

# Lanierland ARC



<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

January 2009

## Happy New Year

### President's Corner



**Philip Loggins K4PDL**

**Happy New Year everyone and welcome to 2009. May the New Year bring you good health, great happiness and maybe even a few new radio toys that Santa might have forgotten.**

**I am honored to have served this past year as your club president. I am more honored to have been selected for a second term as the same. Together we can look forward to a lot of exciting things to come. This will be an exciting year!**

**One of the big initiatives is training. In the past year we have run classes and trained**

more than 30 new radio operators. These new members will be the future of LARC. We also have another technician's training class coming up later in January. If you know of anyone who is interested, put them in contact with Doyle, W4DJG.

**Elmer Program** - After passing an exam these new or upgraded hams need help and support. I think a committee should formalize an Elmer program whereby each new licensee would be linked up with one or more club members who could help them develop their skills and increase their knowledge. We would need to solicit volunteers based on their interests, time available, and perhaps location near the new ham.

You might think it's too early to think about 2009 public service events, but we have the first one on the calendar: **KIDS DAY Jan. 3, 2009, 11 AM – 3 PM**. Plan to be on the 2M repeater when possible during these hours to assist the KIDS for contacts. Other events are in the planning stages for this year. Make a New Year's resolution to be involved in at least a couple of them and enjoy being a part of the LARC.

In order to stay informed you should attend our monthly meetings. Perry, KO4RD, our new Activities Manager, will always be accepting suggestions for monthly speakers or program subjects. Keep Doyle, W4DJG, current with all your information, including your e-mail Address, to keep the roster updated. Also, check out the LARC website [www.lanierlandarc.org](http://www.lanierlandarc.org) for the latest information. Look for new updates all along.

We are in the process of putting together the different committees for this year. They include Repeater, Technical, Activities, Fund-Raising, Hamfest, Public-Relations, Education, Nominating, Training Team, Property Control Officer, Newsletter Editor and Web-Master, Field day, and Membership. Please be in great thought of where you might be able to fill a vacancy to help your club. I know some of you will be thinking that you don't really have the time to serve on a committee. Well, you do have the time to assist in some small way; you just need to decide which committee is best suited to the contribution that you want to make. So think about these committees, and decide on which committee or committees you will be most able to contribute. Then contact the respective Board member or club officer and offer your services. A lot of great ideas are on the table. We are going to need the help and participation from each and every one of you to see these things begin to grow. This **'IS'** what you want to see **YOUR** club do, isn't it? So get excited, and **"GITTER DONE"**!

It's time to renew your LARC membership. Remember that memberships are valid through the end of December with a 30-day grace period for the month of January. If you have not already renewed, please do so at the next club meeting, or send in a membership renewal form with your check. Remember your membership entitles you our monthly newsletter, voting rights, supports LARC's educational programs and activities, and helps keep those wonderful repeaters up and running.

Notice I said repeaters, (plural). Remember there is a 440 Machine up there also. I've had the occasion to use it lately The 2M side of my primary rig has now gone out completely, but it reminded me of **"WOW"** how wonderful IT (the 440 side) gets out too! We are blessed to have two (2) outstanding repeaters on Wauka Mtn.

One more important topic is where our next club meeting will be taking place. The majority that responded seemed to prefer being able to eat and meet at the same place.

After checking around, about the only place with a room and a restaurant, is a hotel.

I have decided on what seems to be the best deal I could find. It will be centrally located in downtown Gainesville. Below is their response to my request:

*["We established some parameters to ensure that it would be easy for you to choose to meet at the hotel. We recognize that as a non-profit, there would be no budget for meeting room rental but a private space is in your best interest. We also decided that it might be good for everyone to have a set price for dinner. Finally, we understand it will be a near impossibility for the club to tell us the number of guests to prepare for dinner. Jim, our food guru here, has come up with a menu with fixed prices that will make promoting your meeting easy for you.*

*We can accommodate your group either in the meeting rooms (with no room rental charge and when available) or in the Restaurant (no rental charge when there is not a meeting room available) with seating for up to 50 people.*

*The menu would consist of our All American Hamburger, Courtyard Club Sandwich, Grilled Chicken sandwich, or a Chef's Blue Plate Special, fries with the sandwiches and veggies with the special, beverage, taxes and gratuities for \$10.50 per person. The Blue Plate Special would change monthly and would be a home style choice like meatloaf and mashed potatoes or turkey and dressing, something like that. We wanted to offer something that your dedicated members would be accustomed. I thank you for considering our hotel."]*

The location is the NEW "Holiday Inn – Lanier Centre Hotel" located at 400 E. E. Butler Parkway , Gainesville, GA., (U.S. 129 and Jesse Jewell Parkway). We will eat starting at 6 PM and Meeting at 7 PM. Note, this is going back to our Regular hours. I hope this will be satisfactory with everyone. I will look forward to seeing you at the next meeting, Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. at the Holiday Inn. (formally "Best Western")

**Get out and enjoy this great hobby. Be RADIO – ACTIVE!**

As always, email ([k4pdl@bellsouth.net](mailto:k4pdl@bellsouth.net)) me with your thoughts, ideas, and /or criticisms. This is **YOU'RE CLUB**, be an active part of it.

