



Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Feb 2010 Volume 72, Issue 2

Our next meeting will be January 8th at 7:00 PM. Meeting place: Cedar Lanes Bowl—Cedar and Shields Aves. Come to the meeting 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.

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

It looks like a lot of our HAMS are getting ready to start their tower projects or they planning what to do first. I was at the Central California DC meeting last weekend and won a pair of gloves. These gloves had a special netting on them, so they would grip and hold to a item. Sitting next to me was Jim Clymer WS6X the first thing he did was try the gloves on and said "these would be great for climbing towers, what a grip". Well I`m a man that does not get more than 72 off the ground, that`s in inches by the way. So I gave my gloves to Jim. I suspect Paul Sullivan, W6VPS and him will try them out as soon as we get good weather. Give us a report on the "climbing gloves" after you try them.



I would like to thank all of our members that are doing our nets. Our Tec Net , Drive Time Net AM , and our Sunday Night Net. Our net manager Joe Cardoza, WA6FFJ is always looking for net control operators on Sunday , give him a call if you can help. Joe has add a new item to our Sunday Night Net " History of FARC". Thanks, Joe for a make this net more special. If you have a item for the net please email it to him.

If you some want good old HAM talk stop by the Yosemite Falls Restaurant on Tuesday morning at 7:45 or Fresno Hofbra on Thursdays after 11:00. Hope to see you at one of these places. Our next meeting is February 12 at Cedar Lanes, Friday night at 7:00 pm.

73,,, Tom, KG6KYU

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FARC Officers:

Tom Jarvis, Pres. - KG6KYU	kg6kyu@w6to.com	(559) 916-2445	12/2011
Craig Carter—K6QI	k6qi@k6qi.com	(559) 284-1722	12/2011
Jim Erbe, Sectry - WA6NIF	wa6nif@w6to.com	(559) 222-7524	12/2011
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
Ken Holden, V.P.—WA6OIB	wa6oib@w6to.com	(559) 323-6753	12/2010
Chuck McConnell, W6DPD	w6dpd@w6to.com	(559) 431-2038	12/2010
Dave Smith, W6TE	w6te@msn.com	(559) 323-6095	12/2011
Joseph Capell, W0PJD	W0PJD@me.com	(559) 225-3582	12/2011
Jack Baker, AC6LT	ac6lt@CVIP.net	(559) 297-4311	12/2010

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>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Feb 2	FARC BOD Meeting	Mar 2	FARC BOD Meeting
Feb 5	CARP General meeting	Mar 5	CARP General Meeting
Feb 6	Fresno-Madera DX Breakfast	Mar 6	DX Breakfast
Feb 12	FARC General Meeting	Mar 6-7	ARRL DX Contest-Phone
Feb 19	SJVARs Gen Meeting	Mar 12	FARC General Meeting
Feb 20	Fresno VEC Exam	Mar 19	SJVARs General Meeting
Feb 20-21	ARRL DX Contest—CW	Mar 23	QCWA Lunch Meeting
Feb 23	QCWA Lunch Meeting		

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

EDITOR'S COMMENTS by Dave Smith W6TE

Dear FARC Friends,

I would like to thank the contributors to SKIP Newsletter. Everyone please consider contributing something to the newsletter. It is all informative to your fellow hams.

Ken Holden, WA6OIB, with the assistance of Joe Capel, WOPJD, is conducting the General Class licensing course. The course will conclude the week of February 14th, just in time for the Feb 21st VEC Exam session. Thank you Ken and Joe!

Plans for the 100th year anniversary of Communications in the San Joaquin Valley are progressing. Volunteers are welcome. The Hamfest Chairman is Craig Carter, K6QI. Please see Craig if you would like to volunteer.

There are several events that the club plans for each year. One is the Hamfest the other big event is Field Day. The Field Day Chairman this year is Co-Chaired by Pat Fennacy, W6YEP and Ken Holden, WA6OIB. Please volunteer your time for Field Day if at all possible..

I am asking for some help with SKIP. A huge thank you goes out to Jim Erbe, WA6NIF for taking on the copying and mailing issue. I'm asking for a volunteer as assistant editor for SKIP.

73, Dave W6TE




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

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Membership Attendance for January—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	-	100.0
WIN/SYSTEM	K6JSI	223.780	-	100.0

Special Announcements:

Birthdays, Anniversary's

Birthdays:

Jim Clymer Feb 28th

Anniversary:

Dan Pruitt and Spouse Feb 18th
Joe and Julie Cardoza Feb 8th

Ken and Gwynne Holden recently became new Grandparents. Their Daughter gave birth to a new little girl! Congratulations to Ken and Gwynne and their daughter and son-in-law. There's nothing better than being a grandparent!

Silent Keys

Jake Mirigian, W6JXY, became a Silent Key on January 11th. He will be missed.

WWW.W6TO.COM

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Amateur of the Month Joe Capel W0PJD

When Joe was 7, his dad began a series of classes on the GI Bill in electronics. He and another guy built a basement radio repair shop which Joe and his brother, John, used as a playground, though it was supposed to be a home business. At 10, he got his novice license, KN6YQK from FARC stalwart, Allen Ross, W6JPS. His brother became KN6RIT.

Joe and John (now K9MCC) attended later classes with their dad at City College learning about radio and tv repair while he was in the fifth and sixth grade and at about the same time, since they lived across the street from Roosevelt High, attended summer school where they met the famous Mr. Roy Tuck who taught radio shop and stagecraft and the Roosevelt Ham Radio Club in the late 50's and early 60's which spawned many new hams, some of who are still club member today.

