



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

October 2021

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

At The Key of SFARC:

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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,
Crossroads Church @7:30pm
1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn

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

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WEBMASTER

Herb Garcia, KM6JBI

STATION TRUSTEE

Clyde Campbell, AB4CC

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Andrew Silvester, K6OP

Calendar of Events

October 8th @ 7:30pm
General Meeting

October 30th @ 7:30am
Club Breakfast

October 30th @ 9:00am
Fox Hunt
Regional Park in Auburn

October 31st
Halloween

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

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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*

New Club Meeting Location

With the tremendous membership growth over the past year, we realized that as we transitioned back to in-person meetings, we had outgrown the Auburn City Hall's Rose Room. For months we have searched without success for a suitable meeting location. I am happy to announce that the Friday, October 8th Board and Club meetings will be held in a new location. A big **Thank You** to Jim - WA8MPA for arranging for the SFARC meetings to be held at the Crossroads Church - South Campus Gymnasium! 1101 Auburn Ravine Road, Auburn, CA 95603. <https://goo.gl/maps/2dBzDFtknSM77UTD9>

The beautiful Crossroads Church campus offers plenty of parking, easy access and the gym has a large seating area, chairs, tables, kitchen, fast Internet. The pastor appreciates our involvement and contributions within the community and has been made the facility available at no cost! What is the catch? We simply need to leave the place as we found it or as we do, even better! Please consider coming a little early to help set-up and stay a few minutes afterwards to tidy up the area. To express our thanks to the church for their generous offer, we would like to support their community food bank and suggest monthly donations made possible by each member bringing non-perishable food items to each meeting. We will collect these items at the check-in table and give you an entry ticket for the evening's drawing!

A few weeks ago the board and a set-up team toured the facility and developed a game plan for our first meeting. Last week, Chip – KM6MDF and Jim installed new LED lighting in the Dairy Road parking lot. Thank you! The lot is now very nicely lit. A few AV items have been ordered to provide better audio and support for the continuing live online meeting Zoom stream. New SFARC banners will welcome and direct attendees to the gym entrance.

To celebrate the new club meeting location with our in-person attendees, we will be hosting a special event. "A Touch It - Take It" table will be set-up in the entry. You pick-up an item, decide how much it is worth to you and place a donation in the jar to go towards future club events. The club's extensive library has grown during the past years and new titles available for check-out. Additional drawing tickets will be available to purchase for \$1 each. Buy 5 tickets and receive a free 6th ticket. Remember to wear your name badge and receive an extra drawing ticket. Prizes include a Yaesu FT-70D HT, Solder Rework Station, Gift Cards and more!

Members are welcome to attend the in-person board meeting at 6pm and we look forward to seeing everyone for the in-person and Zoom stream club meeting at 7:30pm! We are very excited to meet in-person once again, in this wonderful spacious area!

Fox Hunt

If you are a first-time fox hunter and want to learn about the radio direction finder sport or a seasoned hunter, meet us at Regional Park in Auburn on Saturday, October 30th at 9am for a morning of radio direction finding fun and learning. This first Fox Hunt event will be simple search within the park. Bring your own RDF gear or we will have locator units available. Doug - W2VX has graciously designed and built 8 locators to attach to your HT via a SMA Female. If you have a different connector on your HT, bring an adapter. Thank you to Greydon - KC6SLE for final assembly and testing the units.

Regional Park is less than two miles from Mel's Diner on hwy 49. Enjoy the club breakfast at 7:30 then head over to the park for a few hours. We will be meeting at the recreation building: 3770 Richardson Dr, Auburn, CA 95602. <https://goo.gl/maps/KeHrRHzyBY3AQdycw6>

Election in November

The SFARC election will be held during the November club meeting. Please mark your calendar for November 12th and be sure to attend the club meeting to vote in-person or via Zoom. If you are interested in being placed in nomination, it isn't too late. Contact Rich – AA6RS as soon as possible to be placed on the ballot.