**Help us preserve the good and build for tomorrow. Start today.**

Until next time,  
73  
Philip, K4PDL

## **Your 2009 Club Officers**

### **“Executive Committee”**

President **Philip Loggins, K4PDL**  
Vice President **Mac Payne, WD4MP**  
Treasurer **John Brandon, KE4PCF**  
Activities Manager **Perry Roper, KO4RD**  
Secretary **Mike Hall, N4HGO**

Director (3 Year) **Bob Scott KG4NJC**  
Director (2 Year) **Doyle Gantt W4DJG**  
Director (1 Year) **Larry Tyson W4WLT**

## **2009 LARC Committees/Teams**

Fund Raising Committee Chair: **Michael Crowder K9VR** (Presidential appointment)

Repeater Committee: **TBA**

Training Team: **Ed Cravey KF4HPY, John Brandon KE4PCF, Doyle Gantt W4DJG, Bob Scott KG4NJC & Mark Murray KD4PEO**

Hamfest Committee: **TBA**

Property Control Officer: **TBA**

Field Day Committee: **TBA**

Public Relations Officer: **TBA**

Public Education: **TBA**

Membership Committee: **TBA**

Elmer Team: **TBA**

Technical Advisor: **TBA**

Nominating Committee for 2010 "Officers": **TBA** (Presidential appointment)

**The Executive Committee will be announcing the remaining Committees/Teams soon. If you're interested in serving on any of the above open committees, please let a club Officer or Board member know. We need your help!!!**

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## **Congratulations to New Ham's and Upgrades**

**Result of VE session, December 7, 2008**

**Daniel Merrefield KJ4IGV**--- No License to General

**Terrance Schneider KF4VSI**---Tech to General

**Jim Carmichael KJ4FVO**---Tech to General (**LARC General Class**)

**Many thanks to Roger WB4T and the VE team for administering the exams!!!!**

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**On December 11, 2008 LARC's Hunter Leming, K4PWN, went before the Chattahoochee District Eagle Scout Board and passed! CONGRATULATIONS Hunter. What an outstanding accomplishment.**

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**CLUB LOGO ITEMS**  
**"SHOW YOUR TRUE CLUB COLORS"**  
(See John Brandon KE4PCF, supplies are limited)

**Ball Caps Embroidered Logo**



**\$10.00**

**T-Shirts (Silk Screen LOGO)**



**\$10.00**

**Embroidered Patches**



**\$3.50**



**ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE)**

Visit <http://www.arrl.org/cce/> for more info

**FEMA Independent Study Program (ISP)**

For those of us who are emergency responders, it is a prerequisite to have taken and passed independent Study courses IS-100 (**Introduction to Incident Command System**) and IS-700 (**National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction**) as a minimum. All ISP courses are designed to allow you to learn at your own pace and at your leisure and are FREE.

All it will cost you is a little time.

A list of all FEMA ISP courses and links for each course can be found at

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

When you have completed the required courses (and/or other ISP courses) and have your course completion certificate in hand,, please let Ron Mulberry, KI4RBE or one of his assistants know so we can

get your training logged. Take as many of the courses as you wish but REMEMBER IS-100 and IS-700 are required.

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## Excess Club Equipment For SALE

1	Astron power supply RS-35A							\$60
2	Pal Electronics Monitor/Scanner							\$10
3	Hustler 6-BTV (10-15-20-30-40-75/80m) vertical HF antenna							\$110
4	10m Hamstick 1 each							\$13
5	15m Hamstick 1 each							\$13
6	20m Hamstick 1 each							\$13
7	30m Hamstick 1 each							\$13
8	75/80m Hamstick 1 each							\$13
9	Toshiba Auto Adaptor PC18 PA-749L				For Laptop (NEW)		18vdc	\$10
10	Hustler G6144B 2m vertical antenna (144-148MHz)							\$60
11	Archer all band monitor antenna Catalog #20-014					New		\$25
12	Archer all band monitor antenna Catalog #20-014					New		\$25
14	Icom IC-735 HF all Band transceiver (excellent condition)							\$100
16	BK Precision DC Power Supply #1630							\$50
17	GC Electronics SWR meter (forward and reverse switch)							\$20

### ALL proceeds go to the LARC General Account

Every effort will be made to allow club members first chance to buy the above items before we offer them to the general “ham” community.

