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March 2003

Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter Volume 64, Issue 3

MARCH MEETINGS - BOARD MEETING MARCH 6TH, 7 PM/CEDAR LANES. MARCH GENERAL MEETING - MARCH 14TH:ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION DIRECTOR BOB VALLIO/W6RGG. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING; THIS SHOULD BE A VERY INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING MEETING!!!! GENERAL MEETINGS ARE THE 2ND FRI. OF EACH MONTH AT CEDAR LANES/CA CATERING UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Please send in your 2003 membership dues 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.
Corner of Hwy 41 & Shaw

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 at our Valentine's Day meeting!!!! I want to thank Chuck/W6DPD for doing such a great job on our program!

As many of you know, Jim/K6HAU our long time club member and current board member passed out at our Feb. 14th club meeting. He is doing fine now! I want to thank again one of our visitors to our meeting, Walt/K6PE, who saved Jim's life! I also want to thank Ted/K6FGE and Harold/KF6CL for assisting Jim in driving his truck home. Jim's XYL/Jan also wants to "thank everyone" for their kind wishes.

We had some great drawing prizes at our Feb. 14th meeting! I would like to thank: Jim Bianchi/KF6GKC; Dean/KG6MXZ; Sunrise Health Foods; Jim Piccolo's Flowerland; Ricky High; and World Radio!!!!

Marci/KG6KYT and Tom/KG6KYU did a great job as our club greeters for the evening!!!! Special thanks to John/KF6SVI for helping me with setting up for the meeting!

WE HAVE DRAWING TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR THE ICOM 706 MARK 2 G! PLEASE CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER OR HAMFEST COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR INFO.

See all of you at our March 14th meeting! Take Care, Kim/KF6ZSW

F.A.R.C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Kim Davis	KF6ZSW	
	645-6849	12/31/04	
	kdavis@gotnet.net		
Vice-President:	Craig Carter	K6QI	
	323-5742	12/31/04	
	k6qi@attbi.com		
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	294-8390	12/31/04	
	ka6j@attbi.com		
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Chuck McConnell	W6DPD	12/31/03	
		431-2038	
John Morrice	K6MI	12/31/03	
		275-7373	
Jimmie Wakefield	W6PSQ	12/31/04	
		227-1057	

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.

F.A.R.C. Website

http://www.qsl.net/w6to

Club Contacts

Papers & Cans Collections:
Ted Miller K6FGE 431-1441
Educational, Public Service & Events:
Jimmie Wakefield W6PSQ 227-1057
Kim Davis KF6ZSW 645-6849
kdavis@gotnet.net
Membership and Net Manager:
Gene Davis W7POR 645-6849
gdavis@gotnet.net
SKIP Newsletter Editor:
Rob Mavis AE6GE 227-6243
skip@oldtuberadio.com
Technical Services:
Ken Holden WA6OIB 323-6753
Web Site Manager:
Craig Carter K6QI 323-5742
k6qi@attbi.com
Community Awareness Committee:
Please contact us with your thoughts.
Kim Davis KF6ZSW 645-6849
kdavis@gotnet.net
Steve Miller K6FDR
Jim Currie KB6NAZ
Robert Rood K6RGR

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)

Butternut Vertical HF antenna for sale, various mobile antennas, and 5 element beam for 2meters Contact N6LSW, Bernie, At 439-4102

Treasurer's Report

February 1, 2003 to date

Income:	672.00
Expenses:	165.04
Checking:	3,341.92
Savings:	5,107.92
Petty Cash:	50.00

Papers and cans for January 259.18

Latest membership total 133

Send in your dues to the P.O. Box or pay at the next Club meeting. Pick up your membership card from Bob/ WA6ITN at the next meeting.

Please bring your papers and cans to the meeting. Ted/K6FGE and crew will have trucks there to receive your papers and cans.

Thomas L. Whitlock
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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.

- 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. Please send to skip@oldtuberadio.com

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
CCAC		Meadow Lakes	146.790	-	141.3
CCAC		Meadow Lakes	223.780	-	141.3
CCAC		Meadow Lakes	444.250	+	141.3
CONDOR	WB6BRU	Fresno	224.900		156.7
FARC	W6TO	Meadow Lakes	146.940	-	141.3
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	+	

VE Examination Report

Amateur Exam Result for February 2, 2003

There were 26 candidates who took 30 exam elements. There were 15 Techs, 3 Generals, and 1 Extra. The pass rate was 73%.

