



Welcome to SFARC, Auburn, CA

P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

January 2022

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

**At The Key of SFARC:**

**PRESIDENT**  
Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO  
jamontrail@gmail.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Greydon Hicks, KC6SLE  
lisagreydon@gmail.com

**SECRETARY**  
Orson Fackrell, KG6UCS  
ofackrell@gmail.com

**TREASURER**  
Rob Newburn, KM6YKX  
RobNewburn@att.net

**DIRECTORS**  
Gerry Brentnall, WA6E  
Mike Smith, K9CCO  
Amir Larian, A6ADL

**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 EXAMINER**  
Andrew Silvester, K6OP



**Calendar of Events**

January 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm  
*Club Meeting*

January 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30am  
*Club Breakfast  
@ Mel's Diner*

January 29, 30<sup>th</sup>  
*Winter Field Day*

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

**Inside this issue**

- *Incoming President's Message*
- *What is it? How does it work?*
- *Photos of members delivering propane to Ken*
- *Reminder about the train trip to Reno*

**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 Jeff Morgan – KM6RGO,  
President*

### Happy New Year!

It's time to kick off a new year at **Sierra Foothills ARC**. We have a largely new board with strong support in our growing club. I would like to give sincere thanks to **Brian AIGUS** for his two years of leadership during a very trying time in our club's history. It was unfortunate timing a pandemic started at the beginning of his term, derailing many of the plans he had for our club. We could have just retired to our shacks and complained about the state of affairs. However, with grace and determination, Brian found a way to keep us positively connected. Our repeater came alive with the **Coffee Break Net** and word spread. There was something interesting happening on the air! To date there have been over 16,477 visitors covering a wide array of topics with good natured discussions and fun had by all. The **Coffee Break Net** has also been a welcoming place for long time hams dusting off their old equipment, to new hams tip toeing their way into the hobby. Along with overseeing repeater upgrades we now hear voices from across the country to around the world! **W6EK** is someplace to be. What an accomplishment! From the bottom of our hearts, I would like to extend a congratulations to Brian, for a job well done. Thank you!

### New Board Members

On with the New Year! I am thrilled to announce our Board Members for 2022. Please take a moment to welcome them starting with our directors: **Amir Larian - A6ADL, director** (our new tech savy father), **Smitty (Mike) Smith - K9CCO Director** two year (You all know Smitty), **Gerry Brentnall - W6AE Director** returning two year (You **should** all know Gerry), Secretary **Orson Fackrell - KG6UCS**, Can't Resistor, Treasurer **Rob Newburn - KM6YKX**, (I know you've heard Rob on the repeater!) and finally **Vice President, Greydon Hicks – KC6SLE**, (Engineer, RV Guru, among many things, I am sure). I look forward working with such a talented and experienced group in the coming year!

### Christmas Party

What a success! The food and Gift cards donated by the club were greatly appreciated by the Community Food Bank. Please take a look at the letter sent by them showing their appreciation. Our kitchen and serving crew were amazing! Thank you to Greydon and Lisa, Aaron, Gerry and Theta, Michelle, Lin, Jim Nordstrom and all who helped the set up go so smoothly. A special thanks to Jim, WA8MPA for once again, organizing this event. Jim has provided us with great Christmas Parties for a few years now. Time and again, he has spent many hours on this wonderful event. This coming year, it will be someone else's turn. Thank you Jim!

## Upcoming Events

January 14, our first meeting of the year. Along with voting on a budget for the year, Greydon – KC6SLE has a great program lined up for us at the Auburn Crossroads Church Gymnasium and as well as on Zoom. Visit [www.w6ek.org](http://www.w6ek.org) for details and directions. While we are on the topic of meeting, California has implemented a mask mandate until January 15 in indoors settings. It may be a good idea to have a mask handy; we will also have masks available for those want one. Winter Field day is also happening January 29/30. Orion AI6JB will give a brief talk about it.

## 2022 Membership Renewal

Tis the time of year for membership renewals. **On the last page of the newsletter is a membership form.** Print the form to use with payment. Members may either process their membership online with PayPal payment or mail in the completed membership form along with a check. Prepay membership for multiple years and save! We appreciate your continued support of the club and hope that you find that Sierra Foothills ARC continues to provide value, a community and education to increase your enjoyment and advancement in the amateur radio hobby.

Jeff Morgan - KM6RGO  
SFARC President

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## What is it? How does it work?



*Answer is on page 5 of this newsletter*



## Snowmagedan 2021 update from Brian Gohl - AI6US:

Yesterday a team of SFARC members busted a single track up to provide KA6SUB, Ken with 35 gallons of propane. Ken was stuck at his QTH in Gold Run with 3-4 feet of snow and a dozen trees down on the 1/4 mile driveway. Jeff floated his loaded Jeep up the hill saving the rest of us from pulling the 7 tanks in on sleds. Adam has some epic chain saw skills thanks to a few years fighting wild fires.

Thanks to Jeff - K6BSY, Adam - K6AOA and his son Lucah for helping a ham in need!



## “WHAT IS IT?”

Answer: Socket Test Adapter



### SOCKET TEST ADAPTERS CUT TESTING TIME

Vector Test Adapters are ideal for making voltage, resistance and wave form measurements from the tube side of electronic equipment. In testing, the adapter is inserted between the electronic tube and its socket, completing the circuit. Tests can then be quickly made from the test tab elements without disturbing the chassis and saving time and effort.

#### RECESSED. SHOCK-PROOF TEST TABS

Each adapter has straight through plug to socket connections extended to radial test tabs on the adapter skirt surrounding the socket. These tabs are located above the adapter skirt affording protection for the operator's fingers during insertion and extraction. Socket contacts are beryllium copper for long life. Castings are molded of phenolic material. Adapters fit into the respective shield bases for miniature or noval tubes or into standard tube clamps.

The electrostatic capacity between adjacent leads of the adapters is approximately 1 micro-micro-farad in the unshielded types. The flash over voltage between adjacent terminals is in excess of 1500 volts DC.

#### PROBE PLUGS INTO TABS

Each test tab is provided with a hole designed to grip a special Plug-in Probe when the latter is pressed in. Tests can then be made without holding the probe in place. One probe is included in each T-789 adapter set or may be ordered separately as P-1.

#### ADAPTER SETS



**PRESS RELEASE - Train Trip to Reno** on the Zepher Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club, Auburn We are going on a 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-to-minute 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.



**Dennis H. Gregory**  
Instructor/Technician

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**SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

**2022 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)

<b>OFFICE USE ONLY:</b>	<b>DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE</b>
Date: _____	Treasurer: _____ Secretary: _____ Roster: _____
Payment: _____	Check Number: _____ Cash: _____ PayPal: _____

Rev. 12-31-2021



*Homemade*  
 GIFTS MADE EASY