



A Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter April, 2022 Volume 85, Issue 4



Dues! 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. Remember to make checks out to "Fresno Amateur Radio Club, INC."

**The March meeting was enjoyed by all. Frank, W6BBS, held the groups attention with info about EME.**



More pictures on page 3

**FARC Next Meeting  
April 8, 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. 12 Sat. 2022

# QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Association) will meet again!

April 26. 2022 12 noon Tuesday

This is the first in person meeting in two years, in the back room of Jeb's Blueberry Hill Café. While there are no dues for the local chapter or guests, full membership comes from being a ham for a quarter century or more, and belonging to the national QWCA organization.

This a chance to share lunch with hams in the area, and tell a few tales of days gone by.

QCWA meetings are also on the air, and will be on the Monday preceding the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 P.M. on the QWCA repeater, 146.85Mc.

BREAKFAST - LUNCH  
WE OFFER CASUAL BREAKFAST AND AMERICAN COMFORT FOOD

WE ARE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
7AM-2PM

We believe in fresh ingredients and quality service. Come on in and let us take care of you and your family!

3851 N Blackstone Ave Fresno CA 93726



**Prez sez:** not much to say this month-COVID and other things have kept me under cover-did check into the two 10 meter nets and while my location is noisy, was able to copy NCS for both. Hmm-a little rusty on my CW-need to practice listening and copying more. Hope all of you readers are keeping up your CW skills-yeah, I know, it is NOT a requirement any more-too bad! I see the ARRL has announced some future FCC raises in fees soon! Ouch! says this Scot! Am sure glad I joined ARRL as a life member when fees were a bit lower-you hams out there should consider THE LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP-it turns out to be quite a bargain. Director's meeting next week, followed by the club meeting. I sure do like where the club meets-I like that place! Hope to see a lot of you hams there this meeting!

That's all I have to say-Stu WB6VRJ

**FARC– New Members! 2022 dues now due! Stay on the membership list!**  
**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**



The two hams on the top right just celebrated a birthday in great style, Nora WA6BDE with her 85th, and Paul W6VPS with his 80th.

Both are very active with our club activities and are a great joy to be around.

The other pictures are all from the March FARC meeting, with a presentation by Frank, W6BBS, on the EME work he is doing.



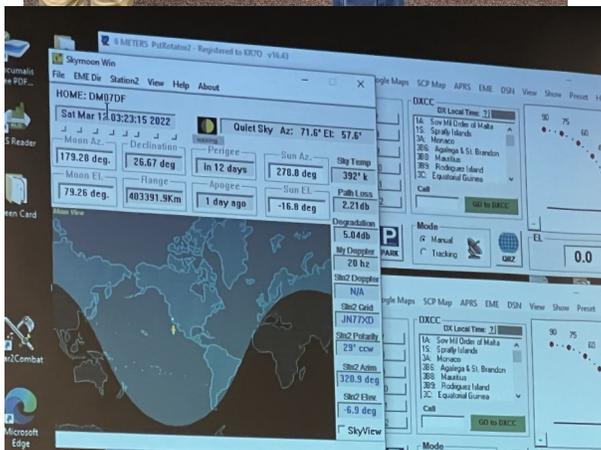
Looking ahead, the Visalia DX convention is postponed, but Dayton will continue this year.

The second weekend in June is the VHF contest, followed in the fourth full weekend by FD.

Report on Jim W6NIF's 10m cw beacon:

Hi Jim  
Your beacon was 579 in SW Ontario this afternoon on 10 meters. Receiving antenna here is a 2 element tri band yagi at 33 feet.  
73, Rick VE3PP

Used an Alinco DX-70T, a Cushcraft AV-620 antenna and a Freakin' Beacon. Running about 60W on 10m cw. Was nice to get a report.  
Jim W6NIF



# Hey! We actually get to use our ham radio to help someone out!

**Greg Stewart KM6GSO**

**Thursday, 10 Feb. 2022,** Started off a bit late, as my supervisor didn't get to my house to pick me up for our work trip to San Benito Mountain till 0915. Still, it gave me a little more time to take Bella, our 6 year old "compact" Great Dane, out for a walk before we left. (she's about 3" shorter than most female Danes, but at 118 lbs, still has presence...)

