



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

May 2023

<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

David McBrayer, N6OJJ*
david.mcbrayer9@gmail.com

TREASURER

Rob Newburn, KM6YKX
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

WEBMASTER(S)

Smitty (WB1G) / Greg (KO6TH)

STATION TRUSTEE

Clyde Campbell, AB4CC

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Brian Gohl AI6US
ai6us@arrl.net



Calendar of Events

<https://www.w6ek.org/calendar>

General Club Meeting

May 12th @ 7:30pm

Coffee & Donuts

Recreation Park
May 13th 0730

Hams In The Hills

May 13th Depart: 0830
Recreation Park

Club Breakfast

May 27th @ 7:30am
@ Mel's Diner

RDF/Fox Hunt

May 27th @ 9:00am

Clearnode Net

Mondays 7pm, W6EK 2m repeater

~ ~ ~

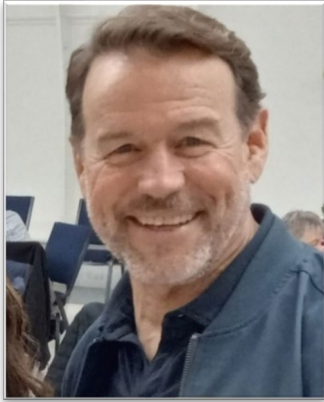
Join us every morning @ 7:30am
for the Coffee Break Net on the
W6EK repeater 145.43, PL 162.2

Inside this issue

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- *Board and General Meeting Minutes*
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- *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

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 Jeff Morgan – KM6RGO
President*

May is here!

Canyons Endurance Run

It is the season for outdoors Events. Kicking it off was the **Canyons Endurance Run**, four races rolled in to one weekend event, with, **100 mile, 100 Kilometer, 50 K and 25K** runs. It takes a lot of organization and support to pull off a event such as this. Planning, organizer, medical, safety, logistics, and communications. The race used the **W6EK** repeater among others to support the safe maintaining a safe and, hopefully, fun race for the contestants. We listened in to the repeater much of the weekend and was thoroughly impressed by the professionalism of our ham radio volunteers, many from **Sierra Foothills ARC**. There were quite a few new calls signs I had not heard before. I am told several were graduates of Orion's Zoom classes along with testing through **Sierra Foothills VE team**. Yea runners, but also hurray to those making the commitment to support them! Thank you for representing hams well in the field.

Sat Breakfast

Saturday Breakfast was fun, as always. In the large crowd at breakfast, there were a few tired eyes from race supporters, but also visitors. I don't speak Russian, but we had a visitor recently moved from Russia wanting to meet us and hopefully participate in the Fox Hunt to follow. It's nice to get together with familiar faces, and we talk to people all over the world, but, what a nice surprise to sit with a Ham with very different circumstances than ours. He shared pictures of his old shack overseas, with examples of his home-built equipment. Truly amazing.

Fox Hunt

Following the Sat Breakfast, we also had a Fox Hunt in Folsom. Some of us were able to use our newly made Tape Measure Yagi and Offset Attenuator as part of the project builds over the last two months. Wow, what fun! Along with the usual suspects, we had our Sat Breakfast visitor, join us, who, had a great time working with the homebrew stuff. Congrats to **Evan AJ6OR** for his third straight win of Foxhunt! What your secret Evan? Inquiring minds want to know. What fun it is to walk around a crowded farmers market, jazz playing in the background, holding very strange looking "somethings", with people staring at you all the while. Ok, most people don't stare, but they do give you a once over. Some even stop to ask what you are doing? "Ham Radio Foxhunt, of course"! It was a nice chance to be an ambassador for Ham Radio and answer questions for folks. People are naturally curious. If you are out and about as a Ham on a mission, don't forget to talk to the curious. I sent a few people to **W6EK.org**. Perhaps, we will have new Hams in our future, who knows?

Project Build

A Great big thank you to the project build team, **KI6RT, W2VX, Greydon KC6SLE** among others and **Elmers** who showed the way for us to build something from scratch. The custom design, materials, soldering stations, with plain practical know how and an offer to teach what they know. This is the creative DNA of Ham Life, the sharing of knowledge with an experimenter's spirit that brought radio to world. There are a few more tricks up these creative minds' proverbial sleeves. If you are interested in building something from scratch, or, plain watching in awe, pay attention to the project build future offerings. They are fun!

