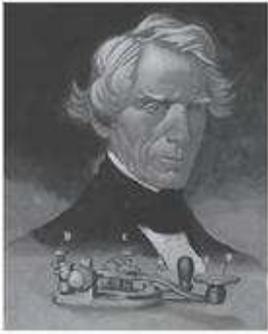


# W6SFM

## Samuel F. Morse Amateur Radio Club (SFMARC) Sacramento, CA



By Edson Fong, WB6IQN

### The DBJ-1: A VHF-UHF Dual-Band J-Pole

Searching for an inexpensive, high-performance dual-band base antenna for VHF and UHF? Build a simple antenna that uses a single feed line for less than \$10.

Two-meter antennas are small compared to those for the lower frequency bands, and the availability of repeaters on this band greatly extends the range of lightweight low-power handhelds and mobile stations. One of the most popular VHF and UHF base station antennas is the J-Pole.

The J-Pole has no ground radials and it is easy to construct using inexpensive materials. For its simplicity and small size, it offers excellent performance. Its radiation pattern is close to that of an "ideal"

dipole because it is end fed; this results in virtually no disruption to the radiation pattern by the feed line.

#### The Conventional J-Pole

I was introduced to the twisted version of the J-Pole in 1990 by my long-time friend, Dennis Monticelli, AI6C, and I was intrigued by its simplicity and high performance. One can scale this design to one-third size and also use it on UHF. With UHF repeaters becoming more popular in metropolitan areas, I accepted the challenge to incorporate both bands into one antenna with no degradation in performance. A common feed line would also eliminate the need for a diplexer. This article describes how to convert the traditional single-band ribbon J-Pole design to dual-band operation. The antenna is enclosed in UV-resistant PVC pipe and can thus withstand the elements with only the antenna connector exposed. I have had this

antenna on my roof since 1992 and it has been problem-free in the San Francisco fog.

The basic configuration of the ribbon J-Pole is shown in Figure 1. The dimensions are shown for 2 meters. This design was also discussed by KD6GLF in QST. That antenna presented dual-band resonance, operating well at 2 meters but with a 6-7 dB deficit in the horizontal plane at UHF when compared to a dipole. This is attributable to the antenna operating at its third harmonic, with multiple out-of-phase currents.

I have tested single-band J-Pole configurations constructed from copper pipe, 450  $\Omega$  ladder line, and aluminum rod. While all the designs performed well, each had shortcomings. The copper pipe J-Pole matching section would be exposed to the

J. Raynolds, KD6GLF, "An Easy Dual-Band VHF/UHF Antenna," QST, Sep 1994, pp 81-82.

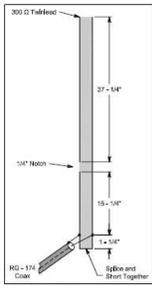


Figure 1—Basic diagram and dimensions for the original 2-meter ribbon J-Pole.  
38 February 2003 US\$1-

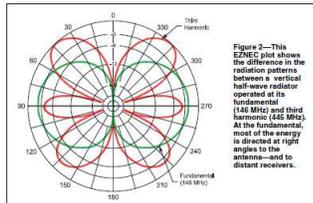


Figure 2—This EZNEC plot shows the difference in the radiation patterns between a vertical half-wave radiator operated at the fundamental (146 MHz) and third harmonic (438 MHz). All the fundamental energy is directed at right angles to the antenna and to distant receivers.

Guest speaker Ed Fong (WB6IQN) Designer of the Dual-Band J-Pole was slated to present his Tri-band J-Pole design at the August In-person meeting.

### August Presentation goes missing

For the first time, this month the SFM ARC meeting lacked a regular scheduled presentation. The W6SFM was excited to have invited Ed Fong, WB6IQN designer of the Dual-band J-pole antenna to give his presentation on one of his designs. However, after poor communications with the club, it seems that Ed did not put the club's meeting on his calendar, even after multiple confirmations made by the club. This month's presentation was to be on the technical aspects of the new Tri-Band J-pole antenna which does not require any radials. The club will once again offer Ed a chance to deliver his presentation to the club in the future. The club will announce more information on that as we get closer to that date.

## W6SFM August, 2018 Newsletter

### W6SFM Members Enjoy Night of Nights

W6SFM Members, John (WB6UBK), Chris (AI6U) and Bob (N6PGQ) visited the annual July 12th 3 pm to midnight "Night of Nights" event at the Historic RCA Coast Station KPH. For this event, historic Morse code radio station KPH returns to the air in commemoration of the closing of commercial Morse operation in the USA. Members John and Chris enjoyed getting on the air using their Bug style keys for a good part of the event. John reports that the station location was filled up for the first hour or two with both Ham visitors and visitors from the general public. After about an hour or hour and a half most of the visitors left KPH to the RCA coast station operators along with John and Chris. Understandably, with KPH receiving station being out on the coast edge of Point Reyes, it can become a long drive (Continued on Page 2)

## In-Person On-Air/On-Line QNI Report

Secretary Chris, AI6U reports another impressive number of **34** QNI on-air check-ins and **13** On-line "Live Feed" viewers. This month on-air check-in numbers were slightly up from last month's. Even in the midst of summer, it seems most of our regulars while not on vacation are enjoying their radios, and the indoor air-conditioning. Bands have been up and down from week to week, but with very low solar storm activity the noise levels have also been very reasonable. Noise floor levels have been reported by members attending the 80-meter nets with S-levels between S2 and S4

As always, the **Net Control Station** suggests that those attending the on-air nets please try to keep their speeds to around 15 WPM as to allow our past CW class students and others new to CW to pick up on everything being sent. Please keep those on-air check-ins coming! We enjoy hearing about members' current happenings. On-air Net Meetings offer a way for club members to get together between in-person meetings and events. Especially for those out of town. Please refer to our W6SFM [homepage](#) for on-air meeting times and frequencies.

## Meeting Attendance

The W6SFM Samuel F. Morse ARC club welcomed **11** members and **1** guest to our in-person monthly meeting. Congratulations to our newest member Erez, (KM6TVV) who just joined the SFM ARC shortly after last month's meeting. We also welcomed Dale (KE7WJR) resident of Brookings, OR who was a former student of the W6SFM CW Beginners Class. Dale came in to enjoy one of the clubs in-person meetings and get some information from the J-Pole antenna presentation that was postponed.

Be sure to invite any of your HAM and potential HAM radio friends to our in-person meetings. Visitors do not need to be past members of the SFM ARC or even Licensed Amateur radio operators to enjoy our in-person meetings with us. Many guests walk away with a new interest in Morse Code, and Ham Radio after visiting with us.

## W6SFM Request

As mentioned, during the summer months we know that in-person meeting attendance tends to drop. The club encourages you to find an opportunity to join us at upcoming in-person meetings so members can catch up with you. We miss having your visit with us!

## W6SFM Live Feed Report



Now more than ever, the club has been experiencing flawless on-air and in-person meeting Live Feed transmissions. With the new club computer, we have not had one drop-out or disconnection. As a matter of fact, the club's computer is now producing 1920X1080 HD video streams at 30 frames per second. With the aid of David's (K6CIM) CW to text decoding software, the club has been experiencing good translations of the CW on-air net meetings along with stereo HQ sound.

With this last club in-person meeting we were treated to 2 microphone and camera inputs. One camera, on the laptop, is pointed at the speaker, while a second camera streams the members as they speak and observe. This has allowed those watching live to get better acquainted with members attending the meetings. A little more work needs to be made for audio quality, but the club is aware and will be adjusting as we move along. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please be sure to view it live on our website or watch the posted videos after the meeting is over.

# Night of Nights

(continued from front page)

for many visiting. The Night of Nights event is intended to honor the men and women who followed the radiotelegraph trade on ships and at the coast stations around the world.

The maritime mobile bands were once populated edge to edge with powerful coast stations operating from virtually every country on every continent. Also, the ships of world trade and the great passenger liners filled the air with their radiograms—and with their calls for help when in danger on the sea. Now those bands are largely silent.

MRHS member Richard Dillman shares what it was like for many radiotelegraphers:

"12 July 1999 was a sad day for many of us. We knew it was coming but when the end finally arrived it was a shock. I was there.

It was the supposed last day of Morse code. The final sign off took place at a remote station on the Pacific coast. Women attending the event were dressed as if at a funeral. Grizzled, hard bitten old men, the kind you wouldn't mess with in a bar room, had tears in their eyes as the last messages was keyed out to the world at 0000 GMT. And then there was silence.

It was just beeps in the air. But that's how much Morse code means to the men and women who made the profession of radiotelegrapher one of honor and skill."



*W6SFM Member John (WB6UBK) gets on the air at K6KPH during the Night of Nights event*

However, the prediction of the death of Morse code was not to be fulfilled. On that day the Maritime Radio Historical Society was born. On that day MHRS members began plans to restore a Morse code radio station—the famous KPH. One year later they held the first "Night of Nights" when not only KPH but other coast stations appeared once again on the air. Every year since KPH has commemorated that date by returning these stations to the air and thereby, we hope, honoring the men and women who came before us.



*W6SFM Member Chris (AI6U) gets on the air at K6KPH during the Night of Nights event*

Once a year the Maritime Radio Historical Society returns stations KPH and KFS to the air. Other historic stations often join in. Calls from ships at sea make the event seem as if the golden age of maritime radio has returned.

A list Frequency and reception report information for all stations appear at the [Maritime Radio Historical Society](http://www.maritimeraiosociety.com) website. KPH, the ex-RCA coast station located north of San Francisco, returns to the air for commemorative broadcasts every year on July 12 at 5:01 pm PDT (13 July at 0001 GMT).

## SIM Card Hotspot

Due to the lack of quality internet upload speeds available at the church during last month's in-person meeting, it was discussed that the club should acquire a cellular telephone hotspot to make our on-line live broadcast with. New member Erez (KM6TVV) offered the club the use of his TP-Link M7359 MiFi Hotspot box. The club would like to thank Erez for stepping up and bringing the MiFi hotspot with him to our last meeting for Mike (N6MQL) to test out. As of our last meeting, the church has since upgraded their upload speeds from 2MBs to 10MBs, which appears to be enough for the club to make a quality 1920X1080 30 FPS Live Feed

## SIM Card HotSpot

(continued from pg. 2)

Transmission. However, the club could make use of Erez's MiFi box using one of the member's Cellular Telephone SIM cards during other events. Specifically, when the club is out of reach of other WiFi services. This may include remote setups like Field Day, days out in the park, or even an outdoor event like Kids' Day in the Park. More investigating must be done with the box to see if we can get it to work with the existing SIM cards we have available. Because Mike's AT&T grandfathered "Unlimited WiFi" plan has no restrictions for the amount of Data that can be accessed on his phone, AT&T has disabled his phone to be used as a hotspot. If possible, this box could access that WiFi data service and allow the club to have an unlimited WiFi signal. More on this to come as we learn more about the abilities of this device.

## Club Laptop

At our June in-person meeting the club voted to allow the purchase of a new Laptop computer. After the trail of 3 different laptop models, the club has settled on our final decision. The club decided, for the purposes of quality and construction, that we would go with a Dell model computer. After lots of testing the club spent only

90% of its agreed \$1,000 budget to purchase our new computer.



The club chose the Dell Inspiron 13.3" 7000 with it's included 8<sup>th</sup> generation Intel Core I7-8550U Processor (4 GHz), 8GB DDR4 2400 MHz RAM, 256 GB Solid State drive and Windows 10 64-bit operating system. The laptop weighs in at only 3lbs and measures 0.60" height X 12.10" width and 8.49" depth. With this extremely thin profile the computer boasts all of the newest features and I/Os including a 3 in-1 SD Card Reader, 2 USB 3.1 type-A ports, 1 USB type-C 3.1 port, The newest HDMI2 (4K video) output, and full range audio in/output jacks. The computer case is metal for a little more security and protection. In addition to all of those features, the laptop computer purchase can also be used with its built-in touch screen cinema display as a 2-in-1 tablet style computer seen below:



This was clearly the biggest "bang for the buck" that the club could get. With the features described, W6SFM should be in good shape for weekly on-air Live Feed broadcasts, monthly remote Live Feed In-Person meeting broadcasts, contest day logging, making of PowerPoint club presentations and of course writing the monthly newsletter like this one.

Although the computer did not come with an RJ45 Ethernet port, the club spent an addition \$20 (including shipping) to purchase a simple to use USB to RJ45 adapter, which was used to network connect our Field Day logging stations together as we always do.

We encourage all of our members to check out the Live Feed broadcasts every week, which are also recorded and posted to our "videos" page of the "Media Clips & Pics" section of our website ([www.w6sfm.com](http://www.w6sfm.com)).

Software required to run the computers Live Feed, PowerPoint presentations, document word processing have all been downloaded from the web as open source (free) applications and appear to be working very well. The only purchased software is the CW to Text Decoding software used for our weekly on-air nets and was provided by club member David (K6CIM).

# Icom IC7300 overview

The new Icom IC7300 was brought to the attention of SFM ARC President Mike (N6MQL) by our newest member to join the club, Erez (KM6TVV) while asking for advice on which rig to purchase. After having looked over the technical specifications on the Sherwood Labs report found at <http://www.sherweng.com/table.html>

Mike found the lab results to be very impressive. Sorted by 3<sup>rd</sup>-order dynamic range narrow spaced, the IC7300 ranked 17<sup>th</sup> place out of over 100 rigs tested. With a ranking just below the Flex 6600M, Yaesu's FTdx-5000D and all of the Elecraft line of rigs, the Icom shows good promise with its -142dB noise floor, 123dB 100KHz blocking, greater than 100dB filtering and 94dB Dynamic Range Narrow Spacing. Of course, the proof is in the ear, as opposed to on the paper, or in this case, in the lab.

Luckily for Mike, a former student of the W6SFM CW class, and visitor to our last in-person meeting, Dale (KE7WJR) had just purchased his new IC7300 rig and was in town with it. Dale brought his rig over to Mike's shack to have a look at it.

At first glance the rig is a very nicely laid out, and portable size radio. The Rig

features a good size touch screen display where all of the settings can very easily be accessed by fingertip.



The rig also offers both an audio scope as well as an adjustable waterfall display. Each can be displayed one at a time in expanded mode, or together on the same screen.



*Waterfall display expanded*



*Waterfall with Audio Scope*

The IC7300 has a maximum output power of 100 watts which is perfect for this size of radio. One thing that Mike found as a downside of the radio is the use of the PBT (pass band tuning) that ICOM continues to employ. As opposed to have a separate Bandpass width and IF Shift knob like most rigs do, the IC7300 continues to use the PBT which allows

the Bandpass filter to be split into two parts. One which moves the center of the IF for the upper sideband of the signal, and the other that controls the lower sideband range of the signal. Although this is good for use with SSB as a Low and High tone control, it becomes more of a hinderance in the CW mode. The reason for this is most noticeable when a filter width of 100 Hz is built by moving the upper and lower PBT knobs apart from each other. In one direction where the USB is moved to the right and the LSB is moved to the left, although the filter bandwidth become 100Hz wide, the sound of the CW sidetone becomes unintelligible. However, if the USB is moved to the left, and the LSB is moved to the right, the 100 Hz wide filter is once again built, but is now perfectly intelligible with a 450 - 500 Hz CW sidetone pitch. Although, with the extensive on-screen displays, seeing what is going on becomes very easy remedy.



*PBT 1 & 2 (USB/LSB) can be seen graphically on-screen for easy adjustment (lower left)*

# Icom IC7300

## overview

(continued from Pg. 5)

When it comes to NR (DSP Noise reduction), the IC7300 has about 10 filters to choose from. Each of the filters when presented with full RF gain seem to offer about the same lack of Noise Reduction. However, with the proper use of the RF Gain to remove the audible noise floor, the IC7300 NR filters seem to build and offer average to good noise filtering. A bit more aggressive filtering could be offered on this rig, but with noise levels in the S4 to S5 range the rig seems to do well (with reduced RF Gain).

As usual with most Japanese rigs, the NB (Noise Blanker) doesn't seem to have any effect on the Noise Floor level, unless presented with a continuous pulse noise. The rig does offer a good selection of adjustments for the NB with width, depth and level. These would be very helpful to reduce noises which can be often produced in an older vehicle or around power generators.

The receiver does perform very well with solid copy on low level CW signals in the noise floor. The 142-dB noise floor on this radio is very apparent, and sensitivity is not a problem with the rig. CW Keying on the IC7300 is not pin

diode-switched, so there is a bit of relay clicking as Mike came to find out while using the rig in QSK mode at a later test. Although not critical, he did find it surprising that a modern rig with all the "bells and whistles" still uses relay switching for CW.

As for power draw the rig does very well at less than a half of an amp when in receive mode, and the normal 25 Amp power supply is necessary to achieve the standard 100-watt output. Dale had a very nice, and quite small switching supply made by Powerwerx (model SS-30DV) which seemed to do very well.



*Powerwerx SS-30DV Pwr Supply with half Rack mounting bracket option*

Another interesting design feature of the IC7300 is its operation of the RF Gain / Squelch knob. Where most rigs make you choose between the operation of a knob performing either Squelch or RF gain, the IC7300 provides both on the same knob. When the knob is in the center position the Squelch is off, and the RF gain level is at full. When the knob is turned to the counter clockwise position (left) the RF gain lowers. On the other hand, when the knob is turned clockwise the

Squelch level is employed. it would appear that you cannot have both the Squelch on while simultaneously having the RF Gain down. In most cases this would never be necessary anyhow. Another interesting feature of the RF gain is how it operates. On most rigs, as you reduce the RF Gain, the S-meter begins to rise, covering up the number of S-units you are attenuating. However, with the IC7300, as you turn the RF Gain down, the actual signal level on the S-meter begins to lower until all signals are below the Zero S-unit level on the bar graph. This can be helpful when reducing a noise floor of S-5, for example. Simply turn the RF gain down until the noise floor is at 0-units.

At \$1,000 the IC7300 is a fine Mid-entry level SDR DSP rig with all of the options that anyone could ever ask for, plus a few more to be discovered. Although it seems more geared to the SSB operator, it does seem to perform well when adjusted to perform at its maximum in the CW mode.

In Mike's opinion, the Kenwood TS480SAT which is priced at \$850 is a better performing Super-Het/SDR Hybrid radio when fitted with the optional crystal filters. However, it has none of the fancy features such as the scopes or touch screen displays.

## Update your Email

All members receive a W6SFM.COM email addresses. Each member has been assigned a club email address of "your call"@w6sfm.com. You do not need to sign up, or change any settings on your computer. E-mail sent to <"your call"@w6sfm.com> is forwarded to the address supplied to the club when you became a member. **It is very important If you plan to change your main email address PLEASE be sure to provide this new information to the club so we can update our Database. Without this information, you will be unable to receive emails from the club, including this monthly newsletter.**

## Members Pages

A fun and useful benefit to being an SFM ARC member is your personal Members webpage. On this page, you can proudly display your bio and personal

Members			
To visit an SFM ARC member's page, click on their Name & Call			
To e-mail a member, send your mail to <member's call>@w6sfm.com			
<a href="#">AA6DK Stan</a>	<a href="#">KC6O Andrew</a>	<a href="#">N6LJD Wes (SK)</a>	<a href="#">W6GCP5 Charles</a>
<a href="#">AA6DT David</a>	<a href="#">KE6EE Mike</a>	<a href="#">N6UG Birton</a>	
<a href="#">AB6JY Arnie</a>	<a href="#">KE8EVR Kal</a>	<a href="#">N64OE Chuck</a>	
<a href="#">AI6JQ Dong</a>	<a href="#">KG6FJ Angie</a>	<a href="#">NA6D Ralph</a>	
<a href="#">AI6U Chris</a>	<a href="#">KI6KWX Terry</a>	<a href="#">NS3D Jennifer (SK)</a>	
<a href="#">AL7JK John</a>	<a href="#">KJ6CA Bob</a>	<a href="#">WOCCA Cap</a>	
<a href="#">K5KV Benny</a>	<a href="#">KJ6YCO Bill</a>	<a href="#">WOUFC Tom</a>	
<a href="#">K6GIM David</a>	<a href="#">KJ6YCP Katy</a>	<a href="#">W2RS Ray</a>	
<a href="#">K6DQJ Bob</a>	<a href="#">K8GCNK Josef</a>	<a href="#">W6GMU Paul</a>	
<a href="#">K6DQJ Bob</a>	<a href="#">K86ESN Keith</a>	<a href="#">W6HN Howard</a>	
<a href="#">K6JJR Mark</a>	<a href="#">K8GGMK Peter</a>	<a href="#">W6JS Tom</a>	
<a href="#">K6KSG Richard</a>	<a href="#">KM6RTD Dana</a>	<a href="#">W6JTA John</a>	
<a href="#">K6LQ Mike</a>	<a href="#">KP6MD Carol</a>	<a href="#">W6KN Kevin</a>	
<a href="#">K6SDW Eddy</a>	<a href="#">KR6AI Kevin</a>	<a href="#">W6PPP Wally</a>	
<a href="#">K7NDE Gene</a>	<a href="#">KZ6B Alan</a>	<a href="#">W6VFW Tony</a>	
<a href="#">KZSF Steve</a>	<a href="#">NG6V Paul</a>	<a href="#">W8FB Bob</a>	
<a href="#">K9JJP Jon</a>	<a href="#">NG6ET Rick</a>	<a href="#">W66FEJ Stephen</a>	
<a href="#">KA9MDP Bob</a>	<a href="#">NG6IX Bob</a>	<a href="#">WA6NEA Bob</a>	

### W6SFM Members Page

pictures to the public. We encourage our members to post news, photos and

other information about themselves as well as their

hobbies. Feel free to visit other member's pages found in the 'members' section of the W6SFM website for some examples. If you are interested in updating your own personal page, please contact [admin@w6sfm.com](mailto:admin@w6sfm.com) with your pictures and bio. Or, if you feel more comfortable with QRZ.com, you may have your QRZ.com page linked to your W6SFM members' page. This means that you can do all of your own editing and maintenance of your personal W6SFM web space. Those members who do not opt to have a webpage your name and call sign will be listed in the members section without a blue link button.

## ARRL, The W6SFM and PayPal

It has come to the club's attention that currently we are the only on-line resource for those interested in paying their ARRL membership dues by way of PayPal.

As demonstrated at our last in-person meeting, when searching for "Pay my ARRL Membership Dues using PayPal" or "With PayPal" this results in the W6SFM being listed as the 4<sup>th</sup> search item displayed on the Google search page. No other club or group can be found that accepts

PayPal as a form of payment when it comes to ARRL dues.



This was brought to the club's attention by 2 different out-of-country Hams, and 1 out-of-state Ham. Those hams were looking to join the ARRL, but didn't have a credit card, or wanted to use PayPal as their form of payment. For reasons unknown, the ARRL does not accept PayPal as a payment method. Because the SFM ARC has its own public online store, anyone who finds our page is capable of using it to Join or Renew the ARRL. We're very happy to be able to offer this service to the United States, and Hams around the world that have no other means by which to pay their membership dues or renewals. Plus, as a bonus, the club profits \$2 per renewal, and \$15 for each new membership. So, be sure to spread the word to those that you know who want to renew or join their ARRL using PayPal.

## Club Merchandise

Club Merchandise was announced and distributed at the meeting to those who ordered within the last month. Mike N6MQL reminded the members the club still has stock on all new **T-Shirts** in most sizes. If you're interested in purchasing a new T-Shirt to replace your old, faded or stained shirt, please use the clubs NEW [Merchandise](#) order link on our website. Because T-Shirts are in-stock there is no delivery fee unless delivered to your home address.

Mike also noted the club has very nice **PERSONALIZED** hats and Coffee Mugs as well! Please keep in mind that ALL members receive a **20% discount** on our Club Shirts as we ask that members wear them to Club activities and events. The 20% discount is extended to both the member and their family.

The club asks that if you plan on attending an event that is held in public that you own and don your W6SFM club T-Shirt at those events. It is important that we look like an organized team to the general public. Events include ARRL Field Day, Kids Day in the Park and club or organized days out in the park as examples.



*Pictured Above: W6SFM Coffee Mug*



*Pictured above: W6SFM Hat*



*Pictured above: W6SFM T-shirt  
All Items are for sale on our  
Merchandise web page.*



## W6SFM is an Affiliated Club

The SFM ARC is an ARRL affiliated club. In order to continue this, we MUST have at least 51 percent of our members current with their ARRL membership. Without this W6SFM will no longer continue to receive the benefits we do from the ARRL. Benefits include the club's ARRL liability insurance policy. The club asks that you please **consider renewing or joining the ARRL through our club.** To do this please use the [Join/Renew ARRL link](#) on the W6SFM.COM menu to fill out your application. As a benefit, the SFM ARC receives **\$2** for each membership renewal, and **\$15** for each NEW membership we submit! ARRL membership fees are \$49 per year. You can now pay your ARRL Dues on-line with our cart system. Or, be sure to bring your check made out to "**SFMARC**" to the next club meeting. Remember, early renewals are credited with an additional 12-month period, plus your remaining balance. So, feel free to get your renewal in early to avoid having it laps and losing out on your copy of QST Magazine.

## Treasury Report

Currently our Wells Fargo account contains a total of **\$1,388.92** (unchanged). The club's PayPal account is currently at **\$3,347.69** for a total of **\$4,736.61**. This month's \$78.72 increase in funds reflects new member Dues, club merchandise sold, ARRL commissions from renewals, along with a very generous continued \$10 PayPal monthly donation from one of our unnamed W6SFM members.

## Next Month's Meeting

Our next SFM ARC in-person meeting will be held at its normal time and location **Sep. 6<sup>th</sup>** (followed by our **Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>** meeting). The SFM ARC in-person meeting will be held in the Howard Crowley room upstairs at the Carmichael Presbyterian Church. Directions, including a Google Map, are available at the bottom of the W6SFM.com homepage. At our **September** meeting, we will be discussing ARRL news and events. We will also have a presentation on the CommCat DX cluster, spotting and logging program, including its "Live" add-on option. Plans will be made for the annual CA QSO Party which will happen the first weekend of October. As always, we will have our Tech (show and tell) portion. Members and visitors are asked to share their Ham Radio related items they find of interest.

## On-Air Net Meeting

Each Tuesday of the week 8:00 PM on 3.545 MHz the SFM ARC enjoys getting on the air with CW for our weekly Nets. You do NOT need to be a member of the SFM ARC to check into our nets and we encourage you to invite a friend to join us as well. Although our nets usually run around 15 wpm code, we are all happy to accommodate those that are slower and need us to oblige. If you are unable to copy Morse Code or need some code practice, please feel free to visit our on-line LIVE streaming broadcast of both the Audio and a CW to Text decoding of the meeting. The "**LIVE FEED**" link can be found under the "Media Clips & Pics" tab of our website. With our YouTube Live streaming system, you can watch the Live Feed on your Apple IOS or Android devices. You do not need to have a YouTube account to access the feed. However, you will need one to subscribe to our channel. Those viewing directly via the W6SFM YouTube channel can chat with others watching on-line as well. This of course is not mandatory, but rather just a way of making everyone feel more involved in our on-air nets. If you like, you can also "check-in" using the chat window to be included with our weekly On-Air Net log.

## Tell A Friend

Do you know someone in need of a Ham Club to call home? Perhaps someone that wants to learn Morse Code, are interested in CW or already knows and uses it? The SFM ARC would love to be their new Club home. Our in-person meetings are held each **1st Thursday of the month at 7PM**. Please use the rear parking lot and entry for best access to the meeting. A map and directions can also be found at the bottom of our home page of the website. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

## Thank You

If you enjoy this newsletter and would like to contribute to it, we ask that ALL members please send in interesting information, stories along with any pictures you would like to share with the other members. If you would like to write a monthly (or periodic) news article we would welcome that as well. Please be sure to contact [admin@w6sfm.com](mailto:admin@w6sfm.com) with your ideas! Until our next newsletter, I thank you all very much for being a member of the SFMARC, without you this club could not exist.

