



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

JULY 2023

<https://www.w6ek.org>

## At The Key at SFARC:

### PRESIDENT

Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Greydon Hicks (KC6SLE)

### SECRETARY

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### TREASURER

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Greg Dolkas (KO6TH)

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bob Wold (K6ZLY)

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Dave Jenkins (WB6RBE)

Orion Endres (AI6JB)

Chip Bautista (KM6MDF)

Smitty (WB1G)

### GROUPS.IO ADMINISTRATOR

Dennis Gregory (WU6X)

### WEEKLY 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

### REPEATERS

#### 145.430 (-0.6 MHz / PL 162.2)

- Wires-X: W6EK-2M-ROOM (62545)
- Allstar: #51018
- Echolink: #4128

#### 223.860 (-1.6 MHz / PL 110.9)

- Allstar #56039

#### 440.575 (+5 MHz / PL 162.2)

- AMS / Fusion
- Wires-X: NorCal Repeater GRP (#43847) – FULL TIME

YSF: 06040 US-SierraNorCal



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<https://calendar.w6ek.org>

### In The Shack (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM

Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM

### SFARC General Club Meeting

Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM

### Hams In The Hills – TBD

Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>

### SFARC Club Breakfast

Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 AM

### SFARC Fox Hunt

Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM

## In This Issue:

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- From The Editor's Desk – Is Commercial AM Radio Dead?



**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)

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club | President

June was quite a busy month! It seemed the entire month was preparation for this year's ARRL Field Day operating event. Of course, there was more than that going on in Sierra Foothills ARC.

## Field Day

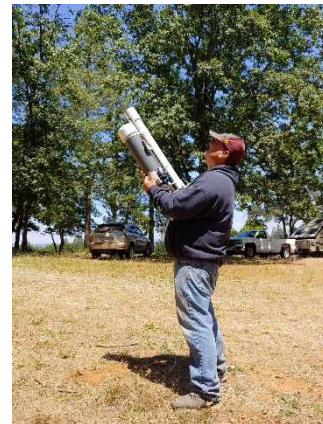
We had a great time, as always operating away from home, making tons of contacts at this year's Field Day. The numbers are still coming in, but, this could be one of our better years! If you want to know, we will do a brief overview of Field Day at our July meeting. It takes a

while to score everything properly, and we have until July 25 to finish. Stay tuned for an update. Also, the logistical challenge is not a small, and that was only for one weekend! There are lessons learned every year. We'll have a follow up meeting soon to go over lessons learned. There also quite a few people to thank.

The Field Day committee met several times over the last three months to make things happen. **Co-chair Jon KI6RT** you know someone on the committee, give a big thanks for a job well done! I would like to thank our Co for picking up the slack where it was needed. **Smitty WB1G** our **PIO**, getting the word out. **Dennis WU6X** and **Jim WA8MPA** for **IT** support for the logging network, and again for **Jim WA8MPA** for organizing the information table. **Russ KI6LOP**, **Dennis WU6X**, **Tom KD6HOF**, **Brian AI6US**, **Tom NN6H** as station managers. (**Tom NN6H** managed the **GOTA** station this year on HF)!



**Dave N6OJJ** as **Band Captain**. **Scott KM6RFB** as our **Safety officer**. **Orion AI6JB** stopped by on his way to support Western States Endurance Run to help launch antennas. **Jim KQ6VP** and **Alan KB4GOJ** for providing, once again, an extraordinary BBQ with sides! (No one left hungry). Also, a hot pancake and egg breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday sponsored by, with sunny dispositions, **Brian AI6US** and **Lin KN6KRD**, along with **Chip KM6MDF** and **Pam KN6GTK**. But, the really big star was **Scott KK7AIR** who, along with letting us borrow his **45kw generator**, (no we did not bring the hot tub this year) and letting us borrow a Yaesu 710 for the cw station. But also, arranging the use of the campground at the **Georgetown Airport**. Scott also gave us a great demonstration of his deployable zeppelin aeronautical antenna and opened up his hangar for the **VE team** to hold a session! (**Jim KN6OON/AE**) Whew! There are so many others to thank, the list goes on and on. The teams got together, did their parts and made the whole thing happen and had a great time to boot! Just a reminder, if you were not able to go to Georgetown and operated Field Day at home, don't forget to submit your scores to the ARRL for an aggregate club score.



