



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

APRIL 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

April 10, 2025 @ 6 PM

[Online \(Zoom\)](#)

SFARC Club Meeting

April 11, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

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

Breakfast Social

April 26, 2025 @ 7:30 AM

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

Radio Direction Finding

April 26, 2025 @ 9 AM

Location TBD

Visit our [website](#) for more information

DigiPi Zoom Session with Craig KM6LYW

April 30, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

[Online \(Zoom\)](#)

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)

Hamfest 2025: A Smashing Success!

Was that an incredible Hamfest or what? With over 300 attendees, a packed lot, and an abundance of prizes (and wow, did we sell a ton of tickets!), this year's Hamfest has secured its place as one of Sierra Foothill's most successful fundraisers yet. A massive thank-you to everyone who contributed—vendors, sponsors, volunteers (55 strong!), and attendees alike. This event wouldn't have been the triumph it was without each and every one of you. Your support is truly appreciated!

Mark Your Calendars: Hot RF Nights on May 17

Our next big event, **Hot RF Nights**, is just around the corner and will take place on May 17 in the William Jessup parking lot. Get ready for amazing prizes, an exciting array of exhibits featuring Served Agencies and member rig setups, and the return of everyone's favorite treats—Root Beer and Orange Creamsicle floats! FatCat Catering will also be back with their delicious food offerings to keep us all energized. With a little luck, we're hoping for cooler weather than last year's sweltering 100-degree temperatures. Don't miss it—mark your calendars and join the fun!

Seeking Volunteers for Key Committees

We're looking for enthusiastic members to help with the following committees:

- **Nominations Committee** (to prepare for next year's officer elections)
- **Christmas Party Planning** (as Gerry will be stepping down this year)

If you're interested in lending a hand, please reach out to me so we can discuss the details. Your involvement makes all the difference!

Until next month, see you on the airwaves!

Aaron – W1ATB
President, SFARC

LOOKING FORWARD

SFARC Vice President | Jim Zheng (W6JCZ)

Welcome to April! What's coming up next is no joke, because Hot RF Nights, our annual ham radio themed car show, will take place in May! That's right, on May 17 amateur radio operators and emergency communications personnel from all over the area will spend an afternoon checking out each others' setups, exchanging ideas, learning a thing or two, all while enjoying great food and social time. Whether it's your car, truck, van, or RV, bring it by so we can all admire your work and get inspired to take radio out into the field. No mobile install? No problem, because go kits big or small have stories to tell! Whatever it is you've got, come show it off and be a part of the action. Need something to get you in gear? SFARC will be there to strut our newest rigs, just in time for Field Day in June!



Closer than all that is the club VE session on the 7th, a club meeting on the 11th, and our monthly breakfast and radio direction finding exercise on the 26th. We're not quite through with events after that, because this month we've got a special special session on the evening of the 30th with Craig (KM6LYW), developer of the DigiPi, a complete ham radio digital interface built around the Raspberry Pi. Operate APRS, WinLink, FT8, RTTY, and a whole lot more with one ultraportable device that integrates neatly into your existing station. This is one event you won't want to miss, and even if you're a seasoned DigiPi user there's always an opportunity to learn about how others are using theirs and show all the cool things you've done with yours!

Hope to see you around, whether it's in person or online!

Jim Zheng (W6JCZ)
SFARC Vice President

MARCH 2025 IN PICTURES



March 6, 2025 – Views aboard the train to Reno, NV



March 6, 2025 – Members gather after arrival



March 6, 2025 – Dinner at the Silver Legacy resort



March 22, 2025 – SFARC at Hamfest



March 22, 2025 – Vendor booths at Hamfest

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

SFARC Membership Coordinator | Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)

Congratulations to the newest members of SFARC who were voted in at March's general club meeting!



Bret Ewart KO6HRO
Andrew Michaelis KU6O
Marty Main KO6GXX

We have 12 new members to vote on at the next club meeting on April 11.

Brett Ewart KO6HRO	Andrew Michalis KU6O
Marty Main KO6GXX	David Honeywell KO6HXC
Daniel Dillon KO6EBW	Brian Daly W6DLY
Kirk Schild KO6HLW	Brandon Lang KO6FPT
Nathaniel Carothers KO6IHQ	Craig Keithley KM6DJU
Lawrence Newcomb KO6IHJ	Daniel DeLoach KO6IDV



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.

Officer & Board Member Reports

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

Treasurer: Ron Holland KA6UAI – nothing to report

Secretary: Dave McBrayer N6OJJ – nothing to report

Director: Jim Jupin WA8MPA – what is status of Lifetime Member update?

Director: Greydon Hicks KC6SLE – nothing to report

Director: Mark Koehler W2MWK – nothing to report

also present: Brian AI6US; Greg KO6TH; Clyde AB4CC; Jeff KM6RGO.

Introductions around.

Quorum: minimum 4 Board members = MET

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee) – Clyde AB4CC, New repeater controller donated by AK6OK.

Repeater Committee – Brian AI6US – 2m Antenna (with installation) donated to project, saving \$6k.

Newsletter – Jim W6JCZ – submissions needing edits will be returned to submittor.

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

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

Membership – Jeff KM6RGO –

currently enrolled: 287 members.

general meeting (Mar. 14) quorum (20% of current) = 57.

VE exams – Brian, AI6US – Mar. 3: 3 exams:

2 new Technicians.

