



# W6SFM

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



## Bug Roundup Event hits 6 of the 7 continents of the globe!

The SFM ARC is happy to report that with our new on-line registration we were able to track most of the participants in our event. According to both registration forms, and optional logs sent to the W6SFM, we were able to see check-ins and activity from all but the continent of Antarctica.

(Story Cont. on page 2)

## W6SFM June, 2017 Newsletter

### **ARRL's Field Day 2017 is here! (June 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>)**

Please join the SFM ARC for its annual ARRL Field Day event 2017. Once again, the club will be enjoying a fun get together of its members, our guests, and the general public. As one of only 2 truly "public" Field Day events stations in the Sacramento Valley, W6SFM can be found in the rear parking lot / field of the Carmichael Presbyterian Church. This location provides FREE and Easy public accessibility to the W6SFM Field Day stations.

The SFM ARC will once again set up a modest 2 stations, all emergency powered 100-watt (or less) setup. Antennas will include our club member's 3 element Tri-band Yagi beam, 40 meter phased Vertical arrays and our 80 meter Inverted Vee workhorse. Set up of our antenna systems will begin on Saturday Morning the day of Field Day 7:30 AM. Radio and battery equipment set up will also begin on the morning of Field Day around 9 AM. All those who are interested in helping the club with these setups are welcome to join us Saturday morning. Local Club member are asked to please come to the Saturday morning setup by 8AM.

(Continued on page 2)

## On-Air/On-Line QNI Report

Secretary, Chris AI6U reports a W6SFM Record breaking number of **57** QNI on-air and **43** On-line "Live Feed" viewers. **May's** on-air check-in numbers were up in a BIG way. The club is showing a steady turn out of participants each week. In the past we've had numbers between 3-5 on-air, today we're finding the net running as long as 1 ½ hours to accommodate the up to 16 check-ins. Let's hope that these numbers continue on as we work our way through the summer Band conditions. Past weeks have shown net conditions to be improving with mostly 599 reports from as far south as L.A., and as north as WA. In addition, the club is seeing more "guest" check-ins from those coming across the net, or having heard about it from one of our active members.

We were happy to welcome Bob, K6DGQ to June's 1<sup>st</sup> net meeting after his latest antenna repairs mentioned later in this newsletter.

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 **18** members and 1 **guest** to this month's SFMARC in-person monthly meeting. It was nice to once again see member and former club President Mark, K6JJR show up for our Field Day prep meeting.

The house was full as lots of news about the happenings going on with the club were discussed. This month's scheduled SMD/SMT re-work demo was re-scheduled for next month as there was too many Field Day planning and news events to be discussed to fit it in.



## W6SFM Request

For those of you who are local and used to join the club in-person meetings before, but have not had the chance lately, the club would encourage you 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. **We do not want to lose our local attendance at the in-person meetings.** So, come on out and join us if you can.

## W6SFM Live Stream Notice



The clubs LiveStream system was up and running this month during our In-person meeting. A copy of most of the meeting can be seen on our Live Feed page. We encourage those who receive this newsletter that were not able to attend the meeting to have a look at what we were up to.

In the future, if you do not follow the W6SFM on LiveStream.com, and you believe there is a LIVE broadcast happening, but are unable to view it through our Live Feed Page, we ask that you go to [livestream.com](#) and simply search for "W6SFM". You will then be able to find any live broadcasts currently taking place. To avoid confusion, we encourage **ALL** members to "follow" W6SFM so they can be notified when a live broadcast is occurring. Whether it be a Tuesday night Net Meeting or an In-person meeting, you will always be notified via email.

Please note that the club intends on broadcasting for some time during our Field Day event. Check out the page during the event to see what's going on.

# Bug Roundup Event

(continued from front page)

Registration was received from some of the following places around the world:

- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- England (and other parts of the UK)
- India
- France
- Russia
- Singapore
- 23 states of the United States of America (and Puerto Rico)

Along with the optional logs the club received we also received some very nice letters of appreciation from those who enjoyed the event. One letter was received from Arasu, VU2UR in India. Arasu indicated that he had a nice CQ BR QSO with John, 9V1VV of Singapore. Rich, G4FAD reports many CQ BR QSOs with others in the UK as well as Yann, F5LAW in France and Fernando, 9Q6BB on his Vibroplex Lightning bug in Congo. Rich also says that Fernando actually broke off his DX pileup just to talk Bugs with him for an extended amount of time. I'm sure that the DX Pileup must have been wondering what CQ-BR was all about! Those in the U.S. were finding that conditions were not as good as with other

Bug Roundup events. Reports from West Coast operators were indicating that most were unable to get past the Rockies. Whereas Benny, K5KV operating as remote SFM ARC station W6SFM/5 reports he was able to QSO with Indiana, Georgia and New Hampshire. So, it would appear that the East Coast guys were able to get into central TX and the southern United States.

Because of the popularity, and lack of DX operational hours and Frequencies, at our last in-person meeting (June 1<sup>st</sup>) the club unanimously decided that we should extend the hours of the CQ BR event from 24 to 48. This way the DX would have a chance to more easily operate the event with US based stations. The club also decided that we should begin to advertise the use of 17 and 30 meter WARC bands during the event. Because CQ BR is NOT a contest this breaks no FCC Rules or Regulations. Members found that DX tends to be more prevalent on 17m during the day, and 30m during the early/late evenings. In the past DX stations have had to ask other participants via the CQ BR "Live Chat" spotting window, for a meet up on 30 meters. Perhaps advertising the use of these bands will make it easier for those hookups. The new hours, and times (both in Local and UTC) have already been posted to the

W6SFM website under the "Club Activities" link.

All in all, it would seem that the club had a fabulous, and very productive event sharing the love of CW and Bug Key operations with the world.

Be sure to tell your friends and those you work on-air about the event, and our signup/registration page. This way they will be ready for our next one in November!

Registration will not be available until 1 month prior to the event.

## ARRL's Field Day

(continued from front page)

Official Field Day activation will begin promptly at 11 AM Saturday morning and continue throughout the night until 11 AM Sunday morning. After which time the club requests that all local members once again return (if not still on location) to help pack up our station and equipment. There will be plenty of room for a tent and/or sleeping bags to be set up in the field so those interested in staying the entire night with us can get some needed rest.

If you would like to operate one of the 2 W6SFM on-air stations we ask that you please consider scheduling some time in during the midnight to 7 AM time slots. These are generally the areas of time when the club most needs operators scheduled to keep the rigs

## ARRL's Field Day

(cont from page 2)

going all night. Generally, the other times of day are well covered by those interested in working the radios, or logging for the operator.

A small snack breakfast (coffee and doughnuts) will be served on Saturday morning around 10 AM. In the afternoon, a small selection of Pizza will be made available. In the evening, A Club Pot-luck dinner is scheduled to be held around 5:30 PM Saturday. As always, the club will provide Hot dogs and Hamburgers along with Chips, water (for the entire event) and Diet Soda. Members are asked to bring a 'side dish' with them for the Pot-Luck dinner. Members are also encouraged to bring snacks and other items to keep us going throughout the day and evening time. Sunday morning for those still with us, the club will provide a small breakfast plate. **The club requests that if you are going to visit us as an operator or a guest that you PLEASE contact us using the "contact us" link under "About W6SFM" so we can gauge how many people to purchase food for.** We hope to see ALL of our Local members, and maybe even a few surprise members from out of town. **Club members, please wear your W6SFM T-shirts to this event.**



## W6SFM

### ARRL club benefits

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. One of those VERY IMPORTANT benefits is the ability to purchase the club's Liability insurance. This insurance affords us the ability to protect the site location and its members in case of accidents or legal suites while conducting club sponsored events. To maintain affiliation, the club asks that you please consider renewing, or joining the ARRL through our club. To do this please use the [link](#) under the "About W6SFM" menu on the W6SFM.com website. A new application form is available to fill out. Another benefit the ARRL provides is a **\$2** commission for each membership renewal, and **\$15** for each NEW membership we submit! ARRL membership fees are \$49 per year. That includes QST magazine too.

## 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.

## W6SFM Website updated!

Just announced at our June in-person meeting was the completely remodeled and coded W6SFM Website. Mike, N6MQL gave a brief demo of some of the new features now available on our website. Mike demonstrated the new "sticky menus" that allow all pages to be scrolled while still having the main menus 'stick' to the top of the page. This gives the user ultimate control while browsing our site. Members were also shown the addition of the "News and Events" page located under the "Club Activities" drop down menu where all of the club's happenings will be

## (Website update cont.)

displayed as opposed to general information located on the "home" page. The new "Media, Clips & Pics" page containing the new arrangement of our Live Feed, Pictures and Videos page was also shown. Mike noted that we now have a new Image Gallery that extends all the way back to 2012 events each organized by year on the Pictures page. Videos are now each labeled and when clicked on open up into a "Lightbox" viewer. To see information on the videos Mike demonstrated how you can simply click on the "I" button at the bottom right corner of the video for a description of its contents. Club members were shown the new Merchandise, Join W6SFM, Join/renew ARRL pages with their brand-new Application Forms that have been added for easy purchase and enrolments. The club encourages all members to spend some time poking around the new site. Mike asks that if you find any issues or corrections to be made, or just a suggestion, that you please contact him through his w6sfm.com email address.

