



Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter April 1, 2011 Volume 73, Issue 4

Our next meeting will be the second Friday, April 8, at Cedar Lanes. 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.

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

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**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.**

*Well once again M2 came through. It was the best one yet and enjoyed by all. If for some reason you missed this one, start making plans for next year. I would like to thank the folks at M2 for putting this on. It takes a great deal of time. So **THANK YOU M2.***

*Craig has been putting together clips of old time "HAM" movies, equipment, etc. We have been enjoying them at our meetings and he has some new ones for April 8th at Cedar Lanes.*

*Special thanks go out to Joe, our net manager and to Jack, Ben, Duane, and the rest of the guys that help out on our nets. These nets are there for many reasons, such as check in's, drive information, and tech questions, so please use them.*

*I would like to thank the Fresno VE Team. They give up their time to give the tests to both new people and HAMS that want to upgrade.*

*Field Day is just around the corner, June 25-26, so start thinking about what you want to do and making plans to attend. Craig, **K6QI** is our chairman.*

*73's....Tom*



Tom Jarvis KG6KYU

**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

**FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

FARC Officers:

|                            |                                                      |                |         |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Tom Jarvis, Pres. - KG6KYU | <a href="mailto:kg6kyu@w6to.com">kg6kyu@w6to.com</a> | (559) 916-2445 | 12/2011 |
| Craig Carter V.P. - K6QI   | <a href="mailto:k6qi@w6to.com">k6qi@w6to.com</a>     | (559) 284-1722 | 12/2011 |
| Jim Erbe, Sec. - WA6NIF    | <a href="mailto:wa6nif@w6to.com">wa6nif@w6to.com</a> | (559) 222-7524 | 12/2011 |
| Ron Hunt, Treas - N6MTS    | <a href="mailto:n6mts@w6to.com">n6mts@w6to.com</a>   | (559) 289-8514 | 12/2012 |

Board Members:

|                      |                                                      |                |         |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Aaron Lusk, K6USY    | <a href="mailto:k6usy@w6to.com">k6usy@w6to.com</a>   | (559) 301-1022 | 12/2012 |
| Ken Holden, —WA6OIB  | <a href="mailto:wa6oib@w6to.com">wa6oib@w6to.com</a> | (559) 323-6753 | 12/2012 |
| Joseph Capell, W0PJD | <a href="mailto:W0PJD@me.com">W0PJD@me.com</a>       | (559) 225-3582 | 12/2011 |
| Jack Baker, AC6LT    | <a href="mailto:ac6lt@CVIP.net">ac6lt@CVIP.net</a>   | (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.**

| <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          |
| April 25    | QWCA Luncheon          |



Send Skip items to Skip editor John Morrice, K6MI at: [k6mi@pacbell.net](mailto:k6mi@pacbell.net)

You can download this and past Skip issues under the Document Archive menu by visiting [w6to.com](http://w6to.com).

Be a net control op! Contact Joe, WA6FFJ at: [joenailbender@earthlink.net](mailto:joenailbender@earthlink.net)

|            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| May 3      | FARC BOD Meeting           |
| May 6      | Carp Meeting 7 P.M.        |
| May 7      | Hidden T-hunt 2 P.M.       |
| May 20-22  | Dayton Hamfest             |
| May 13     | FARC Meeting 7 P.M. Friday |
| May 20     | SJVARS Meeting             |
| May 24     | QCWA luncheon              |
| June 11-12 | VHF Contest                |
| June 25-26 | FD                         |

**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

April 15-17 DX Convention

June VHF, June 11-13

FD, June 25-26

RAC, July 1

FARC Picnic, coming this summer!

Flee Markets in Northern California

**Sunday March to November (weather permitting) Robertson Park in Livermore**

**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.



75a4 on tail-gate at M2 Swap Meet

**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 March was KF6HNF, was not award now \$40. however, he present. The goes up to

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## Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

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

KD6HTV Denny 04/22  
 N2NS Bob 04/10  
 K6XJ Perry 04/10

### ***Anniversaries:***

K6NS, Tripp and Beth 04/12

### **DX Breakfast**

The next Fresno DX Breakfast is Saturday April 2, 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.

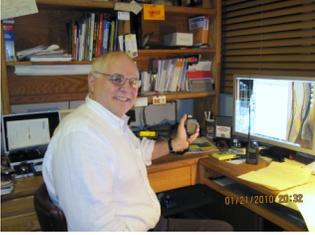
"The only way to be loud....is to transmit."

