

The El Dorado County

Newsletter of the El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club

May 2018, Vol.12, No. 5

In This Issue

Page 1

President's Message

Page 2

Meeting Minutes

Page 3

Repeater Update

Page 4

For Sale / Repeater Codes

Page 5

Tube of the Month

Page 6

Who worked the Gold Discovery Event

Page 7

Club Information

May Meeting

Thursday, May 23rd

7:15 PM

Federated Church, Placerville

Dog Tracking by Colton, WD6CWM

and

Field Day planning by Dave, K6KNS

Submitting Material to the Circuit

Material may be submitted for publication by sending it directly to the editor. This can be done by US Mail, or via the Internet (preferred). The deadline for each issue is the **Thursday**, one week before the monthly meeting.

by mail
Bob Hess, W1RH
5020 Glory View Drive
Placerville, CA
95667

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Field Day is only a month away. I hope many of you can come up and operate a station for a while. It can be lots of fun to operate during this crazy event. If you have never operated HF, this is a perfect time to try it out with some help from an experienced operator. I just hope that the pesky afternoon thunderstorms are gone by the time Field Day comes along.

If you listen to the nets on the repeater you may have heard that I have redone the club web site. The address is still the same <http://www.edcarc.net> but the content and look have been updated. The old site was all hand coded HTML and was difficult to maintain. The new site uses a content management system called Joomla. The content management system CMS allows easier updating of content and more flexibility to the site. I would like to keep the home page current with club and member activities and news. If you would like to learn how to be a publisher on the home page let me know and I can give you a quick training and create an account for you. Also, you will see on the right sidebar a Twitter feed. If you have a twitter account you can send information that will display in the feed if you use the mention @ElcountyARC in your tweet. This could be helpful if you want to announce a SOTA activation or some good DX you may be working or something interesting that you think club members may want to know. If the website is missing some content or you find an error let me know and I will take care of it. The last substantial change will be moving the club email reflector from Yahoo groups to Groups.io. Over the past year Yahoo groups has been having service and security issues reducing users trust in the service. So, the club has decided to move our email reflector to groups.io service. Many groups have already switched to Groups.io. The Groups.io interface is very simple and clean and I think you will like it much better.

Hope to see all of you at the meeting this Thursday.

Jay, KE6GLA

THE AG6AU REPEATERS

YOUR DONATION TO THE REPEATER FUND WILL KEEP US COMMUNICATING!!
IRLP Node 7195 and the AG6AU-R Echolink 668182 node are available for use on the 440 and 2 meter repeaters. Autopatch available on the 6M repeater

BAND	FREQUENCY	PL
6 Meters	52.78 MHz	107.2 Hz
2 Meters (wide area)	147.825 MHz	82.5 Hz
1.25 Meters	224.06 MHz	127.3 Hz
70 Centimeters	441.725 MHz	82.5 Hz
33 Centimeters	927.2375 MHz	127.3 Hz
33 Centimeters	927.2750 MHz	127.3 Hz

EL DORADO COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Aaron, W6CK

Date: 26 April 2018

Place: Federated Church – Placerville CA

In attendance: [..] Jay Harmor, President, KE6GLA
[x] Jordan Heichman, Vice President, WC6J
[..] Nancy Harmor, Treasurer, KG6PNP
[x] Aaron Tassin, Secretary, W6CK
[x] Dave Sanders, Board Member, K6KNS
[x] Don McCallum, Board Member, AF6ND
[x] Michael Picco, Board Member, K6MLE
[x] Phil Mosbacher, Board Member, KK6YYD
[x] Don Brooks, Board Member, KG6YST

Board Meeting:

Board meeting was called to order by Club Vice President Jordan Heichman at 1830 hours.

Last month's Board minutes were received and approved

Old Business:

[] We need to set a date to present a certificate of life membership to a club member (name not yet made public, but this person is known to all the Board). Don Brooks mentioned that in years past the Club used a letter format as that is easier than a certificate. Don said he would draft the letter and bring it back to the Board for approval.

New Business:

After some discussion about the logistics of Field Day and the need to be operating radios as much as possible, Jordon made a proposal that we suspend the Board meeting at Field Day. The Board agreed.

Dave Sanders brought up the role of Band Manager at Field Day. After open discussion we decided to appoint Band Captains for each band, and Dave will oversee the Band Captains as the Band Manager. The Band Captains will be tasked with coordinating who works on which bands at Field Day. Dave also showed us a matrix developed by Club President Jay Harmor we could use to help coordinate the bands. Michael Picco suggested using a white board at the May meeting for band use sign-ups.

The "J-Pole" antenna build at Jay's house will be pushed back to May. No date was set.

We approved expending the same amount of club funds as we did last year for the purpose of purchasing raffle prizes for Field Day. Nancy Harmor is to coordinate with Bob Hess on this issue.

We discussed the possibility of hosting our own Ham Fest. We may be able to fill a void in the area of Ham Fests about May of each year as another club in Sacramento may not be continuing theirs. This is only a concept at this time. We recognized that Bob Hess has experience in this area and would be a valuable resource.

Per Jordan, Bob Hess has mentioned that our Club Yahoo Group isn't meeting our current needs. Other clubs have switched from Yahoo Groups to "Groups ID" with marked success. For \$100/year, our club can subscribe to the unlimited package of Groups ID. A motion was passed to authorize the expenditure of \$100/year for this purpose. Nancy Harmor is to coordinate with Bob Hess on

this issue.

Aaron Tassin read the Treasurer's Report:
Savings Account at El Dorado Savings: \$1277.54

General Meeting:

Meeting called to order about 1915 hours by Club Vice President Jordan Heichman. Jordan also lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Dave Sanders presented an overview of Field Day to the group

Aaron Tassin reported that the club has \$1277.54 in our general fund.

Jordan reminded to group of the following dates:

April 28th – Valley of the Moon Ham Fest in Sonoma

May 12th – License Examinations

May 19th – Next Fox Hunt

May 24th – Next Club Meeting

May 9th – Special Event Station "W76" Railroad Commemoration

A member of the group added that the Reno Ham Fest is May 12th.

Meeting presentation: Jordan gave a presentation on the topic of SOTA Operations, specifically Worldwide Flora & Fauna (WWFF) and Parks on the Air (POTA).

Raffle tickets were sold and raffle prizes awarded to lucky members of the General meeting.

General meeting adjourned about 2030 hours.

REPEATER UPDATE

Bob, W1RH

You may have noticed audio level changes from time to time when using our 2 meter repeater, especially during nets. I wanted to take a moment to explain just what is happening.

The 2 meter AG6AU repeater has 8 satellite receiver locations, referred to a "voting sites". The sites are:

- Alder Ridge (near Kyburz)
- Bald Mountain (near Quintette)
- Logtown (near El Dorado)
- Omo Ranch (south of Somerset)
- Placerville
- Bakers Mountain (Lotus)
- Pine Hill (near Rescue)
- Hotchkiss Hill (near Georgetown)

The audio from these 8 receivers are sent, via radio links, to the Mt Danaher repeater site. The audio from each site is fed into a voting comparator. The voting comparator instantly selects the receiver with the best signal-to-noise ratio and puts it on the air. It's very interesting to watch this work. A mobile station, for instance will be constantly switching, on the fly, from one receiver site to another, resulting in a solid receivable signal from the repeater.

Our voting receiver/link packages are seriously aging and one of the problems is frequency drift due to temperature changes. This results in distorted, low level audio and fools the voting comparator into selecting a signal that it thinks has a better signal-to-noise ratio. You hear the audio level drop and jump up again as receivers are switched.

The good news is that this should be fixed by the end of the year. We have acquired new commercial receivers and are currently working on the necessary modifications to make them operate in the 2 meter amateur band.

ITEMS FOR SALE

- Heath Kit linear amplifier SB-200 80/40/20/15/10 meters \$400.00
- Heath Kit power/SWR meter \$45.00
- MFJ-214 tone (cw generator) for tuning amp \$45.00
- Motorola MTX 9250 Handheld with charger \$45.00 (need programming cable and software for 900 Mhz)

Contact: **DON BROOKS KG6YST**
530 902-2198

- Icom 756 Pro II HF Transceiver \$750
- Icom 2100 2 meter mobile \$100
- Pro-Am Portable Antenna (turns 2 ham sticks into dipoles). Includes 40 & 75 meter antennas, mast, and carrying case. \$200

Contact: **BOB HESS W1RH**
w1rh@yahoo.com

REPEATER TIDBITS

Bob, W1RH

Here's a few codes you might want to jot down:

2#111—Punch in this code on 2 meters and the repeater will respond, "RADIO CHECK READY" Key your microphone, say a few words, release the mic, and hear your signal as it is recorded at the repeater.

4#111—Punch in this code on the 440 repeater and the repeater will respond, "RADIO CHECK READY" Key your microphone, say a few words, release the mic, and hear your signal as it is recorded at the repeater.

6#111—Punch in this code on 6 meters and the repeater will respond, "RADIO CHECK READY" Key your microphone, say a few words, release the mic, and hear your signal as it is recorded at the repeater.

2#112—Will play back the date and time on 2 meters.

4#112—Will play back the date and time on 440.

6#112—Will play back the date and time on 6 meters.

61291—Enter this code on 6 meters to link 6 meters to 2/440

61292—Enter this code on 6 meters to un-link 6 meters from 2/440

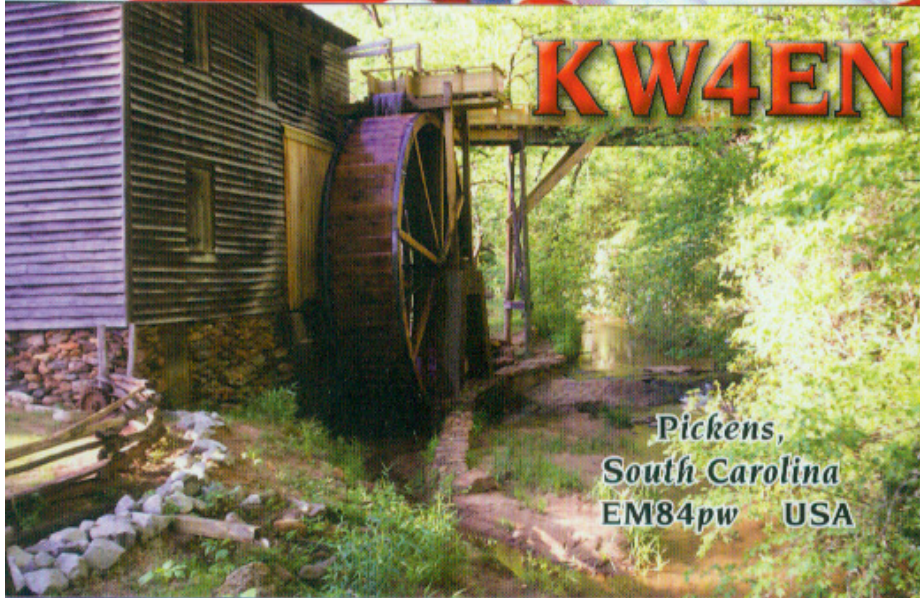
6339 “The Mushroom”

I once saw something in a ham’s pile of junk and I had no idea what it was. It was 2 inches long and looked like a mushroom with 2 wires out the bottom. I ask the ham about it and all he said was “Don’t know. Don’t care. One buck”. Sounded reasonable to me.

When I had time to do some research, I found that Amperex had made it circa 1955 for use as a clipper diode in RADAR circuits. It can handle a pulse of 10 KV at 8 amps if it is immersed in silicon oil. The small size seems to indicate that it was intended for RADAR in aircraft. The diameter is the same as a 60 amp fuse which simplified the mounting.



THESE STATIONS WORKED THE GOLD DISCOVERY SPECIAL EVENT



DUES

The dues are: Member: \$15.00 / Spouse/Assoc. Member: \$7.50.
There are three ways you can pay your dues and make a repeater donation.

1. Through PayPal. Go here: <http://www.edcarc.net/html/membership.shtml> and scroll down to the PayPal button. There is a slight handling charge.
2. By mail, send a separate check for the dues and repeater donation. Club dues check to be made out to "EDCARC" and repeater donation check to "AG6AU Repeater Fund". You can mail the checks to:

EDCARC
P.O. Box 451
Placerville, CA, 95667

3. In person, bring your checks (see #2) to the next EDCARC meeting. If you have any updates to your personal information, e.g. address (residence or email), phone #'s, etc. then fill out an application form here: http://www.edcarc.net/files/El_Dorado_County_ARC_Membership_App.pdf and either mail it to the address in #2 or bring it to the meeting.

Thanks to everyone for supporting your club!
73, Nancy, KG6PNP, Treasurer

HAM RADIO LICENSING TESTING



**July 14th, 2018
9:00 AM**

**THE AMERICAN
LEGION
POST 119**

**4561 GREENSTONE Rd.
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667**

**FEES ARE \$14.00
(Subject to change)**

**CONTACT:
KEN VOGELE, W6KWV
530-642-9523**



**THE EDCARC TUESDAY NIGHT NET
HAVE YOU SAID HI TO NANCY LATELY?
WILL YOU BE CHECK-IN #20?
8:00 PM EVERY TUESDAY**

52.78 (107.2)

147.825 (82.5)

147.975 (82.5) (currently off-line)

441.725 (82.5)

927.27 (127.3)

**Or
Echolink**

First Class Postage

Post Office
Will Not
Deliver
Without
Proper
Postage

El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 451
Placerville, CA 95667

Club Information 2018

President	Jay Harmor	KE6GLA		jharmor@comcast.net
Vice President	Jordan Heichman	WC6J		radon@jordan-h.com
Treasurer	Nancy Harmor	KG6PNP		nanharmor@comcast.net
Secretary	Aaron Tassin	W6CK		
Board Member	Dave Sanders	K6KNS		
Board Member	Don McCallum	AF6ND		
Board Member	Michael Picco	K6MLE		
Board Member	Phil Mosbacher	KK6YYD		
Board Member	Don Brooks	KG6YST		
Repeater Trustee	Bob Hess	W1RH	530-350-3843	w1rh@arrl.net
Newsletter Editor	Bob Hess	W1RH	530-350-3843	w1rh@arrl.net
Webmaster	Jay Harmor	KE6GLA		jharmor@comcast.net

- ◆ Meeting: Club meetings are normally held on the 4th Thursday of each month (except for June and November), 7:15 PM, at the Federated Church, 1031 Thompson Way, Placerville
- ◆ Club Nets: Tuesday evenings, 8:00 PM, on the AG6AU repeater, 147.825 MHz / 441.725 MHz / 52.78 MHz / 927.275