



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

MARCH 2025

<https://www.w6ek.org>

## At The Key at SFARC:

### PRESIDENT

Aaron Bond (W1ATB)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Zheng (W6JCZ)

### SECRETARY

David McBrayer (N6OJJ)

### TREASURER

Ron (KA6UAI) and Laurie Holland

### DIRECTORS

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

### PUBLIC RELATIONS / SOCIAL MEDIA

Smitty (WB1G)

### MEMBERSHIP CORDINATOR

Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)

### VE TESTING CORDINATOR

Brian Gohl (AI6US)

### WEBMASTER(S)

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

March 13, 2025 @ 6 PM

[Online \(Zoom\)](#)

### SFARC Club Meeting

March 14, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

Confluence Church or [Online \(Zoom\)](#)  
1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA 95603

### SFARC Hamfest

March 22, 2025 @ 7 AM

Loomis Train Depot  
5775 Horseshoe Bar Rd, Loomis, CA 95650

### Breakfast Social

March 29, 2025 @ 7:30 AM

The Original Mel's Diner  
1730 Grass Valley Hwy #2885, Auburn, CA 95603

### Radio Direction Finding

March 29, 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)

## In This Issue:

- President's Message
- Looking Forward
- 9th Annual SFARC Hamfest
- Membership Update
- Board Meeting Minutes
- General Meeting Minutes



**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)

### **Springtime Adventures with Radio Gear**

Spring is in the air, bringing with it only a few showers to water the flowers. For me, it's the perfect time to head out on a Jeep exploration, with my trusty radio gear in tow. I hope you're all embarking on your own radio adventures too.

Radio truly connects us all, whether it's through POTA/SOTA, satellite chasing, contesting, "DXpeditioning," or simply joining the nets with your HT. There's something out there for everyone. While I may not be much into contesting (I know, I know), I do love finding great camping spots—especially in national parks—where I can set up a wire, connect my radio, and see what I can hear. I

can't wait to discover new spots with my Jeep and my radio gear.

I have a few tools that I like to use both at my shack and when I'm out and about (provided I have Starlink with me) to assist with my radio endeavors. You might already be familiar with some of these, but in case you're not, here's a list of some of my favorites:

- [PSKReporter](#): Who can hear me?
- [APRS map](#): See where you and your favorite Hams are.
- [License Map](#): Find Hams living near you.
- [VOACap](#): Propagation predictor.
- [Sac County Radio](#) Police/fire ambulance scanner.
- [Placer County Radio](#) Police/fire ambulance scanner.
- [DigiPi](#): Build yourself a self-contained digital interface for Ham comms.
- [Hoseline](#): Listen to DMR talkgroups without a radio.
- [WARP Terminal](#): The ultimate command-line tool for command-line users.
- [Hamclock kit](#): Build yourself a complete Hamclock (and other tools) for \$50.
- [Satellite tracker](#): Understand why launch day is such a big deal.

There are plenty more tools out there, but this list should get you started. You can also download and install HamClock on various platforms like Windows and Raspberry Pi, but the Inovato solution mentioned above is easy, fully ready to go, and you can't beat the price.

If you have a favorite link or tool that isn't listed above, be sure to send it my way so I can check it out!

### **Upcoming Events**

Don't forget that [HamTrack II](#) is almost upon us—next week on March 6th and 7th. Our monthly club meeting is on March 14th, and then the main event, the [SFARC Loomis Hamfest](#), is on March 22nd. We have some amazing prizes this year! (Hint: radios and more radios).

See you all on the airwaves!

**Aaron – W1ATB** *President, Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club*

# **LOOKING FORWARD**

**SFARC Vice President** | Jim Zheng (W6JCZ)

The month of March is filled with fun and excitement, starting off with the ARRL's SSB International DX Contest. It's an excellent opportunity to fill your log with international (DX) stations and put your equipment and skills to the test. Our first club event of the month is the VE session on the 3rd, where I'll be Elmering the candidates. It's always a great experience to mentor someone as they explore the amateur radio hobby, and often times I learn about things I hadn't thought of before.

