



February 2005

Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Volume 66, Issue 2

February 11th Meeting—Cedar Lanes @ 7pm
FARC Annual "Bring Your Sweetheart" Valentine meeting
Guest Speaker Grady Williams K6IXA.
See Page 3 for Grady's Bio and Meeting Topic

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

Here it is February 2005. Lots of projects and plans for the new year. Please volunteer where you can. Also please give us your ideas and comments.

The January meeting was great and we had a great turn out. It was good to see everyone there. Most of the meeting was just covering the plans of the new Board of Directors. I know it seemed like it was a long meeting, but we needed to cover a lot. This was just an example of how the new BOD plans on keeping the membership apprised of the Club business and BOD plans. I promise subsequent meets will not be so dry. There was a lot of great discussion, I welcome this type of interaction by the club membership at meetings.

The February meeting we will have Grady William K6IXA as a guest speaker. This should be a great program. Hope to see everyone there!

2005 FARC Membership dues are due. Please mail them in or pay at the next meeting if you have not done so already.

- Rob AE6GE

2005 FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

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February 11th Meeting Speaker Grady Williams – K6IXA

First licensed in 1954 and has been actively involved in most aspects of Amateur Radio from CW to ATV.

Retired 1990 after 35 years with Pac Bell with a career involving, radio, central office switching, data, teletype, micro-wave, PBX installation, repair, circuit design and provisioning. Working at various locations in a craft and management capacity.

After retirement Grady became involved in running an automated Winlink 2000 mailbox operation (www.winlink.org) Need for an automated system was realized after manually handling Pactor email on a cut and paste basis for the "Spirit of Grace" a Christian humanitarian freighter on its maiden voyage to Roatan, Honduras in 1997.

The Amateur Pactor technology has been taken to the Mission field in Africa setting up Missionary Radio Email Systems on existing licensed HF mission frequencies. There are now Radio Missionary Email systems operating in Gabon, Cameroon, Kenya and Uganda. Missionaries out in the bush from a mobile unit or their mud hut are now able to connect to a computer-based post office and send email throughout the world.

Having previously served as volunteer radio officer aboard the "Sprit of Grace" for Hurricane Mitch Relief in 1999, Grady and his wife Ivy were asked to serve again on the ship for a relief run to Israel in 2002.

Retirement has been good. With several trips to Africa for Radio Missionary Email and serving on the Spirit of Grace, it doesn't get much better. Each time Grady & Ivy go somewhere to serve, they always come home barefooted having their "socks blessed off". There is NO way you can set out to bless someone else less fortunate and NOT end up being the one who is blessed beyond belief.

The Spirit of Grace is currently in Port-au-Prince, Haiti with a medical team, and tons of clothing, food, equipment and supplies to aid those devastated by the recent Hurricanes that ravaged the country. For details of the current mission and the Israel trip, check the Friendships web site at www.friendships.org Mike Clow, KE7CIW offered to spell Grady as the radio officer for this trip giving his family an opportunity to experience the voyage and be of service to the impoverished, devastated people in Haiti.

The Friendship Ministry has been given a 185' ex Coast Guard Buoy Tender currently in the Port of Stockton. When the Grace mission is complete the crew will be sent to Stockton to take the ship around through the Panama Canal to the Ministry's Lake Charles LA. Headquarters. Grady is expected to serve as the radio officer for this trip. The Panama Canal is starting to look very familiar.

The February 11th Fresno Radio Club meeting program will consist of a Power Point presentation of the two years preparation and completion of the trip to Israel by the "Spirit of Grace" and the vital role that Amateur Radio Played in that effort.

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The DX CORNER

By Charles McConnell, W6DPD

“DX” means distance. Depending on the frequency band, it could be tens of thousands of meters or less than 100 meters. This column will consider HF though 6 meters although it will apply to some of the higher frequencies as well, maybe to 3/4 meters. With the decaying of the current sunspot cycle, the higher bands (20 to 10 meters) are less likely to produce DX contacts than the lower bands, (160-40 meters). The higher bands do open, but the openings are shorter and more specialized to certain areas than when the sunspot cycle is near its peak.

How do you find DX? Most DXers tune the bands and listen. DX’ers probably spend more time listening and tuning than they spend transmitting. The Internet has several dx sites that list DX stations that are active. The DX Summit and DXscape are two that are active. I am sure there are others. These have real time listing of DX stations active from all over the world and posted by stations all over the world. You can search the databases by band, by mode, and by DX call sign. You can subscribe to a DX bulletin such as QRZ DX, The Daily DX, or the 425 DX Bulletin. You can read the OPDX bulletin from their web page. It is published each Sunday. You can do a google search to find the URLs for the Internet sites. The DX bulletins give a variety of information, like current DX operations, upcoming operations, and QSL information. You can go to www.wm7d.net, go to Links, Amateur Radio, then to DX clubs. Scroll down to find a wealth of links to DX locations.

Next time the subject will be confirming the DX contact.

There are a number of DX operations planned for the first half of 2005. Peter One, 3Y0X, will be on between mid January to mid February (This one has been delayed 1 to 2 weeks due to problems with the transportation). This is the third operation from this Norwegian Antarctic Territory. The last one was in 1994. This may be the most expensive DXpedition ever. In February, Somalia, 6O, will be activated by a group of Italian operators. Somalia is quite rare although 6O0JT is active now and DJ6SI goes there occasionally. Also Crozet, FT/W will be active from Feb to April. In March, the Micro-Lite DXpedition group is going to Kerguelen, FT/X. This French Antarctic territory has not been active for some time. Glorioso, FR/G will be activated in May by the French military group who activated Europa, (FR/E) last year.

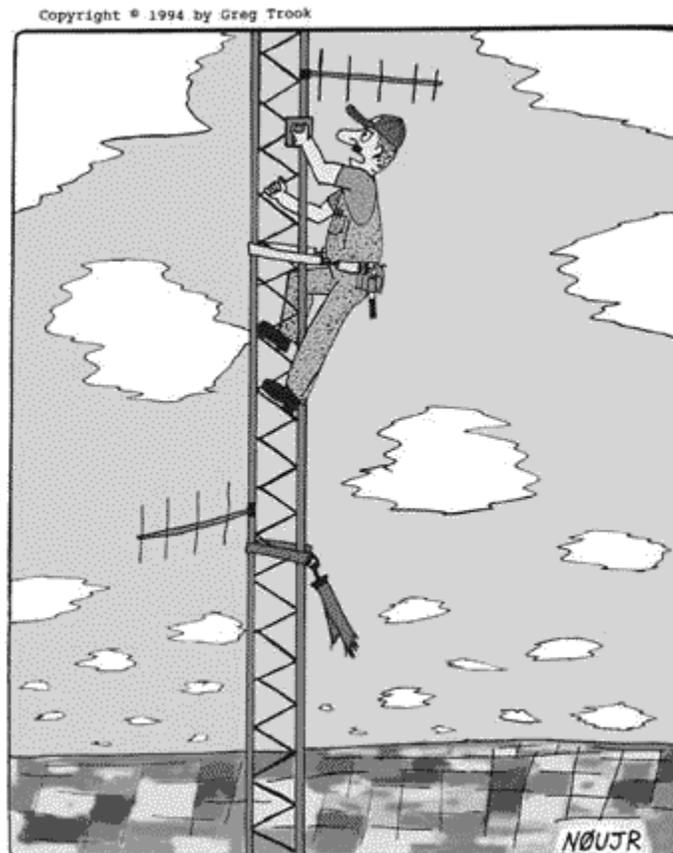
I have been chasing DX since 1975. I have confirmed all of the 335 entities on the current DXCC list. I still chase DX stations because of the challenge and it is fun.

The 2005 International DX Convention will be April 15-17, 2005 at the Holiday Inn in Visalia. This is the premier gathering of DX’ers on the west coast. Check www.ncdxc.org for the link to the convention web page for information.

Good DX to you in 2005

Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

Organization	Callsign	Location	Freq	Tone
CARP	K6ARP	Meadow Lakes	147.675	- 141.3
	N6VYT	Meadow Lakes	444.725	+ 141.3
FARC	W6TO	Meadow Lakes	146.940	- 141.3
		Meadow Lakes	223.940	- 141.3
		Meadow Lakes	444.200	- 141.3
Bulldog	N6MTS	Fresno State IT	145.230	- 141.3
MCARC	W6WGZ	Oakhurst	147.180	- 146.2
RACES	N6HEW	Fresno	147.150	- 141.3
W6DCP	W6DCP	Parkfield	147.240	-



"So Bob...why did your ex-wife give you a new climbing belt for Christmas?"

Uncle Dave's Column

By Dave Smith, W6TE

My very first inkling of radio was when I was in 4th grade grammar school. I somehow became the owner of a brand new crystal radio set. I don't remember why I was so lucky. It could have been a birthday or Christmas present. The crystal set consisted of a "Cats Whisker" crystal detector, a coil that one could move a slider across to "tune" to the station, and some headphones. It was so exciting! I assembled the components per the instructions, donned the headphones, and was amazed to hear "You Ain't Nothing But A Hound Dog" by Elvis Presley emanating from my neighborhood radio station, KYNO. I lived about ½ mile from KYNO and, although I was annoyed to hear that vulgar tune, I was very disappointed in my crystal set's inability to tune to other stations. I manipulated the tuning lever on the coil as the instructions directed but, no deal. KYNO was all I heard. I lived so close to KYNO that I probably heard "Hound Dog" through the fillings in my teeth but didn't realize it! (I went to work for KYNO a many years later as their Chief Engineer.)

My family moved to Clovis a few years later and the crystal set was replaced with a large Zenith console radio. I would stay up all hours of the night listening to the foreign broadcast stations, airliners making position reports, and ham radio operators. I didn't understand who ham radio operators were and why they had the same access privileges as the broadcast stations and airliners. It was amazing that regular people could talk over my Zenith radio. How could this be?

In the 8th grade, I finally figured out what Amateur radio was all about. My Uncle George, it turned out, had a good friend, Fred, W6QOS, who had bought a bunch of WWII Navy surplus radio receivers called the TCS-12. I became the proud owner of one of Fred's TCS-12 receivers and I had a ham radio mentor! Fred was great! He once called me on the phone to patch me into an Australian ham he was talking to... I was actually talking to someone on the other side of the world!!! Hole' mole'!

W6QOS had set the Ham Radio "hook".

I attended the Novice and Technician classes given By Don Hoff (now AJ6X) at the old PG&E building. After eight weeks of intensive study of theory and continuous wave practice (CW-code) I was ready to take the test. Sometime early in 1962 I took both Novice and Technician exams and received both licenses. In 1962 I received two licenses on the same day, WV6YDI and WA6YDI.

Over the years I have had many mentors; Fred, W6QOS (SK); Ralph, W6JPU; Allen (SK), W6JPS; Joe, WA6FFJ; Don Burr, AJ6X, Gil de laLang, W6BJI (SK),... I have mentors to this day. All hams around me are my mentors! Technology is moving so rapidly that no one person can keep up!

Before I could get on the air, I needed a transmitter. What to do...I built the "6V6" Oscillator-amplifier from a construction article from "73" Magazine 1963. This was a simple CW transmitter that used a single tube oscillator as well as amplifier. Life couldn't be better! I made many contacts with this "home brew" transmitter. Life was good, I was a ham! I made contacts all over the US and a few foreign countries with this setup. One of my contacts turned out to be one of my very best friends and has been for over forty years! It was Andy K6RYN (K6RY today).

K6RYN answered my 40 meter CQ on a warm Fresno afternoon in May 1963. I don't remember much about the qso... it must have went something like this: "tnx fer call... ur rst 599 599...name dave dave...qth fresno fresno hw cpy? k6ryn de wv6ydi sk....turned out that Andy lived about 1 mile away.

Andy and I became best of friends. I was a junior in high school and he was a junior in College. Many things happened over the years... Andy was married with a daughter, Kimberley (Kimbo) and subsequently had two more daughters. Andy enlisted in the Marines and went to Viet Nam as a forward artillery observer. I subsequently got married, had two daughters and didn't go into the military. The story, short and long, is Andy and I are still best friends and will be the rest of our lives.

Over the years I have observed that Amateur Radio is more than just a hobby. It is a life for many of us. Lifetime friendships are made and sealed. All of my very best friends are amateur radio operators. This is a hobby about friendships, helping others and camaraderie.

73,

Uncle Dave / W6TE

P.S. Andy is a retired FUSD principle and Kimbo is a teacher for FUSD.

Thomas L. Whitlock



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**AMATEUR RADIO VE EXAMS IN FRESNO UNLICENSED THRU EXTRA CLASS
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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



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REMINDER

2005 FARC membership
dues are due.

If you do not renew by
the end of February, this
will be your last SKIP

From The ARRL Letter, January 21, 2005
INDUSTRY CANADA REPORTS
"OVERWHELMING AGREEMENT"
TO DROP MORSE

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) reports that an Industry Canada (IC) analysis has found "overwhelming agreement" that Canada should move away from retaining a Morse code requirement as "the sole means of gaining access" to the HF amateur bands. IC has posted a summary of comments from the amateur community to RAC's Recommendations from Radio Amateurs of Canada to Industry Canada concerning Morse Code and Related Matters.

"Amateurs should note that while the responses heavily favored deletion of the Morse Qualification as a requirement for access to the HF bands, Industry Canada still has to make and announce a decision on Morse retention or deletion," RAC emphasized. IC reported 123 comments in favor of relaxing the code requirement in Canada and only 19 "clearly opposed." Another six comments were inconclusive.

The regulatory agency also has attempted to gauge the level of support for each of RAC's 12 license restructuring recommendations. IC said it would formulate a plan to implement changes emerging from the consultation process.

RAC notes that until IC announces a decision to delete Morse, Canadian amateurs not holding the Morse Qualification may not operate on the HF bands.

The Industry Canada comment summary is on IC's Web site <<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf08280e.html>>

Here in the US, the FCC has made no recommendation or decision regarding the future of the current 5 WPM (Element 1) Morse requirement for HF access. It's also reviewing several petitions, including one from the ARRL, that propose further Amateur Radio license restructuring.

From The ARRL Letter, January 21, 2005
DXCC LISTINGS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE
ARRL WEB SITE

The ARRL Web site now features up-to-date listings of DXCC awards earned. The new system shows every issued DXCC award known to ARRL's computerized DXCC system, with the exception of individual standings for 5BDXCC. ARRL

Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the Web site listing is even more complete than the DXCC Yearbook ever was, since the printed list did not list inactive band-accounts for the previous year.

"This will list everything and everybody," Mills emphasized. "The new system makes available a separate listing for each DXCC award type--band or mode." Even more important, Mills notes, is that it essentially renders obsolete the manually generated monthly and yearly reports. "Under the new system, DXCC listings will updated daily," he emphasized.

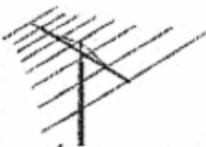
The DXCC standings of all ARRL members will remain in dark type. Call signs of non-members who have not submitted credits for 10 years or more are in grayed-out type.

Each listing by band or mode is complete in a separate Adobe PDF file. The largest listing (DXCC Mixed) now runs to more than 50 pages, but the size of the PDF file is only about 150 kbytes because of file compression.

Printing format options include US letter-sized or ISO A4 paper.

The DXCC listings can be found at

<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/#listings>.

Michael B. Staal K6MYC
Vice President/Designer

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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 2005
 Fresno Amateur Radio
 Club
 Activities and Events**

Jan 3rd– Board meeting

Jan 14th– Membership meeting