



Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

OCT 2009 Volume 70, Issue 10

Our next meeting will be Oct. 9th at 7:00 PM. October's meeting is the annual clubs business meeting plus.... Jim Clymer, WS6X, will be giving a presentation on Solar Powering the Modern Hamshack. Meeting place: Cedar Lanes Bowl—Cedar & Shields Aves.



The Prez Sez

FARC General Meetings

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

2009 FARC BOARD MEETING DATES

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

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

I keep thinking that the weather will change, turn cooler, so we can get all of our projects started. We have new towers to put up, antennas to fine tune and some of us to put in a winter garden .

As most of you know Monte KD6DRY became a silent key this month. We will miss him on the Drive Time Net and at lunch on Thursday. Ben will continue on giving us up dates in the morning on the traffic and weather for our area. Keep up the good work Ben.

Our Hamfest 2009 is around the corner, Oct 17th at Salvation Army. We have a great list of speakers lined up, Dave has done an outstanding job in lining the speakers, Carole has lined the other clubs and service organizations to be represented at Hamfest. This year we will have vendors. Our Hamfest Chairman Craig has done an fantastic job putting this all together. Many thanks to all of our members and the members of our sister clubs that have worked very hard to make this Hamfest a huge success. Lunch will be available at Hamfest. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.

73, Tom, KG6KYU



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FARC Officers:

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

Board Members:

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

Support our advertisers in SKIP. They support us not only in revenue for the club but they also allow us space on the counters and shelves for copies of SKIP and other club announcements.

Thomas L. Whitlock



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Amateur Radio Event Calendar

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Oct 2 | CARP Meeting | Oct 27 | QCWA Luncheon |
| Oct 3—4 | CA QSO Party | Nov 3 | FARC BOD Meeting |
| Oct 3 | CCDXC Breakfast | Nov 6 | CARP General Meeting |
| Oct 6 | FARC BOD Meeting | Nov 7 | CCDXC Breakfast Meeting |
| Oct 9 | FARC Club Meeting | Nov 13 | FARC General Meeting |
| Oct 16 | SJVARS Meeting | Nov 20 | SJVARS General Meeting |
| Oct 17 | FARC HAMFEST | Nov 21 | FVET VE Exam |
| Oct 24–25 | CQ WW DX Contest SSB | Nov 24 | QCWA Lunch |
| Oct 24-25 | 10-10 Fall CW Contest | | |

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

EDITOR'S COMMENTS by Dave Smith W6TE

Dear FARC Friends,

HAMFEST TIME!!!! I hope everyone is planning to attend this years FARC's Hamfest. The Hamfest committee has been working hard to bring an interesting event.

I was asked to give my "Echoes of Apollo" presentation to the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC) last month. It was a great group and I had a fantastic time with some elite DX'ers in Northern California.

I would also like to thank the following clubs for inviting me to present the "Echoes of Apollo" program: San Joaquin Valley ARS (SJVARs), Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers, Madera ARC, Mountain ARC. Thank you all!

I participated in CARP's T-Hunt two weeks ago. I haven't had so much fun since Hal, K6OGX and Joe, WA6FFJ hid the transmitter in a ditch near KXEX. Someone made a fast U-turn in the front yard of a farmers house and got temporarily stuck. The farmer came out yelling and we all made a fast get-away.

The CARP "fox" was hidden by Patrick, KI6QOH and Duane, KI6QEL. There were two teams competing; Rob and David, (AE6GE and

NI6M) and John and myself (K6MI and W6TE). John and I came in second and Rob and David came in next to last!

John and I only came in second because we were hampered by John's new high-tech "Fox-Tracker" and we hadn't had time to read the instructions and (we found out later) the instructions were written in Australian!



(Continued on page 17)

Thanks to Richard Pack, KE6SHL, for providing the photographs included in SKIP. Ed.

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Membership Attendance for September—No Winner



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Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

| <u>Organization</u> | <u>Call Sign</u> | <u>Frequency</u> | <u>Offset</u> | <u>PL</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 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:

Jerry Jackson, W6KEG Oct. 26th
 John Balsa WA6OPC Oct. 19th

Missed Birthdays:

Steve Bassett NA6G Sept. 27th
 Jerry W6PKO Sept. 25th

Anniversaries:

Jerry Jackson, & spouse Oct. 2nd
 Bob & Sandy Hervatine, N2NS Oct. 16th



Our Christmas Dinner will be at Yosemite Falls on Blackstone . Total cost \$18.00 per person. Chicken & Ribs or salmon & Tri Tip, salad, beverage, tax, tip. Time 6:30 dinner served at 7:00. The dinner will be on Dec 11, our regular club meeting night. Cost to member or guest \$15.00.

FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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66TH ANNUAL HAMFEST

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Swap Vendors: \$5 per space

(in addition to Hamfest ticket)

Each area one standard parking space—reserve your spot now!

Lunch: \$5

(Hamburger Meal)

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



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 _____

Address _____

Phone _____

| 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!

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

AMATEUR OF THE MONTH, , by Joe Capell W0PJD

Whether it is at a Quarter Century Wireless Association meeting, a Silver Dollar Hofbrau ham luncheon gathering, helping you with a building project or a breakfast Saturday morning, Jerry Chandler, K6PKO is usually present and expressing himself. This fascinating ham is this month's biography.

He was born in Madera this very month a few years ago, then his family moved to Fresno and he attended Chester Rowell Elementary and then San Joaquin Memorial High School. His family moved to Stockton where he graduated High School and joined the army. He liked the service so much that he remained in the Army National Guard in avionics for many years in various locations til his retirement in 1992.

He remembers being fascinated by radio SWLing back as early as 1948 and even has his first crystal set in his present day shack that he built back them. He was first licensed as KN6PKO in 1955 when he was 18. His "Elmer" was Ray Ford, K6BP in Manteca. The "N" was dropped a year later when he got his technician class license followed by his general and eventually his advanced class FCC license.

For a while, he lived in Redding working as an operating engineer and then moved to Sacramento where

he was a Pontiac dealership service manager, and at the same time was a member of Army MARS.

Finally, he migrated to Fresno and settled here in 1968 and has been here since then, working for PG&E as well as the Army Guard.

He has been an active member of the FARC for many years holding the vice president's position several times and helped out for about ten years on the Board of Directors. He recalls those meeting that were held on the top floor of the PG&E building back in the eighties when we were all a lot younger, but no less outspoken.

The favorite aspect of ham radio for Jerry is building but he has also been known to handle traffic and chase DX. He has a 5-band DXCC, a 5-band WAS and a WAC on six bands including 6 meters.

Other hobbies that have kept this interesting fellow occupied over the years include boxing, karate, judo, dog racing, model airplane construction, reading history and of course, building and restoring radios.

Wish him a happy birthday when you next see K6PKO.



LOW-BAND DXing FROM A SMALL CITY LOT by Jim Clymer WS6X

Part 2

Last month I talked about the lure of low-band DXing and of the enormous amount of fun and satisfaction available to those who jump into the fray. My contention is that this exciting niche of HF operating is available even to those who are real estate challenged. To be sure, low-band DXing from a small lot is "doing it the hard way" but as many have discovered, the more difficult the challenge, the greater the sense of accomplishment when the goal is achieved. To earn DXCC on 160 and 80, the Little Pistol will have to grit his teeth, bear down, and commit to the long haul! Believe me, you will become intimately familiar with "The Three Ps" -- patience, persistence, perseverance.



When you accept the fact, that for you, the playing field is not even, that no one else is really concerned about your plight, and that you are in it for your own sense of accomplishment, you have already cleared the first, major stumbling block. You will quickly learn to hone your skills, play smarter, and maximize the few resources you have available.

Here then is my list of suggestions -- most thoroughly field-tested in the school of hard knocks -- which should help you avoid the "dumb farm boy" mistakes that held me captive for way too long.

1. Know the playground. Sure, the low bands can be tricky, but until you grasp at least a basic understanding of how the low bands behave (gray line propagation, QSB, etc.) you will miss important openings, waste a lot of time at the radio, and generally lose a lot of hair. How to increase your understanding?

- Purchase the "Bible" -- *Low Band DXing* by ON4UN. This is required reading. Mandatory! Read it, learn it, digest it, sleep it, well... you get the picture.

- Subscribe to the *Topband Reflector*. It's free. Read every single note to the list. You will be-

gin to pick up the vocabulary and grasp the basics. Unlike many, participants on this list are a well-behaved, knowledgeable group. You will receive a solid education. See: <http://lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/Topband>.

