



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

AUGUST 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 (KA6UAL) 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)

ELMER LEAD

Greydon Hicks (KC6SLE)

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, CA

CLUB EVENTS

SFARC Board Meeting

August 7 @ 6 PM

[Online via Zoom](#)

SFARC Club Meeting

August 8 @ 7:30 PM

Confluence Church or [Online via Zoom](#)

1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA

Breakfast Social

August 30 @ 7:30 AM

Wings Grill & Espresso Bar

13595 New Airport Rd, Auburn, CA

Radio Direction Finding

August 30 @ 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)

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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SFARC President | Aaron Bond (W1ATB)

Welcome to August!

I hope you're all enjoying a fantastic summer and finding a little downtime to relax and recharge. For me, it's been a whirlwind—always a hundred things to do and never quite enough time to finish them. I start one task, get sidetracked by another, and by the end of the day, I'm wiped out and can't even remember what I worked on. I used to chuckle when my dad did that... now I'm living it. Ha!

Still, I managed to sneak away for a day with a buddy to play some radio in 4x4 country. He brought his Icom IC-705, and I packed my new Yaesu FTX-1. It was a three-hour drive each way, with two hours of fiddling with radios and antennas in between. Lots of dust, stunning views—and an epic milkshake stop at one of my favorite hole-in-the-wall burger joints on the way back. Worth every mile.



If you missed our Fifth Wednesday presentation with Dr. Ed Fong, I highly recommend catching the replay on our website. He shared the story behind his tri-band antenna, including the challenges he faced and how it all came together. It was a fascinating talk and well worth a second viewing.

Looking ahead, don't forget about our next big event: the SFARC Club Campout at Stampede Reservoir, happening September 18–21. Last year we had around 75 attendees and an absolute blast. Think movie nights, fox hunts, food, fellowship, radio fun, hiking, biking—and yes, more food. You can find all the details and RSVP info here: <https://www.w6ek.org/activities/campout> Be sure to reserve your campsite and let us know where you'll be staying!

A quick note about our repeater: we recently lost internet at the vault site for about a day and a half due to an AT&T outage. Huge thanks to our repeater team for jumping in after hours to get everything back online. That said, we didn't hear about the issue until the next day—which highlights an important point: if you notice the repeater is down, please report it right away so we can respond quickly. Even our crisis team takes breaks now and then (hard to believe, I know). Help us be proactive by reporting issues here: <https://www.w6ek.org/repeaters>

And don't miss our next club meeting on **Friday, August 8th** at **Confluence Church in Auburn**. This month we'll be meeting in the **front lobby**, so please park in the main lot. We'll be discussing how the club did at Field Day, and I'm eager to hear the full report!

That's probably enough rag-chewing for this month. See you all on the air!

73,

Aaron

President – Sierra Foothills ARC

LOOKING FORWARD

SFARC Vice President | Jim Zheng (W6JCZ)

Earlier in the year, Bob (KD6QVD) approached me to discuss something he's been working on for quite some time. Interested in what he had to show, I arranged to visit his workshop and was amazed at the grab-and-go boxes he engineered. Best described as no-nonsense to-the-point, these were professionally designed communications kits made for demanding situations. That's why I'm really looking forward to August's club presentation where he'll show us several of his tactical radio setups, focusing on goal-oriented approaches to engineering and design. Many of us (me included) aspire to put together go-boxes and easy to deploy communications systems, but along the way things often end up more complex than they need to be. Something that makes sense to you or me might be fine, but that's only if we're the one using it. Can one ensure ease of use not just for themselves but any potential operator? Come join us as Bob explains what goes into his builds and how easy they are to operate, both as an individual and a team. If you've ever been interested in top-spec portable operations, this is one presentation you won't want to miss out on! Ask questions, get inspired, and find out about good design practices!



We'll have our club breakfast at Wings again this month, and if it's anything like July's it'll be very well attended. A change of venue brings with it great food and amazing views of the runway. Join us afterward for a radio direction finding event and walk off all those calories!

With that, we're only a little more than a month away from the club campout! We have a section of our website dedicated to the event, with an RSVP form, campsite map, directions on how to get there, and even a merchandise shop with T-shirts, hats, mugs, bags, and more! It's shaping up to be an awesome time, and I'm real excited to see you all there!