Joe advanced to Technician and General Class over the next few years. He recalls classes at Chandler Field sponsored by the radio club. Because the FCC examiner came to Fresno only

every three months, radio licenses were free and it was a challenge, he took and passed commercial radiotelegraph and radiotelephone tickets. Actually, there were a lot of young hams taking those tests and passing them and chatting every afternoon and evening on 75 meters. Rummaging through the stacks of military surplus radio gear at Jimmy Nichols on California Avenue was another thing that kept him busy in those days.

He graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School in 1963. He worked at that school too on stagecraft and a Ham Radio Club. At the same time he recalls participating in numerous hidden transmitter hunts on six meter AM that

used to start at Radio Park on Monday nights, usually with carloads of teenage boys participating in the sport.

College in San Francisco was a period of severely diminished ham radio and Medical School at USC in Los Angeles was a time when unfortunately he let his ticket lapse. He married Barbara (no call) in 1969 here in Fresno.

Further medical training moved him and his young family to Minneapolis, Minnesota where he became active in the Courage Center Handy Hams System. He reinstated his license and got his present call of W0PJD and quickly advanced to Extra Class at one of the numerous "Radio Camps" where he was the camp doctor for about 60 disabled youngsters and adults, studied faster code, and mastered the advanced theory for the license.

Joe returned to his native Fresno in 1979 to work at Fresno Community Hospital in their new rehabilitation center and eventually started a private practice in Rehabilitation Medicine.

He was active in the Fresno radio club trying to interest his four kids in Ham Radio with the doughnuts and raffles at the meetings, but only his middle son, Jordan, took the novice test at age 8 to become KB6JAJ. That test was given by Alan Ross again, 24 years after Joe's exam. Jordan's other encouragement came from John Morice, K6MI who was his orchestra and violin teacher and helped him with memorizing novice frequencies along with treble clefs.

His practice and raising a family caused Joe to decrease his ham radio participation but in the last few years he has renewed his commitment to the hobby and the club being on the board of directors, helping with license classes and writing a feature in SKIP.



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. Minami Torishima, JD1/M will close in February 2010. The weather station is closing. Work this one now as it may become very rare.

The 2010 International DX Convention is April 16-18 at the Holiday Inn in Visalia. Check www.dxconvention.org for information.

The CQ DX Marathon runs from January 1, to December 31, 2010. Work each DXCC entity and CQ Zone once. The score is the total of DXCC entities plus Zones.

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/IRCChart.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. 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 Seventh Antarctic Activity Week is February 22 to 28, 2010. More stations are expected to be on the air for this one.

The following operations are scheduled:

- Wake Island KH9/WA2YUN now through 2010
- Willis Island VK9WBM Until July 2010
- Marshall Islands V73NS now through 2009
- Djibouti J28AA now for at least a year
- Juan Fernandez Is. CE0ZA Jan 21 to Feb 3, 2010
- Chile CE1/K7CA now through February 23, 2010
- Tanzania 5I3A now to March 1, 2010
- Bahamas C6ANM Now through April 2010
- Malawi 7Q7HB now for 3 months
- Dominica J79BXI January 8 to March 31, 2010
- St. Maarten PJ5NA January 10 to March 27, 2010
- Thailand HS0ZJF January 12 to March 8, 2010
- Pitcairn Island VP6AL now through March 2010
- United Arab Em A6/VE6LB Jan 8 to Feb 8, 2010
- Austral Islands FO/DL (3 ops) Jan 18 to Feb 5, 2010
- Juan Fern CE0Z/JA8BMK Jan 19 to Feb 2, 2010
- Senegal 6W2SC & Guinea Bissau J5UAP Jan 15 to Mar 31, 2010
- Austral Islands January 18 to February 5, 2010
- Fernando de Noronh PY0F/PY2XB Jan 23 to Feb 3, 2010
- South Shetland Is. XR9JA February 1 to 28, 2010
- Senegal 6W January 26 to February 9, 2010
- Bahamas C6AWS February 5 to February 10, 2010
- Ogasawara Various Call Signs Feb 6 to Feb 14, 2010
- Vietnam 3W6C April 10 to April 18, 2010

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Quartzfest 2010, By Andy Reistetter, K6RY

You got to go!! This was my fourth trip to Quartzfest in my RV with my wife. Quartzfest is located on BLM land – free camping right out in the desert. We were only 6 miles south of Quartzsite along highway 95. Quartzsite is located 15 miles east of Blythe, CA. – 10 hour drive from Fresno. Over 135 RV's showed up

surf at Newport Harbor.

I must speak about our leader Cliff Haycock, KD4ZBP. Both Cliff and his wife Virginia are the organizers and spirit of the whole affair.



We were sad to hear that they would not be leading our group next year – a new leader has already volunteered to make 2011 another great experience.

The seminars really covered the digital world with information on the "Winmor, Airmail, Sail-mail" all working through Winlink. Also APRS was addressed with more good information for those new to the system. Gordon West held a



demonstration on DSP speakers for the mobile HF ham.



to share the fun of ham radio and the beauty of the desert.

Anyway, all of our seminars were conducted outside under the beautiful sun and clean air. Well, the trip this year was total different – rain and more rain. However, since it rained during the nights, we were able to conduct classes in the open air all days except for Thursday.

