



December 2001

Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Volume 62, Issue 10

2001 FARC Christmas Dinner & Awards Banquet

December 8th—7:00 p.m.

Cedar Lanes, 3131 N Cedar, Fresno 93703 in the Holiday Room

\$20.00 at the Door per person.

2002 Membership Dues

It's getting close to memberships being due.

Please renew early.

Weekly Gatherings

Country Waffles:

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

Silver Dollar Hofbrau:

Thursdays @ Noon.
Corner of Hwy 41 & Shaw

"The Prez Sez"

Jim Bianchi – KF6GKC



It seems like just yesterday, but it has been four years that I have been president of the Fresno Amateur Radio Club. From baptism by fire from my first meeting to my first field day, it has been a learning experience. I hope that in the four years that I have been president, that the club has grown.

I also want to thank all of the Board members which have been many in the four years and especially Ken Griffin. I could not have done this without him. I believe that we leave the club with a treasury which is fairly healthy, but the money must be managed very conservatively as the club is not growing but actually shrinking in members. This is due to the fact that the average member is in an older demographic. I hope that this trend can be turned. We must as a club attract younger members, be it children or grandchildren, nieces or nephews, or friends and acquaintances. All members must try to help the club grow. We have a special group of people and a very special club with a long history. I would hate to see this disappear like many other clubs that have disappeared in the past.

Last, thank you for letting me be a member and president of this club. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

73's, Jim Bianchi KF6GKC



CEDAR LANES

3131 N. CEDAR
FRESNO, CA 93703
PHONE : 559 - 222-4424
FAX: 559 - 222-4825

The Fresno Amateur Radio Club meets at Cedar Lanes the 2nd Friday of each month unless otherwise noted. Please take advantage of the good food at the Coffee Shop whenever possible.

Fresno Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 783, Fresno, Ca. 93720-0783

Board of Directors

President: Jim Bianchi KF6GKC 11/24/2001
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 diamondjames@earthlink.net

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 (559) 224-0288

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 k6aj@mediaone.net

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 (559) 292-4811
 keng5@qnis.net

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 Ken Holden WA6OIB.....(559) 323-6753
 Gene Davis W7POR(559) 645-6849
 Jim Clymer WS6X.....(550) 292-8353
 John Morrice K6MI(559) 275-7373
 Brandon Bianchi KE6THG(559) 432-5517

Club Contacts

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Educational, Public Service & Events Contact:
 Jimmie Wakefield W6PSQ (559) 227-1057

Membership Contact:
 Ken Griffin WA6HII (559) 292-4811

SKIP Editor:
 Rob Mavis KF6YLR (559) 227-6243
 skip@oldtuberadio.com

Technical Services:
 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

11/24/2001

For the period of 01/01/2001 to 11/24/2001

Income:.....\$9,780.46
 (Including Savings interest of \$22.73)
 Expenses:\$8,198.15

Balances at end of Period:
 Checking Account.....\$3,012.22
 Savings Account\$4,641.87
 Petty Cash on Hand\$50.00
 Un-deposited Funds\$36.00
 Total Cash 10/28/2001\$5,517.88

Papers and Cans Year to 10/24/2001

Paper: (5 Loads 25,918 lbs)\$583.16
 Cans: (1 Load).....\$85.88

Membership F.A.R.C. Membership 11/24/2001

Full Memberships 180
 Family Memberships 30
 Comp Members..... 7
 Life Members 15
 Total Memberships 232

ARRL

Join the ARRL through the FARC treasury.
 The Club benefits with each new membership.
 Send completed ARRL membership form with pay-
 ment 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 for-
 warded with a check from the club.
 FARC receives an instant rebate or discount on
 new 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. Exams are given on Sunday and Begin at 1:00 P.M.

- February 3
- May 5
- August 4
- November 3

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

Location: Seventh Day Adventist Central Church, 2980 East Yale, Fresno CA 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

Upcoming VE Exam Dates

December

09 Mountain ARC
01:00 PM Walk-ins allowed
Edward Hamilton (559)642-2789
7th Day Adventist Church, Holbrook Hall
5060 Road 426, PO Box 2467
Oakhurst, CA 93644

Attention!

SKIP Contributors

Due to time limitations, all information (articles, ads or columns) for the SKIP must be provided to the editor by the 20th of the month in order for it to be published in the following months issue.

This deadline is required to be able to get the SKIP edited, printed and mailed out to the club members in a timely manner and prior to the months club meeting.

Rob, KF6YLR—SKIP Editor
skip@oldtuberadio.com
(559) 227-6243

Code Practice

Those of you who wish to get their code requirement, here is your opportunity to learn the code!

Starting at 0 words per minute.

When: Tuesday nights following the Madera ARC Net at approximately 7:30 pm.

Where: Madera ARC Repeater—147.180 + no tone

VE Exam Report

On Sunday November 18, 20 candidates took 21 exam elements. The results were:

Technician	15
General	1
Extra	0

The pass rate was 81%.

Thanks to the following VEs who participated: WB6QDN, AC6TO, KF6QJM, W6GV.

