

**FEB**

# WAGBAI

Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

**2003**

IRL.P. NODE # 8120

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

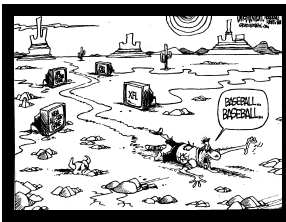
**P.O. Box 723  
Visalia, CA 93279**

### Special Meeting January 18, 2003

At the Special Meeting on January 18, 2003 held at 10:30 AM at Perko's Restaurant in Visalia, plans were discussed and formulated regarding the proposed Repeater Voting System including cost of equipment, possible locations etc. More discussion and planning will be done at the regular membership meeting to be held on Thursday January 23, 2003 at 7:30 PM.

#### Member Present

Bill Balsley	KG6AIR
Hal Clover	KC5LUB
Chris Hembree	N6HPP
Dave Millhouse	N6YMM
Ray Quinn	KF6KMY
Bill Shearer	KA6HGA
Byron Smith	WA6YLB
John Stevens	KB6DAV
Karen Stevens	KF6PCV
Steve Thomas	W6SLT
Alan Vicenti	WD6MTR



**CAN YOU RELATE?**

Membership Meeting

### PAID MEMBERS AS OF 01/18/03

Bill Balsley	KG6AIR
Hal Clover	KC5LUB
Roger Corum	WD6CNV
Sarah Corum	WD6FUF
Ed Cowley	W6ARE
Frank Devin	KE6UKK
Pam Drake	KA2RQK
Ted Freitas	KE6YJC
Chris Hembree	N6HPP
Nona Loeffler	KF6MKJ
Dave McElroy	WA6BEF
Dave Millhouse	N6YMM
M.A. Petty	N6EHA
Raymond Quinn	KF6KMY
Jim Reeves	KC6YRU
Glenn Ricketson	K8GR
William Shearer	KA6HGA
Joseph Simons	WB6MUD
John Stevens	KB6DAV
Karen Stevens	KF6PCV
Steve Thomas	W6SLT
Alan Vicenti	WD6MTR
Gloria Vicenti	W6NRS
Charles Wilcox	N6QBK
Scott Yarbrough	KF6KMX

#### LOCAL NETS

##### 2 METER

**Monday** - 7:30 PM  
146.760 , 443.200, 440.450 by the Bakersfield Amateur Repeater Association.

**Tuesday** - 7:30 PM  
146.880 by the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club.

**Wednesday** - 7:00 PM  
147.330, 147.240, 145.110, 224.440, 441.900 by the Kings Amateur Radio Club.

##### 6 METER

**Thursday** - 7:30 PM  
52.560 by the Southern California Six Meter Club hosted by Dan N6BKL.

### An Open Letter From An Inspired Ham

Amateur Radio is a fun and exciting hobby. Many of us started out by listening to what was going on around us and got involved out of some sort of curiosity. In our computer driven age, it is easy to say that old adage of curiosity killed the cat.

Recently our club voted on adding an IRLP link to the repeater system, with the hopes of drawing in new membership and sparking an interest in the amateur community. A wonderful thing happened. Membership rose.

I think what I'm trying to say is that we have a wonderful opportunity to exercise our individuality with the projects and activities that are taking place within our club and the clubs around us here in the Central Valley. Be an active part in your club. Attend the meetings. Vote on the projects. Take part in the activities. Make it happen. Tulare County is an awesome place to live. We have wonderful opportunities to get on the air and let others know we are here.

## Fishing? NET

from the Southern San Joaquin Valley FM Radio Net

The Southern San Joaquin Valley FM Radio Net otherwise known as the Tuesday Night Net originates on the WA6BAI repeater every Tuesday evening at 1930 hours. Some may ask, "Why check into a net just to say 'NO TRAFFIC'?"

While at times it may seem like a strange answer, just for the practice of it. I know that not all of us can check in every week and have perfect attendance. What is necessary is to try to maintain a list of active amateur radio operators available to handle traffic and pass messages should the need arise during an "emergency". The old saying of practice makes perfect is true in this case.