I enjoyed meeting and speaking with Gordon West, WB6NOA. He brings an aire of authority to Quartzfest. His organizational skills and expertise made the happening really interesting. He was called to action half-way through Quartzfest by his unit of the Coast Guard Auxiliary due to unusually high



Quartzfest 2010, By Andy Reistetter, K6RY

A really telling demo on what manufacturer has the best product. VE testing was conducted for two days – a few more new hams entered our fraternity. A very special seminar on the Picaxe Microprocessor was conducted by Bill Pratts, K6ACJ. Kevin Hedgepeth, NB7O, held a



spirited look into Winmor – a possible competitor to the SCS controller. Discussion on batteries and how to get the most from them

by the ham was conducted by Omer, KI6JNY. Of course, one of the most popular events during

Quartzfest was the “Antenna Walkabout”. We were able to see some of the newest and innovative antenna systems for both RV’s and portable use. Early in the week an HF shoot out was held with stations in Quartzsite being heard by stations in northern and southern California. Signal strengths were noted and scores assigned – lots of fun for all.

The whole event ended with a great swap meet on Saturday morning – yep, the flashlights were out looking for a super bargain early in the morning.

Last word - for the non-ham, there are plenty of activities: genealogy and craft classes, shopping trips to Quartzsite during the big RV and Rock hound shows. A trip to Mexico is also an easy day trip



FRESNO ENCOMM ARES/RACES by Dan Pruitt AE6SX

Already this month there is a change in the flavor of EmComm from all aspects. Our own Craig K6QI, went on an Air Force sponsored tour of the Pave Paws facility at Beale AFB. Skywarn is going to exhibit at the Cal Ag Expo in Tulare. The ARRL Emergency Management position formerly held by Dennis Dura K2DCD, is now vacant. our Asst. ARES EC is starting new training programs. The ARES/RACES web site has a new face. SATERN is growing and working with ARES/RACES. This month's training meeting is tasked with completing this year's calendar.



Craig K6QI73, along with hams in the ARRL Pacific Division, were invited to accompany and have a chance to get the Air Force's spin on the interference with their Pave Paws project. Led by Dan Henderson N1ND (ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist) the Air Force welcomed the hams with a tour and a forum to exchange ideas. The Air Force is the "Primary user" in the 70 CM band and is being very gracious in not asking the FCC to just shut down our privileges. They are seeking ways to accommodate the hams. They will be at PacifiCon, in October. The more we work together on this, the sooner we will see a resolution.

WX6hNX will be operating portable at the World Ag Expo, February 9, 10 and 11, in Tulare. The National Weather Service will be exhibiting in Pavilion 1. The SKYWARN contingent with the Kings Co. ARES group will operate as a demonstration of Amateur Radio's contribution. Bruce KD6DRU, Skywarn's coordinator had this as the focus of the January 20 meeting in Hanford. For info: Bruce. buhler50@hotmail.com

ARRL EmComm Manager's position is now vacant, however ARRL's commitment to emergency Communications has not diminished. The Haiti disaster was well handled with HQ shipping out a repeater, HT's and mobile units for their use. They were shipped with coax,

antennas batteries and all the hardware to put them into operation. Looks like the responsibility fell mostly to Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, ARRL's Asst manager for membership and Volunteer Programs. Good job! It is nice to know the cache of equipment is there in time of crisis.

Joe WA6FFJ, will be unveiling his new training programs at the Monthly Meeting. This will include a lot of hands-on training. His emphasis stresses 'using the radio'. Learn by doing. It should work very well with the idea of having at least 1 event per month. I'm looking forward to working with him on this. Field Day will allow a lot of participation from those that normally can't get out of town, or up a hill with a club..

I hope you were there to help set the calendar for this year. I know The March of Dimes event is late March, Field Day in June, and Joe has a place to do Amateur Radio Awareness Day in September. SET (Simulated Emergency Test) is in October and Skywarn Recognition Day is first weekend of December. Check out the new face on the website to see the completed calendar.

The Salvation Army of Fresno has always been there to help and ready at the drop of a hat. Their SATERN arm, coming with Dwaine Brezeale, Captain KG6SYA. after his association with the Bishop SATERN group, show our group what to aspire to achieve. He and Captain Kristin KI6QED, are planning to upgrade their EOC before Field Day with some more permanent antennas and equipment.

The ARES contingent all through the San Joaquin Valley are under mandate to improve simplex VHF and HF functionality. This means training for relaying traffic, point to point with all modes, not just voice. This will demonstrate the capability to pass traffic, through the Section 73; Dan AE6SX

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FIELD DAY JUNE 26-27TH

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

MY GRANSON, KEN, K6KJS AND I DID THE INSTALL ABOUT A WEEK AGO.

