



Trinity County Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 2283 Weaverville CA 96093

Newsletter

October 2006

Next Meeting

Be sure and join us for the meeting October 11th, 19:30 hours at TCOE. We didn't have a meeting in September due to the downriver fires. Let's have good attendance at this meeting.

Silent Key

Dick Russell, WJ6R, became a Silent Key on September 6, 2006. Dick was not a member of the club but for many years was a more regular check-in on the net than many members. He always had something to report about his garden, his wood supply or the critters around the place. Though he wasn't a formal member of the club, he certainly will be missed by many of us.

Dues Reminder

We're still looking at the possibility of a budget shortfall and looking for a few more members to get current on their dues.

Repeater Maintenance

Don, ND6T and Robert, KB6YTD, have made trips to both the Bully Choop site and the Hayfork Bally site over the last few weeks. The trip to Bully Choop was quite an adventure. It was cold not considering the wind and the windchill made it just about really uncomfortable! The wind was a minimum of 30 to 40 MPH with gusts to 50 and even sometimes above 60 MPH. (The next day another lookout reported gusts of 70!) There was an icicle growing from a pipe and it was hanging at about a 40 degree angle! But they were able to get the old (high current draw) control receiver removed and a newer, much lower current draw control receiver installed. The primary antenna was also taken down, cleaned up some, hardware tightened and then put back in place. The original plan was to get on the roof and work on the antenna but with the wind as it was, that plan was scrubbed. It worked out, though, that our antenna was on the leeward side of the tower so they were able to take that antenna's whole mast down without too much

trouble, fix the antenna and put it back up. That repeater should be good to go for the winter now.

The trip to Hayfork Bally was just about as opposite as it could be. The weather was beautiful – warm, still and clear. Almost the same work was done at the Hayfork site as the Bully Choop – the control receiver was swapped for the newer, low current one and work was done on the antenna mount and antenna. The machine itself is now ready for winter, though it's likely we'll have power problems again due to the trees shading the solar panels. We haven't heard any official word yet on what the USFS has planned for those trees. Maybe they'll be down by the end of the season. In the meantime, if anyone has a higher power solar panel that could be loaned to the club for the winter that would probably help the repeater's operation through the long, dark nights this winter. The current panels (no pun intended), are rated 30 watts though they seem to operate at quite less than that, I'd guess due to their age. Next season we'll get some new brackets made up and move the panels to a position such that we won't have to worry about the trees.

The portable repeater continues in operation at Tom Miller's QTH on Oregon Mountain. Please keep it in mind, especially during the low light times. Its primary power source is the wall socket at Tom's house instead of solar panels. If you're in an area it services please consider using it instead of our solar-dependant machines. (Weaverville, downriver til about Pigeon Point (actually to Big Bar but spotty that far down), Lewiston, and somewhat up toward Trinity Lake). We'll be renewing the effort over the next few weeks to get it moved to a location on Brown's Mountain that should improve coverage into Weaverville, Lewiston, North Lake and especially Douglas City.

Interesting Operating

Robert, KB6YTD, received an email from Mike, K8XF, a ham in Florida looking for a contact in Trinity County to complete his "Worked all California Counties." (Hams on HF in Trinity County have gotten kind of rare lately so he'd resorted to looking up call signs and email addresses.) Robert's schedule wasn't such that he could get a sked on HF with the fellow but forwarded the email to Don, ND6T. The two were able to get a sked and Don made contact with him on 40 meters CW.

In other HF activity, the weekend of October 7 was the California QSO Contest. Dean, N6DE, came up from the valley to the Shasta/Trinity county line and worked many contacts. Greg, WB6FZH, worked a couple dozen contacts in the space of less than an hour just to keep his feet wet.

Fire News

Speaking of Greg, he's getting somewhat famous for his fire info page on the TrinityCam website. Lots of folks go there to keep up with the latest fire info and just happen to see some ham radio info while they're there. Thanks for both, Greg.

Carol, N6TMC (donning her TV station hat), took motion picture camera in hand and filmed bits of the Pigeon fire. 2 meter communication was a nice reassurance for her safety while in the active fire area.

Raymond Flat (residence of the Horn family) now seems to be an island of green in a sea of black. The Pigeon fire burned all around them but their lines, with the vigilance of the family, preserved their immediate area uncharred. The water line that supplies their power system did take some hits, though, so they'll be working on that for a while.

Colleen, N6NOT, got the dust out of her 2 meter radio at home during the fire and checked in during the net for a couple of weeks. It was nice to hear her back on the air.

Off the Air

I'm sad to say that Stan, KB6WTA, is getting out of the hobby. He's keeping a couple of HTs so he and Patricia, KF6WLP, can talk around town or such, but has some items for sale. The pricing on all of it is "give me a call." Items include: Yeasu FT-980 HF rig; Yeasu FT-2400 2 meter mobile; 11 element 2 meter beam antenna and a free standing, foldover tower that's maybe 50 feet. (Maybe 30 – I don't recall) It's all down and ready to pick up. Give him a call at 530-628-5412.