



A Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter March, 2026 Volume 81, Issue 3



Membership Drive!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Keep your dues active, and your data up to date.

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.. 2026 dues can be paid now. Membership form on the last page of Skip.

New meeting place! 4890 East Holland Ave near Ashlan and Winery

Attendees enter the parking lot from Holland Ave and enter the building by the dot on the map.

**FARC
Next formal meeting will be March 13**

Remember the new meeting place!

March program- Automatic Packet Reporting System

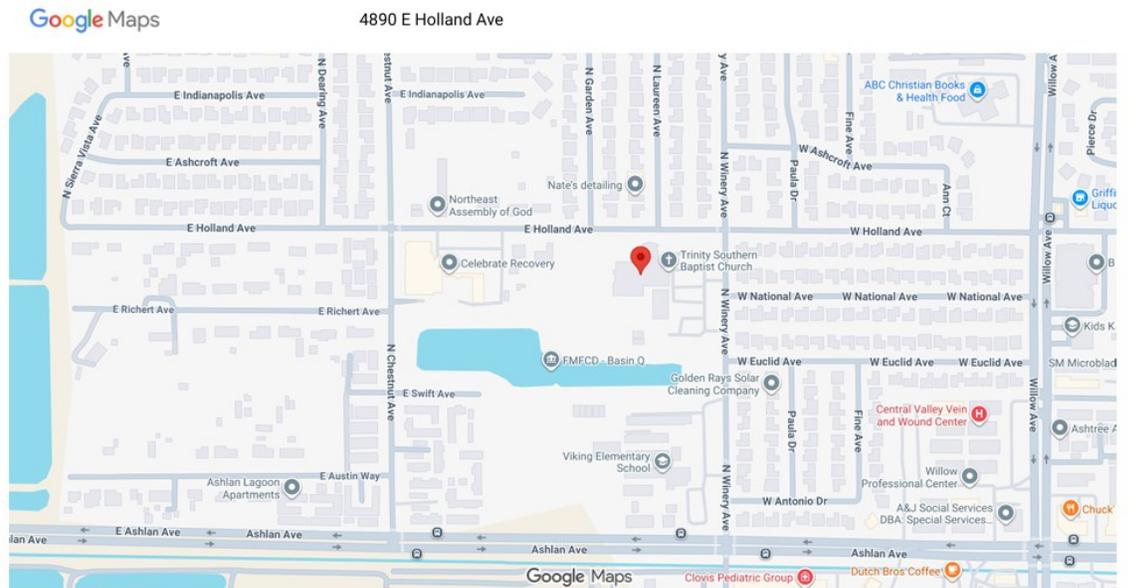
FARC BOARD meetings by arrangement. Talk to a board member!

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
Morning Net 7:30 A.M.

Web page:
W6to.com

Mailing ADR
PO Box 5912
Fresno, CA
93755-5912





ARE YOU READY?

Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

Join us for this **FREE**, hands-on workshop where you'll learn essential disaster preparedness skills.



Saturday, March 28th

11AM - 2PM

(arrive by 10:30 AM for check in, event begins at 11:00 AM sharp)



2560 W Shaw Ln, Suite #101

Fresno, CA 93711 (Parking Lot)



200

Go Bags for Adults & Children

LUNCH

will be served

RAFFLE PRIZES



Registration runs from February 16 through March 23.

Register at www.chcfresno.org or by calling (559) 221-6919

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

The Best Packet Radios by Thomas KK6FPP

In my opinion and based on personal experience, the best performing packet radios are single band mobile radios. In general, those radios have proper bandfilters (not a software emulation of a filter) and keep much of the out-of-band noise out of the receiver (and importantly away from any automatic attenuation).

Such a radio is a good choice if it is dedicated for packet only and even older radios that would not be desirable for a Voice radio (no CTCSS/PL-tone encoder/decoder; limited channel memory) work very well for packet. This of course means that those older radios are generally traded at much lower prices.

Downside: single band mobiles often do not have a dedicated "data" port for an external TNC which means the TNC has to be connected to microphone input and speaker output which limits its use to AFSK (up to 2400 baud) unless the radio is being modified. Not an issue for 1200 baud packet (or VARA FM Narrow), but worth considering if you plan to use the radio for 9600 baud packet or VARA FM Wide as well. A notable exception are the popular but discontinued Alinco DR-135, DR-235 and DR-435 radios which are single band radios (2m, 220MHz and 440MHz) and have a proper data port for both AFSK and FSK.

If you are looking for an all-purpose radio that is packet capable but also has all the bells and whistles expected from a modern voice radio, there are (or have been, sadly a lot of good radios have been discontinued) many choices. These radios are mostly dual-band 2m and 440MHz, omitting the 220MHz band. The 220MHz band is a nice choice for packet operation because of the much lower likelihood for interference with nearby voice operation (which tends to be on 2m/440MHz). Also be aware that just because a mobile radio has a standard 6-pin data connector (intended for AFSK and FSK with an external TNC), not all such radios actually work well (or at all) on 9600 baud. With most packet operations taking place at 1200 baud AFSK, you may or may not care). An example for a current production radio that falls into this category is the Alinco DR-735, which has a data port supporting AFSK and FSK but only up to 4800 baud (the predecessor DR-635 supports up to 9600 baud).

