



Welcome to SFARC, Auburn, CA



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

March 2023

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

### At The Key of SFARC:

#### **PRESIDENT**

Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO  
[jamontrail@gmail.com](mailto:jamontrail@gmail.com)

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Greydon Hicks, KC6SLE  
[lisagreydon@gmail.com](mailto:lisagreydon@gmail.com)

#### **SECRETARY**

David McBrayer, N6OJJ\*  
[david.mcbrayer9@gmail.com](mailto:david.mcbrayer9@gmail.com)

#### **TREASURER**

Rob Newburn, KM6YKX  
[RobNewburn@att.net](mailto:RobNewburn@att.net)

#### **DIRECTORS**

Jon Kim, KI6RT\*  
Mike (Smitty) Smith, WB1G  
Joe Steinmetz, K6SAT\*

#### **FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN**

OPEN - TBD

#### **REPORTERS**

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH  
Sunshine: Pam, KN6GTK

#### **GROUPS io**

Dennis Gregory, WU6X

#### **PIO/Social Media Officer**

Mike (Smitty) Smith, WB1G

#### **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@arrl.net](mailto:kd7g@arrl.net)

#### **WEBMASTER(S)**

Smitty (WB1G) / Greg (KO6TH)

#### **STATION TRUSTEE**

Clyde Campbell, AB4CC

#### **VOLUNTEER EXAMINER**

Brian Gohl AI6US  
[ai6us@arrl.net](mailto:ai6us@arrl.net)



## Calendar of Events

### **Hams In The Hills**

March 4<sup>th</sup>

Mar Val's Market in Georgetown

**Target Departure Time: 0800**

### **General Club Meeting**

March 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm

### **Club Breakfast**

March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30am  
@ Mel's Diner

### **RDF/Fox Hunt**

March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

### **Clearnode Net**

Mondays @ 7pm, W6EK 2m  
repeater

~ ~ ~

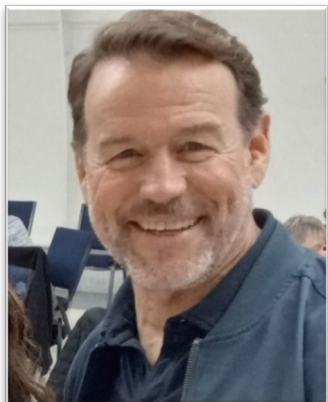
*Join us every morning @ 7:30am*

### Inside this issue

- ***President's Message***
- ***New Members!!***
- ***Board and General Meeting Minutes***
- ***Trivia Questions / Did Ya Know?***
- ***From the Newsletter Editor's Desk***

**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 March!

It feels like winter, but, spring is right around the corner. With the weather the way it is, and as we wait for spring to go outside, it is a great time spend on the air in the comfort of your shack on **HF**. It's came up in the **Coffee Break Net**, even a Tech Licensee can get on the air on **10m** in some portion of the band, including **FT8**! If you are inclined, and you have a radio capable, and a computer, check out the digital modes. Right now, they are a blast!

### Hamfest

**Hamfest** is coming! Yes, it is time to get ready for **Hamfest 2023**! Boy do we have prizes, prizes, presentations, and prizes! The Hamfest Elves, (or is it Hamfest Easter Bunnies)? Let's just call them the **Amazing Hamfest Team**, have been busy preparing for the first and greatest Hamswap in Northern California. It takes a team of dedicated organizers to make Hamfest happen. It also takes volunteers to work the club table, manage parking, test used equipment for sale, serve **coffee and doughnuts**, set up and take down, show people around, etc. There is plenty to do, but, if enough members do their small part, there will also be time to browse the amazing radios, and fantastic deals! **Hamfest** has been organized by **Orion - AI6JB** these last 4 years, and this will be his last hurrah as Hamfest Chair. He will leave behind his legacy of great organizing skills and spreadsheet along with a well oiled machine for the next **Hamfest Poobah** to easily pick up the reigns and gallop toward the **2024 Hamfest**! If you want to help, go to <https://www.w6ek.org/activities/hamfest> and let us know. We'll find something that suits you. It's not an all day commitment and a ton of fun to boot. Come hang out with us and see how you can help!

### Fox Hunt

After the monthly breakfast at Mel's Diner, **Paul - KE6MXV**, **Sam - KN6UXI**, and **Max - KN6UWO** set up a Fox to find a fox in East Roseville. **Evan - AJ6OR** now has his second fox finding win, the first time someone has won multiple times! The competition is growing as the skill sets build for Fox Hunting. Next month, there will be a Tape Measure Yagi build with a smaller Foxhunt in Auburn on March 25. Signups are at <https://www.w6ek.org/activities/foxhunt> page. This Yagi build is a classic useful Yagi antenna that will be followed next month with an attenuator build project. Ultimately, building an excellent antenna attenuator combo. Once again, the competition will be stiff for future Foxhunts!

### Special Presentation

With all of the many activities coming up, it is sometimes tough to find a time/place to add more. It turns out, we have a Wed evening free at the end of the month. **Jon - KI6RT** was able to secure a special presentation with **Ed Fong** and his talk "**VHF/UHF J-Poles Demystified**". **Ed Fong, PH.D** is well known in the communications industry and has a wealth of knowledge on, and approachable way, of explaining how j-pole antennas work. This should be an amazing presentation every ham should hear. The presentation is open to all via the club **Zoom room** at <https://www.w6ek.org/activities/meetings> on March 29 at 7:00pm. We hope you can join us!

### Membership

It is the time of year to renew you membership. Our growing club has now uses **HamClubOnline** (HCOL) to keep memberships up to date and financially accurate. HamClubOnline is self serve membership program. Each **SFARC** member can manage their own membership dues and access the roster electronically in a secure format. It's new to the club, and not without a few growing pains. Please be sure you can login to HCOL and access your account, update your contact info, and skills. If you have any difficulties, please be sure to get in touch with us and let us know. Most importantly, don't forget to renew!

73!

Jeff - KM6RGO

Guess what SFARC members? Yep – we’re growing, again – we have five more, YES 5, new members and we want to be sure you know your fellow members. Please give a hearty welcome to the following Amateur Radio Operators...

<u>Name</u>	<u>Callsign</u>
Patrick S Lyons	KJ6LVB
Robert S Kehr	KA9MDP
Peter S Robbins	KN6PQW
Gary Gagliano	KN6SKY
Alastair Westgarth	KN6YQG

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Minutes - 2023-02-09\_SFARC Board meeting  
held on ZOOM  
called to order at 1800

present:

President- Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO

Vice-President- Greydon Hicks, KC6SLE

Secretary- Dave McBrayer, N6OJJ

Treasurer- Rob Newburn, KM6YKX

PIO- Mike (Smitty) Smith, WB1G

Director- Jonathan Kim, KI6RT

Director- Mike (Smitty) Smith, WB1G

also present: Joe, K6SAT; Clyde, AB4CC; Brian, AI6US; Greg, KO6TH; Chip, KM6MDF; Jim, WA8MPA; John Clark, KK6IYW; Dennis, WU6X.

introductions around

quorum: minimum 2 Directors + 2 Officers: MET

January Board meeting minutes accepted as amended: add Joe, K6SAT as also present.

### REPORTS

Treasurer - Wells Fargo accounts updated to show Rob Newburn (KM6YKX) and Dave McBrayer (N6OJJ) as authorized signers; removed Orson Fackrell (KG6UCS) and Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO) from authorized signers.

Repeater - Brian (AI6US): nodes show overload with packet loss. Clyde (AB4CC): repeater amplifier (Henry) to be sent to Los Angeles for repair.

Newsletter - discussion whether new editor needed. current editor is overloaded.

Website - Smitty (WB1G): website working well. Have released Help videos.

Social media - Smitty (WB1G): Hamfest messages sent to clubs all over northern Calif. 345 users on Facebook.

PIO - Smitty (WB1G): promote Hamfest, add ARRL and Craigslist to distribution.

Groups.io - Dennis (WU6X): 292 online members

Contests - Dennis (WU6X): CQ WW, WPX, RTTY, ARRL International DX CW contest.

Membership - Jeff introduced John Clark, KK6IYW as new Membership Chair.

VE Exams - Brian (AI6US): 4 new Tech's (3 have their licenses already. 1 Tech to General upgrade. Mentors have been well received; led by Greydon (KC6LSE) and Jim (WA8MPA).

Volunteers - Chip (KM6MDF):

### Old Business

Hamfest - next meeting (ZOOM) on Feb. 23. All are encouraged to attend.

Field Day 2023 - Chair needed

Hot RF Nites - Chair needed.

### New Business

#### Financial Review -

Repeater Fund - club should update the club accounting software to allow management of 'sub-accounts' to prevent co-mingling of funds.

VE accounting - discussed whether to open an account at Wells Fargo to hold VE funds - no final decision.

Jim (WA8MPA) donated his deceased father's Veteran flag to the club for display at meetings or events. A motion for purchase of a suitable flag pole (about \$120 at Amazon) was made (Dave N6OJJ) and seconded (Rob KM6YKX). motion carried.

Smitty (WB1G) motioned for opening an additional Square account and purchase a Bluetooth Square device for processing VE fees.

Brian (AI6U) announced he would be stepping down as ZOOM coordinator in April 2023.

Jim (WA8MPA) will have 2 Heathkits on the Touch-it/Take-It table.

Events- CERA: May 6-7; Canyons run: April 28-29.

Adjourned: 1912

— — — Respectfully submitted by Dave McBrayer, N6OJJ, Secretary.

## General Meeting Minutes

President Jeff KM6RGO welcomed individuals to the meeting in person and via ZOOM.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Jeff KM6RGO who opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: President- Jeff KM6RGO, Vice-President- Greydon KC6SLE, Treasurer- Rob KM6YKX, secretary- Dave N6OJJ.

January Board meeting minutes were accepted as amended to include Director Joe K6SAT as in attendance.

January General meeting minutes were accepted as distributed.

### Club Business

2 Board members confirm Quorum for Business session: Rob KM6YKX and Dave N6OJJ confirmed member quorum present in person (45) + ZOOM (-) = \_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_ required. MET

Board meeting updates: Financial Review by Earl, K6GPB and Rich K6NYC, and Scholarship Fund.

New Members (7) applications to be voted on:

James W. Nessen III, K6JWN; Jakob T Mensing, KN6YFK, Gregory E Paul, KK6TBO, Stephen E Sparks, KC6MHT, Nahn T Nguyen, K6TIN, Vincent M Nunez, KN6VYD, Patrick J Calderone, KN6YCG. All accepted by acclamation.

Prize Drawing and Rules overview.

Program: Show Us Your Shack presented by Greydon, KC6SLE.

Break

Program: DIY Allstar/Clear Node by Don Hay, WB6LPJ.

Committee Chair reports  
 Repeater - Clyde, AB4CC  
 Greeter/Sunshine - Pam, KN6GTK  
 VE Exam - Brian, AI6US  
 Volunteer Events - Chip, KM6MDF  
 Exam classes - Orion, AI6JB  
 Newsletter - Jim, ND7G  
 Satellite - Greg, KO6TH  
 PIO - Smitty, WB1G  
 Website - Smitty, WB1G  
 Social Media - Smitty, WB1G  
Groups.io site - Dennis, WU6X  
 Contests - Dennis, WU6X  
 Membership - John Clark, KK6IYW  
 ARES - Scott, KM6RFB  
 Refreshments - Mark Koehler, W2NWK  
 Drawing - need new chair  
 Equipment Donations / Library - Jim, WA8MPA

Club Events Calendar  
 Breakfast @ Mel's 2/25  
 RDF 2/25 chair: KE6MXV  
 Hamfest 3/18 chair: AI6JB  
 Canyon Run 4/28-29 chair: K6SAT  
 CERA 5/6-7  
 Western States 6/24-25

Adjourned at: 21:12

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### All The SFARC Social Links in ONE SPOT!

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sfarcw6ek/>
  - <https://www.instagram.com/sfarcw6ek/>
  - <https://www.twitter.com/sfarcw6ek/>
  - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sfarcw6ek/>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/user/w6ek>
  - And, Groups.IO - <https://w6ek.groups.io/g/sfarc>

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### Club Radiosport (contests)

Click [here](#) to download ARRL & Non-ARRL contests for the month of MARCH 2023.

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Here's the Flyer – Share It Far And Wide!

## THE FIRST HAM SWAP OF THE YEAR IS COMING!



# 7TH ANNUAL LOOMIS HAMFEST



Join the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club for HAMFEST 2023!

Get your gear, grab your wallet, and get ready for a super swap.

We'll have coffee and donuts, awesome door prizes,

Elmer tours, a test table, presentations and so much more.

More information can be found @ [hamfest.w6ek.org](http://hamfest.w6ek.org)

Sellers need to bring their own tables, chairs, pop-ups, generators (no shore power available)

No equipment will be provided.