Contact Doyle at [w4dijg@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4dijg@bellsouth.net) if you are interested in any of the above items:

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## Build or Buy that first Antenna??

Ed Cravey, KF4HPY

This is a question asked by everyone in radio, no matter whether they are SWL's (short wave listeners) hams or CBer's. If you do one or the other, what do you get out of it? The new operator is always in a bind; just spent all that money on a radio and almost nothing left for anything else. What to do? If all you have is a will and little else, you have to build. What will be the outcome of

building your own antenna? You will learn a lot about antennas, you will learn radio principles and antenna lore. Money will be saved, your fellow hams will admire your work, and not least; you will be pleased with yourself and you will have an antenna.

Example, I started with a rotatable dipole for 6 meters made of two 56 inch steel threaded rods and coupling nuts in ¼ inch course thread passing through a 2x2 inch baluster attached to a TV mast.

What did I learn? Much! I learned that a dipole is directional; a null off the ends, and signals galore broadside. Did the hardware store special work? You can be sure it did, my second, and third 6m contact was in Wisconsin and I was well pleased. Since steel rods rust, I started to look for better material. Soon my rooftop was adorned with copper J-pole verticals for 6m and 2m FM and an aluminum-inverted dipole for 6m SSB. All of these antennas gave good service. Later, I went on to build 2 element Yagi antennas with their 5 DBd gain and understood the meaning of unidirectional gain on the 6m band.

I had such good luck with the copper J-poles in disaster relief, I decided to do a 5 element Yagi for 2 meters. I learned all about how tough it was to make a Yagi using your own material, instead of staying with the plans. Oh, yes I got it right with an analyzer and cut and try. I can appreciate the efforts of Yagi and Uda in their development work. I like working with my hands, so building something is fun.

If you are going to build, get simple plans off the Internet. Read an antenna book like ARRL's "Simple and Fun Antennas" or the books of Ed Noll, or Bill Orr available from MFJ. These are easy reading and explain all of the material. Best of all, these books are not costly or 1 3/4 inches thick.

If you have no time or skill, and are unable to use tools then buying is the only way out. If you do buy, be sure you know the principles of the antennas, so as to buy wisely. Many claims are made for factory antennas. Prices are high on many brands. So study all the material and ask all the questions, visit the Web sites like eHam.net for product reviews of the antennas under study. Many antenna makers have simple basic antennas at low prices for UHF/VHF and slightly higher for HF wire antennas. Your location will dictate the type of antenna to use. A tiny lot may require a vertical antenna; a large lot, a variation of a dipole or other wire antenna. Restricted covenants will require a whole new technique called "Stealth Antennas". Some times it is cheaper to work and earn the money for a new antenna, than to buy tools, materials, and fuel plus time to build the antenna. Your call!

What do I have for antennas? A mix of homebrew and store bought antennas. Most of my factory antennas are multi-band UHF/VHF verticals that work up to 4 bands without a tuner. Also, a 10-40m vertical tuned to CW/PSK31 frequencies. The rest are wire antennas requiring a tuner. Any factory antenna I use, is the cheapest and most simple available on the market. An example is the 6m 3-element Yagi from MFJ, which was just coming on the market when I bought it at the Lawrenceville hamfest. It was far less costly, than the big-name brand. It has given good service and I would not hesitate to replace it with the same brand.

For disaster relief I have home brew antennas able to fit in small trucks or cars. These are sometimes takedown types or tailored to fit. DR antennas should be somewhat stouter than the home site antennas. An example would be a 2m J-pole of ½ inch copper tubing with TV masts and a Drive-on Antenna Stand (homebrew). I also have material on hand to home-brew an antenna should any in use fail. Some materials are available at RadioShack, like short-wave antenna kits and short (50 foot) lengths of coax. One consideration is simplicity of antenna design and construction for ease of use. I hope this has helped in the decision to build or buy. Which antenna to use is another topic, and I will not go there as that can be a battle zone.

73 Ed KF4HPY

## Upcoming HAMFEST

Dates	Type	Event and Contact	Location
10 Jan 2009	+	TechFest Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) <a href="http://www.gars.org">http://www.gars.org</a> <b>Talk-In:</b> 147.075+ (PL 82.5) <b>Contact:</b> Norman Schklar, WA4ZXV 480 North Peachtree Street Norcross, GA 30071 Phone: 770-840-9664 Fax: 770-755-5411 Email: <a href="mailto:norman@schklar.com">norman@schklar.com</a>	Lawrenceville, GA St. Marguerite D'Youville Church <a href="#">85 Gloster Road NW</a> <b>Div:</b> Southeastern <b>Sect:</b> Georgia
28 Feb 2009	+	Dalton Hamfest #27 Dalton ARC <a href="http://www.w4drc.com">http://www.w4drc.com</a> <b>Talk-In:</b> 145.230(-) no tone <b>Contact:</b> Harold Jones, N4BD PO Box 211 Rocky Face, GA 30740 Phone: 706-673-2291 Email: <a href="mailto:n4bd@windstream.net">n4bd@windstream.net</a>	Dalton, GA North Georgia Fairgrounds <a href="#">501 Legion Drive</a> <b>Div:</b> Southeastern <b>Sect:</b> Georgia
21 Mar 2009	+	Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club <a href="http://www.w4bti.org">http://www.w4bti.org</a> <b>Talk-In:</b> 146.880 - offset (PL100)	Marietta, GA Jim Miller Park <a href="#">2245 Callaway Road</a> <b>Div:</b> Southeastern <b>Sect:</b> Georgia



## OSCAR STATUS

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/status.php>

### OSCAR FREQUENCIES :

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/frequencies.php>

### January Club Meeting

SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 27

Curt's in Oakwood has recently announced effective December 5, they will no longer be open for dinner. As Philip has stated in his "Presidents Corner" we will be meeting at Holiday Inn "Lanier Center" (formally Best Western) on the last Tuesday evening of each month at 6pm for dinner and 7pm for our meeting. Please NOTE the time change



**Lunch Bunch** Every Friday at 11:30 there is a lunch get-together at a local restaurant. The location is announced on the Wednesday night net, our web site under the activities tab and under the calendar icon as well as announced on the 146.67 repeater. ALL are welcome

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Hall County Nets W4ABP repeater 146.67 (-) 131.8 Hz

Hall County ARES Net, Wednesday @ 20:00 & LARC Net Wednesday @20:30  
"Everyone is welcome to check in"

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## **Satellite Prediction Software**

(various platforms) <http://www.satobs.org/orbsoft.html>

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## **Quote of the Month**

A good antenna will do more for a bad radio...than a good radio will do  
for a bad antenna.

## **Proverb of the Month**

Man who live in glass house should change clothes in basement.

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## **Special Note:**

Some members have received a notice from W5YI about license renewal, who offers to provide renewal service for a fee. That is not necessary, since you can do it yourself. Renewal is available online via the FCC ULS system or by submitting FCC Form 605 by mail, *at no cost to you*.

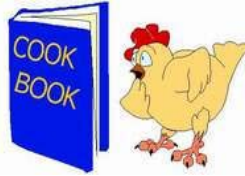
Renewing or modifying your FCC license?  
It's easy and free if you have a sequential call!

To modify or renew your sequential license, free of charge:

1. Go to the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) website: <http://wtbwww05.fcc.gov>. Click on "ULS filing" under "File" at the top of the page and follow the links. If you do not yet have a ULS licensee ID number, get one *before* filing by clicking on "TIN/Call Sign" under "Register" at the same website.

2. File FCC Form 605 (downloadable from <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> or by calling 1-800-418-3676) main page and mail to FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. If you are asking for a new *systematically-assigned* call (e.g. after upgrading to Extra but not asking for an exact call), you need to complete Schedule D as well as the main page and submit it too. Vanity calls also require Schedule D but must be filed (with the \$12.30 fee) to another address as shown in the FCC instructions.

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## **"GOOD EATS" COLUMN**

*Susie Q, KF00D*

When you feel an urge for something sweet and decadent, think "pecan pie". Regardless of how you pronounce "pecan", this easy and quick recipe will truly satisfy your sweet tooth! I had never made a pecan pie until this Christmas, but when one of the ladies at my church suggested I follow the recipe off the Karo syrup label, I took her advice, and I'm glad I did. It was a lot easier than I thought it would be, and the results were delicious!

### **"Classic Southern Pecan Pie"**

**Prep: 5 min. Cook: 50-55 min. Svgs: 8**

- 1 cup Karo Corn Syrup
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
  - 1 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. margarine or butter, melted
  - 1 tsp. vanilla
  - 1 1/4 cup pecans
- 1 unbaked 9-inch deep-dish pie crust

**Stir first five ingredients together, then mix in pecans. Pour into pie crust. Bake (on cookie sheet to avoid spills) at 350° for 50-55 minutes.**

**It's important to make sure that the pie crust is a deep-dish type. Otherwise, your pie contents will spill over when baking. To make things easier, I just got the ready-to-bake pie crust from the frozen foods section at the grocery store. Also, I first made this recipe "as is", but the center looked sunken, so I found that you can put in about 2 cups of pecans instead of the 1 1/4 cups listed.**

If you make this, get ready for all the compliments you'll receive...  
and you'll be able to say, "It really wasn't that hard to make!"  
'Till next time, "Happy eating!"

