



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

MARCH 2024

<https://www.w6ek.org>

At The Key at SFARC:

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Aaron Bond (W1ATB)

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Jim Zheng (W6JCZ)

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VE TESTING CORDINATOR

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WEBMASTER(S)

Smitty (WB1G)

Greg Dolkas (KO6TH)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bob Wold (K6ZLY)

STATION TRUSTEE

Clyde Campbell (AB4CC)

GROUPS.IO ADMINISTRATOR

Dennis Gregory (WU6X)

WEEKLY CLUB NET

Thursdays @ 7:30PM

W6EK 2-Meter Repeater

Net Control Operators:

- Smitty (WB1G)
- Orion Endres (AI6JB)
- Chip Bautista (KM6MDF)
- Dave Jenkins (WB6RBE)

COFFEE BREAK NET

Everyday @ 7:30AM – 10AM

W6EK 2-Meter Repeater

Net Control Operators:

- Gerry Brentnall (WA6E)
- Theta Brenthall (WA6EWF)
- Smitty (WB1G)
- Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)
- Tom Newman (NN6H)
- Orion Endres (AI6JB)
- Don Hay (WB6LPJ)
- Brian Gohl (AI6US)

CLUB MEETINGS

Second Friday of the month @ 7:30 PM

Crossroads Church South Campus

Gymnasium (Use Dairy Road Parking Lot)

1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

6:00 PM: SFARC Board Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

7:30 PM: SFARC Club Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

7:30 PM: In The Shack (Zoom)

SATURDAY, March 16

7:00 AM to Noon: Hamfest Swap

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

7:30 AM: SFARC Club Breakfast

9:00 AM to Noon: Fox Hunt

REPEATERS

145.430 (-0.6 MHz / PL 162.2)

- Wires-X: W6EK-2M-ROOM (62545)
- Allstar: #51018
- Echolink: #4128

223.860 (-1.6 MHz / PL 110.9)

- Allstar #56039

440.575 (+5 MHz / PL 162.2)

- AMS / Fusion
- Wires-X: NorCal Repeater GRP (#43847) – FULL TIME
- YSF: 06040 US-SierraNorCal

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We encourage members to receive Sierra Signals via email to save the club the cost of reproduction and mailing.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Aaron Bond (W1ATB)

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club | President

Greetings fellow HAMsters!

Welcome to March... and HAMFEST is upon us! As of this writing we have only 16 days to go – are you ready?! Ham's from all over the area will be converging on the Loomis Trainyard on March 16th, 2024 to buy and swap equipment, attend Elmer tours, see presentations, eat donuts and drink coffee, oh and win prizes! And with nearly \$3000 in prizes, it is sure to be a fun time! Is there still time to help? Of course there is. Visit <https://hamfest.w6ek.org> for more information and to sign up to help! We need you!

I want to give a shout out to all of those that have already stepped up and are making this event happen. There is lots of behind-the-scenes work being done to make this the most successful event possible, and it could not be done without all of your help. I also want to give a BIG shoutout to all those that have donated to this event – MFJ, HRO, DXEngineering, Bridgecom Systems, Alpha Antenna, the ARRL, Squincher, Buck K4IA “The Easy Way” author, as well as many of our own club members. Make sure you patronize these fine establishments and thank them for their contributions and let them know we appreciate their contributions. Without them, well it wouldn't be quite as fun.

All right let's go out and play some radio!

73,
Aaron (W1ATB)

THE FIRST HAM SWAP OF THE YEAR IS COMING!



8TH ANNUAL LOOMIS HAMFEST



Join the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club on March 16th, 2024!

Get your gear, grab your wallet, and get ready for a super swap.

We'll have coffee and donuts, awesome prizes,

Elmer tours, a test table, presentations, and so much more.

More information can be found @ hamfest.w6ek.org

Sellers need to bring their own tables, chairs, pop-ups, generators (no shore power available)

No equipment will be provided.

SELLERS \$10

Setup at 0600

**FREE ADMISSION
AND PARKING**

TALK IN FREQUENCY

146.535

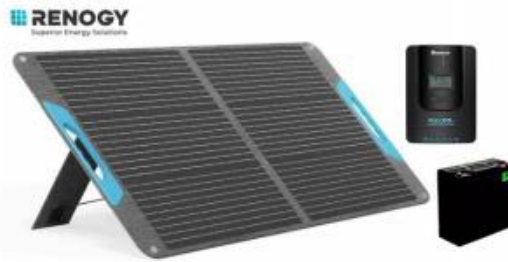
When

Saturday, March 16, 2024
0700 to 1100 Hours

Where

Historic Loomis Train Depot
5775 Horseshoe Bar Rd, Loomis

OVER \$3,000 IN PRIZES!



