



## Special Notice: The 65th Annual HamFest has been cancelled.

Our next general meeting will be held on June 8th. The meeting will be held at Cedar Lanes at Cedar and Shields. It will start promptly at 7:00. See you there!!

### FARC General Meetings

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

### 6 for \$5

Prizes have been upgraded in value from \$3-7. so get your wallets out and good luck.

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### 2007 FARC BOARD MEETING DATES

1st Tuesday of each month  
Woodward Park Library at  
Champlain and Perron

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### 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

### RACES/ARES Net

Mondays 7:30 PM  
N6HEW/R, 147.15 +141.3

## Club Notes

Some say that change is inevitable, sometimes it is good, and hopefully it is seamless. Recently, Microsoft Publisher and The Skip were passed from Jim Nelson W6ALE to Nigel Keep W6NBK. It is with many thanks and 73 that we recognize Jim who has been your Editor-In-Chief for the Skip for the past years for his efforts at getting this publication out to you. As a new Ham, I was impressed with the quality of this publication and the effort that went into it. Again, many thanks to you Jim for your tireless efforts, deadlines, and creativity in putting the Skip out. I hope to keep the same quality of publication that you have created.

At the 2007 International DX Convention held in Visalia, CA, the theme this year was "Elmer"-ing new Hams. With the resurgence of interest in Amateur Radio, many new Hams are joining the airwaves investigating and interacting with all bands and new technologies. Being one of those new "Elmees" I am thankful to many of my old and new friends that have taken the time out to mentor me and get me on the air. However, I would assume that like me, many of you new Elmees have thousands of questions and I hope that The Skip will become a tool for the experienced Hams to educate us new Elmees and share the knowledge they have amassed over the years and help us do things the informed and right way. As a result there will be a new section in the Skip that presents questions and answers.

If you are a new Ham I invite you to submit your questions to me at [W6NBK@aol.com](mailto:W6NBK@aol.com). Conversely if you are Elmer with a desire to educate and guide us Elmees to better radio technique and contacts, please step up to the microphone.

# Field Day 2007—June 23 and 14, 2007

What is Field Day and why should I be part of it? Those were a few questions that have floated by and it hoped that this article will provide some insight as to the history of the Field Day, what it is, and why both seasoned Amateurs and newcomers need to be part of it. Some have described it as a contest, picnic with old friends, or as a great learning experience. Overall, David Sumner, K1ZZ ARRL CEO says the goal is to “show that we can communicate with one another, *no matter what*, without the need for any infrastructure”. This years theme is “Bitten by the Bug”.

Field Day is the largest on-the-air operating event sponsored by the ARRL. This event brings experienced Amateurs together with new Amateurs to share ideas, experiences, and create memories that last a lifetime. In addition, this is an operating event to test our emergency preparedness in situations we may not normally experience. While we have been fortunate to not have a major event in the Fresno area, we do have the potential for either an event occurring here or being the recipient of large numbers casualties and displaced survivors from events occurring in either Los Angeles or the San Francisco areas. It took the system failures of the Loma Prieta earthquake to teach us that all resources are needed when a major event occurs.

Many of us have been used to VHF and repeaters and talking locally or repeaters such as the Win System to other places. With the removal of the

code requirement, a new wave of Amateur Operators are looking to go where they have not gone before, and may not have the knowledge or expertise to get there.

Field Day 2007 has the opportunity for all Amateur Radio Operators to be able to learn new things, operate on all bands, and make interesting contacts.

There will be 6 operating categories. Class A is made up of any group (or club) with at least 3 persons that participate “in the field” away from normal station locations. Class B is for one or two persons also operating away from a traditional station location. Class C is for mobile stations. Class D is for home stations operating on commercial power. Class E is for home stations operating on emergency power. Class F is for stations operating from an established Emergency Operations Center (EOC). As you can tell there are a lot of possibilities for contacts. It is reported that June sunspots will be great for sporadic-E and long distance contacts.

There will be a Get-on-the-air (GOTA) stations. The purpose of the GOTA station is to encourage Novices, Technicians, and prospective Hams under the direct supervision of a licensed operator to get acquainted or re-acquainted with HF operations.

To obtain full information go to [www.arrl.org/contests/forms](http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms) or [www.arrl.org/fieldday](http://www.arrl.org/fieldday).

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# The Prez Sez

Field Day is coming on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Are you planning on joining our FARC Field Day Team this year? I sure hope so. It is a great time to get on HF with other club members and guests. Our Field Day Chairman, Pat Fennacy W6YEP and his crew, will be setting up the stations on Friday evening. Come and help and learn how to do it. If you have never operated HF or not operated very much, you can do so on our GOTA (Get On The Air) station. This station is setup specifically for you. There will be an experienced ham to show you the equipment, how to push the buttons and how to make contacts. You may be intimidated or unsure of yourself, but by working with others at Field Day, you can see how much fun it is to work HF. You don't even have to be licensed to operate, so bring others to show them our hobby.

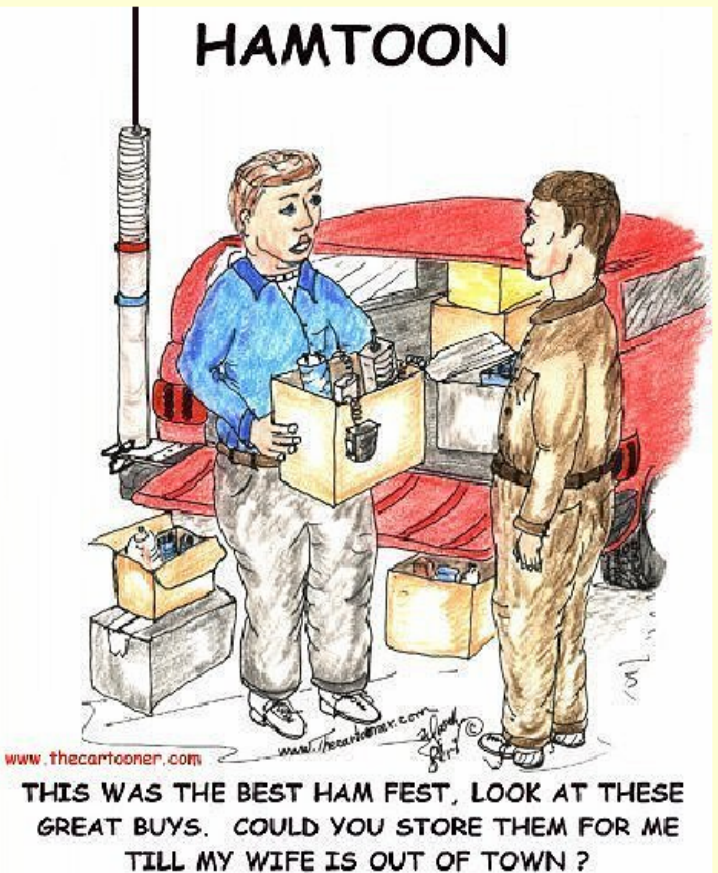
If you are experienced on HF, we need you too to man the stations for shifts throughout the 24 hour time period. Pat wants us to beat our scores from the past. You can choose to operate SSB or CW or both! We need everyone. If you can help before or after the contest, let Pat know. He and his setup team would appreciate the help. To get everyone familiar with Field Day (what it is, what we do and how we do it), our topic for our next club meeting will of course be "Field Day". Come, learn, ask questions and have fun. We would like to see you there.

As you might have heard, at the May Board of Directors Meeting, the directors were forced to look hard at the Hamfest planned for August. No matter which way we looked at it, with the main speaker telling us he wasn't able to attend this year and several vendors either going out of business or not able to attend, we found that we could not hold the

event this year. It was discussed in great detail and the board voted to cancel the event. It was not an easy decision. There are other clubs throughout the country finding themselves in a similar situation and having to cancel their events. Not that that makes it any easier to take. We would appreciate your understanding and if things work out, maybe it can be resumed next year.

On a different note, we are planning a FARC picnic at Fresno State on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 2pm until dusk. I've heard there will be games and we will have a potluck BBQ. Put it on your calendar and more information will follow. See everyone at the next club meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>! 73, Steve NA6G

## The Cartoonist's HAMTOONS Cartoons



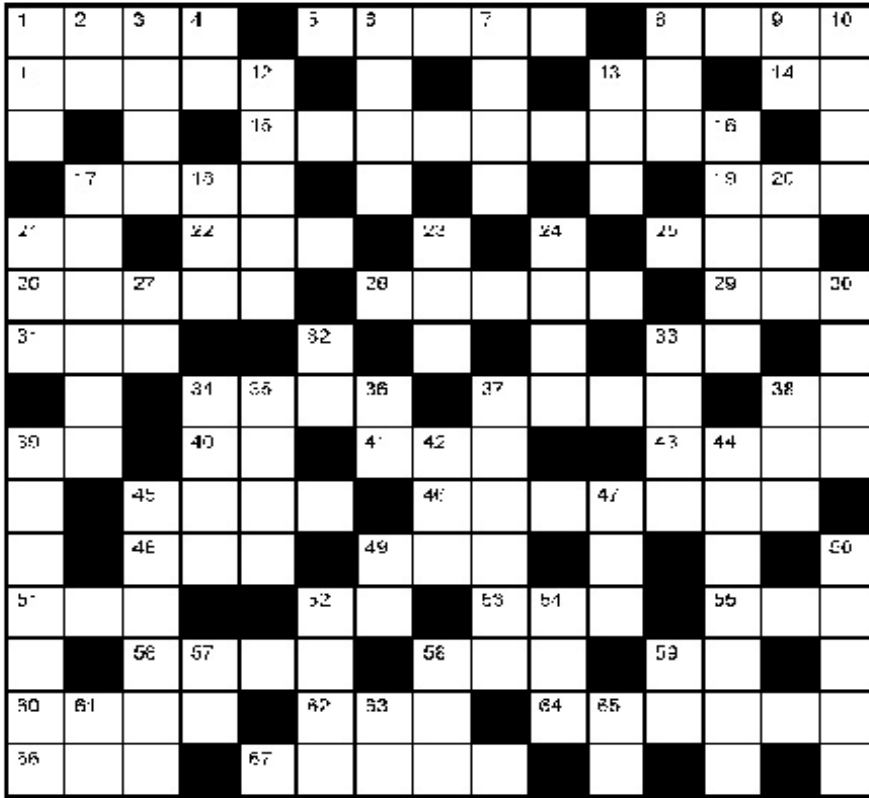
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Fresno Amateur Radio Club

The Amateur Radio "hamfest huggin" Crossword Puzzler—  
by H. Ward Silver NOAX



Across

1. Look through a large number of small things
5. What English does from left to right
8. A seller that cheats
11. Precious old equipment
13. AM and TV stations
14. Live or operating
15. Integer multiples
17. Place of entry
19. Bill
21. Amplifier whose output is the transmitted signal (abbr)
22. Month of CQ WW SSB contest (abbr)
25. Handy for carrying purchases
26. What happens when 25 Across is overloaded
28. The last offer
29. A group of things sold as one unit
31. Added to the sales price
33. Too much current or power (abbr)
34. What most customers seem to do best
37. Works for any purchase
38. Prefix of hams in Iraq
39. Prefix of long, skinny SA country
40. Prefix of hams next door to Iraq
41. You have to get this from the FCC to operate in a non-standard way (abbr)
43. One piece of gear
45. Where most hamfest stuff has apparently been stored
46. These radios hold boats in place
48. Not mine (CW abbr)
49. Period in time when things were done a certain way
51. One section of a sales booth or stand
52. One thousandth of a liter (abbr)
53. Logarithmic unit of power (abbr)
55. The real reason we go to hamfests
56. The Great Lake that borders Dayton's state
58. Gotta make this while the sun shines
59. Where a superhet gets its gain (abbr)
60. Overly technical individual
62. Rural electric utility (abbr)
64. Get interested or animated
66. Type of tower guy wire (abbr)
67. Dimples

Down

1. Apology (CW abbr)
2. Abbreviation that provides and explanation (Latin)
3. Type of market that's the same as a hamfest
4. Prefix of Costa Rican hams
6. How money is made the old fashioned way
7. Hamfest prize
8. Our regulatory agency
9. If it's too expensive, just say this
10. Attached to controls for convenience
12. Sometimes taken in payment
13. Make an offer
16. Seller's area
17. Where hamfest purchases often go
18. How steeply RF leaves an antenna (abbr)
20. In the past
21. Adjusts width of IF filtering (abbr)
23. Parts assembled by the buyer
24. Building in which Hamvention occurs
27. Prefix meaning "no longer"
30. Fine tuning adjustment
32. Abbreviation for telephone call
33. Home state to Dayton Hamvention
34. Rip
35. Ham position reporting system (abbr)
36. Sunflower state (postal code)
37. Our northern neighbor
38. Say this when the price is right
39. Place together as a unit
42. Smells bad when a transformer is overheated
44. Messages
45. Who should beware
47. This would be us
49. Type of backlight for LCD displays (abbr)
50. Often really "I want" (two words)
52. Small or miniscule
54. See ya later!
57. Abbreviation for a street or byway
58. Worn to prevent sunburn on the noggin
59. Many transistors in one package
61. The two fields of a radio wave
63. Prefix meaning to cause or promote



**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

THE DX CORNER  
 By  
 Charles McConnell W6DPD  
 THE DX CORNER  
 By  
 Charles McConnell W6DPD

ral 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.

Amateurs who are new to HF operation need to get a frequency chart so they will know where they can operate. I have heard a several new Generals operating outside of their bands. You don't want an OO notice or a Citation from the FCC. You can get a frequency chart from your March QST or download it from [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

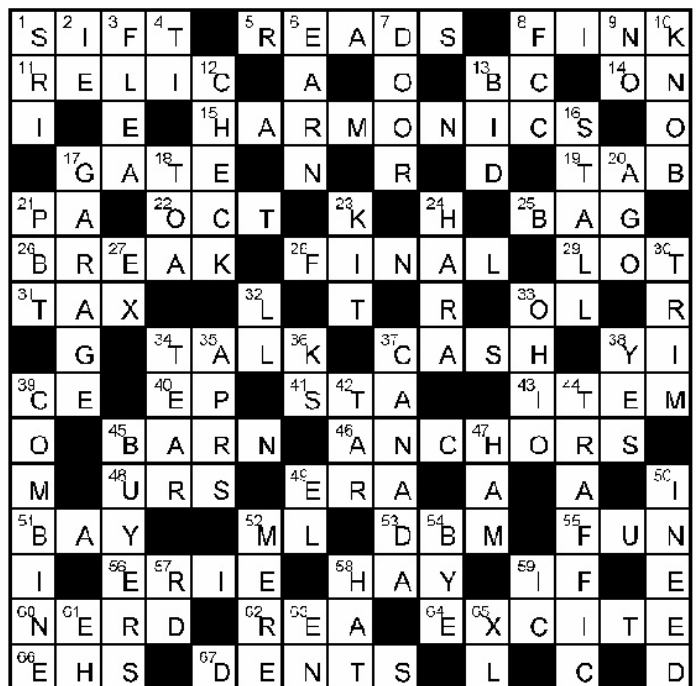
NOTICE: The address of the Sixth District QSL Bureau is now P. O. Box 970, Fairfax CA 94978-0970. You can send address labels and \$0.70 for each envelope to the address above. They will put 1 unit of First Class postage on the envelope. The new price was effective Jan. 01, 2006. With the increase in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

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. If you change your call sign, then you need to maintain envelopes for both call signs at the bureau, if you have been working DX with both call signs.

- The following operations are scheduled:
- Greenland OX3PG now to July 30, 2007
  - Bhutan A52VE April 2007 for 2 years
  - Rotuma 3D2R May to June 2007
  - Timor Leste 4W May 30 to June 4, 2007
  - Algalega 3B6 June 6 to June 18, 2007
  - Nunavut Territory VFOX June 29 to July 4, 2007
  - Anguilla VP2EREM June 28 to July 8, 2007
  - Botswana A22 July 6 to July 20 2007
  - Vanuatu YJ July 13 to July 21, 2007
  - Greenland OX/HB9FMO August 17 to August 27, 2007
  - St. Brandon Island 3B7C September 7 to 24, 2007
  - Niue ZK2 September 29 to October 12, 2007
  - Maldives 8Q7 Sometime in October 2007
  - Chatham ZL7 October 17 to October 30, 2007
  - Ducie Island VP6 February 2008
  - Clipperton Island FO/C March 2008

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 cor-

**Answers to The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler.**  
 By H. Ward Silver, N0AX May 8, 2007



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## ARRL Section Report

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for the month of April 2007:  
SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASMs K6YK and N2NS, ACC W6DPD, SEC N6ZFN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC KE6IGJ, TC W6TE.

Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section.

With the change in Part 97 of the FCC Rules eliminating the code exam as a requirement for upgrading, many Amateurs have upgraded to General and Extra Class. Congratulations to those getting upgraded licenses. Enjoy your new privileges. Technician Class Amateurs now enjoy limited HF privileges on 80, 40 and 15 CW and 10 meter SSB and CW. As the year progresses, more Amateurs will upgrade to General and Extra.

Just a reminder, the sidebands of your signal must be within the band edges. As a rule of thumb, on SSB you should operate no closer than 3 KHZ to the band edge to ensure that your sidebands remain within the band. On CW you can get closer to the band edge as the CW signal are not as wide as SSB signals, but your signals must remain within the band. Technicians may NOT operate FM on 10 meters. They may only operate SSB on 28.300 to 28.500 MHZ. FM on 10 meters can only be used between 29.5 and 29.7 MHZ.

New General Class Amateurs should get a frequency chart so they will know where their bands end. You can get a new frequency chart from the March 2007 QST or download it from the ARRL web page. Some new generals are operating outside the General Class bands. General Class Amateurs need to know where the General Class bands end and stay within them. You don't want to receive an OO notice or an FCC Citation for out of band operation.

Courtesy dictates that you should listen, and then ask if a frequency is in use before calling CQ. You need to call CQ when soliciting a contact on HF. Just giving your call sign on HF is not enough to usually get a contact.

If you desire your club information and events to be listed in Section News, please send the information to [w6dpd@arrl.org](mailto:w6dpd@arrl.org).

Mark your calendars. Los Banos ARC has a special event station active on May 12. Tuolumne Swap Meet June 2, 2007, 8 AM to 3 PM at the Sonora East Shopping Center in Sonora. Contact Jerry WA6AVR, [jerry.tanhhauser@us.army.mil](mailto:jerry.tanhhauser@us.army.mil) for information. Field Day 2007 is the fourth full weekend of June. The 65th Fresno Hamfest is August 4, 2007 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Fresno has been CANCELED. The California QSO Party is October 6-7, 2007. Check [www.cqp.org](http://www.cqp.org) for information. Pacificon 2007 is October 19-21, 2007 at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon CA. Check [www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org) for information. The International DX Convention is April 25-28, 2008 at Visalia. Check <http://www.dxconvention.org/> for information.

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. If you fail to update your club's information for 2 years, your club will be placed in the inactive file.

Need to take an Amateur exam? Check the ARRL web page, [www.arrl.org](http://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 3.533 MHZ at 7 PM Pacific Time. The slow speed training session of the net meets nightly on 3.533 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 noon time net meets on 7.268.5 MHZ. This net handles a lot of messages.

It is my sad duty to report that AD6Z William, K6LSK Ken, KJ6PZ Hugh WB6JDG, Erwin, and N6TST David are Silent Keys. They will be missed. N6TST was a cover plaque winner for his articles published in QST. He was the main speaker at the 2006 Fresno Hamfest.

Continued from page 5

### Ham Trivia

KB6CLV completed the ARECC Level One Course. Congratulations!!

The Kings ARC has returned to active status. New officers are pres KA6PNL, vp NW6K, sec WA7YHX, and treas N6SDD. The club meets the third Thursday in Hanford. Check [www.qsl.net/ka6q](http://www.qsl.net/ka6q) for information.

The Stockton-Delta ARC held a 440 MHZ homebrew antenna Shootout. K6YK had an 8 element beam built on a hockey stick.

SJV Clubs are providing communications support for the March of Dimes Walk America fundraiser.

SJV scores in the 2006 Phone Sweepstakes were: 1st WC6H, 2nd N6NZ and 3rd N6EE in the high power category. N6YMM had the high score in the SJV in the low power category. Congratulations!!

SJV scores in the 2006 ARRL 160 meter contest were 1st KA6BIM, 2nd K6OA, and 3rd N6IV. Congratulations!!

Congratulations to WB6NVB and KG6ZWZ on being elected to Life Membership in the ARRL.

K6XJ and W6UA were on the winning golf team at the golf tournament at the 2007 International DX Convention. Congratulations!! Several SJV hams won prizes at the DX Convention.

If you want an alternative to EBay, check out <http://www.californiaswap.net>.

Traffic for April: K6RAU 15 and W6SX 35. Total 50. PSHR: K6RAU 61 and W6SX 35.

There are many words and activities we do on a daily basis that once and awhile make you sit back and wonder — “Where did that come from?” Many of you experienced operators, probably know the origination and history of “73’s”. Being new to Amateur Radio, I didn’t recall reading any of the study manuals that referenced of how this came about. In doing a little internet research, the one article I found referenced that 73’s seemed to be created with Morse Code as a means to say Best Regards. However, there are many notations on the Internet to say that the proper transmission is “73” and not “73s” that we have seemingly adapted to voice communications. Here are some more items.

- 33 - Fondest Regards
- 55 - Best Success
- 73 - Best Regards (NOT 73'S) \*
- 88 - Love and kisses (NOT 88'S)

Of note for those of you with Ham Spouses, we can now say to you “161s”.


161 - 73+88=161" first came about in FOC circles (First-Class CW Operators' Club, founded by Louis Varney G5RV a number of years ago). The essential meaning is "Best regards to you and your XYL". 73's or should that be a 73?

### Ionic Propagation Simplified by NE5EE

Dave Gomberg, NE5EE, gave a great presentation at the Dx Convention in Visalia. In a nutshell, the sun ionizes and irradiates the atmosphere during the daytime causing ionospheric layers. The D-layer absorbs low frequencies with the lowest unabsorbed frequency being the lowest useable frequency (LUF). The D-layer also passes high frequencies with the end result of both decreasing propagation. The D-layer decays at night as it needs constant ionization to be formed leading to passing of frequencies to the F-layer. The F-layer is more stable at night The F-layer reflects lower frequencies and passes higher frequencies into space. The highest reflected frequency is the maximum useable frequency (MUF). Solar strength also influences layers.

During the day, the D-layer reflect low frequencies while the F-layer reflects high frequencies. At night, the D-layer passes everything and the F-layer reflects low frequencies and passes high frequencies. There is a VOAProp, propagation primer program, at [www.ae4rv.com/tn/propflash.htm](http://www.ae4rv.com/tn/propflash.htm)

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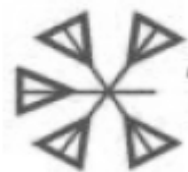
## ARES/RACES EMCOMM FOR FRESNO COUNTY

.The joint ARES/RACES May meeting began with introductions and Fresno County OES. Presided over by Wayne Fox and Matt Feryan, KI6ERG, of County OES, the previously screened applications for RACES inductees were then completed with the official "taking of the Oath" and Photos for the county credentials. Now as one entity we need only "switch hats" as needed to support served agencies in the county like the Red Cross, Blood Bank, hospitals or even parades, races and charities. In attendance the Red Cross were very open in their need for Amateur radio support. This gravitated the meeting to internal matters and the County excused themselves for the balance of the meeting.

On the agenda was the assigning of one weekly net. A new script or preamble was offered and some changes were made. Next week it will debut on the ARES net, but as of June 4, the ARES/RACES EMCOMM net will be held at 1930hrs local time on the N6HEW repeater, 147.15 MHz with positive offset and PL of 141.3. This will be the new home ARES/RACES. Monthly meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month at Manchester center Senior Center at 1900hrs local time. Hopefully this will provide a venue for all EmComm services to network.

The rest of the meeting was concerned with served agencies, planning and working together. The ARES Packet of information is nearly updated and should be finalized by June's meeting and will be uploaded to the ARES site as they are completed..

Anyone interested in information concerning training, volunteering or joining ARES, RACES or any other organization we want this to be a place to start. Check out both websites and feel free to contact us via the web or in person.---73 Dan, AE6SX



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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 2007

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 18th*

*Nov 17th*

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 pre-registration. More Info?? Contact Charles, W6DPD (559) 431-2038

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**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

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**2007 Fresno Amateur Radio Club Application**

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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 5912 Fresno Ca 93755-5912

**Upcoming 2007  
Fresno Amateur Radio  
Club  
Activities and Events**

**June 5-Board Meeting  
June 8 -Membership Mtg**



FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
P.O. Box 5912  
Fresno, CA 93755-5912

Send To: