



Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

DEC 2009 Volume 70, Issue 12

Our next meeting will be the Annual Christmas Dinner on Dec. 11th at 6:30 PM. The dinner will be at the Yosemite Hills Café on Blackstone and Shaw.



The Prez Sez

CQ, CQ,

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

The November Swap meet was a successful event this year. It was good to see our equipment finding new shacks to call home. Looking around the room, there was equipment representing the past up to the present. But the best part was how many Hams came out for the evening. It was sure good to see everyone. Many nice comments were heard including anticipating next year's swap meet. Just say SWAP MEET and the hams come a running.



Our Christmas Party is Dec 11th at Yosemite Falls Café on Blackstone north of Shaw. Cost is \$15.00 per person, arriving at 6:30 to the music of John & Jerry with dinner being served at 7:00. We will have a short awards ceremony after dinner. Please confirm with Tom or Ron our contact information is in Skip.

Marci and I wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

73,,, Tom KG6KYU

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FARC Officers:

Tom Jarvis, Pres. - KG6KYU
Ken Holden, V.P.—WA6OIB
Jim Erbe, Sectry - WA6NIF
Ron Hunt, Treas - N6MTS

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wa6nif@w6to.com	(559) 222-7524	12/2009
n6mts@w6to.com	(559) 289-8514	12/2010

Board Members:

Aaron Lusk, K6USY
John McGraw, AE6QR
Steve Brunt, K6AAB
Chuck McConnell, W6DPD
Jack Baker, AC6LT
Joseph Capell, W0PJD
Dan Pruitt, AE6SX

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k6aab@w6to.com	(559) 696-4319	12/2009
w6dpd@w6to.com	(559) 431-2038	12/2010
ac6lt@cvip.net	(559) 297-4311	12/2010
W0PJD@me.com	(559) 225-3582	12/2009
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.

Amateur Radio Event Calendar

Date Event

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Dec 1 | FARC BOD Meeting |
| Dec 4 | CARP Christmas Dinner |
| Dec 4-6 | ARRL 160 Meter Test |
| Dec 11 | FARC Christmas Dinner |
| Dec 11-13 | ARRL 10 Meter Test |
| Dec 18 | SJVARS Meeting |
| Dec 15 | QCWA Lunch |



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Fresno Amateur Radio Club

EDITOR'S COMMENTS by Dave Smith W6TE

Dear FARC Friends,

I wish everyone a festive Holiday Season and hope Santa fills your stockings with some hot little ham radio items.

This past year has been fun as the editor of SKIP. The newsletter really shines when the members contribute with articles, news and tidbits. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to SKIP this past year.

Joe Capell, W0PJD, does the research, and writes the "Bio of the Month" column. We've all enjoyed learning new things about our fellow hams as the mystery FARC club member is revealed each month.

(I can't believe I wrote three paragraphs with-

out seeing any squiggly lines under any of the words!)

Thanks to Charles McConnell, W6DPD, for contributing "The DX Corner". Charles' column keeps us informed about new DX and lets new DX'ers know where to get more information about DX'ing.

Dan Pruitt, AE6SX, has kept us informed with the happenings in ARES/RACES and emergency communications.

We've added a new column called "Contesting." Long time contester John Morrice, K6MI, has offered to write the column. John will let us all know what's happening in

(Continued on Page 13)



STUART HOLM WB6VRJ, JASON BOYER N6EY, CRAIG CARTER K6QI



JOE CARDOZA SR WB6JQC & JOE CARDOZA JR W6FFJ

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

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Membership Attendance for November—No Winner



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	146.790	-	141.3
WIN/SYSTEM	K6JSI	223.780	-	141.3

Birthdays, Anniversary's

Birthdays:

Duane Lutz KI6QEL
Lori Young KI6RZD

Dec 29th
Dec 20th



The FARC Christmas Dinner will be at Yosemite Falls on Black-stone. Total cost \$15.00 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 and guest \$15.00.

