

P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

December 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

mickeybauer2012@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,

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

Mike Smith, K9CCO

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Barbara Anderson, W6EVA

anderson51@wavecable.com

WEBMASTER

Herb Garcia, KM6JBI

STATION TRUSTEE

Clyde Campbell, AB4CC

VOLUNTEER EXAMINERAndrew Silvester, K6OP

Inside this issue

- President's Message
- What is it? How does it work?
- Photos of members putting up antenna
- A Wikipedia for ham radio?
- Minutes & reminder about train trip



Calendar of Events

December 4th @ 6pm Club Christmas Party

December 25th
Christmas Day



~ ~ ~

Join us every morning @ 7:30am for the <u>Coffee Break Net</u> 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

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

Growth and Changes in 2021

2021 has been a tremendous year of growth and changes for Sierra Foothills ARC. At the beginning of the year, our membership was 105 and we close the year nearing 250. What is the draw to SFARC? I am repeatedly told by new members that our friendly and welcoming members, numerous activities and exploration of new technologies attracted them to join. While some clubs all but shut down during the pandemic, we chose to launch new nets, step-up our outreach, and adopted online video apps for virtual attendance at events, club meetings, licensing classes and administering volunteer exams.

Hybrid Meetings

We recently began hybrid in-person / Zoom club meetings to offer our members social interaction and participation with live presentations, regardless of your ability to be physically present at the meeting venue. Our new meeting location at the Auburn Crossroads Church South Campus Gym is working out great. Excellent location, easy access, plenty of parking and room to grow. We addressed the sound issues experienced during the first meeting and it now sounds great! Our monthly club meeting collection for the community food bank is bringing in hundreds of donations and the items are very much appreciated. We are now working on building a permanent Zoom streaming hardware solution that will be easy to set-up, simple to use, and provide better meeting coverage for Zoom attendees.

Coffee Break

The Coffee Break Net is now 1 ½ years old and has welcomed hundreds of operators an incentive to key up every morning. While an operator may be hesitant to put out a callsign on a quiet repeater, it is a different story when you are invited to key-up and visit. The Coffee Break Net provides an open invitation for each check-in to share stories, interests, advice, and life events. The discovery of common interests has forged many new friendships. The log is now nearing 16,000 check-ins, hosted by a daily net control rotation of scheduled operators and guests. A big thank you to everyone who participates in this awesome daily event.

Clearnode Net

The rapid growth of AllStarLink and Clearnode use on the W6EK 2 meter repeater prompted Gerry - WA6E to start the weekly Clearnode net each Monday evening at 7pm PT. AllStarLink users from around the country join the local W6EK 2m repeater users for this educational and hosted one hour net via ASL node # 51018. Hosts have included Gerry, Tom — NN6H and Greydon — KC6SLE, first time net control operator after 30 years licensed - Great Job!!!

W6EK 1.25 AllStarLink Enabled

The W6EK 1.25cm repeater now has AllStarLink! Tom- NN6H recently built the HamVOIP based hardware and with the assistance of Craig – KM6LYW and a friend of the SFARC, Patrick – N2DYI from New York, the ASL node # 56039 is now active. This new analog node will also allow cross band linking between the W6EK 2m and 1.25cm repeaters and allows you to access the repeaters via a node or smartphone.

We plan on linking these two repeaters during the Thursday evening and the Elmer Nets. We invite you to try the link today via your VHF radio: W6EK 2m repeater users can connect to the 1.25cm repeater using *3 56039 and disconnect *1 56039. W6EK 1.25cm repeater users can connect to the 2m repeater using DTMF *3 51018 and disconnect *1 51018. Enjoy and let us know what you think of this project.

Welcome to the New SFARC Board

The results of the SFARC election are in and I am honored to announce our club officers for 2022. Please join me in welcoming Jeff Morgan – KM6RGO as our incoming SFARC President. Jeff brings an incredible amount of positive energy, organizational skills combined with in-depth knowledge of the club operations, as our Treasurer for the past two years. Greydon Hicks – KC6SLE will serve as our Vice President. Greydon has helped organize several events during this past year and I have observed his keen interest in getting the details right, sparking and supporting the interests in ham radio with those around him. Look forward to the presentations that he will find.

Rob Newburn – KM6YKX will be our Treasurer. Rob brings to the position a strong passion for promoting amateur radio along with a career in finance administration. Rob is that operator who is always available to help on almost any project. Orson Fackrell – KG6UCS has been filling in as the temporary Secretary, yet knowing all, accepted the nomination for and elected to the office. Thank you Orson for you past support and officially taking over the role of Secretary. Orson has been very involved with Orion's ham radio classes. As an instructor and assisting with the labs, he enjoys helping others grow their knowledge.

Smitty (Mike) Smith – K9CCO received the highest number of votes for Director and will be appointed for a two year term. Smitty offers an abundance of creativity and real-life experience in promotion, broadcasting, streaming and implementing networking and technology. Amir Larian – N6ADL has been elected to a one year Director position. Amir's interest, participation, and growth in amateur radio is driven by his keen interest in mastering technology and is always helping other operators with their projects. I see this unending energy positively influencing the activities during the next year. Gerry Brentnall – WA6E will continue in the 2nd year role as Director. Gerry has been a great influencer during the past year. His wisdom and positive can-do attitude has been a great benefit to the board.

Review

I am thankful that you gave me the opportunity to serve as the SFARC President during the past two years. These certainly were challenging times, where we had to redefine how we could continue to operate as a social club and support our community. 2020 started off with a large turnout for Winter Field day and then two months later, the entire game board was shuffled. The pandemic hit. We no longer could meet in-person and all events were seemingly put on hold. Together we tackled the challenge and opted to move forward rather than hunker down. We refined the SFARC bylaws to allow flexible quorum and voting methods to allow electronic participation. We immediately transitioned our club meetings to video conferencing and held a virtual Field Day and Christmas party. We focused on using nets and Zoom to meet new operators, visit, and share the amateur radio experience. Our

Volunteer Examiner group has tripled in size as we trained and administered exams online. Our membership has grown 150%.

As we slowly opened back up and began in-person meetings and events, participation exploded. We no longer could fit in the Auburn City Hall's Rose Room, so thanks to Jim – WA8MPA lead, we were invited to our new meeting location in the Gym at Auburn Crossroads Church with no rental fee. Field day had the largest turnout of members and visitors hosted by Scott, KK7AIR at the beautiful Georgetown Airport campground. 2021 has been filled with SOTA outings, volunteer communication events, Donuts and Coffee in the Park, Ice Cream Floats and Watermelon Seed Spittin' in the Park. The wildfire canceled camp out transitioned into a fun Saturday evening picnic, complete with exploding hotdogs, delicious side dishes and visiting with friends.

A radio direction finder interest group that was started on Zoom has now produced a monthly fox hunt, held on the last Saturday of the month after the club breakfast at Mel's Diner. Turnout to the Foxhunts have been incredible. Not only for hams... entire families, spouses, neighbors, kids and grandkids are enjoying these fun outdoor hidden transmitter hunts.

Thank You to the Exiting Board

As we close the year and welcome a new Board of Directors, I want to thank the exiting board for your willingness to serve! It has been wonderful working with each one of you.

Thank you to Greg – KO6TH who has served as Vice President for the past two years. I appreciated working alongside Greg and his partnership in re-imagining the club during this time of transition. We have enjoyed some wonderful meeting presentations and appreciate the untold hours that he spends assembling the YouTube videos. Thank you to Jeff – KM6RGO, who has been our Treasurer for the past two years. The books are so well organized and the annual review struggled to find even a minor error. I appreciate not only the monthly reports, but also the input and clarity that you presented as we discussed projects and changes.

Thank you Michele – WH7QC, Secretary for your endless energy and commitment to providing a wonderful experience for SFARC members and families. Thank you for taking endless minutes and presenting our meetings in a fashion that made sense, even though our discussions were often fast and on occasion, wandered off topic.

