



P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

AUGUST 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)

GREETER / SUNSHINE

Pam Bautista (KN6GTK)

PUBLIC RELATIONS / SOCIAL MEDIA

Smitty (WB1G)

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Jeff Morgan (KW6U)
Dudley McFadden (KO6DRM)

VE TESTING COORDINATOR

Brian Gohl (AI6US)

WEBMASTER

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), 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,
PCHHS Conference Center @ 7:30 PM
Cordova Room 500, 11434 B Ave, Auburn, CA

CLUB EVENTS

Amateur Radio License Exam Session

August 3 @ 7 PM
Confluence Church
1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA

Board Meeting

August 13 @ 6 PM
[Online via Zoom](#)

General Meeting

August 14 @ 7:30 PM
PCHHS Conference Center or [Online via Zoom](#)
Cordova Room 500, 11434 B Ave, Auburn, CA

Breakfast Social & Radio Direction Finding

August 29 @ 7:30 AM
Wings Grill & Espresso Bar
13595 New Airport Rd, Auburn, CA
Visit our [website](#) for more information about RDF

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
- August Club Meeting
- Fox Hunt News
- SFARC Fall Campout
- Membership Update
- Board & General Meeting Minutes



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SFARC President | Mark Koehler (W2MWK)

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and memorable Fourth of July as we celebrated our nation's 250th birthday. It is remarkable to reflect on that history—and fitting that amateur radio continues the American tradition of experimentation, innovation, public service, and community involvement.

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at our General Membership Meeting on July 10. Our meetings give us an opportunity to exchange ideas, learn something new, and enjoy the fellowship that makes SFARC such a welcoming and active club.

July also gave us several opportunities to get together away from the meeting room. We enjoyed a fun club breakfast at Wings Grill at the Auburn Airport, followed by our monthly Fox Hunt. Radio direction finding is entertaining, but it also develops practical skills that can be useful for locating interference, tracking an emergency transmission, or assisting with search-and-rescue operations. Be sure to read Greydon's Fox Hunt report later in this newsletter.



On Sunday, July 26, a group of SFARC members gathered at the Donner Summit SNO-Park to welcome Jeff Morgan, KW6U, as he reached mile 1,153 of his remarkable 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail journey. We monitored TAC 01 simplex while coordinating at the summit—another example of amateur radio bringing people together and supporting an adventure beyond the shack. Congratulations, Jeff! We will continue cheering you on as you make your way toward Canada.



By the time you read this, our Hams and Hops gathering at Moonraker Brewing Company will also have taken place. I hope everyone enjoyed the opportunity to ragchew in person, share favorite radio

stories, and spend time with fellow operators without having to worry about antennas or band conditions. I look forward to hearing your thoughts when we next meet.

Whether we are behind a microphone, hunting a hidden transmitter, supporting a fellow member, or simply sharing a meal, SFARC is at its best when we participate together. Thank you to everyone who makes these activities possible.

73,

Mark Koehler – W2MWK
President, Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club

AUGUST CLUB MEETING

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



For the August 2026 General Meeting, Mark W6MWK and Smitty WB1G will be giving a wrap-up presentation on last month's ARRL Field Day event. By all reports the event was a lot of fun, but how'd we do?

Following the Field Day presentation, Smitty WB1G will give an interactive talk about eSSB, an experimental voice mode that is actually NOT illegal! (Good news, right?)

Finally, a reminder that anyone who worked any stations during Field Day from a location other than the club's FD event can submit their score and include their points in the club's aggregate score. Just go to <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php> and follow the instructions. Be sure to designate "Sierra Foothills ARC" in the "Club or Group Name" field. Even a single contact helps the bottom line! (And, no this is not a solicitation if you're already doing the same for another club.) Entries are due by 7/28!

FOX HUNT NEWS

SFARC Elmer Lead | Greydon Hicks (KC6SLE)

As I am sure most know, there was no Fox Hunt in June due to Field Day 2026. However, we made up for that with great Fox Hunt on Saturday July 25 following the monthly SFARC breakfast. Thanks to Jayden W6EFM and his father John KO6COW for being the Fox Hunt Hosts for July and finding another challenging location for the Fox transmitter.

I also want to thank Brian AI6US for providing an in-prompt due training session for new Fox Hunters on several common and simple Fox Hunting techniques for the new Fox Hunters who joined us this month. Great job Brian and your lessons paid off as it was two new Fox Hunters, Rebe KO6OLH and TJ KO6OHH who as a team were the first to find the hidden transmitter. Congratulations to both Rebe and TJ.

The Fox was located on a hillside close to the southeast end of Foresthill Bridge on Foresthill Road. The elevation and one watt output meant the Fox could be heard from a wide area. It required the use of one's directional and attenuation skills. Lots of attenuation. Challenging, but findable.

A reminder that you do not need much in equipment to be a successful Fox Hunter, and it really is about technique, practice, experience and patience. Let me quickly describe how I found the Fox this month. First, I use my vehicle radio exactly on the Fox transmitting frequency as I drive through the area of the hunt to listen for the signal. Once I acquire a strong signal, I add attenuation by simply tuning the mobile rig one step up, or one step down. As I zero in on the Fox location and the signal gets stronger, I add another step off frequency. When I am confident that I am close, I pull over in a safe location and use my less sensitive HT, again shifting off frequency and body blocking to get a bearing on the transmitter. Then it's a matter of consulting a map of the area and moving in the indicated direction periodically taking more directional reading with the HT using attenuation and body blocking. Again, simple techniques, experience (practice) and patience will get you there. It works.

Here are July's Fox Hunt Results:

- #1 - Rebe KO6OLH and TJ KO6OHH
- #2 - Sam KO6MOC, Jonah, and Brian AI6US
- #3 - Greydon KC6SLE
- #4 - Frank KG9M
- #5 - Mason KO6OOH
- #6 - Evan AJ6OR

We had a total of 14 participants for this Fox Hunt. Thanks to all those who participated and we'll look forward to seeing all of you, and many more, for the August SFARC Fox Hunt on Saturday August 29, 2026, following the monthly SFARC breakfast at Wings.

73 and good RF hunting.

Greydon KC6SLE

**THE CALL OF THE WILD IS A 5 9 COPY
WITH THE SFARC FALL CAMPOUT**

There's still time to RSVP for the **SFARC Fall Campout at Stampede Reservoir**, and if you've been on the fence, consider this your final QSO before the deadline.

A favorite annual tradition for many, the Fall Campout is where the club trades fluorescent lights for firelight and swaps the daily grind for a weekend in the Sierra Nevada. It's a chance to enjoy good company, chase a signal with a *large* group during



our fox hunt, and settle in for a movie under a sky full of stars. And that's just the beginning.

For 2026, we're returning to **Stampede Reservoir's Logger Campground**. All members and guests are welcome. Come for the entire weekend or drop in for a day trip.

The weekend has a little of everything:

- **Fox hunts** — grab your gear and help track down the hidden transmitter
- **Movie night** under the stars
- **Great food, games, and good conversation**
- And if you look (or listen) hard enough, you'll almost certainly find someone with a radio running **POTA** activations

This is a **family-friendly event for all ages**, so bring the family, the kids, and the grandkids. New hams and curious guests are especially encouraged to come see what the hobby is all about.

 [Reserve your campsite on Recreation.gov](#)



Before you head up, we recommend all attendees review the **Frequently Asked Questions** @ <https://www.w6ek.org/activities/campout/faq>

Charge your HT, pack a jacket for those crisp mountain evenings, and we'll see you at Stampede. **Don't forget to RSVP @ <https://www.w6ek.org/activities/campout/rsvp>**
RSVP DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

⚠ IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR RV'ers (August 2026 – October 2026): The dump station is **closed** and will remain closed for the duration of our campout. Please plan accordingly.

73, Smitty (WB1G)

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club | Public Information Officer

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

SFARC Membership Coordinator | Dudley McFadden (K06DRM)

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



Duane Chorley K06NYI
Ross Hanchett K06MMF
Barry Brown K06JFI

We have 4 new members to vote on at the next club meeting on August 14.

Mark Gallagher K06ON0
Rebecca Jewell K06OLH
Thomas Lacoste K06OHH
Stelian Vilceanu AE6OR



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)

Date and Time: 2026-07-09 1800 Hrs

Location: Club Zoom Room

Attendees:

Mark W2MWK - President
Greg KO6TH - Vice President
Jim WA8MPA - Vice President
Bob N6EMS - Secretary
Ron KA6UAI and Laurie - Treasurer
Greydon KC6SLE - Director
Steven KO6EBQ - Director
Frank KG9M - Director

1. Initiating Budget Planning Process Early

The team emphasized the importance of starting the budget planning process promptly to avoid the last-minute rush experienced in the previous year. They also discussed the goal of having the treasurer drive the process and sought volunteers to assist.

2. Transitioning to MoneyMinder and Streamlining Financial Processes

The plan to update the older accounting spreadsheets into MoneyMinder for easier financial tracking and future budgeting was discussed. The process includes reviewing records and entering data into the new software.

3. Proposal to Hire an Accounting Official

The group discussed a proposal, which needs member approval, to allocate up to \$1,000 for an accounting official to aid in setting up financial processes and make the transition to MoneyMinder smoother.

4. Scheduling the Field Day Debrief Meeting

The team needed to find an agreeable date for the Field Day debriefing, with Tuesdays being favored. The tentative dates chosen were the 14th, and if necessary, the 21st of the month.

5. Utilizing Various Virtual Meeting Platforms

Members acknowledged available options for holding the debriefing, including Zoom, Teams (via a newly acquired free license), and corporate accounts to accommodate scheduling and technical preferences.

6. Finalizing Accounting for Loomis Ham Fest

Confirmation was given that the accounting and debriefing for the Loomis Ham Fest were complete, pending one last verification.

7. Soliciting Feedback for Field Day Improvement.

Use of a questionnaire for soliciting feedback on Field Day was agreed upon, with the intention to gather responses before the debriefing meeting, potentially pushing the date to allow adequate response time.

8. Reminder to Collect and Submit Remaining Field Day Expenses

Members were reminded to submit outstanding receipts and expenses, with specific follow-up needed for one member who still needed to turn in documentation of costs.

9. Bylaws Review and Modernization Initiative

Directors started a comprehensive review of the club's bylaws and mission statement, finding them outdated and insufficient for current and future planning. A revised bylaws draft is being prepared for board presentation next month.

10. Flexibility in Timing for Bylaw Updates

The group acknowledged that bylaw updates, though customarily done every four years, can be made sooner if issues are identified, pending a board decision.

11. Beginning the Board Nomination Process

The nomination process for next year's board positions was initiated, including discussions with current board members about their willingness to continue in or vacate their roles, and the identification of roles that need new volunteers.

12. Consideration of Dual and Specialized Board Roles

The board discussed the merits and challenges of single vs. shared (dual) roles for key positions, the potential for adding more specialized vice president (VP) roles (e.g., programs, public relations), and the possible redesign of board structure for efficiency and sustainability.

13. Support for Multiple Vice Presidents and Expanded Board Roles

Some members supported adding more structured and specialized VP positions to better distribute workload, support the president, and address the broader and growing responsibilities of the club.

14. Inclusion and Voting Rights of Key Appointees

The possibility of making key appointees, such as the Public Information Officer (PIO), voting board members was discussed to increase involvement and commitment, though concerns were raised about potentially overwhelming volunteers.

15. Importance of Accurate Role Descriptions

To improve recruitment and clarify expectations, current board members were asked to provide brief summaries of both their present responsibilities and what they believe their job should encompass.

16. Striking a Balance in Club Structure Growth

There was a caution against overcomplicating or oversizing the club's leadership structure, recommending that structural changes be scaled appropriately to the club's actual needs and capabilities.

17. Next Steps for Governance Changes

A comprehensive presentation on the proposed bylaw changes and potential governance restructuring is scheduled for the August board meeting, with opportunities for broader discussion and possible phased implementation if approved.

18. Concerns regarding lack of process and procedures for setting up nets and recurring events.

A key issue discussed which was the historical reliance on informal/gentleman's agreements for process management, which has led to confusion and problems. There is a need for clearly documented procedures, particularly regarding recurring nets set up by individuals, to provide structure and address ongoing issues.

19. Feedback and revision of the Net policy document.

The proposed policy document has undergone some revisions based on feedback from team members (including Clyde and Bob), and further suggestions and edits are being solicited. The intent is to clarify roles, responsibilities, and procedures for net operators and interacting with outside groups.

20. Clarification of responsibilities between technical support and net owners/moderators.

There was clear distinction drawn between technical management of the system (such as node control and handling issues with the repeater) versus programmatic responsibilities managed by net owners/moderators. Technical control remains strictly with responsible club members; passwords and system-level access are not extended to net moderators.

21. Handling recurring nets and calendar listing policies.

Recurring nets are not automatically listed on the calendar; explicit authorization is required for calendar inclusion. This is to prevent unauthorized or "pirate" scheduling, maintaining organizational control over sanctioned events.

22. Encouragement of written opening/closing scripts and inclusion of required elements.

The group discussed the value of standardized net control scripts and the idea of including a section in the policy document listing bullet points or required elements for such scripts. Examples are to be gathered, and a framework for script content will be added to the document for consistency.

23. Clear procedure for approval and documentation of net control scripts.

It was agreed that any net control script used should meet basic required information, can be customized further, and should be submitted for club review. Any necessary changes will be made to ensure compliance with club standards.

24. Delegation of action items for consolidating script requirements.

The activity of collecting sample scripts and specifying mandatory elements in the process document was delegated (with Greydon to coordinate gathering materials). This ensures that all relevant inputs from different groups, including external organizations, are integrated.

25. Requirement to identify and approve net operators/hosts within policy document.

A final point discussed was the need for the policy document to specify that all nets must identify their operators/hosts, and that these individuals are subject to approval—clarifying accountability and organizational oversight.

The meeting was adjourned at 1925 Hrs.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SFARC Secretary | Bob Patton (N6EMS)

Date and Time: 2026-07-10 1900 Hrs

Location: Placer County HHS Conference Center

The meeting was brought to order by Mark W2MWK and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes and Newsletter Content

The meeting began with a review of the newsletter and the minutes from the last meeting. No amendments or additions were proposed, so the minutes were accepted as written and entered into the record.

2. June VE Testing Session Report

The June 1st Volunteer Examiner (VE) session was well-attended. Four people tested, including three new candidates; two achieved both their technical and general licenses. One participant upgraded, and special congratulations were extended.

3. Special June 27th VE Session at Field Day

A fun special testing session occurred at Georgetown Airport during SFARC Field Day where members could interact with aircraft before and after testing. Six participants successfully passed their tests.

4. New Member Update and Voting Participation

Several new members joined in June, raising the membership total to at least 356. An upcoming vote to add three more members will be held online. Voting turnout reached 30%, which was commended, but an increase is encouraged.

5. Transition to Modern Financial Software

The club is moving to replace outdated spreadsheets with a modern accounting software called Money Minder, as recommended by a recent audit report. The board authorized up to \$1,000 to hire a financial service expert to accurately merge all the accounts into the new software. There was a request to find club volunteers with the necessary skills before outsourcing; however, no member was brought forward. A motion was made by Earl K6GPB and seconded by Scott KM6RFB to approve as the general membership, the boards authorization of up to \$1000.00 for a financial professional to enter data into Money Minder. The matter was sent to an electronic vote.

6. Financial Health and Audit Recommendations

There is over \$35,000 in the general fund, and transitioning to Money Minder is both financially viable and intended to improve the ease of treasurer operations. This transition aligns with previous audit recommendations.

7. Field Day Event Review

The Field Day event was deemed very successful, with over 120 participants (104 officially logged), smooth setup/breakdown, and favorable weather. More than 1,600 contacts were made. Over 300 photos were submitted, making it the most well-documented Field Day to date. (Check out the photos on the website) A post-event survey and a retrospective video are forthcoming.

8. Technical Achievement: Field Communication Node

The club successfully deployed a 25-watt high-powered Motorola radio node with Starlink at Dunkin' Peak, greatly extending repeater coverage for the Western States event. There is interest in expanding this system for further coverage.

9. Request for Volunteers for Club Operations

Volunteers are sought for several roles: assisting with the upcoming budget planning and serving on next year's board (notably a new treasurer). Members interested in helping are encouraged to contact the nomination chairperson.

Our presentation this month was made by Jim W6JCZ on "Open Ham Clock". It was recorded and will be available to watch on YouTube.

10. Participation at the California State Fair ARRL Booth

ARRL is seeking volunteers for their booth at the California State Fair. Volunteers receive free entry and parking, and members are encouraged to participate, especially during weekdays.

11. Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Upcoming events include the club breakfast at Wings at the airport (note the venue change), a fox hunt, next club meeting on August 14th (including a Field Day debrief), the Tevis Cup (which may affect repeater use), and a "Hams and Hops" event at Moonraker Brewing Company.

12. Member Recognition and Prize Drawings

Multiple members were recognized during prize drawings for their participation, including bag giveaways and gift certificates from Ham Radio Outlet, contributing to a positive and engaging club atmosphere. The results are:

Sam K6LGU, Gary N6UWQ and Bob N6EMS received a microfiber bag with a club logo.
Mike AD6CQ and Evan AJ6OR received \$25 gift cards for HRO.

13. Adjournment and Socializing

The meeting concluded with reminders for members to socialize and help reset the meeting space, with thanks extended to all participants and volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 2100 Hrs.

ADVERTISEMENTS



WU6X



WB1G



KN6ZRX

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.