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Bio of Month Bob Gonzales KK6LT, by Joe Capell W0PJD

When DX is mentioned at a ham gathering, you can be sure that Bob Gonzales, KK6LT is either listening or the one who did the mentioning.

Born in Fresno at the old St. Agnes Hospital, Bob was raised and had all of his schooling here too except for electronics school courtesy of Uncle Sam. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1966, joined the Army, served Stateside, in Germany and in Viet Nam and returned here to get a degree in Electronics from FCC in 1973.

While in Asia he was involved in literally thousands of phone patches for US servicemen stationed there and has many fond memories and few humorous ones of those patches because they were required to listen in on the transmissions in those days by Army MARS (Military Affiliated Radio System) rules.

He married Gloria in 1972 and has two daughters. All three women in his life have ham licenses! How's that for batting a thousand. He tells me he has two grandchildren ages 3 and 1 and both are showing potential there, he thinks.

His inspiration for ham radio was not just the many Army MARS operators he had the pleasure of working in his service years, but also Jim Lozano, W6ZFN now a SK who he remembered from MARS work and once stateside, encouraged him to learn the code and get a ham license.

His first license was a novice, KC6FKE in 1989 and he upgraded quickly to Amateur Extra Class in less than two years. He had been on the board of directors of the FARC.

He works in mechanical engineering at various industrial sites throughout the valley including hospitals, prisons and schools.

He invited me into his home and his shack where he had "DX spotter" going on the computer and showed me his copy of "Log Book of the World" as well as numerous DX information websites to let him know which DXpeditions were operational at the time/coming/or no longer available as well as rumors of where the "rare ones" hang out. I really didn't have to ask him what his favorite aspect of ham radio might be. He piped up that he has 143 countries worked.



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

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 CQ 75th Anniversary Worked All Zones Award begins on November 1, 2009 and goes until December 31, 2010. The first two awards have been issued.

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 now through 2009
Wake Is KH9/WA2YUN now until end of 2009
Djibouti J28OO soon for at least a year
Central African Republic TL0A, active now
Macedonia Z30MCWG Feb 20 to Dec 31, 2009.
Sable Island CY0 on hold due to illness
Spratly Islands sometime in 2009
Madagascar 5R8IC Nov 17 to Dec 15, 2009
Tonga A3 Nov 19 to Dec 9, 2009
Christmas Is VK9X Nov 21 to Dec 5, 2009
Chesterfield Islands TX3A Nov 23 to Dec 6, 2009
Cambodia XU7UFT Dec 3 to Dec 8, 2009
South Cook E5 Dec 5 to Dec 12, 2009
Pitcairn Island VP6AL now through March 2010
Djibouti J20C January 2010
Liechtenstein HB0/DL2OBO Jan 6 to Jan 17, 2010
Easter Island CE0Y Jan 8 to Jan 11m 2010
Austral Is FO/DL (3 ops) Jan 18 to Feb 5, 2010
Vanuatu YJ0 Jan 21 to Jan 28, 2010
Senegal 6W Jan 26 to Feb 9, 2010
Aves Island YV0A early 2010??
St. Lucia J68JA March 2 to March 11, 2010
Palestine E4X Sometime bet Mar and May 2010
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 (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.

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Mickey "Santa Claus" Hicks, WO6T (SK)

(Aug 11, 2009) -- Mickey

Hicks, [WO6T](#) -- known to many amateurs and their children as Santa Claus -- passed away Sunday, August 9. He was 79. For the past 38 years, Hicks, a ham for almost 50 years and a long-time Amateur Radio instructor, would get on the air for 10 days each December as W6S (Whiskers-6-Santa).



ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, [profiled Hicks in December 2008](#):

"The Amateur Radio community has been quick to embrace the W6S operation. Mickey says that the first year operating as W6S was 'a hit with the operators of all ages and their children.'

