



P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

OCTOBER 2026

<https://www.w6ek.org>

At The Key at SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Mark Koehler (W2MWK)

VICE PRESIDENTS

Jim Jupin (WA8MPA)
Greg Dolkas (KO6TH)

SECRETARY

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TREASURER

Ron (KA6UAI) and Laurie Holland

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

GREETER / SUNSHINE

Pam Bautista (KN6GTK)

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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 – 9 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

October 5 @ 7 PM

Confluence Church

1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA

Board Meeting

October 8 @ 6 PM

[Online via Zoom](#)

General Meeting

October 9 @ 7:30 PM

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

Cordova Room 500, 11434 B Ave, Auburn, CA

Potluck in the Park

October 10 @ 4 PM

Auburn Recreation Park

123 Recreation Dr, Auburn, CA

Breakfast Social & Radio Direction Finding

October 31 @ 8 AM

Awful Annie's

13460 Lincoln Way, 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

ARRL Audio News: THU & SAT @ 7 PM

Amateur Radio Newslines: TUE & FRI @ 7 PM

223.860 MHz (-1.6 MHz / CTCSS 110.9)

440.575 MHz (+5.0 MHz / CTCSS 162.2)

AMS – System Fusion C4FM & Analog FM

Wires-X: NorCal Repeater GRP (43847)

YSF: US-NorCalRptGrp (06040)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SFARC President | Mark Koehler (W2MWK)

September was another busy month for SFARC, with plenty of opportunities to get together, enjoy amateur radio, and continue planning for the year ahead.

One of the highlights was our September 18–20 campout at Logger Campground. A special thank-you goes to Smitty – WB1G, who chaired this year's event and provided the base camp that became the gathering point for club members throughout the weekend.



I also want to give a very special thank-you to everyone who came up despite the uncertainty created by the Floriston Fire. Fortunately, the fire itself did not become an issue for Logger Campground, although road closures required us to take an alternate route to reach the campground. It was good to see so many members willing to adjust their plans and still make the trip.



There were plenty of activities once everyone arrived. John – KO6COW and Greydon – KC6SLE handled Friday's breakfast, with Brian – AI6US and Lin – KN6KRD taking over the kitchen Saturday morning. We also had fox hunts both days, with Brian, AI6US, leading Friday's hunt and John – KO6COW and Jayden – W6EFM handling Saturday's. Activities like these happen because members are willing to step forward and make them happen, and their efforts are appreciated.

September was also an important month for planning SFARC's finances for 2027. We held a budget review on September 2, followed by the formal presentation of the proposed 2027 budget to the Board on September 10. The Board approved the proposed budget, and it was presented to the General Membership at our September 11 meeting.

Depending on the date the newsletter is published, voting on the proposed 2027 budget may still be open to the General Membership through HamClubOnline. The results of that vote will be announced at our November 13 General Membership meeting. I encourage everyone to participate in the vote.

Our September 26 breakfast provided an unexpected demonstration of exactly why amateur radio can be so useful. We arrived at Wings Grill at the Auburn Airport to discover that a power outage meant we needed a new breakfast location—and we needed one quickly.

While I was on the phone with Mel's making sure they could accommodate our group, Greydon – KC6SLE got on the radio and began letting members know about the change. Brian – AI6US, who was the Saturday morning's Coffee Break Net moderator, picked up the message and made announcements over the net so everyone would know that both the breakfast and the Fox Hunt were moving to Mel's.

Within a short period of time, we had changed locations and gotten the word out to the membership. It was a small event compared with the kinds of emergencies amateur radio is designed to support, but it was a great real-world example of club members putting their radio communication skills to work when plans suddenly changed.

That unexpected move also marked our final Wings Grill breakfast for 2026. Beginning in October, we plan to try a new location for our club breakfast. One of the things we are looking for is a venue with enough space for the entire group to sit together rather than being separated into smaller areas. Watch the W6EK website for the official announcement—but here's a hint: Awful Annie's is looking promising. (Later Breaking news, we have reserved Awful Annie's for Oct 31st!)

September wraps up with Hams and Hops at Knee Deep Brewing Company on September 30, giving us one more opportunity to get together before moving into October. As I am writing this article on September 27th, I hope I was able to see you all at Knee Brewing Company and that we all had a great time.

As we head into the final months of 2026, there is still plenty happening around SFARC. Thank you to everyone who continues to participate, volunteer, and help make these activities possible.

73

Mark, W2MWK

President, Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club

OCTOBER MEETING PRESENTATION

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



For the October meeting presentation, Scott KM6RFB will share his personal journey along the path to becoming an AUX-C — a certified Auxiliary Communicator. For those of us in amateur radio, we know how powerful our hobby can be, but this certification takes that passion and transforms it into a vital, formal asset for emergency management. This training is the on-ramp for Amateur Radio Emergency Communicators to become recognized by Public Safety agencies by having achieved this level of credentialing. This is done through classroom training and PTB Position Task Books and peer review.

3D PRINTED TOOLS FOR THE WORKBENCH

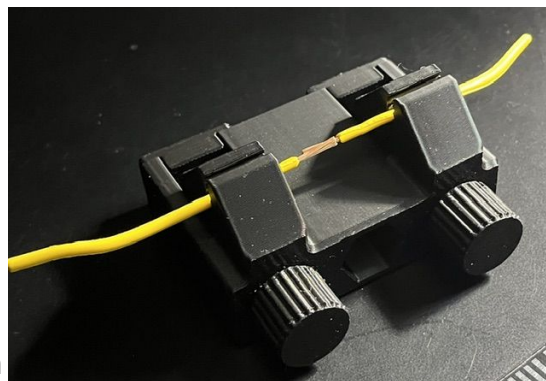
AND PORTABLE ANTENNAS

SFARC Member | Dennis Gregory (WU6X)

I've having a great time 3D printing all sorts of things for the home, for gifts, toys, figurines, puzzles and even some practical items. Two such practical items I've come across, I'll describe here, and include the links to the 3D files at the end.

I'm sure you've been in a situation where you needed to solder two wires, end-to-end, sometimes of different diameters. If you were like me, you end up chasing the wires around the bench, using the Vulcan handshake and a juggling act to finally get them together ... then, start over when you find that the connection isn't quite what you wanted. So ... I 3D printed this double-vise which will independently hold each wire, no issues with diameter.

Problem solved! I get a perfect splice every time and can slip a piece of shrink tubing over the tag end. So easy, even a caveman can do it!



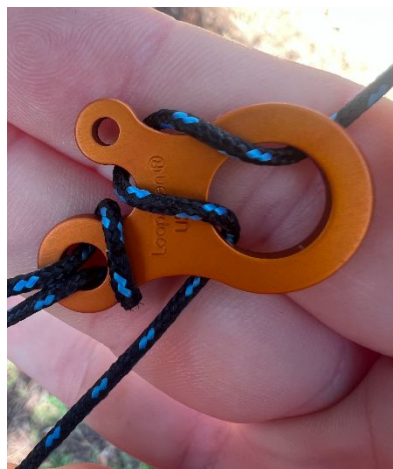
The other workbench tool I found is a solder roll caddy. This can be easily resized to fit your particular roll, and makes getting and finding the end so much easier than chasing that around the workbench as well. So, there you have my two 3D prints for the workbench.

But wait, there's more, as they say. I found another very handy little gadget I'm using when guying antenna masts, tents, and end-fed wires. Often called "wire tensioners"; I use two types, the "Loop Alien" and the "Seahorse".

The Loop Alien is very strong and easily repositioned to remove slack in the guy wire. I noted Jon and Derek were using these at Field Day to tension the guys on the giant multi-band vertical. The only issue I have with this type of tensioner is it can be challenging to use. But once in place, they work incredibly well.



I've included Jon's instructions on how he uses them.



1. Tie the guy rope to the middle size of the 3 loops
2. Wrap it around whatever anchor you have (e.g., carabiner on your anchor stake). Now you have 2 sides on either side of the anchor; one (short side) is attached to the loop from #1 above. The other (long side) goes to your antenna mast, long wire, etc.
3. Adjust the side lengths so you're somewhat close to being tensioned but still quite loose.
4. Make a 2 to 3 inch "U" in the long side by pinching some between your fingers. Put that U through the largest hole in the Loop Alien.
5. Wrap the tip of the U back over the smallest loop section of the Loop Alien. At this point it should look like the picture.

From there you can tension as you see fit. It will be easier to loosen than to tighten, so if you have trouble tightening it, you can (with one hand) manually pull on the rope going to the mast to get you some slack and then slide the Loop Alien “up the guy line” to take up the slack. By moving the Loop Alien up and down the guy line you can easily achieve the desired tension. These are in-expensive to 3D print in PETG.

Next month I'll cover how to use the “Seahorse” rope tensioner. The Seahorse is easier to use and still does a great job of adjusting tension, especially if the anchor is a loop around a tree or stake.

See you next month! 73, de Dennis – WU6X

Sources:

Double Vise: <https://makerworld.com/en/models/2064457-solder-wire-holder?from=search#profileId-2229275>

Solder Spool Holder: <https://makerworld.com/en/models/24087-han-xi-jia-solder-holder?from=search#profileId-21334> (Resize to fit your particular spool of solder)

Loop Alien: <https://makerworld.com/en/models/1188137-rope-tensioner?from=search#profileId-1199445>

FOX HUNT NEWS

SFARC Elmer Lead | Greydon Hicks (KC6SLE)

Not just one, not just two, but three Fox Hunts this September! Two of September's Fox Hunts were at Stampede Reservoir as part of the annual SFARC Campout.

Friday September 18, Logger Campground, Stampede Reservoir

After a fulfilling breakfast of pancakes and sausages for all the campers at Stampede, Brian AI6US announced on the campground radio frequency that "today's Fox Hunt is about to commence, all Fox Hunters please report to the head camp site". Fourteen excited and adventurous Hunters gathered, received a quick briefing from Brian, then forged literally into the forest to seek out the hidden transmitter. Most would be successful, a few would be out foxed.

Participants included John KO6COW, Adam W6AGT, Rayland, Emmitt, Evan KK6TNE, Dan KN6WQN, Zane, Danny, Bob-2 N6EMS, Ed KB6ED, Frank KG9M, Dan KO6LMZ, Lisa, and Greydon KC6SLE (this is also the order in which participants finished).

Congratulations to John KO6COW for finding the Fox in roughly 51 minutes. All but two hunters found the Fox within 1 hour and 51 minutes.

Saturday September 19, Logger Campground, Stampede Reservoir

Even a bigger breakfast for the SFARC campers this day: pancakes, sausages and scrambled eggs. Again, after breakfast Fox Hunters gathered at camp headquarters for a pre-hunt briefing. Unlike the day before, today's Fox Tender was the previous day's winner John KO6COW. John promised to equal Brian AI6US efforts to outwit the day's hunters. Twenty-one Hunters attended the pre-meeting and melded into the woods to seek fame and a "small" fortune. What a great turnout and great time!

Participants included Marty N63LO, David KO6HXG, Greydon KC6SLE, Lisa, Jowel KD6PEF, Tim KE6VOV, Adam W6AGT, Andres AJ6ZI, Dan WWQN, Brian AI6US, Tom NN6H, Jayden W6EFM, Maxim KO6NEZ, Patrick AK6JP, Kendrick KO6OJL, Dudley KO6DRM, Frank KG9M, Emmitt, Rayland, Evan KK6TNE, and John WB6VBN (again, listed in the order they finished).

Congratulations to Marty N6BLO for finding the Fox in 46 minutes. And it should be noted that all participants found the Fox in 1 hour and 10 minutes or less. Great job!

Saturday September 26, Auburn CA

This was our regular monthly SFARC Fox Hunt. The pre-meeting started right after the conclusion of the monthly SFARC breakfast at Mel's. Matt KO6IMP was our Fox Tender for the day. Thank you Matt!

This Fox Hunt took an unusual turn right after starting...the hidden transmitter quit operating. Marty recovered quickly. He found a place to park his truck and used the truck's radio on low power to simulate the hidden transmitter. And he was very creative and entertaining in his numerous 15 second broadcasts.

Six participants came out to play, six found Marty and his truck. Great job everyone. Participants included (listed in the order they finished) Bob-2 N6EMS, Patrick AK6JP, Rebekah, Dudley KO6DRM, Greydon KC6SLE and Evan AJ6OR.

Next SFARC Fox Hunt

The next SFARC Fox Hunt will follow the monthly breakfast at Awful Annie's in Auburn on Saturday October 31 (scary day). Pre-meeting and briefing begin at 9:15 in the back parking lot.

VE REPORT

SFARC VE Coordinator | Brian Gohl (AI6US)

On September 14, 2026, the amateur radio exam evening began with a delicious BBQ with the VEs, Elmers and guests at the Smokey Pit BBQ in Auburn, then met at the Confluence Church campus to hold the exam session at 7 pm. Matt KO6OXY upgraded to a General class license and Jowell, KO6PEF pass the Technician exam to surprise his uncle Jim, KE6POR at the SFARC Fall camp out! That was a hard secret for the VE and Elmers to keep!

Exam Team

VEC: Brian - AI6US

VE Lead: Anders - NR6H

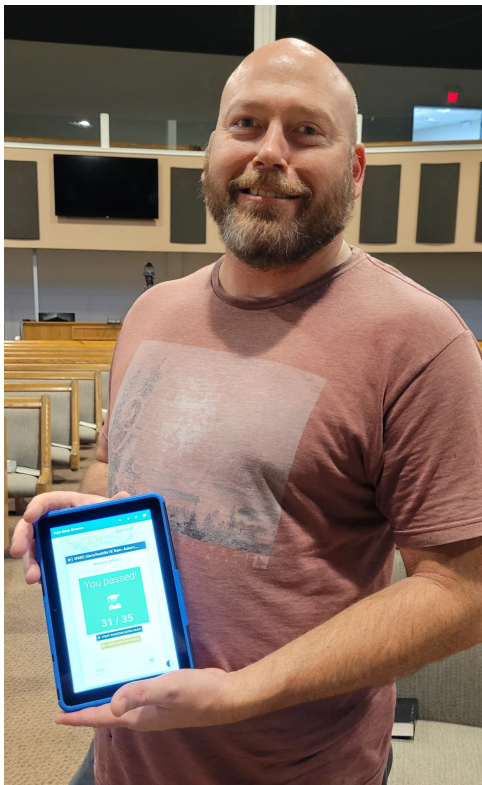
Signing VEs: Steven – KO6EBQ, Dave – WB6RBE and Frank KG9M

Elmer Team

Elmer Lead: Greydon- KC6SLE

Elmer Team: Don – WB6LPJ, Jim – WA8MPA, Greg – KO6TH, Mark – W2MWK and Gary KQ6RT

The next exam session will be 7pm on October 5th at the Confluence Church campus. Pre-register at www.hamstudy.org/sessions/sfarc. All SFARC members are invited to join us for the VE / Elmer dinner at 5pm. Dinner and great conversations at the Happy Wok Restaurant, 352 Elm Ave, Auburn, CA 95603.



POTLUCK PICNIC IN THE PARK

October 10th, 2026 at 4PM

Auburn Recreation Park,
123 Recreation Dr, Auburn, CA 95603



CLICK HERE TO TELL US
WHAT DISH YOU'RE BRINGING!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

SFARC Membership Coordinator | Dudley McFadden (KO6DRM)

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



Richard Colston	KO6NNW
Donald Roberts	W6PMY
Andrea Nowak	KO6NMP
Misagh Janami	KO6LNX
Richard McCready	KO6OYO

We have 0 new members to vote on at the next club meeting on October 9.



SFARC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

X / TWITTER <https://x.w6ek.org>

FACEBOOK <https://facebook.w6ek.org>

INSTAGRAM <https://instagram.w6ek.org>

YOUTUBE <https://youtube.w6ek.org>

LINKEDIN <https://linkedin.w6ek.org>

GROUPS.IO <https://w6ek.groups.io>



2027 SFARC BOARD ELECTION CANDIDATES

It is once again time for the annual Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club Board elections. One month from now, in November 2026, SFARC club members in good standing will receive a ballot to vote for our 2027 board. This year we are privileged to have many board Officers and Directors returning as nominees for another term along with several new candidates.

The 2027 SFARC Board Candidate Nominees are:

- President: Mark Koehler, W2MWK
- Vice President: Greydon Hicks, KC6SLE
- Treasurer: Kerry Shuman, KI6PAL
- Secretary: Bob Patton, N6EMS
- Directors: Frank Calvillo, KG9M
Dudley McFadden, KO6DRM
Steven Foley, KO6EBQ, serving 2nd year of the two-year term

If you have an interest in joining the board, guiding the club's daily operations and charting for the future, please consider joining the leadership of our rapidly growing club. Additional candidates will be considered for inclusion in the SFARC Board election up until the start of the November 13th club meeting.

For more information, please contact Brian – AI6US, Nomination Chair or Mark – W2MWK, SFARC President with any questions on how to volunteer for club activities or become a candidate for the SFARC board.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SFARC Secretary | Bob Patton (N6EMS)

2027 Budget, Schedule and Update to Format of Net, Update to Bylaws, Hamfest Planning, Youth Outreach for Field Day, Hot RF Nights and Picnic Dates, Scholarships.

2026-09-11 08:56 · 59:59

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

- **Meeting Topic:** 2027 budget approval, Coffee Break Net schedule, amateur-radio news programming, and club governance initiatives
- **Attendees:** Mark, Jim, Greg, Bob, Frank, Greydon, Brian, Clyde, Scott, and other board members
- **Absentees Mentioned:** Stephen and Dudley were unable to attend; the Treasurer was absent
- **Chair:** Mark

Key Decisions

- **The 2027 balanced budget was approved by the Board.** Projected income and expenses are both \$19,365.
- **The Coffee Break Net will be shortened to 7:30 AM–9:00 AM daily, effective October 1.**
- **ARRL Audio News will air Thursdays at 7:00 PM,** immediately before the Thursday club meeting.
- **Amateur Radio Newslines will air Fridays at 7:00 PM.** Brian may schedule repeat broadcasts with Clyde's permission.
- Trivia Night has been retired from the calendar because Simone and the supporting team could not continue operating it consistently.

Agenda

Topic 1: 2027 Budget Approval

Discussion

- Mark stated that the budget had received a detailed review on **September 2** and had been shared with the Board in full, with a summarized version included in the presentation deck.
- The budget is balanced at **\$19,365 in income** and **\$19,365 in expenses**.
- The budget is intended as a **plus-or-minus 10% budget** because economic conditions and unforeseen expenditures may affect actual results.

- Mark stated that major unplanned expenses, such as repeater repairs or increased costs for a major club event, would require a request to the Board and then approval by the general membership.
- Bob asked about a **\$1,500 scholarship drawdown**.
- Mark clarified that scholarship funds are maintained separately from the general budget in a separate account, as required by law. Scholarship funding will not be considered during the general budget approval process.
- Scholarship Committee members will determine the amount that can be awarded to schools in 2027. The club will first open scholarship applications to members and then to the public.
- Income projections are based on funding patterns from the previous three years and weighted estimates.
- Membership dues remain the largest revenue source. The club currently has **366 members**, with four or five additional members expected to be considered at the next general meeting.
- Mark stated that a membership level of **300** would create a projected budget shortfall of **\$1,452**.
- Membership had declined to approximately **298 members in April**, then increased to approximately **365 members**, with a projected total of **371 or 372 members in October**.
- Greydon recommended beginning membership-renewal reminders earlier, such as in late November, rather than waiting until the renewal period.
- Brian suggested placing a membership-renewal reminder card at the general meeting sign-in table and making the Secretary's laptop available for members to renew on site.
- Bob agreed to staff the membership-renewal station if needed.
- **Greydon put forward a motion for the board to accept the budget as presented, and Jim seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the board.**

"It's important and incumbent upon us to continue to advertise the club and continue to grow our club so that we can keep our activities funded."

Decision

- The Board approved the **2027 budget** as presented.

Decision	Responsible Party	Timing
Present the budget to the general membership	Mark	Next general meeting
Conduct the separate online approval vote	Mark	Per the established approval schedule
Announce the approved budget	Mark	November meeting
Record the budget approval in the minutes	Bob	Meeting minutes
Explore early membership-renewal re-	Membership team and Dudley	To be determined

minders		
Set up an on-site membership-renewal station	Bob and membership volunteers	Friday general meeting

Topic 2: Coffee Break Net Schedule Change

Discussion

- Brian proposed shortening the Coffee Break Net from two and a half hours to one and a half hours.
- The proposed daily schedule is **7:30 AM–9:00 AM**.
- Brian stated that the change would reduce the commitment required from net control operators, support recruitment of additional operators, and make the role more manageable.
- The revised format is intended to preserve the conversational character of the net while limiting extended segments, including weather reports.
- Brian stated that the schedule change would provide an opportunity to request that weather reports be limited to **10 minutes maximum**.
- The Board discussed retaining the 7:30 AM start time to support local members during their morning commute.
- Mark noted that website content, pamphlets, and other published material would need updating before implementation.
- Brian had already identified website and pamphlet updates as primarily an availability change.
- Smitty was traveling and could not participate in the discussion.

“We want to start it early because we want to involve local people.”

Decision

- The Board unanimously approved reducing the Coffee Break Net to **7:30 AM–9:00 AM daily**, effective **October 1**.

Decision	Responsible Party	Completion Time
Update online and printed schedule information	Brian and technical support team	Before October 1
Notify net participants of the revised schedule	Brian	Before October 1
Implement the revised Coffee Break Net hours	Brian and net control operators	October 1

Topic 3: ARRL Audio News and Amateur Radio Newsline

Discussion

- Brian presented two automated amateur-radio news services:

- **ARRL Audio News**, focused on ARRL and amateur-radio news.
 - **Amateur Radio Newsline**, with a broader international amateur-radio perspective.
- Both programs are available through an AllStar room and can be scheduled automatically through the repeater controller.
- Brian stated that the automated format provides appropriate station-identification intervals and complies with the cited amateur-radio bulletin rules.
- Each broadcast typically runs **15 to 20 minutes**.
- Greydon proposed running the ARRL news broadcast immediately before the Thursday evening club meeting.
- The Board supported scheduling **ARRL Audio News at 7:00 PM on Thursdays**.
- The Board discussed allowing Larry to continue sharing local ARRL information during the Thursday net, especially local events that would not appear in national programming.
- Brian proposed airing Amateur Radio Newsline on Friday or Saturday, shortly after its Friday release.
- The Board selected **Friday at 7:00 PM** for Amateur Radio Newsline.
- The Board agreed to begin with one weekly broadcast for each program and evaluate whether repeat broadcasts are useful.
- Brian and Clyde were authorized to determine additional repeat times if appropriate.

Decision

- The Board unanimously approved the following initial schedule:

Program	Schedule	Notes
ARRL Audio News	Thursday, 7:00 PM	Immediately before the Thursday club meeting
Amateur Radio Newsline	Friday, 7:00 PM	Scheduled soon after the Friday release
Repeat broadcasts	At Brian's discretion with Clyde's permission	Based on listener interest and programming needs

Topic 4: Governance Review, Volunteer Coordination, and Strategic Planning

Discussion

- Frank presented a proposed initiative developed with Bob, Stephen, and Greydon following the June Board meeting.
- The group reviewed the club's foundational documents and identified possible updates to the mission statement, bylaws, and role descriptions.
- Bob noted that the current bylaws do not accurately reflect present operating practices, particularly the Secretary's responsibilities and the impact of current technology.
- The initiative identified six areas for Board consideration:
 - Review foundational documents and Board responsibilities.
 - Establish longer-term club priorities and focus areas.

- Strengthen Board orientation and professional development.
 - Gather broader membership input.
 - Create a volunteer-coordination role and improved volunteer database.
 - Improve capital utilization, strategic spending, and interest-income management.
- Mark emphasized that volunteerism is currently the club's most significant operational challenge.
- The Board discussed adding a membership-enrollment or renewal checklist that allows members to identify volunteer interests and areas where they are willing to assist.
- Frank stated that the group would return with proposed documentation updates and more specific recommendations.
- Greydon requested confirmation that the Board supports the effort and guidance on priorities. The board responded affirmatively.
- Mark identified volunteer coordination and longer-term planning as high priorities.

“The top of the priority list is volunteerism. It's our largest single club problem at the moment.”

Decision

- The Board supported continuing the governance and strategic-planning review.
- The working group will return at the next Board meeting with proposed updates to foundational documents and more concrete recommendations.

Task	Responsible Party	Completion Time
Finalize proposed updates to bylaws, mission statement, and related documents	Frank, Bob, Stephen, and Greydon	Next Board meeting
Develop a proposed volunteer-interest process for enrollment and renewal	Mark, Smitty, Dudley, and membership team	To be determined
Develop recommendations for volunteer coordination and strategic spending	Governance working group	To be determined

Follow-up Action Summary

- Present the 2027 budget to the general membership and conduct the required approval process. **Owner:** Mark
- Record the Board's budget approval in the meeting minutes. **Owner:** Bob
- Set up and staff a membership-renewal station at the Friday general meeting. **Owner:** Bob and membership volunteers
- Begin early renewal-reminder planning. **Owner:** Membership team and Dudley
- Update Coffee Break Net materials and notify participants of the October 1 schedule change. **Owner:** Brian and technical support team
- Schedule and test ARRL Audio News and Amateur Radio Newsline broadcasts. **Owner:** Brian and Clyde

- Notify Dave and Larry about the new news-programming schedule and local-information option. **Owner:** Board representatives
- Present proposed governance-document updates and planning recommendations. **Owner:** Frank, Bob, Stephen, and Greydon

Topic 5: Hamfest Planning

Discussion

- The Hamfest date proposed was **March 20**, selected partly because it aligns with the Coffee Break Net anniversary.
- The ARRL calendar and local town calendar were reviewed, and no conflicts were found at the time of discussion.
- Participants agreed that the Coffee Break Net connection could be a minor theme but should not receive excessive planning attention.
- The date also coincides with the spring equinox.
- Required follow-up includes confirming availability with the train station, checking the ARRL calendar, coordinating with Smitty, and confirming city approval requirements.

Decisions

- Move forward with **March 20** as the proposed Hamfest date, pending final confirmation from the train station, ARRL, and city approval process.

Action Items

- Confirm train-station availability, ARRL calendar status, and city approval requirements for the March 20 Hamfest. — **Owner:** To be confirmed
- Coordinate public event information with Smitty after date confirmation. — **Owner:** To be confirmed

Topic 6: Field Day Youth Outreach

Discussion

- The principal Field Day lesson identified was insufficient early outreach to youth organizations.
- Youth groups reportedly build their calendars by January, making early contact necessary.
- Potential outreach groups include Scouts, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, school-district contacts, and STEM programs with communications or amateur-radio components.
- Members with relationships to youth organizations, schools, or families in school districts were asked to help identify outreach opportunities.

Decision

- Begin youth-group outreach early enough to secure calendar placement before January planning cycles.

Action Items

- Identify and contact Scouts, Coast Guard Auxiliary groups, school contacts, STEM programs, and similar youth organizations for future Field Day participation. — **Owner:** Club members with relevant contacts — **Deadline:** Before January calendar planning

Topic 7: Hot RF Night

Discussion

- A smaller-format Hot RF Night was proposed for **May 14**.
- The event would use a shortened club meeting followed by a parking-lot show-and-tell.
- Possible additions include tables with equipment for participants to examine, subject to volunteer availability.
- Members noted that staffing display tables could reduce the number of people available to present other equipment.

Decision

- Schedule **Hot RF Night for May 14** and add it to the club calendar.

Action Items

- Add Hot RF Night on May 14 to the club calendar and begin promotion. — **Owner:** Greydon

Topic 8: October Potluck Picnic

Discussion

- The picnic is scheduled for **October 10**, from **4:00 to 6:00**.
- Greydon will collect the club trailer and bring items remaining from the campout, including utensils, plates, club tables, and related supplies.
- The event will be potluck only; no barbecue service is planned.
- Setup is expected to begin around **3:00 or 3:30**, followed by breakdown at 6:00 and repacking the trailer.

Decision

- Greydon, Jim, and Bob will handle picnic logistics.

Action Items

- Collect the club trailer, prepare tables and supplies, coordinate setup, and return equipment after the event. — **Owners:** Greydon, Jim, Bob — **Deadline:** October 10

Topic 9: Scholarships

Discussion

- Jim reported that Earl wants to serve on the scholarship committee next year but cannot be chair due to schedule limitations.
- The scholarship fund balance was reported as approximately **\$1,500**.
- The proposed goal is to award **three scholarships**.
- Applications would open to club members and eligible family members on **January 1** for 30 days, in order to meet February deadlines.
- A scholarship committee size of three to five members was suggested.
- December newsletter communication was proposed as the scholarship-program kickoff.

Decisions

- Target three scholarships, subject to available funding and committee planning.
- Open the application window on January 1 for 30 days.

Action Items

- Finalize scholarship committee membership. — **Owner:** Jim — **Deadline:** Before December communications
- Prepare scholarship-program messaging for the December newsletter. — **Owner:** Jim and scholarship committee
- Open scholarship applications to eligible club members and family members. — **Owner:** Scholarship committee — **Deadline:** January 1

Topic 10: Christmas Party

Discussion

- The facility has been reserved and the caterer has been booked.
- Prize structure and budget remain unresolved.
- Brian proposed alternatives for trivia prizes when a table plays as a group, rather than awarding a single gift card intended for a couple.
- A proposal was made to reserve the largest raffle prizes for members, while allowing members and guests to compete for smaller prizes.
- A suggested structure included a grand prize, two \$250 prizes, four \$100 prizes, and table-centerpiece items. No final prize allocation was approved.
- The group agreed that any prize plan must fit the approved overall budget.
- The question of whether guests receive raffle tickets or whether tickets should be limited to members remains unresolved.

Decision

- Finalize Christmas-party prize eligibility, raffle-ticket policy, and budget allocation at the next meeting.

Action Items

- Develop a budget-aligned recommendation for trivia and raffle prizes, including member and guest eligibility. — **Owner:** Brian — **Deadline:** Next meeting

Topic 11: Club Breakfast Venue

Discussion

- The club has grown close to the capacity of Mel's, although participants preferred retaining Wings because of its summer suitability.
- Awful Annie's was proposed for a trial club breakfast in October.
- Participants generally supported a trial, citing good food and possible adequate space for the fox hunt.
- One participant reported slow service during a previous individual visit.
- The proposed breakfast date is **October 31**.

Decision

- Contact Awful Annie's about hosting the club breakfast on October 31.
- Inform Mills that the October change is a trial and that the club appreciates the venue.

Action Items

- Contact Awful Annie's to confirm capacity and availability for the October 31 club breakfast. — **Owner:** To be confirmed
- Inform Mills of the trial venue change and express appreciation. — **Owner:** To be confirmed

The meeting was adjourned at 1930 Hrs.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SFARC Secretary | Bob Patton (N6EMS)

>Date and Time: 2026-09-11 19:27:26

>Location: Placer County Health and Human Services Conference Center

1. ****Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence****

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegence and a moment of silence to honor the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, remembering those who lost their lives and those first responders who provided help during the incident.

2. Introduction of New Members and Guests

New club members and visitors were invited to introduce themselves, fostering a welcoming environment and updating the group on changes in membership.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The previously published meeting minutes were reviewed, with no corrections needed, and were formally accepted into the record.

4. Scholarship Program Update and Volunteer Call

The club successfully sponsored six \$1,000 scholarships the prior year. Jim WA8MPA stated that we intend to continue the initiative, and we seek two additional volunteers for the scholarship committee. Family members of club participants have early priority in January, with applications opening to the public afterward.

5. Volunteering for Upcoming Hamfest Event

The Hamfest event, scheduled for mid-March, relies heavily on volunteers and leadership. The event chair requested more volunteers and also someone to shadow him in preparation for eventual succession, with final event dates to be confirmed soon.

6. Field Day Youth Outreach Initiatives

The club is prioritizing outreach to youth organizations (e.g., Boy Scouts, schools, Coast Guard Auxiliary) to boost Field Day GOTA participation and club involvement, seeking members' assistance, especially those involved in STEM programs.

7. Volunteer Engagement Streamlining

To ease volunteer recruitment, a new process was introduced: interested parties can complete forms in person or online expressing areas of interest, which will be integrated into the membership renewal process, reducing the need for direct solicitations.

8. Membership Renewal Process

Membership renewal was promoted, including the availability of on-site assistance with the club's online platform, making the process straightforward and resulting in timely dues collection.

9. Upcoming VE (Exam) Session Announcement

Due to a holiday conflict, the regular VE session was rescheduled to Monday, the 14th, with event logistics communicated, and interested members directed to contact Brian.

10. Active Club Participation in California QSO Event

Club members were recognized for their outstanding performance in the California QSO event, with participants congratulated during the meeting.

11. Details for Upcoming Camp Out

The camp out event will feature activities such as fox hunts, potluck dinners, social hours, s'mores, movies, and breakfast, with designated campfire locations. Attendees are encouraged to bring firewood and sign up online as 55 spots have been allocated

12. Transition to MoneyMinder Financial System

The club is updating its financial management system to MoneyMinder, entering historical data to improve budgeting and reporting capabilities for future budgets. Mark commented that the process is going well.

13. Presentation and Adoption of 2027 Budget

Mark lead the club in a preliminary deep dive and then a high-level review of the 2027 balanced budget, highlighting the significant role of membership dues and discussing expected economic uncertainties. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the budget, pending a general vote.

The motion for approval was made by Dennis WU6X and seconded by Matt KO6IMP. Voting will be online at HamClubOnline.

14. Technology Demonstration: Project Mercury

Craig KM6LYW presented “Project Mercury,” an open-source, high-speed digital communication solution for amateur radio based on orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM), introducing its potential impact for the ham radio community. Check out the full presentation on the club’s YouTube page.

15. Announcement of Club Social and Regular Events

The club’s final outdoor Wings breakfast for the season was announced, with plans to move to a new or backup location for future breakfasts to accommodate growing attendance.

16. Coffee Break Time Change

Starting October 1st, the club’s coffee break will have new hours (7:30–9:00 a.m.), aiming to provide structure and opportunities for increased involvement as well as deepening the pool of net moderators.

17. Raffle Drawings and Closing Activities

The meeting included multiple raffle prize drawings, with winners acknowledged here:

Marc WA1KXV \$25 HRO gift card, Jeremy KO6KUL Tactical Pack, Frank KG9M \$25 HRO gift card.

The meeting closed at 2100 Hrs with requests for help returning chairs, cleaning up, handling food donations, and participation in volunteer sign-ups before the end of the gathering.

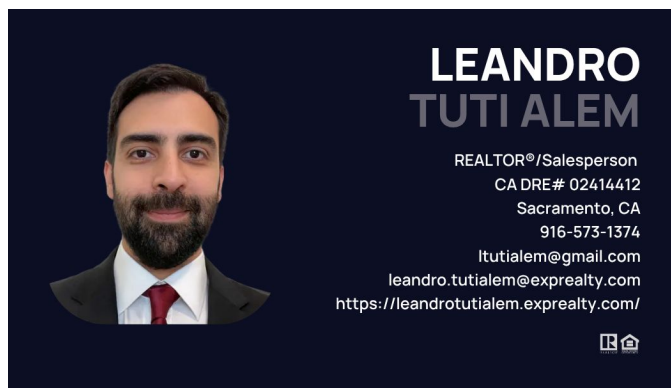
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