



Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

July 2010 Volume 72, Issue 7

Our next meeting will be July 9 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.

2010 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

By the time this article comes out Field Day will be over. Another year of communicating out in the field, practicing our skills in case of an emergency and enjoying some great food compliments of our skilled Chef Duane. I know we all had a great time and are looking forward to next year. Plans are starting to forming on how to do it better the next time.



Tom Jarvis KG6KY

Our next big event is our Summer Picnic, July 31, at the Holden's Rancho. Ken will be doing his famous barrel tri-tip, along with other barbecued goodies. The members will be bringing their special dishes to go along with the dinner. Afterwards, we will have Bingo. This was a lot of fun last year. We will have some cash prizes and gift cards for the winners. Don't let Ron talk us into filling the WHOLE card. That took a long time last year but everyone enjoyed the suspense. And Ron won that game. Looking forward to seeing you at our Summer Picnic.

73, Tom

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FARC Officers:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------------|---------|
| Tom Jarvis, Pres. - KG6KYU | kg6kyu@w6to.com | (559) 916-2445 | 12/2011 |
| Craig Carter V.P. —K6QI | k6qi@w6to.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, —WA6OIB | wa6oib@w6to.com | (559) 323-6753 | 12/2010 |
| Charles McConnell, W6DPD | w6dpd@w6to.com | (559) 431-2038 | 12/2010 |
| Dave Smith, W6TE | w6te@w6to.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.



Please send items for
SKIP to Editor Dave
Smith W6TE.
w6te@msn.com

Amateur Radio Event Calendar

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| July 6 | FARC BOD | Aug 3 | FARC BOD |
| July 9 | FARC General Meeting | Aug 6 | CARP General Meeting |
| July 8-12 | IARU HF World Champion | Aug 7-8 | ARRL UHF Contest |
| July 16 | SJVARS Meeting | Aug 13 | FARC General Meeting |
| July 27 | QCWA Lunch | Aug 20 | SJVARS General Meeting |
| July 31 | FARC Picnic | Aug 25 | QCWA Luncheon |

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

With much sadness I must report that Marlene Keith KG6DAK passed away last Friday, July 2nd. Mar was the wife of Gus Keith KF6ZXO and was the Secretary of the Madera Amateur Radio Club.

Mar and Gus have been members of the FARC for many years.

We will miss our dear friend very much.



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



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No Membership Attendance award for June.



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 |
| QCWA | WQ6CWA | 443.250 | + | 107.2 |
| 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 |

Birthdays:

Arlen Van Fossen WB6VAF
Stuart Holm, WB6VRJ

July 11
July 21

Anniversaries:

Glenn & Vicki Caine N6HEW July 18
Ron & Lisa Hunt N6MTS July 11
Ken & Gwynne Holden W6OIB & WA6VZM July 10

Frank Bowen, N6BWW, passed away on Thursday, June, 17, 2010., after a long illness. He was 85. He was a retired Fire Captain with the Fresno Fire Department, and he had Bowen's Radio and TV Repair. He was a member of the Fresno ARC, and numerous clubs in Fresno. Rest in Peace Frank.

The picture was taken at the 09 Fresno Hamfest. W6DPD



Fresno Amateur Radio Club - W6TO.com

Amateur of the Month JACK BACKER AC6LT, by Joe Capel W0PJD

If your tune into the FARC repeaters on Wednesday evening, you will hear Jack, AC6LT anchoring the discussions on the Tech Net covering far reaching subjects such as antenna SWR reading, the latest info on handhelds or why the water pressure is low in your backyard.

Jack was born and raised in Fresno and graduated from Bullard High School in 1963. He got his first license, a novice, WV6SHZ in 1961 and was on the air with a Jimmy Nichols goat farm special soon after. The hams who influenced him most at that time were fellow high schoolers, Joe Cadwalader, K6ZMW and Wayne Houser, WA6FAJ (now W6VOA).

He upgraded to technician class and used a Benton Harbor Lunchbox (Heathkit Six-er), a five watt AM rig that was popular at the time and he even had it in his car. After High School he went to Fresno City College for a degree in Electronic Technology.

With graduation and other pursuits, his interests in ham radio temporarily wained and his license ran out, but he remained interested in short wave activity. In the early 1990's having a scanner and an HF receiver, Marshal, WA6PRE challenged him to get back into our hobby. He got his general, KE6FOM and ungraded rapidly, even when Morse code was required, to advanced and Extra Class in 1994. He changed his call letters to AC6LT and still holds it.