Mickey noted that most children are a bit apprehensive of talking over the radio, let alone to Santa! He said one of the most challenging parts of operating is when he hears 'This one is shy and won't talk.' That's not a problem for Mickey -- he says after a few warm-up questions (such as 'Can you say hello to Rudolph?'), he can strike up a conversation that lasts a few minutes. He has even heard back that the parents weren't able to get the micro-

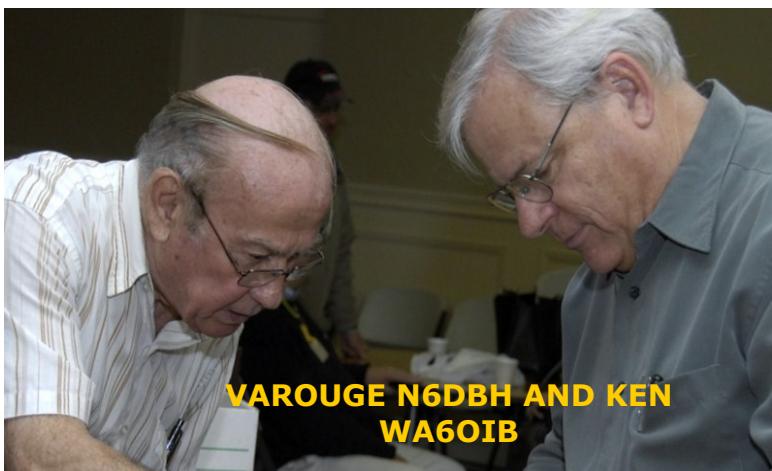
phone away from the kids afterward!"

Hicks [told the ARRL in 2001](#) that his Santa's Workshop has been a great ham radio recruiting tool. One of his most memorable experiences was when a young girl he'd once spoken with on the air as Santa came by with her ham ticket in hand to thank him in person for getting her interested. "I had tears in my eyes, of course," he said.

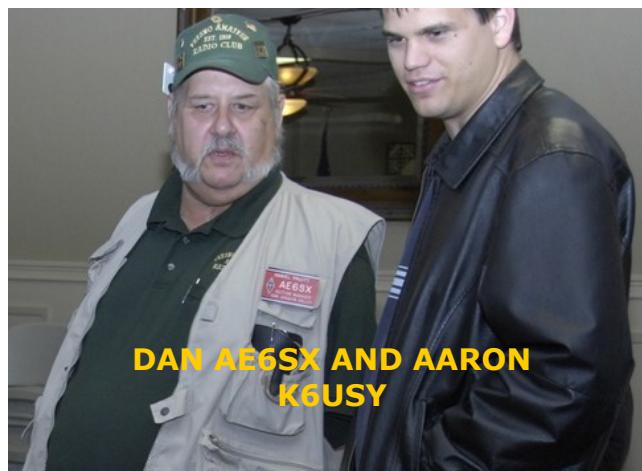


Mark Slater, WI6J --Hicks' QSL manager -- said Hicks was an avid DXer, contester and rag chewer: "He had a passion for radio and making new friends through the hobby he enjoyed so much. Mickey will be greatly missed."

Slater said that he will continue to confirm WO6T/W6S QSL requests "indefinitely." Hicks, of Bakersfield, California, was a member of the ARRL A-1 Operator Club and a long-time member of the ARRL, the Northern California DX Foundation, the Central Valley DX Club and the Kern County Central Valley Amateur Radio Club. -- *Thanks to [The Daily DX](#) for providing some information for this story*
[Link to this item](#)



**VAROUGE N6DBH AND KEN
WA6OIB**



**DAN AE6SX AND AARON
K6USY**

The Rover Racket by Art Goddard W6XD

What's all the racket? Is it the racket that the rovers are making with their contacts, or the racket others are making about the rover categories, strategies, tactics and impact? Even before there was a contest category for rovers, a well known multi-operator group, recognizing that they could



WAYNE OVERBECK N6NB'S ROVER RIG

improve their score by sending some stations out to rarer multipliers, sent operators and stations to places where there was opportunity to improve their multiplier count. Once those stations were recognized as a potential asset to VHF contesting, the Rover category was added to the contest. The Rover category has been growing by leaps and bounds since its official recognition about 20 years ago.

