

THE GRID LEAK

The Official Newsletter of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club February 2004 Issue

TULARE COUNTY WA6BAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Here's a Little Groundhog

Here's a little groundhog furry and brown
He's coming up to look around.
If he sees his shadow, down he'll go
Then six more weeks of winter, OH NO!



P.O. Box 723
Visalia, CA 93279

TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
146.880 (-) TCARC REPEATER
Stokes Mountain, North of Visalia
36.31.22N 119.12.80W
I.R.L.P. Node # **8120**

Echolink Node # **152747 (WA6BAI-R)**

Web Page: <http://www.tcarc.net/>

ion site at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wa6bai/>



Presidents
Day



Happy Valentines Day



Club Officers:

President: Steve Thomas W6SLT
Past President: Ray Quinn KF6KMY
Vice President: Dave Millhouse N6YMM
Secretary: Karen Stevens KF6PCV
Treasurer: Joseph Simons WB6MUD
Repeater Coordinator: Hal Clover
KC6LUB
Activity Coordinator: Not Yet Filled

Words from the President:

I was reflecting on what our club has accomplished in the past few years, and it is exciting. We now have IRLP and Echo Link on our repeater. We have a great, talented group of club members with the vision and plans to make our club even better. We will have the opportunity to provide more service to our community,

learn new skills, and even learn to adapt to new F.C.C. regulations.

We have acquired equipment to improve our repeater. We have functioning committees. We have plans for activities, emergency communication drills, Field day, and technical projects. What a great time to be a member of this club.

Thank you to all of you for all that you do for the betterment of our club.

73's Steve W6SLT

Last Meeting Minutes:

January 22, 2003: Meeting called to order by President Ray Quinn KF6KMY at 19:32 hours. Those in attendance: KF6KMY Ray, WA6BEF Dave, WA2KQK Pam, WB6MUD Joe,

KB6DAV John, KF6PCV Karen, N6IJF Andy, KE6ELG Mike, WA7HRG Jim, WA6SAA Charles, KF6KMX Scott, KC6LUB Hal, W6SLT Steve, K6QOG Bill, N6YMM Dave.

First topic, Dec. 4, 2003 meeting, there was a Raffle, in which a Yaesu 1500 radio was on the table and was won by Bill KG6AIR, way to go Bill.

Treasurer WB6MUD Joe shows the club is doing well with monies, a Balance of \$1254.43 before a payment for the Exciter.

Elections:

Treasurer; nominations were WB6MUD Joe, and KG6AIR Bill, unanimous votes went to WB6MUD Joe.

Secretary; nominations were KF6PCV Karen, and KC6YRU Jim, unanimous votes went to KF6PCV Karen.

Repeater Coordinator; nominated was KC5LUB, unopposed.

Vice President; nominations were N6YMM Dave, and W6SLT Steve, unanimous votes went to N6YMM Dave.

President; nominations were KF6KMY Ray, and W6SLT Steve, unanimous votes went to W6SLT Steve.

Activities Director will be voted on at the next club meeting, nominations so far are for KD6DXX Tom.

Meeting adjourned 20:23

Club News:

Hal KC5LUB found an Exciter at E-bay, the exciter should be delivered in about a week from the last meeting on January 22, 2004. Great job Hal at tracking and bidding at the right time. Hal has also requested to go with Byron to Stokes Mountain so that he may take inventory of the clubs repeater equipment stationed at Stokes.

Club Events:

No events to report at this time

Notes from the Editor:

If there is anything that anyone would like to add to the newsletter you may contact me by e-mail at kf6pcv@tcarc.net. The deadline to have anything included in the newsletter will be the 10th of each month; submissions after the 10th will go in the next newsletter issue unless you notify me to not include it or it is date sensitive.

I would like to thank those that did send me their updated information. Thank you.

**Thank you
KF6PCV
de Karen**

All Ham News:

ARES News by Hal KC6LUB: March of Dimes Walk-a-thon scheduled for April 24, 2004, check the next issue of the newsletter for more details.

ARES Training – Designating official Emergency Stations with Kaweah Delta Health Care District and the Police Department.

Dave Millhouse N6YMM spoke with Lonny Carter for County of Tulare Health & Human Services Agency, Bioterrorism Program Coordinator and the County of Tulare would prefer that they work with RACES rather than with ARES for their emergency calls.

What might we expect during an emergency communications call-out? That's a good question. I wish the answer were as easy. One thing that is known, the agency(s) we are supporting during the event feel that they cannot handle communications within their organizational network or with another organization for the operational period. That being said, for what should a ham operator prepare? At best, I would be

prepared to work under less than ideal operating conditions. In an ARES call-out, you'll be working with other hams on-the-air. Off the air, you may be dealing with other tasks as well such as taking notes, logging (yes even though the FCC no longer requires it) your transmissions, filing requests and staying sane (wink, wink) while doing so. You may have the luxury of non-hams to complete some of these tasks and acquaint them with amateur procedures. Other times you may have to find and sharpen your own pencils.

Flexibility is the key.

How do we prepare for those tasks one might ask? **Training exercises and drills are the best way.** While most of us are comfortable communicating from our shacks, even the mobile ones, we need to get out and set up temporary locations. You should become familiar with the equipment you will use. Over the next couple of months, there will be some opportunities to set-up a mobile station and keep it running for a period of time.

Understandably, the easiest way to go is with handy talkies. They are light, portable and require just a minimal amount of power to run. Given ideal conditions, that would be great. However, a higher power rig or better antenna system may be required. I know one local event has to set-up an auxiliary crossband repeater to get out of one hole. Again, flexibility and ingenuity is key. That's why we're hams. In talking with Red Cross, there may or may not be a drill in the next month. As soon as details on that arise, I will contact everyone. Also, check out the ARES web page at www.tcares.us for more information about other upcoming events. I am also trying to work out details with the Sheriff's Department for the Baker-to-Vegas run held in April. We may need to support a couple of APRS/GPS vehicles during the event. Until then - 73 and keep your batteries charged.

Hal Clover, KC5LUB

ARES EC Tulare County CA

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION

Report for the month of January 2004:
SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASM
K6YK, ACC W6DPD, SEC K6IN, OOC
N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC KE6IGJ, TC
W6TE. Greetings from the ARRL San
Joaquin Valley Section. The 2004 Fresno
Hamfest will also be the San Joaquin
Valley Section Convention. The dates are
April 30 to May 2. Dan Miller, K3UFG, is
scheduled to conduct an ARECC
workshop in the afternoon on Friday April
30. The Hamfest/Convention will be held
at the Ramada Inn University as Shaw and
41 in Fresno. Check

www.qsl.net/w6to/hamfest

<<http://www.qsl.net/w6to/hamfest>> for
information. If you have a technical
problem and need help, please contact the
SJV Technical Coordinator, Dave Smith,
W6TE, for assistance. He can help or refer
you to a Technical Specialist in your area.
Contact Dave at

w6te@pacbell.net. Affiliated Clubs must
remember to update their records with
ARRL each year. A good time is when the
officers are elected. Check the ARRL
Letter, Vol. 23, No. 06, Feb. 6, 2004 for
information. Go to www.arrl.org
<<http://www.arrl.org/>> in the new/bulletin
section. If your club would like news of
their activities and events listed here,
please send the information to your SM,
w6dpd@arrl.org. Emergency Coordinators
are needed in Mono and Calaveras
Counties. Contact K6IN

(k6in@mercednet.com) 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. **The international DX Convention will be April 23-25, 2004 at the Holiday Inn at Visalia. Check scdxc.org/visalia2004 for information.** The Turlock ARC provided communications assistance for the "Fun Run" and the Christmas Parade.

Correction to last months news: N5VWN won the SJV Section in the 2003 International DX contest operating 10 m QRP with a FT817 and a Buddypole antenna. K6IXA headed home from Israel in January. W6UBK became a Silent Key in January. WA7MSD and KG6MXV completed the ARECC Level one course. Sierra ARC 2004 officers are pres WA6QYR, first vp N6VGW, second vp W6DWF, sec WB6EPD, and treas KC6UUS. The club meets in Ridgecrest. TCARES 2004 officers are pres KG6FEY, vp WB6WFF, sec KE6RGP, treas WA7MOB. The club meets in Sonora. KCCVARC 2004 officers are pres N6ZFN, first vp KC6ZRF, second vp KG6OPR, sec KD6UQZ, and treas KG6PTF. The club meets in Bakersfield. CARP 2004 officers are pres AE6GE, vp NI6M, sec, AE6GF, and treas KD6WAW. The club meets in Clovis. W6FRH finally got his second tower raised. K6IN and W6FRH have FT1000Ds. WA6YEE has a FT1000MKV Field and has over 1000 points in the DXCC Challenge. The Fresno Chapter of QCWA was formed in January. Traffic for January was zero. PSHR K6RAU 33.

Happy Birthday To:

Hal Clover KC5LUB FEBRUARY
Glenn Ricketson K8GR FEBRUARY
Larry Taylor KF6JBG FEBRUARY
Ray Quinn KF6KMY MARCH

Happy Anniversary To:

Ray KF6KMY and Deddi Quinn FEBRUARY

Equipment; Sale/Trade/Seeking:

WA6SAA Charles Ward has the following equipment for sale: Hi-gain Tri-Band BEAWI \$40., HAM-M-Rotor \$40., Tri-X 60' Self Supporting Crank 4-P Tower \$450. Contact Information: email fowardind@inreach.com

Next Meeting:

Will be February 26, 2004 at the Supervisors Chambers, 2800 W. Burrell in Visalia, CA 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.

For Fun From Hal KC6LUB

One afternoon, a wealthy lawyer was riding in the back of his limousine when he saw two pathetic men eating grass by the road side. He ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate. Lawyer: "Why are you eating grass?" Man #1: "We don't have no money for food," Lawyer: "Oh, well, you can come with me to my house," Man #1 "But, sir, I got a wife and three kids here." Lawyer: "Bring them along!" Man #1: "But how 'bout m' friend?" Lawyer to Man#2: "You come with us, too." Man #2: "But, sir, I got a wife and six kids!" Lawyer: "Bring them as well!" They all climbed into the car, and once underway, Man #1: "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you." Lawyer: "Glad to do it. You're gonna love my place . . the grass is almost a foot tall."

Graphics are from

<http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/Groundhog/guide/ghpoem1.gif>

73,s KF6PCV
de KAREN
Your Editor

**TULARE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME _____ NAME _____
Self Family Member

CALLSIGN _____ CALLSIGN _____
Self Family Member

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

LICENSE CLASS _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ RES PHONE _____ BUS PHONE _____
Self Family Member

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