



Lee De Forest Amateur Radio Club



July 2026 LDARC Club Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 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: 6:31 p.m.

Call to Order/Welcome: 6:35 p.m. by President Rick Gardner (KN6RBP)

Flag Salute / Pledge of Allegiance led by Walt Campion (W6WHC)

Present (Signed In):

Rick Gardner, President (KN6RBP)
Don Pullens, Vice President (KN6DMP)
Mary Ortiz, Secretary (KO6GYF)
Karen Stewart, Treasurer (KN6MJS)
Larry Watson, Director (KN6PUR)
Bart Herring, Director (KM6JWS)
Terry Smith, Director (KO6ALP)
Rod McHenry (N6CG)
Walt Campion (W6WHC)
Marcos Montes (KN6UNL)
Arthur Endress (WD5GIE)
Gregg Tyler (KO6JKX)

Tom Friend (KG6IKE)
John Glueck (N6JYW)
Gary Marsalone (KK6VZZ)
Andy Hailey (AF6YY)
Nicolas Piepenbrink (KI6RRA)
W. Wayne Hulings (KK6QHR)
V. Brookes (KO6JVD)
Bruce Jones (WA6STA)
Damon Jones (KI6HPV)
Steve Wolf (AI6ZW)
Charlie Lopez (WK3Y)

Attended by Zoom: None

Announcements:

Welcome back to new member by Rick Gardner.

The Club will have a 50/50 drawing tonight. All are encouraged to buy tickets. There are two extra prizes: one is a code coin.

Reports:

At the time the meeting was called to order, Club Treasurer, Karen Stewart was not present. Candace Gardner took meeting minutes for the June 2026 regular meeting and was not present.

Motion to read Treasurer and Secretary Reports for June 2026 at next month's regular meeting: Don Pullens

2nd: Larry Watson

None opposed. Passed unanimously.

Karen Stewart arrived at the meeting with refreshments. She stated she was ready to provide the Treasurer's Report for June 2026 at this meeting.

Motion to hear the Treasurer's current Report at this meeting and remove it from next month's regular club meeting agenda: Don Pullens

2nd: Marcos Montes

None opposed. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Stewart (KN6MJS) provided the club financial report for the period of June 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

June 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026	
Beginning Balance	\$5,069.10
Income	\$1,418.00
Expenses	\$1,910.89
Ending Balance (combined)	\$4,644.21
Ending General Fund Balance	\$2,818.21
Ending Repeater Fund Balance	\$1,826.00

Karen noted there were many club membership renewals this month. The amount spent on radios for raffles was \$1,125.00.

Update on Breakfast Fundraiser:

- 43 Tickets sold: \$564.00
- Donations: \$316.00
- Expenses: \$435.64
- Net Profit: \$444.36

Motion to accept Treasurer's Reports for June 2026: Gregg Tyler.

2nd: Andy Hailey.

None opposed. Passed unanimously.

Field Day 2026 Overview/Review:

The LDARC held field day at McSweeny Park, a local area park. No raffle was held at this year's event.

Field Day Feedback:

Brookes – had a great time. Made a lot of contacts. The one issue he had was finding the club sights. The map provided was not ideal. He only found the site by seeing Terry's antenna.



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Field Day 2026 Feedback (continued):

Andy – felt the event was pretty good. Members of the public came by to investigate. There would have been more traffic, or interest, if the club signs had been out. Suggests we promote the event better next time and put up signs. Stated he did prefer the campground.

Bart Herring – stated he preferred the public interaction at the park. Would like someplace in the city. Does not have to be Valley Wide.

Andy – suggested Mary Henley Park as potential site. Discussion.

John – stated he went on as 1EchoOrange from home. Could not find the club, though he got numerous contacts (Riverside, TX, CO...etc.).

Rod – Thought Lake Perris would be a good site, though it did not “feel” like Field Day. If that had been his first experience, he would not have been back.

Rick – Lake Perris did not feel like field day at all; it would be a great POTA site.