Hams in the Hills

There are few better real world use cases for having a Ham Radio in your vehicle than Offroad into places far from home. Hams in the Hills have been regularly testing the snow, getting stuck, all the while having a great time on the radio. There is something about doing difficult the fires up the spirit of Freedom. 4WD off road is no picnic and comms are needed and appreciated just for fun as well. The next event for Hams in the Hills is Sat May 13. The plan was to head to Tells Creek to visit the B17 crash site from the 40's, but with the snow we've had this year, that could change. No matter, the **Hams in the Hills** team will find a way to have fun, snow or not. If you want a learn more, check in with **Jeff K6BSY**, or **Mike K6YMM** for updates as plans adjust to the conditions. Its always a good day out in the field with 4WD vehicle, radios and friends.

Coffee and doughnuts in the Park

If trail running is not your cup of tea, then come join us for **Coffee and Doughnuts in the park at Recreation Park in Auburn @ 7:30 am**. Fresh Coffee, Fresh Doughnuts, great people talking about Ham radio on a nice spring morning. What more could you want! Spring in Auburn is always a treat, we'd love to see you there.

Field Day

The annual **ARRL Field Day** is the weekend of **June 24**. This is the biggest Ham radio event in the world. Always a club favorite. We typically set up four major stations for contesting and one for GOTA. This year the rules are more friendly to GOTA points, so we plan to offer an HF station along with a VE session. Space will be limited, so, get signed up as soon as you can. At least that is the plan currently. Field Day is a big logistical effort up front, with is a ton of fun for all involved. Field Day planning has started with our next meeting on **May 4 @ 6:00pm on the club Zoom room**. Please join us!

Western States 100

You must have heard of the **Western States 100 Endurance Run**, the first and greatest of the 100 mile running events. A foot race from Squaw Valley to Auburn, 100 miles through the Sierra Nevada. What an amazing feat! The Western States 100 is Auburn's greatest event of the year and they need Ham Radio Operator support to pull off such an event. If you interested, please get in touch with **Joe K6SAT**. Hams help keep race logistics, medical support, and safety in difficult terrain, efficient, and, fingers crossed, problem free.

Wow, what a list of things going on and coming up! Keeping up with what is going on, it's a must to visit **W6EK.org**. There is something for everyone this spring and summer. If you can, come join us for good ol' fashioned Ham Radio fun!

73!

Jeff – KM6RGO

Here we GROW again!!

We have 7 more new members that were voted on during the April 14th at the general club meeting.

Benjamin C Foss, **KN6ZFX**

Richard T. Ney, **K6RTN**

Christopher E. Sayles, **KK6AAR**

Robert E. Janson, Sr., **K6REJ**

Jeremy A. Drummond, **K6ACP**

Ryan Anderson, **N6RDA**

Richard F Rau, **KK6FOC**

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!!!

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

2023-04-13 SFARC Board Meeting on ZOOM

Called to order: 1800PDT

Approve Board minutes **accepted** as submitted - **APPROVED**

Present: President- Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO

Vice-President- Greydon Hicks, KC6SLE

Secretary- Dave McBrayer, N6OJJ

Treasurer- Rob Newburn, KM6YKX

Director- Joe, K6SAT

Director- Smitty, WB1G

also present: Clyde, AB4CC; Brian, AI6US; Greg, KO6TH; Gerry, WA6E; Jim, WA8MPA; Jim, KN6OON.

introductions around

quorum: minimum 1 Director + 4 Officers - **MET**

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee) - Clyde, AB4CC

Greeter/Sunshine – Pam, KN6GTK - (by Jeff, KM6RGO):

George, KG6LSB fell, has a fracture;

SK: Roger Carroll, bW6TVY;

Newsletter - Jim, KD7G - not present

Webmaster - Smitty, WB1G - 1) proposing (with Dennis, WU6X) a big cleanup of Club's Groups.io with historical doc/files moved to Club's web server, W6EK.org. Photos/videos to not move at this time.

Status of Dropbox to be addressed at a future date.

2) Presenting a formal list of reply email addresses for inquiries from the Club's website, w6ek.org. Will put in File Library.