**Do you or your XYL have a favorite recipe to share? If so, send it to [w4djg@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4djg@bellsouth.net) and it will be in the next newsletter.**

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## **Kids Day 2009**

**Saturday, January 3, 2009, 1800 UTC-2359 UTC (1pm-6:59pm local)**

**From the ARRL**

- Sponsored by the Boring Oregon Amateur Radio Club and The American Radio Relay League, Kids Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people "on-the air" experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is also intended to give hams a chance to share their station with children. Stations exchange first names, age, location and favorite color.
- Suggested frequencies: 3.940MHz, 7.270MHz, 14.290MHz, 18.140MHz, 21.360MHz, 24.960MHz, 28.390MHz, and 2 meter repeater frequencies (with permission from your area repeater sponsor). Observe third party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts.
- Awards: All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate (it becomes the child's personalized sales brochure on ham radio). Please visit [www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html) to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then have access to download the certificate page.
- Find out more about Kid's Day by visiting [www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html). Don't forget to check out the certificate at [www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.htm](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.htm)
- The ARRL is always looking for pictures of the kids operating your station so they can share with others. Send your photos to [kidsday@arrl.org](mailto:kidsday@arrl.org)

**LARC plans to be involved and set up at Kids INK ( "Interactive Neighborhood for Kids" better known as 'Kids INK', a museum for children). It is located at 999 Chestnut St. in the old Warren Featherbone building (for you 'younger' folks). on January 3 from 11am – 3pm. If you would be interested in being a part of helping these kids out, please contact Philip at [k4pdl@bellsouth.net](mailto:k4pdl@bellsouth.net) and let him know if you are available. You can help from home by monitoring the LARC 2 meter repeater from home or mobile and QSO with a youngster.**

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## Something to Think About

Wallace Beggs, KF4OQY

**This lady has changed her habit of how she lists her names on her mobile phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet... etc...was stolen. 20 minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says 'I received your text asking about our Pin number and I replied a little while ago.'**

**When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text 'hubby' in the contact list and got hold of the pin number.**

**Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.**

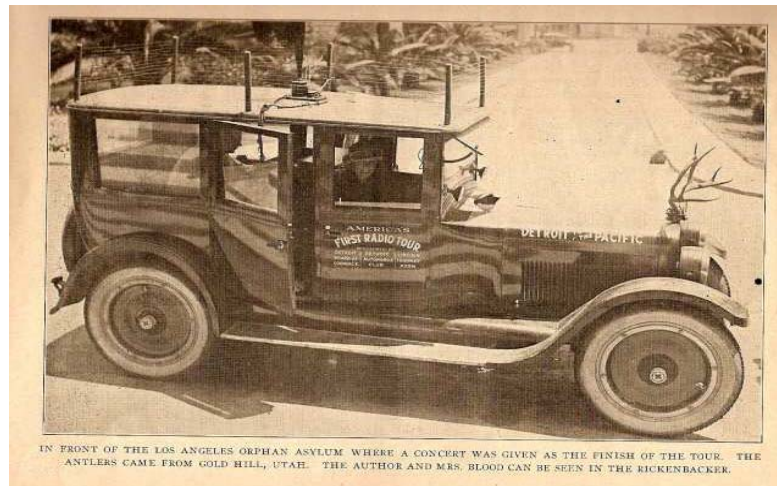
**Moral of the lesson: Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad , Mom, etc..... And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back!!**

**Also, when you 're being text by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet 'family and friends' who text you.**

**Along with that if you have an entry called 'Home' with your actual home phone number it's not too hard to do a reverse lookup on the number to find the address. now the robber has your home number, keys, AND address.**

**BE SAFE !!**

## America's First Radio Tour



In June of 1922, everyone was interested in radio reception. It was right in the middle of the "Radio Boom" of 1921 to 1923, when literally anything radio was saleable - even a cross Country trek to expose the rural areas of the west to a never before-heard experience called "RADIO." Dubbed "America's First Radio Tour," it was sponsored by the Detroit Board of Commerce, the Detroit Automobile Club and the Lincoln Highway Association who chose Wallace Blood to be the director

of the expedition. Two Rickenbacker automobiles were supplied by that company and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker personally attended the send-off luncheon in Detroit.

By the time the Tour arrived in Nevada they were old hands at erecting antennas and pulling in stations for those attending. Although Ely was a complete bust with no stations received, even after an hour and a half of tuning, Eureka provided reception of a station from Seattle, Washington.

