



February 2003

Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Volume 64, Issue 2

FEB MEETING - FEB. 14, 7 PM CEDAR LANES/CA CAFE

FAR, FAR AWAY: DX TAPE, "HEARD ISLAND"/VK0IR. THANK YOU, CHUCK MC CONNELL/W6DPD! "HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY; BE SURE THAT YOU BRING YOUR YL OR OM!!!! ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS, PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING! THIS SHOULD BE A VERY INFORMATIVE GENERAL MEETING.

GENERAL MEETINGS ARE THE 2ND FRI OF EACH MONTH UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Please send in your 2003 membership due now! This is your reminder. You will not be billed. Please refer to the 2003 FARC Membership Application on the back page. If you have any questions contact Membership Chairperson Gene Davis/W7POR via e-mail at gdavis@gotnet.net or call him at 645-6849. Thank you for your support.

Weekly Gatherings

Country Waffles:

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

Silver Dollar Hofbrau:

Thursdays @ Noon.

Please e-mail me your e-mail address to save FARC postage! You can receive your SKIP via e-mail. Wow; we are in the year 2003!!! My e-mail address is kdavis@gotnet.net. Your info will be in our database and forwarded to our webmaster/Vice-President, Craig/K6QI. And if you do not have e-mail your SKIP will continue to be mailed to you. Please contact me with questions or comments, 645-6849. Kim Davis/KF6ZSW

"The Prez Sez"

We had a great turn out for our first meeting of 2003!!!! I want to give a big thanks to Mike Bavoso/W6YDE for doing such a great job with the "Hams In Space" presentation. It was well done and very informative!

I want to thank the members who helped me that evening: Marcus Beetle, John/KG6AWB, Pat/KG6BXZ, Barbara/AE6GF, Tom/KG6KYU, and Ken/WA6OIB.

Our Vice-President, Craig/K6QI did a great job with the drawing.

We are doing very well with our two major club events. Thanks to our Hamfest Chairman Bill/KF4EOP and Field Day Chairman Jim/WS6X we are right on target with all of our planning. Papers and Cans Chairman Ted/K6FGE is doing a great job! Ted and his crew (KF6CL/Harold, K6HAU/Jim, Bob/WA6ITN, and Lee/AC6WS) have already brought in over \$250 this year. They are doing a great job and remember they could always use some more help! If you are interested in helping please contact Ted.

We have an exciting year planned and I hope that all of you can participate in some way.

I want to thank everyone again for their continued help and support to FARC. Remember to bring your papers and cans to our upcoming meeting.

Take Care and I look forward to seeing all of you on Feb. 14th,

Kim/KF6ZSW



FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Kim Davis KF6ZSW 12/31/04
645-6849 kdavis@gotnet.net

Vice-President: Craig Carter K6QI 12/31/04
323-5742 k6qi@attbi.com

Secretary: Jim Haynes KA6J 12/31/04
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Chuck McConnell . W6DPD 431-2038 ... 12/31/03
John Morrice K6MI 275-7373 ... 12/31/03
Jimmie Wakefield . W6PSQ 227-1057 ... 12/31/04

Please Contact Vice-President Craig/K6QI, k6qi@attbi.com or call him, 323-5742 with any of your program ideas.

Remember our general meeting programs are for our members and visitors! We would like any input you may have



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Treasurer's Report:

January 2003 thus far,

Income: \$ 1,189.76
Expenses: \$ 665.15
Checking: \$ 3,380.10
Savings: \$ 5,107.92
Petty Cash: \$ 50.00

Papers and Cans thus far, 2003: \$259.18

Membership 102

TO EVERYONE WHO HELPS TED/K6FGE;
THANK YOU!!!!

REMEMBER YOUR PAPERS AND CANS AT THE
NEXT MEETING!

REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOU MEMBERSHIP
DUES NOW!

REMEMBER IF YOU HAVE PAID YOUR DUES
PICK UP YOUR 2003 MEMBERSHIP CARD FROM
Bob/WA6ITN.

Club Contacts

Papers & Cans Collections Contact:

Ted Miller K6FGE (559) 431-1441

Educational, Public Service & Events Contact:

Jimmie Wakefield W6PSQ (559) 227-1057

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Ken Holden WA6OIB (559) 323-6753

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Craig Carter K6QI

k6qi@attbi.com

Community Awareness Committee:

Please contact us with your thoughts.

Kim Davis KF6ZSW kdavis@gotnet.net

Steve Miller K6FDR

Jim Currie KB6NAZ

Robert Rood K6RGR

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 2
- April 27
- August 3
- November 2

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.

