

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
Secretary: Jim Brunk KD5NED
Past President: Ray Quinn KF6KMY

Vice President: Dave Millhouse N6YMM
Treasurer: Joseph Simons WB6MUD
Repeater Coordinator: Mike Irving N6BYH

Activities Director: Tom Thompson KD6DXX

FLASH- There will be N O Sept. Club Meeting.

ARES Responds to Hurricane Ivan

This excerpt is taken from the ARRL web page www.arrl.org.

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 16, 2004--Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams were ready and waiting as Hurricane Ivan slammed into the US Gulf Coast early today. Packing 115 MPH winds as it made landfall, Ivan zeroed in on the Mobile Bay area of Alabama, but because of its huge girth, the storm also affected the Florida Panhandle as well as Mississippi. New Orleans, which is below sea level, was spared a major flooding disaster. As of 1500 UTC, Hurricane Ivan, a Category 1 storm with 75 MPH winds and weakening, was making its way across Alabama. Alabama ARES will remain on red alert--the highest possible level--until Ivan passes through the state. Section Emergency Coordinator Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, in central Alabama, reports ham radio has been helping relief agencies, especially in the southernmost counties.

The Alabama ARES Net on 3965 kHz is coordinating with local repeaters through local liaison stations. "We've been having real good luck passing traffic

between the 2-meter repeaters and the HF net, and all of the state emergency operations centers are on that net," Isbell told ARRL. Most of the traffic has been logistical--requests for shelter cots, tarpaulins and generators--"but they've also asked for three four-wheel drive vehicles and a helicopter for search and rescue as well as damage assessment," he said.

ARES has been providing communication support for the Red Cross, The Salvation Army and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief organization. Communicators are with each of those organizations' teams with ARES operators also shadowing field personnel as needed, Isbell explained.

"The shelters have filled up real fast, a lot faster than they anticipated," Isbell reported, adding that a lot of people evacuated. "Everybody was taking it seriously."

ARES already is assisting with damage assessment activity. "We're using GPSs for the first time on the damage assessment and cleanup and recovery," Isbell said, noting that in the wake of a serious storm, "a lot of times the street signs are gone."

For the complete story see the article on the ARRL web page: www.arrl.org

TCARC Minutes of August 26, 2004

7:32 PM the meeting was called to order by **Dave N6YMM**. Dave explained that our president **Steve W6SLT** has a new job and will not be available for several months.

Guests were introduced: **Chuck W6DPD**, ARRL Section Manager and his wife Kathy. All members introduced themselves. Long time member, **John KG6WWJ** upgraded to Technician last January but has not operated since. Congratulations John!

Those in attendance were:

WA6BEF Dave McElroy, Visalia
WA2RQK Pam Drake, Visalia
N6YMM Dave Millhouse, Visalia
WA6SAA Chuck Ward, Three Rivers
WA7HRG Jim Purvis, Exeter
W6DPD Charles McConnell, Fresno
KG6AIR Bill Balsley, Visalia
KD6DXX Tom Thompson, Visalia
KD5NED Jim Brunk, Orsi
K6QOG Bill Stenger, Elderwood
KG6WWJ Jon Hackley, Visalia
N6QBK Chuck Wilcox, Visalia
KF6KMY Ray Quinn, Tulare
KC5LUB Hal Clover, Porterville
N6BYH Mike Irving, Visalia
KF6VDS Chris Scott, Visalia
KF6KMX Scott Yarbrough, Hanford
WB6MUD Joe Simons, Visalia
Carol Stenger, Elderwood

Old Business

Dave WA6BEF gave an update report on the status of the repeater. He said that there is a conflict between 2 meters and 440. It seems there is also a controller problem, audio card may have gone out. There may be a new one being donated. Several situations are being worked on by the repeater building group, e.g. figuring out which is audio out/in and using PTT and speaker at repeater site.

There is was a short discussion about a second repeater location and for backup purposes. Members agreed a secondary site would be good.

Video of the repeater construction can be seen via amateur television/internet at:
KC6YRU.WW.COM

Ray KF6KMY suggested donating club generator (non-working) to Castle Museum.

Chuck W6DPD reminded the club there is a special event station on the air (N6S) at the Sacramento State Fair.

New Business

Chuck W6DPD reported ARRL actions regarding Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) and the FCC. Other FCC considerations: changing band changes according to emission's bandwidth; remove novice subbands; cut some frequencies for Advanced class; remove power amplifier restrictions for 24-25 MHz's range. Licensing restructuring proposals are 1 to 3 years away. Currently, the only BPL testing in California is in Menlo Park, CA.

Hal KC5LUB gave a report on the wildland fire and that ARES was activated Friday 1 PM and staffed the evacuation center in Springville and the Red Cross Office. Hal and Nona staffed the sheriff's fire camp. ARES was deactivated about midnight.

Treasurer Report

Joe WB6MUD gave a treasurer's report.

Ray KF6KMY stated club internet domain expires this October. Renewal is 13.95 per year. Discussion followed and a motion and a second to purchase a three-years renewal.

Meetings

None announced at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by **Bill K6QOG**

Next TCARC Meeting

Will be Oct 28, 2004, at the Supervisors Chambers, 2800 W. Burrel in Visalia at 7:30 P.M.

All are welcome to attend.

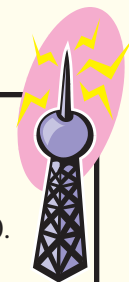
Please join us every Tuesday evening at 7:30 P.M. on 146.880 MHz for our weekly net. All amateurs are welcome to check in.

NOTE:

There is no club meeting in September because both Steve and Dave will be out of town.

Equipment Sale/Trade/Seeking -

For Sale: Kenwood TS 440S w/Astron PS35A power supply + MC-60 desktop microphone \$400; HT-41 linear amp. \$100.
Call **Bill K6QOG, 559/564-1926.**



SEPTEMBER DECLARED NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), along with many other agencies and organizations including ARRL, are launching "**National Preparedness Month**" beginning on **September 9, 2004**. In addition, **September 11 is ARRL's Amateur Radio Awareness Day**.

The two events offer great opportunities for Amateur Radio to showcase its valued service to the nation. ARRL Affiliated Clubs and the Field Organization should take advantage of this national event and set up demonstrations in public arenas, such as schools, malls and fairs, to present and explain to the public, under the banner of National Preparedness Month, just what the Amateur Radio service provides to their community. This is also an excellent opportunity to recruit prospective hams for licensing classes that you may be forming for the fall season.

"National Preparedness Month brings together an amazing coalition of partners to make citizen preparedness a priority for every city, every neighborhood and every home across America," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. "Homeland security is a shared responsibility and I am pleased that so many organizations and so many national leaders are working together to help get this information out into communities across the nation."

As a reminder, the League has printed material available for Affiliated Clubs and others to use for these types of exhibits. Brochures can be downloaded free from the web at <http://www.arrl.org/htdig/?method=and&words=brochure> or Exhibit Kits can be ordered through Linda Mullally KB1HSV. lmullally@arrl.org

There is a small shipping fee for the printed material.

While displays should be informative, they should also be neat and simple. Here is an example of the display that the New York City ARES group did at Ellis Island on Flag Day this past June:
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/224/06/22/3/>

Ham groups can invite public officials, served agencies and first responders to stop by the exhibit to talk about plans for the Simulated Emergency Test or other drills. Need a sample of a news release to spread the word? Go to <http://www.arrl.org/pio/handbook/sample-news-release.html> and customize the release to match your club's plans.

ARRL members and schools may use National Preparedness Month to set up their own emergency communications plans.

We really hope that ham groups will take advantage of this opportunity and get out into the community. If you have any questions about National Preparedness Month or about demonstrations in general please contact ARRL at clubs@arrl.org

This message is also going to ARRL affiliated clubs and Section Managers.)

Please reference ARRL List Server Message from Friday, August 13, 2004, that's titled, "National Preparedness Month."

AMATEUR RADIO AWARENESS DAY

Although this date has passed, we included the article for your information only.

The date for this year's Amateur Radio Awareness Day previously was announced as Saturday, September 11. We are changing it to Saturday, September 18.

A little background: Amateur Radio Awareness Day originally was established in 1990 as a Saturday in September that was clear of other activities. Later it was institutionalized as the third Saturday in September. Then we discovered that on occasion this conflicted with something, such as a religious holiday, in which case it was shifted to the second Saturday.

This year there was no particular reason to pick the second rather than the third Saturday, and the second Saturday corresponds with September 11 -- a day that will be commemorated for an overarching reason.

While amateur radio played a part in our nation's response to the September 11 attacks, concern has been expressed that by designating September 11 as Amateur Radio Awareness Day we may be perceived as trying to ride the coattails of a national tragedy. At the very least we may be perceived as insensitive.

While we regret and apologize for any confusion that may result, we believe the best course of action at this time is to designate September 18 as Amateur Radio Awareness Day. Please modify any material you may have accordingly.

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Chief Executive Officer, ARRL



All Ham News

Emergency Coordinators for Tulare County:

RACES is Jim Reeves KC6YRU - kc6yru@tcarc.net

ARES is Hal Clover KC6LUB - hal90000@sosinet.net

ARES Events by Hal KC5LUB:

August ARES News

KC5LUB

Emergency Coordinator

Tulare County ARES

Membership - same

Activation - DEEP FIRE, Springville CA,
August Agency served: Tulare Kings Chapter
American Red Cross.

Friday August 13, 2004

(times are approximate)

9:00 Contact made with Red Cross Disaster
Director - Alert Status: Alerted/waiting for
official callout.

10:30 Contacted Red Cross again for update,
placed on Standby. Red Cross setting up
evacuation center in Springville for possible
residential evacuation. Red Cross advised 2-3
hour response due to location.

12:00 Activated. Red Cross requesting a station
at the chapter house in Visalia and evacuation
center in Springville. Net activated on WA6BAI
repeater.

14:00 Station in Visalia on location and station
in Springville on the way.

18:15 Operation closed.

Messages and contact was established for the
Red Cross management personnel both on the
scene and at the agency headquarters in a cellular
deficient area.

Saturday and Sunday August 14-15, 2004

DEEP FIRE Base Camp. Agency served:
Interagency Management Team - Security
Branch.

A cross band repeater link was set-up using a
70 cm simplex frequency and the W6BJ
repeater. This allowed a communication link

with ARES members in the Porterville area and the
Fire Base Camp located at Bartlett Park in
Porterville. The area is not accessible via most radio
systems and cell phone coverage is very sporadic.
During the two day spell, an emergency medical
call was assisted with vehicular traffic control.

I would like to thank the following stations for their
participation in the event:

**WA6BEF DAVE - Visalia
(net control)**

KJ6OH AL - Springville

W6ALT WALT

K6DAW DAVE

KF6KMY RAY

KC5LUB HAL

KF6MKJ NONA

W6BJ BOBBY

W6MTR ALAN

WB6MUD JOE



While not all the stations actually were on the air,
several were able to help supply information on
possible stations to cover the event. While we were
only needed for a couple of hours, both locations
had staffing ready for 16 hours. When the event
was terminated on Friday evening, I was working
on staffing for Saturday morning should operators
be needed. Red Cross was very impressed with both
the skills and response from the group. Good job
everyone!

Approximate hours: 54

One side note, during the incident, I was able to
make contact with the Emergency Program Manager
for Tulare County. A meeting with him is pending.
More to follow on this next month.

Respectfully submitted,

Hal Clover, KC5LUB

EC Tulare County

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for August 2004

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

Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section.

The new Section Emergency Coordinator is Marie Thompson, N6ZFN. She has distinguished herself as the EC for W. Kern County for many years. Thanks to Kent, K6IN for his years of service as SEC, and good luck in your move to Nevada.

Need to take an Amateur Exam? Exams are given on various times of each month throughout the San Joaquin Valley Section. Check the ARRL web page, www.arrl.org for the schedule by clicking on the Exams button in the upper left corner. You should be able to find an exam near you. You can also check your local radio club newsletter or web page for an exam schedule. Remember the General Class Exam changed on July 1, 2004. Make sure the study material for General has an effective date of July 1, 2004.

Card Checking in the Section. You can get cards checked for awards within the section. W6XK and W6DPD can check your cards for DXCC in accordance with the rules for field checking. W6DPD can check cards for the CQ Awards, WAZ, DX, and Prefixes, and ARRL WAS and VUCC. Special Service Clubs may appoint a HF awards manager for WAS and a VHF Awards Manager for VUCC.

The Western States Weak Signal Society (WSWSS) presents a Ham Radio VHF/UHF Conference on Saturday October 9, 2004. The conference will be at M2 Antenna Systems at 4402 N. Selland in Fresno. The conference cost is \$30. For registration information contact ki6ff@juno.com and the web page at www.wswss.org.

The annual Turlock ARC Auction is Saturday October 16, 2004 in Turlock. Check www.w6bxn.org for information.

Pacificon 04 is October 15-17, 2004 at the San Ramon Marriott. Check www.pacificon.org for information. This should be another fine show under the direction of the Mt. Diablo ARC. You can order tickets from the webpage.

If you Work All States between April 1 and the end of 2004, you can apply for a WAS/90 certificate from ARRL. No QSL cards are needed, only log information. The cost is \$10. This is to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of ARRL.

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.

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

Please write your congressional representative and urge support and co-sponsorship of HR 713, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act and HR 1478, which would apply PRB-1 to CC&Rs. Also contact your Senators and urge support and co-sponsorship of S 537, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act.

BPL. All Amateurs are urged to contact President Bush (president@whitehouse.gov) to urge him to change his position on BPL. Also, please contact your senators and representative to urge them to oppose the implementation of BPL. Check the ARRL

web page (arrl.org) for more information, sample letters and email addresses.

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.

It is my sad duty to report that KF6HNG has become a Silent Key. She will be missed.

N6SUZ is an ORS.

Six TCARES members participated in Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) training. The Red Cross has 9 Ford Excursions outfitted as ERVs. The nearest one is located in Sacramento.

W6WTG presented a forum on internet remote bases as the ARRL SW Division Convention in Phoenix.

Congratulations to AA6K, K6LLD, AD6NY, AJ6LS and W6VPS on completing the ARECC Level One course, and to WA6MFV on completing ARECC Level Two course.

Sierra ARC members supported a Boy Scout Camp at Big Meadow near Kernville. They provided communications and taught the Radio Merit Badge. Five Scouts were able to earn the merit badge.

WR6M placed first and W6TE placed second in the section in the 2004 ARRL SSB DX contest. N6HK was 5th as a single op 15 meter entry and N6EE was 6th as a single op 10 meter entry. There were 9 entries from the section in the SSB contest. K6OQ placed first and W6TE placed second in the section in the 2004 ARRL CW International DX Contest. There were 10 entries from the Section in the CW contest.

Traffic for August was 0. PSHR K6RAU 70.

Club News

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

Happy Birthday to --

September Birthdays

**Jim Reeves KC6YRU
Chris Hembree N6HPP**

October Birthdays

Alan Vicenti W6MTR

Happy Anniversary to --

September Anniversaries

**Gloria W6NRS & Alan Vicenti W6MTR
Charles & Darlene Wilcox N6QBK**

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

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