Bart – there are noise restrictions in the campground after 10:00 p.m., making late night contacts difficult. If used as a POTA site, the Club should get a group site, so as not to disturb other campers after 10:00 p.m.

Rick – An air conditioned trailer on site would be nice.

Karen – Valley Wide site had issues with sprinklers. Club members brought buckets with cinder blocks, and covered the sprinkler heads. Worked great, except for the one sprinkler they missed.

Rod – Valley Wide is also regularly patrolled by Riverside County Sheriff's, which gives a sense of security.

Bart – noted the club should have had the deputy make a contact for extra points from ARRL for having a “public official” make a contact.

Break 7:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Minutes continued on next page.

Member Presentations (3):

Brookes presented an overview of the Yaesu FTX-1 vs FTX-1 Optimum.

FTX-1:

- Has a clip-on battery; approx. 6 watts
- Can add an external battery for up to 10 watts
- Known as a “shack in a box”, it is multi-mode, multi-band (HF/VHF/UHF, does SSB).
- It has many menus to navigate.

FTX-1 Optimum:

- Has a tuner and power amplifier (100 watts) that connects to the field unit.
- Prices: approx. \$1,400.00 for field radio with battery; additional \$1,500.00 for tuner and power amplifier.
- Works great with a good antenna.
- It has everything the 991 has and more.

Discussion RE: Antennas:

- Challenger antenna has the smallest footprint among the Challenger, POTA Performer
- No ground penetration
- $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength, so shorter counterpoise, not as radial dependent as POTA performer.
- Challenger can get 40 meters with added coil.
- Don discussed Chameleon wire dipole (portable, packable set up)
- Bart announced that a **Challenger antenna (full build) will be in the Christmas raffle this year!**

QRP Discussion:

- QRP for CW is 5 watts
- QRP for voice is 10 watts (per ARRL)

Marcos: presented “Key Benefits of Center Loading Antennas”

- Reviewed differences between base loading and center loading.
- Antenna used for demonstration is a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave antenna.
- Higher radiation efficiency.
- Better current distribution.
- Improved DX performance.
- Elevated radiation resistance.
- The POTA Performer is base loaded – different.
- Demonstration antenna covers up to 80 meters.
- Need to move up & down coil to tune.
- Radials are elevated.
- SWRS 1:4
- Capacitance hat discussion.
- Shared a Yaesu 857D gifted to him from a friend whose father died. It looked like it had been submerged in water. He sent it to Yaesu, they took 2 weeks to get back to him with a repair for \$92.00. A friend repaired the screen for \$60.00.



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Terry and Rick: Wavelog Demonstration/Presentation

- Wavelog is a web application; there is nothing to download
- Wavelog will be used as the tracking log for the Special Club Event
- To set up in the application as a user, there are four fields to complete
 - Create a logbook
 - Create station location for that logbook (Note: a logbook can have multiple locations)
 - Link logbook and location – link all 3
 - Go to Club log for the Special Event (under Advanced Log Book)
- Need Internet to get to Wavelog Server
- Can use Hammers if no internet, then upload when internet is available (at home)
- Wavelog will import ADI Files
- There will be a contest set up in advance within the software.
 - There will be two (2) prizes:
 - \$25.00 gift certificate for the highest performer in the digital category
 - \$25.00 gift certificate for the highest performer in the voice category
- Rick will be working no QSL cards, merchandise and certificates.
- This is the last regular club meeting before the Special Event in August.
- “K6L” is the Special Event Call Sign (it will expire after the event)

50/50 Drawing: Wayne Hulings (KK6QHR) won \$32.50 and 2 special coins. Congratulations!

40 Meter NET: Don encourages all to participate if you have HF capabilities.

ARRL Memberships Commission Check:

- The club received a check in the amount of **\$85.00** due to the number of club members who renewed their ARRL memberships through the club.
- It does not cost the member extra, but benefits the club.
- Please note on the sign-in sheet if you are an ARRL member, so the club can track.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:52 p.m.