



April 2001

Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Volume 62, Issue 4

### April Meeting—Friday April 20th, 7:00 p.m.

Ernie Pyle Elementary School, 4140 N. Augusta., Corner of Ashlan and Augusta.

### Fresno Hamfest

April 28th 7:00AM to 3:00PM at Coombs Ranch.

From Hwy. 99 take Ave. 12 East, Cross Hwy. 41. Coombs Ranch is 1 mile beyond Hwy. 41 on Ave. 12.

Contact Jim Haynes, KA6J, 559-294-8390. Talk-in 146.34/.94.

### 2001 Meeting/Activity Dates

- April 20th.....Ernie Pyle School
- April 20-22 .....Intl DX Convention
- April 28th.....Hamfest
- June .....Field Day
- July .....Vacation
- August.....Club Picnic

### Weekly Gatherings

#### Country Waffles:

Saturday & Monday mornings @ 7:00 a.m.  
Corner of Blackstone & Dakota

#### Silver Dollar Hoffbrau:

Thursdays @ Noon.  
Corner of Hwy 41 & Shaw

### "The Prez Sez"

Jim Bianchi – KF6GKC



April is a month when April Fool's Day happens to when your taxes are due. How appropriate that this is also the month that we evaluate what we will receive for our bus. It has been asked that we find out what we will receive in dollars for the bus. Be it from \$1.00 to \$10,000.00, this is irrelevant. I know that we have spent hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in appropriating and maintaining the bus. I also understand that papers and cans have been the revenue for keeping the bus going. We ask a lot of everyone in supplying papers and cans for the bus, but we also ask a lot of the people who collect and deliver the papers and cans. For this effort, I would like to see something that could benefit the club in a bigger way. I also know that the bus was put together in preparation for a "disaster." It has been discussed by the Board that the likelihood of actually using the bus in such a way is not likely to happen. The county has other measures at its disposal in event of such an occurrence. I understand what went into acquiring this bus and putting it together, but it is too costly to maintain. As such, what we receive for the bus has some or little bearing on what we do. As of now, we have a problem with the braking system which makes it somewhat dangerous to take this into the hills and ask someone to risk something going wrong. In such, what we receive for the bus is a concern of the Board, and we will do all that we can to return as much money as possible to the club, but this does nothing to change the outcome of the bus. In such, I hope that you all understand that this action has to be taken.

73's, Jim Bianchi, KF6GKC



## Board of Directors

**President:** Jim Bianchi KF6GKC  
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 Jim Clymer WS6X.....(550) 292-8353  
 John Morrice K6MI .....(559) 275-7373  
 Brandon Bianchi KE6THG .....(559) 432-5517

## Club Contacts

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 Rob Mavis KF6YLR (559) 227-6243

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 Ken Holden WA6OIB (559) 323-6753

**Worldradio**

Subscribe or renew through FARC.  
 Make check out to F.A.R.C. mail with Worldradio form to:  
 F.A.R.C.  
 PO Box 783,  
 Fresno, CA 93712  
 The club benefits with each one processed

## Treasurer's Report

03/21/2001

### For the period of 01/01/2001 to 03/21/2001

Income:.....\$1,896.20  
 (Including Savings interest of \$00.00)

Expenses:.....\$1,467.22

Balances at end of Period:

Checking Account.....\$3,508.63  
 Savings Account.....\$3,001.13  
 Petty Cash on Hand..... \$50.00  
 Un-deposited Funds.....\$00.00  
 Total Cash 12/31/2000.....\$6,559.76

### Papers and Cans Year to 3/21/2001

Paper: (1 Load 5,153 lbs).....\$115.94  
 Cans:.....\$00.00

### Membership F.A.R.C. Membership 12/31/2000

Full Memberships..... 143  
 Family Memberships.....21  
 Comp Members .....04  
 Life Members .....15  
 Total Memberships..... 183

## Editors Note

Hi Everyone,

Well here it is April already. Spring is in the air and it is finally warming up for the summer. Everyone seems a bit chipper. Beverly Wakefield, Jimmy's (W6PSQ) wife is also feeling better. We are all glad to hear she is doing better.

