



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

September 2023

<https://www.w6ek.org>

At The Key at SFARC:

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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



RSVP

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<https://calendar.w6ek.org>

Placer County Ares Net

Sunday Sep 3 @ 7:30pm

W6EK Repeater 145.430

All-NodeNet

W6EK 2M Repeater: 145.430 -600, PL162.

2 and AllStar Link: 51018

VE Testing Session

Auburn Crossroads Church campus. 1101

Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA 95603

Sep 4 @ 7:00pm

General Class (Zoom)

Sep 5 @ 7:00pm

Elmer Net

Wed Sep 6 @ 7:30

W6EK Repeater 145.430

SFARC Board Meeting (Zoom)

Thursday Sep 7 @ 6:00pm

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

SFARC General Meeting

Friday Sep 9 @ 7:30

Auburn Crossroads Church Campus
Front Lobby

General Class Lab #1 GOTA

Sep 10 All-Day

Hams in the Hills

Sep 9

Strawberry Pass

SFARC Summer/Fall Picnic

Sep 16 @ 4:00pm

Recreation Park, Auburn, Ca

FULL CALENDAR

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

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- HotRF Nights in lieu of AUG General Meeting
- Aug Board Meeting Minutes
- New Member Applications
- Looking Forward
- Aug Fox Hunt



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

Hot RF Nights

Wow, what a great night! For those who did not attend, HotRF Nights was our 3rd Annual event. It was held on our August Meeting night, in lieu of a meeting, to showcase ham's creative solutions to emergency communications. There were Emergency responders along with

numerous mobile and field setups available for us to peruse, ask questions, and show the world what we are capable of. We created a festival "car show" atmosphere with free prize drawings for all attendees and world-famous ice cream floats for sale. What a show! A great big thank you to the Emergency Responders who brought their decked-out equipment for us to learn about. A few came from quite a distance! We had **Glenn County Disaster Response Communications and Support Center**, **Alameda County RACES Sheriff Communication Sprinter Van (Tom NN6H you looked quite handsome in uniform)**, **California Emergency Medical Service Authority FirstNet CRD (Scott**



KM6RFB had to jump through a few hoops to bring this to us), EDARC (check EDARC's Neighborhood Radio Watch program), Mobile Starlink and Mobile Verizon Gokits, by Smitty WB1G, along with a huge variety of Mobile and Gokits, Camping/Contesting setups, and, of course, the Kraken by AI6US. A huge 5 antenna array giving extremely accurate bearing and locations of RF signals. What a beast! A great big thank you to Greydon KC6SLE who did an amazing job organizing, Jim WA8MPA for running the club sales table for the scholarship fund, Gerry WA6E and Theta WA6EWF who ran the Ice Cream Floats, Brian AI6US for parking and security. I am leaving out names, of course, because so many others chipped in to make this a fantastic event. What a great job the team did! We hope to continue offering this event each year and perhaps even growing it! Be sure to check out the pictures and videos on W6EK.org and our **YouTube @W6EK channel for coverage of the event. Fantastic coverage!**

General Class

Of course, you know by now the General Class is underway. Coming up there will be field labs on the schedule, with two in September. The first will be an **HF GOTA** lab on **Sep 9**. It is an all day event. If you would like to help, send **Orion AI6JB** an email. Or, be on HF during the lab and make a few



contacts with the class. The next lab will be on Sep 23 and is an antenna build. They will learn how to build the classic endfed antenna. The team is always busy!

Sat Breakfast

We had another great turnout for Sat breakfast at **Wings at the Auburn Airport**. There is something kind of cool about sitting on the back patio watching air traffic go by, while enjoying coffee and breakfast with fellow hams. Everyone is in a good mood at Sat Breakfast! We have had the pleasure of meeting at Wings for a couple of months. We may do this again in the future. Sep Sat breakfast will be back at **Mel's on Highway 49**, who treat us so well. We are getting feedback we should mix it up occasionally!