Social Media Officer (SMO) – Smitty, WB1G

Public Information Officer (PIO) - Smitty, WB1G

Groups.io - Dennis, WU6X - not present

Membership - John, KK6IYW - not present (by Jeff, KM6RGO): some have dropped off, now at 245 members.

VE Exam - Brian, AI6US: at last VE session: 10 candidates, 13 elements, 1 element fail. Next VE session on May 1, then June 5 & Field Day.

Volunteer Events Coordinator – Chip, KM6MDF - not present

Contest Chair - Dennis, WU6X

Drawing Chair - **Need new Chair**

Refreshments – Mark Koehler, W2MWK - not present

Nomination Committee – to be determined by June

Hamfest 2023 – Orion, AI6JB/Rob, KM6YKX - Went well. asking that any outstanding receipts be submitted.

Field Day Chair 2023 - (**need chair**)

Picnic Chair 2023 - (**need chair**)

Hot RF Nights 2023 - 2nd Friday in August (**need chair**)

OLD BUSINESS

VE Accounting - letter to Wells Fargo listing current officers, removal of Michelle Bower as an Executive and adding of Thomas Newburn as an Executive. A motion was made by Thomas (Rob) Newburn, seconded by Greydon Hicks, that a letter be composed on Club's letterhead to state the current Club Officers and Executives, and to state that Michelle Bauer is no longer an Executive with the Club. A vote was taken of the Officers and Directors of the Club. The vote was 6 in favor of the motion, 0 opposed.

Current Officers of Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club:

President: Jeffrey Morgan

Vice-President: Greydon Hicks

Secretary: David McBrayer

Treasurer: Thomas Newburn

Current Executives of Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club:

Jeffrey Morgan

Thomas Newburn

Michelle Bauer is no longer an Executive with Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club.

Repeater - Clyde, AC4CC: have a renewed site lease. in Board Files under Repeater.

Elmer/Mentoring - task force to develop a Flyer: Smitty, WB1G; Brian AI6US; Rob, KM6YKX, Joe K6SAT

Club Frequencies Card - see Elmer/Mentoring

NEW BUSINESS

Project Build - RDF Expenses

AV Team - Need people to backup Brian, AI6US and Orion, AI6JB.

Events/Upcoming

Community Food Drive - Jim, WA8MPA: could use more Pasta Sauce in addition to the non-perishable items.

Project. Build - April 24

Canyons Run - April 24-25
 Monthly Breakfast - April 29
 CERA - May 6-7
 Coffee & Doughnuts - May 13, Auburn, Recreation Park
 Hams in the Hills - May 13

Adjourn: 1929

General Meeting Minutes

2023-03-10 SFARC General Meeting

President Jeff KM6RGO welcomed individuals to the meeting in person and via ZOOM. **The meeting was called to order at 1930** 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, Director- Smitty WB1G, Director- Joe K6SAT.

Minutes of the March 2023 General meeting were **accepted** as submitted.

Club Business

April member count: 245. Need 20% for quorum.

2 Board members must confirm Quorum for Business session: Rob KM6YKX and Dave N6OJJ confirmed member quorum present in person (42) + ZOOM (9) = 51 vs. 49 required.

Quorum **MET**.

New Members (7) applications to be voted in:

Benjamin C Foss, **KN6ZFX**; Richard F Rau, **KK6FOC**; Richard T. Ney, **K6RTN**; Jeremy A. Drummond, **K6ACP**; Robert E. Janson, sr., **K6REJ**; Christopher E. Sayles, **KK6AAR**; Ryan Anderson, **N6RDA**. All 7 accepted for membership by acclamation.

Program 1: Show us your shack. Richard Lewis, K6NYC and his metal tractor & hay barn with multi-radio single operator radio installation on 10 acres. He likes to operate FT8 and SSB.

BREAK

Program 2: Jeff Hilliard (AK6OK), is President and CEO of **Compudigital**, Rocklin, California. He will present the development background and overview of the Northern California Emergency Network, and the design and implementation of the KI6IOK repeater system (includes several local repeaters).

Committee Chair Reports:

Repeater - Clyde, AB4CC

Greeter - Pam, KN6GTK; Jeff, KM6RGO reported: George, KC6LSB fell and was seriously injured; he is in recovery. Card being circulated. SK: Roger Carroll, W6TVY.