Christmas Party

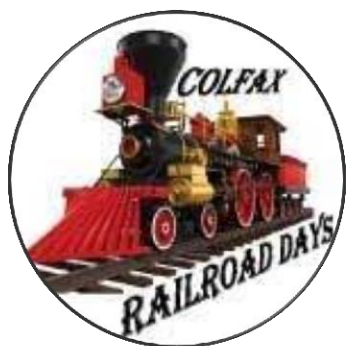
The Christmas party has been scheduled for Saturday, December 4th, 6pm at the Auburn Crossroads Church – South Campus gymnasium. Jim – WA8MPA has offered to chair the party, but we need you to volunteer. We have several members already working on the event planning. Please contact Jim and let him know that you want to be part of team putting on the biggest event of the year. Delicious food, great company, trivia contest, slide show, prizes!

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

Until then, 73

Brian Gohl – AI6US

SFARC President



Colfax Railroad Days is a celebration of Colfax's role in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. It was the terminus for supplies, equipment and laborers for their push to build the railroad bed through the Sierra and beyond.

This year it was held on September 18 & 19, 2021.

<https://colfaxrailroaddays.com>

One of the event organizers emailed and asked if an SFARC member would be interested in providing a Morse Code demonstration at the Railroad museum.

Matt - N6MMS volunteered and provided demonstrations on both Saturday and Sunday at this free family event.



(Photo Credit: Greydon - KC6SLE)

What is it?

Hint: *This item was used by amateurs to assist in RF alignment of analog transmitters and transceivers.*



Answer is on page 12 of this newsletter



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Video Conference Zoom Meeting

September 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Brian/AA6US at 6:05 PM. In attendance in addition to Brian were Vice-President Greg/KO6TH, Treasurer Jeff/KM6RGO and Directors Gerry/WA6E, Wayne/W6DT and Chip/KN6MDF. Also present were Repeater Trustee Clyde/AB4CC and Jim/WA8MPA.

The August 13th minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer Jeff/KM6RGO reported an additional Field Day expenses of \$36. He also reported that we had received a donation in the amount of \$500 from the Western States Endurance Run Foundation.

President Brian/AI6US announced that the club also received a very generous gift of the expenses for the Ice Cream Social and Watermelon Spitting Contest in the Park from our members Roy/WH7DH and Michele/WH7QC Bauer who will be leaving us for about a year and a half while volunteering for their church.

Gerry/WA6E reported he and Jeff/KM6RGO were starting to test membership software and will report when there is something to report. A discussion was had about the award for work and volunteering for the club.

A proposal was made to select a member to name it after and whether that was appropriate given that most people don't know or remember past members. It was suggested that off line conversations might be best to work on this issue.

A repeater update was given by the repeater trustee, Clyde/AB4CC. The repeater is running on reduced power while looking for some noise issues. The repeater frequencies have also been coordinated.

The club is looking for a greeter, perhaps both online and in person as the current greeter team of Roy/WH7DH and Jacob will be gone for about a year and a half.

Dennis/WU6X advised that we have 222 members for our Groups I/O account. Jeff/KM6RGO is working with Amir/N6ADL on moving file for storage. Jeff/KM6RGO also noted that with the addition of the new members this month we were up to 226 members.

Chip/KN6MDF who coordinates our volunteer events reported that the CERO Crazy Miner Motorcycle Enduro was still on and he would give further updates as he receives them, perhaps via the morning Coffee Break Net or the Thursday Night club net.

At our first in person meeting scheduled for October 8, 2021, Jim/WA8MPA announced that we have a large accumulation of ham radio related items and he was going to have a "You touch it you buy/take it" event. A table at the entryway will have many items sorted by suggested donation for attendees to select from. Many real bargains were promised.

A discussion occurred about the refreshments usually provided at club meetings. Given the times we now live in, we agreed that for the moment items would be limited to things like water and individually wrapped snacks. It was pointed out that it would be hard to get to the new meeting site without going by a Starbucks or Dutch Brothers if someone wanted coffee.

President Brian/AI6US advised that Rich/AA6RS, who was the nomination committee, would present the results of his hard work in the form of a slate of candidates who will run for club offices for next year. We will encourage any others who wish to run to do so.

