



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

SEPTEMBER 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 (KW6U)

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 (KW6U)

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

September 11 @ 6 PM

[Online via Zoom](#)

SFARC Club Meeting

September 12 @ 7:30 PM

Confluence Church or [Online via Zoom](#)

1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA

Fall Campout

September 18 – 21

Logger Campground

Stampede Reservoir, Truckee, CA

Breakfast Social

September 27 @ 7:30 AM

Wings Grill & Espresso Bar

13595 New Airport Rd, Auburn, CA

Radio Direction Finding

September 27 @ 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)

Can you believe we're already 75% through 2025? Where does the time go?

I hope you've been enjoying your summer and getting on the air—whether that's activating a POTA or SOTA, joining a QSO party, or just making contacts from your home shack.

As for me, it's been a whirlwind. Not nearly enough radio time or RV-ing, but the XYL and I have managed quite a bit of travel and family visits this year—Idaho, Georgia, Montana, and Texas. These days I prefer driving, though flying sure does cut down the travel time. My latest project? A hangar in Texas. Think: future remote hamshack.



Next up—the BIG ONE:

Our annual campout at Stampede Reservoir is coming up September 18–21. If you haven't signed up yet, there's still time! Head over to campout.w6ek.org to get all the details. It's going to be an absolute hoot!

And don't forget—September Breakfast:

Join us on September 27th at Wings (Auburn Airport) at 7:30 AM. This will be our last breakfast at Wings for the year; in October, we'll return to Mel's. August's breakfast was packed—nearly 35 attendees! Come grab a bite and catch up with the crew.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

73,

Aaron – W1ATB

President, SFARC

LOOKING FORWARD

SFARC Vice President | Jim Zheng (W6JCZ)

Welcome to September! As the Labor Day weekend comes to an end we begin a month of exciting club activities, starting with a VE session on the 8th. We normally conduct our testing and mentoring session on the first Monday of the month, but this time it lands on a holiday so we've rescheduled it to next week. Unlike most ham exam sessions where people walk in and leave, SFARC members volunteer their time to act as Elmers (mentors) who help explain all that can be done in the amateur radio hobby, share ideas, and answer the crucial "What's next" question.



Our club meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on the 12th, and this month we are focusing on outdoor operation with John (KO6COW), Jayden (W6EFM), and Jimmy (N6FMD) collaborating for a talk all about POTA and SOTA operation. Many already have the mental image of ham radio being in an elaborate and sometimes messy radio shack with antennas and towers close by, but for many others radio plays very well with the great outdoors. Whether you're heading out to a park or scaling a mountain, there's unique fun and stunning experiences that just can't be had operating from home. Come join us as some of SFARC's most experienced outdoor operators discuss what goes into a successful activation, how to prepare for an outing, and what to look out for when operating in the field. We'll also get a glimpse of portable stations in the field, with plenty of pictures that show great examples of outdoor setups. Along the way we'll take questions and comments from others, whether they're seasoned outdoor operators or newly-licensed hams interested in radio beyond the shack!

As always, we'll meet for breakfast on the last Saturday of the month. It's quite a popular event, filling up the entire restaurant and great social time for those that might not otherwise see each other. We also hold a radio direction finding exercise following the breakfast, and it's interesting to see others' setups improve as they learn what works well and what others have built that help them catch the fox.

I'm really looking forward to the annual club campout, starting on the 18th and running through the 21st. Though I've heard many wonderful stories about the amazing time people have up there, I haven't been able to attend until this year. More than great food, fresh air, and excellent views, it's being able to relax with other club members that make events like this so exciting. I've already started preparing for the trip, and I hope to see you there, even if for a few hours!

73 de W6JCZ

ELECTRICAL SERVICE TO YOUR HOME

SFARC Member | Greydon Hicks (KC6SLE)

I was sitting on the deck of the house in Tahoe enjoying a cold one thinking about an appropriate technical topic that would be of interest to Amateur Radio enthusiasts to kick off a new monthly feature article for the Sierra Signal called Tech Talk. For no particular reason I noticed the three wire overhead electric service serving the house and thought about numerous questions on residential electric service I have answered as a HAM and a SFARC Elmer (mentor) in the past. As HAMS, most of us rely on the electric grid as our fundamental source of electrical power. Good to understand how it works.

One common question related to residential electrical service I have addressed in the past is "Why does the electric service from the electric utility only have three wires when within my main panel and house I have four busses and four wires: two hot, one neutral and a ground?" Good question. To answer this, we need to first understand how residential electric service works.

The standard residential service from the electric utilities in the US is 120 VAC for smaller load electrical appliances, and 240 VAC for larger load electrical appliances such as a central air conditioner, electric oven or electric dryer. To provide both 120 VAC and 240 VAC from a three wire service the utility uses a center tapped secondary winding on the low voltage side of its distribution transformers. 240 VAC is available across the full secondary winding, while 120 VAC is available from either end of the full winding to the center tap. Traditionally one end of the full tap is called leg one or L1, and the other end called leg two or L2. The center tap is called the neutral or N.

It is important to realize that the utility neutral (N) is held to zero potential with respect to the earth or ground by rigorous bonding (connection) through ground grids on the utility system and ground rods at each residential service.

Within your main or service panel you will have four electrical busses, an L1 buss, an L2 buss, a neutral buss and a ground buss. But we only have three connections from the utility, how does this work? The L, L2 and N connections are obvious. The N or neutral buss within the main or service panel is connected to the utility neutral. Here is how the fourth wire comes into play. The ground buss within the service or electrical panel is bonded (connected) to the neutral buss within your panel. Note, the bonding of your neutral and ground systems should only be within the main or service panel. Never should the neutral and ground connect or meet anywhere downstream such as within a subpanel, outlet or appliance (refer to the National Electrical Code for more information on this). The reason for this is another topic and discussion for another day.

The ground wire within your home should never be used to complete a 120 VAC or 240 VAC circuit. The ground wire, when all is working properly, should never have any voltage potential or current flow. The ground wire is there solely for safety, solely to provide a safe path other than through a human body or structure back to the utility neutral should a fault (short) occur within your wiring or an appliance.

Hopefully this provides some insight on utility residential electrical service and answers the question of how three utility connections become four wires within your home.

It is also worth mentioning that 240 VAC large load appliances may only have three wires or connections, L1, L2 and ground (G). But I said earlier that the ground should never be used as a return path...where is the return path for a 240 VAC circuit or device with only L1 and L2? A true 240 VAC appliance does not need a separate return path such as the neutral as both L1 and L2 are both the supply and return in 240 VAC only circuit. The ground, the third wire, is again only there for safety during a fault condition.

But wait, you can have appliances that need both 120 VAC and 240 VAC such as modern electric dryers. To supply these devices, you need a true four wire circuit; L1, L2, N and G. When I do residential electrical wiring, I always run four wires of the appropriate amperage to all 240 VAC boxes/outlets. I may not need the neutral today and I just tape it off, but in the future, if its needed, it's an investment that can really pay for itself. Instead of a complex rewiring job you only have to change to the appropriate four prong female plug, connect appropriately and you are all set.

I welcome questions or comments. And please consider submitting your own Tech Talk articles.

73

Greydon KC6SLE

ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION DIRECTOR VOTE

ARRL Pacific Direction Director | John Litz (NZ6Q)

Dear Sierra Foothills ARC members, ARRL Members and friends.

In about a month, ARRL Members in our Pacific Division will have the opportunity to vote for their next ARRL Director. That's something that hasn't happened in as far back as I can remember. If you're not an ARRL member reading this, I encourage you to join ARRL before September 11th so your vote can be counted.

Thank You for taking time to vote in this election. Your voice matters. There is work to be done both here and at ARRL HQ and we've only just begun. I have the skill to recognize our challenges; I have a plan; I have the energy to get the work done. I'm asking for your vote as your Director for the next 3 years.

Thanks to Amateur Radio, I have a lifetime of experience as a leader working with others both professionals and volunteers. My first career in public safety E911. My second as an Engineering Leader. I'm energized to give back to our great community.

ARRL isn't healthy today like it should be. The hobby is growing – ARRL should be too. We can fix things. I've already begun bringing in fresh ideas, common sense and collaboration to the board. Together we can make ARRL a leader in Amateur Radio again.

In our division, I have a plan for better connecting our clubs, sharing best practices, and connecting new hams to clubs like SFARC. Hearing you, listening to your ideas, amplifying your voice, connecting ideas to make them more powerful – this is what I bring to the Pacific Division as Director. I love amateur radio. I'm on the air every day. I'm in the field everyday – enthusiastically meeting hams, helping them explore new technologies, teaching others and listening – always learning. That's part of what's so beautiful about Amateur Radio - You're always learning.

The ARRL status quo of the last 10 or 20 years will not survive the future. ARRL knows this. The organization is thirsty for new perspectives, and fresh ideas. I have a plan for steering the ARRL into a new leader for the 21st century. I want to hear your ideas as well. Together we will shape the future of the ARRL and Amateur Radio and leave it better for the next generation.

I'm asking for your vote and help to shape the future of Amateur Radio.

73,



John NZ6Q

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

SFARC Membership Coordinator | Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)

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

Hello
my name is

**WELCOME NEW
SFARC MEMBERS**



Gregory Roiles K6GAB

Samuel Johnson K6LGU

Jose "Tony" Gomez K06JUA

Robert Clark

We have 7 new members to vote on at the next club meeting on September 12.

Jerry Kwong K06KQE

Adam Thomas K06KJJ

Jonas Clark K06KIA

Thomas Chin KJ6NPV

Nina Keplac KD6QQL

Christopher Connolly N6UCR

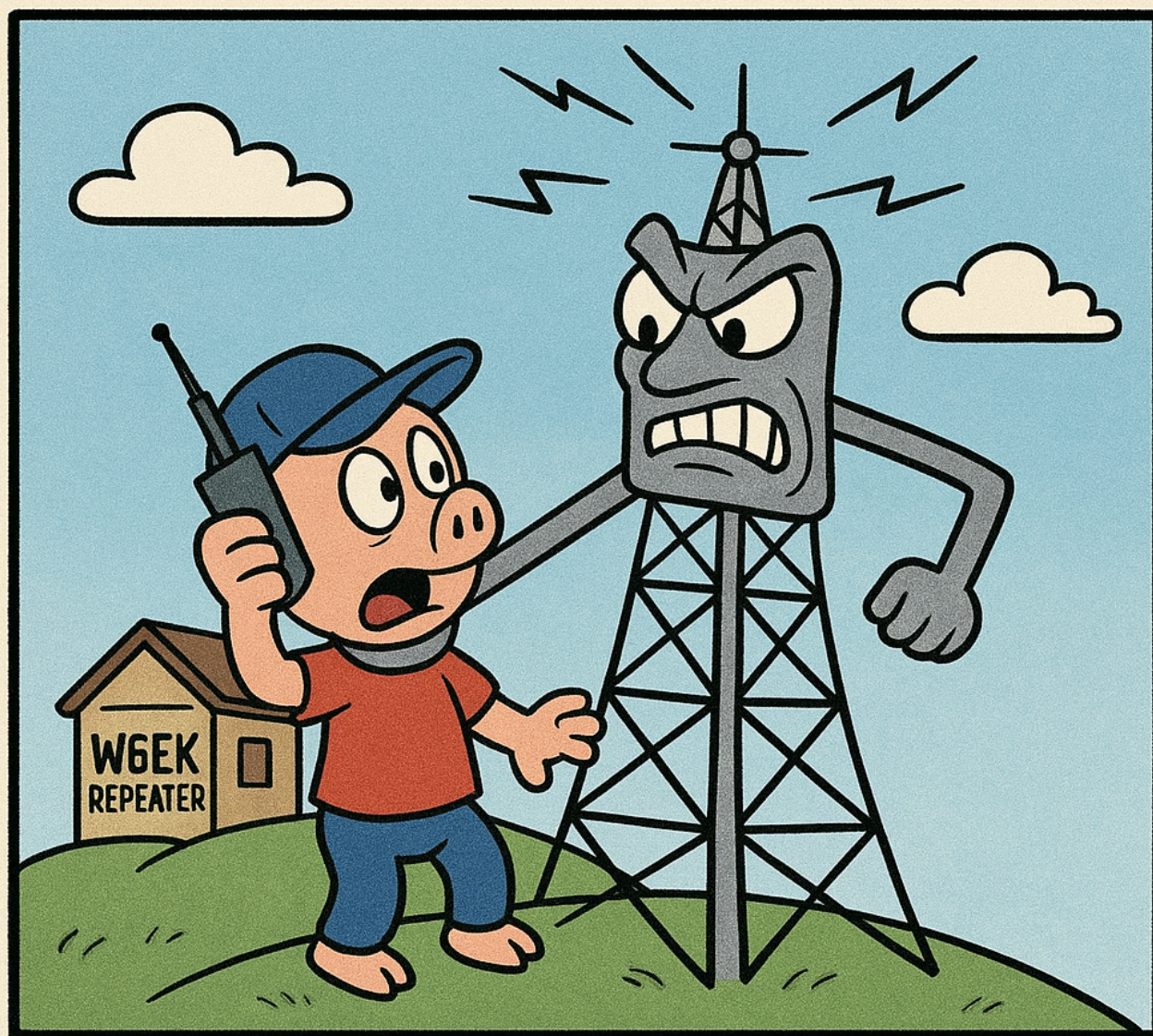
Christopher Bushman WB6EEQ

Hello
my name is

UP FOR VOTE

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

SFARC Member | Gerry Brentnall (WA6E)



Don't kerchunk the repeater.

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/amended:

W1ATB – No requests for discussion—
Approved as submitted.

OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Vice Pres. Jim – W6JCZ

Speakers tomorrow:

Bob, KD6QUD--DIY Go Kit;

Jeff, KM6RGO—Field Day wrap-up

Secretary Dave – N6OJJ

Nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer Ron – KA6UAI

Nothing to report at this time.

Director Greydon – KC6SLE

Not present.

Director Jim – WA8MPA

August member meeting will be in Lobby.

Director Mark – W2MWK

Water quantity is okay.

others present: Jeff-KM6RGO, Greg-KO6TH, Brian-AI6US, Clyde-AB4CC, Dennis-WU6X, Smitty-WB1G.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee) Clyde – AB4CC

Repeater license renewal in Sept., \$35.

Repeater Committee Brian – AI6US

Back-up receiver install pending

Newsletter Jim – W6JCZ

Newsletter posted

Webmaster Smitty – WB1G

Web site ticking along; 1100 Facebook users.

Social Media Officer Smitty – WB1G

Information Officer Smitty – WB1G

Campout promotion

Groups.io Aaron W1ATB/Smitty WB1G/

Dennis WU6X

W1ATB - Nothing to report

Membership: Jeff – KM6RGO

325 currently +4 to vote in. Quorum will be 65. Will keep HamClubOn-Line electronic vote option going forward.

VE Exam Brian – AI6US

Exam session: August 4. 5 exams given; 1 upgrade to General, 3 new

	Technician's; scholarship to 1 student (\$14 Test fee + \$35 FCC fee waived for 1 person)
Volunteer Events Coord Chip – KM6MDF	Not present
Contest Chair Orion – AI6JB	Not present / AI6US: Cal QSO in October
Scholarship Earl – K6GPB	Not present
Drawing Chair Ray – KK6AM	Not present
Refreshments Mark – W2MWK	Nothing to add.
Nomination Committee Brian – AI6US	Experiencing many rejections. Will present nominees on October for membership vote at November meeting.
Christmas Party Don – WB6LPJ	Not present
Field Day Chair Jeff - KM6RGO	New people, more relaxed vibe.
Picnic Chair Aaron – W1ATB	Date – October 5 Location: TBD
Dues Investigatory Committee	Being formed

OLD BUSINESS

General Meeting Jim – WA8MPA	pasta (spaghetti, mac & cheese), pasta sauce, canned chicken, jams, jellies.
PCARES Scott – KM6RFB	Not present

NEW BUSINESS

Budget workshop	Planning for week of August 18.
Smitty	W6EK webstore: Spreadshirt: \$400, so far; ~\$70 pending to General Fund.

EVENTS UPCOMING

Club Mtg	August 8, 1930 Confluence Church lobby
Sat. Breakfast	August 30, 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

1919 PDT

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SFARC Secretary | David McBrayer (N6OJJ)

OPEN the MEETING 1946 PDT

Call to Order

Aaron – W1ATB

Pledge of Allegiance

OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Vice Pres. Jim – W6JCZ

Tonight's Programs

Secretary Dave – N6OJJ

Nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer Ron – KA6UAI

Expenses in alignment

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; Mark-KO6ITR

Quorum: Need 63 members “present”

NOT MET (33 present)

CLUB BUSINESS

New member introductions;

Jeff KM6RGO

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

1. Approve Meeting Minutes from July 11, 2025;

2. Accept the membership applications of:

Gregory Roiles, K6GAB

Samuel Johnson, K6LGU

Jose “Tony” Gomez, KO6JUA

Robert Clark (no call sign)

The e-vote will be conducted via HamclubOnline to all current members of the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club as of August 08, 2025. Results of August e-vote are at the end of this Minutes document.

Jim W6JCZ – Presenter introductions

Program 1 Bob KD6QVD – DIY Grab and Go Boxes, Nina KD6QQL assisting

Break

Program 2 Jeff KM6RGO – Field Day wrap-up

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee) Clyde – AB4CC	Not present
Repeater Committee Brian – AI6US	Backup receiver installation next week
Newsletter Jim – W6JCZ	Nothing to report.
Webmaster Smitty – WB1G	Campout at Stampede Reservoir campground
Social Media Officer – WB1G	
Public Information Officer – WB1G	
Groups.io Aaron W1ATB/Smitty WB1G/ Dennis WU6X	W1ATB – Nothing to report
Membership Jeff – KM6RGO	Currently: 325 members. E-vote for accepting 4 new members will be sent to all current members by HamClubOnline this weekend.
VE Exams Brian – AI6US	August 4 session: 5 exams; upgrades to General: 1, New Technician's: 3. Next Exam session: September 8.
Volunteer Events Coord Chip – KM6MDF	Not present
Contest Chair Orion – AI6JB	Brian AI6US reports California QSO Party, 1 st weekend of October.
Scholarship Earl – K6GPB	Nothing to report
Drawing Chair Ray – KK6AM	Nothing to report
Refreshments Mark – W2MWK	Chips & water available
Nomination Committee Brian – AI6US / Ray KK6AM	Need people to step up for President and Vice-President
Christmas Party – Don WB6LPJ	Not present

Picnic Chair Aaron – W1ATB

Date – October 5 Location: will be in
Auburn

EVENTS UPCOMING

Club Mtg Sept. 12, 1930 Confluence Church -

Sat. Breakfast Aug. 30, 0730 at Wings Grill & Espresso Bar, 13595 New Airport Road, Auburn, CA

Fox Hunt Aug. 30 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? – Jim W6JCZ, 5th Wednesday

ADJORN

2127 PDT

Results of new member e-vote conducted via HamClubOnline beginning 2025-08-10 at 15:43 PDT through 2025-08-17 22:00 PDT.

1. Approval of Minutes for June 2025 Membership Meeting

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

1. Yes – Approve minutes as presented **(102 votes, 88.7%)**
 2. No – Do not approve minutes **(0 votes, 0.0%)**
 3. Abstain **(13 votes, 11.3%)**
-

2. New Member Vote

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

Gregory Roiles, K6GAB

Samuel Johnson, K6LGU

Jose “Tony” Gomez, KO6JUA

Robert Clark

1. Yes – Accept the new applicants into the club **(113 votes, 98.3%)**
 2. No – Do not accepts these applicants into the club **(0 votes, 0.0%)**
 3. Abstain – **(2 votes 1.7%)**
-

Election Statistics:

115 ballots cast, 325 ballots sent = 35% voted

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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.