

# 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  
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 March 15th, 7:30 pm at the  
County Board of Supervisors Building,  
2800 Burrell, Visalia.  
It is located West of the court house.**

## CONGRATULATIONS

KG6AIR Bill upgraded to Extra Class

KF6KMY Ray upgraded to General Class

## PSK31

What is it? What does it look like? How can I do it?

Bill K6QOG will give a demo of PSK31 at the  
March Club meeting.

**From the Editors:** If there is anything that you would like to add to the newsletter, you may contact us by email at [stengerw@wildblue.net](mailto:stengerw@wildblue.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**

## President's Message

Hello all:

Well, last month was a rather happening meeting. First and foremost, elections were held. All present officers were elected to another one-year term.

As we know, our vice-president Bill, K6QOG, and his XYL are going to be moving out of state at some point and his reelection was sustained with that understanding. This will also necessitate a replacement newsletter editor at the time of his departure.

Present officers are president Dave McElroy, WA6BEF, vice-president Bill Stenger, K6QOG, Secretary Ray Quinn, KF6KMY, Treasurer Dave Millhouse, N6YMM and past president Steve Lee-Thomas, W6SLT. Emergency coordinator remains Hal Clover, KC5LUB. No changes were made to other committee or technical assignments.

And of course, we have reestablished the Tuesday evening net. Ray, KF6KMY has been playing the ARRL report at 19:15 hours local immediately prior to net and checkins are taken at 19:30 hours local with time for

club announcements as well as announcements of interest to the amateur community in general. I believe that reestablishing the net may result in some new members. So thanks all for that effort.

We have set programs for March and April. For March 15, K6QOG is going to discuss PSK31, a digital mode in which he has become interested. And for April our technical experts, under the able direction of Chuck, WA6SAA, will break out the tool kit and we can check our radio's deviation and power levels. And just maybe some of us will learn a little bit more about the workings of our radios.

Let's not forget education. We plan to have a theory class and testing sometime within the next two months, under the direction of Dave Millhouse, N6YMM.

So again, thanks to everybody for efforts that will keep us going and growing in the next year.

Dave McElroy  
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 - 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 -**  
**kc5lub@arrl.net**

TCARC Minutes from February 15th Meeting

President Dave McElroy WA6BEF called the meeting to order at 1941. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Introductions: Those present were:

WA6BEF Dave McElroy  
WA2RQK Pam Drake  
W6SLT Steve Lee-Thomas  
KF6KMY Ray Quinn  
WA6SAA Chuck Ward  
N6YMM Dave Millhouse  
WA7HRG Jim Purvis  
KI6GTB Dave Miller  
K6QOG Bill Stenger

Ray Quinn KF6KMY read the minutes from the January 18, 2007 meeting. Pam Drake KA2RQK motioned to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Bill Stenger K6QOG. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no treasurer's report.

Nominations for TCARC 2007 officers were as follows:

**Treasurer:** Dave Millhouse N6YMM made by Ray Quinn KF6KMY, seconded by Chuck Ward WA6SAA.

**Secretary:** Ray Quinn KF6KMY made by Bill Stenger K6QOG, seconded by Pam Drake KA2RQK.

**Vice President:** Bill Stenger K6QOG by Pam Drake KA2RQK, seconded by Steve Lee-Thomas W6SLT.

**President:** Dave McElroy WA6BEF by Steve Lee-Thomas W6SLT, seconded by Chuck Ward WA6SAA.

Dave Millhouse N6YMM motioned to accept the nominations as made and that the entire slate of candidates be elected. Pam Drake KA2RQK seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Millhouse N6YMM would like to offer Technician and General classes for anyone who is interested. The dates have been tentatively set for late March and/or early April. Watch the Club's web site for further details.

Bill Stenger K6QOG will be demonstrating PSK31 at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and Chuck Ward WA6SAA will bring test equipment to the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to check out anything you might have.

