

THE GRID LEAK

The Official Newsletter of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 723, Visalia, CA 93279
TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
146.880 (-) TCARC REPEATER
Blue Ridge Mountain
East of Visalia, California
36 17.19' N Latitude, 118 50.23' W Longitude
5,700' above Sea Level

I.R.L.P. Node # **8120**

Echolink Node # **152747 (WA6BAI-R)**

Web Page: <http://www.tcarc.net/>

Companion site at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wa6bai/>

Club Officers

President: Steve Lee-Thomas W6SLT

Vice President: Dave McElroy WB6BEF

Secretary: Ray Quinn KF6KMY

Treasurer: Bill Stenger K6QOG

Past President: Ray Quinn KF6KMY

Repeater Liaison: Chuck Ward WA6SAA

Activities Director: Hal Clover KC5LUB



**Next Club Meeting is April 28h, 7:30 pm
Red Cross Building, 505 West Main St, Visalia, CA.**



IEEE - USA white paper on gigabit networks dismissive of BPL

(Apr 12, 2005) -- A recent IEEE-USA says that copper-wire based broadband infrastructure alternatives, including BPL, are lower in capability than optical fiber and "cannot reach fiber speeds," although they may be lower in cost. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, praised the perspective of the report, "Providing Ubiquitous Gigabit Networks in the United States," for focusing on the future and mentioning BPL only briefly. "Appropriately, the white paper dismisses BPL with a passing reference to its being a 'controversial and unimplemented' technology that merely illustrates that the present FCC definitions relating to broadband

are 'clearly inadequate,'" he commented. "Continuing to focus on such inferior broadband access technologies as BPL will, in the words of the report, 'relegate the US telecommunications infrastructure and US innovators to positions inferior to those of competitor nations, thus undermining all aspects of the nation's current and future life that depend on it.'" The IEEE-USA Committee on Communications and Information Policy released the document March 14. For more information see ARRL website.

Happy Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays

Ed Cowley W6ARE

Roger Corum WD6CNV

May Aniversaries

Bill Shearer & Yoko

Frank Devin & Phyllis

Roger Corum & Sara

Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

TCARC MINUTES – 3/24/05

Minutes of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club meeting at the Tulare/Kings Chapter of the American Red Cross in downtown Visalia.

Vice President Dave McElroy, WA6BEF, called the meeting to order at 1942. **President Steve Lee-Thomas, W6SLT**, was unable to attend the meeting.

Introductions were made.

Those in attendance:

WA6SAA	Chuck Ward	Three Rivers
K6QOG	Bill Stenger	Elderwood
-----	Carol Stenger	Elderwood
KF6KMY	Ray Quinn	Tulare
KW6NRS	Gloria Vicenti	Visalia
W6MTR	Alan Vicenti	Visalia
N6YMM	Dave Millhouse	Visalia
WA6BEF	Dave McElroy	Visalia
WA2RQK	Pam Drake	Visalia
KG6AIR	Bill Balsley	Visalia
WA7HRG	Jim Purvis	Exeter
KC5LUB	Hal Clover	Porterville
N6QBK	Chuck Wilcox	Visalia

Pam Drake, KA2RQK, motioned that the minutes be approved as published in the Grid Leak. **Bill Balsley, KG6AIR**, seconded it. The motion carries unanimously.

Treasurer's report: We have \$1186.85 with a deposit of \$50.00 pending, for a total of \$1236.85. A motion to accept treasurer's report was made by **Bill Balsley, KG6AIR** and seconded by **Gloria Vicenti, W6NRS**. The vote was affirmatively unanimous.

Repeater Committee report: The committee met on March 10. It was mentioned that we need input from the membership at large. Needs include antenna, coax.

Charles Ward, WA6SAA – The repeater is assembled and working well. We are hearing some "squealing" still. The new repeater is almost ready for the hilltop. Still need antennas. Chuck would like to build antennas for the repeaters for the enjoyment and to cut costs. Bubba, K?????Made diagram on erasable board explaining down tilting.

Activities Director: **Hal Clover, KC5LUB** passed out an activity survey. The International DX convention is coming to Visalia in April. There are less than 90 days until Field Day. We need to

get "Field Day" committee together. Where do we want to hold it? **KG6AIR**, **W6NRS**, and **KC5LUB** will be on "Field Day" committee. We discussed the Activity Survey.

We need help with ARES. There were no activities in March. **Hal Clover, KC5LUB** is the Tulare County ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC). **Jon Morgan, WB6AEA**, **Ray Quinn, KF6KMY**, **Al Drake, KJ6OH** are Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AEC). There are four requests for ARES services to date.

05001 - Baker to Vegas Challenge Run on April 23-24. Several are planning to go and help. We need HF operators between Parumph, NV and Primm, NV. There was discussion of B2V run and communications issues.

05002 - March of Dimes – April 30. We want to use ATV and APRS. 8-10 stations are needed for this event. **Jon Morgan, WB6AEA** is the staffing coordinator for this event.

05004 – Kaweah Delta Exercise - Planning meeting on Friday April 22. It is an exercise of a major incident of a building collapse. Agencies from Tulare and Kings Counties will participate including Red Cross. Four stations plus a Net Control will be needed for this exercise.

Public Relations: **Gloria Vicenti, W6NRS**: Please look for press releases in local papers and save for Gloria.

Repeater committee: **W6SLT** donated two 50-foot rolls of hard line with connectors. **Hal Clover, KC5LUB** also donated some hard line at the general meeting. We still need to know what the Club wants the controller to do. This will be discussed at the next repeater committee meeting scheduled for April 14, 2005 at 1930. The location is to be announced.

Motion to vote on meeting location by **Gloria Vicenti, W6NRS**, and seconded by **Bill Balsley, KG6AIR**. The vote was unanimously affirmative.

Bill Balsley, KG6AIR moved that the Club meet at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers. The motion died due to lack of a second.

Alan Vicenti, W6MTR motioned to meet at the Tulare/Kings Chapter of the American Red Cross and seconded by **Pam Drake, KA2RQK**. The vote was unanimous; the Club will meet at the Red Cross in Visalia.

There was further discussion of repeater functions, IRLP, etcetera.

Pam Drake, KA2RQK, motioned to adjourn. **Bill Balsley, KG6AIR**, seconded it. The vote was unanimous affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 2107.

Respectfully submitted by **Ray Quinn, KF6KMY**

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for March 2005

SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD, ASMs K6YK and W6FRH, ACC W6DPD, SEC N6ZFN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC KE6IGJ, TC W6TE.

Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section.

Emergency Coordinators are needed in Kings, Mono and Calaveras Counties. Contact N6ZFN (n6zfn@ares-races.net) or W6DPD (w6dpd@arrl.org) if you can help.

Field Day is June 25-26, 2005, the fourth full weekend of June. Now is the time to begin planning for the event. There are some rules changes for 2005 so download your FD packet from www.arrl.org/contests/forms.

Mark your calendars. The International DX Convention (Visalia) is April 15-17, 2005. Check www.ncdxc.org/Ncdxc/Convention for information.

EMCOMM West will be May 13-15, 2005 in Reno. Check www.emcomwest.org for information.

The California Historical Radio Society Swap Meet/Auction is June 18, 2005 at Cliffs Radio Warehouse on the corner of 13th and X in Merced. Check www.calforinahistoricalradio.com for information. Check their events page.

The Fresno Hamfest is August 13, 2005. Check www.w6to.com for information.

SJVARS presents the Harvest Hamfest is Sept 16-18, 2005 in Fresno. Check www.sjvars.com for information. Pacificon 05 will be October 14-16, 2005 at the San Ramon Marriott. Check www.pacificon.org for information.

When your affiliated club elects officers for the next year, be sure to update your club's information on the affiliated club area of the ARRL web page.

Need to take an Amateur exam? Check the ARRL web page, www.arrl.org for exam information.

The Northern California Net (NCN), the Section Traffic Net, meets nightly on 3.630 MHz at 7 PM

Pacific Time. The slow speed training session of the net meets nightly on 3.705 MHz at 9 PM Pacific Time. Handling traffic on CW is a good way to improve your CW skills. The Daytime Region 6 Traffic Net meets daily at 3:30 pacific time on or near 7.275 MHz.

Grant-sponsored Reimbursement Ending In June, the last seat to be offered under the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)-sponsored grant will open. After that, only a small number of reimbursable seats in each course will be offered under the United Technologies Corporation (UTC) grant through October. At this time, no further grant-sponsored reimbursement for EmComm course students is on the horizon. If you have any additional questions, please send them to cce@arrl.org <<mailto:cce@arrl.org>>.

It is my sad duty to report that WD6BBW, WB6QQB, K6MGX, and KC6UQP became a Silent Keys. They will be missed.

Congratulations to KD6BWE, W6INP, KG6SWD, KO6QZ, W6DBM, and AE6GY, on completing the ARECC Level 1 course and to AE6GY and K6RCW on completing ARECC Level 2.

Correction to Feb. Section News: Congratulations to W6NZZ on 50 years of ARRL membership.

The annual M2 Antenna Systems Inc. open house was a great success. There were many Amateurs in attendance. Thanks to Myrna and Mike for their hospitality.

Sierra ARC members KK6PA, MM6JM, KE6CE, KB6NIZ, WA7RIW, KC6URR, NL7SX, N8RXJ, WA6QYR, and KC6UTF provided communications for the 20 Mule Team 100 Mile 24 Hour Horse Ride.

Congratulations to WC6H, N6EE, and K2VCO on placing first, second and third in the November 2004 ARRL CW sweepstakes for the SJV Section.

Tulare County 2005 Officers are pres W6SLT, vp WA6BEF, sec KF6KMY, and treas K6QOG. The club meets the 4th Thursday in Visalia. The web page is www.tcarc.net.

Traffic for March: K6RAU 12, N6SUZ 31; Total 43 PSHR W6MSU 37, K6RAU 58, N6SUZ 101,

Emergency Coordinators:

Emergency Coordinators for Tulare County:

RACES is Jim Reeves KC6YRU - kc6yru@tcarc.net

ARES is Hal Clover KC6LUB - hal90000@sosinet.net

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Events

There are several events that are taking place this month. Much like the many springtime events around the county, amateur radio is being put to the test to provide emergency communications.

Dates to put on the calendar are:

April 22 COS Truck Academy,

April 23-24 Baker to Vegas,

April 30 WalkAmerica.

These events are great opportunities to demonstrate our abilities to the general public along with interfacing with public safety officials.

The month starts off with a bang April 22, 2004. Kaweah Delta Hospital along with the COS Fire Academy will be simulating a building collapse event.

Request number 05004 came in during the first part of March. The original request was for communications for Red Cross. The event has grown to providing communications from ground zero to the incident command post to Tulare and Kings County's Emergency Operations Center. They (the event organizers) are interested in a demonstration of ATV as well to the 3 locations. Al KJ6OH, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for ARES, is heading up the response. Start time is 0700ish til about 1230.

Friday April 22, 2005 will also find a group heading to Primm Nevada to assist our Sheriff's Department foot race team in it's annual Baker to Vegas run. Request number 05001 will use amateur radio trackers to capture the runners on APRS so that members of the relay team can get the most energy prior to their leg of the race. Last year's event was a success in the last team being able to get an extra hour's sleep prior to heading for their start line. We are also going to provide voice communications from the Pahrump area back to our teams staging area. Lots of fun is slated for this out of county response.

Club Websites:

The mailing lists available for TCARC are:

- gridleak@tcarc.net - Grid Leak distribution in Portable Document Format (PDF)
- gridleak-text@tcarc.net - Grid Leak distribution in text format for those who prefer or require it.
- tcarc-announce@tcarc.net - One-way announcements open to all
- members@tcarc - Open to all active members
- repeater@tcarc.net - New repeater committee list (committee members only)
- officers@tcarc.net - For officers

If anyone wishes to start a new list related to amateur radio or the TCARC, you may do so by sending me an e-mail. -- 73 de Ray KF6KMY

Get your walking shoes on to help escort April out of the year with the March of Dimes WalkAmerica on Saturday April 30. This event is an annual ham participation event. We provide communications for the aid stations and in the shuttle van. This year we are going to try to have APRS in the shuttle van along with a voice operator. As some of you may remember, Dave WA6BEF was mobile a couple of years ago in the van. Show up to find out if Dave will be directing the van again. This event will begin at about 0700 and last to 1300. Request number for this event is 05002.

ARES operators are always needed at these events. If you are interested in participating, please get in touch with one of the ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinators or myself. AEC's are Ray KF6KMY, Al KJ6OH, and Jon WB6AEA. Hope to hear you out there, keep your batteries charged.

73

Hal KC5LUB

Emergency Coordinator ARES

Tulare County

From the Editors: If there is anything that you would like to add to the newsletter, you may contact us by email at stengerw@sti.net. The deadline to have articles included is the 10th of each month; submissions after the 10th will go in the next newsletter unless otherwise instructed.

-- de Carol & Bill K6QOG

West Coast News

Willamette Valley DX Club
is pleased to announce the

2005 Pacific Northwest DX Convention.

Please join us for the 50th Annual Pacific Northwest DX Convention. The Convention includes many technical sessions, a banquet and breakfast, door prizes, raffle prizes, and provides a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. And Wayne Mills, N7NG from the ARRL will be present to check DXCC submissions with no restrictions on dates or bands.

August 5-7, 2005

Monarch Hotel, Portland, Oregon
12566 SE 93rd Ave
Clackamas, OR 97015
(800)492-8700 or (503)652-1515

www.monarchhotel.citysearch.com (for on-line reservations). Ask for the DX Convention Rate. Oregon is a wonderful vacation destination! August is warm and little chance of rain. The beach is 60 miles away. You can be at 8,000 feet on Mt. Hood within 40 miles. Check out Oregon tourism website at www.traveloregon.com.

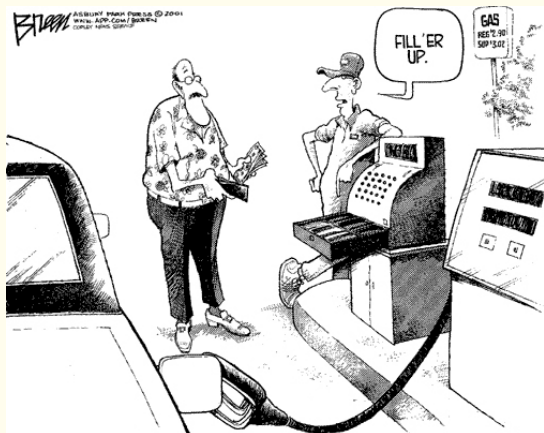
If you have any questions concerning the convention, please contact Al Rovner, K7AR, k7ar@arrl.net.

The convention website is at <http://www.wvdx.org> where you can find the registration form, latest information on program, door prizes and a list of those already registered.

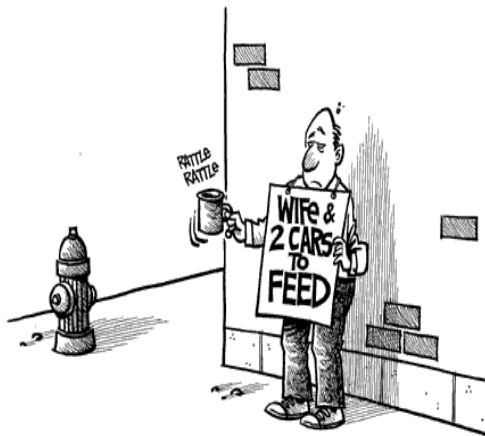
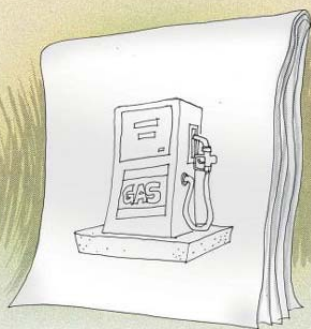
Registration forms received before June 15 will receive a free raffle ticket for a \$1000.00 gift certificate redeemable at HRO.



Circle the picture that best depicts your feelings



POLICE ARTIST SKETCH OF ROBBERY SUSPECT



TULARE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME (Self) _____ NAME (Family Member) _____

CALLSIGN (Self) _____ CALLSIGN (Family Member) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

LICENSE CLASS (Self) _____ LICENSE CLASS (Family Member) _____

RES PHONE _____ BUS PHONE _____

EQUIPMENT _____

BANDS _____

INTERESTS (Please Check)

EMERGENCY SERVICE

RAG CHEWING

BUILDING

TRAFFIC HANDLING

Dxing

ANTENNAS

CINTESTS

QRP

OTHER

DESCRIBE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Membership Dues: (\$20.00 - Individual - \$25.00 - Family)

Mail To:
Tulare County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 723
Visalia, CA 93279