



# ARC-OVER

NOVEMBER, 2017 EDITION

## OUR DEAR FRIEND MAX FARRELL, ZL1WE

Those of you around in the early 70's might recall Max Farrell, ZL1WE who showed up on the scene at one of the TARC meetings... Max was house guest of Ron Lodewyck N6EE a local avid DX'er. His next scheduled visit was in Fresno a few days later. Finding Max an interesting chap I invited him to spend a couple of days with my family then living in Yosemite. This began a long enjoyable friendship which resulted in subsequent visits from Max and his immediate family. After showing Max the sights and sounds of Yosemite I chucked him in the Cessna 170a we owned currently based at the Mariposa Airport and flew him to Sierra Sky Park in Fresno.

Max was a right away engineer for a power company in New Zealand. He recounts tromping across the mountainous terrain, coming upon a prospector's hut. As he approached the hut, as the miner stood in the doorway, there wafted a pleasant odor coming from the kitchen stove. The miner greeted him with a Hello Mate care for a cuppa? Max sat down with a cup of coffee where upon the host ask him, "Was just about to have some Toast with a bit of Savory, would you care for some?" Don't mind if I do. Seconds were offered and accepted. Thirds were offered, Max hesitated a bit then reasoned it was exceptionally delicious, why not... Max then asked for the recipe in that it was truly delicious. "No problems mate have it right here." He began digging around the trash and pulled out a couple of cans labeled ALPO. Max didn't know whether to grin, laugh, cry or go to the door and throw up. He later acknowledged it was perhaps the best Savory he had ever eaten.

After moving to Atwater in mid 1975 and getting back on the air I started working Max on a regular basis on 20 meters. Wanting to improve my antenna situation I asked Max where do the BIG signals come from stateside. The biggest signal on 20 came from a chap in Colorado who had a 6 element mono-band quad on a 60' boom. The second biggest seemed to be coming from the 5 element KLM Big Stick antennas followed by the 204-BA mono-bander. Max mentioned KLM was coming out with a 6 element mono-bander on a 57' boom. Mike Stahl, the current owner of M-Square antennas in Fresno was the design engineer for KLM at that time. They had made 10 units to test the market. I was able to buy serial number 11 and it has served flawlessly ever since. Max himself ran a Quagi which had a quad reflector and driven element with 4 directors on a 60 foot boom. Guess the Quagi was not enough. At Max's behest I came up with a pair of 4-1000A's, sockets & chimneys' which he picked up on a subsequent visit. Keep in mind ZL power limit is 250 Watts ;-). When the linear amp was completed there was a notable background rumble in the audio. It turned out to be the cooling fans running in the background. Max's signal was so strong that noise was ever present. He finally had to go to a directional noise cancelling mike to eliminate the background noise.

In 1986, Ivy and I went on a Tour of Australia and New Zealand with folks from the International Cessna 170 Association. By this time Max had moved from Hamilton to Auckland. While in Auckland we were able to take Max, Sheila his wife and George a ham friend who owned an Auckland steel foundry out to dinner. In chatting with George, I mentioned getting the tubes, sockets & chimneys for Max to build a Linear Amp. He asked me if Max ever told me about the clothes line. NO what's that all about. Well it seems when Max got the Quagi up at the new location he began testing it out. Just for grins he ran the Variac up and tapped the key to check maximum power. Subsequently there was a knock at the door. It was the neighbor lady. Mr. Farrell can you help me? I was hanging out my wash, when all the lines broke and dropped my wash on the ground. (continued)

## **OUR DEAR FRIEND MAX FARRELL, ZL1WE (cont.)**

Closer examination revealed the clothes line had been built using metal poles with a plastic line that contained an embedded metal monofilament strand. When Max hit the key the metal strand in the plastic line arced to the metal post eye bolts, immediately melting the plastic, dumping the wash on the ground. Without admitting anything, Max suggested she might want to replace the lines with a more durable cotton or UV treated nylon rope. NO, Max never told me THAT story ;-)

A couple years ago I took the wife out for anniversary lunch at the Red Lobster in Modesto. Upon entering the freeway home, I happened to turn up radio volume on the W6HHD repeater on Mt. Bullion. There was a ZL chatting with another chap and mentioned he was in Auckland. I broke in and introduced myself and inquired if he knew my old friend Max, ZL1WE who had now been a SK for some time. He answered, "Yes as a matter of fact, I knew him very well, he was my Dad." Boy, what a small world. Ivy wanted to know about Sheila, his mom with who she managed to exchange a Christmas card each year. Re responded, just a minute and I'll ring her up. I don't think that third party traffic was actually legal with New Zealand but under the circumstances, we were not going to quibble. Ivy and Sheila chatted back and forth until we arrived at the outskirts of Atwater. There are many memorable acquaintances acquired through amateur radio. Remember and cherish them as pearls of enjoyment through out your temporal stay on this small lump of clay made even smaller and much more enjoyable through this fascinating hobby. This coming Christmas season may you find time to cherish and cultivate these precious acquaintances, creating memories which make our temporal stay on this earth all the more worth while and enjoyable...

Editor K6IXA

## **CQ DX**

As mentioned in the previous article, Ron Lodewyck N6EE was an avid dx'er which had introduced him to Max ZL1WE. Ron would pair off with a young chap, Jeff Caldie WB6IUK who lived down the street from me (here in Atwater) to work 20 cw during contests. I ran across them working a CQ world-wide contest on 20 cw. Having not lost all of my cw skills and feeling a bit mischievous, I answered their CQ with the call sign of 5U4GT, gave and received the obligatory 5nn report, cul 73. For those born in the solid state era, 5U4GT was a very popular rectifier tube found in almost all 100 watt commercially made transmitters. They initially did not pickup on the prank until I asked Jeff how they did on the contest and that I had observed them working 5U4GT. You DO know that is a vacuum tube rectifier and not a legitimate call. Needless to say a tad of chiding occurred as the story was told and retold. Later in the year, I attended a Fresno Ham Fest at the Holiday Inn across Clinton Avenue from the Fresno Municipal Airport. This was a neat event that was especially fun to attend in that we could fly the Cessna 170 down there and walk across the street to the Ham Fest. Always a large attendance, lots of commercial vendors with something for every one. While perusing the various offerings of absolutely gotta have items, I ran across a guy who printed QSL cards. While looking through his stack of sample cards, LO & BEHOLD there was a card with the N6EE call sign on it. Whoa, we could not let an opportunity like this pass. I ask the vendor if he would mind if I took a couple of his samples. Certainly not he replied. When I got home I made out the card as if it was a QSL from Ron to 5U4GT and mailed it off to Ron. Nothing was heard, not a peep. I finally asked Jeff had he talked to Ron lately. He acknowledged he had. Then asking, did he by chance happen to mention me? Yes as a matter of fact, he ask how in the world did that stinking Grady get hold of one of my QSL cards? Lots of fond memories. In the mid 70's Ron started Macrotronics in Turlock. They manufactured a RTTY modem, one of the early devices to allow Computer generated RTTY with a modem and the Radio Shack TRS-80 computer to replace the old workhorse Model 15, 19 and 28 teletypes. The company was quite successful, however developers eventually created software for the newer DOS computers to work without the hardware modem. Ron closed shop and went back to work at California State University of Stanislaus, as a professor. Jeff is now supervising a Tucson, Arizona team who are retrofitting missiles for our nation's defense system. A long ways for the kid down the block who used to QRM me on 20 meter CW...

Editor K6IXA

Turlock Amateur Radio Club Minutes  
November 14th, 2017  
Turlock High School classroom I-4 (Electronics)  
Turlock, CA

The meeting was called to order by President, Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART) at 7:00 p.m.

Number of attendees: There were 22 attendees.

Secretary Report: President, Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART) entertained a motion that the October minutes be accepted as printed in the Arc-Over. Walter Schmidt (KI6PBL) moved the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL). The motion was voted on and carried.

Vice President report: Dick Decker (K6SUU) was not present. Per Spencer, the Program will be a presentation on DSTAR by Grady Williams (K6IXA).

Treasurer report: Mike Smith (KG6VFL) gave the treasurers report.

Membership Report: Ed Darrah (K7ERD) reported there are 69 paid members.

Repeater Chairman report: Grady Williams (K6IXA) reported that there is nothing new.

Arc-Over Publisher report: President Spencer Boyd advised items for the Arc-Over are due by Nov. 21st. Grady Williams will gladly accept membership input.

**Old business:**

1. Auction Report: The auction was a success. The club is still looking for a buyer of an antenna for \$600.00 which is on Mike Smith's trailer at Bobby Mooneyham's home.
2. Christmas Dinner: Grady Williams went over the menu items for the Christmas dinner. The cost per dinner is \$30.00. The club is paying the tax and compensation to the staff. Only 11 members have committed at this time.
3. Turkey Trot: Volunteers are still needed for Nov. 18th. It is at Donnelly Park from 8:00 a.m. to noon.
4. Christmas Parade: More volunteers are needed for the parade Dec. 1st. A sign up sheet was passed around.
- 5 The Kayla Bernardi Be Positive Run: Saturday Jan. 27th, 2018, 7:30a to noon. 5 to 8 volunteers needed.

**New Business:**

The TARC election is coming up. President, Spencer Boyd will not be able to continue next year. Bambi Schmidt(KI6YQL) volunteered to take over as President. There will be nominations for officers and an election at the December general meeting.

Adjournment of business portion the meeting was made by Bambi Schmidt(KI6YQL)

and seconded by Ed Darrah (K7ERD). The motion was voted on and carried. The

business meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m

Minutes taken by member Lynne Smith (KM6DKF)

## THE PREZ SEZ

Well, I'm full. After eating a few massive thanksgiving dinners I am happy to report that the Christmas season is upon us. Christmas lights, cold weather, and hot coffee by the fire are some of the many things we can look forward to in the very near future.

Speaking of Christmas, TARC will once again be assisting lining up floats for the Turlock Christmas Parade on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. If you signed up to help at the last club meeting you can look forward to receiving an email with all of the details very soon.

With regret I would like to announce that I will not be able to continue as TARC president in the upcoming year. With a growing list of responsibilities it has become very hard for me to "keep my head above water." I have greatly enjoyed the presidential seat this past year as well as all the kind words and encouragement, but I cannot continue. If you are interested in becoming the TARC president for 2018 please let us know!

Are the club meetings just not quite enough? Join the guys every Saturday morning at about 8:30 AM at the McDonalds inside of the Merced mall. This coffee klatch style gathering is usually inclusive to all ham radio topics; everything from HF antenna projects to high speed data over microwave.

Join us at Turlock High School for the next meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is held in classroom I-4 and starts at 7 but be sure to check W6BXN.org for maps and more information.

Merry Christmas!

de KJ6ART – Spencer Boyd  
TARC President

### DECEMBER 8th CHRISTMAS BANQUET

#### RESERVATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN 12-1-17, DETAILS BELOW

##### **Appetizers:**

- Spring Rolls served with Orange Ginger Sauce
- Chicken Satay with Teriyaki Glaze
- Crudit  Platter

##### **Salad:**

Spring Mix, Romaine topped with cranberries, walnuts and feta cheese. Served with house dressing

##### **Main Course:** (choice of one entr e per person)

- Lobster Tail with Garlic Butter Sauce
- Beef Tenderloin with Mushroom Demi Glaze
- Chicken Cordon Bleu with Hollandaise Sauce

Twice Baked Potatoes with cheddar, chives and bacon crumbles

Saut ed seasonal vegetables

Assorted Dinner Rolls

##### **Dessert:**

Lemon Berry Mascarpone Cake

##### **Beverages:**

Orange Infused Water, Iced Tea, Coffee/Hot Tea Service

##### **Service:**

Waited Service, china and silverware, linen napkins and table cloths, set up/clean up.

Meal: \$30 per person

##### FOR RESERVATIONS

contact Mike Smith 209-777-7826 mikesmithsr@elite.net

Or

Grady Williams 209-358-1166, 209-761-1121 gradyw@elite.net

Editor K6IXA



## AUCTION AND STUFF



The **Fall auction** was a bit lengthy but a definite success. Our thanks again to those assisting. The kitchen crew as always performed in a stellar manner...

There were a couple of items left over from the Bell estate. a Thunderbird TH-6 File picture above, a 52' crank up tilt over self supporting tower with raising fixture. Also there was a 4BTV HF vertical. The vertical has tentatively been sold, however if you're interested let us know.

\$600 for the Thunderbird and Tower... Have all documentation and the receipt for a new tilt over base showing \$500 cost.. This package is certainly priced to sell.

We have accepted \$50 offer on the vertical, yet to be picked up.

If you are interested in any of these items, please contact:

Grady Williams K6IXA  
209-358-1166 home,  
209-761-1121 cell  
gradyw@elite.net

DELIVERY AVAILABLE



## SPRING AUCTION

If you thought the fall auction was a big one, hang on to your hat, sit down, take a deep breath and get ready for the next one. One of the local Antique Radio Club members from Sacramento passed away and his widow contacted the Antique Radio Club to assist in disposal of his vast collection... Richard Lane has begun sending pictures of the equipment now posted on the web page... Here is a short cut to view the items: <http://w6bxn.org/auction/> Of particular note is the abundance of clean looking military equipment. Be sure to advise your friends who are collectors. Back in the mid 80's there was an ARRL publication called Archie's HAM RADIO Adventure. We have a copy of the first edition. For information regarding this very unique comic check out: <https://kk4dsd.com/2013/09/19/archies-ham-radio-adventure/>

Keep an eye on the [www.w6bxnb.org](http://www.w6bxnb.org) web page for auction date.

Editor K6IXA

