SKIP

FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

A Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter Febuary, 2017 Volume 79, Issue 2

2017 meeting location! East of Hwy. 41 on Shaw Av.
7 P.M. on the second Friday of the month at the University of California Center at 550 E. Shaw.

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.

2017 FARC BOARD MEETING DATES
1st Tuesday of each month this month at WB6VRJ's QTH.

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

President's notes:

Just received a report that Berge Bulbulian W6XC became a silent key on Jan 26th.
With a great deal of sadness, I pass this message along; Berge was a long time member of the club and a great Ham and great Human being. He was a past president of the club, board member, and Hamfest Chair.
RIP Berge.

W. Stuart Home WB6VRJ

January 2017 meeting! More great programs and events coming this year!

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Next club meeting on Feb. 10, Friday at 7 P.M.

The program for the February meeting is in the works, and Joe WA6FFJ says that it will be one of these: a QRP back pack presentation, an antenna analyzer kit comparison, or a SDR presentation.

Come and find out! As always there will be refreshments, club info, and a great social eye ball qso exchange.

Pictures on this page are from the January meeting. More info on the January program by Allen, WA6IPZ will be found on page 8 and 11.

More information on club badges on page 17! Renewal form on page 18!

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.

2017 FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FARC Officers and Board members:			
Stuart Home, WB6VRJ President	wb6vrj@w6to.com	(559) 485-8659	12/2017
Ken Holden, WA6OIB VP	wa6oib@w6to.com	(559) 323-6753	12/2018
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Ron, N6MTS
Treasurer

Joe, WA6FFJ
Secretary

Breakfast on Saturdays at Blueberry Hill located at Blackstone North of Shields, starting at 6:30 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 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

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.

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

FARC Feb. 10th meeting Friday 7 P.M.

FARC March 10th meeting Friday 7 P.M.

FARC April 14th meeting Friday 7 P.M.

FARC May 12th meeting Friday 7 P.M.

FARC June 9th meeting Friday 7 P.M.

June VHF contest June 10-11

Field Day June 24-25

FARC July 14th Meeting 7 P.M.

FARC August picnic, Sat.

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

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 .

Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

Organization	*Call Sign*	*Frequency*	*Offset*	*PL*
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
WINSystem	K6JSI	146.790	-	100.0
WINSystem	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

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

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, is our net control operator for the W6TO nets.

Anniversaries:

02/06 Julie and Joe WA6FFJ
02/14 Nicole and Stephen AG6JI
02/18 Roberta and Dan AE6SX
02/18 Karin and Arlen WB6VAF
02/20 Miles K6KDM
02/26 Jim W6NIF and Nora WA6BDE

Birthdays

02/05 Jeffry WA6IMA

02/20 Jim W6NIF

The monthly door prize!

The attendance prize in January was won by Gwynne WA6VZM, who was not present. Must be present to win. Door prize will be $80 next month.

FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

2017

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 18 **May 20** **August 19** **November 18**

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

T-HUNT

Membership in a radio club is not a requirement to join in on the fun, but a radio tuned to the hunt frequency of 146.565 MHz is.

Upcoming Transmitter Hunt Dates

– Please arrive early to check in for the Saturday hunts
– Please use and monitor the K6ARP repeater during the hunt for voice communication.

Next Fox Hunt:
March 11 Sat.
Start time – 10:00 AM
Fox: Rick (W6KKO)
Start location: Letterman Park
Details: Four Transmitters!

Future Saturday Hunt Dates :
May 13, 2017
July 15, 2017
September 16, 2017
November 11, 2017

THE DX CORNER
By Charles McConnell W6DPD

February 2017

"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 and 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.

As the solar cycle heads toward the minimum by the end of the decade, working DX becomes more of a challenge. The high bands become less useful until the solar cycle heads toward the maximum, some years from now.

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, effective November 1, 2016, for sending ARRL members QSL cards to foreign countries. The new rate is $1.15 per ounce, about 10 cards.

There is now a $7.00 transaction fee for each submission. Sending one ounce of cards (about 10) will now cost $8.15. Ten ounces of cards would cost $11.50 plus $7.00.

U.S. Postage has been increased. Overseas postage is $1.15; domestic postage is $0.49 for 1 ounce. Additional ounce for domestic mail will be $0.21. Postcards are $0.34.

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.

