

The Official Newsletter of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 723, Visalia, CA 93279
TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
146.880 (-) TCARC REPEATER
Park Ridge Mountain
East of Fresno, California
36 43.29' N Latitude, 118.56.38' W Longitude
7,500' 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: Dave McElroy WA6BEF

Vice President: Bill Stenger K6QOG

Secretary: Ray Quinn KF6KMY

Treasurer: Dave Millhouse N6YMM

Past President: Steve Lee-Thomas W6SLT

Repeater Liaison: Chuck Ward WA6SAA

Activities Director: Hal Clover KC5LUB



**Next Club Meeting is February 23rd, 7:30 pm
Red Cross Building, 505 West Main St, Visalia, CA.**

President's Message

Hello to all:

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to serve you as president for 2006. It is my sincere hope that we can find ways to prosper and grow, now that we possess a truly-state-of-the-art repeater system in place.

So now we come to yet another challenge, the hoped for growth of our club. The best way to begin is at the beginning. What do we want and what have we gained from TCARC? And how do we attain it?

For a start, I would propose that we might want to be a more social group. To that end, I'd like to propose a quarterly get together of some kind. Dinner, pizza, a BBQ, whatever would come up with.

Also, let's start thinking about field day now if we want to participate.

Those are just a couple of thoughts. Feel free to think of ideas and bring them to the club.

Best to all and we'll see you down the coax.

73's.

Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

TCARC Minutes from January 26, 2006

President Steve Lee Thomas **W6SLT** called the meeting to order at 1937. Everyone introduced himself or herself.

Those present:

1. **WA6BEF** Dave McElroy
2. **WA2RQK** Pam Drake
3. **K6QOG** Bill Stenger
4. Carol Stenger
5. **N6YMM** Dave Millhouse
6. **WA6SAA** Chuck Ward
7. **N6GOD** Steven Marmleso
8. **KF6JBG** Larry Taylor
9. **KC5LUB** Hal Clover
10. **W6SLT** Steve Lee-Thomas
11. **KE6ITF** Scott Borgioli
12. **KF6KMY** Ray Quinn
13. **KF6KMX** Scott Yarbrough
14. **KA6HGA** Bill Shearer

Old business: Nominations for offices were closed.

New business: Elections. Outgoing President called for a vote on Dave McElroy **WA6BEF** for President. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Dave Millhouse **N6YMM** motioned that due to the fact that there was only one nominee per office that the Club vote on the entire "slate." Hal Clover **KC5LUB** seconded it. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

It was as this time that Outgoing President turned over the meeting to the newly elected President to continue the meeting. The Tulare County Amateur Radio Club's officers for the year 2006 are as follows:

President: Dave McElroy **WA6BEF**
Vice-President: Bill Stenger **K6QOG**
Secretary: Ray Quinn - **KF6KMY**
Treasurer: Dave Millhouse **N6YMM**
Director of Repeater Operations: Chuck Ward **WA6SAA**

Activities Director: Hal Clover **KC5LUB**
Past President: Steve Lee Thomas **W6SLT**

President Dave McElroy **WA6BEF** offered for discussion where the Club should hold its meetings. The two options were to continue to meet at the American Red Cross or to return to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers. Hal Clover **KC5LUB** stated that due to the fact that members of the Club provide emergency communications for the Chapter, the Club could continue to use the Chapter's meeting room. He continued by saying the Club has use of the room every fourth Thursday of the year except Thanksgiving as well as June 24th and 25th for Field Day as an alternate site for the event.

Steve Lee Thomas **W6SLT** motioned that the insurance issue be tabled until the February 23rd 2006 meeting. Seconded by Larry Taylor **KF6JBG**. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Scott Borgioli **KE6ITF** and Dave McElroy **WA6BEF** will look for the best deal and bring information to the February 23, 2006 meeting.

Activities Director Hal Clover **KC5LUB**: Hal updated us on the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay on April 1st and 2nd. Additional operators are needed. Plans are to have an operator in the chase vehicle for voice communications in addition to APRS.

As mentioned above, Field Day is June 24-25.

Ray Quinn **KF6KMY** read the minutes from the December 8th 2005 meeting.

There was discussion as to the possible cause of some intermittent interference.

There was also mention as to whether or not we need to continue the Tuesday night Net. After a brief discussion, the topic was tabled.

Motion to adjourn by Ray Quinn **KF6KMY**
Second by Pam Drake **WA2RQK**

Respectfully submitted by Ray Quinn **KF6KMY**

Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION

Report for the month of January 2006

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.

An Emergency Coordinator is needed in Merced County. Contact N6ZFN (n6zfn@ares-races.net) or W6DPD (w6dpd@arrl.org) if you can help. K6KAP is the new EC for Mariposa County and KA6PNL is the new EC for Kings County. Welcome aboard.

Mark your calendars. The International DX Convention is April 21-23, 2006 at Visalia. Check <http://www.dxconvention.org/> for information. EMCOMM West is May 6-7, 2006 at the Atlantis Casino Resort in Reno. Check www.emcommwest.org for information. Field Day is June 24-25, 2006. The 64th Fresno Hamfest will be August 5, 2006 at the Satellite Student Union on the CSUF Campus. Check www.w6to.com for information. Pacificon 06 will be October 13-15, 2006 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. You can also search for Amateur Radio Classes in your area.

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. The California Traffic Net meets daily on 3.906 MHZ and 6:30 PM local time.

It is my sad duty to report that K6CME is a Silent Key. He will be missed.

WA6EXV received s Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Bernardino Microwave Society. Congratulations Chuck.

Congratulations to W6DOM, KF6HNF, KE6SHL, KO6QZ, and K6PPJ on completing the ARECC Level One Course.

K6YK has earned the CQ Field Award.

Manteca ARC 2006 officers are pres KD6PCT, vp KE6OGL, sec WA6FQM and Treas KC6UUS. Their new club call sign is K6MAN. The club meets the first Thursday in Manteca. The club is the second oldest ARRL affiliated Club in the SJV Section.

Calaveras ARS 2006 officers are pres AE6LA, vp KO6HV, sec WB6QVU, and treas AC6Y. The clubs new call sign is N6FRG. Check www.calaverasars.org for information on the club.

Bakersfield ARS named WB6GQH its Ham of the Year for 2005. The 2006 officers are pres N6BAR, sp KB6JFL, sec KD6JSB, and treas KA6VXC. Check www.w6bar.org for information on the club.

Sierra ARC 2006 officers pres WA6QYR, 1st vp KC6UUM, 2nd vp KG6STR, sec WA6KZV, and treas KC6UUS. Check www.qsl.net/wa6ybn for information on the club.

TCARES 2006 officers are pres KG6FEY, vp WB6WFF, sec KE6RGP, and treas WA7MOB. Check www.lodelink.com/tcares for information.

Clovis ARC 2006 officers are pres N6JXL, vp KG6YLE, sec KB6LQV, treas KD6WAW. The club meets the first Friday at the Clovis Senior Center in Clovis CA. Check www.k6arp.org for information.

Kern County Central Valley ARC 2006 officers are pres KF6JOQ, 1st vp KC6ZRF, 2nd vp KG6OPR, sec KG6YSZ, and treas KG6MPH. The club meets the 4th Tuesday in Bakersfield. Check www.w6lie.org for information.

Southern Sierra ARS 2006 officers are pres KD6RPJ, 1st vp N6RNC, 2nd vp W6TSP, sec WA6LDQ, and treas KD6KMN. The club meets the 2nd Thurs in Tehachapi. Check www.ssars.net for information.

Tulare County ARC 2006 officers are pres WA6BEF, vp K6QOG, sec KF6KMY, and treas N6YMM. The club meets the 4th Thursday in Visalia. Check www.tcarc.net for information.

Traffic for January: W6DPD 4, K6RAU 18, and N6SUZ 121; Total 143. PSHR K6RAU 63, N6SUZ 100.

ARES REPORT

Another year has come and gone. We did a lot of public service last year. I would like to thank all of those hams that helped out with our emergency communications. Several groups have begun to look at using our resources as part of their action plan when normal communication breaks down. This is all due to the wonderful and dedicated response during the drills and activities over the past years.

Looking to the future, we have some of the regular activities ahead. Our ARES group has been asked to play an increasing role in communication for the Sheriff's Office Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay team. For those that are not familiar with the relay, a brief rundown of our participation follows.

A couple of years ago, upon return from the relay race that travels 120 miles through the California desert and Nevada mountain ranges, one of the team leaders for the Tulare County Sheriff's Office team asked if hams could help the team keep track of the runner as he/she traveled. The goal was to know when to send the last group of runners out to complete their legs of the relay race as it approached Las Vegas. The response was absolutely YES!

Hence the race was on to provide a tracking system that could be visualized at the teams headquarters in Primm NV. This year that tracking system, using RF received APRS signals has advanced to a request to provide a radio operator in the vehicle traveling along the course so that team members could "talk" to the participants while the race is taking place.

Our goal this year is to provide voice and APRS communications for the team. We will most likely be using both ham and non-ham frequencies to complete this task. If you are interested in participating, please let me know. As this is an out-of-county assignment, travel and room expenses are on your own. You may contact me via email or over the air for more information. We would like to have a staff of 8-10 hams, however we can get by with 5-6 if necessary. This is a 24+ hour long event, so over night coverage is needed.

Another activity that takes place in the spring is the March of Dimes WalkAmerica. This year's

event is in the planning stages and we have not heard from the activity coordinators. We'll be following up on this and hopefully have a report with additional information at the club meeting.

In the next couple of weeks watch your email for information on drills and other activities that may arise. As always keep your batteries charged and know where your "go kit" is located.

73
Hal KC5LUB

"To Net" or



"Not to Net"

One of the discussions at the last club meeting was whether to have a weekly net. We would like some input from you whether we should have a net or not. If so, what would you like the net to do. Do you want news bulletins? Minutes of the last club meeting? Discussion of some project, e.g. antennas, IRLP, Echolink, repeaters and/or components, ham radio equipment, etc.? Swap session?

Please email your thoughts and comments to: stengerw@sti.net.

Thanks, Bill K6QOG.

Activities Report

Hi everyone! Wow that was a short winter time. With the rain out of the picture and warm daytime temperatures, it's time to start thinking about Field Day 2006. What would you like to do? Suggestions from past years have included setting up at one of the malls in Visalia, at the Red Cross, in someone's home shack and a campout high up in the Sierra Nevada. With a couple of month's planning, I'm sure that a successful event will take place.

A couple of other activities are forthcoming. First, Baker to Vegas is March 31 – April 2. This year looks to be very exciting as the Sheriff's team has asked for operators to actually ride along the race course in the catcher vehicle. We need at least 5 operators to make this event happen. If we can get more, than that would be great. YL's and families are welcome to come along and enjoy the attractions at the Primm Valley Resort complex. Yep, it's more than just gaming. The pool is GREAT!

A second annual event is the March of Dimes WalkAmerica. This event has not contacted us this calendar year yet, however, we were asked to return after last year's event. I will be making contact with the event organizers in the next week or so.

February's meeting is scheduled to have a presentation by our own N6YMM. The presentation is a mystery, so you'll have to show up to find out what's going on. In March, there will be a 20 minute presentation on the Baker to Vegas run that was made to the Southwest ARRL convention last fall.

I have a person that would like to explain how solar power might work as an alternative to commercial power. This presentation would have be at an earlier time than 7:30 pm due to his work schedule. Something to think about for the May meeting would be a BBQ meeting that would begin at 6:00 pm. Keep this in mind for discussion at the February meeting.

How about setting up a station to contest/participate in the spring sprint or VHF QSO party held later this spring? Just some things to think about. Bring your ideas and suggestions to the meeting.

73

Hal KC5LUB

February Birthdays:

KC5LUB- Hal Clover

KF6JBG - Larry Taylor

February Anniversary:

KF6KMY - Ray & Dedi Quinn

March Birthdays:

KF6KMY - Ray Quinn

Emergency Coordinators:

Emergency Coordinators for Tulare County:

RACES is Jim Reeves KC6YRU - kc6yru@tcarc.net

ARES is Hal Clover KC6LUB - hal90000@sosinet.net

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

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

Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

Amateur Radio Direction Finding Puzzle for February, 2006 from ARRL webpage

1	2	3		4		5	6		7		8	9	10	11
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				63			64		65					
	66		67										68	69
70			71			72								

THE SOLUTION WILL BE IN NEXT MONTHS ISSUE.

Across

1. The place where things are invented
5. Rectangular locator
8. Fills the tummy
12. Maps that show geographical features
13. What sunblock blocks
14. To carry a debt
15. The hidden transmitter
16. Rangles and rants
18. Large (abbreviation)
19. Is life too short for this?
21. Battery rating units
23. Go fast
25. This comes first
28. What Rocky says or Romania's prefix
29. Hint
31. Where satellites roam
33. Control and guest
34. Path through the woods
37. Abbreviation for distance from equator
39. Where Mount Rushmore lives (abbr.)
40. Uses the force
41. Emerald city
42. Line of equal elevation
45. Broadcast network
46. Navigation satellite system (abbr.)
48. How well you are doing in school (abbr.)
49. Not slow
50. Nautical speed (abbr.)
52. CW for "and"
53. Russian satellite prefix
54. Computer symbol
57. Type of rechargeable battery (abbr.)
59. Palmtop computer (abbr.)
60. Multielement antenna
63. A state hammered by Katrina (abbr.)
64. Locates north
66. Rate of movement
68. Unit of distance (abbr.)
70. All right
71. Carries microwaves (abbr.)
72. Direction to a geographical feature

Down

2. Most accurate type of timepiece
3. Think outside this
4. Predetermined layout for orientation
6. The path taken
7. Didn't meet expectations
9. Station that listens for proper operating
10. Wise bird
11. 360 of these in a circle
17. Location used for navigating to a destination
20. Increases power (abbr.)
22. Group that doesn't like antennas (abbr.)
24. Lay out a journey on a chart or map
26. A useful kit (two words)
27. What televisions suffer from hams (abbr.)
30. Where to look to see satellites
32. Timepiece
35. Much about nothing
36. Obsolete radionavigation system
37. Describes map scale and symbols
38. Records of travels
43. A globe spins around this (abbr.)
44. What is that in the sky?
47. Units for pressure (abbr.)
51. If you don't succeed, do this again
53. Standard screw threads (abbr.)
55. Concealed package of stuff
56. Popular unlicensed radio service
58. Graphic description of geography
59. Bound stack of paper
60. Add "N" for a snooze
61. Follows clouds
62. What you do for directions
63. One segment of a trip
65. Damage
66. A deceased ham (abbr.)
67. Opposite of NS
69. Obsolete abbreviation for frequency

THE SOLUTION WILL BE IN NEXT MONTHS ISSUE.

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