



**FARC General Meetings**

are held the 2nd Friday of each month, 7 p.m. at the University of California Center on Shaw Ave. unless otherwise noted. Stay tuned in for new announcements.

**2016 FARC BOARD MEETING DATES**  
 1st Tuesday of each month this month at WB6VRJ's QTH.

**New meeting location for 2016!** East of Hwy. 41 on Shaw! 7 P.M. on the second Friday of the month, Feb. 12th for the second meeting of the new year at the University of California Center at 550 E. Shaw.

The map view shows the center in relation to the 41 freeway. In general the building has better lighting in the front near the entrance, and the parking lot is "security patrolled". Note: the entrance is directly across from the Fashion Fair entrance, on the north side of Shaw. We are meeting in the conference room named "Tulare/Madera".



**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

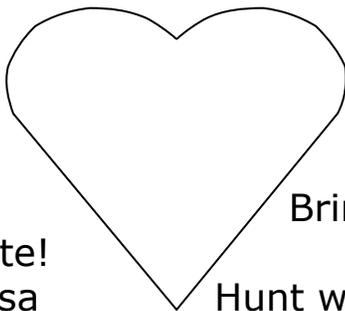
**FARC Net:**

Sundays @ 7:00 pm  
 W6TO/R 146.940



**Fresno Amateur Radio Club, Inc. P.O. Box 5912, Fresno. CA 93755-5912**

**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**



February meeting on the 12th is Valentines Meeting!

late!

Bring your partner, and bring some choco-

Lisa

Hunt will be our starting speaker, with a speech titled "Living with a Ham". I'm sure she will ham it up, and reveal secrets about her husband Ron, N6MTS.



There will be time for couples to share a story or two about their "introduction to radio".

This is a great meeting to bring a guest to join us! And bring Chocolate!

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO EVERYONE!!**

I hope that everyone treated their favorite valentine to something special; perhaps a new transceiver or that new 68 foot tower and triband beam!

That new meeting place is simply wonderful. I am sure that all who attended enjoyed themselves and the new surroundings. The absence of noise from the pins and bowling balls was a very pleasant absence.

The presentation by Dave, W6TE was excellent; great presentation Dave! The questions from the audience were very welcome and certainly showed a lot of interest in this "new" aspect of ham radio.

Again, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to all the club officers and members who give so much to the club's continuing success-all of youse hams deserve an accolade.

Not much to report tonight. For some of you who are really slow and need the practice on CW, don't forget the Wednesday night net on 28.140-Guss, KF6ZXO, is very very patient and glad to have you check in-when he calls for check in, just send the first letter of your call and he will answer and then you send your call and your name. There is also the slow-speed net on 3533 KHz, which has different control stations from time to time (the abbreviation for that is NCS)-that net starts at 2100 local and is abbreviated NCN (Northern California Net)-they will adjust to your speed. Check in-it's fun!



The Allen J. Ross award for 2015 was given to Duane, KI6QEL. Duane has been an active member and FD cook for many years, and is active in the vhf contests, many times as a rover.

Pictured above are some of the great pancakes that he makes for the FD breakfast.

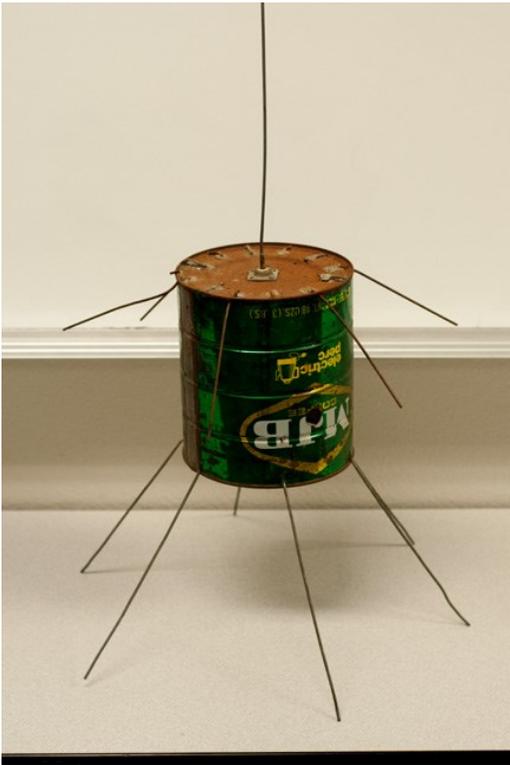
He has also been active on the FARC nets, both in the evening and in the morning.