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The following operations are scheduled:
Djibouti **J28PJ** for 3 to 5 years
Ascension Island **ZD8D** maybe an October 2011 start
Angola **D2CQ** February 2010 for a few years
Svalbard **JW2US** now through June 2017
Kenya **5Z4/LZ4NM** now thorough January 23, 2017
Senegal **6W7SS** January to April 2017
Mozambique **C91PA** now through March 2017
San Andres and Providencia **5K0NA** February 12 to March 13, 2017
San Andres and Providencia **5J0NA** February 3 to March 29, 2017
South Shetland Island **VP8/H** now through March 31, 2017
Sri Lanka **4S7KKG** now through April 1, 2017
Gabon **TR8CA** September 15 for 4 years
Senegal **5W2SC** February **J5UAP** Guinea-Bissau March, 2017
Guinea Bissau **J5T** by Italian DX Team Delayed to late 2017
Antarctica CE9 **8J60JARE** January 1, 2017 to January 20, 2018
Laos **XW4XR** January 3 to January 31, 2017
Prince Edward and Marion Island **ZS8Z** January 2017 to May 2018
UK Sovereign Bases on Cyprus **ZC4SB** January 11 to January 28, 2017
North Cook **E51AMF** January 11 to February 6, 2017
Ivory Coast **TU5MH** January 22 to February 1, 2017
Rwanda **9X2AW** February 11 to March 13, 2107
Macau **XX9** February 13 to February 26, 2017
Pitcairn Island **VP6EU** February 16 to March 5, 2017
Central African Republic **TL8TT** February 2017
Austral Island **TX5T** February 20 to March 3, 2017
Ivory Coast **TU** March 9 to March 19, 2017
Ghana **9G5X** March 6 to March 21, 2017
Nepal **9N7EI** March 8 to March 20, 2017
Niger **5U5R** March 8 to March 21, 2017
Sint Maarten **PJ7PL** March 8 to April 3, 2017
Tuvalu **T2AQ?** and **T2QR?** March 14 to April 6, 2017
ST. Pierre & Miquelon **FP/KV1J** July 4 to July 18, 20`7
Galapagos Islands **HC8M** September 14 to 21, 2017
Baker Howland Islands **KH1** planning for September-October 2017
Temotu **H40GC** October 3 to October 17, 2017
Central Kiribati **T31** Planning for sometime in 2017
West Malaysia **9M2MRS** December 1, 2017 through January 2018
Bouvet **3Y0Z** Planning for late 2017 or early 2018
Trinidade **ZZ0T** sometime in 2018
Bouvet **3Y0G** by 3Z9DX for 2 months has been canceled.

Charles, W6DPD

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) 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.

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EC Report for January 2017

The schedule for the month of January was a little less active: 4 Monday Night EmComm Nets and 1 EmComm and Coffee, one EmComm Monthly Meeting and no public service events.

New Training Meeting Location

Hinds Hospice has gracefully offered their building for out training meetings. James Majors (K6JDM), one of our members and also on staff at Hinds Hospice, has offered the use of its facility located at 2490 West Shaw Ave. in Fresno.

We will have our first training meeting Wednesday February 15th at 19:00 hr. Please assemble at the entrance about 18:50 so we can be escorted up to the room we will be using. This is a secure building and we must be escorted.

The topic of the session has not been confirmed at this time but will be announced on the net and by email before the meeting.

Time to Check Your First Aid Kit

I was thinking that January was a great month to remind you all of the importance of having First Aid Kits in your home, cars and go kits. It is not necessary to purchase a commercial one you can put one together yourself. I have taken some information form the American Red Cross and it is as follows:

Anatomy of a First Aid Kit

A well-stocked first aid kit is a handy thing to have. To be prepared for emergencies:

Keep a first aid kit in your home and in your car.

Carry a first aid kit with you or know where you can find one.

Find out the location of first aid kits where you work.

First aid kits come in many shapes and sizes. You can purchase one from the Red Cross Store or your local American Red Cross chapter. Your local drug store may sell them. You can also make your own. Some kits are designed for specific activities, such as hiking, camping or boating.

Whether you buy a first aid kit or put one together, make sure it has all the items you may need:

Include any personal items such as medications and emergency phone numbers or other items your health-care provider may suggest.

Check the kit regularly.

Make sure the flashlight batteries work. (Flashlights available on the Red Cross Store)

Check expiration dates and replace any used or out-of-date contents.