Theory Exams are multiple choice. Code Exam is fill in the blank. Express mail is used to send paperwork to ARRL, who sends data to FCC via electronic mail, thus assuring the fastest possible service on new licenses which typically arrive in about 2 weeks.

Bring: Two ID's, one with photo. Taxpayer ID Number (Social Security Number) or ULS registration number. **Fee is \$12.00 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

SKIP ARTICLES DEADLINE

Please provide any SKIP material by the 20th of the prior month.

CLUB BIOS

Starting in your March Skip, Bob/WA6ITN will have bios on club members monthly for us to learn more about each other. This will be very exciting and interesting! Thank you Bob for taking on this project and we look forward to the upcoming bios. Kim/KF6ZSW

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)

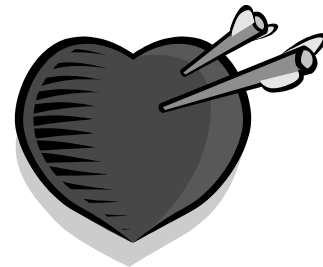
FOR SALE—

Yaesu FT-920 - 500Hz CW filter, Recently factory aligned, Clean \$985.

MFJ-4225MV switching 25A supply - \$100.

Both - \$1060.

Contact Jim - WS6X@ARRL.NET, 292-8353



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Ham Radio License Class

The Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers (CARP) will be sponsoring a free beginners class at the Clovis Senior Center on Tuesday nights from 7 to 9:30 pm. The Class begins January 14th and will run approximately 8 weeks. The last class will include a licensing exam.

The Clovis Senior Center is on fourth street across from Clark Middle School. For more information please contact Ray Harkins @ 559-875-9413

The Study manual will be the Gordon West Technician Class book available from any Radio Shack store. Please have the book for the first class.

Morse Code is no longer a requirement for the beginning Technician Class License but an optional Morse Code study Class will be offered for those who wish to learn the code.

Its still not to late to join the class. Anyone is welcome to attend!

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Shack Picture Contest

Hello Folks!

In order to get some more shack pictures up on the web page <http://www.qsl.net/w6to/index.html> I've decided to have my own contest! I will award prizes (not very big or expensive prizes, mind you. I am funding this myself!) for the winners of four categories of shacks. The best neat and clean shack, the messiest and dirtiest shack, the biggest shack and the smallest shack. For judging, I'll pick three other members crazy, errr, nice enough to help me out. In the event of a tie, my decision will be final. Now, some caveats... The smallest shack isn't a HT on your belt, with an antenna on your hat. You must submit a shack picture. Not mobile, the shack can't be on wheels, wings, skids or a dog sled. You must still have a shack at the location. If you had a shack there last year, but now it's a broom closet, sorry... the shack must be at the address shown on your license. You also must be a member of FARC.

Send your digital shack picture to me at: k6qi@attbi.com Please type 'Shack Contest' in the subject line of the email. No digital picture? No problem! Mail it to me! Craig Carter 856 Pistachio Ave. Clovis, CA 93611-6263. If you want the picture back, send an SASE. I'll mail it right back after I've scanned it. No faxes please. All entries must be received by April 1, 2003. Prizes will be awarded at the April 11th meeting at Cedar Lanes. All shack pictures submitted will be posted on the web page. Maybe Rob will put the winning pictures in SKIP! Who knows how famous (or infamous) you'll be!!

Thanks!

Craig K6QI

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

BARBARA BENSON	WB6QDK
BOB HAVEN	W6DWU
DAVE FINLEY, JR.	WB6GJG
DAVID M. HOGE	KD6WBA
FRANK REYNOLDS	W6BBS
JAMES STEINKRAUS	W6OW
JIM CLYMER, JR.	WS6X
JOHN GLUECK	N6JYW
MICHAEL STROUD	KG6MBL
RICHARD POLSON	N6FUB
ROGER MORTIMER	KF6VCF
TOM KIPPS	KA6Z


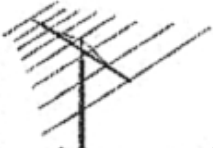
Operating Tip of the Month

To get better quality audio from your radio it is a good idea to talk across your microphone rather than to talk directly into it. If you are using a push-to-talk mike, put your lips right at the edge of the mike and talk across it. If you have a fixed station desk-type microphone, it is still a good way to get crisp, clean speech across. Talking across the microphone element cuts down on sibilants, breath sounds, the "popping" of the "P's" and similar sounds. This technique makes communications more understandable and more pleasant for the operators on the other end.

