

# THE GRID LEAK

The Official Newsletter of the Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 723, Visalia, CA 93279

TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

146.880 (-) TCARC REPEATER

Blue Ridge Mountain  
East of Visalia, California  
36 17.19' N Latitude, 118 50.23' W Longitude  
5,700' 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: Steve Lee-Thomas W6SLT

Vice President: Dave McElroy WB6BEF

Secretary: Ray Quinn KF6KMY

Treasurer: Bill Stenger K6QOG

Past President: Ray Quinn KF6KMY

Repeater Liaison: Chuck Ward WA6SAA

Activities Director: Hal Clover KC5LUB



**Next Club Meeting is March 24th, 7:30 pm  
Red Cross Building, 505 West Main St, Visalia, CA.**

### Monthly DEC/EC Report

**Jurisdiction:** Tulare County

**Month:** February

**Year:** 2005

### AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Total number of ARES members: 24                      Change since last month: +1\_(+,-, or same)

Local Net Name: Southern San Joaquin Valley FM Radio Net    Total sessions: 4

NTS liaison is maintained with the \_\_\_\_\_ Net

Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month: 1                      Person hours: 5

Number of public service events this month: 1                      Person hours: 30

Number of emergency operations this month: 0                      Person hours: 0

Total number of ARES operations this month: 2                      Total Person hours: 35

Comments: The public service event was a demonstration of group capabilities to Citizen Corps Council.

Signature: Hal Clover    Title: (EC or DEC) EC    Call sign: KC5LUB  
Please send to your SEC or DEC as appropriate by 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month

## Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

### TCARC MINUTES – 2/24/05

The meeting was called to order @1941.  
Introductions.  
It was determined that a Quorum was present.

Those in attendance:

<b>W6SLT</b>	<b>Steve Lee-Thomas</b>	<b>Visalia</b>
<b>WA6SAA</b>	<b>Chuck Ward</b>	<b>Three Rivers</b>
<b>K6QOG</b>	<b>Bill Stenger</b>	<b>Elderwood</b>
-----	<b>Carol Stenger</b>	<b>Elderwood</b>
<b>KF6KMY</b>	<b>Ray Quinn</b>	<b>Tulare</b>
<b>KF6KMX</b>	<b>Scott Yarbrough</b>	<b>Hanford</b>
<b>W6NRS</b>	<b>Gloria Vicenti</b>	<b>Visalia</b>
<b>N6YMM</b>	<b>Dave Millhouse</b>	<b>Visalia</b>
<b>WA6BEF</b>	<b>Dave McElroy</b>	<b>Visalia</b>
<b>WA2RQK</b>	<b>Pam Drake</b>	<b>Visalia</b>
<b>KG6AIR</b>	<b>Bill Balsley</b>	<b>Visalia</b>
<b>KC5LUB</b>	<b>Hal Clover</b>	<b>Porterville</b>

**Treasurer's Report** Acting treasurer Dave Millhouse, N6YMM reported approximately \$1175.00. The PO Box was the only expenditure paid.

#### Old Business

Nominations for each office were closed just before each vote.

1. **Bill Stenger, K6QOG** was unanimously elected treasurer.
2. **Ray Quinn, KF6KMY** was nominated for Secretary by **Steve Lee-Thomas, W6SLT** and seconded by **Bill Stenger, K6QOG**. He was elected unanimously.
3. **Dave McElroy, WA6BEF** was unanimously elected as Vice President.
4. **Steve Lee-Thomas, W6SLT** was unanimously reelected as President.
5. **Charles Ward, WA6SAA** was unanimously elected as Repeater Liaison.
6. **Hal Clover, KC5LUB** was unanimously elected as Activities Director.

#### Standing Committees Chairs:

Public relations: **Gloria Vicenti, W6NRS**

Emergency: **Hal Clover, KC5LUB**

Repeater Committee: **Dave McElroy, WA6BEF**

#### New Business

None

**REPEATER COMMITTEE MEETING.** There will be a Repeater Committee meeting on Mar. 10th, 1930 hrs. At the Red Cross Office. Everyone is welcome to participate in this meeting.

#### Committee Reports.

**W6SLT** – Should have report from OES within 30 days.

**WA6BEF** – Repeater Committee met on 10 February. Wediscussed future goals and objectives of the committee.

**Charles, WA6SAA** has the VHF and UHF repeaters working.

The drill on 18 Feb shows the need for alternate repeater site to Blue Ridge. Simplex works OK, but not well enough.

The next meeting will be 10 March at the Red Cross in Visalia. Everyone requested to make suggestions as to what the repeater should be, options, bells, whistles, controller, etc. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting at 19:30.

February Gridleak Correctin: **Dave Williams**, in the RACES report. Correct call sign should read **KA6MEC**.

**WA6SAA** VHF/UHF repeater working. UHF 80 w Buzzing grinch could be TV or video carrier getting into 146.88. Suggests listening on input freq.

Charles asks that everyone listen to repeater input (146.280) when the "grunge" noise is heard. If you hear it on the input, please let us know WHERE you are when you hear it.

The controller has 250 functions, with sub-functions. We need suggestions as to what we want it to do for us.

Do we need UHF receiver on site #2? Do we want a UHF repeater on site #2? We need antennas for both sites.

**KC5LUB:** Citizen Core CERT training. Asked for committee for emergency communications, REACT, FRS, Hams. Discussed drill scenario involving train accident near Corcoran. Drill was successful **W6ALT, WA6BEF, KJ6OH, KG6AIR, AD6N, KA6HGA, K6QOG, W6MTR,** and **K6DAW** were involved in the drill. Representatives from various offices of both Tulare and Kings counties agencies were present for the drill.

Baker to Vegas Run is April 22-23. Operators are needed in the Baker and Las Vegas areas.

March of Dimes April 18. Would like APRS in shuttle van along with other two. Someone to receive APRS @ COS.

**KC5LUB Hal Clover,** Activities Dir: Field Day: 25-26 June 2005. He pointed out two new rules.

**W6SLT:** Discussed possibility of using a prefix for IRLP.

The Club's web page will be moved to another host.

Motion to adjourn: **Dave McElroy, WA6BEF**

Second: **Hal Clover, KC5LUB**

Meeting was adjourned @ 2054 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Quinn KF6KMY



## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for February 2005

SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASMs K6YK and W6FRH, ACC W6DPD, SEC N6ZFN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC KE6IGJ, TC W6TE.

Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section.

Emergency Coordinators are needed in Kings, Mono and Calaveras Counties. Contact N6ZFN (n6zfn@ares-races.net) or W6DPD (w6pdp@arrl.org) if you can help.

Grant-sponsored Reimbursement Ending in June, the last seat to be offered under the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)-sponsored grant will open. After that, only a small number of reimbursable seats in each course will be offered under the United Technologies Corporation (UTC) grant through October. At this time, no further grant-sponsored reimbursement for EmComm course students is on the horizon. The monthly registration calendar is found online at <<https://www.arrl.org/cce/calendar.html>>. Registration can be done on-line during the applicable registration window at <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/cce/>>. As stated at <<https://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>>, registration via regular mail is also an option. Please include the course you wish to enroll in, your age group, gender, veteran status, preferred email address, and telephone number. This has been a very successful program, thanks chiefly to the support and participation of the ARRL Field Organization. We sincerely appreciate your efforts and hope that with your continued support, these grants will conclude on a successful note. If you have any additional questions, please send them to cce@arrl.org <<mailto:cce@arrl.org>>.

Mark your calendars. The International DX Convention (Visalia) is April 15-17, 2005. Check [www.ncdx.org/Ncdxc/Convention](http://www.ncdx.org/Ncdxc/Convention) <<http://www.ncdx.org/Ncdxc/Convention>> for information. EMCOMM West will be May 13-15, 2005 in Reno. Check [www.ecomwest.org](http://www.ecomwest.org) <<http://www.ecomwest.org>> for information. Pacificon 05 will be October 14-16, 2005 at the San Ramon Marriott. Check [www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org) <<http://www.pacificon.org>> for information.

The annual M2 Antenna Systems, Inc. open house is April 2, 2005 in Fresno. Check [www.m2inc.com/openhouse2a.html](http://www.m2inc.com/openhouse2a.html) <<http://www.m2inc.com/openhouse2a.html>> for information and directions.

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.

Need to take an Amateur exam? Check the ARRL web page, [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) <<http://www.arrl.org>> for exam information.

The Northern California Net (NCN), the Section Traffic Net, meets nightly on 3.630 MHZ at 7 PM Pacific Time. The slow speed training session of the net meets nightly on 3.705 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 Manteca Amateur Radio Club, San Joaquin County ARES, and the Bay Area Educational Amateur Radio Society will hold a one-day 'ham cram' technician license class and testing session on Saturday, April 9, 2005 in Manteca. The class runs from 8am until 4pm. Cost of the class is \$30. Pre-registration and payment is required. Space is limited. For information visit: [www.sanjoauihares.org](http://www.sanjoauihares.org)

It is my sad duty to report that KK6LR, W7FMD, WB6SHI, KQ6KT, W6KGF, and KB6DJT became a Silent Keys. They will be missed.

Congratulations to W6INP and KD6PCT on completing the ARECC Level 1 course.

Congratulations to W6ZND on 50 years of ARRL membership.

Congratulations to KB6BXY on being named Ham of the Year for the Bakersfield ARA.

The Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers will sponsor a transmitter hunt on March 19, 2005, beginning at 1 PM. This will be a beginners T-Hunt intended to introduce new hams to the fun on hunting transmitters. The hidden transmitter will be on 147.54 MHZ. The hunters will meet at the Clovis Senior Center, 804 Fourth Street in Clovis. There will be get together after the hunt. Contact Ray, KB6LQV, at (559) 270-0520 for information.

San Joaquin Valley ARS 2005 officers are pres KF6ZSW, vp and treas KG6TTF and sec KF6GKC. The club meets the first Friday in Fresno for members and invited guests only. Check [www.sjvars.com](http://www.sjvars.com) <<http://www.sjvars.com>> for information.

QCWA Fresno Chapter 213 2005 officers are pres W6YDE, vp W6YEP, sec/treas W6DPD and directors K6XJ and W6RUJ. The chapter meets the 4th Tuesday at Noon at Carrows Restaurant, 4280 N. Blackstone in Fresno. The club operates the WQ6CWA repeater on 146.25/85 with a pl of 141.3 HZ.. All QCWA members are invited to attend the meetings. Check [www.qcwa.org/chapter213.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/chapter213.htm) <<http://www.qcwa.org/chapter213.htm>> for information.

Sierra ARC members helped with the Fire Mountain Fifty Horse Ride. Those helping were KG6STR, WA6QYR, WB6EPD, WA7RIW, KI6LO, W6PTH, and KC6UUR.

Traffic for February: K6RAU 10, N6SUZ 29 for a total of 39. PSHR K6RAU 68 and N6SUZ 88.

*Happy Birthday to --*

**March Birthdays**  
Ray Quinn KF6KMY

**April Birthdays**  
Dave Millhouse N6YMM  
Bill Shearer Sr. HA6HGA

## All Ham News

### 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)

### ARES Events by Hal KC5LUB:

April is a busy month with Amateur Radio.

Kicking off the second half of the month is the DX Convention on the weekend of the 16th and 17th.

The following weekend, the 23rd and 24th will find several of us in Nevada communicating for the Sheriff's Department Baker to Vegas team.

Every one needs to mark their calendar for Saturday April 30th. While I can't go into a lot of details we do have two events that we need coverage for: 1) The annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica. 2) support a Red Cross exercise.

If you are interested in participating in the Baker to Vegas, March of Dimes or Exercise, please contact myself or Jon WB6AEA.

## Club News

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 KF6KMÝ



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

I would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve as the Activities Coordinator for the next year.

April seems to be a fun filled month for hams. The 56th Annual International DX Convention comes to town on April 15-17. For more information check out the web site at [www.ncdx.org/Ncdxc/Convention](http://www.ncdx.org/Ncdxc/Convention).

Also several local hams have agreed to assist with communication for the Sheriff's Department Baker to Vegas runners. We will be tracking the runners again this year and hope to communicate on voice via HF between Pahrump and Prim Nevada. Our tracker number most likely will be 211T and 211TS. Hopefully they will be visible on APRS websites, however, there are changes afoot as we approach race day.

A third event in April will be the March of Dimes WalkAmerica. This event will take place on Saturday April 30th in the morning. Hopefully we'll have a tracker in the shuttle vehicle and operators at the various aid stations along the

walking route. We might even get ATV involved.

If you are interested in participating in any of these, please let me know and I'll get you more information as it gets closer to the activity date.

Looking into the future with club activities, we need to start planning for the Field Day 2005. It's about 90 days away on the fourth full weekend in June. Mark your calendars and volunteer to sit on the planning committee. Hope to see everyone at the club meeting this month with ideas.

73  
Hal  
KC5LUB



**From the Editors:** If there is anything that you would like to add to the newsletter, you may contact us by email at [stengerw@sti.net](mailto:stengerw@sti.net). The deadline to have articles included is the 10th of each month; submissions after the 10th will go in the next newsletter unless otherwise instructed.

-- de Carol & Bill K6QOG





## Station hits airwaves in Visalia

Radio station KVLP is now on the air in Visalia.

Bill Balsley and two dozen fellow community radio enthusiasts installed a 55-foot transmitting antenna on Feb. 26 in the back yard of a home on Houston Avenue.

Balsley spent five years getting the low-power station from Federal Communications Commission approval to broadcast.

"From dreaming about it to hearing it is way cool," he said. The station can be heard at 101.5 FM. Putting out the legal maximum of 100 watts, it has a seven-mile range, Balsley said. Programming consists of a single song - "In-A-Gadda-DaVida," by Iron Butterfly.

"It's a California classic, the song that epitomized FM radio in the 1960s," Balsley said. Playing the same tune over and over to introduce a new station is called "a stunt" in the industry.

Eventually, the noncommercial station will play music such as Dixieland, blues, oldies and Americana.

More importantly, local nonprofit groups will be given an opportunity to tell their stories over the air.

"There are 1,200 nonprofit organizations in our community," Balsley said. "KVLP means 'Visalia Local Power.'"

Low-power FM got a push in the 1990s from the Clinton administration in response to complaints that corporate radio had stopped serving communities.

Balsley and volunteers spent their own money to buy 'a transmitter costing more than \$10,000. When the nonprofit station runs smoothly, they'll ask the community for financial support to pay the electricity bill.

Information: 627-0754

(*The Fresno Bee* 3/11/05)



## Ambient, FCC Failing to Address New York BPL Complaints, ARRL Charges

(Mar 17, 2005) -- The ARRL has charged BPL equipment maker Ambient Corporation and the FCC with being unwilling or unable to effectively deal with harmful interference stemming from a New York BPL pilot project. The League this week asked the Commission for the third time to shut down Ambient's Briarcliff Manor "non-compliant system without further delay" until Ambient addresses interference complaints. The League's latest salvo in the Briarcliff Manor BPL battle was in response to a February 10 letter from Bruce Franca, deputy chief of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET). Franca's letter concluded that FCC measurements in response to Amateur Radio complaints of harmful interference showed no changes were required to the BPL system.

## ARRL Seeks Texas BPL Pilot Project Shutdown, Fines

(Mar 17, 2005) -- The ARRL has requested that the FCC immediately shut down an Irving, Texas, BPL pilot project and fine its operator for causing extensive harmful interference to Amateur Radio communications. The League's March 15 filing to the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology and the system's operator comes in the wake of--and supports--a complaint from ARRL member Jory McIntosh, KJ5RM, of Hastlet, Texas. McIntosh regularly commutes through the BPL test zone, which is in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The FCC has yet to respond to a formal complaint he filed last fall.

For complete articles see the ARRL website.

# 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