

THE GRID LEAK

The Official Newsletter of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club September 2003 Issue



P.O. Box 723
Visalia, CA 93279

TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

146.880 (-) TCARC REPEATER

Stokes Mountain, North of Visalia

36.31.22N 119.12.80W

I.R.L.P. Node # **8120**

Web Page: <http://www.tcarc.net/>

Companion site at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wa6bai/>

Club Officers:

President: Ray Quinn KF6KMY
Vice President: Steve Lee Thomas W6SLT
Secretary: Jimmie Reeves KC6YRU
Treasurer: Joseph Simons WB6MUD
Repeater Coordinator: Hal Clover KC6LUB
Activity Coordinator: Not Yet Filled

Notes from the President:

On Saturday September 27, 2003, members of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club participated in a simulated disaster under the auspices of ARES, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. I would like to thank Hal Clover - KC5LUB; Dave McElroy - WA6BEF, who were stationed along with myself at the Red Cross Headquarters in downtown Visalia, Bill Balsley - KG6AIR and his wife Marge were stationed at the "disaster scene", Karen Stevens - KF6PCV and John Stevens - KB6DAV stationed at Kaweah

Delta Hospital, and Bill Shearer - KA6HGA who was stationed in the Emergency Response Vehicle or "ERV". Alan Vicenti - W6MTR provided information when a repeater "went down" during the exercise. The event was quite successful and some valuable information was acquired as to what can be, or will need to be done to be more prepared should a real disaster occur. There will be more ARES meetings and drills in the months to come. In this writers opinion, it is better to prepare for something that may never happen than not to plan for something that probably will.

For the October meeting, Division Manager Bret Waters is scheduled to be our guest speaker. Also, October is the month to start thinking about officers for next year.

Another issue confronting the Club is the 146.880 Repeater. The noise has become quite offensive and, hopefully, a solution is in

the works. The problem seems to be getting worse which makes the repeater somewhat unusable. Stay tuned for more information. Club web sites are: The main site www.tcarc.net. Another site is <http://wa6bai.tcarc.net/>. This page has links to other sites relating to the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club's member "services", including mailing lists, email, web pages, and more. If you have a long URL for your web site, please let me know. I can forward "yourcall.tcarc.net" to "some.really.long/url/that/takes/too/much/time/type/" My email address in on the wa6bai.tcarc.net web site.

At the September meeting, Charles "Chuck" McConnel, W6DPD, notified me that the Club's affiliation with the American Radio Relay League had lapsed. After the meeting, I went online and updated the information and reinstated our affiliation with the ARRL. Shortly thereafter, I received a letter from the ARRL confirming the re-activation of our affiliation dated 29 September, 2003. This letter will be made available on the wa6bai.tcarc.net web site. There are some interesting links in the letter that the Club might be interested in.

And last, but not least, I hope everyone voted in the historic California Recall Election on October 7. It is our right... no duty as citizens of the greatest country in the world, the United States of America, regardless of your political affiliation. See you at the polls next time!

73 de Ray Quinn KF6KMY

Club News:

ARES Update

Well, it seems summer has come and gone. Fall is just around the corner. I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing summer. In looking at ARES, or the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, I need to update the list of members.

ARES is set up so that members can respond to an incident when necessary. While I understand that the local philosophy is disasters just bypass us here in Tulare County, we need to be ready to respond if they do decide to pull off the road and take a break here.

Over the next month, I would like to update the roster of interested hams in the area. This would necessitate filling out a form and returning it to me either via e-mail or s-mail. My address is either hal9000@sosinet.net or PO Box 184 Strathmore CA 93267. There should be a form in this issue of the gridleak.

73

**Hal Clover, KC5LUB
ARES Emergency Coordinator
Tulare County**

ARES Drill Synopsis

On Saturday September 27, 8 local ARES hams got together for a drill with the Tulare Kings Chapter of the American Red Cross. We all met at the Chapter House, 505 W. Main Street at 7:00 am. Seven of us were dispersed throughout the greater downtown Visalia area to provide communications for ARC teams working in the field on a chemical emergency.

While the emergency "began" at 5:00 am that morning, by 8:15 four radio teams sleepily got their gear together and arrived at their

respective sites. The teams and their assignments were:

KB6DAV John – KDH

KF6PCV Karen – KDH (ran herself silly passing messages through the hospital)

KG6AIR Bill – ICP

NOCALL Marge – ICP (AIR's YL – “she's working on her license!”)

KA6HGA Bill – ARC ERV (“gotta watch out for those diesel fumes”)

WA6BEF Dave – ARC HQ/Shelter

KF6KMY Ray – ARC HQ/Shelter

KC5LUB Hal – ARC HQ/Shelter

W6MTR Alan – home QTH/squirrel

Communications were established with the served agency, and became the link between the incident site and the hospital command center. While the hams learned and practiced communications skills, the served agencies learned how fragile the communications network really is during an emergency. An important observation was made at the debriefing held after the drill. The people making the decisions inside the EOC needed to talk to those in the field.

So all in all the drill was a success. Plans are underway to continue the work with the served agencies so that communications will hopefully be better during the next drill and when the event happens. To quote one of the emergency leaders, “it is not a matter of if, it is when.” This seems to be the new philosophy in the area. Look for more frequent drills and activations to occur. A **BIG THANKS** to all that participated!

Also see photos included in this issue of the newsletter.

73

Hal Clover, KC5LUB
ARES Emergency Coordinator
Tulare County

Club Events:

No events to list at this time.

Last Meeting Minutes:

September 25, 2003

by Karen KF6PCV

The meeting was called to order by the President Ray KF6KMY at 19:47 Hours. Introductions of members present: Ray KF6KMY, Steve W6SLT, Dave N6YMM, Bill KA6HGA, Dave WA6BEF, Pam KA2RQK, Dale KF6TOC, Bill KG6AIR, Bill K6QOG with Wife Carol, John KB6DAV, Karen KF6PCV, Hal KC5LUB, David KJ6P and a Guest Charles W6DPD and wife Cathie.

Vice President Steve had nothing at this time.

No news from the Secretary or the Treasurer because they were absent.

Hal didn't have anything other than the agreement listed below.

Discussion of repeater issues...outcome of discussion that several things need to be pursued.

- 1. Volunteer voiced issues with officials and to date the issue still remains because of workload.**
- 2. A committee will gather information on establishing a club owned and operated repeater. – BEF, YMM and LUB**
- 3. LUB looked into the “agreement” with the county and to date the agreement**

4. **has not been located due to changes in way things were filed and are now filed within the county.**
5. **YMM feels that things may be moving a little too fast and suggests**
6. **that the repeater queries slow down a little.**

Meeting was adjourned at 21:00 hours.

Notes from the Editor:

Don't forget to turn your clocks back on Oct. 26, 2003. For those of you that enjoy Halloween, I hope you have a great one and for those of you who don't I wish you a nice quiet evening on Oct. 31, 2003. If there is anything that anyone would like to add to the newsletter you may contact me by e-mail at kf6pcv@tcarc.net. The deadline to have anything included in the newsletter will be the 10th of each month; submissions after the 10th will go in the next newsletter issue unless you notify me to not include it or it is date sensitive.

**Thank you
KF6PCV de Karen**

All Ham News:

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION:

Report for the month of September 2003:
SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASM
K6YK, ACC W6DPD, SEC K6IN, OOC
N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC Vacant, TC
W6TE. Greeting from the San Joaquin Valley
Section.

If your club would like news of their activities and events listed here, please send the information to your SM, w6dpd@arrl.org. Emergency Coordinators are needed in Mono and Calaveras Counties. Contact K6IN (k6sec@mercednet.com)

or W6DPD (w6dpd@arrl.org) if you can help. Congrats to K6SUU for promoting the Turlock ARC's 75th Anniversary celebration on Sept. 20, 2003. EMCOMM South is Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at

CART, 2555 Clovis Ave. in Clovis. The annual Turlock Auction will be October 11 at the Turlock Youth Center. Doors open at 8 AM, and the auction starts at 10 AM.

Talk-in will be on W6BXN/R, 147.03+, pl 100 HZ. Check www.w6bxn.org for information. Pacificon 2003 will be October 17-19, 2003, at the Marriott in San Ramon CA. Check

www.pacificon.org for program information and registration forms. W6DPD attended the Section Manager Workshop at ARRL HQ. If you have not participated in the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses offered through the certification and continuing education part of the ARRL web page, please consider taking the courses. ARRL has received grant money to cover the cost of the courses.

Upon successful completion of the course, your fee money will be refunded. If you have completed Level 1, then you should take Level 2, then Level 3. KG6MNX, W6FRH, and W6TE completed ARECC Level One.

W6PAJ, N6EKE, and KA6TZX completed ARECC Level Two. It is my sad duty to report the following Silent Keys for September: K6LKJ, N6BMN, KB6NCE, WB6YIS, and WB6WUF. There are card checkers for awards in the section. W6XK and W6DPD can check cards for DXCC.

W6DPD can check cards for WAS, VUCC, WAZ, and CQ DX awards. Special Service clubs may appoint HF and VHF awards managers as a service to their members.

AD6W qualified for VUCC on 6 meters. The Stanislaus ARA held a club rocket launch on Sept. 6. The Manteca ARC

participated in an open house at the Tracy Airport on Sept. 27 where Amateur Radio was demonstrated.

Traffic for September was zero. PSHR K6RAU 52.

From: ARRL

<http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/2003-arlb061.html>

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB061

ARLB061 FCC invites comments on additional Morse code-related petitions

ZCZC AG61 QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 61 ARLB061

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT October 9, 2003

To all radio amateurs SB QST ARL

ARLB061 ARLB061 FCC invites comments on additional Morse code-related petitions

The FCC has invited public comment on a second group of seven Morse-related petitions for rulemaking, which went on public notice October 8. Comments are due by November 7. Members of the amateur community may make their opinions known on any or all of these filings using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), located on the web at, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>.

Charles L. Young Jr, AG4YO, asks the FCC to delete the 5 WPM Morse code test (Element 1) for Technician-plus-Element 1 privileges (formerly "Tech Plus"). Designated RM-10805, his petition would retain Element 1 as an examination requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants and give Technicians limited HF SSB privileges.

Describing CW as "the purest, most accurate, efficient, reliable and economical form of radio communications ever devised,"

Frank Napurano, K2OKA, requests that the FCC retain the 5 WPM Morse requirement "in the interest of public safety, the preservation of a radio art and as a tribute of support for a prized and respected avocation." The FCC designated his filing as RM-10806.

A petition by Robert G. Rightsell, AE4FA and Harry A.M. Kholer, N0PU, designated RM-10807, would continue Morse testing but give applicants up to 24 points of exam credit according to their success on Element 1. The final exam score would be the sum of earned Element 1 points and the written test score for a possible total of 100 points. Their petition also calls on the FCC to consolidate the Novice and Technician and the Advanced and Amateur Extra licenses, boost the number and range of written test questions and give new Technicians CW and data privileges.

Joseph Speroni, AH0A, seeks to have the FCC delete Element 1 for applicants who want to operate phone on HF but retain Element 1 at 5 WPM for applicants who want to operate CW. Designated RM-10808, his petition would restructure the Amateur Radio testing regime to require specific knowledge of "RTTY, data, image, spread spectrum, pulse/test, RACES/ARES and space communications only for those wishing to operate these modes." Under Speroni's plan, applicants would be under no obligation to pass mode-specific examination elements for mode privileges they don't wish to operate.

The Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League (PRARL) asks the FCC to delete Element 1 for Technician and General classes but to increase the rigor of the written elements for those two license classes. The PRARL would keep the 5

WPM Morse exam for Extra applicants. The PRARL also would eliminate same-session retesting and require 30 days between retakes. Its petition is designated RM-10809.

James Roux, W4YA, proposes in his petition, designated RM-10810, that the FCC cut the number of license classes to two--General and Amateur Extra--and the

number of written examination elements to one--at the General level. Roux's petition would eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code exam for General but require Extra applicants to pass a 15 WPM test. Roux also would give Generals all currently available amateur privileges except the Extra-class CW subbands.

A petition filed on behalf of FISTS CW Club would delete the requirement to pass Element 1 to obtain Technician plus Element 1 (ie, "Tech Plus") HF privileges. Designated RM-10811, it would merge Tech and Tech Plus into a single class, emphasize technical content, including digital modes, on written examinations and extend digital mode privileges within Novice/Tech Plus subbands. It would not provide additional HF phone privileges for Technicians, however. The FISTS petition would retain a 5 WPM Morse exam for General applicants and raise the Morse exam to 12 WPM for Amateur Extra applicants while increasing the technical level on written examinations for both classes.

Interested parties may file comments on any or all of these petitions using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), which also permits users to view all comments on file.

To file a comment, click on "Submit a Filing" under "ECFS Main Links." In the "Proceeding" field, type the full RM number, including the hyphen, and complete the

required fields. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number.

You may type your remarks into a form or attach a file.

ECFS also accepts comments in active proceedings via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

To view filed comments, click on "Search for Filed Comments" under "ECFS Main Links" and type in the complete RM number, including the hyphen, in the "Proceeding" field. "RM" must be in capital letters.

NNNN

/EX

EXAMS:

Database last updated on Fri 10-Oct-2003
5 found within approximately 100 miles of
93277

11-Oct-2003 **Sponsor:** MADERA
COUNTY ARC **Time:** 10:00AM (Walk-ins
allowed) **Contact:** FRANK D REYNOLDS
(559)432-6526 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC

Location: UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH 500 SUNSET AVE 147.180 NO
PL MADERA, CA 93637

02-Nov-2003 **Sponsor:** FRESNO ARC
INC **Time:** 01:00PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: CHARLES P MCCONNELL
(559)431-2038 **Email:**

W6DPD@ARRL.ORG **VEC:** ARRL/VEC

Location: SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
CHURCH 2980 E YALE SE CORNER OF
YALE & ORCHARD BEHIND RADIO
PARK FRESNO, CA 93706

14-Nov-2003 **Sponsor:** KERN COUNTY
CENTRAL VALLEY ARC **Time:** 6:30 PM
(Walk-ins allowed) **Contact:** WILLIAM P
HOPPER (661)248-6540 **Email:**

AB6CF@FRAZMTN.COM **VEC:**

ARRL/VEC **Location:** VETERANS

HALL - RM # 2 1905 WILSON RD 1
BLOCK WEST OF H STREET
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
07-Dec-2003 **Sponsor:** MOUNTAIN ARC
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: EDWARD B HAMILTON
(559)642-2789

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#) **Location:** 7TH DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH HOLBROOK
HALL 5060
ROAD 426 POB 2467 OAKHURST, CA
93644
01-Feb-2004 **Sponsor:** FRESNO ARC INC
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) **Contact:**
CHARLES P MCCONNELL (559)431-
2038 **Email:** W6DPD@ARRL.ORG **VEC:**
[ARRL/VEC](#) **Location:** SEVENTH DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH 2980 E YALE SE
CORNER OF YALE & ORCHARD
BEHIND RADIO PARK FRESNO, CA
93706

Happy Birthday To:

ALAN VICENTI W6MTR OCTOBER
JOHN STEVENS KB6DAV
NOVEMBER
NONA LOEFFLER KF6MKJ
NOVEMBER
DAVE MC ELROY WA6BEF
NOVEMBER

Happy Anniversary To:

JOHN STEVENS KB6DAV
NOVEMBER
KAREN STEVENS KF6PCV
NOVEMBER
NONA LOEFFLER KF6MKJ
NOVEMBER

Equipment; Sale/Trade/Seeking:

John Stevens has the following for sale:
Contact him at kb6dav@sbcglobal.net
35 watt amplifier 5 watts in - 35 watts out
\$40.

Next Meeting:

Will be October 23, 2003 Supervisors
Chambers, 2800 W. Burrell in Visalia at 7:30
P.M. All are welcome to attend.
Please join us every Tuesday evening at 7:30
P.M. on 146.880 MHz for our weekly net.
All amateurs are welcome to check in.

73 KF6PCV
de KAREN
Your Editor

**TULARE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME _____

CALLSIGN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

LICENSE CLASS _____ 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



Red Cross Building September 27, 2003 ARES



KC6LUB Hal C.



KA6HGA Bill S



KG6AIR Bill B.



KB6DAV John S.



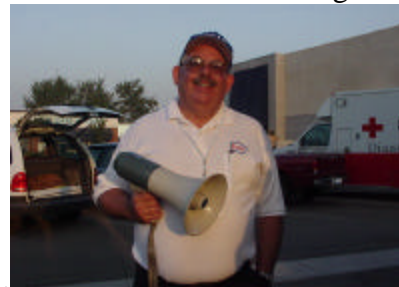
KF6PCV Karen S.



WA6BEF Dave M. & Marge B.



WA6BEF Dave M., KF6KMY Ray Q., KA6HGA Bill S



KG6AIR Bill B.

Name: _____ Call: _____



AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE REGISTRATION FORM



Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____ Zip/PC: _____

Bus. Phone: _____ Home phone: _____ County: _____

License Class: _____ Primary radio interest: _____

Check (✓) bands/modes you can operate:

	160	80	40	20	15	10	6	2	220	OTHER
CW										
FM										
RTTY										
SSB										
MOBILE										
PACKET										
IF OPERATEING PACKET, THE CALLSIGH OF YOUR PBBS IS: _____										

Can your home station operate without commercial power Yes No

If yes what bands? _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

-----Detach and send to your EC
(if known) or the ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.

To All Radio Amateurs:

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is a voluntary organization of licensed radio amateurs who have registered their capabilities and equipment for providing emergency communications as a public service to the community. The purpose of the ARES is to furnish communications in the event of natural disaster, when regular communications fail or are inadequate. Sponsored by AARRL, the ARES functions at the local level to meet local communications needs.

The ARES has a long history of public service going back to its formal inception on 1935. Since that time the ARES has responded countless times to communications emergencies.

Experience has proven that radio amateurs respond more capably in time of emergency when practice has been conducted in an organized group. There is no substitute for experience gained before the need arises.

The ARES in each locality operates under the direction of the Emergency Coordinator (EC), whose function is to direct the activities of the ARES to maintain a state of readiness.

To register in the ARES, send the detachable Registration Form above directly to your EC, or to ARRL Headquarters for forwarding to your EC. League membership is not required for registration. Registration does not require possession of any specially designed equipment. All amateurs can be of assistance to the ARES. There is provision in the ARES for every amateur regardless of class of license, equipment owned or personal circumstances. Won't you join us in providing this essential Amateur Radio Service?

Richard Palm, K1CE