Fast forward many years; and the Limited Rover category was established in order to accommodate newcomers and stations equipped with just a few bands. It also created a competitive playing field for rovers unable to compete with the ten-band "super



10 BAND "TOOLBOX" STATION

rover" scores that resulted from the high-point microwave QSOs and their respective multipliers. In the meantime, larger multi-op stations, recognizing the value of their rovers, built up a cadre of cooperative rovers and found that with additional microwave gear they could

have rover teams cover lots of otherwise silent grids, focusing their activity on the "Mother Ship." Much of this activity was sub-rosa, as those cooperative, dedicated, or captive rovers did not usually appear as entries in the listings, or with any substantial contacts in other station's logs. They rarely hung around to make QSOs after delivering for their master. Unlike many other rovers who were uncommitted, they never posted their routes, calling frequencies, or operating times. Additionally, many used modes or frequencies that were unlikely to be in the mainstream of the contests.



WAYNE OVERBECK N6NB



DAVE SMITH W6TE'S ROVER RIG

In one previous VHF contest, a number of rover stations got together and engaged in "grid-circling" to maximize their contribution to their club score. In another VHF outing, a rover employed a tandem rover station to maximize his score. Once these activities were recognized, and judged to be antithetical to the purpose of the VHF contests, these tactics were discouraged, but not banned. Several years later, stimulated by a group of Southern California hams, pack-roving, grid-circling, and rover caravans were again on the scene.



EIGHT ROVERS DURING THE AUG UHF CONTEST

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

The Rover Racket by Art Goddard W6XD

The VUAC, noting this resurgence, modified the rules in an attempt to modify the anti-competitive nature of this



strategy; they created an Unlimited Rover category. It is fascinating to see the combinations and permutations of operators, stations and activities that can be derived by clever VHF hams in order to maximize their scores. And judging by the various "soapbox" posts, the contesting reflectors, and Web sites such as www.packrovers.com, everybody appears to be having fun, except for some of the racket about the rover's "scoring racket."

The June contest was no exception. Rovers add a huge amount of "action" to the contests. They are proud of their unique stations, operating tactics and their achievements. They have the kind of adventures that fixed stations can only dream or worry about. They create a substantial amount of on-the-road publicity for the hobby, and when curious folks with their cell phones report them, an occasional headache for law enforcement.



There were more rovers entering their logs in this year's June QSO Party. The California grid-circulators did not show up in force. Others entered the "Unlimited" class who may rightfully have belonged as "Classic" or Limited rovers.

There was a fascinating contribution by "cooperative" rovers to the top two Multi-operator entries in the "Battle of the Giants." As an illustration of the contribution that rovers make to scoring, especially with microwave contacts, examine the scores of two well-known top-scoring eastern stations, K1RZ with 455k and K1TEO with 373k. By stripping out the rover QSOs and unique rover multipliers, then recalculating the scores, their respective scores drop to 250k and 252k. For top Multi-operator station W2SZ, the same exercise lowers their score from 1.768 million to 622k; two-thirds of their score was generated by the multitude of carefully orchestrated rover contacts, especially those made on the microwave bands. Their microwave (903MHz and up) score totals were an outstanding 432 QSOs and 183 grid multipliers. Without the rover QSOs,



those microwave totals would shrink to 74 QSOs and 35 grid multipliers. Applying the same exercise, without rover QSO points and grid multipliers, K5QE's score of 1.324 million goes to 693k, a drop of 48%; for W3CCX, the drop is from 713k to 536k, or 25%.

It is likely that there will be more racket about the rover racket. There is a lesson here: Rovers are enjoying their role, challenges and accomplishments. Fixed stations reap the benefits of additional contacts, especially from lesser populated grids and inactive microwave bands. Planting rover seeds yields an abundant scoring harvest. It may take revision of rover rules to level some of the playing field for the future of contesting, but for sure, rovers of all stripes are here to stay.

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(Art Goddard, W6XD, is a past ARRL Southwest Division Vice Director. Ed.)

