



THE GRID LEAK

The Official Newsletter of the
Tulare County Amateur Radio Club

March 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 will be on Thursday, March 27, 2003 at 7:30 PM at the County Supervisors Chambers located at 2800 W. Burrell in Visalia. We hope to see you there. We had a good turnout last month. Let's keep it going.

WALK-AMERICA

Hams needed to provide communication for Walk-America 2003.

The March of Dimes has asked us to provide communications again for this great event. The walk which originates and culminates at COS is scheduled for Saturday April 26th. In the past MOD has asked for 10-12 radio operators. We would like to continue to provide service to this event. If your interested please contact Hal Clover via e-mail at hal9000@sosinet.net or by phone at 781-9693.

FLASH!!

Patty Crawford, Tulare County Emergency Services coordinator (or something like that) has announced that she is retiring from county employment on March 20, 2003. I am not very aware of her overall scope, but Jim R. would know more - she handles all the EMS certifications, and is connected to the need for RACES and some other stuff.

((as a side note, perhaps her replacement will be more visible/active/responsive etc etc to the efforts put forward by this organization))

Submitted by
Bill Balsley - KG6AIR

RM-10641

Currently under consideration by the FCC:

RM-10641: Registration of Radio Transmitters - regarding a petition by Dale Reich to require registration of radio (Ham, Land Mobile, etc.) transmitters.

This would be done by the retail vendor of the equipment requiring a name and address of the purchaser.

A second part of the petition

is asking for a requirement that all transmitters (including Part 15) carry a tag with the owner's name and call sign (if required) on it citing it will be easier for enforcement purposes.

Submitted by
Bill Balsley - KG6AIR

FUN THINGS

If you would like to have a very nice Grid Square Map, you can go online and download one at:

<http://www.icomamerica.com/downloads/usgridsq.pdf>

If you desire a nice looking Band Chart, go online to the following URL and download one at:

<http://www.icomamerica.com/downloads/bandchar.pdf>

If you would like one of the above and do have the luxury of owning a computer or do not have access to the internet, get a friend to do it for you or drop by sometime and I would be happy to get one for you.

Alan W6MTR

COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars. The 2003 Fresno Hamfest will be April 26, 2003, at Riverland Resort on Highway 99 south of Kingsburg CA. Opens at 7:00 AM. Coffee and donuts in the morning. Lunch at 11:30 AM. This is a swap meet with food, prizes, and eyeball QSOs. Tickets for an IC 706MKIIG will be available at \$5 each. One Dollar (\$1) admission fee. Sellers \$5 per spot. Others drawings too. The program is just being formulated now. Card checking for DXCC, WAS, VUCC, WAC, and WAZ from 10 to 11 AM. Have all forms completed, the necessary award fees and SAEs for each award. Hidden Transmitter hunt. There will be some technical demonstrations of Amateur Radio methods. Amateur Exams will be given on Sunday April 27 at 1:00PM at the Fresno Central SDA Church at Yale and Orchard streets in Fresno. For details, contact w6to@arrl.net or kdavis@gotnet.net See <http://www.qsl.net/w6to> for the latest details.

The 2003 International DX Convention will be May 2-4, 2003, at the Holiday Inn at Visalia. Check the NCDXC web page at <http://www.ncdxc.org> to link to the convention page. You can download the registration form there. Contact w6yd@aol.com for information.

EMCOMM West will be Saturday May 31, 2003 in Reno NV. Check <http://www.cvrc.net/emcommwest> for information.

Pacificon 2003 will be October 17-19, 2003 at the San Ramon Marriott in San Ramon CA. This is a new site for this convnetion. Check <http://www.pacificon.org> for information.

M²

Weak Signal Gathering & Swap Meet, March 29, 2003 Just a short note... SWAP MEET and GRIP and GRIN gathering... The date is 29 March 03 with the gates being unlocked at 9AM... The gang at M² has always been good to us with the famous HAM burgers and such, with door prizes thrown in... So mark you calendar, eating and such... Great time last year so come and take advantage of the Bent and Dent sale...

Here is the schedule so far:

9:00 AM - Gates Open for the Swap

10:00 AM - M² Plant Opens

11:30 AM - Time to Eat

73 Larry, W6OMF-Sue, K6SUE

M2 Antenna Systems, INC

4402 N. Selland

Fresno, CA 93722

(559) 432-8873 - FAX: (559) 432-3059

SK

Charlotte Perdue, KB6VBR, past away February 28th at age 90. She was the wife of the late Tom Perdue, KA6LGL. Charlotte was a long time member of the Kings Amateur Radio Club. She was also a retired Teacher. Charlotte will be missed by us all.