As individuals we can always come up with an excuse of why we don't check into the net. I was watching the game on TV, walking the dog, forgot, and my favorite - there's a net on Tuesday night?. Hey don't get me wrong, noone can live there life completely around amateur radio. Things happen and we're not able to check in each week.

One thing to keep in mind is even if you are a HF hound and not really interested in VHF, try to check into the net at least once a month. It's good practice and an opportunity to know that your equipment is in good working order. Most of us have at least one 2 meter radio. Try hooking it up and testing it out once a month just to make sure that it is still working.

In the future I will be sending in the check-in information from the previous month in the form of Tulare County city contacts. If you participate, you should see your city listed for the month. Also until the repeater difficulties of dying audio is solved, the net will be held on our alternate frequency of 146.730 Mhz with a PL of 141.3. We hope to hear you out there.

73 Hal - Net Manager

Tulare County A.R.E.S. Emergency Coordinator

**TO:** All Radio Amateurs

**FROM:** KC5LUB, Emergency Coordinator, Tulare County **A.R.E.S.**

**SUBJECT:**February 2003 Bulletin

**DATE:** 02/05/03

Greetings from your EC for Tulare County. As your Emergency Coordinator for A.R.E.S. I would like to take a few lines to describe what we can do. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is just that, a service to the community that local hams provide in a time of need. Most of us are disaster junkies, that is we prepare for and respond when the need arises for communications. A.R.E.S. functions are a public service to the community to help meet communications needs.

You may be asking, what can I do that a cell phone cannot. In this day of cell phones and personal communications devices many think that the need for amateur radio operators has past. Not so. I would like to think that we would never lose our place in the emergency communications arena. Convincing the powers to be may not be that easy. Especially when multi-thousand dollar state-of-the-art communications systems are thought to be infallible. You may be saying to yourself, ok, so what's the point.

The point is, that as federally licensed amateur radio operators, we agreed to an obligation to be prepared to provide communications as a public service. What we can do here locally is be prepared for an emergency that may occur at any time. Over the next several months, I will provide information on disaster preparedness, communication readiness and what we as ham radio operators can do to be ready when the time comes. If nothing else, read the information that comes out and apply it to your personal life. You never know when your or one of your family members may have use for the planning and preparedness that you make now.

# ARLB005 FCC Launches Consumer-Oriented Electronic Comment Filing System

January 15, 2003  
To all radio amateurs

The FCC has launched ECFS Express, an updated electronic system that the Commission says will make it easier for some members of the public to file comments on FCC proceedings. ECFS Express is a simplified version of the popular Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), but it is not available for all FCC proceedings.

ECFS Express focuses on topics rather than docket numbers, and requires minimal input by consumers seeking to participate in the Commission's public rulemaking process. ECFS Express is accessible from the FCC home page at <http://www.fcc.gov>. Users click on the "File Comments" logo. Anyone who wants to comment just has to click on a topic, fill in their personal information, write their comments and hit "SEND."

The FCC said the downside is that if the particular issue you want to comment upon is not listed among the ECFS Express topics, you'll have to use the full version of ECFS, located at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>, to comment on proceedings not listed. At the moment, the ECFS Express list includes no Amateur Radio-related proceedings.

FCC Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau Chief K. Dane Snowden said, "By making the process more intuitive and less technical, all those interested in what we are doing at the FCC can have their voices heard. Our goal is to have as much of the public as possible participate in our rulemaking processes."

NNNN  
/EX

FREQUENCY	CITY	Local Repeater Systems	TONE
		2 meters (VHF)	
145.110	Hanford		None
145.310	Blue Ridge (W6BJ)		PL 100.0
146.730	Blue Ridge		PL 141.3
146.760	Palado Pk. (Linked/N6BYH)		None
146.760	Merced (Linked/N6BYH)		None
146.775	Fresno - Meadow Lakes (I.R.L.P. Node 8340) (ECHO LINK Node 29648)		PL 141.3
146.850	Bear Mtn. (K6OGX)		PL 141.3
146.880	Stokes Mtn. (WA6BAI) (I.R.L.P. Node 8120)		PL 103.5
146.970	Visalia (KE6WDX)		PL 100.0
146.655	Porterville (K6LSB)		PL 100.0
146.430			SIMPLEX
146.460			SIMPLEX
146.505			SIMPLEX
146.520	(National Calling Frequency)		SIMPLEX
		70 Centimeters (UHF)	
440.450	Eshom Peak (Linked/N6BYH)		PL 141.3
441.975	Visalia (W6ARE)		PL 82.5
442.200	Merced (Linked/KM6OR)		PL 141.3
442.275	Porterville (AC6KT)		PL 100.0
443.025	Visalia (WA6BLB)		PL 141.3
443.200	Blue Ridge (Linked/KM6OR)		PL 141.3
443.250	Bear Mtn. (K6OGX)		PL 107.2
443.350	Blue Ridge (WA6YLB)		PL 141.3
444.975	Fresno (W6BJ)		PL 141.3
446.000	(National Calling Frequency)		SIMPLEX
		6 Meters	
51.880	Porterville - W6BJ		PL 114.8
52.560	Frazier Peak(Link System - C.A.R.S.)		PL 82.5
52.600	Bakersfield (KC6OVD)		PL 82.5
52.780	Bakersfield		PL 82.5
52.525	(National Calling Frequency)		SIMPLEX

**SJV Internet Linking System back online!**

The San Joaquin Valley Internet Linking System (SJV ILS) was offline for a few days between January 17th - 27th while Mike Irving (N6BYH) and Ted Freitas (KE6YJC) were in the process of adding a new controller to the system. The system now offers improved audio quality, better DTMF tone detection, and advanced linking capabilities. "The quality of the system used to be adequate but now you can really hear everything people are saying. Make sure you watch out for hot microphones now!" says Ted

Ted Freitas started the EchoLink Node (Node #29648) as a weekend project back in August of 2002. Since then he has donated an IRLP Node to the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club (Node #8120). "My hopes were that this project would stir up some activity in the club." says Ted. He has also setup his own IRLP Node (Node #8340) as well as a conferencing server for public use (SJV\_CA Node #38184).

There are a number of on going projects with the IRLP and EchoLink Nodes. Some of them include:

- Voicemail Gateway
- Weather Reports
- Pre-Recorded News Playback (Newline & ARRL News)

Both the EchoLink and IRLP systems are accessible via a handie-talkie from around the valley. Currently the SJV ILS is running on 146.775- MHz with a PL of 141.3 located above Fresno at Meadow Lakes. In the future they hope to have the system linked up and down the valley utilizing Mike Irving (N6BYH) and Doug Edwards (KM6OR) linking system. This would allow the node to be access on multiple frequencies as well as have a coverage area from Stockton, CA down to Bakersfield, CA (Grapevine).

Since both nodes are running on the same frequency and each system requires a pre-access code. You will find a brief list of commands below:

<b>EchoLink Commands</b> <b>Pre-Access Code: 01</b>	<b>IRLP Commands</b> <b>Pre-Access Code: 02</b>
01 nnnnn	02 nnnn
Connect to station nnnnn	Connect to station nnnnn
01 00	02 73
Connect to any random station	Disconnect
01 01	
Connect to any random repeater station	
01 02	
Connect to random conference server	
01 #	
Disconnect	
<b>SJV ILS System Features</b>	

Weather report in Fresno, CA	02 001
Weather report in Visalia, CA	02 002
Weather report in Bakersfield, CA	02 003
Weather report in Fort Lauderdale, FL	02 004
Local Time	02 411
Access Voicemail system	02 *100

To initiate a call on either system, key up and identify your station then using the DTMF pad, key in the proper command to connect to a remote node:

*ex:* to connect to the SJV\_CA Conferencing server (Node # 38184) you would key the following string: 01 38184

01 -               Signifies the command is for the EchoLink node  
38184 -            This is the node number you are connecting to

*EchoLink Nodes can be located at : <http://www.ke6yjc.org/echolink>  
IRLP Nodes can be located at : <http://status.irlp.net/statuspage.html>*

All this information and much more can be located on the SJV ILS website at <http://www.ke6yjc.org>. You can also direct questions and comments about the system to Ted Freitas (KE6YJC) by e-mail at [ke6yjc@ke6yjc.org](mailto:ke6yjc@ke6yjc.org) or Mike Irving (N6BYH) by e-mail at [n6byh@aol.com](mailto:n6byh@aol.com). E-Mail lists are also available on the website, information on the status of the system is sent via these E-Mail lists. Users of the system can also post questions to the E-Mail list and get answers within hours.

## Shuttle Loss Impacting Amateur Radio In Space

The future of Amateur Radio in space--at least in the near term--could depend on how fast NASA pins down the cause of the February 1 shuttle Columbia disaster and fixes the problem. With the shuttle fleet grounded until it does--and further International Space Station construction on hold as a result--attention is turning to the well-being of the all-ham ISS Expedition 6 crew of Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, Don Pettit, KD5MDT, and Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB. Three of the Columbia astronauts also were Amateur Radio operators.

Under normal circumstances, a shuttle mission next month would have brought a fresh crew to the ISS and returned Bowersox and his crewmates to Earth. With a Progress 10 cargo rocket delivery February 4, the Expedition 6 team now has sufficient supplies to sustain the crew until late June or early July if necessary, NASA said this week.

What happens beyond that remains up in the air, although NASA has said it would not mothball the ISS and leave the spacecraft without a crew. The extended stay could have an unintended consequence for Amateur Radio, however, since the temporarily stranded crew would be likely to have more spare time on its hands. NA1SS onboard the ISS represents the first permanent Amateur Radio station in space. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Team recently announced plans to expand NA1SS to include, among other things, separate stations for 2 meters and 70 cm and SSTV capabilities. ARISS is an international program with participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA. An ARISS contact set for February 6 with students at a high school in Germany was postponed, although the ARISS contact schedule is expected to resume later this month. "The German school QSO was postponed because of the Columbia accident and the re-planning taking place for ISS," said ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. Bauer said the crew's having to unload a ton of equipment from the Progress rocket also was a factor. He said he's expecting further clarification from NASA regarding future ARISS school QSOs. NASA reports that Bowersox, Budarin and Pettit paid a private tribute February 4 to Columbia's astronauts. NASA ISS flight controllers radioed the crew an audio feed from the memorial ceremony at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Additional information on the crew's activities aboard the ISS is available on NASA's Human Spaceflight Web site <<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/>>.

The crippling of the US shuttle fleet has shifted formerly unanticipated demands on Russia and its meagerly funded space program, since Russian supplies the Soyuz capsules that now serve as emergency escape vehicles for the ISS crew.

"If we have the money, we can build new [Soyuz] capsules," Russian space official and former cosmonaut Valery Ryumin assured this week. But, more money or no, Soyuz vehicles cannot carry cargo or experiments. The Russians also have temporarily scrapped their "space tourist" program, which they had been promoting to raise much-needed additional funds. Businessmen Dennis Tito, KG6FZX, and Mark Shuttleworth each paid an estimated \$20 million to fill the third Soyuz seat and spend a week aboard the ISS. 'N Sync pop singer Lance Bass, KG4UYY, had been considered a possible candidate for an April Soyuz taxi flight.

Now, the Soyuz could become the principal crew transport vehicle for the ISS, although no decision has been made on whether the April taxi flight now will be used to carry out the crew change.

## **February Birthdays and Anniversaries**

04 Bruce Buhler - KD6DRU  
04 Scott Dean - KF6WYK  
04 Alice Dean - KF6YQF  
05 Michael Stroud - KG6DGW  
06 James & Carma Cope - N6DUC ann.  
11 Alex & Lil Mergillano - WB6Y ann.  
12 Vicki Buhler - XYL of KD6DRU  
14 Fred & Bonnie Johnson - KD6ELK ann.  
18 Mike & Harriett Bezera - KK6BW ann.  
19 Phylis Devin - XYL of KE6UKK  
22 Carol Luksemburg - N6VHR  
29 Rena Petty - XYL of N6EHA  
28 Alan Blanc - AD4QH

## **CANAFAX, LARRY EUGENE - KC6UGN - SK**

**Memorial services for Larry Eugene Canafax, 47, of Visalia were held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday February 13th at Visalia First Church of the Nazarene. Mr. Canafax, a self-employed copier technician, died Sunday February 9th.**

**Larry was a Past President of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club.**

**No other details are known.**

*Editor*

# 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]**

**Mail To: Tulare County Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 723  
Visalia, CA 93279**