BOOM LEN. 71 FT
ELE. LEN. 100 FT
HEIGHT 90 FT + TERRAIN ADVANTAGE.
GAIN AT 130 FT 12 DBI
FUN YES

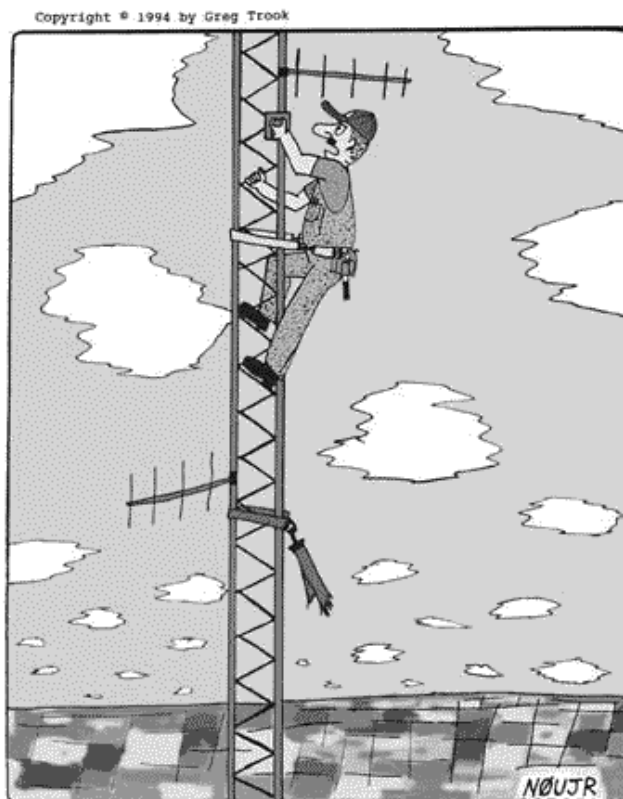
CU ON 3.790 TO 3.800 NITELY (0000 TO 0800 UTC)
LOOKING ALSO LONGPATH AT 1500 UTC BUT ONLY
SM6GZ HEARD 5/9....ACTIVITY LOW ON LONG PATH?

73, MIKE K6MYC



Tonight, on 40 meters, I heard a weak CW signal-WA0FDV-John, in Fargo, North Dakota. his signal was really weak, and there was some QSB. but we worked each other and had a great QSO on CW. It turns out he was running 5 watts=but I could copy; which brings to mind another observation-since the FCC eliminated CW from the test, there are sure a lot of people getting into CW; and look at the articles in QST magazine! by the way, my average speed is about 18 WPM and that is a very comfortable speed. so all you yakkkers-join that auspicious fraternity: I GOTTA KEY

73 *STUART WB6VRJ*



"So Bob...why did your ex-wife give you a new climbing belt for Christmas?"

FARC ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

A recent issue of QST published a letter criticizing the publication of the book *HAM RADIO FOR DUMMIES*.

Having seen that, I could not resist, so I purchased a copy. That is a wonderful book, that, and a companion book *SHORT WAVE FOR DUMMIES*, is a wonderful book. While the CW section might be outmoded, that is still a good introduction to CW. I know, I have been a ham 40+ years, and it is refreshing to read over and relearn a lot of concepts. There are also some new concepts to learn—that is what makes it all fun!

Speaking of CW—on Sunday nights, after the net, and around 2100 local, a few hams can be heard on 7110 KHz, or thereabouts. They are learning and improving their CW skills, and it is fun to hear them, and even join it. Try it—you will like it!

de *STUART WB6VRJ*

NON-Kattywompus Antenna

Guess who feels better (still a little cough...a puff now & then on the inhaler.) And guess who just finished the antenna repair project? That pup won't be turning now. 8-32 2" brass screw and a Nylock nut.



Thank goodness for battery operated drills.

Very fortunate...went like clockwork...up the tower...fixed...down the tower in 25 minutes. HOO-RAY !!!

Paul W6VPS

P.S. Yes...your eyes are not deceiving you...the element IS slightly low on the left...high on the right...GEEZ....gimme a break !!!

Maybe I'll go back up and fix that tomorrow....if I can get an extra set of eyes to stop by.. Jim ?? Ted ??? Maybe ???

If you want to scan a band, but don't have a spare spectrum analyzer to dedicate to the job, there's an alternative. Joe K8FC suggests that you can do the job for a relatively small investment, a software-defined radio (SDR), such as one of the Softrock kits <<http://www.softrockradio.org/>> combined with Rocky <<http://www.dxatlas.com/Rocky>> or Power SDR <<http://www.wu2x.com/:80/sdr.html>> software. These are pretty amazing packages!

VHF+ contesters will find lots of value at Jim W6PQL's Web site <<http://w6pql.com/>> as Jim says, "It's been raining here a lot, and I tend to write when I'm cooped up." New additions include UHF PC-board filters, a VHF VCXO, and a microwave marker generator. Happy browsing!

A portable lap table for equipment would come in handy in a lot of portable or rover situations. This laptop stand project from the Instructables Web site <<http://tinyurl.com/236omu>> will no doubt get the design juices flowing. The comments regarding the adjustable, but locking, joint have some very good ideas.

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

(Continued from page 6 "The DX Corner")

Mauritius 3B8SC April 7 to April 21, 2010
Vietnam 3W6C April 10 to April 18, 2010
Annobon Island 3C0 April 2010
Palestine E4X Sometime between March and May 2010
Maldiv Islands 8Q7AT May 23 to June 4, 2007
Central Kiribati T31 End of September 2010
Tokelau ZK3 April 2010
Angola D2CQ Feb 2010 possibly for a few years.
Aves Island YV0A early 2010??
North Cook Islands E51WWA Feb 3 to Feb 15, 2010
Dodecanese Is SV5/DJ78RJ Feb 24 to Mar 17, 2010
Morocco CN2MR February 18 to February 26, 2010
Belize V31JZ February 24 to March 3, 2010
Cocos Keeling Island VK9COF? March 2010
Montserrat VP2MPR Feb 28 to Mar 13m 2010
Montserrat VP2MPL Mar 3 to Mar 11, 2010 CW only
St. Lucia J68JA March 2 to March 11, 2010
South Cook Is E51COF Mar 20 to Mar 30, 2010
Iraq YI9PSE April 3 to April 11, 2010

Good luck, tune the dial, and listen.

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.