The most popular choice for an all-purpose mobile has been the discontinued Kenwood TM-D710 (also the TM-V71A without the internal TNC). Unlike its predecessor the TM-D700, the internal TNC on the TM-D710 actually performed correctly for connected mode packet operations (something many internal TNCs have problems with). Both TM-D710 and TM-V71A have data ports for external TNCs using AFSK and FSK (so does the TM-D700 which is still a good choice if you don't plan on using the internal TNC). The equally discontinued Alinco DR-635 by itself is comparable with to the TM-V71A while it compares with the TM-D710 when equipped with the EJ-50U internal TNC (which like the TM-D710 handles connected mode packet correctly, both being TASCOC TNCs).

A more recently released all-purpose radio is the Yaesu FTM-150R which ticks many boxes important to EmComm Voice operators while also having a data port supporting AFSK and FSK. I have the Yaesu FTM-150R and used it with 1200 and 9600 baud packet and can confirm that it does work well.

The absolute worst choice for a packet radio are the cheap SDR based radios flooding the market these days. While it is possible to build SDR based radios that perform properly with packet radio, this is not usually included in the design decisions for those radios. As a result, the turn-around time between transmit and receive (and vice versa) is very long which is acceptable for voice communication but deadly for data communication requiring quick transitions. These radios are so slow that they always miss the first response to a transmission they made (requiring the remote sender to re-transmit it at least once). There is no data port, so they are limited to AFSK. Apart from that, they do have some redeeming values: small, cheap and some models supporting the 220MHz band.

Mobile radios that I'm using or have used for 1200AFSK packet (not all mine):

Alinco DR-135, DR-235, DR-435, DR-635

Baofeng UV-2501+220, UV-25X4 (see comment about SDR above)

Kenwood TK-705DH, TM-221, TM-231, TM-331, TM-V71A, TM-D700, TM-D710

Motorola CDM1250

Yaesu FT-7900, FT-8800, FTM-100DR, FTM-150R

There isn't much opportunity to use 9600FSK packet but I have used the Alinco DR-235, DR-635 and Yaesu FTM-150R at that rate.

I was lucky to get some TK-705DH radios (2m only, AFSK only, just 16 channels) at very low price and those are my favorites for 1200baud AFSK on the 2m band. They are what I use for the Sunday Night Packet Net on 145.050MHz. On 220MHz my favorite radio is the Alinco DR-235.

Fresno Amateur Radio Club



K6US and K6KZA and three harmonics making a visit to the Anaheim HRO.



Fresno Amateur Radio Club



Aaron K6US, our FARC VP, is looking for good subjects for our meetings. Talk to him and give him your input!

Aaron has been active working WAS (Worked All States) with his new call sign.

Month	Topic	Summary
January 9th	FT8 & FT4 (K6US)	Tips for successfully operating FT8/FT4 on HF with a live demo
February 13th	YL Night (WA6OIB)	Bring your YLs for some Valentine's Day treats
March 13th	APRS (K6US)	Automatic Packet Reporting System
April 10th	SDR Receivers (WA6OIB)	Physical and remote web based software defined radio receivers

Ham Exams in Fresno

[Amateur Radio VE Exam - Fresno - 2/14/2026](#)

[Amateur Radio VE Exam - Fresno - 5/16/2026](#)

[Amateur Radio VE Exam - Fresno - 8/8/2026](#)

[Amateur Radio VE Exam - Fresno - 11/14/2026](#)

The location is Hind's Life Care, same place as previous years. If you have any questions please email Rob AE6GE.



Marcus, KG6QNY, our clubhouse mastermind has a variety of radios on display, both working and ready to be deployed.

He is up for members visiting.

We will have more pictures in succeeding issues!





QCWA Quarter Century Wireless Association

Next meeting March 24, Tuesday at noon!

At Huckleberry's, Bullard and Hwy 41, back room- join us for lunch!

QCWA meetings on Monday nights at 7 P.M. on the QCWA repeater, 146.85, pl 141.3

Quarter Century Wireless Association is a national organization, and has dues for the national group. The local group invites everyone to come to the meetings on the air and in person.

Hams can count their number of years from the year first licensed, even if they had some lapsed years.

73, John K6MI president. Jerry K6PKO vice president, Jim W6NIF secretary

One of our favorite ham app HamClock is retiring. [HamClock Project to Sunset June 2026.](#)

If you're looking for a replacement or different view on ham radio, checkout the new HamClock project:

[OpenHamClock - Amateur Radio Dashboard](#) - Browser based

[GitHub - accius/openhamclock: "The original HamClock will cease to function in June 2026. Open-HamClock aims to carry on Elwood's legacy with a modern, open-source implementation that the community can maintain and improve together."](#) - Local host version. I like this option. Installed on Armbian , Ubuntu, Windows and Pi5 computers.

Similar to HamClock

<https://dxlook.com/>

Enjoy!! 73

https://www.kuriositas.com/2012/03/10-spectacular-radio-telescopes-around.html#google_vignette

Gentlemen:

This is a rather cool website with photos all over the world of large dish antennas...

I have seen the Array out by Bishop and Lone Pine might anyone have longitudes and latitudes for any of these? For the multi-dish arrays the long and lat of the center will be sufficient.. And yes I am aware that some arrays are mounted on tracks and can be moved

73 Marc Goldman WB6DCE

FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FARC Officers and Board members:

Ken Holden, WA6OIB Pres.	wa6oib@w6to.com	(559) 289-2891	12/2026
Aaron Lusk K6US V.P.	k6us@w6to.com	(559) 905-4180	12/2027
Marcus Beedle KG6QNY Treas.	kg6qny@w6to.com	(559) 360-7444	12/2026
Jim Erbe, W6NIF Sec.	w6nif@w6to.com	(559) 903-2200	12/2026
Larry Lion, W6OWL	w6owl@w6to.com	(559) 227-5159	12/2026
Rob Egan, KM6SRR	km6srr@w6to.com	(559) 281-4730	12/2027
Guy Lee, KN6WET	kn6wet@w6to.com	(559) 353-0063	12/2027
Web master Aaron Lusk, K6US	k6us@w6to.com	(559) 905-4180	
Duane KI6QEL FARC Net Manager			
Skip Editor John Morrice, K6MIk6mi@pacbell.net	(559) 275-7373	(559) 906-7031 cell	



You can download this and past Skip issues under the Document Archive menu by visiting w6to.com. FARC ADR P.O. Box 5912, Fresno CA 93755-5912

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 to send your ads to K6MI at pacbell.net

2026 Friday meetings 7 P.M. New location!

March 13 Friday meeting 7 P.M.

April 10 Friday meeting 7 P.M.

San Joaquin Valley Nets:

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.

Jefferson Noon Net 7.204 Mc. Mon. to Fri. 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Just Another Net 7.204 Mc. Sat. and Sun. 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Sunday Night FARC 2m net 7 P.M. 146.94 Mc.

QCWA Monday at 7 P.M. on 146.85 pl 141.3 net

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 followed by check ins on 50.140 Mc. USB

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 founder is Guss, KF6ZXO, and John K6KEP currently welcomes all hams regardless of CW speed. Then around 8 PM local, there is the USB net on 28.445 MHz.

The *Noontime Net* is a public service Amateur Radio Net that meets everyday on 7284 kHz. and 3970 kHz. with an alternate frequency of 7265 kHz for both nets.

**Backup FARC repeater if 146.94 is down—
146.61 pl 141.3**

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

It has been some time since we have presented Jerry K6PKO's current ham shack in Skip magazine. There are some weeks when the radios change in just a matter of days! Jerry must have owned and operated every conceivable radio since the 50's. Here are some of his current radio positions:



Top left and clock wise– Collins 75a4 and 32v3 Icoms with Henry amp on W6GM Bill's old desk National NC-303 with Johnson Viking I transmitter Receivers from the 1930's And the Collins KWM2a with the 30L-1 linear



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Offset</i>	<i>PL</i>
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 backup	WA6OIB	146.61	-	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	K6ELK/R	145.110/444.95	-	100.0
NC9RS	NC9RS	927.6625/902.0125	-	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
WA6IPZ	WA6IPZ	52.84	-	82.5
Tulare CARC	WA6BAI	146.88	-	103.5
Madera (Deadwood)	W6BW	146.745	-	123

Birthdays

3/03 Charles W6DPD
 3/23 Brittany K6ZKA
 3/26 Paul W6VPS
 3/28 Kenny KN6FVG
 3/31 Pat W6YEP

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 started by KF6ZXO and now run by K6KEP, and the SSB net with various net control ops.. Have fun checking in on one or both modes.

The monthly attendance prize!

The NEXT drawing for \$40 will be at the March meeting. Must be present to win.

KO6AFO Angelo was not present at the Feb. meeting



Anniversaries

3/16 Sharon & Kent K6UKZ
 3/29 Becci & John W6KEP
 3/30 Sharon KF6KCZ & John KF6IMF

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Dues due in January! 2026 dues can be paid now! If you are a new ham the first FARC year is free!

Fresno Amateur Radio Club — Membership Application- Renewal

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 _____ ARRL member _____

Birthday (Month/Day) _____ Wedding Anniversary (Month/Day) _____

Partner's name _____

Additional licensed Family Member(s) in same household (\$5 each)

Name _____ Call _____ Birthday _____

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