## Western States

Not be be outdone by Field Day, the Western States Endurance Run was held this weekend. The runners had cooler conditions which allowed for amazing times! I like to take a look at the race results and image what they go through. Whew! I am exhausted just thinking about it! There were quite a few hams in support of the event playing an important role in the safety of the race participants. As always, hams operated with great professionalism and knowledge. I am sure the organizers appreciate their support. I am beginning to think WSER is the gateway drug to Ham Radio! So many supporters become hams to support there event. Cheers to the team on a successful event!

## July 4<sup>th</sup>

I cannot close this message without mentioning July 4<sup>th</sup>. This day is special to all Americans, born here or naturalized. Although we have our differences, on this day, we celebrate those differences, because we are free to do so. We celebrate how we are more alike than different. Because despite our differences, we are all Americans, in the land of the free. Have a happy 4<sup>th</sup>!



# LOOKING FORWARD

By: *Greydon Hicks (KC6SLE)*  
Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club | Vice President



Wow. Another great club meeting Friday night. Great to see so many of you in-person and via Zoom. Can you believe we are almost halfway through 2023. Hold on! It's going to get even more exciting and busier with Hot RF Nights on August 11...plus all our regular weekly Club activities.

For next month will include a 2023 Field Day wrap-up and then a presentation by Evan AJ6OR on his highly successful radio direction finding techniques. If you have been following the Club's RDF hunts, you'll know that Evan has consistently been finding

the "Fox" well ahead of the pack. Now he is going to share with us how he accomplished this.

Keep an eye on this website for more information pertaining to our **August 11 Hot RF Nights**. This will be our third year for this event which has proven to be very popular and a ton of fun.

This year we plan to add event more features to this event. If you would like to get involved in the planning and presentation of this event, please contact me. We can use your help.

73  
Greydon (KC6SLE)



# MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



We have 4 new members voted in at the June 9, 2023 general club meeting.

- Steven Sanderson (W6VDP)
  - Andrew Grundman (W6WWR)
  - Todd Glass (KN6TUH)
  - Kenneth Thomas (N6KEN)
- 

We have 3 new members to vote on at the next club meeting on July 14, 2023.



- Kara Wilson (KN6ZQX)
- Ron Kirby (KN6ZDD)
- Ben Parrish (K6GEO)

# **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** 06/08/2023

**Called to order:** 1800 PDT

Approve Board minutes - revised as submitted  
canyons donated \$350. need to send thank you letter.

Present:

President- Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO

Vice-President- Greydon Hicks, KC6SLE leading up Hot August Nights,  
proposed event plan. discussion.

Secretary- Dave McBrayer, N6OJJ - should send Thank You letter to Canyons Run, need contact info.

Treasurer- Rob Newburn, KM6YKX - settle WF changes.

Director- Joe, K6SAT

Director- Jon, KI6RT

Director- Smitty, WB1G

also present: Brian, AI6US; Greg, KO6TH; Jim, WA8MPA;

Clyde AB4CC. Bob, K6ZLY, Jim, KN6OON, Doug, W2VX.

introductions around

Quorum: minimum 1 Director + 4 Officers = **MET**

## **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Jon KI6RT - Doug KE6MXV to run the fox hunt for May

Joe K6SAT - Canyons Endurance Run has \$350 donation to SFARC Repeater Fund.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

Repeater (Station Trustee) - Clyde AB4CC - to test out high power amp, connect 440 to 'wires-x'.

Greeter/Sunshine – Pam, KN6GTK - not present

Newsletter - Jeff KM6RGO - **new editor:** Bob, K6ZLY.

Webmaster / Social media / PIO - Smitty WB1G -

website - Field Day calendar on website calendar. add

PIO - sent out Club's Field Day activity information. add ARRL FD link.

Groups.io - Dennis WU6X - 291 members.

Membership - John, KK6IYW - not present (by Jeff KM6RGO) - 256 on roster with 6 more in process.  
(names)

VE exams - Brian AI6US - June 5th had 3 candidates, 3 pass; Next exams: Field Day & July 3rd.

Volunteer Events Coordinator - Chip, KM6MDF - CERA Enduro this weekend.

Contests - Dennis WU6X - June 10-11, VHF contest, ALL simplex modes.

Drawing - chair position open.

Refreshments - Mark Koehler W2MWK - not present

Nomination Committee - Jeff KM6RGO - to start the committee.

HamFest 2023 - Rob KM6YKX - Accounting is complete, Orion AI6JB will present at General Meeting.

Field Day 2023 - Jeff KM6RGO - sub-group.io set up, need more  
participants (have 46, today). Next meeting on Zoom, June 15 at 1800.

Picnic/BBQ Smoke Off 2023 (Sept 16) - chair: Smitty WB1G

Hot RF Nites (Aug 11) - Greydon KC6SLE will lead.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

VE accounting - opened an additional Square account,

subcommittee: Rob KM6YKX, Jeff KM6RGO, Smitty WB1G to complete.

Elmer/Mentoring: Smitty WB1G, will meet with Greydon KC6SLE,

Jeff KM6RGO to develop first of several Amateur radio flyers.

Freq Plan: SFARC club usage frequencies only.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Scholarship Committee - discussion.

**Events/Upcoming**

Monthly Breakfast - June 24, 0730. Mel's Dinner, Hi-way 49 at Luther Road

Coffee & Doughnuts - May 13, 0730. Auburn, Recreation Park.

Hams in the Hills - June 17, 0730.

CERA - June 10

Field Day - June 24-25, campout/picnic-style at Georgetown Airport

HOT RF Nights - Aug. 11, 1830

Picnic/ BBQ - Sept 16

**Adjourn: 1900**

# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 06/09/2023

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, Director- Jon KI6RT. Minutes of the May 2023 General meeting were amended as submitted.

## Club Business

June member count: 256. Need 20% for quorum.

2 Board members must confirm Quorum for Business session: Rob KM6YKX and Dave N6OJJ confirmed member quorum present in person (38) + ZOOM (6) = 44 vs. 51 required. **Quorum NOT MET.**

New Members (6) applications to be voted in: Steven Sanderson W6VDP, Andrew Grundman W6WWR, Michael Grundman KN6ZGY, Brian Fulkerson KM6MDM, Todd Glass KN6TUH, Kenneth Thomas N6KEN.

See annex at end of these minutes for the Acceptance of the May Minutes and the New Member vote.

**Program 1:** Loomis HAMFEST wrap-up: Orion, AI6JB: good turnouts, vendors had good turnout. The Team: Presentations – Joe (K6SAT)

**Program 2:** ARRL Field Day: Jeff Morgan KF6RGO: emergency prep, contest activity and rules promotion of amateur radio. Resources, Planning, Logistics. SFARC largest public facing event. GOTA. VE Session. Elected officials are invited. Served agency- fire crews or law enforcement. Open to the General Public. Class 4A: 2 phone, 2 digital/CW. Bonus: VHF, GOTA. Logging - N3FJP software w club laptops, site points, club points. will start operating at 1100 on June 24, ending at 1100 on June 25. What to bring: chair, sunscreen, hat, bug spray, lunch, snacks for sharing table, camping is available.

**Program 3:** Show Us Your Shack HOST: Greg KO6TH  
Rob KM6YKX described the many experiments running in his shack.

BREAK

## Committee Chair Reports:

Repeater - Clyde, AB4CC

Greeter - Pam, KN6GTK

VE Exam - Brian, AI6US exam at Field Day.

Exam classes - Orion AI6JB: General : Aug 8, Tech: Oct. 17.

Volunteer Events -

Chip, KM6MDF: CERA Enduro, this weekend. Positions filled.

Joe, K6SAT: Western States on June 24-25.

Newsletter - Bob, K6ZLY, new editor

Satellite - Greg, KO6TH- listen for ISS at Field Day.

PIO - Smitty, WB1G

Website - Smitty, WB1G

Social Media - Smitty, WB1G

Groups.io site - Dennis, WU6X

Contests - Orion, AI6JB - 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 antennas, radios, etc.

**Calendar of club events:**

June 10 - CERA Enduro  
June 15 - Field Day ZOOM meeting  
June 24 - Club breakfast at Mel's on CA-49 at Luther Road  
June 24/25 - Field Day at Georgetown Airport,  
Western States Training Run  
July 13 - Club Board Meeting (ZOOM), 1800  
July 14 - Club Meeting, Crossroads Church Gymnasium, 1930  
August 11 - Greydon KC6SLE: Hot RF Nights, 1900  
Sept. 16 - Picnic/BBQ

**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.

**Drawing:**

Draw 1: Paul KNJNN 18in. coax jumper  
Draw 2: Roger Aj6WT 36 in jumper  
Draw 3: Michelle Bauer WH6QC \$20 gift cert to Mel's \$20

**Adjourned at:** 2114

**Annex:**

On June 10, 2023, an email was sent to all current members that included the following message: Unfortunately, we did not make quorum in order to conduct business. Although not ideal, to our bylaws, we are allowed to conduct an electronic vote in these circumstances. Please follow the link <https://forms.gle/FXEV4vwTkJu51QGdA> to the business meeting survey to vote on the following items:

Approve the meeting minutes for May meeting with amendments as described in the vote survey. The vote will be yes or no.

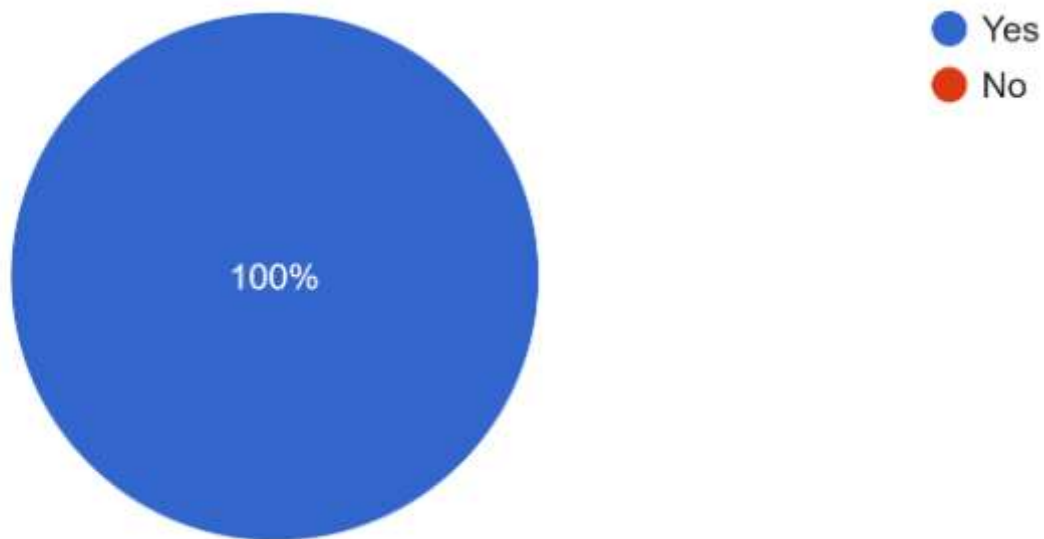
Approve the names for consideration of membership into Sierra Foothills ARC. The vote will be yes or no.

There were 60 votes to approve the meeting minutes, and 61 votes to approve the new members as shown below.

Jeff (KM6RGO)

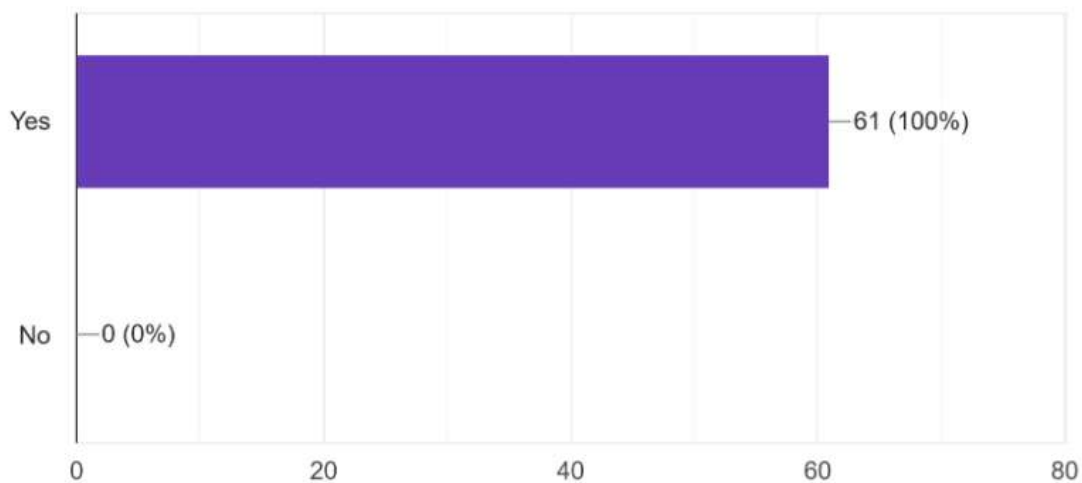
# Do you accept the minutes for May with proposed changes?

60 responses



# Do you accept the following names of applicants for membership in Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club. Steven Sanderson (W6VDP) Andrew Grund...M Todd Glass (KN6TUH) Kenneth Thomas (N6KEN

61 responses



# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hey SFARC Members and Friends,



Smitty here in the process of transitioning the newsletter to our newly appointed editor. Please help me in welcoming Bob Wold (K6ZLY). Bob will be taking over as the editor of Sierra Signals starting with the August 2023 issue.

Got a suggestion or way we can improve Sierra Signals? Send us feedback or a guest article @ <https://www.w6ek.org/aboutsfarc/newsletter/submit>

As many of you know, I'm an old radio guy and this topic has been discussed time and time again on the W6EK repeater – Is AM Radio Dead? If you type that into Google, you'll get a ton of opinions. Car makers like BMW, Mazda, Volvo, Volkswagen and Tesla, among others, have either already removed or plan to remove AM radio from at least some electric models, the future looks bleak.

With some much commercial radio listening happening in the vehicle, without support from auto makers, I tend to agree. We've seen this time and time again with the adoption of satellite radio and then FM HD, the latter being "late to the game" to get the attention of the next generation of radio listeners.

I found a good article from a March 2019 issue of Radio Ink magazine. The fact the article is from 2019 supports it's not a new issue. So, what does the future hold for commercial AM radio according to Radio Ink? We'd love your thoughts and feedback on this article.



73,  
**Smitty (WB1G)**  
Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club | Public Information Officer

## I Repeat — AM Radio Is Dead

By Robert Less of Radio Ink (<https://radioink.com/2019/03/11/i-repeat-am-radio-is-dead/>)  
Published March 11, 2019



"The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." And "I'm not afraid to wait; I just don't want to wait for something that will never happen."

So, walk over to your mirror, look yourself square in the face, and say it out loud, with force and conviction: "AM radio is dead."

It doesn't matter that Albert Einstein or Ben Franklin didn't utter the first quote. Or, who the "Anonymous" is that came up with the second one. But those of us in the radio industry must all absorb that third assertion – "AM radio is dead" – believe it, and move on. Don't look back. Look meaningfully forward.

Why bring up this discussion, again? Because the other day I was reading an opinion piece about AM Radio, and the best the writer could do, to no purposeful end, was bring up the failed efforts and lost

opportunities on the part of the FCC to help save AM radio. Everything the author wished for is the past — left undone — and, now, too late. Whether through neglect or consumers just wanting to move on to the newest “shiny object,” AM radio is, technically, a dodo bird. There is no ‘revitalization in death.

“Cross-service” FM translators do not repair the mortally wounded AM band; they underscore its evident obsolescence and demise. To consumers, FM translators are not “secondary services”; they are FM stations. FM. Clearly not distracting, degraded, static-y AM.

Now, as the FCC undertakes its important Quadrennial Review, I would again implore Chairman Pai and the Commissioners to walk away from the past, lay AM radio to rest, and move all the AM stations to an all-digital, expanded FM band in the television channels’ 5 and 6 spectrum. And, in addition, implement a “date certain” plan, sooner rather than later, to move the incumbent FM band, at 88 to 108 MHz, to all-digital. We already required the move, years ago, of broadcast TV from analog to digital. There is no rational reason for not mandating the same of broadcast radio. In fact, digital broadcast television is already evolving to its next, forward-looking advancement: ATSC 3.0. But we’re still vainly rendering life support to AM radio.

And please, do not, again, anybody, bring up WPVI-TV in Philadelphia to argue that it’s too late, that there are already full-power digital stations assigned to the Channel 6 spectrum that simply cannot be moved. Or that the TV “repack” has irreversibly locked in place the full-power television stations allocated to the Channels 5 and 6 bandwidth. The same FCC computer software that came up with the new digital TV channel assignments can take another whack at moving all of the relatively small number of channels on 5 and 6 to other channels. In the broadcast television realm, digital transmission is so spectrum-efficient there are many, many examples of stations in close geographic proximity to each other that are on first-adjacent channels. For example, in the Austin, Texas, television market, to my south, the full-power (not Class A) NBC and PBS stations are first-adjacent to each other on digital channels 21 and 22, respectively. Likewise, the ABC and CBS — full-power, non-Class A — affiliates are first-adjacent to each other on channels 33 and 34. In the big TV market to the north of me, Dallas-Fort Worth, there are a half-dozen examples of full-power stations first-adjacent to each other!

Every single full-power and Class A TV station now sited in the Channels 5 and 6 spectrum can be “packed” on another frequency. And, according to the FCC rules, secondary television services — TV translator and low-power facilities — can even be forced off the air if that’s what it takes to find allocations for full-power and Class A television stations.

Please, Chairman Pai and Commissioners, let us once and for all face up to the reality of AM radio’s future...that there is none. Move AM stations into the 21st century and onto all-digital FM channels and stop all the insane and hopeless non-revitalization nonsense. AM radio is dead.

# SPECIAL THANKS

ELECTRIC ILLUSTRATIONS



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