The Red Cross recommends that all first aid kits for a family of four include the following:

2 absorbent compress dressings (5 x 9 inches)

25 adhesive bandages (assorted sizes)

1 adhesive cloth tape (10 yards x 1 inch)

5 antibiotic ointment packets (approximately 1 gram)

5 antiseptic wipe packets

2 packets of aspirin (81 mg each)

1 blanket (space blanket) **[Available on the Red Cross Store]**

1 breathing barrier (with one-way valve)

1 instant cold compress

2 pair of nonlatex gloves (size: large)

2 hydrocortisone ointment packets (approximately 1 gram each)

Scissors

1 roller bandage (3 inches wide)

1 roller bandage (4 inches wide)

5 sterile gauze pads (3 x 3 inches) **[Available on the Red Cross Store]**

5 sterile gauze pads (4 x 4 inches)

Oral thermometer (non-mercury/nonglass)

2 triangular bandages

Tweezers

First aid instruction booklet **[Available on the Red Cross Store]**

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Public Service And Its Importance

As most of you have observed I really push the use of Public Service Events as training venues. There is a method for my madness. As an ARES EC and RACES Officer I need to know your proficiency as an operator. When ARES or RACES gets a request for assistance from a served agency, they want to know what our staff is capable of and what training they have completed. We have a database with the training courses where you have received a certificate (that is if you have summited them), but as of now, nothing showing your abilities as an operator. We are starting to log your participation with public service events as well as handling the Monday Night EmComm Nets.

Please consider helping with the Monday Night Nets or volunteer for some of the Public Service Events.

Public Service Calendar Upcoming EMCOMM Events

February 18, 2017 - Rotary Chocolate Run - Woodward Park
March 5, 2017 - Sanger Blossom Trail 10K - Sanger, CA
April 1, 2017 - California Classic Bicycle Ride
April 29, 2017 - March of Dimes
May 5, 2017 - Kirch Flat Bicycle Ride
June 24, 2017 - Climb to Kaiser Bicycle Ride
September 16, 2017 - Tour de Fresno Bicycle Ride
October 14, 2017 - Bass Lake Double Century Bicycle Ride

If you are interested in the working any of the events please either go to the CARP website or contact me.

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 fcemcomm.org.

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

Glen, N6HEW (l) talking to Ron, N6MTS

Our Calendar

Don't forget the **Monday Night EmComm Net** at 19:30 hr. on the 147.15 MHz Pl 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. Our next meeting will be ***February 23, 2017* at 1900 hr.** at the Salvation Army Citadel at 1854 Fulton St., Fresno.

Best of 73's
GLEN CAINE (N6HEW) Fresno County RACES Officer
Fresno County ARES EC 559-999-7590 N6HEW2@gmail.com

6 Meter call sign location and notes for local channels, Fresno area.

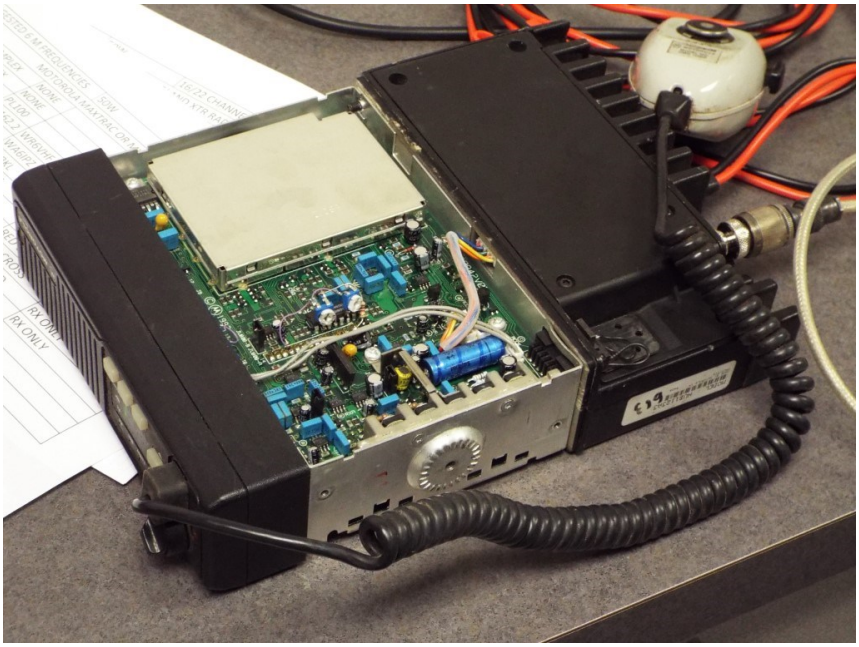
suggested 6 meter local channels, Fresno area.				call sign	location	NOTES
1	52.525	SIMPLEX	NONE			CALLING SIMPLEX
2	52.49	SIMPLEX	NONE			SECONDARY SIMPLEX
3	50.3	SIMPLEX	PL100, TX&RX			FM DX USA
4	51.82	RPTR	PL162.2, TX ONLY	WR6VHF	FRESNO	BLACK MTN
5	51.84	RPTR	PL82.5, TX&RX	WA6IPZ	BEAR MTN	FUTURE
6	52.56	RPTR	PL82.5 TX, 141.3 RX	N6BKL	FRAZIER	LINKED
7	51.8	RPTR	PL136.5 TX ONLY	WD6EJF	MODESTO	TIED TO 2 METERS?
8	51.82	RPTR	PL156.7 TX ONLY	WR6VHF	DOS PALOS	NO INFO

California standard offset is minus 500KHz, or half meg lower than your receive frequency. There are several other standard depending on where you are, anything from 1.0 megs lower to 1.7 megs lower. (popular in the southern states) Another note is the N6BKL repeater at Frazier Mtn. It is linked to the high desert (Barstow and east 15 corridor) and also into the greater LA area via Buzzard Peak in Malibu. BKL is the only repeater that uses one PL to access it and sends out a different PL on it's carrier. Lots of info available on the web or on the NARCC website.

Allen, WA6IPZ, our January program speaker, who is preparing a repeater for 6m FM, and is a very active ham and radio technician.

He lives in Hanford, and can be heard on many bands from 160 AM up through the UHF bands.

Look at page 11 for more about Allen and his equipment.



It's done, tested, levels set, and ready for the hill. Duplexer is tuned, cables are made, etc.

Tested key down for 24 hours into dummy load, no heating to speak of, ran it at 30 watts out for the test.

Minus 118.0 DBm or .28 microvolts sensitivity for 20 DB quieting.

I have the time out set at 3 minutes, hope VAF doesn't get wind of this machine, I heard he timed out 146.52 one time.

The rack in the bottom right photo is one of Allen's AM transmitters, one each for 160, 80, and 40 Meters.

Lower left is a picture of the 6m duplexers for the soon to be up repeater.

the IPZed @ Hanford

ARRL RTTY Roundup
N2NS Class: SO Unlimited HP Operating Time (hrs): 7.5
Band QSOs 80: 25, 40: 45, 20: 148, 15: 104, 10: 28
Total: 350 State/Prov = 51 Countries = 30 Total Score = 28,350
Comments: Missed ND and NE USA states. Mostly 30-45 min sessions of trying to find a clear run freq, and doing short runs until getting sqeezed out. Don't recall wkg a single EU/AF QSO. The few I heard Sunday AM on 20m were buried in EC callers. Only 30 DXCC wkd, and that was with cluster running! But on the other side, I had a short but sweet run on 10m Sun! Never expected that. Congrats to Ed/P49X, who was handing out QSO #'s greater than anyone else I heard.

North American QSO Party, CW - January
N2NS Class: Single Op LP
Band QSOs Mults
40: 5 5
20: 30 17
15: 5 5 Total: 40 27 Total Score = 1,080

North American QSO Party, SSB - January
N2NS Class: Single Op LP Operating Time (hrs): 2
Band QSOs Mults
20: 38 25
15: 92 27 Total: 130 52 Total Score = 6,760
Comments: Had planned to make just 25-50 Q's for club participation mult and then get on with other planned activities, but got into a run on 15m that would not stop. Fun.
K3/P3, N1MM+ logger 4 el SteppIR @ 56' 73, Bob N2NS

North American QSO Party, SSB - January
W6DPD Class: Single Op LP Operating Time (hrs): 1
Band QSOs Mults
20: 6 6
15: 15 11 Total: 21 17 Total Score = 357
Comments: Support of NCCC. First test of new logging computer after old computer mother board died.

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
N2NS Single Op Assisted HP Operating Time (hrs): 6
Total: QSOs = 207 State/Prov = 45 Countries = 16 Total Score = 41,846
Comments: Primarily trying to find new 160m DXCC countries. Did work OA for a new one, but could not get into EU either night. Sat AM better than Sun AM.

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
K6MI Single Op Assisted HP Operating Time (hrs):6
Total QSOs= 5. Just working new countries or countries where a QSL is still needed.

So...what did you do today....

She: "So, what did you do today?"
He: "I changed a light bulb"
She: "That's all?"
He: ”Yes, ” I filmed it, look…

https://www.youtube.com/embed/f1BgzlZRfT8?feature=player_embedded

To Rove or Not to Rove

This is the question by Ron Hunt, N6MTS

Roving is the act of operating as a mobile (roving) station when contesting. If a station is operated from a fixed QTH, then they can only log one contact for each other station they contact if that station is another fixed station. So you can basically only earn a few points for point to point contacts. BUT, if a station is a mobile rover, that rover can accumulate points for every other station they contact, AND every time they physically move to a new location. Also the fixed stations can also count another point every time they contact the mobile rover station, IF that rover is in a new location.

The *good part* of this is that a rover can really rack up the points as they move around. Also the rovers really help the fixed stations because even though the fixed stations can't move themselves, their target contact is indeed moving and counted as another new contact at every new location. The *bad part* is setting up a mobile station for roving is a lot of work, and you sometimes are fighting the weather, unlike a comfy home station would do.

Well this January VHF contest proved to be an interesting one for me. I didn't decide to rove until 2 days before the event. Even at that, I thought I'd just make it an little test session and play with my gear, but I wasn't really planning on giving it my full effort. For something different I installed an 8-element quad for my 2-meter antenna (and it worked outstanding). I used an old Cushcraft 11-element yagi for 432 and a ¼ wave mag mount for 222. I used my MFJ Ham-stick for 6-meter which generally worked lousy. I can never get the SWR down on it, so this time I added my MFJ tuner in the line and it tuned right down to 1:1 and loaded well then. However it was still a coil loaded short stick and didn't really get out very well. I've got to do something better on 6 for the next contest.

For the gear I mostly used my Yaesu FT-847 barefoot for everything but 222. I operated mostly SSB with only a very few FM contacts, and FM only for the 222 band (actually 223.5Mhz). When I got down to the south valley DM05 and CM95 land, I added my Mirage 160 watt amp for 2-meters and my Mirage 100 watt amp for 432. The extra punch seemed to help a bit. I also packed along my old FT-726 for a backup rig but only used it on a few contacts to determine that it's still working OK, and it still worked great (however the LOs in it seemed to create big heterodynes on my FT-847). So I could not run them at the same time.

I started my rove on Bear Mountain. I made a few contacts but discovered a lot more folks could hear me than I could hear them. There seemed to be a lot of "VHF QRM" on Bear, but not so bad on the other bands. However, after making a few Qs I started getting enthused. So I thought I'd take a run up to Madera to see what I could do up there. That proved to be a real blast. I had people calling me everywhere and Mike Staal helped in leading a few people to me. I was working a few bay-area stations I never hear of before. So I spent a few exciting hours in the DM07, CM95, and CM96 grids from the Madera convergence strip, and racked up quite a few Qs.

Now it was my initial plan to only contest on Saturday, but K6MYC convinced me that there were no contacts from the south valley and somebody needed to cover the DM05 and CM95 grids. So when I got home that night I left the antennas and radios installed on my pickup.

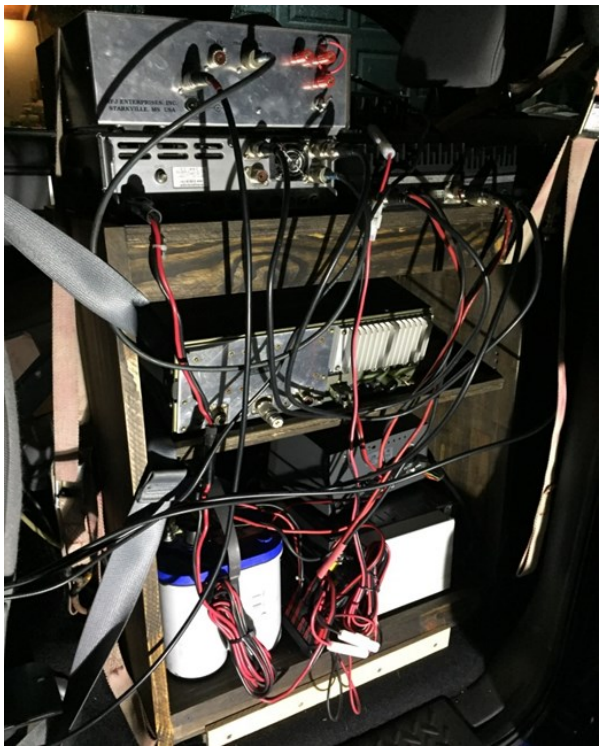
After church on Sunday afternoon I had the rest of the day open, so I decided to made a bee-line to Kettleman for a shot at a few more Qs. When I got there I started up the hill to the mud flats at the cell site to try for a few CM95 contacts. The mud was again too bad to make it to the top of the hill, and I had pretty lousy coverage from where I slid back down to some pavement at that site. I got discouraged after an hour and came back down the hill to DM05 land right in Kettleman and worked a few more Qs from the cul-de-sac just up the hill behind the fat food restaurants. I worked right up

