6LSB.

Dropbox-Dennis/WU6X said the Dropbox solved the problem with photo space on the website. Dropbox is just a file. The cost is \$11.99 per month for 2 Terabytes.

The August 2021 Club meeting venue will be a local park. Greg/KO6TH would like to have a Tech 10 for the meeting. Brian/AI6US, Gerry/WA6E, and Greg/KO6TH will do a “tour de park” on August 16 at 7 pm. The plan is for either ARD, Railhead along with one or two others as choices for the venue.

SFARC Fall Campout: Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 10-12. Brian/AI6US is the chair and announced that everyone planning on camping overnight must make a reservation in advance. It will be a “camper hosted” meeting via zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 19:00. Submitted by Michele/WH7QC, SFARC Secretary.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Video Conference Zoom Meeting

July 9, 2021 @ 1930

Brian/AI6US and Greg/KO6TH welcomed our zoom group to the meeting which Brian started at 19:30 and led us all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Al Martin/NI2U, our recent “silent key” was presented a SFARC membership award. Brian said that Al was “truly a hams ham and a great friend.” Dave/JWB6RBE gave a nice tribute about Al who passed on July 4 of this year. Al was an Elmer, Mentor, VEC, and often the first one to welcome new members and visitors. Several other members shared their thoughts about Al, including him being a “genius”, and he was! Al will clearly be missed.

The June 2021 minutes were accepted as submitted and Greg/KO6TH introduced the evening’s program.

Guests in attendance introduced themselves: Robert/K6REJ, Tom/W6BS, and Derek/KM6BJK.

There were 8 new members to be voted in:

Derek Eells/KM6BJK, Gary Estep/K7EST, Frank Ibarra/KN6GAA, Raymond Smith/N6GPX, Gary Wise/N6WET, Julio Rivera/KN6RIV, Laverne Lawrence/KN6KRR, Ned Zoller/N6RDX.

Gary/KB7QWC motioned and Orson/KG6UCS seconded for the SFARC to vote these new members into the club. The club voted unanimously.

Secretary, Michele/WH7QC had no report for the club.

Treasurer, Jeff/KM6RGO reported that the club's finances are fine. This year we kept under budget because of donations, even from those who have not attended meetings. There was a donation of \$400 generously given by Renee Fortenberry, widow of Dave, another recent "silent key". Renee sent a note of gratitude to the club, particularly to Brian, Sal, Jim, Marv, Dennis and others for their valuable help to her.

The SFARC board members decided that the August meeting will be in-person! It will be a "Hot RF August Nights" car radio show. Bring a radio you have installed somewhere. The Venue will be announced later, and an email will be sent out as well as on Groups io and W6EK.

Director, Gerry/WA6E offered his thanks to all those who helped with our Field Day 2021. It was a great success! Wayne/W6DT was not present, and Chip/KN6MDF had no report.

Repeater, Clyde/AB4CC reported that the repeater will be in use for the Tevis Cup and will have priority on that July 24-25 weekend, except for emergencies.

Sunshine/Greeters, Roy/WH7QC and Jacob reported that a card was sent to Sharon Martin, widow of Al Martin/N12U.

VE-Brian/AI6US reported that Raley's/Belair are not allowing the public to use their conference room space yet. But, of course, ham radio exams can be taken online which works very well.

Volunteer events, Chip/KN6 MDF announced the Tevis Cup being the weekend of July 24-25. For information and volunteering, please contact, Rich/N6KLM.

Ham classes-Orion/AI6JB is offering General online classes beginning in September.

Satellite, Greg/KO6TH gave his satellite report.

Website, Herb/KM6JBI reported that we are having some troubles with the email and sign-up sheets. Please send emails directly to him for now until the problem gets corrected.

Groups io, Dennis/WU6X reported that we can find the calendar and see events on the io site.

Contests, Dennis/WU6X reported that the North America QSO Party CW is scheduled for August 7 and the North America QSO Party SSB is scheduled for August 21.

Membership, Jeff/KM6RGO reported that our membership is at 214 as of tonight's meeting.

ARES, Brad/KM6RIW is the new ARES EC. The ARES net is every Sunday at 19:30. Saturday, 31 July will an ARES exercise at the Vet's Hall in Auburn from 9-11am—directly after the club breakfast at Mel's Diner, also in Auburn (breakfast begins at 7:30 am).

Donations/Library, Jim/WA8MPA is accepting donations to the club and there are library items for loan.

New storage solutions are being investigated for SFARC.

Field Day

Brian/AI6US

Brian gave us a great presentation on our Field Day 2021. He told us that 164 attended, and 47 of which were guests, and there were 9 youth. Unfortunately, we lacked to invite an official to our Field Day. Three paragraphs were copied in real English sentences on CW and a special Field Day pin was given to Peter/WB6POT. Great job, Peter!

