

THE CIRCUIT

The El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club

February 2020, Vol.14, No. 02

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CLUB MEETING

March Meeting Online

Thursday, March 26

7:00 – 9:00pm

[See Page 2](#)

AG6AU TUESDAY NIGHT NET

Have you said “Hi” to Nancy lately?

8:00 PM Every Tuesday

52.78 (PL 107.2)

147.825 (PL 82.5)

147.975 (PL 82.5)

441.725 (PL 82.5)

927.27 (PL 127.3)

Out of range? Try [Echolink!](#)

NOTE: Bob needs to add you to the ECHOLINK Users List if you're not already registered.

Send your Call Sign to:

w1rh@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Who would have ever thought it would come down to this.....?

After two years of planning, the past week was one of tears and frustration for my daughter, Keri (KB1DZM) and her new husband, Tyler (K6TLR, who many of you know). Their wedding was supposed to be March 21st and it became quite clear early last week that this just wasn't going to happen as planned after we encouraged those invited to just stay home.

In two days, however, a plan was crafted to stream the wedding on FaceBook Live. To say this was a success was an understatement. There were only 10 of us at the actual ceremony and we were all keeping our distance, with plenty of hand sanitizer on hand, in an isolated part of the vineyard on the property of Amador Cellars. FaceBook Live has the advantage of being able to do a high-quality streaming event while allowing comments to come in, real time, during the event. Some of the comments, from the 100+ who were viewing, were hilarious with pictures of parties going on at home while watching. Our 6 friends from Ireland, who obviously had to cancel, had a midnight party at home just to view the event. I was the Officiant and two of Keri and Tyler's neighbors were the "stage managers". We even had a drone up in the air!

Likewise, our Board had to scramble last week to make what turned out to be a very quick and unanimous decision to cancel our March meeting at the Federated Church. In my 13 years or so with this Club, I can only remember a few times when we have had to cancel due to weather. But, cancel due to a hidden enemy? Not in my lifetime, until now.

All is not lost, however. When I say "cancel," I mean the actual meeting at the Federated Church. Instead, we'll be streaming the meeting and I hope many of you will be able to "tune in" and see an excellent presentation by Bill Fehring, W9KKN ([See story inside on Page 2, Radio Activities](#)).

On another subject, I can't thank our VP, Chris (W7JPG), enough for coming up with his Learner's and Mentor's idea, which has been launched and is thriving. We currently have 34 registered for the [Learner's and Mentor's Café](#) reflector (email list), with more joining every day. There have been some terrific questions from the "Learners" with great answers from the "Mentors." I hope we can do a regular column in the Circuit featuring some of the questions and answers.

Attendance at our Club Meetings continues to grow. Last month, we counted 46, and I hope to see a similar number attend this month's virtual meeting. Much of this increase continues to be due to our Club's collective efforts with the Fire Safe Councils in promoting and setting up GMRS Community Radio programs. This effort has also led directly to many new, inactive, and even "want-to-be" future Hams, getting in touch with us to learn more about our Club and how they can get involved. It's so great to see all of our new members being welcomed by our membership.

Along with this, I also want to mention our [Groups.io GMRS Reflector](#), which is very active, currently with 25 members. You can [Go Here](#) to learn more about the Club's GMRS related projects with the local Fire Safe Councils.

Back to reality; COVID-19 has obviously been the reason for this month's change of plans. When will we meet in person again? I don't have a clue, but I can say that I have several presenters available to us who can do talks, via Zoom, so we're not going to let this thing kill all of the momentum we have built up in the past year. You all be safe, and follow our President's and Governor's mandates, and your Board will continue to find ways to keep us together as a Club.