VE Exam - Brian, AI6US exam last monday, _ new Tech, _ new General.

Volunteer Events -

Chip, KM6MDF: CERA,

Joe, K6SAT: Canyons, all positions filled. Western States, Georgetown Fly-In: cancelled
 Exam classes - Orion, AI6JB (next Tech class date: April 25; General class date: August, 2023; Tech class date: Nov. 2023. Signup on w6ek.org/store. More info, email: advancement@w6ek.org.

Newsletter - Jim, ND7G

Satellite - Greg, KO6TH- update your satellite elements frequently.

PIO - Smitty, WB1G

Website - Smitty, WB1G

Social Media - Smitty, WB1G

Groups.io site - Dennis, WU6X

Contests - Orion - ARRL Rookie Roundup

~~Membership - John Clark, KK6IYW~~

ARES - Scott, KM6RFB- No activations planned.

Refreshments - Mark Koehler, W2MWK

Drawing - need new chair

Equipment Donations / Library - Jim, WA8MPA- large selection of Touch It/Take It.

Calendar of club events:

April 24 - Project Build

April 28/29 - Canyons run

April 29 - Club breakfast at Mel's on CA-49

April 29 - RDF

June 4 - CERA Enduro

May 11 - Club Board Meeting (ZOOM), 1800

May 12 - Club Meeting, Crossroads Church Gymnasium, 1930

May 13 - Coffee & Doughnuts at Auburn's Recreation Park

Georgetown Fly-In - Cancelled

June 24/25 - Field Day at Georgetown Airport park

August 14 - Hot RF Nights

Nets:

Daily: Coffee Break Net on W6EK repeater, 0730-1000

Monday: All-Node Net, 1800

Wednesday: 1st/3rd, Elmer/Mentoring Net, 1930-2030

2nd / 4th, In the Shack (ZOOM), 1930

Thursday: SFARC Weekly Net, 1930-2030

QST's from members: SilverNode prototype having hardware difficulty. Build project on hold until corrected.

Jeff ai6ok opening his shop to hams to repair equipment 0900-1200.

Orion, AI6JB, activating SOTA on Mt. Diablo on. Sunday

Drawing:

Draw 1: Digi-Rig Mobile green - Steve, K1VUE

Draw 2: Amateur Radio Pass Your Test - Tech; Paul, KN6JNN

- General; Jim, KE6POR

Draw 3: Butane soldering pen - John, WB6UBK

Draw 4: SFARC special pin - Chip, KM6MDF

Draw 5: Two \$10 gift cards to In n'Out - Jim, WA8MPA, and Bob, K6ZLY.

Adjourned at: 2113

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>

Club Radiosport (contests)

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

April Fox Hunt Results

The April Fox Hunt was held in Historic Downtown Folsom. Weather was perfect and Fox Hunters blended in well with the Farmer's Market and Jazz Festival – NOT! Regardless there were plenty of questions and opportunities to inform people about SFARC and what fox hunting is about.

Evan has now won 1st place THREE TIMES in a row using just his HT! Recommend Evan give a talk at a future club meeting on his technique!



April Fox Hunt Results

- 1st place: Evan AJ6OR
- 2nd place: Paul KE6MEX & Sam KN6UXI
- 3rd place: Jim KN6OON

Looking for Fox Tenders for May, Jun & Jul

Fox hunts are fun. Being the fox tender is also fun and given the skills in the group future fox hunts should increase the level of difficulty! If you wish to be in charge of hiding the fox please contact Jon (KI6RT)

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

What was Hiram Percy Maxim's callsign?

A: AA5DJ

B: K4AYN

C: W1AW

D: N0ZYY

E: Who Is Hiram Percy?

How many "fixed station" antennas may an amateur radio operator simultaneously operate according to FCC rules?

A: 6 - LF, HF, VHF, UHF, SHF, MM+

B: Not more than the number of transmitters

C: Unlimited

D: Not more than twice the number of transmitters.

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

Jim asks 'Didya Know that ...

SFARC has a feature-rich web site that is constantly being updated with fresh information and club activities, so by all means, check the site regularly for updates and information!! Calendar, photos, repeater information, classes and training opportunities, testing, VE opportunities, Elmers Corner, volunteering opportunities, membership renewal, Net information, AND MORE!