Now ham radio for him, in addition to the Tech Net, consists largely in HF DX chasing. He has 215 DXCC countries! He has been a member of FARC since early on when we met in the auditorium at the top of the PG&E building in downtown Fresno and heard about a new device call a transistor. He recalls participating in the 6 meter transmitter hunts that originated in Radio Park on Monday nights. This year he is on our club board of directors.

He has worked for the city of Fresno for the last twelve years in the water division in communications and instrumentation.

In the picture taken at Field Day, Jack gives Duane, KI6QEL some pointers on antenna and receives some on BBQ.



VISIT W6TO.COM

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.

Congratulations to Bob, KK6LT, on achieving DXCC.

Due to a change in the status of the canal between Russia and Finland in which MV Island was not mentioned, therefore at some point MV Island, R1MVI will probably be a deleted entity. Time will tell.

Check out www.spaceweather.com and www.solarcycle24.com for information on the solar cycle. The higher the solar flux and the lower the A and K Indices, the better the band conditions. The sun is not cooperating by providing sunspots at this time; there are lots of blank days.

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. IRCs can be ordered online from

the US Post Office.

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:
- Afghanistan T6TL and T6JC October 2010 to May 2011
 - Bahrain A92IO now through August 2011
 - Wake Island KH9/WA2YUN now through 2010
 - Djibouti J28AA now for at least a year
 - Djibouti J28JV soon for at least a year, maybe 2Angola D2CQ February 2010 for a few years.
 - Aves Island YV0A early 2010??
 - Marion Island ZS8M May, 15 2010 to April 2011
 - St. Pierre & Miquelon FP July 5 to July 14, 2010
 - Mongolia JT July 7 to July 22, 2010
 - Wallis and Fortuna July 14 to July 24, 2010
 - Burkina Faso July 15 to August 10, 2010
 - Sardinia IS0E July 16 to July 24, 2010
 - Seychelles S79BMM July 17 to July 31, 2010
 - Seychelles S79AL July 17 to July 31, 2010
 - Senegal 6V7EA July 25 to July 31, 2010
 - Sable Island CY0 October 22 to October 31, 2010
 - Greenland OX October 20 to October 30, 2010
 - Botswana A2 October 20 to November 4, 2010
 - Kermadec ZL8X November 19 to December 5, 2010
 - Jarvis Island N5E Scheduled for Nov 17 to Dec 1, 2010
 - Juan Fernandez XR0ZN postponed to the end of 2010
 - Spratly Islands DX0DX January 6 to January 24, 2011
 - South Orkney Islands VP8O January 27 to February 8, 2011

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

FIELD DAY 2010 by Jim Erbe WA6NIF

The Fresno Amateur Radio Club participated in Field Day 2010. The location was at the Pine Ridge School, elevation of 4557 feet. The weather was outstanding. In fact, W6YEP and KA6VTA slept out under the stars.



Friday the 25th, Pat W6YEP hauled up the tower trailer. Ron N6MTS pulled up his toy trailer with the Club's power generator inside. Ken WA6OIB and Gwynne WA6VZM pulled up their house trailer. David KA6VTA slept in his tent. Ken cooked a great steak dinner after the crew put the tri-band beam on the tower and raised into position.



Saturday morning saw the tower up with the 10-15-20 meter tri-band beam high up in the glistening sun. Two DX Engineering 80-40 meter dipoles were hoisted up to about 60 feet. Jim WA6NIF put up a 6 meter ground plane. Pat W6YEP put up his satellite tracking system for AO51. Contacts were made via UHF to 2 meter and 2.4Ghz.



Start time arrives, that being 1800Z. Six meter was wide open and Jim WA6NIF gave it a go. Jim worked around 20 stations before the band gave up. Steve NA6G started off the HF calling on 20 meter band. That band was not open as one would expect so he moved to 40 meters where he made around 100 contacts in an hours' time. Steve worked most of the day. Many took turns working Field Day contacts, those being AC6LT, KA6VTA, WA6OIB, N6MTS and Marshall WA6PRE. WA6OIB put together a PSK31 operation and showed us how it works. Some of us had never seen that mode of operation. Very interesting. Richard KE6SHL handled the ARRL the official bulletins and exchange of message traffic.



