



A Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter December, 2021 Volume 84, Issue 12



The Fresno ARC encourages all old and new members to fill out the form on the last page of any Skip and send with checks to the club P.O. Box.

FARC Christmas Dinner Meet and greet at 6 P.M.,
dinner at 6:30
Dec. 10 Friday at Diccico's at Cedar and Nees

20 per person. Attendance prize is \$60! Must be in attendance!

FARC Next Meeting
Jan 14 Friday at 7 P.M.

Derrel's Mini Storage Inc.
3239 W Ashlan Ave,
Fresno, CA, 93722

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

Swap Meet
Nov. 13 Sat.

To reserve seats send checks to the FARC P.O. Box
Maybe send in next year's dues at the same time!
There are no walk-ins, as we get to one week before
the event check with Jim, W6NIF to see if there is a
seat available.

Picture from the 2018 dinner!



In Jan. we had pictures of "Straight Key Night" in Skip, and that was the short topic for the January FARC on-the-air meeting.

At the Feb. meeting the program (Greg KM6GSO) was delayed, and was presented at the March meeting. Instead the Feb. meeting was a discussion of the California QSO Party results, and Greg's program was given in March.

The April meeting program was Brian KM6ZX's discussion on end fed dipoles, which relates to his article in Skip.

Our May meeting was the first in-person meeting in over a year, and featured YouTube videos presented by Ken, WA6OIB.

The June meeting was about FD, with a great presentation by Ken, WA6OIB.

The July meeting was root beer floats— with radios old and new for demo.

September meeting was the Picnic and Bingo!

November was the Swap Meet!

QCWA meetings are on the air, and in Jan. will be on the 24th, at 7 P.M. on the QWCA repeater, 146.85Mc. Everyone is invited to drop by. Membership in the local club is free, but national membership is required, as well as being a ham for 25 years or more. Guests are always welcome.



December Banquet on the second Friday, meet at 6:30, dinner at 7 P.M. at DiCicco's on Cedar and Ness

First place prize drawing at the Oct. meeting! Mickeal KM6MRT received a new 2m hand held.



The Allen Ross award will hopefully pass to a new recipient at the Dec. dinner. In this picture in 2019 Gywnne WA6VZM is receiving the award.

FARC— New Members! 2020 members are already paid for 2021!
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

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

At the November swap meet a transmitter hunt ensued at 10 A.M.

Pictured at the right is John K6MI, who had carefully hidden the transmitter on one of the tables at the swap meet which already had some ht's, but the actual transmitter was hidden in a pop corn bag, with just the whip antenna sticking out.

Would you be able to pick it out by just looking at the picture?

The trick was to find the correct table, and then figure out which object on the table was the right one.

Elijah KN6FZH was the winner of the hunt, finding it in the shortest time. Elijah's antenna was a tape three element beam.

The transmitter is usually on 146.565 Mc., which is a good one to have programed into your memories. It transmits for fifteen seconds, and then is silent for fifteen seconds.

The bottom picture is four that have know each other for a long time, Ed Hamilton, Allen, Ken, and Jim.

A special thanks to Larry, W6OWL, who hosted the swap meet, one of the most popular activities of the year.



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	12/2022
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Web master Aaron Lusk, K6USY k6usy@w6to.com (559) 301-1022

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

You can download this and past Skip issues under the Document Archive menu by visiting w6to.com.

On the even years four directors are elected, and on odd years three directors are elected.



For sale adds on the next to last page of Skip!

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

Club Banquet Dec. 10 Friday DiCicco's on Cedar and Nees \$20 per person— send check to club P.O Box, space limited, check with Jim W6NIF

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 3918 khz, 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 3.857.5 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, 7:30 P.M. 144.24 Mc. USB

Monday 220 Mc. 7:30 P.M. USB 222.1 Mc

Tuesday 7:30 P.M. USB 1296.1 Mc.