73 — Bob Hess, [W1RH](#)

RADIO-ACTIVITIES

MARCH

Online Club Meeting, Thursday, March 26, 7:00 to 9PM — Presentation by Bill Fehring, W9KKN: *Amateur Radio Contesting From the Cayman Islands*

Bill Fehring is from Sunnyvale, and is a member of the Northern California Contest Club (www.nccc.cc). Several EDCARC members, including me, are members of NCCC, which is an amateur radio Club focusing on amateur radio contests. More about Bill here, on his QRZ page: qrz.com/db/W9KKN

Since NCCC is such a large Club, with about 400 members spread out over three states, and many former members well beyond those three states and even in different countries, we have been streaming our meetings for many years, dating back to when streaming was in its infancy. In the past two or three years, we have settled on Zoom as our streaming application.

Zoom is easy to use and, in the case of our Thursday meeting, will allow for a few of our Board members to make comments and for those viewing to ask questions of the presenter. Just go to Zoom.us, download the app, create a login (see *Side Bar, How To Zoom*), and you're ready to go. It's safe and the application of choice for much of corporate America. We used it at CBS. — Bob, W1RH

APRIL

ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB Contest, Sunday, April 19, 2020 — Contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). Info: arrl.org/rookie-roundup



Complete WA7BNM Contest Calendar Here
contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html

HOW TO ZOOM

If you have never done a Zoom meeting, allow a few minutes for the app to download and install once you click the Meeting link. You can also install in advance at zoom.us/download#client_4meeting

It's very easy to do. For audio, if you wish to speak, you can dial in (which is what I normally do) or use your computer audio with a microphone or a headset.

NOTE: It's always good practice to keep your microphone muted until it's your turn to speak during the Q and A. That way the meeting won't be hindered by distracting background noise and distortion.

How to log-into the Meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/394355841>

Enter the *Meeting ID*, noted on our Groups.io reflector, and sent to you by Email on 03/23.

One tap Mobile Log-in:
[+16699006833](tel:+16699006833),[394355841](tel:+1394355841)# US (San Jose)

[+13462487799](tel:+13462487799),[394355841](tel:+1394355841)# US (Houston)

For Audio, dial by your location:
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US
+1 301 715 8592 US
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Got an Event, an Idea, a Tip, an Update, Something to Share or Something to Sell? Send your articles to The Circuit Newsletter Editor: Alan.W6WN@Gmail.com

MEMBER PROFILES

Colton Meyer, WD6CWM

Colton was born in Sacramento, but soon moved to Oregon where he grew up. He returned to California where he earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He spent most of his career as a professional engineer in the energy industry, working first for PG&E, then for their interstate pipeline subsidiary, Pacific Gas Transmission Company. Retiring at 55, the next dozen years were spent as a consultant doing air emissions permitting and as a CAD drafter for his wife's commercial interior design business, until retiring completely in 2007.

A country boy at heart, Colton moved back to the country in 2012, relocating from Walnut Creek to El Dorado County, where he lives with his wire-haired dachshunds in Somerset. His dogs are a large part of his life, and he is active in several dog training Clubs, including the Hangtown Kennel Club where he is on the Board of Directors. He participates in tracking and dachshund field trials. He collects and shoots antique and vintage firearms, and enjoys road trips in his motorhome, the Dachshund B&B, with his Yukon XL in tow for side trips.



In 2016 he visited the El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club's Field Day and got the bug. One of his motivations was the fact that the roads he takes on his travels often leave something to be desired, and should he breakdown it would be nice to be able to get help! He got his Technician license that September and subsequently upgraded to General and Amateur Extra.



He started with a Yaesu FT-8900R transceiver in his Yukon, followed soon with a Yaesu FT-857 in the motorhome. Continuing to spend his kids' inheritance, he built a base station around an Icom IC-9100. He soon realized that emergency service was going to be his prime interest, and joined ARES.

Combining radio with travel, he activates Parks on the Air (POTA) on his travels, as training for emergency operations. Colton has gotten involved with the Club's GMRS *Neighborhood Radio Watch* Project. He is a member of the South County Large Animal Rescue to provide communications support.

Let our Club Members know more about you. Send your Profile and photos to Alan at alan.w6wn@gmail.com, and we'll get you in the Newsletter or on our Groups.io site.

REPEATER INFO

IRLP Node 7195 and Echolink 668182 node available on 440 and 2 meter repeaters. Autopatch available on the 6M repeater

BAND	FREQUENCY	PL
6 Meters (- 500 kHz)	52.78 MHz	107.2 Hz
2 Meters (wide area)	147.825 MHz	82.5 Hz
2 Meters (EDH Local)	147.975 MHz	82.5 Hz
1.25 Meters	224.06 MHz	127.3 Hz
70 Centimeters	441.725 MHz	82.5 Hz
33 Centimeters	927.2375 MHz	127.3 Hz
33 Centimeters	927.2750 MHz	127.3 Hz

REPEATER FUND DONATIONS

**YOUR DONATIONS
KEEP US ON AIR!**

**REPEATERS COST
\$\$\$\$ TO INSTALL
AND MAINTAIN.**

PLEASE DONATE!

**AG6AU TUESDAY
NIGHT NET
EVERY TUESDAY
8:00 PM**

**Net Control:
Nancy Harmor KG6PNP**

**EL DORADO COUNTY
ARES NET
EVERY MONDAY
7:30 PM**

**Net Control:
Jay Harmor KE6GLA**

HAM RADIO LICENSE TESTING

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

May 9th 9:00AM

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST 119
4561 GREENSTONE Rd.
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667**

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

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

OUT OF RANGE?

Try [Echolink!](#)

NOTE: Bob needs to add you to the ECHOLINK Users List if you're not already registered. Send your Call Sign to: w1rh@yahoo.com

EDCARC PHOTOS AND PRESS RELEASES

As your Club's new Public Information Officer, I'll be developing Press Releases for our Club activities. If anyone has any photos from past events, [please send them](#). Photos that capture both the event and especially any "Radio Activity" are great. For example, a kid and his dad on the radio, or bikes and a radio operator at a Ride Event Check Point. **Also, photos of Club Members are always appreciated.**

Ideally I'd like to know the names of who took the photo, the people in it, and the date and location. Sending your photos means that you grant permission to use them (for Club promotional purposes only :).

Please Email to Alan.W6WN@Gmail.com and thanks in advance for your help.

TUBE OF THE MONTH

HK-1554 GAMMATRON

The HK-1554 GAMMATRON is a high power triode made by Heintz and Kaufman in South San Francisco beginning in 1935 or 36. It was one of the first three conventional triode tubes types made by H&K. The company was still making the Gridless Gammatrons at that time and kept the brand name Gammatron long after the gridless tubes were discontinued.

It has a mu of 12.5 so will work in both RF and audio. Maximum voltage is 5000 volts at 1 amp. The dissipation is 1000 watts and could be pushed to 1500 watts with forced air. Maximum frequency was 60 megacycles. Tantalum metal was used for the plate and grid.

The tantalum withstands heavy overloads and acts as a “getter” to remove any gas when it gets hot. At the time it was made, it was one of the largest all glass transmitting tubes being produced. The overall length is 18.5 inches and it has a diameter of 5.5 inches. Original price in 1936 was \$250.

The three heavy element supports were a feature of all the H&K tubes. The heavy support straps, as seen in the photo, added more plate and grid surface to increase heat dissipation and they added mechanical strength. H&K made a slightly larger tube called the HK-3054 with similar features and a dissipation of 1500 watts. The 3054 was advertised (1936) as the largest glass tube made.

This example was found at a ham swap and I didn't know what it was at the time. This tube isn't marked. I suspected H&K but it was some time before I found complete H&K tube manuals and data sheets. I have never seen another example and don't know how many

were actually produced although H&K was still advertising them in 1946.

A PDF containing more information and specifications on the HK-1554 GammaTron can be accessed here:

<http://www.tubecollectors.org/h&k/archives/hk1554.pdf>



Courtesy, Norm, N6JV
Visit Norm's Museum:
www.n6jv.com

FOR SALE



Motorola Mobile Speakers

I have a number of Motorola speakers available for sale. As anyone in the 2-way radio industry will say, these are really high quality speakers featuring audio quality which has been engineered to focus on the voice spectrum.

