

## 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



## FCC Recognizes BPL Interference

*News Article from the ARRL website. For this and other interesting and informative articles, go to [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).*

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 14, 2004--As expected, the FCC has approved revised Part 15 (unlicensed services) rules to specifically regulate the deployment of broadband over power line (BPL) technology. The Commission adopted a Report and Order in ET Docket 04-37 when it met in open session today. At the same time, three members of the Commission, including Chairman Michael K. Powell, specifically mentioned the concerns of Amateur Radio operators at the open meeting and expressed either assurances or hope that the new BPL rules will adequately address interference to licensed services. Republican FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin addressed Amateur Radio's and broadcasters' interference concerns in his written statement. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was encouraged to see the Commission's shift from the early days of the BPL proceeding, when it followed the lead of the BPL industry in largely ignoring interference to amateurs as a real issue in the proceeding.

"What the League has done in the last year and a half on this issue showed in the Commission's public meeting today," Haynie said. He cited the FCC's approval of three major points that the League had been pushing for: Certification of BPL equipment instead of verification, a requirement for a public BPL database--something the BPL industry did not want--and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints.

"Those were things that we brought to the table," he said. "I think we scored some pretty good points." Haynie concedes, however, that the devil is in the details of the R&O, which likely will not be made public for at least a few weeks. The FCC issued a Public Notice reporting its action.

Anh Wride of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), who outlined the draft R&O, acknowledged that Access BPL devices "pose a somewhat higher potential for interference to licensed radio services than typical Part 15 devices." But, Wride went on to say, "we believe the specific benefits of BPL warrant acceptance of a small degree of additional risk, and that this interference potential can be satisfactorily managed."

FCC Commissioners are: Michael K. Powell (Chairman), Kevin J. Martin, Kathleen Q. Abernathy Michael J. Copps and Jonathan S. Adelstein.

**Next TCARC Meeting will be October 28, 2004, at the Supervisors Chambers, 2800 W. Burrell 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.**

## The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler

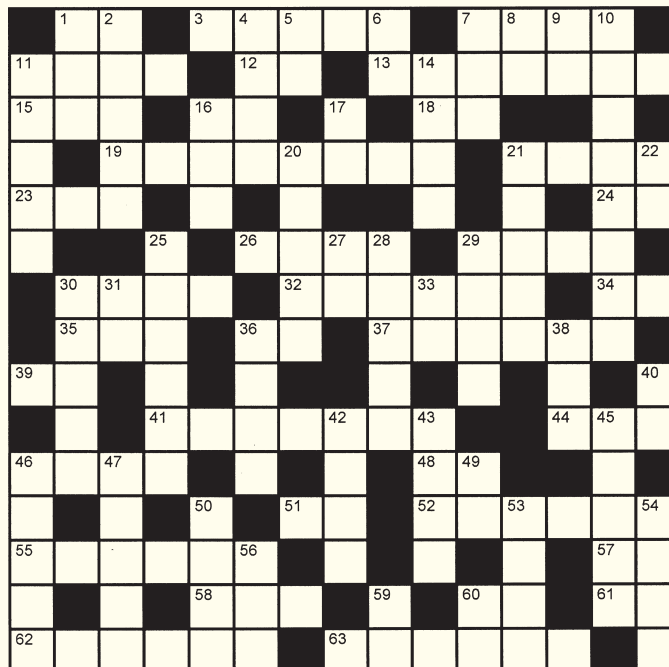
By H. Ward Silver, N0AX / October 9, 2004 / From ARRL Web site

### “From the Ground Up”

It's a good thing that's the way we build towers. It would be a lot harder the other way. As October closes in, the hams are busy in the yard with last minute and too-long-deferred antenna projects. Our compatriots in FL are busy restoring their aluminum and copper to former glories. In recognition of the season, we take a close look at all things towering.

#### Across

1. Vertical's counterpoise (abbr.)
3. Following
7. Dry lubricant powder
11. Worn for safety
12. ARRL observer (abbr.)
13. Force in a cable
15. QRV and QRT can use this same abbreviation
16. Ham radio (abbr.)
18. Impedance matcher (abbr.)
19. Used to form an end on guy cable
21. Certification that you passed a test (abbr.)
23. Protected by steel in your shoe
24. Controlled by radio (abbr.)
26. Deliver concrete
29. Speed of work
30. Line that carries antennas over guys
32. What you feel like after a boo-boo
34. The mode that uses RY for tuning
35. Workplace (abbr.)
36. Mark, as used in model names (abbr.)
37. Tightens with a turn
39. All is right (abbr.)
41. Short safety line
44. Stabilizing line
46. Where the concrete goes
48. As an example (abbr.)
51. Number (abbr.)
52. Holds the end of 45 Across
55. Sections inside each other
57. Prefix for Zone 13 entity
58. Type of microwave feedpoint amplifier (abbr.)
60. End of message (CW abbr.)
61. Home state of Ten-Tec (abbr.)
62. List of errors
63. Wheel and hook used for pulling with a rope



#### Down

1. Retrieve
2. Flat piece of metal
4. Wooden structure to hold concrete
5. Take off (abbr.)
6. Right (abbr.)
7. Makes 47 Across in a hurry!
8. Stand by (CW abbr.)
9. Light metal used in batteries (Chemical symbol)
10. Mixture that becomes a solid mass
11. Threaded connector
14. Not hard
16. Strike
17. Product safety test organization (abbr.)
20. Prevent from sliding
21. Offset handle to turn a shaft
22. Local ARES leader
25. Goes with block
27. Your (CW abbr.)
28. Metal rods used for strengthening
29. Select
30. .... Hi-Power Labs
31. Causes burns on the microphone
33. Appreciation (CW abbr.)
36. These hands make light work
38. What hold the tower up
40. Adjacent to
42. Unit of land area
43. The side of a cable loop not saddled
45. Double-threaded, holds round things to flat things
46. Linear pivot
47. Coherent light source used for surveying
49. Good night (CW abbr.)
50. Bump left after a blow
53. The process of 10 Down becoming solid
54. Cross-piece
56. Carries the genetic code
59. Pick up (abbr.)
60. Most common antenna material

\* Solution in next month's newsletter or ARRL Web site

## 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:

## October ARES News

KC5LUB

Emergency Coordinator  
Tulare County ARES

Well, summer is over and the weather is starting to change for fall. Thanks to everyone that has been supportive of our ARES activities over the summer. We might take a minute to think about what is going on in the Southeast section of the country. While we don't have hurricanes specifically here in Tulare County, the potential for some other events does exist.

Please think about a 72 hours disaster kit. If you haven't gotten one together, it might be a good idea. With mountains rumbling and the ground shaking, you never know when an event will erupt, no pun intended. Some basic supplies include food, water and clothing. Do you know where your utility shut-offs are? Do you have a device to turn off your gas? A simple crescent wrench will do in an emergency.

I might add that once you turn off the utilities, the utility company needs to turn it back on. This may take a while in emergency, so don't turn the utilities off unless directed to or if they cause a danger. In an emergency, it may take several days to get them turned back on once they are off.

Lots is going on with ARES locally in the next couple of weeks. The annual Simulated Emergency Test or SET was the first weekend of the month. It kinda snuck up on us so there were no formal plans to participate on that weekend. Instead, October 16 at 0800 is the scheduled SET for our ARES group. We will be focusing on a local response within Tulare County. Several stations will be needed and operators will be called into service throughout the county. If you are available listen in on 146.88, 146.655, 145.31 and 443.2 MHz.

A second activity that we have been invited to is the Annual Statewide Hospital Exercise. This drill is primarily for the hospitals throughout the state to practice for a large scale disaster or emergency. This year, we have been asked to provide communications support for our local hospitals and County OES. This is a weekday event and operators are needed in several locations throughout the county. There will be HF, VHF and UHF communications going on. Come out and play with the big boys if you are available.

Have a safe October and watch out for goblins at the end of the month. Keep those batteries charged and listen on the repeater during an emergency to get the up to date information. Hope to hear you out there.

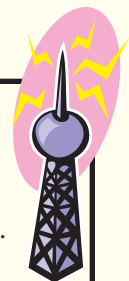
Hal, KC5LUB

EC ARES / Tulare County.

**Due to the cancellation of September's meeting, there are no minutes for that month.**

### 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.**



## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for September 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.

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

Thanks to AD6HP for his service as the EC for Merced County. N3TNQ is the new EC for Merced County. Thanks to AC4US for his service at the EC for San Joaquin County.

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.

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.

If you Work All States between April 3 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.

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 N6REZ, K6IIA, WB6VIN, and W6PSQ have become a Silent Keys. They will be missed.

N6ZFN was sent to Florida to support Red Cross efforts there.

Congratulations to W6DWF and KG6ALC on completing the ARECC Level One course.

Sierra ARC members assisted the Kiwanis Walkathon and the Picnic in the Park bike ride on the same date.

Manteca ARC members participated in the Tracy Airport open house.

N6LHL helped provide communications for the Tevis Cup race. This is an annual horse race from Lake Tahoe to Auburn CA.

W6FRH has DXCC on 40 meters. W6RUJ has WAZ on CW.

K6XJ placed first in the SJV in the 2003 ARRL 10 Meter contest.

Traffic for September was 8. PSHR K6RAU 75, and N6SUZ 35.

### 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 - 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 --

#### October Birthdays

Alan Vicenti W6MTR

#### November Birthday

Dave Mcelroy WA6QNW  
Nona Loeffler KF6MKJ  
John Stevens KB6DAV

### Happy Anniversary to --

#### November Anniversaries

Larry Taylor KF6JBG & Jane  
Bill Balsley KG6AIR  
John Stevens KB6DAV & Karen KF6PCV  
Nona Loeffler KF6MKJ

**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

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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