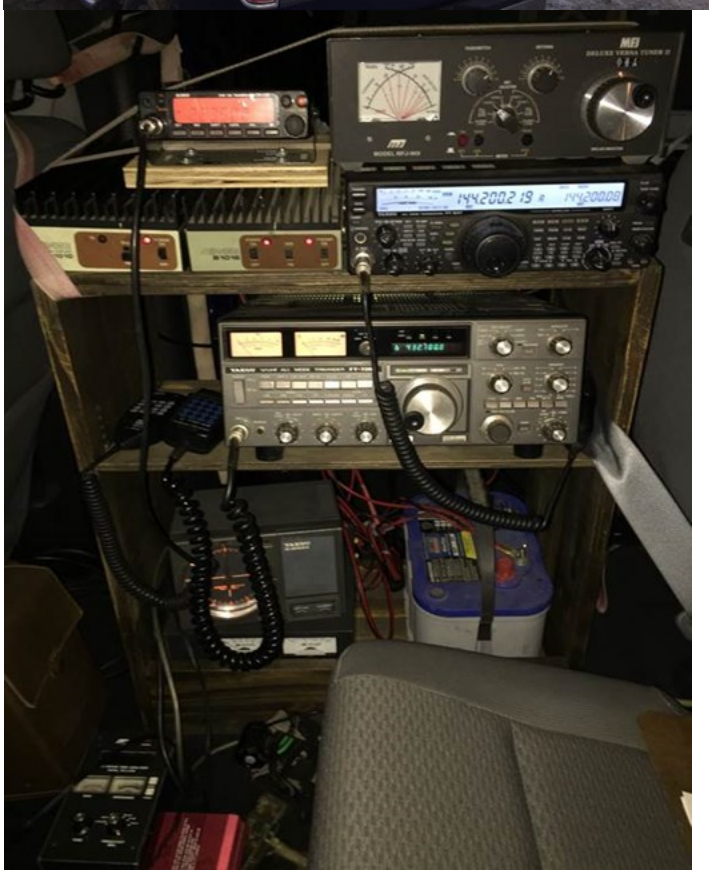
to the contest end, and had a great time. FM 223.5 proved to be almost worthless from the south valley, and my 6-meter was only marginally better. However my 2-meter quad just kept on rippin' off new contacts.

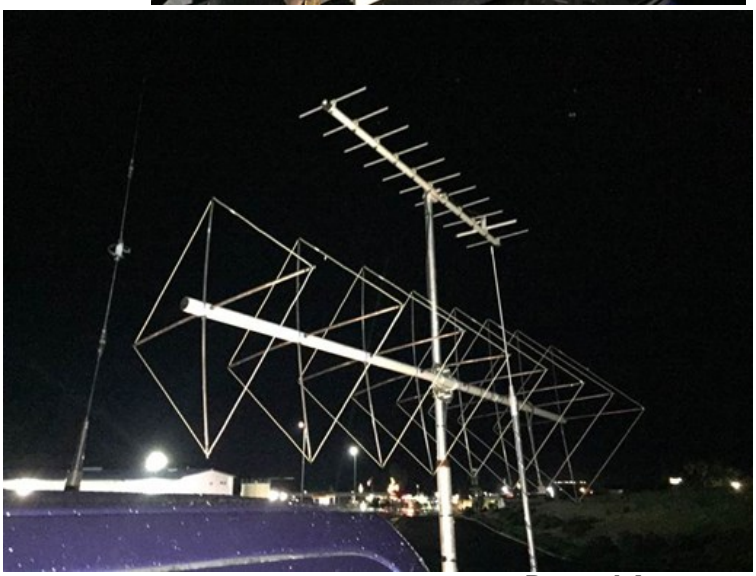
In previous contests I have always roved as part of a larger group of rovers. This time last year is was just K6MI and me together. But even John wasn't able to rove this year, and so I thought I'd give it a go alone, solo. I must say the operating as a "solo rover" was rather relaxing, because I wasn't concerned about holding up the team. I found that I had time to think-out some of my problems, and it gave me more time to experiment with my gear a bit. The logging proved to be the most difficult part for me, so this time I just kept a paper log on the road, and then entered the data into my KM Rover software when I got home. Overall I made 110 QSOs, from 6 different grid square locations. I claimed the "Single Operator Limited Rover" class and my final score calculated out to be 3276 points. My mileage driven was just less than 300 miles.

