



Lee De Forest Amateur Radio Club



April 2026 LDARC Club Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. In-Person & by Zoom
Memorial Funeral Service, 1111 S. State St., Hemet, CA 92543

America the Beautiful – Ray Charles: 6:33 p.m.

Call to Order/Welcome: 6:38 p.m. by President Rick Gardner (KN6RBP)

Flag Salute / Pledge of Allegiance

Present (Signed In):

Rick Gardner, President (KN6RBP)
Don Pullens, Vice President (N6DMP)
Mary Ortiz, Secretary (KO6GYP)
Karen Stewart, Treasurer (KN6MJS)
Bart Herring, Director (KM6JWS)
Duane Deaton, Director (KN6AUV)
Jackie Harris, Director (KC7CBN)
Terry Smith, Director (KO6ALP)
Rod McHenry (N6CG)
Walt Campion (W6WHC)
Art Endress (WD6GIE)
John Glueck (N6JYW)
Gregg Tyler (KO6JKX)

Gary Watson (KN6VJO)
Candace Gardner (KO6GGW)
Tom Friend (KG6IKE)
Steve Wolfe (AI6ZW)
Anderson Hailey (AF6YY)
Wayne Hulings (KK6QHR)
Gary Marsalone (KK6VZZ)
Bob Brown (KE6JGM)
Marcos Montes (KN6UNL)
Bruce Jones (WA6STA)
Damon Jones (KI6HPV)

Via Zoom:

Charles Lopez (WK3Y)
Greg Ustaszewski (KN6PKG)

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Mary Ortiz (KO6GYP) provided the minutes for the March 18, 2026 regular club meeting.

Motion to accept Minutes for February 18, 2026: Walt Campion (W6WHZ).

2nd: Don Pullens (6DMP)

None opposed. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Stewart (KN6MJS) to present the club financial report for the period of March 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026, later in the meeting.

Breakfast Fundraiser: Rick asked for a show of hands for those volunteering to get Food Handler's Cards from the Health Department to work in the kitchen (Karen, Don, Bart)

- Ticket prices have been *proposed* at \$15.00 for adults, as opposed to \$12.00 last year (requires Board Vote)

Club Mugs: Don presented a sample club mug.

- The first batch ordered sold out
- \$20.00 donation requested in order to receive a mug
- 2nd batch to be ordered soon – see Don if interested

Refreshments Update: Bob Brown spoke to the mortuary owners and arranged to allow refreshments in the sanctuary.

- Bob paid a \$100.00 deposit out of his own pocket (to be reimbursed by Larry)
- Donuts are in the lobby; coffee is brewing – donations to cover refreshments requested

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Presentation presented by Gary Marsalone (KK6VZZ)

- Under the auspices of the ARRL – though ARRL membership is not required to participate
- ARES is similar to CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), which trains under the Fire Department and is self-activated during a disaster – similar to how Hams work
- ARES is not limited to single communities and provides a wider range of coverage
- Weekly training – every Thursday
- ARES aggregates community status reports using the “SALT” process to compile reports:
 - S = Size – how large is the event / affected area?
 - A = Activity – what is happening?
 - L = Location – where is it happening?
 - T = Time – when is it happening?
- Would like more amateur operators (club members) to participate
- There is a BEACON (Building Emergency Area Communications Operations & Networks) on April 30, 2026 – all amateur operators are welcome to participate
 - Will submit reports on local repeater, conduct different activities throughout the day (8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.)
- Encourage CERT members with FRS radios to get involved – provide community reports
- ICS training is done using ICS forms
- ARES net is the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Thursday of each month at 1900 hours
 - Do simplex training, various exercises, pass messages (noted that Terry does a great job o the simplex net for the club)
- Rod asked if ARES uses Incident Numbers – they do not
- On 5th Thursdays, they practice 220
- Rod asked if packet is used – yes, through a WinLink client, BARA. Multiple ways to send messages (packet) on-line
- Bart noted the ability to send emails to those with connectivity when you do not have internet connectivity, over the air. Peer to peer or point to point, connect call sign to call sign. Not sure if groups can be set up.



Lee De Forest Amateur Radio Club



- HOW TO JOIN: go to the ARES website to register your interest and equipment
 - Website: ARESDB.COM
- Can register with Diamond Valley ARES or West Riverside ARES – there are groups around the country
- ERC net at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, except 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Rick thanked Gary for the presentation.

- Rick noted he (Rick) learned a lot about ARES during the last big fire – which changed direction frequently. ARES information nets were the most current information – more current than area news reports/sources.
- Bart and Earl provided reports and updates during that event
- The Diamond Valley group shined – displayed skills, helped facilitate communications
- Rick noted that if internet goes out, emails can be sent over Winlink
- There is a whole world of amateur radio operations that can help individuals as well as communities in the event of an emergency or natural disaster
- Fire information nets are activated by ARES every 3 hours if there are evacuation warnings – through local repeater(s) in the area of the event
- Mesh network is another way to share vast amounts of information very quickly – but it is really expensive, requires unrestricted line-of-sight.
- Rick encourages all to participate in some capacity (do not have to go out in the field). All transmission types are utilized and accepted

Breakfast Fundraiser: May 23, 2026 – ticket prices TBD

Bart suggested a workshop on mesh and ardent system. Don asked if Bart is volunteering.

Break Refreshments: Rick thanked Bob Brown for arranging with the mortuary to allow refreshments in the sanctuary.

- Karen noted she has a small vacuum cleaner to clean up crumbs and asked that any spills be cleaned up right away
- Please leave a donation if enjoying refreshments
- Donations to cover facility use / costs are also encouraged and welcomed

Treasurer's Report: Karen Stewart (KN6MJS) requested to present the club financial report for the period of March 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026:

- March starting balance: \$4,831.36
- March Income: \$169.00
- March Expenses: \$256.00 (ARRL renewals, insurance, equipment)
- **Ending Balance: \$4,743.76**
- Repeater Fund: \$1,520.00 (discrepancy noted – should be \$1996.00)

Motion not to vote to accept the Treasurer's March 2026 report until the repeater fund discrepancy is resolved: Bart Herring

2nd: Don Pullens

None opposed. Passed unanimously.

BREAK 7:45 p.m.

Called to Order: 8:08 p.m.

Rick Gardner stated he wants to address an issue between himself and Bob Brown.

- At the last Board Meeting (March 28, 2026), Rick stated he (Rick) was emotional and ran a “dysfunctional” meeting – it was not well run
- At the conclusion of that meeting, Rick did apologize to the Board; he apologized to the board again on April 2, 2026
- Rick is now apologizing to the general club membership and stated he is deeply sorry for any damage that resulted from his actions
- Rick stated this was not good for the club and he will not let it happen again

Don Pullens was then recognized. Don gave the floor to Bob Brown.

Bob Brown stated he does not know what happened, he does not know why he was “slandered” in that board meeting, he does not know if he is still a club member

- Bob stated the club has no right to vote on whether he can be a VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator) for testing or not
 - Bob stated anyone with complaints about him as a VE can contact ARRL
- Bob stated he wants to move the testing location to the public library – which the board agrees with
- Bob then stated he wanted to know why Mary “lied” and stated he (Bob) never apologized for his error when conducting VEC duties
 - Mary stated that she said it took him a significant amount of time to apologize (months), not that he did not ultimately apologize.
 - Bob began being confrontational toward Mary, who left the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Motion to close discussion and debate: Jackie Harris

2nd: Don Pullens

None opposed. Passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at approx.: 8:27 p.m.