



September 2004

Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Volume 65, Issue 9

Our next General Meeting will be at Cedar Lanes/Sept. 10th and our program will be on contacting SATS. It will be a powerpoint presentation and hands on working a Satellite. Carole/KG6TTF and Jan/KG6SUL will be giving the presentation. I know that this is a big interest to a lot of you; so please plan on attending! Our next Board Meeting will be at Jim Bianchi Designs (7050 Fresno St., #210; at Herndon and next to Chili's) at 7 PM on Sept. 2nd.

FARC General Meetings

are the 2nd Friday of each month,
7 p.m. at Cedar Lanes
unless otherwise noted.

2004 FARC BOARD MEETING DATES

AT 7 PM—Location to be announced monthly:

Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2

FARC Nets

Morning Drive Time Net:

Weekday mornings-7:30—
8:00 a.m.

W6TO/R 146.940 - 141.3

Tech Net:

Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm
W6TO/R 146.940 - 141.3

FARC Net:

Sundays @ 7:00 pm
W6TO/R 146.940 - 141.3

The Prez Sez

Varouj/N6DBH and Gene/W7POR gave a very informative presentation on antennas!!!! We had a lot of questions and participation from our members/guests. We had a lot of new faces there including Monte/KD6DRY who just moved to our area; and he introduced himself and gave a short bio. We welcomed all of the new faces to our General Meeting!!!! Big thanks to our greeters: Ken/WA6HII, Skip/K6YRZ, Jim/KF6GKC, John/KG6AWB, and Pat/KG6BXZ!!!! The meeting had an outstanding turn out and thanks to everyone who helped out!!!!



We will be starting Tech. and upgrade to Gen. classes on Sept. 14th for 8 weeks (6:30 - 8:30 PM). Please call for more details, Kim/287-9051 or Gene/645-6849.

If you are interested in working the Bulldog or Savemart Center Fundraisers for our club please contact me at 287-9051.

Emily Clarke/W0ECC (who gave an outstanding program at our Hamfest) will be writing a monthly AMSAT column in our Skip newsletter monthly. Thank you Emily!!!!

All of our committees are already working on our 2005 events. Please contact us if you would like to participate.

I've e-mailed Bob Vallio/W6RGG our ARRL Pacific Division Director on the question many of you had, "Is code going away in 90 days?". This is just a rumor and Bob said that everyone is welcome to check into the ARRL Web Site for updates, etc.

Please contact me with any questions or comments.

73, Kim/KF6ZSW

2004 FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Kim Davis	KF6ZSW	kdavis@gotnet.net	287-9051	12/31/04
Vice-President:	Craig Carter	K6QI	k6qi@sbcglobal.net	323-5742	12/31/04
Secretary:	Rob Mavis	AE6GE	skip@ae6ge.com	237-7583	12/31/04
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	Jim Bianchi	KF6GKC		432-5517	12/31/05
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	John Morrice	K6MI		275-7373	12/31/05
	Bob Allen	WA6ITN		435-3786	12/31/04
	Mark Carpenter	K6ORJ		250-7317	12/31/05
	Richard Pack	KE6SHL	ke6shl@arrl.net	291-2175	12/31/04

CLUB BADGES
 ORDER CLUB BADGES THROUGH KIM/KF6ZSW FOR \$5 EACH. OMEGA TROPHY, WILL BE MAKING OUR CLUB BADGES. I'LL PLACE THE ORDER EACH MONTH AND HAVE THEM BACK TO YOU BY OUR NEXT MEETING. KIM/KF6ZSW

SKIP DEADLINE
 Please provide any SKIP material by the 20th of the prior month.
 Please send to skip@ae6ge.com

