

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 May 25th, 6:00 pm
Gloria & Alan Vicenti's
1147 Enos St. Visalia

Bring a chair & sit awhile

Gloria & Alan will have chicken and hamburgers, please bring a side dish, camp chair and drinks. If you don't have a chair, they have extra chairs.

Please RSVP, head count is needed!

Phone: 733-2902

Time: 6 pm



President's Message

Greetings to all:

I'd like to start out by thanking the participants in Walk America. These included Gloria, W6NRS, Alan, W6MTR, Hal, KC5LUB and myself Dave, WA6BEF. And darn it all I *still* didn't get to drive the van. Well, maybe next year.

Having learned from our CERT presenter, April 27, that the first person on scene is supposed to be the "incident commander," Gloria got the honor this time and she proved to be a worthy boss. Again, great job all and lets keep up the good effort.

Again, speaking of Alan and Gloria, let's not forget that we've been invited to have a BBQ at their home on May 25. Time will be either 1800 or 1830 hours depending on our program. Further details to follow.

I've been doing a lot of thinking about the changes we've seen in amateur radio. From spark gap to CW to AM to SSB to narrow ban FM. Digitally speaking from packet to APRS, PSK31 with IRLP

Echolink and other digital paths being thrown into the mix. Truly, most of this change has happened since my own entrance into the hobby in the early 70's. As it has in other aspects of our lives, the ubiquitous computer has been carving out a place in ham radio.

For me, all this comes to mind as I read the list of stations who, by virtue of special software created by Stan Schretter, W4MQ of Reston VA, have been able to experience the thrill of going on a DXpedition without leaving the comfort of their home computer. His software allows them to remote control several stations, one of which happens to be in Baghdad. Yes, remotely controlling an HF station is tantamount to having a "really" long mic cord stretching across the country or even across the world. Clearly, it brings a new and different aspect to amateur radio in the 21st century.

Want more information? Go to www.w7dxx.com and read all about it.

So for now, 73's and we'll be seeing you on the 25th.

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

Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

TCARC Minutes from April 27, 2006

Tulare County Amateur Radio Club Minutes for the General Meeting, April 27, 2006 at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers in Visalia.

President Dave McElroy WA6BEF called the meeting to order at 19:32.

Introductions were made.
Those present:

1. **WA6BEF** Dave McElroy
2. **WA2RQK** Pam Drake
3. **K6QOG** Bill Stenger
4. **WA6SAA** Chuck Ward
5. **KE6YJC** Ted Freitas
6. **KC5LUB** Hal Clover
7. **WA7HRG** Jim Purvis
8. **KF6KMY** Ray Quinn
9. **N6YMM** Dave Millhouse
10. **KI6IKD** Keith Jones
11. **WB6CHL** Gene Simpson
12. **W6SLT** Steve Lee-Thomas

Alan Vicenti W6MTR motioned to approve and accept the minutes from the March 2006 meeting as published in the Grid Leak. Pam Drake KA2RQK seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Millhouse N6YMM gave the treasurers report. The previous balance was \$704.91 with \$340.00 deposited, \$5.00 in petty cash and approximately \$33.00 in outstanding deposits. The balance as of this date is \$1131.91. Ray Quinn KF6KMY motioned to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Pam Drake KA2RQK and passed unanimously.

Activities Director Hal Clover KC5LUB gave us a recap on the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay on April 1st and 2nd and thanked those that participated. He also mentioned the March of Dimes Walk America has asked for radio operators.

Alan Vicenti W6MTR asked if members had noticed the intermittent audio loss on the Park Ridge 146.880 repeater.

There was brief mention of Field Day and what we want to do.

Hal Clover KC5LUB introduced the guest speaker, Jorene Downs from the Tulare-Kings Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Ray Quinn KF6KMY motioned to adjourn, Pam Drake KA2RQK seconded. It passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 21:05

Respectfully submitted by Ray Quinn KF6KMY

May Birthdays:

WD6CNV Roger Corum
W6ARE Edgar Cowley
N6QBK Chuck Wilcox

June Birthdays:

KG6AIR Bill Balsley
Carol Stenger

May Anniversaries

WD6CNV Roger & **WD6FUF** Sarah Corum
KE6UKK Frank & Phyllis Devin, Jr
KA6HGA Bill & Yoko Shearer

June Anniversaries:

K6QOG Bill & Carol Stenger



Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION

Report for the month of April 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.

Mark your calendars. The ARRL VHF QSO Party is June 10-12, 2006. Check the May issue of QST for information. Field Day is June 24-25, 2006. The California Historical Radio Society Merced Swap Meet is June 24, 2006 at 9 AM. Check www.californiahistoricalradio.com/events.html for information and directions. The 64th Fresno Hamfest will be August 5, 2006 at the Satellite Student Union on the CSUF Campus in Fresno. Check www.w6to.com for information. San Joaquin Valley ARS presents the Harvest HamConVention Sept 15-16 in Fresno. Check www.sjvars.com for information. The 2006 California QSO Party is October 7-8. Check www.cqp.org for information. Pacificon 06 will be October 13-15, 2006 at the San Ramon Marriott. Check www.pacificon.org for information. The International DX Convention is April 27-29, 2007 at Visalia. Check <http://www.dxconvention.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.

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 3.630 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. 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 W9KUP, W6REM, W6YLS, and K6NWP are Silent Keys. They will be missed.

On June 9-11, KF6JOQ, Larry, KG6ZBL, Mark and W6WTG, Terry will be going to Santa Cruz Island off the coast of Ventura for a DX Expedition. The island is IOTA NA-144. We will be operating 14.260, 50.130 and also 144.210 SSB during the ARRL VHF contest using the special call sign W6C. QSL Manager is N2OWL. For more information contact Terry, W6WTG at w6wtg@arrl.net or www.islandchaser.com.

Turlock ARC members and Merced Amateurs provided communications support when creeks overflowed their banks during spring rains and early snow melt.

TCARES members provided back-up communications for the PAN-FLU exercise in Sonora.

The Stockton-Delta ARC will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2006. The club was formed in 1931.

Sierra ARC demonstrated Amateur Radio at the Kern Area Boy Scout Camporall using K2BSA/6.

SJV stations placed high in the ARRL 2005 Phone Sweepstakes. WC6H was first, N6EE was second, and WK6I was third.

W6UA and K6XJ were on the winning foursome at the golf tournament at the International DX Convention. W6FRH, W6YEP, W6YDE, and W6TE won prizes at the convention.

Ralph Saroyan, W6JPU, became a Silent Key on April 5, 2006, about one month after his 88th birthday. He was first licensed in 1933 at the age of 15. He was a 64-year member of ARRL and a Life Member since 1970. He built an adapter to receive SSB on the HRO 60 receiver. An article on the construction of the adapter was published in QST and CQ magazines. He built the first repeater in the Fresno area, on 2 meter AM. He built a solid-state receiver. He was a Life member of ARRL, a member of the A1-OP club and a member of QCWA Fresno Chapter 213. He served and Section Communications Manager for the San Joaquin Valley Section from 1955 to 1976. Ralph was my mentor, and chose me to succeed him as SCM in 1976. Rest in peace friend.

Traffic for April: W6DPD 6, K6RAU 14, and N6SUZ 162; Total 182 PSHR K6RAU 262, N6SUZ 100.

Thanks to all the Volunteers!!!

Hi Everyone! Wow rain, then sun shine, you've gotta love this weather. First off, a big thanks to everyone that helped with the Baker to Vegas Run the first weekend in April.

Dave WA6BEF

Pam KA2RQK

Tom AD6N

Bill K6QOG

Alan W6MTR

Gloria W6NRS

Ted KE6YJC

Jim KC6YRU

Byron WA6YLB

The team was able to finish the event with a quick 5.5 mile run (26 min.). It was interesting to work with another group of hams and see how they worked with their race teams. The date has been set for next year, April 21 & 22 I believe are the correct dates. We need to start planning on how we can improve some of the communications hurdles that popped up this year.

Another BIG THANKS to those that helped with the Walk America event in Visalia

the last Saturday of the month.

Alan W6MTR

Gloria W6NRS

Dave WA6BEF

Just around the corner is the annual 4th of July Firewatch. Volunteers are needed to work this event. The firewatch/fireworks patrol will be on Tuesday July 4th. The patrol begins with a meeting at CDF Headquarters in Visalia around 3 PM and concludes about 9 hours later. If you are able to help out, please contact myself at kc5lub@arrl.net.

Jorene Downs presented a brief overview of ICS or the Incident Command System. In looking at how we as HAMS are viewed by public safety management personnel, it would be great if our ARES members had training in various areas of emergency management. For more suggestions on how to get the training (it's free from the federal government) log on to the FEMA web site, www.fema.gov. Follow the links for training. I will be posting links to the site on both the TCARES web site (www.tcares.us) and my own web site (www.qsl.net/kc5lub).

73 de KC5LUB

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life.

Dr. David Burns

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

Crystal Ball Still Foggy: FCC Won't Say Publicly When it Will Act on Morse Code

NEWINGTON, CT, May 17, 2006--All bets appear to be off as to when the FCC might make a final decision on deleting the Morse code requirement. Last July, an FCC *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order* (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235 proposed to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. Most observers expected the Commission to release a *Report and Order* (R&O) to that effect by the end of this year, but even that timetable could prove optimistic, based on what the Commission will say publicly. Before it tackles the Morse proceeding, the FCC wants to wrap up another important Amateur Radio proceeding, WT-Docket-04-140, the so-called "omnibus" or "phone band expansion" proceeding. Responding to an ARRL inquiry, FCC personnel would not go on the record and declined even to hazard a ballpark guess on when the Commission might act on *either* Amateur Radio proceeding.

"They're at different points in the process," an FCC staffer said, refraining from saying anything that might suggest a commitment. "One is farther along in the review chain than the other." The "omnibus" proceeding is "way ahead" of the Morse code proceeding in the WTB pipeline, the staff member indicated.

Not Neglected

The FCC staffers attempted to assure ARRL that the WTB has not been sitting on its hands with respect to the Morse code issue. "It takes a while to plow through 4000 comments," one said, referring to the huge volume of opinions filed in the Morse docket. "It's not being neglected." The staff member did allow that WTB staff had completed its comment review in the Morse proceeding but wouldn't say when it might see the light of day. "I'd hesitate to say," the staff member demurred. Neither individual would even say whether the WTB expected to conclude either proceeding by the end of 2006. "They should probably start learning code," one staffer advised those waiting for the FCC to drop the Morse requirement before upgrading, noting that a *Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam* (CSCE) for a written exam element is only good for a year. Even after the FCC goes public with its decision on Morse code, still more time is likely

to pass before any new rules go into effect, the staff member pointed out.

"It's so hard to predict," the FCC staff member concluded.

The ARRL also is hoping the FCC will soon issue a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in response to its petition for rule making, RM-11306, to regulate Amateur Radio subbands by emission bandwidth rather than by mode.

Lowered Expectations

Earlier this year, a WTB staffer, speaking on background, told ARRL, "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention." Bill Cross, W3TN, the FCC Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division staff member who typically addresses Amateur Radio-related proceedings during Dayton Hamvention's FCC forum, won't be attending this year's show.

No Surprises Expected

When the FCC *does* act on WT 05-235, no one's expecting any major surprises: The Commission appears poised to simply drop the Morse requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes as it proposed last summer. Beyond that, the FCC turned away several other petition requests, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class.

The FCC did *not* propose in WT 05-235 to extend HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have *not* passed a Morse code examination. In its *NPRM&O* the FCC suggested that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, such "codeless Techs" would be able to gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination.

CW Bands, Privileges Unaffected

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees. The Morse code proceeding neither put forward nor recommended any changes in CW allocations or privileges.

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