W6YEP, WA6OIB, N6MTS, NA6G, AC6LT, WA6NIF, KA6VTA, W0PJD and Marshall WA6PRE were all at the start line. Others that showed up to watch the operation were: W6NCG, W6DBU, KG6KYU, KG6KYT, AE6GE and wife KI6KRT, K6QI, and WA6BDE.

Continued on page 16)

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

FRESNO ENCOMM ARES/RACES by Dan Pruitt AE6SX

Significant changes in the Section this month and they are felt here locally. The EmComm community as a whole is going through the repercussions of served agency reorganization that is universally being dictated by the economy. This means Volunteers are more important to the scheme of things. Field Day has been on the minds of most this month and here in Fresno, as is other municipalities, the in-town exhibition is becoming quite the norm. Even Cal-EMA ACS (OES MAR 5) is operating from the State EOC (W5OES).



This month began with a Cal-EMA ACS (Auxiliary Communications Service) demonstration of their Com 60 as the program for the Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneer's meeting. This is a trailer with a large satellite dish that puts a telephone exchange anywhere it is needed. It comes with all the bells and whistles for data lines as well. John N7SLX is the "State RACES" Officer for MAR 5 (Mutual Aid Region 5) based here in Fresno. In his program John remarked that the unit is due to be upgraded by a new and completely automated version, this unit takes about 30 to 45 minutes, manually. John N7SLX is available at genie555m@gmail.com

I had the privilege to give an ARRL presentation at the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association in Modesto. This was a real treat from an EmComm point of view. Ed KF6FIR had just turned over the keys to the new ARES EC (Pat KG6JXZ), after many years of exemplary service. His work is apparent at their web page. Training is key here! www.kf6fir.net/ares/index.htm The level of training and cohesive cooperation with the Served Agencies is seamless. We need more like Ed, and the dedication in Stanislaus.

We have not been standing still either, our main focus has been this year's Field Day and we are solidifying the EOC operation at the

Citadel in the process. Two new antenna installations, a common feed through point for up to 4 antennas and a solid plan for operations at the Citadel. No question about the food either! Procedures will be discussed at the meeting just before Field Day, and putting one of the 3 radios on the air. The plan is to operate 2F (K6CME) with a GOTA station (AE6SX). The Scouts have been contacted and a general public invite to support Ham Radio. Hopefully, as we did last year, we will accomplish our set goals of: 1) Contacting our neighbor counties VHF Simplex, 2) Operate the full 24 hours, 3) Have a chance for the newer members operate HF, 4) Copy the Bulletin, 5) Demonstrate digital and CW operations, 6) Attempt NVIS operation from the GOTA station, 7) Contact other SATERN and EmComm groups, 8) Surely a nice score would be nice, hi. Hopefully we will see some of you there.

Concerning the Section ARES responsibilities in the San Joaquin Valley; two new positions have been created. Termed as District Emergency Coordinators, one North, the other South were devised after about a years planning. This Divides the Section along the Merced/Madera County line aligning the districts with their served agency and State operational areas. The North works with Sacramento, Bay Area and Nevada. The South is mostly internal and looks across the Grapevine, Tehachapi and toward San Luis Obispo. Hal KC5LUB has assumed the South-DEC, the North and a new SEC will be named shortly.

73 de Dan AE6SX

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 1900 hrs

EmComm and Coffee: 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

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

JUNE 2010 VHF CONTEST REPORT

There were so many success stories and happy endings for Southern California Contest Club members that it's hard to know where to begin. We had 10 rovers with 15 operators together for much of the weekend. For several, the June 2010 contest was a maiden voyage for their new rover stations. N6VI used his new 10-band station for the first time ever. W6TE's 10-band station worked flawlessly in its second full contest, and W6YLZ's new four-band station also played very, very well. W6TAI, operating and driving solo, may have had the top rover score nationally--surely a first for a YL without a second operator/driver.

However, a lot of the story this time was about SCCC fixed stations. N6TEB's multioperator group operated at the N6NB cabin at 6,800' elevation in the Tehachapi Mountains and posted a very respectable score for a west coast multiop. Their 11-band station (including 24 GHz) had a big signal every-

where we went. WB2WIK guest-operated the new 10-band N6NB home station in the flatlands of DM13. Steve did a great job in single op-low power, especially for a west coast station in a city surrounded by mountains. It was a real treat for me to hear his signal on the microwave bands when we were roving 100 miles away--with a 10,000-foot mountain range between us. Many of us worked him on 10 bands in grid after grid. Meanwhile, several other SCCC members posted good scores by operating at home. Now that some of the best HF contest radios and multiband Yagis cover six meters, this movement of experienced HF operators into VHF contests is likely to continue. Among other things, it has caused a huge increase in CW activity on six meters, especially during band openings such as we had during this June contest.

June was a really good contest for many of us in SCCC.

Wayne Overbeck, N6NB



Finishing up the contest in DM-24, 7:30 PM Sunday night.

Left to right: Rob, John K6MI, Dave W6TE, Larry W6KYO (kneeling) Peter NI6E, John N6MU, Bob, KK6KK, Arnie N6HC, Jim AF6O, Marty N6VI, Miguel W6YLZ, Wayne N6NB, Carrie W6TAI, Art W6XD, Joe K6ZMW.

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

JUNE VHF Contest Report by Dave W6TE

There was a great 6 Meter opening again this year which made for a very exciting contest.

Here's some activity reports from some of our members.

Aaron Lusk K6USY; I was able to work 2 stations in New Mexico on 6 (DM62). I also worked cm94 on 2m; and 2 contacts on 902 fm. Made 43 contacts in total, not bad for not being at the radio all day.



Rob Mavis AA6GE reports that the Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers (CARP) went on a VHF DXpedition to Black Mountain (CM95). Rob reports SIX Meters was hot with many new grid squares worked and lots of Q's. They also had an un-expected GUEST operator (see photo.)



The three pictures above are from the CARP operation in CM95. Their GUEST operator was "SMOKEY BEAR."

Pat, W6YEP and Bennie KW6N operated from Bear Mt (DM06) east of Fresno using the call W6TV.

Larry W6KYO and I partnered up and joined the Southern California rovers. John K6MI drove down with us but was another rover in the group. We started the contest on Saturday morning in San Diego (DM12).



We ended the contest in the Mojave National Preserve (Hwy 40 and Kelbaker Rd) (DM24). Then it was a nice long 7 hour drive back to Fresno.

We worked several mountain top stations including N6TEB who was located at N6NB's contest station in the Tehachapi mountains (DM05). We were also able to work many times back into N6NB's new 11 Band station in Tustin, CA (DM03)



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

CONTEST RESULTS By Dave Smith W6TE

There are two contest results to report this month. The results have been posted for the 2009 ARRL 10 Meter contest and the 2010 January VHF Sweepstakes. The notes below the score boxes show FARC members who were first place in their respective class and power categories.



2009 ARRL 10 Meter Contest - San Joaquin Valley Section

| # | Call | Score | QSOs | Mult | Class | Power | Section | Club |
|----|--------|--------|------|------|-------|-------|---------|------|
| 1 | KG6D | 28,380 | 249 | 33 | A | C | SJV | NCCC |
| 2 | KI6VC | 10,504 | 132 | 26 | A | C | SJV | SCCC |
| 3 | K6GGO | 5,472 | 84 | 18 | A | B | SJV | |
| 4 | W6SX | 5,016 | 66 | 19 | D | C | SJV | NCCC |
| 5 | K6AAB | 4,536 | 66 | 21 | A | B | SJV | NCCC |
| 6 | W6USN | 2,976 | 56 | 16 | A | B | SJV | |
| 7 | W6DPD | 1,508 | 58 | 13 | B | C | SJV | NCCC |
| 8 | N2NS | 1,196 | 29 | 13 | D | C | SJV | NCC |
| 9 | K6MI | 1,044 | 33 | 9 | A | A | SJV | NCCC |
| 10 | N6IV | 602 | 26 | 7 | A | B | SJV | |
| 11 | K6CSL | 580 | 30 | 5 | A | B | SJV | NCCC |
| 12 | KE6SHL | 540 | 45 | 6 | B | B | SJV | |
| 13 | W6MEM | 170 | 17 | 5 | A | B | SJV | |
| 14 | K6MEE | 160 | 11 | 4 | C | B | SJV | |

Note: K6AAB finished #1 in the SJV Section, Mixed-mode, Low Power
 W6DPD finished #1 in the SJV Section, Phone only, High Power
 K6MI finished #1 in the SJV Section, Mixed-mode, QRP
 KE6SHL finished #1 in the SJV Section, Phone only, Low Power

2010 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes—San Joaquin Valley Section

| # | Call | Score | QSOs | Mult | Class | Section | Grids | Club |
|---|----------|---------|------|------|-------|---------|-------|----------------|
| 1 | W6TE/R | 212,812 | 550 | 83 | RU | SJV | 6 | |
| 2 | WB2WIK/R | 164,619 | 437 | 91 | R | SJV | 6 | SCCC |
| 3 | W6YLZ/R | 152,772 | 431 | 87 | R | SJV | 8 | SCCC |
| 4 | W6TV | 30,366 | 253 | 63 | M | SJV | | |
| 5 | W7AIT | 1,660 | 59 | 20 | A | SJV | | |
| 6 | K6QG | 1,180 | 55 | 20 | B | SJV | | Mother Lode DX |
| 7 | KE6EEZ | 1,064 | 44 | 19 | B | SJV | | |
| 8 | N6KOG | 533 | 41 | 13 | B | SJV | | |
| 9 | K6CSL | 10 | 5 | 2 | A | SJV | | NCCC |

Note: W6TE/R finished #1 Nationally, Rover Unlimited class.
 W6TV finished #1 in the Pacific Division, Multi-operator class.

HF Shortwave Radio Propagation Information - A Index and K Index

A Index and K Index

The Earth's magnetic field is continuously monitored by a network of magnetometers. These readings are converted into the A and K index values.

The K index is computed once every three hours (eight times a day) and the values can range from 0 to 9, with 0 being inactive, and 9 representing an extreme severe storm condition. The values are quadri-logarithmic.

- K = 0 Inactive
- K = 1 Very quiet
- K = 2 Quiet
- K = 3 Unsettled
- K = 4 Active
- K = 5 Minor storm
- K = 6 Major storm
- K = 7 Severe storm
- K = 8 Very severe storm
- K = 9 Extremely severe storm

The A index is linear, and is computed from the eight previous K index values. It ranges from 0 (quiet) to 400 (severe storm).

- A = 0 - 7 Quiet
- A = 8 - 15 Unsettled
- A = 16 - 29 Active
- A = 30 - 49 Minor storm
- A = 50 - 99 Major storm
- A = 100 - 400 Severe storm

Generally, propagation conditions are best when the A index is 15 or lower, and the K index is 3 or lower.

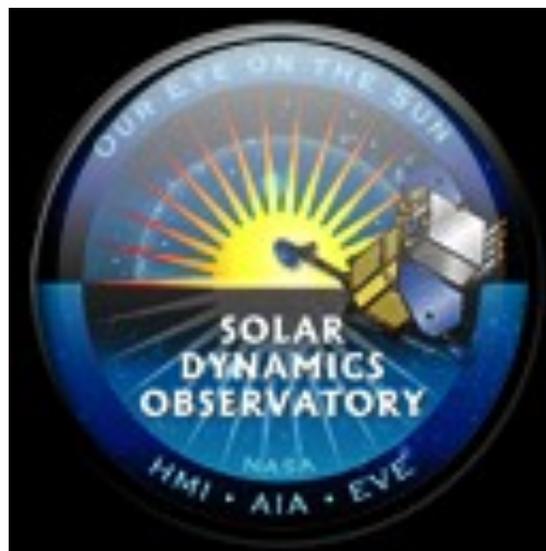
Besides causing auroral activity, high geomagnetic field conditions can affect the electrons in the ionosphere, reducing the maximum usable frequency (MUF).

(Information published with the permission of

Black Cat Systems website and can be found at http://www.blackcatsystems.com/propagation/a_k_index.html.)

A great radio propagation website: <http://prop.hfradio.org/>

Space Weather and Propagation Forecast
Prepared by the US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA,
and the Space Weather Prediction Center



Three Day Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity
(as of 2200Z on 03 Jul 2010)

Solar Forecast:

Solar activity is expected to remain very low throughout the forecast period (04-06 July).

Geomagnetic Forecast:

The geomagnetic field is expected to be mostly quiet throughout the forecast period (04-06 July).

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity
30 June - 26 July 2010

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels during 30 June - 01 July due to a recurrent CIR/CH HSS. Field activity is expected to decrease to quiet to unsettled levels during 02 - 04 July. A further decrease to quiet levels is expected during 05 - 11 July. Field activity is expected to increase to quiet to unsettled levels during 12 - 14 July due to a recurrent CIR/CH HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels during 15 - 22 July. Activity is expected to increase to unsettled to active levels during 23 - 24 July due to a recurrent CIR/CH HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet to unsettled levels during 25 - 26 July.

(The previous information was submitted by Paul Sullivan W6VPS. Thanks Paul!)

Dave:

Yeah, I am an old timer now-I still remember the day I had to take the CW test in front of an FCC examiner.

I still enjoy CW a lot. I am very comfortable around 15-18 words per minute [WPM].

I think I told you that there is a traffic net on every evening. It has two parts, and I usually check into the late one. At 2100 local, the slow-speed version of the Northern California Net

[NCN] opens up. There is a different Net Control every night, but it is sure to help you with your CW. They match your speed-no matter how slow.

In order to copy, I have learned to "copy by mill". That is the old ARRL version of copying by using a typewriter. Well, those things are hard to find, but take a laptop, open up a word-processing application, and use your keyboard to type the message.

I started doing this about a year ago, and while I stumbled a bit, it sure has gotten better. Of course, having had a typing lesson or two helps a great deal, instead of that biblical system: seek and ye shall find.

I know there are some ham operators out there just acquiring some code proficiency. Naw, anything faster, and I CANNOT read in my head, such as some of those "speed demons" do-but this is sure a lot more comfortable than having your pen run out of ink or your pencil break at the wrong time.

So I encourage those CW people to try it out-it is not hard, it is fun, and don't we all need a challenge now and then?

STUART WB6VRJ

Those were the good old days Stuart.....when we had to take the code test in front of the FCC examiner. I took my General Class Ham test at the FCC Field Office, 323A Custom House in San Francisco. I remember my mother and Grand-mother driving me up there. I was 15 years old. I also took my FCC First Class Commercial exam at the same place two years later when I was 17 years old. By that time I had my drivers license.

Dave W6TE

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

A DAY IN THE LIFE.... A WEST COAST SIX METER OPERATOR

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Greetings from Fallon Nevada, DM09nm...</p> | <p>the local Eagle pancake breakfast for a well deserved morning meal.</p> |
| <p>When I awoke this morning (June 20, 2010) I staggered into the radio room, turned the rig on and immediately heard a 59 K8WFN in EN90 calling CQ on 50.125. Worked him @ 13:28Z. So much for my morning shower!</p> | <p>Arriving home I was surprised to hear the band once again open to EU and at 16:23Z a 569 9A1CCY went into the log for new country # 5 today! Amazing!</p> |
| <p>After our contact was complete I swung the antenna up to 30 degrees and began tuning the band thinking "maybe I can get lucky again and work some more Europeans on 50 MHz today.... Little did I know what lay in store for the next few hours.</p> | <p>Spinning the band again it seemed to peak back up again lasting 10 minutes or so and at 16:33Z a 579 EA6SX was very quickly worked for country #6 today!</p> |
| <p>At 1356Z I tuned past some moderately loud CW. Centering up on his frequency of 50095.8 was found S53A calling CQ!!! I was floored! he was stable and strong, true 549 to 559. Repeated calls met with no joy.</p> | <p>Add that to working CT1HZE /CT1EEB on the 10th and ON4GG on the 19th that makes 8 new DXCC countries on 6M in a bit over a week! and ALL OF THEM EUROPEANS! That has NEVER happened in my life... EVER! What an amazing day...</p> |
| <p>At 14:09Z I found E70T CQing with a true 579 signal and worked him easily.</p> | <p>Mind you.... all of this was done with a IC-746 putting out only 80 watts into a Homebrew 6 ele yagi on a 30 ft boom up 40 feet fed with 70 feet of CQ-106 low loss RG-8 style coax and NO preamp.</p> |
| <p>At 14:14Z I found a 569 HA1DH calling CQ and again repeated calls met with no joy.</p> | <p>I cringe when people use the highly over used phrase "Magic Band" describes 50 Mhz... but today it lived up to that title and then some... I look at the log and shake my head in utter amazement still.</p> |
| <p>At 14:21Z a 569 SV1DH was found CQing and worked fairly quickly. WOW!!!</p> | <p>And for those that say CW is dead.... None of these contacts would have happened on Phone.... CW is King, Long live the King!</p> |
| <p>At 14:38Z PA0O was 559 to 579 and worked easily.</p> | <p>LIFE IS GOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOD!!!!!!!!!!!!</p> |
| <p>At 15:00Z a 549 IK5MEN was found CQing but no joy.</p> | <p>73s de Tim - K7XC - DM09nm...</p> |
| <p>At 15:24 a 579 IK5MEJ was easily worked for new country #4 today! FOUR!!!!</p> | |
| <p>Shortly there after the band seemed to shift away and quiet down so my lady and I went to</p> | |

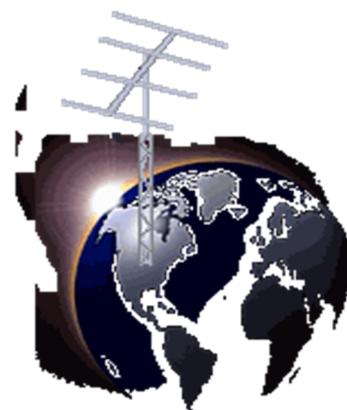
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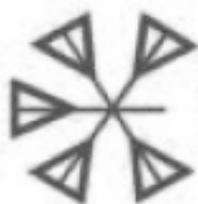
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Fresno Amateur Radio Club

ARRL reports on new underwear that checks your vital signs and suggests it might be useful to testers. Apparently the plan is to develop bio-sensors to discover ailments and promptly administer aid as needed to allow BIC time,

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100610/lf_nm_life/us_underpants_health

If you use this new underwear, does that make you assisted?

Rich
NU6T

(Field Day Report continued from page 7)

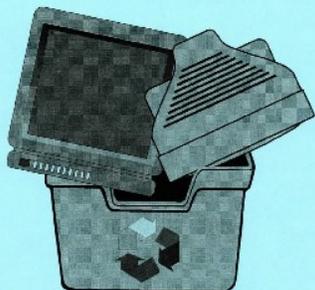
Duane, KI6QEL and his wife Karen cooked up

an excellent dinner, oh so good! Tri Tip, baked potatoes, chili beans, corn on the cob, watermelon, veggie salad and desert. Then, Sunday morning, they fixed a great breakfast consisting of eggs (the way you want them), potatoes, tri-tip chunks, orange juice and coffee. That's what makes a Field Day!

After breakfast and logging in the final contacts (by Ron N6MTS) and Ken on PSK31, we closed down at 1800Z. It took almost 2 hours to dismantle everything and store all away properly. Many pictures were taken and hope to get them in Skip. Thanks to Pat W6YEP and Ken WA6OIB for making Field Day happen and adding their comments to this article.

Until next year,

73, Jim Erbe, WA6NIF



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- April 24
- May 29
- June 19
- July 17
- August 21
- November 20
- December 11

Time:

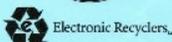
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WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS.....AMATEUR RADIO

ROBERT POUND, PHYSICIST WHOSE WORK ADVANCED MEDICINE, IS DEAD AT 90
by Jascha Hoffmen

April 19, 2010

Robert Pound, a Harvard physicist whose experiments provided the first laboratory confirmation of Einstein's general theory of relativity and helped pave the way for the age of magnetic resonance imaging, died on April 12 in Belmont, Mass. He was 90.

The death, at a nursing home, was confirmed by his son, John. Although he never earned a doctorate, Professor Pound was known as a brilliant hands-on physicist who built his own apparatus. In a career that spanned more than 60 years at Harvard, Professor Pound conceived and built devices that helped him probe the workings of the atom, leading to advances in technology and medicine.

"He was an excellent theorist, but his role was as a designer and builder," said Peter Galison, a Harvard professor of physics and the history of science. "He invented everything himself. It was Pound who made the thing work."

His best-known contribution came in 1959, when, with his student Glen Rebka, he showed that gravity can change the frequency of light. The effect, which had gone unmeasured after decades of astronomical observations, had been predicted by Einstein's theory of general relativity, which explains how gravity can warp space and time.

"Other people thought you'd have to do the experiment on top of a mountain, but Bob recognized that we could do this in the building," said Dr. Rebka, an emeritus professor of physics at the University of Wyoming.

By rigging an abandoned indoor tower to capture infinitesimal changes in the wavelength of rays emitted by radioactive iron, Professor Pound and Dr. Rebka measured the effect of gravity on light. The principle has since been used to calibrate atomic clocks in global

positioning satellites.

"We had carpenters cut holes in the floor, from the penthouse to the sub-basement, with cables dropping over to the lab next door," Dr. Rebka said.

