



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

FEBRUARY 2025

<https://www.w6ek.org>

At The Key at SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Aaron Bond (W1ATB)

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Zheng (W6JCZ)

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David McBrayer (N6OJJ)

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Jim Jupin (WA8MPA)
Mark Koehler (W2MWK)
Greydon Hicks (KC6SLE)

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Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)

VE TESTING CORDINATOR

Brian Gohl (AI6US)

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Smitty (WB1G)
Greg Dolkas (KO6TH)

STATION TRUSTEE

Clyde Campbell (AB4CC)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Zheng (W6JCZ)

GROUPS.IO ADMINISTRATOR

Aaron Bond (W1ATB)

DROPBOX ADMINISTRATOR

Smitty (WB1G)

ADVANCEMENT / CLASSES

Chair: Orion Endres (AI6JB)
Instructor(s): Orion Endres (AI6JB), Anders Rehnvall (NR6H), and James Goldstene (AE6JG)

WEEKLY CLUB NET

Thursdays, 7:30PM

W6EK 2m Repeater @ 145.430 MHz

Primary Net Control Operators:
Dave Jenkins (WB6RBE)
Orion Endres (AI6JB)
Chip Bautista (KM6MDF)
Smitty (WB1G)

COFFEE BREAK NET

365 Days A Year 7:30AM – 10AM

W6EK 2m Repeater @ 145.430 MHz

Primary Net Control Operators:
• Brian Gohl (AI6US)
• Gerry Brentnall (WA6E)
• Theta Brentnall (WA6EWF)
• Tom Newman (NN6H)
• Orion Endres (AI6JB)
• Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)
Standby Net Control Operators:
• Smitty (WB1G)
• Don Hay (WB6LPJ)
• Aaron Bond (W1ATB)

CLUB MEETINGS

Second Friday of the month,
Confluence (formerly Crossroads)
Church @7:30 PM
1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn

CLUB EVENTS

SFARC Board Meeting

February 13, 2025 @ 6 PM
[Online \(Zoom\)](#)

SFARC Club Meeting

February 14, 2025 @ 7:30 PM
Confluence Church or [Online \(Zoom\)](#)
1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA 95603

Breakfast Social

February 22, 2025 @ 7:30 AM
The Original Mel's Diner
1730 Grass Valley Hwy #2885, Auburn, CA 95603

Radio Direction Finding

February 22, 2025 @ 9 AM
Location TBD
Visit our [website](#) for more information

REPEATERS

145.430 MHz (-0.6 MHz / CTCSS 162.2)

- AllStarLink: 51018
- EchoLink: 4128
- Wires-X: W6EK-2M-ROOM (62545)

223.860 MHz (-1.6 MHz / CTCSS 110.9)

- AllStarLink: 56039

440.575 MHz (+5.0 MHz / CTCSS 162.2)

- AMS – Fusion C4FM & Analog FM
- Wires-X: NorCal Repeater GRP (43847)
- YSF: US-NorCalRptGrp (06040)

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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

SFARC President | Aaron Bond (W1ATB)

Welcome SFARC Members!

Welcome all SFARC members! Here we are in February—my favorite month, by the way (thanks, Mom and Dad)!

Our club is continuing to thrive, with our membership currently standing strong at over 333 members. The VE and testing groups are doing a fantastic job of welcoming new Hams with their top-notch classes and testing sessions. The repeater team is hard at work not only fixing issues at the main site but also designing a state-of-the-art voting receiver system.

We are proud to host some of the best nets around, including the world-famous Coffee Break Net, Weekly Club Net, Elmer Net, and the globally attended All-Nodes Net. Let's not forget one of my personal favorites, the In-The-Shack Zoom meetings, where Hams from all over can showcase and view the incredible projects others are working on.

This year promises to be an exciting one for our repeater and the club as a whole!

Upcoming Events

- **Extra Class License Upgrade Course:** Starting February 4th, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Zoom room.
- **Special Presentation:** ARRL Policy Matters & Direction Meeting.
- **Club Breakfast:** February 22nd, at 7:30 AM @ Mel's Diner in Auburn, CA.
- **Hamtrak II - Back on Track:** March 6th & 7th.
- **Loomis Hamfest:** March 22nd.

Later This Year

- **Summer Field Day**
- **Hot RF Nights**
- **Club Campout**
- **Donuts in the Park**
- **Club Picnic**
- **Christmas Party**
- **Much More!**

For more information on these events, visit our website at w6ek.org

A Note from the President



What has the prez been up to? January was a busy month for me. Alongside my regular club duties, I took a four-day trip to Idaho to visit family. I might be crazy (I know, open mouth and remove any doubt), but I actually enjoy that drive and look forward to it several times a year—it gives me time to reflect on various things.

For Christmas, one of my good friends gifted me a 100Ah LifePo battery, which inspired me to build a battery box. It's great to have so much portable power at my fingertips. I also started a new AI project that led me down a deep AI rabbit hole. In the future, it will make an appearance in our "In the Shack" segment if you're interested.

Naturally, I made time for some radio activities as well. Finally, I celebrated another trip around the sun, officially entering mid-life, as I tell my sweetheart that I plan on living to be 120ish. Hope I didn't just jinx myself.

I look forward to seeing and working with you all this year. Hamfest is nearly upon us, and it is one of the best events for Hams in our area. I always look forward to it, and you all make it so special.

See you on the radio!

Best 73,

Aaron - W1ATB

President, Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club

LOOKING FORWARD

SFARC Vice President | Jim Zheng (W6JCZ)

It's hard to believe we've already made it a month into the new year! The shortest month brings with it a few events of note, starting off with our club VE session at 7 PM on the 3rd. We're always looking for volunteers to help with mentorship of test candidates both before and after their exams, so come on by and give a little back to the ham radio community. Our meeting will take place at 7:30 PM on the 14th, and the monthly breakfast at 7:30 AM on the 22nd. Keep an eye out for information on our website about the radio direction finding exercise right after breakfast.

I'm really looking forward to several major activities coming up, especially Hamtrak II. A big thank-you to Gerry (WA6E) for organizing the event once again, and I hope to meet up with you all for a memorable trip.

At last but not least, our annual hamfest in March is always a huge event, and this year's will be no different. Long before the sun comes up, I'll be out helping set up and enjoying great chats with hams all around the area (and perhaps beyond).

73, and I hope to see you at our many club activities in the near future!

Jim Zheng

W6JCZ



9TH ANNUAL SFARC HAMFEST

SFARC Hamfest Chair | Aaron Jones (K6ABJ)



LOOMIS HAMFEST



Mark your Calendar and Sign Up To Volunteer

at the Sierra Foothills 9th Annual

Loomis Hamfest, March 22

Historic Loomis Train Depot, 5775 Horseshoe Bar Road, Loomis

Get your gear, grab your wallet, and get ready for the largest hamfest in the area. This is the club's largest fund raiser and it takes many volunteers to put on a hamfest of this size. Volunteers get a Free Coffee and Donut. Buyers get Free admission and parking. Sellers pay \$10 per space. Club Members having an item or two For Sale may sell them for free by placing them on the club table along with a note containing your contact information and the price so Buyers can pay you directly. Pick up your unsold items by 11:00 a.m.

Volunteers are needed in all areas, but are especially needed in the areas of Setup, Tear down, Parking, Sanitation, Test Bench, Talk-In, Security, and Logistics. [To volunteer please fill out this form](#), contact your Team Lead from last year, or contact Aaron Jones K6ABJ. Be sure to let us know if you are willing to help wherever needed or if there is an area that particularly interests you.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

SFARC Membership Coordinator | Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)

Congratulations to the newest members of SFARC voted in at January's general club meeting.