## FARC

Send your dues check to FARC, PO Box 5912, Fresno 93755-5912

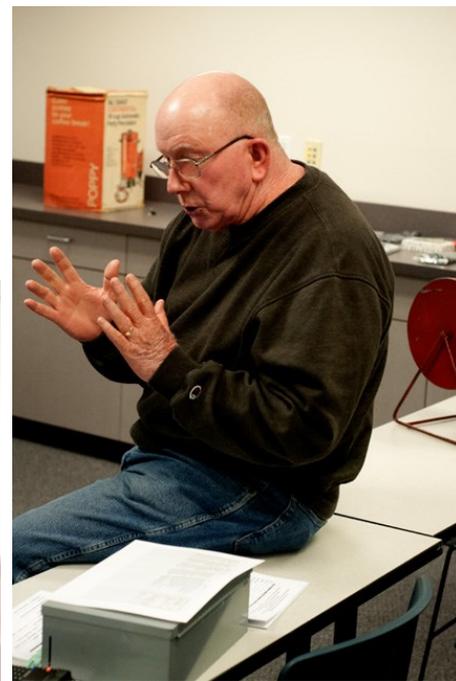
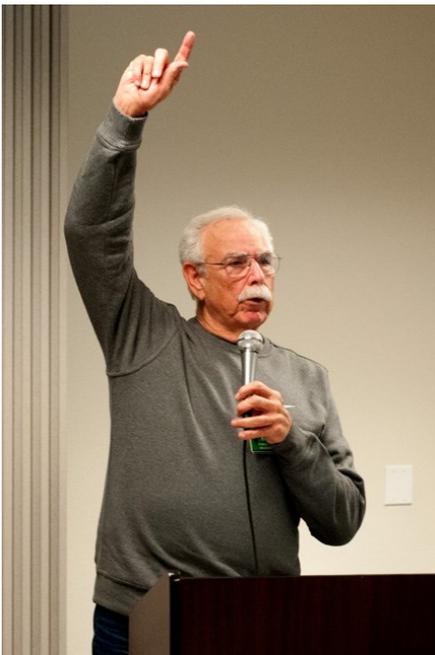
Refer questions to Joe/WA6FFJ 288-2202 Board meeting on the first Tuesday at Stu's place.



Dave, W6TE, was our January speaker at the FARC meeting, giving us informing concerning an exciting project from AMSAT. The AMSAT Phase IV mission is on a very fast track with a launch at the end of 2016 or early 2017. This satellite has the capabilities to affect all hams and especially those involved in ARES/RACES Communications..... as well as those of us who have legacy microwave equipment on the 5.7 and 10 GHz bands. The presentation was enjoyed by all. Stay tuned in for more info as the satellite come to fruition.



Pictures from the January FARC meeting!



## 2016 FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### FARC Officers and Board members:

Stuart Home, WB6VRJ President	<a href="mailto:wb6vrj@w6to.com">wb6vrj@w6to.com</a>	(559) 485-8659	12/2017
Ken Holden, WA6OIB VP	<a href="mailto:wa6oib@w6to.com">wa6oib@w6to.com</a>	(559) 323-6753	12/2016
Joe Cardoza, WA6FFJ Sec.	<a href="mailto:wa6ffj@w6to.com">wa6ffj@w6to.com</a>	(599) 455-1071	12/2017
Ron Hunt, N6MTS Treas.	<a href="mailto:n6mts@w6to.com">n6mts@w6to.com</a>	(559)	12/2016
Jim Erbe, W6NIF	<a href="mailto:w6nif@w6to.com">w6nif@w6to.com</a>	(559) 222-7524	12/2016
Bob Sherwood, W6AIY	<a href="mailto:w6aiy@w6to.com">w6aiy@w6to.com</a>	(559) 275-4319	12/2017
Larry Kramwer, K6VLF	<a href="mailto:k6vlf@w6to.com">k6vlf@w6to.com</a>	(559) 264-0772	12/2017

### Web master

Aaron Lusk, K6USY [k6usy@w6to.com](mailto:k6usy@w6to.com) (559) 301-1022

### Skip Editor

John Morrice, K6MI [k6mi@pacbell.net](mailto:k6mi@pacbell.net) (559) 275-7373



Ron, N6MTS

Breakfast on Saturdays at Jeb's Blueberry Café located at Blackstone and Dakota, starting at 7 A.M.. Join the DX'ers and all the area hams for breakfast

Also Breakfast every Tuesday at 8 A.M. at *Denny's* near Shaw and West.

The Quarter Century Wireless Association Lunch is held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at also at Jeb's Blueberry Cafe on Blackstone at 11:30 to 1 P.M..

The Thursday ham radio lunch get-together meeting location is:  
Jeb's Blueberry Hill  
3851 North Blackstone Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93726

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**.

Be a net control op! Contact Joe, WA6FFJ at: [nailbender@unwiredbb.com](mailto:nailbender@unwiredbb.com).

**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.**

### Event-Date

**Feb. FARC meeting Feb. 12 7 P.M.**

**Red Monkey Swap March 19**

**FARC meeting March 11**

**FARC meeting April 8**

**DX Convention April 15-17**

**FARC meeting May 13**

**FARC meeting June 10**

**June VHF Contest June 11-12**

**Field Day June 25-26**



Daytime Region 6 Traffic Net meets daily at 3:30 pacific time on or near 7.275 MHZ. This one is probably not in operation at this time.

The California Traffic Net meets daily on 3.906 MHZ and 6:00 PM local time.