Somewhere in the middle of Nevada, "America's First Radio Tour" stops for a photo and refreshments. The tour started in Detroit and ended in Los Angeles, stopping enroute in Ely,

Eureka, Austin and Carson City, Nevada. The Tour left Detroit on June 1, 1922 and arrived in Los Angeles July 13th. Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Blood and Mr. & Mrs. O.W. Heinz made the trek in two Rickenbacker autos. The object? To promote radio reception in mostly small towns across the West and expose many ruralites to their first "radio" experience.

Prior to August 13, 1912, amateur radio operators had no regulations - licenses were not required, no restrictions on power or wavelength, amateurs could do just about anything at any power level. Since no licenses were ever issued before the summer of 1912, there are no government records to refer to and one has to rely on newspaper articles and hope the information is accurate. There are no Nevada amateurs listed in either 1913 or 1914 Department of Commerce Callbooks.

It is fairly certain that the first "licensed" radio amateur in Nevada was **6VI, Willis Pressel**. He is listed in a 1915 Department of Commerce Callbook with an address of "City Hall" in Reno, Nevada, but this is due to the location of his equipment and the station's antenna which ran from the top of City Hall over to the Majestic Theater. Pressel's actual address was 136 Mill St. in Reno.

A February 27, 1915 article in the REG relates that Pressel's station was not fully operational when a temporary Government ban on amateur operations was instituted. Pressel tried to demonstrate his apparatus the week before, on February 20, 1915, but nothing was heard. A year later, Pressel was to relay a message that was going to originate from Indiana on Washington's Birthday.

This was a demonstration set-up by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to test the speed that a message could be relayed from Davenport, Indiana to all points west. Pressel was to receive his message from a Los Angeles amateur. The February 8, 1916 REG article concludes by saying that Pressel had received stations from Alaska, San Diego and San Francisco but had been unsuccessful in receiving stations east of the Rockies. In a later Dept. of Commerce Callbook (1921), **Willis Pressel's** call has been changed to **6ADQ** with the same location of 136 Mill St., Reno. Sometime in the late twenties, **Pressel** let his **6ADQ** call lapse. It is not known if he was re-licensed at a later date.

Pressel was the son of a well-known Reno druggist and was referred to as "local boy" in the 1915-1916 articles. He was later involved in the Reno Colorfoto Club (1950s.) Certainly, America's First Radio Tour was somewhat of a publicity stunt but it did provide the town audiences with information, entertainment and education - everything that radio was envisioned to offer.

## WHO AM I...?

I am 12 years old. I am 82. I am a girl, a boy, a woman, a man.  
I studied the questions. I took practice exams. I may have even  
drove those around me mad when my code practice oscillator  
squeaked all those late night hours.

But when the day came for me to face those VEs, I knew I was ready!

I send CW to far off lands and wait eagerly to copy the reply. I key  
the mic and send out a CQ...then listen for a voice above the static.

I use digital data transfer. I use voice over the internet. I use my  
“ticket” in so many different ways.

I volunteer my time and equipment. I serve the community and  
various organizations without a second thought...that’s what I do.

So, who am I...?

**I am an Amateur Radio Operator...!**

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## I HAVE TIME, I THINK

*Phil Loggins K4PDL*

The circumference of the Earth (how far it is around the equator) is  
about 25,000 miles. The Earth completes 1 revolution every 24  
hours. This means that it is spinning at about 1000 miles per hour. It  
has slowed down a bit. At the time of the dinosaurs, about 100  
million years ago, days were much shorter and lasted only about 16  
hours. No wonder there weren't many folks around then. If you worked  
an 8 hour day, and slept an 8 hour night, when do you play radio ?

Now you understand why humans waited until the dinosaurs were  
gone before swinging down from the trees. I apologize if this sounds a  
bit lame. You lose a brain cell every second. The average person loses  
about 31 million brain cells from the main part of their cerebral cortex  
every year. The key is the replacement rate. I don't see any brain cells  
waiting in line for me.

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Upon visiting a local LARC member's radio room, I observed a note attached to wall of his shack!

