

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
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 March 23rd, 7:30 pm
Country Board of Supervisors,
2800 Burrell, Visalia, CA.**

The Club meetings have changed location!!

The meetings have returned to the County Board of Supervisor's Building, 2800 Burrell, Visalia. It is located West of the court house.

President's Message

Greetings from a sometimes rainy Visalia.

First of all, I wish to thank everybody who stuck with us for our rather delayed meeting at Ryan's Place restaurant on February 23. We were treated to some video of a recent Baker to Vegas race and its ham component. As we know, Hal, KC5LUB is seeking volunteers to aid this project at month's end. Sounds like it could be fun as well as being a learning experience for anyone choosing to go along.

There has been a management change at the Red Cross Chapter and it would seem that outside groups are discouraged from using the Red Cross facility. We do have an available alternative and we will gladly take advantage of it. Due to the apparent change, TCARC will, from now on, go back to our former meeting location at the Tulare County Board of supervisor's chambers. All regular club meeting nights have been scheduled and they seem to be genuinely glad to have us. So spread the word to those who may not be reading the Grid leak. Back to the old meeting site.

We have a program lined up for next month and it is my goal to have a presentation for each meeting, so come one come all and let's build a club to be proud of.

We still need a net manager if we wish to continue the Tuesday evening net. This has been tradition and it may be time for a change. Nets are great for disseminating information which might not otherwise get out. Additionally, they do offer opportunities to keep up our traffic handling skills, which might be called upon in the event of an emergency. So I'm open to your ideas as to what a net should be and if we should have one. I'm also open to anyone who'd like to volunteer as net manager. Give it some thought.

Have a great month and we'll see you on the 23rd at the county Board of supervisor's chambers.

73's.

Dave WA6BEF.

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.net - 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 February 23, 2006

Called to order @ 2015 by President Dave McElroy at Ryan's Place on South Mooney Blvd. in Visalia after we were locked out of our normal meeting place at The Tulare-Kings Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Those present:

1. **WA6BEF** Dave McElroy
2. **WA2RQK** Pam Drake
3. **K6QOG** Bill Stenger
4. Carol Stenger
5. **N6QBK** Chuck Wilcox
6. **WA6SAA** Chuck Ward
7. **W6NRS** Gloria Vicenti
8. **KE6YJC** Ted Freitas
9. **KC5LUB** Hal Clover
10. **W6SLT** Steve Lee-Thomas
11. **WA7HRG** Jim Purvis
12. **KF6KMY** Ray Quinn

Pam Drake KA2RQK motioned that the Club accept the January minutes as published in the Gridleak. Past President Steve Lee Thomas W6SLT seconded it. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Activities Director Hal Clover KC5LUB updated the Club on the preparations for the Baker to Vegas Run on April 1, 2006. Other upcoming activities include the March of Dimes "WalkAmerica" possibly on April 29. May will bring us a bar-b-que at the home of Alan (W6MTR) and Gloria (W6NRS) Vicenti. The date for the VHF QSO party will be announced.

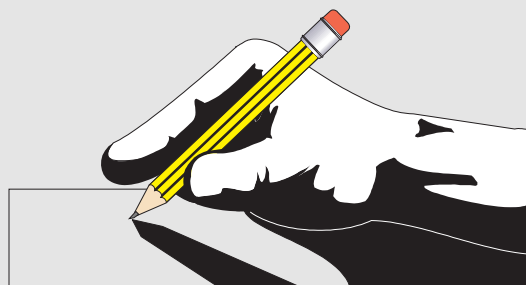
Field Day will be June 24th and 25th. The location will be announced. The Fireworks Patrol will be on July 4th.

President McElroy asked for discussion or a motion regarding the location of future Club meetings. Ray Quinn KF6KMY made the motion to move the meetings back to its traditional location: the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2800 W. Burrell in Visalia. Pam Drake KA2RQK seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

The presentation was a DVD of the Baker to Vegas Run.

Pam Drake KA2RQK motioned to adjourn which Chuck Wilcox N6QBK seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2133.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Quinn KF6KMY, Secretary.



March Birthdays:

KF6KMY - Ray Quinn
KA6HGA - Bill Shearer

April Birthdays:

N6YMM - Dave Millhouse

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@bak.rr.com) or W6DPD (w6dpd@arrl.org) if you can help.

Mark your calendars. M2 Antenna Systems, Inc. Annual open house April 1. See Below. 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 <<http://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. San Joaquin Valley ARS presents the Harvest HamConVention Sept 15-16 in Fresno. Check www.sjvars.com <<http://www.sjvars.com/>> for information. Pacificon 06 will be October 13-15, 2006 at the San Ramon Marriott. 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.

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 3.630 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 KB6CLZ, W6MND, and N6ZZU are Silent Keys. They will be missed.

Congratulations to Dave Rosenthal, N6TST, on winning the February QST cover plaque award for his article, "Polar Bear Portable". He will be a speaker at the 64th Fresno Hamfest on August 5.

Congratulations to AI6A, AD6NY, and KF6QKL on completing the ARECC Level One Course.

The Los Banos ARC has its annual "Foxhunt" on March 11, 2006, at 4 PM starting at the Police Annex, 525 "I" Street in Los Banos.

W6YDE has confirmed 100 DXCC entities.

The Sierra ARC provided communications for the Fire Mountain Fifty Horse Ride and the 20 Mule Team 100 Mile Endurance Horse Ride events.

2005 IARU HF World Championship SJV results are 1st K6AAB, 2nd N6EE and 3rd KA6BIM. In the Pacific Division K6AAB placed third, N6EE was fifth and KA6BIM was sixth.

2005 September VHF QSO Party SJV results KD6VNQ was first, KF6CNV was second and K3UG was third.

Lodi ARC 2006 officers are pres WB6FVG, vp WB6HTV, secy/treas N6HCH. The club meets the 3rd Thursday at the Lodi Public Library.

Stanislaus ARA 2006 officers are pres W6UHF, vp KF6NPG, secy KD6YWO, and treas KC6TVE. The club meets the 3rd Tuesday in Modesto. Check www.saraclub.net <<http://www.saraclub.net/>> for information.

The annual M2 Antenna Systems, Inc. open house is April 1, 2006 in Fresno. Check

Continued on next page

www.m2inc.com/openhouse2a.html
 <<http://www.m2inc.com/openhouse2a.html>>
 for information and directions.

On June 9-11, KF6JOQ, Larry, KG6ZBL, Mark and W6WTG, Terry will be going to Santa Cruz Island off the coast of Ventura for a DX Expedition. The island is IOTA NA-144. We will be operating 14.260 and also 144.210 SSB

during the ARRL VHF contest.

QSL Manager is N2OWL. For more information contact Terry, W6WTG at w6wtg@arrl.net or www.islandchaser.com.

Traffic for February: K6RAU 12 and N6SUZ 99; Total 111. PSHR K6RAU 55, N6SUZ 100.



February Crossword solution

1	L	2	A	3	B		4	C		5	G	6	R	7	I	D		8	F	9	O	10	O	11	D
		12	T	O	P	O	S							13	U	V			14	O	W	E			
15	F	O	X							16	Q	U	A	D				17	W			18	L	G	
						19	Q	R	20	P							21	M	A	22	H				
23	Z	I	24	P			25	S	A	26	F	E	27	T	Y			28	Y	O				E	
			29	C	L	30	U	E									31	S	P	A	32	C	E		
						33	O	P			34	T	R	A	I	36	L			O			L		
37	L	A	T				38	L			39	S	D			40	O	B	I			41	O	Z	
						42	C	O	43	N	T	O	44	U	R			45	N	B	C				
46	G	47	P	S			48	G	P	A			49	F	A	S	T				50	K	51	T	
52	E	S				53	R	S			54	I	55	C	O	N				56	F			R	
57	N	I	58	M	H				59	P	D	A						60	A	61	R	R	62	A	Y
									63	L	A			64	C	O	M	P	A	S	S				
			66	S	P	67	E	E	D													68	K	69	M
70	O	K				71	W	G				72	B	E	A	R	I	N	G					C	

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

Thanks to Alan Vicenti for submitting this info

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT February 14, 2006
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB003
ARLB003 FCC noncommittal on "Morse code"
proceeding

Just when the FCC will act on the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, remains hazy. The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) last July proposing to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. The Amateur Radio community filed more than 3800 comments on the proceeding, and additional comments continue to show up, even though the formal comment deadline was last fall. The next--and most-anticipated--step for the Commission is to formally adopt any revisions to its rules and conclude the proceeding with a Report and Order (R&O) that spells out the changes and specifies their effective date.

"There really is no news," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) staffer told ARRL this week on background. "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time." The WTB staffer indicated there would be no "big announcements" at the Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum either.

Beyond eliminating the Morse requirement, the FCC declined in its NPRM&O to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges.

The proceeding began with 18 petitions for rule making--many just calling for the elimination of the Morse requirement but some asking for more far-reaching changes in the Amateur Service rules. The various petitions attracted a total of some 6200 comments. The

FCC subsequently consolidated the petitions--including one from the ARRL asking the FCC to establish a new entry-level license class and to retain the Morse requirement for Amateur Extra class applicants--into a single proceeding designated WT 05-235.

Worth noting is that the FCC did not propose in WT 05-235 to extend HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. In its NPRM&O the FCC suggested that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, such "codeless Techs" would be able to gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination.

Before it releases an R&O on the Morse code proceeding, however, the WTB wants to wrap up action in another Amateur Radio-related docket--the "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140, released last April 15. A dozen petitions for rulemaking, some dating back to 2001, were consolidated in the Omnibus proceeding. In that NPRM, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming plan aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands to expand portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. The FCC also agreed with an ARRL proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF subbands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit).

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees. The Morse code proceeding neither put forward nor recommended any changes in CW allocations or privileges.

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