Next exams: April 7, 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.

Per W1ATB, Walk through at Loomis Depot parking lot, 3/20 at 1700.

Hot RF Nites – Greydon KC6SLE – Smitty is co-chair. SFARC is host.

New Date: May 17, 1500-2000.

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

Field Day – Jeff KM6RGO – Smitty WB1G co-chairs

Picnic – Arron W1ATB chair

OLD BUSINESS

Repeater Project – Brian AI6US – nothing to report

General meeting – Jim WA8MPA – needed pantry items: dry goods, TP, paper towels, pasta, canned items; peanut butter.

NEW BUSINESS

Placer County ARES – Scott KM6RMB – has 501(c)(3) with California. Interested in acquiring 2 single-axle trailers with side door and fold-down ramp from the state.

Events/Upcoming

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

Hamfest Site walk-through – March 20, 2025 @1700, Loomis Train Station

Hamfest – March 22, 2025, Loomis Train Station

Saturday Breakfast – March 29, 2025, 0730, Mel's. Diner, CA 49 @ Luther Road.

Fox Hunt – March 29, 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: 1846 PDT

Respectfully submitted:

Dave McBrayer N6OJJ

SFARC Secretary-2025

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SFARC Secretary | David McBrayer (N6OJJ)

OPEN THE MEETING 1930 PST

* Welcome Aaron – W1ATB

* Pledge of Allegiance

OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

President	Aaron – W1ATB	
Vice Pres.	Jim – W6JCZ	Looking for more speakers
Secretary	Dave – N6OJJ	Nothing to report
Treasurer	Ron – KA6UAI	Ready for HamFest
Director	Greydon – KC6SLE	Nothing to report
Director	Jim – WA8MPA	Ready for HamFest
Director	Mark – W2MWK	Nothing to report

Welcome Guests – KO6CUB, KO6IHJ, KM6WGE

Welcome New Members/New Licensees –

QUORUM? (58) **YES** NO 34 in-house, 24 on-line

CLUB BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes for January 10th, 2025

Accepted as presented in newsletter

New Members, for March Vote:

Bret Ewart KO6HRO Andrew Michaelis KU6O Marty Main KO6GXX

New Members – Announce the Vote Aaron – W1ATB

Motion to Accept by Brian AI6US. Seconded by Dan KN6WQU

VOTE: YAY: by Acclamation NAY: none

Welcome of the New Members named above

Promotions Update Smitty – WB1G Not Present

Prize Drawing and rules overview Aaron – W1ATB

Presentation #1

Hamfest Update Aaron – KM6ABJ
Setup at 0430.
Sellers admitted 0600.
Buyers admitted free at 0700.
Event will close by 1200.

Break

Presentation #2

Western States Endurance Run K6SAT
Tevis Cup

Club Business

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater Station Trustee	Clyde – AB4CCNP
Repeater Committee	Brian – AI6US Voting Receiver project making good progress. KK6OK donated “Arcom” repeater controller.
Greeter/Sunshine	Pam – KN6GTK Nothing to add
VE Exam	Brian – AI6US March 3: 2 new licensees. Next VE exam date: April 7.
Volunteer Events	Chip – KM6MDF CERA in May.
Amateur Exam Classes	Orion – AI6JB Extra class in progress. Technician class starts April 22.
Newsletter Editor	Jim – W6JCZ Newsletter going well.
Satellite	Greg – KO6TH New batch of CubeSat kits available- \$400.
Public Information Officer (PIO)	Smitty – WB1G NP – HamFest next weekend.
Website	Smitty – WB1G NP
Social Media Officer	Smitty – WB1G NP
Hamfest	Aaron – KM6ABJ HamFest next weekend.
Groups.io Site	Aaron/Smitty/Dennis Nothing to add
Membership	Jeff – KM6RGO Field Day in June! Requests ALL members log into HamClubOnline to add a contact phone number.
Nomination Committee	Need new chair by June!!!
ARES	Scott – KM6RFB Been asked to join CALCARTS. Has received a cache of HT’s and Laptops – to be configured for ARES.
Refreshments	Mark – W2MWK Nothing to add
Drawing Chair	Ray – KK6AM Nothing to add
Scholarship Committee	Earl – K6GPB Nothing to add
Equipment Donations / Library	Jim – WA8MPA Need help with Library. The number of books has greatly grown.
Contest Chair	Orion – AI6JB State QSO Parties- LA, MO, GA, ND, and several more. CQWW WPX.
HotRF Nights	Greydon – KC6SLE Save the date: May 17.
Christmas Party	Need new chair

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Event	Date
Hamtrack II	Mar 6-7 th
Hamfest site walkthrough -	Mar 20 th @1800, Loomis Historic Depot
Hamfest	Mar 22 nd Historic Loomis Depot @0700, setup: 0430.
Monthly Sat. Breakfast	Mar 29 @ Mel's Diner, Grass Valley Highway @ Luther Road, @0730
Fox Hunt	Mar 29 @ 0900
Doughnuts-in-the-Park	TBD
Hot RF Nights	May 17
Club Picnic	TBD
Christmas Party Date	Dec 13 th

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

QSTs from the Members? None

Prospective New Members for March Vote

Bret Ewart KO6HRO Andrew Michaelis KU6O Marty Main KO6GXX

ADJOURN – 2119 PDT

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