See you around,

Jim W6JCZ

TECH TIP: A WIRELESS HEADSET FOR HF

SFARC Member | Dennis Gregory (WU6X)

I've just finished setting up the Logitech G522 Lightspeed Wireless headset to play with my PC and FTdx-10 radio, and it is working perfectly ... I'm getting great reports from everyone on HF and can hear myself sounding the best ever on remote SDRs as a test. If you are interested in "cutting the wire" between your radio and current "wired" headset, you might look at the G522 Lightspeed by Logitech. It's getting very good reviews, even better than the G733 replacement, and it will reach up to 100 feet and last 70-80 hours on a charge. It has a detachable boom mic that sits off to the side of your mouth, so you get consistent voice proximity-to-mic to drive the radio. This headset is VERY light and comfortable. It sells for \$139.95 to \$149.95 US, depending on where you shop; I bought mine from BestBuy as Amazon didn't have it.

The G522 headset comes with a Bluetooth dongle that plugs into a PC computer or Mac. I wasn't having any luck getting the sound card in the PC to work with the radio, since Windows can only map a single input and output at a time. So, I tried a virtual mixer software called **VoiceMeeter Banana** (<https://vb-audio.com/Voicemeeter/banana.htm>), shareware, and it solved the problem (WinXP to Win11 compatible). From the website, "VoiceMeeter provides a virtual I/O, to mix and manage audio sources FROM or TO any audio devices or applications."

Mac computer note: I'm not sure how this mapping requirement works on a Mac, but I'll bet there is something similar available out there, and Macs might even do it better.

VoiceMeeter has (3) inputs and (3) outputs. We use 2-INPUTs and 2-OUTPUTs to do the required mapping. Input #1 is used for the Headset Mic, and Input #2 for sound coming from the radio (or the PC) into the Headset. I/O is configured to interface the FTdx-10 via the standard USB control cable; no other cables needed. VoiceMeeter makes mapping 2 inputs to 2 outputs much easier. The website offers good video instruction, although not in English ... Still looking for that! Of course, your windows soundcard may be labeled differently than my settings below ... thank you Billy Gates!

PS: There may be other software available to map connections, but VoiceMeeter is what I used on recommendation from my new friend Corey - AK6NT, a new ham and a very skilled and computer-savvy individual.

Radio Settings

Mode SSB/SSB **Mod Source to REAR**

Mode SSB/Rear **Select to USB**

Mic Gain to 40 (w/mic EQ ON, and PROC LEVEL at 10)

Front Panel **set to VOX** (VOX gain 50; ANTI VOX 20)

VoiceMeeter Settings

Input #1: WDM (WASAPI) **G522 Microphone**

Input #2: MME Multimedia **USB Audio CODEC**

Output #A1: WDM **USB Audio CODEC**

Output #A2: WDM **G522 Headphones**

If you haven't setup the EQ in the DX10, called Parametric (no PROC ON) or P-Parametric (Proc ON) drop, me an email and I'll share my settings, which were setup by another friend, radio-to-radio, using a spectrum analyzer. This will make a huge difference in what you sound like on HF.

The G522 has excellent software from Logitech providing full EQ adjustments of both XMIT and RCVE audio. I emphasized 1500 to 1900Hz and brought most every thing else down to zero or below, espe-

cially frequencies below 600Hz. There are input sliders in VoiceMeeter for mic gain and receiver audio into the headset as well. The headset has a power switch, Bluetooth pairing switch, roller volume control, and mic MUTE button, all on the left earpiece. Basically, I just leave my radio set to VOX ON, and mute the mic with the button on the left headset.



So, I give most of the credit to Corey - AK6NT who suggested using VoiceMeeter, and was instrumental in getting everything to play nicely. I'm thinking this wireless headset solution may also work with the FT-710 and FTdx-101 radios. And, other radios where the computer sound card can be mapped to the mic line, and listen via the radio USB Audio CODEC.

Finally, I can walk anywhere in the house, sit on the deck, and listen/talk on my favorite band. Please let me know if I've put something in here that is critically wrong ... I'll fix it. Meanwhile, look for me on SSB every morning on 40m until 9am, then I'm QSY to CW for the rest of the day.

73, Dennis - WU6X

PICTURES FROM FIELD DAY 2025



Traci (KO6JBM) and Kelli (W6KEL) working the GOTA station



The SFARC Field Day VE team consisting of Shannon (K6TNY), Gary (KQ6RT), Anders (NR6H), and Frank (KG9M)



Plenty of helping hands make Field Day possible



New for 2025: An antenna patch panel to make band-switching a lot easier

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

SFARC Membership Coordinator | Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)

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



John Schulman KB0RB
Matthew Elyash K06IMP
Cory Vuelta AK6NT
Michael Kryss K06JQW
Robert Lerman K6IRK
Randy Falls KJ6QBD
Lane Albright K06JQR

We have 4 new members to vote on at the next club meeting on August 8.