### When

Saturday, March 18, 2023  
0700 to 1100 Hours

### Where

Historic Loomis Train Depot  
5775 Horseshoe Bar Rd, Loomis, CA

**SELLERS \$10**  
SETUP @ 0600

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**AND PARKING**

**Talk In Frequency**  
**146.535**

### PRIZES INCLUDE



PUPVWMHB 12V 100Ah LiFePO4  
Battery w/ 100A BMS &  
Victron Energy Blue Smart IP65 12-  
Volt 15-amp Battery Charge



Creality Ender 3  
Neo 3D Printer



Yaesu FT-70DR



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## How About **ANOTHER** Trivia TWO-FER?

Who developed the Yagi antenna?

A: Hidetsugu Yagi

B: Shintaro Uda

C: Jim Lawson

D: F. Adcock

The X and Y axis of a spectrum analyzer convey which measurements, respectively?

A: Time and Bandwidth

B: Time and Frequency

C: Frequency and Amplitude

D: Bandwidth and Amplitude

*Answers can be found in "From the Newsletter Editor's Desk" – look for the **orange** text*



## From the Newsletter Editor's Desk:

**HOLY MACKEREL**, is this newsletter actually going out on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month???

Yep, on time – it's like a JackaLope – a rare sight indeed! In all seriousness, I appreciate the kindness and compassion of the board with regards to my less than stellar performance of delivering this newsletter on time.

Let's talk about balloons for a moment – apparently, at least one of the UFOs recently shot down might have been an amateur radio! It seems that the story has gotten buried in the latest news avalanches around the world, but I must say that it did make me giggle just a little bit.

Loomis is looming... HAD TO. Seriously, I am very excited to see my fellow SFARcers in a little over two weeks. Last year's HamFest was great fun and filled with lots of new connections and fond memories, so I will return for this one to do it again – new connection, fond memories.

OK, I'm just going to give you one of the trivia answers, because even I, the newsletter editor, cannot find a creative way to put **Uda** into a sentence. I racked my brain for a good 4 minutes, and nothing, so there is the first answer. You thought it was Yagi? Technically, no, he did not 'develop' the design – he translated the design into English for the world to have and understand.

Speaking of disasters... I've been reading about the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and I can not even imagine the level of suffering right now – the images and videos are shocking to say the least, and the only thing I can think of is that over time, the **frequency and amplitude** of the aftershocks will dissipate, but that does not help one bit. I caution you about scammers who are posing as legitimate charities and asking for your money. If you choose to send money, do it through well-known and established organizations such as the Red Cross and others.

One thing I wonder, after looking at last month's 'From the Newsletter Editor's Desk' entry, was whether some of the first SITREPs (Situation Reports) from amateur radio operators? Even with the incredible destruction, I will venture to say that some of the first reports might very well have been from amateur radio operators – I sure hope so.

**SEE YOU SOON AT HAMFEST 2023!**

Jim, KD7G

Oh & ***be radio active!!***



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](mailto:kd7g@arrl.net) or [james@jamesmarchetti.com](mailto:james@jamesmarchetti.com) – either way, I will get your email.




You may notice that the membership form is no longer appearing in the newsletter. The club has moved to an online system now and it is available at the link below.

<https://www.w6ek.org/membership> - the page will look like this, and you simply click one of the two buttons shown here.

SIERRA FOOTHILLS ARC (W6EK)


ABOUT US ▾ACTIVITIES ▾MEMBERSHIP ▾CALENDAR ▾



Proudly serving Auburn  
California and the Western  
Placer County communities  
since 1958.

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SEARCH



ENTER THE  
SFARC ZOOM  
ROOM

REPEATERS

145.430 MHz  
0.6 Offset  
PL Tone 162.2  
AllStarLink  
51018  
EchoLink 4128



MEMBERSHIP

SFARC NOW USES HAM CLUB ONLINE (HCOL) TO CREATE AND  
MANAGE CLUB MEMBERSHIP.

HamClubOnline

Amateur Radio Club Management System

HCOL is an easy and powerful online tool with many features including online club  
management, membership renewal, access to the club roster, and much more.

If you're familiar with HamClub Online, click the HCOL logo above. If you need a  
tutorial, click one of the options below.

Need Help With HamClubOnline (HCOL)?

Apply To Become A New Member

Renew My Membership

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THU  
7:30

MON  
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TUE  
7:00



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