I enjoy writing this monthly newsletter, but the truth is that once it is written it is a static document, so I encourage you to check the website a few times during the month to see if there are any changes, updates or new stuff that may not appear in the newsletter until the following month.

Also, Smitty (WB1G) sends out a weekly "WATTS UP" email with various updates and tidbits of info!

Here's the link, just in case you have never seen it before (wink, wink)... <https://www.w6ek.org/>

~Jim



From the Newsletter Editor's Desk:

Welcome to May 2023 and another (late) SFARC newsletter. Well, at least I am consistent, right? 😊

The ARRL Field Day is upon us once again – the annual event that brings out the ham in us all, and sometimes there's some ham in us too (think breakfast sausage). I went to my first ARRL Field Day in 2021 at the Vaca Valley Radio Club's event and it was terrific, especially since the P-word was still raging (Pandemic). My second one was in 2022 at the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club's event, but I only participated in the setup of the sizable trailer-mounted solar array that powered the whole event. This year, I am unsure of whether I will be able to participate at all, anywhere, due to a few family issues that have come up in the past couple of weeks that are long-term issues. We'll see if it all works out, or not. Don't forget that there are extra points to make a contact with **W1AW!!**

Weather – whether you like it, or not, there will always be weather, right? I recently saw the most recent snow pack report and it measured 241% above normal – that is astounding! Even the past few days have delivered more snow in both Northern and Southern California. It seems like there is a nearly **unlimited** supply of water over our heads, but you and I both know that eventually it will cease and the heat will envelope us all. Which will then trigger 'the melt of all melts', and it has already begun. Recently, the state warned boaters and anyone going out to the lakes and rivers that there is a very large amount of water already coming down off the mountains. There have been several swift water rescues already and I am quite certain there will be more – and the water is very cold which means hypothermia can set in quickly.

As mentioned above, my family and I have had a few events recently that are significantly impacting us, my work, our schedules and lifestyles. It's going to be rough for the foreseeable future as we adapt to caring for an 83 year twice daily, and a real possibility of rotating staying overnight as she heals from two falls in the past 7 months. Because of that, and the impact it has had on me and my ADHD, my life is in a high level of chaos. As a result, I am reluctantly shedding many things that I can no longer maintain, as well as cancelling numerous plans I had already paid for, and cannot get refunds. ***It's a mess.***

Until I can commit time to these activities, including this newsletter, I will not be able to publish the newsletter. I know it seems like it is not that big of a commitment in time, and for many folks it wouldn't be, but for me and my disorder, it is a battle each month. I wish I could simply erase the ADHD out of my brain, but so far that wish has not come true. 😞

I let Jeff know the other day, but I am letting the rest of you know now. I won't disappear, but I need to take care of my family, myself and my job during this turmoil that has shifted my internal tectonic plates.

Thank you all for tolerating my chaos and being so kind, helpful and supportive. I will remain a member of the club and sometime in the future, hopefully make it 'up the hill' to an event and say howdy to y'all.

Jim, KD7G



Remember--- **be radio active!!**

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.

The screenshot shows the website for the Sierra Foothills ARC (W6EK). The header includes navigation links for ABOUT US, ACTIVITIES, MEMBERSHIP, and CALENDAR. The main content area is titled "MEMBERSHIP" and states "SFARC NOW USES HAM CLUB ONLINE (HCOL) TO CREATE AND MANAGE CLUB MEMBERSHIP." Below this is the HamClubOnline logo, which includes a red satellite dish icon and the text "Amateur Radio Club Management System". A paragraph explains that HCOL is an easy and powerful online tool with features like online club management, membership renewal, and access to the club roster. It also provides instructions for users familiar with HamClub Online and those who need a tutorial. At the bottom, there are two red buttons: "Apply To Become A New Member" and "Renew My Membership". A sidebar on the left contains a search bar, a Zoom link for the SFARC Zoom Room, and a list of repeaters with their frequencies and offsets. A calendar on the right shows dates from Monday to Friday with times like 7:00 and 7:30.

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Instructor/Technician

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Auburn, CA

Email: yourmissioncontrol@att.net
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