

THE GRID LEAK

The Official Newsletter of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club April 2004 Issue

TULARE COUNTY WA6BAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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**

Echolink Node # **152747 (WA6BAI-R)**

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

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

Club Officers:

President: Steve Lee-Thomas W6SLT
Vice President: Dave Millhouse N6YMM
Secretary: Karen Stevens KF6PCV
Treasurer: Joseph Simons WB6MUD
Past President: Ray Quinn KF6KMY
Repeater Coordinator: Mike Irving
N6BYH
Activities Director: Tom Thompson
KD6DXX

Next Meeting:

Will be April 22, 2004 at the Supervisors
Chambers, 2800 W. Burrell in Visalia, CA
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.

Words From Our President

A lot has happened in the past month or two. Late last year we (TCARC) formed a repeater committee to address issues with the repeater used by the club. In February the repeater committee approached the board and expressed its concerns and needs. Their findings were:

1. The club or a representative needs access to the repeater for repairs.
2. The repeater needs to be moved back to a high elevation and the system needs to be expanded.
3. Due to budget and time demands on the Tulare County Radio Shop, they could no longer meet the needs of TCARC, and it would be beneficial to both the County and the club to release Tulare County of its obligation to maintain and house the WA6BAI repeater.

At the recommendation of the repeater committee the following actions were made at a board meeting held February 26, 2004 in compliance with club bylaws.

1. Waive club dues for Mike Irving N6BYH at this time to enable us to proceed with subsequent actions.
2. Remove Byron Smith WA6YCL as Trustee of License.
3. Accept resignation of Hal Clover KC5LUB as Director of Repeater Operations.
4. Install Dave Millhouse N6YMM as Trustee of License.
5. Install Mike Irving N6BYH as Director of Repeater Operations.

All of the above actions have been ratified by members in attendance at the last two club meetings.

As a result of the above actions the club is moving in new directions, as of two weeks ago we have a temporary repeater at Blue Ridge, with plans to build a permanent repeater for that location. Plans to expand our system and improve reliability of existing equipment continue.

The WA6BAI Repeater is currently operating on 146.880 MHz, minus offset and a required pl tone of 103.5. This is a temporary repeater and has a 50% duty cycle; therefore long conversations should be moved to another repeater until the permanent repeater is in place. Much thanks to Mike N6BYH and Doug KM6OR for their efforts on our behalf is in order.

At our last meeting, it was moved and seconded to present to the club for a vote, to amend the club bylaws to include a repeater committee as a standing committee. The formal proposal will be presented to the club membership in writing at this month's club meeting. This will be followed with a vote to amend the bylaws at the May club meeting.

The club has received generous donations of radio equipment, radios, antennas and towers from Allen Vicenti W6MTR and Roger Corum WD6CNCV, to be used or sold to raise money for our new adventures. Thank you both. We are in the process of retrieving this equipment. We need help picking it up, storing, listing and selling this equipment. Let me know if and when you can help.

73's

Steve W6SLT

Last Meeting Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 1936 by President Steve Lee-Thomas, W6SLT.

Introductions, Attendance was not taken.

Secretary Karen Stevens KF6PCV was not able to attend, Ray Quinn KF6KMY was asked to fill in and take minutes.

Old Business:

Steve announced results of executive session of the Board of Directors of February 24, 2004

Action # Action

- 1. In accordance to Club by-laws Sec 10:1, dues for Mike Irving N6BYH be waived for services rendered.
 - 2. Removed Byron Smith WA6YLB as Club call sign trustee.
 - 3. Accept resignation of Hal Clover KC5LUB as Director of Repeater Operations (Repeater Coordinator).
 - 4. N6YMM appointed as temporary trustee until such time as Mike Irving N6BYH upgrades to Amateur Extra.
 - 5. Mike Irving N6BYH installed as Director of Repeater Operations.
 - 6. Voted to announce only items three and five above to Club membership.
 - 7. Due to the sensitive nature and in accordance to the Brown Act, items two and four above remain confidential.
- Letter was sent to Byron Smith WA6YLB stating the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club (TCARC) will be responsible for the WA6BAI 146.880 repeater.