## **NOTICE TO ALL VISITORS**

### **BEFORE YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS - HERE ARE THE ANSWERS**

- The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates many complicated and varied marital conflicts!.
- No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Amsterdam, Berlin, London, Los Angeles or Hong Kong - I suggest you use AT&T or another telephone carrier for that purpose.
- This is strictly my hobby. I have neither the facilities nor the time or inclination to want to fool around with fixing your Toaster, Clock Radio, Electric Kettle, Video Recorder, TV set, Car Stereo or hi-fi - I suggest you see a local serviceman.
- Yes, all those antennas in the backyard are essential to the proper operation of all this equipment.
  - The farthest station I have contacted has been in the Ubangiland Islands off the coast of Southern Kowawowwow.
  - The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations throughout the world without my having to resort to using the facilities of, or incurring a fee from AT&T or any other telephone carrier.
  - Yes this station is fully Y2K compliant as well as up to full international standards in all respects - for the simple reason I designed, programmed and built it all by myself.
- Accordingly, it is a technical IMPOSSIBILITY for this station's very complicated equipment to interfere with computers, video games, VCRs, television reception, washing machines, hearing aids, pacemakers, telephone or stereo systems.
- Any interference problems of that nature are strictly caused by very obvious design flaws in the home entertainment devices or by the appliance itself.
- Curing arthritis might be a definite maybe, then again maybe not.
  - An Amateur Radio Station may only be operated by a highly qualified, technically skilled electronics expert.
- It takes absolute dedication, training, intelligence, as well as years of schooling to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be licensed by the government of the United States of America.
- Therefore it is not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect and general obsequiousness when I discuss my hobby or operate the numerous, yet complicated controls
- FURTHERMORE If you are granted the extreme honor of being invited to speak into the microphone, please observe the



following rules:

1. Speak in a low and soothing tone.
2. Do not disagree with me in any manner what-so-ever.
3. Say no bad words and tell no off color jokes.
4. It is customary for the guest to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other hams on the air.

• **DO NOT**

**TOUCH ANYTHING! TURN ANY KNOBS! SIT ON THE EQUIPMENT!  
"I'VE LOST SEVERAL VISITORS BY  
ELECTROCUTION IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS."**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Counties Weighing Public Safety Radio Partnership Digital for better communication**

By Adam Thompson | [adam.thompson@onlineathens.com](mailto:adam.thompson@onlineathens.com) | Submitted by: Bill Sant, KJ4FVP

Public safety agencies in the region aren't on the same wavelength, electromagnetically speaking, but that soon may change.

While agreements are far from final, **officials in Clarke, Oconee, Greene, Morgan and Walton counties are seriously discussing a partnership to build new antennas for a regional 800 MHz public safety radio system.**

Oconee County commissioners last week earmarked \$3.2 million in a proposed list of \$40 million in sales tax-funded projects to pay for their part of the network - tentatively called the Oconee Areawide Radio System.

The digital system will put the counties under one radio cloud, allowing each to share airwaves and antennas but, at the same time, maintain radio traffic dedicated to each county.

Proponents say the network will improve communications between law enforcement agencies and the officers themselves, eliminate most radio dead-zones and increase public safety.

"We're the only region in the state of Georgia that has not done an area radio system," said Oconee County Sheriff's Office Capt. Jimmy Williams, who pushed commissioners this month to sign on to the system.

Williams, who heads up Oconee's 911 center, points to metro Atlanta's regional radio system - part of an Urban Area Security Initiative funded recently by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - as an example of the trend in public safety communication.

"Everybody's got to stop thinking about county boundaries, now," Williams said. "We need to look at saying what can we do to make coverage (better) for the state and for all public safety in this region ... what can we do to help out this project and what can we do to make sure everybody has seamless coverage."

Fire departments and sheriff's offices wouldn't be the only ones who could benefit from regional radio. Public school systems, road crews and other government workers all use the public airwaves for remote communication.

And they all could be a part of the same digital 800 MHz radio network, enabling each to talk to one another easily, with the touch of a button, Williams said.



Clarke County already broadcasts public safety radio in the 800 MHz band, but its system - purchased in the middle of last decade but not installed until 1999 - is analog, not digital, and out-of-date.

To join the regional system, the county would have to go digital, which would be expensive, so Athens-Clarke officials also are considering adding the project to the county's next SPLOST initiative, said Howell McKinnon, the county's 800 MHz coordinator.

Teaming up with other partners in the region would not be nearly as costly as building from scratch, however.

**Hall County recently spent \$16 million upgrading its communications to an 800 MHz digital system and has offered to let other counties wire in if they agree to pay for maintenance and equipment.**

Oconee and Athens-Clarke officials said they initially were interested in joining Hall County, until they found out Walton County had a similar system.

Athens-Clarke officials still are weighing the pros and cons of joining in the regional radio effort - but find mostly pros, McKinnon said.

"Right now, I'm having a hard time trying to find a good reason not to do it," he said. "But we want to make sure we go into it with eyes wide open."

One drawback McKinnon sees is that the counties surrounding the system's hub in Walton County could be giving up some control of their communication systems.

But with the right set-up, that wouldn't happen, he said.

And there's a reason to do the radio project now, and make sure it's done right, Williams said.

The Federal Communications Commission is requiring most public safety radio systems by 2013 to narrow the bandwidth they use to communicate.

If Oconee County is stuck with its current VHF radio system, it soon would have to apply for a new FCC license at a narrower band that would make radios half as powerful and give at least twice as many dead spots, he said.

"Right now, we have a good footprint, as far as radio traffic goes, but when we have to reduce that footprint, it's going to open up more holes for possible interference," Williams said.

Oconee County officials are behind the radio system, but haven't yet inked an agreement with the Walton County government.

Though some commissioners at first wanted to spend less than \$3.2 million in sales tax revenue on the system, Williams won them over this month and told them if they weren't going to pay the full cost for two new antennas, they might as well not fund it at all.

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## **SATELLITE CONFIRMS CRACKS IN EARTHS MAGNETIC SHIELD**

[Ham Radio Newsline](#)

**Recent satellite observations have revealed the largest breach yet seen in the magnetic field receded to date.**

**Scientists have long known that the Earth's magnetic field is similar to a drafty old house that sometimes lets in charged particles from the sun. These breaches cause the brilliant auroras but can also disrupt satellite and ground communications.**

**The discovery was made last summer by a fleet of five small NASA satellites known as Themis. Their observations showed the Earth's magnetic field occasionally develops two cracks that allows a stream of**

charged particles spewing from the sun to penetrate the Earth's upper atmosphere. Last summer, Themis calculated a layer of solar particles to be at least 4,000 miles thick in the outermost part of the Earth's magnetosphere. This is the largest tear of the planets protective shield found so far.

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## **LARC to sponsor yet another Tech Class**

A “Tech” class is scheduled to begin January 10 at the Chattahoochee Baptist Association. Plenty of seats are still available. If you know someone interested in becoming licensed, please have them contact Doyle W4DJG at [w4djg@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4djg@bellsouth.net).

**Pre-registration is required to ensure we have enough material for all.**

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### **I AM THE NEW YEAR**

I am unused, unspotted, without blemish,  
I stretch before you three hundred  
And sixty-five days long.  
I will present each day  
In its turn, a new leaf  
In the book of life  
For you to place upon  
It your imprint

### **I AM THE NEW YEAR.**

Each hour of every day, I will  
Give you sixty minutes that  
Have never known the use of man.  
White and pure I present them;  
It remains for you to fill them  
With sixty jeweled seconds of  
Love, hope, endeavor, patience  
And trust in God.

### **I AM THE NEW YEAR.**

I am coming --  
But once past, I can  
Never be recalled,  
Make me your best!

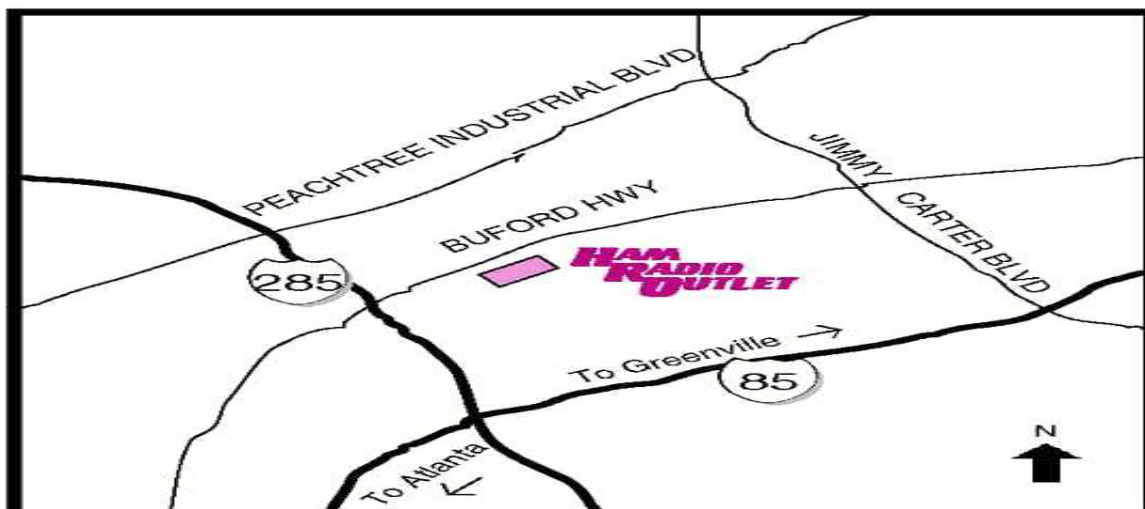


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**My radio is sick. Who do I call?**

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**Or give him a call at 770-966-1166**

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**LARC's Michael Crowder K9VR**

**Many thanks go to those who submitted news, information and articles for this edition. Send you newsletter contributions to [W4DJG@bellsouth.net](mailto:W4DJG@bellsouth.net)**

**As a reminder, the newsletters are archived within our web-site. Each issue is listed with the most recent edition first.  
<http://www.lanierlandarc.org/newsletters.html>**

**“Happy New Year” to you all!**



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