Club Contacts

Community Awareness Chairman:		
Steve Miller	K6FDR	448-0142
Field Day Committee Chairman:		
Jim Bianchi	KF6GKC	432-5517
Education/Scholarship Chairman:		
Jim Bianchi	KF6GKC	432-5517
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Terry Horak	KF6LXB	453-2911
2005 Hamfest Chairmen:		
Kim Davis	KF6ZSW	287-9051
Marcus Beedle	KG6QNY	360-7444
Paper Fund Raiser Chairman:		
Marcus Beedle	KG6QNY	360-7444
Public Information Officer:		
Jan Whitteberry	KG6SUL	jwhitt1@comcast.net.... 229-2554
Membership		
Gene Davis	W7POR	645-6849
Net Manager		
Kim Davis	KF6ZSW	287-9051
FARECC EC		
Gene Davis	W7POR	645-6849
SKIP Newsletter Editor:		
Rob Mavis	AE6GE	skip@ae6ge.com..... 237-7583
Technical Services/RFI Committee:		
Chairman & W6TO Trustee:		
Rob Mavis	AE6GE	skip@ae6ge.com..... 237-7583
NARCC Coordinator:		
Gene Davis	W7POR	645-6849
Mark Carpenter	K6ORJ	250-7317
Jan Whitteberry	KG6SUL	229-2554
Kim Davis	KF6ZSW	287-9051
Web Site Manager:		
Craig Carter	K6QI	k6qi@sbcglobal.net.... 323-5742
Nomination Committee Chairman:		
Steve Miller	K6FDR	448-4102

HAPPY LABOR DAY

Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

Organization	Callsign	Location	Freq	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	KE6VFU	Meadow Lakes	146.790	-	141.3
CCAC	KE6VFU	Meadow Lakes	223.780	-	141.3
CCAC	KE6VFU	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	+	none



EC'S CORNER

--Gene W7POR

Listening to the news from the California wildfires and devastating hurricane Charlie in Florida brings a reminder about how important it is to be ready to offer help when needed.

Amateur Radio emergency groups have been doing what they do best, i.e., providing health and welfare communications and, in some cases, vital support for Public Service agencies who find themselves overloaded. Why do we do this? It goes beyond pride in our equipment. There is something about being able to help, and being trained to do it well, that rewards us in ways we can't easily explain. That is the motivation your Club has in operating the Fresno Amateur Emergency Communications Corps.

The FARECC team continues to plan for the moment of need. Production of special FARECC photo identification cards is finally underway. These are the laminated ID's worn on a lanyard around the necks of official volunteer workers. The cards are two sided with a copy of the individual's FCC license on the back of the FARECC information. At a glance any agency with whom we are working is able to immediately recognize participants. To better identify FARECC operators, members will be wearing uniform clothing so there will be no confusion as to who they are.

It's all part of a new concept by Federal and State Emergency Services leaders, called "Incident Command." Rather than having everybody trying independently to coordinate their operations, participants are layered under one command operation. Each cooperating group is asked to provide its services as needed and are dispatched to strategic positions under the incident plan. Along with the weekly training net, committee meetings and upcoming training exercises, FARECC is doing what Ham Radio has always done, i.e., prepare for an event we all hope won't happen.

Special thanks to Assistant Emergency Coordinators Steve Miller K6FDR and Paul Sullivan W6VPS and all the dedicated members of your emergency response team.

73,
Gene Davis - W7POR

Birthday Greetings to these FARC Members for this month

BILL BLISS	KD6AHF
FRED ATTOIAN JR.	KN6TA
GERALD McDOUGAL	
HAROLD REEKS	KF6CL
MARCI JARVIS	KG6KYT
MARCUS BEEDLE	KG6QNY
RICHARD "RICH" PARKER	K6HYM
STEVE BASSETT	NA6G

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.

- November 7

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

**Treasurer's Report – Summary
July 2004**

Assets

Petty Cash	50.00
Checking (current balance)	2672.71
Savings (current balance)	5133.30
Income	
Membership Dues	52.50
Papers	0.00
Drawing Tickets	0.00
Fundraiser – Ovations	150.00
Refreshments	0.00
Skip Advertising	0.00
Total Income	202.50

Expenses

Taxes-Unsecured Property	24.57
Equipment Rental	43.61
Christmas Dinner-Deposit	175.00
Summer Picnic	60.24
Printing	36.35
Drawings	96.00
Refreshments	0.00
Miscellaneous	128.15
Storage	116.80
Total Expenses	680.72
Net income	- 478.22

Amateur License Restructuring

Will the Amateur License System be restructured? The answer is yes.

Will the entry level license include HF without code? Probably.

Will code be required for the higher class licenses? Maybe.

When will this happen? Who knows!! Maybe 1 to 3 years or more.

There are numerous rumors circulating that the amateur license restructuring will be in effect and the code requirement for HF operation will be gone within 30 days or so. Don't believe it because it will not happen.

Since WRC '03, when the need for code proficiency to operate on frequencies below 30 MHZ was left up to each nation, many nations have removed the code requirement for HF operation but not the United States. Why is this? Because in the U.S. the services controlled by the FCC make their own rules, and this is a time consuming process. Since the international rules were changed in July 2003, the FCC has received a number of proposals on how to restructure Amateur Licenses. They assigned Rule Making (RM) numbers to 5 proposals and put them out for comments and reply comments. Over 6,000 comments and reply comments were filed on these RMs. Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC told the VEC Conference in July not to expect quick action on the Amateur License restructuring because of the number of comments received. All of the comments and reply comments must be read and evaluated to determine which of the RMs has the most interest. Then the FCC must decide on a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to release for comments. It could be one of the 5 RMs or a combination of them. The NPRM is released for comments and reply comments. After the close of the comment and reply comment periods, the FCC must decide on a final report and order, which is then released along with the effective date. How long will this take to complete? Probably 1 to 3 years.

To keep up to date on license restructuring check the ARRL web page, <http://www.arrl.org> <<http://www.arrl.org>> . Look in the news area for bulletins and the ARRL Letter. Any new developments will be on the main news page when you log on to the ARRL page.

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for the month of July 2004:

SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASM K6YK, ACC W6DPD, SEC K6IN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC KE6IGJ, TC W6TE.

Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section.

Need to take an Amateur Exam? Exams are given on various times of each month throughout the San Joaquin Valley Section. Check the ARRL web page, www.arrl.org <<http://www.arrl.org>> for the schedule by clicking on the Exams button in the upper left corner. You should be able to find an exam near you. You can also check your local radio club newsletter or web page for an exam schedule. Remember the General Class Exam changed on July 1, 2004. Make sure the study material for General has an effective date of July 1, 2004.

Pacificon 04 is October 15-17, 2004 at the San Ramon Marriott. Check www.pacificon.org <<http://www.pacificon.org>> for information. This should be another fine show under the direction of the Mt. Diablo ARC. You can order tickets from the webpage.

If you Work All States during 2004, you can apply for a WAS/90 certificate from ARRL. No QSL cards are needed, only log information. The cost is \$10. This is to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of ARRL.

When your affiliated club elects officers for the next year, be sure to update your club's information on the affiliated club area of the ARRL web page.

Emergency Coordinators are needed in Mono and Calaveras Counties. Contact K6IN (k6in@mercednet.com) or W6DPD (w6dpd@arrl.org) if you can help.

Please write your congressional representative and urge support and co-sponsorship of HR 713, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act and HR 1478, which would apply PRB-1 to CC&Rs. Also contact your Senators and urge support and co-sponsorship of S 537, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act.

BPL. All Amateurs are urged to contact President Bush (president@whitehouse.gov) to urge him to change his position on BPL. Also, please contact your senators and representative to urge

them to oppose the implementation of BPL. Check the ARRL web page (arrl.org) for more information, sample letters and email addresses.

The Northern California Net (NCN), the Section Traffic Net, meets nightly on 3.630 MHz at 7 PM Pacific Time. The slow speed training session of the net meets nightly on 3.705 MHz at 9 PM Pacific Time. Handling traffic on CW is a good way to improve your CW skills.

The following clubs have change the URL for their web pages:

Fresno ARC is now www.w6to.com <<http://www.w6to.com/>>

Madera County ARC is now www.w6wgz.org <<http://www.w6wgz.org/>>

Mountain ARC is www.w6bw.org <<http://www.w6bw.org/>>

The links to the clubs of the SJV can be found on www.pdarrrl.org <<http://www.pdarrrl.org/>>. Click on the SJV and then go to Clubs of the SJV. Thanks go to Rex Emerson, KE6ZOC, for maintaining the SJV page on pdarrrl.

Congratulations to KG6AIR and N6JYW on completing the ARECC Level One course.

It is my sad duty to report that K6VXR and WB6KMM have become Silent Keys. They will be missed.

The Tuolumne County ARES and the Tulare County ARC members participated in a "Red Flag" patrol on July 4.

W6FRH operating as P40RH had the top score from Aruba (P4) in the 2003 CQ 160 meter contest. Way to go Bob.

On July 10, 14 members of the Tuolumne County ARES participated in a CERT review and training at the Sonora City Firehouse. The 14 members had previously completed CERT Training.

In the January 2004 ARRL VHF Sweepstakes, N6NB was the number 1 Rover in the nation, and W6TE was the highest multi-op in the SJV. KF6CNV was the highest scoring single op. Congratulations.

SJV Section winners in the 2004 ARRL RTTY Roundup were WK6I for high power and K6XJ for low power. Congratulations W6FRH and K6XJ had good scored in the 2003 CQWW SSB Contest.

Traffic for June was 0. PSHR K6RAU 54.

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The Satellite Beacon

By Emily Clarke W0EEC

Project OSCAR VP and AMSAT Area Coordinator

So You Want to Work AO-51?

AMSAT- OSCAR 51 is the newest satellite launched by AMSAT. It is the strongest satellite in the sky, and is one of the most complex satellites currently operating. It has many subsystems and as some have said, it has something for everyone. For this article I'll focus on making a voice contact.

When AO-51 was first turned on it's first over the East Coast it was estimated that over 500 amateurs attempted to use the satellite. Three reported having QSOs, while the other 497 were left scratching their heads. When the satellite passed over central North America 80 minutes later, those 500 stations were joined by another 500 from the west coast. Two stations reported having QSOs. At 30 minutes past midnight AO-51 showed up out over the Pacific ocean. Estimates are that 200 people on the west coast stayed up, and about 8 QSOs took place. I was one of the lucky ones.

So what happened?

AO-51 is a low earth orbit satellite (LEO) mode J-FM (V/U) voice repeater, or the same as launching your local repeater in orbit, except that instead of having a range of 50 or so miles, it can be accessible to the entire country at one time. While this may sound beneficial at first, the results can be disastrous. If you've ever heard a double on your local repeater when the net control calls for check-ins, think of the results when 500 stations suddenly try to check in to the same repeater at the same time. It's a pileup.

Quite a lot of the pileup results from people who have never heard a satellite before but key up to "just to make sure it's there". There are also those who can hear it, but don't have on the required 67Hz PL tone. Although AO-51 will not repeat those signals, they can jam weaker signals and prevent them from getting through. Lastly an FM repeater is not designed to handle that many simultaneous signals, so they double, triple and... well, you can see the results are predictable.

How Will I Ever Get In?

The good news is that in the weeks following activation of AO-51 the load has lightened and it's easier to get it if you plan ahead and avoid the pileups. Myself and other people been able to work Echo consistently with an Arrow antenna and a 1/2 wave whip but I worked out a pretty good strategy. Aruni VE4WMK who is 10 years old uses an Arrow antenna is very successful following using very simple techniques.

I've recently posted an article on the AMSAT website entitled "12 Suggestions for Handheld Transceiver Users" that will help most everyone. Here are some of the basics:

1) Listen First. If you can't hear other stations, you can't work them. AO-51 is very strong (only the ISS is stronger) so almost everyone can hear it

on a good HT with a good whip antenna, the dualband Arrow yagi or the dual band Elk log periodic that are sold at most flea markets in the area.

2) Make sure you have your PL tone set to 67hz. Like most repeaters, even if you get a chance to get in, you won't without the PL tone set.

3) Don't use a verticle antenna. Whips and ground plane antennas should be tilted so that the vertical is 90 degrees off the elevation of the satellite.

4) Know where the satellite is. Keep a tracking program nearby where you can reference it. If you are handheld outside, use a handheld computer running PocketSat or PetitTrack to reference the satellite's position.

5) Use Dual Headphones! I can't stress this enough. Your brain is the best DSP there is, and if you only hear the signal through one ear, your brain can't filter out the noise nor can it react quickly to callsigns.

How Should I Prepare?

When you decide to work AO-51 for the first time, some preparatory steps will help.

- Visit the AMSAT website and visit the Echo Project page to make sure you have the correct frequencies. The AMSAT website also has online pass predictions in the Tools section which will calculate the passes for your location.
- Try listening on one pass nearby (over 30 degrees of elevation) and see how well you are receiving. If you can't hear the satellite, you may need to improve your receive antennas.
- Try to arrange a sked with another station. It's easier to make a contact with someone who is experienced on the satellites than cold calling. That contact can also help you determine how well your signal is doing.
- Plan on working a pass away from populated areas. If you can work to the north or west, your results will be better because statistically there are fewer people.

Most of all, don't get discouraged. AO-51 is reprogrammable from the ground and they have made some improvements to it already. For example, initially the power was set to 330mw, then 500mw and now is set for 1W. AO-51 can operate up to 7 watts, but it is unlikely they will increase power over 2W since most stations now receive AO-51 full quieting.

Website References

AMSAT - <http://www.amsat.org>

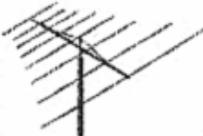
The Echo Project Page - <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/>

12 Suggestions for HT Users - <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/EchoHT.php>

73, Emily

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Michael B. Staal K6MYC
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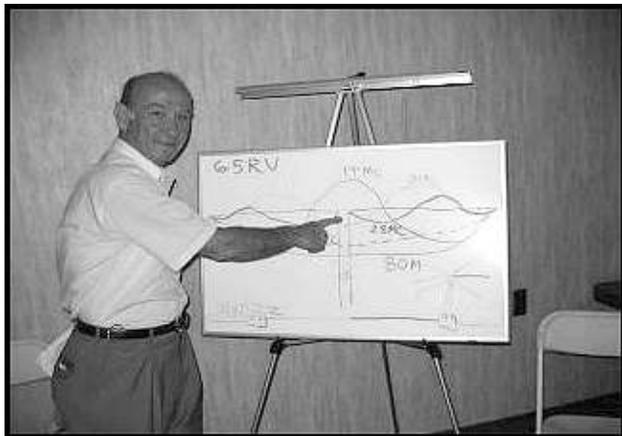
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Program Report

August 13, 2004



Varouj, N6DBH explaining the theory of a G5RV multi-band antenna

About 50 of our members and interested parties enjoyed a great presentation on antennas at our monthly get-together at Cedar Lanes. Varouj/N6DBH and Gene/W7POR did an outstanding job of explaining how the G5RV and similar antennas work.

Gene also brought his equipment and set up a "freshly made" antenna out of zip cord and discussed the pros and cons of using such material.

Other antennas profiled included the "field friendly doublet" and trap antennas. There was much audience participation as well in discussing the relative merits of various types of wire. The "ingenuity prize," however, has to go to Gene, who once constructed a ladder line antenna made out of cereal box cardboard soaked in bacon grease to protect it from the elements!

Nominations for the board of directors were also opened.

Jimmie/W6PSQ nominated Ken/WA6OIB and Dave/W6TE

who had resigned from the Board earlier this year. Neither gentleman was present, so Nominations Chair Steve/K6FDR or his committee members will contact them; as well as any other person nominated or anyone who contacts the nominating committee, to finalize the process. Nominations will continue until the close of the September meeting, and ballots will then be printed and sent to all members. Jimmie seemed upset that the Nominations Committee had nothing to report, although his were the first nominations made. The nominations reporting procedure, in accordance with the By-Laws and Robert's Rules of Order, were explained to him. He still appeared to be agitated and continued shouting at the Board about it, until President Kim/KF6ZSW declared him out of order and advised him that he would be asked to leave if he continued.

FARC welcomed five club members who joined at the August meeting or by mail: Monte/KD6DRY, who has just moved to the Valley; Jay/KF6ZDW; LeRoy/KG6VWI; Glen/KG6VWG; and Kathleen/KG6VWH.

Next month's program will be on satellite communications and will include information on the newest amateur satellite, AO-51, aka "Echo." Hope to see you there!

2004 Christmas Party/Awards Banquet:

Saturday, Dec. 11, 6-11 PM, Ramada Inn's Van Ness Room, 324 E. Shaw Ave. (Shaw and 41). Tri-Tip Dinner/\$20 per person. We must have your money in by 12-09-04. (no tickets at the door; you must pay in advance and we will have your name as you check in). Seating is limited; please mail your check in today:

Mail your check to FARC/Christmas Awards Banquet, P.O. Box 783, Fresno CA 93712-0783

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Guest(s) _____

Please reserve _____ dinners @ \$20 each.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Thank you and Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays, Kim/KF6ZSW, 287-9051



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2004 F.A.R.C. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

I am interested in serving on one of the committees; please contact me with more details _____.

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

Upcoming 2004 Fresno Amateur Radio Club Activities and Events

- Sept10 SAT Presentation
Carole KG6TTF and Jan KG6SUL
- Oct 8 Homeland Security Presentation
Ballots are in & counted
- Nov12 Swap meet
- Dec 11 Holiday Awards Banquet -Ramada Inn