SKIP

FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

A Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter June, 2020 Volume 83, Issue 6

No physical meetings at the moment – stay tuned in on the club repeater! June 12th meeting at 7 P.M. on the club repeaters!

FARC General Meeting On the Air Second Friday at 7 P.M. on the W6TO repeaters

2020 FARC BOARD MEETING DATES
The 1st Tuesday of the month at 2 P.M., on the club repeater

FARC Nets
Morning Drive Time Net:
Weekday mornings-
7:30—8:00 a.m.
W6TO/R 146.940

FARC Net:
Sundays @ 7:00 pm
W6TO/R 146.940

Web page:
W6to.com

Join us on June 12 for an on the air meeting!

This fellow has figured out how to socially distance himself.

FD is coming, and figuring out how to be active, but still safe and healthy, is the topic to be dealt with now, before the actual Emergency Preparedness Event, otherwise known as FD. Check out page four!

What equipment are we going to use, and in which category?

Join us on the air for our meeting June 12. As Joe, WA6FFJ, reminds us, the traffic during the meeting is pretty heavy, but he is protected, he has a mask on his speaker.

FD 2020

It is getting closer and closer to the annual Field Day operation of ARRL. The date is June 27th and June 28th.

Our setup of equipment could be at Lion Automotive located at 2944 Phillip Ave, in Clovis. It would be a great place to set up antennas, radios, and so on.

What we need to know from the club's viewpoint is, who will help bring and put all this equipment together?
And we need operators or this event won't fly. If one can help by being in charge of something, please reply to our president, Stu, WB6VRJ.

Set up could possibly start on Thursday, putting it all together. More about this at the next club meeting on the 12th.

There is another option– everyone operate at home and the combined score is the club score. See page four for details.

Foremost in our minds is keeping everyone safe and healthy, which might involve more distancing, more cleaning, masks while operating, and bring our own food. Who can be our safety officer?

The February Valentines meeting featured added desserts, and a travel log of a trip to ARRL headquarters and points beyond by Larry, WA6ZBL, and his YL Jamie, N6PSB.

The November swap has a confirmed location at Larry's Garage.

The board has assumed the job of FD organization. Due to the current conditions, the shape of the clubs participation is still in the works.

Picnic confirmed at WA6OIB's on Aug. 15, if possible.

July continues to be the root beer float meeting (ice cream social), if possible.

The membership drive continues for 2020, make sure you get your dues in, either by sending a check to the box number, or paying at the next meeting.

Due to the changing times, and concern for the health of our members, there will be some changes, postponed meetings and events, with some on the air events to keep us communicating. Stay tuned! Listen to the W6TO repeaters for information.

Duane, KI6QEL, had some great time lapse videos at the March meeting.

The April and May meetings were an on the air meeting. June will continue meeting this way.

FARC

Send your dues check to FARC, PO Box 5912, Fresno 93755-5912
Board meeting on the first Tuesday at Stu's place.

PRES SEZ for June 2020

John Morrice, K6MI, has written to me reminding me that my monthly "sez" is ue-well, I want to thank John for that very friendly reminder. With this vius "quarantine", sometimes things get lost in our lazy way of lying around the house, avoiding that nasty virus.

But there is one thing that all of us can celebrate-we can "Get Out" by using our very good hobby-Ham radio does provide so many ways to get out and make contact with others. As Ken Holden, WA6OIB, reminded us, we are more than two meters apart, yet we are all close together, whether by CW or SSB/FM [I do not think there are that many AM contacts any more].

So, for example, Wednesday evening was a joy on CW, and Guss, KF6ZXO and I conversed in CW-a joy for me, because I am learning to copy CW in my head, rather than by mill! Then, later, there was the joy of being on the 10 meter USB net and making contact with all those hams, form all over our area-and NO danger of contamination!

Field day is fast approaching. We do not have a chairman yet [any volunteers?} but we are trying to get things together. Larry Lion, W6OWL is graciously granting us use of his shop, which will allow for proper spacing. Yeah, there is more to do, and we are working on it.

Should any of you out there want to volunteer in helping set up and operate Field Day, contact me, or leave a message at (559)237-2600; I sure hope to hear from about 228 of you!

In the meantime, stay safe, and enjoy yourselves and your family, first, and your hobby second.

I do look forward to when we will all again be meeting face-to-face, and enjoying those

eyeball QSOs. 'Til then, best of 73 to all Stu, WB6VRJ

Larry, K6VLF , operating at a previous FD.

FD options:

What category are we in this year?
What equipment will be used?
How will we fulfill the health mandates?
Who is managing the sign up sheet for operating times?
Who has volunteered to be in charge over the night time hours?
Who is going to write the publicity?

Here are some options for a reduced crew:
Category 1a VHF only (would need vhf equipment)
Category 1a Digital and VHF only (would need digital hf equipment and antennas, and VHF)
Category 1a HF station, split times for CW and SSB, plus VHF, with a schedule and sanitizing stating between shifts.

Options for a robust crew:
Category 2a One hf station split between cw and ssb, vhf, and hf digital (needs more antennas and interference reduction)
Category 2a Two hf stations, cw and ssb, and vhf

Other options:
Everyone operates from home and meets on 146.52 at 7 P.M. on Sat. using battery power if possible.
Publicize it as an "Emergency Preparedness Exercise", showing amateur radio possibilities during the pandemic.
Release publicity to radio and tv stations, and invite government and served agencies to check in by facetime or zoom.
Take pictures and make a story to send to the ARRL. One station could use the W6TO call sign, and those q's, along with all member scores will combine for the club score.

Publicity that is sent out will get the 100 bonus points, even if nothing is printed or used.
An information booth (on w6to.com) would be a virtual 100 points
Message to the ARRL SM is 100 points
W1AW FD message copied is 100 points
Messages handled or sent is 10 points each up to 100 points
Satellite qso completed is 100 points
Natural power qso are 100 points
Site visit (virtual) by invited elected official 100 points
Site visit (virtual) by invited served agency official 100 points
Educational Activity (virtual) 100 points
Youth element 100 points
Safety officer 100 points
Social media bonus 100 points

Can you pick out something from this list that you can contribute to the team? Contact president Stu, WB6VRJ, (559)237-2600.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS
IN FRESNO

Exams given for
TECHNICIAN, GENERAL, and AMATEUR EXTRA
Sponsored By the
FRESNO VE TEAM
And The
FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

2020

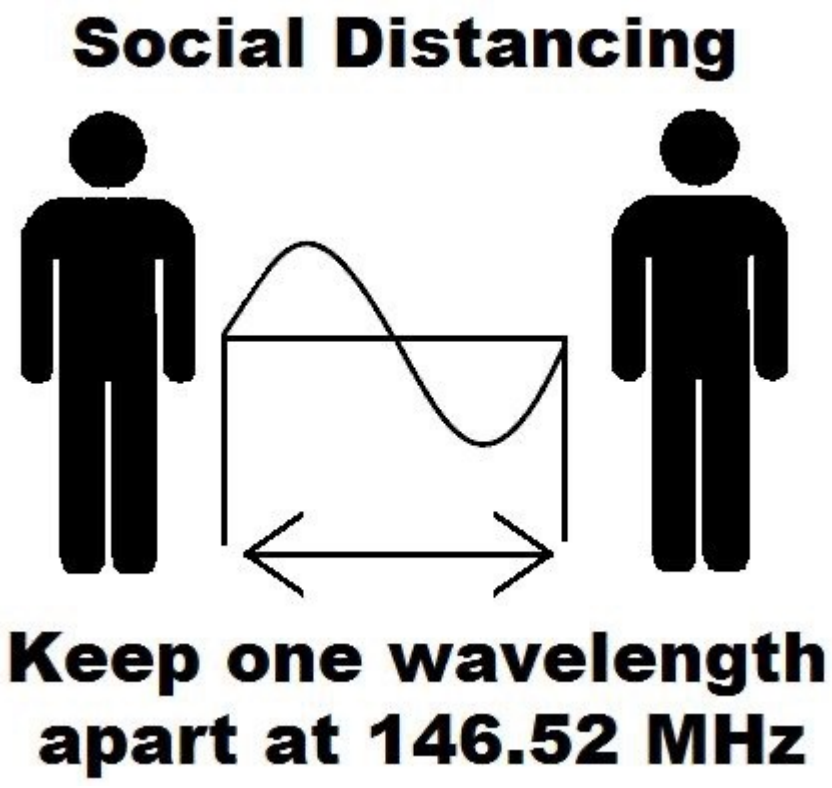
Exams for all Amateur license classes will be conducted on the following dates in Fresno California. All exams are given on Saturday and begin at 9:30 AM.

August 15 November 21

LOCATION: ....St. James Episcopal Cathedral, 4147 E. Dakota, Fresno CA 93726

DIRECTIONS: This is at the northwest corner of Cedar and Dakota in Fresno. Enter the campus from Dakota. There is a large parking lot. Exams are given in Room 2.

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

Rumor is the virus is killed by 14.200 Mhz in large doses ????
Stay under your antennae my friends.

FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FARC Officers and Board members:			
Stuart Home, WB6VRJ President	wb6vrj@w6to.com	(559) 485-8659	12/2021
Ken Holden, WA6OIB VP	wa6oib@w6to.com	(559) 323-6753	12/2020
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Skip Editor John Morrice, K6MI k6mi@pacbell.net (559) 275-7373

2013 FD CW op.

Bob, W6AIY at FD in 2016.

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**.

Event-Date

FARC June 12 Friday 7 P.M. Meeting

VHF Contest June 13-14

Field Day June 27-28

July 10 Fri. FARC Meeting 7 P.M.

Club picnic Sat. Aug. 15, 2020

Nov. 14, Sat. FARC Swap

San Joaquin Valley Nets:

The Noontime net meets on 7.268.5 MHz. This net handles a lot of messages.

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.

Sunday and Wed. Night 2m Bozo Net, 8 P.M. 144.24 Mc. USB

Monday 220 Mc. 8 P.M. USB 222.1 Mc

Tuesday 8 P.M. USB 1296.1 Mc.

Thursday 8 P.M. 432.1 SSB net

This is the Flower Pot dual band antenna my son Scott, N6SJR and myself built (we built 2). It is an easy build, and took us less than 2 hours, and came out to about $40 each. It is my primary antenna on public service deployments and has worked flawless for over 2 years now. Plans are at:

http://vk2zoi.com/

Craig W6CMR

UpDate: SWR shows around 1.2 - 1.4 without further trimming. Signal is very good.

Antenna is very portable and fits well in the back of a pick-up or SUV.

The antenna stand and mast shown are; telescoping pool sweep pole, with plastic handle removed, in which the antenna fits perfectly, the base is a Tripod stand and the larger end of the pool pole fits perfectly in there as well.

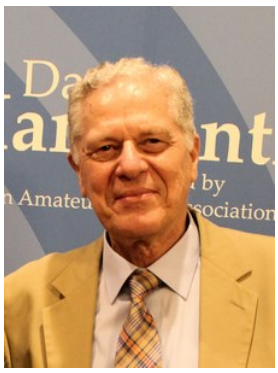
First Deployment shown was in an area very hard to reach a repeater but worked excellent at about 20 feet of extension. Antenna also has minimal wind resistance.

ARRL Podcasts Schedule

The latest episode of the *On the Air* podcast (Episode 5) focuses on the various types of modulation and tips on go-kits. The *On the Air* podcast is a monthly companion to *On the Air* magazine, ARRL's magazine for beginner-to-intermediate ham radio operators.

The latest episode of the *Eclectic Tech* podcast (Episode 8) includes a discussion of 10-meter FM and an interview with Pascal Villeneuve, VA2PV, about "hotspots" for DMR, D-STAR, and Yaesu Fusion.

The *On the Air* and *Eclectic Tech* podcasts are sponsored by Icom. Both podcasts are available on iTunes (iOS) and Stitcher (Android) as well as on Blubrry -- On the Air | Eclectic Tech.



Moonbounce Contact via FT8 Could be a First

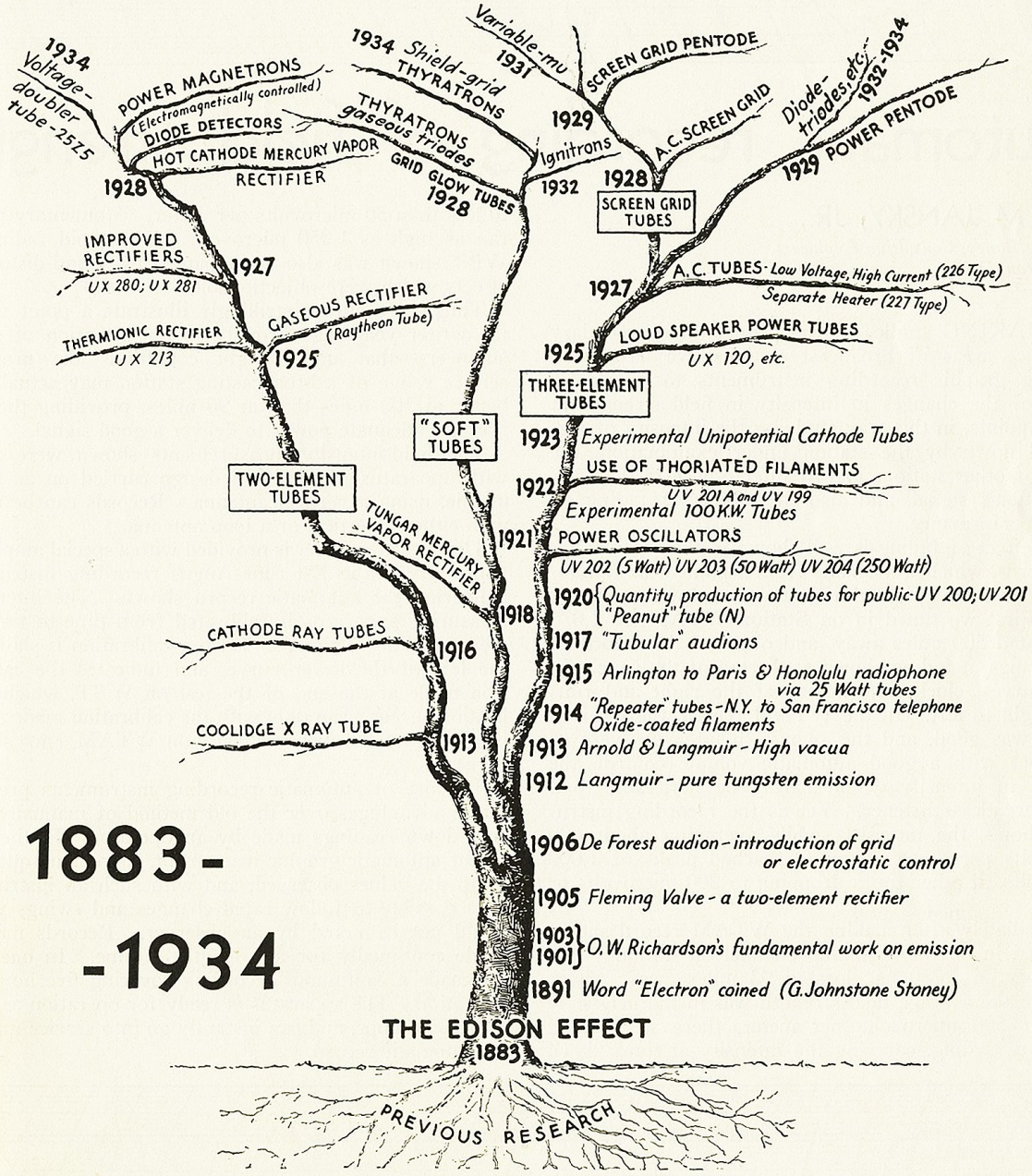
FT8 codeveloper Joe Taylor, K1JT, has reported what is possibly the first FT8 contact via moonbouce (Earth-Moon-Earth or EME) on May 21 between Paul Andrews, W2HRO, in New York, and Peter Gouweleeuw, PA2V, in the Netherlands. The contact was made possible using the currently available beta-release candidate of *WSJT-X*, version 2.2-rc1.

"Why might you want to use FT8 instead of 'Old Reliable JT65' for EME QSOs?" Taylor asked in a subsequent Moon-Net post. "FT8 is about 4 dB less sensitive than JT65, but with 15-second T/R [transmit/receive] sequences it's four times faster, and it doesn't use Deep Search," he said, answering his own question.

The FT8 protocol included in the beta version of *WSJT-X* has an optional user setting to work around the 2.5-second path delay. "For terrestrial use, the FT8 decoder searches over the range -2.5 to +2.4 seconds for clock offset DT between transmitting and receiving stations," Taylor explained. "DT" represents the difference between the transmission time and actual time. "When 'Decode after EME delay' is checked on the *WSJT-X* 'Settings' screen, the accessible DT range becomes -0.5 to +4.4 seconds. Just right for EME."

Joe Taylor, K1JT. [Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, photo]

EVOLUTION OF THE THERMIONIC TUBE



So rapid are the changes in the tube art that the chart showing the Family Tree of the Thermionic Tube, first published in Electronics, May, 1930, is out of date. Therefore, recent additions have been made showing the new branches to this fast-growing tree. Such tubes as the variable-mu, voltage-doubler the many combinations of triodes and diodes and pentodes were unthought of in 1930—but will be found on the tree above.

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
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
WA6IPZ	WA6IPZ	52.84	-	82.5

Remember to keep you dues current for both the attendance prize and the birth-day and anniversary listings.

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 with various net control ops.. Have fun checking in on one or both modes.

Birthdays

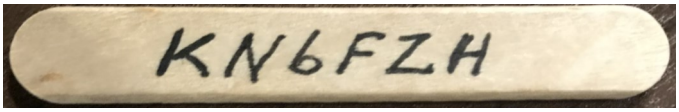
06/08 KM6CVB
06/09 Mikael KM6MRT
06/11 Jack WY6B
06/11 Bruce W9RU
06/23 Joe WA6FFJ

Anniversaries

06/04 KM6GSO
06/01 Phylis & Stu, WB6VRJ
06/25 Sonja & Allen WA6IPZ

The monthly attendance prize! Suspended until we meet again.

The attendance prize in March. was won by Elijah. Who was not present. Must be present to win. Next drawing will be $20, when meetings resume.



THE DX CORNER

By Charles McConnell W6DPD

June 2020

"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. There were over100 sunspot free days in 2017

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 **rolled back the rates** to those of 2011. The rate is $2 for up to 10 cards, $3 for 11 to 20 cards in one envelope, and $0.75 per ounce for 21 or more cards. There is no longer a transaction fee. These changes began May 15, 2019.

Overseas postage is still $1.15 per ounce. Domestic postage is $0.55 for 1 ounce. Additional ounce for domestic mail will go from $0.21 to $0.15. Postcards stay $0.35. Postage for flat rate boxes and envelopes will increase.

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 OPDX Bulletin or 425 DX Bulletin to get the URL. You can subscribe to the Daily DX, or Weekly DX. These bulletins will keep you informed of DX operations and QSL information.

Scientists writing in NATURE magazine are predicting a Grand Solar Minimum beginning is 2020 are lasting for 3 solar cycles. Hopefully, they are wrong. NOAA Scientists predict the Cycle 25 peak will occur in July 2025 plus or minus 8 months.

Continued from the last page

The following operations are scheduled:
Sudan **ST2NH** is learning FT8 and is active
Bouvet **3Y0I** Will try in fall 2020
Djibouti **J28PJ** for 3 to 5 years
Ascension Island **ZD8AC** now for 2 years
Senegal **6W1SU** now for 2 to 3 years
Rwanda **9X0TA** August 5, 2017 for 3 years
Antarctica **VK0HZ** Davis Station for 1 year
Antarctica **ZL5A** Scott Base for 1 year
South Sudan **Z81C** now for at least a year
Ecuador **HC2PY** September 15, 2019 for one year
Chad **TT8SN** December 1, 2019 for 3 to 4 years
Seychelles **S79VU** September 30 to June 30, 2021
Andaman and Nicobar **VU4R** Postponed
Guantanamo Bay KG4MA June 2020 to March 2021
St. Pierre and Miquelon **FP/KV1J** September 22 to October 6, 2020
Easter Island **XR0YHM** August 7 to September 7, 2020
St. Pierre and Miquelon TO5T August 10 to August 17, 2020
Corsica **TK20A** September 4 to September 20, 2020
Swains Island **W8S** September 23 to October 6, 2020
Malawi **7Q7AO** Mid September into October 2020
Niue **E6AM** September 38 to October 17, 2020
Chad **TT8RR and** TT8XX September 29 to October 12, 2020
Midway Island **KH6VV/KH4** First 2 weeks of October 2020
East Timor **4W** October 11 to November 8, 2020
Sable Island **CY0C** October 14 to October 28, 2020
Kosovo **Z66DX** October 15 to October 28, 2020
Tonga **A335GC** October 19 to November 2, 2020
Botswana **A25VR** April 28 to May 24, 2021
Liechtenstein **HB0/HB9HBY/p** sometime in July 2020
Chesterfield Islands **TK/C** Postponed until 2021
New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands ZL9 2021-2022

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. Good luck, tune the dial, and listen.