Gregory Roiles K6GAB
Samuel Johnson K6LGU
Jose "Tony" Gomez K06JUA
Robert Clark



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)

OPEN the MEETING 1803 PDT

Call to Order

Aaron - W1ATB

Approve previous month's Board Minutes
as submitted:

W1ATB – No requests for discussion—Approved.

OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Vice Pres. Jim – W6JCZ

Speakers tomorrow:

Jeff, AK6OK & Scott KM6RFB.

5th Wed.: Ed Fong, WB6IQN-triband
antenna

Secretary Dave – N6OJJ

Nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer Ron – KA6UAI
Sat

Field Day cash in: \$492 for Sat/Sun breakfast +
lunch + other donations.

Director Greydon – KC6SLE

Nothing to report.

Director Jim – WA8MPA

August member meeting will be in Lobby.

Director Mark – W2MWK

Water quantity is okay.

others present: Jeff-KM6RGO, KO6TH-Greg, Brian-AI6US.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee) Clyde – AB4CC Not present

Repeater Committee Brian – AI6US

Repairs on-going

Tevis Cup Ride on 7/12, 0300–7/13, 1100 PDT.
Repeater will be fixed in Analog
with 440 linked full-time.

mode

Newsletter Jim – W6JCZ

Adding Elmer Lead content to Newsletter.

mat:

Submissions should be in a word processor for-
*.doc/.docx/.odt.

Webmaster Smitty – WB1G

Not present

Social Media Officer Smitty – WB1G

Information Officer Smitty – WB1G

Groups.io Aaron W1ATB/Smitty WB1G/

Dennis WU6X

Membership: Jeff – KM6RGO

ClubOn-line to
members from June.

W1ATB - Nothing to report

No quorum (64) at June Member meeting. E-vote
conducted June 27 via Ham-
vote in the 5 new

64 e-voters needed to meet quorum.

E-vote tally: 111 voters; 108 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain.

New membership count: 318 members.

Quorum for July membership meeting will be
63 members.

5 new members to vote in at July membership
meeting.

VE Exam Brian – AI6US

Field Day session:

7 tests; 6 upgrades to General, 1 Extra

No Exam Session in July.

Next Exam session: August 4.

Volunteer Events Coord Chip – KM6MDF Not present

Contest Chair Orion – AI6JB

Not present

Scholarship Earl – K6GPB

Not present

Drawing Chair Ray – KK6AM

Not present

Refreshments Mark – W2MWK

Nothing to add.

Nomination Committee Brian – AI6US

Christmas Party Don – WB6LPJ

Not present

HOT RF Nites Greydon – KC6SLE

Nothing more to add.

Field Day Chair Jeff - KM6RGO

Nothing to report

Picnic Chair Aaron – W1ATB

Date – October 5 Location: TBD

Dues Investigatory Committee

Being formed

Budget Committee

Being formed

OLD BUSINESS

General Meeting Jim – WA8MPA

paper goods, kid snacks, pasta, PB, Cereal,
no canned goods.

PCARES Scott – KM6RFB

Not present

NEW BUSINESS

Budget workshop to be scheduled

Nomination Committee Brian – AI6US

Will send a shortlist of suggestions to W1ATB

EVENTS UPCOMING

Club Mtg July 12, 1930 Confluence Church

Sat. Breakfast July 26, 0730 at Wings Grill & Espresso Bar, 13595 New Airport Road, Auburn, CA,

July-Sept.: at Wings Grill

Campout 2025 Oct 18-21 @ Stampede Reservoir

ADJORN

1843 PDT

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SFARC Secretary | David McBrayer (N6OJJ)

OPEN the MEETING 1936 PDT

Call to Order

Aaron – W1ATB

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve previous month's Minutes

as submitted/presented:

W1ATB – No requests for discussion—**Approved.**

OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Vice Pres. Jim – W6JCZ

Newsletter: adding Elmer coordinator content.

Secretary Dave – N6OJJ

Nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer Ron – KA6UAI

Nothing to report

Director Greydon – KC6SLE

Nothing to report

Director Jim – WA8MPA

Nothing to report

Director Mark – W2MWK

Nothing to report

Welcome Guests/New Members/New Licensees

Guests: Carson Haines WB6GON; Tom McNutt; Elizabeth McNutt

Need 63 members “present”

**NOT MET (31 in the room, 24 on
ZOOM = 55)**

CLUB BUSINESS

Motion by Mark W2MWK / Second by Ryan WU6H to hold an E-vote to:

1. Accept the membership applications of: John Schulman KB0RB,

Matthew Elyash KO6IMP,

Cory Vuelta AK6NT,

Michael Kryss KO6JQW

Robert Lerman KO6JQW

The e-vote will be conducted via HamclubOnline to all current members of the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club as of July 10, 2025. Results of e-vote are at the end of this Minutes document.

