

W6SFM

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



Kids Day in the park A Success!

Once again, the SFM ARC took to Hagan park in Rancho Cordova to enjoy a day exhibiting Morse Code and Amateur radio. The club set up its PR booth consisting of an E-Z up tent and plenty of ARRL brochures. In the spirit of showing the kids the newest technology, member Kevin, KR6AI brought out his Elecraft KX2 and a wire end-fed vertical antenna perched atop a 30' fiberglass pole using only a buddipole tripod to support it. Kids used Member Stan, AA6DK's vintage WWII Flameproof straight key. (continued p2)

W6SFM May, 2017 Newsletter

Bug Roundup Event is here!

The W6SFM's Bug Roundup Event (CQ BR) semi-annual event is this month. Beginning Saturday May 20th 7AM PDT until Sunday May 21st 7AM PDT the W6SFM holds its CQ BR event to celebrate a special time to bring bug operators together on the air. Participants are encouraged to make simple, conversational, "rag chew" QSOs using their bug type key. This is an opportunity to exercise, share and exhibit our personalized fists. Simply Call "**CQ BR**" so folks know we are Bug Roundup Participants. Those who have or would like to sign up, will be given a chance to operate their home station as W6SFM during the event. 2 hour shifts are still being assigned to those interested. Members are asked to "check in" with our on-line Live Chat room to spot yourself so others can find the W6SFM stations. There will be only 1 W6SFM station on-air at any given time throughout this event, so you must email us now if you plan to operate a shift. Info on general event participation Registration can be found in this newsletter.

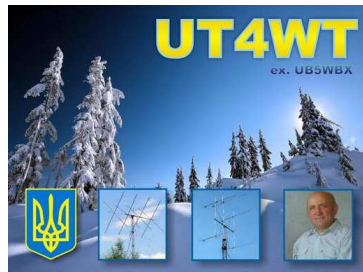
On-Air/On-Line QNI Report

Secretary Chris, AI6U reports another outstanding number of **41** QNI on-air and **28** On-line "Live Feed" viewers. This month on-air check-in numbers were the same as last month's showing us that we're keeping a steady turn out of participants. Let's hope that these numbers continue on as we work our way through the summer Band conditions. The net conditions have been up for the most part with mostly 599 reports from as far south as L.A., East as MI. 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.

The NCS suggests that those attending the on-air nets please try to keep their speeds to around 13 WPM as to allow our current 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 **2 guests** to this month's SFMARC in-person monthly meeting. It was nice to great our guest Slava, UT4WT and his son Roman of Fair Oaks, CA. Here from the Ukraine, Slava is new to the U.S. It would appear that Slava intends to stay in the states from this point forward. For those who would like to introduce yourself to him please feel free to join us at our next meeting where I'm told he will return again. Let's hope that Slava chooses to join the W6SFM as a new member!



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



Due to LiveStream's new system, a 'link' must be created and posted to our webpage before each broadcast can be viewed on the W6SFM Live Feed webpage. During this month's meeting that link was NOT created. This resulted in our broadcast not being viewable on our website's "Live-Feed" page. However, those who "follow" W6SFM on LiveStream.com were sent a notice when we began our broadcast. Followers were then directed to the W6SFM's LiveStream.com webpage where they were able to view the meeting LIVE. 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.

Kids Day in the Park Event

(continued from front page)

Volunteer turnout was very strong with a total of 8 members showing up. Thank you to Kevin, KR6AI, Katy, KJ6YCP, Bill, KJ6YCO, Mike, N6MQL, David, K6CIM, and Angie, KG6FJF. With Rob K6DQ and his wife Susan K6DQS coming out to check in.

Like years past W6SFM had a good turnout of Kids, their parents and the general public. Although booth turnout was a bit lower than past years, we did have about 60 kids and adults sit down at the table with our volunteer W6SFM members to receive a brief history lesson on Samuel F Morse, how telegraph was used in the past and how amateurs use it in the present. Members then provided our guests with a quick lesson on proper sending technique using Stan, AA6DK's straight key.

