



Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

AUGUST 2009 Volume 70, Issue 8

Our next meeting will be August 14 at 7:00 PM. This month's speaker will be **Larry Kramer, K6VLF**. Larry's topic "How Low Can You Go?" Meeting place: Cedar Lanes Bowl—Cedar & Shields Aves. Be sure to come and enjoy the camaraderie with your fellow hams..



## *The Prez Sez*

### **FARC General Meetings**

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

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#### 2009 FARC BOARD MEETING DATES

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

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### **FARC Nets**

Morning Drive Time Net:  
Weekday mornings-7:30—  
8:00 a.m.

W6TO/R 146.940

### **Tech Net:**

Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm  
W6TO/R 146.940

### **FARC Net:**

Sundays @ 7:00 pm  
W6TO/R 146.940

CQ, CQ,

The temperature should be going down in the next few days. I know we have all put our projects on hold and we all have a long list for the cooler months head. At the breakfast gathering, Yosemite Falls on Blackstone and Shaw, there is talk on new towers, rebuilding and putting up new wire. It seems like all of us have a project waiting for the weather to turn cooler.



We take for granted our members who are doing the nets; Sunday night net, Drive Time Ben & Monte, Tec Net with Jack and I would like to thank them for giving up their time to do this for FARC. Also our members who pull monthly duty on Sunday night net.

We have election coming up soon, throw your name in the pot and serve a term on the BOD. Our swap meet is in November at Cedar Lanes, this is a biggie for our members. Hamfest Oct 17th this is a must. The one and only K6QI is our chair, call him and see what you can do to help. Thanks for taking on this event Craig.

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Fresno Amateur Radio Club

### FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### FARC Officers:

Tom Jarvis, Pres. - KG6KYU	<a href="mailto:kg6kyu@w6to.com">kg6kyu@w6to.com</a>	(559) 916-2445	12/2009
Ken Holden, V.P. - WA6OIB	<a href="mailto:wa6oib@w6to.com">wa6oib@w6to.com</a>	(559) 323-6753	12/2010
Jim Erbe, Sectry - WA6NIF	<a href="mailto:wa6nif@w6to.com">wa6nif@w6to.com</a>	(559) 222-7524	12/2009
Ron Hunt, Treas - N6MTS	<a href="mailto:n6mts@w6to.com">n6mts@w6to.com</a>	(559) 289-8514	12/2010

#### Board Members:

Aaron Lusk: K6USY	<a href="mailto:k6usy@w6to.com">k6usy@w6to.com</a>	(559) 301-1022	12/2010
John McGraw: AE6QR	No E-Mail	(559) 255-2349	12/2010
Steve Brunt: K6AAB	<a href="mailto:k6aab@w6to.com">k6aab@w6to.com</a>	(559) 696-4319	12/2009
Chuck McConnell: W6DPD	<a href="mailto:w6dpd@w6to.com">w6dpd@w6to.com</a>	(559) 431-2038	12/2010
Jack Baker: AC6LT	<a href="mailto:ac6lt@cvi.net">ac6lt@cvi.net</a>	(559) 297-4311	12/2010
Joseph Capell: W0PJD	<a href="mailto:W0PJD@me.com">W0PJD@me.com</a>	(559) 225-3582	12/2009
Dan Pruitt: AE6SX	<a href="mailto:ae6sx@arrl.net">ae6sx@arrl.net</a>	(559) 779-2974	12/2009

Mark your calendars for every Thursday, for the lunch gathering at the *Silver Dollar Hofbrau* at the corner of Hwy 41 and Shaw. It starts at 12 noon and there is a table reserved in the back room.

Also every Monday and Saturday at the *Country Waffles* at Blackstone and Dakota starting at 7am.

Lastly, Breakfast every Tuesday at *Yosemite Falls Cafe* at Blackstone and Shaw starting at 8am.

**NEW! HamFest 2009 Southwestern Division Convention**  
**August 15 at the Earl Warren Show-ground's in Santa Barbara.**



**IOTA's islands** and the Lighthouse-Lightship Week waft some cool marine breezes across the next couple of weekends. Summertime conditions may not be as spectacular as those of the fall contest season, but there is plenty to do and what could be more picturesque to imagine as you add to your logbook?

## Amateur Radio Event Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>		
		Aug 15-16	ARRL 10 GHz & Up Contest
		Aug 21	SJVARS Meeting
		Aug 25	QCWA Lunch
Aug 1	CCDXC Breakfast (Carrow's)	Sept 1	FARC BOD Meeting
Aug 1	NA QSO Party—CW	Sept 3	Madera ARC Meeting
Aug 1	SJVARS VE Exam	Sept 4	CARP Meeting
Aug 1	10-10 In'l Summer Contest	Sept 5	CCDXC Breakfast Meeting
Aug 4	FARC BOD Meeting	Sept 11	FARC Meeting
Aug 8-9	NA QSO Party—SSB	Sept 12-13	ARRL VHF Contest
Aug 7	CARP Meeting (Senior Bldg)	Sept 18	SJVARS Club Meeting
Aug 14	FARC Meeting	Sept 20	North America Sprint
Aug 15	ARRL SW Conv. Santa Barbara	Sept 22	QCWA Lunch
Aug 15	FARC VE Exam		

EDITOR'S COMMENTS by Dave Smith W6TE

Dear FARC Friends,

Please don't forget the club picnic this next Saturday at Ken and Gwynn's residence, 2549 E. Copper Ave. Their house is about 1/2 mile West of Willow Ave. on Copper (across from the golf course). There is a map in last month's SKIP. If you get lost you can call the house at 323-6753.