## New Members Pages

With the new W6SFM Website comes a new layout for members pages. Those who previously had members pages set up still have their existing pages transferred, but modified

slightly. It was noted that those who did not previously have content on their members page, no longer have a link to a page. Instead there is a note to visitors to email the member using their W6SFM email address. i.e.

[<members call>@w6sfm.com](mailto:<members call>@w6sfm.com)

This allows for visitors to see only member's pages with content on them. Those who previously had pictures on their page now have a "Slide Show" effect for their personal pictures and a description to each picture listed below the slide show.

If you would like to have content (or a QRZ embedded page) added to your Member's Page, please contact Mike to send him your bio and photos you would like listed on your page.

## Viewing W6SFM Live Broadcasts

When the club is broadcasting LIVE it is required that you sign into LiveStream using a FREE account. You can create this FREE account using your email address or your FaceBook username and password. Creating an account is very easy to do. All you need to have is a valid email address where your account can be verified. Simply click on the "Join Livestream" link and follow the simple directions. As mentioned before, we are strongly encouraging all members to click the "Follow" W6SFM link after

you have set up your account. Once you have followed W6SFM you will then be notified by email whenever the club has a live broadcast available to be viewed! We would also ask that if you are viewing an event that you click the "Like" or Blue Heart button during the event. This will help the club promote our live events and bring more traffic to our broadcasts. Doing so brings more awareness of our club to other hams and the general public. One of our goals with this is to introduce Ham Radio and Morse code to those that are not already familiar with it.

## Club Merchandise

Club Merchandise was announced and distributed at the meeting to those who ordered within the last month. Club members were reminded the club still has in stock 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 either email Mike N6MQL, or use the "Merchandise" order link on our home page. 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 All Club activities and events. The 20% discount is extended to both the member and their family.

## (Merchandise Cont')

The club asks that if you plan on attending an event that is held in public that you own and adorn 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 organized days out in the park where we have fun as a group operating our personal radios and portable antennas.



*Pictured above: W6SFM Items for sale on our Merchandise web page.*

## Girl Scouts Expo

Saturday May 13th marked the Girl Scouts of America STEAM Expo (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) event. At the ARRL supplied PR booth SFM ARC members along with N6NA members, Duane Wyatt and



the ARRL helped to introduce Girl Scouts and their parents to Amateur Radio and the Morse Code. The group saw a very nice turn out of Girl Scouts aged 9 to 13 come to see what Tech jobs and hobbies are being made available to them. After a brief lesson on Radio & Morse Code by members, visitors were then given a Hands-on worksheet they were able to spell their name and code it using the supplied Morse alphabet. After, they were instructed on the use of a straight key and given a chance to send their names in code with the supplied key and oscillator. Each person taking part in the hands-on event were given their worksheet and accompanying "helpful links" page to take home with them. For pictures of this event please visit our Photo gallery under the new "Media, Clips & Pics" page.

## Antenna Party at Bob K6DGQ's QTH!

Last month, member Bob K6DGQ asked for members to help him with a small antenna project. Bob had a vertical mounted antenna on his roof that he wanted to remove, repair and then return back to its original location. Bob asked members of the SFM ARC for a few hands to help him with this 3-4-hour job. Immediately 3 members of the SFM ARC stepped up to help Bob. Unfortunately, due to timing of the project's date only Member Norm WB6RVR along with the help of Tom WA6OSX and some members of the Stockton ARC were able to assist Bob at making repairs to his antenna. Bob thankfully reports that the job has been completed successfully. Proof of this is Bob's recent 599 signals on the W6SFM's Tuesday night Net meeting. Bob says that he will now try to make as many of the on-air meetings as he can.