Dave Millhouse N6YMM announced that the change of call sign trustee complete. Equipment retrieved from Tulare County: UHF repeater, CW ID, antenna, duplexers, and auto patch.

Treasurer Report: \$1637.77 with 39 members.

New Business:

A suggestion was made to add a standing committee to the by-laws. The committee would be the repeater committee. Notification would go out in April Gridleak with possible vote at May Meeting. Motion was made by Andy Brown N6IJF to take steps to put mailings to amend the by-laws. Seconded by Pam Drake KA2RQK and Dave Millhouse N6YMM. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion was made by Steve Lee-Thomas W6SLT to check if email is acceptable for notification of meetings. Seconded by Dave McElroy WA6BEF. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. There was discussion as to the cost of the channel elements (crystals). Cost would be \$299.70. The purchase of a controller to be tabled until Club decides what type. A polyphaser was donated by Doug Edwards KM6OR.

Hal Clover KC5LUB made a motion that the Club allot no more than \$325.00 including tax. Seconded by Andy Brown N6IJF. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Roger Corum donating items to Club to sell for Club use or to sell for funds on the condition that the Club moves the equipment. Alan Vicenti W6MTR donated some antennas and miscellaneous items for the Club to sell.

Motion to adjourn made by Ray Quinn KF6KMY Seconded by Hal Clover KC5LUB. The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Lee-Thomas W6SLT at 2053 hours.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Quinn KF6KMY

Thank you Ray,
Karen Stevens KF6PCV

Repeater Committee Report:

Dave McElroy WA6BEF

March 25, 2004, was a history-making day for TCARC. For two months, a repeater committee appointed by now past president Ray, KF6KMY, worked toward the day when TCARC would have its own repeater independent from county maintenance or operation. This new beginning was achieved with the public announcement of the change in repeater trustee, made at the March monthly meeting. For the first time in its history, TCARC would own and operate a repeater in a privately owned site, accessible to all club members willing to provide their assistance and expertise.

How did we arrive at this historic point? Some insight can be gained from my recent conversation with one of the past repeater trustees, Ed Cowley, W6ARE.

Ed states that at the time of initial construction, there was no one who had had access to either a site or the equipment to even begin the project. Funds were limited. What they did have was the technical know how of the county's radio shop, supervised at the time by Orville Wood, W6ASV. So it was that Orville became the first repeater trustee sometime after 1960, Ed believes. Of course, they were also willing and able, as we are now, to provide emergency communications as needed. This allowed the access to county repeater sites, Mr. Cowley said.

Now, nearly forty-five years later, TCARC is in a position to accept responsibility for our own repeater operations, while at the same time providing the county with the backup emergency communications that we hams have been offering to our communities since the inception of the

hobby.

Those of us who utilize the '88 repeater will have noticed recent changes; these are temporary. At this time, our very temporary repeater consists of two mobile radios and our duplexer, which allows for receiving and transmission on the same antenna. At last month's meeting, funds were authorized for the purchase of crystals and channel elements for an MSR repeater, which will be used temporarily beginning sometime in mid-April. Our final goal will be to have a Mycor repeater installed on Blueridge with the necessary equipment to allow for multiple control operators and maybe even alternate modes of operation.

TCARC has recently been the recipient of some significant donations. Specifically for the repeater, we've got a couple of new guys, James Purvis, WA7HRG and Gary Ward, WA6SAA, (AKA bubba1 and bubba2, (so Gary says.) In fact, as I write this, Gary's tuning up a duplexer, which will be used for the MSR repeater, the next stage in our efforts.

So what comes next in repeater design and operation? Well that answer depends on us. In the coming months, we as a club will be called upon to help in making some of the decisions as to how we want our repeater to operate. So let's keep the club alive, active and vibrant.

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 22 at 7:30 PM. Come out and show your support

All Ham News:

Emergency Coordinators for Tulare County:

RACES is Jim Reeves KC6YRU - kc6yru@tcarc.net

ARES is Hal Clover KC6LUB - hal9000@sosinet.net

ARES Events by Hal KC5LUB:

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Hal Clover KC5LUB

The Club was asked by the March of Dimes to assist with communications for the Walk-America on April 24 from 0700 to about 1330 hours. Eight operators are needed. Dave McElroy WA6BEF will supervise event.

The Club was also asked by the Tulare County Sheriff's Department to provide assistance with the Baker to Vegas Challenge Relay on April 24-25. We need APRS equipment.

Hal Clover, KC5LUB
EC Tulare County CA

DX Convention in Visalia on April 23, 24, & 25 2004 - see web site

<http://www.scdxc.org/visalia/index.html>.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for the month of March 2004:

SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASM K6YK, ACC W6DPD, SEC K6IN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC KE6IGJ, TC W6TE. Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section. Emergency Coordinators are needed in Mono and Calaveras Counties.

Contact K6IN (k6in@mercednet.com) or W6DPD (w6dpd@arrl.org) if you can help.

Please write your congressional representative and urge support and co-sponsorship of HR 713, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act and HR 1478, which would apply PRB-1 to CC&Rs. Also contact your Senators and urge support and co-sponsorship of S 537, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. The 2004 Fresno Hamfest will also be the San Joaquin Valley Section Convention and will be held at the Ramada Inn University as Shaw and 41 in Fresno. The dates are April 30 to May 2. For more information on the SJV Section Convention, visit the Fresno ARC web site at

<http://www.qsl.net/w6to/ota.html>. You can download the registration form from the web page. On Friday, there will be a golf get together. Friday Afternoon April 30 Dan Miller, K3UFG, will present an ARECC Seminar from 1 to 5 PM. ARRL to sponsor ARES/RACES/ARECC seminar in Fresno -- The ARRL will offer a free Amateur Radio Emergency Communications seminar on Friday, April 30, in conjunction with the San Joaquin Valley Section Convention in CA. The seminar will not include the Level I course itself. This program is designed to explain in greater detail the duties of all Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course participants and how their volunteer efforts are essential to the ARES Field Organization. This seminar will explain the importance of every team player with emphasis on using lessons learned to effectively move Amateur Radio emergency communications to the next level,²

said ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG. All ARES/RACES volunteers, ARECC course participants, and Field Organization leadership are invited. Course participants at every ARECC level -- Mentors, Certification Instructors, Certification Examiners and current students -- will be encouraged to come and share with everyone their experiences with the ARECC Program. Field Organization Leadership -- SMs, SECs, DEC's and ECs -- are also invited to join in the brainstorming with ideas for motivating volunteers and coordinating activities. We will focus on coordination between ARECC volunteers and students, and their integration into the Field Organization, helping us to provide the community impact stressed by CNCS for year 2. Attendees will receive handouts and be eligible for a prize drawing at the end of the seminar. There will be a technical program on Saturday, with presenters, K6QI, Mike Staal, K6MYC, Wayne Overbeck, N6NB, Rob Hill, Dan Miller, K3UFG, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and W6TE, KA6Y. The Hamfest Luncheon will have a speaker from Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The Sunday breakfast will feature Rob Hill from Antenna Magic. QSL cards for DXCC, WAS, VUCC, and WAZ may be checked on Saturday. Have all forms completed and bring the award fees, check or credit card and an addressed envelope to send the paperwork. Amateur Exams will be given on Sunday May 2 at 1:00 P.M. Check at the ARRL Booth for information on the exams. The International DX Convention will be April 23-25, 2004 at the Holiday Inn at Visalia. Check sdcxc.org/visalia2004 for information. EMCOMM West 2004 will be May 22-23, 2004 in Reno NV. Check www.emcomwest.org <http://www.emcomwest.org/> for schedules and information.

If your club would like news of their activities and events listed here, please send the information to your SM, w6dpd@arrl.org. The following Radio Amateurs became Silent Keys in March: W6GV, N6ECH, WB6DJK. They will be missed. The Tuolumne County AREC has an YL net Sundays at 08:00 PM on 147.945-, PL 100. KD6FFX is the net control. The Turlock ARC held a 1 day Technician Class on March 6. K6SUU was in charge. Members of the Lodi ARC helped with communications at the Lodi Grape Festival. W6TE qualified for 6m VUCC and for WAZ. N1FW qualified for WAS. Congrats to W6ASO, W6EZ, and WA7MSD on completing the ARECC Level 1 course and to W6MSU on completing ARECC Level 2. The Manteca ARC had 16 take CPR and First Aid Training. Traffic for March: W6MSU 3 PSHR K6RAU 54.

Happy Birthday To:	Happy Anniversary To:
N6YMM Dave Millhouse April KA6HGA William Shearer, Sr. April W6ARE Ed Cowley May WD6CNV Roger Corum May KG6QNW Arlene Gregory May N6QBK Charles Wilcox May	KE6UKK Frank & Phyllis Devin May KA6HGA William & Yoko Shearer, Sr. May WD6CNV Roger & WD6FUF Sarah Corum May
Equipment; Sale/Trade/Seeking:	
Icom 718, brand new - \$400.00 Contact Floyd Morris KA6VEC at 688-9132 after 6:00 p.m.	
BASE STATION ANTENNAS	
MANUFACTURER MODEL# DESCRIPTION EST VALUE	
M2 2M9SSB 144-146 MHZ 9 ELEMENT YAGI \$100.00	HOME BREW ----- 17M 4'3/8-24 ANT \$5.00
M2 440-21ATV 420-440 MHZ 21 ELEMENT YAGI \$125.00	LAKEVIEW 9140` 40M 7' HAMSTICK ANT \$12.00
M2 6 MTR HO LOOP 50.0-50.3 MHZ HORIZONTAL OMNI \$75.00	LAKEVIEW 9140` 40M 7' HAMSTICK ANT \$12.00
ANTRON 99 VERTICAL 10-11 METE \$20.00	VALOR PHF75 75M 8'3/8-24 ANT \$12.00
SHAKESPEAR VERTICAL 11 METER (Retuned for 10 Meter FM) \$20.00	WILSON ?11M 2'3/8-24 ANT \$5.00
CUSHCRAFT ARX-2B RINGO RANGER II 2 METER \$35.00	DIESEL BULL DOG 11M 2'3/8-24 ANT \$5.00
CUSHCRAFT AR450 440-450 OMNI \$25.00	? ? 11M 2'3/8-24 ANT \$5.00
CUSHCRAFT ARX-220B RINGO RANGER 220 \$40.00	RADIO SHACK GLASS MT 2M/70CM ANT \$10.00
MOBILE ANTENNAS	MISCELLANEOUS
FIRESTIK FIRESTIK II 2 METER \$10.00	SAMPO KDM-1466 COLOR COMPUTER MON \$15.00
HUSTLER SF-2 2M 3.4DB 4' 3/8-24 ANT \$8.00	BROKSONIC VPDT-657 AC/DC VHS TAPE PLAYER \$10.00
HUSTLER SF-220 220 3DB 3/8-24 ANT \$8.00	12 VOLT WINCH \$30.00
	Note: Everything on this list functions properly to the best of my knowledge unless otherwise noted. Contact Alan Vicenti W6MTR at avicenti@sbcglobal.net

Note from the Editor:

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**

TULARE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ NAME _____
Self Family Member
CALLSIGN _____ CALLSIGN _____
Self Family Member
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

LICENSE CLASS _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ RES PHONE _____ BUS PHONE _____
Self Family Member

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