Wayne/W6DT assisted by checking. We sent out 10 formal messages and ran on natural power for QSO's. We had a site visit by Scott/KK7AIR. The Safety Officer was Greydon//KC6SLE and he got 50 points for submitting an online form. Dennis/WU6X scored 510 CW—submitted on his own. For Digital we had 141 contacts for 482 points. What bands we use: 92 contacts on CW and Phone there were 15 contacts...

This year we had no band captains but could sure use one! AI/NI2U used to be an overseer for our Bands. Most contacts: Wayne/W6DT came in 1st place at 149, Derek/KM6BJK (a newbie!) came in 2nd place at 115. Great job fellow hams!

There was a BBQ for 45 plus banana splits, 100+ for breakfasts, and the snacks were overflowing! Rich/AA6RS suggested that CW be located at the outskirts of "tent city". Herb/KM6JBI said having a logger at the table to work with a partner for Digital is good. In the future, we need more signage to the Field Day spot. Everyone loved Field Day and it was a great success! Thank you, Brian, for your Field Day presentation and for all you and so many have done to make it the success it was for everyone!

PROGRAM

Ham Radio in Idaho by Bob/K6UDA

SFARC really puts in the planning to help ours be successful. Bob is now a board member of his new club, "Magic Valley Amateur Radio Club" after only two meetings. The entire state of Idaho is linked and linked to Utah and Nevada as well, and there is much cooperation. The extracurricular activities are so great with our SFARC—something up where he is they do not have or do. Bob's new club has about 80 members and they have lunch on Thursdays for about an hour. For Field Day they had one guy to plan; however, Bob suggested they have 3-4 people. They have their own club house with repeater. Bob served as a GOTA coach.

Bob heard AI/N6ADT and got to talk to a couple of our W6EK guys, which was exciting to him. Bob is surrounded by huge farms—about 10,000-acre farms. There they have more practical applications with regards to ham radio. They all seem to carry 2-way radios. On the fusion side, they are very busy, and you give your name, call sign and city. Bob encouraged the newbies to ham radio to get involved, volunteer, emphasizing that the more you put in, the more you will get out of it, and the better ham you will become.

Thank you, Bob, for attending our SFARC zoom meeting and your presentation! It was great to see you and hear things are going well in your continued adventures in ham radio!

“Show Us Your Shack”

Jim/WA8MPA

Jim is just another one of our SFARC members with an impressive radio shack. It is an approximate 300 square foot shack, housed in his garage—which is heated in the winter! Among other things, Jim has a Collin S Line Collection— “boat anchor” and a Vacuum Tube Collection. Thank you, Jim for sharing with us your impressive radio shack!

Starlink

By Alan Thompson/W6WN

Alan is in the satellite internet industry. He had the opportunity to acquire one of a limited number of satellite systems. The internet is extremely fast, even up to 230Mbps. Some quotes by Elon Musk:

“Starlink has 69,420 active users...in 12 countries” (June 29).

“Starlink will need up to \$30 billion to survive. ‘If we succeed in not going bankrupt, then that’ll be great.’” (June 30). “We’re not connecting Tesla cars to Starlink, as our terminal is much too big. This is for aircraft, ships, large trucks & RVs” (March 8).

For more information: <https://satellitemap.space>

Thank you, Alan for your very fascinating and interesting Starlink presentation!

Calendar of Club Events

- ✓ SOTA this weekend-Orion/AI6JB & Dustin/W6YUE will be up there
- ✓ Tevis Cup is the weekend of July 24-25. Rick/N6NLB is the chair for more information and volunteering.
- ✓ “Warm August Night” ice cream floats and watermelon in the park event is scheduled for Saturday, August 21 from 6-9 pm at the ARD park in Auburn. Please RSVP to ensure that the club has enough treats to go around for everyone! Roy/WH7DH and Michele/WH7QC are co-chairs for the event.
- ✓ Club “Campout at Stampede Reservoir”, weekend of September 10-12. Brian/AI6US is chair for the event. Brian and wife Lin/KN6KRD will cook a pancake breakfast on Saturday morning. Saturday evening will be potluck. Those planning on camping overnight must make a reservation.

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)
- Radio Direction Finder-Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday @ 7:30 pm on Zoom
- Coffee Break Net-Every morning @ 7:30 am (145.430, PL=162.2)
- Club Breakfast-Last Saturday @ Mel’s Diner in Auburn @ 7:30 am
- Club Board Meeting-2nd Friday of the month, July 9, 2021 @ 6 pm, Online Zoom
- Club General Meeting-2nd Friday of the month, July 9, 2021 @ 7:30 pm Online Zoom

Prize Wheel

Dennis/WU6X

SFARC “Livin’ the Dream” (pin created by wife of Doug/W6VX)--Greg/KO6TH

Tee shirt, “I’m Radio Active” --Mike/K6YMM

American Morse Code Wall Plaque: Roy/WH7DH

Dutch Brothers \$20 Gift Card: Orson/KG6UCS

The General Meeting adjourned at 22:20. Submitted by, Michele/WH7QC.

SIERRA Foothills Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

2021 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: _____

Rev. 5-11-2018



Dennis H. Gregory
Instructor/Technician

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