Good work guys! To see some more pictures of this Antenna party please visit Bob's Member's page found under the New "About W6SFM" menu

## New Members

The SFM ARC would like to welcome 3 new members to our club. New Member Charles, K0CW joins us from Webster Groves, MO. New Member Mike, KE6EE joins us from Oakland, CA. and New member, former CW Class student and frequent check in on the W6SFM Tuesday night Net meetings, Birton, N6UG joins us from Rocklin, CA. The club would like to remind all members that if you haven't already, please shoot these guys a welcome email to let them know you're happy they have joined our group. Members can be reached using their W6SFM email address of <members call>@w6sfm.com Welcome to the crew guys!

## Solar Report

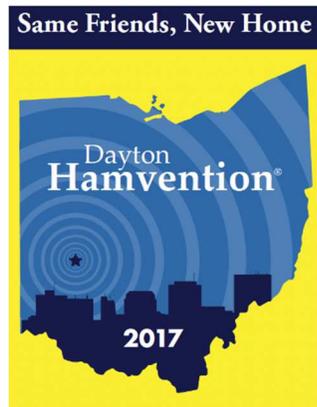
A new addition has been made to the W6SFM website "Home" page. A solar report that everyone can understand. Added recently is a brief Solar Report video that will be updated about every 2 weeks. This report comes to us from Tamitha Skov of Youtube. Every two weeks Tamitha reports on the Sun's activities. With use of the sun's 2 stereo scope satellites and the NOAA groups daily updates, Tamitha not only reports on solar storms, flares and sun-spots, but she also clearly explains what conditions will be like for Amateur Radio operators, GPS operators, and Aurora

photographers. All done in plain language anyone can understand.

Reports come out every two weeks because with the Solar Satellites we are able to see activity on the 'back-side' of the sun. This gives us about a 2 week heads up notice of what is to come as the sun rotates around to face the earth once again. Tamitha offers great visuals of the sun and its activities as well some great aurora photographs emailed to her from her from her Youtube followers.

## "Show & Tell"

Due to the time that the club used for our Field Day Prepping we were unable to have a normal length Members Show and Tell. However, we did hear from Norm, WB6RVR as he passed around his Dayton Hamvention Guide



Norm gave his accounts on an enjoyable trip to the new Xenia location. Norm explained some of the issues with the new location, including the 2-lane road in and out as well as the muddy and moist grass leading to the swap-meet location outside the event. Still, Norm reports a good time was had.

## RigExpert Antenna Analyzers



The all new RigExpert AA-55 Zoom analyzer has just recently been released. This analyzer provides the user with a multitude of tests and measurements. Some of those are:

- Rapid check-out of an antenna
- Tuning an antenna to resonance
- Graphical measurements of SWR, Resistance and Reactance.
- Comparing characteristics of an antenna before and after specific event (rain, hurricane, etc.)
- Making coaxial stubs or measuring their parameters
- Cable testing and fault location, and characteristic impedance
- Measuring capacitance or inductance of reactive loads
- Measuring unknown cable lengths.
- Measuring the velocity factor of an unknown coax cable
- Measuring Loss to Frequency of a coax cable.
- Ability to measure 5 bands/freq. at one time.
- Much, much more!

For more information and to purchase one of 9 different RigExpert antenna analyzers visit [www.rigexpertusa.com](http://www.rigexpertusa.com) now

## Treasury Report

Currently our Wells Fargo account contains a total of **\$2,864.32**. The club's PayPal account is currently at **\$1,682.41** for a total of **\$4,546.73**, Past months Decrease in funds are due to the clubs recurring liability insurance dues. Other expenses such as Kids Day Coffee and Doughnuts as well as W6SFM merchandise sold were also taken in account with this new total.

## Next Month's Meeting

Our next SFM ARC in-person meeting will be held at its normal time and location **July. 6<sup>th</sup>** (followed by our **Aug 3<sup>rd</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 on the W6SFM.com home page.

At our **July** meeting, we will be recapping the ARRL's annual Field Day event. We will also have a presentation on the use of a Hot Air rework station used to solder and remove SMD devices on PCBs. 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 13-15 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 on our home page of our website. For those that would like to watch the Live Feed on their Apple IOS or Android devices a "LiveStream" App is required. For instructions contact Mike, N6MQL for more setup information.

Those visiting the on-line site are welcome to make themselves known by hitting the "like" button during the net events. This of course is not mandatory, but rather just a way of making everyone feel more involved in our on-air nets. On-line members can also make use of the "Chat" window to speak with each other, or the NCS (if available)

## 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](mailto: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.