Here are a few pictures of my rover station:

by Ron Hunt, N6MTS







IN BRIEF HISTORY: Year 1973 - 1978

1973 - The waiting period for an Extra class license was reduced to a year.

1974 - WR prefixes began to appear on repeater callsigns.

In 1976 for the USA Bicentennial year there was a special callsign system that all hams could use as a option. W's became AC's, WA's became AA's.

In 1976, the WN calls were eliminated. Around this time the FCC was issuing N 1x2 calls to extras.
Effective July 1, 1976, any Extra class licensee who had been a licensed Amateur for 25 years or more could select one specific 1x2 call sign. This added the ability to pick a specific call, but did not change eligibility.
Effective October 1, 1976, anyone who had held an Amateur Extra class license prior to November 22, 1967, could select one specific 1x2 call sign.
Effective January 1, 1977, anyone who had held an Amateur Extra class license prior to July 2, 1974, could select one specific 1x2 call sign.
Effective April 1, 1977, anyone who held an Amateur Extra class license prior to July 1, 1976, could select one specific 1x2 call sign.

Effective July 1, 1977, any Amateur Extra class licensee could select one specific 1x2 call sign. Effective March 30, 1978 this was all replaced by the strict "sequential" system until the advent of "vanity" call sign selection in March 24, 1995. vanity call signs were cut off on December 31, 1977. By 1977 there were 327,000 US hams. Portable and mobile identification requirements were eliminated, "instant upgrades" became available, and license fees were abolished. The code sending test was waived and repeater rules were simplified further.

1977 - A new repeater subband is established at 144.500-145.500 MHz. Technicians are given privileges on 144.500 - 148 MHz, and have Novice privileges. All hams were limited to 250 watts in the Novice subbands. Novices can operate with power up to 250 watts. The mail order Technician license is eliminated and new applicants must appear before the FCC. The Conditional class is abolished. The waiting period for an Extra class license was eliminated.

1978 saw the Novice license term extended to 5 years and made renewable, the Conditional class license abolished (existing Conditionals became Generals), and secondary station licenses were abolished. ASCII and other standard data codes were authorized for amateur use. Technicians got all privileges above 50 MHz. WR repeater callsigns are phased out. Prior to this time, when a ham upgraded, the privileges of the new license class could not be used until the actual license arrived in the mail - usually six to eight weeks after the test was passed. "Instant upgrading" ended the wait by allowing hams to immediately use their new privileges by adding a "temporary identifier" at the end of their call, which would signify that they had recently upgraded. No more waiting weeks for the actual license to arrive in the mail.
By the mid 70's some call areas ran out of WB callsigns. The FCC recycled older WA and WB calls (but not consistently). Then at the FCC's whim or maybe when the recyclables ran out, they issued WD#xxx calls. WC was reserved for RACES/ Civil Defense stations.

In 1978-1979, Technicians receive all privileges above 50 MHz. Novice licenses are renewable. The World Administrative Radio Conference, (WARC-79) grants Amateurs three new bands at 10, 18, and 24 MHz, to be phased in over the next 10 years. 30 meter power to be limited to 200 Watts. In 1978 the FCC banned the manufacture and sale of amplifiers that could be used in the 24-35 MHz region, but a licensed amateur could still homebrew an amplifier, or modify a manufactured one to cover 10 meters. Hams were limited to one amplifier per year, however.

In 1978, 39 years ago, the FCC dropped the requirement that an amateur who moved to another Call Area had to get a new call sign reflecting his or her new Call Area.

1978 - Amateur packet radio began in Montreal, Canada.

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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 in December

Club Picnic in summer

Annual swap meet in Novem-ber

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