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

FRESNO ENCOMM ARES/RACES by Dan Pruitt AE6SX

December is a month of reflection, nearing the end of the year and with 2 major Holidays, Thanksgiving and Veterans Day even EmComm has to take pause and collect itself. We are also gearing up for the new year while finishing this one with Skywarn recognition Day (SRD).



Veterans Day, what has that to do with EmComm? Remembering our Veterans is not hard when you think about it. We have Amateur Radio in this country and all our other privileges due to the sacrifice of our military. Many of whom went overseas during peace time, doing their duty for us. So thank you for keeping our country safe for Ham radio, hi hi.

Then the image of Pilgrims and Turkey fills all our senses and while gathered at the table with way too much food, I like most, am thankful for family, home and purpose. I also remember those that have volunteered their time and effort to train and participate in the planning and training for disaster communications. Mostly, I'm Thankful that locally, our need for disaster communications is very sporadic and limited. Thankful also for the dedication of our volunteers, because without their commitment, none of this is possible.

On to the future, Our Meeting for this Month will be on December 10, Thursday at 7 PM at the Salvation Army Citadel. This will suffice as November and December's Training Meetings. This is our planning meeting so please come down and voice your ideas.

I had the pleasure of being part of a Search and Rescue Exercise put on by the Tulare ARES, Tulare Sheriff and the Boy Scouts who were the prime volunteers looking for a downed Cessna above Kaweah. They established Traffic resource and communications Nets that passed traffic to

PG&E in Bakersfield via the W. Kern County ARES. I even received a message from the adhoc ARES traffic Net in Tulare via the W. Kern ARES adhoc-Traffic Net. Great practice in message handling. I will be looking forward to the after action report, hopefully in time to bring it to our Dec 10 meeting.

Skywarn Recognition Day is 5 December, 0000 UTC (that is 4 PM Friday Dec 4) and WX6HNX is gearing up for the 24 hour QSO party with weather stations. I can't participate this year so I'm going to miss the Chili and Pizza as well as the grave-yard operation I usually have fun with. Last year I even talked to one of our operators who was traveling in South Carolina! What a blast. They have new antennas, APRS, a TS-2000 and VHF/UHF Yaesu. I am anticipating some good stories, hi hi. Contact Bruce KD6DRU buhler50@hotmail.com if you want to operate.

I will be at the Directors Meeting in Livermore, so think of me while I am getting the low down on the Pacific Division directly from Bob Vallio W6RGG. I'm salivating at the thought of the cold cut lunch and under-stuffed chairs of the downtown City of Livermore Chamber room.

This too I am Thankful, to be able to voice the EmComm News in the Fresno Amateur Radio Club SKIP newsletter.

For that matter I am thankful for HAM Radio!

73 TU , Dan Pruitt.

NET: Monday 1930 hours local on 147.150+, PL 141.3
Monthly meetings on the 4th 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

See us on the web www.fresnoares.com or www.fresno-races.net . Or email me directly ae6sx@fresnoares.com

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

"CONTESTING" By John Morrice K6MI

Field Day Scores San Joaquin Valley Section:

Call	Score	Cat	QSOs	Club
WF6G	5628	2A	1551	Madera Co ARC
W6SW	5518	3A	1834	San Andreas Faultline Survivors
W6TO	4616	2A	1313	Fresno ARC
W6GV	4220	1AB	387	QCWA Fresno Chapter 213
N6FRG	3432	7A	643	Calaveras ARS
WA6SJV	3398	3A	812	San Joaquin Valley ARS
KD4HXT	2090	2A	725	Valley Baptist ARC
WA6YBN	1900	3F	375	Sierra ARC
W6UR	1670	1B1B	152	
WA6BAI	1512	3A	170	Tulare Co ARC
WR2G	1482	1E	293	
K6MAN	1426	2F	329	Manteca ARC
WA9STI	1412	1B1	411	
W6BXN	1328	6A	404	Turlock ARC
N6S	1288	2F	179	Fresno Co ARES/ RACES/SATERN
N6KP	1112	1E	506	
W6BW	1048	1A	174	Mountain ARC
W6ERE	1020	7A	344	Stanislaus ARA
W7FD	1000	1E	450	
W6SX	906	1D	428	
N6KRV	866	4A	142	Sequoia AR Group



