



THE GRID LEAK

The Official Newsletter of the
Tulare County Amateur Radio Club
April 2003



I.R.L.P. NODE #8120

Web Page:

<http://www.qsl.net/tc-arc>

APRIL MEETING

The Next Meeting of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club will be **April 24, 2003** at 7:30 PM at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 2800 W. Burrell in Visalia.

FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you will excuse this early, brief, skimpy edition of the Grid Leak as I will be out of the area for much of the month of April. I want to continue to provide Club Members with a monthly newsletter if at all possible.
73, Alan
W6MTR

T-HUNT

Saturday, May 3, 2003.
We meet at the **Tulare County Supervisors Chambers in Visalia, 2800 W. Burrell St. at 10:00 AM**

We would like to have at the very least, 5 participants. Immediately following the event, we will meet at **Perko's Cafe** on Noble Ave, just in front of **K-Mart**, for lunch. Hope to see you there.

ARRL Bulletin 25 ARLB025
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT March 21, 2003
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB025
ARLB025 ARRL Executive Committee Updated on FCC, Legislative Matters

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, told the League's Executive Committee at its March 15 meeting in Irving, Texas, that he expects the FCC to release an "omnibus" Amateur Radio Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) sometime in May.

Because the comment period for the omnibus NPRM could expire before the ARRL Board of Directors meets in July, the EC discussed several issues it's anticipated the NPRM will contain. The EC did not adopt any positions as ARRL policy, since it's not yet clear which proposals the NPRM might include.

Imlay also told the EC that it may not be necessary to request temporary relief from spread-spectrum automatic power control requirements at 2.4 GHz for a group of amateur High Speed Digital and Multimedia experimenters, as the group could achieve its objectives within existing Part 97 regulations.

Committee members also discussed issues raised in a draft report on options to better protect and deploy Amateur Radio in the bands between 902 MHz and 24.25 GHz. The EC concluded that the final report should include an analysis of the concept of "strategic partnering" with nonamateur interests.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, told the Committee that reintroduction in the US House of Representatives of the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act was expected to happen soon. The EC also agreed to a plan of work for 2003 that included completing a review of the League's standing committees.

NNNN

COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars. The 2003 Fresno Hamfest will be April 26, 2003, at Riverland Resort on Highway 99 south of Kingsburg CA. Opens at 7:00 AM. Coffee and donuts in the morning. Lunch at 11:30 AM. This is a swap meet with food, prizes, and eyeball QSOs. Tickets for an IC 706MKIIG will be available at \$5 each. One Dollar (\$1) admission fee. Sellers \$5 per spot. Others drawings too. The program is just being formulated now. Card checking for DXCC, WAS, VUCC, WAC, and WAZ from 10 to 11 AM. Have all forms completed, the necessary award fees and SAEs for each award. Hidden Transmitter hunt. There will be some technical demonstrations of Amateur Radio methods. Amateur Exams will be given on Sunday April 27 at 1:00PM at the Fresno Central SDA Church at Yale and Orchard streets in Fresno. For details, contact w6to@arrrl.net or kdavis@gotnet.net See <http://www.qsl.net/w6to> for the latest details. The 2003 International DX Convention will be May 2-4, 2003, at the Holiday Inn at Visalia. Check the NCDXC web page at <http://www.ncdxc.org> to link to the convention page. You can download the registration form there. Contact w6yd@aol.com for information. EMCOMM West will be Saturday May 31, 2003 in Reno NV. Check <http://www.cvrc.net/emcommwest> for information. Pacificon 2003 will be October 17-19, 2003 at the San Ramon Marriott in San Ramon CA. This is a new site for this convnetion. Check <http://www.pacificon.org> for information.

DX CONVENTION

The 2003 International DX Convention will be May 2-4 at the Holiday Inn at Visalia. There will be booths, forums and vendors. Contact w6yd@aol.com for information. You can also go to the website for more information :<http://www.ncdxc.org>

MARCH OF DIMES/WALK-AMERICA

WalkAmerica is just around the corner on Saturday April 26th, 2003. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the walkers starting at 9 a.m. Listen to the Tuesday night net on 146.880 Mhz for more information. The March of Dimes has requested about 10-12 persons in the past. We would like to be able to continue providing this service to them again this year. Contact Hal Clover KC5LUB at hal9000@sosinet.net

RADIO COMMENTATOR PAUL HARVEY PLUGS HAM RADIO'S EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ROLE

Veteran ABC Radio Networks commentator Paul Harvey this week offered some kind words for Amateur Radio. The mention was the second item on "page four" of his March 19 Paul Harvey Noon News and Comment program.

"America's quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies--amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornadoes," Harvey said. "After the 9/11 attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the disaster to the space shuttle Columbia, and right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public."

The commentary's enigmatic and mysterious final sentence--typical of Harvey's habit of leaving his listeners hanging--apparently refers to the fact that many Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Emergency Service (RACES) teams have ramped up their alert status as hostilities get under way in the Middle East.

The entire Wednesday noon broadcast is available on Paul Harvey's Web site <<http://www.paulharvey.com/>>. Click on the Wednesday noon link under "Listen Now."

Extracted from The ARRL Letter Vol. 22, No. 12 March 21, 2003

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A blonde tried to sell her old car. She was having a lot of problems because the car had 250,000 miles on it. One day, she told her problem to a brunette she worked with at a salon. The brunette told her, "There is a way to make the car easier to sell, but it's not legal."

"That doesn't matter," replied the blonde, "if I only can sell the car." "Okay," said the brunette. "Here is the address of a friend of mine. He owns a car repair shop. Tell him I sent you, and he will turn the odometer on your car back to 50,000 miles. Then it should not be a problem to sell your car anymore."

The following weekend, the blonde made the trip to the mechanic. About one month after that, the brunette asked the blonde, "So...did you sell your car?"

"No," replied the blonde, "why should I? It only has 50,000 miles on it!"

**ZCZC AG26
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 26 ARLB026
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT March 26, 2003
To all radio amateurs**

**SB QST ARL ARLB026
ARLB026 FCC Proposes to Hike Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee**

The FCC proposed March 26 increasing the regulatory fee to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14.50 to \$16.30 this fall. The Commission included the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2003" (MD 03-83), released today. The closing date for comments on the new fee schedule is April 25. Reply comments are due by May 5.

"We estimate that 9800 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in FY2003," the FCC said in its NPRM. That's up by 800 from FY2002. It expects to collect revenues of nearly \$160,000, an increase of almost \$30,000 from FY2002.

The FCC NPRM also seeks comments on its efforts to review, streamline and modernize its fee assessment and collection processes and procedures. "We welcome comments on a broad range of options in this regard," the FCC said. Areas of particular interest include suggestions for improvement in the agency's electronic payment system.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) on the web at, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Enter "MD 03-83" in the "Proceeding" field. Electronic comments by e-mail also are welcome.

**NNNN
/EX**

==>UTAH GOVERNOR SIGNS AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA BILL


Utah Gov Michael Leavitt has signed that state's Amateur Radio antenna bill, HB 79. The bill unanimously passed a third reading in the Utah Senate February 14 on a 23-0 vote, less than a month after it was introduced. It had earlier passed the Utah House on a 65-8 vote. Leavitt signed the bill March 15. It becomes effective May 5.

"Thanks to the hams who originated the bill and defended it in its committee hearings," said a comment on the Utah Amateur Radio Club's "News About UARC and Ham Radio in Utah" Web site <http://www.xmission.com/~uarc/announce1.html#prb1bill>. "Thanks also to those who contacted their state senators and representatives and helped assure passage."

Sponsored by Rep Neal B. Hendrickson, HB 79, "Regulation of Amateur Radio Antennas," prohibits municipalities and counties in Utah from enacting ordinances that fail to comply with the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. The measure requires local ordinances involving placement, screening or height of an Amateur Radio antenna that are based on health, safety or aesthetics to "reasonably accommodate amateur radio communications" and to "represent the minimal practicable regulation to accomplish the municipality's purpose."

ARRL Utah Section Manager Mel Parkes, AC7CP, has credited Mike Davis, KD7FQD, and John Hanson, KI7AR, for developing the bill and getting Hendrickson to sponsor it. A copy of the legislation is available on the Utah State Legislature Web site <http://www.le.state.ut.us/~2003/bills/hbillint/hb0079.htm>.

Utah becomes the 17th state to enact an Amateur Radio antenna bill. PRB-1 bills are under consideration in several other states, including New York, New Jersey and California. For more information about PRB-1, visit the ARRL Web site's Antenna Restrictions page <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/antenna-restrictions.html>.



CLUB	PRESIDENT	TREASURER
	Raymond Quinn KF6KMY	Joseph Simons WB6MUD
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	SECRETARY	
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**TULARE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME _____ CALLSIGN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

LICENSE CLASS _____ RES PHONE _____ BUS PHONE _____

MEMBER ARRL _____ RACES _____ ARES _____ OTHER _____

EQUIPMENT _____

BANDS _____

INTERESTS - Please Check

EMERGENCY SERVICE _____ RAG CHEWING _____ BUILDING _____

TRAFFIC HANDLING _____ DXing _____ ANTENNAS _____

CONTESTS _____ QRP _____ OTHER _____

DESCRIBE _____

SIGNATURE _____

[\$20.00 – Individual \$25.00 – Family]

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