The Golden Bear Amateur Radio Net meets nightly at 7:00 PM local time on 3.975 MHZ.

Northern California Net (NCN), the Section Traffic Net, meets nightly on 3.533 MHZ at 7 PM Pacific Time.

San Joaquin Net meets Monday-Saturday on 3918khz, at 6 PM Pacific Time.

Western Public Service System (WPSS) meets nightly on 3952khz, roll - at 7:30 PM local Pacific Time.

The Mission Trail Net meets nightly on 3.856 MHZ at 8:00 PM local time.

Northern California Net 2 (NCN2) The slow speed training session of NCN, meets nightly on 3.533 MHZ at 9 PM Pacific Time. Handling traffic on CW is a good way to improve your CW skills.

CWops Tests are held weekly – Every Wednesday at 1300Z, 1900Z, and 0300Z (Thursday). Info and rules at <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>.

San Joaquin Valley Nets:  
 The Noontime net meets on 7.268.5 MHZ. This net handles a lot of messages.

### Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Corrections to last months Skip! Our sharp eyed readers are on the lookout for everything. The corrected Skip is in the **w6to.com** archive.  
More new prizes at the next meeting! The raffle helps pay for the meeting expenses.

Now collecting 2016 dues. Dues for 2016 are \$20, and \$5 for additional family members!  
Free membership for first year hams!

**Fresno ARC** Is looking for check-ins for the Morning Drive Time Net.

Join Ben, WB6GBS, Duane, KI6QEL, and Joe, WA6FFJ, net control operators, for an interesting way to start the day. Visit <http://w6to.com> for further information.

ARRL Section Manager for the SJV Section, Dan, AE6SX. Dan's SJV news is found at [arri.org](http://arri.org)



Got Ham Radio?

Check out Glenn's info later in this issue!



### The Central Valley T-hunters

**T-Hunt** – Next hunt in March on a Saturday TBA @ 10:00 AM local, arrive early to check in. Place TBA.



For more information email [info@k6arp.org](mailto:info@k6arp.org) or call 559-492-7675.

Rob,  
AE6GE  
Hunt master

Thanks to Duane, KI6QEL, and Jim, W6NIF, for providing the photographs included in SKIP.

The monthly door prize drawing was won at the Jan. club meeting.

\$10 was won by Larry, K6VLF. Door prizes will start again at the next meeting. Must be present to win.



## Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>PL</u>
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
BRA	W6FSC	145.230	-	141.3
BRA	W6FSC	443.450	+	141.3
KINGS ARC	N6CVC	145.110/444.95	-	100.0
NC9RS	NC9RS	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
W6NIF	W6NIF	444.100	+	100.0
WINSsystem	K6JSI	146.790	-	100.0
WINSsystem	K6JSI	444.250	+	100.0
CVRC	K6WGJ Fresno Low	145.43	+	141.3
CVRC	N6VRC Meadow	147.165	+	141.3
CVRC	N6VRC Meadow	440.025	+	141.3
CVRC	N6VRC Santa Rita	147.285	+	141.3
CVRC	N6VRC Santa Rita	442.275	+	141.3
CVRC	N6VRC Visalia	442.525	+	141.3
CRVC	N6VRC Porterville	443.825	+	141.3
CVRC	K6WGJ Fresno Low	444.975	+	141.3
CVRC	N6VRC Bear Mt.	443.950	+	141.3
CVRC	N6VRC Mt. Bullion	442.350	+	141.3
CVRC	Bear	927.05	+	141.3
Meadow Lakes	WA6OIB	146.61	-	141.3

### **Anniversaries:**

Jim W6NIF and Nora WA6BDE 2/26  
 Joe WA6FFJ and Julie 2/06  
 Dan AE6SX and Roberta 2/18

Ten meter net, CW and Phone, every Wednesday  
 7 P.M. for CW at 28.140  
 8 P.M. for SSB at 28.445

### **Birthdays**

NA6C Pete 2/1  
 KK6FL Fred 2/7  
 N6FUB Richard 2/27  
 KI6KQW William 2/17  
 W6NIF Jim 2/20  
 KJ6UFU Rudy 2/25  
 WA6IMA Jeffry 2/05

This is a local net, the cw part run by KF6ZXO, and the SSB part by Doyle, W6OEZ. Have fun checking in on one or both modes.

Joe, WA6FFJ, our net control operator for the W6TO nets.

# **HAM RADIO SWAP MEET VE TEST SESSION**

**BBQ HAMBURGERS & CHILI COOK OFF**

**SATURDAY 3-19 -16**

**8AM-12PM**



**BRING YOUR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT  
FOR SALE OR TRADE**

**THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE**

**HOSTED BY**

**RED MONKEY**

**&**

**CENTRAL VALLEY RADIO CLUB**

**AT OUR NEW LOCATION**

**3439 S CHESTNUT FRESNO CA**

**CHESTNUT NORTH OF CENTRAL AVE**

**559-277-4RED**

## THE DX CORNER

**By Charles McConnell W6DPD**

February 2016

"DX is the one you want but you don't have. That is the way it has always been, that is the way it will always be." Of the most recent DXpeditions, "If you worked it, it was the best DXpedition ever. If you missed it, it was probably not so good." "And so it goes."

All things are relative, some more than others. Thanks Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD SK.

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, or Perry K6XJ 299-2802, can give you advice. The big thing about finding DX is to tune the bands.

The DX Breakfast is every Saturday at Jeb's Blueberry Hill Café, 3851 N. Blackstone Ave in Fresno. This group gathers about 06:30 AM. All are welcome.

Check out [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com) and [www.solarham.net](http://www.solarham.net) 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 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 \$0.80 for each envelope to the address above. They will put 1 unit of First Class postage on the envelope. You can contribute \$10 or \$20 online using Paypal. If you work DX, you should have envelopes at the bureau so you can get your cards. You may be able to check your status at the bureau at <http://www.qslbureau.org/>

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 no longer be ordered online from the US Post Office. To check on foreign postage, you can go to <http://www.k4hb.com/postage.html>. To learn about addressing envelopes to everywhere in the world, go to <http://www.columbia.edu/~fdc/postal/> for a discussion and examples. U.S. Postage will be increased soon. Overseas postage will be \$1.20; domestic postage will remain \$0.49 for 1 ounce. Additional ounce for domestic mail will be \$0.22. Postcards will be \$0.35.

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.

## Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Continued from the last page

The following operations are scheduled:

Djibouti J28JV soon for at least a year, maybe 2  
Ascension Island ZD8D maybe an October 2011 start  
Angola D2CQ February 2010 for a few years  
Gabon TR8CA September 15 for 4 years  
Rotuma Island 3D2AG/R December 20, 2015 to January 15, 2016  
Haiti 4V1TL January 1 to April 30, 2016  
Senegal 6W/EA1HFI January 1 to March 4, 2016  
Tanzania 5H2ST January 26 to February 10, 2016  
South Georgia VP8SGI February 1 to February 11, 2016  
Togo 5V7TH February 10 to February 22, 2016  
Tonga A35T February 17 to February 28, 2016  
Guinea 3XY1T February 18 to March 4, 2016  
Guantanamo Bay KG4 various operators February 19 to March 4, 2016  
East Kiribati T32 March 1 to March 16, 2016  
Marquesas Islands TX7EU March 3 to March 15, 2016  
San Andres HK0/A March 6 to March 21, 2016  
Cocos Keeling Island VK9CK March 14 to March 26, 2016  
St. Kitts and Nevis V47JA March 14 to April 12, 2016  
Isle of Man GD4SKA March 15 to March 23, 2016  
Myanmar XZ February 15 to March 16, 2016 OR April 15 to May 15, 2016  
Juan de Nova March 29 to April 11, 2016  
Scarborough Reef March 6 to April 20, 2016  
Heard Island VK0EK March 6 to April 20, 2016  
Jan Mayen JX9JKA April 2016 for at least 6 months, maybe a year  
Spratly Islands 9M0S April 19 to April 29, 2016  
Norfolk Island VK9NU April 23 to May 2, 2016  
Palestine E44QX May 8 to May 15, 2016  
Norfolk Island May 20 to May 31, 2016  
North Korea P5/3Z9DX by late summer 2016  
French Polynesia TX2AH August 17 to August 28, 2016  
St. Paul Island CY9 August 19 to August 29, 2016  
Pitcairin Island VP6AH September 3 to November 25, 2016  
Cocos Keeling VK9C September 20 to October 4, 2016  
Temotu Province H44GC September 25 to October 5, 2016  
Solomon Islands H40GC October 10 to October 25, 2016



Charles, W6DPD

W6TO

Look at the FARC club pictures on the Facebook page.

. de Jim, W6NIF

Watch the DX Bulletins for up to date information. As the time for the operation is at hand, watch the DX Summit ([www.newdxsummit.fi](http://www.newdxsummit.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 and the WPX Award.

Good luck, tune the dial, and listen.

# AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS IN FRESNO

Exams given for  
TECHNICIAN, GENERAL, and AMATUER EXTRA

Sponsored By the  
FRESNO VE TEAM  
And The  
FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

## 2016

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.

**February 13**

**May 14**

**August 13**

**November 12**

LOCATION: ....Salvation Army Fresno Citadel, 1854 Fulton Street, Fresno CA 93721

DIRECTIONS: From North or South of Fresno, Take Highway 99 to Highway 180 east. Go east on 180 to Fulton Street off ramp. Turn right on Fulton Street. Go south on Fulton across Divisidero to Sacramento Ave. Turn left on Sacramento Ave and park. You have arrived.

Theory exams are multiple choice.

First Class 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 are posted to the FCC database by the end of the second week following the exam.

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.** Talk in on 146.94 repeater.

Walk in's only, no pre-registration.

More Info?? Contact Charles, (559) 431-2038

## Fresno Amateur Radio Club



# EC Report for January 2016

Hi All,

This month's schedule was a rather relaxing one in a hectic season: 4 Monday Night EmComm Nets, 1 EmComm I meeting, 1 EmComm and Coffee, and a public service event.

### **Radio Workshop**

We are still holding Radio Workshops to assist our members and nonmembers alike solve problems and get assistance with anything Amateur Radio related.

**Our next workshop will be Saturday February 06, 2016 at 10:00 AM.**

### **EmComm Website**

We are now posting events and meetings on the calendar as well as posting articles on the home page. Check us out at [fcmcomm.org](http://fcmcomm.org).

### **Public Service Calendar 2015**

Most of you know we help CARP doing Public Service events. We use them for training; they help keep us sharp handling traffic and working under a net condition. I am including the calendar of events as it is now.

## **2015 Public Service Events:**

- February 20 – The Rotary Chocolate Run
- March 5 – Blossom Trail 10K
- April 2 – Cal. Classic Ride
- April 9 – March of Dimes
- April 30 – Shinzen Run/Walk
- May 7 – Kirch Flat Ride

September ? – (date TBA) If interested in volunteering at any of the above events, contact Rob Mavis ([ae6ge@k6arp.org](mailto:ae6ge@k6arp.org))

### **Newbee Net or IntroNet**

Lew Roberts (KI6YWX, now N3LER) has launched the new net Tuesday, January 05, 2016, the time 19:30 and the frequency will be 147.15 MHZ with a PL of 141.3. The net be held every Tuesday unless otherwise noted. This is designed for the new Ham. He will call it **The IntroNet**. The response has been good; he has had some interesting subject matter as well as some good questions from the audience. Let's keep supporting Lew and the new hams by checking in and commenting on the questions brought up by the new hams.

### **Build Project**

"Easy Digi Kit" interface project that Lew Roberts (KI6YWX) will be conducting has now closed registration. We now have 26 interested and parts are on order. Lew will get the kits together and at that point will set a project building date. Thanks for your interest.

## **Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

Continued from the previous page

### **Net Control Staff Needed**

We are looking for volunteers to take a turn as net control on Monday nights. This is not a difficult task. We will provide the preamble and net roster. This is a great way to enhance your skills running a net for emergency situations. If you are interested, please contact Gary (KI6OYW) at 559-269-1340 or email [g\\_greenberg@att.net](mailto:g_greenberg@att.net)

### **The Salvation Army - Changes in Command**

As most of you know we are very lucky to have the support of The Salvation Army here in Fresno. For the last seven or eight years the Fresno County EmComm Group has enjoyed the support of The Salvation Army and use of the Citadel. Some of our members have joined SATERN and partake in their activities supporting The Salvation Army in the time of disasters.

Captain Dwaine Breazeale (KG6SYA) and Captain Debbie Breazeale have been the leaders of the Fresno Citadel for the past 9 years and have become family to a lot of us. They have given us a place to meet and even fed us multiple times. Their generosity has not gone without notice. Unfortunately they have been transferred up to Modesto to help that Citadel grow and prosper. Captain Dwaine will be setting up a new SATERN Group up there and we will be working with them. It is with great sorrow that we see them off, but we do wish them the best of luck will be looking forward to working with and keeping in touch over the ham bands.

**Captain we wish you and your family the best in your new endeavor and you have our love and gratitude.**



### **Honoring Our Benifactor**

Barbara Spenser, (KI6JDC) has been a great friend to Fresno EmComm and The Salvation Army for many years. She has the welfare of SATERN and emergency communications in the forefront of her mind at all times. She has contributed more radio equipment and supplies for the SATERN station than you could imagine. She is always looking for things that she thinks we can use to serve the Army and its constituents and ultimately serve the Lord.

To show our appreciation we had a plaque made for her as well as a plaque for the operating station she donated to SATERN.



**Barbara Thank you for all that you do for Fresno EmComm.**

### **Our Calendar**

Don't forget the **Monday Night EmComm Net** and the **Tuesday Intro Net** at 1930 hr. on the 147.15 MHz PI 141.3. We have some good information and camaraderie. On the third Friday of the month there is the **EmComm Coffee** at YFC on Cedar south of Ashlan in Granite Park at 07:00hr. And last but not least the EmComm Meetings are held on the Fourth Thursday of month. The next meeting will be held **February 25th at 1900 hr.** at the Salvation Army Citadel at 1854 Fulton St., Fresno.

Best of 73's GLEN CAINE (N6HEW)

## **Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

This story about two Fresno area hams and two dxpeditions is a series of emails to each other. Follow along as John, K6MI, and Bob, N2NS share the chase of DX, and enjoy each other's fellowship.

Date: Mon, 18 Jan 2016 06:54:37 +0000

Hi Bob,

You sure have been busy with the k5p. I have missed five band modes, not able to get through, and on both of my rtty contacts, you got through first!

I never did get him today on 12m rtty, had to go to a philharmonic concert. They are working EU whenever I try to catch them on 30 and 40. I only heard them on 80 once, and they didn't work anyone! No mention anyplace on 60 meters.

It does seem that when there is an opening, you get through several minutes before the opening comes to me. Great QTH!

I'll try getting up at 6 am again to see where they are.

John K6MI

**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2016 11:46 AM

GM John,

I became much busier with K5P than originally intended. Before K5P fired up, I needed KH5 on 160, 12, and RTTY. I had no plans to get caught up in a leaderboard chase that I have no chance of winning. (I don't do 75m or 160m SSB unless it's absolutely critical to working a new Challenge point, as my 160m sloper and the Butternut vertical I am using for tx on 80m both require physical work to access and adjust. Both are tuned for CW and are too sharp to tune on the SSB portion of 160/80.) My plan was to work K5P hard until I had my three 'needed' squares filled, then back off to working K5P only if I could get in and out with a call or two. I worked K5P on 12CW on 15 Jan to fill my last needed square, but had already started working on trying to work a 9 band sweep for club call W6YO. I'm laid up from a cycling accident, so had nothing better to do than to spend some time working on the Challenge points for W6YO, and working unneeded band slots for N2NS just for fun. I was not intending to jump into the leaderboard chase with N2NS, but a few days into the operation, I found myself near the top. ('Near', but with the likes of N6ML and WB6RSE who apparently LIVE on the radio, plus all the JA's who generally have better paths to KH5, no real chance of being #1.) I did NOT spend all day any day hawking the bands, but just seemed to get lucky and find K5P on an unfilled band/mode slot for N2NS while trying to finish off ONE QSO on 10-160m for W6YO.

In any event, I'm done with K5P, unless REALLY 'one and out' QSO opportunities present themselves. I NEED South Sandwich and South Georgia on almost all bands. (And RTTY) So I'll be putting my efforts in that direction. (Once the initial EU/EC feeding frenzy subsides.) But so far this morning, I have yet to copy ANY workable signal from VP8STI. I've listened on 15/17/20m, but nothing workable. I need South Sandwich on everything BUT 15 and 20m.

Back to K5P. I think you've probably heard/read, but they discovered an issue with their 80m tx antenna a day or two ago. (I read it was a bad coil.) Last night they apparently put up an alternate antenna and were reported to have a decent signal on 80m now. I got up at dawn to check the bands, but it was raining fairly heavily, and I went back to be w/o turning on the radio, so don't know how 'decent' K5P's 80m signal is now. But I think you'll have no problem working them now, assuming you and they are both on 80m during their post s/s and/or our pre s/r periods. Are there any bands on which you really NEED KH5, or are you just chasing leaderboard greenies?

As far as me getting through to KH5 before you, I think that may have been luck of the draw, with me just getting lucky in finding the holes in the pileups first. But who knows? I do have a pretty unrestricted shot in the direction of KH5. If that was the difference, then YOU will work a lot more VP8 slots first, as I do NOT have as good a shot to the SE in the direction of VP8.

In any event, I will NOT be playing leaderboard sweepstakes with the VP8's. I'll be THRILLED to simply knock off a few new band squares and let the EU and EC guys battle for the leaderboard!

GL es 73, Bob N2NS

Jan 18, 2016, at 12:24 PM

Fascinating! I got up this morning at 3 am, after chasing the K5P on five band modes on Sunday and not being successful at all. It took until just past sunrise to catch them on three bands, first 30m with weak signals, then 80, where they do finally have a good signal, and finally 40 phone just after sunrise as they were fading out.

### **Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

I still need them on 60m for a new band, but haven't heard that they have gone there.

You are sitting at 19 greensies, N6ED is at 17, and I'm just now up to 15.

Greensies that I still need are: 10 ph and rtty, 12 15 30 and 40 rtty, and 40 cw. Maybe now that SSI is up there will be more opportunities.

I hear the VP8 on 17m, week, and the pile up is huge. Like you I need them on rtty for a new one, and most bands except 10, 15 and 40. And the beam has to swing all the way around to get there from K5P. You would just have to go 100 degrees and then hit reverse on the StepIR.

Sorry to hear about the cycling mishap. Dave, W6TE also had a crash recently, but is back peddling, and is at the Quartz Hamfest at the moment.

73, John

**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2016 12:54 PM

FB on the K5P work this AM. Do you need KH5 on any band/modes, or are you just chasing leaderboard squares?

I have NO plans to chase K5P any longer, unless I find an easy opening on 10m for W6YO. If you hear N2NS calling K5P more than once, come over and shoot me! If I'm calling K5P, I'm likely throwing away a chance to work VP8STI on a NEEDED band/mode. I got involved in a leaderboard chase a few years ago (maybe second Ducie operation?), and recall how much it hurt when I realized I missed working some NEEDED dx (that I never worked later) one night while I was wasting time stalking/calling the dxpedition du jour on 160 SSB, or some band/mode which was totally worthless, except to move me from #37 to #32 on the leaderboard, or something similar that would be soon forgotten and about which nobody else cared.

I heard VP8STI on 17CW abt 20Z for a while this AM, finally, but they were lite, and I could not come close to determining where in the huge spread VP8 was listening/wkg.

K9CT (K5P op) sent out an email saying the K5P ops ran a wire up an extra Spiderpole last night, attached a few radials near the beach, and had decent results on 80m. Glad you got to take advantage of that.

I did not know W6TE had crashed. I got hit by a truck (distracted driver) Dec 14th. Broke collarbone, fibula, ankle injury, and nice gash on head. Surgery to put screws & plates in collarbone. All healing nicely, but there's a chance that I may need surgery on ankle IF a ligament was torn completely away fm bone. MRI last Fri to determine that. Will find out results in a few days.

Unless ankle surgery is required, I'm hoping to be easing back on bike around first of next month.

73, Bob N2NS

de John

Except for 60m, should the K5P go there, I'm just working leaderboard squares. Am working on gear for the vhf contest in two weeks, hope to have 11 bands going.

As with you, I need the VP8 for a new one on rtty, and then new band countries. They are fading now at 2100z on 17m, but the pile up is enormous. Interesting propagation chart on the VP8STI web site, showing only limited openings from their location to us. They don't even list 160m, but the 80m opening is from 0300z to 0700z.

**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2016 2:06 PM

Copy, John.

I have worked a total of one QSO ever on 60m. (A C21 a couple years ago.) I probably need to give a bit more attention to that band, as it may end up in the DXCC program.

GL in the VHF contest. I am 6m only, but will certainly try to give you a QSO there.

VP8STI faded after noon, but came back up strong enough to warrant calling about 1:30 PM (Mon). Pileup has so many calling non-stop that it's still impossible for me to come close to figuring out where the VP8 op is listening.

Our shared darkness with South Sandwich is ~0110Z (our s/s) through ~0800Z (VP8STI s/r). We'll be fighting EU and USA EC for elbow room that entire period on the low bands, so I think 80/160m will be really tough. I have not checked, but hopefully, the VP8 team will have a NA WC beverage laid out to give us a chance.

I guess we'll see as it happens. 73, Bob N2NS

## **Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

Date: Thu, 21 Jan 2016 20:03:38 +0000 Thursday:

Didn't hear the K5P on 60m last night, will try again tonight. The 40 ssb qso's that they made on the 14th are not good, as they found out that they were out of the band. I haven't been able to get them on 40 cw yet.

My first rtty qso with VP8STI on 30m didn't show up in their log, I think I fumbled the transmit button on the exchange and didn't get a complete qso, but I did catch them last night. On 15 meter rtty I saw many call signs go by before I got them; W6DPD, N2NS, W6BBS, W6YO all flashed by on the screen before mine.

Have yet to hear them on 12 or 10 meters. They have a beacon on 50.106 mc., but that is impossible at this point of the sun spot cycle. John

**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2016 1:23 PM

Hi John,

I was on around our s/r, stalking XW4ZW on TB (never heard a peep), and just before shutting down abt 1525Z, made a sweep of the bands to check condx. K5P was on 7022.0 with an S-8 signal at my place (2 el yagi @ 70' on 40m). He had a small pileup, but was not too busy and was allowing NA to work him at that time. (They have often been restricting operations to EU only during the EU s/s and s/r periods, but not at ~1525Z this AM.)

Sri you missed VP8STI/30RY yesterday. I got in after Chuck (W6DPD, WM6DX) and Perry. VP8 had a good signal then, but it was a challenge to squeeze in among the other callers. I had worked VP8 on 30RY and did show up in the log, but wanted one more RTTY QSO in case something happened to invalidate my first RTTY Q, as this is a new RTTY country for me. I do not plan to work more VP8STI RTTY unless it's for a new Challenge point (12, 10m) or a no-crowd 'one call and out' type QSO.

I was on 60m last night listening for K5P. I think I told you that I have a total of one ever QSO on 60m. (A C2 from a couple years ago.) Last night what I heard was a bloody mess on 60. I had read that K5P would be on 5405.0 CW and/or 5403.5 SSB, LISTENING on 5373.0 CW/5371.5SSB. When I listened on the K5P tx freqs there were guys calling and bathering on both CW and SSB simultaneously. I THINK I heard K5P on CW, but with all the QRM it was not possible to be sure if it was really K5P or someone sending his call (CW). I made a few calls on 5373.0CW, but never heard anything like a response on 5405. I bailed in frustration and disgust after abt 10 minutes. Among my frustrations were some of the signals on the K5P tx freq that were huge. No way in hell those guys were not running major watts fm their amps... AND QRM-ing the K5P tx freq. Not sure if I'll bother tonight. I was up most of last night, and up pre-sunrise this AM, so may not last past the VP8STI s/s. (I'll certainly try to hear/work STI on TB if we get a miracle opening through the EC/EU wall and the band has prop to VP8/ss.)

I have yet to hear VP8STI on 12m, although I was away from home from late morning through our s/s Tuesday, when a few WC stations did work them on 12. I don't think VP8 has been on 10m at a time possible for us to hear/work them. Both 10 and 12m would be new Challenge points for me.

I was monitoring 160m last night from dusk through the post-VP8 s/r period. I never heard them. The best I had was some sub-esp noise that COULD have been VP8, but could have been distant QRM or simply my imagination. That was the BEST I had. That seemed to be much the same story for W6 and a lot of W7. I had held out hope of at least HEARING VP8 on 160 last night, as they had a good signal on 80m Tuesday night. But between the solar disturbance(?) and general band condx, I guess most of us just didn't have the right magic.

I chased CX6VM off and on from abt the VP8 s/r until I gave up around 10:30 PM. CX would be a new one for me on TB. He'd cq and work a couple NA, but then disappear for 15-45 minutes when a pileup developed. I kept getting beaten out by a bunch of W4's and 5's. Finally gave up around 10:30 PM and went to bed. Had trouble going to sleep, and got back up at abt 12:15AM, and fired the radio back up in hope that maybe the CX would show back up for his s/r. (0850Z/12:50 AM our time) Nothing heard for a half hour, and I was just starting to shut down when I clearly heard CX6VM come out of nowhere and work a JA at ~0845Z. As soon as he signed with the JA, I called, but got beaten out by a K3 who also appeared out of nowhere. (Band had been totally quiet on/around the CX's previously heard freq.) I called agn as soon as the K3 signed, expecting a pileup, but there was nobody else there, and the CX came right back to me for an EASY QSO! One minute after his s/r. If cfmd, that will be #170 for me on TB, so I am thrilled. Especially after what had been a frustrating unproductive evening up to that point.

VP8STI spotted on 10CW while I've been typing, but no copy other than pips and squeaks in the noise here. A W7 spotted him, but the W7's in South Carolina. No 6-land spots yet.

Guess I'd best send this and listen. A = 30, K=4, SFI =104. Not promising, but on 10m, who knows?  
GL, Bob N2NS

## **Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

Date: Wed, 27 Jan 2016 20:40:44 +0000

CQ Bob,

The two DXpeditions for January are now finished, Palmyra Island is packed up, and the South Sandwich Island is finally safe, and able to save all their gear in order to proceed to the next spot, South Georgia Island. A bit harrowing for them, as they had to leave suddenly, leaving all their gear, due to ice and storms, but were able to go back and pick up the gear later.

I missed them on the final night on 40 ssb and 60 meters. You got the amazing qso on 60 meters, bravo! I hope everyone that needed them got them on the bands they needed them on.

Vhf contest next, and then more DX in February. John

GA John,

Tnx update. I've been following the Intrepid group's saga pretty closely. Was surprised that they were able to re-land on Thule and retrieve their gear so soon after the evac. Good fortune for everyone.

Sounds like they are back on 'Plan A' track for South Georgia after all the excitement on Thule. I have not yet looked at a topo map of South Georgia, but am hoping that there are no terrain issues like they had on Thule. (2500' mountain about 2 miles from camp and directly along the SP to W6. That REALLY hurt us, I think.)

I found K5P CQ-ing on 60CW during our wee hours a few days before they went QRT. I do not chase 60m, but I was up and there was nothing else on, so tuned the (elevated/elevated radials) Butternut that is my temp 80m antenna, and called them. 100 watts out of my K3, but I'd be surprised if my 60m ERP was 1/4 of that. But they came right back to me for my SECOND EVER QSO on 60m! (First was a similar situation a couple years ago with a C2.)

Hope to give you a 6m QSO this weekend. My prime focus will be VP8SGI, should they show up. I need South Georgia on RTTY and all bands EXCEPT 17, 20, and 40m. I think I might have been in Aruba during most of the last S. Georgia operation, and got back to the States just before the S. Georgia operation went QRT. (If so, I have South Georgia in my P4 DXCC count, though. I know I was in P4 for one of the rare sub-antarctic operations several years ago.)

Were any of your VP8STI QSO's good for new band/mode countries? I'm 'green' in their log for new ones for RTTY, 80, 40, 30, and 17m. I 'may' have squeaked out a 12CW QSO the last afternoon they were on. 'Iffy' copy here, but my fingers are crossed. I hear the final VP8STI log update will be uploaded once the team arrives at SGI.

I was really hoping to get a 'miracle' QSO with STI on TB. I was on the band listening pretty much non-stop from our fading dusk until after the VP8STI s/r every night they were on TB. (4 or 5 nights, as I recall.) In all those hours of listening and straining to hear, the only thing CLOSE to workable cpy I had on TB came in a few short (<10-15 seconds at most), random, intermittent periods of sub-esp stuff that was bubbling up around my noise floor and 'almost' copy-able. That was the last two nights they were on TB. And within the 40 minute or so period before the STI s/r.

But I had near armchair cpy on 80m for long periods a couple nights. Huge difference going down to 160m.

GL to both of us when VP8SGI fires up.

Feel free to use anything I write in QUA DX or Skip. My only reservation is that I don't come across looking like I think I'm some kind of big gun dxer. We both know better. I'm still a struggling neophyte in this game on my GOOD days. 73, Bob N2NS

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