John Morrice, K6MI

June VHF Contest- San Joaquin Valley Section Stations

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Sec	Ops
1*	W6YLZ/R	104,580	629	126	RL	SJV	(+ N6MU)
2**	W6TE/R	101,277	471	99	RU	SJV	(+ K6MI)
3***	W6TV	61,920	383	120	M	SJV	(W6YEP & KW6N, ops)
4	AF6JP	17,280	212	64	B	SJV	
5	N6FD	5,964	98	42	Q	SJV	
6	K6YK	3,219	68	37	A	SJV	
7	N6KOG	1,885	63	29	A	SJV	
8	KE6EEZ	1,596	55	28	A	SJV	
9	K6AA	1,596	57	28	A	SJV	
10	W4TN	1,260	45	28	A	SJV	
11	KF6KDA	1,134	47	21	A	SJV	
12	N6IV	242	19	11	A	SJV	
13	W6DPD	54	9	6	A	SJV	

Scores Table Key

Class

A - Single Op Low; B - Single Op High; Q - Single Op Portable; L - Limited Multiop; M - Multi Multi;
R - Rover; RL - Limited Rover; RU - Unlimited Rover

1* NATIONAL CONTEST WINNER "ROVER LIMITED" CATEGORY

2** NATIONAL CONTEST WINNER "ROVER UNLIMITED" CATEGORY

3*** PACIFIC DIVISION WINNER "MULTI-OP"

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Just a note on what I did with a piece of pipe in the ground

I wanted to work the 12 meter band. The Windom loaded "okay" for that band but thought I could find something a little better. I had bought several 10ft sections of aluminum tubing at Fresno Ag with the intentions of building a 10 meter beam but was given a 10 meter beam by Jerry, K6PKO. I started experimenting by getting a piece of thick plastic tube you use in electrical wiring as an insulator. I put a small length of water pipe(metal) into the ground as a "stand" for the antenna. I slipped the plastic pipe over that and slipped a 10 foot piece of aluminum tubing into the plastic pipe. I added a 2nd piece of aluminum tubing into the first 10 foot section and made my length adjustments as per 234/ freq in Mhz formula and minimal swr. With the antenna just 6 inches off the ground and coax, I contacted a ham in Uruguay. The other day while "listening" to 12 meter, I heard a ham in No. Carolina and gave him a call. Made contact I'm only running 75 watts and thought my experimenting with a piece of pipe was interesting. I know others have done the same thing but maybe this would give new hams ideas on " working the World ! ". Jim, WA6NIF

(RECEIVED ON 11- 24-2009) Folks, this morning I managed to replace the balun on my beam and worked into CA on 20m Long Path with some nice signals. I worked W6KH (s9+) and W6RFF along with K7JA and XE1KK. Looks like the path is open and hope to work several of you the CQWW CW contest this coming weekend. All of the above QSOs were on 20m CW running 400 Watts into a C3S at 55 feet high from 0120z to 0150z - beam heading for me was 195 degrees (pointing South) 73 de Prasad VU2PTT

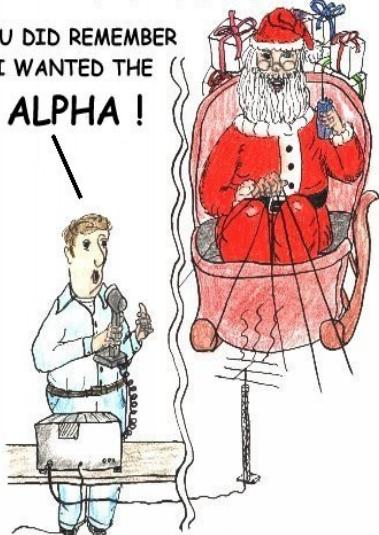
For those of you considering the purchase of an Icom 7000 - you may be interested to know that Icom here in Australia has just rolled out a 5 year warranty for all radios being sold. We are the first country in which this is being trialed but the implication is that this will be rolled out to other markets. Interestingly the warranty also covers final transistors for all radios which was not covered under previous Icom warrant you can see some limited information re this at the following link: <http://www.strictlyham.com.au/>

Could be worth asking your local dealer for the timing on this roll-out. Cheers Paul - vk3ajj—

HAM TOON

YOU DID REMEMBER
I WANTED THE

ALPHA !



