



P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

MARCH 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)

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Smitty (WB1G)

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Jeff Morgan (KW6U)

VE TESTING COORDINATOR

Brian Gohl (AI6US)

WEBMASTER(S)

Smitty (WB1G)

Greg Dolkas (KO6TH)

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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), James Goldstene (AE6JG),

Steven Foley (KO6EBQ)

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 License Exam Session

March 2 @ 7 PM

Confluence Church

1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA

General Meeting

March 13 @ 7:30 PM

PCHHS Conference Center or [Online via Zoom](#)

Cordova Room 500, 11434 B Ave, Auburn, CA

SFARC Hamfest

February 28 @ 7 AM

Loomis Train Depot

5775 Horseshoe Bar Rd, Loomis, CA

Breakfast Social

March 28 @ 7:30 AM

The Original Mel's Diner

1730 Grass Valley Hwy #2885, Auburn, CA

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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- Officer Reports
- Field Day Update
- Fox Hunt News
- Membership Update
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SFARC President | Mark Koehler (W2MWK)



Hello,

February is behind us, but I hope you all enjoyed the new conference for our General Monthly club meetings at 11434 B Ave in the Health and Human Services Conference center.

March is shaping up to be an exciting month for our club. Speaking of excitement, our annual SFARC Hamfest — is coming up soon! This event is one of the biggest in our region and always a great chance to see familiar faces, meet new ones, find radio treasures, and enjoy a day full of ham radio fun. Looking for a project or parts for an ongoing project? Maybe it's a "new to you" radio? Well come on down to the Historic Loomis train Depot at 5775 Horseshoe Bar Road, Loomis, the fun begins March 28th at 7:00am. We'll have coffee and donuts. And did I mention radios? Check out the W6EK donation tables they are going to be loaded with great deals.

Keep an eye on our website and club net announcements for the latest details about setup, prizes, and volunteer opportunities. The Hamfest is a team effort, and we're always grateful for the many members who help make it a success.

Looking Ahead

Once the Hamfest excitement wraps up, we'll be turning our attention to spring and summer activities. It's time to start planning for Field Day, our biggest operating event of the year. It's a wonderful opportunity to get outside, operate radios, and enjoy the fellowship that makes SFARC such a special club. Yours truly will be this year's Field Day chairman and guess what I'm looking for volunteers.

Thank you all for keeping the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club strong and welcoming. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Hamfest and hearing you on the air throughout the month.

73,

Mark Koehler, W2MWK
President, Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club

LOOKING FORWARD

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



HamFest 2026 Approaches!

The focus of our March meeting will be the upcoming HamFest 2026, to be held March 28th at the Historic Loomis Train Station in Loomis, California. Event chair Frank KG9M will cover the high level event logistics, and introduce the team of folks leading the various functions that make the event happen. They will review what's going on in their area, talk about why their particular area is the most exciting way to participate, and list ways you can contribute. A brief Q&A will be held after the presentations to answer any questions you may have.

Celebrating it's 10 year anniversary, the Loomis HamFest is the region's first of the year, and an event of this magnitude takes the talents and simple participation of many to pull it off. Check out the link on the website's Events page to register for where you can help. <https://www.w6ek.org/support?contact=hamfest>

Besides the day-of participation in the event, we're also looking for folks to help off-load the large inventory of donated equipment on Friday at 5pm. It's a great way to help, and you get a first look (and a great deal) at the goodies! Sign up as above.

THE FIRST AND BIGGEST HAMSWAP OF THE YEAR 10 YEARS STRONG



LOOMIS HAMFEST MARCH 28TH, 2026



SCAN ME OR VISIT
HAMFEST.W6EK.ORG

JOIN THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB FOR HAMFEST 2026
HISTORIC LOOMIS TRAIN DEPOT, 5775 HORSESHOE BAR ROAD
START TIME: 7AM

**SELLERS \$10
Setup @
0600**

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, AND SO MUCH MORE.

**FREE
ADMISSION
AND
PARKING**



5.11 RUSH MOAB
6 SLING PACK

WIN PRIZES!



THE NEW SHARK RF
MIKE IP TRANSCEIVER

**α ALPHA®
ANTENNA
GIFT CERTIFICATES**



RADIO CAGE



SPONSORS



SPECIAL THANKS DONATIONS

- BRIAN GOHL (AIGUS)
- DAVID HONEYWELL (KO6HXC)
- FRANK CAVILLO (KG9M)
- DENNIS GREGORY (WU6X)
- JEFF MORGAN (KW6U)
- SMITTY (WB1C)

10TH ANNUAL LOOMIS HAMFEST

SFARC Hamfest Chair | Frank Calvillo (KG9M)

The Big Day is Almost Here!

Mark your calendars for the first and best swap meet of the year at the **Historic Loomis Train Depot!** Whether you are looking to score a great deal on a new rig, classic equipment, or nearly any ham radio accessory, or just want to socialize with fellow hams, this is the event of the season.

- **Date:** Saturday, March 28, 2026
- **Time:** 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Sellers arrive at 6:00 a.m.)
- **Location:** 5775 Horseshoe Bar Road, Loomis, CA
- **Admission & Parking:** **FREE** for all buyers.

Information for Sellers

- **Cost:** \$10 per space (cash only), first-come, first-served.
- **Requirements:** Sellers must bring their own tables and chairs. No electrical power is provided.
- **Required Paperwork:** Per California law, all sellers must complete [CDTFA Form 410d](#). You can save time registering by bringing a signed copy to expedite your entry. Staff will also have forms on site.
- **Club Table:** SFARC Members wishing to sell 1–2 items can place them at the Club Table for free. Please include your contact info and selling price. Unsold items must be picked up by 11:00 a.m.

Event Highlights

Prize Drawings: Buy tickets for a chance to win cool prizes, including a [Shark RF M1KE](#), RUSH® MOAB™ 6 Sling Pack, Ham Radio Outlet Gift Certificate, a Peovi Radio cage for ICOM 7300 or 7300 MK2, Alpha Antenna gift certificate, and other prizes to be announced soon.

Elmer Tours: New to the hobby? Our experienced "Elmers" will give you a guided tour of the swap meet to explain what the gear is and why you might need it.

The Test Table: Don't buy a "boat anchor"! Bring potential purchases to our test bench, equipped with smart hams to help you test, power supplies, antenna analyzers, and other diagnostic equipment.

ARRL Booth: Loomis Hamfest 2026 is an ARRL-sanctioned event. Visit with the Section Manager and pick up the latest US Amateur Radio Bands charts.

Food: Fresh coffee and donuts will be available to keep you fueled while you shop.

Call for Volunteers

The Loomis Hamfest is the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club (SFARC) 's largest fundraiser, and **we need your help!** We are looking for volunteers to help with **Setup and Teardown, Parking, Security, Concessions, and the Test Bench**. Volunteers will receive a **free coffee and donut** as a thank you. The more volunteers we have, the shorter the shifts will be so that everyone can enjoy the event. Please visit hamfest.w6ek.org to register as a volunteer or ask a question. THANK YOU!

Thank you to our outstanding sponsors and club members who donated for this event:



SPECIAL THANKS DONATIONS

BRIAN GOHL (AI6US)
DAVID HONEYWELL (K06HXC)
FRANK CAVILLO (KG9M)
DENNIS GREGORY (WU6X)
JEFF MORGAN (KW6U)
SMITTY (WB1G)

73,

Frank – KG9M
Chair, Loomis Hamfest 2026
Director, SFARC



PIO / SOCIAL / WEB UPDATE

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club | Public Information Officer
Smitty (WB1G)

First and foremost, I'd like to recognize the loss of a club member that was near and dear to many of our hearts. Ray (KK6AM) was a fixture of our ham community. His "COMMENTS" could be heard in even the fiercest doubles. It's a reminder that no value can be assigned to time; every day is a gift. With that said, I wish his son Steven, daughter Christina (AK6DU), and Son-In-Law Thomas (KN6MJB) well wishes. Please know your dad was truly loved by the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club, we will miss him dearly!!



PIO UPDATE

We are deep into the promotion of the 2026 Hamfest, we just finished a massive push to all the clubs we could think of within 150 miles. Here's to hoping we have a great turnout this year. We've got some great prizes lined up this year. The new Shark RF M1KE IP Transceiver, a Peovi radio cage, a 5.11 RUSH Moab Sling Pack, and a bunch of gift certificates with more prizes being announced weekly. We hope you'll join us on March 28th @ 0700.

LOOMIS HAMFEST
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HISTORIC LOOMIS TRAIN STATION
5775 HORSESHOE BAR RD, LOOMIS, CA 95650
MARCH 28TH, 2026 @ 7:00 AM

WIN PRIZES!

PEOVI RADIO CAGE
GIFT CERTIFICATE
W6EK

SCAN ME OR VISIT
HAMFEST.W6EK.ORG

WEB UPDATE

Did you know the club receives over a dozen help requests each week?

I concluded a big project last month with the deployment of an new and improved membership support portal. With 300+ members, we wanted to improve the tools we have to address questions and help people as they explore the hobby. Thank you to the team of almost a dozen members that help reply to emails and support the club.

SOCIAL MEDIA BY THE NUMBERS

Facebook Group Members: **1,200+** | Instagram: **267 Followers** | X: **92 Followers** | LinkedIn: **41 Followers**

VE TESTING REPORT

SFARC VE Testing Coordinator | Brian Gohl (AI6US)

On February 2, 2026 the Sierra Foothills Volunteer Exam team and SFARC Elmers held a ham radio license exam session at the Auburn Confluence Church campus.

We would like to welcome three new Technician class licensees:

- Jeff Jubra KO6MGA
- Stephen Slocum KO6MGB
- Sam Rus KO6MGC

Sam - KO6MGC is the latest recipient of our student scholarship fund and the exam team has reimbursed him for both the exam and FCC license fees. Congratulations, Sam! Thanks to generous donations from several SFARC members, we also awarded each of these new Technicians a HT programmed with local repeaters and 146.52 simplex.

Two General class upgrades earned by:

- Garritt Darling KO6BMA (SFARC member)
- Tim Mcconville KO6KBH

Two Extra class upgrades earned by:

- Bob Crooks WB6ICY
- Joel Grove KO6LFJ

Congratulations to the new and upgrading amateur radio operators! 100% passing!

Thank you to the VE Team: Anders NR6H (Exam Room VEC) and the signing VE's, Gerry – WA6E, Jeff – KO6KVZ and Brian – AI6US. Also a big shout out to the excellent welcome and mentorship provided by the Elmer team lead by Greydon – KC6SLE, Gary - KQ6RT, Theta – WA6EWF, Jim – WA8MPA, Frank – KG6M, Greg – KO6TH, Don – WB6LPJ, Doug – W2VX, Mark – W2MWK, Jeff - KW6U

Our next Ham Exam session will be on March 2, 2026, 7pm at the Confluence Church Campus (see the club calendar for details). All club members and exam candidates are invited to join us for the pre-session VE / Elmer dinner. This month, we will be devouring the best pizza in Auburn, Old Town Pizza, 510 High Street, Auburn, CA 95603 at 5pm. See you there!



February VE Dinner at Brewster's Burger in Auburn, CA



February VE session's Elmer (mentor) Team

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUEST

SFARC Member | Earl Wilson (K6GPB)

As announced at the last SFARC meeting by president Mark, two more members are needed on the three member audit committee. Article IX, Section 1.4 of the bylaws require the audit of the financial records to determine that proper procedures have been followed. The duties of the committee involve the review of the treasurer's financial records and the submission of a report on the findings to the board. Several hours are involved in the physical review of the records, preferably in Auburn, and the report can be prepared by email with physical signing at a Club meeting. Please let president Mark know of your interest in serving SFARC on this important committee.

FIELD DAY UPDATE

SFARC President | Mark Koehler (W2MWK)

We've already started planning for ARRL Summer 2026 Field Day.

Please keep June 27 and 28 open for this exciting event. Whether you join us for the day or stay the weekend, we eagerly anticipate your presence. As always, if you choose to participate in FD independently, remember to include Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club in your log submission. Your numbers will be added to the club's aggregate score.

For more information about summer Field Day 2026 over the coming months please visit our SFARC web site at W6EK.org and in future updates in our monthly Newsletter.

We have some key positions filled. Garritt, KO6BMA, has volunteered to chair the Saturday night dinner. This year, we have co-chairs for the antenna setup: Brian, AI6US, and Matt, KO6IMP. We're also seeking someone to take on the crucial role of Band Master. If you're interested in volunteering to lead an activity during FD or simply want to contribute, please reach out to me.

Mark - W2MWK

2026 Summer FD Chairman

FOX HUNT NEWS

SFARC Member | Greydon Hicks (KC6SLE)

SFARC Fox Hunts are off to a great start in 2026.

In January we had fourteen HAMS attending and one Fox Tender, Greydon KC6SLE. The Hunt took place in the northern Auburn city limits. Eleven out of the fourteen participants found the Fox which was located adjacent to the driving range next to The Ridge. Congratulations to Matt KO6IMP who was the first to find the hidden transmitter.

In February we had twelve HAMS participating with all twelve HAMS successfully finding the hidden transmitter in under two hours. This Hunt took place in the greater Auburn area. Congratulations to Brett KB6LUV for being the first to find the Fox. And thank you to Marty KO6GXX for being the February Fox Hunt host.

The next Fox Hunt will be Saturday April 25. There will be no Fox Hunt in March as that is the date for the Loomis HAMFest.

73, Greydon KC6SLE

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

SFARC Membership Coordinator | Jeff Morgan (KW6U)

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



John Moorehead	KE6JEM
Richard Walter	WB3CSY
Michelle Russo	KO6LNG
David Nash	KO6LON
Jose Cueva	AK6PE
Robin Goldstein	W6RDG
James Ewald	N7ZFI
John Tegan	WL7B00
Arthur Botrell III	KD60
David Porter	KO6LDD

We have 5 new members to vote on at the next club meeting on March 13.

Jeff Jubera	KO6MGA
Rich Minear	KCØRKM
Samuel Speigel	KE6NTD
Stephen Reagen	KO6MEZ
Dmitri Chinguel	KO6MDG



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 | Bob Patton (N6EMS)

February 12, 2026 (Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM by the President (Mark) and a determination was made that we have a quorum.

Board Members and Club Officers in attendance:

- President – Mark W2MWK
- Vice President – Greg KO6TH
- Secretary – Bob N6EMS
- Treasurer – Ron KA6UAI and Laurie
- Director – Greydon KC6SLE
- Director – Frank KG9M
- Director – Steven KO6EBQ

Mark proposed a thank you letter and \$300.00 to go to the Confluence Church for the years of supporting the club by providing use of the campus and meeting room space. After some discussion it was agreed that the club would send a thank you letter and a \$300 gift to the food bank. The board voted and approved bringing a motion to the general membership tomorrow.

Mark stated he was stepping to the chairperson role for Field Day. He stated he is actively recruiting members to volunteer for the different positions at Field Day.

The financial audit has been delayed by family health issues in several of the audit committee's families. Mark requested the board's approval for the introduction of a motion at the general membership meeting asking for a one time extension of the audit deadline to May 7th. Frank brought forward a motion which was seconded by Clyde and approved by a vote of the board.

Frank gave an update on Ham Fest and the need for additional volunteers. Mark has him scheduled for a brief presentation at the general membership meeting.

Bob reported nothing new to add this month

Treasurer Ron reported that we had 52 new memberships, nine people paid for classes, and eight people made donations.

Director Greydon stated that we had 14 people participate in the fox hunt. Marty KO6GXX is the president of the Nevada County ARC and they want to start their own fox hunts and ask for some help from our club to develop their program. Greydon added that we have 23 Elmers and 11 participated at the last VE exam session.

Earl K6GPB spoke to the board about scholarships and three candidates from inside the club family have been identified. Greg KO6TH made a motion that was seconded by Clyde that the three candidates be awarded scholarships. The board approved the motion by vote. Greg put forward a motion to have the scholarship committee expand the candidate search to the local high schools to capture additional scholarship candidates. Frank seconded the motion and motion was approved by board vote.

It was noted by Mark that Dudley McFadden had agreed to work with Jeff and take over membership.

Brian reported that we had a very successful VE session resulting in 3 new Technicians, 2 General upgrades, and 3 Extra class upgrades. The next VE session will be March 2nd at 7 PM. Pre-session dinner will be at Old Town Pizza at 5 PM.

It was mentioned that several runs and motorcycle enduro events are coming up in spring and you can volunteer through the website.

Clyde and Brian reported on repairs that were made to the repeater system requiring \$630. Clyde made a motion and Mark seconded the motion to approve the funds for this. The motion passed unanimously.

Robert reported for refreshment committee that they purchased smaller water bottles due to reduce waste.

Brian is seeking members for the nomination committee and the board ask that he be a mentor this year.

Frank is working with Ron and Laurie to get two checks out to the town of Loomis for Ham Fest. Smitty reported that he reached out to the local ARRL team and they plan on attending and requested space for a ARRL table.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SFARC Secretary | Bob Patton (N6EMS)

The meeting was called to order by Mark W2MWK at 1930 Hrs and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Club officers in attendance were President, Vice President, Secretary and all three Directors. The treasurer was attending by Zoom.

Attendees were given a quick orientation to the facilities, room procedures and restroom locations.

Acknowledgment was given to Placer County Public Health Director Mike Romero for assisting in securing the facility for club meetings. Dave Atkinson, Assistant Director of Emergency Services was present to welcome us as representative of Placer County.

Mark gave a quick review of membership renewal status and encouraged all members to visit the HamClubOnline site to check their status and renew their membership. Only current members will be able to vote. All general membership votes will be online and are open for voting for one week. 73 members need to renew out of 368 total.

Club Business

Previous minutes were approved

There was a one time request by the board to extend the time requirement for the financial audit of the previous year due to some health issues. A motion was made by W0KI (online) and seconded by Earl K6GPB. Vote will be held online.

The Board approved a \$300 donation to the Food Bank through the Confluence Church as a thank you gift for five years of club meeting and VE testing facilities use. Greydon KC6SLE gave us a presentation recapping all the club events held there. He put forward a motion which was seconded by Scott KM6RFB. Vote will be online.

Committee Chair Reports

Most updates moving forward will be given through written updates submitted to members through the newsletter.

Frank KG9M gave us an update on the Loomis Hamfest planning. He requested that we visit Hamfest.W6EK.org and promote the event, donate to the prize fund, and sign up as a volunteer. Volunteer opportunities exist in Set-Up, Tear Down, Security, and Parking. Sign up online at Hamfest.W6EK.org.

Presentation

Jeff Allbright N5JEF gave a presentation on Spread Spectrum and Mesh Networking. If you missed it you can find it at [youtube.com/@W6EK](https://www.youtube.com/@W6EK).

Conclusion

The drawing was held and two HRO gift cards were awarded to Jeremy KO6KUL and Aaron W1ATB

The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hrs.

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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.