Unfortunately, the picnic is the same weekend as the ARRL's UHF contest. John, K6MI and I will be heading South for the weekend to compete. Our roving plans will take us through the desert exclusively and we won't be coming through the San Joaquin Valley this time.

I received an email from friend and past FARC member Charles Beaudreault, WL7CW. As you may recall, Charles graduated from CSUF a few years ago with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Charles is employed as an Engineer with Arctic Slope World Services, Pacific Alaskan Range Complex and works on designing SCADA systems. Charles says "I bought a rundown house (duplex) in down town North Pole, Alaska.....so you have a

place to stay when you come up next summer. I'll be putting antennas up soon." Sooo... With that invitation, I vote we have the club picnic in North Pole, Alaska next year.

There's been quite a discussion going on lately about the size of corn in the Fresno State corn fields compared to the size of corn that is raised by our own Lancaster, PA., transplanted DX'er, Jim, WS6X. There's speculation that the 3 foot taller WS6X corn fields may have something more to do with the special RF fertilizer that Jim puts out, than his farm education by the Amish teachers. Hehehehe... Bob, N2NS pointed out that Jim's corn field might turn, into a "pop corn" field after his SteppIR antenna is installed. We'll have to wait and see. When we had the station at Fresno State going I didn't notice any difference in the corn height. I did, however, see a few cows glowing in the dark after a contest...

The Fresno Hamfest continues to gain momentum. We have several presenters committed for the technical forums. The main (continued on page 16)

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Membership Attendance for July—No Winner



## Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Offset</i>	<i>PL</i>
AARC	WB6QDN	146.610	-	NONE
CARP	K6ARP	147.675	-	141.3
CARP	N6JXL	224.380	-	141.3
CARP	K6ARP	444.725	-	141.3
CARP	NI6M	440.350	+	141.3
CONDOR	WB6BRU	224.900	-	156.7
FARC	W6TO	146.940	-	NONE
FARC	W6TO	223.940	-	NONE
FARC	W6TO	444.200	-	NONE
FRESNO	N6MTS	145.230	-	141.3
KINGS ARC	KA6Q	145.110	-	100.0
KJ6KO	KJ6JO	927.6625/902.0125	-	146.2
MADERA ARC	W6WGZ	147.180	+	NONE
MADERA ARC	W6WGZ	441.175	-	146.2
QCWA	WQ6CWA	146.850	-	141.3
RACES	N6HEW	147.150	+	141.3
SJVARs	KE6JZ	146.820	-	141.3
TURLOCK ARC	W6BXN	147.030	+	100.0
WA6NIF	WA6NIF	444.100	+	100.0
WIN/SYSTEM	K6JSI	147.790	-	141.3
WIN/SYSTEM	K6JSI	223.780	-	141.3

### ***Birthdays, Anniversary's***

#### ***Birthdays:***

Jim Nelson W6ALE  
 Ken Holden WA6OIB  
 Susan Barker KI6ZOT  
 Troy Ford KI6ZOY

#### ***Anniversaries:***

Troy & Anita Ford KI6ZOY, KI6ZOZ

#### ***Silent Keys:***

Grant Storey, W6NTK, passed away last week. Grant had been a long time member of FARC. Grant lived in Bishop, CA and was always interested in the happenings of the club. Grant was 90 years old in January.




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Really, really, really long-delayed echoes were received on March 25th as [echoes off the planet Venus](#) by a team from the German space organization AMSAT-DL! EVE (Earth-Venus-Earth) is the farthest distance crossed by radio amateurs; over 100 times further than echoes from the Moon. The high power amplifier used for the test and described in the current AMSAT-DL journal is a key component for the planned P5-A Mars mission. The EVE experiment was repeated on Thursday, March 26th for several hours with good echoes from Venus. Morse code was used to transmit the well-known "HI" signature of the [AMSAT](#) OSCAR satellites, beginning with OSCAR-1. (from the AMSAT Weekly Bulletin AMS-088)

**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

**AMATEUR OF THE MONTH, Monte Lamont KD6DRY, by Joe Capell W0PJD**

If you listen or participate in the daily AM drive net, you will recognize the voice of this month's ham bio, Armand (Monte) Lamont, KD6DRY and his co-host Ben, W6GBS.