I'm really looking forward to Hamtrak, a trip to Reno and back by train. I hear the scenery is beautiful, and I'm always down for some relaxed sightseeing. A big thanks goes out to Gerry (WA6E) for organizing and promoting the event!

This month's club meeting on the 14th features Aaron (K6ABJ) and the SFARC Hamfest crew, who will be showing us all the activities and festivities that will take place during the area's first hamfest of the year. Local communications team leads will also discuss all the upcoming opportunities to volunteer in community events as on-location radio operators. Whether you've volunteered in these events in the past or are interested in exploring ways ham radio can serve your community, consider helping out and making a difference.

Our club-sponsored hamfest will take place on the morning of the 22nd at the Loomis Train Depot, and I'm really excited to meet up with everyone and help set up the venue. The swap meet always attracts hams from all over, and what's more important that the awesome variety of equipment and parts to peruse are the people you'll be able to talk to and catch up with.

We finish out the month with our club breakfast on the morning of the 29th, followed by a radio direction finding exercise. I haven't had the opportunity to participate in the past two months, so I'm planning on getting back in the game this time and dusting off the fox hunting equipment.

There are plenty of excellent talks lined up for the coming months, so stop by and get your fill of interesting and insightful ideas!



# 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SFARC HAMFEST

SFARC Hamfest Chair | Aaron Jones (K6ABJ)

## THE FIRST HAM SWAP OF THE YEAR IS COMING!

9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# LOOMIS HAMFEST



JOIN THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB FOR HAMFEST 2025!

GRAB YOUR GEAR, GET YOUR WALLET, AND GET READY FOR A SUPER SWAP.  
WE'LL HAVE COFFEE AND DONUTS, ELMER TOURS, A TEST TABLE,  
PRIZES EVERY 15 MINUTES, AND SO MUCH MORE.

### MARCH 22ND, 2025 @ 0700

HISTORIC LOOMIS TRAIN DEPOT  
5775 HORSESHOE BAR ROAD, LOOMIS, CA



**SELLERS \$10  
SETUP @ 0600**

**FREE ADMISSION  
AND PARKING**

**TALK IN FREQ**  
145.130- .600  
CTCSS 114.8

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**MORE INFORMATION**  
[HAMFEST.W6EK.ORG](http://HAMFEST.W6EK.ORG)



7" 12v MINI LAPTOP



YAESU FT-60 HT



YAESU FT-710 HF RADIO



YAESU FT4XR HT



HUNDREDS OF \$\$\$'S IN  
GIFT CERTIFICATES

### SPONSORS



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ANTENNA**



**DX ENGINEERING**



### GENEROUS DONATIONS BY:

- BRIAN (AIGUS)
- SMITTY (WB1G)
- AARON (W1ATB)
- AARON (K6ABJ)
- JIM (W6JCZ)
- JEFF (KM6RGO)
- DENNIS (WU6X)

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

SFARC Membership Coordinator | Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)

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



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: 1803 PDT by Aaron W1ATB, President, presiding.

## **Officer & Board Member Reports**

Vice-President: Jim Zheng W6JCZ – mobile – Craig KM6LYW scheduled for April's 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.  
Ed Fong would like to speak to SFARC in April.

Treasurer: Ron Holland KA6UAI – not present

Secretary: Dave McBrayer N6OJJ – asked about SFARC QSL cards

Director: Jim Jupin WA8MPA –

Director: Greydon Hicks KC6SLE – Would like to add 'Elmer' to website in "Elmer's Corner".

Director: Mark Koehler W2MWK – not present

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

Introductions around.

Quorum: minimum 4 Board members = MET

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

Repeater (Station Trustee) – Clyde AB4CC, New controller to be installed at repeater this weekend.

Repeater Committee – Brian AI6US – will present his report re Voting Receivers for 2m repeater at the General Meeting tomorrow.

Newsletter – Jim W6JCZ – newsletter files are now \*.odt format before being PDF'd.

Webmaster / Social media / PIO – Smitty WB1G – HamTrack and Hamfest on the website. Discussed 'Swagshop' and whether to have QSL cards, use LOTW, or NO QSL for HF contacts. Lean NO QSL.