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>

You can get a nice view of the **W3LPL antenna array** by clicking on <http://snurl.com/26zqr4>. Click on "Bird's Eye" to get a detailed view, zoom in, and click on the compass to see images from different perspectives. You can also expand the image to the left by clicking on the left-arrow on the upper left corner of the picture.



**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

**Amateur of the Month, by Joe Capell W0PJD**

**Rob Mavis, AE6EG**

Rob was born and raised in the Fresno/Clovis area and graduated from Duncan Polytechnic High School. He attended Fresno City College in electronics and then technical school to complete his education.

As a teenager, he became interested in citizen band radio and then thoroughly involved to the point of being net control for the OTR Net (Old Tube Radios) which still meet every Saturday evening.

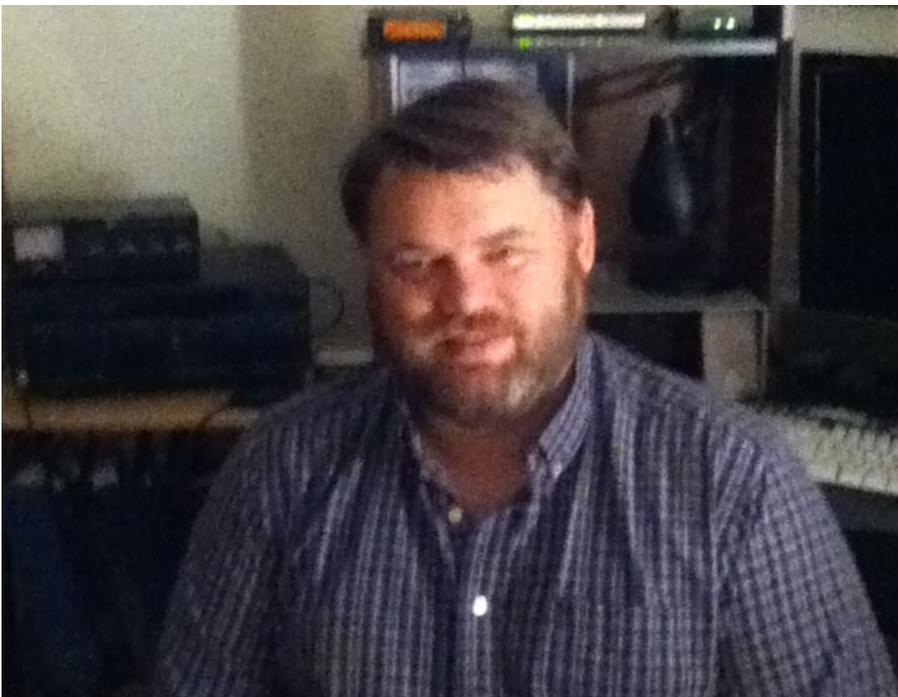
Dennis Thompson, KB6GFD challenged him to get into amateur radio. He took the FCC exam and passed in 1999 with the first call of KF6YLR and upgraded about two years later to the general and soon to the Extra Class and his current call sign, AE6GE.

He has worked in electronics and technology for his entire career. He worked at Pelco for 8 years as an electronics technician and now for the law firm of Lange Richert and Patch in the Fig Garden area, in information technology support.

He tells me his favorite aspect of ham radio is vhf contesting especially RTTY and PSK, but his well known status as president now of the Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneer Club and his past presidency of the Fresno Amateur Radio Club suggests that he also has strong interest in the organizational aspects of the

hobby. He maintains the CARP repeaters and the APRS digipeater for that group.

He is married to Laura and they have three children. He has encouraged his son to become a ham radio operator too. The two of them especially enjoy hidden transmitter hunts that CARP and FARC sponsor, an excellent father/son activity.



**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

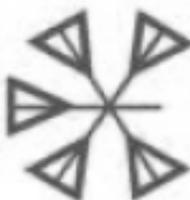
Notes from the Music Instructor, K6MI, otherwise known as the Skip editor. This has been a fantastic month for radio operators! You will find lots of pictures of the great M2 event in this months Skip, along with great articles about what the hams in our club are doing. There were operating events galore, with the CQ WPX Contest, and the ARRL DX Phone events. Many of our hams were heard working new states and countries. Antenna projects are everywhere. A fine radio club meeting, and a transmitter hunt were also in the mix. And next month is the DX convention. Check out Gabriel's article on page 12 about making a cw keyer for your computer. It works with all the computers.

The sunspot explanation is one of the best on page 19. The big excitement is here now that the sunspots are coming back! If there was ever a time to get on and operate, now is the time. Catch Stu's witty remarks, Chuck's DX info, Joe's ham of the month, and much more. Duane has been up to all sorts of things and fills us in on page 16.