Monte began life in Europe, in Belgium, but moved here with his parents to Watsonville in northern California in 1924.

He graduated from Watsonville High School where he first became interested in radio, building a crystal set in 1936 and volunteering at a local radio station. In 1941 he took an adult school class in radio production. He joined (was drafted) into the Army Air Corp in 1942 at the age of 20.

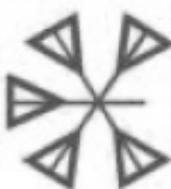
Eventually he ended up in the special services division in Armed Forces Radio in Agra, India at the Central India Air Depot as an engineer for a 50 Watt AM station, VU2ZW for almost three years.



When the war wound down, he returned to the US, married, and worked as a radio repair man at an appliance store back in Watsonville. He then began a 26+ year career at Fort Ord repairing and inspecting radio and electronic installations, still not a ham but surrounded by them.

His first ham license was in 1991, a "codeless tech" and he advanced to general two years ago. He was just two questions short of the Amateur Extra class license the following year—quite an accomplishment for a fellow in his mid eighties.

His favorite aspect of amateur radio is helping people and answering questions. He lives in Clovis with his son and his family for the last five years where he maintains his HF and FM stations in a room covered with pictures of his long and fruitful career and family life.



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FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PRESENTS

# 66TH ANNUAL HAMFEST

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## October 17th 2009

**JOTA Special**

**Event Station**

### 8 am—2 pm

### Salvation Army Event Center

### 1854 Fulton Street Fresno CA 93721

### Talk-In: 146.94 -dup 141.3 pl (starting at 7 AM)

For More Information, contact

Hamfest Chair Craig Carter, K6QI at

k6qi@yahoo.com Or (559) 284-1722

Visit FARC on the web: [www.w6to.com](http://www.w6to.com)



FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
PRESENTS

### 66TH ANNUAL HAMFEST

Mail to

Fresno Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
C/O Craig Carter, K6QI  
856 Pistachio

#### HAMFEST REGISTRATION

Name/Call \_\_\_\_\_

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Description	Qty.	Price	Subtotal
<input type="checkbox"/> Tickets	_____	\$5.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Swap Meet	_____	\$5.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch	_____	\$5.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Requests	_____		_____

Order total: \_\_\_\_\_

## WWW.W6TO.COM for more HAMFEST Info!

**SQUIRREL CANON by Jim Clymer WS6X**

First a confession: I am about to tarnish my reputation as a peace-loving, quiet, easy-to-live-with, next-door neighbor. Well... truth be told, I'm probably well past the "about to" phase! Let me start at the beginning. You be the judge after you hear my side of the story.



My back yard is host to a bunch of obnoxious, noisy, scolding red squirrels. Not only do they drive my cats nuts, but their refusal to acknowledge the finer aspects of property ownership – like the right to quiet enjoyment – finally got to the point that I HAD to do something. (Please bear in mind, I haven't even mentioned their most infuriating behavior -- digging up my expensive plants, stealing most of my fruits and nuts before I get a chance at them, planting mondo tap root pecan trees all over my property... the kind you have to rent a back-hoe to pull out, and worst of all... barking in my face... you know, trying to tell ME to get off MY property!) Well! I was not about to allow a bunch of gnarly-toothed disgusting little rodents drive me from my back yard!

My first attempt at offense (eradication) was to purchase some very lethal bait blocks. Alas, my wife's teary, "Oh those poor little things!" brought a halt to that stroke of brilliance. Squirrels – 1, WS6X – 0. Dang!

My next attempt was to run their furry little butts off the property every chance I got. I cut several bamboo sticks about 3 feet long and stacked them on the patio, so I could easily grab one as I charged out the back door in hot pursuit. Actually, this was a gratifyingly effective concept. The bamboo "spears" were quite accurate, and I honestly believe that the element of surprise initially had the little critters so confused that they froze in place. My first two sorties scored direct hits! Admittedly, I didn't permanently remove those two squir-

rels, but judging from the screams and panicky flight, I'm sure I put the fear of the beast in their little hearts!

Let's face it. I'm 64 years old and weigh 200 pounds. How long do you think I could sustain this campaign? Time to find a new fix. (Please bear in mind, I haven't mentioned that one of my spears came back to earth and harpooned my wife's prized Ambrosia lily. I'm also not mentioning that another errant hurl landed on my neighbors garage roof, and that I nearly lost the seat of my Huggies when I tried to retrieve it -- under the cover of darkness, of course -- when I thought their nasty little terrier had been put inside for the night!) Squirrels – 2, WS6X – 0. Dang!

My final attempt was to purchase a slingshot and a large, economy size pack of steel balls. You should have seen the evil glint in my eye as I left the sporting goods store! Those little beggars are history!! Well, you probably get the picture. I quickly decided that sneaking around in the backyard, aiming a slingshot up in the trees... You'd be surprised how "low" those 6-foot fences seem when you don't want your neighbors to see what's going on next door! (Please bear in mind, I haven't mentioned that those little rascals simply would NOT hold still! All I ever got was a mouthful of shredded leaves and dirt!) Squirrels – 3, WS6X – 0. Dang!

With Field Day fast approaching I put the squirrels out of mind and began a long overdue project. For years I had been meaning to "invent" a superior method of getting wire antennas into the trees. Sling shots were too inaccurate (see attempt #3, above) and crossbows would have had the neighbors calling the sheriff. When I stumbled across a spud gun design article, and then watched inventive hams adapt the design to create antenna launchers, I got excited!

**SQUIRREL CANON by Jim Clymer WS6X**

After a lot of research, and for one reason or another, rejecting all the designs I could find, this spring I decided to roll my own. What you see in the photo below is the finished product – what I consider a superior design to anything I have seen published.

But wait – it gets better! One afternoon, as I was putting the finishing touches on my masterpiece, my wife joined me in the back yard. After quietly observing for a few minutes, she proudly exclaimed, “I know what you’re build-

ing. A squirrel canon!!”

Don’t ya’ have to love that little lady? Think about it – she just gave me super ammunition for Attempt # 4!!

Editor’s note: Jim says he is willing to divulge his design secrets to any club member who is interested in building this amazing weapon. Total cost when purchasing everything off the shelf... about \$50. Build time if you are good with tools... 2-3 hours.



**OPERATING TIP:**

Summertime low-band DX is NOT an oxymoron! Remember that in the Southern Hemisphere, it's the dead of winter and their QRN levels are at their lowest levels of the year. Cowboy up, brave the static crashes, and you might find some juicy multipliers!

**THE DX CORNER by Charles McConnell W6DPD**

If you want help with DX, you can contact the local members of the Central California DX Club for some assistance. Charles W6DPD 431-2038, Perry K6XJ 299-2802, or Jim WS6X 292-8353 can give you advice. The big thing about finding DX is to tune the bands. Check out the Central California DX Club Web page at <http://www.ccdxc.org> for information and useful links.



The local DX'ers meet on the first Saturday of the month for breakfast at Carrow's, 4280 N. Blackstone in Fresno. The group gathers between 0700 and 0800. All are welcome.

The address of the Sixth District QSL Bureau is P. O. Box 970, Fairfax CA 94978-0970. You can send up to 10 address labels and \$0.70 for each envelope to the address above. They will put 1 unit of First Class postage on the envelope.

Postage rates around the world are constantly changing. To see current rates go to <http://www.qsl.net/w9ol/IRC Chart.htm> where you can find the current postal rates for most of the countries of the world. Effective May 12, 2009, US overseas airmail is 98¢ per ounce and postage to Canada is 75¢ per ounce and Mexico is 79¢ per ounce. IRC purchases are \$2.10 each. The current series of IRCS expire on Dec. 31, 2009. A new series will be available beginning July 1, 2009.

If you don't get a DX Bulletin and you belong to ARRL, you should register on the members only web page and check the box for the ARRL DX Bulletin. This one is emailed each Thursday. Or you can go to the ARRL web page in the News/ Bulletin section and view

the bulletins there. You can also read the OPDX Bulletin or the 425 DX Bulletin on the web. Search OP DX Bulletin or 425 DX Bulletin to get the URL. You can subscribe to the Daily DX, Weekly DX or QRZ DX too. These bulletins will keep you informed of DX operations and QSL information.

**The following operations are scheduled:**

- Marshall Islands V73NS through 2009 ++
  - Martinique FM/F5IRO Now through Feb 2009
  - Wake Is. KH9/WA2YUN now until end of 2009
  - Bhutan A52VE April 2007 for 2 years
  - Djibouti J2800 soon for at least a year
  - Crozet FT5WO Dec 15, 2008 to Nov 2009
  - Chesterfield Is. TX3A Nov 23 to Dec 7, 2009
  - Central African Republic TL0A, after Jan 1, 2009 active now
  - Macedonia Z30MCWG Feb 20 to Dec 31, 09
  - Glorioso FT/G POSTPONED UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST 2009 Maybe!!
  - Norfolk Island VK9NI July 22 to July 29, 2009
  - Crete SV9/WB2GAI Aug 2 1 to Oct 5, 2009
  - Curacao PJ2/PA1FJ Sep 24 to Oct 7, 2009
  - Australis TX5SPA Sep 29 to Oct 12, 2009
  - Conway Reef 3D2/C Oct 3 to Oct 10, 2009
  - Midway K4M October 5 to October 19, 2009
  - Sable Island CY0 Oct 7 to Oct 14, 2009
  - Marquesas TX5SPM Oct 16 to Oct 22, 2009
  - Spratly Islands sometime in 2009
  - Easter Island CE0Y Oct to Nov 2009
  - Madagascar 5R8IC Nov 17 to Dec 15, 2009
  - Aves Island YV0A late 2009
  - Juan Fernandez XR0ZN March-April 2010
  - Central Kiribati T31 End of September 2010
  - Tokelau ZK3 April 2010
- 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 corral 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.



### Fresno Amateur Radio Club

### FRESNO ENCOMM ARES/RACES by Dan Pruitt AE6SX

July 24, 2009- This month featured a considerable amount of housekeeping.

Projects begun years ago came to fruition. We had out of area ARES visitors. Reflections of past events and new events being discussed and scheduled by persons with new positions. A working Month.



First July started with a bang. Our Asst. ARES EC, Joe Cardozza, WA6FFJ, who is a member of CERT, found himself and our own Captain Dwaine Braezeale, of the Salvation Army up on the fire site over the San Joaquin. Both were there with their respective organizations at the request of the Fresno Fire Department to assist as needed. Salvation Army kept everyone hydrated and fed. CERT responders (some are our ARES and RACES Volunteers) helped out. Contained with the loss of only one structure, to my knowledge. Cause of the fire, kids and fireworks.

After evaluating that event, those that participated in the Field Day exercise at the SATERN EOC were given the opportunity to reflect. Even a good event can show room for improvement and though successful, we want next year or any event at the EOC to be the best it can be. One thing we want is more operators! Mark your calendars now for next year. You need not be a member of ARES/RACES/SATERN, but you can try it on for size!

Before Field Day, I received an inquiry about ARES from a displaced couple from Oregon. Turns out Robert, KE7SAD, and Sheila, KE7SAE, Traina of Reedsport, Or; are here

for the duration of a relatives convalescence. Veterans of their organization there, we welcomed them and their comments at our meeting.

Upcoming events are Amateur Awareness Day in September, Hamfest and JOTA in October and there is preliminary talk about an exercise in the inland region about an earthquake

After about 3 years, we now have a banner! We want to thank everyone for their donations and The Salvation Army for recommending their Graphic Designer "NEW IMAGE Designs, Inc." and helping us with the cost over runs.



Finally our monthly program consisted of Don Pearson, W6WWT's "Portable Repeater". Sporting 2 large suitcases, hoisted up and opened like clam shells, to reveal a complete system! Crystaled originally for the 147.18/78 Madera repeater. About a year ago Don approached me with the idea of making his unit available to Fresno ARES/RACES if needed. Sounded like a great idea. He felt that there would be no need to retune the cavities since our repeater was so close at 147.15/75. He made it happen. He made some successful basic tests with us, so now we can rely on one more tool.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

(FRESNO ENCOMM ARES/RACES CONTINUED)

During his presentation, he demonstrated the planning and every conceivable situation that might arise. This all gleaned from his decades of maintaining repeaters. He had every means of powering, including internal batteries to run for up to 4 days. Spares, Antenna, tools, cavity duplexer. A real marvel. Our hat is off to Don and we thank him for considering us. Our best 73.

**NET:** Monday 1930 hours local on 147.150+, PL 141.3

Monthly meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each Month Salvation Army Citadel, 1854 N. Fulton St 1900 hrs.

EmComm and Coffee. Time is 0830 hours. Yosemite Falls Cafe on Blackstone, just North of Shaw

Check out the websites [www.fresnoares.com](http://www.fresnoares.com) or [www.fresno-races.net](http://www.fresno-races.net) . You can contact us on the website or me directly at [ae6sx@fresnoares.com](mailto:ae6sx@fresnoares.com) .

73 TU ,.

Join us on the net at 1930 hours local, on Monday.

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**ARLS005 Space Shuttle Endeavour to Deploy Student-Built Satellites**

The space shuttle Endeavour is due to land Friday, July 31, but before it leaves orbit it will deploy four student-built satellites, all with telemetry downlinks in the 2 meter, or 70 cm, amateur bands.

The twin spherical satellites -- named Castor and Pollux -- were designed by students in cooperation with the Naval Research Laboratory as part of the Atmospheric Neutral Density Experiment (ANDE). Both satellites will

transmit 1200-baud packet radio telemetry on 145.825 MHz. Hams are encouraged to submit telemetry reports with special QSLs and mission patches planned. Check the ANDE Web site, [http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/station/science/experiments/STP-H2-ANDE.ht](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/science/experiments/STP-H2-ANDE.ht) or updates.

Castor and Pollux will carry an FX.25 experiment that adds Forward Error Correction to standard AX.25 packets. The hope is that FX.25 will improve communication efficiency while still being compatible with existing packet equipment. The satellites will also occasionally run GMSK/FX.25 modulation experiments at 9600 baud.

In addition to Castor and Pollux, Endeavour will also deploy student satellites from the University of Texas and Texas A&M. The tiny picosatellites, christened BEVO-1 and AggieSat2 respectively, are part of an ambitious experiment that will ultimately culminate in autonomous docking of picosats in orbit. For this mission, however, BEVO-1 and AggieSat2 will launch as one unit and then separate to collect position data and test a new NASA Global Positioning System receiver known as DRAGON.

BEVO-1 will transmit Morse code beacons (20 WPM) or packet radio data telemetry at 437.325 MHz. AggieSat2 will beacon at 436.250 MHz. The satellites will primarily transmit 9600-baud packet telemetry when over the United States. As with Castor and Pollux, reception reports are welcome.

Orbiting at a relatively low altitude of 185 miles, these satellites should be easy to receive with standard FM transceivers and omnidirectional antennas. They should enjoy an operational life of 3-6 months and will likely re-enter the Earth's atmosphere within a year.

**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

**"CONTESTING" By John Morrice K6MI**

**2009 ARRL International DX Contest (CW) Febuary 2009**

The good news is that scores were on the rise from the horrid band conditions seen in the 2008 running. Steve, K6AAB had 231 contacts with 96 multipliers in the low power category, second highest in the San Joaquin Valley Section, and fifth highest in the Pacific Division. K6MI, John, was first in the section in the QRP category and third in the division. NA6G, Steve, rounded out our club members entrees. This is a great contest to work DX in the CW mode.



Displaying entries for **Section=SJV**

Entries 1 to 13 of 13 listed

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	PWR	1-Band	Section	US Call Area	Club
1	WC6H	162,255	387	145	S	C		SJV	6	Mother Lode DX/Contest
2	KD6UO	118,026	247	166	SA			SJV	6	NCCC
3	AF6EV	108,756	328	114	S	B		SJV	6	Northern Rockies DX Assoc
4	K6YK	92,664	293	108	S	C		SJV	6	
5	K6AAB	65,952	231	96	S	B		SJV	6	NCCC
6	KD4HXT	30,429	158	69	S	B		SJV	6	NCCC
7	K6LE	21,450	136	55	SA			SJV	6	
8	K6CSL	16,170	121	49	S	B		SJV	6	NCCC
9	W6SX	15,510	94	55	S	C		SJV	6	NCCC
10	K6MI	6,831	70	33	S	A		SJV	6	NCCC
11	NZ6Q	5,589	72	27	S	B		SJV	6	NCCC
12	NE6M	2,793	50	19	S		15	SJV	6	
13	NA6G	2,442	39	22	S	B		SJV	6	NCCC

Here's a note from Jon, W0XQ/R, about roving on the East coast.

August 1 and 2 will take us up the spectrum for the ARRL's UHF contest (rules at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/uhf.html>.) In parallel with the ARRL UHF contest, 2009 marks the sixth year running that the Northern Lights Radio Society (NLRs) is regionally sponsoring Rovermania !. Rovermania ! has the expressed purpose of generating activity and fun on the bands above 222 through roving. Regional information about Rovermania ! can be found on the NLRs website at <http://www.nlrs.org/RoverMania/index.htm>.

(Continued on next page)

*(Contesting continued from page 12)*

To foster UHF contest activity the NLRS has also sponsored a Limited Rover Award (not to be confused with the newer ARRL "Limited Rover" category) just for the ARRL UHF contest and Rovermania ! - full rules can be found at <http://www.nlrs.org/LimitedRover/index.htm>.

Last years NLRS Limited Rover award winners were Dave, N9TTX/R (1st) and Mike, WB8BZK (2nd) - note that the rules state that the winners can be located anywhere in the US or Canada.

The UHF contest is ideal for roving as you can leave the monster 6m & 2m antennas at home and amazing distances can be covered on the high bands.

Most rovers will tell you that 222 through 902/903 often out perform 2m from the roverbmobile. Last year we were blessed with some nice regional tropo here in Minnesota and I can remember working huge S9 signals out to 300 miles on the uW bands - what a hoot.

2009 also marks the first year for club competition in the UHF contest. What club will be the first to win the first ever UHF club competition?

Mark August 1/2 in your calendars. Don't forget that this is just a 24 hour contest, so don't plan to get on Sunday evening to hand out a few Q's as it will be over by then! And most important, send in your log for this is the year we go over 200 logs.

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**—STUFF—**

Craig, K6QO writes: Skip, K6YRZ and I have started meeting at or around 3.870 on Sunday evenings at 20:15 (+/-) local. We're doing vintage equipment AM. Anyone with a rig capable of trans-

mitting in AM mode, modern or vintage, is welcome to join in.

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Paul, W6VPS, send this in regarding PL-259 connectors:

**Buy top quality PL-259 Amphenol connectors.**

83-1SP is best overall. It's the "original" PL-259 design, with a silver plated body and pin and a very robust dielectric. The -1050 is "Astroplate," which is mostly bright nickel and difficult to solder to, making it -- for most of us -- a real pain in the butt to use. I don't bother with them.