We need at least 7 VEs to really run a good session.

Chuck McConnell, W6DPD

Local Repeaters

Organization	Call sign	Location	Freq	Offset	Tone
Central California Amateur Communications (CCAC)		Meadow Lakes	146.790	-	141.3
		Meadow Lakes	223.780	-	141.3
		Meadow Lakes	444.250	+	141.3
Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers (CARP)	K6ARP/R	Meadow Lakes	147.675	-	141.3
		Meadow Lakes	444.725	+	141.3
		Meadow Lakes	1286.300	-	141.3
		Joaquin Ridge	145.430	-	67.0
		Joaquin Ridge	224.880	-	141.3
		Joaquin Ridge	440.350	+	141.3
Fresno Amateur Radio Club (FARC)	W6TO/R	Meadow Lakes	146.940	-	none
			223.940	-	none
			444.200	+	none
Kings Amateur Radio Club (KARC)	W6VFZ	Hanford	145.110	-	100.0
		Castle Peak	147.240	+	100.0
		Santa Rita Peak	224.440	-	100.0
		Hanford	441.675	+	100.0
Madera Amateur Radio Club (MARC)	W6WGZ/R		147.180	+	none
			441.175	-	146.2
RACES	N6HEW		147.150	+	141.3
Tulare County Amateur Radio Club	WA6BAI	Blue Ridge	146.880	-	103.5

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 add 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. 7.5 MHz—Rob, KF6YLR (559) 227-6243

FOR SALE—Heathkit SB100 and Hallicrafters SX71 \$100.00 each or \$175.00 for both.

Both in like new condition

Larry, KD6YAY@ 438-4209

Fresno Amateur Radio Club 2001 Membership by License Class

Extra.....	61
Advanced	36
General.....	36
Technician Plus.....	29
Technician.....	64
Novice	2
No License	4

Total232

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

11/01/2001

The meeting was called to order by president Jim, KF6GKC at 07:05PM.

Board members present: KF6GKC, W7POR, WS6X, K6YRZ, WA6OIB, KA6J, W6JWK, WA6HII, KE6THG.

The minutes of the previous board meeting were read, and accepted as read.

Motion to accept the minutes by Ken, WA6HII and seconded by Jim, WS6X.

Discussion: Christmas Dinner:

The Christmas dinner/awards banquet will be held at Cedar Lanes, on Dec. 8th, beginning at approximately 7:00PM. The price was discussed and decided to be 15.00 per person, paid in advance of Dec. 1st, and 17.00 at the door, to better facilitate early preparations. There will be two menu choices, chicken or tri-tip. The budget for the prizes was set at 300.00, to be evenly split between women and men's prizes. Ken, WA6HII will prepare the award certificates again this year. Christmas florals will be purchased for table decorations.

Report: Club bus:

Skip, K6YRZ reported that the bus has been cleared of all equipment, and the lettering removed. Skip has the bus set out in view of traffic with for sale signs in place. The equipment that was removed is now in secure storage boxes.

Discussion: Club HF radios.

It was suggested that some of the HF radios in possession of the club, as well as some other equipment may be surplus to our needs. It was suggested to sell the radios, as they are somewhat dated. Upon further discussion, it was agreed to keep the radios for future use, but to sell some of the other equipment.

Discussion: Youth net.

There was brief discussion about starting a youth net. It was decided that if there was interest, the board would support, but would not get actively involved beginning such a net.

Phone Patch:

Ken WA6OIB reported that the phone patch has been repaired and is operational. Ken also volunteered to relocate the phone patch at his home when the time comes to move it from its present location.

Treasurer:

Ken, WA6HII will be stepping down as treasurer at the end of this term. It was decided that no action be taken to fill the vacancy at this time. The new arriving board will be assigned the task of filling the position.

Motion to close by WA6OIB, second by W6JWK.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 08:20PM

Respectfully submitted:

Jim Haynes, KA6J
Secretary

December Birthdays

KB6AWN	J W GRAHAM	KG6JL	FRED SCHILLER JR
KF6CLU	JOSE MOLINA	KA6PNK	DOROTHY VONDERBECK
KG6FGP	JEANNY HAMMONDS	KF6QJM	PAUL STORVOLD
KF6FIG	BOB SAWYER	W6QON	STEPHEN WEBER
KG6FPU	CHUCK MACKKEY	N6RPY	HAROLD MURDOCK
KD6HHV	BOB LOVING III	KE6UOM	KATHY GATHRIGHT
KF6ICI	DELORES KEETON	N6ZAU	BRIAN WILLIAMS

It Seems to Us...Unlicensed to Kill

By David Sumner, K1ZZ—ARRL Executive Vice President
October 29, 2001

Reprinted from ARRL website/QST

Every so often we are forced to use page 9 to issue a "call to arms" to ARRL members to defend amateur spectrum. This is one of those times. We face a grave threat that could kill much of the usefulness of the 70-cm amateur band. Here's the story.

A few years ago Congress required the FCC to conduct a "biennial review" of some of its rules to determine whether they should be modified or eliminated. The FCC decided to go even farther and reviewed them all, not just those parts mandated by Congress. Included in the FCC's non-mandatory review was Part 15, governing unlicensed devices that emit RF energy. Part 15 covers a wide range of emitters, from devices that are not intended to emit RF energy such as computers and receivers to short-range communications devices such as garage-door openers and cordless telephones.

In January 2001 the FCC released an "Updated Staff Report" that recommended, among other things, consideration of several modest changes in the Part 15 rules—for example, removing a prohibition on data transmissions by certain remote control devices. These do not pose much of an interference threat to licensed services because they are operated infrequently and the rules require their transmissions to be short. Also recommended was a review of the emission standards above 2 GHz, a timely suggestion in view of the rapid growth in the use of this spectrum by both licensed and unlicensed devices. So far so good.

In October 2001 the FCC adopted and released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), OET Docket No. 01-278, to implement the staff recommendations—and more besides. If the NPRM had stopped with the staff recommendations we would not be sounding the alarm. Unfortunately, grafted onto the document are two proposals for far more radical changes to Part 15, at least one of which should never have seen the light of day in its present form. It represents a grave threat to amateur operation in the 425-435 MHz band.

In November 2000 SAVI Technology, Inc. filed a petition, RM-10051, seeking to legitimize a product that it had already developed, inappropriately, for operation on 433.9 MHz. Let's be clear about this: there is no technical justification whatsoever for the selection of that frequency. Its selection results only from the fact that 433.92 MHz \pm 870 kHz is designated for industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) applications in ten European countries (half of them being the former Yugoslavia and one of the other five being Liechtenstein). Because licensed radiocommunication services must tolerate a certain amount of interference in the so-called ISM bands, it is not unusual for these bands to be designated for use by unlicensed devices with power levels and duty cycles that would be inappropriate elsewhere. So it has come to pass that unlicensed devices have sprung up on 433.92 MHz, with or without regulatory authorization. This has caused nightmares for our ama-

teur colleagues in Europe and Australia and has led numerous administrations to prohibit unlicensed devices with high duty cycles from operating on this frequency.

The product that SAVI wants to legitimize is a RF identification (RFID) tag. There is certainly nothing wrong with the concept; it is easy to see why shipping and warehousing operations would like to identify the contents of a container simply by "reading" such a tag. Had SAVI's designers (dare we say they lacked savvy?) chosen a more appropriate frequency we might have devoted this page to the 80th anniversary of the first successful amateur transatlantic transmissions. Had the FCC staff considered our well-reasoned opposition to the SAVI petition you might be reading here about the 40th anniversary of the first amateur satellite. Instead, we must ask you to join the battle against this potential disruption of the 70-cm band.

How serious is the interference potential? The proposed rules would permit an average field strength of 11,000 microvolts per meter measured at 3 meters, for continuous periods of two minutes. In the event of a transmission error a retransmission could be initiated immediately; otherwise a silent period of at least 10 seconds would be required. As a practical matter that amounts to continuous operation of a device that could obliterate weak-signal receivers a mile away and cause significant interference to amateur television, FM, and other modes. Among the supporters of the SAVI petition is UPS. Picture RFID in every brown panel truck in the country; nothing in the proposed rules would prevent it.

It's true that in the event of harmful interference to a licensed station the operator of a Part 15 device is required to eliminate the interference, including ceasing operation if that is the only remedy. However, this presupposes that the source of the interference can be easily located and the operator of the offending device understands this obligation.

In the FCC's own words taken from the NPRM, "The limits are intended to minimize the possibility of unlicensed Part 15 devices causing interference to licensed radio services." The proposal to permit RFID tags in the 70-cm amateur band clearly fails to meet this standard.

If you care about this band here's what you must do. (1) Read the original. (2) Read the ARRL opposition. (3) Read the relevant parts of the NPRM in ET Docket 01-278. All three documents can be found on the ARRL Web site's "Threats to our Amateur Bands" page. (4) File comments opposing the addition of proposed Section 15.240 by following the instructions in paragraphs 51-54 of the NPRM.

And (5) Be as generous as you can in supporting the ARRL Fund for the Defense of Amateur Radio Frequencies. A request was just mailed and should reach every member in the United States about the same time as this issue of QST. If you prefer, visit the ARRL Web site's Spectrum Defense Sponsor 2002 page to make your gift.

The mailing was prepared before the FCC released this NPRM, so its focus is on WRC-03. The NPRM is an unfortunate reminder—as if we needed one right now—that defense also requires action closer to home.

--David Sumner, K1ZZ



FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P.O. Box 783
Fresno, CA 93712-0783

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STANDARD
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FRESNO CA 93706
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Send To:

F.A.R.C. DUES ARE \$15.00 PER YEAR FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP.
Additional family members in the same household are \$5.00 each per
year. Make checks payable to F.A.R.C. and send to:
P.O. Box 783, Fresno, Ca. 93712-0783.

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.

2002 F.A.R.C. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Contacting The Editor:

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Help Wanted:

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