See you next month, 73...

Rob—AE6GE



Michael B. Staal K6MYC
Vice President/Designer

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ASK THE EXPERT

Dear fellow hams,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Rick Fornes (KA6Y) and I'm a local ham in the Fresno area. I was first licensed in 1971 and have enjoyed the hobby ever since. Due to amateur radio I decided to pursue a degree in electronic engineering. After graduating from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo I was fortunate enough to work for some of the largest telecommunication companies in the world. After 20 years of corporate life, I decided to start my own engineering consulting business. I just celebrated my 6th anniversary as a business owner!

Amateur radio has always been part of my life. However, over the last decade technology has changed by leaps and bounds. Because of this many ham operators don't understand the terminology or the technology used in amateur radio. Some of today's new radios are so complex it takes an expert to understand how to operate them. **Well, I want to make all of you experts.** For us to continually enjoy the hobby, it is important for us to learn new things and enjoy sharing our knowledge with others.

This new column is about asking technical questions. My goal is to try to answer or find the answers to your technical questions in a way that is simple and easy to understand.

Why do we use 50 ohms?

What does dB or dBm mean?

How much gain does my antenna need?

What is spread spectrum?

What is the advantage of DSP filters over analog filters?

How do you operate this rig?

What does S/N mean?

Bit Error Rate (BER) "What? I'm not a digital guy."

Why an antenna tuner?

How low does the VSWR need to be? What is VSWR?

How much power do I really need?

How do you calculate the minimum detectable signal level (MDS)?

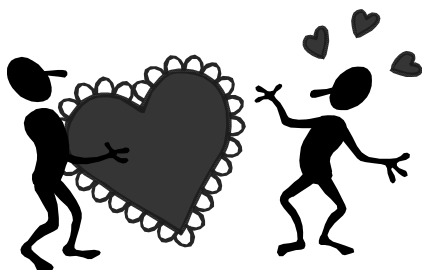
How do I pick the winning lotto ticket to buy all the ham gear I want? (This will be answered at the next club meeting.)

Well this is just a sample of some of the questions I have been asked and would like to share with other ham operators. Please feel free to submit your questions, comments or suggestions to the following email address. forneas@aol.com

The best of hamming, Rick Fornes

Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

Organization/Sponsor	Callsign	Location	Frequency	Offset	Tone
CARP	K6ARP	Meadow Lakes	147.675	-	141.3
CARP	N6JXL	Meadow Lakes	224.380	-	141.3
CARP	N6VYT	Meadow Lakes	444.725	+	141.3
CARP	N6JXL	Meadow Lakes	1286.300	-	141.3
CONDOR	WB6BRU	Fresno	224.900		156.7
FARC	W6TO	Meadow Lakes	146.940	-	none
FARC		Meadow Lakes	223.940	-	none
FARC		Meadow Lakes	444.200	+	141.3
K6SIX	K6SIX	Mariposa	441.350	+	107.2
KARC	W6VFZ	Coalinga	224.440	-	100.0
KARC	W6EMS	Fresno	440.675	+	110.9
KARC	W6EMS	Fresno	1286.475	-	110.9
Kings ARC	KA6Q	Hanford	145.110	-	100.0
Kings ARC		Castle Peak	147.240	+	100.0
Kings ARC	W6IYY	Coalinga	147.330	+	100.0
Kings ARC		Santa Rita Peak	224.440	-	100.0
Kings ARC	N6DL	Coalinga	224.820	-	114.8
Kings ARC	KA6Q	Hanford	441.675	+	100.0
Kings ARC	N6OA	Coalinga	441.900	+	100.0
Madera Co. ARC	W6WGZ	Oakhurst	147.180	+	146.2
Madera Co. ARC			441.175	-	146.2
MTS	N6MTS	Fresno State	145.230	-	141.3
NV6B	NV6B	Fresno	224.960	-	192.8
RACES	N6HEW	Fresno	147.150	+	141.3
W6DCP	W6DCP	Parkfield	147.240	+	



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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 02, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Kim, KF6ZSW at 07:12pm.

Members present: K6QI, K6MI, W7POR, WA6ITN, KF6ZSW, WA6OIB, W6DPD, W6YEP, KA6J.

Members Absent:
K6HAU.

Visiting:
KF4EOP Bill, K6FDR Steve.

The minutes from the previous board meeting were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: Income for the month of December, 422.00. Expenses 876.32. Total assets 11,373.53.