Let me know what you've been up to as well, and I'll continue to package it all up in next months Skip! 73, John, K6MI

On the left are a couple of towers holding up wires of all sorts recently put up by Johnny, N6ETM, who lives out Clovis way. He is active on 80M, and also shows up on 2M. Below is Chip Magelli, K7JA, from CQ Mag.





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THE DX CORNER by Charles McConnell W6DPD

April 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](http://www.spaceweather.com) and [www.solarcycle24.com](http://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](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>.

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
- 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.
- Marion Island ZS8M May, 15 2010 to May 11, 2011
- Gough Island ZD9GI October 2010 for 1 year
- Liberia EL March 31 to April 30, 2011
- Bhutan A52 April 19 to April 26, 2011
- Macquarie Island VK0KEV now until April 30, 2011
- Spratly Islands DX0DX POSTPONED to April 2012
- 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
- Sierra Leone 9L5MS Mercy Ships March 28 to April 18, 2011
- Seychelles S79UFT March 24 to April 15, 2011
- Liberia EL March 31 to April 30, 2011
- Martinique FM/F6ARC April 6 to April 21, 2011
- Mayotte TO2FH April 18 to April 25, 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
- Jan Mayen JX July 6 to July 14, 2011
- Southern Sudan? Call not known at this time July 9, 2011
- Ascension Island ZD8D July 24 to August 9, 2011
- Timor Leste 4W September 16 to September 26, 2011
- Christmas Island T32C? September-October 2011
- Vanuatu YJ0 September 28 to October 14, 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](http://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.

## 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.

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](mailto: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:

- 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](mailto:info@k6arp.org) 559-492-7675

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Today, March 24, my beacon was heard in Oxford, NC. Pat, K4AVO posted hearing my beacon, 10 meter, on DXScape. When I looked at what activity was going on on 10 meters, I saw my call sign. I was surprised that anyone would hear my Uniden HR2600, ground plane antenna, and the AEA MM-1 Morse Sender. Pat said he only heard my beacon and K6FRC/B on 28.200. He has logged over 1200 beacons. He was using a Yaesu FT-897d and a Cushcraft R-7000 vertical.

My beacon, when I have it on, is on 28.291.5Mhz.

Another thing I came across today at Harbor Freight is a 12 position 110vac 4 foot metal power strip rated at 15 amps. I brought it home and disconnected all the small power strips and extension cords and plugged everything into the new strip. Sure makes it easier to plug in the wall-wart adapters, those usually take up an extra spot on the power strips. So maybe one could go and look at the strip I mentioned above and see it fits your needs...under the ham station desk, etc.

Worked some DX: DR1A; S50O on 40M; HL1CBH on 40M; D44AC on 20 and 10M; worked many Caribbean islands today on 10 meter band. Doesn't take much.

Jim WA6NIF

# M2 Swap Meet March 19, Saturday



## 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](http://www.fresnoares.com) or [www.fresno-races.net](http://www.fresno-races.net).  
Email at [info@fresnoares.com](mailto:info@fresnoares.com)

### Fresno County ARES EC Report

This month I would like to discuss the Incident Command System (ICS). The Incident Command System is a management tool that is being adopted by professional emergency responders throughout the country. ICS provides a coordinated system of command, communications, organization and accountability in managing emergency events. Amateur Radio operators should be familiar with the system, as well as how they will interface with agencies employing ICS.

Integral to the ICS is the concept of Unified Command. There is only one boss, the Incident Commander, who is responsible for the overall operation. For any incident, a number of functions must be performed, ranging from planning and logistics to handling the press. The functional requirements of planning, logistics, operations and finance are always present despite the size of the incident. They may be handled by a single individual for a small incident or a "Command Staff" in a large incident. Another characteristic of ICS is "span of control." In simple terms, any manager should only directly manage a small number of people. ICS uses the number of five for organizational purposes. The number five isn't hard and fast, but it

provides a useful organizational guideline.

How does the Amateur Radio volunteer fit into the Incident Command System? We are expected to be communicators, and within the ICS, this would place us in the Logistics Section in the Service Branch as part of the Communications Unit. The Communications Unit provides all communications services for the operation. Training courses, IS-100 and IS-200 are available as part of the FEMA Independent Study Program at [training.fema.gov/EMIweb/IS](http://training.fema.gov/EMIweb/IS). These courses are part of the ARES training.

