

A Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter September, 2020 Volume 83, Issue 9



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 the second Friday of the month for an on the air meeting at 7 P.M.! No physical meetings at the moment – stay tuned in on the club repeater! Meeting at 7 P.M. September 11 on the club repeaters!



Staying active, Jerry K6PKO can often be heard on 40M SSB during the mornings, keeping up with skeds with hams he has known for many years. He is also on the W6IPZ 6m repeater, and 146.52 FM.

Jerry has a birthday coming up on Sept. 25.

UC Merced center is closed for the rest of 2020. On the air meetings until the COVID 19 is under control.

From Ted, W6TLM

My term is up in December. Don't have any pictures of me sleeping. About all I'm doing right now.

Ted has served as a board of director member and treasurer of the club and wants to pass this job on. He follows the long service of Ron, N6MTS (SK).

So the nominating committee is looking for a candidate to take over this important job.

Four board member have terms that are up:

Ken WA60IB

Ted W6TLM

Jim W6NIF

Larry W60WL

So far only Ted has indicated that he won't run again. But he holds an important position that does need to be filled.

If you are in a position to help out the club in this capacity, please talk to a board member. The next vhf weekend is the second weekend in Sept., from 11 A.M. Sat. 'til 8 P.M. on Sunday, all on simplex frequencies.

Upper picture-Larry W60WL and Ted W6TLM at a board meeting before quarantine.



Dennis in the bottom picture at the same board meeting.



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 September 2020

What is really nice and really great is how all the club members cooperate with each other and help each other. A true meaning of Hamdom, and it is great to see this in our club. I know that there are factions out there, but not in our club, and all you hams that belong deserve a great clappinhg-laudation-applause.

During this COVID quarantine, it is great to hear all the club members that check in on our club meeting night on 146.94, the W6TO repeater. It is great! What contributes to making it so great is that we are using the very medium for which we hold our license-others, outside our club, might use other computer-based means of communication, but what we use is what was developed by hams for hams. This is great!

There is one bad aspect-that there are NO donuts for your president to grab and eat! Tsk tsk; well, I guess we'll have to find some way around that. Hmmm.

Elections are coming up-I will be sending out the names of the nominees soon, so be ready-and if you know or think of someone to be a nominee, get their permission then nominate them!

C U on the air!



'Til then, best of 73 to all Stu, WB6VRJ





This CCA broadcast transmitter is just waiting for a conversion to 160 meter AM . Currently it is in the garage of Pat, W6YEP, who worked on transmitters like this in the commercial radio world.

Many AM stations are heard in the evenings on 1.925 Mc. A.M.

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.

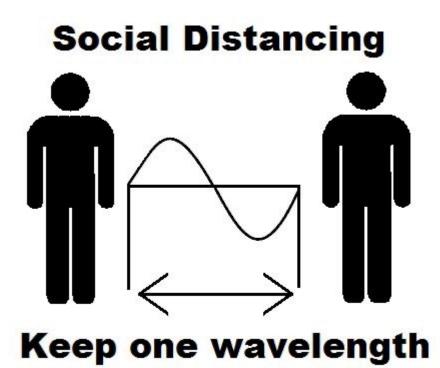
All dates cancelled at this time, due to the location not being available.

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.



apart at 146.52 MHz

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 Ken Holden, WA6OIB VP Ted Miller, W6TLM Tres.

Web master Aaron Lusk, K6USY

Jim Erbe, W6NIF Sec. Larry Lion, W60WL

Dennis Holloway, KI6NVG Rob Egan, KM6SRR

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559) 868-2888

k6usy@w6to.com (559) 301-1022

k6mi@pacbell.net Skip Editor John Morrice, K6MI (559) 275-7373

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY LARRY LION, W6OWL, HAS SUBMITTED THE FOLLOW-ING NOMINEES FOR THE DIRECTORS LISTED BELOW WHOSE TERMS ARE EXPIRING:

The Directors whose terms are expiring are:

Jim Erbe W6NIF Larry Lion

Ken Holden Ted Miller WA6OIB W6TLM

Note: Ted will not be running for the Board so we need a person to fill this 2 year slot.

IF ANY CLUB MEMBER WISHES TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF NOMINEES, PLEASE OBTAIN THAT PERSON'S PERMISSION TO BE SO NOMINATED, AND REPORT THE NOMINATION TO LAR-RY, W60WL.

Nominations will be closed at the end of the September club meeting, and the membership will be asked to vote at the annual club meeting in the month of October.

I do wish to thank everyone for their participation in this important club event.

73, W. STUART HOME, WB6VRJ, PRESIDENT

Event-Date

Club meeting Spt. 11 7 P.M. on the air

Possible club picnic on Oct. 10. Sat., or meeting on Oct. 9

Possible 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

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

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

W60WL

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

Pacificon a virtual pen!

in Oct. is cancelled, but convention might hap-



12/2021

12/2020

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Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

	Local / lillaccal	Madio Repeat	J1 J	
<u>Organization</u>	Call Sign	Frequency	Offset	<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	5 -	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 birthday and anniversary listings.

This is a local net, the cw part run by KF6ZXO, and

7 P.M. for CW at 28.140 8 P.M. for SSB at 28.445

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

Birthdays

09/08 Marcus KG6ONY 09/25 Jerry K6PKO 09/27 Craig W6CMR

Anniversaries

09/28 Dana & Walter AA6IT

The monthly attendance prize! Suspended until we meet again.

Ten meter net, CW and Phone, every Wednesday

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

September 2020

Many DXpeditions are being postponed or rescheduled due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.

"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.

Check out 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 December, 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 **VKOHZ** 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 West Kirabati T30ET Postponed Seychelles **\$79VU** September 30 to June 30, 2021 Andaman and Nicobar VU4R Postponed Guantanamo Bay KG4MA June 2020 to March 2021 St. Pierre and Miguelon FP/KV1J postponed to June-July 2021 Easter Island XROYHM CANCELLED Easter Island XROYSP Postponed Ghana G5GS August 8 to September 15,2020 St. Pierre and Miquelon TOST Postponed to August 8 to August 16, 2021 Greece SX1AFM September 1 to September 30, 2020 Corsica TK20A September 4 to September 20, 2020 Swains Island **W8S** postponed to spring 2021 due to travel restrictions Lichtenstein HBO September 8 to October 2,2020



Charles, W6DPD

Malawi 7Q7AO Mid September 8 to October 2,2020
Faroe Islands OY September 15 to September 23, 2020
Niue E6AM September 28 to October 17, 2020
Chad TT8RR and TT8XX POSTPONED due to Covid 19
Midway Island KH6VV/KH4 First 2 weeks of October 2020
East Timor 4W October 11 to November 8, 2020
Sable Island CYOC October 14 to October 28, 2021
Kosovo Z66DX October 15 to October 28, 2020
Tonga A335GC October 19 to November 2, 2020
St. Vincent J88PI November 23 to December 20,2020
Botswana A25VR April 28 to May 24, 2021
Jan Mayen JXOX September 15 to October 5, 2021
Chesterfield Islands TK/C Postponed until 2021

New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands ZL9 2021-2022



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.

An article ont he ARRL webpage posted yesterday is about the FCC issuing a Notice of Proposed Rule Making seeking to impose a \$50 application fee for Amateur Radio Licenses. The article is worth reading. The date for comments will be determine when the NPRM is published in the Federal Register.

73, Charles W6DPD

Audio 2 Channel Device



As you may know, I am an avid user of FT8/FT4. I have single band antennae up on 160M thru 1.2Ghz.

I use an audio switcher called NobSound Little Bear MC1023 that I bought on Amazon for \$32.00. I put a picture of this device here with my write-up.

I have 2 Signalink SL-1+ devices, one connected to a TS-570S and another one connected to my FT1000MP. The back of these Signalinks have Microphone and Speaker outputs. These 4 lines connect to the audio switcher. The output of the audio switcher feeds my HP laptop that has WSJT-X running.

On the audio device, there is a volume control to set the audio to the HP. Also there is a pushbutton to select which radio will send the audio to

the laptop.

This saves me plugging and unplugging audio cables from the Signalinks. Now I push a button to select the audio lines.

I hope this isn't confusing. Wanted to tell you how I operate 2 radios and 1 laptop with WSJT-X software.

Maybe catch you on FT8 someday.

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

Turn off TV news.

3. Don't touch face.

5. Take care of each other.

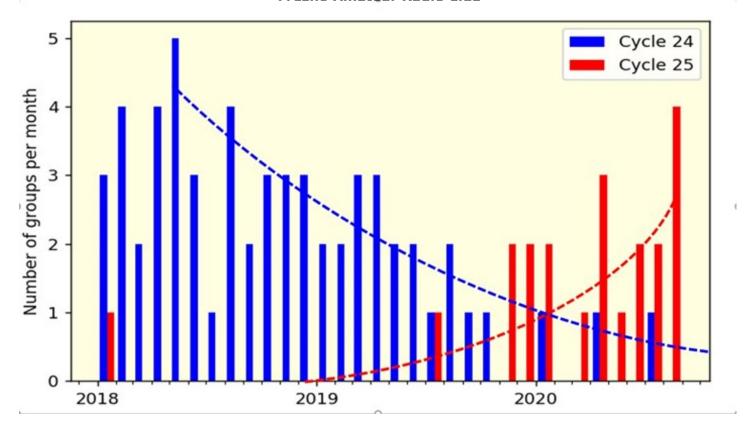
"This is Ham Radio" Film (vintage 1970 with excerpts from 1969).

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

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

Operate Exuberantly!

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.



W3LPL, Frank Donovan, tells us Sunspot Index and Long-term Solar Observations (SILSO) is saying "In January 2020, the 13-month smoothed sunspot number rose for the first time since the maximum of cycle 24 (April 2014).

According to SILSO -- the World Data Center for the production, preservation and dissemination of the international sunspot number -- "most probably, this indicates that the minimum between cycles 24 and 25 was passed in December 2019."

http://www.sidc.be/silso/node/166

10 years of solar history

https://youtu.be/I3QQQu7QLoM



Two 1962 polaroid pictures: Ken Holden at the W6PMW contest operations desk. Jeff Long with Roosevelt HS club station equipment.

Members set up the station in the electronics/stagecraft classroom of the RHS auditorium. Our teacher, Roy Tuck volunteered his time to be with us and make the auditorium available for duration of the contest. A brave man.



Looking at the picture of Joe in the August Skip reminded me of how much equipment was built open and unprotected.

The Central Electronics Model 20 transmitter fed into a home brew linear at the right end of my picture and was powered by an uncovered supply on the floor that had mercury vapor rectifiers (Seen next to Ken on the floor.) It provided a nice glow all night and reminded you not to put your feet there. de Jeff Long

Tube of the Month

F-129-B/R

In a previous article, I described the tubes used in the 10 KW, BC-340 amplifier. I noted that it was unusual for the amplifier to have four parallel tubes and all the problems with that configuration. In further research, I found that in later versions of the BC-340, they replaced the four 846 tubes with two of the Federal F-129-B triodes. Each F-129-B was capable of 12 KW output so at 10 KW output, the tubes could coast along at less than half power.

The F-129-B had a maximum voltage of 12,000 volts at 2 amps and was good up to 30 MHz at full output. The filament was 18 volts at 58 amps. The F-129-B was a general-purpose tube and was used in many applications. The tube in the photo was saved from a junk pile outside an old Voice of America station in Ohio. I was told it was used as an audio driver tube. Many of the Federal tubes were also made in an air-cooled version that could be used at reduced ratings. The F-129-R is shown with it's large radiator with handles.

The BC-340(*) was in use for several years and to the delight of the communications crews, it still required the same distillery equipment. I can't take credit for suggesting the tube change as it occurred about the time I was born. I didn't find my first big tube until about 1949.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com Norm N6JV



From OT Bill, presented in the ARRL propagation report:

Now, since sunspots are fading (I assure you this is temporary) we have received another of the occasional reports from Cycle 19.