The 2019 *ARRL DXCC Yearbook* is now available for viewing and downloading.

Temporary Ham Radio Q-Codes for our times:
QLD: I am locked down.
QUA: I am quarantined.
QPD: I am in the middle of a pandemic.
QTP: I have toilet paper. Want to trade for a new car?
QFC: I am flattening the curve.
QHG: I need a hug.
QSH: I am sheltering in place.
QHS: I have hand sanitizer. Want to trade for two new cars?
QSD: I am observing social distancing.
QCV: I hate Coronavirus.

144th did a fly over today. Right over my house! Fast and loud! Duane KI6QEL

In May, as restrictions were being lifted, four of us got creative and decided that we could order breakfast at Denny's where we usually eat on Tuesdays. I set up a table and chairs out in the parking lot, went in and ordered from Maria, and ate our breakfast under the morning sun. Wonderful!

In the picture are Mike W6YDE,Stan K6SHN,Jerry K6PKO,and our waitress Maria, who came out across the parking lot to top off our coffee! Nice service! I took the picture so missed out being in the photo.

Sad news about a person, a manager that worked there. Christina, who gave us hugs and chatted with us when things were good, passed away March 20th. When we asked Maria about Christina, we could see the sadness in Maria's eyes and we knew something was wrong.

73, Jim, W6NIF

The QCWA meets on the fourth Monday on 146.85 repeater at 7:15 P.M.

Ham Radio Mantra

We're all mostly stuck at home.

Let's do some radio therapy and have fun on the air!

Everyone works everyone and with stay-at-home there should be beaucoup activity.

Forty-eight plus days of fun.

Rules:
1. Stay away from people.

2. Wash hands frequently

3. Don't touch face.

4. Turn off TV news.

5. Take care of each other.

Operate Exuberantly!

"This is Ham Radio" Film (vintage 1970 with ex-cerpts from 1969).

Re-mastered by ARRL and officially posted onto YouTube in on 10/24/11:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuIExTh4CF8

We are amateur radio operators! We have been the masters of "virtual" technology for over a hundred years and have been leaders all that time in bringing the kind of instant, distance connectivity to the world that makes it possible in this moment for so much in our civilization to carry on, even when we are personally separated.

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Anything to sell? Send info to k6mi@pacbell.net for next month's Skip

Your add or card here!
Talk to the treasurer about the yearly fee!

Mike, K6MYC, at a FARC club meeting describing a two element quad 2m antenna that will be easy to get on 2m ssb horizontal polarization.

M2 ANTENNA SYSTEMS, INC.

Michael Staal
V.P. & Designer
K6MYC

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- Machine Work & Manufacturing Services
- System setup & Installations

4402 N. Selland Ave. Fresno, CA 93722
559.432.8873 Fax 559.432.3059 website: www.m2inc.com

For Sale:

From the N2NS estate, 20-6m Stepper beam, US-54 tower and rotator. $3,000.

DX Engineering 80M vertical with radials, new in the box. Original price $1500, for sale at $700.

Alpha 9500 Amplifier, full legal, price dropped to $3,000!

Contact John, K6MI for details 559-275-7373, or email at k6mi@pacbell.net

The paper clip antenna, or is it a guy wire?

Ask Duane, KI6QEL some time to explain.

Renew now for the new year!

Fresno Amateur Radio Club (FARC) Membership Application

Name_____Call_____$20 Dues__Date_____

Street Address City State Zip_____

Home Phone (____)_____ Cell Phone (____)_____

Email ADR _____(for delivery of Skip Newsletter)

License Class_____Year 1st Licensed_____
Birthday (Month/Day)_____ Wedding Anniversary (Month/Day)_____
ARRL Member?_____
Additional Family Member(s) in same household ($5 each)
Spouse Name_____Call_____
Son/Daughter Name_____

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