Sean Bonick (KO6HBF)
Monica Wooster (KO6HBG)
Nickolai Chernyshev (KO6GGR)
Carter Moos (KO6EDG)
John Merlino (KB7RAF)
Joseph Russo Jr (KK6SNG)
Kade Fernandes (KO6FLQ)
Landrum James Jr (N6FMD)
Ryan Jacobs (AE6N)

We have 10 new members to vote on at the next club meeting on February 14.

Jayden Ridders-Fischer (W6EFM)
Jason Hodkin (W6IDK)
Jason Ray (KO6GXN)
Charles Brashear (WB6OMS)
David Downing (KO6GSU)
Colin Ryan (KO6HKT)
Benjamin Brabon (WB6BEN)
Robert Parker (KO6HRZ)
Brett Beauchamp-Russell (KO6HJP)
Garrett Hebert (KO6HKU)



SFARC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

X (TWITTER) <https://x.w6ek.com>
FACEBOOK <https://facebook.w6ek.com>
INSTAGRAM <https://instagram.w6ek.com>
YOUTUBE <https://youtube.w6ek.org>
LINKEDIN <https://linkedin.w6ek.org>
GROUPS.IO <https://w6ek.groups.io>



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SFARC Secretary | David McBrayer (N6OJJ)

Called to order: 1800 PDT by Aaron W1ATB, President, presiding.

Approve November 2024 Board minutes - Approved by acclamation as submitted – No Board meeting in December, 2024.

Officer & Board Member Reports

Vice-President: Jim Zheng W6JCZ – mobile

Treasurer: Brian Fulkerson KM6MDM – reports posted in Board directory at w6ek.groups.io (last Report)

2025 Treasurer: Ron Holland KA6UAI – not present

Secretary: Dave McBrayer N6OJJ – just back from holiday travels

Director: Jim Jupin WA8MPA – Dec. 13 Christmas Party was successful

Director: Greydon Hicks KC6SLE – nothing to report

Director: Mark Koehler W2MWK – not present

also present: Brian AI6US; Aaron K6ABJ, Greg KO6TH; Clyde AB4CC.

Introductions around.

Quorum: minimum 1 Director + 4 Officers = MET

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee) – Clyde AB4CC, Western States training run, Memorial Day weekend.

Tevis Cup ride – July 12-13.

Repeater Coordination valid through 2027.

Repeater Committee – Brian AI6US – will present his report future repeater actions at the General Meeting tomorrow.

Newsletter – Jim W6JCZ – new format going well. Posted on W6EK website.

Webmaster / Social media / PIO – Smitty WB1G – not present

Groups.io – Aaron W1ATB/Smitty WB1G/Dennis WU6X – nothing to report

Membership – Jeff KM6RGO – not present

9 new applications to vote on Jan. 10;

currently enrolled: 323 members.

general meeting (Jan. 10) quorum (20% of current) = 65.

VE exams – Brian, AI6US – Jan.6: 8 passed:

2 new Technicians; General: 1 new, 1 upgrade; upgrade to Extra: 4.

Next exams: Feb. 3, 2025.

Volunteer Events Coordinator – Chip, KM6MDF – not present

Contests – Orion, AI6JB – not present

Scholarship Committee – Earl, K6GPB – not present

Drawing – Ray, KK6AM – not present

Refreshments – Mark, W2MWK – not present

Nominations – Gary, KB7QWC – not present.

Results of the Officer/Director Election conducted 7 December 2024.

A Vote was held before the start of Christmas party of the members present.

Aaron W1ATB presented the nominations in Gary's absence.

President: Aaron Bond W1ATB, incumbent

Vice President: Jim Zheng W6JCZ, incumbent

Treasurer: Ron Holland KA6UAI
Secretary: Dave McBrayer N6OJJ, incumbent
Director: Jim Jupin WA8MPA, incumbent
Director: Greydon Hicks KC6SLE * 2-year term
Director: Mark Koehler W2MWK

No positions were competitive. All positions had only a single candidate. 70 members were present before the start of the Christmas party. A **Motion** to Accept the candidates as Elected made by Smitty WB1G; **Seconded** by Jim WA8MPA; voice vote of the members present. The Officer and Director candidates for 2025 were **declared Elected** by acclamation of those present.

