

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
 Blue Ridge Mountain
 East of Visalia, California
 36 17.19' N Latitude, 118 50.23' W Longitude
 5,700' 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: Steve Lee-Thomas W6SLT

Vice President: Dave McElroy WB6BEF

Secretary: Ray Quinn KF6KMY

Treasurer: Bill Stenger K6QOG

Past President: Ray Quinn KF6KMY

Repeater Liaison: Chuck Ward WA6SAA

Activities Director: Hal Clover KC5LUB



Next Club Meeting is July 28, 7:30 pm
Red Cross Building, 505 West Main St, Visalia, CA.

Repeater Update

A short repeater committee meeting was held on Thursday, June 16, in conjunction with field day planning. Following are the repeater highlights.

We are officially in at Park Ridge. The I's have been dotted, the T's crossed and now it's up to us.

An antenna is on order and should be in our hands by June 20. From there, we wait for the road to clear. Just our luck we've had an unusually snowy and wet year. We are making progress.

An exploratory trip should be undertaken by July 12 or so in order to test

coverage and to settle questions such as antenna placement.

On a different note, the controller has been a disappointment. We are attempting to resolve this problem to everyone's satisfaction. Chuck, WB6SAA believes he can resolve the issues, so stand by for additional information.

Hope everybody has a great 4th of July.

Dave McElroy
 WA6BEF
 Repeater Committee chair

Tulare County Amateur Radio Club Minutes

President Steve Lee Thomas, W6SLT, called the meeting to order at 1939.

Introductions

Treasurer was not present.

Secretary Ray Quinn, KF6KMY read the minutes from the previous meeting. It was voted to accept the minutes as read.

Old business

W6SLT asked what the Club should do with the antennas and coax donated by Roger Corum.

The location for the new repeater should be finalized soon. A Memorandum Of Understanding is in process with those responsible for the new site. Discussion of what may be necessary to get repeater on the air at the new site. W6SLT proposed authorization to purchase a new antenna for new site. It would cost approximately \$600. Dave McElroy, WA6BEF motioned that the club authorize the expenditure. It was seconded by Pam Drake, KA2RQK. The vote was unanimously affirmative..

Repeater Committee Chair- Dave McElroy, WA6BEF: Dave gave a report on the last meeting.

Repeater Liaison – Chuck Ward, WA6SAA: Chuck says we are just waiting for snow to melt to get to the new site. It should not be long with the warm days.

Emergency Coordinator – Hal Clover, KC5LUB: Hal recognized the Walk America participants on April 30. ARES request 05007 from CERT/Red Cross on Fathers day at River Ridge Ranch, Springville. Event will take place from 1200-2000 and communications are needed from 1200 until 2000. Drill for interaction between hams and REACT. Inter-connect with MARS.

Activities Director – Hal Clover, KC5LUB: The presenter for the planned ATV demonstration was not able to attend the meeting. The presentation will have to be postponed.

The June meeting will be at Field Day. The Location will be determined later.

The Repeater Committee/Field Day meeting will be held Thursday, June 16, 2005 at 1930 at the Tulare/Kings Chapter of the American Red Cross in Visalia.

Pam Drake, KA2RQK motioned to adjourn. Ray Quinn, KF6KMY seconded the motion. It was voted unanimously affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 2055.

Respectfully Submitted
Ray Quinn KF6KMY



" We all get heavier as we get older because, there's a lot more information in our heads."



So I'm not fat, I'm just really intelligent and my head couldn't hold anymore so it started filling up the rest of me!

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for May 2005

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.

Emergency Coordinators are needed in Kings, Merced and Calaveras Counties. Contact N6ZFN (n6zfn@ares-races.net) or W6DPD (w6dpd@arrl.org) if you can help.

Thanks to N3TNQ for serving as the EC for Merced County. Good Luck on your move east.

Field Day is June 25-26, 2005, the fourth full weekend of June. Plans for the event should be nearing completion at this time. There are some rules changes for 2005 so download your FD packet from www.arrl.org/contests/forms.

Be sure to collect all the bonus points you can for you organization.

Mark your calendars. The California Historical Radio Society Swap Meet/Auction is June 18, 2005 at Cliffs Radio Warehouse on the corner of 13th and X in Merced. Check for information. Check

www.calforinahistoricalradio.com their events page. The Fresno Hamfest is August 13, 2005. Check www.w6to.com for information.

SJVARS presents the Harvest HamConVention is Sept 16-18, 2005 in Fresno.

Check for information. Pacificon 05 will be October 14-16, 2005 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.

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 San Joaquin County ARES is sponsoring a month long program to help hams learn the Morse Code. Contact n5fdl@arrl.net for information.

It is my sad duty to report that N6FUO, WF6N, KF6MZE and N0BGU became a Silent Keys. They will be missed.

Congrats to Wendy Wigh, AE6RL, on winning a scholarship from the ARRL Foundation. Way to go Wendy!!

Stockton-Delta ARC members provided communications for the March of Dimes Walk America.

TCARES members provided communications for the Old Mill Run in Columbia. Some members marched in the Mother Lode Roundup Parade.

San Joaquin Net 2005-2006 officers are Net Manager AD6X, Secretary KG6BBZ, and Asst. Secretary WG6Q. The net meets at 6 PM Pacific Time Mon-Sat on 3.918 MHZ.

Congratulations to AE6QP, W6DOU, N5FDL, KN6XW, KC6WCT, and N6WIG, on completing the ARECC Level 1 course and to AE6SX on completing the ARECC Level II course.

Congratulations to W6FAH on achieving US-CA All counties. This is quite an achievement. There are over 3000 counties in the United States and the award requires QSL cards.

In the 2005 ARRL RTTY Roundup SJV Section stations NN6NN, WK6I, and AK6DV placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively.

In the 2004 ARRL 160 Meter Contest SJV stations KA6BIM, K6YK, and K6VOA placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively.

In the 2004 ARRL 10 Meter Contest SJV stations KA6BIM, W6TE, and N6IIU placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively.

W6DPD took first place in the SJV for the 2004 ARRL Phone Sweepstakes for single op low power with WC6H taking single op high power, W6XK multi-op, KB6QIT single op QRP, and N6NZ unlimited

Traffic for May: K6RAU 20, N6SUZ 97 and W6DPD 1; Total 118. PSHR K6RAU 75, N6SUZ 100.

A continuing article for next several months from the ARRL Website.

The Amateur Amateur: Creeping up on the Digital Modes

By Gary Hoffman, KBOH
Contributing Editor
June 8, 2005

I became aware of Amateur Radio digital modes as soon as I began studying for my first Amateur Radio license. RTTY is mentioned in the same breath as AM, FM, and SSB in just about every book and pamphlet that describes our hobby. I never gave digital modes much thought, however, until my wife Nancy and I came across a ham radio demonstration held on the grounds of the . A local club had set up a couple of radios, and one of them was running packet.

I asked the ham at the packet station a few questions, and his answers interested me. But being a newly-minted no-code Technician, I wasn't quite prepared to jump into such a strange and exotic mode.

Digital modes flitted into and out of my consciousness for a few more years, mostly in the form of packet radio. Once in a while I would consider giving it a try, but I backed away very quickly every time I picked up a ham catalog and checked out TNCs--Terminal Node Controllers. The prices caused my baud rate to skyrocket.

I decided to put exploration of digital modes on the back burner for the time being--the very, *very* back burner.

One pivotal event brought digital modes back into focus for me. I decided to do a column about Field Day 2003, and visited the St Charles Amateur Radio Club's site (see and). The station running PSK31 garnered more spectators than anything else at the event. Not only was this an unusual setup for many of the onlookers, but its operator was an 11-year-old girl!

That image stuck in my mind and eventually prompted me to do a little research on PSK31.

The first thing I discovered was that radio amateurs have been experimenting with quite a few digital modes over the years. RTTY, AMTOR and PACTOR were all terms I'd come across while studying for my ham ticket, but PSK31 and something called MFSK16 seemed to be the *hot new modes*.

All of these modes seemed to work by sending tones over the air, each letter and number represented by some unique combination of those tones.

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

The second thing I discovered was that those particular digital modes seemed to be used primarily on the HF bands. Packet, while sometimes found on HF, tended to be more common on VHF and UHF.

Ah, but my *third* discovery really got me excited: One could run PSK31 using just the sound card of a personal computer. I could operate in that mode without buying an expensive TNC! Better still, I wouldn't have to build a sound card/transceiver interface, since those babies were already commercially available. Hey, I may like to experiment, but I'm still fundamentally lazy.

A quick check of my HF transceiver showed that it did indeed have a data port. More joy: a sound card/transceiver interface was available for my specific radio. I quickly ordered one. It arrived in short order, and I soon had my computer and HF rig linked together.

Hmmm. There seemed to be one wire and a connector left over, but I didn't worry about it. My main concern now was how to set up my computer.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

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:
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Visalia, CA 93279