- Practice, practice, practice. Turn on the radio every morning at sunrise, and every evening at sunset. Tune up and down the 160, 80 and 40 meter bands. Recognize each band's uniqueness, strengths and weaknesses. No antenna? What, you didn't throw the wire across the roof last month? Tsk, tsk!

2. Choose your weapons. Since you are beginning the race with a serious handicap, the choice of equipment is critically important. Further, if you are not independently wealthy this process is even more focused, and it may well mean that you build your station in small increments. This is actually a good thing. It's far better to make a bad choice with something inexpensive -- like a compact antenna that just didn't get the job done -- rather than discover that your \$5000 radio was deaf on 160M! Study the following guidelines. If you don't understand why each is vitally important, you should probably reread ON4UN's "Bible." NOTE: These are not necessarily listed in order of importance. Your specific circumstances... lot size, budget, etc... will dictate the prior-



ity.

- Purchase the best receiver your budget will allow. Pay particular attention to the specifications which will most affect the way YOU operate. Check out the Sherwood receiver ranking page. This list is

LOW-BAND DXing FROM A SMALL CITY LOT by Jim Clymer WS6X

pretty much the world standard for comparing receiver performance. < <http://www.sherweng.com/table.html>>.

- Decide that you MUST have an RX antenna. Yes, with just a TX antenna you will work DX on the low bands. Unless your location is very quiet however, you will have an extremely difficult time working DXCC on 160. An antenna designed for receive only offers a much better signal-noise figure, and simply put, allows you to hear weak signals that are buried in the noise with your TX antenna. With your small lot you won't have space for 900' Beverages, but you can probably find room for a small loop, a snake, or BOG (Beverage on Ground), or perhaps an antenna like the flag, EWE or pennant. If none of these will work, don't despair. I have had considerable success with a U-shaped 80M dipole tacked onto a perimeter wooden fence, four feet off the ground. For an exhaustive compendium of RX antennas and other useful low band resources, see: <<http://www.angelfire.com/md/k3ky/page20.html>>

The world of low band DXing dramatically changed for me when I built a rotary flag. Being able to aim the deep null off the rear of the flag toward the noise or interference sometimes means the difference between QSO and, "Sorry old boy; maybe next time!"

- Choose your TX antenna. As you learned last month, there are a number of choices available for the small lot operator. If you have a 30' – 50' tower you could try shunt feeding it. Try inductively loaded slopers, or a folded umbrella. Even a sloping delta loop can be an amazing performer. The important factor is to try SOMETHING!

For many "Small Pistols" in small lots, the only choice is a physically short vertical. Now before you claim you don't have room for radials, etc., remember, radi-

als with ground mounted verticals don't have to be cut to a specific length. The general rule, "more and longer is better" certainly has merit on the low bands, however, before you give up on verticals, try putting wire wherever you can. Bend the radial wires; run them around the house, and around the perimeter of your property. Install ground rods at the corners of your house and at the corners of your lot. Make your radial system a "web" of separate wires all bonded to the interior and exterior perimeter wires and ground stakes. Bond everything to the galvanized water pipe that feeds an exterior hose bib. I even bonded my web to the neighbor's chain-link fence! The possibilities are nearly endless. For a very well-written treatise on the power of verticals, as well as plans for a nifty homebrew 80/40M vertical, see: <http://www.qsl.net/pa3hbb/ll.htm>.

3. Learn CW. Yes folks, as much as you don't want to hear it, you will be hard-pressed to work DXCC on phone, particularly 160M. The weak signal capability of SSB pales by a significant percentage when compared to CW. Add atmospheric noise, EMI and QSB to the mix... well it's simply no contest!

4. Improve your game. I have barely begun to scratch the surface on this topic. Fortunately, in today's world of information and technology, the Internet represents a mind-boggling array of resources. Never tire of learning. When a "What if...?" new idea pops into your head, give it a whirl. You'll never know if you don't try. Tackling the challenges of low band DXing will become a lifestyle. It will keep your brain cells buzzing, and your ham peers will look up to you with a new respect! Finally...

5. Have Fun!! Oh, and try to get some sleep.

I still have the code tapes for some one to pick up :Jim 439 5034

Some one was going to pick up the code tapes I want to donate. I do not remember who it was J Graham 439.5034 KB6AWN

I have a dual power supply for sale; 0-20V,max rating 1.7Amps, \$30 dollars.
WA6OPC John Balas Retired Chief United States Navy

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.

CQ Announces 75th Anniversary Worked All Zones Award

(Hicksville, NY – September 18, 2009) – The November, 1934, issue of *R/9* magazine announced a new operating award for radio amateurs, designed to encourage the growing popularity of contacting stations across the globe, what we know today as DXing. The award was called Worked All Zones and was to be granted for making confirmed contacts with hams in each of the 40 zones into which the world had been divided by *R/9*'s editors. Today, 75 years later, *R/9* has been succeeded by *CQ* magazine and WAZ - Worked All Zones - sponsored by *CQ* since 1945, continues to be one of amateur radio's most prestigious operating awards.

In celebration of the WAZ's 75th anniversary, *CQ* magazine is announcing a limited-term "Diamond Jubilee WAZ" award. A special certificate will be issued to amateurs who make contacts in all 40 CQ Zones of the World be-

tween November 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010. Certificates will be numbered but there will be no endorsements. Confirmations will not be required. However, it is expected that applicants will continue to uphold amateur radio's long-standing tradition of honesty and self-regulation. Standard WAZ application fees will apply.

Complete details on the Diamond Jubilee WAZ Award will be in the October 2009 issue of *CQ*, and are posted on the *CQ* website, < www.cq-amateur-radio.com <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>> >, with a link from the October issue highlights page.

WAZ is the second-oldest amateur radio operating award still offered today. The only current award that is older is the International Amateur Radio Union's Worked All Continents award. The ARRL's DX Century Club (DXCC) award was introduced in 1936. To date, more than 8,600 basic WAZ awards have been issued. More information on the WAZ award program is available on the *CQ* website at < www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awards.html <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awards.html>> >.

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.

(Continued on page 13)



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

FRESNO ENCOMM ARES/RACES by Dan Pruitt AE6SX

I am writing this article from Newington, CT, HQ of ARRL. I and 11 other Section Managers are receiving our orientation as we start our new terms of office. We received information from each of the Department Heads including a very informative session with Dennis Dura, K2DCD, Emergency Manager for ARRL. It is rewarding to see the level of dedication every one of them brings to the organization. Every one of them have an EmComm (ARES) background and I was impressed by the willing exchange of ideas. You will be hearing as much as I can offer at the next meeting and various functions.



One of the biggest discussions was from Dennis regarding the new "Advance Emergency Communications Course", due out in January. It will raise the bar on training and although credentialing is still a hot topic, it should improve the correlations in accreditation. This is because of the FEMA ICS courses (that are free online), will be required for course completion. These are the same ones that we have been referring in all our training. I will try and give plenty of opportunity to discuss this at Hamfest.

Some disappointment, we will not be doing the Eye-Q Marathon in November. It seems they will be using Nextel. We will field a team to investigate how we may be a back up or help out next year.

It's time to start getting ready for SET (Simulated Emergency Test). ARRL, every year, expects ARES to test themselves and equipment in a locally designed scenario. This will be the topic of the next EmComm & Coffee, 16 October and finalize it during the Monthly meeting.

A work party will be climbing all over the Salvation Army Citadel to install an antenna. Used for JOTA and Hamfest. it will be the SATERN minimum setup for their EOC. Consisting of a trap dipole and manual tuner, it will give basic HF to add to their VHF/UHF install. Captain Dwaine Breazeale, KG6SAY, can have his Yaesu FT 897 up and running in minutes.

Have you got your tickets for Hamfest yet? I have tickets!

NBEMS--> What is it? Simply put it is digital messaging. For EmComm, naturally. More important simple traffic and file transfer even in adverse operating conditions. Simple computer to radio interfacing and portable software. I think we need this and would like to advance our capability in this. Everyone can play. In Calaveras they have nets on multiple frequencies and I am of the opinion we should do the same... Stay tuned, Hi Hi..



Watch the web site for our 'New Procedures'. They will be posted as soon as I can upload them. They will include the current frequency list and call out procedures. You will be receiving notice to update your current information for the calling tree. This facilitates the Alert function.

The State through MAR 5 of Cal-EMA put us on alert to assist in the southern Fires on Sept 7. You do not know when you will be needed. 3 of us were on call for a week. We need to identify those that might be willing to travel, if called. Not our main mission, but some are interested in helping where ever there is a need.

NET: Monday 1930 (PDT) on 147.150+, PL 141.3
Monthly meetings on the 4th Thursday, 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 web sites www.fresnoares.com or www.fresno-races.net . You can contact us on the web site or me directly at ae6sx@fresnoares.com

.73 TU , Dan Pruitt.

The Trial and Tribulation of W6VPS by Jim Erbie WA6NIF

Paul Sullivan is having SO much fun with his MA5B antenna that he could turn it into scrap metal!

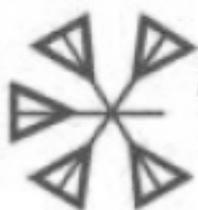
Sept 9th, Ted Miller W6TLM and I, WA6NIF, went over to Paul's house to help take down the 2 elements of the beam so he could check out the traps, etc of the beam. Paul was not having good readings with the MFJ antenna analyzer so things had to be checked. How to lower them? Jim Clymer, WS6X told Paul to put a cord going from the tower down to the front yard tree, clamp on clip-on clamp to that cable along with a string to let each element slide down the cord, having Ted on the roof and Jim down on a ladder near the tree. As each element came down, Jim unclamped the element off the cord and put the element onto the ground. Both driven and director only came down to be worked on.

Paul found that the band traps were positioned the wrong way on the beam. He cleaned them and placed on each element the correct direction. Paul then called Ted and Jim on the 16th to help put the elements back up on the boom, which Paul had left up on the tower. By the way, Paul did have to take down the reflector to check those traps. The elements went back up via the cord we

used to bring them down. After all was put back together, the readings on the MFJ analyzer. Sadly not much changed except the resonant frequencies shifted some but still outside the ham bands. Paul may try shortening the elements to see if he can raise the frequency.

The next step is to take down the MA5B and with the help of Jim Clymer, take another look.

Life of tuning up an antenna. It's not always a bucket of roses!



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Fresno Amateur Radio Club

[David Sanford \(W1DLS\)](#) on December 15, 2003

I believe that the future of ham radio can be found in it's past. As each year passes and technology advances, the magic of radio seems to fade. If we examine radio for it's utilitarian value, we find that the Internet is in many ways "better" than HF, and cell phones are "better" than VHF. And as we all know, everyone in America has access to both the Internet and cell phones. The military has abandoned Morse code, and even phone patches to the troops are being phased out in favor of Satellite communications. When every cop has a cell phone and laptop in his cruiser, how much value do the guys in the orange vests with HTs really bring to the party? (Yes, I think there is still value there, but the world has changed, and I don't think it is the same value that was brought to the table 25 years ago.)

So what's left? Plenty. There is still a hobby of radio communication, electronic experimentation, and antenna building out there. We need to take a lesson from the guys in the classic car clubs. Cars have become much too complicated for the average guy to work on. But Americans love their cars. So what do they do? Buy a Classic! -- One with a carburetor, and a real "points and condenser" ignition system. And real CHROME!!! You can still have a garage full of really cool tools, and a fun way to spend your time. The car guys know that technology has passed them by, but they don't care. They know that the car they play with is not really that practical anymore, but that's not the point of it. It's a hobby, and they know it. And you know what? America is absolutely crazy about cars from the sixties. Cars from the sixties routinely show up in movies cast in the present. Manufactures now make replicas of the VW

beetle, and Ford Mustang from the sixties.

Guess what? Radios from the same time era are pretty neat too. You can actually work on them, they look cool, and when you turn them on the glow of the tubes is a lot like the rumble of the motor in that '65 GTO. Classic radios are like classic cars in that they both have souls. They both give you that exciting feeling that comes from knowing that "this thing could kill you if you're not careful." If you need a ride to work, take your 2002 Toyota. If you need to call work, use your cell phone. If you want to have fun, take the GTO and burn rubber. Or if you like radios, fire up the Viking II and the Skyrider and light up the ether! What will we talk about? Modulators, power supplies, and antennas, of course! Radio is our hobby.

Remember the guys who were into Photography back in the sixties? They had dark rooms in their basements, and SLRs with ten different lenses. They changed their equipment as Technology changed. Have you seen any "Photographers" recently? I haven't. Technology stole their magic.

Before we change the name of our hobby to the "Radio Professionals of America" or before we drop the code, or before we eliminate real QSLs, let's think about what will remain. It is a mistake to try to keep up with technology that passes the ham's ability to tinker. Just let the technology pass us by. We aren't the cutting edge anymore, and we never will be again. Let's accept it, and enjoy the hobby that we have created. If we continue buying boxes we can't tinker with, the radio hobby will offer nothing that the Internet and cell phones can't. At that point, the hobby will be lost. Let's build our own boxes.

FARC September Meeting Photo's



THE DX CORNER by Charles McConnell W6DPD

(Continued from page 9)

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 now through 2009 and maybe 2 more years
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
Central African Republic TL0A, after January 1, 2009 active now
Macedonia Z30MCWG Feb 20 to Dec 31, 2009.
Glorioso FT/G Sep 11 to Oct 5, 2009 Active
Now
East Timor 4W August 3 to October 3, 2009
Crete SV9/WB2GAI Aug 21 to Oct 5, 2009

Curacao PJ2/PA1FJ Sept 24 to Oct 7, 2009
Australis TX5SPA Sept 29 to Oct 12, 2009
Conway Reef 3D20CR Oct 1 to Oct 10, 2009
Midway K4M Oct 5 to Oct 19, 2009
South Cook Is E51NOU Oct 5 to Oct 30, 2009
Sable Island CY0 on hold due to illness
Marquesas TX5SPM Oct 16 to Oct 22, 2009
Spratly Islands sometime in 2009
Easter Island XR0Y Oct 31 to Nov 15, 2009
Samoa 5W Nov 11 to Nov 18, 2009
Ghana 9G5TT Nov 13 to Nov 27, 2009
Madagascar 5R8IC Nov 17 to Dec 15, 2009
Tonga A3 Nov 19 to Dec 9, 2009
Chesterfield Is TX3A Nov 23 to Dec 6, 2009
(mainly Low bands)
South Cook E5 Dec 5 to Dec 13, 2009
Aves Island YV0A late 2009??
Juan Fernandez XR0ZN March-April 2010
Central Kiribati T31 End of Sept 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 (www.dxsummit.fi) 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.



SOME NOTES ABOUT OPERATING AND LISTENING: By Stuart Home WB6VRJ



AROUND THE end of August, I happened to tune in the Western Public Service System. They are on LSB at 3952 starting around 1800 local. Well, a bunch of chaps were there rag chewing, before the net started. They were talking about all the fires that were going on here in California. The latest fire at that time was the Auberry fire. So the chaps were all talking; they all commented on the growth and spread of these fires. Then one said he had to leave the radio for a bit. One of the other hams asked him where he was going. He replied he was going to the store. "What do you have to get?" was the inquiry. The reply came back, "Marshmallows".

When I am copying CW, I cannot write very well. But I can type. Remember the old expression, "copying by mill"? Yep, that meant using a typewriter. Well, I have an old laptop on a TV table next to the rig, and it is turned onto a word processor. That way, as I hear the CW, I can type the translation and see the whole screen, and it is

a lot of fun. If you don't do it, try it. It does take a few tries, and then one gets the swing of things, and it works out just fine-oops, I mean it works out FB.

Try it.

I was looking at some new photo equipment, and much of it featured a LCD readout, where a lot more information is now available. That got me to thinking about some of the ham equipment we use. Oh yeah, I remember how the perjorative term "appliance operator" was in vogue for a while. In fact, there is even a letter in QST about that term. Of course, we are all now basically "appliance operators". Look at the equipment. It is so sophisticated, and can do so much, it is amazing. Yeah, I look at that KENWOOD TS-130, that I bought from the Ross' estate, and the changes in that alone, from my old SWAN gear which had one transistor; even that old Kenwood had a lot more stuff-and I have my favourite-the TS-44, which has memory and a up and down switches, and things I never dreamed of 40 years ago!

But let's go back to the display item-what can now be displayed is so much more-remember the old mechanical thingies that would try to give you information? Now the display tells you even more than what you might want to know. Gosh, some of the rigs now have a spectrum display. I remember getting vacume tube spectrum analyzer from Heath, and adapting it to read on the IF of my Swan rig-now these things are built in! whooee!

But let's face it-all these new gadgets, these new thingabobs, these new faces, they are all designed to help us become better hams-and that is the best thing of all.

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Here we are in the magic days of the computer. Does anyone remember the old days? Naw, not the original computers, but the slide rule?

Well, here we are, in the world of wireless radio. Does anyone know the power output of an 802.11 device?

We all know Blackberry. I just learned where the word BLUETOOTH came from,

It is interesting; what we have taken for granted, and what a lot of non-hams thought was mysterious and hidden, has now become so common. It is interesting that we now not only have Bluetooth, but all kinds of wireless commodities around-such as cell phones. Boy was I glad to see that our walkie-talkies are not deemed a danger like the cell phone.

It looks like our world is expanding.

One of the joys of being a Ham is that of checking into the Sunday night net of the FARC. It is good to get the latest news from Dan, AE6SX, and well as the President's report from Tom KG6KYU, and others.

What is NOT good is to say someone is away, or on a trip.

I was reminded of this the other night. FARC net was having its usual roll call, and a particular ham call was named, and I responded for him, says, "He's out of Town."

Paul Sullivan, W6VPS, whom some of you might know to be somehow related to law enforcement, e-mailed me to remind me to NOT say someone is out of town. I replied to him, that since that person was out of town, why don't he and I go over there, and see what is in the house that we want. Paul quickly enumerated the list of felonies that would then be involved. I was curious, so I

This month's SKIP is a whopping twenty pages!!!! Thanks to everyone who has contributed! It wasn't planned, it just happened.

If you get SKIP by email, you will receive all twenty pages and IN FULL COLOR and HI RESOLUTION!!! If you get SKIP by mail you will be receiving a shortened version. It costs FARC \$.07 per page to copy. For eighteen pages that is \$1.26 for copying plus \$.61 for postage. That's a pretty good deal right? Your dues are \$15 per year and it costs the club \$22.44 per member to copy and mail one year of the newsletter. The club is losing money if you elect to receive SKIP by mail. Plus the black and white photos and low resolution. If you are receiving SKIP by snail mail please consider the much better and complete emailed version. Please remember that SKIP is also available on-line at W6TO.COM.



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Amand Lamont (Monty, KD6DRY)

Amand Leonard Lamont died Thursday, September 17, 2009, at his home in Clovis. He was 88.

A native of Ghent, Belgium, Mr. Lamont and his family immigrated to Watsonville when he was 2 years old. He attended Moreland Notre Dame School and graduated from Watsonville High School. Mr. Lamont enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and served in the Pacific during World War II. He used his military training as a radio technician when he left the army and worked for 25 years as a radio repair technician and electronics inspector at Fort Ord. Mr. Lamont retired in 1977 and enjoyed spending time as a ham radio operator.

Mr. Lamont is survived by three sons, Thomas of the Kona Coast, Hawaii, Richard of Clovis and Steve of Du-

rango, Colo.; daughters, Sue Anderson of Maui, Hawaii; brother, Jon of Woodland; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Trula.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday at 1 p.m. at Holy Eucharist Catholic Community. Burial with military honors will follow at Valley Public Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Mehl's Colonial Chapel.

Monte passed away yesterday afternoon. He had been with us at lunch, but looked very pail, and told me he was having health problems. They were more serious than I thought. He was a good guy and will be missed. W6TLM



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

(Continued from page 3)

We started out from Clovis' Letterman Park at 0900 on Saturday. We went South (the direction the "Fox-Tracker" directed us, and Rob and David went North. We told Rob and David later that we were trying to throw them off by going in the opposite direction of the fox. We thought that confusion was the best strategy. (We were the confused.)

Long story short, the fox was hidden on a hiking trail. Anyway, not too bad for a couple of cripples like John and me..... second place.

I stopped by the SJVARS booth at the Clovis-Fest after the T-Hunt. They are doing a bang-up job in promoting Amateur Radio! Great job, guys and gals!



73, Dave Smith W6TE w6te@msn.com

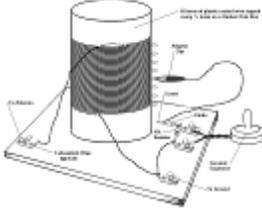
FARC SEPT CLUB MEETING PHOTOS



An Elmer Session before the Oct. 9th 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.



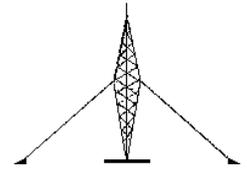
This a great time to casually mull over all those little puzzles that develop as you grow in Ham radio. Everything from SWR Bridges, current meters,

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,

I need help with SKIP. I need someone to help with copying and mailing. This takes about 2 to 3 hours per month. I also need help with details in SKIP. This also will take no more than 2 hours per month. This will involve adding captions for the photographs as well as proof reading the newsletter. All help is accepted. Thanks, Dave 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.

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.

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

**Oct. 6th Board Meeting
Oct. 9th Club Meeting**

| 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 | |



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

Send To: