



January 2005

Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Volume 66, Issue 1

Our next General Meeting will be at Cedar Lanes/Jan. 14th and our program will be on the direction of the club. Questions and answers will be the main topic of this meeting. It will be a chance to get to know the new Board of Directors and hear what we would like to do with the club. Our next Board Meeting will be at Woodward Park Regional Library at 9444 E. Perrin in the River Room on the S.W. corner of Perrin and Champlain.

The Prez Sez

FARC General Meetings

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

2005 FARC BOARD MEETING DATES

AT 7 PM—Woodward Park Re-
gional Library
Jan 3rd

FARC Nets

Morning Drive Time Net:
Weekday mornings-7:30—8:00 a.m.
W6TO/R 146.940 PL-141.3

Tech Net:

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

FARC Net:

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

I hope all of you had a great holiday season and a Happy New Year. The New Year is a time for change and resolutions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing members of the board of directors for their service to the club in that capacity.

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me and the other new members of the board of directors in the last election. Our platform was reuniting the Fresno Amateur Radio Club and to give the club back to it's members. This is exactly what we plan to do. This is YOUR club and you should have say in how it is run.

Ham Radio is supposed to be fun! There will be no secrets kept from the members.

Please attend the January meeting, as we will be discussing the issues for the club. What you want to do, where you would like to see the club go...Please encourage everyone to attend, whether you are a member, non-member, or former member, you are all welcome.

Please bring your questions for the board of directors. We will try and answer everyone at the meeting. Of course there may be some questions that will require research and will have to be answered at a later date. It will not be necessary to mail your questions in a month prior to the meeting. Also bring your ideas for what you would like to see the club do in the way of programs or activities.

Rob AE6GE

2005 FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Rob Mavis	AE6GE	ae6ge@w6to.com	360-2505	12/31/06
Vice-President:	John Morrice	K6MI	k6mi@w6to.com	275-7373	12/31/05
Secretary:	Dave Smith	W6TE	w6te@w6t0.com	323-6095	12/31/06
Treasurer:	Jim Nelson	W6ALE	w6ale@w6to.com	447-5422	12/31/06
	Ken Holden	WA6OIB	wa6oib@w6to.com	323-6753	12/31/06
	Rick Fornes	KA6Y	ka6y@w6to.com	281-4116	12/31/06
	Paul Lambert	W6WYT	w6wyt@w6to.com		12/31/06
	Dan Pruitt	KG6ALC	kg6alc@w6to.com		12/31/05
	Ted Miller	K6FGE	k6fge@w6to.com		12/31/05
	Marcus Beedle	KG6QNY	kg6qny@w6to.com		12/31/05
	Tom Jarvis	KG6KYU	kg6kyu@w6to.com		12/31/05

Ideas

Please give us any ideas you may have!

SKIP DEADLINE

Please provide any SKIP material by the 20th of the prior month. Please send to w6ale@comcast.net

Dues not paid by the end of February you will not Receive a Skip



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ARRL Field Organization - San Joaquin Valley Section:

- Chuck McConnell, W6DPD, Section Manager
- Bob Hervatine, W6FRH, Assistant Section Manager
- Victor Magana, N1VM, Official Observer Coordinator
- Barbara J Gardiner, KE6IGJ, Public Information Coordinator
- Marie S Thompson, N6ZFN, Section Emergency Coordinator
- Fred B Silveira, K6RAU, Section Traffic Manager
- David Smith, W6TE, Section Technical Coordinator
- Rick Fornes, AF6Y, Technical Assistant (Fresno Area)

AMSAT Field Organization:

- David Smith, W6TE, AMSAT AREA Coordinator

Club Contacts

- Field Day Committee Chairman:**
Dave Smith W6TE323-6095
- Education/Scholarship Chairman:**
Lisa Nelson KG6SZA447-5422
- Paper Fund Raiser Chairman:**
Marcus Beedle KG6QNY360-7444
- Net Manager**
John Morrice K6MI275-7373
- SKIP Newsletter Editor:**
Jim Nelson W6ALE.....447-5422
- Tech Committee:**
Ken Holden WA6OIB
Dave Smith W6TE
Rick Fornes KA6Y
Paul Lambert W6WYT

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Notes from John Morrice, Vice President

Along with New Year resolutions, it is time to think of programs for the club for the New Year.

Some of our great traditions go way back, such as the November swap meet, the Dec. awards, the June Field Day meeting, and the September Old Timers Night. The club picnic in July and the Hamfest, are two great activities, with sometimes a transmitter hunt thrown in.

That leaves six open meetings ready for ideas. I'd really like to collect ideas from everyone, just give any board member or me a jingle on the air, phone, or email. Many ideas could be used for hamfest speakers as well as meetings, and if we had too many ideas we could start stacking them up for next year.

Here are some ideas that have already come my way. After seeing the great article in QST, and in the Fresno Bee, about Mike Staal's trip to Aves Island, it would be great to hear more about it. Grady had a great trip that would be interesting to hear about, as well. Several suggestions were on "Theme nights". It would be fun to have a Heathkit night, a Hallicrafters night, and a Collins night and even a homebrew night.

Technology is something that is hopping in leaps and bounds. The new PSK and JTS modes for weak signal work are amazing, and I'd like to learn more about them. Robert, KR7O, was working moonbounce with the weak signal modes with a modest set up, and making contacts. This could be the start for everyone to make a few of these exotic mode contacts. Several members in our club have achieved EME contacts, and that is a ham career highlight. It would be good to get some directions to the ARRL Log of the World as well; once you are in it you don't need QSL's for awards.

Activities are great discussion material. Several of our members put radios for seven VHF and UHF bands in their car, complete with antennas, and drove a thousand miles during the last VHF contest, giving out grid squares. What a feat! Only to be outdone by N6NB, Wayne Overbeck, who was one of our last Hamfest speakers. One of the great enjoyments we get at club meetings is the informal discussion of the activities that the club members are active in, and that happens at every meeting, regardless of the program.

The best of the New Year to you all, 73, John K6MI



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Bringing the club together: What are your suggestions for bringing the FARC together as a club?

Below is a short questionnaire for you to ponder. Please bring your suggestions or answers to these questions to the January club Meeting.

Club Hamfest: What type of a hamfest do you think the club should have in the future? A Convention style similar to last year or more laid back like previous years?... In either case, would you be willing to participate on the hamfest committee or activities in some way?

Club Field Day: Should this years Field Day be in the mountains somewhere or should it be somewhere here in the valley? Any suggestions? Would you be able to participate in this years Field Day... Should we participate in field day at all?

Club Repeater: How important is the FARC repeater to you? What are your expectations of the repeater system.... handhelds, linking, pl, etc.?

Club Finances and Income: What are your feelings on the club working events to secure money for the club? Would you be willing to work future events? How about collecting newspapers? Would you be willing to participate in collecting papers?

Club Future: Where would YOU like the club to be in five years and how would you propose to get there?

Club Meetings: What are your expectations for the club meetings? Do you like technical sessions, training for upgrading, coffee and doughnuts, BBQ's every so often, slide shows, etc? Would you be willing to give a presentation? Please give us an idea of what kind of presentation that you would like to see.

Educational Training Classes: What are your expectations of the clubs responsibility to offer Amateur Radio Classes? Would you be able to offer assistance in the classes, directly as trainers or indirectly?

Editors Notes:

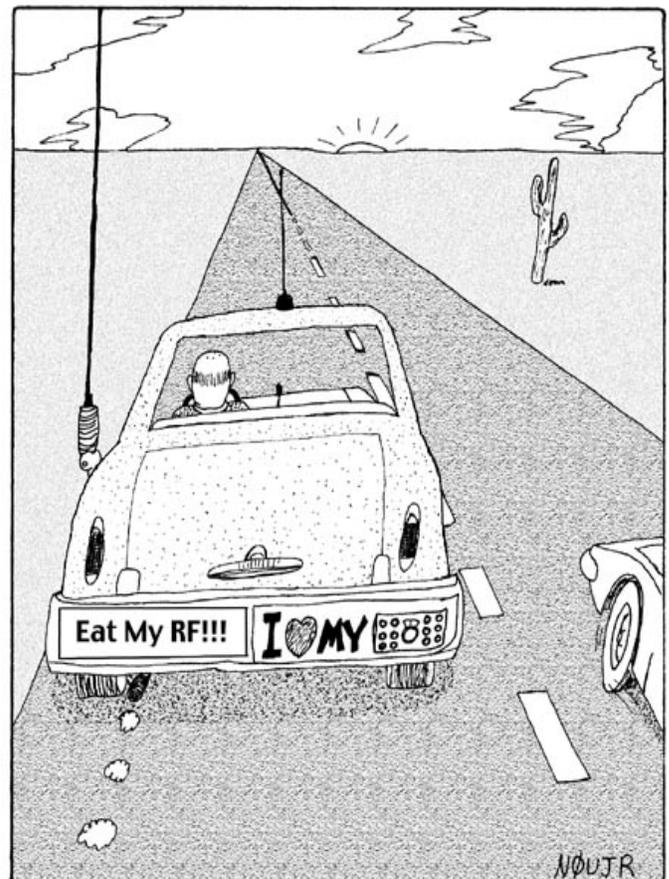
First of all I'd like to thank the people that voted for me I will do my best to make this club fun, and informative.

This is my first time as an editor so please bear with me as the Skip will only get better. I intend to keep this as a **NEWSLETTER** for the club. It will contain all information that the membership needs to know and also very informative articles. I am open to any and all suggestions on how you would like your Skip to be. My email address and phone no. are listed on page 2 of this Skip.