I love reading your weekly prop report hoping to see the beginning in the new cycle. So far, not much news, so I reminisce about that fantastic cycle 19. Not many active hams have lived through the cycle, but I did. I would love for everyone to experience another cycle 19 in the next 10 years.

I received my novice license in 1954 at the age of 16. My station was an S38 and a homemade 6V6 xmtr on 80 meters, crystal controlled. Later I was given a 40 meter crystal and I enjoyed more distant QSOs. One night I was called by a very strange call and I learned that I was talking to CM7JA in Camaguey, Cuba. My first DX and I was hooked.

I built a mighty Heathkit AT1 and moved to 15 meters in my quest for DX. Hawaii was my 1st DX on 15. Novices were allowed on 80, 40, and 15 at that time, crystal controlled only.

I received my General class license in 1955, built a Heathkit VFO. Now I was set for DX. In late 1954 the SSN was bouncing around 5, good for 80 and 40. In late 1955 the SSN was bouncing around 70 and 20, 15, and 10 were alive with signals from everywhere. I was in hog heaven! I upgraded to an NC-98 receiver and a Globe scout transmitter and in late 1956 the SSN was about 160, I thought DX could not be better than this.

But it did! I built a homemade 10 meter beam made from bamboo poles wrapped in aluminum foil and could contact anyone I could hear. By the end of 1957 the SSN was 200 with excursions to 250. All the high bands (20, 15, and 10) were open all night long! Ten watts and a wet string could work the world. It was fantastic! Most of my operation was on CW with an occasional QSO on AM if I heard a new one.

By 1958 school and girls competed with radio for my attention, but I always found some time to operate. SSN was still up around 160. Soon it was graduation, job, marriage, and kids but I always found time to flip the new and improved rig on. I was also working on getting those elusive QSL cards to improve my DXCC standing.

Now at 82 yo I am still working DX but mostly on FT8 and I am looking forward to an exciting cycle 25. I hope y'all can experience what I did.

If you remember the cycle 19 sunspot peak share your story with us!



CMAS Contract # 3-06-58-0122B

GSA Contract # GS-35F-0248J



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.

From the N6IG estate, 40 meter (with wire sides for 30, 20, 15, & 10M) DX Engineering 30' tilt over vertical with radials. \$50. New-500\$

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

For Sale

- 1. Yaesu G5500 az/el rotator w/50 ft. control cables \$650
- 2. K3NG Arduino rotator controller/interface for above \$75

TNX/73, Richard N6FUB (559) 285-9772

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!

10-15 meter

M2 10-15M1DX rotatable dipole antenna

Never used. Still brand new. \$100

ki6qel@sbcglobal.net

FOR SALE:

An almost brand new, fully assembled, multi-band, portable "wire" antenna complete with handy soft plastic carrying case. End insulators included.

Just supply a center insulator and a mast (or pull it up a tree) and you'll be ready for some 20m action.

Use as an inverted V for a perfect 50 ohm match.

Perfect for FT8, FM, or SSB.

Can be simply adjusted for 2m, 6m, 10m, 15m, 17m, or 20m.

Will take best serious offer.



ki6qel@sbcglobal.net

Jesus Larralde jesuslm@csufresno.edu I am looking to buy a used SWR meter in working condition. Please replay to this email address. Thank you, J.L.

I'm looking for a 2 mtr rig so i can get on roll calls name is Marcus kG6GNY thks again to club KG6QNY marcus93711@gmail.com

Fresno Amateur Radio Club (FARC) Membership Application

Name	Call	\$20 DuesDate	
Street Address City State 2	Zip		
Home Phone ()	Cell Pho	one ()	
Email ADR		(for delivery of Skip Newsletter)	
License Class	Year 1st Licensed_		
rthday (Month/Day) Wedding Anniversary (Month/Day)			
ARRL Member?	_		
Additional Family Member	r(s) in same househo	old (\$5 each)	
Spouse Name		_Call	
Son/Daughter Name			

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

