



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

July 2022

<http://w6ek.org> info@w6ek.org

At The Key of SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO
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VICE PRESIDENT

Greydon Hicks, KC6SLE
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Rob Newburn, KM6YKX
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DIRECTORS

Gerry Brentnall, WA6E
Mike (Smitty) Smith, WB1G
Amir Larian, N6ADL

FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

Herb Garcia - KM6JBI

REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH
Sunshine: Pam, KN6GTK

GROUPS io

Dennis Gregory, WU6X

PIO/Social Media Officer

Mike (Smitty) Smith, WB1G

REPEATERS

145.430 (-0.6 MHz/PL 162.2)
Wires-X, Allstar, Echolink
440.575 (+5.0 MHz/FUSION)
223.860 (-1.6 MHz/PL 110.9) Allstar

CLUB NET

Thursdays, 7:30PM, W6EK/R 145.430

CLUB MEETINGS

Second Friday of the month,
Crossroads Church @7:30pm
1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn

CLUB BREAKFAST

Last Sat of the month at Mel's Diner
1730 Grass Valley Hwy, Auburn 7:30AM

NET CONTROL OPS

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

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VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Brian Gohl AI6US
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Calendar of Events

General Club Meeting

July 8th @ 7:30pm

Hot RF Nights 2022

July 8th, after the club meeting

Hams In The Hills

July 9 -- Soda Springs Rd.
Email: jeff.sims929@gmail.com

Club Breakfast

July 30th @ 7:30am
@ Mel's Diner

Clearnode Net

Mondays @ 7pm, W6EK 2M
repeater

~ ~ ~

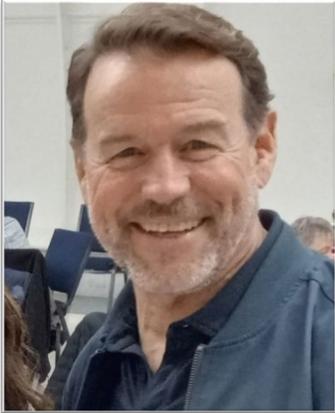
*Join us every morning @ 7:30am
for the Coffee Break Net on the
W6EK repeater 145.43, PL 162.2*

Inside this issue

- ***President's Message***
- ***Board & General Meeting Minutes***
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- ***From the (new) Newsletter Editor's Desk***

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 Jeff Morgan – KM6RGO
President*

Hello All!

Field Day

This last month flew by quickly, with the preparation and planning for **Field Day** and **Western States** soaking up time often used for rag chewing! For me, it was a chance to review, inventory, and organize my equipment for field operations. I learned quite a bit during this process.

Field Day is about exercising the readiness to deploy to a location, other than the comforts and familiarity of our shacks, to provide effective communications, in less than ideal circumstances. To make it fun, the **ARRL** adds in a points system, a little competition, and encourages the education of folks to be able to perform, should we be asked.

Sierra Foothills takes it a bit further to make our Field Day open to visitors wanting to see how this works. Folks from the local community, non-hams, new hams, experienced hams, hams who have not been active in a while, kids, get a chance to see and participate with the radios members of the club setup for use. It is a great way to explore the many ways communication can happen via radio. It is educational and inspiring to see what is possible with a license. One example, **Derek - W6DER**, became a ham just before field day. Derek decided, on that day, to learn CW. A year later, Derek made the most contacts for the entire field day, on cw! We may never know the lives we touch by opening ourselves up to the public like we do. The message propagates with our visitors that ham radio can be fun and useful. We plan to have an after action review on what worked, what we might want to change and future ideas. Let us know how we did!

We did something a little different this year, **Brian - A1GUS**, organized a VE session, held in **Scott - KK7AIR's** hangar at the airport. With the help of **Jeff - K6BSY** and other VE's, several folks tested and received an upgrade or became a new ham. Now that is the spirit of Field Day!

There are many folks to thanks for planning and logistics for our successful Field Day. The first of which is **Scott - KK7AIR** for providing us with a pleasant location at the campground at Georgetown airport. It takes quite a bit of work to clean up the campground, keep the dust down, maintain the bathrooms and make the area possible. He even gave us the use of his HUGE generator ((10kw, I believe). Scott is one of those "get it done" people who works hard behind the scenes for the enjoyment of others. If you hear Scott on the air, be sure to thank him for his efforts. Scott, on behalf of **Sierra Foothills ARC**, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you! We look forward to hearing more about your new repeater in the coming months.

There are so many folks to thank, but, I am getting long winded, so I will add two more for now to be recognized. A big round of applause and thank you to **Gerry - WA6E** for stepping up to organizing our "herd of cats" and **Herb - KM6JBI** for taking over the herd at the event. Gerry didn't even participate at the event this year. He just did the work, behind the scenes, for us all. Great job!

Western States

To add a little bit more excitement to the weekend, the **Western States 100** was this weekend. For runners, this is the first and most prestigious distance event of the year. Many of our club members support the race and dozens of remote locations along the rugged course through the mountains. These are locations where only well prepared ham stations can operate. The network of stations, volunteers, remote repeaters, and a tightly organized and trained net control, provide real time updates and safety for the runners. It is an amazing achievement and a testament to the knowledge, skills and service of our Ham community. Hats off the **Joe- K6SAT** and team for another successful event. We look forward to hearing more about how this year's event went. Thank you to all who supported th **Western States 100!**

Cheers and 73!

Jeff - KM6RGO

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff KM6RGO at 6:02 PM. In attendance in addition to Jeff were Vice-President Greydon KC6SLE, Treasurer Rob KM6YKX and Directors Gerry/WA6E, Smitty WB1G Secretary KG6UCS Orson, members Brian AI6US, Herb KM6JBI and Greg KO6TH. The May minutes were accepted as submitted.

Asking for volunteers for Drawing Chairman and Picnic Chairman.

Western States Run June 25

Hot RF Night July 8 short outdoor meeting

September 17th 4pm Club picnic

Club camp out discussed for September or October

No new news on the website work. Accessibility reader for ADA compliance still under investigation

Looking for a new location for VE testing

Need volunteers for Field Day to be worker bees. Field Day shirts ordered and awaiting shipping. VE testers are ready for Field Day and are looking for a place to test in Auburn area on a monthly basis.

220 repeater is up and running.

Gerry motioned to accept Smitty as PIO Jeff seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55PM.

General Meeting Minutes Video Conference Zoom Meeting

June 10, 2022

President Jeff KM6RGO welcomed individuals to the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by President Jeff KM6RGO who opened the meeting by leading The Pledge of Allegiance.

All Board Members were present. Except N6ADL

Last month's meeting minutes were accepted as submitted.

Field Day June 24-26, Western States June 25-26. Hot RF Night July 8, Club picnic September 17th

NEW MEMBERS:

Andrea Rigel W6TDA

Orson KG6UCS motioned and Smitty WB1G seconded. Motion passed Welcome new members

Tech-Ten

Gerry WA6E gave an overview of what to expect for field day with help from his team.

Show us your shack: Recumbant Mobile by Charlie W6SOM

Tech Twenty

Joe K6SAT gave us a rundown of the Western States run and how it looks from a radio operators view

General Announcements by President Jeff KM6RG

The club is looking for a new in-person testing venue, a Picnic Chairman and a Drawings Chairman.

Contact Orion AI6JB for info on upcoming license classes

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM. Submitted by Orson KG6UCS

All The Social Links in ONE SPOT!

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sfarcw6ek/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/sfarcw6ek/>
- <https://www.twitter.com/sfarcw6ek/>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sfarcw6ek/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/w6ek>
- And, Groups.IO - <https://w6ek.groups.io/g/sfarc>

Club Presentation

Thanks again to all those who attended our June SFARC meeting either in person or via Zoom. We had 60 plus attendees. And thank you to our presenters for their great presentations; Gerry - WA6E, Charlie - W6SOM, and Joe - K6SAT.

Our July 8 club meeting will be an abbreviated meeting and will not have any formal presentations. Why? Because it's time for Hot RF Nights!

So, what is Hot RF Nights? It is an opportunity for all of us to gather in the parking lot of the Crossroads Church, show off and explain our mobile HAM equipment and installations, and have fun. This may include, but is certainly not limited to, vehicle installations, RV equipment, SOTA, GO Kits, mobile satellite, bicycle installations, motorcycles installations, and emergency response equipment. Bring examples of your imagination and creativity and share it with your fellow HAMs.

Hot RF Nights will begin after an abbreviated club meeting in the front parking lot of the Crossroads off Auburn Ravine Road. You are welcome to begin gathering after 7 PM or come earlier and attend the club's Board meeting at 6 PM. The regular club meeting will begin at 7:30 PM. The club will provide plenty of cool bottle waters. Hot RF Nights will run until around 10 PM. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

We still have opportunities for members to present items of interest at upcoming club meetings in August, September, October and November. If you have a topic you would like to present please contact me at vicepresident@w6ek.org or call me at 925-768-0830.

73s, be safe, and enjoy!

Greydon, KC6SLE
SFARC Vice President

Field Day 2022 – in a few pictures



Hangin' around the hangar – what a cool place to take your Amateur Radio exam!!



Welcome to the SFARC Field Day activities – ready for visitors.



Grub Time! Feeding the fever, radio fever that is...



AJ6OR makin' contact – I wonder where this contact was?



AI6US ready to launch (the antenna)



KQ6VP taking a pause from the grill – Hey Jim, whatcha cookin' there?



Smiles abound at FD2022!! KN6GTK (Pamela) & KM6MDF (Chip)

There are SO many more pictures available online. Please visit the W6EK Photo Gallery page for more. Click [here](#) to view photos.

Club Radiosport

Click [here](#) to download ARRL & Non-ARRL contests for the month of July.

Events

Hot RF Nights

What is "Hot RF Nights"? It's a chance for you to come out and show off your mobile installs, go kits, cool antenna designs, etc... the skies the limit, show your innovation and creativity. All our welcome to join the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club for a short meeting at 7:30pm with the "real RF fun" starting at 8pm. The event is FREE to all but please consider bringing a food donation for the church's food bank (ie: Pastas, rice, canned goods, or non perishable items).

When: July 8th

Where: Crossroads Church, 1101 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn, CA 95603

Gates Open @ 6pm



Hams In The Hills

July 9 -- Soda Springs Rd.

This is a county/forest service road generally from Robinson Flat Campground to Soda Springs off Interstate 80. Many breathtaking views and a few side-trips to make for some great fun. Interested? Email jeff.sims929@gmail.com for more info and times.

Didya Know?

Herman Munster - W6XRL4 (fictitious)

Trivia Question

RG (as in RG-213, RG-11, RG-8 coax) stands for:

- A: Radio Guide
- B: Rodgers and Guilderson
- C: Reactance Grade
- D: Reliability Gauge

Answer can be found in "From the Newsletter Editor's Desk"

It's a 'Meshy' Situation

AREDN Mesh Digital Networking

Have you ever wanted to build your own little (or big) 'internet' without using the Internet? I've got news for you – it can be done, and it's not that expensive to do it. Ever since amateur radio came into existence, HAMS around the world have been experimenting with radio technologies. Now, in the digital age, there are countless ways to take advantage of digital technologies. But there is one that stands out among all the others that does NOT need the Internet to work.

AREDN - Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network

What is IT? AREDN takes exiting WiFi nodes and repurposes them to operate on a couple of amateur bands as well as one band that is not part of the amateur bands, but is open for unlicensed use. Similar to how WiFi works, AREDN nodes are radios. Through a process of applying customized firmware to the node to change the frequencies it can operate on, you can setup a node to connect to other nodes, just like your cell phone can connect to WiFi – think about a coffee shop that offers WiFi. Many customers can connect to the free WiFi (multiple nodes), or, you could connect your phone to a hotspot.

How can AREDN be used? While AREDN's name implies it is for emergency use, it is not at all exclusive to emergencies. There are several large AREDN networks that offer a variety of services, and they are used every minute of every day, emergency or not. Some of the services you can use on an AREDN network are email, chat, file-sharing, VoIP audio and video conferencing, even a web server can be on the network! And, NONE of it depends on the public Internet.

There is a sizable AREDN network in the Bay Area, originally called SFWEM (San Francisco Wireless Emergency Mesh) that is gaining significant traction and expansion. <https://www.sfwem.net/>. Orange County has a very big network - <http://ocmesh.org> as well. There are several others across the USA, and there are other popping up all the time.

How is it being used? The Marine Corps marathon has been using AREDN for their communications along the whole route, with the more tradition comms via VHF and UHF radios and repeaters as well. But, they're using AREDN for more than plain old comms – they're using automation to capture times of the runners as they cross through the checkpoints along the route giving near real-time reporting of the runners. Injury reports are submitted over the AREDN network along with all sorts of other data.

"AREDN nodes were used to connect the medical tents and the net operations tent as part of a test. This year, AREDN was tested across the entire racecourse. The success metrics of 75% (connect to the AREDN network) and 50% (connect to the runner medical database) were used this year to set moderate goals. Both metrics were achieved! In 2020, the test will be expanded to increase the success metrics to 90% and 85%, respectively." (source: <https://www.arednmesh.org/content/aredn-2019-marine-corps-marathon>)

Learn more about AREDN at <https://www.arednmesh.org/> or read the QST article about AREDN and the Marine Corps Marathon at; <https://tinyurl.com/2jmvmsy3>



From the Newsletter Editor's Desk:

Welcome to July my fellow Amateur Radio Operators!

Thank you all for your continued support and 'thank you' emails. Those simple, short emails thanking me for the newsletter are incredibly encouraging, so I say THANK YOU for those emails.

Recently, I was poking around looking for 'famous' amateur radio operators, and I stumbled across an episode of The Munsters where Herman Munster had built a radio and had made contacts in six countries, but he was singing a song, and everyone was sending him 'raspberries', scratchy static noises in response to his singing. It was a hilarious episode. Of course, the call sign he was using was not a real call sign, but nonetheless, it was funny.

In other news, SFARC has a team of dedicated volunteers looking at the various technologies that we use to manage the club and identifying what's working well, what needs improvement and how do we make it easier, more effective, and more efficient for those who use the technologies. They have convened the SFARC IT Summit to work through the numerous ways that we use technology, the frustrations, redundancies, as well as what's working well. Stay tuned for more information from the SFARC IT Summit in the coming weeks.

How about that trivia question? RG stands for 'Radio Guide' [answer A], which makes it sound like a *guide about radios*, but not exactly. "RG" means "Radio Guide" and was the original military specification for coax cable back in the thirties. RG-1 turned out to be pretty unpopular, whereas RG-6 became wildly successful! [source: <https://tinyurl.com/2i53q9yv>]

If you have any information for the newsletters, ideas, recommendations, events you've heard about, etc., please don't hesitate to send it to me. Even if you 'think' someone else has probably sent it to me, send it anyway – assume they haven't. 😊 Email: kd7g@arrl.net or james@jamesmarchetti.com – either way, I will get your email.

Thank you & ***be radio active!!***

73,

Jim – KD7G



SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ e-mail: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Associate Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ email: _____
 Phone: _____ Cellphone: _____ Application is: (New / Renewal) _____

Dues / Donations:

Membership: yearly* \$22.00 or 20x _____ Name Badge: \$ 10.00/15.00 Yes (special name) _____
 Associate: yearly* \$ 7.00 Repeater Donation: \$ _____
 Auto Patch Donation: \$ _____ Newsletter Booster: \$ _____
 Misc. Donation: \$ _____ Christmas Donation: \$ _____ ARRL member? (Yes/No/Life) _____
TOTAL: \$ _____ Please add \$1 if paying via PayPal

*Prorated dues for NEW Members/Associates Only

July	\$ 20 /6	October	\$ 14/3 + following year
August	\$ 18/5	November	\$ 12/2+ following year
September	\$ 16/4	December	\$ 10/1 + following year

New- - - New - New -
Multi-year DISCOUNT Membership
 *\$20 per year for 2 or more years (new or renewal)

OFFICE USE ONLY: DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Date: _____ Treasurer: _____ Secretary: _____ Roster: _____
 Payment: _____ Check Number: _____ Cash: _____ PayPal: _____

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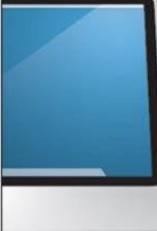


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 Instructor/Technician

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