The following VEs participated: WB6QDN, KF6QJM, W6GV, KK6LT, W6RUJ, KE6SHL, and WB6C. The liaison is W6DPD.

N6ZGY/Rover Webpage

For those of you who followed the N6ZGY/Rover during the January VHF Sweepstakes the website has moved to: http://wwwoldtuberadio.com/n6zgy. The results and pictures from the contest are now up on the site.

■ *Rob AE6GE*

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Monthly SJV Section News Summary

Report for the Month of January 2003

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY: SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASM K6YK, ACC W6DPD, SEC K6IN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC W7WN, TC W6TE.

Affiliated Clubs are reminded to update your information on the ARRL Web, club area. Remember, affiliated clubs get a $5 commission for recruiting new ARRL members. It is my sad duty to report the following Amateurs became Silent Keys: WA6ASO, KE6DEJ, N6GGY, W6HD, N6LYH, and Pacific Division Director Jim Maxwell, W6CF. They will be missed. Officers for the Sierra Amateur Radio Club of the High Mojave for 2003 are pres WA6QYR; 1st vp W6PTH; 2nd vp W6DWF; WB6EPD sec; and KC6UUS treasurer. WA6ARA is the editor. The club meets the 2nd Wednesday in Ridgecrest. Officers for 2003 for the Manteca ARC are KF6WFL pres; KD6PCT vp; KE6VOS sec; and KE6UTO treas and editor. The club meets the first Thursday in Manteca. The Fresno Hamfest is Saturday, April 26, 2003, at Riverland Resort located at Highway 99 and the Kings River, 25 miles south of Fresno.

Admission is $1 with sellers at $5. This is a swap meet with food, prizes, tech demonstrations and card checking for WAS, WAC, DXCC, VUCC, and WAZ. Contact w6to@arrl.net for information. See http://www.qsl.net/w6to for information too. The 2003 International DX Convention will be May 2-4, at the Holiday Inn at Visalia. Contact w6yd@aol.com for information. See http://www.ncdxc.org and click on the DX convention line for information and a registration form. The M-Squared swap meet/open house is scheduled for Saturday March 29, 2003 at 9:00 AM at the M-Squared factory in Fresno. K6FDR is the new EC for Fresno County. WS6X has a FT 1000MP MK V. W6FRH operated from Aruba as P40RH. QSL via W6FRH. K7XQ is operating 1.2 GHz moonbounce and has contacted 6 European countries so far. He is working toward VUCC on 1.2 GHZ. W6XK and N6EE operated on UO 14 from VP5 and worked 24 stations including K6YK. W6FAH has a kw HF mobile and went countying with K6YK making lots of contacts. W6DPD put a 50 MHz endorsement on the WAC award. Check the Pacific Division webpage at For links to club web pages check http://www.pdarrl.org/sjvsec/index.html. for information. Traffic for January: WA2MSU 46; KB6QIB 23. PSHR WA2MSU 110.

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THE FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, Inc.

PRESENTS
the 61st ANNUAL

HAMFEST / SWAPFEST

at RIVERLAND RESORT
38743 Highway 99, Kingsburg, CA 93631
SATURDAY, APRIL 26th, 2003

20 miles south of Fresno on Highway 99; take the 384 Exit

Opens at 7:00AM
•Individual Admission just $1.00
•Vendor Admission only $5.00
•W6TO "talk in" on 146.940 - Radio Raffle
•Hidden Transmitter Hunt by John K6MI
•PSK 31 Demonstration by Jim KA6J & Craig K6QI
•Technical Forum by Rick KA6Y
•Hot coffee and donuts available - 6:30AM
•Special Lunch Menu -11:30AM
•Cold Drinks available all day
•QSL CARD checking for DXCC, WAS, VUCC & WAZ by Chuck W6DPD, 10:00AM to 11:00AM.

A HUGE SELECTION OF PRIZES. DRAWINGS ON THE HOUR

DRAWING FOR AN ICOM 706 MKIIG TO BE HELD AT THE HAMFEST

OVERNIGHT CAMPING AVAILABLE

Come in Friday afternoon and join the crowd. We are planning some fun activities for Friday evening.
You must make your camping reservations with Riverland Resort (559) 897-5166. Web Site: http://www.riverlandresorts.com
For more information contact Hamfest Chairman Bill, KF4EOP: (559) 298-1915, e-mail FARC: w6to@arrl.net or go to the FARC Web Site: http://www.qsl.net/w6to

GOOD RF GROUNDS ARE THEY NEEDED

First we need to know the difference between a safety ground (power line ground) and an RF ground.

A safety ground is a power line ground required by building codes to insure the safety of life around electrical systems. **ALL equipment must be bonded together and tied to the electrical ground to prevent electrical shock and damage.**

Now lets discuss an RF ground. The first question we must ask is do we need an RF ground. It's worth pointing out that a properly designed shack should have very low levels of RF radiation. If all the antennas are properly matched, the equipment is well shielded (per FCC requirements) and all interconnects are done correctly, there should be very little RFI. However, since most of us have less than the perfect setup this is hard to achieve, especially if an antenna tuner is used. Some of the problems RFI can cause are:

- Receiver desensing (RFI overloads the receiver, reducing sensitivity)
- Radiation into other systems. (TV's, phones, radios)
- Poor relations with your neighbors

So lets talk about good RF grounding techniques. There are many ways to ground a radio station, however there is only one way that really works.

- Each piece of radio gear should be connected separately to a single point ground. (A common bus single point ground works well)
- The single point ground should be connected to a rod driven into the ground at least 8'. The ground rod needs to be as close to the radio equipment as possible. Multiple ground rods close to each other and tied together will reduce the RF ground impedance.
- All the ground connects must be shorter than 1/4l at the highest operating frequency. At a 1/4l the ground is ineffective. For 10 meter operation, grounds must be less than 9ft long. This is difficult to achieve.
- Do not connect the grounds in a daisy-chained fashion (from box to box in a closed loop fashion) this can cause a ground loop, which will act like an antenna and radiate.
- Use good ground straps and proper connections (See ARRL handbook)
- Once the RF ground is achieved make sure you connect the RF ground rod to the Electrical box ground rod. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO PREVENT ELECTRICAL SHOCK. (Connect only the ground rods to prevent ground loops)
- If you can't make the ground lengths shorter than a 1/4l at the highest operating frequency, then you must use a different grounding technique such as ground radials. However I will discuss this in a later edition of Skip.

- If all else fails and you still have radiation problems, buy all new equipment.

Happy hamming
Rick Fornes
KA6Y

Images for the FARC 2002 Christmas Party/ Awards Banquet

2003 FARC President Kim/KF6ZSW presenting the 2002 President's Award to Harold/KF6CL

Pat/KG6BXZ is proud to receive the 2002 Boner Award!

John/W6JWK present The J. ALLEN ROSS AWARD to Jim/K6HAU!

FARC Badges
W6PSQ
Call Jimmie @ (559) 227-1057

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Kim, KF6ZSW at 07:02pm.

Members Present: W7POR,W6YEP, WA6OIB,K6HAU,W6DPD,W6PSQ, WA6ITN,KF6ZSW,KA6J,K6MI,K6QI.

The minutes were read from the previous board meeting and approved with correction. W6PSQ added to members attending.

Treasurers Report:
Income for the month of January, $1264.71. Expenses $1064.34. Total undepreciated assets to date $11,509.44.

Committee Reports:

Steve, K6FDR is continuing to pursue opportunities. No new items to report at this meeting. Kim, KF6ZSW reports that the club banner is completed and ready for use.

Hamfest: The next hamfest committee meeting will be held Feb. 24. Plans are continuing. Jim Maxwell will be in attendance and speak at the hamfest. There are plans to operate an HF station, and also a PSK31 station. The tickets for the IC706MKIIG have been printed and are ready to be sold. (INSERT: Jim Maxwell is now a SK as of the writing of these minutes, therefore the correction noted).

