FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

SKIP

A Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter November, 2020 Volume 83, Issue 11



No physical meetings at the moment- stay tuned in on the club repeater! Meeting at 7 P.M. Nov. 13 on the club repeaters!

ANNUAL HAM RADIO SWAP MEET *OPEN TO EVERYONE*

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

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.! SELLERS arrive and set up: 7:30 AM

GATES OPEN TO <u>BUYERS</u>: 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM Sat. Nov. 14

Admission is FREE for Everyone

LOCATION OF SWAP MEET: LION AUTOMOTIVE 2944 Phillip Avenue Clovis, CA 93612-3934

DIRECTIONS: From Clovis Ave., turn East onto Gettysburg Ave. and travel 2 blocks, turn South on Phillip Ave., proceed to Lion Automotive building and Parking Lot—you may park in the Parking Lot. Walk through OPEN GATE to the Swap Meet. (SWAP MEET to be held in the Fenced Yard attached to building) UC Merced center is closed for the rest of 2020. On the air meetings until the COVID 19 is under control.

Elected at the Oct. meeting were four directors for 2021-2023.

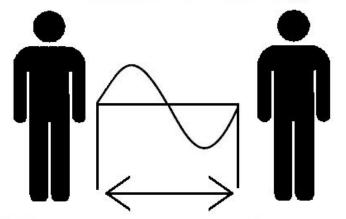
Jim Erbe	W6NIF
Larry Lion	W6OWL
Ken Holden	WA60IB
Mike Chico	KM6MRT

The terms are for two years. The directors will meet and elect the officers for next year. On the even years four directors are elected, and on odd years three directors are elected.



2019 Swap meet, with former member Varouj talking to Dennis, KI6NVG.

As the pumpkin head reminds us, wear a mask and keep some distance at this years swap. **Social Distancing**



Keep one wavelength apart at 146.52 MHz

All current Covid-19 heath directives should be observed at the Nov. Swap-Meet, including social distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands as needed with soap.

There will not be prepared food at this time, the BBQ will remain one of our great memories, and hope for the future.



FARC Send your dues check to FARC, PO Box 5912, Fresno 93755-5912 Board meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. Details from Stu, WB6VRJ

PREZ SEZ

Nov., '20

Gosh, here we come to the end of the year- it is almost on us. Well, one nice good thing-THANKSGIVING! And we all can be thankful for a large range of things-our spouse, our family, all the blessings we have received, our ham radio hobby-so much to be thankful for! And all of us should be saying our thanks.

Oh yeah-one more thing to add to the long list of thanks to all the hams in the club who have given each of us so much help, encouragement, and blessing in so many ways. I especially thank all of you!







best of 73 to all Stu, WB6VRJ





Long time member Marshall, WA6PRE, now SK. Marshall was an electrician, and had a two element quad that he used to talk to his many friends in VK land, where he would take many trips, visiting and looking for gems. He was also a bee keeper, with hives in his back vard.

Pictures from Jim W6NIF

From Shane, KE6JZ

On Saturday, Oct, 3, Chad KJ6HUP and I went to Mt. Stevensen to assess the damage at the repeater site. What we found was total destruction and loss of all repeaters and equipment.

The following systems are affected... 223.820 linked into the KERN system no longer functional/ destroyed 443.800 Fusion Digital Cencal node repeater destroyed 146.82/224.70 / 443.375 Crossband linked system destroyed. 927.0375 Kj6hup Allstar linked repeater destroyed Kj6hup APRS digipeater 462.575 Wa6oay GMRS (Sierra 2) repeater destroyed

Unfortunately there was nothing salvageable.

The building still stands but is totally burned out inside including all electrical and the subpanel. The tower is still standing but there is visible damage to the feedlines and unknown damage to the antennas. We are still trying to determine the safety of the tower and guy wires.

This repeater site has been a continuous labor of love through 3 generations of Ham's dating back to the 1970's. The coverage of Mt. Stevensen is one of the best sites in Central California.



Utility Power feeds to the site have been destroyed and will not likely be reestablished. This will necessitate a solar powered site in the future.

We have a positive attitude right now and are determined to get at least one or maybe 2 repeaters back on the air under solar power. Thank you to all who supported us in the past with equipment, technical help and friendly QSO's on these repeaters.

We look forward to speaking with all of you through alternate repeaters in the meantime. 73, Shane KE6JZ

From Jim, W6NIF It is always sad to see systems go away that we all used.

First of all, I had the original 146.82 repeater and had it on top of the Guarantee Savings building downtown on the roof. I knew a vice president there who also was a ham and let me put it up there. This was in the early 1970s. Then I gave the repeater to Miles Humphreys who I believe put it up on Stevenson in a trailer. I remember he used a light bulb to create some heat for the trailer. He had a long extension cord running from someplace to power the trailer.

Next, I was a member of WR6AJD around 1972 or so. This was in a maintenance building above Alder Springs, on Bald Mountain. This had 5 repeaters in it, one was with my call on 444.00. This site had UHF, VHF and 6 meter remotes. So many hams from the past built this site..just can't remember all the names. This site lasted until around 1995 when Ron Hunt, N6MTS (SK) hauled the building off the hill and down the 4 lane. This site was started around 1968 and was then a Foresteer property and they let us squat on the hill. But some pine tree enthusiast bought the property and kicked us off.

Then there was CCAC. A great group of hams. Allen can tell you all about this site. He did a lot of work on it. 146.79, 444.25 were the freqs. Later on as the group faded and was just 5 of us, we let K6JSI take over the site and thus the WINSystem came about here in the San Joaquin Valley, linked to Frazier and the world. This site gave Shorty a way to go up the Valley to Mt. Oso and then linked into San Jose. Disaster came a few years back at Meadow Lakes. A tree limb fell over onto our 146.79 tower guy lines, knocking down our 2 towers and one laid on channel 30's tower guy line. All kind of hell broke loose. WA6OIB was called, then called Shorty and finally we were told to vacate the property. A crew from Los Angeles came up, got all the equipment out, tore down the building and antennae on the ground. I was there to help me being the caretaker of the site and host of the IRLP node. Took 2 days and it was all cleared out and we said goodbye to Disney! I had a repeater in there on 444.1.

So life goes on. Hope Shane and others can get all the repeaters up and going. I know Allen is helping. One could put a couple of Midlands together for a 40 W system or buy a Bridgecom repeater. Just talking out loud.

Anyway, just wanted to put some history out there. Sorry for the long email.

I'll get back on 160 and FT8 now. 73, Jim, W6NIF



The picture on the left is another hams burnt out house, this time in the Santa Cruz area, where a number of hams lost their homes in the Empire fire.

This is the scene at the home of Bob K6QXY, who is one of the leading 6 meter operators from California in the last half century.

Bob, K6XX, also lost his home In the same area.

Locally, both WA6OIB and W6YDI lost homes near Meadow lakes.

Jim W6NIF creation

This is a work in progress of my train building hobby. I know it is not a radio but thought since Skip is a publication I could put this in to show other hobbies than radio.

It's fun creating mountains, tunnels, town and a cattle ranch. I still have to paint the white hills and do the city grass, roads, etc. Jim W6NIF



From the editor, K6MI-

On the club repeater just a week ago, there was a discussion and remembrance of a former club member from the past, as we received word that Curly Auernheimer, WA6GWQ, had passed away.

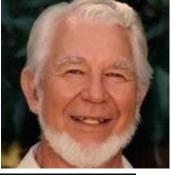
Curly was not someone that I had known, but some of the TOM's (tired old men) held a lively discussion of the character they had know as "Curly".

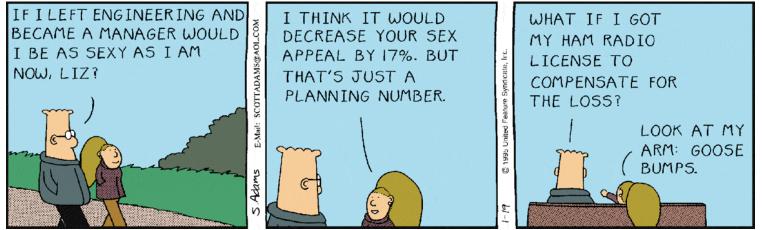
His license had lapsed a number of years ago, but he had been active in a time several decades ago.

Also passed just this week is Faye, XYL for Jerry K6PKO. She will be remembered.

From Charles W6DPD-

Charles Monroe Smith, WJ6J, of Fresno CA passed away on October 16, 2020. He was 92. He was a club member for many years and active in club activities.





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

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

Digging through a recent paper mentioned in this post: <u>https://www.spaceweatherlive.com/community/topic/1775-new-research-suggests-solar-cycle-25-could-be-strongest-in-50-years/</u>

The .pdf paper is at <u>https://tinyurl.com/yyab6j6j</u>

The conventional wisdom is that our current cycle (25) will be about like the last cycle - maybe even weaker. This paper says that is NOT true. Their model predicts a super blow out cycle!

I wasn't on the radio during the huge cycle of the 50's. I was licensed in '69. I have only heard stories about that cycle.

OMG, if we actually see sunspot numbers like 233, 10m could be open 24 hours per day (it was in W5, I don't know about W6). Keep in mind that even during our last cycle, Houston would get 2 LP openings per day on 10m. I have never heard a LP opening on 10m from W6.

With modern radio receivers and current higher power limits (which are higher than allowed in the 50's), the possibilities are mind boggling.

At the end of the day, it will be what it will be. However, this paper makes me hopeful that I will see a major cycle within my ham radio lifetime.

73, enjoy, Matt WX5S

All QSL requests for the 1x1 SEQUOIA stations should be directed to Annette, N6ACL.

http://www.cqp.org/sequoia.html

https://www.grz.com/lookup/n6acl





Virtual Swapmeet, or does any one need a rack?

Howard, WA6BUH, had a FM transmitter on 40.1 Mc. For his home MARS station. Mounts in a rack, and could be re-crystaled for 52.525 FM.

