

THE GRID LEAK

The Official Newsletter of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 723, Visalia, CA 93279
Tulare County, California
146.88 (-) 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: Cody Unholz KG6JYB

Secretary: Robby Gill KI6KFZ

Past President: Dave McElroy, WA6BEF

Activities Director: ???

Vice President: Paul Reagan, KI6KGT

Treasurer: Dan Morauske, KC6ZWM

Repeater Coordinator: Chuck Ward WA6SAA

Club Trustee: Dave Millhouse N6YMM

**Next Club Meeting is February 21th, 7:30 pm
At the Flight School at the Visalia International Airport
(See Cody's Map sent by e-mail – Talk-in on 146.88(-))**

Club Websites

The mailing lists available for TCARC are:

✉ gridleak@tcarc.net – Grid Leak
distribution in MS Word.doc
format

✉ tcarc@tcarc.net - One-way
announcements open to all

✉ members@tcarc.net - open to all
active members

✉ repeater@tcarc.net - New
repeater committee list
(committee members only)

✉ officers@tcarc.net - For
officers only

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, W6RAY

Emergency Coordinators for Tulare County:

RACES is Jim Reeves KC6YRU – kc6yru@tcarc.net

ARES is Hal Clover KC5LUB – kc5lub@tcarc.net

Announcement Page

T.C.A.R.C. Transmitter Hunt

Saturday, March 8,

9 a.m. - Meet at the County Supervisor's
Chambers

Talk-in on 146.88 (-) pl 103.5



San Joaquin Valley Section News Report for the month of December 2007

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for the month of December 2007:

SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASMs K6YK and N2NS, ACC W6DPD, SEC N6ZFN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC KE6IGJ, TC W6TE.

Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section.

Thanks to all the ARRL Field Organization Volunteers who make the Field Organization work. The volunteers donate countless hours working to make Amateur Radio better. Keep up the good work in 2008.

Special thanks go to Rex Emerson, KE6ZOC, for maintaining the SJV page on [pdarrl](http://pdarrl.com). Thanks Rex. Keep up the good work in 2008.

If you desire your club information and events to be listed in Section News, please send the information to w6dpd@arrl.org. I get very little information. If your club has a newsletter, please send it to me, email to w6dpd@arrl.org or via U.S Mail.

Mark your calendars. Radiofest is February 23-24, 2008 in Monterey. Check www.radiofest.org for information. The International DX Convention is April 25-28, 2008 at Visalia. Check <http://www.dxconvention.org/> for information. EMCOMM West is May 2-4, 2008 at the Circus Circus in Reno NV. Check www.emcommwest.org for information. Pacificon 2008 is October 17-19, 2008 at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon CA. 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 so you club will get any information sent from the ARRL Club department. If you fail to update your clubs information for 2 years, your club will be placed in the inactive file. Your club will be notified if the 2-year period is about to take place.

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 3.533 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 and 6:30 PM local time. The noon time net meets on 7.268.5 MHz. This net handles a lot of messages.

EMCOMM West for 2008 has moved to the Circus Circus in Reno. The dates are May 2 to 4, 2008. This is an ARRL specialty convention devoted entirely to emergency communications. Information can soon be found at www.emcommwest.org. If you are involved in emergency communications, this is an event you should plan to attend.

N6HUH, Robert, K6JAG, Paul, and W6ECP, Ernie are Silent Keys. They will be missed.

Oak Tree Radio in Oakdale now has the call sign KD6OAK.

The Turlock ARC members provided communications support for the annual Turlock Christmas Parade.

The Los Banos ARC members provided communication support for the annual Los Banos Christmas Parade.

The Fresno ARC, Amateur Radio Assn of Central CA, Turlock ARC, Central California DX Club, and West Mesa DX and Contest Club sent representatives to the pacific Directors meeting on December 1. Where were the rest of the club representatives?

Fresno ARC 2008 officers are pres KG6KYU, vp WA6OIB, sec WA6NIF, and treas W6ALE. Check www.w6to.com for information.

The Kern County Central Valley ARC 2008 officers are pres N6ZFN, 1st vp WA6KLB, 2nd vp WI6J, sec KD6UQZ, and treas KG6UFB. Check www.w6lie.org for information. The club conducts a road and weather net on the 145.15 MHz repeater with a pl 100 Hz during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Holiday travel periods. This is a great service for those traveling during these weekends.

Bakersfield ARA 2008 officers are pres KB6JFL, vp KC6KGGH, sec vacant and treas KA6VXC. Check www.w6bar.org for information.

WA6HZN, Bart, is the 2008 president of the Western Public Service System, and KG6UCW, Curtis, is a director. The net meets daily on 3.952 MHz at 0230UTC.

San Joaquin Valley Section News

Report for the month of December 2007 (Continued)

KC6TTZ, Tim, operated from South America.

WS6X, Jim, was first in the 2006 Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge search and pounce category.

K6PTS, Phil, has qualified for the Worked All States Award. Congratulations.

Traffic for December: K6RAU 27, W6DPD 0, and W6SX 25. Total 52. PSHR: K6RAU 82 and W6SX 44.

Anyway, I thought some of you would appreciate the following websites. Also, there are some great pieces on YouTube.

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php>
<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/status.php>
<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/>

73, Dave, N6YMM

EDITORS CORNER - -

Satellites, What About Them?

I have heard some new hams talking about amateur satellites. I have dabbled with them over the years, working the Russians RS-12 and RS-15 birds. Exciting! Talked half way across the U.S. on 2 meters! I want to do more and I guess now I'm retired I'll be a little more dedicated. I don't want to date myself but I still remember OSCAR 1. It was piggy-back launched with Discover 36 from Vandenberg AF Base over in Lompoc at the end of 1961. It was in a polar low-earth orbit and it weighed 10 lbs. It sent back "Hi" in Morse code and the rate it sent back "Hi" was an indication of temperature. As it got closer and closer to re-entry, you talk about high-speed code! OSCAR 1 lasted for 22 days and was heard by 570 radio amateurs in 28 countries. What impressed me most was the Doppler shift observed when you had a rock-stable beat oscillator tuned to its frequency – just like the proverbial train passing you! It was fun!

San Joaquin Valley Section News Report for the Month of January 2008

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ARRL Membership in the SJV Section increased in 2007 by 4.2% over the 2006 membership numbers. Keep up the good work in recruiting new and renewing ARRL members.

KE6HCJ, Charles and W6ECP, Ernest are Silent Keys. They will be missed.

Southern Sierra ARS 2008 officers are pres KD6RPJ, 1st vp KA6PTJ, 2nd vp W6TSP, sec KI6EOG, and treas N6MLD. The club meets the 2nd Thursday in Tehachapi.

Tuolumne County ARES 2008 officers are pres WA6AWC, vp KBCEG, sec KE6RGP, and treas WA7MOB. Check www.lodelink.com/tcares for information.

Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers 2008 officers are pres AE6GE, vp K6OSX, sec KI6KRI, and treas KD6WAW. Check

San Joaquin Valley Section News Report for the Month of January 2008

www.k6arp.org for information.

San Joaquin Valley ARS 2008 officers are pres W6TTF, vp K6YRZ, sec N6EY, and treas KF6FGP. Check www.sjvars.com for information.

Sierra ARC 2008 officers are pres WA7RIW, 1st vp KC6UMM, 2nd vp KG6STR, sec N6VGW and treas KC6UUS. Check www.qsl.net.wa6ybn for information. Club members provided communications support for the Over-the-Hill Track Club's ultra marathon.

Stanislaus ARA 2008 officers are pres KF6TEZ, vp KD6YWO, sec KF6TSY, and treas KC6TVE. Check www.saraclub.net for information.

Traffic for January: K6RAU 17, W6DPD 0, and W6SX 35. Total 52. PSHR: K6RAU 79 and W6SX 72.

ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section
Section Manager: Charles P. McConnell,
W6DPD
w6dpd@arrl.org

ARRL NEWS UPDATE

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "He who kisses the joy as it flies lives in eternity's sun rise" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: No sunspots appeared this week. Solar flux was about the same as last week. The 45-day outlook for solar flux and planetary A index from NOAA and the Air Force on February 10 was predicting a flat solar flux of 70; the following day, this was revised to show 72 for February 12-18, then 70 after that. On February 12, this changed to show 72 solar flux for February 13 through the rest of the 45 days. Sunspot numbers for February 7-13 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.8, 70.9, 72.2, 72.6, 72.1, 72.1 and 70.5 with a mean of 71.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 4, 2, 18, 17, 11 and 12 with a mean of 9.9. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 3, 2, 13, 16, 6 and 10 with a mean of 8. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>.

==> ASTRONAUTS WORK ON COLUMBUS LAB ON THE ISS

Astronauts aboard the International Space Station complex are focusing on getting the new Columbus lab up and running. Columbus, the laboratory built by the European Space Agency (ESA) and host of two Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) antennas, was launched into space on February 7 aboard the space shuttle Atlantis, arriving three days later. According to NASA, Columbus' activation process has been running a little behind because of computer problems, but flight directors believe they've fixed the glitch.

In 2007, the ARISS antennas successfully passed electrical and SWR tests, with one of the two antennas, Antenna 42, going through a final test -- a thermal test under vacuum. Columbus will house an additional Amateur Radio station, including the first digital Amateur Radio TV (DATV) station in space, as well as a ham radio transponder. The yet-to-be-built Columbus amateur gear will facilitate operation on new frequencies that will make it possible for ARISS

to establish wideband and video operations for the first time and allow continuous transponder operation.

According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, "The ARISS-Europe Team has been holding meetings to determine what the ARISS International Team should have for a station in the Columbus module. The Europeans will need to begin fundraising for the multiple sets of equipment, such as the on-orbit equipment, the required back-up on-orbit equipment and the test equipment. Some portions of the equipment system can be purchased, but much of it would need to be built. Once the team purchases or builds the equipment, it will need to undergo special testing for space and getting the equipment certified (probably by ESA) and finally manifesting the system for launch. All of that will take many months and help from ARISS volunteers from many countries."

The mission, STS-122, brought seven astronauts to the ISS: Commander Stephen N. Frick, KD5DZC; Pilot Alan G. Poindexter; Mission Specialist Rex J. Walheim; Mission Specialist Stanley G. Love; Mission Specialist Leland D. Melvin; Mission Specialist Hans Schlegel, DG1KIH, of Germany, and Mission Specialist/Expedition 16 Flight Engineer Leopold Eyharts, KE5FNO, of France. Flight Engineer Dan Tani, KD5DXE, already on board the ISS, will depart when Atlantis returns to Earth; Eyharts will stay behind on the ISS and take his place.

Atlantis will remain at the ISS until February 18; touchdown is set for February 20, making for a 13-day flight.

📄 GET READY TO GO THE DISTANCE WITH THE ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTESTS

Are you ready to work some DX? The ARRL International DX Contest is coming up! This is one of the ARRL's oldest operating events, going back to the days of the International Relay Party in 1928.

ARRL NEWS UPDATE

The objective is simple: US and Canadian stations work only DX and DX stations work only US and Canadians. See how many different stations you can contact in as many different geographical entities as possible. US and Canadian stations try to work different DX countries, while DX stations try and work US states and Canadian provinces. For this contest, Alaska, Hawaii and all US possessions and territories are considered DX. US/Canadians send a signal report and their state or province; DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power.

You don't need a big station to compete. You can work many stations in this contest with 100 W and a simple dipole or vertical antenna. This event is also a good way to improve your DXCC Award totals with a small investment of time. Many contesters will be traveling to foreign locales to participate, so listen for lots of good DX countries on the bands. The ARRL will once again be offering participation pins for those who make more than 100 QSOs in the event. Pins are \$7 (including shipping) and are a nice memento of your achievement in the contest.

The CW portion of the ARRL DX Contest begins at 0000 UTC on Saturday, February 16 and goes until 2400 UTC Sunday, February 17. The Phone portion runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 1 until 2400 UTC Sunday, March 2. Complete rules can be found online <<http://www.arrl.org/contests>>. If you are new to the ARRL DX Contests, look for a primer on the event by ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, in the Radiosport area of the March issue of QST.

DO's and DON'Ts of DX QSLING

Having just answered 1300+ E51MMM cards, George K5KG offers the following DOs and DON'Ts of QSLing:

DO use envelopes with peel and stick flaps. They speed up sealing of envelopes.

DO put your call sign in bold, large print on the same side as the QSO information.

DO enclose enough postage or an IRC to cover the cost of return postage. If this isn't possible, send the card anyway with a self-addressed envelope.

DO not enclose small address labels instead of envelopes.

DO avoid extraneous enclosures. Personal notes, canceled stamps, etc. should be avoided unless critical.

DO NOT use envelopes without glue. They have to be taped shut, and that is a real pain!

DO NOT seal envelopes so tightly that they can't be quickly opened with a letter opener.

DO NOT mix cards to or from different call signs. They really slow down the processing of cards.

DO NOT fold or "hide" IRCs or Green Stamps so intricately that they are hard to unfold when opening.

As a personal evaluation of your QSLing technique, the editor suggests that you make up a test QSL and envelope, seal it up, then open it and fill out a response. Then ask yourself if you would like to do that 5000 times!

TULARE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NAME (self) _____ NAME (family member) _____

CALLSIGN (self) _____ CALLSIGN (family member) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

LICENSE CLASS (self) _____ CALLSIGN (family member) _____

RES PHONE _____ BUS PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EQUIPMENT _____

BANDS _____

INTERSTS (Please Check)

? EMERGENCY SERVICE

? RAG CHEWING

? BUILDING

? TRAFFIC HANDLING

? DXing

? ANTENNAS

? CONTESTS

? QRP

? SATELLITES

? DIGITAL MODES

? NETS

? 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