Fox Hunt

There was a Fox hunt on Sat Aug 26 headed by fox tender Brian A16US. Of course, it was a huge challenge! "Challenge accepted" a made up quote I imagined Evan AJ6OR would say who, once again, found the fox first with Team Dyer soon after. The Fox Tender tried to fool people with 15mw reflecting of a building. It did take a little bit, but the fox was eventually found. Our current group of foxhunters is getting pretty darned good at this stuff. I did not get to make this event, but, I can imagine a flurry of activities, driving here and there, jumping out of the car with antenna in hand to get a bearing and move on. It must be a sight! Foxhunts are great events for beginning hams as well as general public. It might slow you down, but, sometimes curious onlookers want to ask questions. Foxhunting is not only a challenge, but also fun! A win for Ham Radio.

Club Picnic

Who wants to have an afternoon visiting in the park? Just a reminder, our **Club Picnic** will be on **Sep 16 at Recreation Park at 4:00pm**. Bring a chair, a sharable dish, if you like, and be prepared to have a great time! The menu may (or may not) be healthy, but it will sure be fun! Be sure to RSVP so we can know how much to buy. [Picnic In The Park - Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club \(W6EK\)](#) I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Membership

It is amazing how much our club has grown over last couple of years. This month we will vote on eleven new members! It speaks to the openness and sincerity of our membership. With the growth of our group we have new challenges. It is nearly impossible for all of us to be in one location at a time. Sometimes, we may not have quorum to conduct business. If you think about it, with quorum at 20 percent of our very large membership, it's quite the number! We are working on these challenges as we grow. As a reminder, it is truly a privilege to be a member of Sierra Foothills ARC. We all have a responsibility to participate in the conduct of the business of the club. On General meeting nights, attend if you can. In person is nice, on Zoom is an option. Also, please pay close attention to your email in the days following, to be sure you do not miss important business, in the event we do not have a quorum. We also have elections coming up. If there is some way you might be able to contribute to the club, your time is the greatest of all gifts. Don't be afraid to volunteer for something that interests you or even, necessary club functions for the good of all members. The rewards are amazing, and it truly is an honor to serve our fellow hams.

Have a great month!

73!

Jeff – KM6RGO

President – *Sierra Foothills ARC*

LOOKING FORWARD



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

Our 2023 Hot RF Nights was a great success. It's important to note that although the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club was the host of this event, this was an area wide/regional Amateur Radio community event. We had exhibitors and HAMs attending from the Bay Area, the Valley and the Foothills, many traveling for several hours. It was SFARC's pleasure to be the host, but without the participation and attendance of over 145 people this would not have been the event it was. So again, our sincere thanks to all those who attended and participated in the 2023 Hot

RF Nights!

And without an excellent team of SFARC volunteers the 2023 Hot RF Nights could not have taken place and been the success it was. At the risk of leaving anyone out, I'll let each section lead thank their individual teams. But I do want to thank all the section leads:

- Brian AI6US headed the Parking Lot Set Up/Clean-up/Security.
- Smity WB1G headed Promotions and Outreach.
- Jim WA8MPA headed Cub Sales
- Gerry WA6E and Theta WA6EWF headed Ice Float Sales
- Jeff KM6RGO headed the Announcements and Drawing Table
- Jim W6JCZ headed Drawing Item Procurement
- Greg KO6TH headed Video Recording
- Tom NN6H headed Photo Recording

A great team that made this event work and highly successful, my sincere thank you!

Next SFARC meeting will be both in-person and on Zoom Friday September 8 at the Crossroads Church in Auburn. September's meeting will be in the front church lobby, not the usual gymnasium. We have two presentations for that evening, one on "Everything You Need to Know About Capacitors" by Jim WA8MPA and one on "Building Your Own Lithium Iron Phosphate Battery from Individual Components" by Don WB6LPJ. Please join us in-person for a fun and informative evening.

73

Greydon KC6SLE, SFARC Vice President

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

We have 11 new members to vote on at the next club meeting on 2023-09-08



- Jacob McBlane KO6AVB
- Jennifer Garland KI1TTY
- David A Lateano KO6ATW
- Emiliano Rodriguez KO6AJO
- Paul Zenk K6PMZ
- Edward S Sherlock K6ESS
- Robert B Fields KD6QVD
- Steven R Dyer W1SRD
- Doris Won K0BEE
- Gregory R Glacken KN6DUN
- Michael J Orcutt K3CRA

SFARC ONLINE



<https://facebook.w6ek.org>

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<https://youtube.w6ek.org>

<https://groupsio.w6ek.org>

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes - 2023-08-10

SFARC Board Meeting on ZOOM

Called to order: 1800 PDT

Approve Board minutes - accepted as amended.

canyons donated \$350 for repeater fund. need to send thank you letter. same for Western States Endurance Run.

Present:

President- Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO.

Vice-President- Greydon Hicks, KC6SLE

Leading up **Hot August Nights**, good to go. discussion.

Secretary- Dave McBrayer, N6OJJ - nothing to present

Treasurer- Rob Newburn, KM6YKX - nothing for meeting

Director- Joe, K6SAT (will be away 20230807-20230912) received a donation to repeater fund from Western States, will present at October meeting.

Director- Jon, KI6RT (will be away week July 24) Evan AJ6OR ran July RDF. Brian will run RDF on August 29.

Director- Smitty, WB1G nothing to present.

also present: Clyde, AB4CC; Brian, AI6US; Jim, WA8MPA; Greg, KO6TH;

Robert Wold, K6ZLY; Earl, K6GPB; tJim, KN6OON.

introductions around

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

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Jon KI6RT -

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

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee) - Clyde AB4CC - meeting August 14. will be on alternate Monday's.

Greeter/Sunshine – Pam, KN6GTK - not present did send out card for Ron, KA6UAI.

Newsletter - Bob, K6ZLY - **new editor.**

Webmaster / Social media / PIO - Smitty WB1G -

Repeater diagrams out of date re Wires-x, will send to Clyde.

Hot RF Nights info to clubs out to 60 miles; several EMS vehicles.

PIO: Proposed idea of quarterly breakfast/lunch of leadership of clubs in adjacent areas; had good response. FB exceeds 400 members.

website - going fine.

Groups.io - Dennis, WU6X - 291 members.

Membership - **chair position open** (by Jeff KM6RGO) - 6 new applications, 267 members

VE exams - Brian, AI6US - Aug 7 had celebration of Gerry & Theta's 50th Anniversary at Pho King Good. had 4 exams, 1 upgrades to General, 2 new Technician; Next exams: Sept. 4. KN6DUN Greg, upgraded to General.

Volunteer Events Coordinator - Chip, KM6MDF - not present

Contests - Dennis, WU6X - Aug. 19, NORAM QSO Party-SSB, Aug 20 ARRL Rookie Roundup.

Drawing - **chair position open.**

Hamfest 2024 - **chair position open**

Refreshments - Mark Koehler, W2MWK - not present

Nomination Committee - Jeff, KM6RGO - to start the committee. Will present nominees at Sept. meeting.

Picnic (potluck)-2023 (Sept 16, Recreation Park) 4pm- Smitty WB1G has to step back. need new chair.

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. Everything is GO.

OLD BUSINESS

Elmer/Mentoring: Smitty, WB1G, will meet with Greydon, KC6SLE, to develop first of several Amateur radio flyers.

Scholarship Committee: Earl, K6GPB; Jim, WA8MPA; Jeff, KM6RGO; Greydon, K6SLE met to layout program.

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 K6GPB, jon ki6rt, have agreed to be on committee. these three to organize themselves, set rules & guidelines and schedule meetings.

Events/Upcoming

Hot RF Nights - Aug. 11, 1830

Monthly Breakfast - Aug. 26, 0730. Wings Cafe at Auburn Airport,

RDF - Aug. 26, 0900; Brian, AI6US leading

Picnic - Sept 16, 1600, Recreation Park

Christmas Party - Dec. 9

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

There was not a General Meeting in August due to Hot RF Nights.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

July Fox Hunt Results

This month the fox was hidden on Nevada Street near the Placer County Library at The Auburn Garden Theater. The event was well attended by 11 fox hunters including a K9 companion. Some hunters found the fox within one minute of each other.

The fox was hidden & powered on at 9:30 AM. Paul Dyer KE6MXV and his son Sam KN6UXI took first place in locating the fox. Brian, AI6US came in second, and Greg KO6TH third. All three came in at or very close to 10:08. Doug W2VX was fourth at 10:27, Gary and Matthew K7EST fifth at 10:28, Ryan WU6H sixth at 10:29, only one minute apart each. Todd KN6TUH seventh at 10:39, George KD6CWU eighth at 11:00, and Jim W6JCZ at 11:01 only one minute apart.

I was rather impressed by the number of hunters and how fast they found the fox after arriving at the fox site. Yagi antennas and attenuators were quite helpful and enhanced the foxhunt experience. Nice work everyone.

Evan – AJ6OR.



Morse Code Saves the Day

I've a short story to tell about how Morse Code saved the day while serving in the Navy ... Having spent 2 years on active-duty '67-'68 aboard the USS Hassayampa AO-145 (see pictures), one of three, giant fleet oilers, I decided to stay in the US Navy Reserves for a 2nd 6-year enlistment. The "Hass", as she was called, and her two sister ships, were capable of underway replenishment (UNREP) of ships at speeds that allowed aircraft carriers to launch aircraft while being refueled, thereby maintaining mission-status. Anyway, during the 2nd enlistment, I took the 5wpm Novice test and received my Novice ticket, all CW for the entire first year, of course. So, I got very proficient at it as I practiced for 12wpm and a General Class ticket.

During that period, Navy Reservists were required to take a 2-week refresher cruise every year, which was a nice break from my civilian job. Since my rate/rank was as a Radarman 3rd Class, I spent my time while aboard these cruises hanging out with the Signalmen or Radiomen, when not standing a watch in the Combat Information Center (CIC). Of course, the Signalmen all knew Morse Code, so we had something in common to talk about.

On one particular 2-week cruise to San Diego on a destroyer out of Treasure Island, we were moored at a dock with a good view of ships coming in/out of San Diego harbor. While most everyone was ashore on liberty, I caught a Quarterdeck watch guarding the gangway. I was basically in charge of the safety of the ship for 4 hours, answering the phone, regulating and logging who came aboard, or left, if not assigned to the crew. Well, during one watch, a

shipmate came up, all excited, saying there was US Navy destroyer in the middle of the harbor channel signaling with flashing light, about 200 yards from our position, so I went to investigate.



As it turned out, the ship was flashing Morse Code, and I began to copy without thinking too much about it, my mind making the translation from sight, to brain, to letters in Morse. Anyway, I quickly discovered they had lost power, and were now drifting with no steerage. Fortunately, it wasn't a windy day! I ran back to the Quarterdeck and called the Harbor Master who dispatched a tug to rescue the drifting ship ... and we watched the rescue drama take place.

Anyway, I logged the incident into the Quarterdeck log book and didn't think much about it. I did get a thank you call from the Harbor Master for my quick action. And, I impressed those who

witnessed the event and my decode of the flashing light. Everyone wondering why in the world a Radarman would know Morse Code. It was a fulfilling experience using a skill learned from Amateur Radio during a "rescue mission". Hi! I went on to practice sending with flashing light, and even learned how to use semaphore flags to send messages on subsequent cruises, ship-to-ship. And that's my "sea story" for this issue.

Dennis - WU6X

SPECIAL THANKS



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