I brought my 2 gallon water jug, food, a small bag of tools and my Yaesu FT-60 radio, as our work site is void of cell phone coverage until we get to the very top of San Benito Mountain. Even there, we have a 15 foot diameter spot where it works well, but nowhere else on the summit.

We'd lost our signal for the FM component of the EAS system we have with our transmitter, so we were headed up to find out what had happened. We suspected that the high winds that had buffeted the area probably (northwest of Coalinga, Ca.) had moved the antenna out of adjustment.

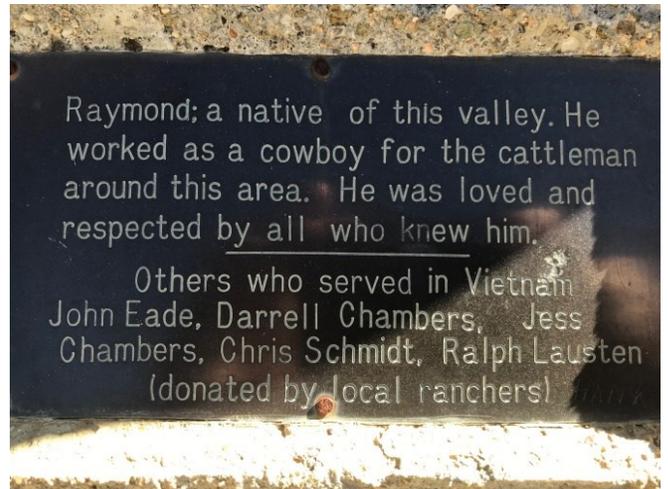
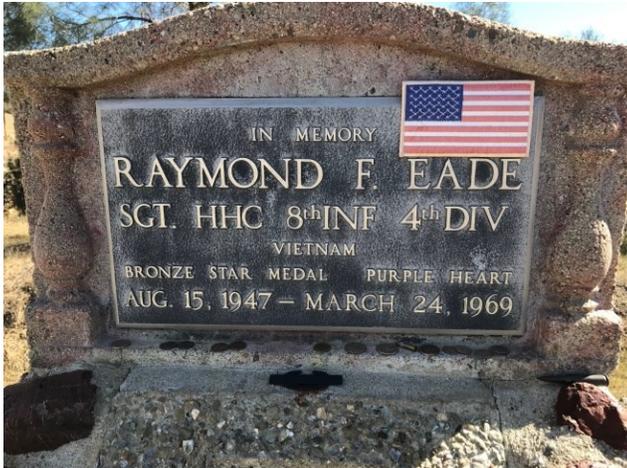


Interesting structure at the north side of Coalinga...

If anyone knows what it is, would love to hear about it. This marks the first turn off 198 towards the site, and eventually turns into Los Gatos Road/Coalinga Road, taking us to the Clear Creek junction.

This is always a stressed trip, as we have to bring our own water and food, as there are nooooo services at this site or the area for two hours' drive around it. That and the fact that we're driving on dirt roads that are laden with **asbestos**! When the creek is running, we also have to cross it 16-18 times, as the dirt road we're driving on runs at the bottom of a canyon that eventually makes its way up into the surrounding hill, then the mountains. (**The place** to have a ham radio!!)

## Fresno Amateur Radio Club



The memorial at the Clear Creek junction, to SGT Eade of the Vietnam War, where we turn off paved road to dirt trail. Never forget those who have fought for our country, no matter where..

We ford Clear Creek here, across a long concrete weir/low dam, to get to the start of this trail. Sometimes this is a breeze, other times it's pretty scary when the water is running high.... Today, get about two inches of water coming across...

On our left, is a grass field landing strip, with an old tattered wind sock at the east end. Have yet to see a plane, let alone one landing out here in my five years of coming here...

Two miles up this trail, is the BLM gate. This is the reason we rarely see another vehicle up on this trail. Pretty much us and PG&E workers

My supervisor and I have, in the past, run two vehicles up here, just in case of a breakdown, or sliding off the road. Today, just one, since he has a new Toyota Forunner Off Road Special. The trip so far has been uneventful, until we got within 2-1/2 miles of the summit, where we came up behind a Ford 4 door 4WD truck, with an elderly couple driving. We thought, "They may be a little out of their element...." We stayed behind them for about 200 yards, then they found a spot to let us go by them. (Did I mention that this trail has some pretty sharp rocks on the road, some about 5-8" in diameter, and are not the nice round 'River rock type', but with sharp edges that are not friendly to street type tires, which was what this Ford was wearing...)

As we went by, we waved, they waved, and it appeared to me that they were attempting to turn around. I'd told my supervisor that I hope that they would, as this trail gets a bit rougher from this point on....

Anyway, we now focused on the work ahead of us, and making sure we got up the road without puncturing one of our tires on this challenging trail up to our transmitter.

After 15 more minutes of climbing the trail, our transmitter rolled into view. My supervisor had me circle the perimeter fence, as we've had people mess with things up here before, so we didn't want to get 'surprised' by anyone or thing (yup, mountain lions and coyotes' up here too).

## **Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

I had been too focused on the fence as I walked around it, when my supervisor said "Oh, now I see why we don't have any reception on the FM freq." . Due to the sunlight hitting the chain link fence, I couldn't see the antenna in the shadow of the building, on the ground! "Oh, this is going to be fun" I thought to myself.... Thankfully, we'd only lost one horizontal element on the antenna, so it was deemed still good enough to pull in a signal from one of the Hollister's transmitters. Hopefully we could get our EAS system back on line....



This antenna on the ground.....  
broken lead..

Is supposed to be up here! Note the broken

So, after a quick lunch, since by now it's almost 1400, we haul our tools up to the roof (about 14' up, and each time I think, "wasn't I going to make a rig to help up lift this stuff up the next time we do this??!" As we do this for the 5<sup>th</sup> time....) the ladder is a flat bar design... NOT easy on the hands.

But, we haul the tools, up again, and the antenna too, and get busy setting up the new brackets to remount it. Now we're racing against daylight, as we want to be back on the ground before sunset.

After much fighting with the mount (there are two other antenna mounts that are just interfering with our mount), so we have to lower the pole a bit to get it to the others.

Finally mounted and secured, now comes the fun of aiming it at the right area to get a good FM signal feed to the EAS set up.

## **Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

I'm now down in the building waiting to hear 100.9 in Spanish the station identifier. It takes almost 20 minutes, but there it is, so we know we're aimed right. So, the wrenches come out, and we tighten everything down, then start lowering tools to ground level (by rope).

As I'm doing this, I get to see an awesome sunset, with great reds & oranges! Then it's DARK. It's almost as if someone shut the blinds! I just can't remember seeing the light go out sooo fast.

As we're finishing up loading the tools and equipment back into the Toyota, I wonder out loud if the two people in the Ford got back down the hill ok. (If you've never been off roading at night, it's a WHOLE 'nuther experience! And those BLM road markers are almost invisible in the dark...)

My supervisor said he hoped they'd made it down the hill as well. At this point, we eat the food we'd had left from lunch, then fire up the Toyota, and headed down the hill. It was **1915 hours**.

**It was** about 2 miles down the trail from the top, when I started seeing something that looked like an oil trail. I thought back to the couple in the Ford pickup, and noted that we were now downhill of the spot where we'd passed them. I didn't say anything to my supervisor for the next ten minutes, as he was pretty focused on the road, missing some pretty good sized rocks. (We'd notice some evidence of seismic activity on the road from Coalinga. Pretty good piles of rocks on the side of the road, and in some places, where the rocks were "in the road")

We were seeing a lot of little slides on this trail, and I had the feeling that the older couple in the Ford may not be seasoned enough to really avoid some of the bigger rocks. Seeing the oil trail in the middle of the track, I knew someone had damaged one of their oil pans. Engine oil, or tranny, something was leaking.... And it wasn't going to last long.

As the trail leveled a bit, I told my supervisor what I was seeing, and he then realized he'd been seeing it as well. Just after saying that, I noticed two lines of oil in the middle of the track about an inch apart. "I think we're going to find a vehicle stopped up here pretty soon" I said.

Fifteen minutes later, there they were, just ¼ mile from the BLM gate.

Sam and Debbie said they'd hit a rock, but didn't realize how bad they'd hit it. And what it hit.

When they got to the spot where they'd stopped, they pretty much had just been letting gravity pull them down the hill. At this point, they started to go up an incline, and the truck said 'Nope', no more ATF.... No more go forward...

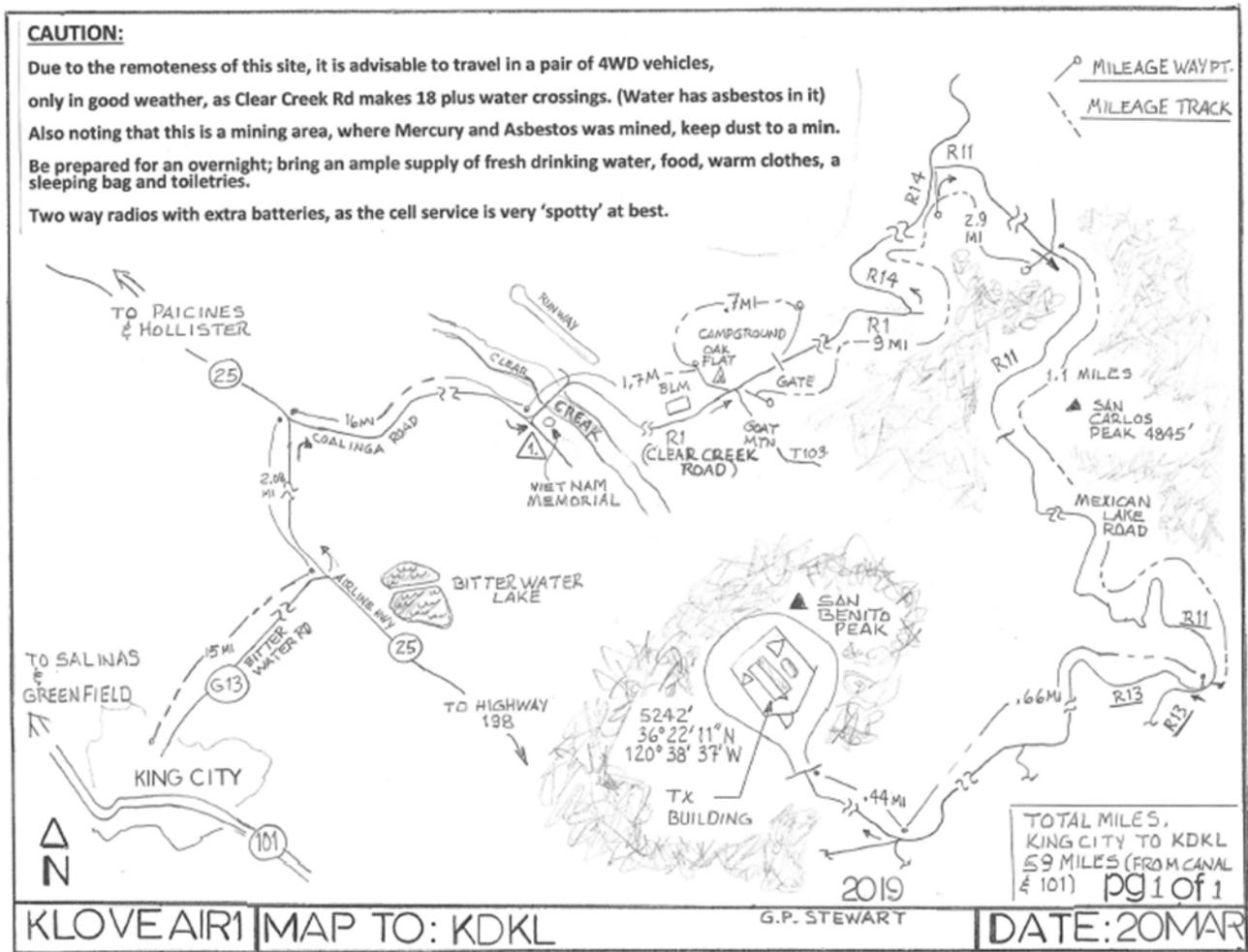
We assured them that we'd help them out, so we made room in the Toyota, and got some of their things out of the Ford, and headed for Los Gatos Road. They were staying at the Laguna Mountain Campgrounds, to the west of where we got back on the paved road. At the entrance to the campground, we got a good ham signal (no cell phone signal for miles around there), and put out a call for phone relay help.

**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

**KM6ZBX**, Matt in Hanford, answered our call, and was able to relay for assistance. He was able to get in touch with Sam and Debbie's son in Hollister. It so happens that their son is a mechanic, so we were able to relay what we thought had happened, so I recommended that he get a new tranny oil pan, gasket and ATF for the truck. We dropped the couple off at their Airstream trailer (would love to have one of those!), and they assured us that they'd be fine. We did pay a little for this though, as I got home at 0200 the next morning....

Three days later, I had to find out if everything had gone well, so I called the mechanic/son. He said that it was indeed the transmission oil pan, which had taken a pretty good hole from a rock on the road, and had leaked all the ATF out. What I'd recommended he bring was exactly what was needed. Thankfully, no damage to the transmission. He repaired it on the trail where it'd been left, and then they drove back to the campsite. They let it sit for a day to be sure nothing was leaking, and the next day, no puddles under it. We felt great to have been able to help someone out, using our ham radios! It definitely is a skill worth having.

One of the maps that I make specifically for our transmitter sites.



**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

What frequencies can a technician class ham use?

Band	Frequencies (In MHz)	Modes You Can Use
40 meters	7.025 – 7.125	CW
15 meters	21.025 – 21.200	CW
10 meters	28.000 – 28.300 28.300 – 28.500	CW, RTTY/data, 200 watts PEP maximum power CW, phone, 200 watts PEP maximum power
Above 50 MHz	All amateur privileges	



## FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### FARC Officers and Board members:

Stuart Home, WB6VRJ President	wb6vrj@w6to.com	(559) 485-8659	12/2023
Ken Holden, WA6OIB VP	wa6oib@w6to.com	(559) 323-6753	12/2022
Mike Chico KM6MRT Treas.	km6mrt@w6to.com	(559) 277-8918	12/2022
Jim Erbe, W6NIF Sec.	w6nif@w6to.com	(559) 222-7524	12/2022
Larry Lion, W6OWL	larrylion2@outlook.com	(559) 227-5159	12/2022
Dennis Holloway, KI6NVG	dki6nvg@hotmail.com	(559) 323-7386	12/2023
Rob Egan, KM6SRR	egan@netptc.net	559) 281-4730	12/2023

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](http://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](http://pacbell.net)

### **FARC Meeting 7 P.M. April 8 Friday**

### **FARC Meeting 7 P.M. May 13 Friday**

### **FARC Meeting 7 P.M. June 11 Friday**

### **FARC Meeting 7 P.M. July 8 Friday**

### **FARC Picnic Sat. In August?**

### **FARC Meeting 7 P.M. Sept. 9 Friday**

### **FARC Meeting 7 P.M. Oct. 14 Friday**

### **FARC Swap Sat. Nov. 12**

### **FARC Dinner Dec. 9 Friday**

#### 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.

## 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

04/10 Perry K6XJ  
04/11 Kent K6UKZ  
04/25 Chris KD6HTV

### Anniversaries

04/08 John KJ6HBF

### The monthly attendance prize!

David, WB6DJJ won the March drawing of \$30

Next drawing will be \$10, at the April meeting.



### **Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

Here is a couple of photos of David's station with me and David in Oakdale.

80-10 meter antenna is a very simple trap dipole at 22 feet at the apex, ends are at 8 feet up. UHF/VHF antennas are about 18 feet. He has a tower we're going to try to get up this spring to get the antennas up in the 32-35 foot range.

