



# SIERRA SIGNALS



P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

JANUARY 2026

<https://www.w6ek.org>

## At The Key at SFARC:

### PRESIDENT

Mark Koehler (W2MWK)

### VICE PRESIDENTS

Jim Jupin (WA8MPA)  
Greg Dolkas (KO6TH)

### SECRETARY

Bob Patton (N6EMS)

### TREASURER

Ron (KA6UAI) and Laurie Holland

### DIRECTORS

Greydon Hicks (KC6SLE)  
Frank Calvillo (KG9M)  
Steven Foley (KO6EBQ)

### PUBLIC RELATIONS / SOCIAL MEDIA

Smitty (WB1G)

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Jeff Morgan (KW6U)

### VE TESTING COORDINATOR

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 @ 7:30 PM**  
**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 7:30 AM – 10 AM**  
**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 Church @ 7:30 PM  
1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA

## CLUB EVENTS

### Amateur Radio Exam Session

January 5 @ 7 PM  
Confluence Church  
1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA

### General Meeting

January 9 @ 7:30 PM  
Confluence Church or [Online via Zoom](#)  
1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA

### Breakfast Social

January 31 @ 7:30 AM  
The Original Mel's Diner  
1730 Grass Valley Hwy #2885, Auburn, CA

### Radio Direction Finding

January 31 @ 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)

## In This Issue:

- President's Message
- Looking Forward
- Membership Update
- Board Meeting Minutes
- General Meeting Minutes



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# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**SFARC President | Mark Koehler (W2MWK)**



I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year. As we turn the page to 2026, I am both honored and excited to serve as your new President of the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club. I look forward to an active and rewarding year ahead as we continue to grow, learn, and enjoy amateur radio together.

We begin the year with several events already on the calendar. Winter Field Day, starting January 24th, is right around the corner and promises to be a great opportunity to sharpen our operating skills, test equipment under real-world conditions, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes this hobby so special. We also have the upcoming Loomis Hamfest on March 28th, where SFARC will host a booth featuring some exceptional equipment generously donated by the families of several of our Silent Keys. This is a meaningful way to honor their legacy while supporting the club's ongoing activities.

Before looking ahead, I want to extend a sincere thank you to our outgoing 2025 Board members for their dedication and leadership throughout the past year. Their hard work kept SFARC strong and active:

- President: Aaron Bond, W1ATB
- Vice President: Jim Zheng, W6JCZ
- Treasurer: Ron Holland, KA6UAI
- Secretary: David McBrayer, N6OJJ
- Director: Jim Jupin, WA8MPA
- Director: Gredon Hicks, KC6SLE
- Director: Mark Koehler, W2MWK

I am also pleased to welcome the SFARC 2026 Board of Directors, and I thank each of them for stepping forward to serve the club:

- President: Mark Koehler, W2MWK
- Co-Vice Presidents: Jim Jupin, WA8MPA & Greg Dolkas, KO6TH
- Co-Treasurers: Ron Holland, KA6UAI & Laurie Holland
- Secretary: Bob Patton, N6EMS
- Director: Gredon Hicks, KC6SLE
- Director: Frank Calvillo, KG9M
- Director: Steven Foley, KO6EBQ

I look forward to working with this outstanding team and to seeing many of you at our meetings and events. Here's to a great year of amateur radio in 2026.

73,

Mark Koehler, W2MWK  
President, SFARC

# **LOOKING FORWARD**

**SFARC Vice Presidents | Jim Jupin (WA8MPA) and Greg Dolkas (KO6TH)**



For January 2026, we will have Scott Read KM6RFB presenting on "Voice Radio Procedures". At the core of it, its purpose is to provide a standardized way of passing speech and data traffic as securely as possible consistent with accuracy, speed and the needs of command and control. But to get the points across, Scott will be enlisting the help of others to demonstrate the stuff that goes right, and wrong, when we communicate. How many of these malpractices do you recognize?

From Greg KO6TH and Jim WA8MPA, we hope you had a great Holiday season, and best wishes for 2026. Just remember to spell the year right... 73!

# **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

SFARC Membership Coordinator | Jeff Morgan (KW6U)

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



Jeff Hankins	K06KVZ
Gary Wray	W6GLW
Jack Gibbs	KK7WQB
Robert Schuman	WB6MUZ
Kerry Schuman	KI6PAL
Joseph Cawood	KF7LPU
Jeremy Graff	K06KUL

**We have 8 new members to vote on at the next club meeting on January 9.**

Judd Strong	W6TGS
James Harry	KK6KYR
Richard Stricklin	KB6BHB
Gary Schussler	K06KLC
Glenn Weatherspoon	K06LGP
Dan Quistgard	K06LMZ
Keith Owen	K06LGI
Corde Wagner	K06LDA



## **Membership Highlights**

**Happy New Year to everyone!** By now nearly everyone should have received a renewal notice from Hamclubonline for SFARC if your membership is due. I am happy to report renewals are coming in at a faster rate than previous years. When you renew your membership, please take a moment to review your HamClubOnline account with the club for accuracy, including phone numbers. This is very important.

A couple of things about HamClubOnline. HCOL, is a volunteer organization that created this software specifically for the benefit of Ham Radio Clubs. They are volunteers who do this in their spare time for the free benefit of us and other clubs. It has been very helpful to a club such as ours, we have a moderately large and diverse membership, and there are few good software solutions, other than expensive commercial applications. They do have some hosting costs and we give a donation each year to them to help with this, but, it is much more affordable and keeps the costs of management to us down. So far, HCOL has served our needs very well and we are happy to continue with them. There are a couple of things that could help us maintain good service for members you should be aware of.

Multiyear memberships: Multi Year membership, the end date needs to be corrected manually. This is not a big issue, but, when you look at your account, please make sure your multiyear membership re-

flects the correct end date. I am testing out a new solution for next years. If you have any issue, please reach out to me via the help form at <https://www.w6ek.org/membership> and we will help solve any issues you may have.

Associate memberships: One of the features of HCOL is you can show relationships, such as family members. Each membership, in HCOL has their own account, including Associate accounts. That sometimes make it difficult to manage an associate dues. There are a couple of work arounds we can share with you if you need help with this, please feel free to reach out to us. There are possible solutions in the future, but it needs to be looked at further.

Now the positives!

- We have 348 active members in HCOL. (can you imaging manually managing memberships?)
- The Roster is at your fingertips! (only accessible to other club members)
- Your data is secure! (Your club account is protected with medical industry level security.)
- Voting for Club Business is recorded accurately and permanently.
- Club Inventory stored online.

There are many other features the administrators can use to manage the club. Bottom line, HCOL has been a tremendous help managing the club membership and useful for tons of other things. If you ever need help, please feel free to reach out.

Cheers and 73!

Jeff Morgan - KW6U

## **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)

11/13/2025 @ 1800 PDT

## OPEN the MEETING 1801 PDT

Call to Order Aaron - W1ATB

## Approve previous month's Board Minutes

W1ATB – No requests for discussion—  
Approved as submitted.

## OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Change of presentation tomorrow: FreeDV digital on HF.

Treasurer Ron – KA6UAI minor info only

Director Greydon – KC6SLE per Brian AI6US-Matt KO6IMP will be fox tender.

other members present: Brian AI6US, Bob N6EMS, Frank KG9M, Aaron K6ABJ, Dennis WU6X, Scott KM6RMB, Greg KO6TH.

## COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee) Clyde AB4CC Not Present

Repeater Committee Brian – AI6US Installed replacement controller, working great.

Newsletter Jim – W6JCZ Nothing to report

Webmaster Smitty – WB1G Not present.

## Social Media Officer Smitty – WB1G

## Information Officer Smitty – WB1G

Groups.io Aaron W1ATB/Smitty WB1G/ Dennis WU6X

Nothing to report

Membership: Jeff – KW6U 340 currently +7 to vote in.  
Quorum will be 68.

	Next Exam session: Dec. 1.
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	New Refreshment person needed. Aaron K6ABJ will bring water tomorrow.
Nomination Committee Brian – AI6US	E-VOTE dates: Nov. 15-Nov. 25. Jeff KW6U will publish the results. Office of President: Mark W2MWK Office of Vice President: Jim WA8MPA and Greg KO6TH will share the position; Secretary: Bob N6EMS; Treasurer: Ron – KA6UAI and Laurie will share the position. Director: Steve KO6EBQ Director: Frank KG9M
Christmas Party Don-WB6LPJ	Aaron W1ATB: RSVP link on SFARC homepage, date: Saturday Dec. 13, 1700 PST, \$10/person at door. Fewer prizes than last year. Caterer: 2 Hermanos; serving by SFARC.
Budget & Dues Aaron – W1ATB	BOD agreed to meet over Zoom on Monday Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM to kick off the budget planning process.

## OLD BUSINESS

Elections Brian AI6US	is okay.
Trailers Aaron W1ATB	Trailers are LICENSED.
Scholarships	SFARC Board Needs clarification on amounts
General Meeting Jim – WA8MPA	Paper items, cranberry sauce, gravy (jar/packets), canned yams, stuffing, \$20 supermarket gift cards for turkeys, and cash are most needed.
Budget Aaron – W1ATB	Final review before presenting

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Brian AI6US

Why some don't attend SFARC Meetings.  
Comments include: Audio 'echo-ey,  
heat/chill erratic, meetings run long.

Brian AI6US will investigate with Mark W2MWK  
& Greg KO6TH.

## **EVENTS UPCOMING**

Club Mtg

Nov. 14, 1930 Confluence Church gym

POTA Party

Nov. 16 @ Yolo Bypass Area – Jim W6JCZ

Sat. Breakfast

Nov. 29, 0730 Mel's Original Diner, Grass Valley  
Highway at Luther Road, Auburn, CA

Fox Hunt

Nov. 29, 0900

Christmas Party

Dec. 13, 1700 – Confluence Church

**ADJORN**

**1930 PST**

# **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**SFARC Secretary** | David McBrayer (N6OJJ)

11/14/2025 @ 1930 PDT

## OPEN the MEETING 1931 PDT

## Call to Order

Aaron – W1ATB

## Pledge of Allegiance

## OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Secretary Dave – N6OJJ Nothing to report.

Treasurer Ron – KA6UAI Not present

Director Greydon – KC6SLE Not present

new HamFest leader for 2026 needed

## Welcome Guests/New Members/New Licensees

Guests: Eric WA2RKJ.

New member: Carson WB6GOM, Jeff KO6KVZ.

Prospective Members: Bob Shuman WB6MUZ, Kerry Shuman KI6PAL.

**Quorum: Current membership = 340**

**Need 68 members “present” (20%)**

### **NOT MET (37 in the room, +**

**20 on ZOOM = 57)**

All Member "VOTES" at this meeting will be taken as E-VOTES sent to all current members as of the day before this meeting by "HamClubOnline" within 5 days after this meeting closes as it is more likely to result in more than 20% member participation threshold being met. The E-VOTE tally and results will be placed at the end of these Minutes before posting to the Monthly Newsletter on W6EK.org.

## CLUB BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes for October 10, 2025 meeting      No negative comments.

## Accept the Minutes as posted by Aaron W1ATB..

The two trailers donated to SFARC as permanent assets have been registered with CA DMV with SFARC as the new owner. Photocopy of the CA DMV registration certificates attached to the end of these minutes.

New member introductions;

Jeff KW6U (New callsign)

**Motion by Brian AI6US / Second by Mark W2MWK to Accept the membership applications of:**

Jeff Hankins KO6KVZ, Gary Wray W6GLW, Jack Gibbs KK7WQB,  
Robert Schuman WB6MUZ, Kerry Schuman KI6PAL,  
Joseph Cawood KF7LPU, Jeremy Graff KO6KUL.

**VOTE:** Moved to E-VOTE.

Introduction of 2026 Nominating Committee:

Brian AI6US, Pam KN6GTK, Chip KM6MDF, Ray KK6AM.

2026 Officer nominees:

President: Mark W2WMK

Vice-President: Jim WA8MPA with Greg KO6TH (together)

Secretary: Bob N6EMS

Treasurer: Ron KA6UAI with Laurie (together)

Director: Frank KG9M

Director: Steven KO6EBQ

Director (2<sup>nd</sup> term): Greydon KC6SLE

Nominations from floor requested. NONE offered. Nominations closed.

**Motion to Accept the slate of Officers Nominated for 2026 by Brian AI6US, 2<sup>nd</sup> by ?**

**VOTE:** Moved to E-VOTE.

Review of Proposed 2026 Budget for 2026. Copies were emailed to all SFARC members. Discussion of how 2026 were arrived at. A copy of the Proposed Budget appended to these Minutes.

**Motion to Accept the Proposed 2026 Budget by Bob N6EMS; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob KM6RMB.**

**VOTE:** Moved to E-VOTE.

**The E-VOTES will be conducted via HamclubOnline to all current members of the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club as of November 14, 2025. E-VOTE will be open 2025-11-15 through 2025-11-25. Results (2025-11-25) of November E-VOTE (reviewed and verified by the Nomination/Election Committee) are at the end of this Minutes document.**

**Christmas holiday party (December 12)** – Brian AI6US presented an overview of this event. More volunteers are requested. Catering by “2 Hermanos”.

**Program 1 “FreeDV” by Jim W6JCZ** QSOs using FreeDV RADEv1 (FreeDV.org)

**Break**

**COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

Repeater (Station Trustee) Clyde – AB4CC	Not present
Repeater Committee Brian – AI6US	Everything is good
Newsletter Jim – W6JCZ	Nothing to report
Webmaster Smitty – WB1G	Not present
Social Media Officer – WB1G	
Public Information Officer – WB1G	
Groups.io Aaron W1ATB/Smitty WB1G/Dennis WU6X	W1ATB – Nothing to report
Membership Jeff – KW6U	Not present  Brian AI6US – Currently: 340 members (7 new this month).  E-vote for accepting 7 new members will be sent to all current members by HamClubOnline this weekend.
VE Exams Brian – AI6US	November 3 session:  KO6IHJ now /AE class until FCC reopens.  Next Exam session: December 1.
Volunteer Events Coord Chip – KM6MDF	Nothing to report
Contest Chair Orion – AI6JB	November SSB Sweepstakes.  CQ WW DX-CW; 160m, 10m, RTTY Roundup.  Winter Field Day: Jan. 25-26, 2026.
Scholarship Earl – K6GPB	Waiting for budget amount.
Drawing Chair Ray – KK6AM	Nothing to report.
Refreshments Mark – W2MWK	Kerry Schuman KI6PAL will take over in January.
Nomination Committee Brian AI6US, Ray KK6AM, Pam KN6GTK, Chip KM6MDF	

President: Mark W2MWK

Vice-President: Jim WA8MPA + Greg KO6TH (jointly)

Treasurer: Ron KA6UAI + Laurie (jointly)

Secretary: Bob N6EMS

Director: Frank KG9M

Director: Steven KO6EBQ

Director: Greydon KC6SLE (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Christmas Party Don – WB6LPJ

Not present

Per Brian AI6US, preparation complete.

PC-ARES – Scott KM6RFB

USCCA-511 Store, Sacramento: "Build a Bugout Bag".

Satellite Report – Greg KO6TH

SSTV crossband repeater back on-air.

All satellite status info.: [amsat.org/status](http://amsat.org/status)

## EVENTS UPCOMING

POTA Party Jim, W6JCZ

Nov. 16 at Yolo Bypass Area, 1000-1600PST

Sat. Breakfast

Nov. 29, at 0730 at Original Mel's Diner, Grass Valley Highway at Luther Road.

Fox Hunt

Nov. 29, after breakfast at 0930.

Christmas holiday party

Dec. 13, 1700 Confluence Church Gym.

RSVP on website by Dec. 8, 2025 for sufficient food and seating.

Club Board meeting

Jan. 8, 2026, 1800 on ZOOM.

Club Mtg

Jan. 9, 2026, 1930 Confluence Church Gymnasium

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

In the Shack – Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday @ 1930 on ZOOM

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

Any QST's from members? – WA8MPA: \$300 was donated by members tonight to the Confluence Church's 'Food Closet'.

**ADJORN**

**2118 PDT**

HamClubOnline - Election Results (SFARC)  
Sierra Foothills ARC  
2026 Officer Election and Club Business RESULTS:

(Voting from 2025-11-16 12:55 PST thru 2025-11-25 11:59 PST)

----

#1: Office of President

Shall Mark Koehler W2MWK be elected to the office of President for 2026?

1. Yes (114 votes, 97.4%)
2. No (1 vote, 0.9%)
0. Abstain (2 votes, 1.7%)

----

#2: Office of Vice President

Shall Jim Jupin WA8MPA and Greg Dolkas KO6TH be elected as a team for the office of Vice President?

1. Yes (114 votes, 97.4%)
2. No (0 votes, 0.0%)
0. Abstain (3 votes, 2.6%)

----

#3: Office of Treasurer

Shall Ron Holland KA6UAI and Laurie Holland be elected as a team for office of Treasurer?

1. Yes (115 votes, 98.3%)
2. No (0 votes, 0.0%)
0. Abstain (2 votes, 1.7%)

----

#4: Office of Secretary

Shall Bob Patten N6EMS be elected to the office of Secretary?

1. Yes (115 votes, 98.3%)
2. No (0 votes, 0.0%)
0. Abstain (2 votes, 1.7%)

----

#5: Director Position 1

Shall Steve Foley KO6EBQ be elected to the office of Director?

- 1. Yes (115 votes, 98.3%)
- 2. No (0 votes, 0.0%)
- 0. Abstain (2 votes, 1.7%)

-----

#6: Director Position 2

Shall Frank Calvillo KG9M be elected to the office of Director?

- 1. Yes (115 votes, 98.3%)
- 2. No (0 votes, 0.0%)
- 0. Abstain (2 votes, 1.7%)

-----

#7: 2026 Budget

Shall the budget presented at the November 2025 club meeting be approved as presented?

- 1. Yes - Accept the budget as presented (113 votes, 96.6%)
- 2. No - Do not accept the budget as presented (1 vote, 0.9%)
- 0. Abstain (3 votes, 2.6%)

-----

#8: New member acceptance

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

Jeff Hankins KO6KVZ

Gary Wray W6GLW

Jack Gibbs KK7WQB

Robert Schuman WB6MUZ

Kerry Schuman KI6PAL

Joseph Cawood KF7LPU

Jeremy Graff KO6KUL

- 1. Yes - Accept these new applicants into the club (116 votes, 99.1%)
- 2. No - Do not accept these applicants into the club (0 votes, 0.0%)
- 0. Abstain (1 vote, 0.9%)

-----

Election Statistics:

117 ballots cast, 340 ballots sent = 34% voted

## ADVERTISEMENTS



**Dennis H. Gregory**  
Instructor/Technician

**MISSION CONTROL**

**Computer Repairs and Support**  
Reasonable rates, free consultation  
Business License #114527

**Phone:** 530-305-0180      **Email:** [yourmissioncontrol@att.net](mailto:yourmissioncontrol@att.net)  
**Auburn, CA**      **Web:** [www.yourmissioncontrol.com](http://www.yourmissioncontrol.com)



**DJ AND EMCEE  
SERVICES  
SINCE 1992**

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.