Thank you to Chip – KM6MDF, Director for your willingness to help out whenever and however you were needed. I knew that whatever crazy idea that we came up with for the club, you would be there to ensure that we pulled it off and things went smoothly. Your positive ideas and support in the board meetings were very much on target and appreciated!

Thank you to Wayne – W6DT, two term Director for your focused input, direction and sage advice. Your input was invaluable as we faced a few major issues and developed policy. Thank you for all that you contribute to SFARC!

Thank You to SFARC Members

My final thank you is to all of you, the members, for your support and understanding as we navigated through the pandemic. Together, exploring new ways to enjoy Amateur Radio as a club. When I became an Amateur Radio operator only a short five years ago, I had no idea the journey and adventure that I was embarking on. I took my exams with Sierra Foothills ARC and was invited by Al, NI2U to attend an

SFARC meeting before my call was issued.

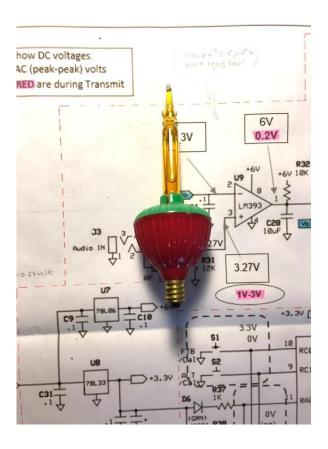
I will always remember the friendly welcome and feeling the positive vibe as members talked about their activities and discussed the next volunteer event and invitation for me to participate. I immediately knew that this was the club that I wanted to become a member of. The next year, I served as a director, the following year as Vice President and now, for the past two years as President. If I were to have a do over, I wouldn't change a thing! It has been a great experience to serve! I am excited to see how I can best participate and contribute to the club in the future. Thank you again for allowing me to serve!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and yours! May we always remember the reason for the season. See you at the Christmas Party!

Looking forward to talking with you again, a little further down the logbook!
Until then, 73
Brian Gohl - AI6US
SFARC President

What is it? How does it work?

<u>Hint</u>: This item was used by amateurs to decorate their Christmas Trees (at least at my QTH)



Answer is on page 8 of this newsletter



Submitted by Peter, K2LRC:

I had a wonderful time when this crew came to my house and put up a G5RV antenna. Jim Jupin was the lead. They did a wonderful job... Thanks guys!!

What a great club we have!





KB6NU'S RADIO BLOG

A Wikipedia for ham radio?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I and co-author David Sawicki, WA3DS, just finished the *Ham Radio Reference*. The book contains an extensive glossary of amateur radio terms, as well as some operating aids, Part 97 rules, and technical information. The book is available in both <u>PDF</u> and <u>Kindle</u> versions.

Yesterday, I sent copies to my colleagues at <u>Amateur Radio</u> <u>Digital Communications</u> (ARDC). Rosy, KJ7RYV, our executive director, wrote back:

HAM RADIO
REFERENCE

DAVID SAWICKI, WA3DS
DAN ROMANCHIK, KB6NU

"Dan, this is great! Thank you.

I wonder...what if we made a page on our website that was just a set of links to references like this. It could be helpful, especially for beginners. What do you think?"

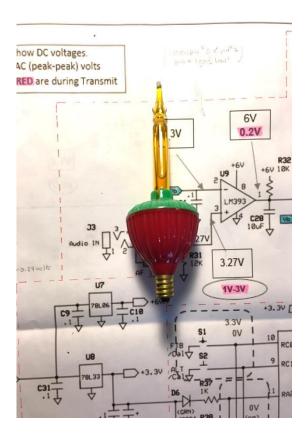
We had just created a list of other amateur radio resources for internal use, and had a similar thought about putting that list online. I replied:

I had a similar thought about creating an online resource after we created the list of amateur radio resources. Then, it occurred to me that someone had done this before: <u>AC6V.Com</u>. Unfortunately, as is noted on the website, "NOTE: <u>AC6V.com</u> is an archive of Rod/AC6V's webpages, and is no longer being updated." Rod became an SK 5 or 6 years ago, and there are lots of dead links and outdated information on the site, and there are a lot of new resources—like this book—that are missing.