There has been no response from our efforts to renew the repeater site lease from the business manager. Time to escalate and request a meeting with the Superintendent.

The change of meeting location was unanimously approved by the board by electronic voting during the last two weeks.

The next Board Meeting will be held on October 8th at the new meeting location, the Crossroads Church 1101 Auburn Ravine Road in Auburn. A tour of the facilities for new and old board members will be held on September 15 at 6 PM. Use the Dairy Road entrance on Dairy Road.

The Board discussed having some prize giveaway at the next in person meeting. A discussion was held about if that were fair to members who choose not to attend for health reasons and how to resolve that issue. Off line discussions among the board may help resolve this dilemma.

Finally, President Brian advised that the club now needs storage for a number of items that he has been storing at his shop/office. The total volume was estimated to be about the size of a regular pallet and about 4 feet high. Jeff/KM6RGO agreed to check to see if he had the space after rearranging a few things.

A final reminder was made that the next Board meeting would be at our new location.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM. Submitted by Wayne Stilwell/W6DT



General Meeting Minutes
Video Conference Zoom Meeting

September 10, 2021

President Brian/AI6US welcomed individuals to the meeting. There were 42 people connected via Zoom at the start of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:49 PM by President Brian/AI6US who opened the meeting by leading The Pledge of Allegiance.

All Board Members were present with the exception of Secretary Michele/WH7QC who had a prior commitment.

Treasurer Jeff/KM6RGO reported that we had received a very generous donation from the Western States Endurance Run Foundation in the amount of \$500.

Last months meeting minutes were accepted as submitted.

It was announced that because the forests had been closed and the camp out at Stampede Reservoir had been canceled, a Stampede to the Park would be held tomorrow, Saturday starting at 5 PM. Brian/AI6US would provide hot dogs for those in attendance and others would bring dishes to share.

It was announced that the club had a new meeting place, The Crossroads Church on Auburn Ravine in Auburn. This was facilitated by Jim/WA8MPA who gave an overview of the facilities.

Jim also announced a "Touch it you buy/take it" table at the first meeting that will have ham radio related items at rock bottom donation prices. The library will also be up and running. Refreshments will be more abbreviated than in the past consisting of water and some individually wrapped snacks. It was also pointed out that you could not get to the new meeting place without passing a Starbucks or a Dutch Brothers.

A request for volunteers to help at the site prior to the meeting was made and Rob/KM6YKX, Joshua/KN6NUF, Mike/K6YMM, Carl/WF6J, Paul/W2OHV, and Mark/ W2MWK all volunteered.

The club received a call looking for volunteers to help with the Colfax Railroad Days by giving a Morse Code demonstration on September 18th and 19th. Contact Kim at 530 305-6317.

A motion to admit seven (7) new members was made by Gary/KB7QWC and Seconded by Orson/KG6UCS. It passed unanimously by oral vote. The new members are :

Matthew Kelly / KN6OXP
Jeff Daugherty / W0NWA
David Merwin / KN6OXO
Christopher Fisher / K6WSM
Joel McAllister / KK6IQR

Michael Huff / KM6RIX
Anders Rehnvall / K3REH

The chairman of the nomination committee, Rich/AA6RS presented a slate of candidates for office for next year. They are :

President-	Jeff/KM6RGO
Vice President-	Greydon/KC6SLE
Treasurer-	Rob/KM6YKX
Secretary-	Orson/KG6UCS
Director-	Amir/N6ADL
Director-	Smitty/K9CCO

The third director will be Gerry/WA6E who was elected to a two year term last year. Further nominations will be accepted at the October meeting and all are encouraged to run.

The first prize of the evening was awarded by spinning the prize wheel. Wayne/W6DT won a small portable butane torch, handy for outdoor use, especially soldering.

Tech-Ten

Vice-President Greg/KO6TH introduced the Tech-Ten speaker Tom/NN6H. The topic was Wilderness Protocol . As it pertains to radio operators, Wilderness Protocol was proposed as a way to increase the chances of communicating if you are in a remote area. Basically, people will listen at the top of specific hours for 5 minutes and those trying to communicate will try transmitting at those same times to greatly enhance the prospects for successful contacts. The times are applicable every three hours starting at 7:00 AM until 19:00 (7 PM). Call on the national calling frequencies ie. 146.52, etc. This can be especially useful for people in remote areas who need help or have important information to pass on.