And here are some racks available for free from John K6MI. There are two sides for the yellow six foot rack, and there is also a three foot and a four foot rack available as well.



A 5 foot rack with NOS in the box receiver and transmitter FRC-6 is also available. This is made for 30-40 Mc., but could be put on 29.6 FM

All waiting for you to pick up at John K6MI's QTH in NW Fresno.



Page 8

FARC Officers and Board members	<u>.</u>			
Stuart Home, WB6VRJ President	wb6vrj@w6to.com (559) 485-8659	12/2021		
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Jim Erbe, W6NIF Sec.	w6nif@w6to.com (559) 222-7524	12/2020	Sur FARC	
Larry Lion, W6OWL	larrylion2@outlook.com (559) 227-5159	12/2020		
Dennis Holloway, KI6NVG	dki6nvg@hotmail.com (559) 323-7386	12/2021	Same 2	
Rob Egan, KM6SRR	egan@netpic.net 559) 868-2888	12/2021	T	
Web master Aaron Lusk, K6USY	k6usy@w6to.com (559) 301-1022		and the second second	
Skip Editor John Morrice, K6MI	k6mi@pacbell.net (559) 275-7373			

FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**.



The 2019 November Swap Meet.

In the mean time, there are for sale adds on the next to last page of Skip!

Take advantage of the opportunity, send your adds to K6MI at pacbell.net

<u>Event-Date</u>

club meeting on Nov. 13 Friday 7 P.M.

Nov. 14, Sat. FARC Swap

Dec. 11 Fri. FARC meeting

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 $6{:}00\ \text{PM}$ 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



Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

<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	-	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.

Birthdays

11/04 Gwynne, WA6VZM 11/05 John, K6MI 11/24 Rob, KM6SRR

Anniversaries

11/05 Faye & Jerry K6PKO 11/05 Karen & Aaron K6USY 11/05 Karen & Duane KI6QEL 11/15 Barbara & Joe W0PJD 11/19 Mark KN6FXS

The monthly attendance prize! Suspended until we meet again.

Ten meter net, CW and Phone, every Wednesday

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

the SSB with various net control ops. Have fun

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

checking in on one or both modes.

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

November 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.

The DX Breakfast is currently not meeting due to Covid restrictions.

Check out <u>www.spaceweather.com</u> and <u>www.solarham.net</u> 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 **GW1SU** 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 West Kirabati T30ET Postponed Malawi 706M October to December 2020 Minami Torishima JG8NOJ/JD October 14 to mid January 2021 Seychelles **S79VU** 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 XR0YHM CANCELLED Easter Island XR0YSP Postponed United Arab Emirates A60AAP October 11, 2020 to January 11,2021 St. Pierre and Miguelon T05T Postponed to August 8 to August 16, 2021 Swains Island **W8S** postponed to spring 2021 due to travel restrid Chad TT8RR and TT8XX POSTPONED due to Covid 19 Sable Island **CYOC** October 14 to October 28, 2021 Malawi 7Q7RU November 7 to November 18, 2020 St. Vincent J88PI November 23 to December 20,2020 Botswana A25VR April 28 to May 24, 2021 Jan Mayen JX0X September 15 to October 5, 2021 Chesterfield Islands TK/C Postponed until 2021 Galapagos Islands HC8 planned for 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 (<u>www.newdxsummit.fi</u>) 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.

REDXA is pleased to announce the creation of our own Youtube Channel. Past presentations are available online if you were unable to attend our monthly Zoom meetings or want to watch it again.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvANpw- F6QPAe8T41tzK3w/

We currently have 2 presentations online. History of Transoceanic Radio Communications - Frank Donovan W3LPL.

Amateur Radio Tower Safety Jim Idelson K1IR

W3LPL's video is by far the most popular with close to 600 views in 5 days.



Charles, W6DPD



New Q Codes for Current 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?		
QHG	I need a hug.		
QSH	I am sheltering at home.		
QHS	I have hand sanitizer. Want to trade for two new cars?		
QSD	I am observing social distancing.		
QCV!	I hate Coronavirus.		
QWH	Wash your Hands		
QWH?	Did you Wash your Hands?		
QSS	Stay Safe		





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:"This is Ham Radio" Film (vintage 1970 with ex-
cerpts from 1969).2. Wash hands frequentlyRe-mastered by ARRL and officially posted onto
YouTube in on 10/24/11:

- 3. Don't touch face.
- 4. Turn off TV news.
- 5. Take care of each other.

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.

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



For Sale:

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

For Sale

Henry 2k linier amp, beautiful condition Bill, AA6S in Visalia. aa6s@comcast.net 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 Renew now for the new year!

Fresno Amateur Radio Club (FARC) Membership Application

Name	Call	\$20 DuesDate
Street Address City State	Zip	
Home Phone ()	Cell Phone	e ()
Email ADR		(for delivery of Skip Newsletter)
License Class	Year 1st Licensed	
		niversary (Month/Day)
ARRL Member?	_	
Additional Family Membe	er(s) in same household	(\$5 each)
Spouse Name	Ca	all
Son/Daughter Name		

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