Guests were then given a club worksheet to fill out "coding" their name in Morse Code. The guest was then given a chance to sit down at the key and send their name using our attached oscillator. Both the Member and the guest were given headphones to listen to the oscillator. The W6SFM member then made any corrections and provided encouragement to the guest.

If the guest shows a strong interest in Morse Code the club then offers an opportunity for the guest to sit down for a hands-on QSO using the Elecraft KX2 on-air.

Once again, this year, we saw returning kids who made an active effort to seek out the SFM ARC both looking to try their hand at Morse Code. It has become clear that W6SFM holds an interest at this event among the 150 plus other booths in the park.

Although we see guests of all ages, it has become apparent that our target age is between 10 – 17 years old. We have found that those kids 'perk up' with excitement when they start sending their name in Morse Code. For this reason, I believe the club should consider finding more Boy/Girl Scout events that we can participate in. If you or someone you know has connections for these types of events the club would love to hear from you. Volunteers are always needed for these events. So, we would ask that if you are able, that you come join us for these events.

Pictures of the Kids Day event can be found on the W6SFM.com website under the "Photo Gallery" link at the top of our homepage. We hope you enjoy them, and consider joining us at the event next year!

Bug Roundup Event Registration

It was announced at our May in-person meeting that those interested in enjoying the W6SFM Bug Roundup Event (otherwise known as CQ BR) as a participant that you fill out a registration form located on our Bug Roundup Event webpage.

Mike, N6MQL explained that in the past after having announced to the public through ARRL releases and public BBS and Reflectors such as the SKCC users groups etc... that we have seen 'hits' in excess of 3,000 looking at our on-line CQ BR page. However, it was also noted that until now we have not had any opportunity to know who these people were, or how many were actually attending our event on-air.

With this new Registration form, we will now be able to keep both a database of registrants, their email address, Call sign, Location, and the type of bug they intend to use in the event. As well as keeping a count on how many people visit our website to look into the information that we are providing.

We are beginning to see a promising amount of people from all around the world registering for our event. Look for more information on this later. If you wish to join us for the event, please be sure to fill out your registration form on-line.



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.

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 send your check made out to "**SFMARC**" for this amount when turning in your application. 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. Contact us for more information.

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.

Members Web Page

A fun benefit to being an SFM ARC member is your personal Members webpage. On this page, you can proudly display your bio and personal 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 with your pictures and bio. However, if you feel more

comfortable with QRZ, or have your own personal webpage, the W6SFM is now able to "link" your QRZ or homepage to your members' page. This means that you can now do all of your own editing and maintenance of your personal W6SFM web space. For an example please check out a QRZ Members page by **David, K6CIM**. Or, for an example of our personal webpage display you may view Member **Howard, W6HN**'s "professional" website at his member's page link. Simply click on their member's page link from the "Members" directory on the W6SFM website. If you are interested in using this feature too, please contact Mike N6MQL for more information.



Above: Howard's Professional/Personal Members Page layout



Above: David's QRZ Members Page layout

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. Mike N6MQL reminded the members 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 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 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.

Call to Action

Member and ARRL Sacramento section manager Carol, KP4MD has requested the help of any SFM ARC member who would like to help participate with the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California "STEAM Expo" located in Sacramento, CA. The 2017 Spring STEAM Expo is a place where Girl Scouts experience hands-on activities, interactive displays and/or demonstrations that dare girls to dream about the opportunities available in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Event set up will beginning at 12:30 May 13th. The activity will run from 2 to 6 PM PDT. For those interested in attending this event to help with booth operations similar to the Kids Day in the Park event, please contact the club administrator at admin@w6sfm.com for the address and more information.

This is our opportunity to help introduce Morse Code and HAM Radio to a very underserved group of people to the amateur radio community. We hope to see you there

Antenna Help Needed

Member Bob K6DGQ has asked for members to help him with a small antenna project. Bob has a vertical mounted on his roof that he would like to remove, repair and then return back to its

original location. Bob is asking for a few hands to help him with this 3-4-hour job. Bob had scheduled this event for the 13th, but it seems that enough hands weren't available at that time. If you're interested in helping Bob in Gault, CA. please let the club know which date best works for you. If you're available during the week time please indicate this as well.

AB1222 Update

Member Norm, WB6RVR reports that Very soon, the California State Assembly will be voting on AB1222, an amendment to the Law that was enacted January 1, 2017, that made mobile radio operations illegal in this state.

Many of the assembly members are laboring under the assumption that the language contained in AB1222 (present form), sufficiently resolves the issue and excludes two-way mobile radio operations from the law that was enacted January 1, 2017 (AB1785). The Assembly in general may think the problem is solved.

IT IS NOT, and we have sent communications to all 80 California State Assembly members on this issue, voicing our concerns that the language of AB1222 does not go far enough, insofar as completely clarifying and excluding mobile radio devices with corded

microphones from enforcement to the existing law.

In the current bill as amended, the use of a "handheld device" (a microphone for example), can be cause for a citation, while operating a mobile radio while driving.

At this point, we have carried the effort about as far as we can. It is now time for all registered voters and parties of interest in the State of California to now become involved in this matter.

We are asking that commencing this Monday, May 8, 2017, you contact your respective State Assembly Member (phone calls are preferred), and express your support for the Amendment to AB1222, that is being proposed by our ad hoc Organization: "Amateur Radio Operators of California - Change.org. Please go to the following link for information on locating your Assembly Member's contact information and telephone number. There is also a short "script" that you can use when speaking with the receptionist, or other staffer, when you politely ask for their support of our amendment language:

<http://www.no1pc.org/handfree/index.html>

Grounding Safety Presentation

At this month's in-person meeting W6SFM Vs' Pres. John, WB6UBK presented to the group a topical presentation on Grounding and the safety required during installations. John brought with him a video to help emphasize the need for proper communications with 811, U.S.A. and those on the installation site to prevent serious injuries or death. John explained how these mistakes can occur from digging or placing ground rods in un-surveyed locations.

As a professional electrician, John spoke about the need to connect your station to ground for RF drain, but cautioned members that a proper station connection to the house service panel was very important. John gave an example of a ground rod that was not grounded to the shack/house service box ground and how it could potentially carry deadly current levels and voltages above ground potential.

It was also noted that many houses have their outlets ground wires connected in series, and if not close to the houses electrical service panel that it could potentially be many feet before reaching the box passing from outlet to outlet. This of course could cause both ground

resistance to increase as well as voltage potentials and cause the ground wires in the house to become RF antennas.

John also spoke about how to create a proper, and legal UFER ground system using wire buried in the ground and cemented 3" above the ground level.

We thank John for all of his professional information and considering the safety of our members with this presentation.

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.



North Hills Swap

May 21st marks the annual North Hills Hamfest. Come out and enjoy the Ham Swapmeet from 7AM until 12 Noon. Like last year the Hamfest event will be held at the Carmichael Elks Lodge located at 5631 Cypress Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608. Prizes will be announced every hour! Yaesu FT-60R Grand prize.

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

Treasury Report

Currently our Wells Fargo account contains a total of **\$3,021.32**. The club's PayPal account is currently at **\$1,632.82** for a total of **\$4,654.14**, Past months increase in funds are due to a recurring donation by a member. Other expenses such as Kids Day Coffee and Doughnuts as well as W6SFM merchandise sold were not included in this total.

Next Month's Meeting

Our next SFM ARC in-person meeting will be held at its normal time and location **June. 8th** (followed by our **July 6th** 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 **June** meeting, we will be discussing 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 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 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.