Just a reminder, our Emcomm. Nets are held at 7:30 PM on Monday evenings on the 147.15 MHz repeater. Our Meeting will be held Thursday April 28, at 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there.

Glen Caine (N6HEW)  
Fresno County ARES EC  
Fresno County RACES Officer  
559-999-7590  
[n6hew@att.net](mailto: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

**STUART "The Smiling Scot" WB6VRJ**

How things have changed!

Sometime back, we would take a message in CW, and write it down with pencil, copy laboriously, and then try to deliver the message.

Then there was the magic of the telephone-that sure helped with delivery!

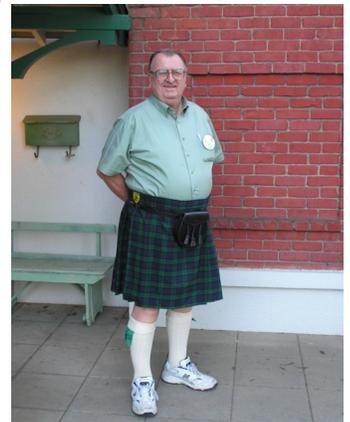
Then I learned to copy CW using the typewriter- that sure cleaned things up, considering my style of handwriting. Yeah, I wrote in early scrawl.

Now there is the Northern California Net [NCN]. It meets on 3533 KHz. there is a 1900 [local] time for the high speed guys, and the slow-speed net at 21 hrs, local. While I check into the slow speed net - I can only send and receive at 18 WPM - the Internet has proved to be a real boon. Sometimes when for one reason or another, I cannot get on the air, and there is a message for the Fresno Area- then the ham can send me an e-mail, with the message, and that helps a lot in getting the message through. this is a very handy way to help handle messages.

For you hams who would like to earn CW or just use it, there is the Straight Key society. They have a web site- SKCC- and also check on 7114 KHZ, they also have web forums, and that is a lot of fun!

Continued on page 13...

*STUART WB6VRJ*



Stu with hard hat kilt on his head



Ted and Perry at QCWA booth at M2

### Fresno Amateur Radio Club

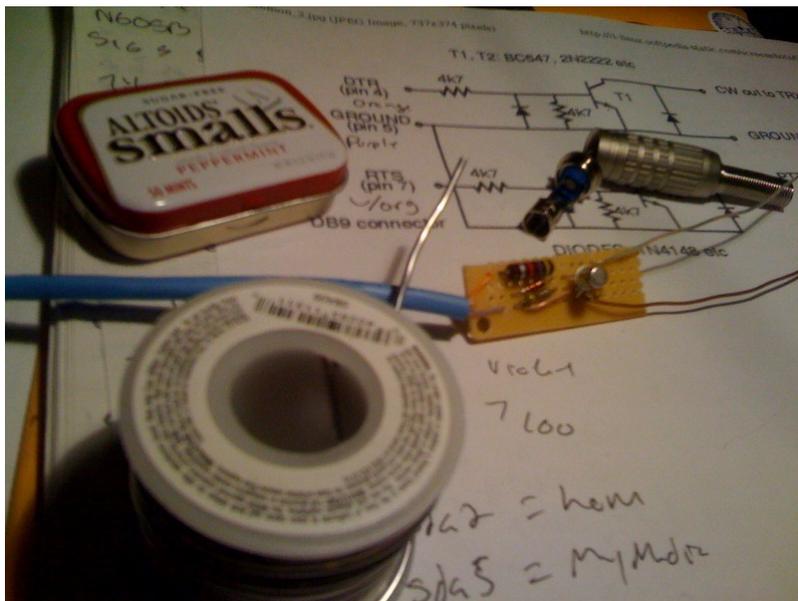


Join Jack, AC6LT, on the Wednesday night Tech net on the W6TO repeaters. 7 P.M. Wednesday evening also has several other nets, the CW 10M net also at 7 on 28.140, and at 8 on 28.445. Jack has added several new wire antennas this last month.

### -Home brewed CWdaemon interface for Linux- by Gabriel, N6OSB

I've been a devoted Linux user since '98. Shortly after becoming a ham I started to install and play with many amateur radio applications available for Linux. I often saw cwdaemon as a dependency for many of the apps I wanted to install. After years of seeing this dependency, I decided to figure out what exactly it was. After reading the documentation, I realized that cwdaemon could turn one's logger or computer into a useful keyer, just like winkeyer can. I was surprised to find several schematics already on my computer, that came as part of the cwdaemon package. I always wanted to build something from scratch and this was the perfect project. After realizing I had all the parts in my junk box I got to work.