BY Woody Epp
Thecartooner.com



JAN WA6WTF AND JASON N6EY

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

(Continued from page 3 Editors Comments)

the SJV Section "contest" wise.

Additional contributors to SKIP during the past year were:

Vic Rosenthal K2VCO "FOC-What Is IT?";

Pat Barthelow AE6GE "Echoes of Apollo"

Jim Nelson W6ALE "Radio Flyers"

Jim Clymer WS6X "Anodized Chicken", "12 Volt Emergency Power Supply", "Squirrel Cannon" and "Low Band DX'ing From A Small City Lot" (Part 1 and 2)

Jim Erbe WA6NIF "Field Day" and "Trials and Tribulations of W6VPS"

Steve Basset NA6G "Mayor Proclaims Amateur Radio Week"

Stuart Holm WB6VRJ (from Wilson Island). Stuart sends in multitudes of short articles, tips and advise.

A special thank you goes to "FARC Photographer" Richard Pack KE6SHL who has provided the great pictures during the past year.

I asked for help in a couple of months ago in copying and mailing SKIP to those who get the newsletter by mail. Jim Erbe WA6NIF has stepped up and is performing that needed help. Thanks Jim.

Lastly, in remembrance of our members that became Silent Keys:

Monty Lamont KD6DRY,
Grant Story W6NTK and
Grants wife Elva, Pat Kraft KA6SRN,



MONTY LAMONT KD6DRY

Harold Murdock N6RPY, John Pethel WB6YDO, Jack Francis W7JAK, Ed Ankney KD6HIA, and Mervin Behlen WA6SMG.

73 & HNY

Dave W6TE
W6TE@MSN.COM



GRANT STORY N6NTK

**Enjoy the net.
Switch on the set.
Warm it up slow and go.
Light the tubes, bask in the glow.
Surf shortwaves on your old radio.
K6MI**



Fresno Amateur Radio Club



JIM CLYMER WS6X



DAN AE6SX AND CHARLES
W6DPD

A graphic showing a grey recycling bin filled with various electronic items like a monitor, keyboard, and speakers.

Bring your e-waste to The Fresno Fairgrounds

Drop off Electronic Waste at NO CHARGE

E-waste is no longer accepted at the landfill & is often expensive to recycle. No limit to how many items you can bring to recycle. Broken or un-broken recyclables accepted.

FREE Recycling of any item with a cord including:

- LCD TV's & Monitors
- Laptops
- Plasma Screens
- Televisions
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- Printers
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- DVD Players
- Copy Machines
- Fax Machines
- Calculators
- Keyboards
- Stereo Systems
- Speakers
- Computer Mice
- Telephones
- Cell Phones
- VCR's

*Items containing Freon and washers/dryers will not be accepted.

For information visit www.FresnoFair.com or call 650-FAIR

2010 Dates:
January 9
February 13
March 27
April 24
May 29
June 19
July 17
August 21
November 20
December 11
Time:
From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location:
Enter the parking lot
off of Kings Canyon
Boulevard, just east
of Chance Avenue
(Gate 6)

A map showing the layout of the Fresno Fairgrounds area. It includes labels for Cedar, Chance, Butler, and Natomas streets, and shows the location of Gate 6. The address 1121 S. Chance Avenue, Fresno, CA 93702 is also provided.

The FAIR logo, which consists of the word "FAIR" in a stylized font inside a circular emblem with a recycling symbol.

The Electronic Recyclers logo, featuring a recycling symbol and the text "Electronic Recyclers".

The Telewave Inc. logo, which features a stylized eight-pointed star or flower design made of triangles.