Some have mounting brackets for mobile use. \$5 each with the proceeds going to our Repeater Fund. Contact Bob, W1RH (w1rh@yahoo.com)

ICOM 7300 160 ~ 6 Meters / 100 Watt Transceiver

Gently used ICOM 7300 HF Transceiver. I now have two so I'm selling one, and offering it to the Club first before putting the listing out there. Purchased in December, 2017. One owner, non-smoking household. Perfect condition. Has had minimal indoor use in a temperature-controlled environment, with no contesting or outdoor/field use. \$850.00 - Contact Alan, W6WN (Alan.W6WN@Gmail.com)



From the estates of Harry Miller, W6HFM, and William Ozment, W6LSW

VK3YNG Foxhunt Sniffer

The VK3YNG Foxhunt Sniffer is a specially designed synthesized VHF direction finding receiver covering 120MHz and 144MHz bands.

The receiver is designed for quickly finding the direction of beacons or hidden transmitters. Anything from distant weak signals to very close "sniffing" of transmitters running many watts of output power can be pin pointed accurately without suffering "overload" problems that plague other designs. Full auto-ranging operation allows the operator to quickly and intuitively locate the source of a signal without twiddling knobs or watching meters. The operator is freed to concentrate on more important things such as negotiating terrain or reading maps.

These have still not sold. I paid \$300 for mine. They need to be ordered from Australia and there is currently a long lead-time if purchased new. Nothing beats these boxes for fox hunting. The price is not negotiable. I would really like to sell them to Club members since we used to do fox hunts often and will probably start them up again. The families of these esteemed former members of our Club deserve to get a good price.

\$175—Includes antenna (from Harry's estate)

\$150—Includes a case (from William Ozment's estate)

Contact Bob, W1RH (w1rh@yahoo.com)



*Items for sale or trade?
Send your listing to Alan
at alan.w6wn@gmail.com,
and we'll get them into the
CIRCUIT Newsletter.*

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: 27 February 2020
Location: Federated Church - Placerville
Attendance:

- [x] Bob, President, W1RH
- [x] Chris, Vice President, W7JPG
- [x] Nancy, Treasurer, KG6PNP
- [x] Susan, Secretary, KM6NFP
- [x] Dave, Board Member, K6TQ
- [x] Jay, Board Member, KE6GLA
- [] Michael, Board Member, K6MLE
- [x] Jordan, Board Member, WC6J
- [x] Alan, Board Member, W6WN
- [x] Justin, Board Member, KB2ZVD
- [x] Phil, Board Member, KK6YYD
- [] Sue, Board Member, KM6ILP
- [x] Roger, Board Member

Board Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Chris at 6:30pm.

Treasurer's Report by Nancy:

1. Checking acct balance is \$520.30. Available balance is \$370.30 with a check pending to the church. Paypal acct is \$624.41. Repeater acct is \$344.15. Savings is \$1,496.84.
2. 15 QSL cards from the PO Box
3. Requested we change the family rate amount to \$35 to make collecting money easier. All voted yes.

Upcoming Events:

1. Field Day – June 27 – 28. Dave called AARL and Roger can use the Club call sign. Dave gave Roger an info disc. Roger asked who determines how many stations will there be? It depends on how many people sign up. Can be based on mode or band. Dave will help Roger with this. Event is in 4 months.
2. El Dorado County Fair – Jun 18 – 21. Sue KM6ILP was unable to attend and she has info on fair status. Nancy KG6PNP gave Sue the insurance information last month.
3. Jordan WC6J suggested making CW Clothespin Keys which he brought a sample he made. Could do a build session, have pre-mades, have code sheets, or kits to-go. Cost is \$1.25 each. Vote passed that Jordan order parts for 100 = \$125.
4. Bob W1RH suggested using FRS radios for scavenger hunt with clues from the booth. Kids could possibly win the radio.
5. Bob also suggested we get Club T-shirts with the member's name and call sign to be worn at the Fair booth.