Jim W6JCZ – Presenter introductions

Program 1 Jeff AK6OK – Antenna Design

Before his demonstration, Jeff presented a check for US\$3000 from the Pacific Amateur Radio Foundation to the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club.

Break

Program 2 Scott KM6RFB – Placer County ARES website

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee) Clyde – AB4CC Not present

Repeater Committee Brian – AI6US	AT&T outage over 2 days disrupted repeater operations. In support of Tevis Cup ride, repeater will will be fixed in Analog mode with 440 full-time July 12 0300 to July 13 1100.
linked	

Newsletter Jim – W6JCZ	Nothing to report.
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Webmaster Smitty – WB1G	Not present
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Social Media Officer – WB1G

Public Information Officer – WB1G

Groups.io Aaron W1ATB/Smitty WB1G/ Dennis WU6X	W1ATB – Nothing to report
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Membership Jeff – KM6RGO	Currently: 318 members.
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to	E-vote for accepting 5 new members will be sent all current members by HamClubOnline this weekend.
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VE Exams Brian – AI6US	Field Day session: 5 upgrades to General, 1 Extra. No Exam Session in July. Next Exam session: August 4.
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Volunteer Events Coord Chip – KM6MDF	“Lost Sierra End Run”, Downieville, July 26 needs help. See Chip for contact info.
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Contest Chair Orion – AI6JB	Brian AI6US reports California QSO Party, 1 st weekend of October.
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Scholarship Earl – K6GPB	Not present
Drawing Chair Ray – KK6AM	Not present
Refreshments Mark – W2MWK	Nothing to add.
Nomination Committee	
Brian – AI6US / Ray KK6AM	Need people to step up for President and Vice-President
Christmas Party – Don WB6LPJ	Not present
HOT RF Nites Greydon – KC6SLE	Nothing more to add.
Field Day Chair Jeff - KM6RGO	Wrap-up on ZOOM soon.
Picnic Chair Aaron – W1ATB	Date – October 5 Location: TBD

EVENTS UPCOMING

Club Mtg Aug. 15, 1930 Confluence Church -

Sat. Breakfast July 26/August 30, 0730 at Wings Grill & Espresso Bar, 13595 New Airport Road, Auburn, CA

Fox Hunt July 26, w/Tom NN6H and Chase

Campout 2025 Sept. 18-21 @ Stampede Reservoir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Club Net – Every Thursday @ 1930 (145.430, PL=162.2)

Elmer Net – Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday @ 1800 (145.430, PL=162.2)

All Node Net – Every Monday @ 1800 (145.430, PL=162.2)

In the Shack – Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday @ 1930 on ZOOM

Coffee Break Net – Every morning @ 0730 (145.430, PL=162.2)

Club Breakfast – Last Saturday / September @ 0730 (Mel's, Grass Valley Hwy at Luther Road, Auburn)

Club Board Meeting – 2nd Thursday/month 1800 on ZOOM

Club Meeting – 2nd Friday/month @ 1930, Confluence Church Gymnasium

Any QST's from members? – none

ADJORN

2127 PDT

Results of new member e-vote conducted via HamClubOnline beginning 14 July 2025 at 20:41 PDT, ending 21 July 2025 at 20:00 PDT.

1. Approval of Minutes for June 2025 Membership Meeting

Shall the June 2025 General club meeting minutes that were presented at the July meeting be approved as presented?

1. Yes – Approve minutes as presented **(92 votes, 92.0%)**
 2. No – Do not approve minutes **(0 votes, 0.0%)**
 3. Abstain **(8 votes, 8.0%)**
-

2. New Member Vote

This is a vote to approve the following applicants into the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club:

John Schulman KB0RB

Matthew Elyash KO6IMP

Cory Vuelta AK6NT

Michael Kryss KO6JQW

Robert Lerman K6IRK

Randy Falls KJ6QBD

Lane Albright KO6JQR

1. Yes – Accept the new applicants into the club **(99 votes, 99.0%)**
 2. No – Do not accept these applicants into the club **(0 votes, 0.0%)**
 3. Abstain – **(1 vote, 1.0%)**
-

Election Statistics:

100 ballots cast, 318 ballots sent = 31% voted

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