We have upcoming events, including the Hamfest, with the weather being so nice you can use the new equipment you get out there to get on the air more.

Well I have a lot to do myself so I will cut this short.

73's to all! Barbara-KF6KDC.

## International DX Convention

April 20-22, 2001. Visalia Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA.

See <http://www.ncdxc.org/Ncdxc/Convention/idxc2001pre01.htm> for information, or contact Dick Letrich, W6KM, 3686 Kirk Road San Jose, CA 95124-3816, phone 408-267-2624, e-mail [dlw6km@aol.com](mailto:dlw6km@aol.com).

## Help Fight Malicious Interference

How can you Fight Malicious Interference on a personal level?

When you experience malicious interference, use the most effective means of combating it at your disposal, Ignore it on the air. Keep your cool, don't engage interfering stations in their own CB'er mentality type game, which might lead you to violate FCC Part 97 rules too. Above all, keep your on-the-air operation strictly above reproach. By ignoring the offenders and not commenting to them, you deprive them of their number one need, ATTENTION.

If you've got a Jammer on your hands contact the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section Manager, Don Costello W7WN at [w7wn@arrl.org](mailto:w7wn@arrl.org), or the Official Observern Coordinator Victor Magana N1VM at [n1vm@arrl.net](mailto:n1vm@arrl.net)

## Email Thanks to a Local Ham

On Sunday March 4th, 2001 Lee, AC6WS received a distress call from Sam Imai, KF6ML and called a tow truck for him. Here is the email thanking Lee:

5 Mar 2001

Jim: Hello Fresno! How warm are my memories of Fresno during my childhood days in the 1930's, when the population was about 50 or 60k! And in my over 41 years of ham radio, I've handled many health and welfare traffic, thankful that I've not needed the service myself—until now! I got my tow within an hour and he took us to Gorman, at the top of the Grapevine. Heavy rains and VERY strong wind gusts kept us overnight in Gorman as CHP closed I-5. So we stayed overnight and this morning, although it was still raining steadily, it was not heavy and the winds calmed down enough to open the road. So after breakfast, we got our second tow from Gorman to Gardena and arrived safely about 10:30 am. We unloaded the can and I thought I'd better thank you so much and let you know the end of the drama....

73s Sam Imai KF6ML

## April Birthdays

K6ANM	VERNE JOHNSON
KG6BBZ	BARNEY SCHWEDLER
KE6BDC	THOMAS L ADAMS
N6BWW	FRANK BOWEN
N6DBH	VARJOUJAN KALINIAN
KF6DSR	JUDY HAMAN
W6FRH	BOB HERVATINE
N6GPA	BIGGIE BURKHOLDER
WA6HII	KEN GRIFFIN
KD6HTV	CHRISTOPHER DENNY
W6ROG	ROGER MERRITT
WB6TGW	JOHN A YOUNG
K6XJ	PERRY FOSTER

## ARRL

Renew your membership or join the ARRL through the FARC treasury. The Club benefits with each membership. Send completed ARRL membership form with payment made out to F.A.R.C. to:

F. A. R. C.  
P.O. Box 783  
Fresno, CA 93712

Memberships received will be grouped and forwarded with a check from the club. FARC receives an instant rebate or discount on ARRL memberships processed in this manner. No Applications will be delayed

## VE Corner

Amateur Radio VE Exams in Fresno  
Unlicensed thru Extra Class  
Fresno Amateur Radio Club – A.R.R.L. VEC

Exams for all Amateur license classes will be conducted on the following dates in Fresno, California. All exams are given on Sunday and Begin at 1:00 P.M.

May 20  
August 19  
November 18

Theory Exams are multiple choice. Code Exam is fill in the blank.

**Location:** Seventh Day Adventist Central Church, 2980 East Yale, Fresno California 93703. One block south of Clinton and one block west of First Street, southwest corner of Yale and Orchard. Watch for signs.

