

## The Official Newsletter of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 723, Visalia, CA 93279  
TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
146.880 (-) TCARC REPEATER  
Park Ridge Mountain  
East of Fresno, California  
36 43.29' N Latitude, 118.56.38' W Longitude  
7,500' above Sea Level

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

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

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

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

### Club Officers

President: Dave McElroy WA6BEF

Vice President: Bill Stenger K6QOG

Secretary: Ray Quinn KF6KMY

Treasurer: Dave Millhouse N6YMM

Past President: Steve Lee-Thomas W6SLT

Repeater Liaison: Chuck Ward WA6SAA

Activities Director: Hal Clover KC5LUB



**Next Club Meeting is August 16th, 7:30 pm at the  
County Board of Supervisors Building,  
2800 Burrell, Visalia.  
It is located West of the court house.**

### Mark Your Calendar

**Oct 6-7, 2007** California QSO Part. Check [www.cqp.org](http://www.cqp.org) for info.

**Oct 6, 2007** California Historical Radio Society Central Valley Chapter  
Swap Meet. Check [www.californiahistoricalradio.com](http://www.californiahistoricalradio.com) for info.

**Oct 19-21, 2007** Pacificon 2007, Amateur Radio Convention in San Ramon, CA  
Check [www.Pacificon.org](http://www.Pacificon.org) for more info.

**April 25-28, 2008** Internal DX Convention in Visalia, CA  
Check [www.dxconvention.org/](http://www.dxconvention.org/) for info.

**From the Editors:** If there is anything that you would like to add to the newsletter, you may contact us by email at [k6qog@ar1.net](mailto:k6qog@ar1.net). The deadline to have articles included is the 3rd of each month; submissions after the 3rd will go in the next newsletter unless otherwise instructed. -- de Carol & Bill K6QOG

## President's Message

Hello to all, especially our new hams and members.

Well, here we are in mid-summer and quite a late spring and summer it's been for this club. We've initiated new classes, brought on several new licensees, had a really successful field day activity and we're keeping the repeater reasonably active.

The big topics on the repeater lately are the new shacks that are springing up.

I hope that in the next several months, we can provide everyone with at least a glimpse into the varied aspects of ham radio. Recently we've discussed emergency communications and APRS.

The club belongs to all of us and I'm sure we all have ideas of what we'd like to see presented. So if there's a burning question or topic that hasn't been covered, by all means let your voice be heard. Above all else, a ham radio club should be fun.

This is a long way around saying that I/we could use your input into future programs. Again, ten ideas, or a hundred ideas are a whole lot better than one. So by all means, if you've got some ideas or thoughts on topics you'd like to see us bring in, let one of us know.

So for now, keep cool and we'll see you'all on August 16 at 1930 hours. Yes, I said the 16th. That just happens to be the third Thursday this month. Ah, the calendar.

So 73's for now and all the best.

Dave WA6BEF



### Club Websites:

The mailing lists available for TCARC are:

- [gridleak@tcarc.net](mailto:gridleak@tcarc.net) - Grid Leak distribution in Portable Document Format (PDF)
- [gridleak-text@tcarc.net](mailto:gridleak-text@tcarc.net) - Grid Leak distribution in text format for those who prefer or require it.
- [tcarc-announce@tcarc.net](mailto:tcarc-announce@tcarc.net) - One-way announcements open to all
- [members@tcarc.net](mailto:members@tcarc.net) - Open to all active members
- [repeater@tcarc.net](mailto:repeater@tcarc.net) - New repeater committee list (committee members only)
- [officers@tcarc.net](mailto:officers@tcarc.net) - For officers

If anyone wishes to start a new list related to amateur radio or the TCARC, you may do so by sending me an e-mail. -- 73 de Ray KF6KMY

### Emergency Coordinators:

Emergency Coordinators for Tulare County:

**RACES is Jim Reeves KC6YRU - [kc6yru@tcarc.net](mailto:kc6yru@tcarc.net)**

**ARES is Hal Clover KC6LUB - [hal90000@sosinet.net](mailto:hal90000@sosinet.net)**

TCARC Minutes from May 17th Meeting

President Dave McElroy WA6BEF called the meeting to order at 1930.

Persons in attendance:

Dave McElroy	WA6BEF
Pam Drake	KA2RQK
Andy Brown	N6IJF
Paul Reagan	
Bard Rudder	
Marge Balsley	
Bill Balsley	KG6AIR
Jim Bartell	WA7ZUI
Gene Simpson	WB6CHL
Cody Unholz	KG6JYB
Jim Purvis	WA7HRG
Chuck Ward	WA6SAA
Dave Millhouse	N6YMM
Jim Reeves	KC6YRU
Steve Lee Thomas	W6SLT

President Dave McElroy WA6BEF confirmed that new licensees get 1<sup>st</sup> year club dues free, based on past practice.

Dave Millhouse N6YMM reported that 5 people passed the Technician exam; 4 passed the General exam; and, 1 passed both the Technician and General exams.

Three new licensees were in attendance at club, so the rest of the members shared what their interests are in ham service and what got them started.

Bill Balsley presented Tulare County's proposed new ordinance regarding restrictions to towers. Specifically aimed at cell towers, however, it also addressed limits to all towers in all County areas. His proposal is to present

the County staff with more height limitations acceptable to TCARC as follows:

If the property is one (1) acre or less in size, limit the height of the tower to 90 feet with the antenna above that; if the property is over 1 acre in size, no height limitations. And, when pulling a building permit for construction/installation of a tower, the applicant would have to show his license to obtain the permit, or more restrictive limitations apply.

Steve Lee Thomas W6SLT moved and Pam Drake KA2RQK seconded that the club support this action; motion passed unanimously.

Bill Balsley KG6AIR and any other interested persons will meet with County staff on May 30, 2007, at 1:30 at Tulare County Resource Management Agency offices.

Discussion took place regarding holding a field day event. Marge and Bill Balsley KG6AIR reported that Robby Gill KI6KFZ, KingsKraft, had issued an invitation for members to come to their site to hold a field day event. Dave McElroy WA6BEF asked Marge to contact them to see if that offer was still good, that maybe 5-15 persons might show up. Not as a club sponsored event, but as individuals attending the event at the KingsKraft location. Marge will do so and send e-mail or snail mail to all members.

President Dave McElroy WA6BEF adjourned the meeting at 21:32.

Club Minutes taken by Marge Balsley. Edited and respectfully submitted by Ray Quinn W6RAY, TCARC Secretary

TCARC Minutes from June 21st Meeting

Meeting called to order by President Dave McElroy WA6BEF at 1931. A quorum was present.

Introductions: There were 22 present.

Those present were:

Dave McElroy	WA6BEF
Pam Drake	WA2RQK
Gene Simpson	WB6CHL
Dave Millhouse	N6YMM
Chuck Ward	WA6SAA
Gary Ward	
Hal Clover	KC6LUB
Andy Brown	N6ISF
Paul Reagan	KI6KGT
Bard Rudder	KI6KFW
Robby Gill	KI6KFZ
Ray Quinn	W6RAY
Jim Purvis	WA7HRG
Cody Unholz	KG6JYB
Ted Freitas	KE6YJC
Jim Reeves	KC6YRU
Gloria Vicenti	W6NRS
Marge Balsley	KI6KFY
Bill Balsley	KG6AIR
Dan Morauske	KC6ZWM
Mariangeli Morauske	KC6ZWN
Bill Stenger	K6QOG

Activities Director Hal Clover KC5LUB mentioned that Cal Fire (Formerly California

Department of Forestry) needs at least three operators for the Fourth of July Firewatch.

Dave Millhouse N6YMM announced that license exams will be held on Wednesday June 27, 2007 at 1830 at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers at 2800 W. Burrell in Visalia for all license classes. A copy of any license, certificates, and a photo ID, along with the fee of \$14 is required.

Robby Gill KI6KFZ said we will have 3 towers at field day and we will be operating as 3A SJV and we will use the Club's Call, WA6BAI. Antennas include a beam and dipoles.

Bill Balsley KG6AIR passed out flyers with Field Day information.

Ted Freitas KE6YJC and Jim Reeves KC6YRU presented Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS)

Ray Quinn W6RAY made a motion to adjourn. Bill Balsley KF6AIR seconded it. The motion passed unanimously and President Dave McElroy WA6BEF adjourned the meeting at 2104

Respectfully submitted by Ray Quinn W6RAY, TCARC Secretary

TCARC Minutes from July 19th Meeting

President Dave McElroy WA6BEF called the meeting to order at 1938. A quorum was present.

Introductions: Those present were:

Dave McElroy	WA6BEF
Pam Drake	WA2RQK
Rob Tapley	KI6HFW
Tommy Bettencourt	AF6CN
Randy Gragg	KI6KFX
Ray Quinn	W6RAY
Robby Gill	KI6KFZ
Andy Brown	N6ISF
Hal Clover	KC5LUB
Dan Morauske	KC6ZWM
Jim Purvis	WA7HRG
Chuck Ward	WA6SAA
Cody Unholz	KG6JYB
Bill Stenger	K6QOG
Carol Stenger	

Dave McElroy Wa6BEF talked about Emergency Communications, ARES, RACES, etc.

Hal Clover KC5LUB also spoke about ARES and some of the events that Tulare County ARES supports with communications. These include, but are not limited to: Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay, Cal Fire annual “Fire Watch”, bike races, walks. TCARES also provides backup communications as needed.

Hal also reported on the July Fourth event with Cal Fire as well as other emergency communications.

Ray Quinn W6RAY notified the Club that the TCARC.NET domain would expire in October. Hal Clover KC5LUB motioned to renew at the maximum. (Which was thought to be three years.) Andy Brown N6IJF seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Robby Gill KI6KFZ reported on Field Day. We had 168 contacts. The total points have not been determined at this time. There was some discussion about next year.

Chuck Ward WA6SAA mentioned that the Park Ridge UHF antenna is pointed at Visalia and that it is a directional antenna. He also stated that the Blue Ridge repeater is less sensitive due to the RF noise at that site. The repeater transmits at 10 watts in an attempt to eliminate interference with other 2-meter repeaters at the site. They are still attempting to locate the cause of the noise on the Park Ridge repeater. Chuck is also looking for locations on the valley floor for “voting system” receivers.

Ray Quinn W6RAY made a motion to adjourn. Robby Gill KI6KMZ seconded it.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Quinn W6RAY, TCARC Secretary.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION

Report for the month of June 2007

SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASMs  
K6YK and N2NS, ACC W6DPD, SEC  
N6ZFN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC  
KE6IGJ, TC W6TE.

Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin  
Valley Section.

With the change in Part 97 of the FCC  
Rules eliminating the code exam as a  
requirement for upgrading, many Amateurs  
have upgraded to General and Extra Class.  
Congratulations tSAN JOAQUIN VALLEY  
SECTION Report for the month of June 2007:  
SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASMs  
K6YK and N2NS, ACC W6DPD, SEC  
N6ZFN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC  
KE6IGJ, TC W6TE.

Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley  
Section.

If you desire your club information and events  
to be listed in Section News, please send the  
information to [w6dpd@arrl.org](mailto:w6dpd@arrl.org).

Mark your calendars. The California QSO  
Party is October 6-7, 2007. Check for  
[www.cqp.org](http://www.cqp.org) information. The California  
Historical Radio Society Central Valley Chapter  
Swap Meet is October 6, 2007 at the corner of  
13th and X Streets in Merced. Check for  
[www.californiahistoricalradio.com](http://www.californiahistoricalradio.com) information.  
Pacificon 2007 is October 19-21, 2007 at the  
Marriott Hotel in San Ramon CA. Check for  
[www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org) information. The  
International DX Convention is April 25-28,  
2008 at Visalia. Check  
<http://www.dxconvention.org/> for information.

When your affiliated club elects officers for  
the next year, be sure to update your club's  
information on the affiliated club area of the  
ARRL web page so you club will get any

information sent from the ARRL Club department.

If you fail to update your clubs information for  
2 years, your club will be placed in the inactive  
file.

Need to take an Amateur exam? Check the ARRL  
web page, [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) for exam information.  
You can also search for Amateur Radio Classes in  
your area.

The Northern California Net (NCN), the Section  
Traffic Net, meets nightly on 3.533 MHZ at 7 PM  
Pacific Time. The slow speed training session of  
the net meets nightly on 3.533 MHZ at 9 PM  
Pacific Time. Handling traffic on CW is a good  
way to improve your CW skills. The Daytime  
Region 6 Traffic Net meets daily at 3:30 pacific  
time on or near 7.275 MHZ. The California Traffic  
Net meets daily on 3.906 MHZ and 6:30 PM local  
time. The noon time net meets on 7.268.5 MHZ.  
This net handles a lot of messages.

PACIFICON, the ARRL Pacific Division is October  
19-21, 2007 at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon  
CA. This is a good time for new Amateurs and  
new upgrades to view the new radios and other  
accessories, attend many of the numerous sessions  
on the various aspects of Amateur Radio where  
you can learn something new. Amateur Exams  
will be given and there is a 1-day Technician class  
so anyone can earn an Amateur License. You can  
download the PACIFICON brochure at  
[www.pacificon.org/Printable\\_Brochure.html](http://www.pacificon.org/Printable_Brochure.html). This  
is a .pdf file. Advanced registration is \$10 and it  
is \$15 at the door. The Antenna Seminar is all day  
on Friday. There is a breakfast on Saturday  
Morning and a banquet on Saturday night. ARRL  
members can be initiated into the Royal Order of  
the Wouff Hong at midnight Saturday night. The  
Swap meet is Sunday morning. This is a great  
event for all Amateurs, experienced and new. Full  
details for Pacificon can be found at  
<http://www.pacificon.org>. This site has all the  
prices for the various activities that take place at

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION  
Report for the month of June 2007 Continued

the convention. Keep watching this site as new information is posted from time to time as the details are worked out.

It is my sad duty to report that K6ENQ Hal is a Silent Key. He will be missed.

A number of Amateur Radio Clubs did fireworks patrols on July 4, 2007, to look for improper fireworks and fires in the very dry San Joaquin Valley.

Top SJV Section Scores for the ARRL 2006 Ten Meter Contest were 1st KA6BIM, 2nd KW6N, and 3rd KI6VC.

Top SJV Section Scores for the 2007 ARRL RTTY Roundup were 1st NN6NN, 2nd KE6RAD, and 3rd AK6DV.

Top SJV Section Scores for the 2007 ARRL International DX Contest (CW) were 1st, WS6X, 2nd N2NS, and 3rd K6OQ. WS6X was 4th in the Pacific Division.

Congratulations to WS6X who earned DXCC on 160 Meters.

Congratulations to KB6CLV on completing the ARECC Level One Course.

Traffic for June: K6RAU 15, W6DPD 2, and W6SX 15. Total 32. PSHR: K6RAU 63 and W6SX 49.



## Congratulations Dave and Pam

Channel 26 KMPH TV did a Special Assignment segment on Dave and Pam's independent spirit and willingness to try any new adventure. Dave and Pam hiked up to the top of Moro Rock in Sequoia National Park and Dave had a ball on 2 meters with his handheld, as seen in the picture below.



Field Day 2007

Thanks to Robby Gill KI6KFZ for organizing and coordinating field day 2007. The group made 168 contacts. Thanks to all who participated.





# TULARE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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NAME (Self) \_\_\_\_\_ NAME (Family Member) \_\_\_\_\_

CALLSIGN (Self) \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN (Family Member) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

LICENSE CLASS (Self) \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS (Family Member) \_\_\_\_\_

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