Show Us Your Shack

This months Show Us Your Shack was one shared by Carl/WF6J. He has a very neat station in a small closet. It is all on shelves and is within reach. All wires and cables enter via interior holes so nothing is seen outside the closet.

Program

How to use Doug's/W2VX Handi-Finder, by Jon/KI6RT

The Handi-Finder is the one of the results of the Radio Direction Finder group of the club. There are at least three reasons for radio direction finding:

1. No reason at all, sort of just because,
2. Locate a transmitter (interference, jamming, lost operator, etc.)
3. To get out of the shack for things like fox hunting.

The radio direction finding group wanted to deliver a modular RDF system. With the Handi-finder, You just connect to an HT, tune 146.565 or whatever frequency the target signal is on and power on the Handi-Finder. Then rotate to find the null.

Equipment and boards will be at the Stampede to the Park on September 11, 2021.

Repeater Report

Repeater trustee Clyde/AB4CC reported that the repeater was working at reduced power. Over the weekend he and Jeff/N6JEF were going to go the the repeater site and search for some possible noise issues.

Volunteer Events

Chip/KM6MDF reported that the CERA Enduro motorcycle event is scheduled for October 16 and he would provide more information, most likely on the morning net or the weekly club net on Thursday nights.

License Class

Orion/AI6JB is teaching a General license class starting Tuesday over Zoom and there was still some space available. Contact him if you want to take advantage of the class.

Groups I/O

Dennis/WU6X reported that our Groups I/O site had 220 members. Only members can post but reading is available to everyone.

Contests

Dennis noted that the ARRL VHF contest was this weekend and that the California QSO Party was the first weekend in October. It is especially noteworthy and fun because it is the one and only time people are actually looking for and want to work California Stations.

Social Media

Orion/AI6JB reminded people we have accounts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Contact him for more information.

Membership

Jeff/KM6RGO reported that we now have 226 members.

ARES

Carl/N6CKV reported that ARES members helped out the El Dorado group during the last fire with animal rescue. The ARES Group meets on the club repeater on Sunday nights at 7:30 PM, all are welcome to join in.

General Announcements by President Brian/AI6US

The club is looking for a Greeter.

A lead person for snacks at our new location is needed. This will require less effort than before as we are going to have a more limited selection, primarily water and individually wrapped snacks.

At the first in person meeting at our new location the club will give a prize to a member of a Yaesu FT70 handheld.

The Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air is Scheduled for October 16, Orion/AI6JB to advise.

Ham Track will be March 16 and 17, 2022. Buy your train tickets to Reno, making sure that you specify Train and not Bus, for the trip over the, hopefully, snow covered summit, spend the night, your choice of hotels and return the next day. Not an official club event so you need to make and pay for your own train tickets and hotel room.

Prize Wheel

Dennis/WU6X ran the prize wheel to award the final prizes of the evening. The winners were:

Bruce/KB6DOG Dutch Brothers Gift Certificate
Greydon/KC6SLE Drok BUC
Marshall/KC7HKU Amateur Radio T-Shirt

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 PM.
Submitted by Wayne Stilwell/W6DT



“WHAT IS IT?”

Answer: HP AC RF Probe (Not an amateur's torture device!)

The 11036A AC Probe is used with the HP Model 410C Electronic Voltmeter for ac voltage measurements from 20 Hz to 700 MHz. The voltmeter, with the probe, has an accuracy of $\pm 3\%$ of full scale from 100 Hz to 100 MHz and $\pm 10\%$ of full scale from 20 Hz to 100 Hz and 100 MHz to 700 MHz. The maximum input voltage for the probe is 30 to 300 volts rms, depending on the frequency of the signal. The probe contained a custom vacuum tube so that the circuit under test was not loaded. (Without such a probe the RF circuit could be adversely affected by the meter's input impedance)

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
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)**

OFFICE USE ONLY:

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

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

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

Rev. 5-11-2018

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