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Fresno Amateur Radio Club



Happy Thanksgiving!

I would like to share some epiphanies I have had, about Thanksgiving.

The first is, it is a time of reflection and we are each Thankful in a personal way.

Second, we are molded by our current events and situations, currently we may be thankful we survived the economy or missed deployment overseas.

And third, being Thankful should be more of a normal daily occurrence.

This makes Thanksgiving Day a National Celebration, recognizing that we are able to be Thankful in such a grand way as Parades, Football Games, feeding frenzies both at the table and at the retail stores, oh, and those mass migrations to Grand-Ma's House.

So with those things in mind, as is traditional, I give thanks as we all should, for Home, Mother, relatives, food and shelter. The Military Family, I know, are also Thankful for these, with even more intensity, so for them I am thankful. I am also thankful for all the faith based Charities who now seem to miraculously reappear, even though they give quietly all year long. I am Thankful, too, for the ability to Volunteer and for all the Volunteers who sometimes work harder than they did for their employer!

I am also thankful for this opportunity to send this to you and I hope that you and yours have a Great Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank God for Amateur radio, Hi HI!

Dan Pruitt, AE6SX
SM SJV

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio™
email: ae6sx@arrl.org



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Occasionally, it is a good idea to look at other hobbies, and provide ourselves with information.

As an example, I was reading a *MODEL RAILROADER* magazine, and one of the letters had a good set of hints about using LEDs; while he might use LEDs on his layout, we can use them around the shack as well.

This writer gets many of his LEDs from Christmas tree lights. Coloured ones are from another source.

But what particularly appealed to me was his sentence:

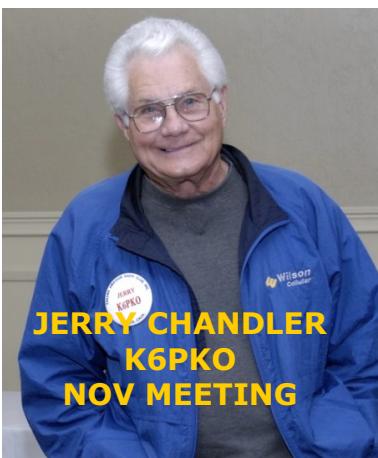
"I don't trouble myself keeping track of anodes and cathodes. If it doesn't light up one way, turn it around and try it the other way."

Stuart WB6VRJ

Bob Ragsdale, Tektronix Design Engineer, quoted the "Pulse Amplifier Designer's Law," which he said he learned at the Rad Lab in Livermore: "If it's big enough, it's too slow. If it's fast enough, it's too small. If it's big enough and fast enough, its got rumdiddlies on the top."

FOR SALE: M2 40M2L: 2 Element, 40 meter beam. Gain 4.2 dBd, F/B 12 dB, Boom Length 19' 7", go to www.m2inc.com for additional spec's. \$450

Call Dave W6TE 323-6095



While you're busy DXing over the holidays, here's some different ways to wish your contacts well, courtesy of the Radio Amateur's Conversation Guide by Jukka Heikinheimo OH2BR/OH1BR and Miika OH2BAD and several on-line translation services.

English - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Holiday)

German - Frohe Weihnachten und ein glichliches Neues Jahr.

(Feiertag)

French - Joyeux noel et bonne annee. (Vacances)

Italian - Buon natale e felice anno nuovo. (Festa)

Spanish - Feliz navidad y ano nuevo. (Dia de fiesta)

Portuguese - Feliz Natal e Prospero Ano Novo. (Feriado)

Russian - Visjolava razdestva i snovyim godam! (Prazhdink)

Japanese - Christmas omedetogozaimasu, Tanoshii Christmas-o, Shinnen
omedetogozaimasu, Yoi otoshio. (Horidei)

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

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.

Feb 20 May 15 Aug 21 Nov 20

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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2009 Fresno Amateur Radio Club Application

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ 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

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

Dec. 1th Board Meeting

**Dec. 11th Christmas
Dinner**

Send To: