

W6SFM

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



W6SFM Comes out for ARRL Field Day 2017!

A Big thank you to everyone that joined the SFM ARC for its annual ARRL Field Day event 2017. Once again, the club enjoyed a fun get together of its members, guests, and the general public. The club stations were located behind the rear parking lot in the field of the Carmichael Presbyterian Church. This location provided everyone with FREE and Easy public accessibility to the W6SFM Field Day location. The large tree the club operated under provided everyone with about a 20-degree damper in our 100-degree heat wave! (continued p2)

W6SFM July, 2017 Newsletter

In Memory of Norm Lucas, WB6RVR (2/27/1950 – 6/19/2017)

Our very dear member, Norm WB6RVR passed away suddenly 6-19-2017. Norm was a very big part of our club and the Ham those who were in need of his well he may have known a to offer a hand when it came to even offering to help his clubs great help to the entire Ham small group of other HAMS for operator's rights. Norm was set forth in January of this year Microphone operated traveling in a vehicle. Norm will be greatly missed by this club and those who knew him.



Community. Norm helped all assistance, regardless of how person. Norm was always there Antenna Setups, repairs, or out financially. Norm was also a Community fighting along with a California Amateur Radio instrumental in correcting a law barring all use of hand held or communications radios while

On-Air/On-Line QNI Report

Secretary Chris, AI6U reports another outstanding month of **39** QNI on-air and **19** On-line "Live Feed" viewers. This month on-air check-in numbers were slightly lower than last month's. However, we're keeping a steady turn out of participants through the summer's start. Net conditions continue to be up for the most part with mostly 599 reports from as far south as L.A., East as CO. and as north as WA. State. In addition, the club is seeing even more "guest" check-ins from those coming across the net, or having heard about it from one of our active members. 2 of our most recent net guest have since joined the club because of our preservation of CW on the bands.

The NCS suggests that those attending the on-air nets please try to keep their speeds to around 13-15 WPM 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 member's 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 location.

In-Person Meeting Attendance

The W6SFM Samuel F. Morse ARC club welcomed **10** members and **3** guests to this month's SFMARC in-person monthly meeting. It was nice to greet our guests Oleg from Carmichael, John, W6JTA and Alex KM6UO (R2DHL) from Davis, CA. At this month's meeting Mike, N6MQL presented a hands-on demonstration of the differences in past and current size Surface mounted devices. Mike also demonstrated some helpful tips on how to use both a soldering iron and SMD Hot air work station to remove, clean and install SMD devices. Because of the sizes involved members watched what was being done on the TV monitor feed by Mike's Microscope placed on the table.



The club looks on as Mike compares different SMD components to a Dime.

W6SFM Request

Since the implementation of our Live Feed we've noticed a slight drop in club meeting attendance. The club would encourage all local members to find the opportunity to join us at upcoming in-person meeting(s). Your presence is always missed; however, your support does not go un-noticed. So, if you're able, we ask that you please come on out and join once again.



Discontinues Free Service

It was announced last month that LiveStream, the provider of W6SFM's Live Feed will no longer be providing free streaming services. As of July 11th our Livestream feed will no longer be available, nor will any of the previously recorded videos on-line.

In an effort to get ahead of this, the club's webmaster has been looking into different methods of Live Streaming to the club's "Live Feed" Webpage. Currently both Facebook and YouTube offer Free Streaming options. However, in an effort to move traffic through Facebook directly, Facebook does not allow personal website "live video" integration.

Youtube's new streaming service will allow webpage embedding, but is still very 'clunky' at this time. There are very few integration tools and Free broadcaster applications available.

As of the 11th The club will begin moving all of its Live Feed transmissions through our W6SFM YouTube Channel. The Live Feed page will continue to serve live feeds, but because of the way the new software works you may be required to 'refresh' your

Livestream

(continued from pg.1)
browser in order to activate the live transmission once it has begun. Unlike the previous LiveStream integration, YouTube has no way to continuously update our webpage in order to let the Live transmission begin on its own. Therefore, once you have arrived on the clubs "Live Feed" page, if there is no transmission currently playing you will be required to refresh your browser to check again for the start of the transmission. We hope to find a way past this allowing for an automatic start of the broadcast as we did in the past. Until then, if you prefer you can always go to the YouTube channel to see if we are "Live Broadcasting". Those

who  to the W6SFM YouTube channel will always be notified by email when the club goes live.

If there are others that know more about this integration, or have suggestions please feel free to contact the club Administrator through our Contact W6SFM link on the club webpage.

The W6SFM Channel can be found by simply going to YouTube.com and searching for W6SFM. Click on any of our videos and then click the Subscribe button under the video.

Field Day 2017

(continued from front page)
The SFM ARC suffered a great loss with the passing of Member Norm, WB6RVR (mentioned above) which caused the club to have to switch to "plan-B" in our antenna setup. The club operated a modest 2 stations, all emergency powered 100-watt (or less, depending on battery voltage levels) configuration. This year's antennas used were the club work horse "all-band" 80 meter tuned Inverted Vee, and the clubs newly repaired, rebuilt and re-tuned Hustler 4 band trapped vertical. Set up of our antenna systems began on Saturday Morning (Field Day) at 8:45 AM. Radios and battery equipment set up begin around 9 AM. By 10:30 AM the club's logging computers were networked together and we were ready to go. Operations began precisely at 11 AM PT. Member turn out at the setup was very good with around 11 members and 1 guest joining in. Everyone was treated to Coffee and Doughnuts to start their morning off.

Throughout the event the club saw 24 total people show up. The club was visited by 11 guests and 13 club members. Included in those numbers were 5 Kids 18 years old or younger. Member Chuck N6UOE brought out his grandson to get a view of what Field Day was all about. Chris 12

years old, was very helpful assisting chuck and the club with the vertical antenna setup and connection.

Field Day operations continued throughout the afternoon and into the night. ARRL Section manager, and W6SFM member, Carol KP4MD joined us with her 'official' visit around 4:30 PM and stayed through dinner time. Those who were still with us for dinner were served Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Soda and Water. A special thank you to member Kal, KE8EVR for bringing out a very nice supply of bottled sodas. There was plenty of room for a tent and sleeping bags to be set up in the field, but those who stayed the night with us were up for most of the night. Those who did get some shut eye chose to catch a few winks in the front seats of their cars. For most of the late night 'grave-yard' shift the radios were maned with both an operator, and a logger. There were only about 2 or 3 hours where only 2 operators without loggers worked by themselves.

All in all, the club performed very well for the event. Just as Tamitha Skov's special Field Day Solar report (as posted on the front page of the W6SFM website) predicted, Band conditions were a little shaky (cont.)

Field Day 2017

(continued from page 2)

In the morning, and part of the early afternoon. After about 3 PM the bands seemed to open wide up. 10 and 15 meters showed lack luster operations, but were open to the pacific islands. W6SFM worked both Hawaii and New Zealand on 15 meters. Later, using the vertical antenna the club was able to work all the way into Puerto Rico and Venezuela on 20 meters.

Between the two stations the Vertical antenna made 46% of the contacts, and the Inverted Vee made the other 54% of contacts. Some of this can be attributed to the fact that the Inverted Vee operates on 80 meters in the overnight, whereas the Vertical cannot operate below 40 meters. The breakdown of contacts per band were as follows:

80m – 125 Contacts
40m – 165 Contacts
20m – 122 Contacts
15m - 15 Contacts

The top 3 Contacts by Section were as follows:

Western Washington-35
Oregon - 30 contacts
Colorado - 24 contacts

Our top 3 performing operators (by initials) were as follows:

MA - 206 Contacts
JG – 69 Contacts
BR – 52 Contacts

Field Day 2017

Preliminary

Results

The club field Day logs and supporting documentation were submitted to the ARRL on the 5th of July by way of electronic delivery. Doing so offers the club 50 extra 'bonus' points in the event. The final score for W6SFM is not official at this time as the ARRL still has to check our logs and verify our information for bonus points. However, based on the club's application we can determine the following:

Designation:

Class - 2A
Section - SV

100% Battery Power

24 Participants

Total Contacts: 423

Total Contact points:
846 pts.
(2X CW multiplier)

Bonus points:

100% Emergency power: 200 pts.

Media Publicity: 100 pts.
(News article via phone)

Public Location: 100 pts.

Public Info Table: 100 pts.

NTS Message to ARRL SM/SEC: 100 pts.

W1AW Field Day Message: 100 pts

NTS message Handled: 1 = 10 pts.

Site Visit by agency official: 100 pts.

Youth Participation: 5 youth, 1 operator

Docs Submitted via the Web: 50 pts.

Educational Activity: 100 pts.

Social Media: 100 pts.
(web, twitter, facebook)

Safety officer: 100 pts.

Total Bonus Points: 1,180

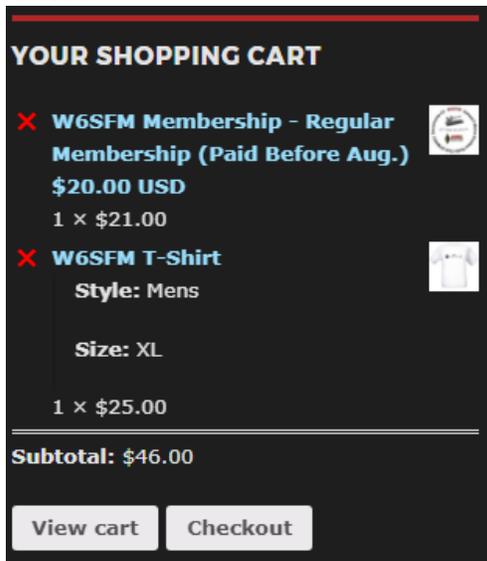
Projected total score: 2,026

Pictures have already been posted to the W6SFM website in our 2017 Photo Gallery. A 2017 Field Day video will be released to the Videos section of our website as soon as we are able to get that constructed and edited for release. Be sure to visit the W6SFM website often to check for updates and further improvements.

Thank you everyone who made this event special as always. We hope to see all of our local members, and even some of our out of town members at our next Field Day event 2018!

More Website Improvements

The W6SFM Webmaster has been hard at work once again putting together even more features on the club's website. Our newest improvements come in the form of a shopping cart. In the past, there was no way to pay for club merchandise, club membership, or ARRL membership / Renewal on-line. Well, now there is! Recently added was a system by which you can first fill out the appropriate applications, or choose your merchandise and then place them into a cart system and check out. The club can accept payments on-line using PayPal, Credit card or Debit Card. It is now possible to add both your club membership, and a Club T-shirt into the shopping cart and check out with both at the same time!



Payments made on-line are subsidized by a very small Credit Card fee added to the cart at time of checkout. The club continues to offer FREE in-

person pickup of In-Stock Club T-Shirts. Also available now is "home delivery" of merchandise. The cost of shipping those items to your home are available on-line during the check out procedure

Because only T-Shirts are available In-Stock, and other items such as Personalized Mugs and Hats are not, shipping must be paid regardless of home delivery or In-Person meeting pickup. However, if we have a "group order" it may be possible to split those charges among all those making a purchase. Be sure to mention your interest at a meeting.

As of this newsletter we have already had one member fill out their ARRL Renewal application and make payment of their dues, all on-line! We hope that this new method helps other members and guests of the club to make quick and easy payments for dues, renewals and merchandise.

Station Grounding

(by Carol, KP4MD)
Over the past year or so I had noticed increasing noise floors on HF and inconsistent SWR readings. While operating on the 80-meter CW net, RF appeared on our household appliances and triggered touch lamps. Suspecting a grounding problem, John WB6UBK very kindly assisted me in tying the station ground rod

to the Ufer ground at the service entrance with 4 AWG wire, but the problem persisted.

Then suspecting a problem in the equipment ground connections (a rat's nest of coax braids secured where the ground wire enters the station) I found that over the years a common tie point screw had come loose and instead of zero ohms the equipment chassis measured 13 ohms to ground.

Rather than just tightening the loose screw, I decided to replace the rat's nest of coaxial braid with a proper grounding bus. I replaced the braid from the ground rod with a short direct length of [copper plated hanging tape](#) securely attached to [an 18 inch copper plated plumbing bracket](#) as a bus bar behind the station equipment.



I mounted my Power pole distribution box securely to the bracket and ran short lengths of braid from the

Station Grounding

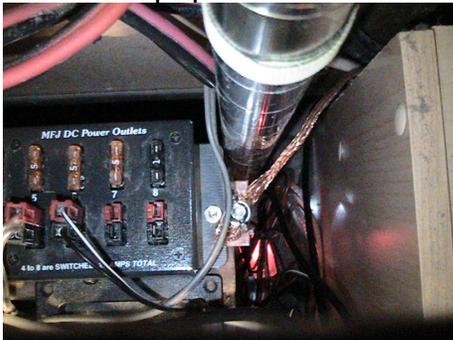
(Continued from page 4)
bracket to each equipment chassis.



I may solder the joints in the future



but for now, I have confirmed a good low resistance ground to all station equipment



and have resolved much of the receiver noise, erratic SWR readings and RF that had appeared on the home wiring.

Thanks to John Geyer for his April [in-person meeting] talk on proper grounding!

(editor's note)

Each month the club will be offering a topical presentation on something Ham Radio, Electronic or

computer related. If you would like to present a presentation, or have ideas for something you would like to see please feel free to contact the club with your suggestions.

Member 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 Data Base.** Without this information, you will be unable to receive emails from the club, including this monthly newsletter.

RigExpert Antenna Analyzers



RigExpert AA-55 Zoom

For more information and to purchase one visit www.rigexpertusa.com now



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, including our **liability insurance.**

The club asks that you please consider renewing, or joining the ARRL through our club. To do this please use the [link](#) on the front page of the W6SFM.com website to fill out your application. As a benefit, the SFM ARC receives **\$2** for each membership renewal, and as much as **\$15** for each NEW membership we submit! ARRL membership fees are \$49 per year. Be sure to pay on-line or bring your check made out to "**SFMARC**" for this amount when turning in your application in-person. Even if your ARRL membership dues are not due for another 4 months, you will not lose your 4 months of membership by paying them early. Your ARRL membership will simply be extended for an additional 12-month period plus your remaining balance.

Treasury Report

Currently our Wells Fargo account contains a total of **\$2,817.32**. The club's PayPal account is currently at **\$1,556.19** for a total of **\$4,368.51**, Past months decrease in funds are due to Field Day Antenna repair expenses of \$46.29, Food and beverage costs at \$181.78 offset by 2 T-shirt sales and 1 recurring donation by a member.

Next Month's Meeting

Our next SFM ARC in-person meeting will be held at its normal time and location **Aug. 3rd** (followed by our **Sep. 7th** 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 is available on the W6SFM.com homepage. At our **August** meeting, we will be discussing news and events. We will also have a presentation on the setup and use of the **WSPR** net Sub-noise floor beacon, receiver communication and mapping system. 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. Attend our In-Person meetings with items that you've purchased or were given to you that you would like to share with others in the group. Visitors are always welcome to join us at our meetings.

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 13 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 on our home page of our website. Watch the Live Feed on an Apple IOS or Android devices using the "YouTube" App. For more information and instructions contact Mike, N6MQL for more setup information. Those visiting the Live Feed site are encouraged to "subscribe" to our channel by clicking the button. This of course is not mandatory, but will allow you to be notified by e-Mail when the club goes live. On-line members can also make use of the "Chat" window to speak with each other, or the NCS (if available) during the live broadcasts. Videos of the events will be posted to our Youtube channel for review.

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 on our 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, or stories they 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 with your ideas! Until our next newsletter, I thank you all very much for being a member of the SFM ARC, without you this club could not exist.

