



Our next general meeting will be on Aug 1st at Cedar Lanes at Cedar and Shields. The meeting starts promptly at 7:00 pm. The next board meeting will be Aug. 11th at the Woodward Park Library, see the address below, all members are welcome.

FARC General Meetings

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

2006 FARC BOARD MEETING DATES

Aug. 1st

AT 7 PM

Woodward Park Library at Champlain and Perron

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

The Prez Sez

Since I'm the editor I'm going to hijack the Prez Sez for this month.

As many of you know my wife and I are going through a International adoption. With that being said it's with sad regrets that I have to give up writing the Skip and also being on the BOD.

Getting through all the paperwork and getting into the process will take most of Lisa's and my time. So I had to give up something. The Skip being one and the BOD the other.

I want to thank all of you for making it easy to be a board member. As your treasurer we have come a long way. After an extreme mess, we as a club have finally turned the treasury around. I couldn't do it without all the support that you have given me.

Finally I'd like to thank all of you that gave me so much good insight in writing the Skip. It was enjoyable to do.

Thank you,
Jim and Lisa Nelson

Fresno Hamfest 64
See page 9 for a map on where Hamfest 64 is located. Don't forget the radio call in.

2006 FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Rob Mavis	AE6GE	ae6ge@w6to.com	284-2066	12/31/06
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Tom Jarvis	KG6KYU	kg6kyu@w6to.com	916-2445	12/31/07

Lunch Gathering
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Club Contacts

Education/Scholarship Chairman:

Ted Miller W6TLM431-1441

Field Day Chairman:

Jim Clymer WS6X.....292-8353

Hamfest Co-Chair:

Tom Jarvis KG6KYU916-2445

Net Manager

Ted Miller W6TLM431-1441

SKIP Newsletter Editor:

OPEN

Tech Committee:

Ken Holden WA6OIB.....323-6753
 Paul Lambert W6WYT.....240-8519

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

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David Smith, W6TE, AMSAT AREA Coordinator

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It's not too early to think about the upcoming elections. 6 positions are available and the nominations begin at the August meeting.

RADIO FUN RIDING THE RAILS IN FRESNO

Bruce Ames – KE6HPK

There's just something about the romance of the rails.

*Riding on an east bound freight train speeding
through the night*

*Hobo Bill, a railroad bum was fighting for his life
The sadness of his eyes revealed the torture of his soul
He raised a weak and weary hand to brush away the
cold*

*No warm lights flicker 'round him no blankets there to
fold*

*Nothing but the howling wind and the driving rain so
cold*

*When he heard a whistle blowing in a dreary kind of
way*

*The hobo seemed contented for he smiled there where
he lay*

*Outside the rain was falling on that lonely box car
door*

*But the little form of Hobo Bill lay still upon the floor
While the train sped through the darkness and the
raging storm outside*

*No-one knew that Hobo Bill was taking his last ride
It was early in the morning when they raised the
Hobo's head*

*The smile still lingered on his face but Hobo Bill was
dead*

*There was no mother's longing to soothe his weary
soul*

*For he was just a railroad bum who died out in the
cold*

Jimmie Rodgers – "Hobo Bill's Last Ride" circa late 1920's

For those of us that love railroads and enjoy listening to their communications, Fresno is a vital rail link and we are fortunate to have two major railroads in our area, one shortline and the national passenger service AMTRAK which shares the frequencies of the host railroad on which it is operating. The two major railroads are the Union Pacific (UP) and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF).

"This is the story of the first transcontinental railroad; the greatest, most daring engineering effort the country had yet seen. The time was the 1860s. Imagine the task. The idea was to span the west

with iron rails from Omaha to Sacramento, to build a railroad across two-thirds of the continent and some of the most difficult terrain on earth. 'Ruinous space,' a Boston paper called it. Not in all that distance, not in 1,700 miles, was there a single settlement of any appreciable size except at Salt Lake. The railroad would join what essentially were two different countries: California and back East. Construction crews would cross hundreds of miles of desert--push into the mountains at elevations as high as 8,000 feet. It's hard to believe that one river alone, the Weber, would have to be crossed 31 times. And all this without benefit of bulldozers or rock drills, modern explosives, or modern medical facilities. They called it a work of giants. But like all great stories, it's about people: construction bosses, politicians, thousands of workers, and the people who got the whole thing started in the first place." David McCulloch, introducing "The Iron Road" for The American Experience, PBS This is the modern day Union Pacific. <http://www.up.com>

Today's BNSF Railway is the product of some 390 different railroad lines that merged or were acquired during more than 150 years.

These railroads combined to form the modern BNSF Railway, that in many ways have developed one common vision such as laying hundreds of miles of track over previously

undeveloped land, overcoming great geographic obstacles and challenges, developing and utilizing AC traction locomotives, tri-level auto rack cars, land-bridge container trains to link both Asia and Europe and other rolling stock specifically designed for various products carried on the BNSF Railway, the supporting technology such as the printing telegraph, and today's state of the art radio dispatching, centralized traffic control, and, more recently, a football field-sized, data-driven Network Operations Center <http://www.bnsf.com/>



The following frequencies are in use today by all North American railroads

Ch	Frequency	Ch	Frequency	Ch	Frequency	Ch	Frequency
02	159.810	26	160.500	50	160.860	74	161.220
03	159.930	27	160.515	51	160.875	75	161.235
04	160.050	28	160.530	52	160.890	76	161.250
05	160.185	29	160.545	53	160.905	77	161.265
06	160.200	30	160.560	54	160.920	78	161.280
07	160.215	31	160.575	55	160.935	79	161.295
08	160.230	32	160.590	56	160.950	80	161.310
09	160.245	33	160.605	57	160.965	81	161.325
10	160.260	34	160.620	58	160.980	82	161.340
11	160.275	35	160.635	59	160.995	83	161.355
12	160.290	36	160.650	60	161.010	84	161.370
13	160.305	37	160.665	61	161.025	85	161.385
14	160.320	38	160.680	62	161.040	86	161.400
15	160.335	39	160.695	63	161.055	87	161.415
16	160.350	40	160.710	64	161.070	88	161.430
17	160.365	41	160.725	65	161.085	89	161.445
18	160.380	42	160.740	66	161.100	90	161.460
19	160.395	43	160.755	67	161.115	91	161.475
20	160.410	44	160.770	68	161.130	92	161.490
21	160.425	45	160.785	69	161.145	93	161.505
22	160.440	46	160.800	70	161.160	94	161.520
23	160.455	47	160.815	71	161.175	95	161.535
24	160.470	48	160.830	72	161.190	96	161.550
25	160.485	49	160.845	73	161.205	97	161.565

Here in the Fresno area – the UP uses 160.230 (AAR 8) on the Fresno subdivision from Arena to Notarb and 161.550 (AAR 96) for Notarb to Bakersfield for dispatching. Dispatching is done out of their Omaha control center. They also use 160.950 (AAR 56) for PBX usage although you'll find less and less traffic on that as railroads are using more cell phones these days.

The BNSF uses in the Stockton subdivision (which encompasses Fresno) the Calwa yard/Fresno to Winton (just north of Merced) 161.385 (AAR 85). This is a new frequency that went live on 1 March

of this year. This is dispatched out of Bakersfield. The Stockton dispatcher uses AAR 36 160.650. PBX may be found on 160.425 (AAR 21). For those of you that are interested in more specifics, the railroads do everything by mileposts. The Calwa Crossing (Golden State and North is MP 998.1. The San Joaquin River is roughly at MP 1008 and is the dividing line between channels and subdivisions (Stockton north – Bakersfield south). Switching is on 161.370 (AAR 84).

The shortline in the area is the San Joaquin Valley Railroad. Their road channel is 160.365 (AAR 17). 161.550 is their channel two joint with UP; 160.650 channel three joint with BNSF; 160.935 joint with BNSF; 161.040 – 160.890 Channel 5 UP PBX (AAR 6252) and finally 161.160 – 160.890 Channel 6 UP PBX (AAR 7056). You may also find the dispatcher's repeater on 452.9125-457.9125 They are based in Exeter CA and do not appear to have a web site.

Major railroads typically use multiple channel radio systems. A few roads, like the San Joaquin Valley RR use a single channel number such as "17;" others use a four-digit display radio like "8585." The first two digits represent the transmit frequency, the second are the receive frequency. In other words, two-way simplex mode.

In my career, I have been fortunate to have lived or traveled all over the world and had many adventures, many of which the government will still not allow me to talk about to this day. The ultimate adventure for me, many years ago was when my lovely wife chartered for my birthday a steam engine at the Tennessee Valley Railroad in Chattanooga TN and went to learn how to operate a steam locomotive – a real-live fire breathing Baldwin 4-8-0 #610. What a thrill. It is too bad they no longer offer that program.

There's just something about the romance of the rails.

Bruce Ames – KE6HPK@comcast.net - QRT

I'd like to thank Bruce for writing these articles and helping me out with the Skip. He was a great help in getting out a quality newsletter.

Thanks Bruce!

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64th Fresno Hamfest August 5, 2006

You are cordially invited to attend the 64th Fresno Hamfest on August 5, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Hamfest will be held at the Satellite Student Union on the CSUF Campus. The Satellite Union is located on Maple Ave. You enter the campus on Barstow Ave from either Cedar Ave or Chestnut Ave. Turn South on Maple Ave, and you will see the Satellite Union. There is ample parking available.

The Fresno Hamfest began in 1936 and has been held each year since, except for the War years. This years event will include swap tables, commercial exhibits, tech talks, lunch with a keynote speaker, talk-in station with a radio raffle on 146.34/94 W6TO repeater, club and other ham radio organization displays, and prizes.

The main prize for this year's Hamfest is "Build Your Own Radio", a \$1,000 gift certificate from Amateur Electronic Supply. Tickets are \$10 each with only 300 tickets to be sold.

Tickets will be sold for other prizes. On your way to the Hamfest, be sure to check in on the W6TO repeater, 146.34/94 to get your ticket for the radio raffle.

The keynote speaker will be David Rosenthal, N6TST, of Ridgecrest CA. He is an award winning QST author. He has received 2 cover plaque awards for his articles in QST. His latest article, "Polar Bear Portable" appeared in the Feb. 2006 QST.

The Technical program will have Grady Williams, K6IXA, discussing controlling remote stations; Jeff (Shorty) Stouffer, K6JSI, on the Western Intertie Network (WIN System); Dave Smith, W6TE, the SJV Section Technical Coordinator and AMSAT Coordinator, will talk on the latest developments in Amateur Satellites; and Bob Vallio, W6RGG, ARRL Pacific Division Director, will conduct the ARRL Forum.

Some clubs and organizations with displays will be ARRL, QCWA, ARES, OES, and Search and Rescue,

Please use the enclosed flier to register for the 64th Fresno Hamfest. See you there.

Tom Jarvis, KG6KYU, Chairman

THE DX CORNER
By
Charles McConnell W6DPD

NOTICE: The address of the Sixth District QSL Bureau is now P. O. Box 970, Fairfax CA 94978-0970. You can send address labels and \$0.70 for each envelope to the address above. They will put 1 unit of First Class postage on the envelope. The new price was effective Jan. 01, 2006.

If you work DX, you should have envelopes at the QSL bureau. The address is at the top. Your QSL cards received at the bureau may be put in the trash after they sit in the bureau for 90 days.

New IRCs will begin being issued on July 1 and they expire on Dec. 31, 2009. The current IRCs expire on Dec. 31, 2006. If you have any current IRCs, you should turn them in to the post office for an 84 cent stamp. The U.S. Post Office now has said that it will not redeem IRCs issued before 2002. These have no bar code on them and are smaller than the current issue.

Six meters has provided some DX contacts from the west coast this summer. Canada, Alaska, Japan, and Mexico are a few that have been contacted. When 6 meters is open, low power stations with vertical antennas are successful.

Montenegro has been added to the ARRL DXCC list which bring the total DXCC entities to 336, There is a multi national DX Festival planned from July 20 to August 12. The goal of this operation is 200,000 QSOs.

Beginning July 1, the prefix for the Cook Islands will be E5, thus ZK1CG becomes E51CG. The E5 is a new prefix.

Even though we are near the solar minimum for this sun-spot cycle, there is still DX out there. Get on the air

The following operations are scheduled:
 Qatar A7/G0MKT Now through September
 Sri Lanka 4/s7CCG Now through November
 Iceland TF/W5DCE Now through December 31
 Timor Leste 4W6AAB July 14 to August ??
 St. Kitts and Nevis V47/DL2AAZ July 20-August 10
 Samoa 5W July 25-August 10
 Rotuma 3D2BD August 5-17
 Svalbard JW August 12-14
 Market Reef OJ0LA September 8-14
 Namibia V5/G3RWF September. 14-October ??
 Congo TN October/November
 Cocos Keeling VK9 October/November
 Glorioso Island October/November
 Libya 5A7A November 15-29

Watch the DX Bulletins for up to date information. As the time for the operation is at hand, watch the DX Summit for listings. There are a number of state QSO parties each year. Check the contest central in QST or the ARRL web page. State QSO parties are a good place to collect states for your Worked All States award. ARRL Log Book of the World now supports the Worked All States Award.

Good luck, tune the dial, and listen.

The club would like to thank our new sponsor TELEWAVE for buying the club 2 new antennas for the repeater. They have graciously donated a 220 Mhz and 440 Mhz antenna. Thank you from FARC!



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ARRL Section Report

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for the month of June 2006:
SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASMs K6YK and W6FRH, ACC W6DPD, SEC N6ZFN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC KE6IGJ, TC W6TE.

Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section.

An Emergency Coordinator is needed in Merced County. Contact N6ZFN (n6zfn@bak.rr.com) or W6DPD (w6dpd@arrl.org) if you can help.

Mark your calendars. The 64th Fresno Hamfest will be August 5, 2006 at the Satellite Student Union on the CSUF Campus in Fresno. Check www.w6to.com for information. San Joaquin Valley ARS presents the Harvest HamConVentioN Sept 15-16 in Fresno. The 2006 California QSO Party is October 7-8. Check www.cqp.org for information. Pacificon 06 will be October 13-15, 2006 at the San Ramon Marriott. Check www.pacificon.org for information. The International DX Convention is April 27-29, 2007 at Visalia. Check <http://www.dxconvention.org/> for information. EMCOMM West is May 4-6, 2007 at the Atlantis Resort and Casino in Reno NV. Check www.emcommwest.org for information. Field Day 2007 is the fourth full weekend of June.

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.

Need to take an Amateur exam? Check the ARRL web page, www.arrl.org for exam information. You can also search for Amateur Radio Classes in your area.

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. The California Traffic Net meets daily on 3.906 MHz and 6:30 PM local time.

The California QSO Party, CQP, is October 7-8, 2006. This is a good opportunity to put your county on the air and be sought out by stations

across the United States and around the world that are participating in the party. The Northern California Contest Club has a great award program for participating stations. Check out www.cqp.org for information

It is my sad duty to report that W6OWT, WB6SNB, and KB6QIB are Silent Keys. They will be missed.

ARES/RACES members in Ridgecrest did a superior job during a low power outage on May 12. The served agencies were very grateful for the job the hams did in providing communications support.

Amateur operators have been providing communications support to the fire fighters attacking the grass fires in California.


SJV stations active in the ARRL International CW DX Contest placed as follows. First was W6FRH, N6HK was second and KI6VC was third. W6FRH placed eighth in the Pacific Division.

Congrats to W6RFL on making the DXCC Honor Roll.

Madera ARC officers for 2006-2007 are pres KF6ZXO, vp KG6SUN, sec KG6DAK and treas KG6KYT. Check www.w6wgz.org for information.

Don't forget to submit Field Day contact lists and supporting bonus information to ARRL by July 25.

Traffic for June: W6DPD 3, K6RAU 24, and N6SUZ 205; Total 232 PSHR K6RAU 65 N6SUZ 100.

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Fresno VE Page

AMATEUR RADIO VE EXAMS IN FRESNO UNLICENSED THRU EXTRA CLASS FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ARRL VEC AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE 2006

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.

Aug 19th

Nov 18th

LOCATION: ...Bonaventure Mobile Home Park, 1724 Minnewawa Ave Clovis CA 93612-2545. Exams are held in the community room.

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 99 South of Fresno, exit Clovis Ave. Go north to Shaw and turn left on Shaw to Minnewawa. Turn right on Minnewawa and then left to the Mobile Home Park.. From Highway 41 or Highway 99 North of Fresno, take Shaw Ave. exit, turn right (East), to Minnewawa Ave and turn left. Then turn left into the Mobile Home Park.

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



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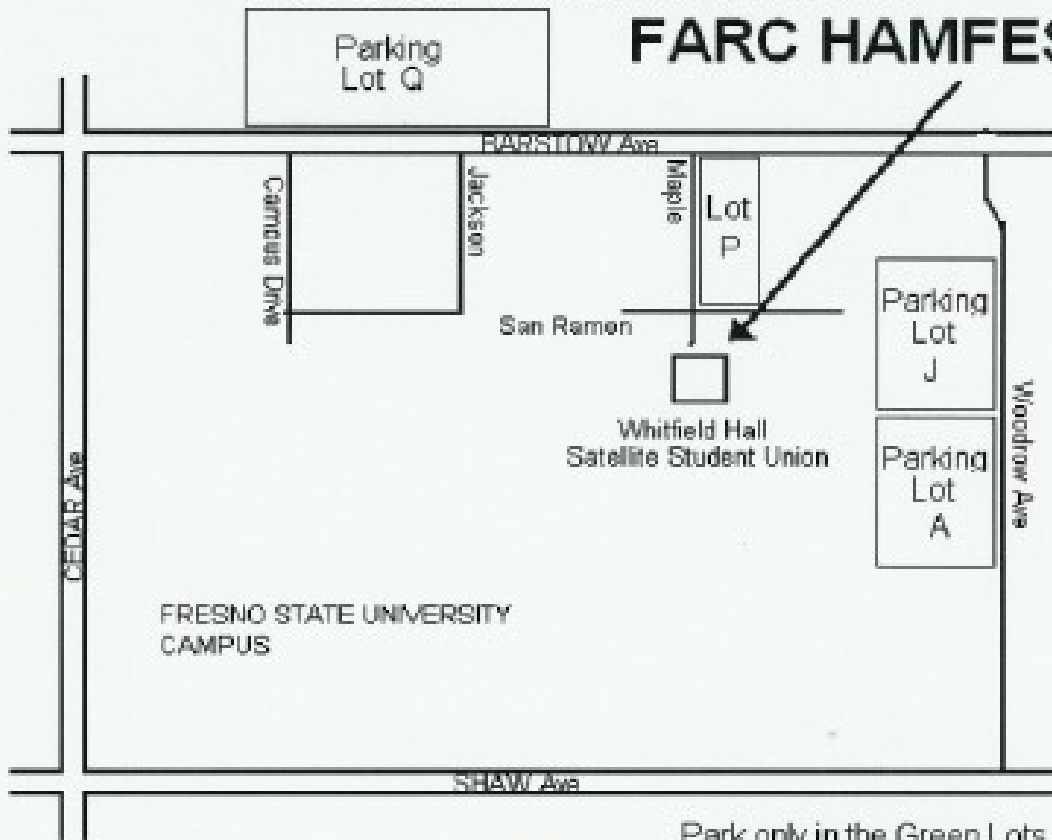
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2006 Fresno Amateur Radio Club Application

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 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 2006
 Fresno Amateur Radio
 Club
 Activities and Events**

**Aug 1st – Board meeting
 Aug 11th – Club Meeting**



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