Having said that, we could try to set up a "Wikipedia for ham radio." It would be a lot of work, but if we could recruit a community of editors, then it might be doable.

So, I'm throwing this out there. Do you think it's worth creating an up-to-date AC6V.Com? Would you be willing to help? Should it be a wiki or perhaps some other kind of website? Let me know here in the comments or email me directly.

If you have a question or comment about one of my blog posts, or a question about any of the material in my study guides, or a question about ham radio in general, you can email me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



"WHAT IS IT?"

Answer: Christmas Tree Bubble Lamp

The liquid is almost always methylene chloride, a solvent that is toxic and possibly carcinogenic. It is generally sealed in a glass vial or capsule to prevent its release. Some early bubble lights instead used a lightweight oil or camphor (a white substance used in some moth balls) to create the low boiling point. In these older lamps, one can often see a white piece floating at the top of the vial, until the heat of the lamp dissolves it and it starts to bubble.

Bubble lights for Christmas decoration were first patented in the United States by Carl W. Otis in 1944 and introduced there in 1946 by NOMA, one of the largest American manufacturers of Christmas lights. While NOMA was the largest company to make these lights, other manufacturers included Raylite (Paramount/Sterling), Royal Electric Company, and Good Lite/Peerless. Bubble lights were very popular as Christmas lights from the 1940s through the 1970s, before miniature "fairy" lights became popular.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

In Person Meeting November 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Brian Al6US at 6:03 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 was KG6UCS Orson

The October11th minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer Jeff reported PG&E was paid \$159.00.

Mercer insurance has gone up due to having over 200 members. Was \$498 now \$707

Clyde opened the DTMF on 2M repeater to control Wires X

WA6E Gerry Hamtrack event still happening some people have confirmed they are going.

President Brian/AI6US discussed Christmas party, turkeys being cooked and brought, side dishes provided. 5-6 pm mixer and dinner at 6pm. WA6E Gerry has the Trivia game ready. Need volunteers to clean up and set up for party.

W2VX is looking for \$200.00 for the Radio Direction Finding project to cover supplies and parts. Wayne W6DT motions and Clyde AB4CC seconds to approve the money. Suggestion that the Touch It Take It table return in January. Was suggested maybe members bring stuff to put on table as well.

The clubs new greeter is Leslie K7NYE Groups IO is up to 225 members Membership 5 new Looking for a new location for VE testing Still looking for a drawings chair person

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM. Submitted by Brian AI6US



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Video Conference Zoom Meeting
In Person Meeting
November 12, 2021

President Brian/AI6US welcomed individuals to the meeting. There were 23 people connected via Zoom and 50 people in person at the start of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Brian/AI6US who opened the

meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Brian/Albus who opened the meeting by leading The Pledge of Allegiance.

All Board Members were present with the exception of Secretary Michele/WH7 QC who had a prior commitment.

Last month's meeting minutes were accepted as submitted.

Those wearing a name badge were given a raffle ticket and those who brought food donations were given and additional raffle ticket. Also \$5.00 in additional tickets could be purchased for the raffle. Prizes were a Power Gate won by W6YUE Dustin and a 10 watt HF linear won by K6DLK Dan and a 100 watt Auto Tuner won by N6UWQ Gary.

We had guests show up from the Fox Hunt that showed interest in Ham Radio. Other guests included people who heard about us from the Coffee Break net and new to the area hams.

Christmas Party is December 4th. 5-6pm icebreaker dinner at 6pm. Trivia and prizes so don't miss out.

Volunteers needed for set up and cleanup

Winter Field day to be held at Georgetown Airport

Ham Swap Loomis March 19 2022

The new members are:

KE4EST Michael Graves

KJ6MP Tom Grove

KN6RDD Arthur Sentsov

KN6NHU John Wallauch

W6HER Arthur Herron

KM6MDF Chip motioned and K9CCO Smitty seconded. Welcome new members

The chairman of the nomination committee, Rich/AA6RS presented a slate of candidates for office for next year. They were voted on by Ballet and passed.