The Teflon dielectric version has no real advantage over the standard -1SP at all. These connectors are intended for use below 300 MHz, anyway, and the standard dielectric is perfect in that frequency range. Teflon has a higher breakdown voltage rating, so if you're running high power with a terrible SWR, it might handle it better; but the "ordinary" -1SP can handle 1500W with SWR = 10:1 or so, easily. De WB2WIK/6

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**Technical Web Site of the Week** - Just how hot is that transistor? Save your fingertip and use a non-contact infra-red thermometer. [Omega Instruments](#) sells a number of such devices, starting in the \$80 range and [Harbor Freight](#) is another excellent source. (Thanks, Bob WA2CKY and Bill W6WRT)

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Ponzi schemes have been in the news of late. International Reply Coupons are no longer issued but many hams had decades of experience using them to send along with QSLs, before they were replaced by "Green Stamps." Italian immigrant and Bostonian Charles Ponzi (for whom the scheme is named) used IRC-laundering for the basis of his larceny in the 1920s, buying them at a discount overseas and redeeming them for full price in the U.S. Or so he told his gullible "customers." (Thanks, Jim K1TN)

## Fresno Amateur Radio Club

(THE PREZ SEZ — continued from page 1)

Our summer Picnic will be August. 1st. Thanks to Ken and Gwen for hosting this event.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on August 14th.

73s, Tom

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I am Dan Pruitt, AE6SX. As of 1 July, 2009, it is my pleasure to serve you as Section Manager of San Joaquin Valley. I'm looking forward to assist you with any of your ARRL and Amateur Radio Concerns.

Please add my contact information to your address books. Feel free to pass along any News Letters, Reports and Club, personal or event related activities. Even the small ones can inspire.

Dan Pruitt, AE6SX  
4834 N. Diana Street  
Fresno, CA 93726  
559-779-2974  
[ae6sx@arrl.org](mailto:ae6sx@arrl.org)

73 T U  
de ae6sx

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Les Rayburn wrote:  
Can we dare hope that this means the league will move to add VUCC to the awards list for Logbook of the World at long last?

Looks like we may see it before the end of 2009! Is it time to get everyone thinking about uploading their logs to LotW?

73,

Tad Danley, K3TD  
EM10dq

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Jerry Jackson, W6KEG, writes:

Dave,

I have noticed that there seems to be some confusion in regards to giving signal reports. I snagged this PDF file from another club. I think it would be helpful. Thanks and 73.

### Signal Report

#### Readability Signal Strength

1-Unreadable 1-Barely perceptible  
2-Barely readable 2-Very weak  
3-Readable with difficulty 3-Weak  
4-Readable with little effort 4-Fair  
5-Perfectly readable 5-Fairly good  
6-Good  
7-Moderately strong  
8-Strong

**Example:** 9-Extremely strong

*Your Signal Report is 5 by 9*

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Here is the latest proposed list for the FARC's Sunday night net. Dan and Keith switched months, if that will work for everyone.

The FARC net has had a great first seven months of 2009. Thanks to all Net Control stations, for your dedication and service to the club.

The net is a valuable asset to the club, and has consistently been going since 1976.

How is the schedule holding up? Let me know if anything needs to be changed or switched, or if you know of someone that would like to take some evenings.

How about:

July Paul W6VPS THANKS! Great Job!  
August Joe W6FFJ  
Sept John K6MI Yikes, I think the second weekend I'll be roving...  
Oct. Jerry W6KEG  
Nov. Keith WB6CXX  
Dec. Dan AA6SX

Ted has been a great sub, if one is needed.

Any ideas or requests?

Thanks,  
John, K6MI

k6mi at pacbell.net

**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

From Jim Clymer, WS6X

W A R N I N G

As one who climbs towers regularly, I cringe when I read about yet another ham who has fallen to his death. Yes, there are occasions when "things go bad" – things which are completely out of one's control. For the most part, however, tower accidents are the result of improper preparation, undiscovered faulty equipment, or simple carelessness. **THESE ARE ACCIDENTS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED!**

Folks, you may impugn every word that has ever come out of my mouth, but please heed this warning:

With tower / antenna work there is nothing like a second chance! Every decision you make has the potential of being your last! You only get one chance to make a fatal mistake!

How else can I say it to make it more imperative? Do yourself and your family a favor... Never, ever set foot on a tower until you know the consequences of every aspect of your project. Use safety equipment! Check and double check all hardware, rigging and every piece of equipment associated with the project. Never work alone! Never work when you are drowsy, or not feeling well. Stay off towers in inclement weather – especially during storms and windy conditions. Never assume you're smart enough to outwit the laws of physics! Common sense rules!

Don't take my word for it. Purchase a copy of the tower worker's Bible: "Up the Tower" from Champion Radio Products. As a minimum, please go to: <http://www.championradio.com/tn-topten-mistakes.html>, and read "The Ten Most Common Tower Building Mistakes." This will help you better understand the life and death "realities" of your tower and antenna system.

Be safe folks, BE SAFE!

Digital TV may be less susceptible to the usual types of TVI, but as more people add antennas and preamps to receive the signals in fringe areas, overload from nearby ham transmitters may be a problem. Since most DTV signals are

now in the high-VHF or UHF channels above 2 meters, a high-pass filter with a cutoff frequency below channel 7 (174 MHz) would work well. [Microwave Filter Company](#) series 3378 head-end filters are an example. They can be installed between an antenna and DTV receiver or preamp. Adding some common-mode ferrite chokes on the feed line can also reduce pickup of strong HF and VHF signals that could cause overload problems, as well. Even local paging and FM broadcast stations can cause overload problems - notch filters, such as those made by [Winegard](#), help in these situations. (Thanks, Paul W9AC and Jim K9YC)

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Jim AD1C has released a new program called [ClubScore](#). It takes a 3830 Score Summary and filters out the scores for your particular contest club as shown in this [example](#). This is version "one-point-uh-oh" and Jim requests any feedback be sent to him as directed on the Web site. ClubScore is a good tool to help promote activity and enthusiasm among your club members.

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As if upper and lower sideband weren't enough, we now can have right-handed and left-handed variants of each by using [twisted radio waves](#)! Generating and receiving them require some substantial antennas, at the moment, but at the beginning everything looks implausible. (Thanks, Jim K7YO)

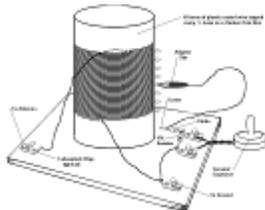
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Chuck KC2NB reports solving a years-long RFI problem. "For several years, when operating on 75 meters, I would regularly open one of (my) two garage doors when transmitting using one KW. The purchase of a 0.01 mF ceramic-disk capacitor at Radio Shack plus its installation across two terminals leading to the wall mounted switch solved the problem." As always, be sure to use an adequately-rated component for ac line or home wiring use.

## An Elmer Session before the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, 6:30 PM.

### GOT QUESTIONS?

**Bring them to the Elmer Session.** There will be Hams there set up to help with the Hobby! Want to use "Ladder Line" instead of coax, someone can explain the differences.



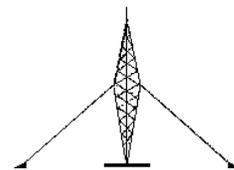
This a great time to casually mull over all those little puzzles that develop as you grow in Ham radio. Everything from SWR Bridges,

current meters, test equipment and techniques. New equipment is always a mystery. Find out how to change your modulation to suite yourself. Find other people working in the same modes as you do. Catch up on some new contest rules.



What someone else needs know, you can help! Volunteer as an Elmer to enlighten those in need.

Best ways of learning Morse Code? Fox Hunts? Best practices for RF grounding. Simple advice on transmission lines, Antennas, station set ups or just arranging a station for best wire dressing.



You might even have knowledge you have acquired that you did not know you had!



Come out early and visit with the Elmers or be an Elmer or both. 6:30 PM, 30 minutes before the regular meeting. Maybe someone will have the story on who and where

"Elmer" was first used, hi hi. See you all there, de Dan Pruitt, AE6SX,

*(Ed. Comments — continued from page 3)*

prize will be a Yaesu FT-450. This is an all-mode 160-6 meter rig. It has all the filters (dsp) built in. The output power is 100 watts and the msrp is \$999.

The ARRL UHF contest will be held this weekend. It's a 24 hour contest unlike the three other ARRL VHF contests (Jan, June and Sept). The contest starts at 11 AM on Saturday morning. All bands above 223 MHz are allowed.

If there is anyone needing help or elmering on anything ham radio related, please let me know. I will either get with you personally or I will set you up with someone to help you out. There's nothing better than having a ham friend to call on to answer your questions and provide help. There is a lot of help out there you just need to ask.

73, Dave Smith / W6TE



## 2009 AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

UNLICENSED THRU EXTRA CLASS  
Sponsored By the FRESNO Volunteer Exam (VE) TEAM  
And The  
FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

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.

**August 15**

**November 21**

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. Priority 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), or FCC Registration Number (preferred). Fee \$15.00 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, (559) 431-2038

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**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

F.A.R.C. DUES ARE \$15.00 PER YEAR FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP. Additional family members in the same household are \$5.00 each per year. Make checks payable to F.A.R.C.

and send to:

P.O. Box 5912, Fresno, Ca. 93755-5912.

2009 Fresno Amateur Radio Club Application	
Name _____	Date _____
Address _____	Callsign _____
Home Phone _____	State _____ Zip _____
Business Phone _____	
Occupation _____	Birth Date _____
Spouses Name _____	Anniversary Date _____
License Class _____	First Year Licensed _____
Email Address _____	
I am interested in serving on one of the committees. Please contact me with more details. _____	
FARC – PO BOX 5912, FRESNO, CA 93755-5912	

**Upcoming 2009  
Fresno Amateur Radio  
Club  
Activities and Events**

**Aug 4th Board Meeting  
Aug 14th Club Meeting**



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

Send To: