

## 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

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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 15th, 7:30 pm at the  
County Board of Supervisors Building,  
2800 Burrell, Visalia.  
It is located West of the court house.**

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## URGENT- Please Note

*Club meeting nights changed to third Thursday of the Month*

## President's Message

Hello all:

Well, we had a reasonable turnout for the January meeting even with the short notice change in time. There seemed to be no objections to the third week of the month, so for now that is where we'll leave it.

Many of you knew Bill McMaster, W6MUV, who passed on this past month. He was one of the real teachers of the club and I know there are several hams in the area who can attribute their licenses to him. Yes, he was quite an elmer (ham term for mentor) to many.

He'd been out of the hobby for a good while, but his son tells me that there are many, many back issues of QST magazine, going back into the 40's, which could be had if anyone's interested. If anyone's interested please let me know and I'll get you in contact with him.

On another note, N6YMM notes that he's still accepting memberships for next year and we'd love to have all comers. Remember that part of our dues go to

the repeater system on '88 and also UHF, which has been so ably developed by Chuck, WA6SAA along with silent partner Jim, AKA Bubba, WB7HGA. These guys have done great for us.

Hal, KC5LUB, is wanting participants for the Baker to Vegas race, which takes place at the end of April. Ever wanted a chance to help Tulare County's finest without putting on a uniform? This is our opportunity. Our participation helps these guys to perform more effectively in this relay race that winds its way from near Baker, CA to Las Vegas.

As a final note, though we're late, we still intend to place nominations for this coming year's officers. Please consider an office if you've not had one before. The club, after all, belongs to all of us and we all have ideas and thoughts to put into action.

So join the team and let's all do what we can.

So for now, 73's and we'll see you on Thursday, 2/15/2007 at 1930 hours.



## 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

## Emergency Coordinators:

**Emergency Coordinators for Tulare County:**

**RACES is Jim Reeves KC6YRU -  
kc6yru@tcarc.net**

**ARES is Hal Clover KC6LUB -  
hal90000@sosinet.net**

TCARC Minutes from January 18th Meeting

President Dave McElroy – WA6BEF, called the meeting to order at 1935.

Those present were:

WA6BEF Dave McElroy  
WA2RQK Pam Drake  
KF6KMX Scott Yarbrough  
KF6KMY Ray Quinn  
WA6SAA Chuck Ward  
N6YMM Dave Millhouse  
WB6CHL Gene Simpson  
K6QOG Bill Stenger

It was announced that the Club has lost its fourth Thursday slot at the Board of Supervisors' chambers.

Pam Drake - KA2RQK motioned that the meeting date be changed to the third Thursday of the month so that we could remain at the present location. Bill Stenger – K6QOG, seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Dave Millhouse N6YMM announced the Club has \$1289.91 with \$63.00 in expenditures and \$427.63 for repeater parts

and supplies, which was previously approved, for a sub-total of \$799.28. \$90.00 was collected for 2007 dues for a total of \$889.28. Pam Drake – KA2RQK motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Bill Stenger – K6QOG seconded it.

Chuck Ward – WA6SAA passed along the latest information regarding the repeaters. Chuck will bring service equipment to a future meeting to check out members' equipment.

President Dave McElroy – WA6BEF mentioned that volunteers are still needed for the Baker to Vegas Relay in April.

Dave Millhouse – N6YMM motioned to hold elections at the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chuck Ward – WA6SAA seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Stenger – K6QOG motioned to adjourn. Pam Drake – KA2RQK seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. Your secretary failed to note the time.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Quinn – KF6KMY



## February Birthdays

KC5LUB Hal Clover  
KF6JBG Larry Taylor

## February Anniversary

KF6KMY Ray and Dedi Quinn



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION  
Report for the month of January 2007

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.

Welcome to 2007. Morse Code testing will end on February 23, 2007. Anyone can earn an Amateur Radio License or upgrade after that date without having to demonstrate knowledge of the Morse Code. Check the ARRL exam listing to find an exam session near you.

Your club has received a petition to get the governor to declare June 17 to 23, 2007, Amateur Radio week in California. This is a statewide effort. It is hoped the number of petitions that are sent to the governor will influence him to act positively on the request.

This is a reminder to all Field Organization Appointees that you must keep your ARRL membership active to keep your appointment. You also need to make a monthly report of your activities.

If you desire your club information and events to be listed in Section News, please send the information to [w6dpd@arrl.org](mailto:w6dpd@arrl.org).

Mark your calendars: The M2 Inc., open house is March 31, 2007. The gates open for the swap meet at 07:30 AM. Check [www.m2inc.com](http://www.m2inc.com) for information. The International DX Convention is April 27-29, 2007 at Visalia. Check <http://www.dxconvention.org/> for information. EMCOMM West is May 4-6, 2007 at the Atlantis Resort and Casino in Reno NV. Check [www.emcommwest.org](http://www.emcommwest.org) for information. Los Banos ARC special event station is May 12. Field Day 2007 is the fourth full weekend of June. The 65th Fresno Hamfest is August 4, 2007 at the Holiday Inn at the Airport in Fresno. Check [www.w6to.com](http://www.w6to.com) for information. Pacificon 2007 is October 19-21, 2007 at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon CA. Check [www.pacificon.org](http://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. If you fail to update your club's information for 2 years, your club will

be placed in the inactive file.

Need to take an Amateur exam? Check the ARRL web page, [www.arrl.org](http://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 3.533 MHz at 7 PM Pacific Time. The slow speed training session of the net meets nightly on 3.533 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 at 6:30 PM local time.

It is my sad duty to report that W6NLX, K6IDG, KI6FNS, W6MUV, W6MTJ, WB6AYV, NA6J, K6YO, KB6MOK, and exW6TAT are Silent Keys. They will be missed.

The Tulare County ARC now meets the third Thursday at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Bldg at 7:30 PM.

AE6ZG went from no license to Amateur Extra Class in one sitting. Congratulations.

K6YK contacted all California Counties (58) and all states (50) during 2006.

W6XK contacted is last zone for 5BWAZ (200 zones).

Congratulations to NG6NG, KM6JM and WB6EPD on completing ARECC Level One.

Southern Sierra ARS 2007 officers are pres Ed Gordon, 1st vp Ted Wyman, 2nd vp Keith Graves, sec Laura Sherwood, and treas Caroline Parsons.

Clovis ARP 2007 officers are pres N6JXL, vp KG6YLE, sec W6ALE, and treas KD6WAW. Check [www.karp.org](http://www.karp.org) for information.

Sierra ARC 2007 officers are pres KI6LO, 1st vp KC6UWM, 2nd vp KG6STR, sec WA6KZV, and treas KC6UUS. Check [www.qsl.net/wa6ybn](http://www.qsl.net/wa6ybn) for information.

Mountain ARC 2007 officers are pres W6LSU, vp WA6ONA, sec W6NDR, and treas W6HYI. Check [www.w6bw.org](http://www.w6bw.org) for information.

Traffic for January K6RAU 8, and W6SX 1. Total 9. PSHR: K6RAU 60, W6SX 17.

FOR THE DXer FROM ARRL

QST de W1AW  
DX Bulletin 6 ARLD006  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT February 8, 2007  
To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD006  
ARLD006 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by KA2AEV, NC1L, VA6TNY, QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, DXNL, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

NIGERIA, 5N. Marek, SQ8JCA is QRV as 5N2/SQ8JCA from Kogi until June 2007. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using SSB. He is normally active around 1100 to 1600z. QSL to home call.

MAURITANIA, 5T. Benoit, F8PDR is QRV as 5T5DY from Nouakchott until February 18. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using mainly CW. QSL to home call.

BARBADOS, 8P. 8P6SH will be QRV as 8P4B in the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest on 20 meters. QSL via KU9C.

BAHAMAS, C6. N4BP and N8PR will be QRV as C6AKQ and C6AHR, respectively, from February 12 to 19. K4PG will be QRV as C6APG from February 15 to 19. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest. QSL to home calls.

MOROCCO, CN. Mohamed, CN8KD will be QRV as 5C5W in the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest as an All Band entry. QSL via EA5XX.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. A group of operators will be QRV as EF8A from the Las Palmas section in the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest as possibly a Multi/2 entry. QSL via EA8AUW.

MOLDOVA, ER. UR5FEO plans to be QRV as ER0FEO in the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest as a Single Op/All Band entry. QSL via UU0JM.

HAITI, HH. N3BNA and KC3VW plan to be QRV as HH7/homecalls from southwestern Haiti, from February 12 to 24 while on work assignment. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. HH7/N3BNA will try to participate in the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest.

DOMINICA, J7. K5KG, KK9K, WI9WI, K1XX and W9IU will be QRV as J75KG, J79RV, J79WI, J79XX and J79IU, respectively, from February 10 to 20. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW and SSB. They will concentrate their activity on 160 and 80 meters. They plan to be QRV as J70J in the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest. QSL J75KG and J70J via KU9C. QSL all others to home calls.

HAWAII, KH6. Mike, KH6ND will be QRV as KH7X in the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest as a Single Band entry on 80 meters. QSL via K2PF.

PUERTO RICO, KP4. Tony, VA6TNY will be QRV as VA6TNY/KP4 from February 15 to 19. Activity will be on 20 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

EGYPT, SU. Mustapha, SU0ARA has been QRV on 20 meters from around 0530 to 0730z. QSL via DL1BDF.

GREECE, SV. Operators SV1CIB, SV1CDN, SV1DPI and SV3BSF will be QRV as J43BSF in the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via SV1CIB.

TUVALU, T2. Udo, DL9HCU is QRV as T20HC from Funafuti Island, IOTA OC-015, until February 16. He is usually active on 20 meters using CW around 0500z. QSL to home call.

COSTA RICA, TI. Operators K7AR, KI7Y, N7OU, WJ7R and K9JY will be QRV as TI5N in the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest and the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest.

## FOR THE DXer continued

Outside of the contests they will be active as TI5/homecalls. QSL to home calls.

ANTIGUA, V2. N2ED will be QRV as V26G from February 10 to 21. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest. Activity is on all HF bands. QSL to home call.

AVES ISLAND, YV0. Look for YW0DX to be QRV as a Multi/Single/Low Power entry in the CQ WW RTTY contest. QSL via IT9DAA.

TOKELAU, ZK3. HA9SDA and HA9RE are QRV as ZK3RE until February 22. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with two stations. QSL via HA8IB.

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Lakshadweep Islands, VU7LD, operation from December 1

through December 30, 2006; Montenegro, YU6AO, all QSOs dated June 28, 2006 and after; Auckland and Campbell Islands, ZL9BSJ/p, operation on September 12, 2006; Libya, 5A7A, operation from November 15 to November 30, 2006.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest, New Hampshire QSO Party, Asia-Pacific Spring CW Sprint, KCJ Topband CW Contest, Dutch PACC Contest, YLRL YL-OM SSB Contest, Louisiana QSO Party, OMISS QSO Party, British Columbia QSO Challenge, FISTS Winter CW Sprint, RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz CW Contest, North American CW Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend. The ARRL School Club Roundup is scheduled for February 12 to 16. The SKCC Sprint, AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening and NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint are all scheduled for February 14. Please see February QST, pages 100 and 101, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.



### Hot Off The Press From THE ARRL Letter Vol, No.06 Feb 9, 2007

## NO "CODE-FREE" UPGRADES AVAILABLE UNTIL FEBRUARY 23

Code-free upgrades to General or Amateur Extra will not be available at volunteer examination sessions until the 5 WPM Morse code requirement disappears from the FCC's Amateur Radio Service rules on February 23. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, says that, judging from the questions he's been getting, many in the amateur community -- including some Volunteer Examiners (VEs) -- don't fully understand the new rules and privileges resulting from the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235 <[http://hraunfss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-178A1.PDF](http://hraunfss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-178A1.PDF)>. He stresses that VE teams may not accept upgrade applications in advance of February 23, then hold the paperwork.

"There will be no automatic midnight upgrades February 23 for applicants advancing to General or Amateur Extra," Henderson explained. "You must make application." He further advises that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) valid for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit does not confer any operating privileges and, lacking Morse code credit, is no good for an upgrade until the new rules become effective.

"Anyone holding or earning a valid CSCE for element credit must wait until February 23 to redeem it at a volunteer examination session," he says. "You may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade." A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.

Henderson also emphasizes that those who

## HOT OFF THE PRESS continued

qualified as Technician licensees under the examination regime in place from March 21, 1987, until April 15, 2000, do not get General class Element 3 credit on that basis. For starters, he said, the "old" Element 3 is not the same as the current Element 3.

"When the Novice and Advanced examination elements went away, the FCC renumbered the elements," he pointed out. "Those who passed Element 3 from March 21, 1987 until April 15, 2000, qualified for the Technician license, and the exam was not the same as the current Element 3 General element test."

Applicants upgrading at a test session on or after February 23 on the basis of a valid CSCE must present the certificate for element

credit, fill out an application and pay any applicable exam session fee, which most VECs charge. Between now and then, Henderson points out, upgrade applicants still have the option of passing the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code test in addition to the General or Amateur Extra written tests.

Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination automatically gain new privileges on February 23 without having to apply at an exam session. But they're the only ones. On that date, all Novices and Technicians will have equal privileges on HF: CW on parts of 80, 40 and 15 meters, and CW, SSB and data on parts of 10 meters. No other license classes get automatic upgrades or new privileges on February 23.



## AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT TORNADO RELIEF OPERATION

When deadly tornados struck Central Florida early Friday, February 2, Amateur Radio volunteers turned out to assist emergency managers and relief organizations to supplement communication and offer other support. The National Weather Service (NWS) rated two of the three twisters as EF-3 events -- 160-165 MPH winds -- on the new "Enhanced Fujita Scale." Since they hit in the early-morning hours, the tornadoes took many residents by surprise. They left behind a landscape of downed trees and extensive structural damage in at least four Florida counties and claimed 20 lives -- most within the tornado's first two minutes, authorities say. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and SKYWARN volunteers were active in Lake, Seminole, Sumter and Volusia counties -- all designated as federal disaster areas.

"It's likely to take a long time to recover from this," observed Sparky Leger, N1YLQ, a Red Cross and SKYWARN volunteer in

Volusia County, where an EF-1 tornado -- 100-105 MPH -- hit. "Seeing some of the damage during a drive-through, honestly, we're not sure how people managed to survive." He shared his experiences last weekend with members of the VoIP Hurricane Prep Net <<http://www.voipwx.net>>. An estimated 1500 dwellings were badly damaged or destroyed in the four-county region. Devastation was widespread.

Sumter County ARES Emergency Coordinator JT Fleming, W3GQJ, who says the storm affected only a portion of his county. "Sumter County was very lucky in that the majority of the homes affected were all built in the last two years to the current Florida 110 miles-per-hour standard," he noted. "Lake County that borders on the east side had much greater destruction because the tornado hit a mobile home community." All 20 deaths occurred in Lake County.

Some 20 Sumter County ARES volunteers

## HOT OFF THE PRESS continued

### AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT TORNADO RELIEF OPERATION

responded over the course of the weekend to support communication between the county emergency operations center (EOC) and shelters. Many residents opted to remain at their damaged properties, although some are staying with family or friends or in public accommodations.

By all accounts, Amateur Radio communication support was largely unneeded because the cellular telephone network remained operational, although it did get overloaded at times. ARES teams stood by to fill the gaps if needed.

Irv Butler, KB1E, was among those volunteering in hard-hit Lake County. "We are providing comms to The Salvation Army meals relief teams," he told ARRL Northern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator Joe Bushel, W2DWR, over the weekend. He said the county emergency management staff had expressed appreciation for the Amateur Radio assistance.

ARES/RACES volunteers from Seminole and Lake counties installed a backup repeater in Paisley to restore radio communication for Lake County Fire and Rescue.

Volusia County EC Fred Magliacane, KF4VRS, reports the adjacent KE8MR 145.23 MHz repeater was abruptly taken off the air after the storm toppled the 1500-foot commercial radio tower that had supported the repeater's antenna. The repeater typically serves the East Central District ARES during disasters.

"Over the past few years we have learned that we cannot always rely on repeaters," Magliacane says. "We have trained our members to use simplex if and when the repeaters fail. One net a month we have a simplex net, and sometimes during the regular nets, we turn off the repeaters to see if our members remember to go to simplex."

# TULARE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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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