Field Day: Jim, WS6X reports that the teams are being assembled and plans are continuing. There are a few rule changes for this year's field day.

Web Site Report:

Craig, K6QI reports that he has checked into the possibility of obtaining our own W6TO domain on the Internet. Approximate fees would be $75.00 set up fee, and $7.00 per month. The board will discuss the option further at a future meeting.

Old Business:

There was discussion about FARC life memberships. Life memberships had been awarded in the past to certain persons that had provided a valuable service to the club. This board feels there are many people who donate their time and effort to the club, thus it may be unfair to single out some and not recognize others. This board has decided to cease the practice of awarding life memberships. Jimmy, W6PSQ made a motion to adopt such policy, and to change the name of life memberships to honorary membership. Craig, K6QI second. Motion passed with two abstain.

Club Property: There was discussion about club property. The CW trailer is now located at the home of K6MI. Robert, K6RGR has stored some of the field day and hamfest supplies. Pat, W6YEP has disposed of some of the club property that he deemed unusable. The board will take the necessary steps to remove the remaining property from Pats warehouse as soon as possible. The board has granted authority to John, K6MI and Craig, K6QI to pick up the remaining items from Pat, and inspect the items for their usefulness, salability or disposal. The board also approved the disposal of a UPS that would be of too much cost to repair and put to use. Kim, KF6ZSW passed a list of club equipment including, but not limited to property located at the repeater site and stored by Ken, WA6OIB at another. This list is under review for accuracy and value. The list will be finalized and made available to Tripp, K6NS for long overdue depreciation according to appropriate tax laws.

New Business:

Bob, WA6ITN had questions pertaining to necessary governmental forms that will need to be filed this year. Kim, KF6ZSW will assist Bob to assure all legal documents will be filed.

Terry, KF6LXB wanted to inform the board that there is availability of the facilities at Sequoia Lake. The facility can be used for a board retreat or club function if so desired.

Meeting adjourned at 08:50pm.

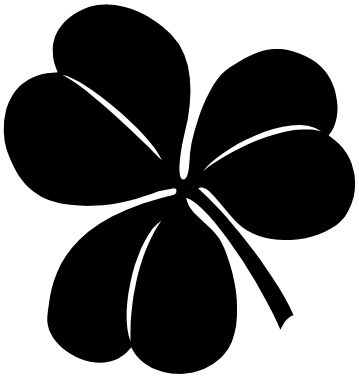
Respectfully submitted,

Jim Haynes KA6J
Secretary

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO THESE FARC MEMBERS

ALBERT M. BUCCIERI, III	KG6LXE
BARBARA POWELL-QUILLIN	AE6GF
BILL PARENT	KE6OUG
CHARLES MC CONNELL	W6DPD
CHUCK SMITH	WJ6J
CLAUDE H. MAY	N6IQ
DOUGLAS JOHNSON	WA6YYY
GARY L. JAMESON	KF6SMO
GERRILYN PETERSON	KC6LYS
GUSS O. KEITH	KF6ZXO
HAROLD KROEKER	KE6BTC
HOWARD HURTT	AD6XN
JACK BAKER, SR.	AC6LT
JACKIE ORPE	KG6ENP
JAKE MIRIGIAN	W6JXY
JIM CLASSEN	KF6VAG
JIMEE CURRIE	KD6HMM
JOHN DILLON	KF6ECA
KEITH LIGHTFOOT	KG6DAM
PAT FENNACY	W6YEP
PAT MARTIN	KG6BXZ
PAUL SULLIVAN	W6VPS
RALPH SAROYAN	W6JPU
RAMON FLORO	K6BD
RICHARD KULLBERG	AC6DK
ROBERT BONDURANT	W6RUJ
ROBERT WENDEL	W6KOC
ROBERT S. ALLEN	WA6ITN

Did we miss your Birthday? Help us update the database. Please complete all lines requested on your membership renewal form. Or give me a call: gdavis@gotnet.net or (559) 645-6849. Thanks and 73,Gene, W7POR



FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P.O. Box 783
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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.

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

Upcoming 2003 FARC Events

Mar 14	ARRL Guest speaker W6RGG/Bob Vallio Pacific. Division Director
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
Aug 8	Soon to be announced