IPZed near the shed



Bob Smith, K6US, ex KB6DI and WR2K, passed away March 25. He lived in Peoria AZ. He suffered from a plastic anemia where the body does not make red blood cells. He was a past president of the CCDXC before moving to NC.

RIP Bob.

Erwin Sawall, WB6RPD, who lived in Kerman then Grants Pass Oregon, passed away on January 7, 2022. He was 89. He was a member of the Fresno ARC in the 70s. I don't know the exact time he was in the club, This was in the Fresno Bee on Jan. 30, 2022. His ham license has expired some years ago.

73, Charles W6DPD

## **Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

ARLB010 New Amateur Radio License Applications Fee To Become Effective April 19, 2022

A Public Notice released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on March 23, 2022, in MD Docket No. 20-270, announced that new application fees for Wireless Telecommunications Bureau applications will become effective on April 19, 2022. The new fees, mandated by Congress, apply to applications for Amateur Radio licenses including those associated with filing Form 605, the Amateur Operator/Primary Station Licensee Application.

The docket can be found online at,  
<https://www.fcc.gov/document/effective-date-wireless-application-fee-rates>

Effective April 19, 2022, a \$35 fee will apply to applications for a new Amateur Radio license, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call signs.

FCC has clarified the fee schedule for Amateur Radio Licenses. It will apply only to new licenses, renewals, rules waivers, and new vanity call signs.

### Plastic Ground Rods

K7NV.com for full April 1 details

No more rusting or corroded ground rods! Use these plastic ground rods that will last many lifetimes!

Very flexible and easily conforms to rocks, obstructions, etc. when driving into ground. They just bend around the rocks!

No corrosion!

No dissimilar metal issues...because it isn't metal!

Low conductance.

Impervious to red ants.



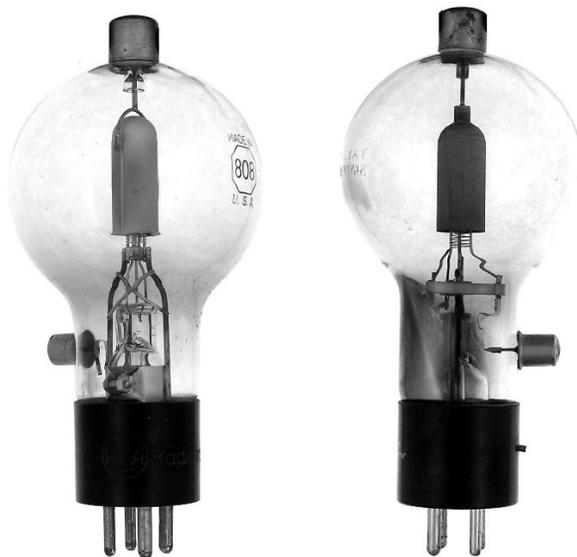
**Tube of the Month**

**808**

In late 1936, RCA announced a new triode to compete with the new tubes being made by EIMAC and Taylor Tubes. The 808 used high voltage like the EIMAC tubes and would deliver over 200 watts output. The tube would run very hot at higher power and the envelope was made to maximize the dissipation. The full ratings were only to 30 MHz, but the low output capacity allowed it to be used in some of the WWII VHF transmitters. The Navy designated the 808 as the 38808 which was easy to remember. The plate was made of tantalum in the original tubes but some other manufacturers made the plate from graphite. Although designed for high frequency, the Navy used the 808 in some WWII SONAR sets. Many tubes in the late 1930s, including the 808, were made with 7.5-volt filaments. Most post war transmitting tubes used 5 volts or 6.3 volts on the smaller types. After the war it became difficult to find filament transformers for 7.5 unless you wound your own. The 808 was not popular with hams who could get another surplus tube that could be run well into the VHF range at full power.

Although not a popular tube after the war, it appears that its unusual shape lived on as it was incorporated in 1937 with the RCA 806 which is obviously a clone of EIMAC's 250TH.

Visit the museum at [N6JV.com](http://N6JV.com)  
Norm N6JV





**Fresno Amateur Radio Club**

Dues due in January!

**Fresno Amateur Radio Club — 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks out to: Fresno Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (Do not abbreviate)**

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

