

# ARC-OVER

JUNE 2020 EDITION

## WE KEEP LOOSING THE GOOD ONE'S

May 20th my dear friend Chuck Mancebo W6GAM went to be with his maker... Chuck and I go back a long way... In 1983 Judge Green busted up the Bell System as we knew it, making several Baby Bells... The old Pacific Telephone became Pacific Telesis a term which no one knew what it meant or stood for... At that time I was PBX foreman in Merced since arriving there in mid 1974... A new Mobile Services District was formed shortly there after... My area of responsibility was seven shops that covered Lodi to Edwards AFB and the coast from Santa Cruz to San Luis Obispo... Technicians were responsible for Mobile Telephone, Company two-way radio and Microwave Systems within the region...

Chuck was the Tech for the Modesto Mobile Shop... His career began with Pac Bell in the Bush Pine Panel Office... One of the very early technological wonders of automation... Upon a connect request a cork clutch on a motor driven shaft engaged and a contactor rail was lifted up the back side of a Bakelite panel which contained a myriad of brass contacts, culminating the connection to the assigned designation... This was automation the HARD way... Chuck's family lived in the Atwater area and wanting to be closer, he managed to work his way down to Modesto, where he and Mary raised their family... When I retired in 1990, Ed Rodrigues KB6DRN took my position as supervisor and Chuck took over Ed's Merced operation, building a new home on 10 acres at the corner of Longview and Steinberg roads west of Atwater..

When Chuck retired he started doing short term mission trips into South America and the Far East. He had some personal ties that kept bringing him back into the Cambodia, Thailand area where he served with the Army Rangers... He became involved with an organization called Tech Serve a Christian Construction Organization out of Arkansas that did overseas projects on a reasonable cost plus basis... He got a request to assemble a team to do a PBX installation and rehab two way radio's at various clinics through out Ghana for the Assembly of God Relief and Development Agency... Chuck myself, Dan Gaines and Jim Ford to comprise the team... Chuck and I were the radio guys and Dan with Jim would spearhead the PBX installation for the work in Accra Ghana... Ironically all of these guys had worked for me at one time or the other... All were Viet Nam Vets... You have heard of vets having flash backs, as we were disembarking out flight, Dan froze in the door-way of the aircraft having gotten a whiff of the outside air... Whirling his head around looking at Chuck he exclaimed "CHUCK you smell that"? The odor of the Jungle had brought back unpleasant memories... In that we had flown with Ghana Airways who only flew once a week, there was not a flight out the next day, otherwise Dan would have been on it...

This was the beginning of my mission activities with Chuck over the following years... Under the auspices of Techserve Chuck and I made several trips to Africa installing pactor radio email for missionaries in the bush of Kenya, Uganda, Southern Sudan, Gabon in addition to facilitating an installation in Cameroon..

## WE KEEP LOOSING THE GOOD ONE'S (continued)

Our last venture was to install a radio email system for the Karen Liberation Army in Burma... The Karen were the last hold out against the illegal military take over of the country... The army routinely raided Karen villages, looting, burning and killing villagers... On leaving they would leave an assortment of land mines to discourage re-occupation resulting in further killing and maiming...

The Karen troops had a substantial number of ham operators and they used 40 meter cw with a code developed by themselves to avoid monitoring by the bad guys (army)... While in the camp we were under constant armed guard for our protection... We installed a computer based post office to a H. F. Pactpr Radio for field operation with a Began Satellite unit for access to the outside world. In addition we installed a Panasonic 416 4x16 PBX unit to provide inter village telephone communications... I think the average troop was more impressed with the intercom than the more complex satellite linked email system...



**At Work  
With Protection**



**Chuck Checking Telephone  
System**

The equipment hut Chuck is in housed the solar panel roof and was constructed out of bamboo in a couple of hours...

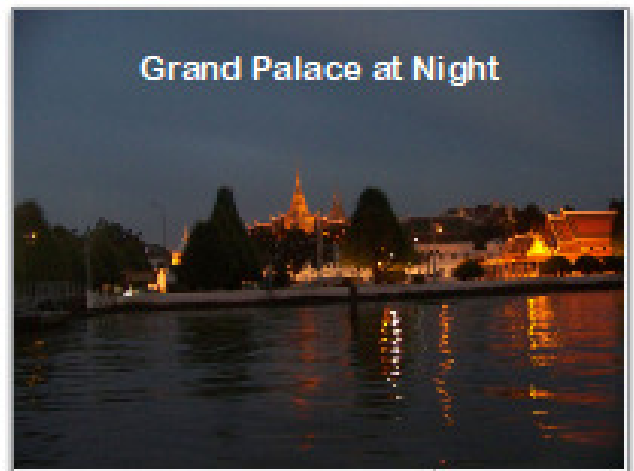
We had the opportunity to tour Bangkok taking the water taxi to its furthest limit past the Grand Palace ... A once in a lifetime trip with many fond memories... However Chuck and I in recollection both decided perhaps we were getting too old to be sneaking across some muddy river where we could be shot for just being there much less helping the perceived enemy of the state...

Chuck was a fine employee, a dear friend and one could not ask for a person more dedicated to helping those in need on the mission field...

Chuck was also host to the an internet accessed remote base I had on his ranch... 160 meters thru 440 MHz all modes... With Chucks passing a new home for the remote will have to be found.. Trouble is it's getting a bit tough to find a younger host who has a ranch with enough room for a 160 meter window... Those who can afford that magnitude of real-estate are well along in years facing the eventuality we all face, when we hang around long enough...

Chuck, my dear friend rest in the arms of our Lord.. I've been most blest by knowing you....

K6IXA Editor



**Grand Palace at Night**

## **WE KEEP LOOSING THE GOOD ONE'S (continued)**

Just when I thought I had found a home for the soon to be displaced remote on Chucks Ranch fate struck us another fatal blow with the passing of Emmanuel "Manny" Tsompanas, W6RUF... Manny has a small ranch in Delhi and was entertaining hosting the remote... Manny showed up on the scene a few years ago, a retired Aero-Space Engineer from the Silicon Valley... He took an active part in the Merced ARES operation becoming the assistant EC... He was involved in promoting the expansion of the W6BXN Mesh network supporting its emergency preparedness capability... Quite often you would see he and Rich Larsen W6ABJ with their heads together working on a new and innovative means of making something work... My only regret is that I did not get to know him more than I did.. He was a fine gentleman of whom I never heard a disparaging word about anyone... Manny's service was viewed on line from the lovely Greed Orthodox Church in Modesto. The family has requested any remembrances be made to the Turlock Amateur Radio Club...

As if losing Chuck and Manny was not enough, we lost long time resident ham Russ Richards III, N6JTA... Yup he was the 3rd one of those critters... Two words sum it up for Russ "GREAT GUY" Russ was the typical farm boy that made it good! The fireman's fireman... He retired as Stanislaus County Fire Warden and assistant emergency coordinator. Here is a note from Allen Woods, WA6OYF regarding Russ's service:

### *Chief Russell D Richards III Services*

*A procession and traditional fire service observance in honor of Chief Richards will be Friday, July 3, 2020. A procession of emergency vehicles will pass in front of Chief Richards home at 411 East Minnesota in Turlock California at 0900 hrs. The family will*

*observe the procession from the front yard of their home.*

*Those public service agencies that wish to participate please see the attached instructions for reporting times, locations and COVID guidelines. All public safety agencies are welcomed and encouraged to attend. We will ensure that COVID-19 guidelines are followed by everyone. A color guard, pipes and drums will be near the family following the COVID guidelines. After the last vehicle passes the home, a traditional bell ceremony will be presented, a last call and presentation of the flag to the family.*

*While we cannot "gather", we will identify locations on the side walk that will encourage social distancing for those who will want to observe the procession and possibly the services in front of the home, but maintaining social distancing. We ask that everyone*

*maintain the social distancing, face coverings and other preventative measures to keep everyone safe.*

*In approximately two weeks, a celebration of life will be held electronically through a zoom meeting and live stream on FACEBOOK and possibly other platforms. More information on the celebration of life will be provided soon.*

*Ceres Professional Firefighters Local 3636 has established a Russ Richards scholarship fund. The Scholarship is designed to assist students attending a Regional Fire Academy. Anyone wishing to contribute to the scholarship*

*make checks out to the following:*

*Ceres Firefighters Local 3636*

*Memo: Russ Richards Scholarship*

*PO Box 310*

*Ceres CA 95307*

*An annual fundraiser will be held to support the scholarship. Contributions may also be made to local burn foundations in Chief Richards name.*

*Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michael Wilkinson at 209-840-3056.*



## ADS-B Tracking

What the heck is ADS-B? Well it's the replacement for the transponder in today's aircraft enabling it to fly in controlled airspace... Currently you are required a transponder which paints a spot on a land based radar control center where operators attempt to keep you from running into someone else..

With ADS-B the readout reverts to other aircraft in your proximity placing avoidance responsibility upon the pilot... The plus side of this is by going to the internet. <https://tar1090.adsbexchange.com/> an individual can themselves track any aircraft in the nation on their own electronic device, computer, laptop, smart phone etc... So you say so what... There is an interest of several members of our club in fire fighting aircraft working in the Sierras on numerous occasions... This network is a series of strategically placed ADS-B receivers..

The recent fires in the Don Pedro area made it evident that the existing receiver in the state vault of Big Bullion was shadowed from any activity in close and north of the Mt Bullion, Fremont range... Through the efforts of Don Melcher we have been offered on a NO CHARGE basis equipment to go in the TARC building on Little Bullion provided by ADSBExchange.com organization to fill the adore mentioned void..



If this type of activity is of interest to you I suggest you take a look at: <https://tar1090.adsbexchange.com/> to become familiar with the program... A Single click on the aircraft will give his path track from take off point plus other pertinent data... When you see a cluster pattern this will give you fire location or like wise a student pilot practicing touch and go or various maneuvers...

Thanks again to Don W6CZ and the folks at ADSB Exchange.. Will let you know when on line...

K6IXA Editor



SERIOUSLY?



**Meeting of the Turlock Amateur Radio Club**  
**June 9, 2020 @ 7PM**  
**Zoom Video Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) with 23 members and guests in attendance on the Zoom video meeting.

**Vice President's Report:**

Vice President Dick Decker (K6SUU) reported that the program tonight will be given by Grady Williams (K6IXA) on his trip to Burma to set up radio email communications for the KAREN Liberation Army.

**Membership Chairman's Report:**

John Sims (N6JCS) reported we currently have 50 paid members on the club roster.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Report presented by Treasurer Mike Smith, (KG6VFL). Expenses have been \$56 for utilities at Mt. Bullion, PO Box \$106 and reimbursement to Walter Schmidt (KI6PBL) for club insurance. Receipts \$45 dues collected. Month end balances \$2,042 in checking and \$7,964 in CD.

**Secretary's Report:**

President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) entertained a motion that the minutes of the May membership meeting be accepted as published in the current issue of the ArcOver newsletter. Motion by Ron Roos (call ) and second by Walter Schmidt (KI6PBL). Motion carried.

**Repeater Chairman's Report:**

Grady Williams (K6IXA) reported that all is well. New DSTAR antennas are on hand and installation needs to be scheduled.

**ArcOver Publisher's Report:** Grady Williams (K6IXA) reported items for the ArcOver are due by June 20, 2020.

**Old Business:**

Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART) reported on the upcoming ARRL Field Day. Due to COVID-19 this year will be operated from home stations. Club members can operate from their own home stations and combine logs into a single club entry. The club repeater may be used to coordinate between stations.

**New Business:**

Grady Williams (K6IXA) reported that the Salvation Army would have received a percentage of the Spring Auction proceeds as a courtesy donation for allowing our club to use their facilities for meetings and auctions. Since the spring auction was cancelled due to COVID-19 it was suggested the club donate \$400 to the Salvation Army. Motion by Grady and second by Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART). Motion carried.

Ed Darrah (K7ERD) reported on a Turlock Amateur Radio Club exhibit in the front window of the Turlock Historical Society Museum. Grady Williams (K6IXA) offered to provide a repeater and vintage pictures of the radio club founders and early meeting location for display. Several other members offered to donate no longer needed equipment.

**JULY 14th Meeting**

Zoom Meeting

Program will be a three part video presentation entitled "Last Voice out of Kuwait" a video account of a brave ham who got the word out on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait under dangerous circumstances in that he was across street from army headquarters... Informative, enlightening and entertaining...

K6IXA Editor