

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 May 17th, 7:30 pm at the
County Board of Supervisors Building,
2800 Burrell, Visalia.
It is located West of the court house.**

SPECIAL NOTES

* The Kings ARC has returned to active status. Check www.qsl.net/ka6q for more information.

* The Fresno Ham Fest scheduled for August 4, 2007, has been CANCELED. See SJValley Section News for more information.

From the Editors: If there is anything that you would like to add to the newsletter, you may contact us by email at k6qog@ar1.net. The deadline to have articles included is the 3rd of each month; submissions after the 3rd will go in the next newsletter unless otherwise instructed. -- de Carol & Bill K6QOG

President's Message

Hello all:

Well, I suppose we've got summer well on its way. Over 90 today, May 8. I suppose that's one of those "joys" of living in the valley.

But let's talk on a more positive note. This is a busy week for TCARC. Of course, we've got our monthly meeting, now on the third Thursday May 17 at 1930 hours. On Tuesday evening, N6YMM and his VE crew will be testing for Tech and General amateur exams, the first time testing has been offered in Tulare County in a very long time. As we all know, N6YMM had conducted a Tech training class late last month and this is the culmination of that effort.

Chuck, WA6SAA has sweetened the pot, offering those who pass a complete 2 meter Motorola handheld with the local 2 meter repeaters programmed in.

Since late February, we've been running the Southern San Joaquin FM Radio Net. Thanks to all of those who've been checking in regularly on Tuesday nights. For those who've forgotten, we're back. Ray, W6RAY has been downloading both the ARRL news and the AR

Newsline. So if you are not busy on Tuesdays and you happen to be near the radio, tune into 146.88 at 1915 hours for ARRL news with net to follow at or near 1930 hours. Finally, AR newsline will be played immediately after net, download permitting.

Also, as I've been calling the net up to now, I'd certainly be open to volunteers who would be willing to run the net.

Andy, N6IJF has stated that he'd like to find homes for some of his gear and he wishes to donate any proceeds to the club. I'll not describe his offerings as I believe these will be covered later, but this would be a good opportunity to help him out and to benefit the club at the same time. Thank you Andy.

Anyone who has anything that you think would go into the Gridleak? If you've got something be sure and let Bill K6QOG have the information and he'll be glad to get it.

Well, I guess that's about all for this round.

Best of luck to those testing next week and we'll see you'all on the 17th.

73's, Dave



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 April 15th Meeting

President Dave McElroy WA6BEF called the meeting to order at 1940. A quorum was present.

Introductions: Those present were:

WA6BEF Dave McElroy
WA2RQK Pam Drake
W6RAY Ray Quinn
WA6SAA Chuck Ward
N6YMM Dave Millhouse
WA7HRG Jim Purvis
N6IJF Andy Brown
KC6LUB Hal Clover
KG6AIR Bill Balsley
Marge Balsley
K6QOG Bill Stenger

Dave McElroy asked about any plans for Field Day.

The minutes from the March 15th meeting were by read by Ray Quinn W6RAY. Motion to approve minutes as read by Bill Balsley KG6AIR and seconded by Pam Drake KA2RQK. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Millhouse N6YMM gave the treasurers report:

\$1004.28 in the bank
90.00 in petty cash
\$1094.28 total with 29 members
\$ -10.00 for tower trailer registration

There was discussion as to where to park the tower trailer.

Dave Millhouse N6YMM gave a report on the Technician class. Announced that a VE exam will be held on Tuesday 15 May, 2007 at 1830 at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers at 2800 W. Burrell for New Technician and upgrades to General Class ONLY. They will not be able to give Amateur Extra exams at this session. We will try to have quarterly classes if there is enough interest.

Chuck (Gary) Ward WA6SAA will donate a Motorola HT with charger to each new ham. This was later amended to apply to those who also go through the class and pass the exam.

We also discussed methods to get new students interested in becoming amateur radio operators.

The meeting was unofficially adjourned at 2020. Chuck Ward WA6SAA and Jim Purvis WA7HRG checked members' radios following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Quinn W6RAY,
TCARC Secretary

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION
Report for the month of April 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.

With the change in Part 97 of the FCC
Rules eliminating the code exam as a
requirement for upgrading, many Amateurs
have upgraded to General and Extra Class.
Congratulations to those getting upgraded
licenses. Enjoy your new privileges.
Technician Class Amateurs now enjoy limited
HF privileges on 80, 40 and 15 CW and 10
meter SSB and CW. As the year progresses,
more Amateurs will upgrade to General and
Extra.

Just a reminder, the sidebands of your
signal must be within the band edges. As a
rule of thumb, on SSB you should operate no
closer than 3 KHZ to the band edge to ensure
that your sidebands remain within the band.
On CW you can get closer to the band edge as
the CW signal are not as wide as SSB signals,
but your signals must remain within the band.
Technicians may NOT operate FM on 10
meters. They may only operate SSB on 28.300
to 28.500 MHZ. FM on 10 meters can only
be used between 29.5 and 29.7 MHZ.

New General Class Amateurs should get
a frequency chart so they will know where
their bands end. You can get a new frequency
chart from the March 2007 QST or down load
it from the ARRL web page. Some new
generals are operating outside the General
Class bands. General Class Amateurs need to
know where the General Class bands end and
stay within them. You don't want to receive
an OO notice or an FCC Citation for out of
band operation.

Courtesy dictates that you should listen, and
then ask if a frequency is in use before calling CQ.
You need to call CQ when soliciting a contact on
HF. Just giving your call sign on HF is not enough
to usually get a contact.

If you desire your club information and events
to be listed in Section News, please send the
information to w6dpd@arrl.org.

Mark your calendars. Los Banos ARC has a
special event station active on May 12. Tuolumne
Swap Meet June 2, 2007, 8 AM to 3 PM at the
Sonora East Shopping Center in Sonora. Contact
Jerry WA6AVR, jerry.tanhhauser@us.army.mil
for information. Field Day 2007 is the fourth full
weekend of June. The 65th Fresno Hamfest is
August 4, 2007 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Fresno
has been CANCELED. The California QSO Party
is October 6-7, 2007. Check www.cqp.org for
information. Pacificon 2007 is October 19-21,
2007 at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon CA.
Check www.pacificon.org for information. The
International DX Convention is April 25-28, 2008
at Visalia. Check <http://www.dxconvention.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 clubs
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 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

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION
Report for the month of April 2007 Continued

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.

It is my sad duty to report that AD6Z William, K6LSK Ken, KJ6PZ Hugh WB6JDG, Erwin, and N6TST David are Silent Keys. They will be missed. N6TST was a cover plaque winner for his articles published in QST. He was the main speaker at the 2006 Fresno Hamfest.

KB6CLV completed the ARECC Level One Course. Congratulations!!

The Kings ARC has returned to active status. New officers are pres KA6PNL, vp NW6K, sec WA7YHX, and treas N6SDD. The club meets the third Thursday in Hanford. Check www.qsl.net/ka6q for information.

The Stockton-Delta ARC held a 440 MHZ homebrew antenna Shootout. K6YK had an 8 element beam built on a hockey stick.

SJV Clubs are providing communications support for the March of Dimes Walk America fundraiser.

SJV scores in the 2006 Phone Sweepstakes were: 1st WC6H, 2nd N6NZ and 3rd N6EE in the high power category. N6YMM had the high score in the SJV in the low power category. Congratulations!!

SJV scores in the 2006 ARRL 160 meter contest were 1st KA6BIM, 2nd K6OA, and 3rd N6IV. Congratulations!!

Congratulations to WB6NVB and KG6ZWZ on being elected to Life Membership in the ARRL.

K6XJ and W6UA were on the winning golf team at the golf tournament at the 2007 International DX Convention. Congratulations!! Several SJV hams won prizes at the DX Convention.

If you want an alternative to EBay, check out <http://www.californiaswap.net>.

Traffic for April: K6RAU 15 and W6SX 35. Total 50. PSHR: K6RAU 61 and W6SX 35.



HAM EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

1. 72 foot crank up tower, guyed type
 2. Butterfly antenna for 10-15-20
 3. 5 Band trap Vertical
 4. Yaesu 747 (some power on key down on sideband, all of vestigial not 'gone'. Perfect on CW and AM
 5. PK232 Packet/Amtor, etc, Modem
 6. MFJ 941 C Tuner (Smaller)
 7. MFJ 941 E Tuner (Larger)
 8. Private Patch phone patch.(Connect Systems)
 9. Hand Mike-Yaesu handie With plug for Santec (Can re-wire for any handie)
 10. Oscar locator, and other odds and ends, ask.
- Contact Andy N6IJF by phone, 559-688-8132 or e-mail n6ifj@arrl.net
All items must be picked up, no delivery.

ARES UPDATE

Hi everyone!

It's that time of year again to start to heat up. The Baker to Vegas run this year took its toll not just on our operators alone. If I didn't know better, I would have thought that this year was the thirteenth running of the race and Murphy was in charge of radio communication. About a month or two before the race, one of the race organizers stated that he would not be able to make the race, however, he would help up to race day with getting trackers ready. Then, two weeks prior to the race, the group that we worked with last year backed out due to health/life altering issues. That sent several teams scrambling to find operators and equipment just before race day.

Little did most of us know that these statements would foreshadow what would take place race day. When I arrived in Primm, the digi's were not active on the race frequency. We were able to see and find the trackers if we were in line of sight. Upon returning from the team captains meeting Friday night, the Team Captain said the radio network would be up and running by 9 AM Saturday morning.

Saturday morning found me trying to find the trackers via APRS. Everything was fine and dandy. As the vans slipped from visual sight, I was able to watch them on the computer monitor make their way across the first grade into California on I-15. When they "stopped" at the top of the grade (line-of-sight from the hotel), I patiently waited for them to appear on both RF and the I-gate. I am still waiting.

Apparently the story is that the I-gate was not maintained. Someone's computer crashed and another one never was tuned to the Race Frequency. So, if you were watching the web page on race day you would have seen the normal APRS traffic on the national APRS frequency. So what about good old fashioned RF? Tracking RF allowed me to watch the teams zoom by going to the starting line from Las Vegas, past Primm on their way to Baker. Outside of a 15 mile radius of Primm, nothing was going on.

This meant plan 3 was put into play (Plan

1 was to track on the Internet, 2 by RF). I headed out to the finish line since there "should" be someone there tracking the runners. No dice! When arriving in Las Vegas at the race hotel, I found several empty rooms. Just for fun, I tried listening to the race frequency on my radio in the car. Again, nothing heard. I had exhausted every last idea I had. Frustrated, I headed back to Primm to figure out what if anything could be done.

One good thing about driving in the desert, it gives one time to think things out. It dawned on me that there was a radio check station set up at the starting line, Baker High School. If I made it there before the last flight left (group of runners), I might be able to figure out what to do. I happened to run into Ralph W6CSP, with the Orange County team. He explained that there was a power issue with one of the digi's that looked into Las Vegas. That digi was going to be "turned on" at 15:00 (my watch showed 15:30). I quickly called the communications room back in Primm to find out if anything could be seen on the APRS monitor. Nothing.

There was only one alternative, drive the race course, find the team, stay with them and call back to Primm with updates as they progressed so that the last 5 runners would know when to leave the hotel to get to their legs. I finally caught up with the team around 1800 past Shoshone. This allowed me to talk with one of the hams running in the race, Dave K6MEC. He had finished his leg quite well and wondered what was going on with the trackers and communications. I explained the situation to him. As we discussed options we both contemplated putting up our "own" system next year.

That's about the course of things. Oh, the runners, they did finish. We were team 192 (our finish place last year), and we finished 191st this year. I believe the overall time was 19 hours and 10 minutes. We moved up one slot for next year to 191. Race day is about the 3rd/4th weekend in April next year. Hope to see ya there!

73
Hal

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