



Welcome to SFARC, Auburn, CA



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

April 2022

<http://w6ek.org> 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 (Smitty) Smith, WB1G
Amir Larian, N6ADL

FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

Herb Garcia - KM6JBI

REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH
Sunshine: Pam, KN6GTK

GROUPS io

Dennis Gregory, WU6X

PIO

To Be Filled

REPEATERS

145.430 (-0.6 MHz/PL 162.2)
Wires-X, Allstar, Echolink
440.575 (+5.0 MHz/FUSION)
223.860 (-1.6 MHz/PL 110.9) Allstar

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 (Smitty) Smith - WB1G

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Marchetti, KD7G
kd7g@arrrl.net

WEBMASTER

Herb Garcia, KM6JBI

STATION TRUSTEE

Clyde Campbell, AB4CC

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Brian Gohl AI6US
ai6us@arrrl.net

Calendar of Events

April 8th @ 7:30pm
Club Meeting (hybrid)

April 23rd
Canyons Endurance Run
Volunteers contact Joe, K6SAT

April 30th @ 7:30am
*Club Breakfast
@ Mel's Diner*

Clearnode Net
Mondays @ 7pm, W6EK 2M
repeater

~ ~ ~

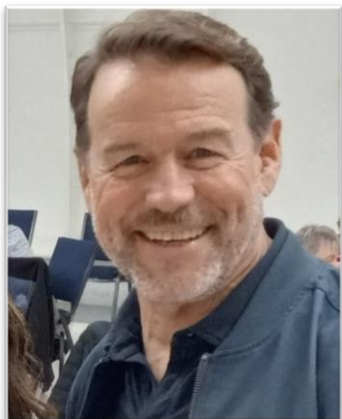
*Join us every morning @ 7:30am
for the Coffee Break Net on the
W6EK repeater 145.43, PL 162.2*

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- *President's Message*
- *Board & General Meeting Minutes*
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- *QLF – Amateur Radio in Your Aircraft*
- *"What Is It?"/"How Does It Work?"*
- *SFARC Field Day 2022 - T-Shirt Design Contest – AND MORE!*

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*

Greetings!

Hamfest

What a blast to be had by all at **Hamfest**! After a two-year absence, it is nice to get back on the ham swap circuit. I don't know about you, but I picked up a deal or two while there. Even though the day threatened "Heavy Dew", the event was quite successful. A well organized orchestra of volunteers headed up by **Orion AI6JB** with his usual expert planning. Along with as many as 55 volunteers! Everyone is willing to help, thankfully, we had excellent **Team Leaders** stepping up! Thank you to **Chip KM6MDF**, **Gary N6UWQ**, **Thomas KN6MJB**, **Michael K6ZUG**, **Dennis WU6X**, **Jim KE6POR**, **Jim WA8MPA**, **Tom NN6H**, **Smitty WB1G**, **Thyge W6TJR**, **Greydon KC6SLE**. They really did a fantastic job keeping their areas humming along. Along **Herb KM6JBI** and **Bill KM6LMR** taking photos, and of course, **Brian AI6US** for bravely running the **Coffee Break Net** on location! And this is by no means a complete list! It takes a village. I would also like to give a special thanks to donators making the raffle a hit with the grand prize winner of a club purchased **ClearNode** by **Tyler, N6UTV**. A full list of donators is listed below, please thank them when hear them on the air!

Club Meeting Apr

On **Apr 8** we will hold our **hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting** at the **Crossroads Church Gymnasium** in Auburn. As always, let **Greydon KC6SLE** or myself, **Jeff KM6RGO** know if that is a topic you might be interested in or willing to present. The depth and breadth of knowledge in our club is amazing! Check out **W6EK.org** under our meetings tab for Directions the link to join. The **Board Meeting** will be at **6:00pm** with the **General Meeting** at **7:30**.

Membership

There are still a few folks out there who have not renewed their memberships. We would hate to see you dropped from the roster. If you have questions about your status, please contact our **Treasurer, ROB KM6YKX**, and he would be happy to look it up for you. If you are not yet current, you may also receive an email noting that. Unfortunately, if you are not made current by the end of March, you may be dropped from the roster. We would hate to see you go!

Field Day

Basking in the glow of a successful Hamfest, look for upcoming organizing meetings on Zoom for **Field Day**. Yes, it is time to plan for Field Day. If there is some way you would like to contribute, join us on Zoom and let's get to planning! If folks volunteer for a small part, I am sure Field Day will be another successful event. Starting off the planning is a contest for **Field Day T-Shirt Design**. The winner gets bragging rights along with a **free T-Shirt** they designed! I look forward to seeing the creativity flow!

Final Thoughts

We have many activities coming up. Volunteer event include communications support for the **Canyons 100**, **Western States 100**, **Cera Enduro**, **Tevis cup**, **March of Dimes** and others. Check with **Chip KM6MDF** for volunteer events. It keeps your ham skills up and helps the community at the same time. In addition we have club events such as: **Foxhunting**, **Coffee and Doughnuts in the park**, **Ham in the Hills an Offroad event**, **SOTA**, maybe a **Camping trip**, among other things. We stay busy! With the calendar filling up and springtime fully here, make sure to take time to **smell the roses**. Enjoy our community, but more importantly, enjoy the world around you. It's good for the soul.

| Loomis Hamfest Donations | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|--|
| NAME | Callsign | Company | Donation |
| Greydon Hicks | KC6SLE | | Drok in the Box |
| Herb Garcia | KM6JBI | | Baofeng UV-5R+ Dual Band HT |
| | | ARRL | Gift Certificates |
| Scott Davis | N3FJP | Affirmatech, Inc. | N3FJP Software Suite |
| Tom Newman | NN6H | | Alinco DJ-VX50 VHF/UHF FM HT |
| Jeff Morgan | KM6RGO | | \$100 Visa Gift Card |
| Clyde Campbell | AB4CC | Ham Radio Outlet | HRO, \$100 Gift Certificate |
| Scott Herring | KK7AIR | Peovi | Peovi IC-705 Cary Cage |
| Carol Milazzo | KP4MD | ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Mgr | ARRL Antenna Book, ARRL Get On The Air HF Digital Book, MFJ G5RV Jr. Antenna |

73!

Jeff Morgan - KM6RGO
SFARC President



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Video Conference Zoom Meeting

March 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff KM6RGO at 6:00 PM. In attendance in addition to Jeff were Vice-President Greydon KC6SLE, Treasurer Rob KM6YKX and Directors Gerry/WA6E, Amir N6ADL and Smitty K9CCO, Secretary KG6UCS Orson, webmaster Herb KM6JBI, members Brian AI6US Jerry W6GU Greg KO6TH and trustee Clyde AB4CC.

The January minutes were accepted as submitted.

New Business

Greydon changed the presentation topic to Hamfest related. Next month's presentations are set.

-Mike K6YMM, triangulation presentation

Committee decided to send Rob KM6YKX and family sympathy card

Repeater report: 220 repeater failed out of the box

Website report: Working on PHP code to update membership page capabilities

Brian AI6US to take over VE coordinator position

Field day will be held at Georgetown Airport

Gerry WA6E, looking for co-chair for field day

Gerry WA6E, Christmas party menu to be Mexican food. Food to be catered

Old Business

No word from the school regarding repeater lease. Vault possible Placer County owned?

Jeff KM6RGO. Suggested separating Treasure and Membership duties

Smitty WB1G, replace the FCS room with our own YSF Reflector, hosted in the cloud, for the 440 machine. Also, for \$5 a month run an Ubuntu server. 2 meters linked to Alstar. (

Committee voted and approved motion to pay for virtual server from Ionos for analog to digital bridge.

Jim WA8MPA finished shelving for storage

Alternative payment methods options was brought but not decided on

Coffee and Donuts in the park suggested late April

Georgetown Fly-In, should club be a part of it this year?

Club Camp out, dates?? Coordinate with Brian AI6US

Greydon KC6SLE, suggested that maybe have 2 editors for the club newsletter. To ease the amount of work.

Greydon suggested another Radio Direction Finding build as a fund raiser. Possible bring your parts for RDF build.

19:02 meet adjourned



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Video Conference Zoom Meeting

March 11, 2022

Club voted in new members.

-William KN6IQA

-Brandy KM6ZIE

-Mick VK2XOC

-Linda W6RVT

-Richard W6TFF

Bill KM6LNR, motioned

Irene WB5RAF, seconded

Club campout, dates to be determined

Coffee in the park April 26th or May 30th

Georgetown fly-in, club to participate

Club voted and approved SFC to YFR server upgrade (virtual server)

Rich AA6RS, motioned

Ray KK6AM, seconded

Orion AI6JB presented Loomis Hamfest, slides to be posted on Groups.io

Jen KN6FO will be printing shirts and stickers for Hearland.net (donations will be accepted)

Greg KO6TH, presented the solar powered shack

Committee reports

Clyde AB4CC, 220 repeater needs to be repaired

Chip KM6MDF, 2 events scheduled for club volunteers

Orion AI6JB, Extra class in progress and May tech classed scheduled

Greg KO6TH, gave satellite report: ISS on cross band repeat mode

PIO needed

Herb KM6JBI, reported no issues

Send Smitty any information for club social media

Equipment donations to be handled by Jim WA8MPA

Prize wheel winners

Chip KM6MDF won dual band mag mount antenna

Greg KO6TH won Eton Emergency radio

Club Presentation

Wow! Time to plan for our April 8, 2022, SFARC Club Meeting. Just amazing how quickly this year is passing.

Do you remember QSL cards? Have you used or received QSL cards lately? The main presentation for our April meeting will be on QSL cards and presented by club member Al, N6ADT. Al will be providing us an overview of the art of exchanging QSL cards. This will include QSL card history, accepted practices, benefits, and today's many creative methods for exchanging. Many old and new HAMs alike are unfamiliar with the time-honored practice of QSL cards, and we are really looking forward to Al's presentation. Thank you, Al!

Our Tech-Fifteen presentation will be another "Show us your shack" presented by Greg, KO6TH. Who will it be this time? What interesting shack features will be shared with us? Greg always does a great job finding us another fascinating shack for us to enjoy (never met a HAM shack I did not enjoy, appreciate and learn from).

A reminder that SFARC general membership meetings start at 7:30 PM PST at the Crossroads Church in Auburn, 1101 Auburn Ravine Road (please use the Dairy Road entrance and parking lot). We are planning on a hybrid meeting consisting of a combination of both in-person and Club Zoom-Room attendees. In person attendees are invited to come early and attend the SFARC Board meeting which runs 6 to 7 PM. Members planning to attend through the club Zoom-Room can do so by connecting to www.w6ek.org, selecting the "Meetings" tab, then following the Zoom meeting login directions (note that Board meetings are not available on the club's Zoom-Room).

As always, I would appreciate hearing your feedback on past presentations, and your desires and ideas for future club meetings topics and presentations. Many of you have already submitted ideas which is most appreciated. And...do you have a topic you would like to present to the club? Please contact me at vicepresident@w6ek.org.

73's

Greydon, KC6SLE

SFARC Vice President

FCC Public Notice DA 22-307 NEW APPLICATION FEE RATES



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <https://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 22-307

Released: March 23, 2022

EFFECTIVE DATE OF NEW APPLICATION FEE RATES FOR THE WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU MD Docket No. 20-270

On December 23, 2020, the Commission adopted a Report and Order implementing a new application fee schedule which significantly updated the Commission's previous fee schedule.¹ As indicated in the *2020 Application Fee Report and Order*, the new application fee rates will become effective when the Commission's "information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated, and the Commission publishes notice(s) in the Federal Register announcing the effective date of such rules."² On July 6, 2021, the Commission announced the new application fee rates for the Office of Engineering and Technology and the Media Bureau would become effective on July 15, 2021,³ and on December 15, 2021, the Commission announced the new application fee rates for the Wireline Competition Bureau, the Enforcement Bureau, the International Bureau, and CALEA Petitions would become effective on December 15, 2021.⁴ This Public Notice announces that the new application fee rates for the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, codified at 47 CFR § 1.1102, will become effective on **April 19, 2022**.⁵ Wireless application fees can be paid through the Commission's Universal Licensing System (ULS) at <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/universal-licensing-system>.⁶

For further guidance regarding Wireless Telecommunications Bureau application fees, please refer to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Fee Filing Guide located at

¹ See *Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission's Rules*, MD Docket No. 20-270, Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 15089 (2020) (*2020 Application Fee Report and Order*). Pursuant to section 8(b)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, the Commission is required to review the application fee schedule in every even-numbered year, adjust the fees to reflect increases or decreases in the Consumer Price Index, and round to the nearest \$5 increment. See 47 U.S.C. § 158(b)(1). In addition to the adjustments required by subsection (b), the Commission shall also, by rule, amend the schedule of application fees established if the Commission determines that the schedule requires amendment so that: (1) such fees reflect increases or decreases in the costs of processing applications at the Commission or (2) such schedule reflects the consolidation or addition of new categories of applications. See 47 U.S.C. § 158(c).

² *2020 Application Fee Report and Order* at 15155, para. 201.

³ See *Effective Date of New Application Fees for the Office of Engineering and Technology and the Media Bureau*, MD Docket No. 20-270, Public Notice, DA 21-747 (OMD 2021).

⁴ See *Effective Date of New Application Fees for the Enforcement Bureau, the Wireline Competition Bureau, and the International Bureau*, MD Docket No. 20-270, Public Notice, DA 21-1496 (OMD 2021). Note that, on December 15, 2021, the Commission decommissioned and permanently discontinued its in-house online electronic payment system known as Fee Filer and replaced it with a new payment module contained in the Commission's Registration System (CORES). See *FCC Announces Decommissioning of Fee Filer as Method of Payment and Replacement with New Payment Module within CORES and Decommissioning of the Commission's Red Light Display System and Replacement with a New Module within CORES*, Public Notice (Dec. 1, 2021).

⁵ 47 CFR § 1.1102.

<https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/application-processing-fees>. For further information regarding this Public Notice, please contact Roland Helvajian, Program Analyst, Financial Operations, Office of the Managing Director, Roland.Helvajian@fcc.gov.

-FCC-

Thanks to Jim Weir, WX6RST for this article contribution!!



AERO 'LECTRICS

QLF—Amateur Radio in Your Aircraft

To find the earliest recorded amateur radio in an aircraft, we have to go back to 1912 when Lieutenant B.T. James (RAF) strapped a pair of wooden laundry pins with thumbtacks to his leg and gave the first reported Morse code contact to earth stations about his flight. It had to be amateur radio at the time since there was no provision for aeronautical radio in the federal regulations.

Matter of fact, there were no regulations for "amateur" radio at the time, so we have two federal violations at the same time that nobody really cared about. Fast forward to 2022 and you find a whole bunch of federal regulations about using an amateur radio in your aircraft.

Please, allow me an abbrvtn...In the 1900s, electronics was in its infancy. Railroads employed thousands of those newfangled Morse code operators to signal what train passed what station at what time in order to prevent a collision at one specific time down the line where the two tracks came together. Those professional operators were transmitting at speeds roughly equal to our text messages today: 50 to 60 words a minute (wpm). They considered the other radio services that only required 5 to 20 wpm like the amateur services to be "plugs" or "lids" or "ham-fisted" operators.

The term for an amateur radio operator "ham" was pejorative until the beginning of WW-II when hams by the tens of thousands became radio code operators and technicians who served with honor throughout the war.

Today "ham" is a particularly honorable title, and I claim that title from my first Novice licensing in grade school



The first ham in space, Owen Garriott. There's an old tradition of exchanging "QSL" postcards to prove you really had a conversation with the other ham (November 30, 1988).

(1957) with call WN6BHI through my progression to the highest grade (Extra) with call WX6RST (weather 6, readability, signal strength, and tone).

But I digress on how to become a licensed ham and/or why to put a ham radio in your airplane.

It used to be true that you needed to pass both a Morse code exam and written exam to be a ham. No longer; written only. Ham written exams parallel pilot exams almost step for step.

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Technician | Private |
| General | Commercial |
| Extra | Flight Instructor |

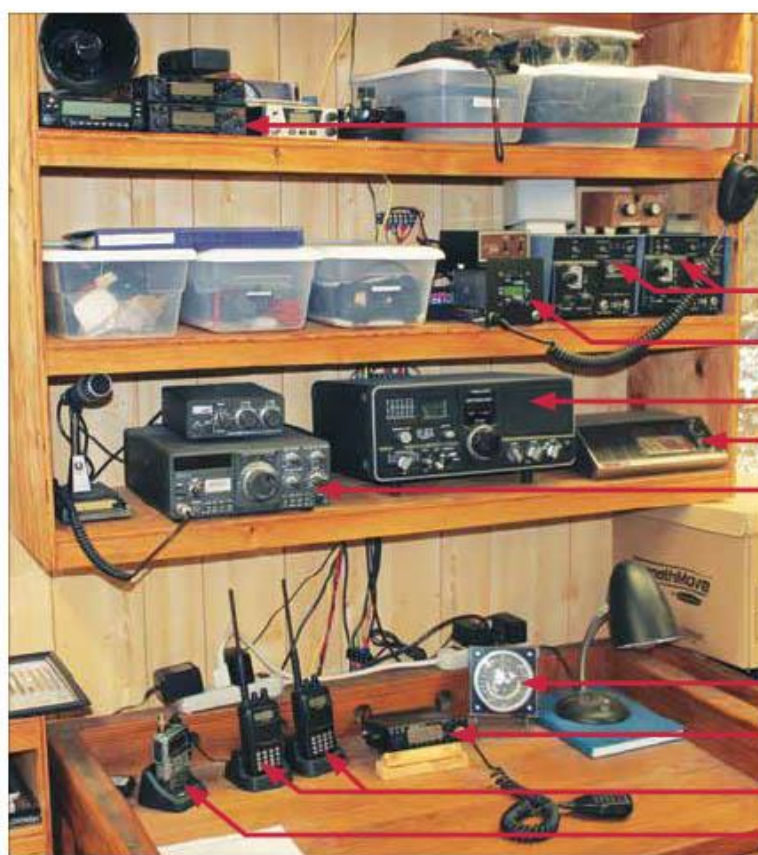
The process is similar too: X number of questions with Y percentage to pass. How difficult are the questions? The youngest ham we have is 5-year-old kindergartner; there are newspaper articles every year with first and second graders passing

the exam. And just like the pilot writings, there are a lot of websites out there that will "prep" you for the exams without a lot of hassle. The best in my opinion is www.hamstudy.org. It is free, it uses the best teaching methods and it's the one I use for my students. And, as of last year, you can take the exam in the comfort of your own home computer. The FCC fee for the ham license is \$0, but the exam organization can charge \$10-\$20 for their actual costs (printing, postage, etc.). I can sit here in Northern California with one of the two organizations I am an examiner for (GLAARG in Los Angeles and ARRL in Connecticut) and can legally examine you in East Undershirt, Ohio.

The ham license term is 10 years, renewable without any cost whatsoever. And you get to keep your call "license" from term to term. I traded in my grade

Jim Weir

Jim is the chief avioniker at RST Engineering. He answers avionics questions in the Maintenance Bay section of www.pilotsofamerica.com. His technical advisor, Cyndi Weir, got her master's degree in English and journalism and keeps Jim on the straight and narrow. Check out their website at www.rstengineering.com/kitplanes for previous articles and supplements.



Ham Radio "Base Station"

Spare 2 meter base/mobile transceivers

6 channel aircraft band base stations

760 channel aircraft band transceiver

100 kHz to 30 MHz. continuous tune receiver

40 channel VHF scanner

80-40-20-15-10 meter HF transceiver

GMT clock

Two-meter high power base station

Twin 2-meter portable handhelds

Aircraft band handheld

A typical ham radio "base station." There are ham radios here all the way from 80 meters (4 MHz) through 440 MHz (3/4 meters), plus a couple of aircraft radio transceivers. Everything in this picture is powered by a 12-volt aircraft battery that will hold the station up for at least 24 hours in emergency mode.



The amateur radio setup in my aircraft. The ham radio is on the top, tuned to 2-meter frequency 144.435 MHz. The radio on the bottom is an automotive AM/FM radio. Obviously, I took these pictures at 12:10 in the afternoon. Fortunately, the ham radio industry followed industry standards with 6.5-inch mounting widths.

school call (WB6BHI—the Big Hairy Indian) for WX6RST when I got my Extra license about 30 years ago.

So what is the big deal about putting a ham radio in my airplane? No big deal. It is simply a legal chatter frequency, sort of like the totally illegal 123.4 on the airplane radio, but legal and available to any citizen of the USA. You will find truck drivers, moms and dads, teachers, politicians (Barry Goldwater, K7UGA), actors (Marlon Brando, KE6PZH), almost every astronaut of the last 20 years, and just plain-old folks that get a real kick out of chatting with an "aeronautical mobile" passing around their neighborhood on the bands.

Speaking of which, your aeronautical "neighborhood" west of the Rockies consists of the state you are over plus half a dozen contiguous states. You are transmitting from a multi-thousand foot antenna tower. And the ability of talking to a truck driver going down I-80 in the middle of



UG-260 connector (left). A 2-meter (19-inch) whip is connected to the left end of the UG-260, and the coax to the radio is on the right side, with an aluminum bracket simulating aircraft skin (right). Over the years, I've hidden the antenna inside a fiberglass wingtip using the outbound rib with a hole for mounting the connector and a spare inspection plate to mount the antenna outside the airframe. The wingtip gets the antenna out of the breeze, but the inspection plate method is a lot easier to install. On occasion, and in an emergency when time is everything, I've used an aluminum bracket as shown held to the aircraft with one of the wing tie-down rings. I've also used the aluminum bracket Velcroed to the glareshield.

Nebraska from over Rawlins Wyoming, asking advice for the best motel and chow hall in Grand Island, where you are going to spend your RON, is invaluable.

OK, I've convinced you that this might be a good idea. Here are a few tips and tricks you may find useful:

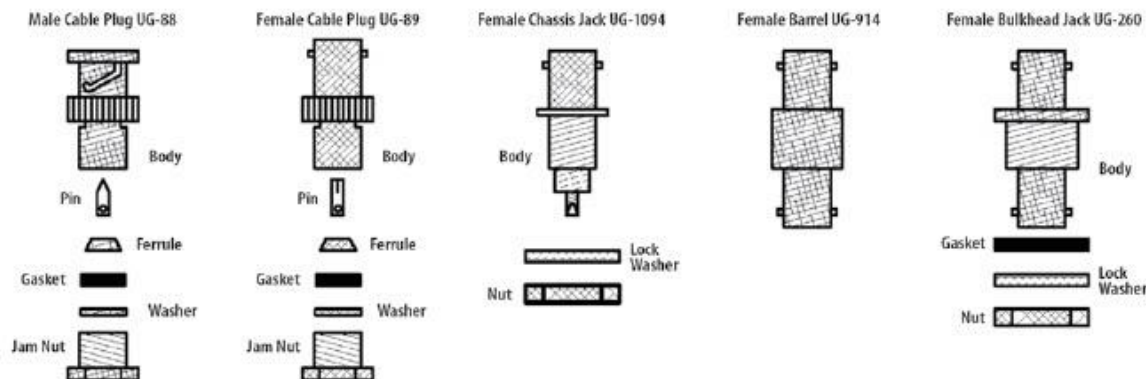
- Yes, it's legal to put a ham radio "rig" (radio) in your airplane. FAA Advisory Circular 20-98 (difficult to find but not canceled) lists how to install "auxiliary" radios in aircraft.
- The FCC has provided amateurs with small "slices" of all frequencies from

135 kHz (way below the AM broadcast band) up to 247 GHz (just a bit below infrared light) because they want us to experiment with the best ways to use these parts of the electromagnetic spectrum. We can use them for any personal reason (within limits on stuff like obscenity) but *not* for any money-making use whatsoever.)

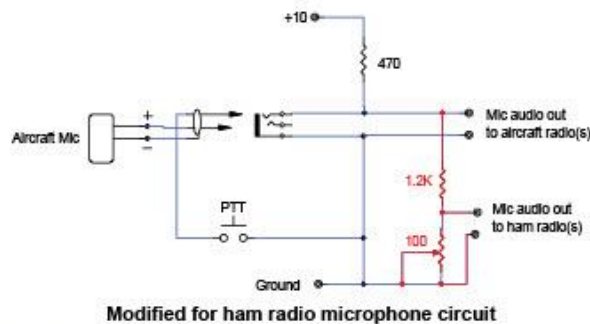
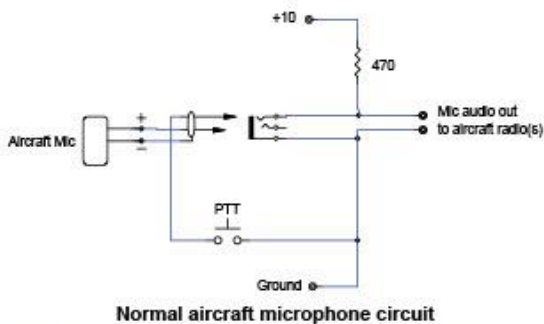
- They *aren't kidding* about the money-making of any sort.
- In particular, the frequencies from 100 to 400 MHz, including the ham bands of 2 meters (144-148 MHz) and

$\frac{3}{4}$ meters (420-450 MHz), lend themselves to aeronautical mobile because (a) their antenna requirements are just a little smaller than an aircraft band antenna, (b) they are by far the more populated "chatter" frequencies of all of the ham bands and (c) they are well provided with "repeaters" that are located on high hills or tall towers that cover a large geographic area.

- As a matter of practical fact, if you use the national calling "simplex" frequencies of 146.52 MHz (2 meters) or 446.000 MHz ($\frac{3}{4}$ meters), you will



The most commonly available and used BNC connector varieties. This particular installation lends itself well to the UG-260, which is called a "bulkhead" connector. It has BNC (f) on both ends and features a rubber gasket that makes the installation waterproof.



How to convert an aircraft microphone signal to a ham radio dynamic microphone input with only two more parts.

call up dozens of stations from states around you. Ham truckers use this frequency as well as ham folks who know the local "best spots" for your RON.

From a technical point of view:

- The audio output of an amateur band 2-meter/ $\frac{3}{4}$ -band transceiver will more than drive an aircraft headset with no modification.
- You will have to provide some sort of interface between the aircraft microphone and the ham rig input. Aircraft put out about half a volt at 150 ohm impedance, and the ham rig wants between two and five *millivolts* at a couple of dozen ohms.
- You can hide 2-meter/ $\frac{3}{4}$ -band antennas on your aircraft in plastic wingtips or outside in a hole drilled in an inspection plate that will accept a BNC bulkhead connector.

Oh, QLF in the title? That is a ham abbreviation from a hundred or so "Q" signals that we invented during the time of no voice, only code. QTH? What is your location? QRZ? Who is calling me? QLF? A sort of funny call, it means literally "your code sending is defective." In reality it means "Now try sending using your left foot."

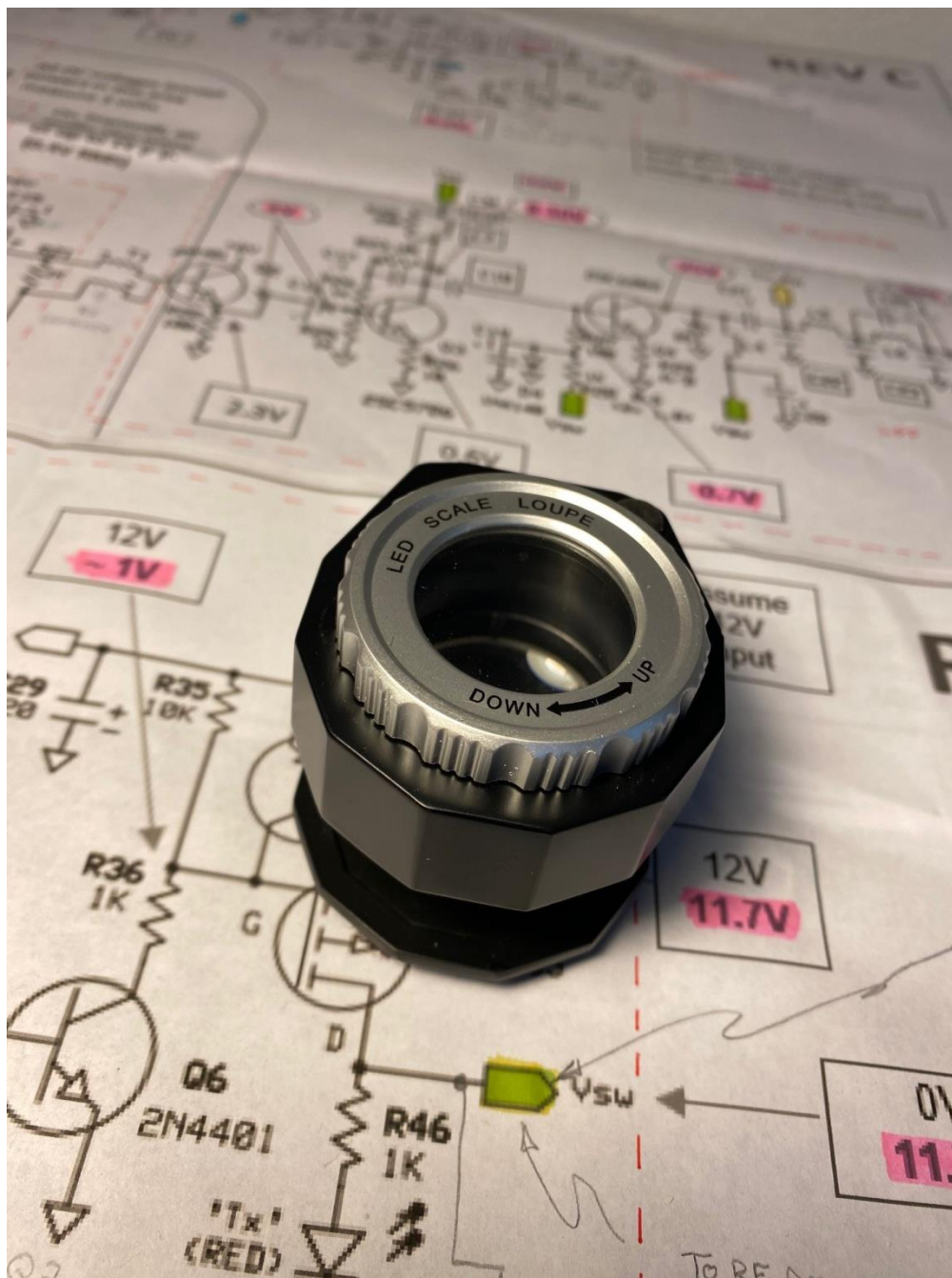
Winter has (finally) returned to Northern California, so I'll get over to the hangar to get more data on the HOG program as rain and snow allow. I'm curious how the battery solar array is holding up the battery as the sun dips down below the equator. Last I saw (in early December) was that the battery was at 14.0 and holding after a day of gray sky and rain/snow.

Until then, 73, es, cul om (or) yl/yf... Stay tuned SK.

Translation from Morse code: (73) best wishes (es) and (cul) see you later, (om) old man [any male licensed ham radio licensee over the age of 4] or (yl) young lady, licensed or not, or (yf) wife.

If you are actually communicating with a favorite yl or yf, replace 73 (best wishes) with 88 (love and kisses). I am rather ashamed to admit it, but up until 30 years ago yf was actually xyl (ex-young lady). Sigh. SK means "silent key" or I'm done transmitting. When applied to a ham, it means he has gone to that great ham shack in the sky. †

What Is It ?



Answer on page 18

Thanks to Jim, WA8MPA, for this noggin scratcher

Field Day is Approaching, so... Let's Design A T-shirt for Field Day 2022!

Now that the Hamfest is behind us it's time to focus on the next big Club event: Field Day 2022 (FD22). We've started putting our event team together but there is one thing we need to start right now: T-shirt design.

For the last several years the Club has had a t-shirt custom made for Field Day. The design on these shirts has been a work of art. The last couple of years were done by Bob, K6UDA, and proudly worn by all. I'll include images of last year's shirt to remind you what it looked like. The year before was similar. But it is time to have a new design for this year. I am not much of an artist (the only thing I can do is draw flies). So, the FD22 Committee is inviting everybody to come up with a design for the back side of the shirt.

We are hereby officially announcing the SFARC T-shirt design contest. Let your imagination go wild and create a design for the back of this year's Field Day T-shirt. For the front of the shirt, we will put the SFARC logo over the left breast pocket (if there was a pocket). This contest is specifically for the back of the shirt.

Some thoughts - and these are my own personal thoughts: I don't think we need to emphasize the fact we are at an airport. I would think we would want to emphasize the Sierras and maybe gold mining or gold miners as well as ham radio. It should include our club call sign - W6EK - but need not include the SFARC logo as that will be on the front.

If you want to participate submit your design to me no later than May 1. The SFARC Board of Directors will select a winning design which will then be used for our T-shirt this year. What do you win? Bragging rights, of course, but also a free T-shirt proudly sporting your design.

After the design is selected, we will work with the company that will be hosting our SFARC swag for sale. They have design professionals who will make the design work with their printing equipment. Then it will be available on that website. People who want the shirt can go there and select the size of their choice and order it.

So let the creative juices flow.

Gerry - WA6E

Here is what the back of the Field Day 2021 T-shirt looked like:





From the Newsletter Editor's Desk:

Double-whammy I call it – two terrific events over a span of four days, and these were my first SFARC events since joining the club!

Several months ago, talk began about a 2-day journey with a bunch of fellow Amateur Radio Operators – ON A TRAIN! I've ridden the California Zephyr twice before to Colorado and back when I was seven and again when I was 11—OBVIOUSLY, I had to go! Soon as the dates were agreed upon, I had my tickets paid for the next day.

Fast forward to March 16th – I boarded in Martinez, CA after a one-hour delay, but I didn't care – I was going to ride on the train! I was giddy with my 7-year-old self's excitement. The ride was pleasant and uneventful. Along the way other SFARC members hopped on at various locations along the way, and, we even had one couple (Mark & Mary Pat Carter) who came all the way from Modesto! I think they win the long-distance contest.

Gerry, WA6E brought along his ClearNode and so did Jojo, KN6HTD which enable us to talk on our handheld transceivers even though we were spread out through three coach cars and the observation car! Great idea guys!

About 6.5 hours later (from Martinez, CA) we arrived in Reno, NV and we were filled with scenic views along the way though the snow was a bit thin, it was still a beautiful sight to see. After disembarking, many of us gathered for a group photo before we all went to check in at our hotels.



Many of us met at a restaurant in the El Dorado Resort Casino at Brew Brothers for some libations and food, but more importantly – great conversation & making some new friends!

The following morning the 35 HamTrak'ers reconvened at the Reno Amtrak station for the return trip back through the Sierras, the scenic snow and back down the hill to Sacramento and eventually Martinez.



You think that would be enough and last me a few weeks relishing the train ride and good friends, but I did say double-whammy, RIGHT? March 18th was a day of rest, mostly, and getting ready for the second bit of that double-whammy – Loomis HamFest 2022!!

You already know I like to volunteer (ahem, newsletter guy here), so of course, I said I would help with setup and tear-down. Ya, I did not quite think that one through – I live in Antioch – 86'ish miles from Loomis, so, to arrive at 04:30, I had to roll out at 03:00. Which I did.



Needless to say (but I am going to anyway), the HamFest was worth every mile, and gallon of gas!

I don't have the figures handy, but I'm told that it was a great success for the club, and it was great for the community too! Truth is, that was my first HamFest – EVER. Ya, I know, where have I been? What have I been doing? Living under a rock, I guess.

Brian, AI6US, carried out the Morning Coffee Break Net with great aplomb and spirit. This was no 'regular' edition of the net, it was LIVE FROM LOOMIS and Brian brought the net to many of us with his HT and we got to 'get on the net' even though many of us were tending to things like coffee & doughnuts, ARRL tent, HARTnet tent, the club table and so on. Thanks Brian – what a great net!!



I managed to sneak out of my HARTnet tent a couple of times to check out the action and there was a good amount of action out there.



There were many giveaways throughout the morning, which are listed earlier in this newsletter. Shoot, even your newsletter editor won something!!



A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered to help out with the event – there is a TON of work that goes into a HamFest, and everyone deserves a hearty THANK YOU! I would like to single out one person though – Orion, AI6JB. Orion did a tremendous job rallying the troops, stoking the fire, reigning in the herd and generally keeping the whole effort on track.

If I keep going this will become a 20-pager, so I will simply say that my double-whammy was exactly that!

Thank you & **be radio active!!**

73,

Jim – KD7G



If you have any information for the newsletters, ideas, recommendations, events you've heard about, etc., please don't hesitate to send it to me. Even if you 'think' someone else has probably sent it to me, send it anyway – assume they haven't. 😊 Email: kd7g@arrl.net or james@jamesmarchetti.com – either way, I will get your email.

Answer to - *What Is It* LED Loupe

A Loupe is an indispensable instrument for the quick check of drilled holes in printed circuit boards. The loupe shows the inside part of the hole with 8X magnification. A way to recognize immediately potential drilling defects (spiral formation, roughness or traces of burning).

Reading the values of Surface Mounted devices is also much easier with the aid of a Loupe. This particular Loupe has a white LED light and a Blue LED light built in to help in viewing.

Checking for "cold soldering joints" can be made easier with such a tool. Great addition to your tool belt!

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P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

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4343 Marconi Ave. Ste. #2
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