Submitted by Carleton Reed AA6GZ

Cupertino ARES (in Santa Clara County) has developed an on-line library of training material, drills, and exercises regarding Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Point your browser to www.cupertinoares.org and click on Archives.

Of special interest to me is the short presentation on "Message Handling and Situation Reporting" at

<http://www.cupertinoares.org/archives/Training/020207-Msg-Handling-Training.pdf>

I printed two copies; one for my glove compartment, and one for the shack.

Submitted by Bill Balsley KG6AIR

DONATION

John Stevens KB6DAV has been able to solicit a couple of donations for the Club; a 386 and a 486 computer, complete with monitors. The Club now needs to decide what they will use them for, but be assured, they will be put to good use.....THANK YOU JOHN

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Father O'Malley rose from his bed. It was a fine spring day in his new Washington, DC parish. He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside. He then noticed there was a jackass lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He promptly called the US Senate for assistance. The conversation went like this:

"Good morning. This is Senator Lott. How might I help you?"

"And the best of the day te yerself. This is Father O'Malley at St.Brigid's. There's a jackass lying dead in me front lawn. Would ye be so kind as to send a couple o' yer lads to take care of the matter?"

Senator Lott, considering himself to be quite a wit, replied with a smirk, "Well now father, it was always my impression that you people took care of last rites!"

There was dead silence on the line for a long moment.

Father O'Malley then replied: "Aye, that's certainly true, but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin."

NEW!! 2 METER NET WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

146.775 (-) (141.3) Meadow Lakes Repeater
EchoLink Node 29648 and I.R.L.P. Node 8340

You can go online to find the official Time in any
of the Continental United States by going to
<http://www.time.gov/>

**ZCZC AG23
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 23 ARLB023
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT March 6, 2003
To all radio amateurs**

**SB QST ARL ARLB023
ARLB023 FCC makes housekeeping changes in Amateur Service rules**

The FCC made some minor changes in the Part 97 Amateur Service rules as a result of decisions at past World Radiocommunication Conferences. In a wide-ranging Report and Order released March 3 that affects several radio services, the FCC has removed 97.401(b) and international footnote 5.120 from the Amateur Service rules.

The section references International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Resolution 640, which invited administrations to provide for the needs of international disaster communications and for the needs of emergency communications within their national regulations using certain amateur bands. Resolution 640 was deleted at WRC-97, and footnote 5.120 at WRC-2000.

"We do not think this will have an impact on the Amateur Service emergency communications because Sections 97.111(a)(1) and 97.101(c) of our Rules allow amateur stations to communicate with foreign stations in disaster areas, making the provisions based on the former ITU Resolution No. 640 unnecessary," the FCC said in the RO&O in ET Docket 02-16.

Those sections permit transmissions necessary to exchange messages with other stations in the amateur service, unless an administration objects and require control operators at all times and on all frequencies to give priority to stations providing emergency

UI-View32 APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System)

Starting with APRS-DOS, then WinAPRS, and several other versions designed for particular portable equipment, Amateur Radio operators have used packet radio to track stations during parades, races, regattas, and even foot traffic at the Dayton Ham Convention. APRS uses unconnected packet transmissions to send position reports, often fed by GPS receivers to the TNC, and displays that information on a multitude of different types of maps. The Rose Parade, the Baker-to-Vegas relay race, the Los Angeles Marathon, and balloon launches are all recent users of APRS tracking. A good starting place for APRS information is the website of the creator of APRS, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, at <http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/aprs.html>. Another good site for APRS information, including MAC-APRS, is <http://aprs.rutgers.edu>. Links on these sites will lead those unfamiliar with APRS to lots of good information.

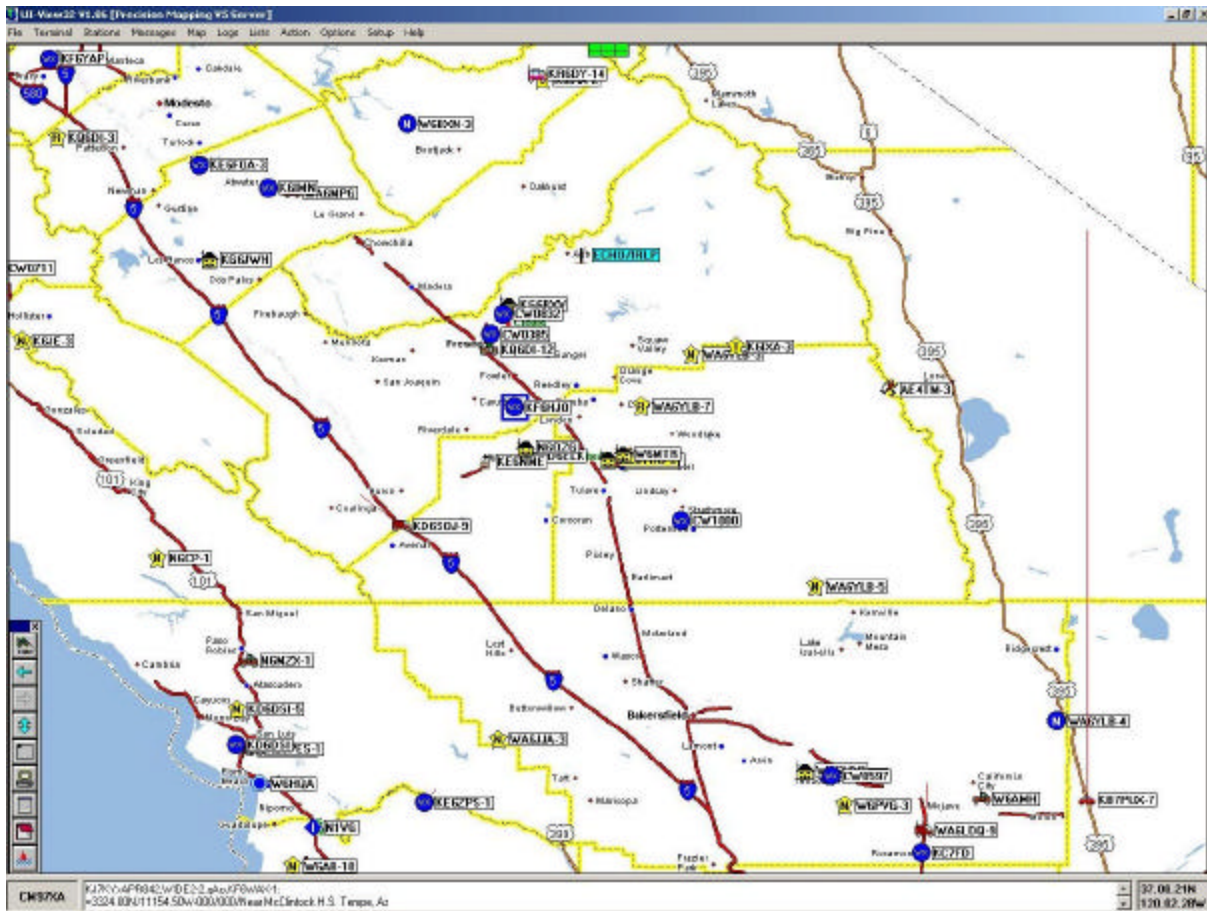
I recently found UI-View32, an APRS program that is head and shoulders above anything else available to the APRS user. Written and supported by Roger Barker, G4IDE, UI-View32 is a Windows based APRS program that I strongly recommend. The UI-View site can be found at <http://www.UI-View.com>. The low registration cost (about \$16, payable through PayPal), ease of use, stability, and flexibility all make for a great program for APRS users. Support is excellent, by an email list, and the author is open to suggestions for changes and upgrades to the program.

Several options for map displays are available. I use Precision Mapping 5, from UnderTow Software, <http://undertowsoftware.com>, giving me continent to street-level mapping with a click of the mouse. (Picture 1) Recently added was the ability to use existing DOS APRS maps that are available from many sites on the Internet. (Picture 4) Aerial photographs from the Terra Servers are also available to be used as a map field for UI-View32. You can create your own maps, and integrate them into the program for your specific needs.

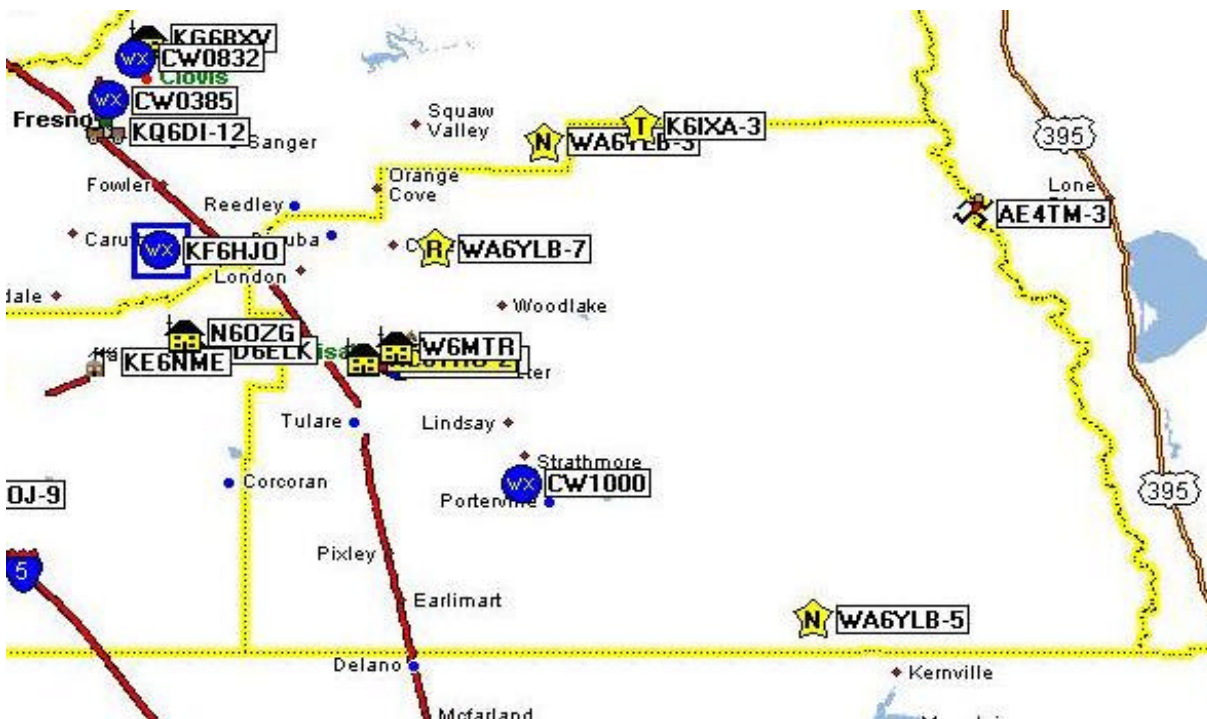
One of the most interesting plug-ins for UI-View32 (at least for me) is a weather alert monitoring capability. Download the proper zone information from the National Weather Service, and weather Advisories, Watches, and Warnings appear color coded on your screen for the areas that NWS has issued the alerts! Double clicking the shaded area will display the alert information from NWS. When the alert expires, the color coded areas vanish, letting you see only current information. (Picture 3)

An excellent source of plug-in programs for UI-View32 can be found at the website of M0CYP, <http://www.apritch.myby.co.uk/uiview.htm>. There are a wide variety of additional programs that function seamlessly into UI-View, making it the most versatile APRS program available.

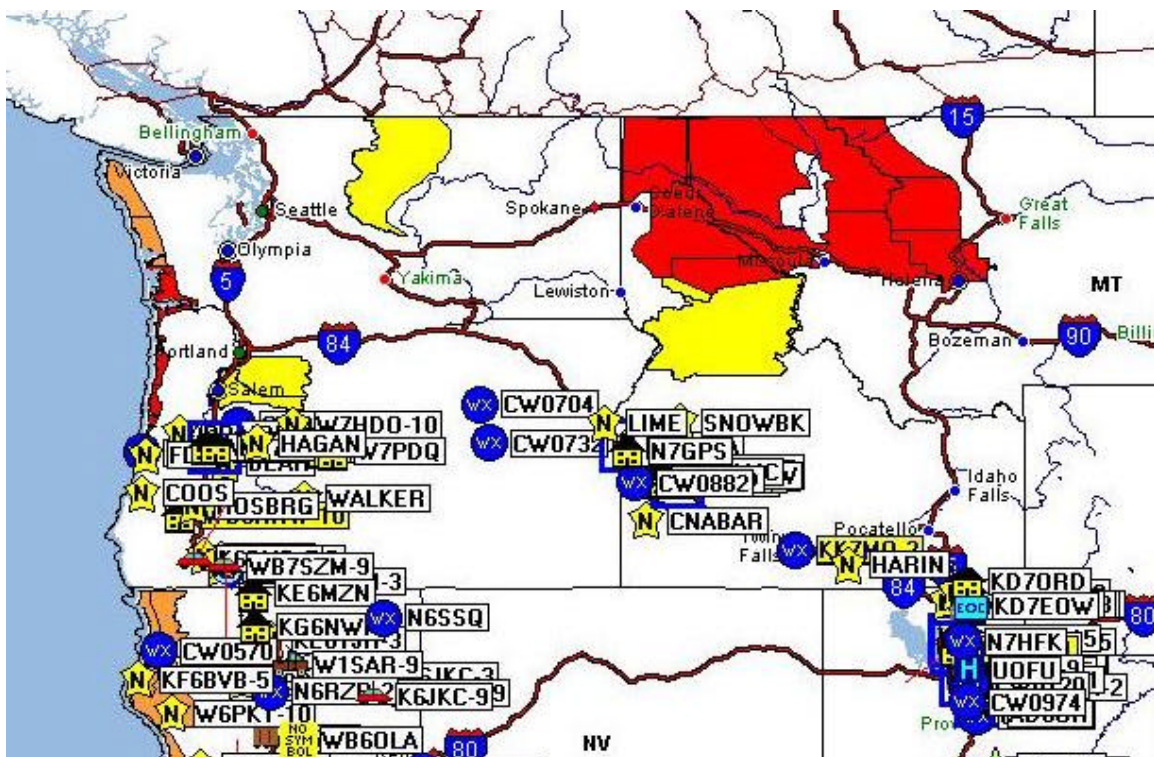
Jim J Reeves, Jr.
KC6YRU
Visalia



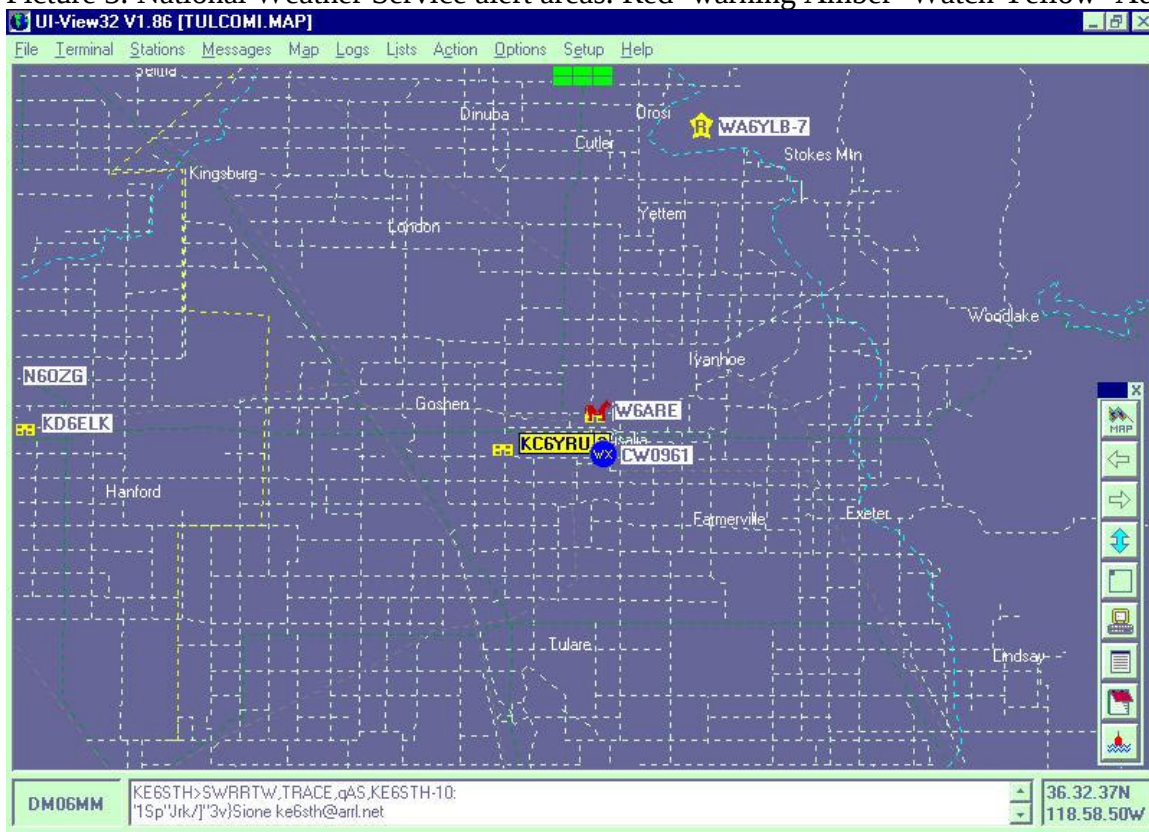
Picture 1. A screen shot of Central California



Picture 2. Tulare County



Picture 3. National Weather Service alert areas. Red=warning Amber=Watch Yellow=Advisory



Picture 4. DOS map in UI-View.

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]

Mail To: Tulare County Amateur Radio Club
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Visalia, CA 93279