Thursday 7:30 P.M. 432.1 SSB net

Wednesday 7 P.M. 10M cw net, 28.140

Wednesday 8 P.M. 10M ssb net 28.445

Every Wednesday night is an enjoyable time for all ham operators. At 7PM local time, there is a CW net on 28.140 MHz—the NCS is Guss, KF6ZXO—and he welcomes all hams regardless of CW speed—yeah—I have heard both really slow and one or two really fast. Then around 8 PM local, there is the USB net on 28.445 MHz.

Both nets are very enjoyable and lotsa fun to check in and even a little ragchew. By the way, I have heard a couple of hams actually increase their speed as time goes on. WB6VRJ Stu

Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>PL</u>
CARP	K6ARP	146.865	-	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	KJ6OUG	147.150	+	141.3
KE6JZ	KE6JZ	146.820	-	141.3
TURLOCK ARC	W6BXN	147.030	+	100.0
Fresno Low	K6WGJ	145.43	+	141.3
Meadow	N6VRC	147.165	+	141.3
Meadow	N6VRC	440.025	+	141.3
Santa Rita	N6VRC	147.285	+	141.3
Santa Rita	N6VRC	442.275	+	141.3
Visalia	N6VRC	442.525	+	141.3
Porterville	N6VRC	443.825	+	141.3
Fresno Low	K6WGJ	444.975	+	141.3
Bear Mt.	N6VRC	443.950	+	141.3
Mt. Bullion	N6VRC	442.350	+	141.3
Bear	N6VRC	927.05	+	141.3
Meadow Lakes	WA6OIB	146.61	-	141.3
WA6IPZ	WA6IPZ	52.84	-	82.5

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

12/02 Larry WA6ZBL
 12/21 John AA6ID
 12/29 Duane KI6QEL
 12/29 Aaron K6USY
 12/31 Elijah KN6FZH

Anniversaries

12/18 Doug W9RU

The monthly attendance prize!

Next drawing will be \$60, at the Dec. dinner.



THE DX CORNER

By Charles McConnell W6DPD

December 2021

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 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 over 100 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 \$1.30 per ounce. Domestic postage is \$0.58 for 1 ounce and \$0.20 for each additional ounce. Postcards stay \$0.40. 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 in 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
 Ethiopia **ET3AA** Now
 Uganda **5X1JT** now until 2022
 Minami Torishima Island **JD1/JG8NQJ** now to December 2021
 Ascension Island **ZD8AC** now for 2 years
 Senegal **6W1SU** now for 2 to 3 years
 Antarctica **VK0HZ** Davis Station for 1 year
 Antarctica **8J1RL** January 2021 to February 2022
 South Sudan **Z81C** now for at least a year
 Mali **TZ1CE** November 18 to December 8, 2021, Maybe Dec 15
 Namibia **V55Y** November 2021 to March 2022
 Serbia **YU2022NS** August 15 to December 30, 2021
 Chad **TT8SN** December 1, 2019 for 3 to 4 years
 Ascension Island **ZD8HZ** Mid January to December 2021
 Burkina Faso **XTZAW** December 3 to December 20, 2021
 Rwanda **9X4X** November 24 to December 1, 2021
The Gambia **C56XA** **November 24 to December 2, 2021**
 Bangladesh **S21DX** December 16 to December 26, 2021
 Chesterfield Islands **TK/C** Postponed until 2021
 Guadeloupe **T06S** January 20 to February 1, 2022
 Galapagos Islands **HD8M** March 2 to March 11, 2022
 New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands **ZL9** 2021-2022
 St. Paul Island **CY9C** August 12 to August 21, 2022
 Sable Island **CY0C** October 2022
 Bouvet Island **3Y0J** November 2022
 Crozet Island **FT5/W** December 2022 to March 2023
 Swains Island **W8S** postponed due to March 2023



Charles, W6DPD

Watch the DX Bulletins for up to date information. As the time for the operation is at hand, ~~Charles, W6DPD~~ the W6DPD 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. 12/2021.

6 Meter repeater 52.84 Mc.

Well, the Moo Cow is back on the air. The controller board with the red plug visible in the photo on the right side near the blue tape was not fully seated on the connector below and became intermittent. The repeater hung up on transmit. I got the key from Pat and went up to Bear, when I opened the door, it quit transmitting. When I laid my keys down on the table it started again, locked up. It was the board connectors, oxidized I think, some D-Ox-It spray and back in service. Some desense now, I think those three hours of transmit might have done something to the duplexer tuning. That is for another day. Maybe overheated the notch caps, they are very small glass piston trimmers with shunt silver mica caps.

Zed resting in the shed. Allen V. Hancock WA6IPZ

Fresno Amateur Radio Club



A couple of pictures from the November swap meet, on a cool, some what cloudy Saturday.

Activity was brisk, with radios changing hands. One had to act quickly, if you waited to see everything once with plans to go back for an item, one usually found out that it was already sold.

And there was a lot of activity at the free table as well, managed by Ken, WA6OIB.



Hello Ham radio friends.

First time back on the air, (kinda). I made 2 contacts in the contest today. KL7RA and PJ2T. My radio is my Kenwood 480 sat and my antenna is a mag loop inside our apartment setting on a tripod next to the operating desk. I do have a very high QRM level, and with the loop antenna I must adjust the variable capacitor by hand and then re-set the radio SWR. With the antenna inside the QRM is just too high so I will be getting a vertical and installing it on the outside balcony. I don't care what they say. Stay tuned, we may make a contact soon.

We are doing well. Cis is having some more problems, but I'm still kicking as long as I use the walker to get around. Can't believe they renewed my drivers license. Hi,Hi
Bob W6AIY

Zed just in from the shed. Allen V. Hancock WA6IPZ

In September of this year, my son David got his tech license, then general, now he is an extra. (W6DAH) He is lacking 15 states for WAS, has 22 countries confirmed and is studying code (CW) like crazy. Into digital modes and SSB 40 up to 10.

Winding his own baluns, making wire antennas, programming radios via computers, new workbench, rubber floor mats, chairs, tools, soldering station, grounding system, wall mounted basket wire way, tower, rotor. Icom 7100, 7300, Motorola Spectra's for UHF/VHF. Dentron and Nye antenna tuners, Nano VNA, thru line Bird with slugs, crimpers for coax, on and on it goes.

Me, I'm like molasses compared to David, no idea how many states I've work and really don't care. My friends on six, two and 440 plus the Mission Trail Net do just fine for the codger.

He's 59, I expect when he hits 60 he'll be president of the ARRL!

Fresno Amateur Radio Club



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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!

For Sale

FT-2800 2m radio \$50
Dentron Jr. Monitor Tuner
878-0165 Dave KA6VTA

For Sale Kenwood HF radios - TS 590D \$650.00, TS 570D \$550.00, Hustler RM-40 mag mount tri-band antenna \$50.00.. Contact Ted at 559-431-1441 or W6TLM@comcast.net
These radios will be at the Nov. Swap!

TS-940 \$200 Craig 908-1166



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For Sale

Henry 2k linier amp, beautiful condition
Bill, AA6S in Visalia. aa6s@comcast.net

Wanted

I am looking for NOS audio tubes I.e. New old stock.

I am looking for: 6L6, 6E5, 6CA7, 12AX7, 12AT7, 6BD6, 6BQ5, rect tubes: 5AR4, 5Z4

Any help would be very much appreciated. Aram KD6STR

For Sale

LDG tuner \$120 Price reduced! WA6FFJ Joe, 288-2202

Wanted

Do you know anyone in the club or locally that repairs amps?
Tnx & 73, Richard N6FUB r.polson47@gmail.com



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Dues will come due in January!

Fresno Amateur Radio Club (FARC) New 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) _____

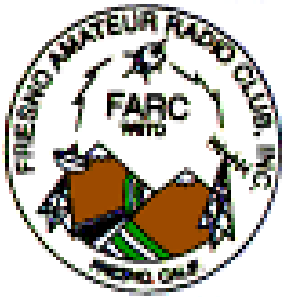
ARRL Member? _____

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



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20 per person. Attendance prize is \$60! Must be in attendance!

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