Old Business:

1. Bank Signature Cards – A Tuesday morning will work best for Bob, Chris, Jordan and Nancy to sign.
2. Club Lending Library – Alan W6WN has brought it to meeting.
3. Full Year Website Calendar – Jay KE6GLA already has it on the website.
4. Fox Hunt – Saturday April 4th date pending. Jay is creating a walking Fox Hunt and is determining which park is best suited for the event. We'll have lunch. Next time we can do a larger hunt using cars.
5. GMRS update: Alan indicated it's already in newsletter.
6. Mentors and Learners: Chris W7JPG present at general meeting and have people review and fill out sheets that will indicate what people want to learn and what they can teach. Chris will process info.
7. Club Building Projects: Ideas suggested are CW Clothespin Key, GMRS Antennas, Ed Fong Antenna Kit (\$30 – 40), and Balun.

New Business:

1. Meeting Presenters: Steve W1SRD will hopefully present at March meeting about S. Orkney Island.
2. Frank Yost can talk about he High Sierra System Repeater and Court Radio System. FireSafe Council can present non-ham topics on Preventative/Defensible Space and new county laws and chipping program. Bob said Joyce has an interesting non-ham topic.
3. Posted Membership Roster: Nancy already has a spreadsheet that can be streamlined to just include name/callsign/class. Do we want to have a printed version or on IO page?
4. Club Incorporation/ 501c3: It is in Club interest to be 501c3 to avoid board members being liable for issues. Bob will do this.
5. Printed Brochures: Alan created 4 brochures: *The El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club*; *Hot to Get a GMRS License for Your Family*; *Neighborhood Radio Watch*; and *Neighborhood Radio Watch Safety Nets*.

General Meeting:

1. Chris talked about Mentoring/Elmers.
2. Bob set up contact with DX Expedition with S. Orkney Island station VP8PJ and Steve W1SRD

Minutes were taken by Susan/KM6NFP.

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND REPEATER DONATIONS

NOTE: Membership Dues are going up! Finally, after 30 years, we're increasing our yearly dues on April 1st from \$15 to \$25. Your Membership Dues and Repeater Fund Donations make it all happen: Member: \$25.00 / Spouse/Assoc. Member: \$7.50.

There are three ways you can pay your dues and make a repeater donation:

By PayPal: Go here: EDCARC.NET/INDEX.PHP/MEMBERSHIP and scroll down to the PayPal button. There is a small handling charge.

By Check: Make Club dues checks payable to "EDCARC" Make repeater donation checks payable to "AG6AU Repeater Fund." Bring your checks to the next EDCARC meeting, or Snail Mail:

EDCARC
P.O. Box 451
Placerville, CA 95667

Updates? If you need to update your personal information, e.g. address (residence/email), phone #'s, etc., fill out an application form here: edcarc.net/files/el_dorado_county_ARC_membership_App.pdf and bring it to the meeting, or mail it to the address above.



Thanks to everyone for supporting *Your Club!*

73, Nancy, KG6PNP, Treasurer

2020 El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club Board and Members

President	Bob Hess	W1RH	530-350-3843	w1rh@yahoo.com
Vice President	Chris Kepus	W7JPG		ckepus@comcast.net
Treasurer	Nancy Harmor	KG6PNP		nanharmor@comcast.net
Secretary	Susan Keale	KM6NFP		
Board Member	Dave Sanders	K6TQ		eprd2016@pacbell.net
Board Member	Jordan Heichman	WC6J		radon@jordan-h.com
Board Member	Sue Mosbacher	KM6ILP		
Board Member	Michael Picco	K6MLE		k6mle@arrl.net
Board Member	Phil Mosbacher	KK6YYD		kk6yyd@gmail.com
Board Member	Justin Tabatchnick	KB2ZVD		justint701@comcast.net
Repeater Trustee	Bob Hess	W1RH	530-350-3843	w1rh@arrl.net
Webmaster	Jay Harmor	KE6GLA		jharmor@comcast.net
Public Information	Alan Thompson	W6WN	530-417-1451	alan.w6wn@gmail.com