By-Laws Committee – Changes were presented to the membership and emailed to the membership 2024-11-19 for a 14 day review. Vote will be to Accept the Recommended Changes to the By-Laws without added revisions, or to Reject. Text of the Voted ballot item:

“Vote to Accept Bylaws Changes

This is a vote to accept or reject changes to the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club Bylaws as recommended by the Bylaws Review Committee of 2024 without further changes or amendments. Changes were presented at the November General Meeting and emailed to the membership Nov 19, 2024 for a 14 day review by all club members.”

Vote was held electronically using HamClubOnline.

Voting opened 2024-12-17 20:49 PST. **Voting closed** 2024-12-31 23:59 PST.

324 ballots were sent to the SFARC membership. Results of the vote: **136 ballots were cast**, yielding a 42% participation rate. **135 (99.3%) votes were “Yes – Accept all changes”**. **1 vote (0.7%) was “No – Reject all changes”**.

HamFest – March 22, Aaron K6ABJ chair. Will be at Loomis Depot parking lot. 1st meeting on January 30, at 1800 on ZOOM. Smitty handling promo’s.

OLD BUSINESS

Insurance renewal 01 January 2025 – Renewal in hand, will pay in January.

General meeting – pantry offerings: dry goods- TP, paper towels, pasta, canned items; peanut butter.

NEW BUSINESS

Repeater Presentation & Costs – Brian AI6US

Events/Upcoming

Club Meeting – January 12, 2025, Confluence Church, 1930.

Saturday Breakfast – January 25, 2025, 0730, Mel’s. Diner, CA 49 @ Luther Road.

Fox Hunt – January 25, 0930. TBD.

HAMFEST Planning – January 30, 1800 in Club’s ZOOM Room

Next Board meeting – February 13, 2025, 1800 PT. on Club’s ZOOM room.

Next Club Meeting – February 14, 2025, 1930 at Confluence Church.

Adjourned: 1930 PDT

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SFARC Secretary | David McBrayer (N6OJJ)

President Aaron T. Bond, W1ATB welcomed members and visitors to this regular monthly meeting of the **Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club** in the gymnasium at Confluence Church, 1101 Auburn Ravine Road, Auburn, CA 95603.

The meeting was called to order at 1932PST by President Aaron, W1ATB who opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: Officer Reports:

President- Aaron, W1ATB
Vice-President- Jim, W6JCZ 1 presentation tonight
Treasurer-2024- Brian, KM6MDM intro. his last budget.
Treasurer-2025- Ron Holland KA6UAI not present
Secretary- Dave, N6OJJ nothing to report
Director- Greydon, KC6SLE nothing to report
Director- Mark, W2MWK nothing to report
Director- Jim, WA8MPA nothing to report

Welcome Guests, New Members, and New Licensees

November Minutes accepted as submitted.

Results of Officer election for 2025:

President: Aaron Bond, W1ATB;
Vice-President: Jim Zheng, W6JCZ;
Treasurer: Ron Holland, KA6UAI;
Secretary: Dave McBrayer, N6OJJ;
Director: Jim Jupin, WA8MPA;
Director: Greydon Hicks, KC6SLE; 2-year term;
Director: Mark Koehler, W2MWK;
Nominations from floor: none

Jim, W6JCZ introduced:

Program 1: "Go Bag" — Scott, KM6RFB

break ———

The Informational parts of the meeting continue below:

Committee Chair Reports:

Repeater – Clyde, AB4CC- not present.

Repeater Committee – Brian, AI6US- ZOOM met 1930 on 23 Sept. to discuss future plans for repeater.

Will continue to support Western States and other events. options for voting receivers.

Greeter/Sunshine – Pam, KN6GTK – nothing to report

VE Exams – Brian, AI6US exam on January 6, 8 passed.

Next exam session: February 3, 1900 PDT.

Volunteer Events – Chip, KM6MDF – nothing in schedule.
Exam classes – Orion AI6JB – not present
Newsletter – Jim W6JCZ – submission deadline January 30.
Satellite – Greg, KO6TH – slow-scan tv from ISS.
PIO – Smitty, WB1G – nothing to report
Website – Smitty, WB1G – nothing to report
Social Media – Smitty, WB1G – nothing to report
Groups.io site – Aaron, W1ATB – nothing to report
Contests – Orion AI6JB – not present
Membership – Jeff KM6RGO – Currently 313 members.
Nomination Committee – Need New Chair by June.
By-laws Committee – Revisions voted by membership using HamClubOnline. Dec. 17-Dec. 31.

NO membership meeting in December.

By-Law revisions were presented and discussed at the November 2024 membership meeting.
324 ballots sent out. 136 ballots cast (42% voted).

135 (99.3%) ballots voted **YES** 1 ballot voted **NO** (0.7%)

By-Law revisions were accepted.

ARES – Scott KM6RFB. Placer County ARES – monthly net.
Refreshments – Mark W2MWK – nothing to add.
Drawing – Ray, KK6AM – nothing to add
Scholarship Committee – Earl, K6GPB – not present
Equipment Donations / Library – Jim, WA8MPA – lending library.
HAMFEST – Aaron, K6ABJ – 1st meeting Jan. 30, 1800 on ZOOM.

Club Business – Need 2 Board members to confirm Quorum for Business Session

313 current members / need 20% 'present' (in person + on-line) to meet quorum (**62**) PRESENT In-Person: 47 + On-Line (ZOOM): 15 = **62**
Quorum (20% current membership) met: **YES / NO: YES**

Board Meeting summary – Dave N6OJJ

New members - introductions – Aaron (W1ATB)

January: Sean Bonick KO6HBF, Monica Wooster KO6HBG, Nikolai Chernyshev KO6GGR,
Carter Moos KO6EDG, John Merlino KB7RAF, Joseph Russo Jr KK6SNG,
Kade Fernandes KO6FLQ, Landrum James Jr N6FMD, Ryan Jacobs AE6N.

New members (9): Vote led by Aaron W1ATB

Motion to Approve: Smitty WB1G; 2nd by Jim WA8MPA

Accept these 9 new members.

Accepted by acclamation of those 'present'. No objections.

Quorum at February General Meeting will be based on **322 members** (**64**). May be revised per renewals.

Promotions update - Smitty WB1G

Prize drawing rules overview - Aaron W1ATB

Calendar of club events:

Jan. 25 – 0730, Club Breakfast at Original Mel's Diner, Grass Valley Highway at Luther Road.

Jan. 25 – 0930, Fox Hunt. See SFARC website for info.

Jan. 30 – 1800, HAMFEST Planning, ZOOM room

Feb. 13 – 1800, SFARC Board Meeting, on ZOOM

Feb. 14 – 1930, Club Meeting at Confluence Church gymnasium

Mar. 22 – 0700, HAMFEST, Loomis Depot parking lot

Dec. 13 – Christmas Party

Nets (on W6EK repeater, 145.430, PL=162.2):

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

1st Sunday/month: 1930, Placer County ARES Net on W6EK repeater

Monday's: 1800, All-Node Net

Wednesday's: 1930-2030, 1st/3rd, Elmer/Mentoring Net on W6EK repeater 1930, (ZOOM),
2nd / 4th, In the Shack on W6EK repeater

Thursday's: 1930-2030, SFARC Weekly Club Net on W6EK repeater

QST's from members? none

Adjourned at: 2041 PDT

Respectfully submitted,

Dave McBrayer, N6OJJ

SFARC Secretary-2025

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