The schematic shows a PTT circuit which I thought wasn't needed. On Friday night I stayed up and was unsuccessful on my first go round. I checked my circuit and I didn't see anything wrong. My only guess is that I fried the transistor. I tried again but this time I ended up only using about third of the space. I put it in an Altoids Small box which Sarah had saved for me. I hooked it up to my computer, setup cwdaemon and my logger (cqrlogger) and it all worked like a champ. Now I'm ready for the next CW contest.



Stuart for April, continued from page 11

A lot of people are trying to think of something as a JOKE FOR April Fools Day. Yeah, I was also asked to try to come up with something for the SKIP paper, but I just drew a blank.

But then, as I was looking through the stack of CQ magazines {a stack that weighs 71.36 pounds!} that had been given to me by Craig, K6QI, I ran across a very wonderful article which is not a joke, but certainly reflects some of the changes in hamdom today. I REFER TO page 17 of the CQ magazine for January 1966, in an article entitled CLUB FORUM, authored by Al Smith, WA2TAQ. In this wonderful article, there is this pronouncement:

"We should be aware of our appearance in all activities involving amateur radio"; just before that, he writes: "It's said that clothes make the man . . . we will say that such articles of clothing as dungarees have no place at a radio club meeting. The well dressed man would arrive on the scene in a suit or at least a sports jacket and clean trousers. Sloppy sweatshirts and similar articles of clothing will only lower the level of the club. This would be particularly so in the eyes of a visitor whether a member of the amateur radio fraternity or not."

Mmmm, how times have changed. What worked then sure doesn't work now... Of course he makes no mention of the dress for YLs or XYLs. Even more egregious, the author makes NO mention of kilts. Well, this is no April fool joke; this is a real opinion from 1966-but perhaps the joke is that even then the FARC WORE VERY COMFORTABLE CLOTHING, AND ALWAYS DID LOOK GOOD.

STUART

## Hamfest in Sonoma

I would like to invite all the members of your group to our annual Hamfest in Sonoma.

The event date is this April 30th. Activities include breakfast, swap meet, VE session, station demonstrations and fox hunt.

There is a flyer and map on our website, [www.vomarc.org](http://www.vomarc.org) under Annual Events.

73 & hope to see you there. Jim Hill, K6UUW [jhill@vom.com](mailto:jhill@vom.com) 707-935-7441



See page 16 to see what Duane is smoking



One tube of rare cb antenna grease

http://rochester.craigslist.org/ele/176177785

[rochester, NY craigslist](#) > [for sale / wanted](#) > [electronics](#)

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Avoid scams and fraud by dealing locally! Beware any deal involving Western Union, Moneygram, wire transfer, cashier check, money order, shipping, escrow, or any promise of transaction protection/certification/guarantee. [More info](#)

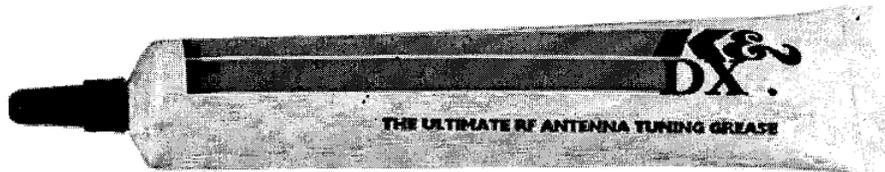
please flag with care:  
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[best of craigslist](#)

## One tube of rare cb antenna grease - \$250 (rochester)

Date: 2010-05-27, 3:37AM EDT

Reply to: [sale-kebcm-1761777850@craigslist.org](mailto:sale-kebcm-1761777850@craigslist.org) [Errors when replying to ads?]

For sale one tube of rare cb antenna grease. This stuff came out in the 60's. It was developed by the Department of Defense for the armed services. It was mainly used in the field on hand held units, tripling their range. It is a closely guarded secret by technicians & HAM's. When the FCC found out some amateur radio supply outlets had purchased a sizable quantity of the RF grease through US Army & Navy surplus auctions, the FCC outlawed the sale of it in the US. What the RF grease does is make your signal slide out your antenna faster and with less friction. Because of this you get less RF friction (hysteresis). The results are: lower SWR readings & increased power handling, the faster moving RF signal builds up a tremendous RF inertia, resulting a higher DB gain on your signal, (like a slingshot effect throwing a faster & larger signal) ( typically 3.8-4.7 db gain) and 4x the power handling capacity. Modulation & SSB benefit a whopping 6 db gain over an untreated isotropic dipole antenna lasts for about 6 mounths then, just wipe off any old grease and put some new on. This is probably the best kept secret in amateur radio! The guys at the shoot-out's wont tell you about this amazing secret! Triple the RF output of a 200 watt box to 600 ERP, etc... (effective radiated power) This RF grease also causes a very cool side efect if you feed over 100 watts into a treated antenna you will see a cool purpleish-pink halo glowing around your antenna on key up at night, pulsating with your modulation ! (not to cool for the military, this is why they stopped using it!) For now all I have is one 16oz. tube. \$250.00 FIRM



- Location: rochester

## **Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

### **The Sun Spots Are Back!!**

From Tad Cook, K7RA  
Seattle, WA March 25, 2011  
To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP012  
ARLP012 Propagation de K7RA

All solar indicators were lower again for the second consecutive week. Average daily sunspot numbers declined over 28 points from the week before to 40.9, and average daily solar flux was off over 18 points to 94.8.

But looking at solar images from the STEREO mission at <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov> we can see a great deal of activity about to rotate toward us over the Sun's eastern horizon. The whole "back" side of our Sun looks very busy.

The March 24 NOAA forecast for solar flux and planetary A index sees solar flux for March 25 to April 3 at 110, 115, 120, 125, 125, 130, 130, 130, 120 and 115. Planetary A index for the same period is predicted at 5 for March 25-29, 7 on March 30-31, and 5 on April 1-3.

This indicates improving HF propagation for the near term, with geomagnetic indicators unsettled only very slightly compared to recent very quiet conditions. Conditions should be good for the CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest this weekend, and there is a useful web site devoted to this contest at <http://www.cqwpw.com>.

Geophysical Institute Prague has a forecast for geomagnetic conditions quite different from NOAA, predicting quiet conditions for March 25-27, unsettled to active on March 28, unsettled March 29-30, and quiet to unsettled March 31.

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA pointed out that the nanoTesla values for each level of K index mentioned in last week's bulletin are actually for the Boulder, Colorado magnetometer, and the values are different for each observatory. He has a good description of how this all works at his web site, [http://mysite.ncnetwork.net/k9la/Where Do the K and A Index Come From.pdf](http://mysite.ncnetwork.net/k9la/Where%20Do%20the%20K%20and%20A%20Index%20Come%20From.pdf).

Jeff Hartley, N8II of Shepherdstown, West Virginia sent in a report last Saturday, March 19. He wrote, "Despite the decline in solar activity 12 meters has been consistently open to Europe every weekday this week including some Russians, Latvia, and Lithuania. As the flux has dropped off, the band has been opening later. The band was wide open to Europe at 1230Z Monday (March 14), Thursday and Friday (March 17-18) were good from about 1445Z to past 1600Z. 15 meters has been consistently good to Russia with loud signals (RL3A S9+20-30dB) and even central Asia including UK6, UK8, and UN3M (S9) worked 2 days and I even caught HS0ZDS on Wednesday right over the pole. The low K indexes seem more important than the high flux for anything close to the pole, no big surprise. VU4PB had a good signal Thursday (March 17) on 17 meters from 1300-1500Z and quite a few USA stations, including me, were getting thru the European pile for a new one."

NASA has a video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTBgHd8exI4> explaining the very low sunspot activity over the past few years.

MIT Technology Review at <http://www.technologyreview.com/blog/arxiv/26568> has an article about the double-peak of many sunspot cycles.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. Find more good information and tutorials on propagation at <http://mysite.ncnetwork.net/k9la/index.html>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for March 17 through 23 were 45, 35, 48, 47, 34, 31, and 46, with a mean of 40.9. 10.7 cm flux was 90.1, 87.6, 88.8, 92, 101, 99.8, and 104.6, with a mean of 94.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 2, 4, 4, 4, 6, and 10, with a mean of 4.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 2, 4, 4, 5, and 9, with a mean of 4.

NNNN

**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

De KI6QEL, Duane

This past month was a busy and expensive one. I talked the wife into not one but two 150 foot towers. Antennas I put up are as follows:

160: two half bi-squares to Europe and the Caribbean;

80: two bi-squares 1) Europe and South Pacific, and 2) Asia and the Caribbean – apex at 150 feet;

40: 4 element M<sup>2</sup> 40M yagi at 160 feet;

20: 4 element M<sup>2</sup> 20M yagi at 155 feet stacked with the same antenna at 85 feet;

15: M<sup>2</sup> 6 element 15M yagi at 82 feet;

10: stack of Telrex 6 element yagis for 10M at 126 and 96 feet

A KT34XA fixed on the South Pacific rests at 60 feet

The tuning network is contained in a black plastic enclosure mounted to the tower.