(Continued from page 7 "Fresno Encomm")

NET: Monday 1930 hrs local on 147.150+, PL 141.3

Monthly: meetings, the 4th Thursday of each Month
Salvation Army Citadel, 1854 N. Fulton St 1900 hrs

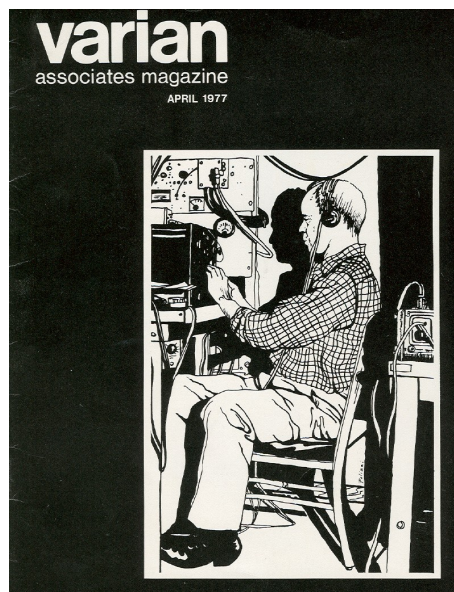
EmComm and Coffee: Time is 0830 hrs, 3rd Friday Yosemite Falls Cafe on Blackstone and Shaw

Web: www.fresnoares.com or www.fresno-races.net You can contact us directly at info@fresnoares.com

If you are storing gear for more than a few weeks,

particularly in an outside storage facility, moisture is a concern. Responding to a request on the Amps reflector <<http://www.contesting.com/>> for suggestions on how to keep the gear dry, several members recommended using widely dessicant packets. Wrap the gear in a sturdy plastic bag, place at least one dessicant packet in the bag, suck out as much air as you can and seal the bag tightly. If you can put the wrapped gear in a cardboard box, so much the better. Dessicant packets are included with most new pieces of electronic gear, too.

Instructions for building a switchable "Field Day" stub that reduces interference between stations on 40/20/15/10 are on the Hands-On Radio Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/Hands-On-Radio>>. (This was originally suggested by K6LL or N2IC.) Download Experiment #22 on "Stubs". At the 80/75-meter station, attach a 1/4-wave shorted stub as that will act as a short on 40, 20, 15, and 10 with varying degrees of attenuation on the higher bands. For the complete story, get a copy of W2VJN's book "Managing Interstation Interference" from International Radio <<http://www.qth.com/inrad>>.



Bob Southerland W6PO

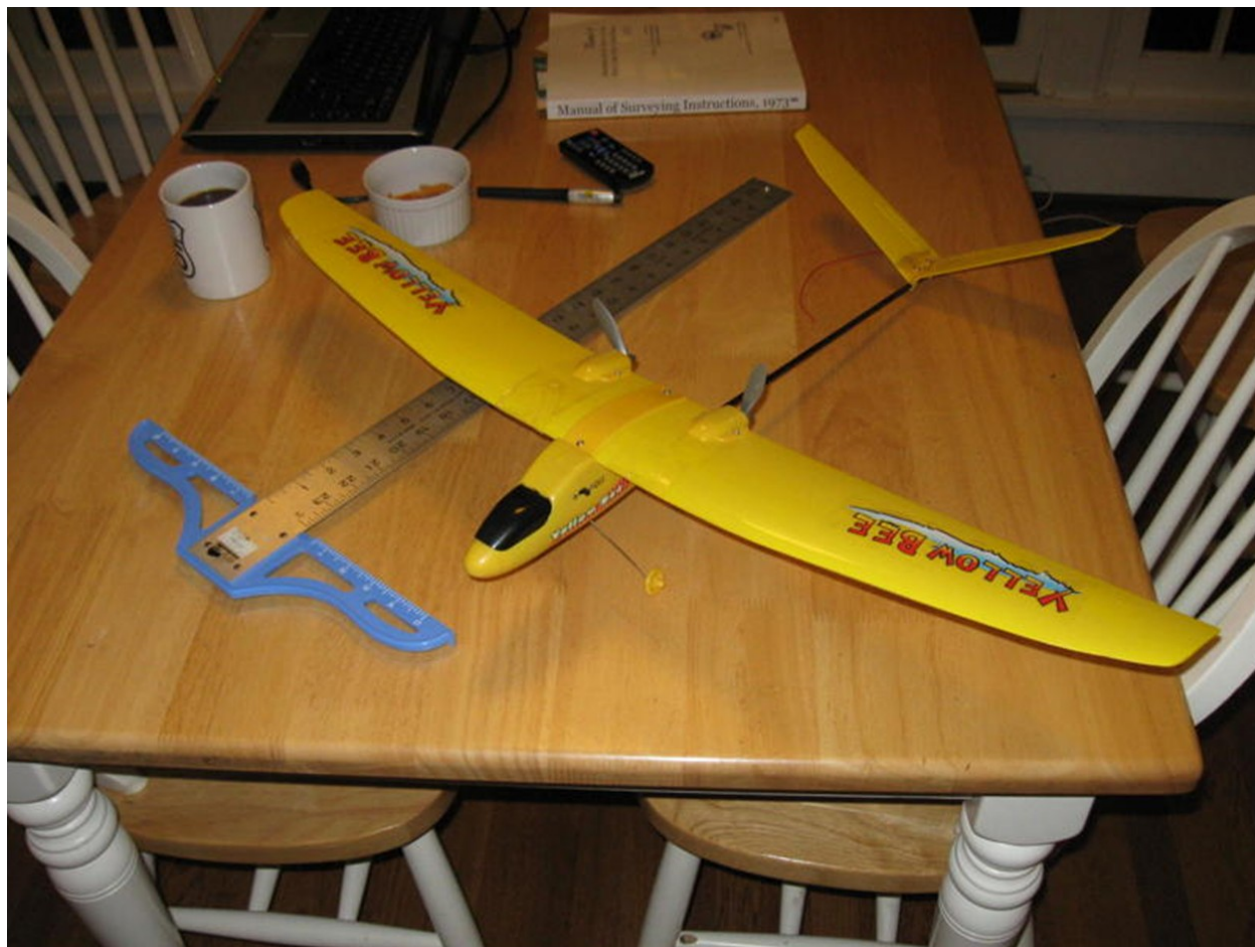
Fresno Amateur Radio Club

"STUARTS YELLOW BEE", By Stuart Holm WB6VRJ

I have a YELLOW BEE airplane-Jerry Jackson, W6KEG, and others have seen me fly it. well, I keep it in the radio shack room. I had left the switch in the ON position, went out of the room, came back in, and turned on the overhead light. the overhead light is one of those Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL). when I switched it on, the motors on the Yellow BEE twirled their props for about a second. I was amazed, so I tried it about three times. Yep, every time I switched on the light, the motors were activated for a brief time. That confirms the fact those things have a built-in oscillator, and it apparently goes through a frequency swing up as it goes on.

I have attached a copy of the YELLOW BEE and I have included a yard stick to give an idea of its size.

STUART WB6VRJ

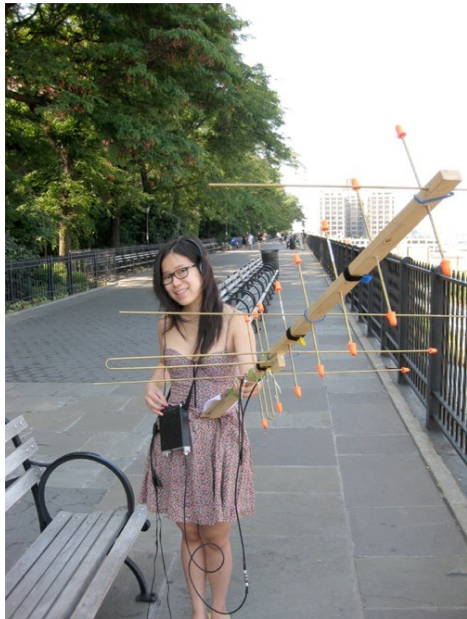


HAMFEST AUGUST 21

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

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2010 Dates:
 January 9
 February 13
 March 27
 April 24
 May 29
 June 19
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 November 20
 December 11

Time:
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Location:
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Fresno Amateur Radio Club

OY6A live webcam in cqww 160 <http://www.justin.tv/oy6fra>

OP are OY3AA, OZ7AM & OY2J

73's
Jan, OY3JE

I just came across this web page (a link from the Heil Sound page) that has every microphone and radio microphone input pinout known to man ... you might want to bookmark this page ...

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rg4wpw/date.html>
Ron Whitsel, W3RJW

B CQ-WW-160

LOOK ONLINE CONTESTING IN CQWW160 OF RM3F BY UA3DPX, RV1AW, UA4LCQ FROM UA3DPX'S STATION

<http://znuki.ru/ua3dpx.php>

73! UA3DPX, RV1AW, UA4LCQ, +ex OP UZ1AWO

Space Weather News for Jan. 28, 2010 FULL MOON AND MARS: Friday night's full Moon is the biggest and brightest full Moon of the year. It's a "perigee Moon," as much as 14% wider and 30% brighter than other full Moons you'll see later in 2010. But that's not all. Mars is having a close encounter with Earth, and on Friday night, Jan. 29th, it will join the Moon for an all-night-long conjunction. Don't miss it! Sky maps and images may be found at:

[_http://spaceweather.com](http://spaceweather.com)

K4TWJ, Dave Ingram (<http://k4twj.blogspot.com/>) SK - Dave passed away this morning from complications of the heart attack he suffered on New Year's Eve.

This is a tremendous loss to the CW community. He was not only a very nice, ethical fellow, but his writing in CQ, authoring of books, and more, about keys are an invaluable resource of information for collectors.

73 de NW7US, Tomas David Hood - Bitterroot Valley of Montana Arrangements are pending.

The strongest M-class flare yet this year and solar cycle - M3.4 peaking at 1755 UTC 20 JAN 2010.

Radio blackouts on HF. 73 de NW7US

Hi Gang:

Well here we go the fight for the "Frequency's" is on. Here is a article of what the big company's (Verizon, AT&T Nextel etc...) will be doing from now on. Radio is about to repeat itself and we the VHF, UHF, Microwave Hams will be looked at for out frequency's. I hope that we will be able to hold on? Ed WA3BZT. <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aEcFTb9pAoVo>

Since the last report I sent, two more M-class flares are reported: 20-01-2010 0748 UT at Flux M 1.7 and 20-01-2010 1100 UT at Flux M 1.9 The Sun is clearly coming more awake. In the last 24 hours, the largest flare was an M2.3 flare with peak at 1341 UT on January 19. They are all coming from NOAA AR 11041 (old 11039, Catania 37). More M flares are likely. These flares are causing radio blackouts in sunlit regions. The blackout is most noticed on lower HF bands, and extend up into the 20 MHz frequencies. Expect some geomagnetic activity due to the arrival of fast solar wind from a coronal hole, in addition to these radio blackouts. Conditions on HF therefore will become more variable and degraded in the next days.

