



Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

March 2011 Volume 73, Issue 3

Our next meeting will be the second Friday, March 11, at Cedar Lanes. Come to the meeting and enjoy the camaraderie with your fellow hams.



The Prez Sez

CQCQ

FARC General Meetings

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

2011 FARC BOARD
MEETING DATES
1st Tuesday of each month
Cedar Lanes at
Cedar and Shields.

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:

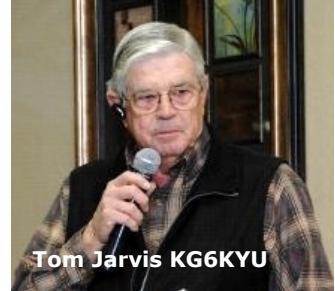
Sundays @ 7:00 pm
W6TO/R 146.940

The big event that everyone looks forward to is the M2 open house on March 19th. It will start out with a Swap Meet in the main parking lot and across the street. A lot of goodies will be there for you to look through. This year they have added new vendors and a test session to upgrade. As always, there will be a lot of good old HAM TALK, and a free lunch. At the close of the event CARP will do a transmitter hunt. This is a lot of fun and it will test your skills. As long as Marci and I have been hams we have gone to this event. There is so much to enjoy! If you just got your ticket or are an old pro, you will have a great time. This is a place for you to get a lot of your questions answered.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

A special thanks to M2 for putting this event on, it takes a lot of their time. When you see the folks from M2 please tell them THANK YOU. We appreciate them doing this for us.

73, Tom KG6KYU



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FARC Officers:

Tom Jarvis, Pres. - KG6KYU

Craig Carter V.P. - K6QI

Jim Erbe, Sec. - WA6NIF

Ron Hunt, Treas - N6MTS

Board Members:

Aaron Lusk, K6USY

Ken Holden, -WA6OIB

Dave Smith, W6TE

Joseph Capell, W0PJD

Jack Baker, AC6LT

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n6mts@w6to.com	(559) 289-8514	12/2012

k6usy@w6to.com	(559) 301-1022	12/2012
wa6oib@w6to.com	(559) 323-6753	12/2012
w6te@w6to.com	(559) 323-6095	12/2011
W0PJD@me.com	(559) 225-3582	12/2011
ac6lt@CVIP.net	(559) 297-4311	12/2012

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.

Breakfast on Mondays and Saturdays at the *Country Waffles* at Blackstone and Dakota starting at 7am.

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

Join the DX'ers for breakfast on the first Sat. of the month at Carrows on Blackstone/Ashlan at 7 A.M. in the back room.

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.



Send Skip items to Skip editor John Morrice, K6MI at:
k6mi@pacbell.net

You can download this and past Skip issues under the Document Archive menu by visiting w6to.com.

Be a net control op! Contact Joe, WA6FFJ at:
joenailbender@earthlink.net

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
April 1	CARP General Meeting
April 5	FARC BOD Meeting
April 8	FARC General Meeting
April 15	SJVARS General Meeting
April 15-17	DX Convention
March 1	FARC BOD Meeting
March 4	Carp Meeting 7 P.M.
March 5	Monterey Swap Meet K6LY
March 11	FARC Meeting 7 P.M. Friday
March 18	SJVARS Meeting
March 19	M2 Swap Meet Sat. morning
March 19	Hidden T-hunt 2 P.M.
March 22	QCWA luncheon

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

ARRL DX Phone, March 5-6
 NA Sprint RTTY, March 13
 Wisconsin QSO Party, March 13-14
 BARTG RTTY, March 19-21
 CQ WW WPX Phone, March 26-27
 April 15-17 DX Convention
 June VHF, June 11-13
 FD, June 25-26
 RAC, July 1
 Flea Markets in Northern California
Saturday Mar. 12 Flea Market
 Hosted by Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association. First
 Flea Market for 2011!
 March 19 Saturday at M2 in Fresno

Saturday Apr. 9 Flea Market - Hosted by South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub.
Saturday May 14 Flea Market - Hosted by Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association.
Saturday June 11 Flea Market - Hosted by Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System.
Saturday July 9 Flea Market - Hosted by Foothills Amateur Radio Society.
Saturday Aug. 13 Flea Market - Hosted by Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System.
Saturday Sep. 10 Flea Market - Hosted by West Valley Amateur Radio Association.
Saturday Oct. 8 Flea Market - Hosted by Silicon Valley Chapter, American Red Cross.

The Electronics Flea Market is located at De Anza College in Cupertino.

Attendance Prize \$10 per meeting \$120. max. The Board decided to continue with the \$10 per month door prize drawing. Any monies left over from no winners by December will be given out in a drawing at the Christmas dinner. AC6LT made the motion, W0PJD 2nd the motion.
 Motion passed. (January board meeting).

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

CCDXC News

NEXT MEETINGS:

Saturday April 16, 2011, at 6:30 AM at Ryan's Place in Visalia.
 Saturday June 18, 2011, at 11:30 AM at Apple Annie's in Tulare.



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Membership Attendance award for February was KD6HTV, however, he was not present. The award now goes up to \$30.



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Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

Organization	Call Sign	Frequency	Offset	PL
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	-	141.3
FARC	W6TO	223.940	-	141.3
FARC	W6TO	444.200	-	141.3
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	+	146.2
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:

WA6BDE Nora Erbe 03/28
 KJ6KCP David Tafoya 03/25
 AC6LT Jack Baker 03/07
 W6NCG Ed Esheim 03/20

Anniversaries:

KF6FIG Bob and Julie Sawyer 03/31
 WB6JQC Joe and Betty Cardoza 03/10

DX Breakfast

The next Fresno DX Breakfast is Saturday March 5, 2011 at **Carrow's Restaurant, 4280 N. Blackstone** in Fresno. The group gathers between 0700 and 0800 hours. We have the back room until about 10:00 AM. The breakfast is the first Sat. of the month.

"The only way to be loud....is to transmit."

DX is the one you do not have confirmed!!

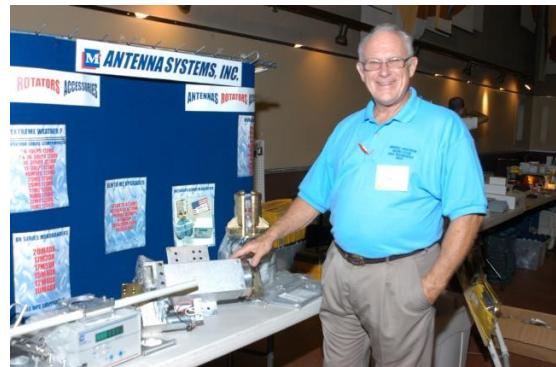
DXing is 90% mental -- the other half is physical.
 N2MG

To check on foreign postage go to <http://www.k4hb.com/postage/html>

M2 Open House - Saturday March 19

The 2011 M2 Open House will be Saturday March 19. Every year, M2 holds this open house as a "Thank You" to the Amateur Radio community for their loyalty and support throughout the year.

There will be swap meet spaces, and a "Ham"burger event at noon.



More info on page 10



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Amateur of the Month, by Joe Capell W0PJD

March, 2011 Ham Biography of the Month

Jim Clymer, WS6X

If CW is mentioned at a radio club meeting, a luncheon or in just about any ham conversation you can be sure that Jim, WS6X was either the originator or the recipient of that comment.

Jim was born in Amish country, Lancaster County Pennsylvania. His family lived in several towns in that area until he was finished with high school then he moved to Goshen, Indiana where he studied music in college, earning a BA with a major in classic guitar. Later he earned a second degree in Engineering and got into the business of professional audio.

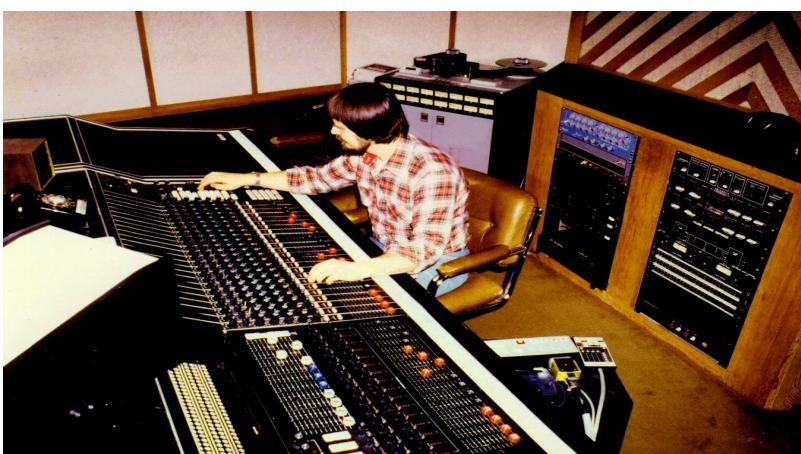
He and his wife Elaine moved to Fresno in 1980 to join a facet of the Mennonite Brethren Media Ministry and has remained in this area ever since. He has worked in nearly every aspect of audio cassette duplication, digital mastering and studio recording, even owning his own business in the field as Clymer Audio, Inc, and Kenjo Audio.

He tells me that he has "always been interested in electronics and fondly recalls his Elmers while in Junior High School in Pennsylvania, W3JQY and W3VOP that stimulated his growth in this field. His novice license was in 1959 at the age of 14, KN3LKM in Pennsylvania, a general class license in 1961, K4CXU when he briefly lived in Virginia then W9KGW in 1965 when he moved to Indiana. In 1967 he upgraded to Advanced with the same call and finally in 1986, an Extra Class, with the new call WS6X, after he had been in Fresno for several years. He noticed the extra band segments that the license offered and in studying for the then, 20 words per minute, code test, honed his cw skills and, as they say, the rest is history. He tells me, he wasn't "born liking the code, but developed a keen interest in it."

He has been active in the organizational part of amateur radio too. He joined the FARC when he came to Fresno and served a number of terms on the board of directors, two of them as treasurer and one as vice president. He is also an avid member of the Central California DX Club, now as second Vice President and web-master.

In the interview for this article, I usually ask people what their favorite aspect of ham radio might be. In Jim's case, it was pretty evident. He loves DX, every aspect of it and mostly on CW and RTTY. He has 171 countries on 160 meters, 330 on 40 meters, 256 on 30 meters, etc. He asked me not to come over on the weekend for the interview because it would take him out of a weekend contest for an hour. I willingly deferred.

He provided me with a few pictures of himself when he first came to this town both standing at an antenna and at work with a "big rig".



Fresno Amateur Radio Club



CQ CQ,

The month of February was exciting for our club members. Many were active in the CQ 160 Phone and CW contests, the ARRL DX CW contest, the NA QSO parties, and the many state operating events. Check out the write ups by N2NS, WS6X, and NA6G. N6OSB, Gabriel, was on for the DX test, and worked some new countries.

WS6X is featured as Ham of the Month in Joe's great monthly column. And take a look at Jeff's transmitter, which uses one hundred tubes.

And to keep it really exciting, there were three major DXpeditions active this month. The S9DX stations were on five bands at a time, the VP8ORK South Orkney group did a great job, and the TJ9PF African expedition, although hard to work at first, picked up a lot of West coast stations by the end of their expedition. Many of our club members worked them, including KW6N, K6XJ, WB6VAF, AC6LT, W6DPD, KI6QEL, K6PKO, and many more as well.

Antennas went up this last month! This is exciting to hear about, and more will go up as the weather gets better. Perry, K6XJ now has beverages for 160M, KW6N put a loop up for 17M just in time to work the DXpeditions, and put a 160M inverted L up (with two elevated radials) just for the 160M CQ Phone contest. K6VLF, Larry, has been working on a 10M antenna of some sort.

The big news was the sun, as it reached a five year high in the third week of February. Still not what everyone is hoping for, but promising more for the future.

Remember to get your dues in. March is the traditional month to send Skip to only the paid up members! Hopefully you are reading this, and all is fine.

73, John, K6MI Skip Editor

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THE DX CORNER by Charles McConnell W6DPD

March 2011

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.

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.

The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service has raised the rates for sending ARRL members QSL cards to foreign countries. The new rate is \$2 for up to 10 cards in one envelope, \$3 for 11 to 20 cards in one envelope and 75 cents per ounce for more than 20 cards.

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. IRCs can be ordered online from the US Post Office. To check on foreign postage, you can go to <http://www.k4hb.com/postage.html>.

Postage rates in Germany are being adjusted downward effective January 1, 2011, one green stamp will pay air postage to the U.S. However, postage outside of Italy to the U.S. went up 88% on January 1, 2011, so it now takes \$3 for return postage from Italy.

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 vote was overwhelming for Southern Sudan to secede from the North. Time will tell how long this takes and whether it will be a peaceful split or not. This should be a new DXCC entity when things are settled out. DX operations are now being planned for a 3-week operation to begin sometime after July 9, 2011. The exact time schedule will be announced as plans are completed.

The following operations are scheduled:

Afghanistan T6TL and T6JC October 2010 to May 2011

Bahrain A92IO now through August 2011

Djibouti J28AA now for at least a year

Djibouti J28JV soon for at least a year, maybe 2

Angola D2CQ February 2010 for a few years.

Sri Lanka 4S7KKG now through March 31, 2011

Marion Island ZS8M May, 15 2010 to May 11, 2011

Gough Island ZD9GI October 2010 for 1 year

Macquarie Island VK0KEV now until April 30, 2011

Spratly Islands DX0DX POSTPONED

Papua New Guinea P29CW February to December 2011

Cocos Keeling Island VK9/C February to March 2011

Granada J37BO and J37RO February 9 to March 10, 2011

Guantanamo Bay KG4 Various Ops February 22 to March 8, 2011

Cambodia XU7FMZ March 2 to March 28, 2011

Revilla Gigedo 4A4A March 3, to March 20, 2011

Andaman Islands VU4PB March 15 to March 31, 2011

St. Kitts V47JA February 16 to March 30, 2011

Sable Island CY0 March 7 to March 15, 2011

Sierra Leone 9L5MS Mercy Ships March 15 to April 4, 2011

Kanton Island T31A April 17 to April 28, 2011

Nepal 9N7DX April 13 to April 30, 2011

Afghanistan T6PSE May 2011 for 10 days

Southern Sudan? Sometime after July 9, 2011 for 3 weeks

Jan Mayen JX July 6 to July 14, 2011

Timor Leste 4W September 16 to September 26, 2011

Christmas Island T32C? September-October 2011

Conway Reef 3D2/C October 1 to October 10, 2011

Jarvis Island KH5 November 2011

Heard Island VK0/H February 2013 in planning stages

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.

International DX Convention

The 62nd Annual International DX Convention sponsored by the Northern California DX Club will be held at The Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in Visalia, California from April 15 - 17, 2011.

If you're a DXer or interested in any aspect of Ham radio, then IDXC is the place to be. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. You'll match those familiar call signs with new faces, and shake hands with the person you have had a sked with for the past 10 years but never met. Learn the secrets for big signals on top band. How to have fun adventures chasing IOTA, attend the contest forum, antenna forum, DX forum, or Contest Academy. There are seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Visit the Exhibit Hall, where you can talk to the people who design and use the best DX equipment.

There will be great raffle prizes the likes of which top even the famed Dayton Hamvention. We're even planning to have an old-fashioned Swap Meet!

And don't forget the YL's - we will have something special for them as well.

In just a few short months, the convention will be here. Until then, we'll be finalizing the programs & speakers, choosing prizes, setting up the Exhibit Hall, and generally preparing for a memorable convention for all attendees. The navigation bar to the left will give you some idea of our progress and planned events. Not all links are "active" yet, as we're still in the planning process. We'll be updating the website frequently over these next few

months, so be sure to check back from time-to-time.

If you have any questions or comments, send email to info@dxconvention.org

CARP 2011 T-Hunt Schedule

This is the tentative schedule for Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers (CARP) Transmitter Hunts in 2011. As more are scheduled, they will be listed on the K6ARP.org website calendar. The current Schedule:

M2 March 19 Saturday 2011

- Saturday, May 7th, 2011

- Saturday, August 6th, 2011

- Saturday, November 5th, 2011

Typically the start point will be Letterman Park in Clovis. Times and locations for the T-hunt will be posted as each date gets closer. Mark your calendars and lets do some T-huntin'! Please let us know if you plan on attending or if you need more info info@k6arp.org 559-492-7675

Hugh, K6HFA receives WACC

Please welcome Hugh, K6HFA in Fresno to the ranks of Worked All California County Certificate holders. He receives Certificate #41 and achieved it through CQP QSO's.

Congratulations Hugh!!

M2 Swap Meet March 19, Saturday

Hi Folks,

Bring your swap tables and your appetites! It's time for our 13th Annual M2 Open House and Bar-B-Q.

Gates open for swappers at 7:30 am and the M2 Shop will open at 8:00 for tours, rag chewing and great deals on M2 products.

We will raffle off great stuff for Hams and non-Hams. And don't miss our famous HAM-burgers and goodies at 11:30. **There is no charge to attend!**

This year looks to have a very large turnout thanks to our "Special Guests" Chip Margelli - K7JA from CQ Magazine; Janet Margelli, KL7MF from Ham Radio Outlet; and Yaesu's Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV will be showcasing their wares.

Amateur Satellite Demonstration

Have you ever wondered what it's like to work an amateur radio satellite as it flies 500 miles overhead? AMSAT members will be demonstrating the workings of just such a station. Of course, they will be using antennas and rotators provided by M2!

Try Out High End HF Equipment

Thanks to Yaesu's Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV who will provide the new FT-DX5000 to check out on our KT-34M2 Tri-band Yagi using the Orion Rotator System. Bring a copy of your license and operate some of the best equipment on the market!

What is the purpose behind the M2 Open House?

As always, we are happy to open our facility up to our local Ham Radio Operators so they can catch a glimpse into our manufacturing process. We take pride in what we do and it's just another way for us to show our customers our appreciation.

How do I get there?

M2 Antenna Systems, Inc. is located at **4402 N. Selland Ave. Fresno, CA 93722**. You can contact us with any questions by email sales@m2inc.com or by telephone at **(559) 432-8873**.

Talk-In on the KE6JZ Repeater

146.820 MHz, -600 kHz offset, PL 141.3
443.375 MHz, +5 MHz offset, PL 123.0

Staying Overnight ?

- La Quinta, (559) 275-3700 (Contact us for Discount Info)
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites, (559) 297-0555

If we can help you out with any other arrangements, please feel free to contact us.

We look forward to seeing you here !
— The M2 Family

VE Test Session

Once again M2 has teamed up with the Fresno Amateur Radio Club and the San Joaquin Valley Amateur Radio Society to hold VE Testing at our 11th Annual Open House. Testing will be held from **9:00am to 11:00am Saturday March 19, 2011**. No pre-registration, walk-ins only.

***Special pricing on our Starter Series antennas for all newly licensed operators!**

For more information, please contact John Pritchett, W6JWK at w6jwk@aol.com or by phone at **(559) 577-8813**.

Getting your first license ?

Ready to upgrade ?

Take your test HERE !

Transmitter Hunt

Win a 2M3-SS Yagi!

Join the Hunt! Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers will be sponsoring a hidden Transmitter Hunt starting at 7:30 am. Bring your "T-Hunt" gear and join the fun! Contact Rob Mavis, AE6GE at ae6ge@k6arp.org or call **(559) 492-7675**.



Left-M2 KT-34a
Down-M2 5L 20M
and M2 40/30 2L
at K6MI



FRESNO ENCOMM ARES/RACES by Glen Caine N6HEW

NET: Monday 1930 hrs on 147.150+, PL 141.3

Monthly: The 4th Thursday of each Month, Salvation Army Citadel, 1854 N. Fulton 1900 hrs, Training meeting.

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

Web:

www.fresnoares.com or www.fresno-races.net.

Email at info@fresnoares.com

Fresno County ARES EC Report

This month I would like to discuss the importance of both training and preparedness to the Emcomm radio operator.

We at Fresno County ARES/RACES have adopted a minimum requirement of the ARRL Level One course, plus the FEMA 100 and 200 courses. This will give our people a basic idea of what is expected of him or her and the expectations of our served agencies. The Level One Course is being revamped at this time but will be available online or taught locally by some of our ARRL personnel. The FEMA courses are available free online. These FEMA courses should take about two to two and a half hours to complete and completion certificates can be downloaded and printed.

Our training officer will also be providing training sessions covering a plethora of subjects. This will be provided on our weekly Emcomm Nets, monthly meetings and designated training sessions. As an example we were treated to a fine demonstration of Anderson Power Pole connectors and other related products. This was a great way to standardize our power connections. This took place at our last Emcomm meeting.

Being prepared should be a continual project, never ending. One of the essential tasks is to keep your rechargeable batteries maintained. Once a month they should be drained and fully recharged. This will prevent them from forming a memory and not recharging completely. Also rotate out your dry cell batteries (AA, AAA, etc.), this way your batteries will be fresh and ready for use.

Another way to stay prepared is to create a to-go bag. This would consist of a canvas bag or a back-

pack that you would keep the essential items used on an Emcomm outing. There are several ways to go about this, depending on the expected time of deployment. For instance, for a 12 hr. you may need only items for your handheld and some snacks. For a 24 to 48 hour you will need personal items, sleeping bag, food and water as well as your radio gear. For a detailed list of the items that should be in the to-go bags you can go to the ARES Website, there are lists for several.

Don't forget the Emcomm meeting on the 24th we will be discussing "Standby Battery Options" as our monthly training session as well as regular business. Also remember on the 26th we have Salvation Army Courses along with the ICS 100 and 700 courses being given. Both meetings will be held at the Salvation Army Citadel on Fulton St. just south of Divisadero.

GLEN CAINE (N6HEW) Fresno County ARES EC
Fresno County RACES Officer 559-999-7590
n6hew@att.net



Join us Monday nights at 1930 hrs for the

Fresno County ARES®/ RACES EmComm net

on the N6HEW repeater; 147.150 positive offset and tone of 141.3

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

STUART "The Smiling Scot" WB6VRJ

Hey John:

At the February Club meeting, there sure was a nice program put on by Craig, K6QI. I am sorry that the club projector was not there, for it does have a really nice sound.

But what was interesting were the various home-brew projects that were shown. I don't think there is that much home-brew stuff any more. It was fun to go back in time and see not only the various projects, but how they were done. Gosh, who thinks of a GREENLEAF chassis punch any more? How many remember the VECTOR sockets-long before printed circuit boards.

Craig was especially nice to me. He had a box weighing about 70 pounds, of old CQ magazines! He gave them to me. Right now, I am thumbing my way through the 1965 editions. While they are a bit water damaged, they can be pried apart, and they are fun to read. Of course, having grown up with vacuum tubes, that really is fun. The ads are something else. Yeah, I did have a SWAN 500c, and I remember Stan Babcock having a Galaxy V, I also remember using the clubs NCX-3(I think that was it-any way, it was a three bander).

Talk about antennas-there were all the various designs, and specifications. I remember my first antenna was a 20 foot aluminum pole with a B&W loading coil at the bottom, connected to a ground rod, and tapped for various bands.

Oh yah, look at the instruments-how many hams today use a VTVM [vacuum tube Volt Meter]. Or a noise bridge, or a Grid-Dip Oscillator?

And given the complexity of today's circuits, how much home-brew is done? But never mind-it is a lot of fun to go back over those old issues, and recapture some long-forgotten concepts used in Ham Radio!

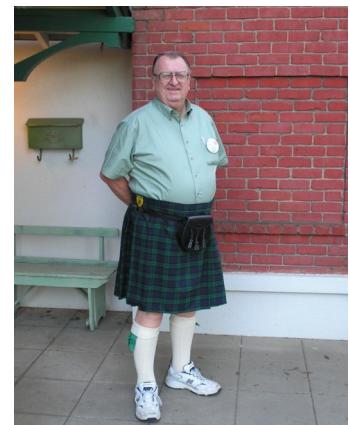
73

de **STUART WB6VRJ**

The "contest calendar" is also a good resource:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>

It provides a nice summary of each upcoming contest, including things like the format of the exchange, pointer to rules, etc.



Fresno Amateur Radio Club



Join Jack, AC6LT, on the Wednesday night Tech net on the W6TO repeaters. 7 P.M. Wednesday evening also has several other nets, the CW 10M net also at 7 on 28.140, and at 8 on 28.445. Jack has added several new wire antennas this last month.

These Q signals most often need to be expressed with clarity in amateur work:

QRA What is the name of your station?

QRG Call for exact frequency.

QRH Does my frequency vary?

QRL Are you busy?

QRO Shall I increase power? Increase power

QRP Shall I decrease power? Decrease power

QRQ Shall I send faster? Send faster (WPM)

QRS Shall I send more slowly?

QRT Shall I stop sending? Stop sending.

QRU Have you anything for me?

QRV Are you ready? I am ready.

QRW Shall I inform "—" that you are calling kHz?

QRX When will you call me again?

QRY What is my turn? Your turn is numbered.

QRZ Who is calling me?

QSA What is the strength of my signals?

QSB Are my signals fading? Your signals are fading.

QSD Is my keying defective?

Web Site of the Week - If you've ever Elmered a new ham, you know they ask a lot of questions, some of which aren't that easy to answer, like "Why do hams abbreviate everything?" Sometimes, even the old-timers can't answer! Luckily, there is a one-stop-shop resource on the [AC6V "Jargon" web page](#). I was surprised to learn the origin of the Philco company name! [ac6v.com](#)

Template for Rotator

Roger K8RI describes a simple way to make a template for rotator mounting bolts without using a measuring instrument. "Using thin cardboard (such as from a pad of paper) or even a plastic sheet protector, turn the rotator upside down and lay the plastic or cardboard over the base. With a ball-peen hammer, using the ball end *lightly* tap on the sheet over the areas

where the bolt holes are located. Make sure all holes remain aligned with the sheet. Done properly this can actually develop cutouts for each bolt hole. Place the template on the work-piece, mark the bolt holes and drill. This procedure also works well for making gaskets using gasket material of the proper thickness."

Double Eruption on Sun

A few days ago, a spectacular double eruption on the Sun resulted in an M1-class flare, the strongest of the year so far. Luckily for HF'ers the flare's ejected material missed Earth, so no geomagnetic storms resulted. (VHF+ ops could use the aurora!) You can watch the explosions on the [Spaceweather.com](#) highlight movie captured by SOHO and the Solar Dynamics Observatory.

ATV Info

All who are interested in ATV- see if you can make contact with **K6BEN, channel 57**. There is a group operating on **421.25** in the ham bands. Here is info on how to make contact with K6BEN...use the following link to W2NYC's video on K6BEN operations...

<http://il.youtube.com/watch?v=xjrtkva5niY&feature=related>

K6BEN folks are usually at the *De Anza Electronic Flea Market*, and the first event happens on March 12th - here is the link to the site <http://www.electronicsfleamarket.com/on>

K6BEN is also known to operate at the *Maker Fair in San Mateo*. The annual event will be held May 21-22 - here is the link to the event... http://www.whatsonwhen.com/sisp/?fx=event&event_id=166058

A small lot 80 meter wire antenna

If you think your lot is too small for an 80 meter wire antenna, you have to try this version of an 80 meter inverted vee wire antenna.

It all started about 5 months ago when it was suggested that I get on the 80 meter band. Benny, KW6N, was going to go to Yuma for a week or two in the Winter and 80 meters was the band to contact him on while he was there. He provided my with 124 feet of #14 insulated solid wire, 62 feet of red and 62 feet of black. Well, he went and I had no 80 meter antenna. I did use my 40/20 window line antenna to contact him on 80. It shouldn't have worked, but it did.....but just barely.

I knew I didn't have enough space to put up a 124 foot flat top dipole. So I went into the "thinking" mode. How about an inverted vee? Nope, can't get it high enough to accommodate the spread. OK, so how about if I just shorten it and just go as far as I could? Nah, it goes against the "rules"....wave won't fit....too long for the short wire. OK, so how about a coil of wire like Jim, WA6NIF, used on the end of each leg of his 80 meter dipole and then put it up in an inverted vee?

Well, I brought it up the topic on 145.7MHz and it was suggested by John, K6MI, that the coil of wire be in the middle of each leg of the inverted vee. Hmm, could this work? I was told to just try it and you will find out.

I went to work measuring just how long each

leg could be. I wanted the maximum length of wire without a coil. Well that happened to be about 45 feet on each side of the dipole in a 90 degree inverted vee.

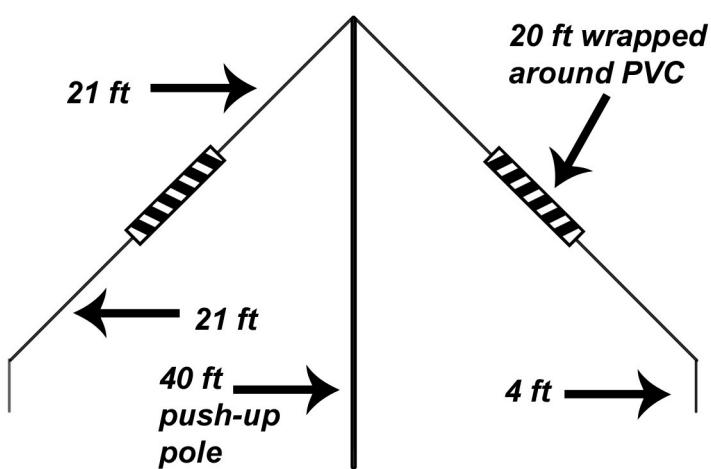
Because I wanted the antenna to be resonant at about 3.80MHz (the lowest I can be in the General portion of the phone band), I used the formula of $468/3.8$ minus 5% for a total length of 117 feet or 58.5 feet on each leg. I had two 62 foot lengths of wire. I had it made! Plenty of wire! I remember everyone telling me to keep it long and cut it later after you try it or put an analyzer on it.

From the center insulator, I came down 21 feet and then wrapped 20 feet around a piece of 1½" thin wall PVC tubing used for vacuum systems in houses. Then came down another 21 feet and attached it to an egg insulator and then to the wooden fence along the side of the house (see diagram).

Time to get out the antenna analyzer and see where it is resonant. In my mind I knew it would be too long. So, I attached the analyzer to the RG8X coax and it was TOO SHORT. Resonant at 4.2mHz. Too short, it couldn't be.

Well, come to find out that the coil in the middle did something. I'm still not sure exactly what. I added 6 feet of wire (just hanging down from the ends) to each end and now it was too long! Resonant at 3.77 mHz. So, 2 feet was folded over itself and it is resonant at 3.82MHz. Perfect!

So, how does it work? Well for a wire it works GREAT. I've used it and compared signals with other hams and it seems to be better or as good



Duane,
KI6QEL, with
the manual
for a FT-450.
Note the ex-
pression of
joy as he
thinks about
using the ra-
dio for the
first time!

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Technical Web Site of the Week - Are you suffering through the oh-so-slow beginnings of solar cycle 24? Paul VE1DX offers some Cassidic-inspired wisdom featuring the Palos Verdes Sundancers:

http://www.southgatearc.org//dx_stories/palos_verdes_sundancers.htm

If you want something to occupy you until the cycle has progressed a little farther, read this interesting paper about orbital resonances of the outer planets and their effects on the Sun. (Thanks, Rich KL7RA)

<http://www.arxiv.org/pdf/1005.5303v3>

Speaking of (or into) **microphones**, if you are the type that enjoys putting the end of a vacuum cleaner hose next to the cat and making growly noises into the other end, you might enjoy learning that a toilet paper tube placed over certain microphones can have interesting effects on the resulting transmitted audio. This was a regular "enhancement" for the Kenwood MC-60 desk mike, for example. Will it improve your score? The reply is somewhat hazy!

Quite a jump from the A-frame lumber masts in the old Antenna Books, the tallest wooden tower in the world is nearly 400 feet high! The story and a whole lot more is available at the online site for the Modesto Radio Museum. (Thanks, Tim K3LR) <http://www.modestoradiomuseum.org/>

From the NCCC reflector: I have six 8 or 10' ground rods in place at this QTH and would love to salvage at least two of them for my next location. Anyone have experience doing this? I tried a heavy duty six foot pry bar/chain combination and simply bent the pry bar. An old fashion bumper jack might work but don't have one of those dinosaurs. Suggestions?
Put a pipe wrench on them, twist like mad, and they should let loose and come out.

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 8 ARLP008 From Tad Cook, K7RA Seattle, WA February 25, 2011

To all radio amateurs

The average solar flux was nearly unchanged this week, up just 0.3 point to 103.8, while the average daily sunspot number was down 4.9 points to 65. Sunspot groups 1161 and 1162 -- which brought so much activity last week -- have now rotated across our Sun's western horizon, but new sunspot group 1163 has now emerged over the eastern limb. For Thursday, February 24, we saw a sunspot number of 23. The solar flux was 88.9, planetary A index was 3 and the mid-latitude A index was 0. The outlook from NOAA/USAF shows 90, 88 and 88 for February 25-27, then 86 on February 28 through March 4, 95 on March 5, 100 on March 6-8, 105 on March 9 and rising to 110 on March 10-15. The predicted

planetary A index for February 25-March 2 is 7, 8, 8, 15, 12 and 8, then 5 on March 3-6, and 7, 8, 8, 7 and 5 on March 7-11. Geophysical Institute Prague expects quiet to unsettled conditions for February

25-26 and quiet conditions on February 27 through March 3. The predicted geomagnetic storm just prior to last weekend's DX contest did not persist, lasting only half a day through February 18. It was triggered by a flare on February 15. Bob Marston, K6TR, sent a link to a high definition video of the flare, as seen through the Solar Dynamics Observatory. It can be viewed on YouTube at, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJViaJ_kgZ0.

Note that you can select resolution of the image by clicking on the 360p on the lower right and can run it as high as 720p. It takes some time to load, varying dependent on your Internet connection speed. Best to just let it load, then run it again to actually watch it. Dean Straw, N6BV, observed last Friday that the "latest solar wind sequences show that the Bz field was strongly north-directed (rather than south-directed) from 05 to 10 UTC Feb 18, so we probably dodged

the big bullet for this ARRL DX CW weekend." He is referring to an element of the IMF, or interplanetary magnetic field. When Bz points south, our planet is vulnerable to flares and resulting solar wind, but when Bz points north, we tend to be protected.

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, has an interesting and informative column on 10 meter sporadic-E propagation in the current issue of WorldRadio Online. Carl mentions downloading N6BV's presentation on sporadic-E titled, "HF Propagation and Sporadic-E, A Case Study: WRTC 2010."

Bill Collins, KB1MSJ, of Boylston, Massachusetts, is excited about openings on 10 meters. He wrote: "On Friday, February 18, there was a 10 meter band opening here on the East Coast. I was able to talk to Aruba, Brazil and El Salvador, all with only 25 W of power on a homebrew 10 meter antenna. I have been waiting for this to happen for years, as I only have my Tech license (working on General) and have an old 10 meter radio".

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW

Operator(s): N2NS Class: Single Op Assisted HP Operating Time (hrs): 6:35

Summary: Total: QSOs = 190 State/Prov = 44 Countries = 17 Total Score = 35,197

Comments: Mostly S&P, looking for new 160m DXCC. Bounced back and forth between chasing VP8ORK on 80m (unsuccessful) and chasing DX in contest. Nice to hear lots of EU Sat night. Only EU wkd was CT, CU, GD, but many others heard. CS2C (CT) was peaking above S-9 on my sloper last night abt 0620Z when I wkd him. MD4K also vy loud when I wkd him about 10 minutes later. However, the pile-ups of NA callers were simply too deep and intense for me on most of the other potentially workable EU I could hear. Signals from OC/AS seemed to be OK both mornings, but I did not hear the numbers and variety of DX mults I'd hoped for. Congrats to those who slugged it out with the midwest and east coast to bust the EU pile-ups last night. Hope the condx to EU last night are a sign of good things to come on TB as we move toward the spring equinox.

Orion II, Alpha 87A, sloper (tx and rx), N1MM logger. Bob N2NS

Had a lot of fun with the S9 and TJ DX-peditions. With the TJ, I did a clean sweep on RTTY – 80 thru 10. That was probably a first. Didn't get either on 160, the band where I needed both. Thanks, Jim, WS6X

I am still very busy as a CPA and don't have much hamming time but for new countries. I finally have them all and it feels good but still enjoy it when I find the time.

Hope to see you at a meeting sometime soon if I can get there. Tripp K6NS

Station: NA6G ARRL DX CW Contest

Class: SOAB(A) LP Operating Time (hrs): 6:15

Summary: Band QSOs Mults

160:

80:

40: 29 14

20: 26 16

15: 20 12

10: 15 9

Total: 90 51 Total Score = 13,770

Comments:

Again, limited time and S&P only. Got a couple of new countries.

Steve NA6G



E-Waste Recycling



Location -Entrance Gate

Kings Canyon Entrance

Time Mar 19 2011 - 8:00am - 2:00pm

Event Details

Bring your e-waste to The Fresno Fairgrounds

From 8:00am - 2:00pm

Drop off electronic waste at NO CHARGE! E-waste is no longer accepted at the landfill and is often expensive to recycle. No limit

ARRL DX Contest, CW

Operator(s): N2NS

Class: SOAB(A) HP

QTH: CA

Operating Time (hrs): 19

Summary:

Band QSOs Mults

160: 23 16

80: 46 29

40: 179 83

20: 178 78

15: 181 57

10: 41 25

Total: 648 288 Total Score = 559,872

Comments: 90% S & P, but had enjoyable short runs of JA's on 15 and 40m. The most JA's I recall hearing in a long time. Limited skill on my end necessitates CQ-ing at no more than 20-22 wpm, and that speed is like a magnet to the QRP and low power crowd in JA. Of the JA's I worked when running, probably a third of them sent either 5 or 50 for their power. Challenging to dig them out sometimes, but good practice for me. I had hoped to work some new DXCC on 80/160m, but the low bands were a bust for me both nights/mornings. I think I was off the air for the big

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 Computer Towers Printers

PDA's DVD Players Copy Machines Fax Machines

Calculators Keyboards Stereo Systems Speakers

Computer Mice Telephones Cell Phones VCR's

*Items containing Freon, washers/dryers, batteries and light bulbs will not be accepted.

Location:

Enter the parking lot off of Kings Canyon Boulevard, just east of Chance Avenue. (Gate 6)

For more information call (559) 650-FAIR

80/160m, but the low bands were a bust for me both nights/mornings. I think I was off the air for the big EU opening Friday night (getting on later). I was hearing EU on 80, but most were very light here (no rx antenna), and the pile-ups just too deep on the louder ones. On the other hand, 40m was a real winner for me both Friday night and again Saturday morning, with lots of strong workable EU signals (LP in the morning). Nice to have the 10m openings this weekend.

High points- having a ZS call me as my 40m JA run was dwindling Sunday morning. (Only ZS I worked all weekend) -working OH8X on 15m during the middle of Sunday afternoon (thought 15m EU was long gone by then)

Low point- tuning across an interesting signal, but having to wait 7-8 QSO's before the op ID-ed. (There were so many bogus/errorneous spots, there was no way you could trust the cluster)

Most interesting exchanges: NP4Z: '3'. Wkd him twice. He was loud both times.

OH8SR: 'A5TT' (per the reflector thread, he gets credit for being honest, at least)

Orion II, Alpha 87A, KT-36XA @ 55' (10/15/20); 2 el 40m yagi @ 70'; sloper for 80/160 @ 54'; N1MM logger Bob N2NS

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Field Day Rule Change!

ARRL Contest Branch Manager, Sean KX9X has just released some important information for this year's ARRL Field Day. The "free" VHF station that was previously restricted to Class A participants with two or more transmitters is now available to all Class A operations! This should promote additional VHF+ weak-signal operation and know-how. In order to promote better VHF+ operating practices, Sean and Steve WB8IMY have collaborated on a VHF Operator FAQ document that presents information on how to operate on 6 and 2 meter SSB and CW, using FM phone, and working the satellites. Field Day offers VHF+ operating opportunities to hams that may not have tried it before - this document will help them get better results and follow regular operating practices. Now it's up to the VHF+ operators out there to help their teams get that VHF station on the air and making QSOs! Read more about this year's rules on the ARRL Field Day web site.

The two transmitters on the right are at the station of Jeff, WB6ZBX. He has them on the air, along with many other heavy metal radios. The transmitter in the center is an AN/SRT-14. On the air date: Monday, October 18, 2010 8:24 AM. They are featured in recent issues of Electric Radio.



Contest: CQ 160 Phone, Feb. 25-26 Call: N2NS

Class: Single Op Assisted HP QTH: SJV

Operating Time (hrs): 1

Summary:

Total: QSOs = 13 State/Prov = 9 Countries = 2 Total Score = 440

Comments: Finally wkd D4C (0734Z Sat night) for a new one on TB after unsuccessfully chasing D4 on TB on CW over the past couple years in various contests and operations. DX-ing on 160SSB is not fun, and rarely productive (at least in my case), but sometimes you get lucky.

Bob N2NS

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

2011 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 12 May 14 Aug 13 Nov 10

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** 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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Southern California Contest Club Wins 6th VHF Contest.

The official results of the September 2010 VHF contest appeared on ARRL.org today, making it official that SCCC won its sixth club gavel in a VHF or UHF contest.

SCCC had an aggregate score of 2.173 million, well ahead of the runner-up Potomac Valley Radio Club, with 900K. The Northeast Weak Signal Society was third with 641K and the Mt. Airy Packrats were fourth with 407K. All of these were in the medium category.

Until summer of 2009, no west coast club had ever won a gavel in a VHF+ contest.

SCCC members also did well individually. The top eight rovers in the country were SCCC members. #1 was KK6KK, followed by W6XD, N6HC, Fresno ham W6TE (with K6MI), WB6BFG, N6HD, N6VI and KJ6CNO. Two Canadians finished in ninth and tenth places.

In the single operator portable (QRP) category, N6NB had the #1 score with 266K, breaking a 13-year-old national record set by K9PW, and a 10-year-old record for the SJV set by K6MI. The limited rover winner was K9JK of Illinois, who has roved under the SCCC banner twice (with resident SCCC member N6MU operating with him to qualify for SCCC eligibility under the 50% rule). JK just barely edged out SCCC member AF6AV, who was #2 nationally in the limited rover category.

The leading single operator low power station on the west coast was W6AQ.

Of interest to those who follow VHF contesting, the perennial multi-multi powerhouse, W2SZ, lost a very close race to K1WHS. In beating W2SZ for the first time ever, Dave achieved a long-time personal goal. Many thought he had no chance to beat W2SZ from his home hilltop in Maine. W2SZ operates atop Mt. Greylock, the highest point in Western Massachusetts and probably the best car-accessible VHF location in North America.

The operators at K1WHS included former ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN.



Photos: Ray Lischka W9EC

Santa Maria Ham Radio Swapfest & BBQ June 18, 2011

Saturday of Father's Day Weekend

SATELLITE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB W6AB

Pre-Registration Cutoff Date: June 1, 2011
Newlove (Breitburn) Picnic Grounds,
1555 Orcutt Hill Rd, Orcutt

Turn off Hwy 101 southbound 1.8 mi. south of Clark Ave., Orcutt
GPS: 34° 50' 21.97" N, 120° 22' 31.72" W

Sellers: 6:00 AM, **Public:** 7:30 AM

Prize drawings: 12 noon, **Grand Prize:** 1 for \$5, **general:** 1 for \$1, **ladies:** 1 for \$1

Pre-reg, **Grand Prize:** 6 for \$25, **general:** 6 for \$5, **ladies:** 6 for \$5

Admission & Parking: FREE

Swap Table: \$10 pre-reg, \$20 at fest, **Tailgate seller:** (limited number): \$20 at fest only.

Talk-in: 145.36, 131.8 PL and 145.14, 131.8 PL

Catered BBQ meal: chicken or tri-tip, salad, beans, bread, \$12 pre-reg, \$15 at fest

Commercial Vendors: HRO, ARLAN Communications, Com. Svco., Argent Data Systems

T-hunt workshop: KE6HTS, **T-hunt**, on foot, on grounds : KA6BFB

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

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

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

2011 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 _____ ARRL Y__N__ QWCA_____

I am interested in serving on one of the committees. Please contact me with more details. _____

FARC – PO BOX 5912, FRESNO, CA 93755-5912



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

Send To:

**Upcoming 2011
Fresno Amateur Radio
Club
Activities and Events**

Meetings on the 2nd Friday of the month

FD on the 4th full weekend in June

Banquet Dinner next December

Club Picnic in summer

Annual swap meet at the November meeting