A K5IC rotating tower system is used to rotate the top 80 feet of the tower with a prop pitch motor.

The other tower consists of:

160: Inverted Vee with Apex at 115 feet.

80: Quad Loop with Apex at 110 feet.

40: 2 element 40M Cushcraft at 130 feet.

20: 5 element 20M KLM at 125 feet. (the antenna interestingly enough radiates on 17 and 12 meters without a tuner!)

15: Stack of M<sup>2</sup> 6 element 15M yagis at 120 feet and 65 feet.

10: 6 element KLM 10M yagi at 70 feet.

A KLM KT34XA fixed on the Caribbean stands at 100 feet.

The 10M and lower 15M yagis are side mounted on a rotating side mount.

The main station (actually inside the house) consists of two Yaesu FT2000Ds, Two Alphas, and two prop pitch rotor controls housed in Heathkit SB600 Speaker cabinets.

The auxiliary station (outside in the garage) consists of an FT DX 5000 HF/50 MHz 200W Transceiver .

The radios are controlled with a WX0B SO2R box and Six Pak through a relay matrix created by myself. This system allows either station to access either towers' antennas including the two separate KT 34 XAs for multipliers.

The antennas and lower Tailtwister rotor control box for the mult. tower are under the desk. Band decoders control antenna switching with manual overrides.

With this new equipment I worked 0401 countries along with all 50 states. I received QSL cards from all of them. It was a lot of fun. I don't know what I'll do this month.....moon bounce maybe?

Duane KI6QEL



Duane, KI6QEL, with the manuals for the new equipment

## Fresno Amateur Radio Club

W6DPD operated the 2011 ARRL DX SSB Contest as a low power single band 10 M entry, non-assisted. 10 M 112 QSOs, 336 Points, 29 Countries Score 9,744  
Radio FT 2000, Antenna Force 12 5BA Logging software N1MM V 11.2.6

---

ARRL DX Contest, SSB Operator: N2NS

Class: SOSB/15 HP QTH: CA Operating Time (hrs): 2 Summary:

Band QSOs Mults 15: 101 29

Total: 101 29 Total Score = 8,700

Comments: Got on just for fun for two hours Sunday afternoon. Spent a bit over an hour S & P-ing up the 15m band, then took a short break, and ran 15m toward JA the last 40 minutes of the contest. When S & P-ing, I was beaming mostly toward the Caribbean and SA, but heard lots of JA's off the back of the beam. Lots of activity the whole breadth of the band, but mostly just the 'usual suspects'. Did have H44MS call me while for a nice surprise during the late JA run. About halfway through my 40 minutes of running, I was pushed off my freq by loud splatter from a 4-land station. (REALLY bad splatter... +/- 4 KHz or more wide- from a well known station that should have known better.) I initially tried to move slightly down from my original freq, but there was a JA running below me. So I scanned up and down the band, from 21.200 all the way up to .400+ looking for a clear spot, but was surprised to hear virtually no clear freqs anywhere on the band that late in the contest. Nice to know 15m is alive and well again. Finally found a fairly quiet niche toward the bottom of the band and finished the contest running mostly low power JA's.

Orion II, Alpha 87A, KT-36XA tribander (5 el on 15m) at 55', N1MM logger. Bob N2NS

---

### AFFORDABLE HANDS-FREE/WA6FFJ

One of the things I really appreciate is when someone recommends a method or a product they have used and are satisfied with.

Since I have been involved in Amateur Radio, contest and net control are activities I have come to enjoy. The problem was needing to operate hands-free. The solution has been the Yamaha CM 500 headset with Electret Boom Microphone.

You will need an adapter to connect the mic and a foot switch to your radio. The headset comes with 3.5mm inputs with an adapter to 1/4" for the headphones.

I have less than \$100 in the whole rig. The microphone works well with the FT-450 and Icom V8000. The headphones are lightweight and comfortable. Also look at comments on eham.net

**HEADSET IS AVAILABLE FROM BHPHOTOVIDEO.COM  
CUSTOM MADE ADAPTERS FROM W2ENY**

Thanks to K6XJ/Perry and AE65X/Dan for their recommendations.

Any questions or concerns contact WA6FFJ @arrl.net - 73/WA6FFJ



## Fresno Amateur Radio Club

### E-Waste Recycling



**Location -Entrance Gate** Kings Canyon Entrance

Upcoming Dates:

May 21 July 9 September 3 November 26

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 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

BARTG HF RTTY Contest Call: N2NS/6 Class: SOAB LP Operating Time (hrs): >6  
Summary: Band QSOs Countries Call Areas

-----  
80: 14 2 5  
40: 45 8 10  
20: 103 16 21  
15: 151 24 18  
10: 3 3 1  
-----

Total: 316 53 55 Continents = 6 Total Score = 204,768

Comments: First time in this contest. My main station is not set up for RTTY yet, so I used my basic 'travel radio' and a sub-sized keyboard netbook computer. (Challenging typing when running!) On the air sporadically as able between storm, power loss, and non-radio obligations. Tnx to W6SX for mentioning how to enable N1MM to insert UTC time into the exchange ( {time2} ). I would never have figured that one out.

Never having done this contest, I had no expectations, but found it much more fun than I'd imagined. And much more activity than expected. With a very basic radio (no roofing filters, etc), it was difficult to pick through the crowded condx on 20m. Also very difficult to hold a run freq for the same reasons. However, I was able to put together several short but fun runs from time to time, particularly into JA-land. Was able to hear/work a fair amount of EU, in spite of low power and lack of filters. For me, 80m was a disappointment. No real DX heard/worked. However, I missed the sunrise period both Saturday and Sunday, so never had a look into OC, AS. 15m made up for the lack of success on 80. Always lots of activity there. Hard to say if 10m was out of shape, or if it was just the lack of activity there. Three different periods of CQ-ing Sunday yielded only a single contact with a PY. Did work 3D2A on 10m while he was running JA's and NA mid-afternoon Sunday. But all in all, a good fun learning experience for a RTTY rookie.

FT-897 (100 watts); KT-36XA tribander (6 el) at 56' on 10/15/20, 2 el yagi at 70' on 40m, sloper at 54' on 80m; MMTTY/N1MM software/logger. Bob N2NS

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.

## Low Sun Spots Explained!!!

[http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2011/02mar\\_spotlessun/](http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2011/02mar_spotlessun/)

Executive summary:

The sunspot cycle is a result of a huge circulation loop within the sun. This loop takes sunspots from the surface (where we see them and they affect radio), and carries them down to the deep inside of the sun. The worn-out sunspots are rejuvenated by the activity deep down in the sun, and come back up to the surface to be part of the next solar maximum.

During the last cycle, for some unknown reason, the "circulation pump" sped up. While it was going fast, the worn-out sunspots from the last cycle didn't get to spend as much time down in the deep region. So they didn't get rejuvenated as much as they needed.

The "circulation pump" has since slowed back down, but the damage is already done for the current cycle. It started late and isn't going to be very strong at maximum because of all those sunspots that didn't spend enough time down deep, and are surfacing now, weak and wimpy.



## 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.

**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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**Phone (559) 227-2986**

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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. Svsco., Argent Data Systems

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

**Special Motel Rate:**

Santa Maria Travelodge

1514 South Broadway, Santa Maria,

93454, 805-922-2123

\$79.99 Friday or Saturday, Mention Santa Maria Swapfest

CQWW WPX Contest, SSB

Operator: N2NS Class: SOSB15 HP

Operating Time (hrs): 1:45

Summary:

Band QSOs 15m: 100

Total: 100 Prefixes = 84 Total Score = 20,412

Comments: Arrived home Saturday after 4 days on east coast, so missed most of this one. Decided to get on 15m Sunday afternoon and put in 2 hours op time/100 QSO's, whichever came first. Spent first 1:20 S&P-ing up the band and was amazed at the number of loud EU signals coming in mid-afternoon, CA time. Wkd a dozen or so different EU entities, and passed up several others in the interest of time during one slow pass up the band. Wow! Spent last 25 minutes beaming northwest and ran JA's until I hit my 100 Q mark. Wish I'd spent more time on now. Seems like condx were excellent- at least 15m certainly sounded that way.

Orion II, Alpha 87A, KT-36XA trib-ander (5 el active on 15m) at 55', N1MM logger.

Bob N2NS

**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 _____                                                                                   | Call sign _____           |
| Home Phone _____                                                                                | State ____ Zip _____      |
| Occupation _____                                                                                | Business Phone _____      |
| Spouses Name _____                                                                              | Birth Date _____          |
| License Class _____                                                                             | Anniversary Date _____    |
| Email Address _____                                                                             | First Year Licensed _____ |
| I am interested in serving on one of the committees. Please contact me with more details. _____ |                           |
| FARC – PO BOX 5912, FRESNO, CA 93755-5912                                                       |                           |

**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**



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

Send To: