



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

August 2023

<https://www.w6ek.org>

At The Key at SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)

VICE PRESIDENT

Greydon Hicks (KC6SLE)

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DIRECTORS

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Smitty (WB1G)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Smitty (WB1G)

VE TESTING CORDINATOR

Brian Gohl (AI6US)

WEBMASTER(S)

Smitty (WB1G)

Greg Dolkas (KO6TH)

STATION TRUSTEE

Clyde Campbell (AB4CC)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bob Wold (K6ZLY)

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

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>

WHAT IS HOT RF NIGHTS?

It's a chance to show off your mobile rig installs or go kits and build fellowship among Northern California amateur radio operators. Join the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club on August 11th @ 7 PM (gates open at 6 PM) at the Auburn Crossroads Church South Campus, main parking lot, 1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA 95603.

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL THE DETAILS](#)

SFARC UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday August 3
7:30 PM

SFARC Weekly Net

W6EK 2M Repeater: 145.430 -
600, PL162.2 and AllStarLink:
51018

Sunday August 6
7:30 PM

Placer County ARES Net

SFARC Repeater 145.430

Monday August 7
6:00 PM

All-Node Net

W6EK 2M Repeater: 145.430 -
600, PL162.2 and AllStarLink:
51018

7:00 PM

[VE Testing Session](#)

Auburn Crossroads Church
campus. 1101 Auburn Ravine
Rd, Auburn, CA 95603

Tuesday August 8

7:00 PM

General Class (Zoom)

SFARC Zoom Classroom

Wednesday August 9

7:30 PM

[In The Shack \(Zoom\)](#)

Zoom: <http://zoom.w6ek.org/>

Thursday August 10

6:00 PM

SFARC Board Meeting (Zoom)

Zoom: <http://zoom.w6ek.org/>

7:30 PM

SFARC Weekly Net

W6EK 2M Repeater: 145.430 -
600, PL162.2 and AllStarLink:
51018

[FULL EVENT CALENDAR](#)

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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

President's Message

Did July seem like a quieter month to you? After Field Day, it certainly seemed so. There is always something going on in our Ham community to keep us active. The weekly nets alone, keep the calendar full. **Smitty – WB1G** keeps us well informed with the **QST/Watts Up This Week at SFARC** with the most up to date main events for the week. In addition to the main page of www.w6ek.org, keep an eye on the calendar at www.w6ek.org/calendar for

the club activities upcoming. All in good fun!

General Class

There is a new question pool for the General exam that started. **Orion – AI6JB, Anders – NN6H, and James – AE6JG**, were hard at work recently, updating the class materials for the **General class** starting Aug 8. The level of organization and knowledge for this class is amazing. The General class runs for several weeks on Zoom and with a couple of weekend hands on clinics. Information on classes for **Technician, General and Extra classes** are on the website at <https://www.w6ek.org/aboutsfarc/classesandtraining> for the most current information.

Repeater Committee

A couple of months ago, **Sierra Foothills ARC** secured a new lease, with favorable terms, for the repeater vault location. It was a big accomplishment, thanks to **Gerry WA6E**, that allows us to renew at this location for many years at nominal cost. Now that we have that accomplished, it is time to assess necessary repairs, vault maintenance, and future needs. This month, the repeater committee met for the first time in a while. Given the age of the vault and location, and the formerly unsettled business of a vault lease, there is deferred maintenance that needs our attention. Some maintenance has occurred, battery and power improvements, digital repeater upgrades, node access, etc, however, there is more. One item worth noting is the repeater pole coming to the end of its useful life. This is a larger project that will take time and resources to solve. The repeater committee meets biweekly until we have options available for club discussion. If you have thoughts or ideas on a vision for the future of the repeater, please feel free to reach out to us. As you might guess, this will take time and the repeater committee will update its recommendations to the club as we have them.

Elections

It is time to look at next year! Every year, Sierra Foothills ARC holds elections for new leadership in the club. That time is coming up. If you are thinking of giving back to the club in some way or know of someone that might be excellent at a particular role, let us know. The wealth of knowledge and support we have in the membership of this club is really astounding. It is such a privilege to give back in some small way to this wonderful club. Thank you to all who do the job of keeping the repeater running, the nets alive, the day to day functions humming along, all so others can enjoy our great community and hobby.

73!

Jeff – KM6RGO



LOOKING FORWARD

By: *Greydon Hicks (KC6SLE)*

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club | Vice President

July 15, 2023

Conducting our July SFARC General Meeting turned out to be a challenge in July, but once again our Club's ability to quickly adapt to changing circumstances came through. Thank you to all those who helped get the word out on very short notice that we would only be having a Zoom Room Meeting, no in-person. Special thanks to Jim WA6MPA for keeping Jeff and I informed on what was happening, interfacing with the church and sitting at the church during the meeting in case someone did not get the word on the change and showed up in person.

And Dennis WU6X and Evan AJ6OR both did not only an outstanding job of adjusting their presentations to a Zoom only format, but also providing our Club with excellent presentations.

Next month meeting is Hot RF Nights. This will be the third year for this event and the team working on Hot RF Nights is preparing an excellent show for everyone. Remember, this event is free, it's for all Amateur Radio enthusiasts, you do not have to be an exhibitor to participate, it's a great opportunity to show off your out of the shack radio equipment, great opportunity to learn from each other. And we will be giving away over \$500 in great HAM related prizes. and sell scrumptious Ice Cream Floats to keep everyone cool.

Check out the main web page for more information on Hot RF Nights. Mark your calendars for August 11 at 7:00 PM at the Crossroads Church main parking lot off Auburn Ravine Road in Auburn. I'll see everyone there.

Greydon KC6SLE SFARC VP



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



We have 4 new members that were voted on during the 2023-7-14 general club meeting.

[Michael R Oconnor](#) KN6YCN

[Ron E Kirby](#) KN6ZDD

[BENJAMIN M PARRISH](#) K6GEO

[Kara L Wilson](#) KN6ZQX

We have 1 new member to vote on during the next general club meeting on 2023-8-11.



Edward Sherlock K6ESS

SFARC ONLINE



<https://facebook.w6ek.org>



<https://linkedin.w6ek.org>



<https://instagram.w6ek.org>



<https://youtube.w6ek.org>



<https://twitter.w6ek.org>



<https://groupsio.w6ek.org>

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes - 2023-07-13

SFARC Board Meeting on ZOOM

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. FD wrap-up:

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 - has settled WF changes; absent

Director- Joe, K6SAT (will be away 20230807-20230912) received a donation from Western States, will present at October meeting. **should send Thank You letter to Western States, need contact info.**

Director- Jon, KI6RT (will be away week july 24)

Director- Smitty, WB1G

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

Robert Wold, K6ZLY; Jim, KN6OON.

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 (absent) - to test out high power amp, connect 220 to 'AllStar' results?

Will put together information for repeater committee & post to groups.io re new pole/tower antenna config., work to scope of work & budget. meeting schedule? Tuesday zoom July 18, 1900. Jeff will facilitate first meeting, 10-11 people. a chair will be selected. Tevis Cup- 10am until clearing of course on July 30. 2m440 tied in analog July 28/29/30. allstar/echolink in monitor mode from Sat 10am until course clear.

Greeter/Sunshine – Pam, KN6GTK - not present

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

Webmaster / Social media / PIO - Smitty WB1G - Hot RF Nites info to clubs out to 60 miles. PIO: Proposed idea of quarterly breakfast/lunch of leadership of clubs in adjacent areas. FB close to 400 members.

website - going fine, will run updates by Sunday.

Groups.io - Dennis, WU6X - 291 members.

Membership - John, KK6IYW - has resigned (work overload) (by Jeff KM6RGO) -

VE exams - Brian, AI6US - July 3rd had 3 candidates, 4 exams, 2 upgrades to General, 1 new Technician; Next exams: August 7.

Volunteer Events Coordinator - Chip, KM6MDF - not present

Contests - Dennis, WU6X - ARRL, NorAm RTTY contest July 15.

Drawing - **chair position open.**

Hamfest 2024- chair position open

Refreshments - Mark Koehler, W2MWK - not present

Nomination Committee - Jeff, KM6RGO - to start the committee.

Field Day 2023 - Jeff KM6RGO - wrap-up: budgeted \$900, cash donations: \$, net expense: \$

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

Hot RF Nites (Aug 11) - Greydon KC6SLE will lead. 5 donations, valued at \$210. 9 drawings, 2 items/drawing. FT-70 donated. Security to be staffed.

OLD BUSINESS

VE accounting - opened an additional Square account,

sub committee: 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. have a few volunteers to set up the committee. Jim, wa8mpa, have at least 1 board member, Earl gpb, jon ki6rt, have agreed to be on committee. these three to organize themselves, set rules & guidelines and schedule meetings.

Events/Upcoming

Monthly Breakfast - July 29, 0730. Wings Cafe at Auburn Airport,

RDF - July 29, 0900

Hams in the Hills - July 22, 0730. lead? where?

HOT RF Nights - Aug. 11, 1830

Picnic/ BBQ - Sept 16. location? time?

Christmas Party - Dec. 9.

Adjourn: 1915

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting - 2023-07-14

SFARC General Meeting

President Jeff KM6RGO welcomed individuals to this meeting 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. Hot RF Nights, 1900-2100, Aug. 11, 2023.

Treasurer- Rob, KM6YKX, not present.

Secretary- Dave, N6OJJ.

Director- Smitty, WB1G.

Director- Joe, K6SAT.

Director- Jon, KI6RT.

Club Business

June member count: 252. Need 20% for quorum.

2 Board members must confirm Quorum for Business session: Orion Estes AI6JB and Dave N6OJJ confirmed member quorum present in person (0) + ZOOM (46) = 46 vs. 52 required. Quorum **NOT MET**.

Acceptance of the Minutes of the June 2023 General meeting was moved to the e-vote below.

Acceptance of the prospective New Members (4) applications to be voted in:

Michael R. O'Conner, KN6YCN

Benjamin M. Parrish, K6GEO

Ron E. Kirby, KN6ZDD

Kara L. Wilson, KN6ZQX

moved to the e-vote below.

The Informational parts of the meeting continue below:

Prize Drawing and rules overview.

Program 1: Field Day 2023 wrap-up: Dennis, WU6X

Program 2: Radio Direction Finding Tactics- Evan, AJ6OR

BREAK

Committee Chair Reports:

Repeater - Clyde, AB4CC. Committee to form. want ~9-10 participating members. Tevis Cup: 2m and. 440 will be linked in analog mode from thurs 7-27 to Sun. 7-30.

Greeter - Pam, KN6GTK. George KG6LSB spoke with Pat.

VE Exams - Brian, AI6US exam on July 3rd had 3 candidates, 4 exams, 2 upgrades to General, 1 new Technician; Next exams: August 7.

Exam classes - Orion AI6JB: build a 40m end-fed antenna. General : Aug 8; Technician: Oct. 17.

Volunteer Events - Chip, KM6MDF- no events in near term.

Newsletter - Bob, K6ZLY, new editor

Satellite - Greg, KO6TH- 'Nano Rack' on ISS for satellite launches.

PIO - Smitty, WB1G - invites sent to clubs for Hot RF Nights. SFARC launching Sacramento Valley Leadership Group as informal connections between the many clubs/groups.

Website - Smitty, WB1G - June had almost 4000 hits. Most popular page was Field Day Resource.

Social Media - Smitty, WB1G - Facebook group almost 400 members.

Groups.io site - Dennis, WU6X - 289 members

Contests - Orion, Ai6JB / Dennis, WU6X - ARRL, NorAm QSO RTTY contest July 15-16.

Membership - John Clark, KK6IYW has resigned this position. 258 members.

ARES - Scott, KM6RFB- encourage people to join ARES; ARES net on Sundays at 1930.

Refreshments - Mark Koehler, W2MWK

Drawing - **need new chair (any volunteer?)**

Equipment Donations / Library - Jim, WA8MPA etc.

Calendar of club events:

July 16 - Hams in the Hills, Soda Springs led by

July 29 - Club breakfast at Wings Cafe at Auburn Airport, 0730

Tevis Cup

Aug. 10 - Club Board Meeting (ZOOM), 1800

August 11 - Greydon KC6SLE: Hot RF Nights, 1900

Club Meeting, Crossroads Church Gymnasium, 1930

Sept. 16 - Smitty, WB1G/ Jon, KI6RT: Picnic/BBQ. Items not main course will be potluck. more info coming.

Dec. 9 - Club Meeting/Christmas Party

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

2nd Friday/month: SFARC monthly meeting, 1930-2100

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.

Adjourned at: 2103

Annex:

Club Business follow-on e-vote (called for because General Meeting (via ZOOM) did NOT have a quorum present.

On July 14, 2023, an email was sent to all current members that included the following message:

"We were just short of quorum for July business meeting. We need 52 active members to be present, we had 46. Please follow the link to vote on July business. The vote will be to accept the June meeting minutes as submitted. No changes were recommended at the meeting. Also, we have 4 new applicants. The names are:

Michael R Oconnor KN6YCN

BENJAMIN M PARRISH K6GEO

Ron E Kirby KN6ZDD

Kara L Wilson KN6ZQX

<https://forms.gle/DyGbZUg2AfgpyNdc7>

Thank you for voting and have a great weekend!

Jeff - KM6RGO”

There were 72 votes to approve the meeting minutes, and 71 votes to approve the new members as shown below.

Jeff - KM6RGO

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings, My name is Bob Wold - K6ZLY and I am excited to be your new editor. I have been licensed since 1957 but this is my 1st time as an editor of any publication. My main interests are QRP, Building and Antennas.

Please send me an email telling me what you would like to see incorporated into your newsletter. Also tell me what is your favorite part(s) of this great hobby.

72/73 Bob-K6ZLY (r.wold@comcast.net)

SPECIAL THANKS



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Dennis H. Gregory
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916.769.5016

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