



## THE GRID LEAK

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



I.R.L.P. NODE #8120

Web Page:

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

**The Next meeting of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be on Field Day Weekend, June 28 and 29, 2003 at the Red Cross Center on Main Street in Visalia. Regularly Scheduled Meetings will resume in July at the usual location.**

### ARES News

Traditionally, April is an emergency preparedness month. In California, we celebrate (?) the anniversary of the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. (umm that 100 yr anniversary is getting close!) In the Midwest, it is the opening of Tornado Season. While both events have their differences, they have more in common than one might think.

Earthquakes and Tornados both strike with very limited warnings. Due to the state of the art weather equipment, tornados receive a watch and warning status. There is an earthquake warning, however, we don't hear about those a lot as the system is not as perfected as the weather warning system. Tornados drop from the sky, while earthquakes rise from deep below the surface of the earth. So much for the science lesson.

How, you might ask does this affect us as amateur radio operators. That's' where the similarities start. Both earthquakes and tornados can strike a limited or widespread area. They are very indiscriminate in their targets. They also leave a trail of chaos and destruction behind them.

As hams, we are called into public service during these times of need. Communication is usually disrupted. Existing communication infrastructure is overtaxed. All of a sudden, someone gets a phone call and boom, the airwaves come alive.

This is all possible only if others are prepared for that crisis. Hence, Emergency Preparedness Month. If you already have an emergency or disaster supply kit, great. If you don't, or like me had to use it for a family emergency, now is a great time to start to build or restock it. Below is a list of items that are suggested to have stocked. As is the rule, stock it to fit your lifestyle.

**Food Supplies** - 3 days per person (canned foods requiring little or no water for preparation are great.

Watch out for high concentrations of salt as this will dehydrate you at a time when water may not be readily available).

**Water** - 3 gals/day/person. (water should be rotated out every 90 days to stay fresh).

**Cooking/Clean-up Utensils**

**Medications** - 3 day supply

**Personal Items**

**Clothes**

**Shelter/Sleeping equipment**

**Entertainment**

What you pack is up to you. Convenience and portability is the key. I had a friend who made a Disaster Supply Kit and then found that he couldn't move it himself. That defeated the whole purpose. Another, simply kept his recreational vehicle stocked all the time. Whichever route you decide to take, take it. The key is getting it done.

73 and have a great summer! KC5LUB

## **SSJVFMRN NETNEWS**

**QST, QST, QST. Netnews time again. Our Tuesday night net that originates on the 146.88 Mhz machine has changed over the last several months. The format is still the same, a net whose purpose is to check the availability of members for emergency traffic and the operation of the repeater.**

**Thanks to the work of Ray KF6KMY and others, we are linked into the Las Vegas reflector through IRLP during the net. While I am not a guru of IRLP like some others, there are some basics to using the system when we are linked during the net. The reflector owner in Las Vegas has requested a pause between communications. This means that after either the net controller or station checking into the net talks everyone needs to wait two seconds before keying up the machine.**

**I have noticed that a lot of the stations checking into the net are quick keying and some are not even waiting until the station transmitting has finished their transmission. This effect of talking over another station makes communication very difficult. I realize that there is unresolvable interference from the coast repeater. However, their noncompliance to good amateur practice shouldn't be reciprocated. Enough on the soapbox.**

**In using the new technology on the repeater, we must also pause 1 second after keying the repeater when it is connected to the reflector. This allows all of the components to recognize the link and work properly. There will be an added instruction on this during the net, so that everyone will have an opportunity to participate. Best to remember that haste makes waste of your transmission. 73 for now and we hope to hear you next week on the net.**

ZCZC AG35  
QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 35 ARLB035  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT May 14, 2003  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB035  
[ARLB035 FCC declines to grant amateur LF allocation; gives five channels at 5 MHz](#)

The FCC has declined to grant amateurs a sliver-band allocation at 136 kHz "at this time." Also, in a compromise with government users, the Commission decided to give amateurs five discrete 2.8-kHz-wide channels in the vicinity of 5 MHz instead of the 150-kHz band ARRL had requested. In its Notice of Proposed Rule Making a year ago, the FCC appeared inclined to go along with both ARRL requests.

The FCC did agree in a Report and Order released May 14 to elevate the Amateur Service, but not the Amateur-Satellite Service, to primary status at 2400 to 2402 MHz. The changes to Part 97 go into effect 30 days after publication in The Federal Register, which has not yet happened.

"We are disappointed that the FCC could not see its way clear to providing even a narrow LF allocation to the amateur service, given earlier encouraging signs and the general trend in other countries," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said of the FCC's decision.

The FCC, however, found itself more persuaded by arguments from electrical utilities and other commenters that amateur operation at 136 kHz might interfere with power line communications (PLC) used by electrical utilities to control the power grid.

The FCC said a new amateur LF allocation is not justified "when balanced against the greater public interest of an interference-free power grid." The FCC said amateurs wishing to experiment with LF could apply for experimental licenses or operate under existing Part 15 rules on that part of the spectrum. "We will not jeopardize the reliability of electrical service to the public," the FCC concluded.

The granting of just five spot frequencies--5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz--at 60 meters was less of a surprise given opposition expressed last fall by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The NTIA had cited a possible need for the requested band by federal government users and proposed the five specific frequencies for amateur use on a secondary basis. The FCC has granted operation on USB (2K8J3E emission) only, with a maximum effective radiated power limit of 50 W relative to a 0 dB gain antenna--a half-wave dipole. The channels--each with a maximum permissible bandwidth of 2.8 kHz--will be available to General and higher class licensees.

"While the new amateur privileges at 5 MHz are not as flexible as we had hoped, we recognize that much has changed since the ARRL petition for rulemaking was submitted to the FCC in the summer of 2001," Sumner said. "Federal agencies with homeland security responsibilities have renewed interest in HF radiocommunication."

Sumner said the ARRL was pleased to see 2400-2402 MHz upgraded to primary. "The upgrade of the 2400-2402 MHz amateur allocation to



## RECOMMENDED CONNECTORS FOR EMERGENCY USE

Below is an excerpt from a California ACS/OES 1999 newsletter identifying the Anderson Powerpole connector as their standard DC connector. I will bring several 'jumper' examples to our July club meeting. - Bill, KG6AIR

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EMC204 DC Connectors Standard

October 4, 1999

To: Emergency Communications Units - Information Bulletin

To: Emergency Management Agencies via Internet and Radio

By: Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

... At State OES ACS we use the Anderson Powerpole for our standard use. We do recommend them for use by County and City ACS, RACES and ARES personnel in California so there will be fewer problems when units are working under mutual aid in support of each other. Obviously it is not mandatory. For those who use a different connector we urge you acquire some Anderson Powerpole connectors and make up a few 'jumper cables' to interconnect between yours and the Andersons (or vice versa). That's prudent planning and reduces the stress when in a tight situation. It helps to show others that you are professionally prepared for the unexpected....

See example at <http://www.thegallos.com/ppole.htm>

*Note From The Editor: The original recommended connectors were those available from Radio Shack, Part number 274-222. If you're presently using these connectors and are concerned about conforming to the new standards, it is suggested that you can make adapters without interrupting your present system.*

### **Volunteers In (fire) Prevention**

This year's fire patrol will take place on July 4th and July 5th from 4:30 pm to approximately 12:00 midnight at the **California Department of Forestry** located on Lovers Lane and Walnut Ave in Visalia.

Some changes have occurred and may be viewed by going to:

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/sv/story/6595631p-7535324c.html>

If anyone is interested in becoming a part of the **V.I.P.** Program, contact Becki Redwine at [Becki.Redwine@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Becki.Redwine@fire.ca.gov)

You need to be aware that you can't just show up and offer your help.

You must obtain an application, fill it out and turn it in ahead of time.

You may obtain one online at [http://www.cdfvip.org/vip-app\\_.doc](http://www.cdfvip.org/vip-app_.doc)

**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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Visalia, CA 93279**