Professor Pound was a member of the Harvard team that discovered nuclear magnetic resonance, by which atomic nuclei can be coaxed into absorbing and emitting energy at specific frequencies, leading to a new era of three-dimensional medical imaging.

Although nuclear resonance had been observed among sparse atoms in a vacuum in 1938, it was the Harvard group, which also included E. M. Purcell and H. C. Torrey, that first observed it in ordinary solids and liquids.

"The Pound box was a devilishly clever way of measuring that subtle absorption of radio waves," said Paul Horowitz, a professor of physics and of electrical engineering at Harvard, and a former student of Professor Pound. "His electronics expertise made that experiment possible."

Since it was recognized with a Nobel Prize in 1952 (which Professor Pound's collaborator Edward Purcell shared with Felix Bloch of Stanford University), nuclear magnetic resonance has become a standard technique for revealing the structure of molecules.

In the 1970s it led to the birth of magnetic resonance imaging, which revolutionized medical diagnosis by allowing doctors to take high-resolution images of the interior of the human body.

Nuclear resonance has since been used for purposes from oil exploration to quantum computing.

Professor Pound's mechanical zeal ex-

tended beyond the laboratory. As a young man he installed a telegraph key in his blue Ford coupe that allowed him to tap out Morse code messages on the horn. He later owned a hovercraft lawnmower.

Around the Harvard campus he cut an elegant figure, sporting a trim mustache and longish hair. And though he was known as soft-spoken and unpretentious, he could be assertive in his opinions. In the 1970s he opposed Harvard's core curriculum, arguing that the university should trust talented students to choose their own courses. In 1980, at a time of fear about the health effects of radiation, he proposed that the nation save energy by building rooms that could heat human bodies directly using microwave radiation.

Robert Vivian Pound was born in Ridgeway, Ontario, on May 16, 1919, the son of a mathematician. On graduating from the University of Buffalo in 1941, he married and moved to Boston to take a wartime job designing radar and sonar devices.

As the war continued, he was hired by the M.I.T. Radiation Laboratory, where, working to develop radar systems for the Allied forces, he helped to lay the groundwork for postwar advances in nuclear imaging techniques.

Professor Pound earned a fellowship at Harvard in 1945 and stayed there the rest of his career. After his groundbreaking work in the 1950s, he became Mallinckrodt professor of physics in 1968, and served as head of the physics department and laboratories at Harvard in the ensuing decade.

A loyal mentor, Professor Pound nurtured a crop of hands-on physicists who have since done pioneering work in medical imaging, printing technology and the search for extra-terrestrial life - as well as nuclear physics.

"He didn't strike you immediately as being brilliant," said David Griesinger, a student of Professor Pound who went on to work as an

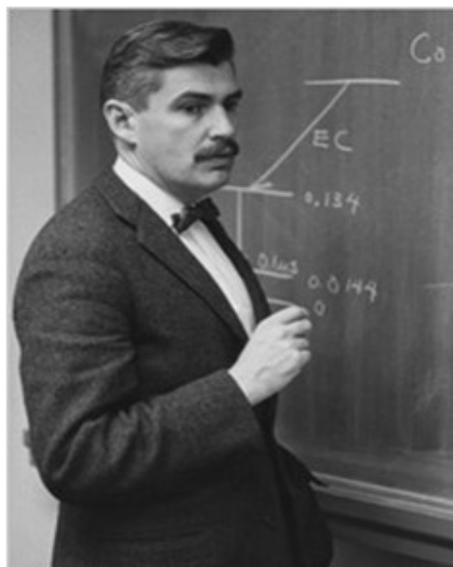
acoustical engineer. "The way he thought was slower and deeper."

Over the years Professor Pound received many honors for his work, including the National Medal of Science and the Eddington Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society.

In addition to his son, John, of San Rafael, Calif., he is survived by his wife, Betty, of Belmont, Mass., and two grandchildren.

Professor Pound was a tinkerer at heart. He owned a series of elegant British sedans, which he would lovingly maintain in his spare time. One student recalls finding him in the machine shop, turning a piece of metal on the lathe in his bow tie and tweeds.

Others recall that when confronted with a mechanical problem in a laboratory setting, he often gave the same advice as he would in the garage: "Did you try whacking it?"



Robert Pound teaching at Harvard in the 1950's.

(Reprinted from the New York Times)

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