Chuck also suggested that the Tuesday night San Joaquin Valley FM Radio Net be resumed. Pam Drake KA2RQK motioned that the net be held in its original time slot of Tuesday at 1930 hours with a news program to precede the net. Ray Quinn KF6KMY seconded it. Steve Lee-Thomas W6SLT amended the motion that any roll call is at the discretion of the Net Manager. Pam Drake KA2RQK seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

There was further discussion regarding classes and forming a VE team.

Ray Quinn KF6KMY motioned to adjourn and Pam Drake KA2RQK seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2047.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Quinn KF6KMY, TCARC Secretary



## March Birthday

KF6KMY Ray Quinn



Prayers and best wishes to Alan Vicenti W6MTR who will be spending a few days vacation at Kaweah Delta Hospital. Alan, we wish you have a speedy recovery.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION  
Report for the month of February 2007

SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASMs  
K6YK and N2NS, ACC W6DPD, SEC  
N6ZFN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC  
KE6IGJ, TC W6TE.

Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley  
Section.

Your club has received a petition to  
get the governor to declare June 17 to 23,  
2007, Amateur Radio week in California.  
This is a statewide effort. Please keep  
collecting signatures and return the petitions  
to the address in the email by April 25, 2007.

With the change in Part 97 of the FCC  
Rules eliminating the code exam as a  
requirement for upgrading, many Amateurs  
have upgraded to General and Extra Class.  
Congratulations to those getting upgraded  
licenses. Enjoy your new privileges.  
Technician Class Amateurs now enjoy limited  
HF privileges on 80, 40 and 15 CW and 10  
meter SSB and CW. As the year progresses,  
more Amateurs will upgrade to General and  
Extra.

Just a reminder, the sidebands of your  
signal must be within the band edges. As a  
rule of thumb, on SSB you should operate no  
closer that 3 KHZ to the band edge to ensure  
that your sidebands remain within the band.

On CW you can get closer to the band edge  
as the CW signal are not as wide as SSB  
signals, but your signals must remain within  
the band. Technicians may NOT operate FM  
on 10 meters. They may only operate SSB  
on 28.300 to 28.500 MHZ. FM on 10 meters  
can only be used above 29.5 and 29.7 MHZ.

Courtesy dictates that you should  
listen, and then ask if a frequency is in use  
before calling CQ. You need to call CQ when  
soliciting a contact on HF. Just giving your  
call sign on HF is not enough to usually get  
a contact.

If you desire your club information  
and events to be listed in Section News, please  
send the information to w6dpd@arrl.org.

Mark your calendars: The M2 Inc.,  
open house is March 31, 2007. The gates open  
for the swap meet at 07:30 AM. Check  
www.m2inc.com for information. The Turlock  
ARC Spring Auction will be Saturday April  
7, 1007, at 9:00 AM at the Youth Center at

1030 East Avenue in Turlock. 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](http://www.emcommwest.org) for  
information. Los Banos ARC special event  
station is May 12. 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](http://www.w6to.com) for  
information. The California QSO Party is  
October 6-7, 2007. Check [www.cqp.org](http://www.cqp.org) for  
information. Pacificon 2007 is October 19-  
21, 2007 at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon  
CA. Check [www.pacificon.org](http://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](http://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.  
The noon time net meets on 7.268.5 MHZ.  
This net handles a lot of messages.

It is my sad duty to report that W6DKI  
Mark, W6LIN Paul, W6DUD Howard,  
WB6KLL Chris, and KC6DVJ Pat, are Silent  
Keys. They will be missed.

Manteca ARC and San Joaquin County  
ARES will hold a one-day "Ham Cram"  
Study session, followed by FCC testing, on  
Saturday, April 14, 2007 from 8:30am until 5  
pm in Manteca. Fee for the training session is  
\$16 plus \$14 for testing (\$30 total). All license  
classes offered. No walk-ins. Limited retesting  
available. Location: TBA, Manteca, CA  
(95336) Space limited, pre-registration  
required. Contact: David Coursey, Emergency

## Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

### SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Continued

Coordinator, SJ ARES, (209) 835-6893,  
N5FDL@ARRL.NET W5YI-VEC

The Los Banos ARC is having a transmitter hunt on March 10. Meet at the Police Annex Bldg, 525 I Street in Los Banos at 4 PM. The hunt begins at 4:30 PM.

SJV scores in the ARRL September VHF QSO Party were 1st KR7O, 2nd KE6BZY, and 3rd KF6CNV.

The SJV was well represented at Radiofest in Monterey. Mike, AD6AA, won a prize.

AK6DV Chuck qualified for WAZ.

The Tulare County ARC now meets the third Thursday at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Bldg at 7:30 PM.

Turlock ARC members provided communication and safety support for the McLane-Pacific-Merco Bike Race.

Traffic for February: K6RAU 19, and W6SX 4. Total 23. PSHR: K6RAU 65 W6SX 18.



### FOR THE DXer FROM ARRL

DX Bulletin 9 ARLD009  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT March 1, 2007  
To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD009  
ARLD009 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by K1CC, NC1L, the OPDX Bulletin, DXNL, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

MADAGASCAR, 5R. Vlad, UA4WHX is QRV as 5R8VB. Activity is on all HF bands using CW and SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

SAMOA, 5W. Udo, DL9HCU is QRV as 5W1VE for a few weeks. QSL to home call.

ALGERIA, 7X. Yves, F5MSR is QRV as 7X0MT from Algiers. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW and digital modes using QRP power. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

CHINA, BY. Zhang, BD3APX will be QRV in the ARRL DX SSB contest as a Single Op/Low Power entry. QSL to home call.

AZORES, CU. Pedro, CU2CR will be QRV in the ARRL DX SSB contest as

a Single Op/Low Power entry. QSL to home call. In addition, CU2CE, CU2DX and OH2BH will be QRV as CU2A in the ARRL DX SSB contest as a Multi/Single entry. They are active before the contest generally on the low bands. QSL via OH2BH.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Bob, G3PJT will be QRV as E51PJT from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, from March 3 to 17. Activity will be on the HF bands using mainly CW. QSL to home call.

FRENCH GUIANA, FY. Oliver, F5MZN will be QRV as FY5KE in the ARRL DX SSB contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low or High Power entry. QSL via FY5KE.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Operators HL1VAU, DS4NYE and DS2GOO are QRVs homecalls/4 from Sonyu Island, IOTA AS-148, until March 4. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. They will participate in the ARRL DX SSB contest as D70LW/4. QSL to home calls. QSL contest call via DS4NYE.

HONDURAS, HR. Dan, HR2DMR will be a Single Op/All Band entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest.

HAWAII, KH6. Bill, W8QZA will be QRV as AH7ZA as an All Band/QRP Power entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest. QSL to home call.

PUERTO RICO, KP4. Alfredo, WP3C will be QRV in the ARRL DX SSB contest as a Single Op/Single Band/Low Power entry on

## FOR THE DXer continued

15 meters. QSL via W3HMK.

**BULGARIA, LZ.** In commemoration of the 129th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman empire, members of the Balkan Contest Club are QRV as LZ129LO until March 31. QSL via bureau.

**AUSTRIA, OE.** Members of the OEVSV HQ Contest Team will be QRV as OE4A in the ARRL DX SSB contest as a Multi/2 entry. QSL direct via OE1EMS.

**FAROE ISLANDS, OY.** Ole, OY3QN has been QRV on 30 meters between 1600 and 1800z. QSL via OZ1ACB.

**BONAIRE, CURACAO, PJ2.** Operators WE9V, KA9FOX and K9NW are QRV as PJ2/homecalls from Curacao, IOTA SA-006, until March 6. They will also participate in the ARRL DX SSB contest as PJ2T as a Multi/2 entry. QSL PJ2T via N9AG and all others via home calls.

**ST. MAARTEN, SABA, ST.** EUSTATIUS, PJ5. W8EB and W8DVC are QRV as PJ7/homecalls until March 25 from St. Maarten. W8EB will be QRV as PJ7B in the ARRL DX SSB contest. QSL all calls via W8EB.

**POLAND, SP.** In celebration of the 40th anniversary of club station SP6PAZ,

Piastowski Klub Krotkofalowcow club members are QRV as HF40PAZ until April 30. QSL via SP6PAZ.

**TURKEY, TA.** A group of Czech Republic operators will be QRV as TC0DX and YM0DX from Gokceada, IOTA EU-186, and Bozcaada, IOTA AS-099, from March 4 to 11. QSL via OK2GZ.

**MACEDONIA, Z3.** Ozren, Z32XA will be QRV as Z35T in the ARRL DX SSB contest as a Single Op/Single Band entry. QSL via Z35T.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF.** Bob, K3UL is QRV as ZF2UL until March 7. Activity is on 160, 80 and 30 meters using mainly CW. QSL to home call.

**PARAGUAY, ZP.** Tomas, ZP5AZL will be QRV as ZP0R in the ARRL DX SSB contest as a Single Op entry. QSL via W3HMK.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The ARRL International DX SSB Contest, Wake-Up! QRP CW Sprint, Open Ukraine RTTY Championship, DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest, ARS Spartan CW Sprint and the AGCW YL-CW Party will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend. Please see March QST, page 90 and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.



## Most Frequently Asked Questions About the QSL Service

From Handout from Chuck W6DPD

**Question:** How do I QSL a station that has a QSL Manager when I'm using the Bureau? How do I Indicate the Managers call on my card? How do I sort cards with Managers, by the Contacted station's call or the Manager's call?

**Answer:** A NOTE ON QSLING VIA A MANAGER

When QSLing via a Manager please write via and the Manager's call on the back upper left corner of your card. If the back of your card is not blank please write it on your card near the contacted stations call and if possible make it stand out in some way (highlight it, use different color pen, etc.)

When sorting these cards please sort them en-masse with your regular QSL's by the Manager's call (if the Manager's call is on the back of the card please sort with the Manager's call facing up).

DO NOT use envelopes, slips of paper or post-it notes to separate the cards with QSL Managers. Because these cards go through so many hands before they reach their destination slips of paper and post-it's will most likely fall off and envelopes can become damaged, possibly damaging the enclosed card.

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

### AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS ASSIST FOLLOWING SEVERE WEATHER

From ARRL Letter  
Vol.26, No. 09  
March 2, 2007

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members and individual radio amateurs pitched in to assist after severe weather struck Arkansas and Louisiana February 24. In Desha County, Arkansas, more than two dozen people were injured when a tornado ripped through Dumas, causing widespread damage. Dumas resident Roger Lunsford, KD5HMS, says the twister spared his neighborhood.

"My family and I huddled in the bathroom with my radios in hand monitoring public officials reporting a visual sighting of the funnel cloud . . . heading straight for town," he recounted. The storm took out electrical power. Once the storm passed, Lunsford grabbed his radio and went into town to help search for victims; most escaped without life-threatening injuries.

No ARES teams deployed, but with telephone service out, Lunsford was able to get out word of the damage via Amateur Radio. He and his family had to take cover again as another tornado threatened.

In Louisiana, Caddo-Bossier Parish Emergency Coordinator Richard Lea, NZ5S, reports Bossier Marshals Office Chief Rick Ware, K5VXT, requested ARES activation after a tornado struck North Bossier Parish. An emergency net convened for three hours on a VHF repeater, with 20 check-ins and others monitoring.

SKYWARN volunteers relayed storm and weather data. Agencies responding to or using the ARES net included the Bossier Office of Emergency Preparedness as well as law enforcement.

"The affected area was thankfully small, and only minor injuries were reported," Lea said. "ARES stations were prepared to deploy, but there was not a need at the time of the activation." ARES terminated operations at midnight, although Lea and Ware stood by overnight.



## HAM EQUIPEMENT FOR SALE

**YAESU FL2100B** HF Amplifier, 80-10 meters. Very Clean and good condition. \$485. For more info call Jerry KE6YF at **784-3247**.

## Wanted

Dual Band Base Station 2/440 with PL capability.  
Contact KD6DEN Marty at **584-5774**.

# 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