Treasurer report as of 01/01/2005

Checking Balance \$142.07

Savings Balance \$5,136.52



QCWA members with an attitude...

Why Call CQ?

Why do we call CQ? What is the motivation for this gesture? Is it simply to talk to someone else? Here are my thoughts on the subject.

I can remember when I was first licensed as a Ham. I remember the first time my CQ was heard returned by another. There was a real sense of exhilaration in receiving that reply. There was a sense of marvel at the possibility of having a radio signal actually being heard and responded to. That all by itself is enough motivation, just to see what happens.

As I became more experienced as a new ham a couple of things happened. First and most profound is that, the wonderment turned into curiosity, especially as replies became routine; who they were and where they came from remained a mystery until the contact was made. Secondly, the very first contact had an excitement all of its own. It was an addictive feeling and a repeat of the first experience was desired over and over again.

Having your first CQ answered is a one time experience. The anxiety level of the "totally unknown" in subsequent experiences is not quite the same as the first. New adventures into calling "CQ" carry new dimensions. Every contact creates a new strand in a web of links among widely diverse but kindred spirits. Amateur radio, despite its differing views, internal disputes and diverse activities, is a community of individuals that includes all divisions of race, nationality, religion, and other things that divide us around the world. CQ'ing knows no such boundaries. Our mutual interest in Amateur Radio communications does not even break barriers: the barriers are simply not there.

A contributing factor to the motivation for calling CQ is further contributed by our interest in Amateur Radio communication. This interest tends to let us stand out a little different from our friends, neighbors and co-workers. It characterizes us as individuals. Consequently, there is a natural desire for camaraderie, a since that we are together, and bonded to a community. That same desire for solidarity results in us calling CQ as an invitation to, and a wish for, a new strand in the connection that verifies to us that we are not alone. This gives meaning to our efforts to master the art, science and technique of Amateur Radio communications.

Two diverse and contrasting urges arise when we are linked to a community and they occur differently in different people. The first is competition. We compete in contests for points; DXCC for countries confirmed, etc. The

second urge is to help, assist, or aid any other in our community who needs what we have to offer: guidance, understanding, equipment. The only condition a true ham places on rendering assistance was this: NOT that the beneficiary repay, but rather be ready to support someone else who one day may be in need.

Both of these urges make calling "CQ" more significant, for we may never know in advance whether we might receive a reply that either helps our score or gives us an chance to help someone else.

I believe the most mature motivation for calling "CQ" is the possibility to be of help, even if that is only to give another the enjoyment of a QSO, but more if the one who replies needs more.

Calling CQ is not a demand for an answer, but an invitation to communicate. Sometimes we share information and ideas; sometimes we share joys and successes; and sometimes we share needs and solutions. In short, we share all that makes us a community, although not too much at any one time. Granted, some few may make "CQ" into a demand for reply, or even into a desperate plea for a reply, but for most of us, it is an invitation and a question: How can I be of assistance?

Dave W6TE

Editors note: Dave will be writing a monthly column. If there is anything you would like Dave to write about please email Dave at w6te@comcast.net

Thomas L. Whitlock



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ASK THE EXPERT

By

Rick Fornes KA6Y

Wow, it's great to be back writing this column for the Fresno Amateur Club. When I started this column in 2003, the response from the club members was awesome. Well after missing most of 2004 I'm back and ready for another great year.

I just want to remind our members that the purpose of this column is to answer any technical questions you might have about amateur radio. No matter how simple or complex the question I will try to find the answer for you.

This is going to be an exciting new year for the club. Our new technical committee is loaded with technical experts just waiting to help you learn more and enjoy this wonderful hobby. So please feel free to email me your questions. I look forward to helping you all become technical experts.

I have had a lot of people ask me about good grounds over the last few months so I decided to reprint this article I wrote in skip two years ago. I hope you enjoy it.

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 1/4λ at the highest operating frequency. At a 1/4λ 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 1/4 λ 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**

Editor's Note: This will be a monthly column written by Rick. So if you have questions for him please email them to fornesasc@aol.com



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Arrl Section Report

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for the month of November 2004 SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD-ASM's K6YK and W6FRH, ACC W6DPD, SEC N6ZFN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC KE6IGJ, TC W6TE.

Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section. Happy Holidays to all!!

Emergency Coordinators are needed in Mono and Calaveras Counties. Contact N6ZFN (n6zfn@ares-races.net) or W6DPD (w6dpd@arrl.org) if you can help.

W6FRH is as Assistant SM. N6RDY is the new EC for Mariposa County.

Mark your calendars. The International DX Convention (Visalia) is April 15-17, 2005. EMCOMM West will be 13-15, 2005 in Reno. Pacifcon 05 will be October 14-16, 2005 at the San Ramon Marriott.

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 webpage.

Need to take an Amateur exam? Check the ARRL web page, www.arrl.org for exam for information 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 Daytime Region 6 Traffic Net meets daily at 3:30 pacific time on or near 7.275 MHZ.

It is my sad duty to report that W6JOD, N6NMM and W7FMD have become a Silent Keys. They will be missed.

Congratulations to the following on completing the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses: Level One: AE6GY: Level Two: W6DWF: Level Three: KO6UW

The Sierra ARC, WA6YBN, was fourth in the nation in 2004 FD 3A battery. Way to go!!

The Kern County Central Valley ARC manned the road and weather net on their repeaters during the Thanksgiving weekend.

The Mountain ARC provided communications for the Mountain Heritage Days Parade. The officers for 2005 are pres WA6ONA, vp WA6LTO, sec W6LSU, and treas W6NDR. The club meets the 4th Thursday in Oakhurst. The web page is located at www.w6bw.org.

The officers for the Stockton-Delta ARC for 2005 are pres WB6NVB, VP W6INP, sec KG6EFD, and treas N6LHL The club meets the second Thursday in Stockton.

The web page is located at <http://home.comcast.net/~jjkester>.

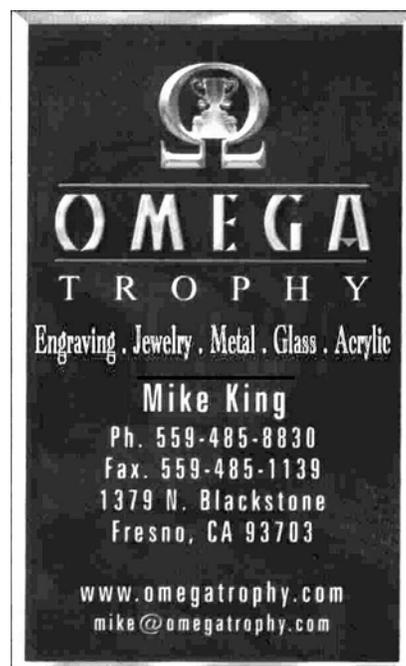
The Clovis Amateur Pioneers participated in the White Dove project to send toys to Florida.

The San Joaquin Valley ARS is a new club in Fresno.

WS6X operated from KP4US during the CQ WW CW Contest.

W6XK has 2 elements on 80 meters.

Traffic for November was K6RAU 10 and N6SUZ 14 for a total of 24. PSHR K6RAU 63 and N6SUZ 51.



Fresno VE Page

Fresno VE Team Report for 2004

The Fresno VE Team held 6 exam sessions in 2004, 4 regular sessions at the Fresno Central SDA Church and 2 special sessions at the end of classes. A total of 67 candidates took 67 exam elements this year. At 2 of the regular sessions, no code elements were administered. This was the first time in more than 10 years of helping with VE exams that no code exam elements were given.

Special thanks go to Rod Benson, WB6QDN, for serving at the contact person between the VE Team and the Fresno Central SDA Church,

During 2004 the following VEs served at 1 or more exam sessions: WB6QDN, AE6QP, WA6PTG, AE6QR, WA6RTS, KO6JL, KK6LT, W6RUJ, KF6QJM, WB6C, AC6LT, K6BD, K6IN, K6ESL, W6GV (SK), N1VM, NI6M, and AE6GE.

After serving as the team liaison for 10 years and examining more than 1,000 candidates, it is time for someone else to assume the team liaison duties. Beginning in 2005, Paul Heins, AE6QP, will be the team liaison (this means he gets to do the paperwork).

73, Charles W6DPD

AMATEUR RADIO VE EXAMS IN FRESNO UNLICENSED THRU EXTRA CLASS

FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ARRL VEC

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE 2005

Exams for all Amateur license classes will be conducted on the following dates in Fresno California. All exams are given on Saturday and begin at 9:30 AM.

February 12

May 14

August 13

November 12.

LOCATION:Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART), 2555 Clovis Ave, Clovis CA 93612. This is on the southeast corner of Clovis Ave and Santa Ana.

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 99 South of Fresno, take Clovis Ave. Go north to Santa Ana Ave and turn right to the campus. From Highway 41 or Highway 99 North of Fresno, take Shaw Ave. exit, turn right (East), go to Clovis Ave, turn right to Santa Ana Ave, turn left, then on to the campus. The exams will be on the north side of the campus.

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 two weeks.

BRING. Two ID's, one with photo. Taxpayer ID Number (Social Security Number), ULS registration Number or FCC Registration Number. Fee \$14.00 per test session. Bring Exact change. Original and copy of Amateur License and CSCE's if upgrading. Talk in on 146.94 repeater.

Walk in's only, no pre-registration.

More Info?? Contact Paul AE6QP, (559) 297-8478

