

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 January 25th, 7:30 pm at the
County Board of Supervisors Building,
2800 Burrell, Visalia.
It is located West of the court house.**

Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, there will be no Nov. or Dec club meetings. However, we will have the annual Family Holiday Potluck Dinner:

When - Sunday, December 10, 2006

Time - 3pm to 5pm

Where - 37948 Rd 200, Elderwood, CA (see map on page3)

Bill & Carol will provide "deep-pit" beef, dinner rolls, beverages, plates & utensils. Please bring a side-dish and/or dessert.

Please RSVP 564-1926 or email: stengerw@wildblue.net



President's Message

Hello to all and may I be the first to offer happy upcoming holidays.

First, there was no official meeting last month as we lacked a quorum. However, we briefly discussed an invitation. Bill Stenger, K6QOG, has generously offered his home for our traditional holiday gathering, which we plan for the afternoon of Sunday, December 10th. This will be a great way to kick off the month and begin the Christmas/New Years season. Further details will come from Bill and Carol as WA6BEF and KA2RQK will be out of state for a time.

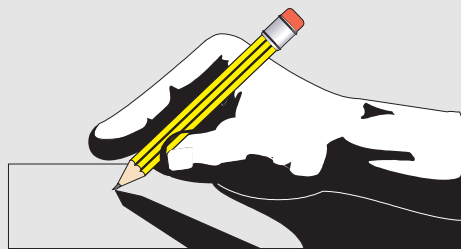
Some of you may remember that we were going to do some work on Blueridge, ultimately switching controllers with our Park Ridge box. Chuck has taken Blueridge off the hilltop and is working tirelessly, (did I say that?) ((smirk)) to bring it back from its previously dormant state. Chuck has also found a VHF/UHF antenna which is small enough that it can be placed on the tower so that we can hope for a better signal from the box once everything is back on line.

Thanks to WA6SAA for all the work he's putting into it.

Well, the time has come again, (actually we're officially late,) to think about nominations for next year's officers. Therefore, I would propose that we place our nominations in January, publish them in the newsletter and then hold our elections the following month with officers to take over at that time.

Guess that's it from this desk for now. We'll try to check in on Echolink or IRLP from time to time as computers and or radios permit. So for now, best of 73's.

Dave, WA6BEF



Club Websites:

The mailing lists available for TCARC are:

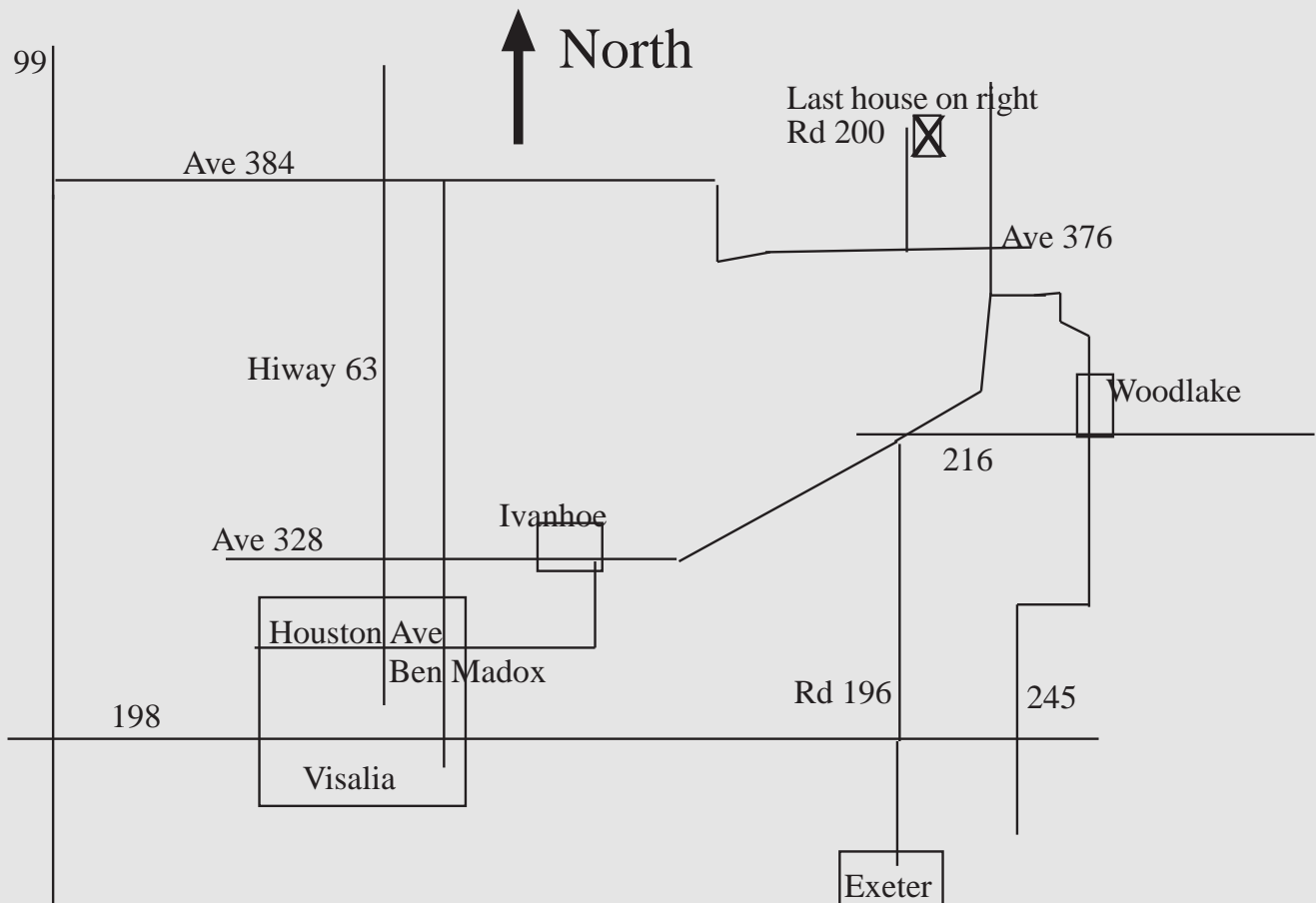
- gridleak@tcarc.net - Grid Leak distribution in Portable Document Format (PDF)
- gridleak-text@tcarc.net - Grid Leak distribution in text format for those who prefer or require it.
- tcarc-announce@tcarc.net - One-way announcements open to all
- members@tcarc.net - Open to all active members
- repeater@tcarc.net - 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

DIRECTIONS TO HOLIDAY POTLUCK



HAM RADIO TO THE RESCUE, AGAIN!

ARES/RACES assist in Esperanza Fire response(Oct 31, 2006) -- Amateur Radio volunteers under the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) banners assisted the American Red Cross response to California's Esperanza Fire, some 90 miles east of Los Angeles. "We are very proud of all of our Amateur Radio operators who were called in to assist not only with communications but other needed areas," ARRL Orange Section Manager Carl Gardenias, WU6D, said. Authorities believe an arsonist ignited the deadly blaze early on October 26. Before it was declared 100-percent contained October 31, the fire had burned over some 40,200 acres, claimed the lives of four firefighters. Another who had

been in grave condition died this week. The Salvation Army provided canteens for firefighters, while the Riverside County Red Cross opened shelters to house and feed those displaced by the flames. The Esperanza Fire destroyed 34 homes and 20 outbuildings, and the Red Cross said many residents were forced to flee with nothing. Gardenias notes that Riverside County Red Cross issued "a big thank-you" via the 3965 kHz RACES for Amateur Radio support to its shelters. Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) members supported that organization's relief efforts, he said. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said more than 1800 fire personnel have been involved in battling the Esperanza Fire.

From: www.arrl.org/

Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for the month of October 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.

W6PM is the new EC for E. Kern County. Thanks to KK6PA for his years of service as EC.

Mark your calendars: The International DX Convention is April 27-29, 2007 at Visalia. Check <http://www.dxconvention.org/> for information. EMCOMM West is May 4-6, 2007 at the Atlantis Resort and Casino in Reno NV. Check www.emcommwest.org for information. Field Day 2007 is the fourth full weekend of June. The 65th Fresno Hamfest is August 4, 2007 at the Holiday Inn at the Airport in Fresno. Check www.w6to.com for information. Pacificon 2007 is October 19-21, 2007 at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon CA. 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. 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 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 N6EL, and W6MTJ,

are Silent Keys. They will be missed.

The Oakdale Amateur Radio Society now has the call sign K6OAR.

The Sequoia Amateur Radio Group in Lake Isabella is now an ARRL Affiliated Club. Gordon West, WB6NOA, will be their guest speaker in February 2007.

PACIFICON was well attended by Amateurs from the SJV Section. W6MSU of the Coast Guard Auxiliary (Stockton Flotilla) presented a session on ICS 100.

Officers of the Calaveras ARS are pres AE6LA, vp KO6HV, sec WB6QVU, and treas AC6CY. The club meets quarterly in Arnold. Check www.calaverasars.org for information.

WS6X was number one in the search and pounce category: the 2005 Stew Perry 160 meter contest. Congrats Jim. He will join the KP4US team for the 2006 CQWW CW Contest.

W6DPD was listed in the 2006-2007 edition of Who's Who in America.

Congrats to N6WIG, KM6JM, KG6STR, KB6NIZ, and KE6KAC on completing the ARECC Level One course.

2006 Field Day Results in the SJV were first, Madera County ARC, second Fresno ARC, and third San Andreas Faultline Survivors.

2006 June VHF QSO Party results in the SJV were first N6MU, second W6XD and third W6TV.

Traffic for October: K6RAU 26, W6DPD 4, N6SUZ 34 and W6SX 14; Total 78. PSHR: K6RAU 67, N6SUZ 64.

Ham Equipment FOR SALE or TRADE

FOR SALE

1. MFJ-1278 HF/VHF TNC \$30
2. KANTRONICS KPC-2400 TNC \$25
3. KANTRONICS DVR2-2 DATA RADIO \$20
4. KANTRONICS D4-10 UHF DATA RADIO \$20

Contact Alan Vicenti, W6MTR:
559-733-2902



Rohn HD 40ft Self-Supporting Tower
\$450

Yaesu G-450A Rotor, Control box, 75ft
5 wire rotor cable
\$150

Call Bill K6QOG 559-564-1926



Happy Birthdays

December

KE6UKK Frank Devin
K6QOG Bill Stenger

January

WD6FUF Sarah Corum
KA6VEC Floyd Morris

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

Is Big Brother Wanting Too Much?

From the ARRL Website

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 25, 2006 -- ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, is urging Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other ham radio volunteers to tread cautiously when submitting information for background checks the American Red Cross (ARC) now requires. The ARC, with which the ARRL has a *Statement of Understanding (SoU)*, this summer notified local chapters that volunteers and staff members must submit to criminal background checks by October 31. Harrison says the requirement extends to ARES volunteers who support Red Cross disaster relief efforts. In a statement October 24, Harrison said the League recommends that anyone submitting personal information for a background check very carefully read what they are giving the ARC permission to collect.

"The Red Cross is requiring volunteers to grant permission for more than just a criminal background check," Harrison asserted. "They are also requiring permission to draw a consumer and/or investigative consumer report on the volunteer." Harrison said that could also include a credit check and a mode-of-living check.

"The Red Cross has stated that they will not use credit reports," he noted. "Requiring that volunteers authorize the procurement of a credit report is inconsistent with this assurance." The on-line application allows applicants to request a copy of any consumer report resulting from its background investigation.

The ARC has contracted with MyBackgroundCheck.com LLC (MBC) in Anderson, California, to handle the on-line background checks. Prospective volunteers visit a secure Web site, click on the ARC logo and submit name, address, Social Security number (or other acceptable government ID), telephone number, and date of birth. Driver's license information, e-mail address and mother's maiden name are optional.

In the course of the application process, prospective volunteers must agree to let MBC obtain a wide range of personal information bearing not just on criminal background and

creditworthiness but, MBC says, "character, general reputation [and] personal characteristics." MBC advises, "The nature and scope of this disclosure and authorization is all-encompassing . . ."

Some ARES leaders already have expressed concern to the ARRL about the Red Cross policy. One District Emergency Coordinator called the requirement "particularly abhorrent" and "a horrendous invasion of privacy." The Red Cross says the new policy is aimed at safeguarding clients, volunteers and employees alike.

"Unfortunately, in this day and age it is critical that the American Red Cross and other agencies, employers and organizations perform due diligence in researching the people who will represent them," the Red Cross said in a statement supplied to ARRL. "We hope volunteers, who have provided blood, sweat and tears in helping fulfill the mission of the American Red Cross, will understand the importance of performing this due diligence."

ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N -- whose department supports and oversees the ARRL Field Organization -- is among those who believes the Red Cross stands to lose a fair number of volunteers because of the requirement -- and not necessarily just ARES volunteers.

"ARES members who are providing communications for ARC are working for ARC," Patton maintained, "and, as such, will follow their guidelines." He added that whatever position the ARRL might adopt, the decision to go along with the new Red Cross policy is up to individual volunteers.

The ARC apparently has not disseminated policy specifics at the national level. The only reliable information on what the background checks will entail is that on the MBC site. The sometimes-conflicting information ARRL obtained was distributed at the ARC chapter level. One such memorandum -- supplied to ARRL by a third party -- indicates that a check will focus on an individual's criminal history over the previous seven years (in most states), although MBC's disclaimer doesn't indicate any limit. Some prospective volunteers have worried that "youthful indiscretions" may

Big Brother Continued

rule out their suitability as Red Cross volunteers. The check also will verify that an individual's name matches his or her Social Security number. The same memo assures that access to the information gathered "is limited to only those with a need to know and is kept in a secure location."

Despite the information MBC provides on the application site, another chapter-level memorandum assures that the Red Cross "is not interested in checking your personal credit/financial records nor will it review any personal/professional reference checks."

Who Represents Whom?

Several ARES leaders have expressed the belief that they and their volunteers represent ARES when supporting communication for ARC as a served agency. "Our issue is not the background checking, but the fact ARC considers ARES members ARC volunteers," one ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator said.

The *SoU* between the League and the ARC is ambiguous on the subject, however. While the document says "each organization retains its own identity in providing service," it further stipulates that ARES volunteers "in such cases when the operators are required to carry American Red Cross identification" must register as American Red Cross volunteers.

Radio amateurs who volunteered in the wake of Hurricane Katrina last year were badged in via the Montgomery, Alabama, staging area as ARC volunteers. The same applied to those who turned out to assist following the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001, and that practice upset some ARES volunteers.

The ARRL-ARC *SoU* subsequently states, however, that volunteers assisting the ARC with disaster relief communication support "shall be at all times considered ARRL volunteers," but then goes on to say that ARRL and ARES volunteers "may, under conditions and terms established by American Red Cross from time to time, also serve as American Red Cross volunteers for a mutually agreed upon task or function." The *SoU* does not address the issue of background checks, however. The *SoU* comes up for review in 2007.

Arbitrary?

ARRL Public Service Team Leader Steve Ewald, WV1X, says ARES leaders can assign volunteers who don't want to submit to the ARC criminal background check to ARES duties "away from the action" that don't involve direct interaction with the ARC. "We certainly understand the risks that are involved in having background checks done -- such as potential identity theft," Ewald told one worried SEC. "Those volunteers who do go through the background check will, indeed, enter at their own risk in this regard."

One ARES DEC suggested the ARC policy "is just way too arbitrary." As he put it, "The unfortunate thing is that if a member decides not to submit to this check, then that will hamper our ability to serve the Red Cross in an emergency."

Info is Secure, ARC Says

The Red Cross says it's gone to great lengths to ensure prospective volunteers are not giving out their Social Security numbers to anyone other than the contractor, and then only through a secure, encrypted Web site. "No additional information is needed," the Red Cross said, nor are the overall results of the background check shared with the ARC.

"The only information provided is that a person has successfully completed the background check with no adverse information, or that a person has potentially adverse information and that additional research is required," the ARC told ARRL. "When additional research is required the contracted company will notify the prospective volunteer and will address the issue with no Red Cross intervention."

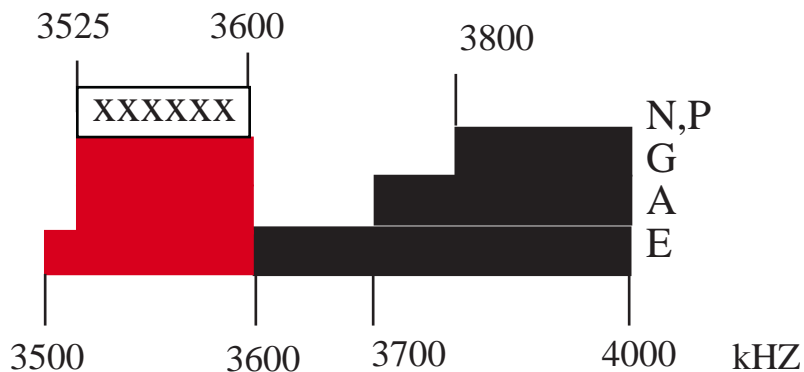
Contact the Red Cross (toll-free 800-507-3960) with any questions regarding the background check program.

New Band Expansion

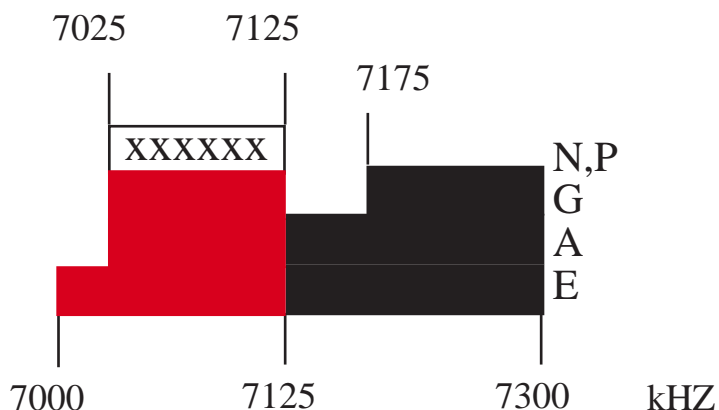
Effective December 15, 2006, 12:01 EST. See www.arrl.org for more information.



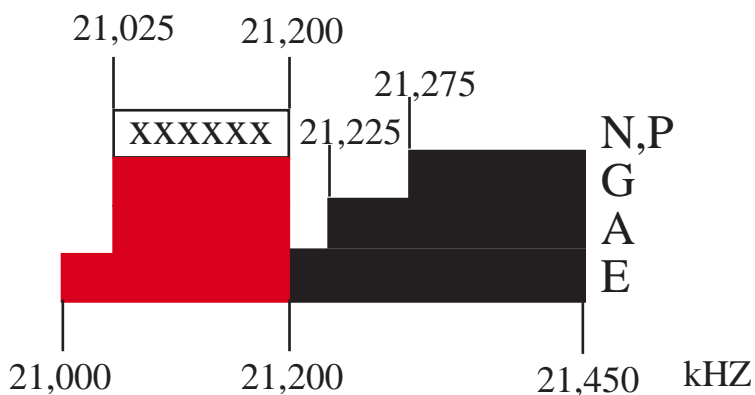
80 METERS



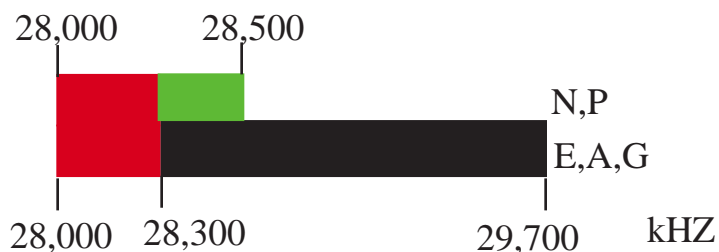
40 METERS



15 METERS



10 METERS



KEY

= CW, RTTY and data

= CW, phone and image

= CW, and SSB phone

= CW only

E = Amateur Extra

A = Advanced

G = General

P = Technician Plus

N = Novice

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