**Directions:** From Hwy 99, take Clinton Ave. exit east four miles to First St., turn right (South), one block right on Yale, one block. Look for Signs.

From Highway 41, take Shields Ave exit, turn right (East), 1 mile to First St., turn right, continue one block past Clinton, right on Yale to Orchard. Look for Signs.

**Bring:** Two ID's, one with photo. Taxpayer ID Number (Social Security Number) or ULS registration number. Fee is \$10.00 per test session. Original copy of Amateur License and CSCE's if upgrading.

Talk in on W6TO/R 146.94/64 repeater.

Walk-in's only, no pre-registration.

More info contact Chuck, W6DPD, 559-431-2038

### Quote of the Month

I thought you checked that!?

James Pahoundis, KC6UCN

## Ham Radio Demo at CART

On March 6, 2001, W6BBS (Frank Reynolds) was introducing Ham Radio to High School students at the Center for Advanced Research



and Technology (CART). It came about when a school teacher at CART called Jim Bianchi and asked if any of the F.A.R.C. members could give a lecture or demo on Amateur Radio. W6BBS (Frank) volunteered and the rest is history. Frank talked about the hobby and how anyone can communicate around the world with the proper gear and license. He showed some of his priceless QSL cards to eager students and discussed some principles of propagation.



The CART Telecom students helped Frank rig the home brewed dipole antenna ( 10 and 40 meters) that he built on top of a lamp post and connected his ICOM 706 MkII to a portable marine battery. In minutes, the class was on the air! The students from both morning and afternoon classes stood in line to take turns in talking over the radio.

C A R T teacher Ramon Floro (N1MQB) who has been licensed since 1992 but has never been on the air, was thankful of the club and Frank's unselfish support and assistance. The kids at the Telecom Class had a wonderful and memorable day.



## Intruder Likely a CODAR Installation

The ARRL Monitoring System will formally ask the FCC to monitor yet another intruding signal, this time on the 12-meter amateur band. The widely reported signal sounds a bit like a tightly wound, noisy spring being repeatedly compressed and released. It's believed to be coming from a surface-wave radar installation, possibly in Central or South America.

"It sounds like someone playing with a really noisy spring, or a very poorly tuned guitar string," says ARRL Monitoring System Administrator Brennan Price, N4QX. "This signal is also unique in that it precisely occupies the entire 12-meter band, from 24,890 to 24,990 kHz, with the same pitch and tempo throughout the band."

While the signal does not appear to be overly disruptive to amateur communications, it is almost certainly an intruder. "The 12-meter band is allocated to amateurs on an exclusive basis worldwide," Price says. "This is not one of those instances where the observed station has as much right to use the frequency as United States amateurs; any non-amateur signal on 12 is an intruder."

Informal discussions with professional monitors suggest that the rough pulses--about two per second in frequency--are characteristic of a CODAR (Coastal Ocean Dynamics Applications Radar) transmitter. CODAR is a specific type of HF radar used to map ocean surface currents in coastal zones.

An overview of CODAR theory and applications is available on the National Oceanic and At-

mospheric Administration

Web site, <http://www1.etl.noaa.gov/codar/codar.htm>.

## GLENDALE CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE HELPS WITH COMMUNICATIONS

The Glendale (California) Emergency Amateur Radio Service, or GEARS, pitched in to fill a communications gap March 7 after a backhoe operator inadvertently cut an underground cable carrying telephone, fax, and data communications to and from Glendale Memorial Hospital. Incoming calls soon were routed to a bank of telephones set up in the Emergency Operations Center of the Glendale-Crescenta Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross--just one block away. Amateur Radio operators stationed at critical areas inside the hospital made outgoing calls to doctors, nurses, and other staff members. Using both VHF and UHF mountaintop repeaters owned by the Crescenta Valley Amateur Radio Club, the GEARS group used the 2-meter repeater for autopatch calls and the 70-cm machine for net control. In all, more than 20 amateur radio operators participated in the 10-hour emergency.--State of California OES Auxiliary Communications Service Newsletter

### Local Repeaters

Organization	Callsign	Location	Freq	Shift	Tone
Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers (CARP)	K6ARP/R	Meadow Lakes	147.675	-	141.3
Fresno Amateur Radio Club (FARC)	W6TO/R	Meadow Lakes	146.340	+	none
			222.340	+	none
			449.200	-	none
Kings Amateur Radio Club (KARC)	W6VFZ	Coalinga	224.440		100.0
			Madera Amateur Radio Club (MARC)	W6WGZ/R	
			147.180	+	none
			441.175	-	146.2
RACES	N6HEW		147.150	+	141.3

## CA PRB-1 Action

From the April 2001 ARRL Pacific Division Update

There is still considerable discussion within CA about the next steps to take after Gov. Davis vetoed our attempt in 2000 to enact PRB legislation in CA.

We were successful in having the legislation pass both the Assembly and Senate only to have the Governor veto the bill. We are still working on getting a new bill introduced this year, but the prospects look a bit bleak at this time.

## ARRL News

*The ARRL Letter, March 30, 2001*

### FCC PROPOSES LOWER AMATEUR RADIO VANITY FEE

The FCC is proposing to lower the fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14 to \$12. The new fee, if approved, likely would go into effect sometime in September.

The proposed lower fee was contained in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for FY 2001 (MD Docket No. 01-76), released March 29. The FCC said it estimates 8000 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in the current fiscal year.

Applicants for Amateur Radio vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$14 fee for the 10-year license term until the FY 2001 fee schedule becomes effective. The effective date for the new FCC fee schedule will be announced later this year in a Report and Order or by a Public Notice published in the Federal Register.

Comments in the fee proceeding are due by April 27; reply comments must be received by May 7, 2001. Comments filed through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System can be sent via the FCC Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed.

## Local Nets

### Sunday:

7:00pm	146.940	+	Fresno ARC
8:00pm	146.910	-	Kern County

### Monday:

7:00pm	224.900	-	156.7	Condor
	224.600	-	156.7	Condor
8:00pm	147.150	+		Fresno RACES

### Tuesday:

7:00pm	147.180	+		Madera ARC
7:30pm	146.880	-	136.5	Tulare Co. ARC
7:30pm	147.030	+	100.0	Turlock ARC

### Wednesday:

7:00pm	146.940	-		Brown Sugar
7:00pm	147.330	+	100.0	Kings ARC
	147.240	+	100.0	
	145.110	-	100.0	
	224.440	-	100.0	
	441.900	+	100.0	
8:00pm	28.445			10-Meter

### Thursday:

7:00pm	146.675	-	141.3	Clovis (CARP)
8:00pm	147.330	+	100.0	Cal-Nev Swap
	145.210	-		

## Swap Section

Do you have a for Sale or Want? This is the place for it!

Place your for Sale or Want in the SKIP!

Your swap can be up to 30 words in length and must be Amateur Radio related.

**Members = \$FREE!** (\$2.50 for ea. 30 words after first 30)

**Non-Members=\$2.50** (\$2.50 for ea. 30 words after first 30)

**WANTED**—Older VFO for Tube Type Transmitters. 7 MHz—Rob, KF6YLR (559) 227-6243



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P.O. Box 783  
Fresno, CA 93712-0783

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New licenses can receive a free membership during the first calendar  
year licensed. You must provide a copy of your license with your appli-  
cation.

### 2001 F.A.R.C. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____		Date: _____
Call Sign: _____		
Address: _____		Home Phone: _____
City: _____	State: _____	Zip: _____
Bus Address: _____		Bus Phone: _____
Occupation: _____		Birthdate: _____
License Class _____		Year First Licensed: _____

### Contacting The Editors:

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### Help Wanted:

News articles, pictures of your  
favorite radio station, DX con-  
tacts, and other printable Ham  
radio related items