Will create structure on website for Treasurer documents.

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

Membership – Jeff KM6RGO –

10 new applications to vote on Feb. 6;

currently enrolled: 271 members.

general meeting (Feb. 6) quorum (20% of current) = 54.

VE exams – Brian, AI6US – Feb. 3: 5 passed:

4 new Technicians; General: 1 upgrade.

Next exams: March 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 (moving by June). **Need new chair**

Christmas Party – **need new chair**

Hamfest – Aaron K6ABJ – not present. Will be at Loomis Depot parking lot.

Hot RF Nites – Greydon KC6SLE – Smitty is co-chair. SFARC is host. New Date: May 17.

Jim (WA8MPA) to talk to the Church re availability.

HamFest – Aaron K6ABJ chair. March 22. Planning meetings on ZOOM. Smitty handling promo's.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Repeater Project – Brian AI6US – Brian AI6US presented plan for 2 Voting Receiver sites.

Estimates \$9,000 budget. Extensive discussion with Board.

**Motion** to Accept project and budget by Jim WA8MPA,

**Second** by Clyde AC4CC.

Vote: **Yea: 5, Nay: 0. Motion Passed to Membership vote.**

Scholarships – Jim WA8MPA – will present at March Membership meeting with Earl K6GPB

Financial Audit – Gary KB7QWC, David N6OJJ, Earl K6GPB – Dave N6OJJ reported audit is

completed; “The Club appears to be in a financially healthy position with its current activities.”

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

Hamfest – March 22, 2025

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Events/Upcoming**

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

Saturday Breakfast – February 22, 2025, 0730, Mel’s. Diner, CA 49 @ Luther Road.

Fox Hunt – February 22, 0930. TBD.

HAMFEST Planning – February 20, 1800 in Club’s ZOOM Room

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

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

Adjourned: 1934 PDT

Respectfully submitted:

Dave McBrayer N6OJJ

SFARC Secretary-2025

# **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

SFARC Secretary | David McBrayer (N6OJJ)

**OPEN THE MEETING** 1933 PST

\* Welcome Aaron – W1ATB

\* Pledge of Allegiance

## **OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

President	Aaron – W1ATB	
Vice Pres.	Jim – W6JCZ	NP (not present)
Secretary	Dave – N6OJJ	Audit completed
Treasurer	Ron – KA6UAI	NP
Director	Greydon – KC6SLE	NP
Director	Jim – WA8MPA	nothing at this time
Director	Mark – W2MWK	nothing at this time

Welcome Guests – none present

Welcome New Members/New Licensees, WB6BEN, Ben

**QUORUM?** ( 54) **YES** NO 25 in-house, 29 on-line

## **CLUB BUSINESS**

Approval of Minutes for January 10th, 2025

**YAY: Accepted as presented in newsletter** NAY: none

New Members - Introduction Jeff – KM6RGO

### **New Members, for February Vote**

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)	

**New Members** – Announce the Vote Aaron – W1ATB

**VOTE: YAY: by Acclamation** NAY: none

Welcome of the New Members named above

Bylaws update: results published in the January newsletter  
posted on the SFARC website. Aaron–W1ATB

Audit Committee, intro (Earl, K6GPB; Gary, KB7QWC; Dave, N6OJJ) – Aaron – W1ATB

Promotions Update Smitty – WB1G

Prize Drawing and rules overview Aaron – W1ATB



## Presentation #1

Hamfest Update

Aaron – KM6ABJ

Details of some features of this event: club table (limit 3 items per member), Elmer tours, ICS & Safety Plans, K6IOK 2m repeater will be Talk-In.

More volunteers needed for a successful event.

Event setup will begin at 0430. Sellers admitted at 0600. Seller fee \$10/stall, except SFARC member sellers will be charged \$5/stall.

Buyers admitted free at 0700.

Event will close by 1200.

## Break

## Presentation #2

Repeater Update (**Voting Receivers**) Brian – AI6US led the presentation;

The previously approved “Voting Receiver” experiment is completed.

The results demonstrated the benefits of going to a Voting Receiver System for the W6EK SFARC 2m repeater: no desense, no intermod, and much improved coverage for HT users.

Repeater Update Committee is requesting \$9,000 from the Club to build out the Voting Receiver System for the SFARC 2m repeater. Equipment purchased for the experiment will be included in the final Voting Receiver build out.

**MOTION** “To authorize \$9000 to the Repeater Committee for the acquisition of specified equipment and installation of said equipment at the SFARC repeater vault and at the designated secure Voting Receiver sites. Linking will not utilize RF.” by Aaron KM6ABJ, **SECOND** by Mark, W2MWK. **VOTE:** AYE=53, NAY=1.

## COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater Station Trustee

Clyde – AB4CCNP

Repeater Committee

Brian – AI6US Nothing to add

Audit Committee - Audit Results

Gary - KB7QWC/David N6OJJ/Earl K6GPB

A summary of the recent financial audit according to Art. IX, Sec. 1.4 of the SFARC

Bylaws was presented by Dave N6OJJ.

There were 3 recommendations. The conclusion is “The Club appears to be in a financially healthy position with its current activities.” The complete Audit Report will be placed in the Club Secretary’s records.

Greeter/Sunshine  
VE Exam

Pam – KN6GTK

Nothing to add

Brian – AI6US Feb 3: 4 new Technicians, 1 upgrade to General. Next VE exam date: March 3.

Volunteer Events

Chip – KM6MDF

Nothing on calendar yet.

Amateur Exam Classes

Orion – AI6JB NP

Newsletter Editor

Jim – W6JCZ

NP

Satellite

Greg – KO6TH ISS using SSTV as experiment;  
downlink: 437.550MHz.

Public Information Officer (PIO)

Smitty – WB1G

NP

Website	Smitty – WB1G	NP
Social Media Officer	Smitty – WB1G	NP
Hamfest	Aaron – KM6ABJ	Nothing to add.
Groups.io Site	Aaron/Smitty/Dennis	Nothing to add
Membership	Jeff – KM6RGO	Field Day in June! Requests ALL members log into HamClubOnline to confirm their Member status.
Nomination Committee	<b>Need new chair by June!!!</b>	
ARES	Scott – KM6RFB	Nothing to add
Refreshments	Mark – W2MWK	Nothing to add
Drawing Chair	Ray – KK6AM	Nothing to add
Scholarship Committee	Earl – K6GPB	\$3,000 in scholarships available. Applications must be submitted
Equipment Donations / Library	Jim – WA8MPA	Nothing to add
Contest Chair	Orion – AI6JB	Brian, AI6US reported SFARC placed 1st in the Channel Islands category for the California QSO contest in 2024.
HotRF Nights	Greydon – KC6SLE	NP
Christmas Party	<b>Need new chair</b>	

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Event	Date
Monthly Sat. Breakfast	Feb 22nd @ Mel's Diner, Grass Valley Highway @ Luther Road, @0730
Fox Hunt	Feb 22nd 25th @ 0900
Hamtrack II	Mar 6-7 <sup>th</sup>
Hamfest Planning mtg -	Feb 20th @1800, Zoom
Hamfest	Mar 22 <sup>nd</sup> Historic Loomis Depot @0700
Christmas Party Date	Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Club Net -	Every Thursday @ 7:30pm (145.430, PL=162.2)
Elmer Net -	Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30 PM (145.430, PL=162.2)
All Node Net –	Every Monday @ 6:00 PM (145.430, PL=162.2)
In the Shack -	Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday @ 7:30 PM on Zoom
Coffee Break Net -	Every Morning @ 7:30am (145.430, PL=162.2)
Club Breakfast –	Last Saturday of month @ Mel's Diner @ 7:30 on October 26 <sup>th</sup>

QSTs from the Members? None

### New Members for February Vote

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)	

**ADJOURN – 2131 PDT**

## ADVERTISEMENTS



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SFARC members in good standing can request to have a business-card sized advertisement displayed in the club newsletter. Contact the newsletter editor for more information about how you can have your card in this space.