73 de NW7US, Tomas David Hood - Bitterroot Valley of Montana

Ken,
Thank you. My question really is not ham related with the exception that a lot of us hams in the Fresno area have gotten involved with RC battery planes. Most have the Yellow Bee that can be purchased at Harbor Freight for around 30 bucks. Here is our problem. We used to crash them way before the battery pack discharged. After patching the planes back together we finally figured out how to fly them. Now we run out of battery. The battery pack supplied are 4 AAA NiMH 600 mah that are wired (in phase I think) to put out 4.8v. I purchased some 1000 Mah batteries and made my own pack. The output (horsepower) was much less than the 600 Mah batteries and did not work. I then had Batteries Plus make up some packs with 650 Mah batteries and they did not work either. So, the million dollar question is this. Do batteries with a higher rating in regards to Mah have a lower (slower) output? It seems to be the case however common sense would say the opposite. Thank you in advance for your help. (Sorry, I lost track of who sent this in. W6TE)

Ahh yes, power vs. energy. The mAh or more precisely the watt-hr content (mAh*cell voltage) refers to the energy that the cell can hold. This rating is usually measured at a relatively low rate of discharge, typically C/10 (discharge current equal to 1/10th the mAh rating) -- so a 600 mAh cell would be tested at 60 mA and would "pass" if the cell voltage didn't drop below a threshold (say 0.9V) for 10 hours.

RC planes are notoriously high drain devices. Power is energy consumed or delivered per unit time. It is much harder for a battery to deliver all its energy in a short period of time rather than over a longer time such as 10 hours. You need to look at the cell capacity when placed under high rates of discharge. I'm not a RC plane owner, but I would imagine that most packs are designed for about a 15 minute flight. That means discharge at the 4C rate (40 times the C/10 rate). At these rates, internal cell resistance becomes a dominant factor. Basically, a lot of energy in the cell goes up as heat internal to the cell. It turns out that higher capacity cells use thinner plates (to allow more active material) and a slightly different crystal structure in their active materials to increase cell capacity at the expense of internal resistance. This is exactly what you are experiencing. When looking at cells for your application, look for the cell with the highest "high-rate" rating. So, your hunch is correct.

One more thing, when you make these packs, are you soldering the cells together? If you are using spring contacts, the resistance of those can be rather high. Commercial

high rate packs are spot welded for best performance.

Ken Nishimura
e Control is the key to battery life...

More batteries are destroyed or damaged by bad charging techniques than all other causes combined. Once a battery reaches full charge, the charging current has to go somewhere — most often, generating heat and gases. Both are bad for batteries.

Heat is the enemy of batteries...

A battery stored, used, or charged under high temperature conditions will die an early death. Heat causes the separator to weaken, the seals to weaken, and greatly accelerates changes in the plate material, some of which cause the dreaded [memory effect](#). So even though the cells may not vent, the heat by-product is wearing down the cells. Specifically, hydrolysis or degradation of the separator material, usually polyamide, is greatly accelerated at high temperatures. This leads to [premature cell failure](#)

- DON'T deliberately discharge the batteries to avoid memory.
- DO let the cells discharge to 1.0V/cell on occasion through normal use.
- DON'T leave the cells on trickle charge for long times, unless voltage depression can be tolerated.
- DO protect the cells from high temperature both in charging and storage.
- DON'T overcharge the cells. Use a good charging technique.

DO choose cells wisely. Sponge/foam plates will not tolerate high charge/discharge currents as well as sintered plate.

Before Texas Instruments and silicon wafers changed the face of modern electronics, there was the Loewe Radio Company <<http://tinyurl.com/2cfyu3>> and some fairly amazing tube-like-objects! (John K0IO)

One of the fun things is to listen to the BS NET on 146.94/R at 1900 local, on Wednesday nights. Jack, AC6LT is the net control station {NCS}. While it started named as the BS net- which someone claims means the Basic Science net - but I am not sure,- it has acquired several other names.

But the main thing is that the net wants any interested hams to check in and voice their questions. A question might be voiced, and it is interesting to hear the various answers propounded by the various hams who answer.

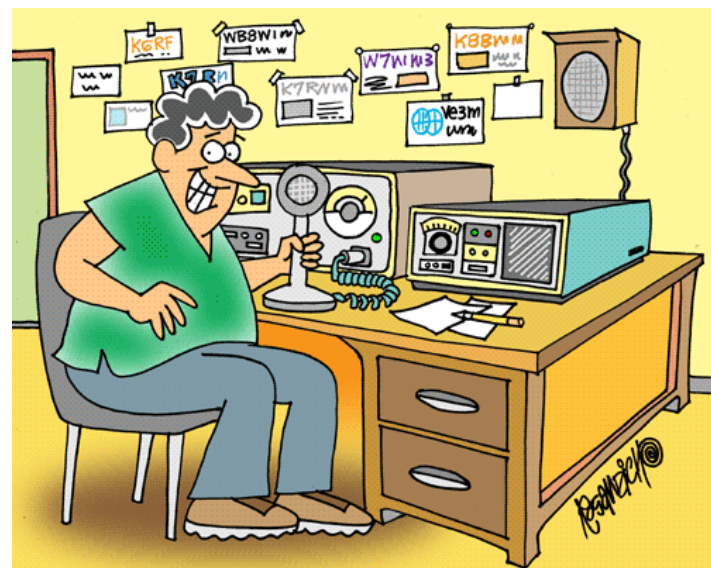
It is a lot of fun, and a good chance, not only to ask a question, but to learn various things about ham radio... a couple of weeks ago, it was about Yagi antennas [antennae].

Just the past week there was a very interesting point of discussion. One ham had a kind of antenna which ended in a stainless whip. The question was about cutting the whip to lower the SWR of the overall antenna. As one ham suggested, take out the stainless whip, and replace it with a ductile metal rod, one that can be cut easily. Then when the whip is finally cut to the correct length, measure that, and cut the stainless whip. Cutting the stainless whip can be difficult. I think it was Jack, AC6LT, who suggested using a file to notch and cut the whip- certainly, using the ductile metal makes cutting easier, and if a mistake were to be made, it's a lot easier and cheaper than losing a stainless whip.

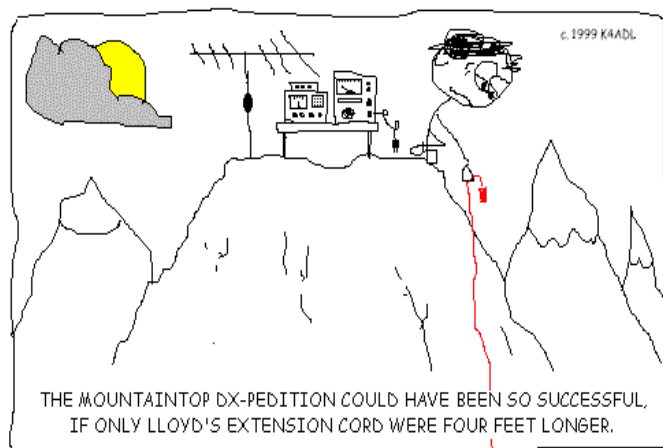
so there you have it-watch out, there might to be more to follow in several days!

Stuart WB6VRJ

With all the Internet resources out there, it's easy to get yourself into hot water with respect to contest rules about soliciting QSO's via "non-amateur means". There are



many "chat room" Web sites popular with specialized operating enthusiasts - low-band, VHF, EME, meteor scatter, and so forth. While it's best to just avoid public chat forums during contests, if you must chat remember that if you're giving out any information that would help someone make a QSO with you, that's considered out-of-bounds by most contest rules and contesters, too.(Ken K4ZW)



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

20 March 2010... That's the time for the annual gathering at M² this year.

For those coming the night before.

Quality Inn 559-275-2727

<http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-fresno-california-CA791/Hotel-Map?maphotel=C>

A791&country=US&sid=6AaVg.zefvhg5RXg.10

this is just south of the plant about 10 blocks. Hwy 99 and Ashlan Ave...

While it doesn't seem like there is much traffic coming out of Haiti on the ham bands, that could change at any time due to the arrival of relief teams or other unforeseeable circumstances. This information from a recent WRRL bulletin by K6SOJ may be helpful:

Normal protocol for major disasters is NO INBOUND "Health and Welfare" (W) or Routine (R) traffic for a minimum of 72 hours. [This is just past - N0AX.] There are only 143 (est.) licensed amateurs in Haiti. Only one or two stations are known to be QRV. It will probably be much longer before any inbound DWIs (Disaster Welfare Inquiries) can be handled or processed. Even if and when W or R traffic addressed to Haiti can be accepted, it may be many weeks before relief agencies have information or means to contact survivors and reply.

RECOMMEND: EMCOMM traffic stations may accept message traffic...but please advise the originating person/party that it will be held until a means to forward/deliver it can be established. (After Hurricane Katrina there were thousands of [inbound] DWIs that were never processed.)

SUGGEST: EMCOMM operators advise persons with [inbound] DWIs to contact U.S. Dept. of

State, the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army (they all have Web sites for this purpose) and follow the instructions provided.

Remember to keep the emcomm frequencies clear during this weekend's contests, particularly the NAQP SSB that will put a lot of signals on the low bands. Even if YOU don't hear anything, that doesn't mean that there isn't some local communications there that would hear your signals.

3977, 3985, 7265, 7290, 14265, and 14300 kHz

73, Ward N0AX

The Winter 2008 issue of the Pacific Northwest VHF Society's "The Noise Floor" <http://www.pnvwvhs.org/articles/noisefloor/NF_02-2008.pdf> includes the start of a multi-part series on assembling N-type connectors by Jim W7DHC. The series begins with a description of the various types of connectors that are available. Yes, Jim realizes that by accident, some of the photos show a C-type connector.

Rob Sherwood NC0B of Sherwood Engineering recently published a new presentation called "Roofing Filters, Transmitted IMD & Receiver Performance" in PowerPoint and PDF formats. <<http://www.sherweng.com/>>

Also posted is an MP3 audio file. Play the audio and follow along with the PPT or PDF. The presentation with audio lasts about an hour, followed by another 30 minutes about AGC in modern rigs. The presentation was made to the Boulder, Colorado Amateur Radio Club in February 2008. (Thanks, Chet K8RA)

2010 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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**Upcoming 2010
Fresno Amateur Radio
Club
Activities and Events**

**Jan 5th Board Meeting
Jan 8th FARC Club Meeting**

2010 Fresno Amateur Radio Club Application	
Name _____	Date _____
Address _____	State ____ Zip _____
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Occupation _____	Birth Date _____
Spouses Name _____	Anniversary Date _____
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Email Address _____	
I am interested in serving on one of the committees. Please contact me with more details. _____	
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