Renogy Foldable Solar Panel, Charge Controller,
and 30ah Battery



Yaesu FT-70DR & FT-65
w/ RTSystems Software

2024 SUPPORTERS



SPECIAL THANKS TO

Aaron Bond (W1ATB),
Brian Gohl (AI6US), Gary (N6UWQ),
Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO), Smitty (WB1G),
and Tom (NN6H) for your donations.



LOOKING FORWARD

By: *Jim Zheng (W6JCZ)*

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club | Vice President

February 24, 2024

The 8th annual SFARC Hamfest is approaching fast and the word has certainly got out! Listening to local 2-meter nets as well as conversations on HF it sounds like we're expecting a large crowd this time around. The first Northern California Hamfest of the year always draws participants from all around so look forward to a busy morning of buying, selling, and eyeball QSOs on March 16th! A big shout-out to all our members and sponsors for making this possible.

Within the club we've got a variety of events and activities planned for the month of March, starting out with a licensing exam session on the 4th. If you or someone you know are interested in getting (or upgrading) your amateur radio license sign up and take that step!

Our next club meeting on the night of the 8th features an overview of vacuum tubes, presented by Greg (KO6TH). Aaron (K6ABJ) will then brief us on the Hamfest and what we can expect. Since taking the position as Hamfest chair, he has done an excellent job organizing the event and getting in touch with members to assist with everything from parking to prizes.

As usual, on the morning of the last Saturday of the month we gather at The Original Mel's Diner in Auburn for our club breakfast, after which we will go on a fox hunt. February's event proved to be a real challenge, and as a bonus we drew attention from pedestrians and motorists as we wandered around with our radio direction finding gear! Questions were asked, and great demonstrations were given.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

73,
Jim (W6JCZ)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

WELCOME

**NEW
MEMBERS**



We have 6 new members voted in during the February 9th general club meeting.

- Martin Lewis (KO6CRY)
- Roy Bradshaw (N6WYZ)
- Harold Jones (KD6WTV)
- John Fischer (KO6COW)
- David Lust (KO6CVI)
- Simon Rosconi (K6DXN)

UP FOR VOTE

**FUTURE
MEMBERS**



We have 8 new members to vote on at the next club meeting on March 8th.

- Adam Gothard (KN6YSQ)
- Gregory Phelan (KO6CWF)
- Forrest "Sandy" Shoemaker (K6MJ)
- James Malley (WA0HYS)
- Chris Robinson (KF6NFW)
- Garritt Darling (KO6BMA)
- Haven Courtney (KN6URM)
- Chuck Nungester (KO6CRZ)

SFARC ONLINE



<https://facebook.w6ek.org>



<https://instagram.w6ek.org>



<https://twitter.w6ek.org>



<https://linkedin.w6ek.org>



<https://youtube.w6ek.org>



<https://groupsio.w6ek.org>

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

2024-02-08_SFARC Board Meeting on ZOOM

Called to order: 1802 PST by Aaron W1ATB

Approve January, 2024 Board minutes - approved as submitted.

Present: new officers for 2024

President: Aaron Bond W1ATB

Vice-President: Jim Zheng W6JCZ

Treasurer: Brian Fulkerson KN6BKB

Secretary: Dave McBrayer N6OJJ

Director: Greydon Hicks KC6SLE (2 years)

Director: Mark Koehler W2MWK

Director: Jim Jupin WA8MPA (3 years)

also present: Brian AI6US; Greg KO6TH; Bob K6ZLY;

Gary KB7QWC; Clyde AB4CC; Earl K6GPB; Brian KM6MDM;

Smitty WB1G; Aaron, K6ABJ;

introductions around

Quorum: minimum 1 Director + 4 Officers = MET

Officer & Board Member Reports

Jim Zheng W6JCZ - tentative upcoming presentations

Dave McBrayer N6OJJ - nothing to present

Brian Fulkerson KN6BKB - Audit completed successfully, with

2 recommendations: 1) decide repeater fund management (voted/ passed at Nov. Board Meeting) & use

2nd account for Scholarship;

2) minimize cash transactions.

Directors: Greydon KC6SLE - Annual dues changes (new business)

Jim WA8MPA - nothing to present

Mark W2MWK - nothing to present

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Repeater (Station Trustee) - Clyde AB4CC -

Repeater Committee - Jeff KM6RGO - awaiting contractor bids.

Newsletter - Bob, K6ZLY - Newsletter posted

Webmaster / Social media / PIO - Smitty WB1G -

social media sites (FB) at close to 500 members. fox hunt promo

PIO: hamfest promotion, ARRL sanctions Hamfest. PCARES will be at Hamfest.

Groups.io - Dennis, WU6X - 293 members. Contests: CQWW RTTY, ARRL Int'l CW. Cal. QSO - W6EK (agrigated) placed ____.

Membership - Jeff KM6RGO) - 6 new applications;

Currently active: 302 members.

VE exams - Brian, AI6US - Feb 5: exams administered / 5 passed:

3 new Tech; General: 2 upgrade.

next exams: March 4, 2024.

Contest Chair - Dennis, WU6X -

Scholarship Committee - Earl, K6GPB - not present

Volunteer Events Coordinator - Chip, KM6MDF - not present

Contests - Dennis, WU6X - not present

upcoming Contests in Feb/Mar:

Drawing - Ray, KK6AM - not present

Refreshments - Mark, W2MWK - plenty of water

Nominations - Gary, KB7QWC - needs 1 more committee member.

Hamfest 2024 - Aaron, K6ABJ - 3rd Sat. in March., 3-16.

Field Day / Hot RF Nights 2024 - Jeff, KM6RGO / Greydon KC6SLE - time to dust off spreadsheets.

Hot RF Nights - Greydon

Picnic chair 2024 - open

X-mas party - open. Jim, WA8MPA confirms Dec. 8, 2024.

Refreshments - Mark Koehler, W2MWK -

OLD BUSINESS

Elmer/Mentoring: Pamphlet for VE and Club Meetings, QSL Card, st "How to become a Ham". Smitty, WB1G, met with Greydon, KC6SLE.

Repeater Committee: Schedule 1st and 3rd Monday's on Zoom @ 1930. RFP sent out for repeater work.

Position Duties: 2023 officer input due soon.

Financial Audit: nothing to add.

Scholarship Committee: Committee has not met recently.

X-Mas Party date: Dec. 14, 2004. Confirmed with Church Pastor.

VE items: Brian AI6US, purchased equipment should be paid off by October.

Club Asset Inventory: Jeff KM6RGO will send out a brief form to be filled in and returned.

NEW BUSINESS

Hamfest question - Question of 'Out-of-State' ticket purchases.

By-laws Committee - begin recruiting efforts

HamTrack - Frank, WA9QJR, has volunteered to coordinate if any interest. begin policy development re whether/how to support

activities that are not sponsored by SFARC.

Annual Dues - agenda item later in year for 2025.

General Meeting - WA8MPA - what donations does the pantry need? P-nut butter, jelly, snacks, spaghetti, cereal, spaghetti sauce, plastic grocery bags.

Events/Upcoming

Hamfest meeting: 15 Feb, 1800 on Zoom.

Sat. Breakfast: 24 Feb. 0730 at Mel's.

Fox Hunt: 24 Feb. 0900 after breakfast.

Next Board meeting: March 7, 2024, 1800 PT. on ZOOM.

Monthly Breakfast - Feb. 25, 0730. "The Original Mel's", 1730 Grass Valley Hwy, at Luther Road.

Fox Hunt - Feb. 25, 0900.

Adjourned: 1927 PST

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: 2024-02-09_General Meeting

President Aaron W1ATB welcomed individuals to this monthly meeting.

The event was called to order at 1930 by President Aaron, W1ATB who opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present:

President- Aaron, W1ATB.

Vice-President- Jim, W6JCZ

Treasurer- Brian, KN6BKB

Secretary- Dave, N6OJJ.

Director- Greydon, KC6SLE

Director- Mark, W2MWK

Director- Jim, WA8MPA

Club Business

Quorum met: **YES**. _43_ in person + 18 on ZOOM = 61.

302 members / need 60 'present' to meet quorum.

January General meeting minutes have been distributed. Accepted as distributed by members present.

New Members acceptance vote: 6 new applications:

Martin Lewis Ko6CRY, Roy Bradshaw N6WYZ,

Harold Jones KD6WTV, Johnson Fischer Ko6COW,

David Lust Ko6CVI, Simone Rosconi K6DXN.

Motion to ACCEPT by wa6E. **2nd** by AI6US.

Motion **PASSED** by acclamation. new count=308.

The Informational parts of the meeting continue below:

Repeater needs a new antenna pole (wood). Bid requests sent out.

Jim W6JCZ introduces:

Program 1: "Electric Vehicles", Thomas Newman, NN6H

BREAK

Committee Chair Reports:

Repeater - Clyde, AB4CC. not present.

Audit Committee - Results: Rich K6NYC / Gary KB7QWC

Financials: Consolidate accounts to simplify management. No untoward transactions found.

Greeter/Sunshine - Pam, KN6GTK.

VE Exams - Brian, AI6US exam on Feb. 5. had 2 candidates, 2 exams, 3 new Technician; 2 General upgrade.

Next exam session: March 4, 2024.

Volunteer Events - Chip, KM6MDF- nothing on the volunteer events list until Spring.

Exam classes - Orion AI6JB: Extra Class session 3, 11 students. Next

Technician class: April 23.

Newsletter - Bob, K6ZLY - nothing to report

Satellite - Greg, KO6TH - space station: answered various questions.

PIO - Smitty, WB1G - not present
Website - Smitty, WB1G - ___
Social Media - Smitty, WB1G - ___
Groups.io site - Dennis, WU6X - currently: 293 participants.
Contests - Dennis, WU6X - CQWW WPX RTTY this weekend,
ARRL International DX on Feb. 16.
Membership - Jeff KM6RGO - Currently 302 members + 6 new tonight.
Nomination Committee - Gary KB7QWC, need 2 more members.
By-laws Committee - vacant, will be recruiting
ARES - Scott KM6RFB. Eff. March, will be ARES EC for Placer County.
Refreshments - Mark W2MWK - nothing to add.
Drawing - **Ray, KK6AN** - nothing to add.
Hot RF Nights - Greydon KC6SLE
Hamfest - Aaron K6ABJ - need Presentation, Test Bench, Logistics, Sanitation, Parking coordinators.
Field Day - Jeff KM6RGO / Greydon KC6SLE
Scholarship Committee - Earl, K6GPB -
Equipment Donations / Library - Jim, WA8MPA - thank you tonight's
donations.

Calendar of club events:

Feb. 15 - 1800, Hamfest Meeting (Zoom)
Feb 24 - 0730, Club breakfast at Mel's, CA-49 at Luther Road
Feb 24 - 0900, Foxhunt. Meet at Mel's Diner
Mar. 8 - 1800, next SFARC Board Meeting, on ZOOM
Mar. 9 - 1930, next Club Meeting
Dec. 14 - SFARC X-Mas party

Nets (on W6EK repeater, 145.430, PL=162.2):

Daily: 0730-1000, Coffee Break Net on W6EK repeater
Monday's: 1800, All-Node Net
Wednesday's: 1930-2030, 1st/3rd, Elmer/Mentoring Net;
1930, (ZOOM), 2nd / 4th, In the Shack
Thursday's: 1930-2030, SFARC Weekly Net

QST's from members: Jeff - Greg Fahlen, KO6CWF missed last month,
voted in just now by acclamation of those present.

DRAWING

6555421 - \$40 Gift Cert. to 5 Guys: Sandy, K6MJ.
6555408 - \$25 gift certificate to Ham Radio Outlet: Brian, KM6MDM.

Adjourned at: 2103.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Well, March blew in like a lion and took down some of my wire antennas so I started looking for ways to get them back up. In my online exploration, I found many interesting articles about wire antennas, and one in particular stood out to me. A fellow op/builder, Roy Lewallen, W7EL wrote an interesting article that was published in the October 2019 QST about a protective device that can help prevent rope/wire from chafing or becoming embedded in the tree branch. He called it the Wouff Hang - whimsically named for the famous Wouff Hong from ham radio's history, which its shape evokes. I built a couple and like the way they work.



Now, how to get the lines back up into the tall trees.

What have you done in this hobby this past month? Please send me a picture or a note.

73,
Bob Wold (K6ZLY)

SPECIAL THANKS



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