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.

Tech-Ten

Vice-President Greg/KO6TH introduced the Tech-Ten speaker W2VX Doug topic was Batteries 101 Everything batteries

Show Us Your Shack

This month's Show Us Your Shack was one shared by N7MSM Marv. He showed us his remote rig and explained how he controls his radio in CA from WY.

Repeater update. Wires X being installed into vault. Satalight report given by Greg KO6TH Groups IO report given by Dennis WU6X General Announcements by President Brian/A16US the club is looking for a new in person testing venue

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM. Submitted by Orson KG6UCS



PRESS RELEASE - Train Trip to Reno on the Zepher Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club, Auburn We are going on a I train trip up to and back from Reno, NV and you're invited to join us. You do NOT have to be a member of the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club to join us - this invitation is for ALL hams. Here are the details.. The subject of trains often comes up for discussion on the repeater. There seem to be a number of train aficionados (don't call them "foamers") in our midst as those train discussions attract numerous and protracted stories of memorable trips and other train trivia. One item mentioned frequently is the train trip from Sacramento to Reno. It travels through some of the most beautiful scenery in the United States if not the world. The most common comments about that trip: "That's on my bucket list" or "I want to do that someday." And it remains on the bucket list forever or until the day you decide to just DO IT! Well that day is near. SFARC, as part of its undeclared and previously unknown "Let's do things together" program, has decided to sponsor just such a trip. We are calling it "Hamtrak 2022." (Thanks to Josh, KK6VHH for coming up with the name) Here are the details: 16 March 2022 - Wednesday -Sacramento to Reno 17 March 2022 – Thursday - Reno to Sacramento Why those dates? Many reasons. First, we wanted to do this while there was still snow on the ground and March usually qualifies for this. Second, because it • is mid-week the hotel rooms in Reno are cheaper. Third, it may be easier to get seats on the train in mid-week. And fourth it is the week after our Club meeting so we will have time to make plans. We will be riding to Reno on the California Zephyr, Amtrak train #6 and back also on the California Zephyr, Amtrak train #5. Amtrak #6 leaves Roseville at 11:35 am (if it is on time) and arrives Reno at 3:56 pm. You can also catch the same train at Sacramento or Colfax (different times, of course). Amtrak #5 leaves Reno at 8:36 am and arrives Roseville at 12:55 pm. The westbound train starts in Chicago and is often late getting to Reno. It's up to you to buy your own tickets it's between you and Amtrak. There are non-refundable tickets and refundable tickets - you decide which is best for you. You also decide when you want to buy the tickets but our experience has been these trains often sell out to Reno so the earlier you buy your tickets the better. If you use the Amtrak web site be sure to book the train to Reno and not accidentally book the bus. As for the hotel there are three hotels that are connected together the closest of which is about 2 blocks from the train station. The hotels are: El Dorado, Silver Legacy and Circus Circus. • You decide which hotel you want and make your own reservations. We can take our radios on the train. The train seats are not reserved so we should be able to find seating near each other. Gerry will bring his ClearNode. As long as we can get wifi we'll be able to check in to the W6EK repeater and regale those not on the trip of our minute-tominute progress as they will undoubtedly be anxious to hear us talk about our trip all day long. At the hotel we will have happy hour and dinner together (the Silver Legacy has a nice buffet). The Club's role in this trip is that of organizer not benefactor. The responsibility to buy your tickets, make reservations and the like is all yours. Gerry, WA6E gjbrent@gmail.com will be the point of contact and trainmeister for this excursion. You can direct questions to him. So it's a shared responsibility. The Club initiated and coordinates the idea but you implement it. If you want to come along go ahead and buy your tickets and make your reservations. Not only is this a beautiful trip it will be a lot of fun shared with the other Ham Radio friends.

P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

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