OLD BUSINESS:**Committee Report:**

Steve, K6FDR reported on the public awareness committee activities. Steve has contacted various persons involved with the amber alert program to offer our assistance on a local level. The response has been less than favorable. We will probably not be involved at this time. The local Boy Scout council was also contacted. They are very interested. Steve will continue getting information as to how we can assist. The committee will also be contacting the parks and recreation department to inquire of their need for our services, and report back to Kim.

Bill, KF4EOP, our hamfest committee chairman, reports that the committee met Dec. 30 and has made progress with the plans for the hamfest. The budget for the 2003 hamfest was presented and approved by the board. Details of the hamfest committee meeting were distributed to each board member for their review. There are 18 members currently serving on the hamfest committee.

Club Banner: It was again discussed that the club should purchase a club banner that could be displayed at various club activities. There was a motion by John, K6MI to approve the design and purchase of a 10 x 5 banner, with an approximate cost of 200.00. Second by Craig, K6QI.

Motion carried.

Jim, KA6J made a motion to approve the purchase of an Icom 706G, to be raffled off and awarded at the hamfest, as a fundraiser. The approximate cost will be 750.00. Second by W7POR. Kim, KF6ZSW will check on getting tickets for the raffle printed by a local business.

Field Day: Jim, WS6X is our 2003 field day chairman. The board approved the 2003 field day budget of 100.00. Jim has a need for CW ops.

Advertising fees in SKIP discussed (again). Current advertisers are paid up until May 2003. The issue will again be discussed at a future meeting.

Jim, W6PSQ asked that the new board review issues left incomplete by the 2002 board of directors. His desire was to not let important issues go undone.

Kim, KF6ZSW reports that there has not been much progress in securing an alternative meeting location for the club meetings. The board will continue to search out new locations.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2003 club budget was introduced and a copy given to each board member. Formal approval will be discussed at the next board meeting, as the members needed more time to study the proposed budget.

Craig, K6QI reports that pictures and bios from the new board members are needed for the club web page. He also reported that the club has its own e-mail address at W6TO@arrl.net. Craig also asked that the board consider a donation to QSL.net, to help pay for space required for the club web page. More members are needed to receive SKIP by e-mail. There was brief discussion about the possibility of a future W6TO domain.

Kim, KF6ZSW reports that there will now be greeters during the club meetings. There was a concern that new members may feel left out. There also will be seating arranged to accommodate member interaction at the meetings.

Tom, KG6KYU has contacted the board concerning the possibility of making club

shirts. Jim, KA6J will contact Tom and get the details and report to the board.

Meeting Adjourned at 09:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Haynes
KA6J, Secretary

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1.10.03

The meeting was called to order by President Kim, KF6ZSW at 07:06.

Introductions

Treasurer's report: 2002 YTD net is 1,433.58. Total paid members to date 94.

Committee Reports:

Field Day: Jim, WS6X reports that the planning has begun for the 2003 field day. Jim asked that all clear their calendars and make plans to attend. Field day this year will be June 28-29. Jim expressed the desire to form training classes for anyone interested in learning the field day processes and software. Field day will again be held at the Pineridge school.

Hamfest: Bill, KF4EOP reports the hamfest committee met on Dec 30 to begin planning for the 2003 hamfest. The budget has been finalized and presented to the board. The next committee meeting will be January 22.

Absentee awards given: The awards for those who did not attend the Christmas Banquet were handed out.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Program: Mike, W6YDE presented 'Hams in Space'.

Break: 8:07

Prize Drawing

Meeting adjourned at 08:39PM.

Respectfully submitted

Jim Haynes
KA6J, Secretary.



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Upcoming 2003 FARC Events

- Feb 14 DX Tape "Heard Island/VK0IR", Chuck McConnell/W6DPD
- Mar 14 ARRL Guest speaker W6CF/ Jim Maxwell Pac. Division
- Apr 11 Craig Carter/K6QI Presentation on PSK-31
- Apr 26 Hamfest, Riverland
- May 9 KA6Y Rick Fornes, presentation on antennas.
- Jun 13 2002 Field Day Tape Bill/KF4EOP and Field Day Training Jim/W6SX
- June 28-29 Field Day, Pine Ridge School.
- July Summer Picnic

2003 F.A.R.C. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name		Callsign		
Address				
City	State		Zipcode	
Home Phone		Business Phone		
Occupation		Birthdate		
License Class		Year first Licensed		
E-mail Address		ARRL Member?		

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